



From The Wilderness

A Nonpartisan Non-sectarian MAP for the Here That Is, Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making

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"Mr. Chairman, I have a question"

**On-the-Record: Representative Cynthia
McKinney Rocks Rumsfeld on War Games**



By
Michael Kane

[Phones started ringing early on the morning of February 16th. Representative Cynthia McKinney of Georgia, newly returned to Capitol Hill for her sixth term as a member of Congress was, within minutes, going into a House hearing on the Defense Appropriations bill and she was going in loaded for bear... or goose, depending on one's viewpoint. She asked me how quickly I could email select documents establishing that as many as five wargames were simultaneously underway on the morning of Sept. 11th, 2001.]

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From the Wilderness

Michael C. Ruppert
Publisher/Editor

Assistant Managing Editor.....Jamey Hecht, Ph.D.
Contributing Editor.....Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D.
Science Editor.....Dale Allen Pfeiffer
Military / Veteran's Affairs Editor.....Stan Goff

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From The Wilderness

P.O Box 6061 – 350, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

www.fromthewilderness.com

editorial: editor@copvcia.com

subscriptions and customer service:

service@copvcia.com

(818) 788-8791 * (818) 981-2847 fax

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MURDER BY THE NUMBERS

The Specter of the Draft

by

Stan Goff

[Predicting the behavior of the permanent warfare state is a bit like predicting the weather. There are too many variables for a solid computation, but you know that sooner or later you're going to get soaked. Here Stan Goff reports on the gathering storm and finds a new anti-war movement inside the unofficial culture of the military; falling recruitment numbers and unmet targets; and a rising level of desperation in Washington's addled decision-making - even as the administration smiles for the camera, cakewalking into a cesspool of its own making. Ink on their fingers, blood on their hands. Judging from the establishment press, there's no shortage of ink. -JAH]

In January, Congressman Charles Rangel's office announced his intention to reintroduce a bill reinstating the draft. The same bill, then entitled HR163, was summarily introduced and voted down in October last year, when the Democrats began to see it as an election year liability for John Kerry. Rangel is a Democrat, and a stubborn one by the looks of it, who seems honestly to believe in his draft/national service scheme, contrary to the speculation (which I shared last year) that this was merely a partisan ploy to point up contradictions about the war and occupation in Iraq. Rangel seems to agree with former South Carolina Senator Fritz Hollings that having a draft would make it more difficult to achieve consensus in the United States in support of military adventures.

Oddly enough, Donald Rumsfeld agrees with them.

But Rangel and Hollings now have a rather strange bedfellow: the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), whose alumni include key members of this administration, including the vice prez. PNAC is as well known for its failure to foresee the consequences of the mad actions it continually promotes as it is for its naked geopolitical ambition. When PNAC calls for something, even if it is a spectacularly bad idea, we should take this as an ominous sign... because they have the ear of this administration.

Let's revisit the background for this issue - which FTW

(Cont'd on page 11)

("Mr. Chairman..." cont'd from page 1)

Hurriedly I made contact with her staff and forwarded a number of PDF files so that when her time came and on national television, McKinney could finally, in a public forum, hold those responsible for 9/11 accountable with the proof in her hands and demand an answer. These were the same files I had acquired during my research for Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil. McKinney was to be well-armed with assistance from other tenacious 9/11 researchers and there would be no escape.

Unless it became necessary to run out for a quick lunch and a meeting at the Senate.

Having lost her seniority after a successful 2002 Israeli-funded and Republican Party-managed campaign to unseat her, McKinney's chance to question Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman General Richard Myers was pushed aside until the hearings were about to be closed. It appears the bears knew what was coming and had neatly dodged a bullet. But not quite.

Although the American people were deprived of an on-the-record answer about who was running the wargames which paralyzed official response on 9/11, Cynthia McKinney let it be known (on the record) that we knew and would not forget. As she found a way to get her question on the record, she gave us all a priceless [Kodak moment](#): one that ranks right up there with the reaction I evoked in public from then CIA Director John Deutch in 1996.

The point here is not that 9/11 is suddenly back on the table, somehow available for resolution and justice. It's a long way from a question from a junior member of the minority party to an impeachment, conviction and imprisonment. The election is still over. The compromised Keane Commission has still closed its doors. No further investigations or legal proceedings are pending. The media has still moved on and the court system and congress are still willfully impotent.

But courage endures. And as long as there is someone like Cynthia McKinney on Capitol Hill there will be moments - wonderful moments like the one captured on [the attached video](#) - which prove that we have not gone away or forgotten and that we still have the will to speak.

For those of us who spent years investigating 9/11, the research and evidence we have compiled will always be within arm's reach, awaiting these golden moments. As new threats and challenges overtake us and de-

mand our focus in "the now" we stand ready to jump on any miracle that presents us with an opportunity to remind the world that murderers still walk free, still in power. Like blades of grass growing steadfastly up through the sidewalk we will never surrender our ability to speak truth to power. God bless Cynthia McKinney. - MCR]

March 1, 2005, PST 1200 (FTW): **O**n February 16, 2005, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney asked Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard B. Myers [the same question this reporter asked General Ralph "Ed" Eberhart at the final 9/11 commission hearing](#):

What about the war games?

The Full House Armed Services Committee met to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request from the Department of Defense. **As the meeting wound down to its expected end, Secretary Rumsfeld prepared to leave. Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA), who chaired the hearing, asked the Secretary to commit to a breakfast with Representatives who had not yet asked their questions. Secretary Rumsfeld happily agreed to do so.**

At that moment Cynthia McKinney made sure to get the following vital question into the Congressional Record.

FTW Transcript, February 16, Rumsfeld and Myers questioned by Cynthia McKinney:

Cynthia McKinney: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

Duncan Hunter: The Gentle-lady is recognized.

McKinney: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would that breakfast with the Secretary be open to the public?

Hunter: Well, if you want to bring all the omelets it might be, but ah -

McKinney: Well Mr. Chairman, the problem is - and I appreciate your adherence to the five-minute rule - however there are many of us who have important questions **and my question in particular is about the four war games that were taking place on September 11th and how they may have impaired our ability to respond to those attacks.**

Mr. Hunter: Well let me say the gentle lady...

[cross talk]

McKinney: I would like that question to be answered in

public Mr. Chairman.

Hunter: Let me say to the gentle lady we're going to have other opportunities to have the Secretary in front of us and what we will do beyond having questions, if you

want a question for the record, be able to put that to the record and have the answer on the record, but additionally at the next event where the Secretary testifies - we'll try to make sure that happens - we will start with the folks who did not get their question answered so you will have an opportunity.

McKinney: Thank you so much Mr. Chairman, and I hope the record is still open so that even that portion of my comment will be on this record.

Hunter: It will be so ordered.

McKinney: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

-- end of transcript

At this point Representative Skelton (D-MO) asked a visibly flustered Donald Rumsfeld if in the future a classified briefing could occur on the recommendations given by General Luck and his team to the Secretary.

This helped to bury McKinney's question (and by necessity, the process continues: [DoD has posted a peculiar "transcript"](#) of the meeting's final moments, from which Representative McKinney's question has been thoroughly deleted), giving Rumsfeld a way to divert attention from the issue she had skillfully placed on the record. Rumsfeld responded to Skelton's question without addressing McKinney's at all. The only response to her question came in the form of both Rumsfeld and Myers' rapid hand movements and off-microphone murmurs. The issue seemed to knock Rumsfeld off-balance, affecting him as it had affected Ralph "Ed" Eberhart at the final 9/11 Commission hearing.

It's unlikely that "No comment" will be an acceptable reply to Representative McKinney's question. Eberhart got away with that when responding to this reporter, and has since retired from his post heading both NORTHERN COMMAND and NORAD. His retirement came immediately after the 2004 presidential election. It appears "no comment" will be his final word on the matter, but that will not be the case for Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers.

Who was in charge of coordinating the multiple war games running on 9/11? Crossing the Rubicon has already answered this question in spades. But maybe, just maybe, with her return to Capitol Hill Cynthia McKinney has kept alive a flicker of hope that the crimes of 9/11

may yet shake up the US government.

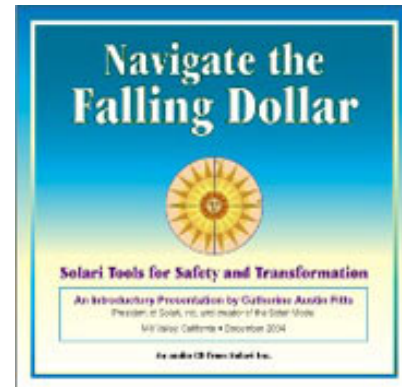
The courage and directness of this fearless woman never cease to amaze us. She has let it be known that she will be a perpetual thorn in the side of the administration for at least the next two years.

Publisher's Note: FTW is proudly hosting the Cynthia McKinney segment in Real Media format. Please follow this link below to view it:

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com/mp3/McKinney.rm>

The video may take a minute to download to you, please be patient.

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WILL THE REAL ECONOMIC HIT MEN



PLEASE STAND UP?

Meditations on 9/11 Truth

by

Catherine Austin Fitts

[Many people have asked me what I thought about the recently popularized book [Confessions of an Economic Hit Man](#) and I have held my tongue because I just didn't have time to do the brilliant deconstruction of the book's "limited hangout" approach performed here by Catherine Austin Fitts. In this article the former Assistant Secretary of Housing and past managing director of Dillon Read brings us face to face with the horrors for which we all share a measure of responsibility. Those who would have us work through and affirm the current system don't want these horrors to be seen, because any recognition of them leads on to other realities that are darker still. Fitts also makes clear the point that I was making in Seattle which has been so widely misrepresented.]

There are no real avenues left for 9/11 activism in the traditional sense of the word. The election is over. All three 9/11 suits (Hilton, Mariani and the Saudi case) have been dismissed or morphed as I said they would be. Congress has shown and will show no courage. The 9/11 Commission (totally compromised) has closed its doors. The Justice Department (part of the 9/11 plot) will do nothing. The courts are compromised and the mainstream media (also part of the crime) has moved on. NY Attorney General Elliot Spitzer has yet to do anything with the 9/11 material he has received, remaining quiet in order to protect his bid for the NY state house.

But there are new channels of real accountability that can change the world, if 911 activists can persuade activist communities to understand the realities of economic warfare and to begin to promote marketplace strategies. Real headway can be made if we withdraw our deposits, purchases, investments and attention from media, banks, companies and investors complicit in 911 and war profiteering and cover up. These marketplace strategies can dovetail with other innovative tactics, building financial constituencies to support the rule of law. What would Elliot Spitzer do if millions of New Yorkers threatened to withdraw all of their money from the large New York Federal Reserve banks unless he moved forward with an investigation? What would happen if hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers cancelled their subscriptions to the New York Times in protest over the lies of 911?

There is still a great deal to learn from 9/11 that can proactively help individuals to read the real map of the world and make a difference in their own lives. This involves a fundamental change of approach: the old, futile course of action asks citizens to go hat in hand to government and corporate interests to make them change (an impossibility), while the new approach says that if the citizens themselves change enough within, that change can shift markets while there is still time to make some difference in the outcome for individual lives. In other words, one approach tries to convince us that the right path is to get someone else (with no interest in doing so) to save us and the other says that we must accept the responsibility for saving ourselves and gather and exercise the real power we have and have not yet used.

Which makes more sense to you? - MCR]

Economic Hit Men

February 7, 2005, PST 1200 (FTW): **A** "limited hangout" is a partial confession, a *mea culpa*, if you will, that leaves the essence of a crime or covert reality hidden. Because it includes some small part of the truth, the limited hangout is irresistibly attractive to dissidents and political critics whose thirst for such truth makes them jump at the dangled scraps. Once the system's watchdogs are busy chewing on the limited hangout, the guilty players can go about their illegal business for a new round of unaccountable, semi-secret mayhem.¹

If you want to see an excellent limited hang out at work, pick up a copy of the John Perkins' bestselling Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. In his limited hangout confession, Perkins describes his career from 1971 to 1981 as a highly paid professional who helped defraud Third World countries by helping syndicates make un-economic loans as a means to facilitate the eventual takeover of those economies by elite and corporate interests.

Greg Palast, Anne Williamson and other first-rate investigative journalists have brilliantly documented instances of such economic warfare against sovereign governments and national economies - where nations are taken over with their own money, in much the same way as a corporate raider takes over a company through leveraged buy-out. I have documented a similar process in US communities and mortgage markets. In writing about this process, I use the concept of an "economic tapeworm" to explain the negative return on investment financial system that operates globally and relies on economic and military warfare to finance and subsidize itself.²

The phenomenon that Perkins writes about is well known. But his personal "how to" account of an economic hit pertains to an apparently cold case, far in the financial past. While this story is very instructive for those who have not yet dealt with professional fraudsters or been targeted by economic warfare³ (whether in the Third World or in the First World nations) it is even more instructive for its omissions - and for its timing as an *apologia* intended, we are led to believe, somehow to assuage guilt for harm done: it relates to events occurring twenty-five or thirty years ago, involving players who are, for the most part, dead or retired from the business of economic warfare and companies that have morphed into later incarnations.

In the process of providing a colorful account of a 1970s whodunit (complete with low tech strategies devoid of the dazzling technology toolkit that is now an essential part of the economic hit man's weaponry of economic warfare), Perkins delivers to readers the "big lie": he reveals the secret that there is no greater conspiracy. This is simply globalization run amok, he would have us believe. Somehow, this particular conspiracy theory seems charmingly credible as part of a "confession." Perkins admits to what is known and then uses the credibility created by his "limited hangout" to further obscure the reality of who's who in the real governance of global investment and risk management. We are to presume that the investment networks in and around the Harvard Corporation, the City of London, the Vatican and investment managers and bankers for the proceeds of transnational organized crime are simply good-hearted fellows who let things get out of hand.

Nowhere does Perkins introduce the notion that cartels in a "New World Order" (the phrase coined and promoted by George H. W. Bush) use covert manipulation of the global financial system to centralize and concentrate economic and political power. Assassinations by "jackals" aside, Perkins barely hints that for fifty years the US military-industrial complex has been developing and testing powerful black budget technology, satellite and other invisible weaponry and surveillance technology and insider-trading tools behind the veil of national

security secrets. Indeed, it was the need for a means of financing black budget operations and weaponry outside the view and control of Congress and the appropriations process - rather than the mere pursuit of corporate profits - that provided the political air cover for Perkins to do what he did as his covert counterparts marketed drugs in American and Third World communities alike. It's an old rule of economics. Sources and uses need to be in one integrated financial statement to understand an enterprise. In Perkins' world, we are never quite clear who got what cash and in what amounts when all was said and done. Which means someone gets to keep the money and remain socially acceptable - and we remain clueless as to who was really running things two decades ago.

Economic Warfare in the 21st Century

The power of Perkins' book as a limited hangout can be understood by observing the sales, support and kudos in mainstream media it has achieved while the leading books on 9/11⁴, arguably the most significant economic hit in US history,⁵ have had a much harder time garnering attention. The message seems to be that economic warfare is something that the corporate mainstream will acknowledge, but only so long as it is low tech, long ago, and far away.

Understanding and facing the economic warfare responsible for slowly poisoning us and our families and wiping out our retirement savings is a complex and very scary undertaking in comparison to Perkins' concerned confessions. Perhaps we prefer to disassociate from our present circumstances, live in a perpetual state of cognitive dissonance, and focus on the study of yesteryear.

Complex and scary as it may seem, the growing body of evidence makes a compelling case that officials of the US government, its contractors and the military abetted the 9/11 attacks. With the help and complicity of the US Congress and corporate media, they are engaged in the most profitable war and enforcement profiteering in history. This is a terrifying picture to contemplate.

Look how tough it has been for New Yorkers, the constituency most adversely affected by the 9/11 tragedy. A recent Zogby poll indicates that 49.3 percent of residents of New York City hold the opinion that officials "knew in advance that attacks were planned on or around September 11, 2001, and that they consciously failed to act." Yet, despite this widespread conviction and the mounting evidence that sustains it, no serious support has developed for the November 2004 citizens' complaint requesting that Elliot Spitzer, the Attorney General of New York, finally open a criminal investigation into the tragedy.

Although fifteen NYC legislators have also called for such an inquiry, there has as yet been no effort locally

to hold the New York Senate and Congressional delegations accountable for failing to hold the executive branch responsible for its failure to perform, or for its potential complicity. While the New York firemen booing Hillary Clinton off the stage at the 911 Concert was a start, the sentiment expressed has not translated into political action or market action. How many New Yorkers have cut off their subscriptions to, ads in or investments in the stock of the *New York Times* when the *Times* helped to facilitate the 9/11 cover-up by failing to ask probative questions or hold officials accountable?

The problem the average New Yorker has is the same that we all face - our complicity is deep. We have an entire economy and culture financially dependent upon too many things that harm people and the environment. This is not new. Only the possibility that the war machine is blowing up thousands of middle class Americans in American office buildings in broad daylight is new.

The fact that the Bushes and the Clintons are on the same team - and have been since their alleged Iran-Contra partnership in an airport operation in Mena, Arkansas involving the transshipment of cocaine destined for the streets of America - is not something that most Americans have yet incorporated into our political equation.

The fact that current financial and commodity markets "clear" not through the operation of changes in price generated by the legitimate free market expression of supply and demand but rather by blowing up American office buildings and the people and legal documents in them is not something that most Americans saving for retirement or financing a home have incorporated as risks in developing an investment strategy.

We cannot fathom that economic warfare is now conducted using high tech software weaponry to silently invade the privacy of our banking and purchasing relationships, our comings and goings, and the details of our work and home lives. Nor have we incorporated this realization into our decisions about who we share our lives with and what we say and do behind closed doors.

The illumination of the truth of 9/11, however, could change most Americans' paradigms and transactions in powerful ways. It could certainly fuel an increase in demand for precious metals, alternative energy and local self-sufficiency.

The Strong Dollar Policy

In the mid-1990s, the Clinton Administration, led by an economic team comprised of Robert Rubin, Lawrence Summers and Franklin Raines, instituted something called the "strong dollar policy." This policy was maintained by the Bush Administration, which held over in

the first term many of the key players in policymaking positions, including George Tenet, Jerry Hawke (Comptroller of the Currency 1998 - 2004) and Charles Rossotti (45th Commissioner of the IRS). The smoothness of the transition between administrations ostensibly led by political parties in opposition to each other belies the ruse and underscores the strategic nature of the centralization of economic and political power under way.

While the game of trying to figure out what in the world the strong dollar policy really is has gotten increasingly Orwellian,⁶ the basics are pretty simple. We have kept the dollar's value high relative to other currencies - and far above what fundamental economics would warrant - by asking the consumer and taxpayer to shoulder extraordinary and rising levels of debt financed by increasing amounts of dirty money. This has enabled elites to move off shore and into private hands virtually all the real financial equity in the country. The US is not alone in experiencing "disappearing equity" - it is part of a global equity-centralizing and asset-control process.

The strong dollar policy was characterized by a series of financial and market manipulations:

Four Secretaries of the Treasury refused to produce audited financial statements and reported a total of \$4 trillion in "undocumentable adjustments";⁷

The Clinton and Bush Administrations rejected policies that would build American productivity and employment⁸ in the face of the plan to move employment abroad while permitting the growth of debt and immigration quotas at home;

The Clinton and Bush Administrations promoted federal credit policies that turned American homes into ATM machines and led to a mortgage market characterized by increasing levels of fraud;

The Clinton and Bush Administrations in concert with the central banks (most notably the Federal Reserve) and bullion banks (including JP Morgan-Chase, Citibank and Goldman Sachs) manipulated the gold and silver markets to suppress the price of precious metals while large inventories were moved out of governments and central bank accounts worldwide and into private hands;

US pension funds and 401k and IRA retirement savings accounts lost value by waves

of accounting and other financial frauds at widely held corporations (such as Enron, Worldcom and Tyco);

US Congress and regulatory agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted corporate controls, ostensibly to protect investors from further acts of corporate fraud, that operate as a subtle form of capital control, limiting the ability of entrepreneurs on Main Street to raise capital in financial markets;

Military force was used to ensure that global investors would continue to purchase US Treasury and mortgage agency securities and the US dollar would prevail as the currency of international choice;

The federal budget, federal credit, and federal contracting were operated to favor corporate profit making at the cost of small business and labor productivity;

US Treasury and Federal Reserve market intervention was used to ensure low cost of capital for favored global corporations; and,

The types and amounts of outstanding financial derivatives exploded, far beyond the ability of most public and private leaders to understand or explain.

No one has made a count of the deaths that resulted worldwide from these various financial manipulations. The death toll from the pincer movement of military warfare and economic warfare is far greater than is generally understood.

9/11: Strong Dollar Policy Steroids?

While floating the global dollar economy on a sea of debt and easy money worked well for the economic hit men and women through the end of the 1990s, by the summer of 2001 the game seemed to have run its course. Defense appropriations had stalled that summer. Members of the media were asking questions about \$3.3 trillion missing from HUD and DOD. Shortly before 9/11, Donald Rumsfeld admitted that DOD could not account for trillions of taxpayer dollars. On September 9, 2001, *From the Wilderness* issued an economic alert warning that the global financial system ran the risk of meltdown.⁹

With the events of 9/11, however, the US government was able to garner support for the extraordinary financial market interventions necessary to continue the strong dollar policy and for keeping the lid on the vari-

ous financial frauds and manipulations. America and the global financial system have stayed afloat for another three years.

The answer to the question *Cui Bono?* ("Who benefits?") from the strong dollar policy suggests that allegations that members of the Bush Administration fully expected, welcomed and even facilitated 9/11 should be taken seriously. Trillions of dollars have been moved out of the US economy under the umbrella of the strong dollar policy - much of it in what appear to be criminal ways. The 9/11 tragedy conveniently necessitated a sudden, centralized control over government and therefore private activities in the name of protecting national security interests and addressing the threat of terrorism. 9/11 diverted attention from and shut the door behind that money movement. It ushered in a wave of legislation rushed through Congress that would make it much more difficult for the American people to do anything about it. The events of 9/11 have acted as a "lock-down" on a financial *coup d'état* at the core of the "strong dollar policy."

In the Machiavellian tradition, it turns out that the "strong dollar policy" is a policy that intentionally destroys the value of the dollar.

Justifying the End of Markets and Democracy

Traditionally, the faith of the US working class in democracy has been one of the most powerful supports for democracy worldwide. It is not enough to bankrupt the American middle class and the American government. The current effort to move to more centrally controlled governance also requires removing this faith that underpins support for global democracy. Part and parcel of doing so is establishing popular support for the notion that the economic supports for democracy - sound money, open and transparent markets and government, and access to equity - are somehow bad.

An example of this is Marjorie Kelly's *The Divine Right of Capital*, which neglects to integrate the covert revenue streams into the equation and instead attempts to explain problems and resolutions in terms of overt cash flows only. According to Kelly, the editor of Business Ethics magazine, free markets, not organized crime and black budgets, are the problem. Hence, the problem is that shareholders want to make money, not that insiders rip off small investors of their savings and retirement investments using criminal means, protected, not obstructed, by governmental intervention. Kelly's bio mentions her speaking engagements at Harvard, without concern for Harvard's leadership in Enron, Harken, the rape of Russia, HUD corruption and other criminal frauds.

In the latest escalation of the Orwellian nightmare, we have entire networks of good-hearted progressives and

socially responsible investors promoting a framework of "problems-solutions" that provides the perfect intellectual camouflage for their opponents' control over national and international resources. Now that the so-called "New World Order" has stolen all of the money, those who are most appalled at this state of affairs unwittingly promote policies that will prevent the ordinary person from communicating with integrity or creating and accumulating wealth. Even worse, they crave the credibility conferred by the foundation, church and university investment syndicates most richly rewarded by economic and military warfare. Their behavior and the policies they promote --- if allowed to triumph --will ensure our descent into a 21st century war economy.

Lest these words give offense, I would encourage you to read one of the most important and brilliant economic articles of 2004, "Shilling for a New World Order" by Anne Williamson.¹⁰ Understanding Mr. Shiller and the folks who finance and promote his effort tells us much about who profits from fascism. Shiller provides the philosophical prerequisites for ending democracy and markets for good and ensuring that no one can rise other than through serving the war economy.

Getting to the truth of 9/11 offers an opportunity to ask and answer the unanswered questions of who is running our world, and to illuminate how the covert cash flows really work. Only with such a powerful understanding can we appreciate the intellectual poison in Shiller's proposals and find real solutions effective in decentralizing our financial systems. I am reminded of a wonderful and very intelligent staff member of the CIA who told me in 1997, "your problem is that you have not answered the question, *where does evil come from?*" Indeed, this is the unanswered question of our day; one that cannot be answered without a much richer and clear picture than we now have of the economic warfare raging throughout our world and the economic hit men and women leading it.

There is Hope - Two Stories

Story #1

In November 2004 I was at a precious metals investment conference and had the opportunity to ask one of the speakers, the former head of a US intelligence agency, why the Air Force "stood down four times on 9/11." His answer surprised me. One of his major points during the speech had been the importance of cooperation among all parts of military, intelligence and enforcement on events like 9/11. He answered in a tone of anger saying something like, "I wouldn't know, dear. I ran the (intelligence agency), not the Air Force. You would have to ask the Air Force."

Throughout the years of the strong dollar policy, precious metals investors have held out hope that the price

of gold and silver will rise based on economic fundamentals. However, when supply and demand forces can be artificially balanced through covert operations and black budget market manipulations financed by warfare and organized crime, the price can stay managed forever - as long as there are sufficient energy resources to do so. This is a much darker and more subtle form of confiscation than was previously thought possible. I saw and heard a dawning realization in that audience that precious metal investors were being "had."

As global investors come to understand the truth of 9/11, a lot of resources can shift in very decentralizing ways. I presume that the speaker's fear before such an audience indicated that he understood this too. He appreciates that the economic hit men's control of global markets is much more vulnerable to the viral spread of truth than it seems. Indeed, the following week, the speaker made a public statement that the Internet needed increased controls.

It would seem the truth of 911 is quite powerful.

Story #2

Two weeks ago I visited a friend who has absolutely no interest in politics. He is well into his seventies. He understands the extent and seriousness of the corruption.

Given his age, he has concluded that the only thing he can do to help is live an upright life and pray. His response to the truth of 9/11 is to withdraw from current events and contribute spiritually. He mentioned that a group of his friends had suggested that a recent event had been determined by covert means in complete contradiction to accounts put forth by the mainstream media. He spoke about our current leadership with sadness. It was clear from his manner that he no longer takes them seriously. They have lost what the Chinese call "the mandate of heaven." They are thugs - to be avoided in public and laughed at in private.

While this may sound like a small thing, I saw something I have seen many times since the Presidential election. Many Americans are quietly and invisibly withdrawing our mandate from the current leadership - not from America as a country, or from the notion of a democratic American government or from the American people. We understand that our enemy is not these things. This silent withdrawal in the hearts and minds of millions and the use of spiritual warfare to effectively counter those behind economic and military warfare has the power to shift power to more legitimate leadership.

Enough hearts and minds on Main Street are silently withdrawing our support to begin real cultural and economic change. Imagine if the truth of 9/11 could illuminate the real economic hit men and women of our day and age and - unleashed from the paralysis of not un-

derstanding the covert flows around us and who we can trust - help us transform our situation in a wealth creating way?

As Percy Bysshe Shelley once said, "Ye are many. They are few."

¹ See Jamey Hecht, "Failure and Crime Are Not the Same: 9/11's Limited Hangouts," http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/112203_failure_crime.html.

² See Catherine Austin Fitts, "The Myth of the Rule of Law," <http://www.solari.com/gideon/q301.pdf>; "The Negative Return on Investment Economy," <http://www.solariactionnetwork.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=3771#3771> and "The American Tapeworm," <http://www.scoop.co.nz/mason/stories/HL0304/S00228.htm>.

³ For a description of an "economic hit" of which my company was a target, see the "Litigation," available online at <http://www.solari.com/gideon>.

⁴ For a list of recommended books on 9/11, including *The New Pearl Harbor* and *9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* by David Ray Griffin, *Crossing the Rubicon* by Mike Ruppert, *The Complete 9/11 Timeline* by Paul Thompson, *Inside Job* by Jim Marrs and others, see <http://www.911truth.org>.

⁵ Catherine Austin Fitts, "9/11 Profiteering," www.scoop.co.nz/mason/stories/HL0403/S00244.htm.

⁶ Kelly Patricia O'Meara, "Strong Dollar Hides Weak Policy," <http://www.gata.org/StrongDollar.htm>.

⁷ Kelly Patricia O'Meara, "Missing Money Articles," http://www.solari.com/learn/articles_missingmoney.htm; "Treasury Checks and Unbalances," <http://www.insightmag.com/news/2004/04/27/National/Treasury.Checks.And.Unbalances-658744.shtml>

⁸ Catherine Austin Fitts, "The Story of Edgewood Technology Services," <http://www.scoop.co.nz/mason/stories/HL0207/S00101.htm>.

⁹ Mike Ruppert, "Global Economic Collapse Likely," http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/11_09_01_Derivatives.html

¹⁰ <http://www.sandersresearch.com/Sanders/NewsManager/ShowNewsGen.aspx?>

covered last year in its two-part series, "Will The US Re-open the Draft?"

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/022704_draft_goff.html

Death has a tendency to encourage a depressing view of war.

- Donald Rumsfeld

February 14, 2005, PST 0900 (FTW) -- **T**he first and only time I ever met Gary Luck, the general Donald Rumsfeld just hauled out of retirement to end-run his prevaricating Centcom commanders by sending Luck on a fact-finding mission to Iraq, was at Bennigan's, a stand-up bar on McPherson Church Road in Fayetteville, NC. He was manifestly drunk as all of us were, us including my commander at the time, Major David Grange, who now does content-challenged military 'analysis' for CNN. Luck was between commands, already a general, and would in about three more years take over the Joint Special Operations Command. That evening, he was grabbing people at random as they passed his seat and putting them in painful headlocks. Luck was a serious weightlifter and strong as an ape. He did it to me as I walked past at one point, and I took my one and only opportunity to grab a general by his balls and squeeze as hard as I might. He let me go, and then chuckled in his inebriated macho way, signaling - I suppose - that we'd bonded.

Luck's reputation was of the 'eat your dead and drive on,' blood-and-guts variety, but I am always suspicious of this kind of rep for those who advance to the top, because whether the military acknowledges it or not, advancement into the ionosphere of four stars pretty much guarantees that somewhere along the way, there were big piles of shit to eat, even if they were eaten discretely.

It's pretty interesting to me that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld chose Gary Luck to drag back out of retirement, precisely because of the reputation, deserved or not. There is a symbolic dimension to his selection that says, "We're getting serious, now." Which, of course, implies that up until now we haven't been, and if I were John Abazaid right now, I'd be updating my resumes and preparing my retirement speech.

Luck's trip to Iraq last month in the run-up to the recent gunpoint elections also signals that the real expectations of the election are decidedly different from what was peddled to the U.S. population.

Given Cheney's belligerence toward Iran, we can rule out that the U.S. wants to allow Sistani followers to establish an independent Iraq that will embrace its Persian

neighbor as its main partner in the region, and they can arrange an oil bloc that would push both countries back to the front of the world stage (see the FTW series, "[Persian Peril](#)").

And given that the administration has even acknowledged, however elliptically, that the elections would not stand down the insurgency, then we can safely assume that this was not the real objective of the elections. In fact, I think we can go one further, and say that the elections - no matter how much credit is being taken for them by Cheney's Legionnaires in Washington - were not the Bush administration's idea. They were Sistani's idea, and his demand after he took the controls and hauled the U.S. out of a dangerous downward spiral when the Sadr rebellion broke out.

And unless we are going to claim that the entire apparatus is on mescaline, we have to acknowledge that they know what any of us with the attention span of a Red-bone pup already knows: that these elections have dramatically increased the probability of civil war in Iraq.

Now a civil war is a very serious thing, and all the more serious politically if one is bossing an occupying military force for which he has claimed the mission of liberation and democratization. So we have to assume, at least I have to assume, that after assessing the inevitability of an election in the wake of the disastrous (for the U.S.) Sadr interlude (the U.S. boasted throughout this fiasco about how they were going to bring Sadr out feet first or in flex cuffs), the U.S. settled on a revised plan to pursue the same strategy. If not, why would Bush appoint a cabinet that clearly reflects his intention to follow the path defined by William Kristol, Scooter Libby, Paul Wolfowitz, Dick Cheney and all the other PNAC boys? That goal is to establish a permanent U.S. military presence in Iraq, and so I am assuming that the higher post-election likelihood of civil war now serves as a reason to 'stay the course,' even should the Shia electorate that showed up for their ration cards at the polling places in January (this is true) decide that they will ask their newly elected officials to show the truculent Anglo-American squatters the door.

So for the sake of argument, I am positing the premise that the administration intends to stay, come hell or high water.

That's premise one.

Premise two: the armed forces of the United States are not adequate in their current numbers - if all things remain equal or get worse - to pacify Iraq to the point where these bases will be viable over the long term, or to send the ever more unconvincing message to others around the world that they could face the wrath of an invincible American military if they don't behave as di-

rected.

This is questionable even if we limit Iraq to the Southernmost Shia-majority areas where a good deal of the oil is. But if we note that Sadr still controls vast areas of the capital, that he still maintains contact with both secular and Sunni forces, and the guerrilla formations in the North seem nowhere near exhaustion... and if we further note that allowing a split Iraq - which Condi Rice just reassured the Turks will never happen - will probably result in further subdivision in and around Iraqi Kurdistan, then the picture for the mere 130,000 U.S. troops, their 11,000 Anglo-Saxon allies, and the 20, 000 or so high-dollar mercs, is very dismal indeed.

The troops will be setting up betting pools on the next IED [improvised explosive device -Ed.] deaths, just as we set up betting pools in Somalia for mortar attacks.

Third premise: it's getting a lot harder to keep the numbers they currently have in the military, and the strain is showing.

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"The Army initially planned to use 16 brigades to win the Iraq war," said the article ("[Reserves may get extended deployments](#)," by Pamela Hess), "11 to maintain stability by December 2003, and expected to drop to four to five brigades sometime in 2004. The insurgency caused a sharp change in plans: There are 20 brigades in Iraq."

In yet another personnel shell game reminiscent of Stop Loss, the backdoor draft that now arbitrarily extends service members beyond their discharge dates, the Pentagon is now planning to change the rules for reserve mobilization that allow 24 months of cumulative mobilization to 24 months of consecutive mobilization. Vice Chief of Staff Richard Cody testified to Congress that this will "reset the clock," allowing the Pentagon to extend Reserves and National Guards in combat now past their current 12-18 months. After five years, said Cody, the military can come back again for an additional 24-month mobilization. This new policy is a reaction to the failure this year of Reserves to meet recruiting targets.

The Reserves aren't the only component that are having difficulty meeting recruiting goals. For the first time in over a decade, the Marine Corps missed its numbers. The Marine Corps has blamed their failure to meet their quota on parents.

In an AP article written by Robert Burns on February 4 ("[Marines: Recruit shortfall pegged to parents](#)"), he quotes Major David Griesmer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

"It's a natural reaction in a time of war that a mother and father are going to have concerns, and so they are putting on the brakes," said Maj. Dave Griesmer, spokesman for Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

The 17-year-olds in high school who are a prime target of Marine recruiters cannot sign up without parental approval. Griesmer said that increasingly, parents are making their sons and daughters wait until they are 18, but that has not stopped recruiters from putting in extra effort.

"What we're doing is working with the parents more," he said. "Whereas before it may have taken one visit and they would accept, now it may take a recruiter two, three, four" visits.

While there is no doubt that parents are concerned, that concern goes far beyond the parents that Major Griesmer wants to cajole into giving up their children. There is resistance to the war developing among the families who have already watched their children join the armed forces, and among spouses, and among a growing group of those families whose loved ones were killed and maimed in the war.

[Military Families Speak Out](#) has become a major anti-war force on the American political scene, and from them has emerged an even more emotionally potent

antiwar military family bloc, [Gold Star Families for Peace](#), composed entirely of families who have lost loved ones in Iraq. Combined with the growing groups of veterans themselves who are organizing against the war, including [Vietnam Veterans Against the War](#), [Veterans for Peace](#), and [Iraq Veterans Against the War](#), they have launched a campaign for unilateral withdrawal of Anglo-American forces from Iraq, called [Bring Them Home Now](#).

This incursion directly into military communities by the antiwar movement is further exacerbating the Pentagon's institutional crisis in Iraq. It reflects a high degree of dissatisfaction and dissent among significant numbers of troops as well, who are deserting and refusing to deploy in record numbers.

Darryl Anderson, a Purple Heart recipient who just publicly decamped to Canada, saying, "I thought I was defending my country, but that is not what I was doing," is just the latest among approximately 2,600 U.S. military desertions since October 2003.

While there has been speculation that Canada will not serve as a viable refuge because interpretations of the U.S.-Canadian [Smart Border Declaration](#) (SBD) might lead to extradition of American military political refugees, those who have fled to Canada so far have not triggered extradition requests from the United States (eager to avoid any mention of military resistance at all), and the status of Jeremy Hinzman - a military political refugee in Canada now - will be decided by a Canadian court this month (February, 2005). Moreover, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced last December (2004) that Canada would definitely not seek the forced repatriation of American service members who fled the armed service.

Kevin Benderman, a combat veteran of Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia, who has been in the Army for nine years, is only the latest in a series of high-profile American soldiers who have flatly refused to return to Iraq. Benderman is seeking Conscientious Objector status and facing court martial for "desertion," even though he never left Fort Stewart.

According to the [GI Rights Hotline](#), the [National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force](#), and the Fayetteville, NC-based [Quaker House](#), requests for information on applying for CO status, as well as questions about consequences for deserting or refusing, have skyrocketed in recent months. While the military has cracked down hard on public commentary from troops in theater about their conditions and their morale, these indices help us to infer the reality of how this war is grinding down the overstretched troops in Iraq.

Already, the social costs are being felt, too. An article

dated February 8 in the *Christian Science Monitor*, by Alexandra Marks ("[Back from Iraq - and suddenly on the streets](#)"), reports that Iraq and Afghanistan vets are now showing up in homeless shelters in sharply increasing numbers. Rising housing costs and poorly paying jobs are partly to blame, according to Marks, but two other factors are contributing as well: the inability of the Veterans Administration in these Bush-lean times to expeditiously process benefits requests, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Almost one in five Iraq vets is suffering from PTSD according the conservative estimates from the *New England Journal of Medicine*, but only one out of five of those vets seeks assistance, fearing the stigma of mental illness and clinging to the military ethos of 'toughness.' These emotionally damaged veterans have difficulty holding jobs or maintaining interpersonal relationships.

These various stress indicators can be traced to the inability of U.S. forces to adequately control the situation in Iraq in order to pursue their real agenda. While the moral and political challenges of the war are very significant in this failure, these are not dimensions of the conflict that the U.S. administration is in a position to rectify. The one dimension of this crisis that they can exercise some control over - but which is also fraught with political mines - is the number of troops operating in theater, and by extension the number of people under arms in the United States Armed Forces.

In one retrenchment after another to avoid the "C" word (conscription), the administration has initiated Stop Loss, accelerated troop rotation cycles, expanded Reserve and National Guard call-ups, and now plans to extend Reserve tours through manipulation of contract language. But they are fast approaching the bedrock that will break their entrenching tools, unless there is some kind of miraculous transformation of the situation in Iraq.

Without using the word 'conscription,' the architectural think-tank of the Iraq War, [Project for a New American Century](#), recently reversed their original position on expansion of personnel numbers in the military (they originally thought that Iraq would be a "cakewalk."). In a new memo, PNAC suggested the indefinite expansion of ground forces (Army and Marine Corps) gross numbers by 25,000 a year. Said PNAC, "it should be evident that our engagement in the greater Middle East is truly...a 'generational commitment.'"

Now while this document scrupulously avoided using the words 'draft' and 'conscription,' it doesn't require Robert Oppenheimer to connect the dots here. We might easily dismiss this latest memo as the raving of a mere think-tank, except that most pronouncements from

PNAC have shown the ability to morph into national policies.

Given that *Rolling Stone* recently reported ("[Return of the Draft](#)," Tim Dickinson, January 27) that the U.S. government has committed as much to new recruitment package incentives, including a \$30,000 sign-up bonus for the Marines whose numbers are still retreating, as they spent on disaster relief for the tsunami, it seems safe to assume that we are reaching some kind of threshold.

"The Army's maxed out here," says retired Gen. Merrill McPeak, who served as Air Force chief of staff under the first President Bush. "The Defense Department and the president seem to be still operating off the rosy scenario that this will be over soon, that this pain is temporary and therefore we'll just grit our teeth, hunker down and get out on the other side of this. That's a bad assumption."

A Selective Service memo in February of last year to the Pentagon stated, "Defense manpower officials concede there are critical shortages of military personnel with certain special skills, such as medical personnel, linguists, computer network engineers, etc.... [the high cost of] "attracting and retaining such personnel for military service [leads] some officials to conclude that, while a conventional draft may never be needed, a draft of men and women possessing these critical skills may be warranted in a future crisis." This was written last year. The situation has since then deteriorated badly. When we see the "skills draft," we may safely assume that the camel's nose is in the tent.

All that's required now is an 'emergency.' Iran and DPRK should be very afraid.

The cost issue of incentives for recruitment, aside from not seeming to work, is rapidly adding to the economic woes of the war for the Bush-Cheney regime. Pentagon correspondent for UPI, Pamela Hess, again reports:

The Pentagon unveiled a \$419 billion budget request for 2006 on Monday [February 7], a 4.8 percent increase over the 2005 budget even as the White House is trying to cut the annual deficit in half by 2009. Combined with "emergency supplements" for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon budget has increased by 41 percent since 2001, according to Defense Department comptroller Tina Jonas.

The massive and rapid increases have led to accountability scandals that now plague the Department of De-

fense, including the recently reported apparent 'loss' by the Coalition Provisional Authority of \$9 billion.

In its every dimension, the invasion and occupation of Iraq is deteriorating. That's why the public crowing about the 'election success' at the end of January is ever more strident. These success stories are designed to reinflate the flagging optimism of the American people. No one else is fooled by them. And no one in the administration is mentioning that these elections were an event that Sistani arranged and dragged the occupation bosses into by their nostrils. Now they are faced with a heightened prospect of civil war (which while a great excuse to stay, can not be 'managed' by a mere 130,000 U.S. troops) and a 'government' they want to legitimate that will tilt toward that other nemesis, Iran.

Which was my first premise - the U.S. intends to stay.

Donald Rumsfeld told *Face the Nation* on February 6 that the administration had not the least intention of reinstating the draft. His personal opposition to a draft has never been a secret. He fears a conscripted military, seeing that as the linchpin of the U.S. failure in Vietnam (another example of the depth of his capacity for self-delusion).

In fact, my own belief is that the administration believes what they are telling the rest of us, that Iraqis will be able to take over the business of carrying out the U.S. occupation by proxy, relieving the majority of the burden on U.S. forces and leaving them to run their lily pad bases. This is a desperate belief, like the belief of a compulsive gambler that the next one is going to hit. And given that Iraqi soldiers and police are still abandoning their posts like the ballroom dancers off the Titanic, it will not likely play out.

So this draft issue has painted them into yet another corner, which means that the lies will become thinner and more audacious, the stories more fantastic, the need for press complicity more dire, and the disengagement of half the American public from any interest whatsoever in the welfare of Iraqis more essential. Because as long as they cling to their commitment to stay, the inevitability of a draft will increase.

That PNAC is making the call is a very ominous sign indeed. Without conscription, there are four futures I see (though reality is always infinitely more complex than this!): (1) get out of Iraq, (2) grind away toward a slow and painful political defeat, (3) conscript, or (4) open up a hi-tech and genocidal offensive against the Iraqis and perhaps even the Iranians. The latter will require a pretext.

Prepare the dogs. They will be wagged. And send your children to vacation in Manitoba.

[The central metaphor of From The Wilderness is the "map." Standing outside the media metropolis of buzzwords and microanalysis, this journal attempts to survey the landscape of our global predicament from a vantage point high enough to take in the giant trends and the myriad lines of force. A map-reader's motivation is twofold: if anything can help a person to navigate a burning world, a map is surely paramount. But the other motivation is the map's intrinsic interest. Inside a continuous haze of hypnotic advertising, corporate propaganda, and government indoctrination, one can only see a few pixels into the near distance, and one yearns for a synoptic grasp of the larger picture. We at FTW try our best to develop such a picture.

"Footprints," our new story from Science Editor Dale Allen Pfeiffer, uses a remarkable set of maps from National Geographic to present an arresting account of mankind's current ecological impact, especially regarding energy use. Dale wishes to thank National Geographic, Dr. Bill Rees, who originated the "ecological footprint" concept, and a dear friend, Pamela Goins, for first planting the seeds for this article by laying out the map of our global footprint on her kitchen table. -JAH]

Footprints

National Geographic Satellite Images Reveal A Deeper Truth About the Industrialized and Mankind

by
Dale Allen Pfeiffer

Introduction

February 28, 2005, PST 0900 (FTW) - **E**verything that moves on the surface of the Earth leaves a track, a record of its passage. An expert tracker, such as Tom Brown Jr. (www.trackerschool.com) can read these tracks so well that they become a record of the animal's life, a sort of a biography through which a very intimate knowledge of the animal can be achieved. Among the easiest animals to track are human beings, because they leave an easily readable path. According to American Indian scouts, the goal is to leave the smallest footprints possible. In doing this, you honor the Earth by leaving it as unaltered as possible, and you render yourself invisible to any who might try tracking you.

In this, as in so much else, the American Indian philosophy is almost diametrically opposed to the European-derived American perspective. In the dominant culture

of conspicuous consumption, the size of your footprint is a display of your wealth and power, rather like a peacock spreading its plumage. In American culture, status is achieved by the size of your McMansion, the mileage of your automobile (with Hummers being a pure statement of extravagance), and in the amount of trash you set out at the curb every week. The American indulgence is well symbolized in the folk legend of Paul Bunyan, the giant who could fell whole forests with one swing of his axe, and created the Great Lakes from his footprints.

Yet, for any who still hold the perspective of the ancients, conspicuous consumption is a gross display of ignorance and foolishness. That enormous footprint displays nothing so clearly as our Achilles Heel. Namely, that we are an easy target for environmental overshoot, and our own over-consumption will bring us down in the end. Even the great Paul Bunyan logged himself out of a job in the end, when he had felled all the large forests.

This is why scientists who have studied the closely linked problems of over-consumption, resource depletion, and pollution have reached the consensus that we need to set aside consumer capitalism and instead extol the virtues of sustainability. We need to reduce the size of our footprint before it engulfs the entire planet. A modern adaptation of the Paul Bunyan story has Paul realizing the error of his ways as he looks out upon the last stand of virgin forest. Paul converts to a spokesperson for the environment, planting trees and protecting the forests from harm.

Plotting Your Footprint

Given the number of people on this planet and the all-pervasive nature of the dominant culture, it is very difficult to step aside and reduce your consumption until you are self-sufficient. Sustainability is an elusive goal. There is an interesting exercise you can undertake online to get an idea of how big your footprint is. You can find this exercise at the Global Footprint Network, <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>. This is a nonprofit organization for the advancement of sustainability. At the bottom of their home page, you will find links under the heading, Ecological Footprint. The link you want is called "[Your Footprint](#)." This link will take you to a program which will ask you a number of questions about your consumption and waste generation habits. Once you have answered all of these questions, the program will compute your footprint in acres. The results can be very eye opening.

For myself, I computed a total footprint of 12 acres. My wife computed 10 acres. She is a vegetarian, while I slipped off that wagon when my daughter came to live with us. In comparison, the average US citizen has a footprint of 24 acres. While we could pat ourselves on

the back for halving our average national footprint, the program still cautions us that if everyone were to live like me, we would need 2.7 planets. If everyone were to live like my wife, we would need 2.2 planets.

We are planning to move someplace where we can lead a more self-sufficient lifestyle. The footprint program informs us that if we were to go totally vegan, grow most of our food, and live in a green-designed residence with energy conservation and efficiency, then we will be able to trim our total footprint down to 5 acres. This lifestyle, we are informed, would be almost sustainable. If everyone lived like this, we would only require 1.2 planets. There are a few other things we could do to bring that number down to 4.5 acres, which is considered to be fully sustainable. We could buy a hybrid car, or do without a private automobile entirely.

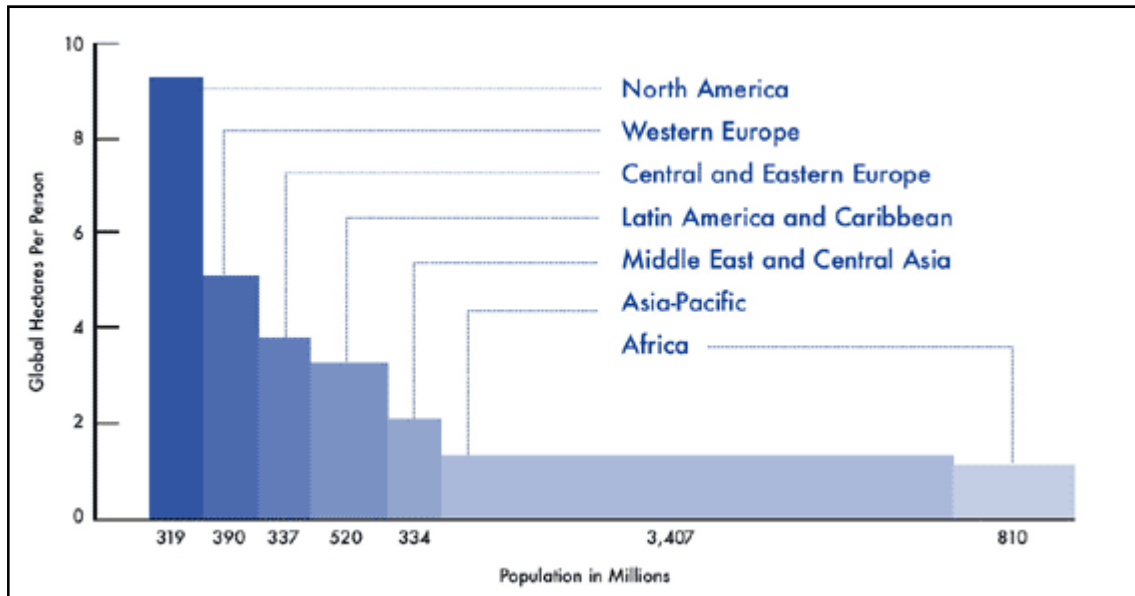
There is some disagreement about the accuracy of these numbers. For one thing, this program does not consider work related consumption. As a writer, my written word is printed in newsletters and books. But then, should this printed matter be considered a part of my consumption, or should it be accorded to whoever purchases it? When you start considering questions like this, you are drawn into public consumption patterns in which we all share a part.

Anyway, though there is some dispute about the actual numbers and the methodology, nobody disagrees about the trend. There are only 4.5 biologically productive acres per person on this planet (not considering all of the other inhabitants of the biota). Yet the figures are plain; as illustrated in the following graph, the developed world (where most of the readers of this essay reside) consumes the lion's share of the world's resources, far in excess of sustainability.

The US leads the world in conspicuous consumption (average footprint 24 acres per person). For comparison, Canada has an average footprint of 16 acres, Western Europe averages about 12 acres, Australia averages 19 acres, Israel averages 13 acres, China aver-

ages 4 acres, India averages 2 acres, and Afghanistan and Haiti average 1 acre per person. Though China averages only 4 acres per person, India only 2 acres, and Indonesia only 3 acres, they are rendered unsustainable by the sheer number of people, and their footprints per capita are growing. It is interesting that footprint heavy-weight U.S. of A. has been pushing around the welter-weights: Afghanistan, 1 acre; Iraq, 3 acres; Haiti, 1 acre; Iran, 5 acres; Venezuela, 6 acres.

This is why scientists who have studied sustainability have said that it is only achievable if the developing world limits population and the developed world limits consumption. Yet, so far the US and certain other countries have refused to consider this strategy. The reason given is that a constraint on consumption would hurt the economy. And so it is a choice between whether we will



taken from The Global Footprint Network, http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=national_footprints

constrain ourselves and throw away the consumer capitalist, throw-away civilization, or whether we will have those constraints forced upon us by resource

depletion and pollution.

Personally, I prefer a voluntary withdrawal from this system, a withdrawal to something more self-sufficient and satisfying. But there are many who are still unaware of the choice we face, and there are many who deny the facts of our predicament. These latter adopt a "show me" attitude. And yet the global footprint is not an abstraction; it can be viewed directly, thanks to satellite technology.

It is in the dark of night that we can best see our footprint on this planet. Here we can see the developed world outlined by electric lights. While it is a spectacular view, it is also a map to the squandering of energy resources. It is astounding how much detail can be seen in this NASA composite satellite photo. This is a map of technological man. The extent of *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus* is here clearly delineated. From this overview provided by NASA, we will now switch to more detailed shots taken from a map prepared by the National Geo-

graphic Society, titled "Earth at Night." The full map can be ordered from the [National Geographic Map Store](#).

Here we can see the profile of conspicuous consumption, revealing the most gluttonous region on the planet. Note that all of the coasts are outlined in

light, and - aside from the far north - the only portions which are not lit up are small patches in the west, Michigan's upper peninsula, and the interior of Maine. The lit up areas represent where energy use is

the greatest, which also tends to be where humanity is the most concentrated. These are among the areas which will suffer the most as we make the long and bumpy ride down the slope of energy depletion.

Note the red light in the lower portion of the picture, off the northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. This represents natural gas flaring at the Mexican oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Red in these images therefore represents where oil is being extracted. Also note the lack of red lights in the US and Canada. This does not mean that the US and Canada are bereft of hydrocarbon resources. In these countries, there are regulations on the flaring of natural gas. There is also a strong demand for natural gas as a fuel in its own right. Fifty years ago, you would have seen red lights across Texas and elsewhere. And without the latest technology, today you would see red lights pinpointing US platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, and also in Canada and Alaska. Note the splotch of white light on the northern coast of Alaska. This represents the Alaskan oil operations.

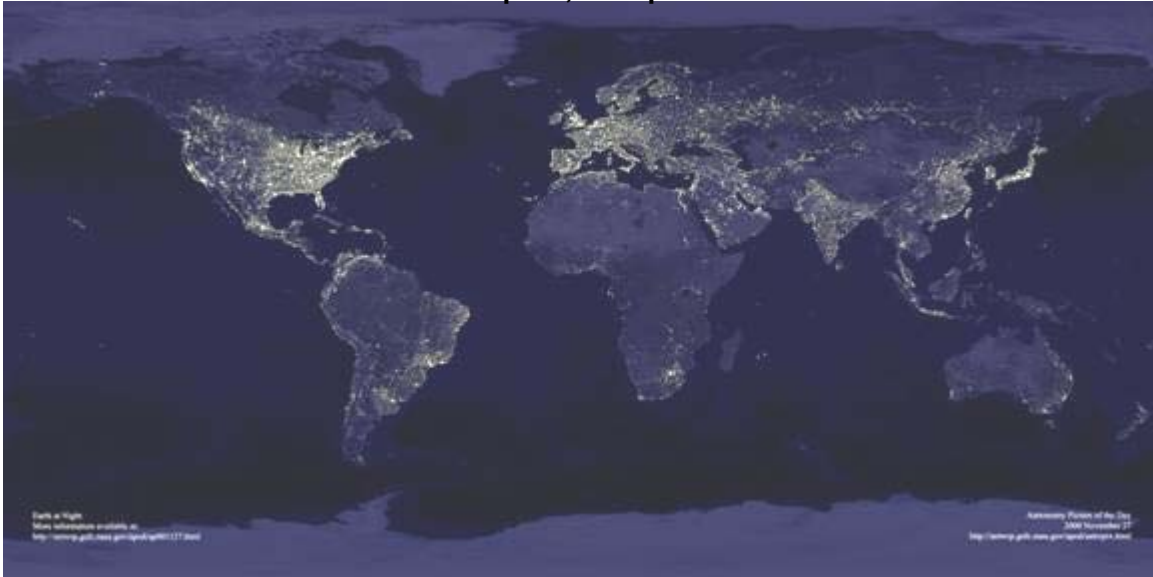
Here we see much less evidence of *Homo sapiens hy-*

drocarbonus, mostly confined to the coast. The use of technology falls off drastically toward the interior. Note the oil production off the coast of Brazil, not too far from Rio de Janeiro, and also on Cape Horn, in Argentina. Other notable oil operations can be identified in Ecuador and Colombia. The oil operations in

Venezuela stand out very clearly. This is the region from which the US receives a good portion of its oil imports, and this is the main reason why the US is

trying to overthrow the government of Presidente Hugo Chavez.

Global Footprint, Group Portrait



Earth at Night
Astronomy Picture of the Day, NASA, Nov. 27th, 2002.
<http://antwpr.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap001127.html>

Note the tendrils of light spreading into the interior from Rio de Janeiro, and from Buenos Aires and Montevideo. These represent the roads which are taking civilization to the interior. Look at the interior of the continent, particularly in Brazil, Bolivia, and to the south of Colombia and Venezuela. The yellow lights represent slash and burn agriculture. This is where the Amazon rainforests are burning, clearly distinguishable from the sky at night.

North America



The most notable feature of Australia at night is the wildfires in the outback, some caused by humans, but many the result of lightning storms during the dry Australian summer. New Zealand, in the lower right corner, is almost devoid of lights. This is why some people believe New Zealand is the spot to ride out the end of the oil

age.

Now look to Indonesia in the upper portion of the map. Indonesia is the third most populous nation on the planet, with over 228.4 million people. As can be seen

on this map, most of those people are concentrated on the island of Java. Indonesia is an OPEC member, though there has been speculation that it may soon lose its membership as its oil production slowly diminishes. The red lights on Sumatra represent the bulk of Indonesia's oil production.

Here we have the most densely populated region of the world; the majority of the human population can be seen in this group portrait. Note the total lack of natural gas flares in India. The population there is almost entirely dependent on imports for their hydrocarbon needs. This does not bode well for the people of the Indian subcontinent, and this is why they have formed a pact with long-time rival, China, for access to oil imports. The lack of gas flares in China, on the other hand, is the result of sophisticated extraction technology. The natural gas is either being reinjected to keep up pressure in the reserves, or it is being utilized to produce energy. Once again, this was not the case just a few decades ago.

Take a look at Japan and South Korea, brightly lit up. Contrast the latter to North Korea, the border between the two being clearly demarked where the light stops at the 38th parallel. Do you see the light blue in the waters surrounding Japan and South Korea? This represents large floodlights employed by the fishing fleet at night, to draw squid and other sea creatures to the surface where they can easily be caught. This is the sign of fisheries on the brink of collapse. Similar lights can be seen off the coast of China and in a few other spots in the other images.

Finally, this image also shows Vietnam's offshore oil operations, off the southeast coast of that country. Malaysia also shows evidence of oil production, both offshore and on the east coast of the Malaysian Peninsula.

The yellow lights which symbolize slash and burn agriculture can be seen all across Sub-Saharan and Southern Africa. Indeed, much of Africa appears to be ablaze. *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus* appears to be largely confined to the fringes of the continent, with the largest concentrations in South Africa, and along the Barbary Coast and

the Mediterranean, in the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt. Note the concentration of population along that cradle of civilization, the Nile.

Oil production is clearly visible, scattered across Algeria and Libya, and to a lesser extent in Egypt and along both shores of the Gulf of Suez. By far the largest reserves of oil are found off the west coast of Africa, from Angola north to the mother lode on and off the coast of Nigeria. It is of prime interest that Africa's oil bearing regions have been areas of conflict and political tension for many years (see FTW's "[Beginning of the Oil End-game](#)"), from the Algerian struggles for liberation from French control, to the US led embargo against Libya as a terrorist nation (and now the increasingly friendly relations and easing of restrictions), to numerous interventions in Angola and Nigeria and neighboring countries. This includes Shell Oil's involvement in the execution of environmental activists in Nigeria and the recent revelation of Halliburton bribing Nigerian officials, and the attempted Equatorial Guinea overthrow plot which snagged Sir Mark Thatcher (son of Former Prime Minister Lady Margaret Thatcher), and likely involved elements of US and British intelligence along with various parties that have a vested interest in the oil business.

We will have a better look at the Middle East in our next image.

Our final image comprises multiple theatres. And in this one image, we take in the majority of the planet's remaining energy resources.

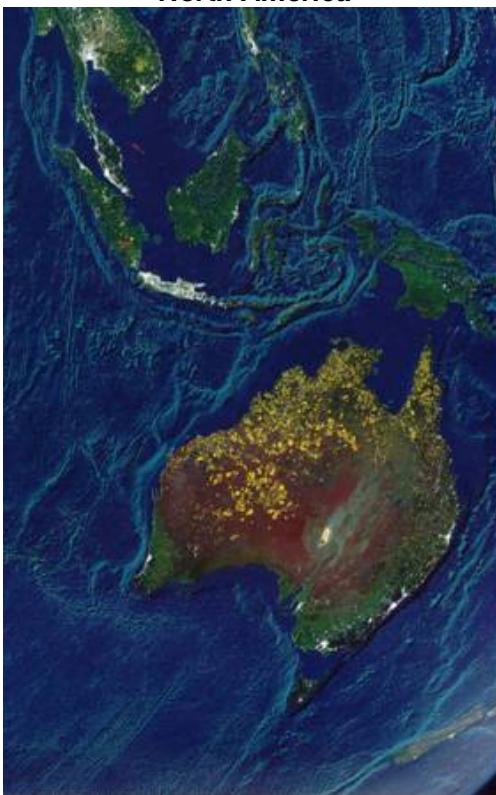
Let us first look at Europe, with its marked presence of *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus*. Note the dense populations, and the lack of observable oil production. The only large oil deposits in this region are denoted by the natural gas flares in the North Sea. Aside from these declining fields, Europe is virtually dependent upon oil imports.

In the upper right section of the image, we see the oil fields of Siberia, which are of so much interest to Europe, China, Japan

South America



North America



and the US. South of Russia, we see some oil activity in Georgia, and in the Central Asian countries surrounding the Caspian Sea. This region, which until very recently was where many hopes of future hydrocarbon riches were pinned, obviously boasts only modest hydrocarbon production.

Allowing our gaze to drop below Central Asia, we arrive at the Middle East, where the bulk of the world's hydrocarbon resources are located, and where the entire world has increasingly focused its attention. First let us observe how patchy are the lights of *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus* in this region. The population is concentrated in Riyadh (in the middle of Saudi Arabia, around Abu Dhabi and Dubai on the eastern Musandam Peninsula, in Qatar and Bahrain, heavily in Kuwait, and extending from the Red Sea port of Jeddah, inland to Mecca and southward. The highest concentration of *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus* is to be found in Israel and Lebanon, areas which are virtually bereft of hydrocarbon resources. Also compare the scattered population centers of Iraq (where the US is slowly losing hold in its efforts to occupy that country), with more widely populated Iran (which some in the US are hoping to target next).

Finally, we cannot keep our eyes away from the oil fields. In this image, we can plainly see how most of the oil reserves are concentrated in the Persian Gulf and extending inland along the Tigris and Euphrates River Basin, in Iraq and Iran. The large fields of Saudi Arabia are seen to cover only a small eastern portion of that country, extending slightly inland from the gulf. This is the Arabian Oil Triangle. Outside of this region, there are some smaller deposits in northern Iraq, around Jeddah and north of there on the Red Sea, and in the countries of Oman and Yemen, on the southern and western portions of the Arabian Peninsula. But it is in the Arabian Oil Triangle where the majority of the

world's remaining hydrocarbon wealth is concentrated, and around which the final days of the Oil Age are destined to be played out.

Asia



Conclusion

We have learned how to gage our own personal footprints, and in so doing received some clues as to how we can shrink our footprints and so move toward self-sufficiency and sustainability. And we have seen the footprint of humanity in its entirety written out across the surface of the planet. Certainly, there are many aspects of this footprint which are missing here: air, land & water pollution, the amount

Africa



of natural habitat fallen and falling to agriculture and other development, the mass extinction currently taking place on this planet, and the depletion of resources-to name a few. But we can see that there are few places remaining on this planet which have been spared from our footprint.

The images of the Earth at night show us how great our reach is. They also show us how overextended we are, and how vulnerable we are to the collapse which inevitably follows upon the overextension of any species beyond the carrying capacity of its environment. The abundance of resource wealth - particularly energy wealth, which the technological revolution of the last two centuries brought into our grasp, has been largely squandered. Our population has climbed exponentially following the curve of energy production. But the subspecies which has evolved over the last couple centuries, *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus*, could quite possibly be the most short-lived lifeform on the planet. The world we face will not be able to support *Homo sapiens hydrocarbonus* for much longer. And we have all but forgotten how to exist without hydrocarbons. It is time for *Homo sapiens* to evolve a new subspecies, and hopefully this subspecies will be

Europe, Russia, Central Asia, & the Middle East



THE FAA KNEW!

But were they set up?

By
Michael Kane

February 14, 2005, PST 1200 (FTW) - **A** recently declassified document reveals the FAA was warned about hijacking threats prior to 9/11. If the FAA was warned, *who warned them?*

The answer is on page 61 of the now declassified document. The intelligence came from CIA, FBI and the State Department. But from page 53 to the very end, this document is so heavily redacted that it's impossible to decipher just what it reveals.

http://www.familiesofseptember11.org/includes/viewfile.asp?vfile=../docs/staff_report_3.pdf

The scapegoating of the FAA is a continuation of the 9/11 Commission's agenda: to direct attention away from NORAD & NCA (National Command Authority - Commander in Chief) responsibilities for what happened on 9/11.

However, the Air Force itself has cleared the FAA of any wrong doing on 9/11.

In a book commissioned by the Air Force documenting what happened on 9/11 titled "*Air War Over America*," it is consistently and repeatedly stated that the FAA was "Johnny-on-the-spot" that morning. Flight 11 was reported off-course to the military by FAA before 8:30 am. The 9/11 Commission report and the Air Force account directly conflict; it's as if they were documenting two separate events.

The real issue with the FAA on 9/11 is Ptech.

Ptech (now [Go Agile](#)) was the company that supplied the enterprise architecture software for most of the federal government and its military agencies. This included the Whitehouse, Secret Service, Air Force and FAA. This software is able to analyze the critical data throughout an enterprise in real-time. For federal aviation, the most critical data of all lies on FAA radar screens.

Ptech was owned and funded by Saudi terror financiers

with reported links to the Bush administration. But it was the Clinton administration that granted Ptech high military security clearance in 1996, when they began receiving contracts throughout the entire federal government.

Why wasn't Ptech ever mentioned in the 9/11 Commission report? Why is the FAA being blamed for 9/11 without any mention of the appalling fact that Ptech was in the FAA for (at least) 2 years with access to their entire data blueprint and all FAA databases?

Ptech's software is powerful enough to have allowed intentional, specific manipulation of real-time information on FAA radar screens. Remember, on 9/11 the Air Force was in the middle of simulated war games that involved false blips, referred to as "radar injects," on FAA screens (see [Crossing the Rubicon](#) for full documentation). Add into this equation the very real possibility of such an inject remaining on FAA screens *after* the war games were called off - which seems to be exactly what happened.

The FAA, Ptech, and "phantom flight 11"

In the 9/11 Commission report a "phantom flight 11" was added to the official version of what happened that day. A tape was played at the final commission hearing on June 17, 2004, of a woman from the FAA telling NORAD that flight 11 was still airborne at 9:24 am, long after it had actually struck the WTC. Originally this was reported to be the time when the FAA notified NORAD that flight 77 was off course and headed to the Pentagon.

This information was used by the commission to claim NORAD had never been informed that flight 77 was headed towards Washington D.C., leaving the FAA holding the bag for the penetration of the most heavily guarded airspace in the world. The commission's report states that they were "unable to identify the source of this mistaken FAA information."

It has been clearly documented that "false blips," or radar injects, were placed on FAA radar screens on the morning of 9/11 as part of the Air Force war games that morning. "Phantom flight 11" fits the description of a "false blip." If it was, in fact, a radar inject, that would explain why the 9/11 commission was unable to locate the source of the "mistaken FAA information." The 9/11 war games are classified and specific information regarding such details is not publicly available. We do know by the time "phantom flight 11" appeared on FAA screens - 9:24 am - the war games had reportedly been called off.

So what was it doing there?

[FTW's](#) position is that "phantom flight 11" was injected

onto FAA radar screens by "the maestro" of the 9/11 war games (either Dick Cheney or General Ralph "Ed" Eberhart) using Ptech software to override FAA systems. Let's examine the feasibility of such a scenario.

Ptech had been working on the data blueprint of the FAA's entire network for 2 years prior to 9/11. Their confidential business plan lays out just how much access they had to the FAA's data systems.

Ptech Inc. Confidential Business Plan: Page 37 of 46, 11/7/2001

*The FAA recognized the need for leveraging its IT investment, with a means of centralizing activities and introducing consistency and compatibility within the operating systems environment. A Ptech consulting team was organized to use activity modeling to identify key functions that could be examined for improvement in **network management, network security, configuration management, fault management, performance management, application administration, network accounting management, and user help desk operations.***

What the above tells us is that Ptech had access to the entire informational barn door of the FAA's data systems. In an amazing exchange published in part 1 of this series, FTW editor Jamey Hecht was able to confirm a central thesis of *Crossing the Rubicon* while interviewing Wall Street whistleblower Indira Singh. Ms. Singh is an IT professional who started First Boston's first Information Technology group in 1975 and had worked on Wall Street until 2002. She's been an IT consultant for Banker's Trust, the U.N., JP Morgan, and American Express. In 1988 she started TibetNet - a derivative of DARPA's Internet, the service on which you are likely reading this report at the moment. The exchange was as follows:

*Jamey Hecht: You said at the 9/11 Citizens' Commission hearings, you mentioned - its on page 139 of transcript - that **Ptech was with [Mitre Corporation](#) in the basement of the FAA for 2 years prior to 9/11 and their specific job was to look at interoperability issues the FAA had with NORAD and the Air Force, in case of an emergency.***

Indira Singh: Yes, I have a good diagram for that...

*Jamey Hecht: And that relationship had been going on mediated by Ptech for 2 years prior to 9/11. You elsewhere say that the Secret Service is among the government entities that had a contract with Ptech. Mike Rupert's thesis in *Crossing the Rubicon*, as you know, is that the software that was running information between FAA & NORAD was superseded by a parallel subsum-*

ing version of itself that was being run by the Secret Service on state of the art parallel equipment in the PEOC with a nucleus of Secret Service personnel around Cheney.

*...In your view, **might it have been the case that Cheney was using Ptech to surveil the function of the people who wanted to do their jobs on the day of 9/11 in FAA & NORAD, and then intervene to turn off the legitimate response?***

*Indira Singh: **Is it possible from a software standpoint? Absolutely it's possible.** Did he (Cheney) have such a capability? I don't know. But that's the ideal risk scenario - to have an over-arching view of what's going on in data. That's exactly what I wanted for JP Morgan.*

***You know what's ironic about this; I wanted to take my operational risk blueprint which is for an operational event going wrong and I wanted to make it generic for extreme event risk to surveil across intelligence networks. What you're describing is something that I said, 'boy if we had this in place maybe 9/11 wouldn't have happened.' When I was going down to In-Q-Tel and getting these guys excited about creating an extreme event risk blueprint to do this, I'm thinking of doing exactly what you're saying Cheney might have already had!** [emphasis added]*

-- end of transcript

Ptech was working with Mitre Corp. in the FAA and, according to Singh, Ptech was the Alpha dog in that relationship. Mitre has provided simulation-and-testing technologies for the Navy. They provide multiple FAA technologies and boast in their annual reports that their two biggest clients are DOD and FAA. Mitre knew the FAA's technological enterprise inside and out, including any simulation-and-testing (war game) technology operated by the FAA.

This was the perfect marriage to ensure that the capacity to covertly intervene in FAA operations on 9/11 existed - in the middle of simulated war games. It was also the perfect marriage to ensure that the command and control of these capabilities was readily available to Dick Cheney via Secret Service Ptech software in the Presidential Emergency Operations Center, the bunker to which Cheney was "rushed" by the Secret Service. As already pointed out in [part 1 of FTW's series](#), Ptech does what Total Information Awareness (TIA, the DARPA program designed to monitor all electronic transactions in real-time) is supposed to do. There are an undetermined number of other software programs in the hands of an undetermined number of corporations also capable of this. Again, top-level enterprise architecture software is designed for the express purpose of

knowing all the critical information produced across the entirety of the "enterprise" in real-time.

In the case of Ptech software, installed on White House, Secret Service, Air Force and FAA systems (as well as most American military agencies), the enterprise included all of the real-time data of the above-mentioned agencies. Singh has confirmed that Ptech software could have been set up to allow Dick Cheney to surveil and intervene on FAA radar screens.

As documented by former Bush counter-terrorism advisor Richard Clarke in his book, *Against All Enemies*, on 9/11 the Secret Service had the capability of seeing FAA radar screens in real time; and as documented by Mike Ruppert in *Crossing the Rubicon*, Secret Service has the authority to take supreme command over any and all American agencies - including the Air Force.

So when you read the *Associated Press*, or *New York Times*, or any other mainstream account of how the FAA failed our country on 9/11, ask yourself why none of the above is mentioned in those reports. Ask yourself why the executive branch cleared Ptech software of being a threat to national security on the very same day the FBI first raided their offices. Ask yourself why Ptech software is still in the Whitehouse. And ask yourself whose interests the Bush administration really serves.

Please see...
http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/012005_ptech_pt1.shtml
http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/012705_ptech_pt2.shtml
...for more info on Ptech, the FAA & 9/11

Correction

FIXING A MAP IN *Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil*

And a Thank You to Larry Flynt

by

Michael C. Ruppert

February 7, 2005, PST 0900 (FTW) - **W**e made a goof in *Crossing the Rubicon*. It's not a big one but, in keep-

ing with my seven-year record of promptly pointing out and correcting mistakes when I make them, I have found one that is important enough to bring to your attention.

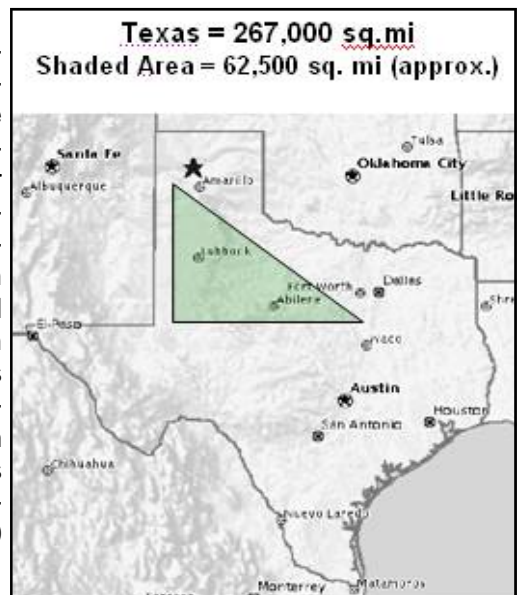
On page 45 of *Rubicon* I inserted two maps. One of those maps showed that Vice President Cheney's Energy Task Force was (in 2001) secretly looking at maps of key oil fields in the Persian Gulf where 60% of the world's known recoverable oil is. I personally compiled that map from documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act lawsuits filed by Judicial Watch and the Sierra Club. That map is accurate.

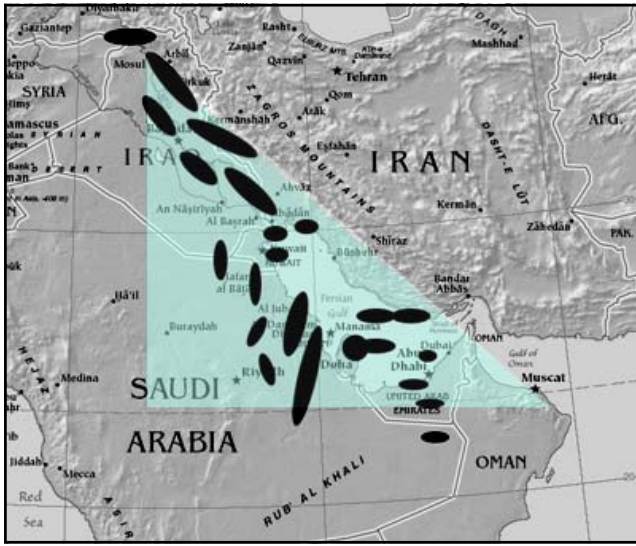


Next to that map I placed an overlay of what was supposed to be the same area, superimposed over the state of Texas. I hired a talented researcher who is now a high school teacher to calculate and make that map for me. That map however turned out to be inaccurate and it was

brought to my attention by two loyal *FTW* and *Rubicon* readers who happen to be scientists experienced in both geography and geology. They were afraid that the error might be used to somehow discredit a book which they both heartily supported. (Having friends is a good thing). The error got by me and three levels of editing before the book was published last September. It will be corrected in subsequent printings of the book.

A more accurate representation of the areas in question is better visually displayed and accurate to within a few hundred square miles in two new maps we have prepared. Both new maps cover approximately 285,000 square miles.





The correct geographic overlay of Texas is displayed by the following map.



This correction does not materially change the point I was trying to make, nor does it make my original point invalid. Most of the recoverable oil on the planet is in a relatively very small area. There was an error in my original mapmaker's arithmetic (which he has graciously acknowledged) and it got past all of us. I am responsible for that and in keeping with my bond with readers, I will always acknowledge and correct significant factual errors when I become aware of them. Most major newspapers publish hundreds of corrections each year. On average *FTW* publishes far fewer corrections than the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*.

Yes, we have found and been made aware of about two dozen typographical errors in the book and a couple of other small factual mistakes that are very minor. This is customary for a book of this size with a thousand footnotes. Considering the pace at which we got the book to press last year, the book stands out as a remarkable achievement on many people's parts and special credit

for that must go to our publisher who rushed the book to print in about eight weeks instead of six months. What's obvious, now that *Crossing the Rubicon* has become the second largest selling book about 9/11 (an estimated 60,000 copies sold), after the 9/11 Commission report, is that none of the major research has been challenged by anybody. Not for almost six months. All of the book's so-called critics have refused to debate or challenge anything on a factual basis, opting instead for ad hominem attacks on me personally. This is actually gratifying.

In fact, as *FTW's* recent stories on Ptech, the economy and Peak Oil have demonstrated, the map we have drawn for you in *Rubicon* is accurate and we want you to continue to rely on it as we enter some of the most perilous times in human history. It is your best available reference to judge where events are headed as we begin one of the most dangerous years in memory. It is a map of the future as well as the past.

For all of you who follow *FTW's* exploits I am happy to announce that I have made the cover (in name only, Thank God) of the April 2005 issue of *HUSTLER* magazine which should be out on the stands this week. Some years ago in the United States Supreme Court Larry Flynt won a case against Jerry Falwell that has protected our First Amendment to this day. That case enshrined our right to say critical and negative things about public figures, especially politicians, and it denied them the right to sue us little people for saying them. That decision made it impossible for Dick Cheney to sue me over *Crossing the Rubicon*, even after he leaves the White House. This is not the case in the UK as journalists labor under the constant threat of very expensive and prohibitive lawsuits where the only thing contested is the amount of money being thrown at lawyers.

Within the house of Free Speech there is no more central room than the one which gives us all the right to speak truth to power and to do so in print, without fear of retaliation. That is a freedom worth fighting, and dying, for. We are all waiting to see what other kinds of retaliations will be attempted in the future against all of us who stand fast in the face of tyranny.

For the record: The last witnessed and reported attempt on my life occurred in Lucerne Switzerland in November of 2003. If I look around for examples of those who have walked this ground also, I find again... Larry Flynt.

Without that ruling, and the battle he fought and won, *FTW* and *Crossing the Rubicon* might never have existed.

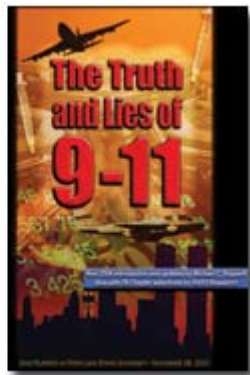
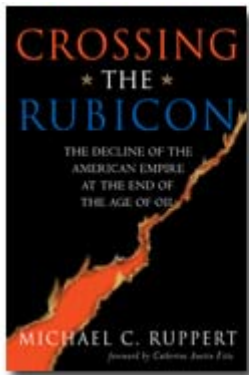
Thanks, Larry.
Mike Ruppert



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Disc 1 (1:06:08)

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