



FROM THE WILDERNESS

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

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The Final Fraud

by
Michael Kane

[The players of the Warren Commission farce of our day have taken their bow. The crew begins to strike the set, the actors are going home, and soon the house is cold and the stage empty. There will be no encores, and the reviews are not good. Behind the scenes, the director is relieved but a little nervous; the producers may or may not be satisfied with the return on their investment. So many pretty microphones, such fine suits and ties! But will it play in Peoria?]

In this eyewitness account, Mike Kane looks at the Commission's performance on the day of the really big show - NORAD / FAA day. He finds a chorus of costumed players mouthing their lines to their uniformed counterparts as the cameras roll. The dangerous issue they pretend to confront is nowhere to be seen, and before the harmless script comes off the press and into the bookstores, we recognize the gist: "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." — JAH]

"First of all, there's no scheme here or plot to spin this story to try to cover or take a bullet for anyone."
-General Eberhart - testimony to 9/11 Commission on June 17, 2004



(Left to right) Gen. Richard B. Myers, Admiral Charles Leidig, General Ralph E Eberhart, and Larry Arnold (Retired) moments before being sworn in to the 9/11 Commission. *(Cont'd on page 13)*

From the Wilderness

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Essay:

Postponement of the November Election

by

Michael C. Ruppert

What had been merely a rumor has now become fact.

The Bush administration has asked for legislation enabling it to postpone the November election as a result of a terror attack. While worded very carefully to suggest that an attack must take place for such a move; I do not see either of the below stories unequivocally state that, if granted, these powers might not also permit elections to be "postponed" on merely a well-publicized threat. Don't believe the press stories. Read the legislation when it is introduced to see what it says there. If that discretion is included then we are at the edge of an abyss more dangerous than anything we have ever faced.

These powers, if enacted, will go to the Department of Homeland Security. DHS would also be the entity to decide when, or if, postponed elections would be held.

Allowing suspension of the elections on just the threat of a terror attack would create a hole in the legislation big enough to drive an oil tanker, or an open dictatorship, through. Since the legislation has not been seen yet we do not know what it will say. Once introduced, the bill would then go into Senate and House Committees (Republican controlled) where the language could easily be modified to give discretionary power to the Administration. At that moment the Constitution would overtly cease to have any operational meaning at all. The separation of powers would vanish.

Judging from the news stories tonight we will probably see the legislation introduced fairly quickly. From the instant it appears, this legislation must be tracked daily, even hourly, at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

Does any one of us doubt that if threatened or desperate, the administration would use those powers without hesitation?

I ask those who read this to stop for a moment and consider what it would mean for all of us on this side of the fence if the Bush administration both acquired and used the power to suspend the election -- with or without an attack. What restraints would be left to prevent some of our worst-case scenarios from coming true? Why even maintain the illusion of democracy? All vestiges of accountability will have been removed.

We should each evaluate our own situations accordingly. Hopefully most of us will see that we have no choice but to bond together more than ever before. To quote Ben Franklin: "We must all hang together or else we shall surely all hang separately."
(Cont'd on page 10)

Jurassic Park, Psuedo-events, and Prisons:

The Fallout From Abu Ghraib

by
Stan Goff

(Part IV)

[Previous installments of this series have focused on the strategic role of orchestrated bullshit in the current Bush Administration's current Iraq "effort." The staging of events for political advantage is a very ancient art, at least as old as imperialism. Always useful, it's particularly handy when you need to found a state in a territory that happens to be somebody else's home. And if it has irreplaceable natural resources like water or oil, your need for a "founding myth" is all the greater.

In this fourth meditation on pseudo-events, Stan Goff takes a painful look at the contradictions of Zionism - including the appalling episodes of cooperation between early Zionists and Nazis; the ugly similarities among South African, American, and Israeli racist nationalisms; and the brutal Israeli strategy of water hegemony. -- JAH]

HAMMOND: *It's just a delay. All major theme parks have delays. When they opened Disneyland in 1956, nothing worked.*

MALCOLM: *Yeah, but John, when the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' breaks down, the pirates don't eat the tourists.*
- Jurassic Park

Some defense officials said privately in interviews that the plan in place for security after Baghdad's fall has been an utter failure. They said it failed to predict any significant resistance from Saddam loyalists, much less the deadly combination of Ba'athist holdouts and foreign terrorists preying daily on American troops. "Every briefing on postwar Iraq I attended never mentioned any of this," said a civilian policy adviser.--Rowan Scarborough, Washington Times, August 28, 2003

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JUNE 14, 2004: 1600 PDT (FTW) -- Going back to the disparate winds that became a perfect storm initiated by the photos at Abu Ghraib, this installment will begin by talking about that other essential liquid, not crude oil: water.

Imperialism needs its stories, its pseudo-realities and pseudo-events, but it also needs its material. If the industrial-capitalist world-system needs oil as the basis of its continued capital accumulation, the human beings who inhabit and form part of this system need water.

Oil, water, food. These are tied together more tightly than the Gordian knot. And the pressure of their convergence is highest where the resources are most scarce, or most hotly contested, or both: behold the Holy Land. Instead of beginning an examination of Palestine and Israel with a study of religion and ethnicity (let's not forget that 40% of Palestinians are Christian), we should begin by looking at water.

It's hard not to take for granted what we have abusively wasted for so long. But it turns out that, despite the cherished illusions of the west, there is no cosmic faucet from which potable fresh water springs eternal. We'll figure that out soon enough, because it's becoming uncomfortably obvious as geopolitics and climate change combine to make us even thirstier than our 40,000 square miles of suburban lawns.¹

Peter Grimes of Johns Hopkins University writes about water globally:

*A closely related problem emerging in recent years has been a growing shortage of fresh water. The aspect of the global water cycle of concern here is the rate of flow. Fresh water on land is renewed by ocean evaporation (and desalinization) followed by rain over land, after which it eventually returns to the sea. **Over geological time**, fresh water has accumulated in glacial snow packs and underground aquifers. [my emphasis] (A huge example of the latter is the "Oglala Aquifer"--named after the Sioux tribe-which stretches from the Dakotas south as far as Kansas and Colorado.) The demand for fresh water for both irrigation (currently 70% of global demand and urbanization has come to exceed the flow provided by rain, most severely in drought-prone areas. To compensate, deeper wells have tapped aquifers. The Oglala Aquifer has been tapped to supply Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and farms in southern California to augment the flow of the Colorado River (itself so drained that during some summers it no longer makes it to the ocean).*

In the Middle East, water access is an important obstacle to peace talks, and rationing is in effect along the Gaza strip. [my emphasis] *In the former Soviet Union, the Aral Sea has contracted 50%, and the remainder has dangerous levels of salinity and petro-toxins. Over the short term, the retreat of glacial snow packs adds to river flow in more temperate climates, but that is at best a mixed blessing. We are collectively consuming our water "capital", which will ultimately require restoration of the balance via a massive contraction of use. This can only mean sharp contractions of agricultural output and urban size or use. In the first few millennia of human agriculture, it was not understood that continuous irrigation eventually deposited enough salt on the soil surface that fertility disappeared. In an analogous fashion, only now is it also becoming clear that continuous irrigation from wells liberates arsenic from its bonds to the soil, creating a gradual build-up of arsenic in the well water.*

Arsenic is a cumulative toxin for which there is no known cure.

Recently the BBC reported that the British Geological Survey has discovered that the problem has become so widespread in Bangladesh and parts of India that an estimated 30-60 million people are being poisoned by their well water...

Put simply, current technologies used in global food production have achieved their historic highs of yield/acre only by supplementing natural energy inputs with ever-larger amounts of fossil fuel. Insofar as there are limits to the supply of fossil fuels, the enormous subsidy they provide must eventually grow smaller and finally stop altogether.

Interesting that he should mention the Sioux, since the situation of the Palestinians bears strong resemblances to that of the Indian nations in the US (who were named thus by Europeans not because Columbus thought he was in India - a popular grade school myth - but because at first - before they were marked for enslavement and genocide - they were perceived to be close to God, in Spanish, *Dios...* in-dios). We'll return to this comparison.]

For a better grasp of water politics, which is obviously closely related to fossil energy politics and military issues, I'll refer to Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute, who lists the following forms of "water conflict":

Control of Water Resources (state and non-state actors): where water supply or access to water is at the root of tensions.

Military Tool (state actors): where water resources, or water systems themselves, are used by a nation or state as a weapon during a military action.

Political Tool (state and non-state actors): where water resources, or water systems themselves, are used by a nation, state, or non-state actor for a political goal.

Terrorism (non-state actors): where water resources, or water systems, are either targets or tools of violence or coercion by non-state actors.

Military Target (state actors): where water resource systems are targets of military actions by nations or states.

Development Disputes (state and non-state actors): where water resources or water systems are a major source of contention and dispute in the context of economic and social development.

Since the pre-emptive attack by Israel on Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon in 1967 - an attack during which Israeli fighter planes also deliberately attacked the *USS Liberty*, killing 34 and wounding 172 US troops, to prevent the American intelligence craft from seeing what they were doing - Israel has occupied the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza strip of Egypt, and the Golan Heights of Syria. They only recently abandoned the occupation of a "buffer zone" in Lebanon.

(Israel and its American apologists still claim the attack on the *USS Liberty* was an accident, but the "accident" went on for 75 minutes, against a uniquely American ship that was clearly flying an American flag. Survivors of the *USS Liberty* have a web site at <http://www.usliberty.org/>.)

There were many reasons given for the attack, most prominently the US-supported fable that an attack was imminent against Israel. But what we never hear is that after that attack and occupation, Israel was left in control of virtually all water resources in Palestinian areas.

The massive and uncritical support of Israel by American elites actually began with this 1967 attack (though the US had been supportive of Israel's role as a military bastion against Arab nationalism as early as the 50s), because of American delight at Israel's destruction of the Egyptian Air Force. Egypt's Nasser is still called the father of Arab nationalism, and he was the head of state in Egypt. This was the definitive action which united Israel and the US in a tactical alliance that served Israel's expansionist goals and the US interest in containing regional independence. Helping to cover up the *USS Liberty* episode was the first in a now uninterrupted series of actions taken by the US to ensure their new surrogate's impunity.

For Israel, the water question was the key to the land question. And expansion has always been the goal. The headwaters of the Jordan River are in Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. Aside from the West Bank's underground aquifer, the Jordan - which pools twice in Lake Tiberius and the Dead Sea - constitutes the primary water source for the whole region. Israel and the US claim the occupation of the annexed Golan Heights of Syria is a military necessity, but this is a key headwater for the Jordan as well.

Israel irrigates the Negev desert for agriculture with so much Lake Tiberius water that very little flows down

stream past the Palestinian Bantustans. Israel has since 1967 forbidden Palestinians access to the Lower Jordan, where the Israelis have emplaced illegal settlements. A study published by the Palestinian Media Center shows:

The average (renewable) quantity of fresh-water available in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories per year is slightly over 2.4 billion cubic meters. Israel allocates approximately 90% of this amount to itself, leaving the Palestinian population just over 10%. If water resources were divided into equal per capita shares, Palestinians would receive approximately 45%.

As a result of the severe Israeli restrictions on the Palestinian water supplies, each of the approximately 3.3 million Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories receives an average of less than 100 liters per capita per day for all uses. This is far less than the 150 liters per day recommended by the World Health Organization as a minimum per capita water availability. The average Israeli on the other hand, uses 353 liters of water per day, over 3.5 times the amount of water Israeli allows the Palestinians. Israeli settlers living illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territories use up to nine times the volumes provided to Palestinians per capita. This discrimination by Israel violates the human right to water, which was recently recognized by the United Nations.

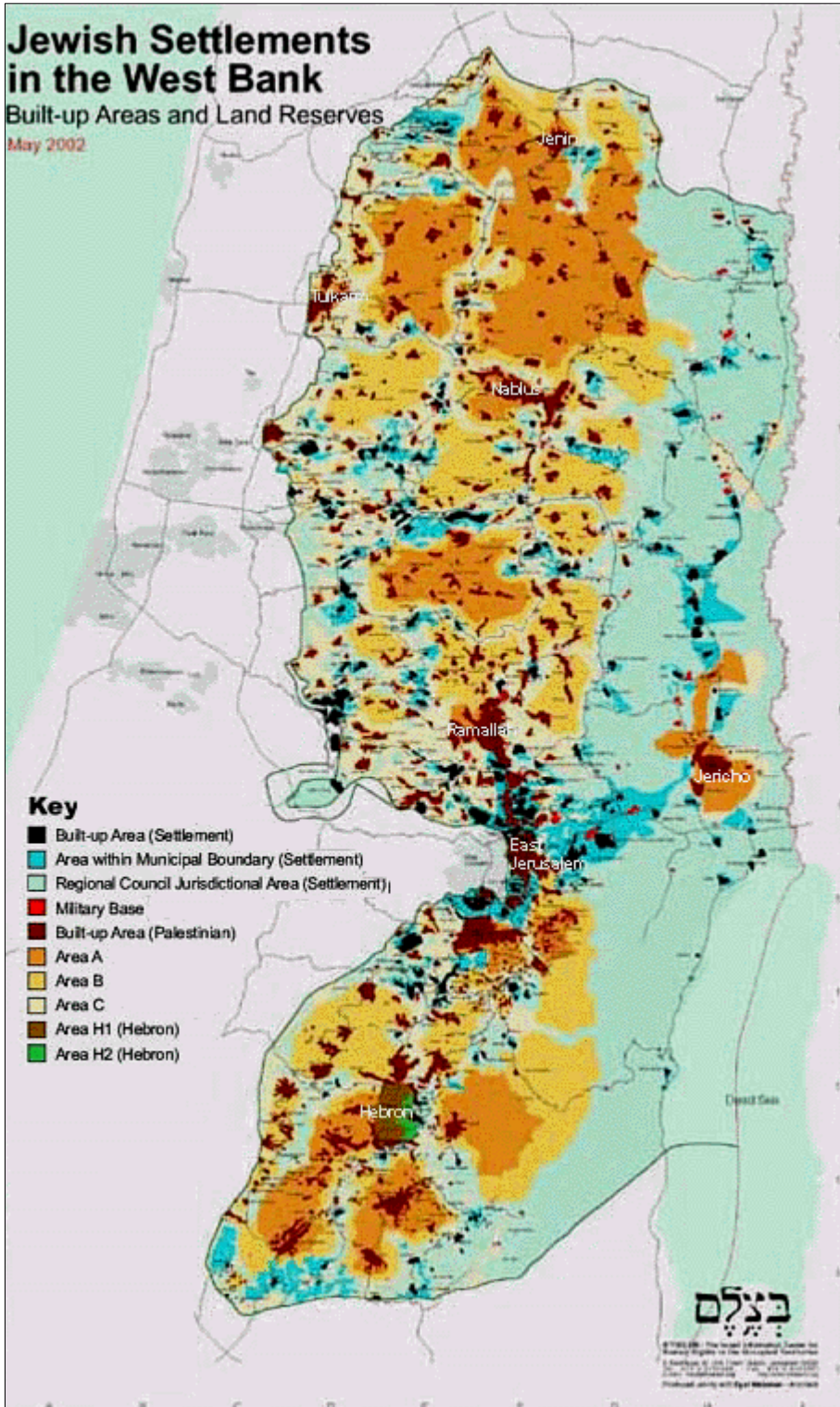
Israel has closed and destroyed hundreds of Palestinian wells since 1967, and has allowed fewer than 20 new wells to be constructed to replace them. There have been volumes written on the water issue, but nothing of this issue ever seems to surface in the American press, which I will expound in a moment.

Simply review the map below, and it becomes glaringly apparent that the Israeli grab for land is also a grab for water. The blue-green, blue, and black areas are areas under the control of Israeli settlers and the military. One can quickly discern how Palestinians are being forced to higher and higher, less moist and less arable land, while the illegal settlements take the prettiest pieces for themselves.

There is a precedent for the Israeli land theft strategy afoot now in Palestine: the systematic expropriation of Indian land in the US. Through a combination of trickery, massacre, low intensity war, depopulation, and finally

emplacement of a network of strategic military bases from which to expand the acquisition of Indian land, the First Nations of North America were pushed into smaller and smaller enclaves that are now represented by a smattering of isolated reservations whose laws are subjugated under the rubric of US law.

In 1895, Cree Chief Piapot said, "In order to become sole masters of our land they relegated us to small reservations as big as my hand and make us long promises, as long as my arm; but the next year the promises were shorter and got shorter every year until no they are the length of my finger, and they keep only half of that." Palestinians would recognize this.



In 1923, Vladimir Jobotinsky wrote *The Iron Wall*, an essay that laid out a direct comparison of expropriation of the Arabs with the expropriation of the Indians of North America:

There can be no discussion of voluntary reconciliation between us and the Arabs, not now, and not in the foreseeable future. All well-meaning people, with the exception of those blind from birth, understood long ago the complete impossibility of arriving at a voluntary agreement with the Arabs of Palestine for the transformation of Palestine from an Arab country to a country with a Jewish majority. Each of you has some general understanding of the history of colonization. Try to find even one example when the colonization of a country took place with the agreement of the native population. Such an event has never occurred. The natives will always struggle obstinately against the colonists - and it is all the same whether they are cultured or uncultured. The comrades in arms of [Hernan] Cortez or [Francisco] Pizarro conducted themselves like brigands. The Redskins fought with uncompromising fervor against both evil and good-hearted colonizers. The natives struggled because any kind of colonization anywhere at anytime is inadmissible to any native people.

Any native people view their country as their national home, of which they will be complete masters. They will never voluntarily allow a new master. So it is for the Arabs. Compromisers among us try to convince us that the Arabs are some kind of fools who can be tricked with hidden formulations of our basic goals. I flatly refuse to accept this view of the Palestinian Arabs.

They have the precise psychology that we have. They look upon Palestine with the same instinctive love and true fervor that any Aztec looked upon his Mexico or any Sioux upon his prairie. Each people will struggle against colonizers until the last spark of hope that they can avoid the dangers of conquest and colonization is extinguished. The Palestinians will struggle in this way until there is hardly a spark of hope.

It matters not what kind of words we use to explain our colonization. Colonization has its own integral and inescapable meaning understood by every Jew and by every Arab. Colonization has only one goal. This is in the nature of things. To change that nature is impossible. It has been necessary to carry on colonization against the will of the Palestinian Arabs and the same condition exists now.

Even an agreement with non-Palestinians represents the same kind of fantasy. In order for Arab nationalists of Baghdad and Mecca and Damascus to agree to pay so serious a price they would have to refuse to maintain the Arab character of Palestine.

We cannot give any compensation for Palestine, neither to the Palestinians nor to other Arabs. Therefore, a voluntary agreement is inconceivable. All colonization, even the most restricted, must continue in defiance of the will of the native population. Therefore, it can continue and develop only under the shield of force which comprises an Iron Wall through which the local population can never break through. This is our Arab policy. To formulate it any other way would be hypocrisy.

Now an *actual* wall is being built that captures yet more Palestinian land. Despite the objection of the United States, the wall has just been condemned by a ruling of the International Court of Justice at The Hague on July 9th, 2004.² But for the foreseeable future, enforcement of this ruling will remain... elusive. Like a unicorn.

The more recent analogy can be found in Apartheid South Africa, of which Israel made a key ally, where Black South Africans were pushed onto squalid reservations called Bantustans and subjected to "pass laws," much as Palestinians are now. It should not surprise anyone that Chaim Weizmann, the president of the World Zionist Organization that cajoled the British Man

date into awarding them Palestine was a good friend of the vicious South African Apartheid architect, General Jan Smuts.

But we seldom hear of this theft, or of the water. The US press has been so thoroughly intimidated by Zionist publicist/attack dogs, who bait every critic of Israel as an anti-Semite, that they have developed journalistic norms with regard to Palestine-Israel that completely support the Zionist position.

Robin C. Miller's book *The Media's Middle East Rules of Engagement* is a good primer on how this works, listing ten "rules" that are scrupulously followed and giving examples of each. It can be found at <http://www.robincmiller.com/pales8.htm>. The outline is:

Rule 1: See the Middle East through Israeli eyes.

Rule 2: Treat American and Israeli governmental statements as hard news.

Rule 3: Ignore the historical context.

Rule 4: Avoid the fundamental legal and moral issues posed by the Israeli occupation.

Rule 5: Suppress or minimize news unfavorable to the Israelis.

Rule 6: Muddy the waters when necessary.

Rule 7: Credit all Israeli claims, even if wholly unfounded.

Rule 8: Doubt all Palestinian assertions, no matter how self-evident.

Rule 9: Condemn only Palestinian violence.

Rule 10: Disparage the international consensus supporting Palestinian rights.

There is an eleventh rule that hovers over all the other rules. Equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. This shuts everyone up. That's why it is so critically important that this Eleventh Rule be challenged loudly and clearly and frequently. Anti-Zionism is NOT anti-Semitism. Zionism is not Judaism. Not all Jews are Zionists, and not all Zionists are Jews. Moreover, Zionism was NOT a response to the Holocaust, and in fact pre-dated it by a century, beginning with the *Hovevei Zion* of Eastern Europe settling in Palestine. Even these early Zionists in Palestine looked down on the locals and spoke openly about colonization and expropriation of the Arabs. Theodore Herzl, the father of "political" Zionism, initially would have settled on any place as a Jewish State, but pressure from the masses of his adherents forced him to settle on the "return to Israel [Palestine]," the homeland - a peculiar notion for European Jewry, since the Ashkenazi Jews of Europe are largely descended from Khazars, converts from the Caspian Basin with no actual lineage reaching back to Palestine.

The Ashkenazi colonists who now run Israel, in fact, treat the descendants of Palestinian Jews, the Sephardi, as a racial underclass.

After the 1st Zionist Congress in Basle, Switzerland in 1897, Herzl penned his manifesto, *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State), in which he used overtly racial-colonial language to describe the process of seizing Palestine from its inhabitants, saying that this new state would be...

"...a rampart of Europe against Asia, of civilization against barbarism... We shall endeavor to encourage the poverty-stricken population [Herzl knew next to nothing about Palestinians] to cross the border by securing work for it in the countries it passes through, while denying it work in our own country. The process of expropriation and displacement must be carried out prudently and discreetly. Let the landowners sell us their land at exorbitant prices. We shall sell nothing back to them."

The British supported this position unequivocally after World War I with the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Balfour himself would say in 1919, "In Palestine, we do not even propose to consult the inhabitants of the country and (Zionism's) immediate needs and hopes for the future are much more important than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who presently inhabit Palestine."

One of the most despicable ideological practices of Zionism has been its pimping of the Holocaust to justify Israel's fascist-like treatment of Palestinians. In fact, prominent Zionists consorted with Mussolini, and saw the Holocaust as a great boost for Zionism.

Jabotinsky was an admirer of Mussolini and stated his racism openly and proudly:

It is impossible for a man to become assimilated with people whose blood is different than [sic] his own. In order to become assimilated, he must change his body, he must become one of them, in blood. There can be no assimilation. We shall never allow such things as mixed marriage because the preservation of national integrity is impossible except by means of racial purity and for that purpose we shall have this territory where our people will constitute the racially pure inhabitants.

This founding father of Zionism could have been quoting Adolph Hitler.

Now his political offspring want to capitalize on Hitler's monumental crime to legitimate their own crimes.

The irony was that with the blood-and-soil, anti-Semitic fascism that swept up Europe and began the horrifyingly systematic, industrially-rationalized slaughter of European Jewry, and with the closure of western borders (including those of the US) to those desperately escaping genocide, Zionist settlements in Palestine filled up. Zionists themselves actively lobbied western nations to refuse those trying to escape from Hitler's crematoria. In 1938, Ben Gurion had already stated, "If I knew that it would be possible to save all the children in Germany by bringing them over to England and only half of them by transporting them to Eretz Israel, then I opt for the second alternative."

*As late as 1943, while the Jews of Europe were being exterminated in their millions, the U.S. Congress proposed to set up a commission to "study" the problem. Rabbi Stephen Wise, who was the principal American spokesperson for Zionism, came to Washington to testify against the rescue bill because it would divert attention from the colonization of Palestine. (Sheonman, Ralph, *The Hidden History of Zionism*)*

Zionists actively collaborated with Nazis. This is a verifiable historical fact. Not only did the Zionist Federation of Germany send a resolution of support to the Nazi Party in 1933, "the World Zionist Organization Congress in 1933 defeated a resolution calling for action against Hitler by a vote of 240 to 43." (ibid.)

The history of Zionist collaboration with fascism is barely touched upon here, because my intent is not to paraphrase the history but simply to make my point about the obscenity of Zionists now laying claim to the Nazi Holocaust as justification for the Palestinian Holocaust they are perpetrating to this very day, all the while claiming that the Palestinians and other Arabs are bent on reproducing Nazi Germany's crimes *against them*.

Jurassic Park again: Ian Malcom, just as he and two companions escape a rampaging Tyrannosaurus who has eaten one of their team, asks, "Do you think they'll have *that* on the tour?"

Does anyone think Israel's present-day hagiographers will talk about collaboration with fascists?

Arab nationalists saw the British-sponsored immigration as a beachhead against their own political aspirations - rightly, as it turned out - and began supporting Palestinian militias who resisted the settlements. This was not resistance against Judaism, a religion, but resistance to

an attack on Arab anti-colonial nationalism, a political movement.

Zionist militias were first trained and commanded by a half-crazed, millenarian Christian Zionist officer from Great Britain, named Orde Wingate, who lay around naked eating plain raw onions while he spun out his military theories which, regrettably, actually had some military merit.

David Ben Gurion, often referred to as the George Washington of Israel, was very clear from the beginning that Israel had no intention of respecting the UN partition plan that created both Palestine and Israel as neighboring states:

*After we become a strong force as the result of the creation of the state, **we shall abolish partition** and expand to the whole of Palestine. The state will only be a stage in the realization of Zionism and its task is to prepare the ground for our **expansion**. The state will have to preserve order - not by preaching but with machine guns. [emphasis mine]*

Zionism is a *political* movement, and an explicitly colonial one, the difference being that there was no intention of exploiting the labor of the natives, but of pushing them out completely. This has been the central organizing goal of Zionism ever since Jabotinsky, and its ideology is racist.

Like all such ideologies created as an instrumental adjunct to a colonizing purpose, it has had to reconstruct a Zionist history - an entire historical cosmology that is a kind of pseudo-event.

In this racialized mythical narrative, Palestine has no Palestinians. Jews returning to their homeland find an empty desert that, through hard work, they make to bloom with olives and oranges.

Except it's not true. Most of the farms were expropriated from among the almost 700,000 Palestinians that lived on this arable land at the turn of the century. Depopulation was achieved (during the "war for independence" lionized in the almost completely fabricated *Exodus* of Leon Uris) by massacres intended to catalyze a Palestinian exodus. These massacres are amply documented with graphic photography at <http://www.iap.org/massacres.htm>.

When the UN partition plan was created there were almost a million Palestinians living in almost 500 cities, towns, and villages. After the "war of independence,"

less than 100 remained. The rest were "depopulated" and razed to the ground.

Said Israeli General Moshe Dayan to Israeli students in a moment of remarkable candor:

We came here to a country that was populated by Arabs, and we are building here a Hebrew, Jewish state. Instead of Arab villages, Jewish villages were established. You do not even know the names of these villages and I do not blame you, because these geography books no longer exist. Not only the books, but also the villages do not exist.

There is a class analysis that becomes necessary at this point to understand the perennial inability of Palestinians to fight back.

End, Part Four

Global Climate Change & Peak Oil (Part III)

by
Dale Allen Pfeiffer

[So far in our study of global climate change, we have examined the evidence that global climate change is taking place, and that it is induced by industry. And we looked at the scientific consensus based upon this evidence. Then we explained abrupt climate change, revealing why global warming could result in a little ice age in the North Atlantic region even as the planet overall continued to warm. We closed with a look at evidence suggesting that the global ocean conveyor, whose reversal would trigger abrupt climate change, is indeed slowing down. Now we will examine the possibility that climate change might spin out of control, threatening to extinguish the human race altogether, along with much of the life on this planet. — DAP]

Introduction

The possibility of runaway global warming is not as distant a threat as we may wish. It is a threat which worries some of the greatest minds living among us today. Stephen Hawking, physicist, best selling author of *A Brief History of Time*, and claimant of the Cambridge University post once occupied by Sir Isaac Newton (the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics), has been quoted as saying, "I am afraid the atmosphere might get hotter and

(Cont'd on page 17)

This is the moment at which it all becomes very, very real. Although there is strong Democratic Party opposition appearing with derisive statements from Rep. Jane Harman and Sen. Diane Feinstein, my initial assessment, after watching CNN, FOX and MS-NBC, is that the press is already "selling" us this legislation. Fortunately, early stories also report that the act would also require a constitutional amendment.

However, with this Supreme Court we can be assured of nothing. Yet, knowing this, we can be sure that there will be many chances to fight and beat this travesty. There will be many places at which our skills and resources can function to create and implement a coordinated response.

All the efforts put into 9/11 and into the anti-war movement will need to pale by comparison with the effort that must be put forth to prevent this legislation from passing. Every lesson learned about organizing; mobilizing; reporting; strategy; education; and influencing congress (if that's possible), needs to be remembered and applied now. There will be many tests to come.

May whatever form of divinity each of us holds dear give us guidance, wisdom and strength as we consider this.

For almost three years FTW, along with many other brave souls, has been saying that 9/11 was just the beginning. Tonight it seems that the next stage – whatever that will turn out be – is knocking at everyone's door. Do not give up. Do not be afraid. If all this is true and comes to pass, then everything is as bad as we have been saying all this time. So we had that much of a head start, didn't we?

We are not defenseless. The cause is not lost. There is always a sense of relief when a dreaded event finally arrives because – only in that moment – can anything be done about it.

I don't usually quote Dianne Feinstein but she was right when she said that America holds elections in the middle of wars, earthquakes and disasters. No matter what, we must demand an election this November. Even the debates about which candidate is or isn't better, or whether one will or won't make a difference, are now moot.

Stop. Catch your breaths. Steel your hearts and minds in preparation. Soon we're all going to find out what we're made of. If we do not have an election this November then the world we have been fighting to change until tonight will become only a "pleasant" memory compared to the world that will follow.
-Mike Ruppert

Choose Your Side and Choose It Now!

The 9/11 Rollercoaster May Become the Pivotal Issue in Election 2004

by

Michael C. Ruppert

[This brief memo from Michael C. Ruppert quotes in full the recent Statement from the 911 Family Steering Committee. That Statement endorses the 911 Commission Report - which means that FTW and the 9/11 Truth Movement in general ought never to claim any concrete affinity with the Family Steering Committee. It's possible - and important - to remain on genuine good terms with that afflicted group, though their judgment has predictably and tragically lapsed at a crucial moment. But it must be absolutely clear that the FSC position has no endorsement whatsoever from FTW and activists seeking full exposure of those tragic events. In terms of official positions, the Kean Report and its every adherent must be rejected explicitly - though this does not preclude the maintenance of respectful relations and possible future rapprochements. As for the patterns and manipulations that resulted in the FSC's position, it's all-too-familiar. — JAH]

Most of those who read this are still in shock at the abhorrent failure of the Kean 9/11 Commission to address any of the serious unanswered questions about the attacks. Some of us "old timers" are just yawning and asking, "What did you expect?"

The 9/11 Family Steering Committee has released a statement which, in essence, endorses that report. While the FSC statement (appended below) expresses frustration about some remaining unanswered questions, it is essentially a capitulation.

For this reason, it's extremely important that the Family Steering Committee should in no way be portrayed, acknowledged, or referenced as representative of "mainstream" 9/11 research thought. No group, leader, organizer or previous spokesperson should endorse their stated position in any way. To do so would be a complete betrayal of us, and no one who did this should have any rightful claim to being a leader - or even janitor - anywhere near this movement.

Disagreement with the families need not and should not be confrontational. But the line must be absolutely clear. There is great future news potential in that for us if

events move our way. If we "fuzz" the lines, we blow the chance later on. At some point, the families just might want to have the opportunity to come back and say, "We were fooled. Thanks to the 9/11 research community for hanging in there."

That possibility is much closer than you may think.

How could they ever say that if any of us who have worked so hard for almost three years agreed with their initial position, thus also endorsing the report? The controversy over Bill Clinton's National Security Advisor Sandy Berger "pinching" documents from the national archives is only one signal that 9/11 isn't dead and buried. The fact that the Kean Commission has refused to disband and will likely stay in operation through the election is another.

This election will be "to-the-death" and no holds barred. Anything can happen. 9/11 has a shot at becoming the pivotal issue in the 2004 election.

Any leader who signs on with the family group statement must be publicly "shunned" (politely but clearly) as a matter of the 9/11 truth movement's self-preservation and integrity. The bad guys muddy the water. The good guys want to clear it. Thus, if one of our "leaders" agrees with the Steering Committee statement, then - to the extent of that person's influence (especially if unchallenged) - the rest of us just acquired a heavier burden of proof and might not have a leg to stand on.

Endorse even a part of this report and you endorse all of it. Fraud is fraud. Perjury is perjury. Obstruction of Justice is Obstruction of Justice. Murder is murder. Choose your side and choose it now!

What happened with the 9/11 families is exactly what I said would happen with them two and half years ago when I urged other activists to read *Kiss the Boys Good-bye* by Monica Jensen-Stevenson. That book describes in detail how the POW/MIA families were systematically manipulated to produce the same result. I witnessed part of the latter stages of that. It was, tragically, very effective. (Stevenson, a former producer at 60 MINUTES, was one of the first subscribers to *FTW*.)

That group was five-to-ten times larger than the 9/11 families and the process lasted more than a decade. Containing the FSC has been child's play for the seasoned professionals involved. What I said would happen with the 9/11 families, happened. Family groups get manipulated. The sun rises in the east.

Some will express surprise and shock about all the things the Commission "didn't" do or ask.

From the start the Commission has behaved exactly as I and many others said the Commission would. Why should anyone be surprised or even act like it?

This "final" report is a big yawn in most respects. But because of the work done by some who are viewed as less-than-fully-committed, the report also contains some absolute evidentiary treasures far exceeding anything left by the Warren Commission. And the information age is allowing us to do in days, what took years in the 1960s; pull it apart, piece by piece.

As far as achieving any unity in the 9/11 truth movement, it is a lost cause. There is no need for delusion or wasted effort. And unity may not matter much.

What matters? Activist public pressure through outreach. What matters more? A commitment that nothing can shake, discourage or intimidate.

Things are moving faster all the time. The only U.S. legislator to take an unambiguous stand against the official lies of 9/11 is former Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. She won her primary this week, defeating all her Democratic opponents so soundly that no runoff election can be called. McKinney is headed toward reelection in November. Who knows what she will say about 9/11 or what encouragement she might receive to do that?

For better or worse, our world will be very, very different before this year is out. But this is the time when battle lines are being drawn by all sides. There will be no "tomorrows" after that.

Mike Ruppert

**The Family Steering Committee for the 9/11
Independent Commission Statement
Regarding the Final Report**

July 20, 2004

Since December of 2002, and the passage of Public Law 107-306, the Family Steering Committee has scrupulously followed the course of the 9/11 Commission. In fact, from the Commission's very inception, the FSC sought to maintain a close working relationship with the Commission by providing it with our documented research, along with the questions it generated, and by communicating our concerns about the progress of the investigation.

While we believe that our concerns were acknowledged, we had also hoped that more of our questions and those of the American public would be fully addressed during the public hearings, or at the very least, discussed in the prepared staff statements. Yet today, many of our collective questions remain unanswered. (NOTE: Our questions are posted at www.911independentcommission.org.)

These questions must be comprehensively addressed and clearly answered by the Commission in the final report so that everyone is able to understand and assess our nation's past and current security policies, protocols and procedures. Our objective has always been to better protect and defend our nation from the ongoing threat of terrorism.

Although we have made some progress since September 11th, preliminary 9/11 Commission reports and witness testimony illustrate that we remain vulnerable and at great risk of a future attack. Many of the deadly mistakes and failures that contributed to the terrorists' success on 9/11 have yet to be corrected. The "vital dialogue and debate" that our elected leaders espoused has been cast aside because of election year politics. The vulnerabilities in our security network cannot be rectified until they have been identified through a process in which issues are thoroughly examined, witnesses are fully questioned, accountability is wholly assigned and sound conclusions are ultimately drawn. It is only after this vetting process that we - the American people - can be confident that critically important changes and reforms will be expeditiously implemented.

While there were great acts of heroism performed by many people on 9/11, there were also colossal systemic failures that occurred. Many of these failures can be attributed to government agencies and institutions whose very responsibility it was to keep New York City, Washington, D.C., airline passengers and the rest of America safe. And, while a thorough examination of these types of failures might prove politically uncomfortable for some, the nation must have the courage to withstand constructive criticism so that we can fix these problems, as they continue to plague our national security apparatus to this very day.

There is much work that remains to be done, and it is our hope that the Commission's final report will serve as a guide for our elected leaders to the areas and issues that must be addressed, assessed and reformed. We do not want the recommendations and findings of this report to sit idly on a shelf until after the next attack - to do so would be to dishonor and defile the memories of our loved ones. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Commission and government officials towards this end.

Finally, because of the political environment in which this report will be issued, we respectfully request that discussion of its findings and recommendations transcend partisan, election-year politics. We call upon President Bush and Congress to expedite implementation of the needed reforms in order to ensure the security of our great nation. Time is of the essence.

The Family Steering Committee

Carol Ashley, Mother of Janice Ashley, 25

Bill Harvey, Widower of Sara Manley Harvey, 31

Kristen Breitweiser, Widow of Ronald Breitweiser, 39

Patty Casazza, Widow of John F. Casazza, 38

Beverly Eckert, Widow of Sean Rooney, 50

Mary Fetchet, Mother of Bradley James Fetchet, 24

Monica Gabrielle, Widow of Richard Gabrielle, 50

Mindy Kleinberg, Widow of Alan Kleinberg, 39

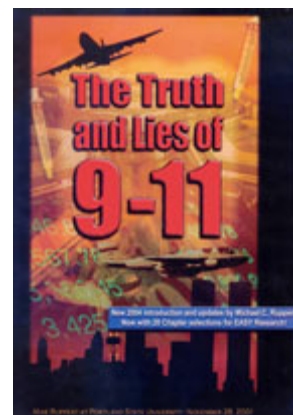
Carie Lemack, Daughter of Judy Larocque, 50

Sally Regenhard, Mother of Christian Michael Otto Regenhard, 28

Lorie Van Auken, Widow of Kenneth Van Auken, 47

Robin Wiener, Sister of Jeffrey Wiener, 33

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July 9, 2004 1430 PDT (FTW) - **W**hen asked who was responsible for coordinating the multiple war games running on the morning of September 11, 2001, General Ralph E. Eberhart, the man in charge of NORAD on the morning in question replied,

"No Comment."

It is extremely suspect that Eberhart was unable to comment when we look at his sworn testimony just moments before this question was posed to him on June 17, 2004, in response to Commissioner Roemer's line of questioning.

Tim Roemer was the only Commissioner to pose a question about military exercises running on the morning of 9/11. He opened by making reference to an 8:38 FAA communication to NEADS regarding a hijacked aircraft headed to New York. The response from NEADS was, "Is this real world or an exercise?" FAA response was, "No, this is not an exercise, not a test." Roemer then asked General Eberhart:

My question is, you were postured for an exercise against the former Soviet Union. Did that help or hurt? Did that help in terms of were more people prepared? Did you have more people ready? Were more fighters fueled with more fuel? Or did this hurt in terms of people thinking, "No, there's no possibility that this is real world; we're engaged in an exercise," and delay things?

Eberhart's response:

Sir, my belief is that it helped because of the manning, because of the focus, because the crews - they have to be airborne in 15 minutes and that morning, because of the exercise, they were airborne in six or eight minutes. And so I believe that focus helped.

If the war games helped "because of the focus," why would General Eberhart be reluctant to go on record regarding the issue of just who was the central person coordinating that focus? Was the General himself, the man who headed NORAD that very morning, in charge of coordinating the multiple war games on 9/11?

No Comment.

From Russia with Love

From the moment Generals Myers, Eberhart, and Arnold were sworn in to testify, they continually stated that NORAD's "military posture on 9/11, by law, by policy and in practice was focused on responding to external threats, threats originating outside of our borders" (a quotation from General Myers sworn testimony).

But NORAD was not simply running "an exercise against the former Soviet Union" on 9/11, as Commissioner Roemer's question insinuated. That was only one of the multiple war games running that morning, titled NORTHERN VIGILANCE, which was simulating an air attack coming out of Russia. To insinuate, as Commissioner Roemer did, that this was the only exercise that morning lends credence to the three Generals' false claim that NORAD's only mission was to protect against external threats.

The multiple war games running on 9/11 also included (but were not limited to) VIGILANT GUARDIAN, which involved hijacking scenarios over the continental United States. None of the war games was ever referenced by name at any time during the hearings. The details of these exercises are the Achilles' heel of the "external threat" mantra parroted by all three generals, and these details seem to be classified.

There was one other mention of the war games from Commissioner Lehman, in which he referred to the military exercises as one of the "happy circumstances" on the morning of 9/11.

In response to General Myers' statement regarding NORAD's legal mission, Commissioner Gorelick noted that it includes control of the airspace above the domestic U.S. (the Continental United States, or CONUS). She read the mandate aloud: "Providing surveillance & control of the airspace of Canada and the United States." Myers actually had the nerve to attempt to use Posse Comitatus as a rationale for absolving the Air Force of responsibility for what happened on 9/11. He claimed that the 1878 Posse Comitatus law (which has, ironically, been seriously undermined by the Patriot Act in the aftermath of 9/11) made it illegal for the military to be involved in "domestic law enforcement." Of course, it does. But that has nothing to do with 9/11, since hijack response had been a NORAD responsibility for decades; and for obvious reasons, nobody had ever raised a Posse Comitatus objection to that mandate in the past (because, for instance, the police do not fly F-16's).

Commissioner BenVeniste asked General Richard Myers if he had been made aware of the arrest of Zacarias Moussaoui on August 17 as a suspected "suicide hijacker." Myers responded, "I think I would've but I don't recall."

BenVeniste asked Myers the following question:

Had you received such information tying together the potential reflected in the August 6th PDB memorandum that was titled Bin Laden Determined to Strike in the United States together with this additional information (regarding the Moussaoui suicide-hijacking information),

might you have followed up on a training scenario, at the least, such as the Positive Force training scenario, where a hijacked plane was presumed to fly into the Pentagon, a proposal that was made and rejected in the year 2000? [emphasis added]

This is skillful deception, the kind to which BenVeniste has grown accustomed during his time on the 9/11 Commission. To pose such a question when it is a matter of public record that such drills were running on the morning of 9/11 is a patently misleading line of questioning.

Myers responded:

I can't answer the hypothetical. It's more - it's the way that we were directed to posture, looking outward.

He reverted to the trusty (but absurd) mantra chanted by all three generals.

While Commissioners BenVeniste and Gorelick appeared to be asking "hard-hitting" questions, they always stopped short of anything that would get to the heart of the matter. They made no mention of the war games running on the morning of 9/11, neither in this round of hearings nor during the previous round, in which Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld spoke under oath.

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/KAN403A.html>

Furthermore, not one of the Commissioners brought up the 67 Air Force interceptions successfully executed during the year prior to 9/11 (AP, 8/13/02). After the hearing Commissioner John Thompson was asked if there had been any discussion by the commissioners regarding the speed at which the fighter jets responded on 9/11. He said that there had not been, but that there would be.

When?

Such concerns were addressed very briefly during the commission's first hearings focusing on NORAD, back in May 2003, but nothing of importance was explored at that time.

http://www.9-11commission.gov/archive/hearing2/9-11Commission_Hearing_2003-05-23.htm

"Waste of Time"

The Commissioners were asked about the war games - after the hearings.

When Commissioner BenVeniste was asked why he chose not to ask questions about the war games running on 9/11 he claimed the time allotted was short and that he had done the best he could. When asked if he knew who was in charge of coordinating the multiple war games that morning he replied, "you'd have to check with staff on that." To this same crucial question Commissioner Gorelick replied, "...we did look at the exercises running on that day. I don't know the answer to that question." When asked why she chose not to question the generals about the war games she replied, "the staff concluded [that the war games] were not an inhibition to the military doing its job and therefore I wasn't going to waste my time with that."

Apparently some members of the audience did not agree.

Immediately before Commissioner Gorelick began her allotted time for questioning the generals, a member of the audience yelled out, "Ask about the war games that were planned for 9/11." Another audience member followed his lead:

"Tell us about the war games."

These audience member comments were published in the Associated Press transcript of the hearings.

http://wid.ap.org/transcripts/040617commission911_1.html

At this point, tension filled the room. Shortly into the questioning, one of the audience members who had just bellowed at the commission stood up and shouted; "This is an outrage! My questions are not being answered, and I'm walking out!"

He was carrying an American flag as he was escorted out.

He must have realized the war games were not going to be addressed in any meaningful fashion. This outburst, though clearly audible, was omitted from the Associated Press transcript. It seems that this outburst may have been what prompted Commissioner Tim Roemer to throw the one & only softball question about the exercises at General Eberhart later in the hearings. It's regrettable that the protester didn't shout one or two of his questions before being escorted out, but his passionate gesture was helpful in its own way.

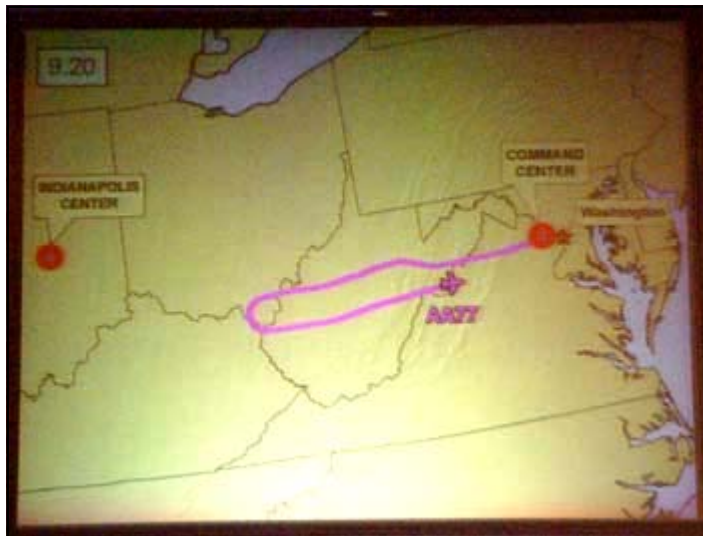
Kyle Hence of 9/11 CitizensWatch asked Commissioner Gorelick why fighter jets weren't scrambled from Andrews Air Force base. Mr. Hence stated that, to his knowledge, at least 3 fighters from Andrews were per-

forming exercises over 200 miles away on that morning. This left Washington DC defenseless on 9/11. When asked how that could possibly be allowed, Commissioner Gorelick would not comment.

When asked if the commission had ever addressed the multiple war games running on 9/11, and who was in charge of coordinating them, Chairman Kean responded, "Yes, we did, it wasn't a coordination, there were a number of them going on as there are periodically but they were not, and they helped in one way because there were people available who wouldn't have been available otherwise."

When following up for clarification on whether there was an individual in charge of coordinating these drills, Chairman Kean replied, "No, I don't think so. You might want to check with staff on that."

Staff Communication director Jonathan Stull, after being asked the same line of questions repeatedly, has stated he is "looking into this." Mr. Stull later stated, "This is an issue that the Commission is looking into and will address in the final report." We shall see how far into this they look.



Visual presentation of Flight 77's path from "radar reconstruction" performed after 9/11.

New Timeline?

The commission staff report presented new times for some critical events on 9/11. Based upon this new information, the military response time has been shortened and the FAA is left as the scapegoat. Least believable is the new time for FAA notification to the military that UA 93 was off course. Here are the new times for events on

the morning of 9/11 compared to the original official times.

Event	Original Official timeline	New 9/11 Staff timeline
FAA informs NORAD about AA11	8:40 (NORAD timeline)	8:37:52
UA 175 transponder switches to different signal	8:42	8:47
FAA informs NORAD about UA 175	8:43	9:02
Phone bridge FAA (disputed)	8:46	Some time after 9:03
FAA informs NORAD about UA 93	9:16	10:07 (is this believable?)
FAA informs NORAD about AA77. They claim the old 9:24 scramble order was actually for "Phantom Flight 11"	9:24	9:36
Cheney shoot-down order for UA 93	9:55	10:20 or so
UA 93 'crash' time - still in dispute	10:06	10:03

***special thanks to Nic Levis for assistance with timeline chart analysis*

Pentagon "Phantom Flight"

One of the most shocking claims coming out of the final public hearing was what the Commission called the "phantom flight." This referred to the plane alleged to have struck the Pentagon. An FAA communication to NORAD stated it was Flight 11 - which had already struck WTC 1 - that was off-course and headed to Washington DC, not Flight 77. The report states it was "unable to identify the source of this mistaken FAA information."

At 8:54, Flight 77 began deviating from its flight plan, first with a slight turn toward the south. It then "disappeared completely" at 8:56, according to the 9/11 Commission staff report.

The report continues:
Shortly after 9:00, Indianapolis Center started notifying other agencies that American 77 was missing and had possibly crashed ... At 9:09, they reported the loss of

contact to the FAA regional center, which passed this information to FAA headquarters at 9:24 ... Radar reconstructions performed after 9/11 reveal that FAA radar equipment tracked the flight from the moment its transponder was turned off at 8:56 a.m. But for eight minutes and thirteen seconds, between 8:56 a.m. and 9:05 a.m., this primary radar information on American 77 was not displayed to controllers at Indianapolis Center. The reasons are technical, arising from the way the software processed radar information, as well as from poor primary radar coverage where American 77 was flying.

In sum, Indianapolis Center never saw Flight 77 turn around... American 77 traveled undetected for 36 minutes on a course heading due east for Washington, DC.

Benedict Sliney, the FAA's National Operations Manager on 9/11 (it was his first day in that position) was questioned by Chairman Kean about the radar & transponder issues of Flight 77. Even after the plane's transponder signal had stopped, Sliney stated, "There are radars that would have seen the target regardless. Would they have known what to be looking for? I do not know."¹

Orders were issued from the Mission Crew Commander at NEADS at 9:23:

"Okay ... scramble Langley. Head them towards the Washington area."

The order to scramble was given to fighters out of Langley Air Force base in Virginia, leaving the fighters scrambled from Otis over New York. However, the Langley fighters were headed east, not north, because they followed a "generic" scramble order. This sent them over the ocean, out of local airspace, because the lead pilot and local FAA controller incorrectly assumed the flight plan instruction to go east was newer guidance that superseded the original scramble order.

Why didn't they follow the scramble order as issued from the Mission Crew Commander at NEADS? A direct order from a Commander most certainly supercedes any "generic" plan.

It is claimed the Langley pilots were never briefed about the reason they were scrambled. As the lead pilot explained, "I reverted to the Russian threat... I'm thinking cruise missile threat from the sea. You know, you look down and see the Pentagon burning and I thought the bastards snuck one by us."

Seeing how the Langley jets were scrambled out to sea, this "generic" scramble plan must have been assuming an external attack coming from across the Atlantic.

But how is it conceivable that well after both Twin Towers are struck, fighter pilots were still thinking of a generic "Russian threat"?

It is claimed the pilots were never made aware that the threat was from hijacked airliners. Wouldn't that information have been included in the NEADS scramble order at 9:23 or shortly thereafter? Two towers are burning and no one tells the fighter jocks?

The Otis jets were scrambled at 8:46 in response to the hijacking of Flight 11. Because the plane's transponder signal had disappeared, NEADS spent the next several minutes searching their radar for the "elusive primary radar return." The Otis jets were airborne by 8:53, well after Flight 11 hit the World Trade Center. But were sent out off the coast of Long Island because, it is claimed, NEADS did not know where to send the alert fighter aircraft. This allowed Flight 175 to crash into the second World Trade Tower. This is almost exactly what happened to the jets scrambled from Langley, allowing the Pentagon to be struck.

This information is all based on the commission staff report.

http://www.9-11commission.gov/hearings/hearing12/staff_statement_17.pdf

NMCC Communication

Also under oath beside the three Generals sat Admiral Charles Leidig.

Leidig was the stand-in Deputy Director for Operations of the National Military Command Center (NMCC) on 9/11 at precisely 0830. This ended up putting him in charge of facilitating the first conference call at the NMCC on 9/11 between multiple agencies including the FAA and NORAD. Throughout the morning there were difficulties getting the FAA into the conference call, which hampered communication flow for some time. Leidig said the FAA was "intermittently" in the call. He said he understood there were compatibility issues between their secure lines and the FAA's, which caused the FAA to "drop out" of the conference call.

Admiral Leidig stated the NMCC was connected to the White House but not to Air Force One. Why not? "I do not recall." Investigative reporter Tom Flocco has provided a detailed analysis of the strange circumstances surrounding Admiral Leidig's assignment. He was asked by Brigadier General Montague Winfield on September 10th to stand a portion of his duty at 8:30 am on September 11th.

<http://www.tomflocco.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=65>

hotter until it will be like Venus with boiling sulfuric acid."¹ The renowned physicist was joined by other notables such as former President Jimmy Carter, former news anchor Walter Cronkite, and former astronaut and Senator John Glenn in drafting a letter to urge President Bush to develop a plan to reduce US emissions of greenhouse gases.² Former British Environmental Minister Michael Meacher is also worried about the survival of the human race due to global warming.³

The American Geophysical Union (AGU) released a position paper in the fall of 2003 stating that industry-induced emissions were causing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to climb faster than at any other point in Earth's history.⁴ The AGU has previously been very cautious about taking any position with regard to global warming. The AGU reticence has been used by oil companies and other global warming skeptics to support their own position that global warming is some sort of environmental hoax. Among the signers of the AGU statement was John Christy, director of the University of Alabama's Earth Systems Science Center. Dr. Christy has previously been very skeptical of global warming studies, and has often been cited to support the argument that scientific understanding of global warming is flawed and uncertain. In a National Public Radio interview about the AGU consensus statement, Dr. Christy said, "It is scientifically inconceivable that after changing forests into cities, turning millions of acres into farmland, putting massive quantities of soot and dust into the atmosphere and sending quantities of greenhouse gases into the air, that the natural course of climate change hasn't been increased [sic] in the past century."⁵

Why do so many prominent people worry about runaway global warming? The fear is that, once the atmosphere has warmed past some critical level, various feedback mechanisms will kick in and push the temperature beyond the point where the planet will become inhospitable for human life. Once these feedback mechanisms have kicked in, it is unlikely that we can do anything to intervene. And considering the current signs from the environment, accelerating industrial emissions, and the long life of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, some worry that it may already be too late to prevent this scenario.

Runaway Climate Change-Feedback Mechanisms

Many processes in the natural world have continuous consequences which either accelerate or retard the original process. Such consequences feed back into the process from which they arise, and so are called "feedback loops." For example, a newly-introduced predator devours the population of its chosen prey, until the food supply is so diminished that the predator can't

feed its young and its own population contracts: that's negative feedback. Balance is exceeded, and the over-feeding predators give rise to an effect that drives down their own numbers.

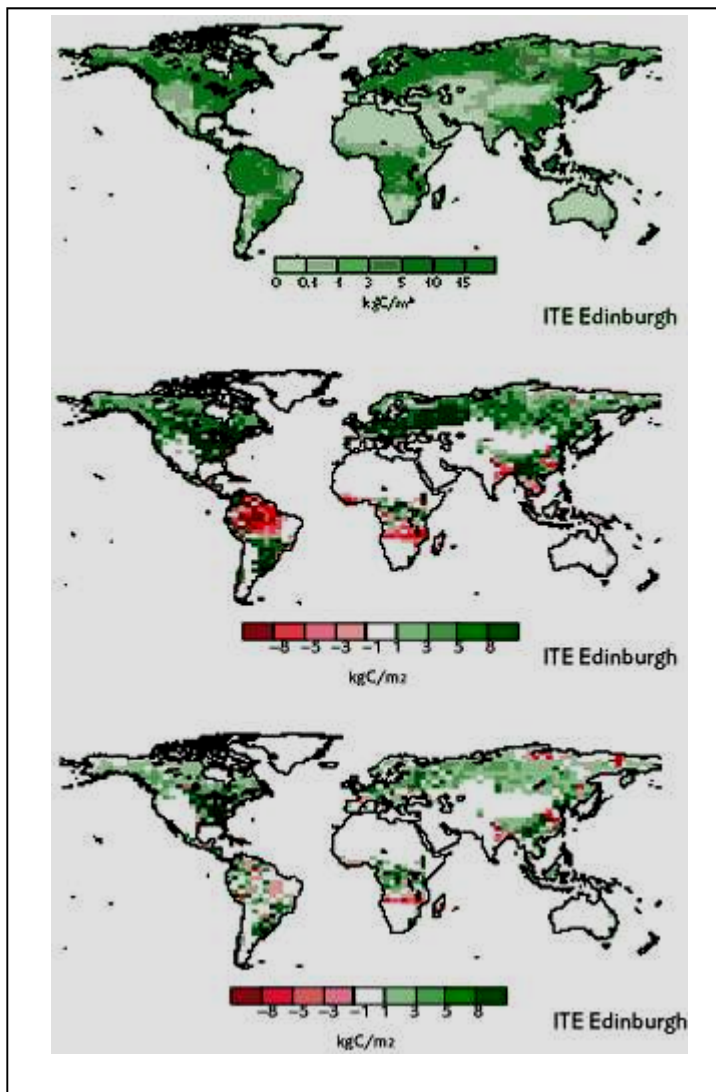
Feedback loops occur in the social world as well; for instance, under a regressive income tax, the working poor pay plenty of tax, which tends to keep them increasingly poor and working longer hours, while the wealthy pay little or no tax, which tends to make them wealthier. That's a positive feedback loop, because the original process is exacerbated by its own effects.

Our climate system is largely a system of feedback mechanisms, both positive and negative. It is the crux of the climate change skeptics' argument that negative feedback systems will cancel out industry-induced global climate change. They suggest that excess carbon in the atmosphere will be absorbed by the oceans and will stimulate photosynthesis in land-based plants, both of which will serve to remove the excess carbon from the atmosphere and lock it safely away.

Currently, photosynthesis in forests is accelerating, leading to greener, lusher forests and a higher absorption rate for carbon dioxide. However, decomposition rates in dead wood and soils are also beginning to accelerate. And as the climate warms, eventually this out-gassing of decomposed carbon will overtake the accelerated photosynthesis. Worse, the Amazonian rainforests are expected to fail about mid-century. The dying rainforests would then release their store of carbon into the atmosphere. According to studies undertaken by the Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction in Great Britain, if industrial carbon emissions go unmitigated then the forests will become net contributors of carbon to the atmosphere by 2070. Stabilization of industrial emissions could possibly delay this forest dieback for another century.⁶

Climate change skeptics point to the oceans as an immense carbon sink, capable of absorbing all industrial carbon emissions. Indeed, the oceans hold a volume of carbon equivalent to more than 6,000 years of fossil fuel burning at current rates.⁷ Without the absorption of carbon by the oceans and the linked production of free oxygen by ocean phytoplankton, the Earth's atmosphere would consist almost entirely of carbon dioxide, with a little bit of nitrogen. Temperatures would hover around 600° Celsius, and atmospheric pressure would be 60 times heavier than it is currently.⁸

Ocean waters absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, holding much of it in solution, but transforming some into carbonic acid. Phytoplankton in the upper ocean layers fix the carbon dioxide in their cells through the process of photosynthesis. These Phytoplankton form the basis of the ocean food chain. They are grazed



Global vegetation biomass in the 1990s (top), in the 2080s due to global climate change from unmitigated emissions (middle), and in the 2080s with emissions stabilizing CO₂ at 750 ppm (bottom). Taken from ***The Impacts of Climate Change on Natural Vegetation***, Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research

by animal plankton and other organisms, which utilize most of the carbon as an energy source but return a small portion of it to the atmosphere through respiration. Some of this carbon ultimately settles through the ocean column in the form of cast-off tests and shells, and animal feces. During periods of global warming millions of years ago, this sediment of carbon wastes formed the source for the hydrocarbon deposits which have served to power our civilization through the past century, and which are now, ironically, resulting in industry-induced climate change.

Unfortunately, this oceanic carbon sink could very well break down in response to climate change. Warmer seawater is already saturated with carbon, so it absorbs less.

Robust absorption of carbon requires a continuous cycling of colder, carbon-poor water upward from the ocean depths. If the global thermohaline conveyor were to fail (see Part II of this series), a dangerous drop in carbon absorption could result.

But the biggest threat to the oceanic carbon cycle lies in diminishing phytoplankton productivity. In the past 20 years, phytoplankton concentrations in northern oceans have decreased by as much as 30%. Scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suspect that warmer temperatures and low winds are depriving the phytoplankton of nitrogen and carbon dioxide.⁹ A Japanese researcher at Hokkaido University has noted a sharp drop in the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the northern Pacific Ocean over the past 15 years. Yutaka Watanabe has stated that the amount of carbon dioxide in the ocean has dropped by 10%.¹⁰

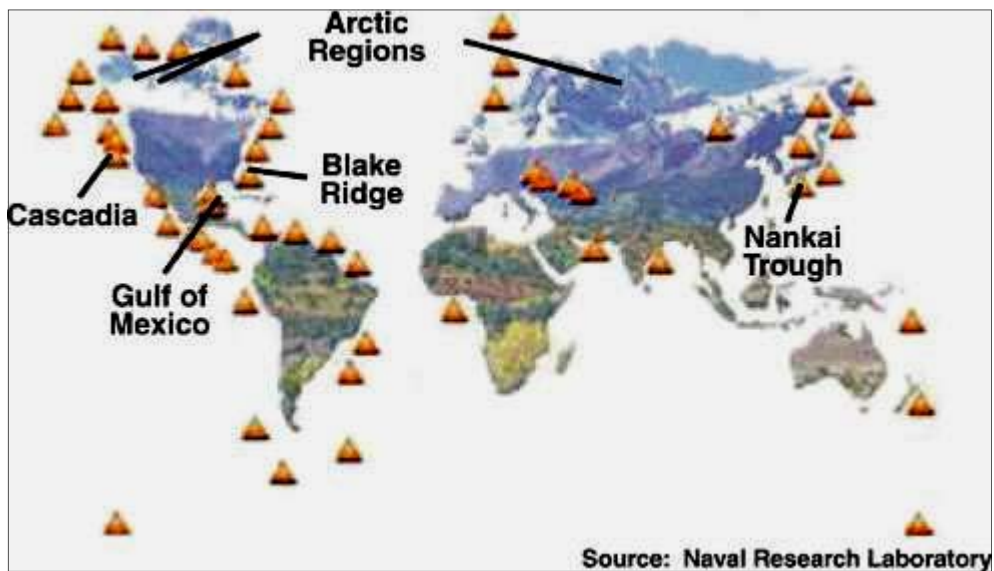
Another feedback mechanism which is already beginning to work against us is the retreat of ice cover, particularly from the Arctic ice cap and from Greenland. The melting ice cover will trouble us in several ways. Freshwater runoff will help to disrupt thermohaline circulation in the oceans, as discussed in the second part of this series. Melting ice cover would also raise ocean levels. As mentioned in the first part of this series, satellite studies from NASA demonstrate that the Arctic ice cap is already retreating dramatically. A report released by the German Advisory Council on Global Change states that if the world's average temperature increases by more than 2° C beyond what it was at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, it will likely trigger the melting of the Greenland ice cap and West Antarctic ice sheet. This would raise world sea levels by as much as 30 feet, submerging major cities such as New York, London, Tokyo, Miami, Bombay, Calcutta, Sydney, and Shanghai.¹¹ The Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research has stated that there are already sufficient Greenhouse gases to raise Greenland's average temperature by 3° C by the middle of the century.¹²

The retreating ice cover will decrease the Earth's albedo, as discussed in the first part of this series, reflecting less of the sun's energy and resulting in a further warming of the Earth's surface. Evaporating melt waters could also increase the water vapor content in the lower atmosphere. Water vapor is a greenhouse gas. The result of both of these effects would be a positive feedback cycle where melting ice results in a warmer climate, which in turn leads to the melting of yet more ice.

And then there is the thawing tundra. Globally, frozen peatlands hold an estimated 550 billion tons of stored carbon.¹³ Dead plant matter is frozen in permafrost, slowing and even stopping the decomposition process.

The slow, anaerobic decomposition which currently takes place in these frozen lands has produced a stockpile of methane which is already showing signs of escaping into the atmosphere as the tundra thaws. Methane has a shorter lifetime in the atmosphere than does carbon dioxide, but is it up to ten times as effective at trapping heat in the lower atmosphere. However, as the soils warm and the permafrost thaws, bacteria could set to work with a vengeance, decomposing plant matter at a higher rate, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere instead of methane.¹⁴

Methane is stored in the deep ocean along the continental margins, in the form of clathrates. These are massive deposits of carbonated slush, where the methane is trapped under pressure in the crystal lattices of frozen water (i.e., ice). Though the oceans hold much more methane than does the tundra, taken together they contain an estimated 2 trillion tons of methane in the form of clathrates.¹⁵



Occurrences of Natural Methane Hydrate (Clathrates) Deposits Worldwide

The release of the entire balance of these pent up gases into the atmosphere is possible, but highly improbable. Dr. Hawking's scenario of an Earth superheated to match its sister planet, Venus, is unlikely. If the seas started venting methane into the atmosphere, the chances are that the process would halt before all of the sequestered methane escaped. However, just a portion of this enormous reserve of carbon, if released into the atmosphere, could render the planet uninhabitable. And while many scientists consider the possibility very remote, every day more investigators assess this scenario, shake their heads and wonder: could we already have set such an event into motion?

It is believed that a release of methane hydrates from the oceans has happened before in the Earth's history, and it is suspected to be a factor in most of the mass extinction events of the past. The last time was 55 million years ago (fairly recent in geological terms), in an event known as the Late Paleocene Thermal Maximum (LPTM). It lasted for about 150,000 years, and raised average global temperatures by 5 to 7° C (9 to 13° F).¹⁶ Recent studies of sea floor sediment indicate that the oceans warmed in higher latitudes by 8 to 10° C, and by 4 to 5° C in tropical latitudes.¹⁷ The LPTM was probably initiated by movements of the continental plates, such as the collision of the Indian subcontinent with Eurasia which created the Himalayas. Uplifting decreased water pressure on the ocean floors, which in turn allowed a massive methane release. This release warmed the oceans sufficiently to allow further methane release and other feedback mechanisms to kick in. The polar ice caps disappeared and life on this planet experienced a mass extinction event.¹⁸

When Life Almost Disappeared-The Permian Extinction

251 million years ago, at the end of the Permian Era, life almost entirely vanished from this planet. It is the single worst mass extinction in the history of the Earth. Fully 95% of the species extant on this planet at that time were wiped out. Only a few species of plants, animals, and likely even protozoa, survived to evolve (until the next major extinction-ecologically trivial by comparison-wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago).

The cause of the horrendous Permian extinction has long been a mystery, and geologists have suggested a number

of possibilities, none of which quite explains the evidence. But in the last fifteen years or so, a compelling picture has emerged. Developed in response to a wealth of new paleogeological evidence from that period-evidence from petrology, geochemistry, oceanography, paleoclimatology and various other disciplines-the scenario is quickly being accepted by the scientific community. The culprit that wiped out 95% of all species and very nearly put an end to life on this planet was runaway global warming.

The event began in a very spectacular fashion, with a massive volcanic eruption in Siberia that spewed out a volume of 2 million cubic kilometers of basalt, which covered an area of eastern Russia 1.6 million square kilometers in extent (roughly the size of Europe).¹⁹ Volcanic activity also vented a great deal of carbon dioxide and fine ash into the atmosphere. Gases were vented in such quantity that the average global temperature increased by approximately 6° C.²⁰ Some 161 species became extinct as a direct result of these volcanic eruptions. The extinction rate was as high as 33%. But this was just the beginning.

The temperature rise was high enough to trigger a number of positive feedback mechanisms. Most notably, there was a massive release of methane from hydrates locked into clathrates. The warming caused by the Siberian eruption was sufficient to melt the frozen gas hydrates, allowing bodies of methane to bubble up to the surface of the oceans and belch into the atmosphere. This introduction of methane then led to further warming, which in turn melted deeper methane hydrate deposits. The outgassing of methane was far in excess of the natural mechanisms which normally reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The planet's climate system broke down and runaway global warming continued until it reached some unknown threshold.

It is not yet known what prevented the planet from becoming a sterile twin to Venus. Scientists are just beginning to explore the question of how the atmosphere returned to a more hospitable climate. Life on this planet came so close to complete annihilation that it took 100 million years for global biodiversity to return to pre-extinction levels.²¹

The Permian Extinction should be widely understood as an ominous lesson in the danger of global warming. We need to pay particular attention to the temperature rise which caused these runaway feedback mechanisms to kick in: 6° C. Back in the first installment of this series on global climate change, we looked at a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which stated that the average global surface temperature will increase by between 1.4° and 5.8° C during the next century. This would compound the increase of 0.6° C that has already occurred during the past century.

So, according to this report, the temperature could rise by as much as 6.4° C by the year 2100.²² And that this estimate is on the conservative side; it is possible that temperatures could increase by much more than 6.4° C.

The warning lights should be going off all over. A temperature increase of 6.4° C would put us well beyond the threshold for runaway global warming. Could mankind be gearing up to perpetrate the greatest extinction on this planet since the end of the Permian Era?

Enter the End of the Hydrocarbon Era

The first reaction of most environmental activists to the news of peak oil is to say, "Good, we need to stop using fossil fuels anyway." It seems logical that a decline in hydrocarbon production will lead to a decline in carbon dioxide emissions. And it is likely that somewhere down the line, carbon emissions will abate simply due to the scarcity of fuel. But we will not go gently into that good night.

When you learn that heating costs are going to continue increasing, and that shortages of natural gas are likely in our near future, what alternatives come to your mind for home heating? Passive solar heating? Sure, but that alone will not keep you warm on a cold winter night. Most people immediately think of wood. As heating costs go up, and as shortages put a chill on our homes, most of us are going to start burning wood (or will burn more wood, as the case may be). We will turn to biomass.

Burning biomass is undoubtedly the dirtiest source of energy. As we burn wood, corn husks or cow chips to heat our homes, we will be pumping tremendous volumes of carbon into the atmosphere. And, in all probability, it is unavoidable. There are some things we can do to reduce the amount of wood we burn and so limit our contribution to global warming. Better insulation can increase efficiency. And consider the sort of wood furnace you will be using. Traditional brick fireplaces are the least efficient way to warm a house. Metal wood stoves are better, but soapstone is the best at holding heat and radiating it outward. A small load of wood is a soapstone stove can generate heat for hours. And when you are harvesting your wood, take care not to strip the forests bare. Be selective in choosing your wood. Practice coppicing (do a Google search to find out more about this ancient method of harvesting wood).

Burning biomass will likely add to our global warming problem, but it is probable that coal burning will be far more harmful.

As oil and natural gas production go into decline in North America, the alternative we will ultimately turn to is coal-whether we like it or not. Coal is considered to be

abundant in North America, and it is cheap. Despite all the talk of a hydrogen economy, the real investment will go into stepping up coal production. In fact, the production of coal-fired power plants has already been stepped up. As of February 2004, at least 100 new coal-fired electric power plants were planned to go up in more than 36 states.²³ This new growth market is currently flying below radar, because once plans for a coal-burning plant are made public, they are liable to be halted by the legislative efforts of environmentalists and neighborhood coalitions.

If even half of these plants are completed, they will increase exhaust gas emissions by 120 million cubic feet per minute. All the new coal plants being proposed would add one-tenth of one percent to the world's annual carbon dioxide emissions.²⁴ That may not seem like much, but it is certainly a move in the wrong direction. And it is only the beginning.

As the production of oil and natural gas continues to slide, we will open up our coal reserves for electricity production, heating, industrial use, and to process coal into liquid transportation fuel. In the process, we will increase our exhaust emissions, rip up vast areas of land, create immense slag dumps, and pollute our waterways and groundwater. And we will require a major upgrade in our coal transportation network-that is, trucks and trains. You can expect strong efforts from industry and politicians to turn back environmental laws regulating coal production and coal burning. It will be argued that these regulations are damaging the economy. They will point to an economy choking from a constricting energy base, and they will insist that they cannot provide the energy we so desperately need with all these legal restrictions. Power outages will act to blunt the environmental sensibilities of the public.

Perhaps the only salvation here lies in recent research (reported in FTW), that coal is likely to peak sometime around 2032, if not sooner.²⁵ This will leave us a little less than 20 years of stepped up production before coal joins the list of has-beens. Then our carbon emissions really may begin to decrease.

But the US is not the only country likely to turn to coal. China is also eyeing its large reserves of coal, as is India. If the world's two most populous countries step up their coal consumption along with the US, then the decline in petroleum and natural gas production will actually be greeted with a pronounced increase in carbon emissions.

Peak oil will not be a blessing in disguise with regard to global warming. The models of global climate change developed by the IPCC and others have not taken into account the impacts of Peak Oil and the North American

Natural Gas Cliff. These models are based on faulty economic projections produced by neo-classical economics-a warped discipline which is blind to resource depletion.²⁶ If we turn to coal and biomass to make up for the decrease in oil and natural gas production, then it is likely that our actions will push the average global temperature well beyond the 6° C threshold mentioned above. The end of the oil age could very well push us into an age of runaway global warming.

Coal will not be able to support the kind of energy-intensive economy which we have built on oil and natural gas. It will be a faltering effort from a civilization in denial, intent on clinging to unsustainable ways. It will fail in the end, but in this last mad burn-off of energy resources, we may very well incur the demise of life on this planet.

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Draft Extradition Update

As regular FTW readers know, four months ago we began contacting the embassies and consulates of 75 countries and asking the following question: "Under existing treaties, is _____ obligated to extradite fugitives (back) to the United States for draft evasion?"

Replies have come slowly, but since this chart was first published in the Feb '04 issue of this newsletter, we have received additional replies from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, and South Africa). Last updated April 22, 2004, this chart will be continually updated until all 75 countries on our list have responded. Updates can be viewed online, in Mike Ruppert's article, "Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to hide."

	Extradite Yes/No?	FBI LEGAT	NORTH- COM	NATO	ANZUS	CONDITIONS
Argentina	No*	Yes				* "Requested State may refuse extradition for offenses under military law that are not offenses under ordinary criminal law (article 4, military offenses-paragraph 4"
Australia	Yes	Yes			Yes	
Brazil	Yes	Yes				
Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Colombia	Yes	Yes				Case by case basis
Germany	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Italy	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes			
New Guinea	No					Will not extradite
New Zealand	No				Yes	Will not extradite if violation of military law
Nigeria	No	Yes				"No treaty exists between US and Nigeria to mandate repatriation of draft dodgers"
Norway	No			Yes		Discretion of Foreign Ministry
Panama	Yes	Yes				
Peru	Yes					Case by case basis
Philippines	Yes	Yes				
Poland	No	Yes		Yes		"Extradition can also be denied if military offense does not constitute a felony under existing national penal code (Art 5, subsection 4)"
Portugal	No			Yes		
Russia	No	Yes				"No agreement for extradition exists"
South Africa	No*	Yes				"The Executive Authority of the Requested State shall refuse extradition for offenses under ordinary criminal law."
Spain	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Sweden	No					No, if only crime is against military law
Switzerland	No	Yes				No, if only crime is against military law
Thailand	Yes	Yes				