

The Silicon Coup: How **Google** Took Over The White House



By
The Internet
(Public Wiki)

Draft 2.4

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Forward

This story begins in 2006 when Eric Schmidt, the Silicon Valley Cartel's "handler" of Google, met with the Chicago executive team of a young, black, Senator with the gift-of-gab. With Eric's servers, the Senator's unlimited capacity to free-style warm and cozy speeches and the Cartel's cash, said Schmidt, they would be "unstoppable". Years later, a political disclosure site called: *THE INTERCEPT*, would start to break the full story open with this article:



The Android Administration - Google's Remarkably Close Relationship With the Obama White House, in Two Charts

Illustration by The Intercept. Photo: Emmanuel Dunand/AFP/Getty Images



By [David Dayen](#)

When President Obama announced his support last week for a Federal Communications Commission plan to open the market for cable set-top boxes — a big win for consumers, but also [for Google](#) — the cable and telecommunications giants who used to have a near-stranglehold on tech policy were furious. AT&T chief lobbyist Jim Cicconi [lashed out](#) at what he called White House intervention on behalf of “the Google proposal.”

He’s hardly the first to suggest that the Obama administration has become too close to the Silicon Valley juggernaut.

Over the past seven years, Google has created a remarkable partnership with the Obama White House, providing expertise, services, advice, and personnel for vital government projects.

Precisely how much influence this buys Google isn’t always clear. But consider that over in the European Union, Google is now facing [two major antitrust charges](#) for abusing its dominance in mobile operating systems and search. By contrast, in the U.S., a strong case to sanction Google was quashed by a presidentially appointed commission.

It’s a relationship that bears watching. “Americans know surprisingly little about what Google wants and gets from our government,” said Anne Weismann, executive director of [Campaign for Accountability](#), a nonprofit watchdog organization. Seeking to change that, Weismann’s group is spearheading a data transparency project about Google’s interactions in Washington.

The Intercept teamed up with Campaign for Accountability to present two revealing data sets from that forthcoming project: one on the number of White House meetings attended by Google representatives, and the second on the revolving door between Google and the government.

As the interactive charts accompanying this article show, Google representatives attended White House meetings more than once a week, on average, from the beginning of Obama’s presidency through October 2015. Nearly 250 people have shuttled from government service to Google employment or vice versa over the course of his administration.



**Google lobbyist
Johanna Shelton
visited the Obama
White House 128
times, far outpacing
her counterparts at
other companies.**

Photo: Paul Morigi/Getty Images

No other public company approaches this degree of intimacy with government. According to an

analysis of White House data, the Google lobbyist with the most White House visits, Johanna Shelton, visited 128 times, far more often than lead representatives of the other top-lobbying companies — and more than twice as often, for instance, as Microsoft’s Fred Humphries or Comcast’s David Cohen. (The accompanying chart reflects 94 Shelton visits; it excludes large gatherings such as state dinners and White House tours.)

The information, Weismann said, “will help the public learn more about the company’s influence on our government, our policies, and our lives.”

Asked to respond, Google spokesperson Riva Litman referred *The Intercept* to a [blog post](#) written when the *Wall Street Journal* [raised similar questions](#) a year ago. In that post, Google said the meetings covered a host of topics, including patent reform, STEM education, internet censorship, cloud computing, trade and investment, and smart contact lenses. The company also claimed to have counted similar numbers of visits to the White House by Microsoft and Comcast — but it did not explain its methodology for parsing the data.

Google’s dramatic rise as a lobbying force has not gone unnoticed. The company paid almost no attention to the Washington influence game prior to 2007, but [ramped up steeply thereafter](#). It [spent \\$16.7 million](#) in lobbying in 2015, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, and has been at or near the top of public companies in lobbying expenses since 2012.

But direct expenditures on lobbying represent only one part of the larger influence-peddling game. Google’s lobbying strategy also includes throwing [lavish D.C. parties](#); making [grants to trade groups, advocacy organizations, and think tanks](#); offering [free services and training](#) to campaigns, congressional offices, and journalists; and [using academics as validators](#) for the company’s public policy positions. Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of Alphabet, Google’s parent company, was an enthusiastic supporter of both of Obama’s presidential campaigns and has been a major Democratic donor.

For its part, the Obama administration — attempting to project a brand of innovative, post-partisan problem-solving of issues that have bedeviled government for decades — has welcomed and even come to depend upon its association with one of America’s largest tech companies.

[Google doesn’t just lobby](#) the White House for favors, but collaborates with officials, effectively serving as a sort of corporate extension of government operations in the digital era.

In just the past few years, Google has provided diplomatic assistance to the administration through [expanding internet access in Cuba](#); collaborated with the Department of Housing and Urban

Development to [bring Google Fiber into public housing](#); used Google resources to [monitor droughts](#) in real time; and even [captured 360-degree views](#) of White House interiors.

But perhaps most salient here is the fact that modern life requires so much information technology support that a sprawling operation like the White House has turned to tech companies — often in the form of ex-Google employees — when faced with pressing IT needs.

Practically every part of the government makes available some form of technology, whether it's the public-facing website for a federal agency, a digital mechanism for people to access benefits, or a new communications tool for espionage or war.

Somebody has to build and manage those projects, and Silicon Valley firms have the expertise needed to do that. White House officials have publicly asked Silicon Valley for aid in [stopping terrorists](#) from recruiting via social media, [securing the internet of things](#), [thwarting cyberattacks](#), [modernizing the Defense Department](#), and generally [updating all their technology](#). We can reasonably expect yet more things are being asked for behind closed doors.



**Todd Park, U.S.
chief technology
officer from 2012
to 2014, met with
Google officials at
the White House
22 times.**

Photo: Philips Communications/Flickr

The disastrous launch of HealthCare.gov in October 2013 is the most obvious example. Within weeks

of the site going live, Chief Technology Officer Todd Park, his top deputy Nicole Wong (a former Google deputy general counsel), and White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough held meetings with Google personnel.

In *Time* magazine, Steven Brill [detailed one of those meetings](#), between Park and Gabriel Burt, the chief technology officer at Eric Schmidt's Civis Analytics. Civis was already working on Obamacare as a vendor for Enroll America, a nonprofit tasked with getting people subscribed on the insurance exchanges. Civis used reams of data to target communities with high levels of uninsured Americans so Enroll America could contact them. But now the site where they were supposed to sign up wasn't working. So the White House turned to Civis for help with that as well.

Eventually, Mikey Dickerson, a site-reliability engineer with Google who previously worked on the Obama campaign, got [hired to fix the site](#). Burt and Dickerson worked together to "form a rescue squad" for HealthCare.gov, according to *Time*. And most of the recruits came from Google. Later, Dickerson [led the U.S. Digital Service](#), a new agency whose mission was to fix other technology problems in the federal government. Ex-Google staffers were prevalent there as well. Dickerson attended nine White House meetings with Google personnel while working for the government between 2013 and 2014.

Meetings between Google and the White House, viewed in this context, sometimes function like calls to the IT Help Desk. Only instead of working for the same company, the government is supposed to be regulating Google as a private business, not continually asking it for favors.

Much of this collaboration could be considered public-minded — it's hard to argue with the idea that the government should seek outside technical help when it requires it. And there's no evidence of a quid pro quo. But this arrangement doesn't have to result in outright corruption to be troubling.

The obvious question that arises is: Can government do its job with respect to regulating Google in the public interest if it owes the company such a debt of gratitude?

Google doesn't think its activities present an antitrust problem. It doesn't feel constrained from holding incredible amounts of data. But should Google be in a position to make that determination itself? How much influence is too much influence?

Another potential conflict arises from the enormous amount of data that Google and the government each have stored on American citizens. Google recently acknowledged having mined the [data of student users](#) of its education apps, and has been [accused repeatedly of violating user privacy](#) in other contexts. An overly close partnership risks Google putting its data in the government's hands or gaining access to what the government has collected.

When the federal government and a private company share the same worldview, get the same insights from the same groups of people, the policy drift can occur with nobody explicitly choosing the direction. It just seems like the right thing to do.

And there is no doubt that Google's rise in Washington has coincided with public policy that is friendlier to the company.

Most notably, Google has faced questions for years about exercising its market power to squash rivals, infringing on its users' privacy rights, favoring its own business affiliates in search results, and using patent law to create barriers to competition. Even Republican senators like Orrin Hatch have [called out Google](#) for its practices.

In 2012, staff at the Federal Trade Commission recommended filing antitrust charges after determining that Google was engaging in anti-competitive tactics and abusing its monopoly. A staff report that was [later leaked](#) said Google's conduct "has resulted — and will result — in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets."

The [Wall Street Journal noted](#) that Google's White House visits increased right around that time. And in 2013, the presidentially appointed commissioners of the FTC overrode their staff, voting unanimously not to file any charges.

Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, said the administration "has been a huge help" to Google both by protecting it from attempts to limit its market power and by blocking privacy legislation. "Google has been able to thwart regulatory scrutiny in terms of anti-competitive practices, and has played a key role in ensuring that the United States doesn't protect at all the privacy of its citizens and its consumers," Chester said.

At a [congressional hearing](#) earlier this month, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, citing the possibility of consumer harm, called on the FTC to reconsider the kind of antitrust charges against Google recently filed in Europe.

But Obama has argued that European regulators are being too aggressive toward Google out of a desire to protect companies that aren't as capable. "In defense of Google and Facebook, sometimes the European response here is more commercially driven than anything else," [he told Re/code](#) in February. "We have owned the internet. Our companies have created it, expanded it, perfected it, in ways they can't compete."

On the left, you will find the names of White House officials who met with Google staff; on the right, the names of Google staff who met with White House officials. Hover over their names to see their titles and the number of meetings they attended. Hover over each meeting to find out who else was

present. *Source: Campaign for Accountability; Data Visualization: Accurat.it*

The accompanying visualization documents White House meetings involving employees from Google, Eric Schmidt's investment vehicle Tomorrow Ventures, and Civis Analytics, a company whose sole investor is Schmidt.

Between January 2009 and October 2015, Google staffers gathered at the White House on 427 separate occasions. All told, 182 White House employees and 169 Google employees attended the meetings, with participation from almost every domestic policy and national security player in the West Wing.

The frequency of the meetings has increased practically every year, from 32 in 2009 to 97 in 2014. In the first 10 months of 2015, which is as far as the study goes, there were 85 Google meetings.

The most frequent visitor is Johanna Shelton, one of Google's top lobbyists in Washington — officially its director of public policy. Shelton attended meetings at the White House on 94 different occasions.

The most Google-visited White House official is Todd Park, the U.S. chief technology officer from 2012 to 2014. In that short period, Park met with Google officials at the White House 22 times. Park's replacement, current Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, was a former Google vice president. She had five White House meetings as a Google representative, then 10 Google meetings as a White House representative.

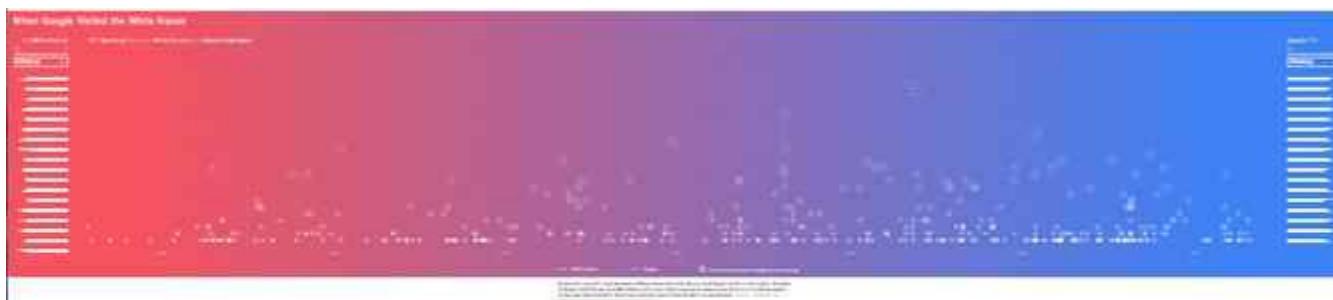
The comprehensiveness of Google's outreach jumps out from the data. You would expect some contact between Google and top technology policymakers like Park, Smith, Aneesh Chopra, Susan Crawford, and Vivek Kundra. But Google's presence as an economic force and a communications tool gives the company an interest in virtually every aspect of public policy.

Since 2009, Google has met with all three of Obama's directors of the National Economic Council (Larry Summers, Gene Sperling, and Jeffrey Zients), one chair of the Council of Economic Advisers (Austan Goolsbee), and another official who would become CEA chair (Jason Furman, who was then deputy director of the NEC).

Company employees met with four Obama chiefs of staff (Rahm Emanuel, William Daley, Jack Lew, and Denis McDonough). Google also huddled with national security personnel like Michael McFaul (then at the NSC, later U.S. ambassador to Russia) and Tony Blinken (deputy national security adviser). Employees met with Heather Zichal, deputy assistant for energy and climate change, and White House science adviser John Holdren. They met with close counselors to the president like Pete Rouse, Valerie Jarrett, John Podesta, and Dan Pfeiffer. They met with then-communications director Jennifer Palmieri. And they met with the president of the United States 21 separate times — five times in the first term

and 16 times in the first two-plus years of the second term. Even Jill Biden and Michelle Obama have taken meetings with Google employees.

The visitor logs only show the individuals in attendance at the meetings, not what the meetings were about. But it's possible to make some educated guesses. The presence of Johanna Shelton at 94 meetings suggests that a significant chunk were devoted to lobbying on various Google priorities. But there are hundreds of other meetings in the logs that point to more of a consulting role. Each line represents an individual's move between Google and U.S. government agencies, congressional staff, or federal-level political campaigns. You can filter by direction to see only transfers from or to Google; by sub-organization; and by year. To reset the graphic, click anywhere that's not highlighted. *Source: Campaign for Accountability; Data Visualization: Accurat.it*



The “revolving door” data, displayed in the above visualization, reveals 55 cases of individuals moving from positions at Google into the federal government, and 197 individuals moving from positions inside the government to jobs at Google. The data includes positions at firms that Eric Schmidt owns or controls — Civis Analytics, The Groundwork, and Tomorrow Ventures — along with two law firms and three lobbying firms that have represented Google. On the government side, staffers at Obama for America and a handful of other political campaigns were included.

The data includes individuals from Google appointed to government boards while maintaining their positions at the tech firm. Google board member John Doerr was appointed to the [President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness](#) in February 2011. Eric Schmidt has been part of the [President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology](#) since 2009. He was also more recently appointed to lead the [Defense Innovation Advisory Board](#) at the Pentagon, which occurred outside the time frame of the data.

But the bulk of the moves involved job changes. Google alums work in the departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Education, Justice, and Veterans Affairs. One works at the Federal Reserve, another at the U.S. Agency for International Development. The highest number — 29 — moved from Google into the White House. The State Department had the next highest with just five. The moves

from Google to government got more frequent in the later Obama years; 11 occurred in 2014 and 16 in 2015, after only 18 in the entire first term.

On the other side, former staffers from 36 different areas across the government have found a willing employer at Google since 2009. Johanna Shelton was a senior counsel on the House Energy and Commerce Telecommunications Subcommittee. Joshua Wright, a former commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, [rotated into a top position](#) at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, one of the law firms that has represented Google.

Nineteen researchers and scientists at NASA, senior analysts at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, an “information assurance expert” at the National Security Agency, and 32 separate officials with the Obama for America campaign found their way to Google.

Former employees of 12 of the 15 cabinet agencies (Energy, Justice, Defense, Education, State, Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, HHS, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs) now work at the tech company or its affiliates, led by 16 former Pentagon staffers. The exodus ramped up in the second term, hitting 41 in 2014, compared to just six in 2009.

Seven individuals made a full revolution through the revolving door, either going from Google to government and back again, or from government to Google and back again. This includes Julia Duncan, who left her job as White House personnel officer to go work in Google’s finance department in 2013, and a year later moved to the State Department’s Office of Food Security.

Nathan Parker, a staff software engineer at Google, did a stint in the U.S. Digital Service for four months before returning to Google HQ in Mountain View. Austin Lau was a planner and tech lead for Google India, then became a foreign service officer at the State Department before returning to Google to work on social impact partnerships.

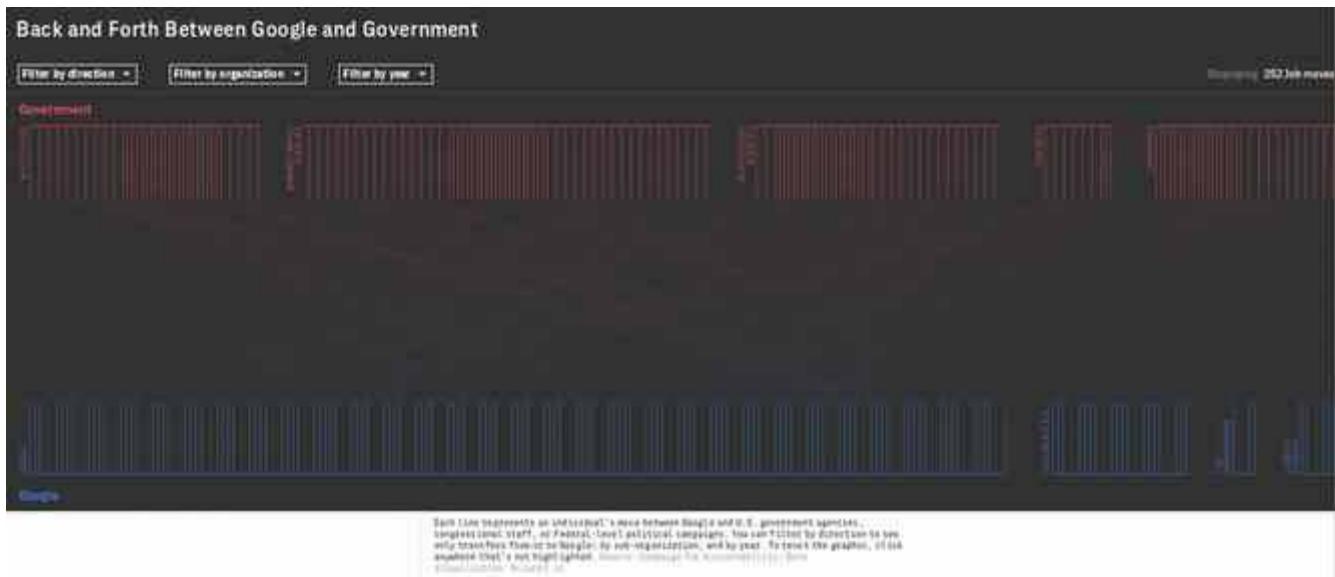
A few individuals are listed twice: The aforementioned Mikey Dickerson moved from Google to the Obama campaign, back to Google, and then to the U.S. Digital Service, for example.



Illustration by The Intercept. Photo: Shutterstock

The government and Google shared engineers, lawyers, scientists, communications specialists, executives, and even board members. Google has achieved a kind of vertical integration with the government: a true public-private partnership.

Ex-Google staffers may not be directly involved in setting policy that affects Google, but they have access to decision-makers. They maintain ties to their former bosses. And Google employees with government experience have a network of friends and colleagues at federal agencies, House and Senate offices, the West Wing, and practically everywhere else.



Methodology:

The chart depicting White House visits is based on meetings between White House officials and employees of Google or companies controlled by Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of Google's parent company, since President Obama took office in 2009 through October 2015. The data has been compiled from [White House visitor records](#).

Large gatherings, such as state dinners and White House tours were excluded. Names were cross-referenced with lists of Google employees.

The jobs visualization was compiled from publicly available information including LinkedIn profiles, news sources, lobby disclosure records, and OpenSecrets.org data. Analysts gathered data by searching for profiles mentioning Google and terms related to government jobs. The data includes any job changes that occurred during Obama's presidency, as well as moves from Obama's campaign to Google in 2008.

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<https://theintercept.com/2016/04/22/googles-remarkably-close-relationship-with-the-obama-white-house-in-two-charts/>

....and the dam had burst.

The revelations that Google, and it's Silicon Valley Cartel of billionaires, had established a private, unregulated, un-elected rogue government inside of the U.S. Government, had begun. The full story, though, is far more bizarre and insidious than any could have imagined. State and federal law enforcement, regulators and mainstream media were ordered, by White House staff, to avoid prosecuting Google. That is a felony as close to treason as one might find.

Google broke the record for government policy manipulation with over 427 White House meetings and the give-away of over 227 revolving doors, to Google employees. Did Google attempt a Coup of the

U.S. Government by putting all of t's people in the key roles? Many experts say: Yes!

Is that why Google was the only company in the world to get nearly a trillion dollars of taxpayer money without going to competitive bid? Why are most other countries going after Google under monopoly charges? China, Russia, The EU and most journalists call Google a "rats nest of political bribery" and are cutting Google off? Is Google a Scientology-like cult of greed and scandal? These, and more questions will be answered in this book.

This book details a modern organized crime effort, conducted by employees of the U.S. Government, and organized by oligarchical Silicon Valley billionaires.

It details historical and sociological events which led to the crimes, the players who engaged in the crimes and the tactics they employed to engage in those crimes with taxpayer money and resources.

Silicon Valley Campaign financiers, White House Staff, Investment bankers (led by Goldman Sachs), and state, and federal, agency appointees executed the scheme.

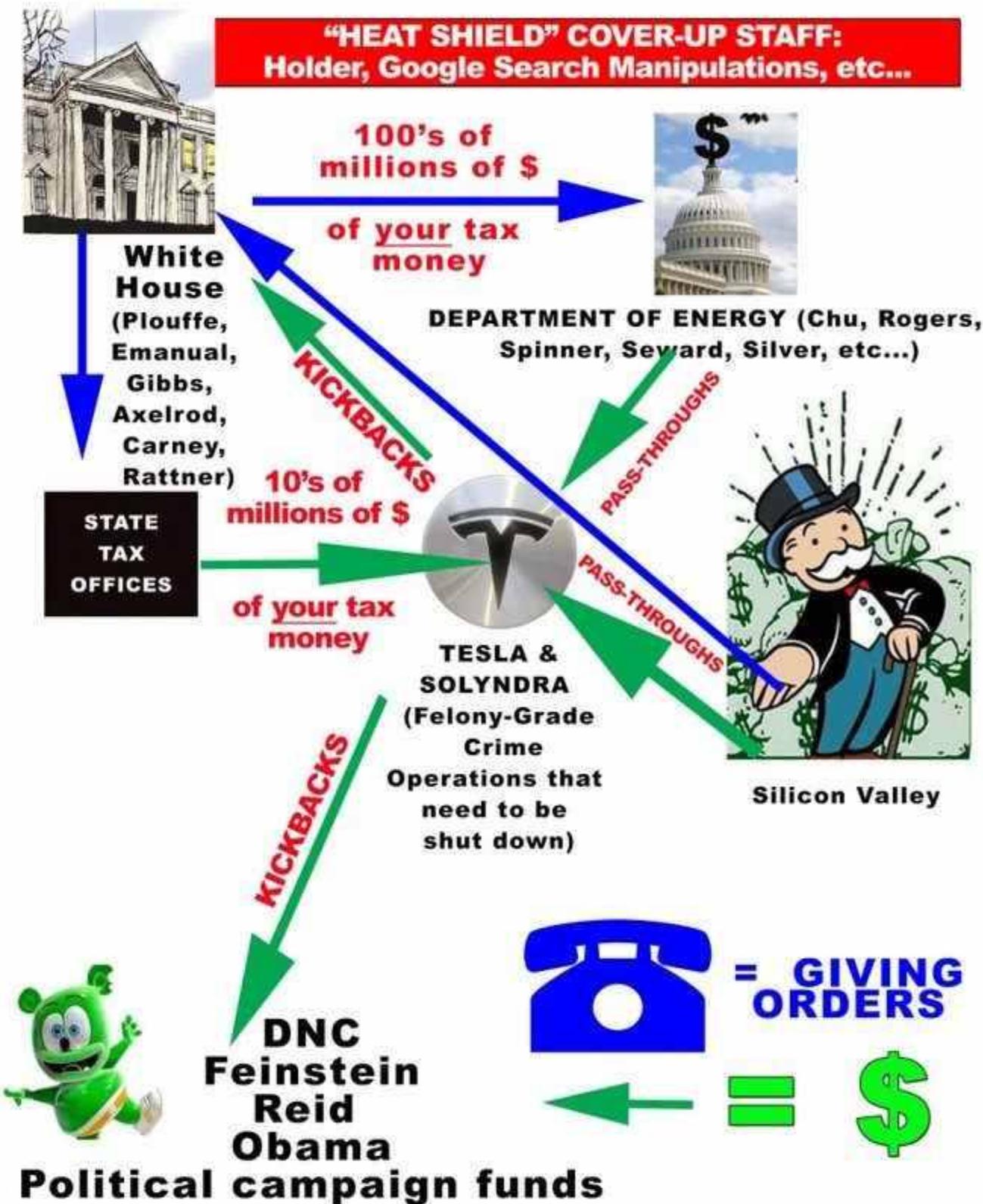
The tools for the exploitation included Afghan War profiteering, green-washing the public with feel-good smoke-screens about "clean" investments that were actually dirty corruption scams, the auto industry and Silicon Valley technology collusions.

The losses, to date, include over six trillion dollars of taxpayer funds, lives, the loss of domestic innovation and the loss of public policy credibility.

So far, law enforcement, and the justice system, have been, either, ordered to take no action, or blockaded from taking any action. Vast sets of hard evidence, which provide incontrovertible proof of the crimes, has been submitted to those agencies but still, none of the victims have received justice.

This book is authored by Internet users in wiki-form, as well as each listed sub-item author, and references thousands of sources of facts. The main rule, for contributors, is that every charge, or implication must be backed-up by, at least 100 points of evidence and source links. Those evidence points must stand up in federal court, open public hearings before a Special Prosecutor and un-biased public investigation.

The purpose of this book is to document the crimes so that no society may, again, allow an extreme, and disturbed, few to corrupt and circumvent the rights of the many. If you don't want to read the whole thing, just skip to the **Summary** and then keyword search the document for anything you want more detail on.



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Coup – Coup d'état: Definition

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Coup d'état \(disambiguation\)](#).

"Coup" redirects here. For other uses, see [Coup \(disambiguation\)](#).

A **coup d'état** ([/kuː də'taːt/](#) • [listen](#) [\(help·info\)](#); French: [\[ku deta\]](#), literally "blow of state"; plural: *coups d'état*, pronounced like the singular form), also known simply as a **coup** ([/kuːp/](#)), or an **overthrow**, is the sudden and illegal seizure of a state,[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#) usually instigated by a small group of the existing government establishment to depose the established regime and replace it with a new ruling body. A coup d'état is considered successful when the [usurpers](#) establish their dominance. If a coup fails, a [civil war](#) may ensue.

A coup d'état typically uses the extant government's power to assume political control of a country. In [Coup d'État: A Practical Handbook](#), military historian Edward Luttwak states that a coup "consists of the infiltration of a small, but critical, segment of the state apparatus, which is then used to displace the government from its control of the remainder".[\[4\]](#) The armed forces, whether military or [paramilitary](#), can be a defining factor of a coup d'état.

Etymology

The phrase *coup d'État* (French pronunciation: [\[ku deta\]](#)) is French, literally meaning a "stroke of state" or "blow against the state". In French the word "État", denoting a sovereign political entity, is capitalized.[\[5\]](#)

Although the coup d'état has featured in politics since antiquity, the phrase is of relatively recent coinage;[\[6\]](#) the [Oxford English Dictionary](#) identifies it as a French expression meaning a "stroke of State". The phrase did not appear within an English text before the nineteenth century except when used in translation of a French source, there being no simple phrase in English to convey the contextualized idea of a "knockout blow to the existing administration within a state".

One early use within text translated from French was in 1785, in a printed translation of a letter from a French merchant, commenting on an arbitrary decree or "arrêt" issued by the French king, restricting the import of British wool.[\[7\]](#) What may be its first published use within a text composed in English, is in an editor's note in the London [Morning Chronicle](#), 7 January 1802, reporting the arrest by [Napoleon](#) in France, of [Moreau](#), [Berthier](#), [Masséna](#), and [Bernadotte](#):

There was a report in circulation yesterday of a sort of *coup d'état* having taken place in France, in consequence of some formidable conspiracy against the existing government.

In [post-Revolutionary France](#), the phrase came to be used to describe the various murders by [Napoleon](#)'s hated secret police, the [Gens d'Armes d'Elite](#), who murdered the [Duke of Enghien](#):

...the actors in torture, the distributors of the poisoning draughts, and the secret executioners of those unfortunate individuals or families, whom Bonaparte's measures of safety require to remove. In what revolutionary tyrants call *grand[s] coups d'état*, as butchering, or poisoning, or drowning, *en masse*, they are exclusively employed.[\[8\]](#)

Since an unsuccessful coup d'état in 1920 (the [Kapp Putsch](#)), the [Swiss-German](#) word *Putsch* (pronounced [\[putʃ\]](#), coined for the [Züriputsch](#) of 1839), also denotes the same politico-military actions. [\[citation needed\]](#)

Usage of the phrase:

Politically, a coup d'état is a usually violent method of [political engineering](#),[\[citation needed\]](#) which affects who rules in the government, without radical changes in the form of the government, the political system. Tactically, a coup d'état involves control by an active minority of usurpers who block the remaining (non-participant) defenders of the state's possible defence of the attacked government, by capturing or expelling the politico-military leaders and seizing physical control of the country's key government offices, communications media, and infrastructure.

In looser usage, as in intelligence coup or boardroom coup, the term simply refers to gaining a sudden advantage on a rival.

Pronunciamiento

Main article: [Pronunciamiento](#)

Pronunciamiento ("pronouncement") is a term of [Spanish](#) and [Latin-American](#) origin for a special type of coup d'état. The coup d'état (called *golpe de Estado* in [Spanish](#)) was more common in Spain and South America, while the *pronunciamiento* was more common in [Central America](#). The *pronunciamiento* is the formal explanation for deposing the regnant government, justifying the installation of the new government that was effected with the *golpe de Estado*. In a coup it is the military, paramilitary, or opposing political faction that deposes the current government and assumes power, whereas in the *pronunciamiento* the military deposes the existing government and installs an (ostensibly) civilian government.[\[9\]](#)

History

Further information: [List of coups d'état and coup attempts](#) and [List of coups d'état and coup attempts](#)

by country

Variations of coups d'état have been among the most common forms of governmental transition, though they have declined worldwide; nowadays they are most common in Africa. Between 1952 and 2000, 33 countries experienced 85 such depositions, with West Africa having the most (42), largely against civil regimes. 27 were against military regimes and in 5 were the deposed incumbents killed.[\[10\]](#)

Types

Political scientist [Samuel P. Huntington](#) identified three types of coup d'état, which correspond to the role the military plays in three different types of [praetorian society](#)".[\[11\]](#) As society changes, so does the role of the military. In the world of [oligarchy](#), the soldier is a radical; in the middle class he is a participant and arbiter; as the "mass society looms on the horizon he becomes the conservative guardian of the existing order" (p. 221).

Breakthrough coups

In breakthrough coups, the soldier plays the role of "reformer", moving the society from "Oligarchical to Radical Praetorianism" (p. 198). "In oligarchical praetorianism the dominant social forces are landowners, the leading clergy, and the wielders of the sword". In "radical" society, the middle-class is an important social and political class. The shift toward "radical" society take the form of slow evolution, or a "breakthrough" to middle-class political participation may be led by civilian [intelligentsia](#) (p. 200). A breakthrough to radical praetorianism (in which the military plays an important role among the middle class who govern) may occur when middle-class officers dislodge the civilian intelligentsia who led the breakthrough, or the military may take power directly from the [absolute monarchy](#) or the oligarchs in a military coup (p. 201).

Examples include:

- Brazil 1889
- Thailand 1932
- Egypt 1952 (p. 202)
- Syria 1949
- Iraq 1958
- Pakistan 1958

- Burma 1958 (p. 203)
- Bolivia 1936
- Guatemala 1944 (p. 206)
- El Salvador 1948 (p. 207)
- Chile 1924 (p. 208)
- Turkey 1980 (p. 209)
- Egypt 2013

Arbiter coups

Arbiter coups: In this type of coup, society is in the stage of "radical praetorianism", meaning that the praetorian society is in the "middle stages in the expansion of political participation" (p. 209) - the middle-class (including the military) are actively involved in politics, but the masses are not regularly politically mobilized. This type of society often follows the breakthrough coup, which "clears the way for the entry of other middle-class elements into politics" (p. 209). In radical praetorian society, various middle-class groups may act against one another in riots or demonstrations, and the military will step in with a military coup to re-establish order and "halt the rabid mobilization of social forces into politics and into the streets...to defuse the explosive political situation" (p. 216).

Examples include:

- Peru 1962
- Haiti 1946
- Venezuela 1958 (p. 214)
- Bolivia 1964 (p. 215)
- Burma 1962 (p. 217)

Veto coup d'état

Veto coup d'état: occurs when the army vetoes the people's mass participation and social mobilisation in governing themselves. "Military interventions of this "veto" variety thus directly reflect increasing lower-class political participation in politics" (p. 222). In "veto coups" the soldier plays the role of "guardian of the existing order" (p. 221). In such a case, the army confronts and suppresses large-scale,

broad-based civil opposition.

Examples include:

- [Argentina 1930](#)
- [Chile 1973](#)
- Peru 1962
- Guatemala 1963
- Ecuador 1963
- Honduras 1963 (p. 223)
- Turkey 1960
- Indonesia 1965 (p. 224)
- Brazil 1964 (p. 233)

Other types

Some later writers, such as [Justin Ames](#), have described Huntington's framework as including three types: breakthrough, guardian, and veto (thus ignoring the Arbiter category and dividing the third category into two) and have ascribed patterns to those coups, such as that breakthrough coups are led by junior officers. However, some of the breakthrough coups described by Huntington were led by generals.

- In a **bloodless coup d'état**, the threat of violence suffices to depose the incumbent. In 1889, Brazil [became a republic](#) via *bloodless coup*; in 1999, [Pervez Musharraf](#) assumed power in Pakistan via a [bloodless coup](#); and, in 2006, [Sonthi Boonyaratglin](#) assumed power in [Thailand](#) as the leader of the [Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy](#).

The **self-coup** denotes an incumbent government – aided and abetted by the military – assuming extra-constitutional powers. A historical example is President, then Emperor, [Louis Napoléon Bonaparte](#). Modern examples include [Alberto Fujimori](#), in Peru, who, although elected, temporarily suspended the legislature and the judiciary in 1992, becoming an authoritarian ruler, and King [Gyanendra](#)'s assumption of "emergency powers" in [Nepal](#). Another form of self-coup is when a government, having been defeated in an election, refuses to step down.

Resistance to coups d'état

Many coups d'état, even if initially successful in seizing centres of state power, are actively opposed by certain segments of society or by the international community. Opposition can take several forms, including an attempted counter-coup by sections of the armed forces, international isolation of the new regime, and military intervention.

Sometimes opposition takes the form of [civil resistance](#), in which the coup is met with mass demonstrations from the population generally, and disobedience among civil servants and members of the armed forces. Cases in which civil resistance played a significant part in defeating armed coups d'état include: the [Kornilov Putsch](#) in Russia in August 1917; the [Kapp Putsch](#) in Berlin in March 1920; and the [Generals' Revolt in Algiers in April 1961](#).^[12] The [coup in the Soviet Union on 19–21 August 1991](#) is another case in which civil resistance was part of an effective opposition to a coup: [Boris Yeltsin](#), President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, stood on top of a tank in the centre of Moscow and urged people to refuse cooperation with the coup.

Governments following military coups

After the coup d'état, the military faces the matter of what type of government to establish. In Latin America, it was common for the post-coup government to be led by a [junta](#), a [committee](#) of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces. A common form of African post-coup government is the revolutionary assembly, a quasi-legislative body elected by the army. In Pakistan, the military leader typically assumes the title of chief [martial law](#) administrator.

According to Huntington, most leaders of a coup d'état act under the concept of *right orders*: they believe that the best resolution of the country's problems is merely *to issue correct orders*. This view of government underestimates the difficulty of implementing government policy, and the degree of political resistance to certain correct orders. It presupposes that everyone who matters in the country shares a single, common interest, and that the only question is *how* to pursue that single, common interest.

Current leaders who assumed power via *coups d'état*

Title	Name	Assumed power	Replaced	Country	Coup d'état
Sultan	Qaboos bin	23 July	Said bin Taimur	 Oman	1970 Omani

	<u>Said al-Said</u> <u>[13]</u> ¹	1970			coup d'état
President	Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo	3 August 1979	Francisco Macías Nguema	 Equatorial Guinea	1979 Equatoguinean coup d'état
President	Yoweri Museveni	29 January 1986	Tito Okello	 Uganda	Ugandan Bush War
President	Omar al-Bashir	30 June 1989	Sadiq al-Mahdi	 Sudan	1989 Sudanese coup d'état
President	Idriss Déby	2 December 1990	Hissène Habré	 Chad	1990 Chadian revolution
President	Isaias Afwerki	27 April 1991	Mengistu Haile Mariam	 Eritrea	Eritrean War for Independence
President	<u>Yahya Jammeh</u> <u>[14]</u> ³	22 July 1994	Dawda Jawara	 The Gambia	1994 Gambian coup d'état
Prime Minister	Hun Sen	August 1997	Norodom Ranariddh	 Cambodia	1997 Cambodian coup d'état
President	Denis Sassou Nguesso	25 October 1997	Pascal Lissouba	 Republic of the Congo	Republic of the Congo Civil War
Prime Minister	Frank Bainimarama	5 December 2006	Laisenia Qarase	 Fiji	2006 Fijian coup d'état
President	<u>Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz</u> <u>[4]</u>	6 August 2008	Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi	 Mauritania	2008 Mauritanian coup d'état
Prime Minister	Prayuth Chan-ocha	22 May 2014	<u>Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan</u> ⁵	 Thailand	2014 Thai coup d'état
President of the Revolutionary Committee	Mohammed Ali al-Houthi	6 February 2015	<u>Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi</u> ⁶	 Yemen	2014–15 Yemeni coup d'état

1Monarch who overthrew his father in a bloodless palace coup.

2As head of Provisional Government of Eritrea, which declared independence 24 May 1993.

3Subsequently confirmed in office by an apparently free and fair election.

4Subsequently confirmed by a narrow margin in the [2009 Mauritanian presidential election](#), which was deemed "satisfactory" by international observers.

5Acting Prime Minister at that time.

6Hadi resigned on 22 January 2015.

Other uses of the term

The coup d'état is commonly used in Australia to describe the events of Thursday morning on June 24, 2010, when the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was ousted and replaced by his deputy, Ms Julia Gillard.[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

The term has also been used in a corporate context more specifically as [*boardroom coup*](#). CEOs that have been sacked by behind-the-scenes maneuvering include [Robert Stempel of General Motors \(1992\)](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#) and [John Akers of IBM \(1993\)](#).[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

[Steve Jobs attempted management coups twice at Apple, Inc.; first in 1985 when he unsuccessfully tried to oust John Sculley and then again in 1997, which successfully forced Gil Amelio to resign.](#)[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)

South Korean recording artist [G-Dragon](#) also published an album with this title, [Coup d'Etat \(G-Dragon album\)](#) complete with a title track of the same name.

See also

- [Assassination](#)
- [Civil-military relations](#)
- Contrast with [civilian control of the military](#)
- [Coup de main](#)
- [Dictatorship](#)
- [Kleptocracy](#)
- [Leadership spill](#)
- [List of coups d'état and coup attempts](#)
- [List of coups d'état and coup attempts by country](#)

- [List of fictional revolutions and coups](#)
- [List of protective service agencies](#)
- [Military dictatorship](#)
- [Political corruption](#)
- [Political warfare](#)
- [Sabotage](#)
- [Seven Days in May](#)

Smedley and Franklin: The Business Plot, The First Try - 1934

The first time this type of Coup was attempted in Washington, DC.

<http://whatreallyhappened.com/WRHARTICLES/coup.html>

An American Coup d'État?

An attempted American coup d'etat: 1934.

An attempted coup d'etat censored out of our history books, courtesy of corporate America, but not supported by the military, so European fascism didn't happen that time. Fascism has to have the support of both corporate power and will and military/police power and obedience together or it doesn't happen. Watch out America; the Pentagon and the Multinationals are already in alignment and have instituted Friendly Fascism outside our borders already; just ask Afghanistanis, Iraqis, Iranians, Colombians, Nicaraguans and the rest of the exploited and raped third world and the suffering poor in our own American ghettos and concentration camps.

By Gary G. Kohls, MD 1306 E. 8th St, Duluth, MN 55805

An American Coup d'État?

Some Americans regard our country as superior to other nations because we don't change governments by coup d'état -- and we never have. Perhaps because of our long tradition of power changing hands by election, we regard our nation as immune to the use of force for political purposes. True, assassins have killed four of our Presidents, but these deaths did not lead to turmoil and chaos; the government followed well-established procedures for transferring control to the men previously elected Vice President. Unlike other nations where assassination often leads to civil war, the United States has avoided this.

How different is America from nations where political power comes quite directly "from the barrel of a gun"? A curious footnote to American history suggests that, except for the personal integrity of a remarkable American

general, a coup d'état intended to remove President Franklin D. Roosevelt from office in 1934 might have plunged America into civil war.

The General

This remarkable man was Smedley Darlington Butler, retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General. Butler is the sort of person for whom the word "colorful" is woefully inadequate. Butler won America's highest military award for bravery (the Congressional Medal of Honor) twice. His style of warfare was unusual not only for his personal courage, but for the energy he put into avoiding bloodshed when it was possible to achieve his aims in other ways. Not surprisingly, this engendered a remarkable loyalty among the men who served under him -- and that loyalty was why certain men asked Butler to lead a military attack on Washington, D.C., with the goal of capturing President Roosevelt.

Butler was more than a remarkable soldier. He served as police commissioner of Philadelphia during 1924-25 (on loan from the Marines), in an attempt to enforce Prohibition. While the effort was a failure, his insistence on enforcing the law against wealthy partygoers as well as poor immigrants established his reputation as a man of high integrity. He was not universally loved, but he was widely respected.

Butler is best remembered today for his oft-quoted statement in the socialist newspaper Common Sense in 1935:

I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras "right" for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.... Looking back on it, I felt I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. We Marines operated on three continents.

In War Is A Racket, Butler argued for a powerful navy, but one prohibited from traveling more than 200 miles from the U.S. coastline. Military

aircraft could travel no more than 500 miles from the U.S. coast, and the army would be prohibited from leaving the United States. Butler also proposed that all workers in defense industries, from the lowest laborer to the highest executive, be limited to "\$30 a month, the same wage as the lads in the trenches get." He also proposed that a declaration of war should be passed by a plebiscite in which only those subject to conscription would be eligible to vote.

>From 1935 through 1937, Butler was a spokesman for the League Against War and Fascism, a Communist-dominated organization of the time. He also participated in the Third U.S. Congress Against War and Fascism, sharing the platform with well-known leftists of the era, including Langston Hughes, Heywood Broun, and Roger Baldwin. When the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) threatened the collapse of the Soviet-supported Spanish government, the League's pacifism evaporated, and they supported intervention. Butler, however, remained true to his belief in non-interventionism: "What the hell is it our business what's going on in Spain?" But before Butler became involved in these causes, he had already exposed a fascist plot against his own government.

The Plot

Butler had friends in the press and Congress, so he could not be ignored when he came forward in late 1934 with a tale of conspiracy against President Roosevelt, in which he had been asked to take a leading role. At first glance, Butler seems an unlikely candidate for such a position. While Butler was a Republican, in 1932 he campaigned for Roosevelt, calling himself a "Republican-for-Ex-President Hoover." (Butler had a poor relationship with Hoover going back to their time together during the Boxer Rebellion.)

But there were good reasons why someone seeking to overthrow the U.S. government would have wanted Butler involved. Butler was a powerful symbol to many American soldiers and veterans -- an enlisted man's general, one that spoke out for their interests while on active duty, and after retirement. Butler would have attracted men to his cause that would not otherwise have participated in a march on Washington.

Butler would have been a good choice also because of his military skills. His personal courage and tactical skill would have made him a powerful

commander of an irregular army. Finally, his ties of friendship to many officers still on active duty might have undermined military opposition to his force, as friends and colleagues sought to avoid a direct confrontation with him.

Another reason that the plotters might have approached such an unlikely candidate was that Butler was not regarded as a great intellect. After World War I, the Marine Corps had begun to emphasize a new college-educated professionalism. Butler, one of the less educated "bushwhacker" generals, might have seemed easy to manipulate.

Butler testified that bond trader Gerald MacGuire had approached him in the summer of 1933. MacGuire claimed to represent wealthy Wall Street broker Grayson Murphy, Singer sewing machine heir Robert Sterling Clark, and other unnamed men of wealth. They asked Butler to speak publicly on behalf of the gold standard, recently abandoned by President Roosevelt. MacGuire's rationale for why Butler should ally himself with the gold standard cause was that the veterans of World War I were due a bonus in 1945. As MacGuire told Butler, "We want to see the soldiers' bonus paid in gold. We do not want the soldier to have rubber money or paper money."

It appears that the plotters underestimated Butler's intelligence and character. When this explanation failed to persuade Butler, MacGuire and Clark offered him money, abandoning any pretense of civic-mindness. Butler's sense of honor prevented him from speaking in favor of any policy for mercenary reasons.

MacGuire eventually told Butler their real goal. MacGuire asked Butler to lead an army of 500,000 veterans in a march on Washington, D.C. The stated mission was to protect Roosevelt from other plotters, and install a "secretary of general welfare" to "take all the worries and details off of his shoulders." But Butler saw through their supposed concern for Roosevelt. He testified before Congress that he told MacGuire:

[M]y interest is, my one hobby is, maintaining a democracy. If you get these 500,000 soldiers advocating anything smelling of Fascism, I am going to get 500,000 more and lick the hell out of you, and we will have a real war right at home..

Yes; and then you will put somebody in there you can run; is that the idea? The President will go around and christen babies and dedicate bridges, and kiss children. Mr. Roosevelt will never agree to that himself.

Butler eventually deduced that the real goal was a coup d'état to take Roosevelt captive, and force reinstatement of the gold standard, the loss of which many wealthy Americans feared would lead to rapid inflation. The plotters would keep Roosevelt as a figurehead until he could be "encouraged" to retire.

That MacGuire had significant financial backing behind him seems clear, considering the substantial bank savings books he showed to Butler. What remains unclear is whether the names MacGuire dropped (other than Robert Sterling Clark) were really involved, or whether MacGuire was a con man.

MacGuire's claims and financial resources alone did not convince Butler that such a conspiracy actually existed. The fulfillment of a series of startling predictions by MacGuire did finally persuade Butler that there was more than just hot air involved. MacGuire knew in advance of significant personnel changes in the White House. He correctly predicted the formation of the American Liberty League (the major conservative opposition to Roosevelt), and the principal players in it. Especially disturbing was that many of the supposed backers of the plot were also members of the League. MacGuire's claim that the League ("villagers in the opera" of the scheme, in MacGuire's words) was part of the plot could not be easily dismissed.

The American Liberty League was a successor to the highly successful Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, the lobbying organization responsible for the repeal of the "Noble Experiment." From its formation in 1918 until 1926, the AAPA made little progress, at least partly because it had little money. But in 1926, money poured into the AAPA from some of America's wealthiest men, including Pierre, Irene, and Lammot du Pont, John J. Raskob, and Charles H. Sabin. The AAPA spent its new found wealth on distribution of literature, and on the formation of a bewildering number of associated organizations. These associated organizations gave the impression of a grassroots movement, rather than a collection of millionaires feeding press releases to friendly newspapers. The AAPA also rapidly took control of the Democratic Party, with one of their supporters, Al Smith, receiving the 1928 Democratic Presidential nomination. While AAPA had powerful friends within the Republican Party, they never achieved control of it.

The AAPA's motivations were a mixture of idealism and pragmatism. The stated concern was that Prohibition had done serious damage to the principle of federalism -- that the federal government's authority did not include the police powers used to enforce Prohibition. But it appears that this was not the only motivation, or even the reason most important to the men who funded the AAPA. Like many other Americans, these business leaders "found

themselves unable to gratify what seemed a natural, more or less innocent, desire without breaking a law" (i.e., the consumption of alcoholic beverages). To suddenly find themselves among the criminal classes was not pleasant to a group who had always thought of themselves as law-abiding and respectable members of American society. There is also strong evidence that the backers of the AAPA saw Repeal as a method of reducing income and corporate taxes, by taxing alcoholic beverages instead.

The AAPA went out of business at the end of 1933, with the end of Prohibition. But within a year, from the same offices, with most of the same backers, many of the same employees, and much of the same style, it reappeared as the American Liberty League. Throughout the next six years, it led the fight against the New Deal, arguing that much of Roosevelt's program was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. In an age when Hitler and Mussolini had commandeered extraordinary economic powers, the fears that the American Liberty League expressed about Roosevelt's vaguely similar gathering of economic power could not be summarily dismissed.

The League, in spite of its impressive resources, was rapidly made to appear "ridiculous or dangerous" or both by the Roosevelt Administration. Most importantly, the leadership of the League was largely rich men. The Depression-era gap between rich and poor had become too wide, too obvious, and too painful for the League to be credible to the majority of Americans. Butler's testimony before Congress claimed that some of the people associated with the League were the very ones that had approached him -- including Grayson Murphy, the League's treasurer.

In the depths of the Great Depression, in that nadir of despair before Roosevelt gave his stirring first inaugural address in 1933, America was awash in political groups identifying in greater or lesser degrees with communism or fascism. Rep. Samuel Dickstein (D-NY), concerned about the threat of such groups, persuaded the House of Representatives to create the Special Committee to Investigate Nazi Propaganda Activities in the United States. This committee investigated Butler's charges in late 1934.

MacGuire, not surprisingly, denied that such a plot existed. Instead, he claimed his activities had been political lobbying to preserve the gold standard, but he quickly destroyed his credibility as a witness by giving contradictory testimony. While the final report agreed with Butler that there was evidence of a coup d'état plot against Roosevelt, no further action was taken on it. The Committee's authority to subpoena witnesses expired at the end of 1934, and the Justice Department started no criminal investigation.

Part of the reason for the lack of prosecution of the alleged plotters may have been the untimely death of the only man who could have testified against the rest: Gerald MacGuire. He died at age 37 from complications of pneumonia, less than a month after the Committee released its report. MacGuire's physician claimed that his death was partly the result of the stress of the charges made by Butler, but there is no reason to assume that MacGuire's death was in any way suspicious.

The Committee's report excluded many of the most embarrassing names given by MacGuire, and repeated by Butler. MacGuire had claimed that 1928 Democratic President candidate Al Smith, General Hugh Johnson (head of Roosevelt's National Recovery Administration), General Douglas MacArthur, and a number of other generals and admirals were privy to the plot. Since Butler had no evidence of their involvement, other than MacGuire's claims, it was certainly reasonable for the Committee to exclude these details from the final report as "certain immaterial and incompetent evidence." But in conjunction with MacGuire's apparent advance knowledge of the details of internal White House staff activities, it certainly suggests that if a coup was planned, it had significant support within the Roosevelt Administration.

The News Media Downplays The Plot

The news media gave an inappropriately small amount of attention to the report. Time magazine ridiculed Butler's claims. The week following Butler's testimony, Time described it as a "Plot Without Plotters," simply because the alleged plotters claimed innocence. But Time admitted that Veterans of Foreign Wars commander James Van Zandt confirmed that he, too, had been approached to lead such a march on Washington.

The leftist magazine New Masses carried an article by John Spivak that included wild claims of "Jewish financiers working with fascist groups." Spivak's article spun an elaborate web involving the American Jewish Congress, the Warburg family, "which originally financed Hitler," the Hearst newspaper chain, the Morgan banking firm, the du Ponts, a truly impressive list of prominent American Jewish businessmen, and Nazi spies! Spivak's article raised some disturbing and legitimate questions about why much of Butler's testimony was left out of the final committee report. But these important concerns were seriously undermined by Spivak's paranoid ravings. The left-of-center magazines Nation and New Republic were unconcerned about

it, since in their view "fascism originated in pseudoradical mass movements," and therefore could not come from a wealthy cabal.

Newspaper descriptions of the final report are also astonishing for how lightly most treated it. A New York Times article about subversion and foreign agitators started on the front page, but gave only two paragraphs to the coup plot inside the paper. "It also alleged that definite proof has been found that the much publicized Fascist march on Washington... was actually contemplated." It was not a major story.

The San Francisco Chronicle took the story more seriously. The only headline with a larger type size that day concerned the recent fatal crash of the airship Macon. The Chronicle carried an Associated Press story headlined, "Justice Aids Probe Butler Fascist Story." The first five paragraphs were devoted to Butler's allegations. The Chronicle quoted the Committee report that it "was able to verify all the pertinent statements by General Butler, with the exception of the direct statement suggesting creation of the organization."

A third newspaper sampled showed an even more astonishing lack of interest than the New York Times: the Sacramento Bee used a substantially different Associated Press wire story that emphasized propaganda efforts by foreign agents. Another AP wire story, at the bottom of page five, described Butler's allegations, taking the Committee's report at face value. This wire story includes the comforting knowledge that the committee found "no evidence to show a connection between this effort" and any foreign government.

An apparently serious effort to overthrow the government, perhaps with the support of some of America's wealthiest men, largely substantiated by a Congressional committee, was mostly ignored. Why? Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, wrote a book in 1939 about the concentration of American journalism. He claimed that, "In 1934, 82 per cent of all dailies had a complete monopoly in their communities." Newspaper chains, in Ickes' view, "control a dangerously large share of the national daily circulation and in many cities have no competition."

Ickes' book was largely devoted to proving that the major newspapers of the United States were intentionally distorting the news, and in some cases, directly lying. Ickes argued that newspaper editors did so in the interests of both their advertisers and in defense of the capitalist class. Ickes mentioned the Liberty League as one of the "propaganda outfits" who were allied with the major newspapers. Indeed, the New York Times, one of the

papers that had downplayed the Committee's report, had editorialized in favor of the Liberty League's formation.

Did newspapers and magazines consciously play down the plot, because it represented an embarrassment to people of influence? Or did editors simply give it low visibility because they regarded it as an absurd story?

We must consider another disturbing possibility. Butler was associated with the loose alliance of progressive and populist forces that were dragging Roosevelt towards the left. It is easy to forget that for much of Roosevelt's first term as President from 1932-36, he was the rope in a tug of war between conservative and progressive forces in America. The popularity of men such as Senator Huey Long (D-Louisiana) and the nationally known radio priest Father Coughlin-and the need to short-circuit their rising political power-appears to have caused Roosevelt's increasingly leftward movement in 1935-36.

Is it possible that Butler concocted this story as a way of creating animosity towards conservatives by Roosevelt? If Butler had lied to the Committee, and no such conspiracy was ever planned, why did MacGuire apparently perjure himself before the Committee? Or, alternatively, could leftward leaning members of the Roosevelt Administration have manipulated Butler into believing that such a plot actually existed as a way of creating animosity towards conservatives, thus dragging Roosevelt to the left? Either theory could explain why MacGuire, Murphy, Clark, or the other supposed plotters were never prosecuted.

Yet another possibility (though less likely) is that there was no prosecution because Roosevelt's own advisors had taken part in the plot, as MacGuire claimed. A criminal prosecution would have washed the Roosevelt Administration's dirty laundry in public.

Why Is The Plot So Poorly Known?

Butler's account of the MacGuire plot was a very serious accusation. If MacGuire had told Butler the truth, a large number of wealthy men had made serious plans to overthrow representative government in the United States -- though their concern that Roosevelt was creating a government in the style of Mussolini or Hitler, might provide some legitimate reason for their actions. Why doesn't this plot appear in history books? That conservatives

might discount the plot is not unexpected; that liberals have tended to ignore the plot is a little more surprising.

It is hard to imagine how different American politics was in the 1930s. The collapse of the world economy had shaken the faith of many Americans in individualism and free market capitalism. Many traditionalists, here and in Europe, toyed with the ideas of Fascism and National Socialism; many liberals dallied with Socialism and Communism. Prominent populists such as Huey Long and Father Coughlin sided with progressives in support of isolationism, redistribution of wealth, and a federal government that would play a more active role in the American economy.

In hindsight, the moral and economic deficiencies of these various collectivized systems are now clear. In 1934, however, people of good will persuaded themselves that Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin were doing good, and ignored the great evils that were already underway. To turn over the rock exposing MacGuire's plot raises unpleasant questions about the political sensibilities of both right and left in 1930s America.

How Secure Are The Institutions of Legal Government In America?

How secure, indeed? It would be tempting to write off this entire matter as a group of con men separating wealthy conservatives from their money by pretending to hatch a plot against the Roosevelt Administration. But there are too many disturbing pieces of evidence in this tale that suggest that the Zeitgeist of the 1930s was not limited to Europe.

If MacGuire's claims to Butler were true, some U.S. military commanders were prepared to stand aside while 500,000 veterans marched on Washington and took Roosevelt captive. (Between the World Wars, the United States Army was so small that 500,000 veterans might have given them a serious fight -- even if every officer remained loyal to Roosevelt.)

But unlike many European countries, American government was highly decentralized in 1934, and this would have worked against any serious military action against the legitimate government. Every state governor had control of state militia units, armed with out of date, but still

serviceable military weapons.

In addition to the regularly organized state militias, the population of the United States, then as now, was heavily armed with the sort of weapons well suited to military operations. Whatever the advantages of the plotters' army of 500,000 veterans, they would have been far outnumbered by the unorganized militia of the United States -- then as now, consisting of every U.S. citizen between 18 and 45, and legally obligated by state laws to fight at the order of the governor in the event of insurrection, invasion, or war.

But in a nation that was suffering from the ravages of the Great Depression, another model exists for what might have happened: the Spanish Civil War. The divisions over religion in America were not as dramatic as those that ripped apart Spanish society. But many Americans were beginning to lose their faith in American institutions -- as evidenced by the growth of American Nazi and Communist movements during the 1930s. It is frightening to think of what might have happened if a general as capable as Butler had become the man on a white horse.

In the words of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, delivered at New York University in 1960 concerning the protections of the U.S. Bill of Rights:

I cannot agree with those who think of the Bill of Rights as an 18th century straitjacket, unsuited for this age.. The evils it guards against are not only old, they are with us now, they exist today..

Experience all over the world has demonstrated, I fear, that the distance between stable, orderly government and one that has been taken over by force is not so great as we have assumed.

Indeed, the plot that Butler exposed -- if what MacGuire claimed was true -- is a sobering reminder to Americans. We were not immune to the sentiments that gave rise to totalitarian governments throughout the world in the 1930s. **We make a serious mistake when we assume, "It can't happen here!"**

Clayton E. Cramer is a software engineer with a Northern California manufacturer of telecommunications equipment. His first book, *By The Dim And Flaring Lamps: The Civil War Diary of Samuel McIlvaine*, was published by Library Research Associates (Monroe, NY) in 1990. Mr. Cramer's second book,

For The Defense of Themselves And The State: The Original Intent and Judicial Interpretation of the Right To Keep And Bear Arms was published by Praeger Publishers (Westport, Conn.) in 1994. Mr. Cramer recently completed his B.A. in History at Sonoma State University.

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“One is called to live nonviolently, even if the change one works for seems impossible. It may or may not be possible to turn the US around through nonviolent revolution. But one thing favors such an attempt: the total inability of violence to change anything for the better” - Daniel Berrigan

Smedley Butler - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Smedley Darlington Butler (July 30, 1881 – June 21, 1940) was a United States Marine Corps major general, the highest rank authorized at that time, and at the time of his death the most decorated Marine in U.S. history.

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The Business Plot: Silicon Valley Redux, The Next Try – 2007 to 2016

Overview

- ⊗ A group of Silicon Valley investors received some documents from some “friends”, either from Russian “business men or the CIA, or both, stating that there was “*A trillion dollars of lithium in Afghanistan*“. These documents, possibly acquired from the Russians, were passed around by Goldman Sachs & Silicon Valley VC’s. This group thought they could exploit Afghanistan, and other country’s, mining contracts on a commodity monopolization scheme fronting the use of the raw materials by “*Green-washing*” it to be used for “electric car and solar programs”, under the guise of, “*it’s ‘CleanTech’ the voters should love it*”, in order to try to make it pass Congressional oversight faster. Recent press disclosures confirm vast campaign funding, by mining companies, through back-door avenues, ie: the Guistre matter and others. The plotters estimated that they could personally acquire many trillions of dollars in profits, mostly at taxpayer expense, and control of government policy, upon successful execution of their scheme.
- ⊗ These investors were deeply affiliated with Goldman Sachs. Goldman Sachs was involved in almost every aspect, stock manipulation, application “winner”, profit funnel and deployment aspect of the case. Goldman created the computerized stock market “spoofing” algorithm process known as the “Flash Boy Pump” stock spoofing. This used Department of Energy and TARP cash award announcements to synthetically inflate stock values long enough to “skim” profits off those stock holdings. Goldman is now under many investigations for this kind of “Commodity rigging”.
- ⊗ These investors used their campaign donations, lobbyists, stock payola and PAC’s to acquire the services of a number of U.S. Senators and foreign diplomats via bribes. They primarily paid the Senators in stock options for those Senators, their families and business associates. The FEC and FTC have Congressional insider trading investigations under-way, over these very actions, which have been stone-walled by the very Senators who engaged in the insider trading.
- ⊗ So much money was moving that a scheme was created to pass the money through the U.S. Department of Energy and a new program, called TARP, so that the transactions appeared to be federal programs
- ⊗ The characters involved in the scandal have now been uncovered as highly unethical, disreputable, willing to break laws and moral codes and are held in low regard by the public. They formed a cartel now known as The Silicon Valley Cartel as a subset of The National Venture Capital Association

(NVCA) with guidance from rogue CIA/In-Q-Tel associates James Breyer and Gilman Louie. One of the largest participants is Google, Inc. and it's investors. The Cartel was recently exposed in the Silicon Valley "ANGELGATE" and "NO POACHING" collusion scandals and lawsuits

- ⊗ The best friend's of the Silicon Valley Cartel were Steven Chu and Eric Holder. The cartel arranged, via the legal firm connected to both: Covington & Burling, to get them both nominated and appointed to the two federal agencies that control the money pass-through. Both of these individuals have been proven to have had previous business and personal relationships with the Cartel. Steven Chu sabotaged any technologies or companies that competed with his, and his friends, stock investments. Both have been forced to quit.
- ⊗ The Cartel used consulting Company McKinsey for insider trading deal support and to author papers and reports which were distributed throughout Washington to say that certain very specific products and technologies were "trending in the new CleanTech industry". In fact, every "trending company and technology" that McKinsey raved over was already owned and monopolized by the Cartel. At least one major McKinsey executive has gone to federal prison. A number of others are under surveillance and investigation.
- ⊗ As Secretary of Energy, it was noticed that Steven Chu gave quite a lot of U.S. tax dollars to Russian owned or controlled companies. It was subsequently discovered that the Silicon Valley Cartel had deep Russian connections and business relations with USSR businessmen, to assist in the mining of Afghan, and other Middle Eastern countries, for the personal gain of the Cartel. Steven Chu sabotaged over 200 applicants, for the federal programs, simply because they competed with the Cartel and were not part of the Cartel.
- ⊗ John Doerr ran Kleiner Perkins, one of the lead coordinators of the Scheme and the Cartel. He is called: "The Godfather of Silicon Valley".
- ⊗ Elon Musk was a behind the scenes Google and Kleiner Perkins partner, Cartel organizer and cash conduiting agent. THIS LINK has many confirming data points . Elon Musk, a billionaire, has now received billions of free taxpayer dollars in out-right cash hand-outs, tax waivers, free or low-cost resources, stock pumps and federal NASA contracts. Musk's companies would not exist today if not for taxpayer hand-out cash. No other living person has received this much taxpayer money from the Obama administration. No other living person has given so much money to the Obama administration through his companies, investors and partners, like Google. No other living person has had the Obama administration sabotage, terminate or rule against so many of his competitors. Federal records demonstrate this to be one of the most overt examples of a political campaign kick-back scheme in this decade. In Musk's carefully orchestrated, self-aggrandizing, media campaigns, all mention of his true financial connections, extensive fraud lawsuits, and employee distrust is carefully expunged. Musk's companies exploited the key minerals from the mining deals and both Tesla & Solyndra, who sit next door to each other, were kickback lobbied by Dianne Feinstein, whose family profited on both deals.
- ⊗ Vinohd Khosla was a key organizer in the Cartel and connected to Raj Gupta, now imprisoned. He

has been involved in a notorious public lawsuit for taking over a famous California coastal beach.

- ⊗ Senators Feinstein, Reid, Pelosi and Boxer received the largest amount of stock, insider trading deals and campaign kick-backs from the Cartel. Feinstein's family and associates received massive resources from the Tesla and Solyndra deals. They were, essentially, paid program facilitators. These Senators leveraged state tax officials, including Bill Lockyer of California, to exclusively, and extraordinarily, give tens of millions of dollars of additional taxpayer money, at a state level, to Cartel billionaire-owned companies: Tesla & Solyndra. Which sit on the same plot of land and have supplier contracts with the Senators families. These Senators took active steps to sabotage applicants who competed with Tesla, Solyndra & the Cartel, such as Gary D. Conley of SolFocus; who may have been murdered.
- ⊗ Eric Schmidt was the core lobbyist and director of a large part of the Cartel. He spent more time in the White House, directing policy, than most members of Congress. He used Google to put character assassination hit-jobs on competitors, reporters and politicians.
- ⊗ When whistle-blowers saw through the scheme, Cartel leaders Doerr and Schmidt would organize character assassination hit-jobs against those adversaries, sabotage their business and career databases with negative flags, create whisper campaigns and black list them via the National Venture Capital Association, which was controlled by a large number of Cartel members. The Cartel used it's resources, concurrently, at Google and Gawker Media, to put media hit-jobs on Santorum, ALICE, Romney, whistle-blowers, and other adversaries by locking devastating hatchet jobs onto massive numbers of search engine pages controlled by each.
- ⊗ Recently disclosed documents and videos prove that the Cartel spent more time in the White House, from 2007 forward, than all of the members of Congress COMBINED. Additionally, the disclosures of financial connections between the Cartel members, The White House, campaign financing and federal policy decisions demonstrates the operation of a felony-level corruption activity.
- ⊗ The mining chemicals that the cartel sought to monopolize were “dumped” on the Cartel by the Russians via, possibly, doctored documents which overstated the volume and value of the materials and who knew that the materials were toxic, explosive and had no long-term economic viability. The Cartel did not investigate the materials usage and rushed to profiteer, driven By Goldman Sachs, who didn’t care about the long-term, they just wanted to “skim” their fees and “stock pumps” off the top.
- ⊗ The American GAO, Judicial Watch & Transparency Center have discovered that U.S. taxpayers lost additional billions of dollars as the result of tax waivers, credits and reductions given exclusively to Cartel companies as gifts in exchange for election services. In the FBI-raided Solyndra solar panel company alone, U.S. taxpayers lost over \$600M while Silicon Valley plotters profited by over \$180M in stock market skims and favorable tax write-offs.
- ⊗ Google executives and investors used Google, Inc. as a “central command” for lobbying, leverage, media stock manipulation, spying on competitors, media hit jobs and revenue profiteering. The upside

was that it provided for the largest media, stock and information manipulation system ever devised. The downside is that it focused public, agency and law enforcement scrutiny on this central point until the voluminous indiscretions, finally, became highly visible.

- ⊗ The key White House staff who assisted in this scheme were: Rahm Emanuel, David Plouffe, Robert Gibbs, David Axelrod, Steve Rattner, Jay Carney and Bill Daily. When confronted about their involvement, historical records show that they all quit their White House jobs at the most desired positions in America, in a bad economy, to take far lower positions, thus implicating themselves, along with their emails, in culpability. These staffers worked harder than any other administration to cut-off the press, attack whistle-blowers and increase NSA domestic surveillance in order to delay the revelation of these crimes.
- ⊗ A key aspect of the scam was the “Pump & Go” stock swindle combined with pulling cash off-the-top by Sachs and the Cartel. In the following evidence set, you will notice a record setting number of huge cash intakes and sudden bankruptcies immediately thereafter. That part of the scheme seems to have worked like this: 1.) Technically “ideal” companies were set-up, 2.) huge cash amounts were wired in from the U.S. Treasury. 3.) Huge “fees” were paid to VC’s, executives and Sachs, right when the money arrived at the tech company, while Sachs & the VC’s “pumped” the stock market valuations of those companies using the sudden “free money” from the Dept. of Energy to falsify valuation marketing. This gave short term, sudden, stock profits that they also grabbed , 4.) the companies were managerially abandoned and then 5.) filed bankruptcy. 6.) The VC’s and Sachs then filed tax loss credits, on the failures, in order to get a double profit upside. Investigators called this “unjust rewards”. This volume of award/failure scenarios has never occurred in the history of America, particularly with a series of same-type companies who had just received massive federal funding windfalls. It seems obvious that these sequential incidents were planned and coordinated. Investigators believe Kleiner Perkins and Goldman Sachs were the key organizers of this tactic. Time-tracking of financial details in the HSBC “Swiss Leaks” seems to confirm federal award/personal gain sequences.

The Kick-backs

Everybody who got DOE cash
was a campaign financier.

Everybody who got denied, and
then sabotaged, was a
competitor to those exact same
campaign financiers who did
not pay any political bribes.

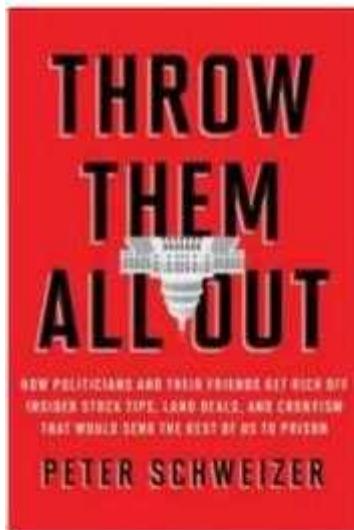


SHOCK CLAIM: Energy Dept. Kickbacks Make Obama America's Biggest Crony Capitalist... Ever

by [Wynton Hall](#)

At least ten members of President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign finance committee, plus more than a dozen of his campaign bundlers, benefited from sweetheart loans through the Department of Energy (DOE) that collectively dwarfed those given to Solyndra and Fisker.

Investigative journalist Peter Schweizer, who is also a Breitbart editor, reveals the full extent of the DOE scandal in his explosive new book, *Throw Them All Out*. The book is [featured](#) in this week's *Newsweek*, and was [the subject of 60 Minutes](#) this past Sunday, Nov. 13.



Schweizer's research reveals that of the \$20.5 billion in the DOE's 1795 Loan Guarantee Program, \$16.4 billion in taxpayer money—roughly 80% of all loans in the program—went to green enterprises “either run by or heavily owned by Obama financial backers—individuals who were either bundlers, members of Obama’s national finance committee or large donors to the Democratic Party.”

In 2009, President Obama had promised that the allocation of all federal stimulus monies would be nonpartisan, ethical, and fair. “Let me repeat that: Decisions about how Recovery money will be spent will be based on the merits. They will not be made as a way of doing favors for lobbyists,” Obama [said](#).



OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY LOAN APPLICATION

DOE GREEN ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM

YOUR TICKET TO SOLAR, WIND AND UNICORN METHANE SUCCESS



POTOMAC WATCH | May 24, 2012, 7:24 p.m. ET

Vulture Capitalism? Try Obama's Version

A profit-driven economy is preferable to one run by political favoritism.

Article

Comments



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President Obama is no fan of Mitt Romney-style "vulture" capitalism. So what's his alternative?

All those Republicans grousing about the president's attacks on private equity might instead be seizing on this beautiful point of contrast. Mr. Obama, after all, is no mere mortal president. Even as he's been busy with the day job, he's found time to moonlight as CEO-in-Chief of half the nation's industry. Detroit, the energy sector, health care—he's all over these guys like a cheap spreadsheet.

Like Mr. Romney, Mr. Obama has presided over bankruptcies, layoffs, lost pensions, run-ups in debt. Yet unlike Mr. Romney, Mr. Obama's C-suits required billions in taxpayer dollars and subsidies, as well as mandates, regulations, union payoffs and moral hazard. Don't like "vulture" capitalism? Check out the form the president's had on offer these past three years: "crony" capitalism.

The case study is the solar-panel maker Solyndra, which was part of a green-energy sector that even by 2009 was failing. The president took one look at the industry's utter lack of both profits and sellable products, and yelled "that's my baby!" The stimulus bill shipped tens of billions of dollars to the Energy Department to pour into green companies via grants and loans. It promised five million jobs.

The Energy Department's nuclear physicists were admittedly a bit hummed by the whole P&L thing, but they got their venture-capitalism groove on and in 2009 handed Solyndra a \$535-million loan guarantee. Even prior to disbursement, government accountants were warning that Solyndra was a lemon, but the White House didn't worry. After all, the IRS had only recently and conveniently tripled the tax credit (to 30%) for buyers of Solyndra products, which the government figured would help grease their start-up's skids.



Items for auction at Solyndra headquarters in Fremont, Calif.

Unfortunately, the physicist-CFOs overlooked that whole "global energy market" factor—easy mistake! Foreign competitors were already piling into Solyndra's niche. Unable to compete, the firm went bankrupt last year. And, oh, the damage! It was kind of like ... GST Steel! Only worse. Solyndra laid off 1,100 employees. It provided no severance, not even back pay due for vacation credits. But a bankruptcy judge would later approve \$370,000 in bonuses for 20 employees.

The Greentech VC Influence Over Washington

By [Katie Fehrenbacher](#) Aug. 18, 2010, 8:28am PDT [No Comments](#)

Buzz [0](#)



There've been a couple articles in the past few weeks pointing to President Obama as the "[clean tech investor in chief](#)" and the [presidential VC with bets on clean energy](#). The real trend is that venture capitalists focusing on greentech seem to have had an unprecedented influence on U.S. federal policy and allocations of the stimulus package.

When I attended the Department of Energy's (DOE) first [ARPA-E conference](#) (Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy) earlier this year in Washington D.C., I was struck by how many venture capitalists were there. I shared a cab back to the airport with some familiar Silicon Valley faces, and was told if your firm didn't have a dedicated person in Washington — in some circles they call them

[how you slice it](#)). The Obama administration has gone out of its way to seek the advice of green-leaning venture capitalists and entrepreneurs in the Valley on how to spend that colossal amount and what programs would be the most affective.

Kleiner Perkins managing partner John Doerr is on President Obama's [Economic Recovery Advisory Board](#), and was able to convince Vice President Al Gore to join Kleiner, in addition to former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Kleiner's investments have had some successful government bids, most notably the [\\$529 million loan to Kleiner portfolio company Fisker Automotive](#) out of the DOE's highly competitive Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing, or ATVM, program. Fisker plans to use the loan to build its factory and launch its electric vehicle in 2011.

If you remember, another winner of the \$25 billion ATVM program was Tesla Motors, which, as most of us know, was backed by venture capitalists from Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Technology Partners, and Vantage Point among others.

I attended Khosla Venture's LP meeting earlier this year where the firm [announced that former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair](#) would be joining the firm as Senior Advisor. Several of my journalism peers were comparing the political influence Blair could wield to what Kleiner was doing with Gore.

The Obama administration appointed [former venture capitalist Jonathan Silver](#) as its loan chief to lead both the DOE's loan guarantee and ATVM loan programs. About a third of the DOE's loan guarantee commitments went to venture-backed startups, including thin film solar maker Solyndra and solar thermal company BrightSource.

I [wondered earlier this year](#) if the loan guarantee for Solyndra wasn't a mistake, given the company has one of the highest manufacturing costs out of its competitors. The company withdrew its IPO plans, citing poor market conditions. The Government Accountability Office also found that the loan guarantee process treated some companies unfairly in their bids and risked "excluding some potential applicants unnecessarily."

There's nothing inherently wrong with venture-backed companies getting government support, and the energy sector needs even more federal funding to create innovation. I support Doerr and Bill Gates' [calls for boosting federal government investing](#) to \$16 billion per year into energy innovation. All I'm saying is that this level of influence should be watched.

Related research on GigaOM Pro (subscription required):

October 29, 2010 11:09 AM PDT

Tesla opens its Model S electric car factory

by [Wayne Cunningham](#)

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1



Tesla unveiled its sign over the old NUMMI plant, where it will build the Model S electric car.
(Credit: James Martin/CNET)

On Wednesday, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and California Senator Diane Feinstein stood before the New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI) plant, shuttered since April, and announced its new beginning as the base for Tesla Model S production. The press conference was capped by the unveiling of a large Tesla sign over the plant.

Tesla Vice President for Manufacturing Gilbert Passin conducted a tour through the parts of the factory that will host production lines for the Model S. Passin boasted that acquiring NUMMI was a huge cost savings for Tesla, as building a new plant would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Toyota sold the plant to Tesla for \$42 million.

Did political contributors snag stimulus funds for cleantech companies?

April 2, 2011 | Matthew Lynley

2 Comments



Political contributors might have steered clean energy loans from the U.S. Department of Energy to companies in their investment portfolios, according to a report by the Center for Public Integrity and ABC News.

The report suggested that four companies that Steve Westley, a managing partner at clean technology investment firm The Westley Group, has invested in received more than \$500 million in loans, grants and stimulus money from the Department of Energy after Westley contributed \$500,000 to the Obama campaign. The companies in Westley's portfolio that received federal funding are Tesla Motors, RecycleBank, Edeniq and Amyris Biotechnologies.

Both Amyris Biotechnologies and Tesla Motors have since gone public. Amyris is valued at \$1.2 billion and Tesla Motors is valued at \$2.5 billion. Westley said that the company in his portfolio went through a strict screening process and was awarded each loan based on merit, and that each received the loan before he was an advisor to U.S. Department of Energy secretary Steven Chu, according to the report.

The Department of Energy also made several loans to companies that Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers has invested. Managing partner John Doerr and other executives from the storied venture capital firm have donated more than \$1 million over the past two decades to federal political causes — mostly to Democrats.

The report doesn't make any direct connections and doesn't offer substantial proof that the companies received special interest because of Westley and the other executives' contributions. So, as usual, correlation does not imply causation. But it's worth keeping an eye on — particularly because Westley is a member of Chu's 12-person advisory board, and Doerr is on the Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

[Previous Story: Entrepreneur Comer: Succession planning and napkin entrepreneurs](#)

A Goat Named “Aneer”

Aneer often wandered the bare rocky steppes near his owner's village, a few miles north of Kabul, Afghanistan. His careful goat hooves negotiated the perilous cliffs and crags of sun blistered rock with the deft skill of an Alpine climber. He was looking for the rare olive green nettles that occasionally peeked up from between the red rock outcroppings. It was sheer delight when he discovered a short stout nettle clump to munch on. He was in goat ecstasy.

As he bent to nip the top off of his latest herbivore harvest, a shriek, from below, caught him by surprise. It was Samu, the young boy who tended him. He had never heard Samu yell like that before. He arched his neck to catch the view over the crest because he sensed that something, in the urgency of Samu's cry, felt like “*danger*”.

Moments later, Aneer, Samu and the entire face of the rocky steppe were consumed in an explosive fire that turned flesh into charcoal and the Earth into blackened dust.

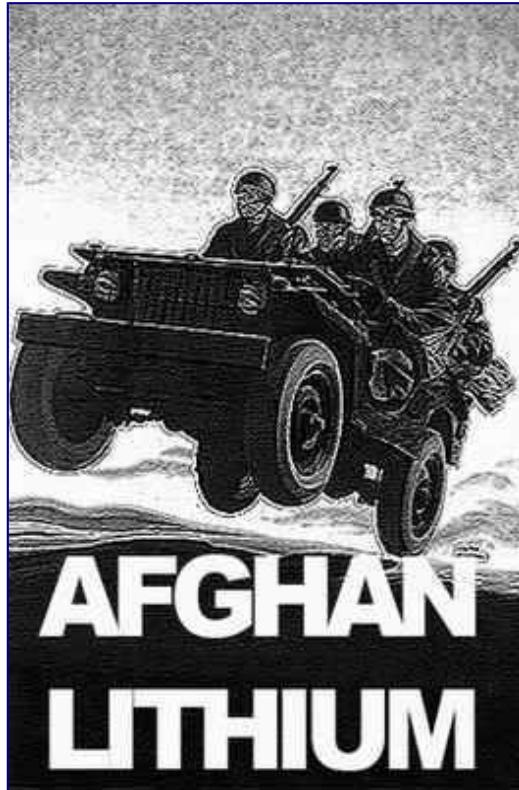
Elon Musk had just killed more innocent bystanders.

Let us take a deeper look into how the lithium lake-beds of Afghanistan created a multi-trillion dollar embezzlement scheme that cost lives, economies and national positioning.

The stuff (Chemical ore) that Solyndra, Abound, Fisker, Tesla, A123, Enerdel, and the rest of the failures, needed to make their scheme pan out, was buried under some goat farmers in Afghanistan! Almost all of these companies had their products blow up, in average use, (Even the solar panels caught fire) and, in most cases, release a “Cancer-Cocktail” of toxic gas; Tens of thousands of Lithium fires and explosions have now been documented to have crashed planes, exploded cars, set data centers on fire, burned children, blown up IPAD's and have just been a very bad chemical concept. Lithium has gone off many, many more times than the public has been told. Over time, the compounds become MORE likely to go off! To make the chemicals work for Solyndra, Abound, Tesla, Fisker and the rest, these companies mixed them together into a compound that ends up being a military-grade toxicity, carcinogenic powder. Even making the compounds kills overseas factory workers. Not very good research on the part of the bad guys, but greed often out-paces sanity!

AFGHAN^{LITHIUM}-SCAM

“Afghani-Scam” Blood For Batteries: Feature Story



A \$1 Trillion insider market-monopoly scheme that “blew up!”

Ingredients: [Silicon Valley VC/Campaign funders](#); [Russian miners](#); [Goldman Sachs](#); [Knowingly complicit federal officials](#); Innocent goat herders; Over \$1 Trillion Dollars in profiteering; [Hookers](#); Taxpayer cash; Criminally corrupt senators; [Toxic gas](#); [Explosions](#); [Dead people](#) and [Electric cars](#).

... and the money people behind everything were the same exact handful of bad guys **in each and every case**. If Silicon Valley created the latest version of the Afghan War for private gain, they got screwed. Not only do they now realize that the cost of the war was many, many magnitudes more than just giving the goat herders a check and buying the rocks, but the stuff they were trying to monopolize turns out to be explosively dangerous, hard to use and cancer-causing.

Cowboys and Indium:

Solyndra was exploiting **Indium**, and a large number of other key chemicals, **from Afghanistan** that directly paid into the “*DOE insider profit pool*”.

Abound was exploiting key chemicals **from Afghanistan** that directly paid into the “*DOE insider profit pool*”.

Nissan’s Smyrna plant, **Tesla, A123, Ener1, Fisker** and **Ford** were **exploiting Lithium from Afghanistan** that directly paid into the “*DOE insider profit pool*”. Other “failed DOE winners” had the same connected materials supply routes.

In this Watergate-type scandal (Should we call it Lithium-Gate, instead?) Secretary of Energy

Steven Chu appears to have been told to let no applicant through unless they were in the “*DOE insider profit pool*”. The pool consisted of Deloitte staff, Goldman Sachs staff, DOE staff, Silicon Valley venture capitalists and, possibly, at least two White House staff. Rahm Emanuel is known to have had an intimate connection with the Argonne labs lithium ion program research funding while in the White House and after he returned to Chicago. Dianne Feinstein personally arranged for, and opened, the NUMMI plant for Tesla. Her husband’s company CBRE were the real estate hooks for the Tesla, and next door, Solyndra property deals. Her staff and lobby people work there now. Her husband goes to Mongolia all the time for “special meetings” according to Sunshine. So one wonders if Feinstein got on the intelligence committee so she could see if she was about to get caught or if a savvy NSA section chief “*helped*” her get there on the premise of “*keep your friends close and your enemies closer*” so the NSA could watch her in intimate detail. The recent hack of her files by intelligence officers seems to be indicative.



Dianne Feinstein, and her family, controlled the cash, stock, construction, HR services, leases and land contracts around Tesla and Solyndra in an epic payola and kick-back scheme.

Many high level politicians made a grab for their piece of the trillion dollars so investigations keep getting squashed by them. Steven Chu killed off the non-toxic fuel cell, wind and natural gas programs while at DOE to give a clear runway to his “DOE insider profit pool”, **in which he participated**.

The Russian mining connections run throughout the above group but now that the U.S. is back in a Cold War with Russia, Russian insiders are delighted to spill the beans, on the whole deal, to reporters. One is even out taking competitive bids for exclusive whistleblower interviews.

The insider profit pool consisted of the same investors in the above efforts, who also happen to be the same people who nominated and lobbied for the appointment of [Steven Chu](#), according to his nomination docket. All of these people had a personal profit side deal in the same profit pool through stock holdings, trusts, revolving doors and repercussive gains. All of the above are connected in a very tiny business circle. The odds of that circle of 30, or so, people, out of 318 million Americans, being the only people to have access to these profits and federal funds, without rigging the program, is calculated on a book-makers metric at 12 billion to 1. Even now, one can easily see the disparity

between the [**NHTSA wave-through of the coddled White House campaign-backer funded Tesla \(hushed up by Tesla silent owner: Google\)**](#) and the bone crunching hearings and fines that GM and Toyota have had to endure, at the same time, for less dangerous defects.

The Senate Ethics Committee members have hundreds of thousands of background documents on this matter but they have been stone-walled. The FBI has nearly a million documents on this matter and reporters are eager to see the anticipated indictments from years of surveillance of the key parties of interest. NSA, DIA and CIA have tens of millions of documents on this matter from nearly a decade of surveillance of parties of interest, but they are stalled up with inter-party politics. The press has vast amounts of this evidence. The Russians are shopping vast new repositories of disclosure. Within the year, expectations are high for a tsunami of enforcement activity. The recent record-breaking number of White House and Congressional “retirement announcements” may be the first wave of the storm. As [**Richard Byrne Reilly**](#) found out, the “no comment” responses are piling up. That is **always a good sign** that the “*We just got caught*” *Freak-Out Factor Frenzy* has begun among the Politicos.

While party mouth-foamers are trying to make the **Afghani-scam scandal** not about their party, with their constant drone of “*Nothing’s been proven...*” they are now realizing that it is not a Democrat Vs. Republican issue. It is about being for, or against, **Organized Crime**. It is about being part of, or not part of, **Organized Crime**. It is about losing their federal pensions because of crimes they may have **knowingly supported**.

When investigative reporters found that [**Goldman Sachs**](#) and Silicon Valley VC’s were involved in almost every single one of the DOE money deals, they had to ask why? How much did they make in, around and through the whole thing? Who was connected to them and decision makers? Would they really rig a whole market (and a war?) just to get a few **TRILLION** dollars worth of lithium cornered? Looks like they did...

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The future of Silicon Valley may lie in the mountains of Afghanistan

By

[Richard Byrne Reilly](#)

for VENTUREBEAT

The future of Silicon Valley's technological prowess may well lie in the war-scarred mountains and salt flats of Western Afghanistan.

United States Geological Survey teams discovered one of the world's largest untapped reserves of lithium there six years ago. (**Editorial Team Note:** *Right about the time the DOE started rounding up the key ATVM and LG program insiders*) The USGS was scouting the volatile country at the behest of the U.S. Department of Defense's Task Force for Business and Stability Operations. Lithium is a soft metal used to make the lithium-ion and lithium-polymer batteries essential for powering desktop computers, laptops, smartphones, and tablets. And increasingly, electric cars like Tesla's.

The vast discovery could very well propel Afghanistan — a war-ravaged land with a population of 31 million largely uneducated Pashtuns and Tajiks, and whose primary exports today are opium, hashish, and marijuana — into becoming the world's next "Saudi Arabia of lithium," according to an internal Pentagon memo cited by the *New York Times*.

The [USGS survey report on Afghanistan](#) that detailed the findings also noted that, in addition to lithium, the country also contains huge deposits of iron ore, gold, cobalt, copper, and potash, among many other valuable minerals.

"The mineral wealth there is astonishing," said professor Michel Chossudovsky of the Montreal-based Center for Research and Globalization, who has written extensively on Afghanistan.

A conservative estimate of the riches is \$1 trillion. In some circles, it's as high as \$5 trillion.

▪ —

In Silicon Valley and beyond, tech companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Samsung, Sony, and Tesla rely on continual, and uninterrupted, access to lithium, as lithium-based batteries are the primary power storage devices in their mobile hardware.

Without these batteries, MacBooks, iPads, iPhones, Kindles, Nooks, Galaxy IIIs, Chromebooks, and, yes, Tesla Model S cars would be largely worthless. If forced to use older, nonlithium batteries, their battery lives would certainly be much shorter.

The world's current lithium heavyweight is Bolivia, the biggest exporter of the element. There, in the swamps and marshlands of the southern region of the country near where the borders of Chile and Argentina meet, are the biggest deposits.

Canada, China, Australia, and Serbia also have varying amounts of lithium, but not as much as Bolivia.

Or apparently, Afghanistan.

Enough to last a lifetime?

Depending on who you talk to, the current lithium global reserves are adequate for at least another generation of lithium-ion battery manufacturers to produce them.

But not everybody thinks so, and some say the light metal compound may someday run dry. That could in turn spell trouble for any company whose business depends on light and portable mobile electronics — unless someone comes up with an alternative to lithium batteries before then.

The experts VentureBeat interviewed pointed to sharp year-on-year increases in the demand for lithium. That's putting heavy pressure on existing stockpiles.

According to Lithium Americas, a Canadian lithium-mining company with significant business interests in Argentina, [lithium demand will more than double in the next 10 years](#), while lithium prices have nearly quadrupled during the same timeframe.

Tesla, for its part, is in the process of investing up to \$5 billion to build its own lithium-ion [Gigafactory](#) in Texas, a plant capable of churning out 500,000 expensive battery packs a year by 2020 for its line of zero-emission, all-electric cars.



A Tesla spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

As a potential source to feed that demand, enter Afghanistan.

“At some point, if present trends continue, demand [for lithium] will outstrip the supply. And again, at some point, the market for lithium-ion could get so big that it actually affects the supply chain,” said Donald R. Sadoway, a professor of the Materials Chemistry Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT.

Looking at Afghanistan, Sadoway says the war-ravaged nation, which has no effective mining infrastructure in place, may well be attractive to the world’s mining outfits.

“In this regard,” Sadoway, one of the world’s foremost experts on energy sources, says, “the deposits in Afghanistan could be important.”

Andrew Chung, a venture capitalist with [Khosla Ventures](#) in Silicon Valley who has invested in multiple startups producing alternative batteries, says lithium-ion batteries are limited in their lifetime

cycles, scalability, and cost. Despite this, Chung says, he can understand how the untapped reserves of Afghan lithium are now an increasing focus.

“It is an issue of the supply chain, whether it’s Afghanistan or other [countries]. There is a finite supply, and lithium-ion will continue to be the [power] choice for the next decade,” Chung said.

Some of the Valley’s biggest and most powerful tech companies either declined to comment for this story or never returned calls. But they didn’t deny the importance of lithium-ion batteries.

For instance, an Apple spokesperson declined to comment for this story but provided VentureBeat with a 2014 “Suppliers List” of the 200-plus vendors it uses to produce its products. A related post made the Cupertino, Calif.-based company’s commitment to lithium batteries clear, at least in the short term.

“Rechargeable, lithium-based technology currently provides the best performance for your Apple notebook computer, iPod, iPhone, or iPad,” [the Apple post says](#).

[Sony Energy Devices Corp.](#) invented the lithium-ion battery in 1994. It was hailed as a breakthrough, providing longer battery life and without the “memory effect” that gradually reduced the effective capacity of previous types of batteries.

Since then, companies have gradually refined lithium battery technology but have not succeeded in moving beyond it. Indeed, early Tesla cars are actually [powered by large packs of industry-standard lithium-ion battery cells](#) — the same type of cells found in many laptop batteries.

And here is where it gets interesting.

Sharply increasing demand

If electric car manufacturers begin ramping up production of lithium-ion battery-powered cars, the global demand for lithium will skyrocket. This could potentially come about at the same time for increasing demand for handheld consumer goods like tablets and laptops, Chung said, thus creating a perfect storm.

“So you want to start looking at other sources producing it with current supplies being called into question, if we move more toward production of electric cars,” Chung said.

Which is why, increasingly, eyes are turning to Afghanistan and its new purported lithium reserves, a country long referred to as the “graveyard of empires.” The U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and according to iCasualties, 2,315 American servicemen and women have been killed there.

Analyst Jay Jacobs of [Global X Funds](#) in New York, which has interests in lithium mining, said demand for the compound is growing, and that “there are two regions that have been revealed to contain huge

lithium reserves: Afghanistan and Bolivia.”

William Tahil, a respected lithium expert who lives in France and is the general director for Material International Research, argues that lithium deposits in Bolivia will at some point be depleted.

Jacobs was sanguine about safely extracting lithium from Afghanistan. He said political risks there were considerable.

“With that being said, should there be a substantial and sustained increase in demand for lithium, lithium miners may become increasingly interested in the country as it has an abundance of the resource,” Jacobs said.

It was the Soviets who first discovered the country’s deposits when they invaded in 1979. Soviet geologists began mapping Afghanistan’s lithium, gold, and potash fields but abandoned their efforts after the former communist superpower pulled out of the country in 1989.

But with a weak and corruption-plagued “central government,” Afghanistan is now ripe for the picking, Chossudovsky said. Indeed, the country is still very much divided into fiefdoms, with the Muslim fundamentalist Taliban, warlords, and drug traffickers controlling large swaths of the country — and using violence to advance their interests.

“There’s no question the mining companies will go in there. No question. There’s no real functioning government there to reap the foreign investment of the mineral deposits. This makes it all the more enticing to the mining companies because nobody in the government of [President] Hamid Karzai will be regulating the bonanza of lithium, so they can do what they want,” he said.

Jockeying for position

For its part, the U.S. government, which helped locate the lithium deposits using flyovers with a sensor-filled Lockheed P-3 Orion and teams of geologists fielding soil samples, knows a potential gold rush when it sees one. And it has no intention of being left on the sidelines. Especially since the Chinese are now — and quickly — making deals with Afghan pols for mineral rights to copper deposits.

The USGS did return multiple calls seeking comment. Nor did the Pentagon.

Despite what some say are the shortcomings of lithium-ion batteries, venture capitalists and investors continue pouring money into them. Amprius, a lithium battery maker based in Sunnyvale, Calif., snared a \$30 million infusion round of investor cash in January.

Over at the Afghan embassy in Washington, D.C., the Afghans are licking their lips at the potential lithium and mineral windfall despite the country's continued conflict with a resurgent Taliban. What this may portend for the impoverished and war-torn nation is anybody's guess. But the Afghans are playing up the finds — or they were, until recently.

"In recent years, headlines from the Afghan mineral sector have competed to outdo each other in scale: from the landmark \$3 billion Chinese investment in the Aynak copper concession to the astounding survey work of the U.S., Afghan, and British Geological Services estimating anywhere between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion in mineral potential, to the historic \$11 billion deal now being finalized with an Indian consortium for the Hajigak iron ore concession," said a posting on the [Afghani Washington DC website](#).

The post has since been removed.

Afghanistan's ambassador to the U.S., Eklil Hakimi, presided over a press conference at the Afghan embassy in Washington, D.C., on March 10, where he talked about the untapped deposits, along with reps from the USGS and other U.S. politicians.

But Hakimi, through a spokesman, told me he simply didn't have the time to talk.

Solyndra, Abound and Tesla need these chemicals. The investors and the campaign backers and the product owners are all the same people. Tesla doesn't care about selling cars, they care about selling LITHIUM. The car is like the handle for the razor blade, they want to sell the razor blades, not the shaver. But the idiots backing the scheme rushed into it, without checking into things, because they saw all the free Department of Energy and TARP cash. They did not realize that Lithium blows up all the time and, when mixed, becomes a "Cancer Cocktail", gives off toxic smoke, kills factory workers and is just kinda' bad stuff... ooops

The Audacity of Scope

If you think that the size and audaciousness of the crime being examined is almost inconceivable, think again. The greatest crimes are committed in plain sight.

Who would have imagined, at the time, that regular people would try to kill all of the Jews in Germany?

We rarely even consider the fact that a group of people captured, dragged half way around the planet, and raped and beat the black people of Africa.

You see the great piles of skulls from Southeast Asian genocides; how did that happen?

Big crazy crimes DO happen.

While a trillion dollar lithium scam may sound like a wild proposition, so did other things until you later realized: "OMG, these awful things actually happened!" .

Even though conventional wisdom may push against the concept, history has shown that assumption to be the fools errand.

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POLICY: NATIONAL SECURITY



John Boehner and seven GOP lawmakers back from secret Afghanistan trip

BY SUSAN FERRECHIO | APRIL 14, 2014 | 12:00 AM

TOPICS: CONGRESS THE PENTAGON JOHN BOEHNER AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL SECURITY

PENNAVE



House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan, this past weekend with seven...

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan, this past weekend with seven other House Republican lawmakers to get a first-hand look at the political situation in the country after the recent democratic elections, Boehner's office announced Monday.



The trip was not announced until now to maintain security, according to a spokesman.

The message from lawmakers was "that the House of Representatives wants to maintain a right-sized presence in Afghanistan" following the years-long war and American involvement in the country to steer it toward democracy.

Lawmakers met with U.S. military troops, Ambassador James B. Cunningham and General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces:

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“AFGHANISTAN IS THE SAUDI ARABIA OF LITHIUM”:

comparatively light weight of lithium ion cells. Virtually all cellphone and laptop batteries use lithium as a core constituent. The much-ballyhooed but seldom-seem Tesla electric roadster uses more than 6,000 computer-sized batteries all mashed into one package. But whether they are the lithium cobalt batteries used in portable devices -- not very useful for automotive use because of their reputation for overheating -- or the newer lithium phosphate or lithium manganese formulations developed for cars, all use a base of lithium metal, which is most easily extracted from salt brine.

That might be a problem. There is already discussion of how much oil remains interred beneath the Earth's surface and whether we are already suffering shortages because of the peak oil problem -- essentially a theory stating that the amount of the world's oil reserves is irrelevant since we have already reached our maximum ability to easily extract it. Now there may be problems with how much lithium the Earth holds and how quickly it can be mined.

On the pessimistic side, there is William Tahil, author of the research paper *The Trouble with Lithium*, who estimates the world's lithium reserves at about four million tons. He claims the production of hybrid and electric cars will soon tax the world's production of lithium carbonate. At the other end of the spectrum is Keith Evans, who has released *An Abundance of Lithium*, a report estimating there are 28 million tons of the base metal to be had, plenty enough to go around. Somewhere in the middle of these two opposing viewpoints is the United States Geological Survey's somewhat dated estimate of 11 million tons.

Part of the discrepancy is due to how economical and easily each group thinks the mining of lithium will be, dividing their estimates between "reserves" (think of easily obtained Saudi Arabian oil literally bubbling to the surface) and the more difficult to process "base reserves" (think Canada's Athabasca Oil Sands). Even the optimistic Evans allows that, like oil, his more generous prediction is based on the price of lithium rising in order to make increased mining cost-effective. This is not good news to automakers since it's estimated that these new high-tech batteries already cost as much as US\$10,000.

While existing mining levels are able to cope with current demand, there is no consensus on how many lithium-powered electric cars can be produced.

Tahil says any more than 1.5 million GM Volt-type vehicles annually would strain current production. SQM S. A., Chile's largest producer of lithium carbonate, says there is plenty for about five million electric vehicles. Evans predicts there's enough lithium for far more.

Bob Kruse, GM's executive director of Global Vehicle Engineering, also notes that some of the lithium in his company's new Chevy Volt will be recyclable, thereby reducing demand.

The discrepancies owe as much to the types of electric cars being produced -- fully electric cars need bigger batteries and, therefore, more lithium than hybrids -- as to the exact amount of the world's lithium stocks.

Friday, May 1, 2009

The problem with lithium

David Booth, National Post



Pierre Verdy, AFP, Getty Images

Presented by
 National Post
Podcasts

How quickly we have forgotten. Yesterday's front-page headline is today's page 13 filler, consigned to the back of the newspaper as something sexier or more pressing forces its way to page one-- above the fold.

The subject I'm talking about is oil, the pressing story before all the world's stock markets decided to simultaneously implode. We used to worry about the price of oil and when it would run out, and even

non-petrochemical engineers understood the concept of "peak oil." But, whether alternative energy is still big news or not, this much is clear: The world's oil supply is finite, fossil-fuelled vehicles pollute and the public outcry for an alternative is strong.

The leading alternative right now -- if you judge technology by the amount of press generated -- is electric cars. Electric cars don't pollute, electrons are relatively cheap and, perhaps most importantly, these vehicles seem to have captured the imagination of the American consumer, still the greatest economic engine in the world.

Naturally, there are issues. Electric cars don't have the range that current gasoline-powered cars enjoy. Replenishing the onboard energy supply is problematic, taking anywhere from 30 minutes (with special equipment) to all day. There's also the small problem of the battery having to power both the car's engine and its various ancillary and convenience devices -- someday soon you may have to decide what's more important, air conditioning or getting to your final destination.

Then there's the least talked about problem on our road to electric transportation -- the source of all

A123 lithium-ion battery maker bankruptcy fuels Republican criticism of President Barack Obama's alternative-energy policy

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A123 Systems workers Dave Bernta, left, Kurt Wozniak, Shannon DeVayltscha, and Al Betsasini go over a battery pack design in Livonia. The lithium-ion battery maker filed Tuesday for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, which triggered criticism of the Obama administration's funding of alternative-energy firms. (2011 photo by ANDREW J. JACKSON/Detroit Free Press)

By Nathan Bomey, Todd Spangler and Dan Meyer
Detroit Free Press Staff Writers

Battery maker A123 Systems' Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing Tuesday triggered a fresh round of political criticism of the Obama administration's alternative-energy investments.

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The Waltham, Mass.-based company, which has 626 employees and 348 contract workers in three southeast Michigan locations, said auto supplier Johnson Controls had tentatively agreed to pay \$125 million to purchase its automotive-related assets, including the operations in Livonia, Romulus and Ann Arbor.

Republicans immediately compared A123's bankruptcy with the California solar panel manufacturer Solyndra, which filed for bankruptcy and liquidated last year, wiping out a \$500-million loan.

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guarantee from the U.S.

"A123's bankruptcy is yet another failure for the president's disastrous strategy of gambling away billions of taxpayer dollars on a strategy of government-led growth that simply does not work," said Andrea Saul, a spokeswoman for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.



Battered by recalls, high costs and sluggish consumer adoption of electric vehicles, A123 lost \$1 billion since its founding in 2001, despite substantial government support.



SOURCE: Yahoo
DAVID FIERCE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

"This is what's possible in a clean-energy economy — these folks right here, doing extraordinary work," President Barack Obama said at the White House Rose Garden after meeting A123 employees on April 30, 2010. "This is what happens when we place our bets on American workers and American businesses."

A123 has received \$132 million of its federal grant so far. The Energy Department said Johnson Controls could be eligible for the rest of the funding, but that has yet to be determined. The federal government's investment does not have to be repaid, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

But Americans have not embraced electric vehicles that require regular recharging. In many instances, they are priced significantly higher than their gasoline-fueled counterparts. Even federal and state tax credits have not erased that price premium.

Then the lack of easy-to-find recharging stations has left many motorists worried about being left on a remote dark road without adequate power.

"It was an expansion of manufacturing plants in anticipation of customers who never arrived," Litchfield Hills Research analyst Theodore O'Neill said.

A Johnson Controls spokeswoman declined to comment on whether the company would keep A123's employees. Its acquisition of A123 must be approved by a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge in Delaware.

A123's battery plants remain in production for now.

Johnson Controls has a lithium-ion battery plant in Holland, Mich. A123, which lost \$269 million in the first eight months of the year, according to bankruptcy documents, turned down an interview request.

Democrats responded that during his 2002-06 term as governor of Massachusetts, Romney also provided support to emerging technology firms and some of the investments did not pay off. Meanwhile, the Department of Energy pointed out that A123's investment had bipartisan support from Michigan lawmakers, including incumbent Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow and her Republican challenger, Pete Hoekstra.

"Johnson Controls' investment in A123 will help ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in this growing global sector," said former Democratic Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who promoted battery tax incentives as a way to boost the Michigan economy.

A123's bankruptcy filing comes two months after Chinese auto parts maker Wanxiang Group agreed to invest up to \$450 million to acquire up to 80% of A123. But that deal fell apart as A123 was set to burn through \$400 million in cash over the next 12 months, O'Neill said.

Instead, Johnson Controls is cherry-picking the best assets out of A123, O'Neill said.

Johnson Controls also was awarded a \$299-million Energy Department grant for its lithium-ion battery plant in Holland. The company's spokeswoman declined to comment on whether that plant would be affected by the A123 deal.

Barclays analysts said in a research note that the deal would make Johnson Controls "the dominant surviving" U.S.-based lithium battery maker.

A123 shares, which closed Monday at 24 cents, fell 75% to 6 cents on Tuesday.

Many sophisticated A123 investors have lost millions, including global conglomerate General Electric, which had invested about \$70 million by 2009.

Dan Lurie, an Energy Department spokesman, said in a blog post that the government's investment had produced meaningful battery innovation that would live on.

In its bankruptcy petition, A123 listed total assets of \$459.8 million and liabilities of \$376 million.

The company's biggest customer is California start-up Fisker Automotive, which plans to keep the contract with Johnson Controls through at least the first quarter of 2013, spokesman Roger Omahen said.

General Motors, which picked A123 as the battery supplier for the Chevrolet Spark electric vehicle, said it would accept Johnson Controls as its new battery provider.

More Details: Time line of battery maker A123 Systems

Products: Nickel-based batteries, lead acid batteries, lithium-ion batteries, ultra capacitors and fuel cells

2001 — Founded in a Massachusetts Institute of Technology lab by materials scientist Yet-Ming Chen.

2006 — Began selling batteries.

March 2008 — General Electric invested \$207 million in A123 to make batteries for Think Global's electric vehicle.

May 2008 — The U.S. Advanced Battery Consortium and the U.S. Department of Energy awarded it a \$12.5-million grant to develop its lithium-ion battery technology for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

August 2009 — The DOE awarded it a \$249-million grant under the government's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program.

September 2009 — A123 raised \$380 million through an initial public offering on the NASDAQ exchange.

December 2009 — Formed a joint venture with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp.

September 2010 — Opened a lithium-ion battery plant in Livonia, equipped to make battery packs for up to 30,000 electric vehicles a year.

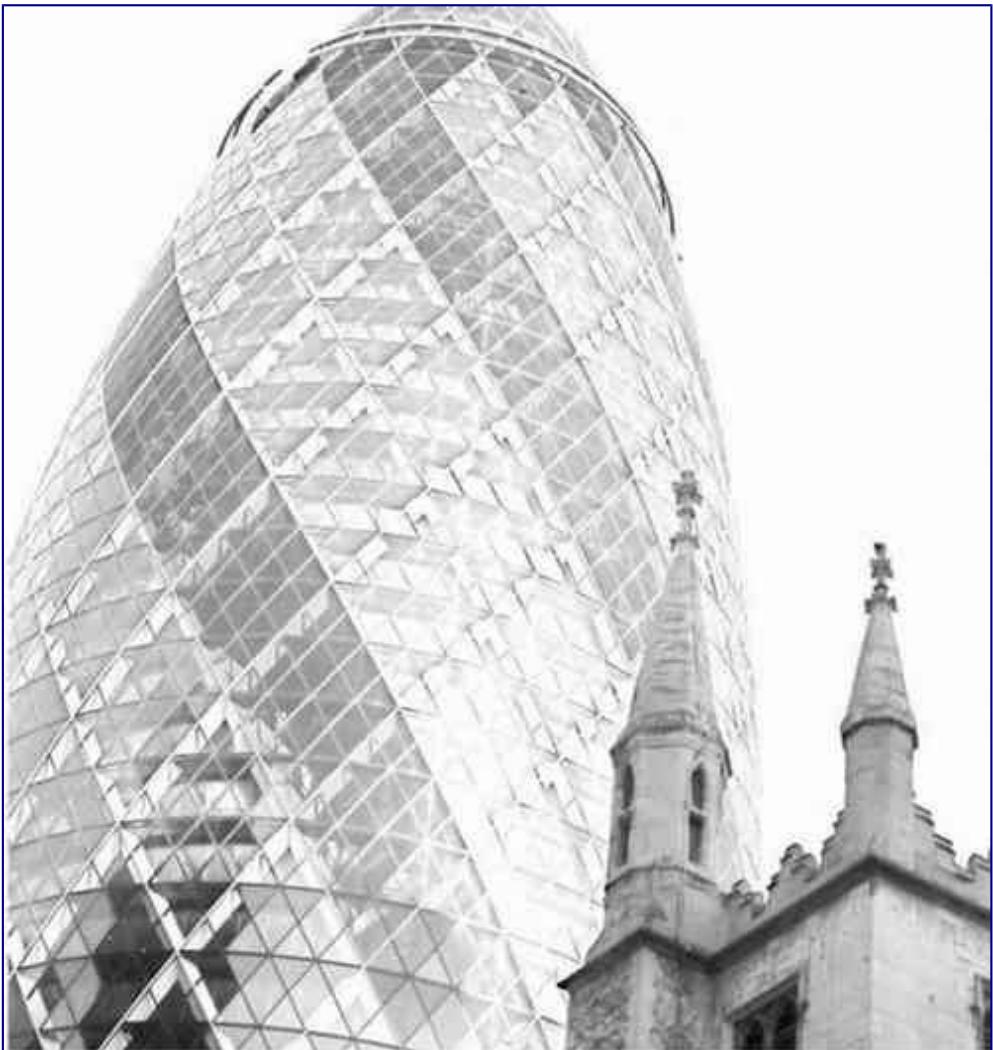
July 2011 — Announced the hiring of its 1,000th worker in Michigan.

March 2012 — A123 recalled battery packs with prismatic cells that it sold to Fisker Automotive to power its Karma electric car. CEO David Vieau estimated that the recall would cost \$557 million.

August 2012 — Announced a loss of \$82.9 million in the second quarter.

August 2012 — Wanxiang Group, China's largest auto parts manufacturer, agreed to invest up to \$465 million in A123 in exchange for 80% of A123.

Tuesday — Filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and sold auto-related business to Johnson Controls for \$125 million. Wanxiang withdrew its offer to invest \$465 million for 80% of the battery maker.



Doing God's Work

How Goldman Sachs Rigs the Game

March 2011


MONITORING, RESEARCH AND ACTION

"The first thing you need to know about Goldman Sachs is that it's everywhere. The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money."

Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone Magazine, July 2009

Introduction

Much has been written about Goldman Sachs' immense size and power in the US, of the incessant revolving door between the bank, regulatory and political elites in Washington. But Goldman Sachs has cultivated political contacts around the world, not just in the US capital.

This report looks at how the bank's tentacles have spread throughout British and European political circles, including the regulatory centre of Brussels. Goldman Sachs often operates behind the scenes, also working through a number of business lobby groups. This report explores and exposes those links.

Critics say having friends in high places gives the firm a vital edge.¹ This has also allowed Goldman and other global banks to escape the necessary regulatory reform that many independent commentators believe is vital, especially in areas of derivatives.

There is no doubting that Goldman's image has taken a battering. In the midst of the world's worst oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Reuters ran an article entitled: "BP: Still not as evil as Goldman Sachs".²

The bank's plummeting reputation is a result of a series of events: the role it played in causing the financial crisis, and its "arrogant and unapologetic attitude" in its wake, when CEO Lloyd Blankfein described the bank's activities as "God's work".³ It was also accused by US authorities of defrauding investors out of \$1 billion,⁴ faced fines of £17.5 million for failing to tell UK regulators that it was under investigation for fraud,⁵ and was sued by three ex-employees for sexual discrimination.⁶

Under fire, Goldman Sachs responded with the biggest advertising campaign in its history, "to help the wider public understand what we do for our clients."⁷

Yet, as banking commentator, Bethany McLean, notes: "No outsider can tell how the firm really makes its money. It is a fear that Goldman has the game rigged, even if no one can ever prove how. Not just because of its political connections, but also because of its immense size and power."⁸ Recent efforts at transparency – its disclosure of revenue from trading and investing⁹ - do little to allay fears: "They stopped short of doing something really big", said one banking insider.¹⁰

What was big, though, was the firm's remuneration and bonus pot for 2010, a whopping \$15 billion or an average of \$430,000 each.¹¹

Green power corrupts

June 06, 2012 - 8:00 PM

1 Comment

Diana Furchtgott-Roth

Power corrupts, even at highest levels of government. Even in the White House. That's the message from the government's newly loan guaranteees, as revealed by a little reported House Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee hearing last month.

Popular in Options

- 1 Exempt editorial Walker's wife played large political role in state's energy industry
- 2 Green power corrupts
- 3 Dan Balk: Bill Power
- 4 Fox subsidies vs. foreign cheaper has rapid growth
- 5 U.S. policy should encourage oil and gas exploration

All we know is the approval of loan guarantees for Brightsource Energy, a politically connected corporation whose chairman, John Bryson, became Obama's secretary of commerce last October.

John M. Westcott, president and CEO of Brightsource Energy, testified that his company's \$1.6 billion loan guarantee for a solar power plant "was awarded completely on the merits of the project."

But Chairman Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, produced an email from Woodard to Energy Secretary Steven Chu's senior advisor, Matt Rogers, that finds the White House might have been involved. (Date January 4, 2010, the email states that Peter Darbee, CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric, had himself spoken to President Obama.) "Debbie at PG&E talked directly to Obama about the program's challenges and the bad situation it puts him in." By "bad situation," Darbee meant that his company needed solar power to comply with California's law to produce 20 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2017 (later raised to 33 percent by 2020).

Woodard also wrote to Rogers, "Please don't distribute this, but I thought you might want to know there is a large group in NRG focused on this transaction and DOE ability to execute. Things are not good and there is a sizeable group of private equity and investment banks writing a letter to Chu about the status of the program and the inability to get loans through -- can you suggest a good time to talk?"

Commentary: the following month, Chu announced conditional loan guarantees of \$1.37 billion for Brightsource to build three utility-scale solar power plants on federal land in the Mojave Desert, to be the largest solar power electricity generating complex in the world.

But conditional loan guarantees don't equal loans. Over a year later, in March 2011, Brightsource still had no loan. Woodard asked Jonathan Silver, executive director of the Energy Department's loan guarantee

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

SMALL BUSINESS | DECEMBER 15, 2009

Venture Capitol: New VC Force

By NEIL KING JR.

When tiny Fisker Automotive Inc. hit a financing glitch last year, threatening its plan to build a fancy gasoline-electric hybrid car in Finland, it turned to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The DOE had a bolder idea. Why not also step up the company's plans to develop a less-expensive model, and assemble it in a closed U.S. auto plant?

Within months, Vice President Joe Biden, the former senator from Delaware, was helping lure the embryonic car company to a shuttered General Motors Co. factory four miles from his house in Wilmington, right across the tracks from Biden Park. Soon, Fisker Automotive, a two-year-old business that has yet to sell a car, won loans from the federal government totaling \$528 million.

Fisker had joined a flock of other businesses seeking cash from the biggest venture capitalist of all, the U.S. government.

The DOE hopes to lend or give out more than \$40 billion to businesses working on "clean technology," everything from electric cars and novel batteries to wind turbines and solar panels. In the first nine months of 2009, the DOE doled out \$13 billion in loans and grants to such firms. By contrast, venture-capital firms -- which have long been the chief funders of fledgling tech firms, taking equity stakes in the start-ups that will pay off if they go public -- poured just \$2.68 billion into the sector in that time, according to data tracker Cleantech Group.

Thus, while much attention has been focused on the federal government's involvement in banking, Washington also is gaining sway in another swath of the economy. By financing clean-tech ventures on a large scale, the government has become a kingmaker in one of technology's hottest sectors.

Some young companies are tailoring their business plans to win DOE cash. Private investors, meanwhile, are often pulling back, waiting to see which projects the government blesses. Success in winning federal funds can attract a flood of private capital, companies say, while conversely, bad luck in Washington can sour their chances with private investors. The result is an intertwining of public and private-sector interests in an arena where politics is never far from the surface.

In Delaware, "We had five individuals beating the band -- the three members of the [congressional] delegation, the governor and the vice president," said the state's chief of economic development, Alan Levin. "We had in the vice president a secret weapon, except there is nothing secret about Joe Biden."

A spokeswoman for Mr. Biden said he made no direct appeals to DOE on Fisker's behalf before the loan was approved, though he did talk to the company several times afterward to put in a plug for his home state.

At the DOE, Matthew Rogers, who helps oversee the department's loans, said proposals are vetted by "deal teams" insulated as much as possible from outside pressure. "Lots of people can call the [energy] secretary, but that doesn't mean that any of that necessarily flows down to the deal-team level," he said.

More than 40 auto-related companies have sought government money to build parts or vehicles, ranging from hybrid roadsters and delivery vans to all-electric three-wheelers that could go 120 miles on a charge. They are chasing \$25 billion in federal low-interest loans for a sector that has attracted less than a tenth that much in venture capital over the past five years, according to Cleantech.

"The existence of an 800-pound gorilla putting massive capital behind select start-ups is sucking the air away from the rest of the venture-capital ecosystem," said Darryl Siry, former head of marketing at Tesla Motors Inc., a San Carlos, Calif., company that got a \$365 million DOE loan in June to build high-end electric cars. "Being anointed by DOE has become everything for companies looking to move ahead."

Bright Automotive Inc. is still seeking anointment. Based in a small warren of offices outside Indianapolis, Bright looked set to take off in September 2008. Investors were poised to give it more than \$100 million to move ahead on a lightweight hybrid delivery van, and it had lined up major corporations as potential customers.

When the financial crisis hit in that same month, investors bowed out. Though a few have since tiptoed back, enabling Bright to build a prototype, its principal hope for now lies in the DOE, from which it is seeking a large loan to get under way.

"We are caught in this blender of historically new forces, somewhere between the public and private worlds," said Bright's chief executive, John Waters. Without a government loan, private investors are reluctant to jump in, he says, while the DOE loan team is wary of backing ventures that haven't already won significant support in the private sector.

The DOE acknowledges it looks to back companies that already have substantial private funding, with the hope that federal money will in turn attract more private investment.

Fisker, based in Irvine, Calif., got rolling two years ago with seed money from two of Silicon Valley's largest venture-capital firms, Palo Alto Investors LLC and Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. They and some smaller investors put up nearly \$160 million to move Fisker's first car, called the Karma, off the design table and into early production. But to fine-tune the engineering and put it into full production, Fisker needed at least \$200 million more.

In December 2008, Fisker turned to the DOE's \$25 billion Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan program, which Congress had funded to launch new, high-efficiency vehicles.

Fisker applied for about \$170 million to get the Karma rolling. It also put in a second application, hoping eventually to win financing to build a cheaper model, code-named the Kx, which the company didn't envision bringing to market until around 2015.

DOE officials and their advisers expressed strong interest in the Karma proposal, say people involved in the talks, but they were wary of the Kx. Its engineering remained vague, and Fisker was far from having a prototype.

By late spring, DOE was pushing ahead briskly on the Karma loan, say people involved in the deal. But the Karma presented a political challenge: It was already being assembled, under contract, at a plant in Finland. Though it used mainly U.S.-made components, so a federal loan would help U.S. parts makers, the boost for U.S. workers would be limited.

GM's Delaware factory, called the Boxwood Road plant and dating from 1947, once employed 5,000. It was the last auto assembly plant in the Northeast. State officials and politicians were determined to keep it alive.

In the middle of August, they learned the plant had drawn interest from Fisker. CEO Henrik Fisker came to see it and dropped by the office of a Delaware senator, Tom Carper, a Democrat. The visit unleashed a flurry of activity. Gov. Jack Markell, also a Democrat, quickly called an old friend at Kleiner Perkins to check on Fisker. "Basically, we wanted to know, 'Are they for real?'" said Mr. Levin.

Kleiner Perkins itself has political roots. A leading partner, John Doerr, sits on President Barack Obama's economic advisory board, and another partner is former Vice President Al Gore.

The DOE, in August, hadn't yet ruled on Fisker's loan request. Delaware's governor and congressional delegation began peppering U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu with calls on Fisker's behalf. They also had repeated discussions with Vice President Biden and his staff, according to Mr. Levin and several others.

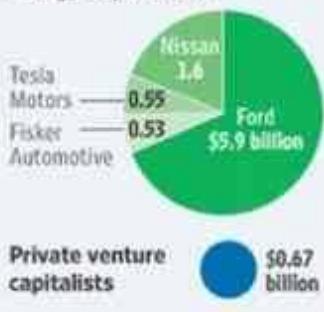
In early September, Gov. Markell told Fisker that if it occupied the shuttered GM plant it would get an array of state incentives worth up to \$22 million, including \$9 million in cash for utilities. He promised to buy the first car off the line.

On Sept. 17, he ran into Mr. Chu at an event in Pennsylvania. "I know, I know -- Fisker," Mr. Chu said as soon as he saw him, according to the governor, who said Mr. Chu told him he was "hearing from everyone in Delaware."

Car Money

Investments in U.S. advanced vehicles this year, by:

Energy Department



Private venture capitalists

Note: Through September
Source: Energy Department; Cleantech Group

Five days later, Mr. Chu announced the government had signed a provisional agreement to lend Fisker nearly \$170 million to complete engineering of the Karma, as well as \$360 million to develop the less-expensive model Kx, which the company then began to call the Nina. Fisker still plans to assemble the Karma in Finland but will make the Nina in Delaware. Mr. Chu said the DOE funding would help reduce dependence on foreign oil as well as create "thousands of new American jobs."

People familiar with the loan say the government based the amount partly on its assessment that the Nina, which will sell for about \$40,000 after government tax rebates, could draw world-wide annual sales of around 130,000 -- nearly twice Fisker's own projection.

Mr. Fisker, a former designer of sleek sports cars for BMW and Aston Martin, said he is sure his company would have won DOE funding without the Delaware politicians' support but credits it with speeding the approval. He added that Fisker picked the Delaware plant because it made economic sense.

Though its first model, the Karma, won't be available for test drives for months, Fisker says more than 1,500 potential buyers have put down refundable deposits on the car, expected to sell for \$88,000.

On Oct. 27, about a month after the DOE approved loans to Fisker, its executives and Delaware politicians

Afterward, Mr. Fisker escorted the dignitaries behind a curtain for their first look at a mock-up of the planned second model, the Nina. It was a sporty car body, bright red, but with no drivetrain or engine. Gov. Markell, though, was impressed. "It was just a beautiful car," he said.

Write to Neil King Jr. at neil.king@wsj.com

Printed in The Wall Street Journal, page A18

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

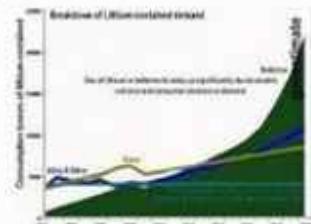
Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Talison Lithium Ltd.
are situated at one of
its plants in
Greenhills,
Australia.


Talison Lithium
Limited - Press Release
TORONTO, Sept. 29
The Goldman Sachs
Group, Inc.
("GS & Co.") 200 West
Street, ("GS Group"),
200 West Street,
New York, NY, 10282 New York, NY, 10282

GS & Co. & GS Group are hereinafter referred collectively as the
"Officer".
2. the designation and number or principal amount of securities and the
Officer's ownership/pertaining in the class of securities of
which the Officer acquired interest or control in the transaction or
arrangement giving rise to the obligation to the news release;
and whether it was partnership or control that were acquired in those
circumstances.
In connection with a plan of arrangement completed on September 22,
2010 involving Talison Lithium Limited (the "Company") and Soco
Lithium Limited ("Soco"), the Company acquired all of the issued
and outstanding securities of Soco in exchange for either ordinary
shares in the capital of the Company ("Shares") or the equivalent
number of exchangeable shares (each may be exchanged for Shares on a
one-for-one basis) (the "Arrangement"). Further details regarding the
Arrangement are set out in the joint press release of the Company and
Soco dated September 22, 2010, which has been filed with the
applicable regulatory authorities and is available on the Company's
SEDAR profile at www.sedar.com.
Prior to the Arrangement, the Company was a private issuer and the
Officer and certain direct or indirect subsidiaries of GS Group
beneficially owned and controlled 11,270,411 Shares (the "Officer/
Shares"). The Officer did not acquire any additional Shares in
connection with the Arrangement. On September 23, 2010, in connection
with the Arrangement, the Shares commenced trading on the Toronto

Goldman Sachs, American Axon Energy, Energy Storage TNR,
CIX, RML, LLE, WLC, CII, YNL, HEV, AON, PCX, RPP, BHP,
SQM, PMC, ROC, F, GM



We have another report on Energy Storage space which provides a view from Goldman Sachs on the sector this time. In Lithium space we have our last developing story, where Zijinmin Resources are in a race to secure Lithium supply.

Talison Lithium market conditions. One more update on Lithium is going from the market for potential deals. We were not following geological as source of lithium so far as it is more risky than well defined extraction from brines and hard rock lithium deposits. Chemistry should be right and the process is much more complicated, but this move by GS shows that Japanese companies are ready to go to distance in order to secure Lithium supply from different sources. After Korean Zinc deal with lithium the are focus on rare earths sources due partners involved in lithium (Korean Zinc, Chesapeake and Novatek) are still for 2/3rd interested in lithium and East Asia Minerals (Japan) are using every right means to pull-off a valuable lithium project on the development stage and with the rate of deal announcement all reliable Canadian players in lithium could be engaged by the end of this summer."

Goldman Sachs, American Axon Energy, Energy Storage, Batteries

Printed by Gold Sachs

Topics:
Gold Sachs, Alternative Energy, Batteries, CleanTech, GreenTech, Global warming, Green Energy, Green Stability Foundation, Goldman Sachs, Lithium

1 comment:

 **Reichards said...**
Thought you would like to know that, yesterday, Sept 20, 2010, Goldman Sachs disclosed its 100% ownership share of Talison Lithium (TSX:TLH).

Close

But the government cut off the loan to Fisker after \$193 million when Fisker failed to meet its ambitious sales and production goals. Then, a Consumer Reports test dealt the Karma another blow.

"It is low. It is sleek. It is smooth," the Consumer Reports' video narrator says.

[20 comments](#)

"It's also broken," the narrator adds at a clip of the Fisker Karma being towed on a flatbed trailer.

Fisker blamed the car's lithium ion battery, which happened to be made by another government loan recipient, A123 Systems.

A123 got a \$249-million taxpayer loan. This year's first-quarter losses totaled \$125 million.

The industry's misfortunes have seriously undermined President Obama's goal:

"We can replace our dependence on oil with biofuels and become the first country to have a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015," Obama said in January 2011.

To get to one million, the White House pinned its hopes on 13 models of electric vehicles — including the Karma. Our CBS News investigation found that six of the 13 — Ford Focus, Ford Transit Connect, Fisker Karma, Atlantic, Tesla Model S, Tesla Roadster and Think City — either haven't made their first delivery or are already out of business.

Others aren't even close to the government's 2015 projections. For example, 26,000 Fisker Karmas and 500,000 Chevy Volts were supposed to be made. But current projections slash the Karma's 2015 number in half to 18,000 and put the Volt at one-eighth of the goal at 62,000.

[See chart below](#)

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"I think those forecasts were very unrealistic," [David Sandalow](#), history showing that scaling an automobile company is much more difficult than many of those people thought," Craig Cannon, industry analyst and managing director of Carlson Group, Electric Vehicles, told CBS News.

When told about the CBS News projection that only 300,000 electric vehicles would be on the road instead of the proposed 1 million, the Energy Department's David Sandalow said, "Well, let's hope that we can move faster. And if we don't hit that goal in 2015, let's hit it in 2016."

CBS News pointed out that the Energy Department noted that Think City would produce 57,000 cars, but only built 263 and went out of business. Ford Transit Connect was supposed to make 4,200 vehicles, but only built 500 and filed for bankruptcy.

But, Sandalow reminded that there were some successes.

"And General Motors sold more than 3,000 last year," he said. "And so did Nissan. Around the world this industry is exploding. Innovation involves risks. Any type of new industry is going to encounter some successes and some failures."

Even falling far short of a million, backers say electric cars will take off as people realize how much fun and cheap they are to drive. Just to be sure, the president wants to invest \$4.2 billion more tax dollars in electric vehicle incentives.

Goldman Sachs culture 'toxic'? Letter confirms suspicions about Wall Street.

Polls show that Americans hold a very low opinion of Wall Street, and a damning public letter of resignation from a Goldman Sachs executive could only amplify that perception.



A Goldman Sachs sign is seen at the New York Stock Exchange. A Goldman Sachs executive director published a scathing resignation letter in The New York Times, saying the investment bank is a 'toxic and destructive' place where managing directors referred to their own clients as 'muppets.'

(Brendan McDermid/REUTERS/File)

By Ron Scherer, Staff writer
posted March 14, 2012 at 4:47 pm EDT

New York

The opinion article in The New York Times has a simple headline: "Why I am leaving Goldman Sachs," written by Gregg Smith, identified as a former executive director.

Mr. Smith, with more than decade at the firm, then goes on to describe the culture at Goldman Sachs "as toxic and destructive as I have ever seen it."

He says he knew it was time to leave when he could no longer look students being recruited by Goldman Sachs in the eye and tell them

Goldman was a great place to work. Instead, he describes a place where making money off the firm's clients became the mantra.

Smith's description of the firm fits with Main Street's perception of Wall Street these days. Despite the run-up in the stock market, many people view Wall Street as a place where fat cats rake in huge bonuses, and lobby aggressively against attempts by Congress to rein in their activities.

"Wall Street is not held in high regard so this is certainly not going to help," says Dennis Jacob, chief economist at the Gallup Organization in Washington. "I think one of the things that is under-perceived on Wall Street and many of the financial sectors is how badly the financial crisis has hurt the reputation of everyone involved with Wall Street."

In a survey published last December, Harvard's Center for Public Leadership ranked Wall Street at the bottom in terms of American's confidence in its leadership. Congress, the media, and the White House all ranked higher.

Even long-time Wall Street observers agree that the perceptions are distinctly negative.

"Wall Street is not doing a very good job of explaining its importance to the economy and the good it does," says public relations executive Richard Torrenzano of the Torrenzano Group and a former spokesman for the New York Stock Exchange. "It helps corporations and new organizations raise money in a public environment, and that money is used to build new plants, create jobs, and really help the quality of life in which we live."

However much good Wall Street does is far overshadowed by the public's memory of 2008 financial crisis, which ultimately led to the Great Recession.

"People will always be suspicious of banks," says Hester Perce, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a former Securities and Exchange Commission official. "Part of the reason is that Main Street has suffered so tremendously, and people are still mad at the banks getting all the money they got."

At the height of the financial crisis, Goldman Sachs, like other large financial institutions, borrowed money from the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). And, like other large banks, it repaid those loans with interest.

Also, at the height of the financial crisis in 2008, Warren Buffet's company, Berkshire Hathaway, invested \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs. Part of Mr. Buffet's investment was in the stock, which he purchased for \$115 a share. On Wednesday, the stock was selling for \$120 a share, off about \$4 a share.

Goldman Sachs, which made a profit of about \$1 billion in the fourth quarter, is known for its intense work ethic and cutthroat culture. Each year the investment bank culls its ranks of underperforming executives and traders. However, in the past, the firm has also sent many of its alumni to Washington, including former Treasury Secretaries Robert Rubin and Henry Paulson.

"Many have worked there or wanted to work there," says Ms. Peirce. "Goldman is elite but all the big banks have the reputation of people working very hard."

Goldman officials are also politically active. In the 2012 cycle, Goldman Sachs, through its political action committee as well as individual contributions, is the top organizational donor to Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, according to the Center for Responsive Politics/Open Secrets. Goldman Sachs and its officials have made 232 donations totaling \$426,780.

In a letter to their employees on Wednesday, Goldman Sachs executives Lloyd Blankfein and Gary Cohn disputed Smith's characterization of the firm. "Needless to say, we were disappointed to read the assertions made by this individual that do not reflect our values, our culture and how the vast majority of people at Goldman Sachs think about the firm and the work it does on behalf of clients," wrote the two men in a letter posted on the firm's website.

The Goldman Sachs officials said that as far as they knew, Smith, whom they never identified by name, had not expressed any misgivings through any of their anonymous channels. "If an individual expresses issues, we examine them carefully and we will be doing so this case," they wrote.

The Goldman Sachs letter to its employees also noted that two weeks ago, Goldman was named one of the best places to work in the United Kingdom, where Smith resides.

Critics of Goldman Sachs blame its problems on a fixation with short-term profits. "It is just this short term grab for profits," says T.J. Faircloth, director of research at Boston-based Corporate Accountability International, which monitors corporate behavior. "We see this across the board with other corporations."

This jibes with Smith's view of the big firm. In his op-ed, the former executive writes, "Today, if you make enough money for the firm (and you are not currently an ax murder) you will be promoted into a position of influence."

Smith says he hopes his op-ed acts like a warning shot to the company's board of directors.

Foote Mineral, which owned the Kings Mountain mine, hoped to get the jump on the lithium boom by expanding to northern Chile, where desert brines were rumored to contain vast, cheaply obtainable amounts. In 1975 Foote signed an agreement with the Chilean government, then run by Pinochet, to explore the Salar de Atacama. Nine years later Foote began extracting lithium from a sliver of the lake bed. (The Foote subsidiary that worked the salar is now owned by Rockwood Holdings of Princeton, N.J., which continues to produce lithium on the tract.)

Newly wise to the desolate salar's value, Pinochet's government decided to auction off the rest of the region's mining rights. The American firm Amax (now part of Freeport-McMoran) won the bidding but didn't develop the property. In 1992 Amax sold its rights to a former arm of the Chilean government that had recently been privatized and handed over to Pinochet's then son-in-law, Julio Ponce Lerou.

Lithium's boom had begun in earnest just a year before, when Sony ([nyse: SNE](#) - news - people) launched its first generation of lithium-ion batteries for consumer electronics. By the end of 1991 Sony was making 100,000 a month. SQM began selling lithium carbonate in late 1996, and within a matter of weeks, lithium carbonate prices fell by a third, to \$2,000 a ton. The American lithium industry vanished overnight.

Sidebar:

White Gold

U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan



Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

A bleak Ghazni Province seems to offer little, but a Pentagon study says it may have among the world's largest deposits of lithium.

By JAMES RISEN

Published: June 13, 2010

WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in [Afghanistan](#), far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the Afghan economy and perhaps the Afghan war itself, according to senior American government officials.

At War

Notes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict in the post-9/11 era.

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Multimedia



The previously unknown deposits — including huge veins of iron, copper, cobalt, gold and critical industrial metals like [lithium](#) — are so big and include so many minerals that are essential to modern industry that Afghanistan could eventually be transformed into one of the most important mining centers in the world.

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In Theaters
Now

Year or two ago)

President Hamid Karzai were recently briefed, American officials said.

What it could take many years to develop a mining industry, the potential is so great that officials and executives in the industry believe it could attract heavy investment even before mines are profitable, providing the possibility of jobs that could distract from generations of war.

"There is stunning potential here," Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the United States Central Command, said in an interview in November. "There are a lot of us, of course, but I think potentially it is hugely significant."

The value of the newly discovered mineral deposits dwarfs the size of Afghanistan's existing war-tattered economy, which is based largely on opium production and narcotics trafficking as well as aid from the United States and other international countries. Afghanistan's gross domestic product is only about \$10 billion.

"This will become the backbone of the Afghan economy," said Jafir Junisay, an adviser to the Afghan minister of mines.

American and Afghan officials agreed to discuss the mineral discoveries at a difficult moment in the war in Afghanistan. The American-led offensive in Marja in southern Afghanistan has achieved only limited gains. Meanwhile, charges of corruption and favoritism continue to plague the Karzai government, and Mr. Karzai seems increasingly isolated toward the White House.

So the Obama administration is hunger for some positive news to come out of Afghanistan. Yet the American officials also recognize that the mineral discoveries will almost certainly have a double-edged impact.

Instead of bringing peace, the newfound mineral wealth could lead the Taliban to battle even more fervently to regain control of the country.

The corruption that is already rampant in the Karzai government could also be amplified by the new wealth, particularly if a handful of well-connected officials, some with personal ties to the president, gain control of the resources. Just last year, Afghanistan's minister of mines was accused by American officials of accepting a \$10 million bribe to award China the rights to develop its copper mine. The minister has since been replaced.

Rivalrous rights could erupt between the central government in Kabul and provincial and tribal leaders in mineral-rich districts. Afghanistan has a national mining law, written with the help of officers from the World Bank, but it has never faced a serious challenge.

"No one has tested that law; no one knows how it will stand up in a fight between the central government and the provinces," observed Paul A. Brinkley, deputy undersecretary of defense for business and leader of the Pentagon team that discovered the deposits.

At the same time, American officials fear resource-hungry China will try to dominate the development of Afghanistan's mineral wealth, which could upset the United States, given its heavy investment in the region. After returning the bid for its Arak copper mine to Lingshui Prefecture, China clearly wants more, American officials said.

Another complication is that because Afghanistan has never had much heavy industry before, it has little or no history of environmental protection either. "The big question is, can this be developed in a responsible way, in a way that is environmentally and socially responsible?" Mr. Brinkley said. "No one knows how this will work."

With virtually no mining industry or infrastructure in place today, it will take decades for Afghanistan to exploit its mineral wealth fully. "This is a country that has no mining culture," said Jack Martin, a geologist in the United States Geological Survey's international affairs program. "They've had some small artisanal mines, but none that could be some very, very large mines that will require more than just a gold pan."

The mineral deposits are scattered throughout the country, including in the southern and eastern regions along the border with Pakistan that have had some of the most intense combat in the American-led war against the Taliban insurgency.

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A version of this article appeared in print on June 14, 2010, on page A1
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Goldman Sachs, Citi, Recruit Iraq and Afghanistan Vets

Citi and Goldman among other banks were recruiting at a job fair aboard the USS Intrepid.

Tags: [Goldman Sachs](#), [Citi](#), career management, [Wall Street jobs](#).

By [Melanie Ritter](#) [@mritter](#)

JUNE 14, 2010



As jobs decline on Wall Street, banks like Citi and Goldman are actively recruiting veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, according to Bloomberg News.

Citi and Goldman, together with Credit Suisse, Bank of America and Deutsche Bank were recruiting at a job fair hosted yesterday by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for service personnel aboard the USS Intrepid, a museum in the Hudson River, Bloomberg said.

Last year, WSJ reported that Wall Street firms and hedge funds were actively recruiting former CIA and military intelligence officers in a bid to boost their security and risk management practices by looking for expertise outside the corporate world.

Former Afghan and Iraq war vets with intelligence operations experience are particularly in demand since they can bring new technology and techniques to research and analysis, Michael Bagley, founder and president of Washington D.C.-based financial intelligence firm, The OSINT Group, told WSJ.

From Bloomberg:

Kosovo Marine Corps captain Christopher Perkins, now head of Citigroup's derivatives operation in the Americas, said he dealt with budgets and negotiation while stationed in Japan; his first education in business practices. Citigroup hired him based on skills obtained in the military, not to burnish the firm's image, he said.

"It's not about charity work," Perkins said. "It's about making the firm better."

Still, despite their skills the road to civilian work in the financial industry could be a very tough one for the veterans:

Financial sector layoffs are up 21 percent this year. Banks, insurance firms and brokers said they planned to eliminate 11,413 positions through May, according to Challenger, compared with 9,431 during the same period in 2010.

In the meantime, competition among vets themselves vying to get a job is also heating up: Unemployment among veterans rose to 12.3 percent in May from 10.6 percent a year ago, Bloomberg said.

And following President Barack Obama's announcement this week that he will withdraw 33,000 troops from Afghanistan by September 2012, competition among veterans looking for civilian jobs will soon be getting even tougher.

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E-mails about clean-energy loans provide new details on White House involvement

By [Carol D. Leonnig](#) and [Joe Stephens](#), Published: August 8 | Updated: Thursday, August 9, 7:23 AM

President Obama's staff arranged for him to be personally briefed last summer on a loan program to help clean-energy companies, two months before the program was thrust into headlines by the collapse of its flagship, the solar company [Solyndra](#), records show.

About the same time, then-White House Chief of Staff [William Daley](#) resolved a dispute among administration officials over another project in the program, clearing the way for a \$1.4 billion loan, according to documents and sources familiar with the situation.

The documents, a series of e-mails among Energy Department staff members involved in managing the program, provide new details about the level of White House involvement in the controversial initiative. White House officials have said in the past that final decisions about which companies would receive the loan guarantees were made by career staff members at the Energy Department, not political appointees.

Administration officials said Wednesday that the e-mails show that the White House involvement was appropriate and that there was no pressure on agency officials.

That loan program, a signature piece of the Obama administration's effort to stimulate the economy, has become a major issue in this year's presidential campaign. Republicans have charged that the program wasted critical stimulus money meant to create jobs, spending it instead on ill-advised projects that

benefited Democratic fundraisers.

The documents, provided to The Washington Post by Republican investigators for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, show that White House aides asked Energy Secretary Steven Chu to deliver a June 27, 2011, presentation to the president on the status of the loan program. The interest in a presidential briefing came as other senior administration figures were challenging parts of the program and debating whether the Energy Department was cutting deals that gave "unjust enrichment" to private companies.

An Energy staffer explained that the president "wants to know its status" so he could be prepared when the loan program came up "at official events and political events where he interacts with [the] business community and Congressional members." The e-mail from the department's chief of staff, Brandon Hurlbut, went on to say that many people attending such gatherings "have some affiliation or interest in the numerous applications received that involve substantial funds."

The documents do not indicate whether the presidential briefing took place as scheduled and, if so, whether Obama offered guidance on the program's future.

A right to know

On Wednesday, Rep. Darrell Issa (Calif.) and other Republican members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee wrote to Obama requesting a "full and complete" explanation of his involvement in the issue and seeking additional internal documents, including a list of all private individuals with whom the president met to discuss loan projects.

"The American people have a right to know the level of involvement you and other senior White House officials had in the loan guarantee program," the committee members wrote. "Your interactions with business leaders at political events affected decisions to give billions of taxpayer dollars in loan guarantees to green energy companies."

Energy Department spokesman Damien LaVera said that the collection of internal documents provided thus far to congressional investigators "validates what we have said from day one: All decisions on loan applications were made on the merits after careful review by career officials and technical experts in the loan program."

Rather than revealing any White House pressure to give money to certain companies, the new e-mails show that "Department of Energy officials appealed to the White House to resolve legitimate disagreements between agencies" so the applications could move forward, LaVera said.

White House spokesman Clark Stevens added that "internal debates about complex programs like this should be expected, and the White House playing a role in assisting interagency discussion surrounding that process is entirely appropriate."

Solyndra, a Silicon Valley start-up that manufactured solar panels, received a half-billion dollar federal loan from the program before [suddenly closing](#) last August. A short time later, the FBI raided its offices as part of a criminal investigation into whether the company misled the government about its finances.

The government is expected to recover just \$24 million of the \$527 million that taxpayers lent the company. Republicans have accused the administration of [favoring Solyndra](#) because its largest investors were funds linked to Oklahoma [billionaire George Kaiser](#), an Obama donor.

'Some serious gloating'

Other e-mail exchanges in the documents appear to show deep divisions between Chu and some senior Obama economic advisers over the program.

In June 2011, Chu asked Daley to settle a dispute among agency leaders over whether a \$1.4 billion loan to a solar generation facility was consistent with the stimulus act. Chu was a major proponent of the Project Amp facility, which was proposing to use Solyndra as a sole supplier of solar panels at a time when Solyndra was in financial trouble.

Obama's senior economic leaders, including then-Office of Management and Budget director Jack Lew, expressed concerns that the project was spread over several years and did not have any immediate impact on the local economy. Lew, now Obama's chief of staff, told a DOE staffer after the Daley meeting that he was not opposed to the general idea of the project but was just "protecting the president."

After the meeting, Jonathan Silver, the director of the Energy Department's loan office, celebrated "total victory" over his administration opponents. He described in an e-mail to a colleague how Chu came as "close to an annihilation of the economic team's position as you could possibly hope for." Silver speculated that Daley had given the economic team "a fig leaf" and that the Energy Department's victory was cause to "do some serious gloating."

A draft of Energy Department talking points prepared for the presidential briefing highlights that the program had committed more than \$34 billion and asserted that it had created or saved 68,000 jobs. Those talking points forecast little risk from the program, although Solyndra was already showing signs of distress. The department months earlier had negotiated a loan restructuring amid threats that the firm would have to liquidate for lack of operating cash.

"DOE expects that all loans will be repaid," one presentation slide said. "When loans are repaid, the benefits — including the creation of tens of thousands of jobs — will have been obtained at little cost to taxpayers."

Chu appeared eager to make sure that Obama heard about the disagreements over the program within the administration.

"We need to tell the President the truth, as we see it. We need to also present the other side's point of view as fairly as possible," the secretary wrote in an e-mail to Hurlbut.

Officials at the Treasury Department and the White House Office of Management and Budget often argued that government subsidies to clean-energy companies gave them too great of a return on investment, or an "unjust enrichment," Chu wrote.

"Many times, they felt that a 'better deal' could have been brokered by DOE and asked us to renegotiate," he said.

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Did you know that **Afghanistan** is one of the world's largest suppliers of **lithium**? All your electronic devices that use **lithium** batteries are dependent on it & only a few countries have ... cobalt gold ring, cobalt golden age club, cobalt **goldman**, cobalt **goldman sachs** Admin. Search for: Recent Posts. breadmakernew.com/tag/cobalt-goldman-sachs/

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Afghanistan's mineral deposits to be worth upwards of \$1 trillion and in fact, a classified Pentagon memo called **Afghanistan** the "Saudi Arabia of **lithium**. ...

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■ Talison lithium – Wikinvest

Lithium's extremely low co-efficient of thermal expansion makes these products resistant to thermal shock and imparts mechanical strength. ... China, and **Afghanistan** however Bolivia has a backward, ... **Goldman Sachs** Group Inc. and Fortis Investments.

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■ Afghanistan may be the Saudi Arabia of lithium | Business blog

The New York Times story on the discovery of vast mineral reserves in **Afghanistan** is astonishing, given the unpredictable political consequences. One is that the **Afghanistan** could rival Bolivia as the Saudi Arabia of **lithium** The US US taskforce that is trying to map the reserves of ...
blogs.ft.com/businessblog/2010/06/afghanistan-may-be...

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Afghanistan, it turns out, is rich in minerals – trillions rich. It's going to become the Saudi Arabia of **lithium**, thanks to vast stores of that resource, plus iron, copper, cobalt and gold. ... Masooma Habibi, a graduate of **Goldman Sachs'** "10,000 Women" program at the AUAF, ...
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■ cryptogon.com » U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Deposits Worth ...

U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Deposits Worth \$1 Trillion in **Afghanistan**; "The Saudi Arabia of **Lithium**"; Eventually "One of The Most Important Mining Centers in The World"; ... And **Goldman Sachs** will arrange the financing.

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Jim Risen has a blockbuster story about a gift and a curse for **Afghanistan's** blighted and ... gold and critical industrial metals like **lithium** — are so big and include so many minerals that are ... The Board of advisors has Stephen Friedman, AIG crook, **Goldman Sachs** crook, Federal Reserve ...
attackerman.firedoglake.com/2010/06/13/vast-deposits-of-fodder-for-...

■ NYT: Vast Minerals FOUND (Lithium, Gold) in Afghanistan

The previously unknown deposits — including huge veins of iron, copper, cobalt, gold and critical

industrial metals like **lithium** — are so big and include so many minerals that are essential to modern industry that **Afghanistan** could eventually be transformed into one of the most ...
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infowars.com/the-afghanistan-coincidence/

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[Mining Afghanistan's future – hutchnews.com](#)

Mining **Afghanistan's** future By Kathleen Parker WASHINGTON – Amid all the dark news from **Afghanistan**, every now and then a sliver of light slips through the cracks.
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Historically, the name "Afghan" designated the Pashtun people, the largest ethnic group of **Afghanistan**. [33] ... The country's natural resources include: coal, copper, iron ore, **lithium**, uranium, rare earth elements, chromite, gold, ...
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... General McChrystal General Odierno General Schwartz GFE GISP Global Hawk Global Influence Global Strike Global Zero GLONASS GMD GMR **Goldman Sachs** Google Gordon England Gorgon Stare Government ... Gooden Linda Hudson **Lithium-ion** Batteries ... in **Afghanistan** that the press would ...
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Lithium: The Commodity of the 21st Century [Global X Funds ...

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seekingalpha.com/article/252920-lithium-the-commodity-of...

Will electric cars ignite a lithium boom?

Some suggest the lithium supply could eventually be tighter than oil is today

Tags: [electric cars](#), [lithium](#)



During last year's American presidential campaign, John McCain laid out his plan to jump-start the electric car industry with a US\$600-million reward for whomever could build a better battery. His then rival, Barack Obama, roundly mocked the scheme, calling it a "gimmick." But it turns out that Obama's biggest problem with the plan may have been there weren't enough zeros in the prize.

Any day now, the U.S. Department of Energy is expected to announce the winning recipients of grants to foster a domestic automotive battery industry, and this time the pot is worth US\$2.4-billion. Washington has already handed out US\$8 billion in loans to Ford, Tesla and Nissan to promote cleaner vehicles—which the latter plans to tap to build an automotive battery plant in Tennessee. And just last week Ontario jumped in to pledge incentives of as much as \$10,000 per car to lure drivers into buying electrics.

With such vast sums sloshing around, it's no surprise that companies and investors are rubbing their hands over the prospect of a boom in the market for lithium. This unique metal, so soft you can cut it with a knife and so reactive it can become explosive when it comes in contact with water, is a key ingredient in the next generation of car batteries, and as plug-in hybrids and electric cars hit the mass market, some are wondering where all that

lithium will come from. "There have been a lot of worries out there that all this money that is being spent on lithium-ion battery technology is going to create shortages," says Jacob Grose, an analyst at Lux Research. In other words, if the fear now is Peak Oil, could the crisis next decade be Peak Lithium?

Lithium-ion batteries are far from new. For two decades they've increasingly found their way into iPods and laptops, which now account for 20 per cent of the lithium market. (The rest goes to ceramics, glass and pharmaceuticals.) For the same reasons gadget-makers use them—lithium-ion batteries are lighter than other types, and kick out twice the power—more and more car companies plan to put them into their plug-in hybrids and electric cars.

Along with the environmental benefits, a key driver in this push is to reduce the West's dependence on Middle East oil. But it turns out that with lithium-ion batteries, the U.S. will still be forced to rely on foreigners. China is a major source of the mineral, as are Chile and Argentina, where it is extracted from brine pools. The world's largest undeveloped lithium deposit is located in Bolivia, which has already indicated it won't let foreign companies mine its reserves, and that could be a problem. Bolivia is hardly a friend to the U.S.—the government of President Evo Morales recently accused America's ambassador of trying to break up the country and expelled him. In a report to Congress last month, the U.S. Government Accountability Office warned that by switching from gas-powered cars to lithium battery cars the U.S. could simply "substitute reliance on one foreign resource for another."

This could be a major concern if supplies become strained—and some say they will be as electric cars catch on. Obama aims to have one million electric cars on U.S. roads by 2015, while JPMorgan predicts hybrid sales will reach 9.6 million three years later. Japanese carmaker Mitsubishi has said demand for electric cars could surpass supply by 2015, and a commonly-cited 2006 report by William Tahil of Meridian International Research, entitled *The Trouble With Lithium*, suggests the lithium supply could eventually be tighter than oil is today.

However, others question such predictions. For one thing, though Tahil's report is repeatedly referenced in news reports, there are good reasons to be suspicious of its contents. An earlier study by Tahil on the 9/11 terrorist attacks offered "incontrovertible proof" the towers were destroyed by "nuclear explosions." Even ignoring Tahil's bizarre research history, his report assumes virtually every car sold each year—all 60 million of them—will be electric.

"People who argue we'll have peak lithium make huge assumptions about the size of the market," says Kent Furst, an analyst at the Freedonia Group. The U.S. Geological Survey's lithium analyst, Brian Jaskula, agrees. Should electric cars become wildly popular, he says, there is still enough supply to meet demand for the next decade. That doesn't include the lithium in Bolivia, a large Nevada lithium mine proposed by Vancouver-based Western Lithium, or potential deposits in Canada.

Besides, while engines constantly consume oil, a lithium battery can power a car for years. If lithium supplies do become an issue some day, by then other battery technologies may have taken over, says Bob Kruse, a executive with GM's clean energy vehicle program. While the Chevy Volt electric car debuts next year, the company is already working on the second- and third-generations of the car, testing other types of batteries. "I don't think we're in danger of running out of lithium any time soon," he says.

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The Mind-Body Politic » Afghanistan Has Trillion Dollar ...

Afghanistan Has Trillion Dollar Deposits Of Iron, Copper, and **Lithium**. June 14, 2010. Tags: **afghanistan**, Empire, Globalization, pakistan, propaganda, resources, War mindbodypolitic.com/2010/06/14/afghanistan-has-trillion-dol...

Endless **Afghanistan**? – Ron Paul Forums / Rand Paul Forums ...

Endless **Afghanistan**? ... You could say, it's the typical MO of protecting those **Lithium** rights(natural resources again) for the Fascist-Marxists Green Battery corporate manufacturers too. ... **Goldman Sachs** was top Obama donor. 11-20-2013 01:00 PM #7. AngryCanadian. ronpaulforums.com/showthread.php?433745-Endless-Afghanistan

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Lithium and Obama's Electrification of America

Commodities / Metals & Mining Aug 13, 2009 - 02:50 PM

By: [Richard Mills](#)



Commodities



America's future energy course is being charted today because of the ramifications of peak oil, because cars pollute too much, because of global warming, because America wishes to end her dependence on foreign supplied energy and to be blunt.... Americans need jobs.

Will Bernanke's Secret Debt Solution End The Financial Crisis?

[\(commodityWhale.com\)](#)

"A new energy economy is going to be part of what creates the millions of new jobs that we need," President Obama.

Because of these reasons a whole new industry, a domestic automotive and industrial lithium-ion battery industry, is going to be built.

President Obama recently said, when announcing US\$2.4 billion in grants to accelerate the manufacturing and use of next-generation car batteries and electric vehicles, "I'm committed to a strategy that ensures America leads in the design and the deployment of the next generation of clean-energy vehicles. This is not just an investment to produce vehicles today; this is an investment in our capacity to develop new technologies tomorrow."

Obama's plan is to have one million electric cars on U.S. roads by 2015. JPMorgan predicts hybrid sales will reach 9.6 million cars three years later. Global Strategic Analysts predicts that the market for lithium-ion batteries is likely to grow at a compound annual growth rate of over 32% through 2010. With an increased demand for hybrid automobiles this growth rate will continue.

Commodity rules rule! Will electrification ignite a lithium boom?

Only time will tell. But with lithium batteries going to play a key role in the auto industry and eventually appearing throughout the electrical grid it's entirely plausible, in this author's humble opinion, that lithium is the next break out investment.

There's billions and billions of dollars, courtesy of the government's stimulus package, still to come (Washington has already handed out US\$8 billion in loans) for advanced battery technology R&D companies and battery manufacturers. The auto industry is gearing up to make its first real go at marketing plug-in vehicles for the masses. The start flag has dropped and the race to build lithium-ion batteries for vehicles has started.

If the US does not develop a lithium-ion battery manufacturing sector at home it may very well be shut out of the electric car business – he who makes the batteries will also make the cars. Lithium demand will skyrocket as more and more hybrids roll down the assembly line. Current processing potential is limited, making it vulnerable to market disruption. And limited supplies could mean big profits for lithium miners and producers.

It's extremely hard to believe that any politician or lobbyist would consider sourcing the needed supplies for Obama's Energy Revolution from offshore suppliers and risk the same foreign dependence as they have today with oil. Politicians will fight tooth and nail to avoid importing lithium or lithium-ion batteries.

Because there is so much money being thrown around and because lithium is the key ingredient to make these future electric cars viable it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone if investors are smiling with glee over the prospects of a huge boom in the prices of their favorite lithium explorers and producers.

Will the Electrification of America become unplugged?

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, in a report to congress, warned that by switching from gas-powered cars to lithium battery powered cars the U.S. might simply "substitute reliance on one foreign resource for another."

"Politicians ... ran on a plank based on ending foreign oil dependence, and it is unlikely that voters will want to meekly transfer this dependence to lithium." Said the Council On Hemispheric Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Obama said this during his election campaign...."Finding the new driver of our economy is going to be critical. There's no better driver that pervades all aspects of our economy than a new energy economy...That's going to be my No. 1 priority when I get into office." President Obama

Auto

13 Battery Startups Hitting the Road With Lithium-ion

By John Ger�mire • Last Updated

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By John Ger�mire • Last Updated

With billions of dollars in government funds coming down the pipeline for advanced batteries courtesy of the stimulus package, and the auto industry gearing up to make its first real go at marketing plug-in vehicles for the masses, the race to build lithium-ion batteries for vehicles has never been hotter.

Massive international battery makers may dominate the mobile device and laptop markets for lithium-ion batteries, but a growing number of companies — some founded just in the last year, others that have been around for over a decade — are racing to carve out a piece of the battery vehicle market. They have their work cut out for them, however, as more established companies such as Sony, Hitachi and NEC are eyeing the same prize.

As the money rolls out and competition heats up, here are 13 battery startups you should know about:

A123Systems: Massachusetts-based A123Systems, working with nanotech materials licensed from MIT, has attracted big-name backers including General Electric, Robert Bosch and Qualcomm. The startup had raised \$3.2 million by late 2007, and last year filed for an IPO. But A123 has since revised its registration with the SEC (www.sec.gov) taking into account its work on road Street and in the auto industry, and most recently the introduction of new government incentives and has yet to go public.

Runner-up to supply cells for General Motors' Chevy Volt and winner of a deal with Chrysler to make modules and battery packs for the struggling automaker's planned plug-in vehicles, A123 is also working on energy storage systems for electric utilities and got its start with batteries for power tools. The company has its eye on at least two DOE programs, and has won state-level support as part of Michigan's efforts to lure battery manufacturing jobs.

ActaCell: Having raised \$5.8 million in a Series A round led by DIF Mercury and joined by Google.org last summer, ActaCell has been working toward a 2010 commercial launch. ActaCell's devices, which it expects to have a longer cycle life at lower costs than the competition, are based on technology developed at the University of Texas at Austin. The company has joined the National Alliance for Advanced Transportation Battery Cell Manufacturers, a group of 50 U.S. companies that plan to invest more than \$600 million in a battery R&D center in Kentucky. If DOE funds come through.

Boston-Power: Massachusetts-based laptop battery maker Boston-Power unveiled a new battery for plug-in vehicles in May 2009. The 4-year-old company hasn't released many details about this "Swing" model, other than to say that it will deliver "industry-leading capabilities" in areas such as energy density, lifespan, safety, cost savings and environmental sustainability.

While Boston-Power says it has enough manufacturing capacity to produce millions of cells per month in Asia, it aims to build a new lithium-ion battery factory within three years in Auburn, Mass., for both laptop and vehicle battery cells — if it wins approval from the DOE for about \$100 million in grants. Otherwise, Boston-Power plans to continue to grow and open more factories to meet demand, but probably not statewide.

CFX Battery: Co-founded less than a year ago by Rachid Yazami, research director of Princeton's National Center for Scientific Research, Caltech professor Robert H. Grubisic and French chemist Andrew Kamel,

CFX Battery is working with technology developed at Caltech to produce prismatic (flat), cylindrical, thin film and coin lithium-ion cells.

The Azusa, Calif.-based startup has reportedly raised \$15 million and now says it is growing its team and seeking alliances with major equipment manufacturers as it develops batteries for not only electric cars but also medical devices, mobile phones, laptops, and military and industrial applications. Anticipating a lithium squeeze down the road and eyeing lower-cost alternatives, Yazami tells the New York Times that he is also "trying to develop a battery powered by nano-particles of sodium and water."

Electrovaya: Mississauga, Ontario-based Electrovaya makes battery systems (cells, modules and interfaces) for hybrid and electric vehicles — including some of its own, such as the low-speed electric Maya 300 that rolled last month in a small Electrovaya-backed car-sharing program. Working with nanoscale lithium-ion polymer technology, Electrovaya snags three deals with Chinese manufacturers late last year, and also has agreements with India's Tata Motors and Norway's Niloq Innovasjon for highway-speed electric cars. The company was founded in 1996 and began trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange four years later.

Enexi: Founded 13 years ago as a battery consulting service in Tokyo, Exni is now working on "lithium ion cells especially for future hybrid and electric drives in automobiles" with battery giant Continental, which bought a 15 percent stake in the company last year. Exni claims the new batteries will be safer and have a longer service life than today's offerings, as AutoblogGreen reports. The company, which aims to provide batteries for "electric vehicles, submarines, fuel cell systems, etc.," also supplies electrodes to other companies.

Envia Systems: Based in Hayward, Calif., early-stage Envia Systems raised a \$3.2 million first round of financing late last year from Bay Partners and Redpoint Ventures to help with development of "high performance, low cost energy storage solutions using lithium ion batteries" for plug-in vehicles.

Imara: Founded in 2006, Menlo Park, Calif.-based Imara is working on small-format batteries for power tools and outdoor equipment, with the goal of eventually producing vehicle batteries after it builds "a solid economic base." As Bill Hague tells Triple Pundit, still, the company has requested stimulus funds from the DOE to build a plant in Portland, Ore., to produce cells for plug-in hybrid vehicle batteries.

Imara has raised \$20 million in venture capital (investors include Battery Ventures and 6th Power) and licenses its technology from SRI International. The company told us late last year that it aimed to use the funds to ramp up annual production capacity to at least 8 million cells by the end of 2009, with electrode manufacturing facilities in Menlo Park, Calif., and assembly for small-format batteries contracted out in Asia.

Mobius Power: Based in Fremont, Calif., Mobius Power aims to produce lithium-ion batteries with high energy density for mobile phones, notebook computers, backup power for the grid, and hybrid vehicles. Founded in 2007 with a reported \$4.5 million investment from Walden International, LightSpeed Venture Partners and Sigma Partners, the company is not revealing many details, but says its "technology is based on innovative and patented developments in the research laboratories at a major U.S. corporation."

Salt3D: Salt3D has been amassing funds and partnerships since we first wrote about its \$2 million investment from Khosla Ventures last year. It remains tight-lipped about its technology, however, which stems from research led by CEO Ann Marie Sastri, who heads up University of Michigan's energy systems engineering program.

Salt3D has won significant support from the state of Michigan and partnered with General Motors, a move designed to strengthen both companies' requests for government aid and a vote of confidence in the startup's cell tech. In a separate deal, Sastri is already helping to retain 50 GR engineers at the University of Michigan. To reach commercial-scale manufacturing within three years, Salt3D hopes to get a \$15 million grant from the Department of Energy.

Sequoia: Sequoia has developed a nano-structured solid-state battery based on a solid polymer electrolyte that founder and technology director Mohit Singh says is more stable, safer, and has a higher energy density than lithium-ion batteries now on the market. For comparison, MIT's Technology Review explains, "Today's lithium-ion batteries use lithium cobalt oxide electrodes and a liquid electrolyte...the electrode material can release oxygen when overcharged or punctured, causing the flammable solvent to catch fire and the battery to explode."

Singh developed the nanostructured polymer electrolyte as a post-doctoral fellow at Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, and says the batteries can deliver 300 watt-hours per kilogram (compared with less than 250 watt-hours per kilogram for a traditional lithium-ion battery) and can operate at a much higher temperature than the competition. The company

has reportedly raised around \$2 million in funding from investors including Khosla Ventures.

Pleasant Energy Devices: Founded in 2007 as a spin-off from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Pleasant is working on solid-state, high-capacity batteries. Of \$50 million in DOE funds come through, the startup plans to start production at a shuttered lithium-ion battery factory built over a decade ago in Danvers, MA.

When we wrote about Pleasant last fall it had one technology that it wanted to use for micro, mid-sized and large batteries — starting with military applications and smart cards. The company's thin film batteries, designed with a "barrierized safety separator," that Pleasant says protects cells from thermal and overcharge abuse, are supposed to charge in seconds, have a high energy density, last 400-500 life cycles and be safer than traditional lithium-ion batteries. These days Pleasant's focus seems to have shifted more to vehicle batteries, at least for the purpose of securing stimulus funds.

Quallion: Although Quallion has been around since 1998, making lithium-ion cells and batteries at high volume for medical and military applications, and in custom designs for aerospace and other applications, the company is a relative newcomer to the plug-in vehicle battery market. It has requested \$229 million in stimulus funds from the DOE to build a factory in Palmdale, Calif., with capacity to produce 20,000 lithium-ion batteries a year for hybrid cars and trucks by 2012, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Co-founded by billionaire Alfred Wohl, Quallion has won support for its bid from the delegations of 32 California representatives in Congress, and the state Energy Committee, which has pledged to provide up to \$8 million if the DOE gives the green light. An Automotive World reporter, Corallion aims to produce lithium ion batteries for cars as well as "batteries that replace engine lifting as a stationary power source for heavy-duty trucks" at the proposed Palmdale facility.

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Lithium Ion Batteries and Organized Crime

Was Afghanistan invaded because the CIA and Goldman Sachs said there is “trillions of dollars” of Lithium ion material there?

The ultimate goal of a career criminal politician is to run an agency, or top committee, in order to conduit money to friends and keep the lid on cover-ups. Those at the heads of agencies and committees are often the dirtiest of the dirty. They get themselves put there in order to run the scams. **Who ran agencies** that conduit-ed money and covered up and stalled investigations? Why is the CIA's In-Q-Tel connected to every single one of the Silicon Valley billionaires?

Was Tesla funded not to build cars but to lock-up **lithium ion deals for it's investors?**

Why are dozens of conspiracy lawsuits now filed on lithium ion company racketeering?

Why is every major Silicon Valley VC who was connected to Steven Chu and massive campaign funding involved in a lithium ion deal?

Why are there multiple “task forces” looking at lithium ion finance relationships?

Why was the **Russian mob** involved in Lithium Ion mining?

Did all of these people know that lithium ion blows up quite a lot and emits deadly gases?

Let's discuss...

S- Denver Post, C- NY Times

Rechargeable Lithium Battery Antitrust Class Action Lawsuit

... Hitachi, LG Chem, Samsung, and Sanyo for allegedly conspiring to fix and raise the prices of **lithium-ion** rechargeable batteries in violation of U.S. antitrust law ...

<http://www.lieffcabraser.com/> Case-Center/ Rechargeable-Lithium-Battery-Antitrust-Class-Action-Lawsuit.shtml – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

Complaint

The Defendants' **Conspiracy** Stabilized and Raised **Lithium Ion** The subject of this **lawsuit** and the Defendants' **conspiracy** is **Lithium Ion** Rechargeable.

<http://www.hbsslaw.com/> Templates/ media/ files/ case_pdfs/ Batteries%20Antitrust/ Class%20Action%20Complaint.pdf – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

United States – Mondaq.Com

5 Feb 2014 ... In the **lithium ion** battery cells case, the defendant manufacturers argued that the ... A direct purchaser subsidiary is unlikely to bring a **lawsuit** for damages 2nd Circuit Rejects DOJ's "Continuing Conspiracy" Theory In ...

<http://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/article.asp?articleid=291110> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

Lithium Ion Rechargeable Batteries Class Action Lawsuit

Price-Fixing Class Action for **Lithium Ion** Rechargeable Batteries ... agreement, or **conspiracy** to fix, raise, maintain, or stabilize the prices of these batteries.

<http://www.girardgibbs.com/> lithium-ion-rechargeable-batteries-antitrust-class-action/ – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

Patent encumbrance of large automotive NiMH batteries – Wikipedia ...

The current trend in the industry is towards the development of **lithium-ion** guilty of conspiring to buy and dismantle the Los Angeles electric street car system, ... In August 2008, Mercedes-Benz sued Cobasys for again refusing to fill a large, ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent_encumbrance_of_large_automotive_NiMH_batteries – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

Lawsuits accuse **lithium ion** battery makers of price fixing ...

12 Nov 2012 ... The world's largest manufacturers of rechargeable **lithium ion** ... are being sued for allegedly engaging in a decade-long **conspiracy** to fix prices ...

<http://www.northjersey.com/> news/

Lawsuits_accuse_makers_lithium_ion_battery_makers_and_North_Jersey_subsidaries_of_price_fixing.html – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[City Attorney's Statement Regarding Lithium Ion Battery Anti-Trust ...](#)

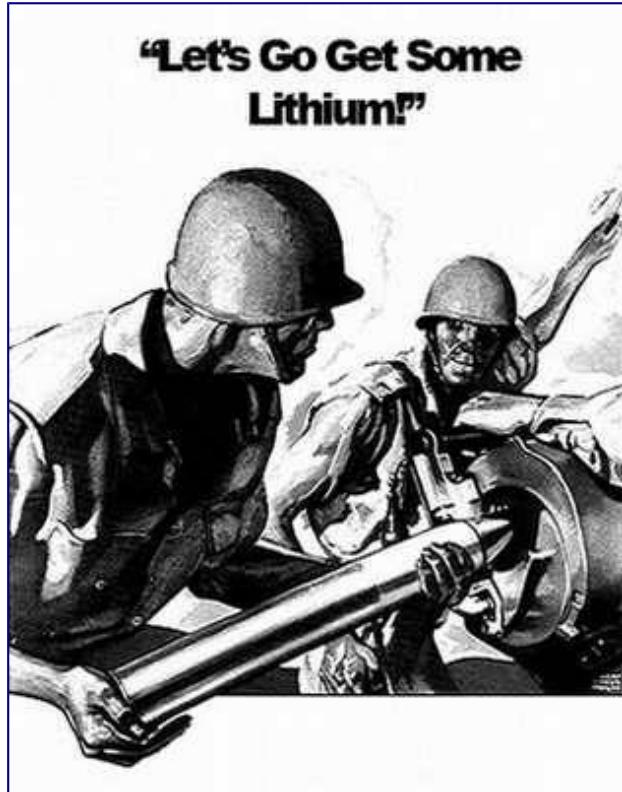
8 May 2013... are alleged to have conspired to fix prices of Li-Ion batteries that were included in ... Palo Alto purchased many devices containing Li-Ion batteries, ... These staff costs will be fully reimbursed in any resolution of the litigation.

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/> news/ displaynews.asp?NewsID=2236 &TargetID=268, 60, 75, 235, 94, 84, 85, 87, 287, 288, 106, 99, 121, 2, 124, 125, 126, 133, 134, 328, 137, 145, 140, 239, 322, 325 – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Class Actions | Sotos LLP](#)

December 20, 2013, The **lawsuit**, on behalf of nearly a million Ontario ... **lithium** battery manufacturers and resellers alleging they conspired with each other to ...

<http://www.sotosllp.com/class-actions/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)



Lithium Ion battery Antitrust Litigation | Lithium Ion battery Price Fixing

ALLEGED ILLEGAL OVER-PRICING OF LITHIUM ION BATTERIES ... into whether certain manufacturers illegally conspired to over-price **Lithium Ion** batteries ...

<http://www.zimmreed.com/Over-Pricing-of-Lithium-Ion-Batteries/63629/> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

USDOJ: Panasonic and Its Subsidiary Sanyo Agree to Plead Guilty ...

Jul 18, 2013 ... SANYO and LG Chem Ltd. have agreed to plead guilty for their roles in a **conspiracy** to fix the prices of cylindrical **lithium ion** battery cells sold ...

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2013/July/13-at-808.html> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

Antitrust Investigation – **Lithium Ion** Rechargeable ... – scott and scott llp

Lithium Ion Rechargeable Batteries are used as a power source for ... of major securities, antitrust, and employee retirement plan class action lawsuits.

<http://www.scott-scott.com/cases/investigations/securities-fraud-litigation-1771-antitrust-investigation-lithium-ion-rechargeable-batteries.html> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

Class Action Lawsuits Mount Against Battery Price-Fixing Cartel

Oct 31, 2012 ... Manufacturers of **lithium ion** batteries face at least 10 class action lawsuits ... The plaintiffs allege the defendants entered into the **conspiracy** ...

<http://www.topclassactions.com/lawsuit-settlements/lawsuit-news/2814-class-action-lawsuits-mount-against-battery-price-fixing-cartel/> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

Class Suits Charge Battery Makers With Global Price-Fixing ...

Oct 24, 2012 ... Litigation is mounting against the world's biggest manufacturers of rechargeable **lithium ion** batteries, who consumers accuse of complicity in an illegal ... Class Suits Charge Battery Makers With Global Price-Fixing **Conspiracy**.

<http://www.njlawjournal.com/id=1202576057659/> Class-Suits-Charge-Battery-Makers-With-Global-Price-Fixing-**Conspiracy** – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

Antitrust Litigation – Pearson, Simon & Warshaw, LLP

The Los Angeles antitrust litigation lawyers of Pearson, Simon & Warshaw have prevailed in class action lawsuits against major corporations for price fixing conspiracies. ... **Lithium Ion** Batteries: PSW attorneys currently serve as interim co -lead ...

<http://www.pswlaw.com/Practice-Areas/Antitrust-Litigation.aspx> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

Rechargeable Lithium Battery Antitrust Class Action Lawsuit

... Hitachi, LG Chem, Samsung, and Sanyo for allegedly conspiring to fix and raise the prices of **lithium-ion** rechargeable batteries in violation of U.S. antitrust law ...

<http://www.lieffcabraser.com/Case-Center/Rechargeable-Lithium-Battery-Antitrust-Class-Action-Lawsuit.shtml> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

A laptop battery cabal: Panasonic pleads guilty to price fixing ...

Jul 19, 2013 ... Sanyo agreed to pay \$10.7 million for the battery cells **conspiracy** and ... into anticompetitive conduct in the cylindrical **lithium-ion** battery cell ...

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/2044740/panasonic-pleads-guilty-to-laptop-battery-pack-price-fixing.html> – View by Ixquick Proxy – Highlight

THE WAR FOR BATTERY PROFITS

It is the nature of human males to seek to kill each other in large numbers at regular intervals.

History has demonstrated, since the dawn of written documentation, that men will congeal and chop, hack, maim, rape, butcher, torture and kill other groups of men in vastly large numbers.

There are always tribal wars, territory wars, regional wars and ethnic wars devastating large groups of people at every point in time, somewhere in the world.

The women and children are, generally, hacked up too, if they are in the vicinity.

This has brought about government support for sports stadiums in every city, in order to provide an outlet for the more brutal members of society. (There appear to be a lot of the more brutal members according to sports participation statistics.)

Once men get mad in groups, some vapors, brain chemistry or electromagnetic mish-mosh seems to keep increasing the anger, increasing the lack of compassion and increasing the willingness to suspend social decency. Then the atrocity cycles begin. Atrocity, revenge, atrocity, revenge; ad infinitude.

Back at the HQ, once the statisticians finally realize that no economic gain can come from the event, the whole thing is called off.

That part of world then mourns, despairs, cries out “never again”... and then it all starts up and repeats again, 15 to 20 years later, or so.

In the modern world, we have some new wrinkles. You can now go from your part of the world to somebody else's part of the world in less than a day. In most of those cases, the other side can't afford to get to your part of the world. The warfare scenarios can be more like slumming than like full-on ground-for-ground battles than ever before.

The other wrinkle is that, in some countries, only four or five men can start a war for personal gain. A factory owner, a distributor and a law firm can get together and say, for example: “hmmmm, if only we could control the main part of the lithium production...?” “what if we made lithium

suddenly become very important after we had already roped in all of the big sources for it...?” “we could monopolize a multi TRILLION dollar market!”

Then, if their partners said: “oh yes, that’s a great scheme”, all they need to do is put \$200,000.00 into 15 senators pockets and war will happen in a region which they think they can take over.

Unless the public is paying attention. This time, the public might have been paying attention...

How Google rigged The U.S. Department of Energy in order to profit from it's lithium mines for Tesla, Driverless Cars and Android Phones

U.S. Department of Energy puts endless hit-jobs and economic attacks on funding applicants who are not crooked campaign finance billionaires

Not only will your company get media character assassinations put on it by tabloids who share the same financial connections as Department of Energy (DOE) executives, but that will only be the beginning of the pain.

If your company tries to go back for funding, after getting a hot poker rammed up its backside by DOE officials (on orders from campaign financiers) you will be ordered to agree to remove all of your old claims against the Department of Energy, knowing full well they are just going to screw you again.

There appears to be no justice, no ethics and no lack of Silicon Valley control of the United States Department of Energy.

The U.S. Energy Department gave all of its available cash to big financial backers of the Obama Administration while, at the same time, defrauding, sabotaging, black-listing, stone-walling, delaying, and ponzi-scheming all of the applicants who competed with the portfolios of those campaign finance billionaires.

The same people and handlers still run the Energy Department. The same Obama Administration still controls the Energy Department. The same orders exist to hand cash ONLY to campaign financiers and sabotage their competitors who apply. This process has cost the lives, health, jobs, national prestige and innovation lead of America and of every American.

If you are an energy or car company, The U.S. Department of Energy has it hooked up so that they decide if you get to exist in America. Tesla Motor's head of Marketing walked away from Tesla, And the DOE, when he saw how crooked the scheme was. Even today in 2016, it has only gotten worse. Here is his story:

In Role as Kingmaker, the Energy Department Stifles Innovation



By Darryl Siry – Former senior executive at Tesla Motors

Of all of the Department of Energy programs intended to advance the green agenda while stimulating the economy, the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing incentive to spur the development of cleaner, greener automobiles is perhaps the most ambitious. But it has a downside.

The energy department has approved direct loans to Nissan, Ford, Tesla Motors and Fisker Automotive totaling about \$8 billion out of a budget of \$25 billion. The magnitude of this program dwarfs other DOE campaigns like the \$2.4 billion given to battery and electric vehicle component manufacturers and the \$4 billion disbursed for “smart grid” projects.

To the recipients the support is a vital and welcome boost. But this massive government intervention in private capital markets may have the unintended consequence of stifling innovation by reducing the flow of private capital into ventures that are not anointed by the DOE.

To understand this apparent contradiction, you have to look at the market from the perspective of venture capitalists looking to deploy investors’ capital and startups looking to attract it.

Venture capitalists evaluate a company on the basis of whether they think it will succeed and generate returns for their portfolios. While this evaluation is a function of many things, one key question is how much more capital the company will need to get its product to market or a liquidity event so that the venture capitalist can see a return. The more capital it needs, the more dilutive it will be to the early investors.

In cleantech, and in particular alternative fuel vehicles, the capital requirements for companies bringing a car to market in significant numbers can be extraordinarily high, reaching into the hundreds of millions of dollars if the company wants to build its own manufacturing facilities.

To a venture capitalist, this capital requirement can be daunting. This is why government financing is so attractive. In the case of the [advanced technology manufacturing loans](#), the DOE steps up for 80 percent of the total amount needed. Private sources fund the other 20 percent. This amounts to free leverage for the venture capitalist's bet, with no downside. Hedge funds historically used massive leverage to generate outsized returns, but if the trade turns against them, that same leverage multiplies their downside and can lead to financial ruin. In the case of the DOE loans or grants, the upside is multiplied and the downside remains the same since the most the equity investor can lose is the original investment.

The proposition is so irresistible that any reasonable person would prefer to back a company that has received a DOE loan or grant than a company that has not. It is this distortion of the market for private capital that will have a stifling effect on innovation, as private capital chases fewer deals and companies that do not have government backing have a harder time attracting private capital. This doesn't mean deals won't get done outside of the energy department's umbrella, but it means fewer deals will be done and at worse terms.

According to Earth2Tech, venture capitalist [John Doerr commented on this](#) at the GreenBeat conference earlier this month, saying "If we'd been able to foresee the crash of the market we wouldn't probably have launched a green initiative. Because these ventures really need capital. The only way in which we were lucky I think is that the government stepped in, particularly the Department of Energy. Led by this great administration that put in place these loan guarantees."

Several sources within startup companies seeking DOE loans or grants have admitted that private fundraising is complicated by investor expectations of government support. None would speak publicly due to the sensitivity of the issue and the ongoing application process.

[Aptera Motors](#) has struggled this year to raise money to fund production of the [Aptera 2e](#), its innovative aerodynamic electric 3-wheeler, recently laying off 25 percent of its staff to focus on pursuing a DOE loan. According to a source close to the company, "all of the engineers are working on documentation for the DOE loan. Not on the vehicle itself." Another highly placed source at Aptera told Wired.com many potential investors wanted to see [approval of the DOE loan](#) before committing to invest.

Startup companies that enjoy DOE support, most notably [Tesla Motors](#) and [Fisker Automotive](#), have an extraordinary advantage over potential competitors since they have secured access to capital on very cheap terms. The magnitude of this advantage puts the DOE in the role of kingmaker with the power to vault a small startup with no product on the market -- as is the case with Fisker -- into a potential global player on the back of government financial support.

As a result, the vibrant and competitive market for ideas chasing venture capital that has been the

engine of innovation for decades in the United States is being subordinated to the judgments and political inclinations of a government bureaucracy that has never before wielded such market power.

A potential solution to this problem may seem counter-intuitive. The best way to avoid market distortion would be for the DOE to cast the net more broadly and provide loans and grants to a larger number of companies — which ironically means being less selective. Subject to the existing equity matching requirement, this would allow the private markets to function more effectively in funding a broader range of companies and driving more innovation. Several innovative companies with great potential have been in the DOE pipeline for many months. Perhaps it is time for the DOE to stop playing favorites and start spreading the love.

Wired.com contacted the Department of Energy for comment but did not receive a reply.

Disclosure: Darryl Siry was the chief marketing officer of Tesla Motors from December 2006 until December 2008 and is a special advisor to Coda Automotive, which has not sought an Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan.

Photo: Ford Motor Co. Energy Secretary Steven Chu addresses Ford employees on June 23, 2009, after announcing the automaker will receive a \$5.9 billion loan.

The Green mobsters of the 1% and their Divine Disinformation Campaigns. Raiding the Lithium for their electric car bank accounts.



Al Capone and many of the biggest, most notorious, criminals, they hide in plain sight.

They use the Green-washing cover story of “saving the planet”.

They think that the auditors and investigative reporters won’t look at them so hard if everyone believes they are just feeding unicorns and doing happy wonderful things instead of running secret societies, high-end sex clubs and doing crime.

The Bohemian Club, The Stanford Guardsmen, The Key Club, Kappa Beta Phi, The Silicon Valley Cartel, The NVCA and Skull and Bones are all “Collusion Clubs” created by a small group of rich White Males to operate monopolies.

Kleiner Perkins, and the Silicon Valley Cartel, partnered with Russian Mobsters to stage lithium and other mining scams. Let's take a look at some of their partners:

Russian Organized Crime Bosses & Steven Chu Cash:

The “Russian Businessmen” held multiple meetings with the Silicon Valley suspects and, along with their associates who are now on FBI Watch Lists, engaged in contracts with them. Why did Steven Chu give so much emergency

Department of Energy cash to Russian billionaires at Severstal, Ener1 and others? Was this part of a kick-back in exchange for Russian mob/"businessman" support for Afghan mining equipment?

Text of Congressional Letter Questioning Energy Department Approval of \$730 Million Loan Made to Subsidiary of Russian Company Headed by Billionaire

27 Oct

jdt | October 27th, 2011 | [Big Government](#), [Economics](#), [Fiscal Responsibility](#), [Leadership](#), [Politics](#), [The Economy](#) | [No Comments](#) »

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#Occupy the Department of Energy! Or, loans for Russian billionaires?

October 27, 2011

I must've missed the memo announcing the rebirth of the [Friends of Angelo](#) program under the aegis of the Department of Energy. Under the leadership of Secretary Chu (Like his boss, a Nobel Prize winner. Be impressed.), the DoE has [fast-tracked](#) and awarded loans with [preferential terms](#) (1) to a failing "Green" energy company, [Solyndra](#); a "Green" car company, [Fisker](#), which plans to make its cars [in Finland](#), when they get around to actually making the cars; and another "Green" automaker, [Tesla](#), which builds [Gaia-friendly cars](#) for the elite one-percent. And on which Tesla [loses money](#).

All these loans, totaling about \$1.5 billion taxpayer dollars, were doled out to companies with [connections to big donors to the Democrats and Obama](#). (See [also](#))

But this one has to be the cake-topper — \$730 million to [a Russian billionaire](#):

Another controversial U.S. Department of Energy "green" loan is coming under scrutiny.

Last July the Obama administration issued a \$730 million low interest "green" loan to Russia's second largest steel company, whose chief executive is a Russian tycoon personally worth \$18 billion and who has close ties to Russia's Vladimir Putin.

An influential House oversight chairman is now questioning why taxpayer funds from the Department of Energy are being used to assist the highly capitalized foreign-based steel company.

The DOE renewable energy loan was awarded this summer to Severstal North America to produce high strength steel at its Dearborn, Michigan facility. Steel is not in short supply in the United States and current U.S. steel plants are operating under capacity.

The DOE loan is part of a controversial \$40 billion renewable energy loan program organized under its Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program called

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ATVM. The program is supposed to help financially starved companies in the green auto manufacturing field by providing taxpayer-supported low interest loans.

As PJM's Richard Pollock points out, the billionaire, Alexei Mordashov, is the 29th richest man in the world. Mordashov's company, Severstal, recently made \$1.2 billion from the sale of several steel mills in Ohio and other states. He could finance Dearborn plant out of his own pocket and still have enough left over to buy his own [miniature giraffe](#) (2)

And then there's the question of why Severstal, a fully-capitalized company that's neither in the auto or "Green industries," qualifies for loans meant to help "green auto manufacturing."

Why, if I were a cynic, I might suspect some sort of a payoff here.

Nah. I must just be a *RAAAAACIST!* and a hater. Or something.

Footnote:

- (1) Read: "They get the gold mine, the taxpayer gets the shaft."
(2) I love that commercial.

(Crossposted at [Sister Toldjah](#))

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Posted by Phineas Fahrquar

that the type of steel was even eligible for federal loan consideration under the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program (ATVM) overseen by the Department of Energy (DOE)

Following is the text (footnotes omitted) of Issa's letter to Secretary Chu:

October 26, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu...

Dear Mr. Chu:

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee is conducting oversight of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program (ATVM). The Committee is concerned about DOE's decision to offer a \$730 million conditional loan commitment to Severstal North America, a subsidiary of the Russian steel and mining company OAO Severstal, to improve an advanced high strength steel (AHSS) plant in Dearborn, Michigan. Of specific concern is that Severstal was already moving forward with production plans before the ATVM loan was approved with apparently no need for federal financing. Finally, it is not clear that AHSS manufactured by Severstal is eligible for ATVM loan consideration.

According to DOE, "[t]he ATVM Loan Program provides loans to automobile and automobile parts manufacturers for the cost of reequipping, expanding, or establishing manufacturing facilities in the United States to produce advanced technology vehicles or qualified components, and for associated engineering integration costs." Unlike many applicants to the ATVM program, OAO Severstal is a multibillion-dollar Russian company with steel and mining operations throughout Europe, Africa, and North America. According to *Forbes* magazine, the CEO of Severstal, Alexei Mordashov, is one of the world's wealthiest persons with a net worth of \$18.5 billion. Mr. Mordashov has close ties to Vladimir Putin and other powerful people involved in Russian politics and business within a cadre known as "The St. Petersburg Group." Accordingly, it does not appear that Severstal would have any difficulty self-financing the Dearborn project or finding financing on the open market.

Announcements made by Severstal during the loan consideration process indicated that the company had ample means to carry out the project. In March 2011, before receiving taxpayer funds, Severstal had already sold plants in Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland in order to shift financial resources to its Dearborn facility. Following these closings, Severstal then announced a \$740 million modernization project at the facility. Surprisingly, in June 2011, DOE granted an ATVM loan to Severstal, months after the decision to undertake the Dearborn project had already been made. Given the immense wealth and power of Severstal's CEO and the fact that the corporation had already made significant investments in the project, it is surprising that DOE would choose Severstal for a loan meant to spark new businesses and technologies within the automotive industry.

The Committee is also concerned that the loan to Severstal is not consistent with the purpose of the ATVM program. For a business to qualify for an ATVM loan, it must be either an "automobile manufacturer or a component supplier that undertakes a project that reequips, expands, or establishes manufacturing facilities in the United States ... which provide meaningful improvements in fuel economy performance beyond specified levels" (emphasis added). Since Severstal clearly does not manufacture automobiles, it could only qualify as a component part manufacturer. Steel, whether AHSS or otherwise, is clearly a material used to make components. Thus, Severstal should not be eligible for the ATVM loan program.

Finally, AHSS is not in short supply in the United States. Numerous American AHSS manufacturing facilities already exist and currently produce under capacity. In fact, current total U.S. AHSS production capacity is just over six million tons per year, nearly two million tons more than the estimated AHSS peak demand in 2020. It would seem to be a waste of taxpayer funds to subsidize Severstal's AHSS facility when there is already more than enough production available for this material.

In light of these numerous concerns, I request that you respond to the following questions, and provide the requested documents:

Alexey Mordashov

Received DOE Funds Via Severstal:

Alexey Mordashov -General director of “Severstal group”, Chairman of the board of directors in “Power Machines”, the largest shareholder of “Arcelor”,

<http://rumafia.com/person.php?id=54>

Surname: Mordashov

Name: Alexey

Fathername: Aleksandrovich

Position: General director of “Severstal group”, Chairman of the board of directors in “Power Machines”, the largest shareholder of “Arcelor”, a member of board of RSPP.

Biography

Mordashov Alexey Aleksandrovich was born on September 26, 1965 in Cherepovets in the Vologda area in workers’ family; Russian. In 1988 he graduated with excellence from the Leningrad Engineering-Economical Institute. During study he got acquainted with Anatoly Chubais.

From 1988 till 1989 – Senior Economist in maintenance and repair shop #1 of the Cherepovets Metallurgical Plant (CMP).

In 1989-1991 – Head of Bureau of Economics and Labor of MRS#1 at CMP.

In 1991-1992 – Deputy Director of planning department of CMP.

In 1992-1993 – Deputy Director of Economics and Finance at CMP.

Since 1993 – Financial Director of CMP (now CMP is renamed into Open Joint-Stock Company “Severstal”). Simultaneously the chairman of board of directors of joint-stock company “Severstal-Invest”. He was one of creators of the plant privatization program, and transition to active marketing practice in metal trading. Company “Severstal-Invest” was engaged in sale of rolled metal products, motor vehicles and the weapon, cultivation, processing and sale of fish, realtor and security-detective activity.

Since March, 1996 – chairman of board of “Severstal-holding” LLC (Cherepovets).

Since March, 1996 – chairman of board of directors of Joint-Stock Company “Severstal-invest” (Cherepovets).

Since September 1996 till June, 2002 – General Director of “Severstal” OAO.

Since November, 1997 – chairman of board of directors in Metkombank (Cherepovets). He was a councilor of bank “Metallinvest”. Then he was trained on courses of managers in England (in the late nineties he completed the MBA program of Newcastle Business school (NBS) in the University of Northumbria (UNN, Great Britain).

Since June, 2000 – the councilor of directors of Joint-Stock Company «Izhora pipe factory», joint venture of «Izhora factories» OAO and “Severstal” OAO. In October, 2000 he was selected as a member of bureau of board of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP).

Since June, 2001 – coordinator of RSPP Working group.

From April 2001 till April, 2003 – member of the Supervisory board of «Industrial Construction Bank» (ICB).

Since June, 2002 – chairman of the board of directors of “Severstal” OAO.

Since 2002 – General Director of “Severstal group” ZAO.

Since August, 2002 – the chairman of the board of directors of “SSM-Tyazhmash” LLC, subsidiary of “Severstal group” ZAO.

Since December, 2002 – the judicial arbitrator at the Commission on Ethics of RSPP created for settlement of corporate disputes.

In May, 2003 he was included in structure of Business Council at the government of the Russian Federation.

In December, 2003 he became the authorized representative of president Putin on presidential election on March, 14th, 2004.

In 2003 Forbes magazine included Mordashov in the list of 500 richest people in the world (348th place, fortune – 1.2 billion dollars).

In February, 2004 “Severstal” OAO informed that Mordashov supervised 82.75% of stocks of “Severstal”.

Since June, 2004 – councilor of directors of bank “Rossiya” (St.-Petersburg).

In February 2006 “Finance” magazine estimated Mordashov’s capital at 6.0 billion dollars (the tenth place in Russia).

In March, 2006 there was a next rating of Forbes Magazine in which Mordashov was on the 64th place in the world (fortune – 7.6 billion dollars).

Member of Board of guardians of RDC «Expert institute» at Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP);

Member of Advisory council on the innovations created by Ministry of Industry and Science of the Russian Federation.

He is awarded with the order «For Merits for Country» of the I and II degrees.

The winner of the All-Russia competition of businessmen “Career-96”. In December, 2000 Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs called him the best businessman of the year.

Speaks English and German.

Mordashov is married for the second time. He has three sons – one from the first marriage, two – from the second one.

Takes a great interest in poetry, painting, active winter kinds of sports.

Source: <http://www.anticompromat.org/>

Dossier:

By 2001 there were no any compromising materials concerning Mordashov on pages of the mass-media. As for unpleasant stories – only divorce with the wife and the ignominious alimony to the son. The only thing that was spoken about him appeared in July, 2001. Mordashov was supposed to be offered a post of the chairman in the Russian government. In reply to that Mordashov declared that even if he had been offered the post he would have had to refuse it.

Source: <http://www.rb.ru>

In 2004 in mass media the materials convicting Mordashov of dishonest engagement of “Severstal” were published. The ex-general director of Cherepovets Metallurgical Plant Yury Lipuhin – who promoted Mordashov on a career ladder – became an information source. When Mordashov was already the director of “Severstal” the plant suffered from an attempt of raid capture. Trans-

World Group tried to persuade Mordashov to sell the plant (it was represented by well known businessmen Vladimir Lisin, Mikhail Chernoy, Oleg Deripaska) but he resisted. After those events Mordashov convinced Lipuhin that the plant shares needed to be privatized not to admit strangers to the enterprise. The plant released metal under the low prices to the company “Severstal-Invest” created for that purpose; Mordashov spent millions of gross margin from resale on purchase of vouchers and shares from workers. So he became the owner of 51% of shares of “Severstal” and Lipuhin – 49 %.

In 1998 there was a conflict between two proprietors – Mordashov decided to diversify business and began to buy up industrial actives: stocks of ports in St.Petersburg, Tuapse and East port, coal mines, Kolomna diesel factory, UAZ factory. Lipuhin was against of such diversification of the business. In the beginning of 2001 Mordashov redeemed from Lipuhin 49 % of “Severstal-Guarant” with the big discount; Lipuhin is still offended by Mordashov for that. The latter during had enemies that period – Zavolzhsky motor factory became a subject of his conflict to GAZ owner Oleg Deripaska. Together with the head of “Eurazholding” Alexander Abramov, Mordashov struggled for “Kuzbassugol”, the metallurgical market was divided with Iskander Mahmudov.

Source: «Forbes», 4/10/2004

In youth during internship in Austria Mordashov had a conflict with the son of the minister of ferrous metallurgy Serafim Kolpakov Sergey. The minister demanded for Yury Lipuhin dismissed Mordashov, but Lipuhin then defended the young perspective employee.

Source: «Forbes», 4/10/2004

In 2001 the first spouse of Mordashov, Elena declared that Alexey Mordashov did not help their son sufficiently, didn't let her arrange private life and promoted her dismissal from work. For 2000 Mordashov declared his income at 80 million dollars (Mordashov denied the sum soon after that), his former wife took advantage and sued for alimony and separation of jointly acquired property (he had been paying to the wife 650 dollars monthly for the son). Mordashova demanded a share in business of the husband and developed huge information war. The businessman considered that behind that claim there were competitors of metallurgical holding – the Ural mountain-metallurgical plant and “Sibal”, in particular their owner Iskander Mahmudov who was at that time the main

contender of Mordashov in the metallurgical market. In August, 2001 the former wife applied to Nikulinsky Office of Public Prosecutor of Moscow with the requirement to force former husband to give 25% of the income for education of the son from first marriage. In her opinion the underpaid alimony of Mordashov made more than semi billion dollars. In maintenance of the claim the Office of Public Prosecutor managed to arrest 32.5 % of stocks of “Severstal”. Claims of former spouse Elena Mordashova for a quarter of incomes of the husband were recognized by Moscow court as groundless, and attachment was removed from property. And after that Cherepovets court took Mordashov’s side and decided that he did not owe to the former spouse 40 percent of shares of “Severstal” (Elena Mordashova had declared such requirements in the statement of claim). As a result Elena Mordashova lost both suits.

Source: «Moscow Komsomolets», 8/20/2001, “Vedomosti”, 10/30/2002

On presidential election of 2004 Alexey Mordashov was Vladimir Putin’s authorized representative. Support of the head of the country helped Mordashov to create the steel-making company the largest in Russia, which possessed the largest actives abroad on the basis of the Cherepovets plant.

Source: <http://www.akado.com/news>

In February, 2005 Alexey Mordashov made scandal at airport Vnukovo-3. He left the plane together with two girls accompanying him in the trip. One of his companions unexpectedly found out that she had lost a buckle from the handbag. Mordashov unexpectedly began to behave inadequately: for about a half an hour he loudly shouted at employees of the airport, and demanded to pay him one thousand dollars for the lost buckle.

Source: “Life”, 2/9/2005

Alexey Mordashov tried to unite his business with metallurgical group Arcelor being absorbed, but owners of the company refused the offer of Mordashov and group “aggressors” – Mittal Steel became its owner.

Source: Investments ? 3(334) 01.02-07.02.2010

In September, 2006 Alexey Mordashov decided to hold again the post of the general director of “Severstal”; in this connection he carried out administrative reform at the enterprise. General Director Anatoly Kruchinin, the hired manager,

was removed by Mordashov from the post. Later he was appointed as the General Director of «Severstal. Russian steel» (in April, 2008 management of “Severstal” divided it into three directions: «Severstal. Russian steel», «Severstal. Resources», «Severstal Internationa»). Mordashov’s return on a post of the director of according to his plan should promote success of IPO – Kruchinin was unknown person in business while Mordashov after attempt to become the largest owner of Arcelor received world popularity. In some months Mordashov arranged IPO in London which observers considered to be not successful.

Source: “Vedomosti”, 9/21/2006

Due to lack of more interesting actual metallurgical actives for purchase, Mordashov once again tried to diversify business in adjacent spheres. New object of interest of the businessman – the main Russian manufacturer of the equipment for electric power industry, “Power machines”. Structures “Severstal” then requested permissions for the transaction in Federal antimonopoly service (FAS). Stocks of “Power machines” were the personal investment of Mordashov which was not connected with mountain-metallurgical company “Severstal”. Competitors of Mordashov in struggle for “Power machines” became Victor Vekselberg and Oleg Deripaska.

Source: <http://www.newsru.com> from 6/9/2007

In December, 2003 bank “Rossiya” informed that it would make additional share issue for 30 million rubles face value in advantage of Alexey Mordashov’s “Severstal-groups” under the price in 20 times above face value. Thus, the holding should pay 600 million rubles for 9% of shares of bank with own capital of 616 million rubles. The General Director of “Rossiya” Victor Myachin explained the high cost of package with consideration of the «occurrence of the foreign investor» in the capital of bank and dynamics of its development (for a year actives and the capital have trebled). Experts consider such estimation of a minority package as absolutely inadequate. The most probable explanation of such an odd act – rupture of relations with Industrial Construction Bank (ICB) and transfer of money resources to bank “Rossiya”. At the same time Mordashov since 90th years kept partner relations with Petersburg banker Vladimir Kogan, ex-founder of ICB – in the beginning of 2001 Mordashov sold a share holding of “Metkombank” to Kogan.

Source: <http://www.mfd.ru> News

In the beginning of 2007 in the central mass-media, in particular, in newspapers “Commersant” and “Newspaper” the information began to appear that soon there would be a merge of two largest metallurgical companies – “Eurazholding” and “Severstal”. Besides it was written about nationalization of branch and government plans about it. As there were no any concrete facts confirming possibilities of such changes, there were assumptions that this “canard” in respectful newspapers was created by their owners. The owner of “Commersant” – Alisher Usmanov was simultaneously the owner of “Metalloinvest”, the largest metallurgical companies; “Newspaper” belonged to other large “metallurgist” Vladimir Lisin, the owner of Novolipetsk metallurgical plant. The purpose: to press on competitors or to force them to buy, for example, business for high price, probably even to frighten and force to cease to put up money in development of the enterprise, to sell to competitor.

Source: «Komsomol truth», 5/30/2007

In August, 2008 at Mordashov’s company “Power machine” shareholders were replaced: 63.1 % of shares of company have appeared concentrated in three offshore now. Among shareholders of OAO there were two offshore, King Rail Trading and Ashington Trading, each owns 16,55 % of his actions. Presumably, these companies are under control of Alexey Mordashov and re-structuring of actives allows him to bypass the requirement about exhibiting of the obligatory offer by minoritaries. If Alexey Mordashov exposed the offer, he should redeem shares from minoritaries with 9 percent award to market quotations. He did not expose it but bought up company shares in the off-exchange market from many sellers. Redistribution of actives gave Mordashov also the joint-stock control over the company.

Source: “Money” ? 33 (688), 8/25/2008

The Office of Public Prosecutor accused Alexey Mordashov of legislation infringement – he, having dismissed employees of Kostomuksha mining and concentrating mill, in October, 2009 replaced them with less paid Gastarbeiter. Active workers of the enterprise arranged several meetings in the city, the Office of Public Prosecutor of Karelia began investigation. Trade-union active workers were accused of extremism and Alexey Mordashov was required by the public prosecutor of republic Karelia to exclude infringement of the labor and social rights of citizens and to provide measures on prevention social and political

tension in «Karelian pellet OAO. Thereof Mordashev stopped employment of migrants.

Source: Rusmet.ru 24.12.09

Alexey Mordashova's name was mentioned in a context of preparation of amendments by the Ministry of Finance to the article 7 of the Tax code depriving Russian businessmen of possibility to minimize taxes by using the companies in the countries having agreements with Russia on avoidance of the double taxation. It was declared that Alexey Mordashov had supervised "Severstal" through the Cyprian companies, thereby minimized taxes in the federal budget of our country.

Source: <http://www.polit.ru/news>, 12/2/2009

The family conflict of Alexey Mordashov with the first wife Elena Novitskaya passed to a new stage – in 2004 she submitted the claim to the Strasbourg court where she accused Russia of partiality of justice. In January, 2010 Novitskaya's case received a priority. Few years ago the court dismissed Novitskaya's claim about property separation, as all agreements on property division between spouses had been signed back in 1996, and Novitskaya did not apply for shares and refused them voluntarily. Having lost the court, Elena Novitskaya still owed the state duty of 213 million rubles. In European court Novitskaya demanded from Russia for compensation at amount of 500 million dollars, referring to article 6 of the European convention about human rights. Now Russia should prove that at the moment of divorce Alexey Mordashov did not possess influence on justice.

Boris G. Zingarevich

Received DOE funds through Ener1

Boris Zingarevich – Deputy Director General of Ilim Group

<http://rumafia.com/person.php?id=204>

Surname: Zingarevich

Name: Boris

Fathername: Gennadievich

Position: Deputy Director General of Ilim Group

Biography:

Date of Birth: 08 July 1959.

Place of Birth: Sebezh (Pskov region).

1981: Graduated from the Leningrad Technological Institute of Pulp and Paper Industry (specialty: machines and apparatus of PPI)

1991-1992: "Tekhnoferm", the CEO

1985-1991: Leningrad carton factory, Master of cardboard shop, Production Manager

1981-1985: Kondopozhsky PPM, mechanic

Since 1992 – Deputy Director General of Ilim

Source: <http://www.forbesrussia.ru>

Dossier:

Until the early 90's Boris Zingarevich, along with his brother Michael worked as a mechanic at the Leningrad cardboard factory. In 1992 they created "Ilim Pulp" – a company for export of paper products. Then they got reassigned to the woods production, and over the years have bought about 30 logging companies – then timber industry enterprises were sold at very low prices.

Easy money in the timber industry caused competition that turned into criminal fights. Most of them appeared to be in Arkhangelsk region, where the main enterprise of the holding – Kotlas PPM was. In the region, the company has developed a bad reputation to the extent that one day in January 2002, half the guests did not appear on the anniversary of the governor Anatoly Efremov, having learnt that Zingarevich brothers and their partner Zakhar Smushkin were going to be there.

In spring 1999 the house of the head of the Arkhangelsk PPC Vladimir Krupchak was bombed. In the summer of 1999 the head of OAO "Solombalskiy LDK" Evgeny Drachev and his driver were kidnapped by unknown. A few months later director general of forestry complex the department of the regional administration, Alexander Bulatov was beaten. It's difficult to say whether those

events were connected to the activities of Ilim Pulp. However, its top managers-Smushkin and the Zingareviches could have argued with those people, because the struggle for supremacy in the timber industry was very tough, and Arkhangelsk region was considered a “fiefdom” of Ilim Pulp in the field. The regional law enforcement agencies had a huge dirt on the heads of the holding, but for some reason the case went “down on the brakes” every time.

For example, the same story happened with the murder of Dmitry Varvarin, Director General of ZAP “Concern” Orimi”, the main competitor of Ilim Pulp. He was shot in St. Petersburg in March of 2000. The heads of Ilim Pulp, including Boris Zingarevich had sufficient motives for the killing, including the competition and the fact that Varvarin supported the campaign of Yuri Boldyrev for the post of mayor of St. Petersburg, which was obviously to fail. In addition, Varvarin owned shares of Ilim Pulp, so he begged Smushkin and Zingarevichey as his partners to allocate money for it.

A few days after the murder of Varvarin, unknown people killed another founder of “Orimi”, Sergey Krizhan together with his family.

Law enforcement agencies considered the version according to which the two murders were connected with the management of Ilim Pulp, as the most probable, but somehow forgot about it; the team of investigators was excluded from the investigation.

Source: Kompromat.ru from 31.07.2002

The involvement of the heads of “Ilim Pulp” in the second killing has not been confirmed, as in 2005, Andrey Yurevich – the son of commercial director of “Plastpolymer”, Victor Yurevich, and two accomplices – Alexander Ulyanov and Vyacheslav Shinkarev were sentenced for that murder. Krizhan was chairman of the board of directors of the company and clashed with Viktor Yurevich.

The newspaper “Kommersant-Petersburg” ? 216 (3300) on 17.11.2005

In spring and autumn of 2000, a new wave of crime passed.

In March, the director of Agency Company, lumber exporter – Vladimir Malkov was attacked. And in October, the hotel “Polina”, owned by Krupchak was set on fire. As leader of the Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill, he was a major player in timber market and he could have possibly conflicted to the Zingareviches and

Smushkin quite often. In 2001 Dmitry Belyaev, External Manager of LDK-4 was attacked. Again, the connection with the management of Ilim Pulp was not confirmed, but it was on the cards, as Ilim Pulp had been seeking for the rule in the forest sector, and Belyaev could have threatened the interests of their company by his business, or could have simply competed with its leaders.

Boris Zingarevich together with the companions did the business of “Ilim Pulp” not very successful, at least for their enterprises. The main one was the debts of Kotlas pulp and paper mill in Arkhangelsk region, Bratsk Timber Complex in the Irkutsk region, as well as others, they had ruthlessly cut down the forest, accidents happened frequently, the equipment was worn out or even broken. At the same salaries were miserable.

Until 2000, the shareholders of Ilim Pulp had not received dividends. Ostensibly, they were invested in production development, but in reality everything was falling apart. The problem was that all the investments in production then were exempt from taxation. Once the tax credit was abolished, dividends went.

In addition, it became clear that Kotlas Pulp came under the control of Ilim Pulp illegally: during the investment competition the money, which the company pledged to invest in a company, were transferred to its account for one day and then were sent back to the accounts of Smushkin and the Zingareviches. But formally everything looked legitimate.

They purchased equipment for the companies in an interesting way: at very high prices, while in fact only half of it was brought. The money also flowed to foreign accounts of the firms affiliated with Ilim Pulp.

Other financial frauds by the Zingareviches and Smushkin were turned in the Bratsk Timber Industry Complex (BTIC). First they formed huge debts for electricity for the budget of Bratsk and many others. And in 1998 the company established a subsidiary company OAO “Pulp and Cardboard Plant (PCP) and began to place there their liquid assets. Thus, BTIC eventually had unprofitable production and debts. The state had a stake in BTIC and did not impede the withdrawal of assets.

Only Dmitry Medvedev, the current president objected that, then in 1993 he was Director of Legal Affairs “Ilim Pulp”, and since 1998 -a member of the Board of Directors in BTIC. His relationship with the Zingareviches and Smushkin

worsened, and in 1999 they were completely stopped – he was distracted by new concerns associated with climbing the career ladder.

In October 2001 it became known that Ilim Pulp committed deals for the sale of pulp and paper factory to offshore companies. Then the shareholders of OAO “Irkutskenergo” which was the main creditor of BTIC – appealed to the federal agencies. They failed to find out the truth because of the legal tricks: documents submitted to the commission, were valid, but for the period prior to the fraud.

After that the minority shareholders of BTIC went to court, and it ordered to reinstate the dismissed general director BTIC George Trifonov. He restored an order, paid the debts. The Zingareviches and Smushkin were defeated. But when in 2002 BTIC came under their control again, they began to restore the old order by dismissing disloyal people and replacing them with loyal ones, uncomprehending in the timber industry.

In addition, the holding company began the blockade of the Ust-Ilim Timber Complex (UiLPK) by not sending paid commodity to the company. All forces were driven to expell the head of the trade union, Yuri Savinkov, they wrote denunciations to the prosecutor’s office against the former Complex director Andrey Prokopov. The new head of UiLPK Vladimir Batishchev reported that Prokopov took away the production equipment. It was a slander – he just took jeeps belonging to the management company “Continental Invest”.

In early February 2002 UILPK was entirely under the control of Ilim Pulp.

Source: Kompromat.ru from 13.02.2002

In April 2002, Ilim Pulp lost control over Kotlas and Bratsk pulp and paper mills. There were two lawsuits from shareholders, after which the company’s shares were arrested, and then purchased for the benefit of companies affiliated with the actual new owners – “Basic Element”, “Continental management” and “Banking House” Sankt-Petersburg”. Oleg Deripaska was behind those machinations, who wanted to get a strategic advantage in the industry.

Source: corp-gov.ru from 29.09.2003

The management of “Ilim Pulp” disputed the transaction through numerous courts. There were information wars. The information agencies had the news spread that the Court invalidated the new board of directors elected by

shareholders. It was misinformation. To gain access to the documents of Kotlassky PPM they forged execution lists and sent them to the office of registry holders. According to them it was necessary to issue registry documents. They also launched “a fake” that the registry of the Bratsk TIC was lost.

In the end, “Ilim Pulp” prevailed in the information and judicial war. Businessmen managed to agree, but the true owner of the enterprises is still unknown. Representatives of “Bazel” argued that the blocking stake in the enterprises was still in the structures of Basel. Smushkin also announced that he possessed more than 90%. As the court ruled, the enterprises passed to Ilim Pulp. Perhaps the company paid Bazel some compensation. In any case, that was a good lesson for the Zingareviches and Smushkin and a signal that the empire they built up may well falter without gaining a strong support.

Source: Kompromat.ru from 31.07.2002

In 2004, the media reported that Boris Zingarevich intended to acquire a large stake in English football club Everton. Upon the request of Zingarevich, that information was retracted. According to British media, the football club was really interesting to Zingarevich’s son Anton. He himself had no money to buy it, but he practiced abroad as a football manager. There is no information confirming the purchase plans. This episode is insignificant, but given that Boris Zingarevich studiously avoided the media spotlight, it looks interesting. Maybe it was advantageous for someone to put Zingarevich as a reckless spender and a wasteful man.

Source: “Kommersant» ? 155 (2994) on 24.08.2004

Also in 2004, there were rumors in the media that the company “Ilim Pulp” is going to buy the state Vneshtorgbank, and the then owner of Promstroibank Vladimir Kogan was to be an intermediary in the transaction. The price was to be inflated in more than a billion dollars. Journalists advanced the version of such a bizarre waste of public funds. They supposed, the billion would be withdraw from the State Bank and shared by individuals, including Zingarevich. In their opinion, the deal was scheduled to be held “under the guise of” Finance Minister Alexey Kudrin. However, no further speculation happened a the possible grand scam failed for unknown reasons.

Source: Kompromat.ru from 23.09.2004

In 2006 the Zingareviches and Smushkin sold half of the holding to a foreign company International Paper, the world's largest pulp and paper corporation. In the name of the company they found a strong partner and a way to overcome the crisis that had begun with the attack by Mr. Deripaska on Kotlas and Bratsk pulp and paper mills. Once they returned the enterprises, Deripaska exchanged his remaining shares to the stake in the Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill of Vladimir Kogan, and the latter gave them to the shareholders of Ilim Pulp. That is, everything returned to business as usual. However, after such a shake-up the Zingareviches and Smushkin realized they were not omnipotent, and their old methods to maintain the credibility in the timber industry had been no longer working. The holding company needed a powerful protection of the parties and they found such a support in the name of the foreign company.

Source: Journal "Secret Firmy" ? 48 (183) on 25.12.2006

In spring 2010 the authorities of St. Petersburg passed at once three buildings – the monuments of federal importance for the reconstruction of them as hotels – to the companies close to Zingarevich brothers. OOO "Lotus Oteli" received a historic building of the former barracks of the Life Guards of the Pavlovsky Regiment on the Marsovo Pole, 1. OOO "Orange-Development" acquired the building of the former court stables Office at Konyushennaya Ploshad, 1a. The third building was on Nevsky Prospekt, 7-9A, which is the Central Agency of Aviation and airline ticket place passed to OOO "IFG-Basis-Project". Experts say that at the auction the buildings could cost a lot of money. However, they gave them under the decision taken at a closed meeting of the government. Thus, not only the interests of the city budget were violated, but of the potential buyers who could acquire the right to use the buildings through a fair competition.

Source: "Kommersant" dated 05/21/2010

FGH-NYT

oligarch » Agent4Stars

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Left to right: **John Doerr**, Charlie Rose, Michael Arrington, Yuri Milner, and Ron Conway at last spring’s TechCrunch conference. Milner has become an informal **Russian** ambassador to Silicon Valley.

tech.fortune.cnn.com/2010/10/04/facebook-friend-in-russia/

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climateerinvest.blogspot.com/2013/03/kleiner-perkins-distressed-by-l...

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... and his wife have already donated 800 million dollars. They were joined by venture investor **John Doerr and John** ... It should be noted that V. Potanin was among the first **Russian oligarchs** to go into arts patronage by setting up V. Potanin’s Charity Foundation in 1999 mainly focused ...

profi-forex.us/news/entry300000006.html

[Netizen: Vinod Khosla: For Profit Poverty Alleviation](#)

“He was the most visionary of all the **Russian oligarchs**” **John Doerr**; Creating, Propagating; Google Apps: Open The Flood Gates; No More Beer, No More Soda; Dell Duo: Tablet + Netbook; Web 2.0 Summit 2010: Robin Li; **John Battelle’s Search Hangover**;

technbiz.blogspot.com/2010/11/vinod-khosla-for-profit-poverty.html

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... Google, Steve Westly, Green Jobs, Tesla Motors, Edeniq, **John Doerr**, Amyris Biotechnologies, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Facebook, Recyclebank, Barack Obama, Apple, Energy ... With billionaire Meg Whitman spending like a **Russian oligarch**, it's inevitable that the race for California ...
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Apple, Steve Jobs, and US Foreign Policy (CFR) using Nazi ...

the Stud House, the private home of the Lebedev family – one of the **Russian oligarchs** ... been a long time partner in Silicon Valley venture capital powerhouse Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers whose partner **John Doerr** is a member of the Google board. Another Google director, ...
forum.prisonplanet.com/index.php?topic=207205.0

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rmr | The personal blog of R. Martin Roscheisen

Neither VC **John Doerr** nor entrepreneur Martin Roscheisen has a background in enviro. ... (Then again, just a few decades later, we've got **Russian oligarchs** needing seemingly just that kind of expertise for equipping their yachts.)
tripleyield.com

Romania arrests suspected hacker of Bush family emails | NDTV.com

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Scary side to the story – IronMountainDailyNews.com | news ...

He raked in a gazillion bucks, give or take a few billion, as the founder of

Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers, a venture capital firm. His letter, published in the Wall Street Journal, ... essentially from Europe west of Russia through North America, ...

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Kleiner Perkins Co-Founder's Nazi Comment Draws Criticism ...

Kleiner Perkins's website lists **Perkins** as one of 14 partner emeriti, a group that includes recent partner Ray Lane and co-founder Eugene **Kleiner**, who died in 2003. **Perkins** has been a director at companies including Hewlett-Packard Co. and Applied Materials Inc.

bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-26/kleiner-perkins-shocked...

Frank Caufield — **Kleiner Perkins** Caufield Byers

He is a Co-Founder of **Kleiner Perkins** Caufield & Byers. Mr. Caufield has served on the boards of Quantum Corporation, Caremark Inc., ... He also serves as a director of The U.S. Russia Investment Fund, Refugees International, ...

kpcb.com/partner/frank-caufield

DST Out and **Kleiner Perkins** In in Twitter Mega-Funding – Kara ...

According to sources close to the situation, the aggressive **Russian** investment outfit DST Global is out of the running to fund Twitter. Instead, the prize is almost certainly going to **Kleiner Perkins**, the legendary Silicon Valley venture firm of Web 1.0 that has been making a big push ...

allthingsd.com/20101206/russias-dst-out-of-twitter-fun...

Remember all of the Russian “Oligarchs” that Silicon Valley and Goldman got in bed with? Goldman and the VC’s made ‘deals with the devil’. Russian mining contracts for lithium ore exclusives in Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, etc. The billionaire Oligarchs even got DOE cash. Let’s meet some of them. Featuring The Terminator, Kleiner, Putin, A123, Enerdel, Severstal, Boris Badinov and other shady characters. Like “Ahnold” says, it turns out it WAS “all about to go BOOM!”. Schwarzenegger’s Russian connections run as far back as 1987 when he partied with Russian leaders, and was inspired to run for office, while he made his film RED HEAT. The backers of his campaign are many of the same investors in the lithium/green CARGATE scandal.

Why did a \$300,000.00 U.S. built gas station in Afghanistan end up costing \$43,000,000.00 more than it was supposed to? It is the most expensive gas station in history. Was it just another book-

keeping scam to hide the SIX TRILLION U.S. dollars of taxpayer losses?

Politicians who were suppose to watch-dog the programs made insider deals to make profits off of the taxpayer money. Senators connected to billions lost on corrupt green energy scandals:

The Department of Energy has turned into a sinkhole of corruption. Does it still benefit taxpayers?

**Why did Goldman Sachs and the Silicon Valley VC's push the White House into Afghanistan?
What trillion dollar thing was there for their electric car scam?:**

Insiders knew about the danger of Lithium and why some companies wanted to “dump” it so fast. They knew these dangers 15 years ago. It was all just War Profiteering!

John Boehner and congressional leaders take sudden secret trip to Afghanistan this weekend to investigate AFGHANI-SCAM: Seeking impeachable and indictment-ready actions?

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan, this past weekend with seven other House lawmakers to get a first-hand look at the political situation in the country after the recent democratic elections, Boehner's office announced Monday.

The trip was not announced until now to maintain security, according to a spokesman.

Lawmakers met with U.S. military troops, Ambassador James B. Cunningham and General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

The other GOP lawmakers who accompanied Boehner were Reps. John Kline of Minnesota, Doc Hastings of Washington, Dave Camp of Michigan, Tom Latham of Iowa, Devin Nunes of California, Greg Walden of Oregon and Steve Womack of Arkansas.

The scandal known as AFGHANI-SCAM, or "Blood for Batteries" is under a high level of scrutiny for its connections between Congress, DOE funding and Russian Mobsters for exclusive ore rights for electric cars and solar panels.

Afghanistan- In The Beginning. First for oil, then for batteries

Q and A with Bernard Weiner, Ph.D.

Q. *I don't understand how war against Afghanistan could have been anticipated so early.*

A. *Follow the money. Various oil/gas/energy companies had wanted a Central Asian pipeline to run through Afghanistan (costing much less to build, but also so it wouldn't have to go through Russia or Iran); that project was put on hold during the chaos in Afghanistan, but when the Taliban took over and brought stability to that country, the U.S. began negotiating with the Taliban about the pipeline deal. Even after sending them, via the United Nations, \$43 million dollars for "poppy-seed eradication," and inviting them to talks in Texas, the Taliban began to balk. At a later meeting, the U.S. negotiator threatened them with an attack unless they handed over bin Laden and reportedly told them, in reference to the pipeline, that they could accept "a carpet of gold" or be buried in "a carpet of bombs." (The later U.S. government spin was that the bin Laden issue and the pipeline issues were separate, and that the U.S. threats didn't mix the two and there were misunderstandings of what was said.) Shortly thereafter, bin Laden, hiding out in Afghanistan, initiated the September 11th attacks, and the U.S. bombing of that country began. Oh, by the way, in case you haven't noticed, under the new U.S.-friendly government in Kabul, the pipeline project is back on track. Oh, by the way, the pipeline will terminate reasonably close to the power plant in India built by Enron that has been lying dormant for years, waiting for cheap energy supplies.*

Q. *You're saying that U.S. war and foreign policy have been dictated by greed?*

A. *Among other pleasant motivations, such as hunger for domination and control, domestically and around the globe — which always ties in with greed. That's why Bush & Co. play such political and military hardball. That's why the arrogant, take-no-prisoners, in-your-face attitude, to bully and frighten potential opponents into silence and acquiescence, even questioning their patriotism if they demur or raise embarrassing issues.*

Q. *But this is a democracy, people are still speaking their minds, right?*

A. *Certainly, there are areas of America's democratic republic that have not yet been shut down. But where there should be a vibrant opposition*

party, raising all sorts of questions about Bush Administration policy and plans, America receives mostly silence and timidity. However, as more and more of the ugly truth begins to emerge — and Enron, Anthrax, and pre-9/11 know ledge are just the tips of the iceberg — the Democrats (and moderate Re publicans) are beginning to feel a bit more emboldened. But just a bit, preferring to run for cover whenever Bush&Co. accuse them of being unpat riotic when they raise pointed questions.

Q. You're so critical and negative about the Bush Administration. Can't you say anything good about what they're doing?

A. Yes. They have moved terrorism — the new face of warfare in our time — front and center into the world's consciousness, and have mobilized a global coalition against it. They may be making mistakes, which could lead to horrifying consequences, or acting at times out of impure motives, but at least the issue is out there and being debated and acted upon.

Now, having said that, we must point out that the institutions in this country — the Constitution, the courts, the legislative bodies, civil liberties, the Bill of Rights, the press, etc. — are in as much danger as they've ever been in. And the U.S.'s bullying attitude abroad may well lead to disastrous consequences for America down the line.

Q. So, what's to be done?

A. The most important thing at the moment — even, or especially when, the inevitable next terrorist attack occurs — is to break the illusion of Bush&Co. invulnerability. The best way to do that, aside from ratcheting up the Enron and Anthrax and 9/11 investigations (and it may turn out that those scandals are deeply intertwined), is to defeat GOP candidates in the upcoming November elections. If the Democrats hang on to the Senate and can take over the House, the dream of unchallengeable HardRight power will be broken. Bush&Co. will become even more desperate, overt, nasty, and in their arrogance and bullying ways, will make more mistakes and alienate more citizens. The edifice will begin to crumble even more; there will be more and deeper Congressional and media investigations; resignations and/or impeachments (of both Bush & Cheney, and Ashcroft) may well follow.

Q. You're asking me to support ALL Democrats, even though in a

particular race a moderate GOP conservative would be better?

A. *Yes. In some cases, you may have to hold your nose and send money to, canvass for, and vote for a Democrat; we can get rid of the bad ones later. The objective right now — for the future of the Constitution, and for the lives of our soldiers in uniform and civilians around the globe — has to be to break the momentum of the HardRight by taking the House and keeping the Senate from returning to GOP control. Doing so would be even more important than what happened when that courageous senator from Vermont, Jim Jeffords, appalled by the HardRight nastiness and greed-agenda of the Bush folks,*
resigned from the GOP and turned the Senate agenda over to the Democrats.

Q. *And you think if the GOP gets its nose bloodied in the November election, that will convince Bush to resign or lead to his impeachment? I don't get that.*

A. *Churchill once told the Brits during World War II that “this is not the beginning of the end, but it is the beginning of the beginning of the end.” There is a lot of hard work and organizing and educating to be done, but the recent exposure of Bush coverup-lies about pre-9/11 knowledge is “the beginning of the beginning of the end.” With a GOP defeat in November, Democrats will be emboldened to speak up more, investigate deeper, and those inquiries will unlock even more awful secrets of this greed-and-power hungry administration. And that will be the beginning of the end — and the beginning of the beginning of a new era of more humane values for America and the rest of the world.*

Bernard Weiner, Ph.D., has taught American government & international relations at Western Washington University and San Diego State University; he

was with the San Francisco Chronicle for nearly 20 years, and has published in The Nation, Village Voice, The Progressive, Northwest Passage and widely on the internet

Al-Qaida monitored U.S. negotiations with Taliban over oil pipeline. A memo by military chief Mohammed Atef raises new questions about whether failed U.S. efforts to reform Afghanistan's radical regime — and build the pipeline — set the stage for Sept. 11.

By Jean-Charles Brisard

A 1998 memo written by al-Qaida military chief Mohammed Atef reveals that Osama bin Laden's group had detailed knowledge of negotiations that were taking place between Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and American government and business leaders over plans for a U.S. oil and gas pipeline across that Central Asian country.

The e-mail memo was found in 1998 on a computer seized by the FBI during its investigation into the 1998 African embassy bombings, which were sponsored by al-Qaida. Atef's memo was discovered by FBI counter-terrorism expert John O'Neill, who left the bureau in 2001, complaining that U.S. oil interests were hindering his investigation into al-Qaida. O'Neill, who became security chief at the World Trade Center, died in the Sept. 11 attack.

Atef's memo shines new light on what al-Qaida knew about U.S. efforts to normalize relations with the Taliban in exchange for the fundamentalist government's supporting the construction of an oil and gas pipeline across Afghanistan. As documented in the book I coauthored with Guillaume Dasquie, "Bin Laden: The Forbidden Truth," the Clinton and Bush administrations negotiated with the Taliban, both to get the repressive regime to widen its government as well as look favorably on U.S. companies' attempts to construct an oil pipeline. The Bush White House stepped up negotiations with the Taliban in 2001. When those talks stalled in July, a Bush administration representative threatened the Taliban with military reprisals if the government did not go along with American demands.

The seven-page memo was signed "Abu Hafs," which is the military name of Atef, who was the military chief of al-Qaida and is believed to have been killed in November 2001 during U.S. operations in Afghanistan. It shows al-Qaida's keen interest in the U.S.-Taliban negotiations and raises new

questions as to whether the U.S. military threat to the Taliban in July 2001 could have prompted al-Qaida's Sept. 11 attack.

Atef's memo is not about the pipeline alone, though it mentions the project several times. It is an analysis of the political situation facing the Taliban. It documents the movement's rise, its leadership, the geopolitical importance of Afghanistan, the Taliban's relationship with Pakistan, as well as the movement's relationship with the Arab mujahedin. The document's intended readership is unclear. But it reveals that the pipeline was seen as a strategic offering toward the West, in order to make the Taliban government acceptable to the United States and Pakistan, as well as to reduce military and investigative pressure on the country to rein in or even extradite bin Laden.

Atef explains that the United States wants "to take control of any region which has huge quantities of oil reserves," and "the American government is keen on laying the oil and gas pipelines from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan." Atef concludes that al-Qaida's "duty toward the movement [Taliban] is to stand behind it, support it materially and morally, especially because its regional and international enemies are working night and day to put an end to it and make it fail."

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How To Fix Washington, DC:

"Don't vote for ANY candidate who does not GUARANTEE, in writing, to MAKE LOBBYING ILLEGAL, END "REVOLVING DOOR" KICKBACKS and ELIMINATE EVERY POLITICIAN LAW EXCLUSION!" Pass it on...

Investigators say that, political operatives David Plouffe, Rahm Emanuel, Steven Rattner, Bill Daly, David Axelrod and Robert Gibbs arranged with Silicon Valley investors to take over the lithium battery industry in order to monopolize the trillions of dollars of lithium, and related mining deals, in Afghanistan.

They say that they traded federal funding for campaign support assisted by Harry Reid and Dianne Feinstein, who received numerous stock and cash kickbacks in the scheme.

They say they used the money to fund political campaigns. They used the Silicon Valley investors internet companies, (mostly Google), to manipulate voter perceptions and web searches in favor of their agenda. The Silicon Valley investors received: favorable federal laws, tax gifts, free federal loans, stock bumps and other perks.

The Silicon Valley investors companies that used the Afghan minerals: Abound, Solyndra, Fisker, Ener1, Tesla, and many, many more, that received the Department of Energy kickback funds, managed by Steven Chu, have all either failed, been raided, been charged with fraud or otherwise turned out to be disasters because they were based on a financial fraud skimming scheme instead of a good business plan.

All of these facts are known, in great detail, by many investigators. Nearly a million pages of evidence exist. A Special Prosecutor is required to perform proper prosecutions. This is organized crime.

- How Senators insider stock and campaign funding kickback scheme funded a car company with stock market manipulation

Ghandi said:

"Truth, Transparency and Mockery: Evil can't operate with any one of those, combine them all, with the unexpected, and Evil always fails." - Ghandi

It seems clear the military chief didn't expect the pipeline negotiations to bear fruit....

Referring to Pakistanis as "nonbelievers," and noting that the pipeline "will be under American control ... and it also goes through the territories of Pakistan which are allied to America," Atef implies that the Taliban has no intention of ultimately cooperating with the project, but is trying to string along the Americans and Pakistanis to win some breathing room for its unpopular government.

The Atef memo is the latest piece of evidence documenting a murky chapter in recent American history — the overtures of the last two American administrations to the repressive Taliban regime. Several U.S. oil companies, most notably Unocal, had been advocates of diplomatic overtures to the Taliban, in order to facilitate the building of a pipeline from the Caspian Sea region to Pakistan and the Persian Gulf through Afghanistan. In

1996, Unocal vice president Chris Taggart described the fall of Kabul to the Taliban regime as a “very positive step” and urged the U.S. to extend recognition to the new rulers in Kabul and thus “lead the way to international lending agencies coming in.”

Just 10 days after the Taliban seized power in Kabul, Zalmay Khalilzad, former National Security Council official and Unocal consultant who was appointed special envoy to Afghanistan by President George W. Bush at the end of 2001, argued in a Washington Post opinion article that the U.S. should try to work with the mullahs and form a broad-based government that included other factions. “The Taliban does not practice the anti-U.S. style of fundamentalism practiced by Iran — it is closer to the Saudi model .” Khalilzad contended, concluding that “we should use as a positive incentive the benefits that will accrue to Afghanistan from the construction of oil and gas pipelines across its territory … These projects will only go forward if Afghanistan has a single authoritative government.”

Soon after, the State Department spokesman Glyn Davies told the New York Times he had hope that “the new authorities in Kabul will move quickly to restore order and security and to form a representative interim government that can begin the process of reconciliation nationwide.” Davies also said the United States “wanted to send diplomats to Afghanistan to meet with the Taliban and held out the possibility of re-establishing full diplomatic ties with the country,” according to the Times.

In November 1997 Unocal invited a Taliban delegation to Texas and, in early December, the company opened a training center at the University of Nebraska, to instruct 137 Afghans in pipeline construction technology. The company also donated to the university’s Center for Afghanistan Studies. Unocal CEO John Imle estimated that the company spent between \$15 and \$20 million on its Central Asia oil pipeline (CentGas) project — on preliminary feasibility studies, humanitarian projects and other efforts to lobby the Taliban (Unocal equipped the regime with satellite phones, for instance.)

In February 1998, Unocal’s vice president for international relations, John Maresca, told a House subcommittee hearing on U.S. interests in the Central Asian Republics that an oil pipeline “would benefit Afghanistan, which

would receive revenues from transport tariffs, and would promote stability and encourage trade and economic development.” Emphasizing that “the proposed Central Asia Oil Pipeline (CentGas) cannot begin construction until an internationally recognized Afghanistan government is in place,” he urged the administration and the Congress “to give strong support to the United Nations-led peace process in Afghanistan.”

Until the 1998 al-Qaida embassy bombings, the Clinton administration’s approach toward the Taliban was much the same as Unocal’s: All parties agreed that the political stabilization of Afghanistan was crucial to the region, and was also a way to gain access to oil reserves of the Caspian Sea region. Though bin Laden had been in the country since 1996, the U.S. had not pressured the Taliban to hand him over.

The embassy bombings in August 1998 changed everything. The Clinton administration denounced the regime and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright turned up the heat on Taliban human rights abuses. The United Nations imposed sanctions, freezing Afghanistan’s foreign assets and limiting its citizens’ travel. The U.S. continued to talk to the Taliban, but the emphasis was on extraditing bin Laden in exchange for international recognition; the pipeline was off the table. Unocal, which had been close to finalizing its pipeline deal before the embassy bombings, cancelled it.

When George W. Bush took office in 2001, his administration made new overtures to the Taliban, and the pipeline deal gained renewed support, as an incentive to get the Taliban to make political concessions and form a broader government. U.S. representatives met with Afghanistan’s former King Shah, to see if he might be included in a new government. And American companies began exploring the failed 1998 pipeline project. A report by an Afghan-born Enron manager in July 2001, for instance, illustrates that company’s deep interest in some sort of pipeline deal. Enron had begun funding the same sorts of humanitarian projects as Unocal had three years earlier.

In March 2001, several Taliban officials, including Sayed Rahmattullah Hashimi, Mullah Omar’s personal advisor, were invited to Washington by their U.S. lobbyist, Leila Helms, the niece of former CIA Director Richard Helms. The agenda included discussions of extraditing bin Laden as well as

facilitating American companies' access to oil reserves in central Asia. The delegation met with representatives of the Directorate of Central Intelligence (DCI) and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the State Department.

This visit provoked concern and criticism in Washington over how Hashimi obtained a visa, a plane ticket, security clearance and access to American institutions — including the State Department and the National Security Council — despite travel restrictions on Taliban leadership imposed by U.N. sanctions (the official answer was that Hashimi fell below the rank of senior official covered by the sanctions.)

Four months later, American diplomats met with Taliban emissaries as well as representatives from Pakistan, Iran and Russia for four days of talks in Berlin in mid-July. Again, the message was that if the Taliban would extradite bin Laden and form a broad-based national government, it could win international recognition and reap extensive economic subsidies from the construction of a pipeline. The meeting was one of several convened by Francesco Vendrell, a Spanish diplomat who serves as the U.N.'s chief representative on Afghanistan. The delegates at the July meeting included Robert Oakley, former U.S. ambassador and Unocal lobbyist; Karl "Rick" Inderfurth, former assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs; Lee Coldren, head of the Office of Pakistan, Afghan and Bangladesh Affairs in the State Department until 1997; Tom Simons, former U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and the most recent official negotiator with the Taliban; Niaz Naik, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan; Nikolai Kozyrev, a former Russian special envoy to Afghanistan; and Saeed Rajai Khorassani, formerly the Iranian representative to the U.N. The Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, attended several sessions with some of the delegates in Berlin, according to Naik Naik, though officially the Taliban had not been invited. Naik was expected to carry the U.S. message to the Taliban.

According to Naik, the point of the meeting was that "we would try to convey to them that if they did certain things, then, gradually, they could win the jackpot, get something in return from the international community." It might, Naik said, "be possible to persuade the Taliban that once a broader-based government was in place and the oil pipeline under way, there

would be billions of dollars in commission, and the Taliban would have their own resources.”

It was at the July meeting, according to Naik, that Tom Simons suggested that Afghanistan could face an open-ended military operation from bases in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan if it didn’t accede to U.S. demands. “Ambassador Simons stated that if the Taliban wouldn’t agree with the plan, and if Pakistan was unable to persuade them, the United States might use an overt action against Afghanistan,” Naik says. The words used by Simons were “a military operation,” according to Naik. Another participant reportedly said the Taliban’s choice was clear: either accept a “carpet of gold” riches from the pipeline or “a carpet of bombs,” meaning a military strike.

Lee Coldren, a member of the U.S. delegation, also confirmed to the British newspaper the Guardian the American position at the Berlin meeting. “I think there was some discussion of the fact that the United States was so disgusted with the Taliban that they might be considering some military action.”

In statements to newspapers, Simons has offered ambiguous explanations of his statements at the July meeting. In September, he told the British Guardian: “I’ve known Naik and considered him a friend for years. He’s an honorable diplomat. I didn’t say anything like that and didn’t hear anyone else say anything like that. We were clear that feeling in Washington was strong, and that military action was one of the options down the road. But details, I don’t know where they came from.”

Yet in a November interview with Le Monde, Simons seemed to confirm that there had been some talk of U.S. military action. “It is true that the Taliban was asked to deliver bin Laden and form a [broader] government,” Simons told Le Monde. “We said in July that we were investigating the attack against the USS Cole in Yemen, and that if there were solid evidence of the implication of bin Laden, one had to expect a military answer. One can always inflate such a declaration to see a global threat against the Taliban. But the American declaration related only to the response to the USS-Cole.

“As for the ‘carpet of gold and the carpet of bombs,’ we actually discussed the need for a plan for rebuilding for Afghanistan, which would follow a

political agreement,” he said, adding that “It’s possible that a mischievous American participant, after several drinks, may have thought it smart to evoke gold carpets and carpet bombs. Even Americans can’t resist the temptation to be mischievous.”

The last known meeting between U.S. and Taliban representatives took place in August, five weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks, when U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asian affairs Christina Rocca met with the Taliban’s ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef.

It would be unfair to suggest that the U.S. threat in July led to the al-Qaida strike. But while Simons doesn’t admit that he personally threatened the Taliban with reprisal, he confirms that only a few weeks before Sept. 11, American diplomats warned of military action against Afghanistan if its leaders did not meet U.S. economic and political demands. It is worth asking whether, had this threat been widely known, U.S. intelligence agencies might have analyzed the information they were receiving about bin Laden’s plots against the U.S. differently.

Now the newly discovered Atef memo makes clear that in 1998, at least, al-Qaida was well informed about negotiations between the Taliban and the U.S. on the oil pipeline and other American concerns. The memo also shows that those negotiations were the Taliban’s gambit to extend its power; Mullah Omar’s government never had any intention of allowing U.S. firms to construct an oil pipeline, or letting the U.S. dictate the members of its ruling body. Given the inside knowledge al-Qaida had about U.S.-Taliban negotiations, it’s reasonable to suspect bin Laden’s group also received and understood the U.S. threat of military action delivered in late July as a threat of war.

In the end, though, the U.S. got its way. Interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai decided on May 30 to revive the pipeline project with Pakistan and Turkmenistan, signing an agreement under which the three governments agree to implement a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan. Would that U.S. intelligence agencies’ investigations into al-Qaida activities in the months before Sept. 11 had such a productive ending.

1. 1991-1997 – Major U.S. oil companies including ExxonMobil, Texaco, Unocal, BP Amoco, Shell and Enron directly invest billions in cash bribing

heads of state in Kazakhstan to secure equity rights in the huge oil reserves in these regions. The oil companies further commit to future direct investments in Kazakhstan of \$35 billion. Not being willing to pay exorbitant prices to Russia to use Russian pipelines the major oil companies have no way to recoup their investments. [“The Price of Oil,” by Seymour Hersh, The New Yorker, July 9, 2001 – The Asia Times, “The Roving Eye Part I Jan. 26, 2002.]

2. December 4, 1997 – Representatives of the Taliban are invited guests to the Texas headquarters of Unocal to negotiate their support for the pipeline. Subsequent reports will indicate that the negotiations failed, allegedly because the Taliban wanted too much money. [Source: The BBC, Dec. 4, 1997]
3. February 12, 1998 – Unocal Vice President John J. Maresca – later to become a Special Ambassador to Afghanistan – testifies before the House that until a single, unified, friendly government is in place in Afghanistan the trans-Afghani pipeline needed to monetize the oil will not be built. [Source: Testimony before the House International Relations Committee.]
4. 1998 – The CIA ignores warnings from Case Officer Robert Baer that Saudi Arabia was harboring an al-Q'aeda cell led by two known terrorists. A more detailed list of known terrorists is offered to Saudi intelligence in August 2001 and refused. [Source: Financial Times 1/12/01; See No Evil by a book by Robert Baer (release date Feb. 2002).]
5. April, 1999 – Enron with a \$3 billion investment to build an electrical generating plant at Dabhol India loses access to plentiful LNG supplies from Qatar to fuel the plant. Its only remaining option to make the investment profitable is a trans-Afghani gas pipeline to be built by Unocal from Turkmenistan that would terminate near the Indian border at the city of Multan. [Source: The Albion Monitor, Feb. 28, 2002.]
6. 1998 and 2000 – Former President George H.W. Bush travels to Saudi Arabia on behalf of the privately owned Carlyle Group, the 11th largest defense contractor in the U.S. While there he meets privately with the Saudi royal family and the bin Laden family. [Source: Wall Street Journal, Sept. 27, 2001. See also FTW, Vol. IV, No 7 – “The Best Enemies Money Can Buy,” – <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/>

members/carlyle.html.]

7. January, 2001 – The Bush Administration orders the FBI and intelligence agencies to “back off” investigations involving the bin Laden family, including two of Osama bin Laden’s relatives (Abdullah and Omar) who were living in Falls Church, VA – right next to CIA headquarters. This followed previous orders dating back to 1996, frustrating efforts to investigate the bin Laden family. [Source: BBC Newsnight, Correspondent Gregg Palast – Nov 7, 2001].

8. Feb 13, 2001 – UPI Terrorism Correspondent Richard Sale – while covering a trial of bin Laden’s Al Qaeda followers – reports that the National Security Agency has broken bin Laden’s encrypted communications. Even if this indicates that bin Laden changed systems in February it does not mesh with the fact that the government insists that the attacks had been planned for years.

9. May 2001 – Secretary of State Colin Powell gives \$43 million in aid to the Taliban regime, purportedly to assist hungry farmers who are starving since the destruction of their opium crop in January on orders of the Taliban regime. [Source: The Los Angeles Times, May 22, 2001].

10. May, 2001 – Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, a career covert operative and former Navy Seal, travels to India on a publicized tour while CIA Director George Tenet makes a quiet visit to Pakistan to meet with Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf. Armitage has long and deep Pakistani intelligence connections and he is the recipient of the highest civil decoration awarded by Pakistan. It would be reasonable to assume that while in Islamabad, Tenet, in what was described as “an unusually long meeting,” also met with his Pakistani counterpart, Lt. General Mahmud Ahmad, head of the ISI. [Source The Indian SAPRA news agency, May 22, 2001.]

11. June 2001 – German intelligence, the BND, warns the CIA and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists are “planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack important symbols of American and Israeli culture.” [Source: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, September 14, 2001.]

12. July, 2001 – Three American officials: Tom Simmons (former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan), Karl Inderfurth (former Assistant Secretary of

State for South Asian affairs) and Lee Coldren (former State Department expert on South Asia), meet with Pakistani and Russian intelligence officers in Berlin and tell them that the U.S. is planning military strikes against Afghanistan in October. A French book released in November, "Bin Laden – La Vérité Interdite," discloses that Taliban representatives often sat in on the meetings. British papers confirm that the Pakistani ISI relayed the threats to the Taliban. [Source: The Guardian, September 22, 2001; the BBC, September 18, 2001. The Inter Press Service, Nov 16, 2001]

13. Summer, 2001 – The National Security Council convenes a Dabhol working group as revealed in a series of government e-mails obtained by The Washington Post and the New York Daily News. [Source: The Albion Monitor, Feb. 28, 2002]

14. Summer 2001 – According to a Sept. 26 story in Britain's The Guardian, correspondent David Leigh reported that, "U.S. department of defense official, Dr. Jeffrey Starr, visited Tajikistan in January. The Guardian's Felicity Lawrence established that US Rangers were also training special troops in Kyrgyzstan. There were unconfirmed reports that Tajik and Uzbek special troops were training in Alaska and Montana."

15. Summer 2001 (est.) – Pakistani ISI Chief General Ahmad (see above) orders an aide to wire transfer \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, who was according to the FBI, the lead terrorist in the suicide hijackings. Ahmad recently resigned after the transfer was disclosed in India and confirmed by the FBI. [Source: The Times of India, October 11, 2001.]

16. Summer 2001 – An Iranian man phones U.S. law enforcement to warn of an imminent attack on the World Trade Center in the week of September 9th. German police confirm the calls but state that the U.S. Secret Service would not reveal any further information. [Source: German news agency "online.de", September 14, 2001, translation retrieved from online.ie in Ireland.]

17. June 26, 2001 – The magazine indiareacts.com states that "India and Iran will 'facilitate' US and Russian plans for 'limited military action' against the Taliban." The story indicates that the fighting will be done by US and Russian troops with the help of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. [Source: indiareacts.com, June 26, 2001.]

18. August 2001 – The FBI arrests an Islamic militant linked to bin Laden in Boston. French intelligence sources confirm that the man is a key member of bin Laden’s network and the FBI learns that he has been taking flying lessons. At the time of his arrest the man is in possession of technical information on Boeing aircraft and flight manuals. [Source: Reuters, September 13.]

19. August 11 or 12 – US Navy Lt. Delmart “Mike” Vreeland, jailed in Toronto on U.S. fraud charges and claiming to be an officer in U.S. Naval intelligence, writes details of the pending WTC attacks and seals them in an envelope which he gives to Canadian authorities. [Source: The Toronto Star, Oct. 23, 2001; Toronto Superior Court Records]

20. Summer 2001 – Russian intelligence notifies the CIA that 25 terrorist pilots have been specifically training for suicide missions. This is reported in the Russian press and news stories are translated for FTW by a retired CIA officer.

21. July 4-14, 2001 – Osama bin Laden receives treatments for kidney disease at the American hospital in Dubai and meets with a CIA official who returns to CIA headquarters on July 15th. [Source: Le Figaro, October 31st, 2001.]

22. August 2001 – Russian President Vladimir Putin orders Russian intelligence to warn the U.S. government “in the strongest possible terms” of imminent attacks on airports and government buildings. [Source: MS-NBC interview with Putin, September 15.]

23. August/September, 2001 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average drops nearly 900 points in the three weeks prior to the attack. A major stock market crash is imminent.

24. Sept. 3-10, 2001 – MS-NBC reports on September 16 that a caller to a Cayman Islands radio talk show gave several warnings of an imminent attack on the U.S. by bin Laden in the week prior to 9/11.

25. September 1-10, 2001 – In an exercise, Operation “Swift Sword” planned for four years, 23, 000 British troops are steaming toward Oman. Although the 9/11 attacks caused a hiccup in the deployment the massive operation was implemented as planned. At the same time two U.S. carrier

battle groups arrive on station in the Gulf of Arabia just off the Pakistani coast. Also at the same time, some 17,000 U.S. troops join more than 23,000 NATO troops in Egypt for Operation "Bright Star." All of these forces are in place before the first plane hits the World Trade Center. [Sources: The Guardian, CNN, FOX, The Observer, International Law Professor Francis Boyle, the University of Illinois.]

26. September 7, 2001 – Florida Governor Jeb Bush signs a two-year emergency executive order (01-261) making new provisions for the Florida National Guard to assist law enforcement and emergency-management personnel in the event of large civil disturbances, disaster or acts of terrorism.

[Source: State of Florida web site listing of Governor's Executive Orders.]

27. September 6-7, 2001 – 4,744 put options (a speculation that the stock will go down) are purchased on United Air Lines stock as opposed to only 396 call options (speculation that the stock will go up). This is a dramatic and abnormal increase in sales of put options. Many of the UAL puts are purchased through Deutschebank/AB Brown, a firm managed until 1998 by the current Executive Director of the CIA, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard. [Source: The Herzliyya International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, <http://www.ict.org.il/>, September 21; The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal.]

28. September 10, 2001 – 4,516 put options are purchased on American Airlines as compared to 748 call options. [Source: ICT – above]

29. September 6-11, 2001 – No other airlines show any similar trading patterns to those experienced by UAL and American. The put option purchases on both airlines were 600% above normal. This at a time when Reuters (September 10) issues a business report stating, "Airline stocks may be poised to take off."

30. September 6-10, 2001 – Highly abnormal levels of put options are purchased in Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, AXA Re(insurance) which owns 25% of American Airlines, and Munich Re. All of these companies are directly impacted by the September 11 attacks. [Source: ICT, above; FTW, Vol. IV, No.7, October 18, 2001, <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/members/oct152001.html>.]

31. It has been documented that the CIA, the Israeli Mossad and many other intelligence agencies monitor stock trading in real time using highly advanced programs reported to be descended from Promis software. This is to alert national intelligence services of just such kinds of attacks. Promis was reported, as recently as June, 2001 to be in Osama bin Laden's possession and, as a result of recent stories by FOX, both the FBI and the Justice Department have confirmed its use for U.S. intelligence gathering through at least this summer. This would confirm that CIA had additional advance warning of imminent attacks. [Sources: The Washington Times, June 15, 2001; FOX News, October 16, 2001; FTW, October 26, 2001 – <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/> members/magic_carpet.html; FTW, Vol. IV, No.6, Sept. 18, 2001 – <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/> members/sept1801.html; FTW, Vol. 3, No 7, 9/30/00 – <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/> free/pandora/052401_promis.html.

32. September 11, 2001 – Gen Mahmud of the ISI (see above), friend of Mohammed Atta, is visiting Washington on behalf of the Taliban. He is meeting with the Chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, Porter Goss (R), FL and Bob Graham (D), Fl [Sources: MS-NBC, Oct. 7, The New York Times, Feb. 17, 2002.]

33. September 11, 2002 – Employees of Odigo, Inc. in Israel, one of the world's largest instant messaging companies, with offices in New York, receive threat warnings of an imminent attack on the WTC less than two hours before the first plane hits the WTC. Law enforcement authorities have gone silent about any investigation of this. The Odigo Research and Development offices in Israel are located in the city of Herzliyya, a ritzy suburb of Tel Aviv which is the same location as the Institute for Counter Terrorism which breaks early details of insider trading on 9-11. [Source: CNN's Daniel Sieberg, 9/28/01; Newsbytes, Brian McWilliams, 9/27/01; Ha'aretz, 9/26/01].

34. September 11, 2001, For 50 minutes, from 8:15 AM until 9:05 AM, with it widely known within the FAA and the military that four planes have been

simultaneously hijacked and taken off course, no one notifies the President of the United States. It is not until 9:30 that any Air Force planes are scrambled to intercept, but by then it is too late. This means that the National Command Authority waited for 75 minutes before scrambling aircraft, even though it was known that four simultaneous hijackings had occurred – an event that has never happened in history. [Sources: CNN, ABC, MS-NBC, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times.]

35. September 13, 2001 – China is admitted to the World Trade Organization quickly, after 15 years of unsuccessful attempts. [Source: The New York Times, Sept. 30, 2001.]

36. September 14, 2001 – Canadian jailers open the sealed envelope from Mike Vreeland in Toronto and see that it describes attacks against the WTC and Pentagon. The U.S. Navy subsequently states that Vreeland was discharged as a seaman in 1986 for unsatisfactory performance and has never worked in intelligence. [Source: The Toronto Star, Oct. 23, 2001; Toronto Superior Court records]

37. September 15, 2001 – The New York Times reports that Mayo Shattuck III has resigned, effective immediately, as head of the Alex (A.B) Brown unit of Deutschebank.

38. September 29, 2001 – The San Francisco Chronicle reports that \$2.5 million in put options on American Airlines and United Airlines are unclaimed. This is likely the result of the suspension in trading on the NYSE after the attacks which gave the Securities and Exchange Commission time to be waiting when the owners showed up to redeem their put options.

39. October 10, 2001 – The Pakistani newspaper The Frontier Post reports that U.S. Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain has paid a call on the Pakistani oil minister. A previously abandoned Unocal pipeline from Turkmenistan, across Afghanistan, to the Pakistani coast, for the purpose of selling oil and gas to China, is now back on the table “in view of recent geopolitical developments.”

40. October 11, 2001 – The Ashcroft Justice Department takes over all terrorist prosecutions from the U.S. Attorneys office in New York which has had a highly successful track record in prosecuting terrorist cases

connected to Osama bin Laden. [Source: The New York Times, Oct. 11, 2002.]

41. Mid October, 2001 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average, after having suffered a precipitous drop has recovered most of its pre-attack losses.

Although still weak, and vulnerable to negative earnings reports, a crash has been averted by a massive infusion of government spending on defense programs, subsidies for “affected” industries and planned tax cuts for corporations.

42. November 21, 2001 – The British paper The Independent runs a story headlined, “Opium Farmers Rejoice at the Defeat of the Taliban.” The story reports that massive opium planting is underway all over the country.

43. November 25, 2001 – The Observer runs a story headlined “Victorious Warlords Set To Open the Opium Floodgates.” It states that farmers are being encouraged by warlords allied with the victorious Americans are “being encouraged to plant “as much opium as possible.”

44. December 4, 2001 – Convicted drug lord and opium kingpin Ayub Afridi is recruited by the US government to help establish control in Afghanistan by unifying various Pashtun warlords. The former opium smuggler who was one of the CIA’s leading assets in the war against the Russians is released from prison in order to do this. [Source: The Asia Times Online, 12/4/01].

45. December 25, 2001 – Newly appointed afghani Prime Minister Hamid Karzai is revealed as being a former paid consultant for Unocal. [Source: Le Monde.]

46. January 3, 2002 – President Bush appoints Zalamy Khalilzad as a special envoy to Afghanistan. Khalilzad, a former employee of Unocal, also wrote op-eds in the Washington Post in 1997 supporting the Taliban regime. [Source: Pravda, 1/9/02]

47. January 4, 2002 – Florida drug trafficking explodes after 9-11. In a surge of trafficking reminiscent of the 1980s the diversion of resources away from drug enforcement has opened the floodgates for a new surge of cocaine and heroin from South America. [The Christian Science Monitor, January 4, 2002.

48. January 10, 2002 – In a call from a speaker phone in open court,

attorneys for “Mike” Vreeland call the Pentagon’s switchboard operator who confirms that Vreeland is indeed a Naval Lieutenant on active duty. She provides an office number and a direct dial phone extension to his office in the Pentagon. [Source: Attorney Rocco Galati; court records Toronto Superior Court.]

49. January 10, 2002 – Attorney General John Ashcroft recuses himself from the Enron investigation because Enron had been a major campaign donor in his 2000 Senate race. He fails to recuse himself from involvement in two sitting Federal grand juries investigating bribery and corruption charges against ExxonMobil and BP-Amoco who have massive oil interests in Central Asia. Both were major Ashcroft donors in 2000. [Source: CNN, Jan. 10, 2002 – FTW original investigation, The Elephant in the Living Room, Part I, Apr 4, 2002.]

50. February 9, 2002 – Pakistani leader General Musharraf and Afghan leader Hamid Karzai announce their agreement to “cooperate in all spheres of activity” including the proposed Central Asian pipeline. Pakistan will give \$10 million to Afghanistan to help pay Afghani government workers. [Source: The Irish Times, 2/9/02]

51. Feb 18, 2002 – The Financial Times reports that the estimated opium harvest in Afghanistan in the late Spring of 2002 will reach a world record 4500 metric tons.

About the writer: Jean-Charles Brisard, coauthor of “Bin Laden: The Forbidden Truth,” is a consultant on business and corporate intelligence.

Afghanistan: The Saudi Arabia of Lithium?

Lithium, which is from mobile phones, nation's economy.

As of late February held Ener1 Group, loan to Think Global, which is trying to emerge from bankruptcy — is held by Bzinfin, a British Virgin Islands company whose "indirect beneficial owner" is Boris Zingarevich, a Russian businessman. Zingarevich has close ties to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

By JAMES RISEN
Published: June 13, 2010

WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the

WASHINGTON — The United States has discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, far beyond any previously known reserves and enough to fundamentally alter the

Investing in Lithium Mining Stocks

How To Profit from the Lithium Boom

By Brian Hicks
Friday, October 16th, 2009

Editor's Note:

While Western Lithium remains trades — and possibly a third opportunity to double if not triple

Green power corrupts

June 08, 2010 - 8:00 AM

Goldman Sachs culture 'toxic'? Letter confirms suspicions about Wall Street.

A123 lithium-ion battery maker bankruptcy fuels criticism of President Barack Obama's alternative energy policies

Energy & Genius

The Saudi Arabia of Lithium

Brendan I. Koerner, 10.30.08, 06:00 PM EST
Forbes Magazine dated November 24, 2008

The gas engine made petroleum the world's biggest commodity. The electric car could do the same for the third element on the

Ener1 Wants to Win Lithium Ion Battery Race

Share Tweet Stumble



U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan

The problem with lithium

David Booth, National Post

New chloride ring SQM creating the illusion in the ultra-arid salar

Image: CarSpace

RUSSIAN OWNED

Goldman Sachs discloses ownership in Talison Lithium Corp.

Talison Lithium Ltd.

Lithium ion battery manufacturer Ener1 (HEV) could become the country's first lithium ion battery mass producer—if it wins a \$480M Department of Energy loan. CNNMoney has more.

The Players: The Dark Side

Famous politicians, White House staff, narcissistic technology billionaires, and renown investment bankers played their parts in organizing one of the biggest crimes of the century. It has cost American taxpayers trillions of their hard earned dollars but the costs continue to rise.

- [David Axelrod](#)
- [David Plouffe](#)
- [Jonathan Silver](#)
- [Steve Rattner](#)
- [Steven Chu](#)
- [Kleiner Perkins](#)
- [Matt Rogers](#)
- [McKinsey Consulting](#)
- [Rahm Emanuel](#)
- [Robert Gibbs](#)
- [Valarie Jarrett](#)
- John Doerr
- Elon Musk
- Gilman Louie- Creator on In-Q-Tel and NVCA
- Joe Lonsdale – VC, charged with rape
- Larry Summers- White House, charged with organizing "skims" of DOE cash to intermediaries
- Larry Page- Google, In-Q-Tel
- Kimbal Musk – Investor, sued for fraud
- Jonathan Silver- Dept. of Energy, charged with organizing "skims" of DOE cash to intermediaries
- John Weinberg- Investor
- John Doerr- Kleiner Perkins, Stock beneficiary, “Godfather” of the Silicon Valley Cartel”
- James Brown Jr.- Head of California HHS software, (arrested for corruption)
- James Breyer – Investor, In-Q-Tel,
- Ira Ehrenpreis- Investor, Assisted with transfer of DOE funded companies to China

- Herb Newman- Newman Search, Feinstein Family, Tesla & Solyndra HR provider
- Harald Kroeger – Investor,
- Gilman Louie – Investor, In-Q-Tel, Stock beneficiary
- George Trifonov- Russian businessman, Associate of Arnold Schwarzenegger & John Doerr
- Frank Giustra - Lithium Investor, Assisted with transfer of DOE funded companies to China
- Eric Schmidt- Google Investor, New America Foundation Leader, In-Q-Tel
- Kimball and Elon Musk – Investor, sued for fraud, recently in major media accused of huge kick-back scheme
- David Plouffe- - Uber
- David Gronet- CEO of Solyndra (bankrupt DOE "winner")
- Brian Goncher- Deloitte Consulting, Assisted with transfer of DOE funded companies to China
- Brad W. Buss – Investor
- Boris Zingarevich- Russian businessman, Associate of Arnold Schwarzenegger & John Doerr
- Antonio J. Gracias – Investor
- Andy Bechtolsheim- Investor
- Allison Spinner- Solyndra lawyer & wife of DOE funding reviewer (bankrupt DOE "winner")
- Alexey Mordashov- Russian businessman, Associate of Arnold Schwarzenegger & John Doerr
- Steve Jurvetson- VC
- Yuri Savinkov- Russian businessman, Associate of Arnold Schwarzenegger & John Doerr
- Vinod Khosla- Investor, sued by State of California groups, featured on 60 Minutes expose
- Tom Styer- Investor
- Tom Perkins- Investor, Kleiner Perkins founder, Famous for "Nazi" comments
- Tim Draper – Investor, charged with organizing "skims" of DOE cash to intermediaries
- Senator Calderone - (Arrested for corruption)
- The CTO, CFO and CIO of New America Foundation - Sister group to In-Q-Tel- Bay Area Chapter
- The CTO, CFO and CIO of Kleiner Perkins, charged with organizing "skims" of DOE cash to intermediaries
- The CTO, CFO and CIO of Draper Fisher
- The CEO of McKinsey Consulting - Manipulated DOE reports on orders from Steven Chu
- The CEO of Ener1 - Charged with lying to Congress (bankrupt DOE "winner")
- The CEO of Covington & Burling, LLP – San Francisco Charged with manipulation of Eric Holder's nomination
- The CEO of Abound Solar - Charged with lying to Congress (bankrupt DOE "winner")
- Steven Rattner- White House (indicted for stock market fraud), Co-runs New America Foundation, In-Q-Tel advisor
- Steven Chu – Dept. of Energy- Stanford
- Steve Westly- Atherton Investor

- Steve Spinner- Dept. of Energy – Palo Alto
- Ray Lane- Investor (charged with tax fraud)
- Raj Gupta- McKinsey Consulting (arrested)
- Peter Thiel – Investor, Elon Musk associate, China deals
- Nick Denton- Gawker Media - Ran political media attacks against Silicon Valley Cartel adversaries. Now being looked at in connection with the British Police investigations called “Hydrant” and “the tabloid hacking scandal” as he is thought to have had interaction with the parties in those cases.
- Matt Rogers- Dept. of Energy - Manipulated DOE reviews on orders from Steven Chu
- Martin LaGod- Lithium Investor
- Leland Yee- Senator (arrested)

Person's who had full knowledge of the scheme at the California State level:

- State DOJ officer Ken Alex, assistant to Jerry Brown
- State Controller Bill Lockyer
- Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Senator Calderone
- Senator Yee
- The Fremont California Chamber of Commerce
- James Brown Junior, California State IT Chief

Steven Chu

Steven Chu, The U.S. Secretary of Energy, has been universally reviled, across the news channels, as a “crook”, “a mobster” and a “corrupt rapist of public office”.

He is said to have raped American innovation, robbed U.S. taxpayers, ordered the sabotage of Kleiner Perkins competitors, manipulated stock market valuations, and to have broken every code of moral conduct, in order to operate a financial kick-back scam with the Silicon Valley Cartel. These are felony crimes he is accused of.

His legacy, throughout history, will always be that of, what American taxpayers call: a “thieving scumbag”. He should be proud.

Everything that he, John Doerr, Elon Musk, Dianne Feinstein, and their associated agents, discussed, communicated and engaged in, was surveilled, documented and is now archived in multiple locations by multiple agencies as well as hacked, apparently, by the Chinese.

Steven Chu, the Secretary of Energy, was placed in office by John Doerr's Kleiner Perkins Cartel in order to effect an organized crime operation to steer taxpayer funds to John Doerr, Elon Musk and a cadre of Silicon Valley VC's.



White House staff Rahm Emanuel, David Axelrod, David Plouffe, Bill Daley and Robert Gibbs, assisted in the scam by redirecting federal policy in order to implement the crimes. All of these staff suddenly quit the White House, when confronted about these suspicions.

A large portion of the crime involved manipulating mining stocks, with help from Goldman Sachs. In particular, Afghan lithium for Tesla and Fisker, and Afghan indium for the notorious FBI-raided Solyndra and Abound. Kleiner had relationships with Russian mobsters, for a portion of the middle-east commodities deals. Steven Chu gave federal money to Russian controlled companies as part of the scam. Goldman has now been caught doing the same kind of mining commodity stock manipulation. Kleiner and Sachs promoted an extensive set of media releases entitled: “*Afghanistan is the Saudi Arabia of Lithium*” and “*A TRILLION DOLLARS OF LITHIUM in Afghanistan*” in order to market their profiteering scam. The scam was intended to provide the Silicon Valley Cartel with trillions of dollars of personal profits and the Reid, Feinstein (Who are shareholders in the stock deals) and Obama political campaigns, with back-door financing.

All competitors, to the Kleiner Perkins Cartel, had “hit-jobs” put on them by Chu, Doerr, Gibbs and Musk. The hit-jobs ranged from character assassination via Gawker Media, Media Matters and Think Progress, to economic attacks by In-Q-Tel, to political attacks via Sidney Blumenthal and New America Foundation. Every Dept. of Energy applicant that competed with Kleiner’s holdings was sabotaged by Steven Chu. History has proven that only Cartel companies received the DOE funding, and that all competitors, to Kleiner companies, were targeted by government officials, and Kleiner operatives, and terminated, or black-listed. A number of strange deaths of whistle-blowers are also under investigation.

All of the evidence from leaks, Chinese hacks, eye-witness reports, investigators, emails, HSBC and Welles Fargo leaks, offshore tax records, financial water-fall analysis, forensic accounting, surveillance, phone records, Senate testimony, and a host of other sources, appears to extensively confirm these charges and validate an organized cover-up.

Every single one of the suspects has received financial and career benefits from their crimes, which has now been tracked, and proven, by forensic legal accountants and FOIA disclosures.

Reasons for Considering Steven Chu to be compromised:

- Emails and phone calls with Covington and Burling confirm conflicts
- Family stock ownership in companies and suppliers of DOE awardees
- Past personal, academic, fraternal, business, political, contracting and political relationships with DOE awardees
- Nomination packet predominantly supported by DOE awardees
- Testimony from MBG
- Assertions by BD of C&B
- Directives and memos at DOE exclusively benefitted DOE awardees with whom he had a business relationship, while damaging, negating or delaying those who competed with their interests
- Chu created DOE policies to exclusively benefit lithium mining and denigrate competing resources
- Chu was closely associated with the DOE insider award group before, during and after his DOE tenure, in a vast number of compromised and illicit manners

- Chu awarded emergency federal tax money to Russian controlled companies involved in both lithium mining exploitation and business deals with DOE awardee insiders
- Assertions by over 20 former DOE staff
- Assertions by former White House staff
- Assertions by investigative journalists
- Assertions by federal investigators
- Assertions by private investigators
- Assertions by ATVM and LGP applicants

Steven Chu must go – Energy Dept. Disaster

March 19, 2012 | Filed under Corruption | Posted by SUAduan

Editor's Note – SUA has been watching the Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu and his abysmal testimony before Congress, the scandals he allowed like Solyndra, gasoline prices (which he flip-flopped on), Chevy Volts, and the disastrous "green agenda" of the Obama Administration for the past three plus years and it is now clear, Steven Chu must go. Just like our call for Eric Holder's resignation, Chu is inept, a pawn for 'crony capitalism', and a disaster to our economy and energy independence.



GOP Says Energy Dept. Cut Corners to Lend Az. Solar Firm \$1.6 Billion

By MATTHEW MOSK
ABC News

House Republicans are preparing to grill Energy Secretary Steven Chu this week over \$1.6 billion in loans to finance two massive solar energy projects planned for the desert Southwest, saying investigators have found evidence suggesting the administration cut corners in order to get the loans approved.

"The Department of Energy manipulated analysis, ignored objections from career



Steven Chu - Energy Secretary and Obama

professionals, and strategically modified loan evaluations in order to force project funding out the door," House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-California, said in a statement provided to ABC News.

Dept. Of Energy Boss Goes “Full Crony” in Broad Daylight

While the L.A. Times, and other recent articles, have exposed Elon Musk as the “King of the Kickbacks”, a sort of federal moocher on steroids. The Moochee, who gave away the taxpayer money to Musk, has come forward to demonstrate one of the most thumb-his-nose at the law moves, and it is **bold!**

Former head of the United States Department of Energy: **Steven Chu**, who was nominated by John Doerr and the Silicon Valley Cartel has joined the board of the lithium ion energy company that he helped award taxpayer stimulus cash to.

John Doerr and his Silicon Valley Cartel owned the lithium mining and exploitation deals which Elon Musk exploits with his taxpayer financed companies.

John Doerr and his Silicon Valley Cartel flooded Congress with “McKinsey” white-papers claiming that they could make “*Trillions of dollars of profit*” and that “*Afghanistan was the Saudi Arabia of lithium*” if they could get to take-over the Afghanistan mining fields for Tesla, Solyndra, A123, Ener1 and all of those corrupt Department of Energy companies that went *splat*. ***They forgot to mention that their Cartel had pre-acquired all of the key monopoly routes for those mining commodity exploitations.***

Hillary is now facing interrogation about Middle East mining deals and shady deals involving Chu’s buddy: Frank Guistra.

While at the U.S. Department of Energy, Chu and his top brass, acquired mining stocks for Afghan related minerals. That is usually called: “insider trading” but with Chu, it is called ‘just another Chu Crony Scam deal” (A “Choney”).

Even though Elon Musk did not pass the DOE Section 136 evaluation metrics, Chu still handed him the free cash; as a favor between chums.

While at the U.S. Department of Energy, Steven Chu cut out all domestic technologies that competed with his and the Silicon Valley Cartel’s investment interests.

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/former-energy-secretary-joins-board-of-stimulus-recipient/>

Former DOE Chief Steven Chu Takes Board Seat at Amprius, Plus More Green Job News : Greentech Media

Former DOE Chief Steven Chu Takes

Board Seat at Amprius...

Executive moves at SolarCity, GT Advanced, TDI, and SunEdison; plus Gary Kremen.

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Preview by

Yahoo

From a tip, from a tipster, who sent it to another tipster. Originally researched and published from data by Christine Lakatos

1. **Amprius** — \$3 million** from the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Technology Innovation Program (TIP), funded by the 2009-Stimulus. And **\$5 million** from the DOE's Vehicle Technologies Program funded by the 2009-Stimulus

Amprius is a leading manufacturer and developer of high energy and high capacity lithium-ion batteries. Amprius's silicon anode technology was originally developed at Stanford University and enables dramatic improvements in the energy density and specific energy of lithium-ion batteries.

Amprius is backed by some of the world's leading investors, including Trident Capital, VantagePoint Capital Partners, IPV Capital, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, SAIF Partners, Chinergy Capital, Google Chairman Eric Schmidt, and Stanford University.

Press Releases:

January 6, 2014 [Amprius Raises \\$30M to Accelerate Commercialization of High Energy Batteries](#)

January 20, 2014 Former Secretary of Energy Steven Chu Joins Board of Battery Company Amprius

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/press-room/press-releases/judicial-watch-announces-list-of-washingtons-ten-most-wanted-corrupt-politicians-for-2012/>

Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians - Judicial

... today released its 2012 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians ... **Steven Chu**:

"The final ... of **Chu's** incompetence and **corruption** in a ...

judicialwatch.org/press-room/press-releases/judicial-watch-...

Steven http://greencorruption.com/tag/steven-chu/Chu | The Green Corruption Files

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Secretary of Energy Steven Chu - 10 Most Wanted

"The final decisions on Solyndra were mine," said Secretary of Energy **Steven Chu** in his testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Oversight Committee on ...

top10corrupt.com/politicians/steven-chu/

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Steven Chu Corruption Archives -

Dept. Of Energy Boss Goes "Full Crony" in Broad Daylight While the L.A. Times, and other recent articles, have exposed Elon Musk as the "King of the Kickbacks ...

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Chu, ... on the widely respected **corruption** list was the use of ...

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-Steven Chu - CORRUPTION NEWS:

CORRUPTION NEWS: DC BEAT TOP NAMES IN THE ARTICLES: Robert Gibbs, Nick Denton, Adrian Covert, John Herrmann, David Plouffe, Dianne Feinstein

► [corruptionnewsdc.com/investigations/topic-11-kickback-process/...](http://www.corruptionnewsdc.com/investigations/topic-11-kickback-process/)

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Steven Chu Corruption Archives - GOOGL

How Google's owners use their company for revenge, political paybacks, and economic retribution attacks.

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Steven Chu must go - Energy Dept. Disaster | The SUA Blog ...

Abysmal testimony before Congress, the scandals like Solyndra, gasoline prices, Chevy Volts, and the disastrous "green agenda" - **Steven Chu** must go now.

 [standupamericaus.org/corruption-2/steven-chu-must-go-energy-de...](http://www.standupamericaus.org/corruption-2/steven-chu-must-go-energy-de...)

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Steven Chu | National Legal and Policy

National Legal and Policy Center is a nonpartisan foundation promoting ethics in public life through investigation, research, education and legal action.

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breitbart.com/big-government/2012/12/31/10-most-corrupt...

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Steven Chu | National Legal and Policy Center

Steven Chu. GM-Funded EV Company Gives Up on DOE Loan, Ends Operations. Submitted by Paul Chesser on Mon, 03/05/2012 - 11:03 . In administrating its stimulus-fed loan ...

 nlpc.org/category/people/steven-chu?page=3

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Steven Chu Scandal Archives - POLITICAL CORRUPTION-WATCH MAGAZINE

AMERICAN INNOVATION! - Egotistical billionaire control-freaks should not get to buy Washington and shut down inventors because they are not smart enough to invent new ...

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Steven Chu Not Stepping Down As Secretary Of Energy ...

Energy Secretary **Steven Chu** is planning to leave his cabinet post, Bloomberg reports. **Chu**, who was criticized for defending a \$500 million federal loan to ...

 huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/17/steven-chu-step-down_n_2497001...

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Steven Chu - Wikipedia,

Steven Chu is an American physicist who served as the 12th United States Secretary of Energy from 2009 to 2013. **Chu** is known for his research at Bell Labs in cooling ...

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[Newt Gingrich Calls For Steven Chu To Be Fired Over Solyndra](#) Yo

WASHINGTON -- Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Monday called for Energy Secretary **Steven Chu** to be fired for his decision to allow Solyndra to keep ...

► huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/04/newt-gingrich-steven-chu-solyn...

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/04/newt-gingrich-steven-chu-solyndra_n_995122.html

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WHITE HOUSE STAFF, TESLA MOTORS, GOLDMAN SACHS AND AN ORGANIZED CRIME SCHEME! Investigators say that, political operatives David Plouffe, Rahm Emanuel, **Steven** Rattner ...

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Watchdog: 10 Most Corrupt Politicians - Fox Nation Yo

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National Freedom Forum: Time To FIRE Secretary of Energy ...

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nationalfreedomforum.com/2012/03/time-to-fire-secretary-of-energy-...

<http://www.nationalfreedomforum.com/2012/03/time-to-fire-secretary-of-energy-steven.html>

Steven Chu: No apology for Solyndra - Darren Samuelsohn ...

Energy Secretary **Steven Chu** on Thursday declined an opportunity to issue a direct apology for Solyndra. "Based on what you know and what's happened, who has to ...

politico.com/news/stories/1111/68591.html

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White House Email: Energy Secretary Chu Must Go 'As Soon As ...

New internal White House emails reveal that a scathing critique of Energy Secretary **Steven Chu** by a former Obama political advisor was widely circulated at ...

abcnews.go.com/Blotter/white-house-email-energy-secretar...

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Solyndra Archives - CORRUPTION

Why did **Steven Chu** give U.S. tax money to Ener1, Severstal and other Russian companies? Type "Dianne Feinstein **Corruption**" into the top 5 search engine windows and read the results.

 corruptionbusters.info/tag/solyndra/

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PATRIOT OR TRAITOR | Steven Chu

Steven Chu. Posted May 30, 2013 on Patriot or Traitor. Darrell Issa's (R-CA) Energy and Oversight Committee exposed the full extent of **Chu's** incompetence and **corruption** in a report citing "numerous..."

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Steven Chu - Biographical

Steven Chu - Biographical. My father, Ju Chin **Chu**, came to the United States in 1943 to continue his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in chemical engineering, and two years later...

nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1997/chu-b...

Steven Chu - Latest Headlines - UPI.com

Steven Chu (born February 28, 1948) is an American physicist and the 12th United States Secretary of Energy. Honduras court orders **corruption** arrest of Congress vice president.

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Steven Chu

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Steven Chu - Conservapedia

Steven Chu (b. February 28, 1948, St. Louis, Missouri) is a 1997 Nobel Prize-winning physicist, former director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and former Secretary of Energy. The Department of Energy is at the center of U.S. efforts to end the U.S.'s dependence on foreign oil...

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Steven Chu and his associates took specific action to damage any industry that competed with the -

Rahm Emanuel's senior aide in charge of finance was indicted for **corruption** and racketeering.

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The Hand Of Detroit

Investigators believe that the Detroit Big 3 had as much to do with coming up with the Department of Energy ATVM scheme as the Silicon Valley billionaires did. The evidence certainly shows some dirty dealing by, and with GM, Ford and Chrysler.

In one case, Ford's top engineer contacted Department of Energy applicant XPV and offered to "help them with their application". This person stated that they had "just left Ford and were looking for a new opportunity". After going over some of XPV's material, under confidentiality terms, it was discovered via Linked In, Ford Personnel records and co-workers, that the Ford executive had never actually ceased working for Ford.

Ford got their taxpayer cash by cooking their books with off-shore allocations in order to avoid looking bankrupt, but they used the money to pay off their debts, as shown here:

Report: Ford using government-backed loans to pay off debt

by [Sam Abuelsamid](#) ([RSS feed](#)) on Aug 10th 2010 at 10:31AM



Ford was the only one of Detroit's three automakers able to avoid taking a direct government bailout in 2009 to bypass bankruptcy. However, that doesn't mean it hasn't been able to benefit from some government largess.

Back in 2006 before the credit markets collapsed, Ford essentially mortgaged every facility it had in order to borrow \$23.5 billion. That money was used to provide operating cash flow that [General Motors](#) and [Chrysler](#) didn't have when things went south in 2008. The money allowed Ford to keep the lights on, but it also saddled the company with the debt service payments of \$318 per vehicle in the second quarter of this year.

Rather than direct bailouts, Ford has been able to take advantage of several government-backed low interest loan programs like the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing program run by the Department of Energy to fund new vehicle development and factory retooling. Ford is also getting tax breaks and low interest loans from various states as well as other countries like the UK and Russia. At the same time, it has used profits earned in the past year to pay down higher interest debt earlier than planned. In doing so, Ford hopes to get back from junk bond status to investment grade by late 2011 or early 2012.

[Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)]

Filed under: [Ford](#), [Earnings/Financials](#)

Detroit had an inside man at the Department of Energy in the form of Chrysler funding agent Lachlan Seward:



Lachlan Seward- The Manager of the DOE Payback Scheme

Seward

had previously helped hand Detroit a huge amount of taxpayer cash the last time it failed. This time he worked with White House “Car Czar” Steven Rattner, who was later indicted for stock market fraud, to hand even more payola to Detroit and try to keep any of Detroit's competitors from getting funded.

Chrysler was a tricky as they come:

Chrysler steps on the gas and puts EVs, hybrids on hold

by Automotive News

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DETROIT--Chrysler Group has scaled back its ambitious plans for hybrids and electric vehicles and instead is placing its green bets on internal combustion engines that use Fiat technology.

[Automotive News](#)

As Chrysler slid toward bankruptcy in September 2008, it rolled out several hybrid and all-electric vehicles to bolster its green credentials in the eyes of the federal government.

Then-CEO Bob Nardelli put hybrids and electrics on the fast track under the umbrella of a separate division called ENVI and made alternative propulsion a centerpiece of Chrysler's survival strategy. The company, at the time owned by Cerberus Capital Management, showed off plug-in hybrid versions of the Chrysler Town and Country minivan and Jeep Wrangler and an all-electric sports [car](#) called the Dodge Circuit, designed with help from Lotus.

What a difference a change in management makes. Now, with Fiat input, Chrysler is wringing extra fuel economy out of the internal combustion engine wherever possible.

"When we made the alliance with Fiat, we had a lot more opportunity with fuel economy with lighter platforms and smaller engines," said Chrysler spokesman Nick Cappa. "The vehicles



Chrysler showed the Dodge Circuit EV at the 2009 Detroit auto show.

Not to be out-done in financial trickery with tax payer money, General Motors loses quite a large junk of the money it got from taxpayers:

GM's Phony Bailout Payback

But wait! Even that's not the full story given that GM, which has not yet broken even, much less turned a profit, can't pay even this puny amount from its own earnings.

So how is it paying it?

As it turns out, the Obama administration put \$13.4 billion of the aid money as "working capital" in an escrow account when the company was in bankruptcy. The company is using this escrow money—government money—to pay back the government loan.

GM claims that the fact that it is even using the escrow money to pay back the loan instead of using it all to shore itself up shows that it is on the road to recovery. That actually would be a positive development—although hardly one worth hyping in ads and columns—if it were not for a further plot twist.

Sean McAlinden, chief economist at the Ann Arbor-based Center for Automotive Research, points out that the company has applied to the Department of Energy for \$10 billion in low (5 percent) interest loan to retool its plants to meet the government's tougher new CAFÉ (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards. However, giving GM more taxpayer money on top of the existing bailout would have been a political disaster for the Obama administration and a PR debacle for the company. Paying back the small bailout loan makes the new—and bigger—DOE loan much more feasible.

In short, GM is using government money to pay back government money to get more government money. And at a 2 percent lower interest rate at that. This is a nifty scheme to refinance GM's government debt—not pay it back!

GM boasts that, because it is doing so well, it is paying the \$6.7 billion five years ahead of schedule since it was not due until 2015. So will there be an accelerated payback of the rest of the \$49.6 billion investment? No. That goal has been pushed back, as it turns out.

In order to recover that investment, the government has to sell its equity. It plans to do that only when GM becomes a publicly traded company once again. GM was hoping to turn a profit by the end of 2010 and float an initial public offering this winter. However, GM Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell, when queried about that timeline a few days ago, demurred. The offering will be made, he said, "when the markets and the company are ready."

(Take that, taxpayers!)

The reality is that there is no certainty that GM will ever be able to make taxpayers whole. Some analysts such as Center for Automotive Research's Sean McAlinden and Global Insight's George Magliano believe that it will—eventually. McAlinden maintains that this will happen when the company's market capitalization touches \$60 billion. (At GM's peak in 2000, this level was only \$57 billion.) This is a challenging but not an impossible goal—provided the economy does not dip into another recession, he maintains. Magliano too maintains that the company will be able to pay back taxpayers if the industry is able to ramp up annual vehicle sales from the expected 10.8 million this year to 17 million in 2014

and GM captures 20 percent of these sales.

The General Accountability Office, on the other hand, remains deeply pessimistic. It concluded in a December report (which a more recent April report has said nothing to contradict, despite media spin to the contrary) that: "The Treasury is unlikely to recover the entirety of its investment in Chrysler or GM, given that the companies' values would have to grow substantially more than they have in the past."

Whitacre's bailout payback ploy is a desperate attempt to win back the car-buying public deeply disgusted by the spectacle of GM rattling its tin-cup before Uncle Sam. But the fact of the matter is that the company is still deep in the hole. It might claw its way back—or it might not. But surely it's premature for its media boosters to pop open the champagne bottle without getting their story straight?

Shikha Dalmia is a senior analyst at Reason Foundation and a biweekly columnist at Forbes. This column originally appeared at Forbes.

PROMOTING ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE
National Legal and Policy Center

More Energy Department Rewards for GM Bankruptcy Allies?

Submitted by [Mark Mojtahedi](#) on Mon, 05/21/2012 - 09:10

recently reported that the Houlihan Lokey group subsequently received a \$1.35 million contract from the Energy Department (tinyurl.com/6t4t6m) to manage the transition of energy programs from GM to the new energy department. To track the government money lent to Fisker Automotive and Beacon Power Corp., Houlihan Lokey was the institutional shareholder representative which smoothed the way for the General Motors' bankruptcy process by endorsing the Obama Administration's 363 bankruptcy plan. I have now uncovered three more firms that cooperated in the GM bankruptcy process that have subsequently been awarded Energy Department contracts.

Sack in late May of 2009 a revised offer was made to GM bondholders, which if accepted, would smooth the company's path through bankruptcy court. According to a TheDetroitBureau.com report: <http://tinyurl.com/294mzq> the two major representatives of institutional bondholders supported the deal. The article quotes GM as stating, "We have been informed by the advisors to the unofficial committee of unsecured GM Noteholders, Hoolihan Lokey Howard & Zukin Capital, Incorporated, and Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, that the unofficial committee and other large noteholders (who collectively hold approximately 20% in aggregate principal amount of the Notes) support the economic terms of the Proposal."

previously found a Bloomberg report unearthing the \$1.15 million Jonathan Lasky contract (<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-01-06/a-suit-hits-wrapping-paper-maker-lasky.html>). Now, I have discovered an AMW awards report titled (<http://amw.doi.gov/reports/awards/reports/awards-reviews-exhibit>) that lists firms benefiting from the Federal Recovery Act and Energy Department contracts. On the list: Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, which received \$1.28 million as legal counsel to the Energy Department in connection with ATVM (Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing) loans involving Tesla Motors, Nissan North America, and Magna E-Car Systems. Coincidence? How about one more?

The legal firm, Clancy Gottlieb, represented the UAW in the GM bankruptcy [1093285, http://www.rush.com/mn_in_gm_baunruh/] Surprise! Another \$1.02 million awarded to the firm from the Energy Department to "advise on aspects of its ATVM program, the same one under which Fisker obtained its government loan." There sure are lots of legal firms "advising" on the same program. That Fisker is like the gift that keeps giving!

/et another firm on the list was Clifford Chance which was awarded \$1.5 million from the Energy Department to advise on renewable energy initiatives. The crony connection on this one was the firm's role as GM's European restructuring adviser.
<http://www.hoover.org/directories/industry/energy.aspx>
extraordinary. I must IS(01). It wouldn't surprise me if crony connections could be made for other firms on the AM Law Daily list.

Most Luxury Makers Fail New Crash Test

But, in recent months, automotive shares in general, GM in particular, have been tumbling. The \$25 billion government loss forecast was based on a stock price of \$22.20 at the end of May. During the last month, however, the number has dipped to less than \$19 a share, though the stock has since rebounded to \$20.61 at midday today.

As if the above were not audacious enough, try “**collusion**”. **GM, Ford and Chrysler** publicly state that they are “competitors” but, on numerous Department of Energy documents and emails they are shown to all be working together to sculpt the Department of Energy cash to benefit them and hurt their real competitors who were the newer auto start-ups. Here is an example of one of those kinds of collusive documents. Notice the upper right corner:

portion of the loan; and

- (b) Upon default by the Borrower, the holder of pledged collateral shall take such actions as the Secretary may reasonably require to provide for the care, preservation, protection, and maintenance of such collateral so as to enable the United States to achieve maximum recovery from the pledged collateral.
- (c) In the event the Borrower has not paid the amount owed under 611.13(b), there is no recourse by the Government except as to the pledged collateral or on an unsecured basis.

Sec. 611.15 Audit and access to records.

The Direct Loan Agreement and related documents shall provide that:

- (a) The Secretary and the Comptroller General, or their duly authorized representatives, shall have reasonable access through formal, written notification for the purpose of audit and examination to any pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the Borrower for the purpose of determining whether the proceeds of a loan have been used for an Eligible Product; and
- (b) Borrower shall provide periodic reporting to certify that it has met its obligations under the Direct Loan Agreement.

Sec. 611.16 Deviations.

To the extent that such requirements are not specified by Section 136 of the Act or other applicable statutes, DOE may authorize deviations on an individual request basis from the requirements of this part upon a finding that such deviation is essential to program objectives and the special circumstances stated in the request make such deviation consistent with the purposes of Section 136. DOE will consult with OMB and the Secretary of the Treasury before DOE grants any deviation that would constitute a substantial change in the financial terms of the Direct Loan Agreement and related documents. Any deviation, however, that was not captured in the Credit Subsidy Cost may require an appropriation, if sufficient appropriations for that purpose are not available. A recommendation for any deviation may be submitted in writing to DOE. Such recommendation must include a supporting statement, which indicates briefly the nature of the deviation requested and the reasons in support thereof.

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\$25 Billion to Promote Electric Cars Is Untouched



JOHN HILLER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A123 Systems, a battery maker in Massachusetts, is seeking \$1.8 billion.

By LESLIE WAYNE

Published: February 26, 2009

WASHINGTON — The future of the American auto industry is getting off to a slow start.

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The Energy Department has \$25 billion to make loans to hasten the arrival of the next generation of automotive technology — electric-powered cars. But no money has been allocated so far, even though the Advanced Technology Vehicles

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Elon Musk

Reasons for considering Elon Musk to be compromised:

- All of his efforts involved the exploitation of lithium mining deals which were controlled by DOE insider-connected awardees. Tesla cars used lithium batteries, Nevada factory was to manufacture lithium batteries, Solar City was to store energy in lithium, Space X space systems used lithium systems
- Tesla and FBI-raided Solyndra sat on the same land, had the same conflicts of interest in management and operations and were funding-promoted by the same people
- Musk went to Russia to coordinate deals with many of the same people that are conflicted with many of the other parties herein and have ties to related illicit mining deals
- Musk lied about who ordered the NHTSA safety investigation into the Tesla car fires. It was the NHTSA, and not Musk, who wanted the safety investigation started. The investigation was never completed because Musk & Tesla paid cash to get it halted in exchange for mounting a cosmetic PR-mitigation ballistic explosion shield on the bottom of the car.
- Senators Dianne Feinstein and Harry Reid had stock ownership, staffing provision services relationships, construction company ownership, leasing company ownership, insider trading arrangements, public policy ownership, supplier ownership, property ownership, tax haven options and many other conflicts of interest between themselves and Musk
- Musk has stated, on record, that Tesla's have had "no recalls", in fact they have had many recalls, at least two for fires and explosions.
- Multiple main-stream, and independent news journals have published analysis of Musk's financial
- Musk's battery partner: Panasonic, has been publicly charged, by state agencies, with corruption, racketeering, dumping, employee deaths and other illicit activities
- Elon Musk did not create Tesla Motors, he took it over, in a hostile takeover action, from the actual founders, some of whom sued him for fraud and publicly called him a scam artist.
- The tens of billions of dollars that Musk has received from U.S. taxpayers do not equate to actual costs of operations. Everything that Musk has shown, or sold, could have been produced for much, much less. Non-manipulated forensic accounting seems to make it clear that some of that money is being used for other purposes.
- A number of Tesla's have suddenly veered over cliffs, killing the drivers, oncoming drivers, pedestrian and bicyclists. Tesla has sought to cover this up, yet homicide lawsuits have now been filed against Tesla for this. Tesla has denied that the car is faulty, yet hundreds of internet user postings, detail numerous defects with the car. Additionally, 60 Minutes and many other news broadcasts have aired demonstrations of how easy it is to hack into, and take over. Tesla is said to be the most hackable car. In fact, around the time, that the Tesla China deal started to fall apart, a Chinese University student team demonstrated a full Tesla takeover by hacking remote control.
- Musk staff were caught sending out email notices, to potential buyers, to put deposits down, before the end of the federal reporting period, so that Musk could book the deposits as "fully paid car purchases" in order to falsify sales volumes so that he could cover that fact that he had sold less cars, after a bigger cash loss, than any car company in history. Tesla investors were

asked to buy as many Tesla's as they could, in order to inflate volumes.

- Musk has "cooked the books" in reporting profits in his federal filings by stating tax credits and taxpayer cash as profits and upside in an effort to manipulate stock valuations
- Over a five year test, the results of all internet-news media covering Elon Musk related stories was analyzed. Whenever negative news appeared about Musk activities, all Google and Kliener Perkins founded web assets would down-rank, or delete, the negative news while immediately pumping PR and hype news about Musk and his projects to hide the negative news. Musk has a financial, political, economic and personal relationship with Kliener Perkins and Google owners. This manipulation of stock valuation perceptions for public stock buyers, based on the use of monopolistic assets in a covert manner is a violation of securities laws and ethics.
- In the Department of Energy original LGP and ATVM filing application documents, which Lachlan Seward thought he had destroyed, the proposed metrics from Tesla Motors, compared with the known history as of today, demonstrate that Tesla missed almost every single milestone, by magnitudes, yet, not only did Steven Chu not cut off their funding, he increased it.
- The Section 136 law says that it was illegal for DOE to fund a car company on the verge of bankruptcy, or whose survival depends on the DOE money. Elon Musk has now been recorded saying that Tesla Motors was on the verge of bankruptcy, preparing massive severance packages for key staff and had no hope for survival without the DOE cash. Federal records demonstrate that Tesla used a temporary Detroit stock swap, arranged by DOE staff and Silicon Valley investors, to temporarily manipulate the numbers in order to create the surface appearance of a momentary positive debt-ratio. In fact, Tesla, of all applicants, had the worst debt ratio of any applicant. Per the 136 law, Tesla should never have been funded. At the time of application, they had no factory building. Their cars were a hundred thousand dollars over budget, per car. They had no engineered design for production. They were facing staff revolts and they already had written warnings about the dangers of their battery systems.

TECH

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Elon Musk Had Amazing Severance Packages For Tesla Employees In Case The Company Failed

KAMELIA ANGELOVA NOV. 26, 2013 4:47 PM 4,872 ▾ 3

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Tesla and SpaceX were on the verge of bankruptcy in 2008 and Elon Musk was about to lose all his money, but the founder made sure that his employees would be taken care of, if the companies failed.

Produced by Kamelia Angelova, Alana Kakoyiannis and Justin Gmoser

- Musk has ordered his staff and engineers to never discuss or acknowledge the federal documents disclosing that his car batteries, and battery factory, emit cancer-causing, brain-damaging, liver and fetus damaging vapors when they out-gas during a fire, explosion or thermal event, threatening firemen, occupants and bystanders.
- Multiple news media have reported that Musk sends spy emails to his employees, under false names, in order to find out who is whistle-blowing on his illicit actions. This has angered many former employees, some of whom have sued Musk. Many of those are willing to testify about

Musk illicit actions.

- Internet IP, DNS, bot and dat-pack tracking has confirmed that Elon Musk related groups use automated shill and blogger farms to place large amounts of self-promotion, about Musk on Musk-partner held sites such as Think Progress, Motley Fool, Media Matters, Green Car Reports, Plugin-America, Reddit, and related covert ownerships as well as on all public social media in order to manipulate stock market valuation perceptions.
- Numerous failed marriages, and relationships, have left a trail of unhappy women who have testified, or relayed information to their friends, who have testified, about illicit activities by Musk

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Britain Shamed By Proliferation Of Drunken Ladies

Larry Flynt Offering \$1 Million For Rick Perry Sex Stories

Just Freaking Give Boys The HPV Vaccine Already

Scott Baio Just Turned 51... And I'm Out

Nutcrackers Discriminate Against &

The Special Hell Of Being A "Starter Wife"



At their wedding, the husband told his wife, "I am the alpha in this relationship," later repeating, "If you were my employee, I would fire you." Now he's a multimillionaire, and she's writing tell-alls about their divorce.

This happened first in *The Times Of London*, and on her blog, and now, complete with glamorous photos, in *Marie Claire*, where Justine Musk, a novelist, writes about her painful, lengthy divorce proceedings with Elon Musk, who founded PayPal among other entrepreneurial projects. Whether or not rich people's divorces are inherently more painful, the

60 Minutes: Tesla and SpaceX: Elon Musk's industrial empire

Aired: 2014- Mar 30- CORRESPONDENT: Scott Pelley; Harry Radcliffe, producer..

Apparently it's fast and smoke-free. (**EXCEPT FOR THE TOXIC CANCER CAUSING SMOKE THE CAR EMITS WHEN ITS POORLY DESIGNED BATTERY PACK SPONTANEOUSLY BURSTS INTO FLAMES**) *The Tesla Model S is powered by 7,000 battery cells (EACH ONE ABLE TO EXPLODE AND SET THE BATTERIES NEXT TO IT OFF ON A CHAIN REACTION OF DEADLY EXPLOSIONS) linked to an electric motor. No engine, no transmission, no tailpipe. As this company video shows, the dash is dominated by a computer that's constantly connected to the Internet. (THIS ALLOWS ELON MUSK, HIS INVESTORS, THE NSA AND CHINESE HACKERS TO SPY ON YOU AT ANY TIME AND HACK YOUR TESLA AND FORCE IT TO DRIVE OVER A CLIFF AND KILL YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. MULTIPLE TESLA'S HAVE SUDDENLY SWERVED OVER CLIFFS AND KILLED THEIR OCCUPANTS AND THOSE NEARBY) It has a fanatical (SOME MIGHT SAY THE TESLA FANBOYS ARE INSANE, OTHER SAY*

THEY ARE ALL JUST ELON MUSKS MEAT PUPPETS AND MALAYSIAN CLICK FARM FAKES) following. There's a waiting list (FALSIFIED BY ELON MUSK) that Elon Musk is trying to shorten building 600 Model S's a week in this high-tech plant (MADE FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CARS PER WEEK AND ACTING AS A FAÇADE BUILDING BECAUSE OF IT'S MASSIVE AMOUNT OF DEAD SPACE) in Northern California.

Scott Pelley: *I have heard a lot of people describe you.*

Elon Musk: *Okay, good, I mean, hopefully-- on-- on balance, hopefully, mostly good. (SAYS THE ARROGRANT EGOTISTICAL SELF-PROMOTING MUSK)*

...

Elon Musk: *Well, I didn't really think Tesla would be successful. I thought we would most likely fail. But I thought that we at least could address the false perception that people have that an electric car had to be ugly and slow and boring like a golf cart.*

Scott Pelley: *But you say you didn't expect the company to be successful? Then why try?*

Elon Musk: If something's important enough you should try. Even if you -- the probable outcome is failure.

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

...

[Elon doesn't understand | Forums | Tesla Motors](#)

The press is not Elon Musk's advertising agency. omarsultan | November 22, 2013. What a bunch of self-aggrandizing horse doo-doo - sounds ...

www.teslamotors.com/forum/forums/elon-doesnt-understand - [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) - [Highlight](#)

[Tesla CEO: We Get Way Too Much Attention - \[H\]ard|Forum](#)

Elon Musk loved all the attention before the fires. I guess he.... Habitual lying, self-aggrandizing, unethical business practice...yup, sociopath.

www.hardforum.com/showthread.php?t=1792765 - [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) - [Highlight](#)

[Long Open Thread, Elon's Hyperloop - Decline of the Empire](#)

8 Aug 2013 ... And because I called out Elon Musk before I stopped publishing daily, ... How awful for a self-aggrandizing denizen of Americana Hopium to be ...

www.declineoftheempire.com/2013/08/long-open-thread-elons-hyperloop.html - [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) - [Highlight](#)

[Elon Musk: Visionary Or Crazy Person? - The Car Connection](#)

21 Jan 2009 ... Elon Musk. Enlarge Photo. There are a lot of ... He is also, as most people of his type are, fairly self-aggrandizing. "We're all focused on our little ...

www.thecarconnection.com/news/1017872_elon-musk-visionary-or-crazy-person - [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) - [Highlight](#)

Scott Pelley: *The car company is hemorrhaging money--*

Elon Musk: *Yeah.*

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

That terrible year was captured in a documentary called "Revenge of the Electric Car." His plant was filled with flawed cars that couldn't be delivered.

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

["Revenge of the Electric Car:" Holy mackerel. Jesus! We have like an army of cars here. Like, Jesus! This is frightening. It's really pedal to the metal here. I mean, each month that passes is literally costs us tens of million of dollars we need to appreciate that.]

To save Tesla, Musk needed millions more from investors. His fortune was gone.

Elon Musk: *When we'd call people and say, "Hey, would you like to invest?," they'd be angry that we just called. That it's like-- it's not like no-- no and-- no and-- you know, various expletives.*

Scott Pelley: *He was essentially broke.*

Kimbal Musk: *Oh yeah. In debt. More than broke.*

Scott Pelley: *More than broke.*

Kimbal Musk: *Yeah.*

Elon Musk: *I remember waking up the Sunday before Christmas in 2008, and thinking to myself, "Man, I never thought I was someone who could ever be capable of a nervous breakdown," but I felt, "This is the closest I've ever come." 'Cause it-- it seemed pretty-- pretty dark.*

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

Elon Musk: *We were running on fumes at that point we had virtually no money.*

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

Then, as often, the week of Christmas became a time when little boy dreams are answered (BY WHITE HOUSE PAYOLA).

Elon Musk: *NASA called and told us that we'd won a \$1.5 billion contract. And I couldn't even hold the phone, I just blurted out, "I love you guys."*

(THIS IS NOW KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN A KICK-BACK GIFT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE IN EXCHANGE FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCING FROM MUSK AND HIS PARTNERS)

Scott Pelley: *They saved you.*

Elon Musk: *Yeah, they did.*

Scott Pelley: *Financially and maybe even emotionally.*

Elon Musk: *Well, I'll tell you that was, that was definitely helpful, yeah.*

Two days later, on Christmas Eve, Tesla's investors decided to pour in more money.

(BASED ON THE USE OF THE DOE AND NASA KICK-BACKS TO MANIPULATE STOCK MARKET VALUATIONS AND ILLEGALLY SKIM STOCK PROFITS)

MUSK ON THE LOANS CRITICAL TO TESLA'S SURVIVAL

Scott Pelley: *So you were saved in the period of three days by two completely unexpected events.*

Elon Musk: *Yeah.*

Scott Pelley: *Merry Christmas.*

Elon Musk: *Yeah, absolutely. That's for sure.*

(IN THESE STATEMENTS, MUSK IS ADMITTING THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL SECTION 136 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS WAS A FRAUD AND A LIE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 136 FUNDS KNOWING YOUR COMPANY WAS FAILING)

Scott Pelley: *What was so attractive?*

Talulah Riley: *Well, he was very charming and definitely the most interesting and eccentric person I have ever met. (AND THE RICHEST; THOUGHT, THE RARELY HIRED “ACTRESS” WHOSE NET WORTH HAD JUST INCREASED BY 1000X)*

This is how it fits into the bottom of the chassis. Trouble is the battery's so expensive musk can't build a \$35,000 car with acceptable range. To make Tesla successful, he must reinvent battery manufacturing. Musk has just announced a \$5 billion factory to be built in the U.S. which, he says, will make more

lithium ion batteries than all the other plants on earth combined. (**USING THE WAR PROFITEERED LITHIUM THAT HE, HIS PARTNERS AND HIS CORRUPT SENATORS OWN**)

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Questions For Elon Musk:

Recently; Numerous ex-Tesla staff and contractors, former suppliers, federal investigators, investigative reporters, investors and ex-partners of Tesla Motors have provided facts about Tesla Motors which are disturbing to the public, Congress, and the market. Please provide clarification of the following charges and concerns in order to resolve outstanding issues between the public and Tesla Motors :

- Are Tesla and Google, essentially, the same entity by virtue of the same investors, agenda and stock market manipulations?
- When damaging news about Tesla emerges, do Tesla and Google investors place multiple stock-buy orders from a multi-billion dollar slush fund in order to make it appear that individual outside investors are excited by Tesla when, in fact, it is only a small internal group of investors “pumping the market”? Does Google “bury” any negative stories about Tesla in their searches on orders from Tesla/Google investors? Is that a violation of securities laws?
- It is said that the Tesla Model S has the most surveillance devices to watch, track, listen-to and broadcast the activities of the occupants, built into it than any other car in the world. Elon Musk has personally told reporters that his cars constantly watch the driver and occupants. Why is that? Why are Tesla and Google obsessed with spying on the public?
- In multiple recorded interviews, Elon Musk is on public record telling the news media that, after careful research, the NUMMI plant in Fremont California would be a very bad choice for Tesla? Why did that suddenly change? What participation did Senator Dianne Feinstein and her husband’s real estate Company CBRE have on that decision and the award of the loan to Tesla? Why do Senator Feinsteins staff now work for Tesla? Why did Glenn Greenwald call Feinstein’s actions “suspicious”? What political support or funding did Tesla or Google provide to any related political officials?
- From 2008 to 2010 numerous competing electric car companies have charged that Tesla Motors placed Tesla Motors “moles” inside of their companies to intelligence-gather and cause disruption. Is that true?
- Google and Tesla motors share the same venture capital investor groups and alliances. Numerous expert at Tech-Crunch, Valleywag and other industry journals have published articles about the fact that those VC’s actively collude with each other to lock competing technologies and companies out of the market and create business monopolies. Did Tesla investors and associates participate in such activities? If so, would that not be a violation of SEC laws?
- Did Tesla and/or Google reward certain politicians with campaign funding, web promotion, revolving door jobs for staff, and other incentives, in exchange for “hot-tracking” State and Federal taxpayer

money for Tesla Motors?

- While other companies built consumer priced electric cars before and during Tesla's existence, why did Tesla choose to build an unaffordable car and position the marketing of it to "the 1%" when the money for that car came from the 99% taxpayers?
- Numerous cities were told that they would have the Tesla car factory and then they stated, or sued Tesla, saying Tesla acted "in bad faith" and "used false and misleading information" to induce them to provide assurances which were used to pump the stock market. Why did Tesla lead so many cities on?
- The factory that builds your batteries and the U.S. Government states, in their formal technical documents, that when Tesla batteries are on fire they emit lethal, brain-damaging, carcinogenic, liver, lung and DNA damaging fumes and smoke. Why do you not inform the public of this danger in your literature?
- Lithium ion production kills and terminally sickens workers overseas. Multiple Tesla workers have been burned alive at your factory. OSHA has launched an investigation. What have you done to prevent the accidental and long term injuries to your staff and contractors?
- Bernard Tse, and other main Tesla Engineering staff including: electric engineer Doug Bourn, electrical engineer Andrew Ingram, Brian M. Finn, senior manager of interactive electronics and George Blankenship; while investigating battery purchases for Tesla Motors, received numerous white-papers and technical documents from LG Chem, Panasonic and the U.S. D.O.E and vast numbers of other battery-makers which specifically stated that lithium-ion batteries would be "stressed" and "likely to combust" when used in the configuration which Tesla intended. They stated that the batteries were "not intended for use in cars". Why then, did Tesla still use them? What effect did the monopolistic ownership of lithium ion mining and manufacturing resources by Tesla and Google investors have on the decision to use lithium ion?
- Is it not a fact that a majority of your cars have been sold to your own investors or associates who act as "fluffers" against any bad PR?
- In multiple recorded interviews, Elon MUsk is on public record stating that, at the time of application for the DOE loan Tesla was on the verge of bankruptcy. The DOE loan was mandated under a Federal law known as Section 136. This law stated that no car company could receive money if it was on the verge of bankruptcy. Past accountants of Tesla have stated that Tesla was on the verge of bankruptcy at the time of the loan application. Numerous Tesla staff and contractors have verified this. Did Tesla commit a felony and acquire "unfair advantage" per the GAO?
- Relative to the number of cars sold, why has Tesla had so many Tesla drunk driver related crashes, deaths and homicides. Why are Tesla drivers killing innocent pedestrians simply because the Tesla's "smell bad".?
- Psychographic, demographic and marketing studies have been published showing that Tesla drivers have a higher-than-average inclination towards drugs, strange sexual behavior and risk. Could this account for the number of Tesla crashes and deaths?
- Is it true that safety testing was done on Tesla cars without fully charged batteries and in a moisture-

locked environment because Tesla staff knew that fully charged batteries and moisture in a crash WOULD cause a fiery explosion, as they already have?

- Is it not a fact that Google deletes, or hides any bad PR about Tesla on its network? Would this be considered stock market manipulation in violation of SEC laws?

- Numerous periodicals, including Valleywag, document the fact that Elon Musk sends spy emails to his employees, each with a few words changed in order to track them and see who might reveal anything damaging to regulators?

- Who are all of the property holders and lease-owners of the Tesla and Solyndra, past and current, real-estate?

- According to DOE staff, who were at DOE when the Tesla application was submitted, nothing that Tesla submitted was ever built by Tesla. In fact, these staff state that the vehicle that Tesla eventually sold was not even designed or engineered when Tesla was approved for the loan money, contrary to the Section 136 law requirement. They say that Tesla took the money and THEN hired people to figure out what they were going to do with it. As shown in the DOE files, the engineering of the shipping Tesla cars has no element that was submitted to

DOE. Is that true?

- Elon Musks wives and founders have filed lawsuits and made public statements that he is a fraud and coerced them into participation. Is it proper fiduciary practice to allow Mr. Musk to continue with the company?

- Why did Tesla not have to pay the cash participation fee that the Section 136 law said everybody had to pay? Tesla staff stated, at numerous documented Silicon Valley open meetings that they got a "special applicant participation waiver". Why did Tesla get that waiver?

- Did Tesla Motors provide falsified information in order to acquire its Federal funding?

- Did Tesla Motors provide falsified information in order to acquire its Federal waivers, tax deferrals, credits and discounts?

- Kleiner Perkins and certain silicon valley VC's, all investors in a number of DOE "winners" (including Tesla, Fisker, Solyndra, A123 and others), organized meetings with a Dmitry Medvedev and other men known by the State Department, CIA, FBI and federal investigators to be involved in Russian mobsterism and then Ener1, Severstal and A123, dark-money funded and run by billionaires (many of whom own lithium mining interests) known by the State Department, the CIA and federal investigators to be involved in Russian mobsterism, were awarded taxpayer funds by Steven Chu, who was nominated by Kleiner Perkins. Was any of this a conflict of interest?

- Why is the only company to receive California State real estate exclusives, exclusive tax waivers, credits and stock enhancers and free rides on taxpayer backs also the same company who's investors were the largest funders of certain State officials?

- Federal communications monitoring of text, voice and email communications of certain highly placed Senators, lobbyists and venture capitalists from 2005 to today should be made available to ALL federal

criminal investigators. Have they been? Are one or more Senators blocking this effort because they are compromised?

- Why have so many fraud lawsuits been filed against Elon Musk and Tesla Motors?
- The head of the NHTSA (Strickland) Tesla investigation quit because of increased scrutiny. The facts, such as these, demonstrate that Tesla and Fisker never should have passed any NHTSA safety review. How can the public be assured that ongoing NHTSA investigations regarding Tesla will not be rigged?
- Did Tesla Motors provide falsified information in order to acquire it's State funding? Did Tesla Motors provide falsified information in order to acquire it's State waivers, tax deferrals, credits and discounts? Did Tesla investors bribe, or influence Congress people?
- Did Tesla report tax credits as revenue/sales in stock reports in order to trick investors into thinking Tesla was making profit that it was actually not making?
- Did Tesla staff or owners investors bribe, or influence Congress people? Did Tesla staff, owners or investors provider misleading information to investors? Was there a conflict of interest between Department of Energy staff and Tesla owners, investors or staff? Was there a conflict of interest between White House staff and Tesla owners, investors or staff? Was there a conflict of interest between Senate staff and Tesla owners, investors or staff? Did Tesla Motors use taxpayer money to hire off-shore staff?
- Marketing sales staff from the ad agencies for 60 Minutes, Consumer Reports, GQ, Fortune and other mainstream periodicals have stated that Elon Musk purchased "puff piece" stories about himself in those broadcasts and magazines and that none of those stories were internally generated. Is it good fiduciary practice for an executive to use corporate resources for personal glorification?
- Did Tesla Motors use taxpayer money to purchase supplies offshore that could have been purchased in the United States? Did Tesla Motors participate in a market rigging scam to rig lithium ion purchasing for its investors? Did Tesla Motors participate in a market rigging scam to rig the electric car market for its investors? Did Tesla Motors staff, or owners, sabotage competitors?
- Did Tesla Motors staff, owners or investors exchange campaign funding quid pro quo for business financing?
- Did Silicon Valley companies, owned by Tesla investors and campaign financiers, use internet technology to falsify information to the public in order to manipulate stock market perceptions in violation of SEC, RICO, and various other laws?
- Did Tesla Motors lie about the safety metrics of its lithium ion battery system?
- Was Tesla Motors holding safety metric data in its files which differed fully from the safety metrics data it provided to investors and NHTSA?
- Did Tesla Motors violate securities law by using false information to acquire a federal loan which it then used to falsify its stock metrics in order to "pump" it's stock?
- Did Deloitte accounting firm conspire with Tesla to manipulate market metrics in violation of RICO

Statutes and did that firm manipulate Department of Energy review data on Tesla's behalf?

- A U.S. Senator officiated at the opening of the Tesla NUMMI plant and lobbied for Tesla's tax waivers, credits, acquisition of NUMMI and discounts and then that U.S. Senator had their staff work in Tesla's offices. Is it a conflict of interest that this senator received campaign funding and this senator's family received real estate deals from the Tesla and, (next door to Tesla), Solyndra real estate deals?
- Did Welles Fargo conspire with Tesla to manipulate market metrics in violation of RICO Statutes?
- Did Goldman Sachs conspire with Tesla to manipulate market metrics in violation of RICO Statutes?
- Were Department of Energy staff manipulating Tesla funding data in order to favor Tesla and it's campaign funding investors in violation of RICO Statutes?
- Were Department of Energy staff manipulating Tesla funding data in order to disfavor Tesla competitors and competitors to it's campaign funding investors in violation of RICO Statutes?
- Did Tesla owners, staff or investors attempt to delay federal investigations and indictments by asserting influence in violation of RICO Statutes and numerous other laws?
- Documents show there have been more Tesla fires that actually occurred than Tesla has reported in the media. How many actual Tesla factory fires, test car fires and Tesla battery fires have actually occurred?
- Please provide an identification matrix showing campaign backers who were lithium ion investors who had had their contacts exert influence over NHTSA decisions regarding Tesla?
- The Secretary of energy was friends with all of your investors. We have been unable to find the name of even one person from OPM and Congressional nomination file wrapper for Steven Chu's nomination, who Chu did not later give DOE \$\$ or perks to. Why is that?
- The U.S. Post Office, The TSA, The DOE, The GAO, Panasonic and over 100 of the leading technical companies in the world say lithium ion batteries can spontaneously explode. Why do you not disclose this to your buyers in your literature?
- The Tesla can blow-up from it's charger and/or it's batteries. Are there other dangers that have also not been disclosed?
- Is Tesla operating in violation of the patents of any other company?
- By Elon Musk's own admission, at the time of the DOE loan application all of the car designs were \$100,000.00, PER CAR, over budget and they had no final design for a factory production run DFM. How could Tesla have gotten the loan with the worst debt ratio, the least engineering, the greatest financial risk and the least collateral of any applicant?
- Tesla lobbyists worked with Rahm Emanuel in the White House, to arrange their loan deal. Rahm Emanuel's Senior Finance Aide was recently arrested for bribes, kickbacks, corruption and money Laundering. Steve Rattner, The West Wing "Car Czar", who Tesla investors worked with to secure the Tesla loan, was also indicted for corruption. Almost everyone at DOE involved in your loan was forced

to quit or fired. Does this call your dealings into question?

- Rolls-Royce Holdings said the U.K.'s Serious Fraud Office has opened a formal investigation into bribery and corruption of government officials for cars for the 1%. Does this worry you?

- The NHTSA said that Elon Musk lied about Fire Safety Review approval and who made the request for recall and investigation. Should we trust Elon Musk?

- Tesla got another \$34 MILLION of our tax money in exclusive campaign finance kickbacks for billionaires from the State of California. Why did Tesla billionaires need a few million of our tax money in a recession when people have no jobs?

- The German Tesla "Safety Review" was exposed as "Sham" in that they conducted no safety review and were just told to "pass the car" by your bankers at Deutsche Bank! Why did you not disclose that the Germans conducted no testing of your battery system of any nature?

- In Tesla's own filed patent applications you state that your batteries WILL explode spontaneously and kill and injure people and burn down their homes. Why did you not disclose this in buyers documentation?

- Tesla is MORE likely to catch on fire than gasoline car"per Bloomberg & MIT. Why did you not disclose this?

- Lithium Ion is "nearly impossible to extinguish, and "acts like solid rocket fuel" say firefighters. Tesla never supplied required battery company CO2 fire extinguishers to car owners. Why not?

- Federal Investigators say you are using "exploding flashlight batteries that were never intended to be used in cars, in an improperly shielded box" to power the car instead of commercial energy storage technology. They say your car has "85% less lithium crash protection on the Tesla than ANY OTHER ELECTRIC CAR". All other companies had to recall EXCEPT Tesla. Why not? What special leverage did you have?

- Over 150 defects and problems per model about the Tesla have been documented on user-forums and in the press including: "Doors lock you in and out. Bad if car on fire!"; "George Clooney Rips Tesla: 'Why Am I Always Stuck On The Side Of The F*cking Road?'; "Tesla "Satisfaction" survey authored by it's own investors/fanboys"; "Tesla seat vibration causes Anal Itching!"; "VAMPIRE POWER DEFECT slams entire Tesla Model S fleet!"; "Numerous defects documented by owners online." When the NUMMI factory was in use by GM and Toyota only 5 defects per model car produced there occurred. Even after you bought brand new robots, why did the Tesla cars get worse in a pre-configured factory with billions of dollars of past car preparation?

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your public response to clarify these issues and concerns.

Did the LA TIMES Article actually disclose an organized crime operation involving some very famous people?

The LA TIMES just ran an article which exposes Elon Musk's funding system, based on Government hand-outs. Musk rushed to hold a press conference to claim the amount of taxpayer cash, he has received, was "just a pittance". Few, though, find over FIVE BILLION DOLLARS of tax waivers, credits, employment freebies, buildings, exclusive contracts, and other taxpayer provided goodies, to be "a pittance" in these tough times.

While it is true that Musk has now received more taxpayer hand-outs, than any individual in American history, one could argue that he is just a lucky business man.

But, just for the purpose of theoretical discussion, what if some of the darker theories about Musk's coincidental windfalls have some merit?

Let's jump right to the most sinister interpretation of things.

One of the whispered rumours, on the web holds that in 2007, right when Musk's silent partners, Eric Schmidt and John Doerr started, practically, living at the White House in a lobbying frenzy, the Democrats finally acknowledged that they really were the party of the poor, because they were flat broke. So some of them came up with the idea of creating a Department of Energy fund called the "**ATVM Fund**", loading it up with \$25 Billion kick-back dollars of taxpayer cash, awarding it only to Schmidt/Doerr/Musk related companies, and shutting out all of their competitors.

Indeed, history shows that the fund actually was created. It really got \$25 Billion, in a unique legal manner, which made the \$25 Billion irrevocable. Schmidt/Doerr/Musk's buddy: Steven Chu, was put in charge of it. He hired their friends to staff his office.

See where this is going?

So, per this theory, Musk is actually a kick-back conduit, protected by the White House, to spiff the DNC campaign funds...according to this theory. Which is just a theory. It couldn't really happen, right? The White House wouldn't prop up a guy just to keep him quiet and keep kick-back cash flowing.. right?

So this theory is kind of ironic because, in an amazing coincidence, everything that Musk gets involved in, is exactly stuff that the White House is promoting.

In an even more bizarre coincidence, to pull a scam like this off, the Schmidt/Doerr/Musk Cartel would need the help of U.S. Senators Reid and Feinstein, the most beloved American politicians in history.

This whole theory must have come out of the fact that Reid and Feinstein made billions of dollars off of Schmidt/Doerr/Musk Cartel stock investments and campaign contributions, but, that was, of course just another funny coincidence. They even ran, and built, some of the properties that these Department of Energy "winners" companies sat upon. But, again, coincidence!

The main reason one might cast doubt on this theory is that there are so many hard facts to prove it, that it is just too good to be true... right?

These internet crazies...these “theorizers” point to actual facts like the one where all of the profitable chemicals that Tesla and Solyndra were going to buy and sell in volume were controlled by the investors in Kleiner Perkins and commodity-managed by their partners: Goldman Sachs. That’s just another funny coincidence.

The “theorizers” point to the fact that Musk’s companies have poor business volume, but show a profit whenever there is bad news thanks to Kleiner rushing out to “Flash Boy” purchase Tesla stock, with an automated stock buying system, in order to pump the stock. Federal, and private investigator, records show that this actually happened. It has also been proven that only Google, Reddit and the other Kleiner-controlled web-news-media mask all negative Musk/Tesla news in perfect synchronization with the stock pumps, when no other publications on the planet do. Again, these are just coincidences. If people were consciously doing those kinds of things it would be mobster-ism on a Godfather-class scale. But, that couldn’t have happened.

Then..get this; “rumour people”, who seem to just be ecstatic about all of these coincidental, highly suspect things, go off on yet another “FACT”. They point out that originators of the scam, from the White House side, had to be Emanuel, Plouffe, Axelrod, Rattner and Gibbs. Then they go on to point out that Emanuel, Plouffe, Axelrod, Rattner and Gibbs suddenly quit the White House at the peak of their career for reasons that don’t make sense. The fact that one of them was indicted for stock market fraud only goes to strengthen their case, but, again...these things happen.

So, even if this really had happened, the brave and fearless protector of ethics and morality: Mr. Eric Holder, would have cracked right down on his friends here...who he knew personally, and had dinner with, and had the same lawyers with...oh,, well.. but anyway. Eric would have jumped on them, right? The White House wouldn’t order the Justice Department and the FBI to ignore Elon Musk, John Doerr and the Silicon Valley Cartel as a kick-back protection order, now would they?

Mobsters kill people. Rajeev Motwani, David Bird, Gary D. Conley, 3 Tesla engineers and a large bunch of others did, certainly, die under mysterious circumstances, and they were all people that this cartel would want dead, but to say that these billionaires are off murdering their adversaries using mysterious CIA stealth murder tricks is overly intriguing.

Of course, as we all now know, every single one of those companies in the ATVM Fund scam grabbed the cash, paid their CEO and Goldman Sachs insiders off-the-top, and immediately went bankrupt in the largest government-funded sequential business-failure suite in history. While some argue that a secret GOP Task Force discovered the plot and forced all of the Kleiner Cartel DOE “Winners” to collapse, in punishment, this is probably another coincidence.

Here is the main argument against this theory, Mobsters are big greasy looking guys with bulbous broken noses and slicked back pompadours. These Musk and Kleiner people wear khaki’s and black turtlenecks. KHAKI’S for god-damn sakes!! You never saw a mobster in khaki’s, right? ...OR DID YOU!?

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Elon Musk's growing empire is fueled by \$4.9 billion in government subsidies



During an event at Tesla's design studio in Hawthorne, Elon Musk introduces a line of batteries for homes and businesses. (Jerome Adamson / Los Angeles Times)

By JERRY HIRSCH
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SPACE X SUED AND IN FLOOD OF COMPLAINTS FROM WORKERS AND NEIGHBORS:

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SpaceX: Lawsuit against USAF dropped. - Slate

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SpaceX sued for laying off hundreds of workers without proper notice

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Different Decades: Same Technique. How Did Al Capone and Elon Musk Get Away With It For So Long?

“Swiss Leaks” HSBC documents, (including some the public have not seen yet), Snowden/Assange, FTC and EU investigations, foreign hackers and probing reporters, at a variety of media outlets, have revealed the truth behind the rise to power of these two individuals.

They both owe their existence to Chicago corruption and organized crime culture.

Neither of them would exist if certain federal laws and policies had not been changed, or enacted, at exactly the same time for them to exploit those very same laws, timed to follow huge campaign “contributions”.

They both had insane ego’s, braggadocio that was off the charts, and narcissism that was turned up to “11” because they knew they were being protected by the highest level political figures of their times. They were, as Elliot Ness would say: “Untouchable”.

They both had the Top Cop in their pockets.

They both had a string of notorious sexual scandals.

They both created a monopoly of key supplier materials. Liquor distribution in one case.

Lithium batteries in another.

They each acted as the sole information and operations conduit for their organizations so that no outsider could stumble upon their schemes.

All of the movies, and tales, about them involved funky-looking high speed car activities.

They both had mysterious deaths associated with their operations.

They both used women like “disposable objects”.

Russian mobsters were involved with each one.

They both had associates who helped them manipulate the stock market.

They both were able to “skim” state and federal funds.

They both always dressed in black to be more intimidating.

They, and their billionaire buddies, were both involved in huge political take-over attempts.

They each spent massive amounts of money on their own press coverage and glorification.

Later analysis, by psychological profilers, identified each as classic sociopaths.

Many corrupt politicians, including some famous Senator's, got kick-backs from them and participated in their upside in exchange for “greasing the skids”

They both had the backing of a special interest business-men's cartel.

Until the very end, even on the perp-walk to prison, they still acted aloof, tone-deaf and as if the whole world thought they were the center of the universe.

One was brought down by tax fraud and financial scams, the other will be.

Aug 7, 2014 ... Employees at SpaceX have filed a lawsuit claiming the Hawthorne rocket company laid off 200 to 400 factory workers last month without proper ...

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Elon Musk's SpaceX Sues Government to Protest Military Launch ...

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“DIRTY” CRIMES FOR “CLEAN” ENERGY: THE AFGHANISTAN LITHIUM SCAM

At this point, enough evidence has accumulated to clearly prove that a mining scam was underway involving trillions of dollars of lithium, which Tesla, John Doerr and the Silicon Valley Cartel, 1.) clearly acquired the monopoly ownership of, 2.) at exactly the right moment to time it to the Afghan War, 3.) and place their associate: Steven Chu in office, 4.) and arrange the Dept. of Energy exclusive cash give-aways and 5.) tie in with Goldman Sachs commodity rigging which every suspect has now been shown to have had an operational hand in, and financial & political benefit from.

Solyndra was staged to exploit indium and other related minerals from the same mining deal. Alas, the Afghan War failed, costing U.S. taxpayers (According to multiple news reports) over six trillion dollars, the Republicans found out about the “Cleantech Scam” and dissected it, almost all of the Cartel’s pool of exploitation companies went out of business, the Russian portions went into cold war mode with their U.S. counter-parts and leaks from Dept. of Energy staff broke the cover-up. Senior Federal employees participated in, coordinated and benefitted from the crime.

How many Afghan farmers, soldiers and workers had to die to buy John Doerr his new mansion?

How many Washington DC top brass think they got away with this crime?

Apr 25, 2014 ... WASHINGTON – The commercial SpaceX rocket venture is filing a lawsuit against the federal government to protest the purchase of rocket ...

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Another former SpaceX employee sues over alleged labor law ...

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Aug 12, 2014 ... Upstart rocket manufacturer and darling of the commercial space industry SpaceX is facing another lawsuit over its labor practices. In the ...

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Blog: Space X rocket explodes shortly after takeoff

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Jun 29, 2015 · Musk is banking on NASA's need for a space taxi to ferry astronauts to and from the space station. Just recently, NASA gave preliminary approval to Space X ...

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[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/20\[...let explodes shortly after takeoff.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/20[...let explodes shortly after takeoff.html)

- Tesla said they were going to BUILD a Factory in San Jose. They had no intention of building a factory and just wanted to trick state and city officials into signing their appeal letters. The factory was never built. Tesla investors sought to get real estate profits from the land deal.

- Tesla said they were going to BUILD a Factory in New Mexico. They are being sued in New Mexico for this lie. They had no intention of building a factory and just wanted to trick state and city officials into signing their appeal letters. The factory was never built. Tesla investors sought to get real estate profits from the land deal.

- Tesla said they were going to BUILD a Factory in Downey, CA. They had no intention of building a factory and just wanted to trick state and city officials into signing their appeal letters. The factory was never built. Tesla investors sought to get real estate profits from the land deal.

- Tesla fired multiple workers without notice. They have been sued by those workers and lost those lawsuits. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla had no factory but DOE rejected other applicants for not having a factory. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla was \$100,000.00 off on their BOM calculations per car. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Deloitte was both the accountant for Tesla and the accounting reviewer for DOE. With Tesla's at-application-time credit and numbers actually so bad, one has to wonder what was up. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla and DOE staff were supplied by McKinsey. McKinsey wrote all of the green energy plans and white papers for David Axelrod to give to the White House. McKinsey staff have now gone to jail. Tesla and Fisker investors are best friends with McKinsey senior executives.

One McKinsey executive, associated with a jailed McKinsey senior executive, is now dead from "natural causes". The heads of the DOE loan Program: Matt Rogers and Steve Spinner, were working for McKinsey while also working at the DOE loan program as "deciders" for Steven Chu. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla made a deal with DOE staff to spiff the loan announcement in order to hype the stock market in order to fake up stock sales. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- DOE had IBM consulting, in Virginia, do Tesla's "due diligence". IBM consulting was a contractor to Tesla. IBM Consulting supplied the DOE loan staff that McKinsey did not supply. IBM consulting only gave Tesla their top score. The reviews by IBM consulting, which operating under a variety of names from a fake office, now seem to have been manipulated in favor of Tesla. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla investors emailed and phone called the White House and Senior DOE staff to make quid-pro-quo deals which are now documented. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla got their inside Senator to give them only-for-Tesla factory tax reductions, green tax credits and other special finance perks that allowed Tesla to book profit that did not actually exist. When this got other applicants in trouble, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- At the time of application, Tesla had no prototype of the car that was to be factory produced (The roadster was not at all the car produced), no design CAD, no factory production files and no engineering for factory machine automation. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla was caught sending out letters to customers telling them to close deposits so they could fake orders before the earnings call. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla engaged in a conflict-of-interest with a Senator and her real-estate family for Tesla and Solyndra land, and adjacent land, in Fremont, Ca. How did Tesla get this through? Corruption?

- Tesla had one of the worst credit ratings at the time of application. Even today, to pay back all of Tesla's investors is nearly impossible. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla had one of the worst debt ratios at the time of application. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- The cost, BOM, time-to-market, range and domestic jobs metrics was lower in Tesla's application than most other applicants. When better ratings got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- DOE staff made a deal with Tesla to swap Detroit stock to cook up the books for the application. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla made a deal to hire union workers for the NUMMI plant then fired most of them and hired H1B foreign workers with taxpayer money. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla provided no collateral for their loan application and had no assets of value. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla has sent out PR saying they are repaying their loan many years in the future in order to stop investigations. They have NOT paid off their loan and the facts of sales show no possibility that they will.
- Tesla buys the majority of its parts from non-American suppliers. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla hired multiple "famous auto people" who then quit when they say what Tesla was up to. When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?
- Tesla said they were going to build and sell over 500,000 cars as of today's date. They have missed every milestone and sold less than 5000 cars. When this got other applicants declined,

how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

- Tesla could not make their payments and got their deal custom-changed multiple times.
When this got other applicants declined, how did Tesla get through? Corruption?

HOW THE CRONY CAPITALISM OF THE CLEANTECH CRASH ALMOST DESTROYED AMERICA

See More at: <http://thecleantechcrash.wordpress.com>

Crony Capitalism - The Real Cause Of Society's Problems

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Submitted by Richard Ebeling via EpicTimes.com.

Since the economic downturn of 2008, the critics of capitalism have redoubled their efforts to persuade the American people and many others around the world that the system of individual freedom and free enterprise has failed.

These critics have insisted that it is unbridled capitalism, set loose on the world, which is the source of all of our personal and society misfortunes. We hear and read this not only in the popular news media and out of the mouths of the political pundits. We see it also in the election of a radical socialist to the leadership of the British Labor party, and a self-proclaimed “democratic socialist” riding high in the public opinion polls for the Democratic Party’s nomination to the U.S. presidency.

The first observation to make is that many if not most of the social and economic misfortunes that are most frequently talked about are not the product of a “failed” free enterprise. The reason for this is that a consistently practiced free enterprise system no longer exists in the United States.

The Heavy Hand of Regulation

What we live under is a heavily regulated, managed and controlled interventionist-welfare state. The over 80,000 pages of the Federal Register, the volume that specifies and enumerates all the Federal regulations that are imposed on and to which all American businesses are expected to comply, is just one manifestation of the extent to which government has weaved a spider's web of commands over the business community.

The Small Business Administration has estimated that compliance costs imposed on American enterprise by this mountain of regulations maybe upwards of \$2 trillion a year.

At the same time, the tangled web of corrupt government-private sector relationships is also reflected in the size and cost of special interest lobbying activities connected with the Federal government.

According to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Government, in 2014 there were almost 12,000 registered lobbyists working in Washington, D.C. Their job is to influence the writing of legislation that serve special interest groups attempting to obtain sectorial tax breaks, anti-competitive regulations or market restrictions, redistributions of wealth, or taxpayer funded subsidies and protections from the realities of free market competition and trade, or to advance various ideologically motived "causes."



Spending Big Money to Plunder Others

The Center for Responsive Government, which tracks who lobbies and for what purposes and causes through the targeting of specific holders of or contenders for Federal elected office, including the Presidency and both Houses of the U.S. Congress, estimated that in 2014 lobbyists spent nearly \$3.25 billion in the pursuit of privileges for some at the expense of others in society.

Just alone in 2013-2014, over \$500 million dollars was spent on lobbying activity by the financial, insurance, and real estate sectors. Ideological and single-issue groups spent more than \$352 million. Lawyers and lobbyists spent \$151.5 million; health industry companies spent \$142 million; and labor unions "invested" \$140.6 million on lobbying.

Communications and electronic companies spent \$116 million; energy and natural resource sector, \$115 million; agribusiness, \$77 million; construction companies, \$67.7 million; transportation firms, \$61 million, and defense companies, \$25.4 million.

Based on the Senate Office of Public Records, the Center for Responsive Government calculates that lobbyists spent close to \$41 billion on lobbying activities over the last 15 years, since the beginning of the twenty-first century.

These billions of special interest-serving dollars have influenced and affected the spending of trillions of dollars of Federal government expenditures over the same decade and a half. The lobbyists work with and use those who hold high political office so the special interest and ideological groups who employ them can plunder many others in American society; they can be viewed as among the most successful enterprisers in the country.

The Best Politicians Money Can Buy

But the symbiotic relationship between politicians and special interest groups of all types does not begin or end with the formal lobbying for legislative, regulatory and fiscal privileges and favors in the halls of Congress and the White House in Washington, D.C.

It goes on all year round all over the country in the form of campaign and electioneering contributions to get those elected or reelected who can be depended upon to direct the powers of government in ways that interest groups and ideological activists desire and from which they hope to benefit.

Again according to the Center for Responsive Politics, in 2013-2014, individuals and PACS donated over \$1.6 billion to 1,671 candidates of both major political parties running for office in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Democratic Party candidates received \$736 million, while Republican Party candidates received \$901.5 million.

While it may seem unseemly to suggest such a thing, these amounts for legislative lobbying and campaign funding, of course, do not include more millions of dollars that grease the palms of those in political power or who want to be in those lofty positions that represent funding that are outside the official channels in the form of “gifts,” travel junkets, off-the-books expense accounts, and out-and-out bribes of one type or another.

The real world of corrupted and corrupting crony capitalism includes more than lobbying expenditures and campaign contributions to have ringside seats in the halls of political plunderland.

The media has been in a frenzy with the revelations that the Volkswagen automobile company manipulated information about emission standards on its diesel vehicles to deceive environmental regulators in both the United States and Europe. This is being portrayed by many in the media as another example and “proof” of the consequences of unbridled capitalism, when left outside of sufficiently tight and demanding government regulation and intense oversight.



Government Partnerships and the Volkswagen Scandal

However, a closer look shows that this is, instead, another example of the result arising from government, business and labor union “partnerships.” In Germany, labor union representatives sit on the executive boards of large companies and corporations that work closely with various levels of the German government to attain political and “social” goals and objectives very different and separate from what a truly free market company does in pursuing peaceful and honest profits in the service of consumer demand on open, competitive markets.

On September 25, 2015, *The New York Times* quoted a former Volkswagen executive who said:

“There’s no other company where the owners and the unions are working so closely together as Volkswagen. [Volkswagen] guarantees jobs for over half the supervisory board. What management, the government and the unions all want is full employment, and the more jobs, the better. Volkswagen is seen as having a national mission to provide employment to the German people. That’s behind the push to be No. 1 in the world. They’ll look the other way about anything.”

In such a politicized market economy, working for and serving “national” and “social” interests become the guiding principle of business decision-making. Not only does it lead to wasteful and inefficient economic business operations having less or sometimes nothing to do with cost-effective management and allocation of labor and resources to make better, newer and less expensive products, it also corrupts the individuals participating in these activities.

Breaking one or more regulatory standards imposed by government on these enterprises is merely one way of “doing business” to advance other political goals such as “jobs” and “full employment” that are expected as part of the “partnerships” with local and national-level politicians and labor union leaders.

The only thing expected from the business enterprises in these intricate political webs is: Don’t get caught. If you do, then your political partners become like Captain Renault, the prefect of police in the 1942 movie “Casablanca.” When Renault orders the closing of Rick’s Café, the owner asks him on

what grounds. Renault declares that he is “shocked, shocked” to discover that there is gambling going on in the café. At which point the roulette coupé appears with a stack of franc banknotes in his hand and says to Renault, “Your winnings, Sir.”

Volkswagen got caught, and will pay handsomely in financial and other penalties that will, no doubt, be imposed by the U.S. and European governments. And all the time, Volkswagen’s political partners, especially in Germany, who fostered and worked with the company to play its part in the “game” of government interventionism that has nothing to do with market-oriented enterprise, will sanctimoniously condemn the greedy and “selfish” conduct of profit-hungry businessmen.

What all these examples and facts about lobbying activities, campaign funding and government-business partnerships highlight is the pervasive extent to which “capitalism” as it now exists in the United States or Europe – or in fact all other parts of the world – has nothing to do with free market, laissez-faire capitalism.



Corrupting Hand of the Interventionist State

The Austrian economist, Ludwig von Mises, described this twisted, corrupted, and politicized capitalism over 80 years ago, in 1932, in an essay on “The Myth of the Failure of Capitalism,” published shortly before the coming of Hitler and the Nazi movement to power:

“In the interventionist state it is no longer of crucial importance for the success of an enterprise that the business should be managed in a way that it satisfies the demands of consumers in the best and least costly manner.

“It is far more important that one has ‘good relationships’ with the political authorities so that the interventions work to the advantage and not the disadvantage of the enterprise. A few marks’ more tariff protection for the products of the enterprise and a few marks’ less tariff for the raw materials used in the manufacturing process can be of far more benefit to the enterprise than the greatest care in managing the business.

“No matter how well an enterprise may be managed, it will fail if it does not know how to protect its interests in the drawing up of the custom rates, in the negotiations before the arbitration boards, and with the cartel authorities. To have ‘connections’ becomes more important than to produce well and cheaply.

“So the leadership positions within the enterprises are no longer achieved by men who understand how to organize companies and to direct production in the way the market situation demands, but by men who are well thought of ‘above’ and ‘below,’ men who understand how to get along well with the press and all the political parties, especially with the radicals, so that they and their company give no offense. It is that class of general directors that negotiate far more often with state functionaries and party leaders than with those from whom they buy or to whom they sell.

“Since it is a question of obtaining political favors for these enterprises, their directors must repay the politicians with favors. In recent years, there have been relatively few large enterprises that have not had to spend very considerable sums for various undertakings in spite of it being clear from the start that they would yield no profit. But in spite of the expected loss it had to be done for political reasons. Let us not even mention contributions for purposes unrelated to business – for campaign funds, public welfare organizations, and the like.

“Forces are becoming more and more generally accepted that aim at making the direction of large banks, industrial concerns, and stock corporations independent of the shareholders . . . The directors of large enterprises nowadays no longer think they need to give consideration to the interests of the shareholders, since they feel themselves thoroughly supported by the state and that they have interventionist public opinion behind them.

“In those countries in which statism has most fully gained control . . . they manage the affairs of their corporations with about as little concern for the firm’s profitability as do the directors of public enterprises. The result is ruin.

“The theory that has been cobbled together says that these enterprises are too big to allow them to be managed simply in terms of their profitability. This is an extraordinarily convenient idea, considering that renouncing profitability in the management of the company leads to the enterprise’s insolvency. It is fortunate for those involved that the same theory then demands state intervention and support for those enterprises that are viewed as being too big to be allowed to go under . . .

“The crisis from which the world is suffering today is the crisis of interventionism and of national and municipal socialism; in short, it is the crisis of anti-capitalist policies.”

How different is today, in its essential qualities, from Mises’ description of the interventionist state and government-business “partnerships” during those years between the two World Wars?

Real Free Markets Mean Privileges for None

If what we have today is what is widely referred to as “crony capitalism,” then how might we define and explain what a truly free market capitalism would be like? Let me suggest that the following seven points capture the essence of a real free economy:

- All means of production (land, resources, capital) are privately owned;
- The use of the means of production is under the control of private owners who may be individuals or corporate entities;
- Consumer demands determine how the means of production will be used;
- Competitive forces of supply and demand determine the prices of consumer goods and the various factors of production including wages of workers;
- The success or failure of individual and corporate enterprises is determined by the profits and losses these enterprises earn in free competition with their rivals in the market place;
- The free market is not confined to domestic transactions, and includes freedom of international trade;
- Government is limited in its activities to the enforcement and protection of life, liberty, and honestly acquired property against, violence and fraud.

In a real free market, there is no place for politicians to offer privileges and favors, because there are none to sell. There is no motive or gain for special interest groups to spend huge sums of money in campaign contributions or lobbying expenses, because political benefits for some at others’ expense cannot be bought.

Wasteful and corrupting “partnerships” between government and business enterprises cannot occur because political authority is restrained from any task other than the securing of each individual’s right to his life, liberty, and peacefully acquired property.

As Ludwig von Mises said, the political and economic crises through which the world suffers is not the crisis or failure of the free market. No, it is the crisis and failure of the interventionist-welfare state, and its anti-free market capitalist ideology.

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Elon Musk: Government's \$5 Billion Man

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Capitalism 2015: In corporate finance today, the theme is "Go where the money is." For Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, SolarCity and SpaceX, the place to hunt for cash isn't Wall Street or even Silicon Valley. It's Washington, D.C.

investigations of Tesla Motors and Elon Musk, investigators are focused on potentially unethical and criminal activities concerning the following issues:

- The origins of Tesla and why Elon Musk had nothing to do with creating Tesla Motors
- The relationship between Tesla owners and White House staff
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Department of Energy staff
- The relationship between Tesla owners and In-Q-Tel

- The relationship between Tesla owners and political campaign financiers
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Google, including Eric Schmidt and Google investors
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Goldman Sachs
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Russian oligarch “business men”
- The relationship between Tesla owners and media outlets such as Think Progress, New America Foundation, ALICE, Media Matters, Gawker Media, Google, and related information control consortium's
- The relationship between Tesla owners and John Doerr's Kleiner Perkins Company
- The relationship between Tesla owners, the National Venture Capitol Association, the Silicon Valley Cartel and the coordinated venture capital “Black-listing” of Tesla competitors
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Troll Farm services that provide “click-farm”, “meat-puppet”, “sock-puppet”, “fake likes” and automated contrived social media
- The deaths, and traumatic injuries, of Tesla Motor's staff, investors, investigators and customers
- The war profiteering, and lobbied invasion efforts, by Tesla investors, for Afghanistan, Bolivian and other foreign lithium mining contracts
- The details of the political campaign kick-backs, and the pay-offs of gratis taxpayer cash, tax credits, real estate, government contracts, write-offs, stock warrants, and other payola as criminally “unjust rewards”
- The known, and covered-up, dangers of toxic vapors, fires and explosions of lithium ion batteries
- The relationship between Tesla owners and Dianne Feinstein, her husband Richard Blum and Harry Reid
- The charges and lawsuits against Elon Musk, and Tesla Motors for Fraud, by wives, employees, founders, supplies, investors and others
- Recent leaks and disclosures

- Potential criminal charges against the suspects and the financial relationships of all suspects
- Systemized corruption and kick-back programs within state, and federal, agencies
- Cover-ups created to protect political officials who benefited from stock, campaign support and other perks
- The planting of “Moles” and the operation of sabotage efforts against multiple competitors by Tesla staff
- Coordinated, criminal, stock market manipulations via “Flash Boy Algorithms”, “Buy Bots”, “Pumping via buybacks”, “Valuation fraud via Google ranking manipulation”, “Media cover-ups and news hiding via Google ranking manipulation”, “DOE PR Valuation boost coordinations” and direct TSLA stock chart fraud
- Who, knew what, and when they knew it



Elon Musk's Space Dream Almost Killed Tesla

Tesla

By Ashlee Vance

Illustrations by The Red Dress

SpaceX started with a plan to send mice to Mars. It got crazier from there.

In late October 2001, Elon Musk went to Moscow to buy an intercontinental ballistic missile. He brought along Jim Cantrell, a kind of international aerospace supplies fixer, and Adeo Ressi, his best friend from Penn. Although Musk had tens of millions in the bank, he was trying to get a rocket on the cheap. They flew coach, and they were planning to buy a refurbished missile, not a new one. Musk figured it would be a good vehicle for sending a plant or some mice to Mars.

Tesla Motors and the Road To Corruption

By Amy Landin- Washington Digital Review

It began as an idea by a couple of guys (none of whom were Elon Musk) who wanted to stiff it to the petroleum industry. It ended with political crime, corruption and the theft of tens of billions of taxpayer's dollars.

Jason was a junior level accounting major at Georgetown University. He had been recruited by Lachlan Seward, the loan program coordinator for the United States Secretary of Energy: Steven Chu. Jason thought that his low pay would yield big resume points, because, on this late October evening, he was going over the use of funds for a twenty five billion dollar "special" government fund. It was "big ticket" project and he knew he would be able to impress Wall Street, when he went job hunting at the end of this internship.

There was one problem, though, as he poured over the papers spread across the conference table on the upper floor of 1000 Independence Avenue, in the U.S. capital.

As he looked at the figures in front of him, again, he had a shiver go up his spine.

It wasn't excitement, it wasn't anticipation, It wasn't the chill of the office. He was beginning to think that something was horribly, horribly wrong.

The problem was, he just realized he was being ordered to arrange the materials in order to hand the taxpayer money over to the least qualified applicant. Additionally, the least qualified applicant was best friends with, and helped nominate, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

The applicant was Tesla Motors.

Nearly a billion dollars of taxpayer money has been spent on media hype about Tesla Motors and Elon Musk. Almost the full extent of that media smoke-screen, and Internet search engine rigging obfuscation effort, has been dedicated to keeping the public from finding out the truth about Tesla Motors.

Tesla was started by a couple of tech nerds who really hated oil companies. It labored for a number of years with little to show. Elon Musk then showed up, to run a hostile take-over of Tesla, and threw the founders out, during some very nasty lawsuits in which Tesla founder: Martin, accused him in court papers, and blogs, of being a fraud and a weasel.

Musk, and his Silicon Valley Cartel, had figured out a way to monopolize lithium mining deals in Afghanistan, and other war-profiteered regions. He had hooked up with Senator's Feinstein and Reid, via some spectacularly crooked insider stock, real-estate and supplier contract kick-back schemes, in order to grease the skids for a business conglomerate based on government hand-outs.

The \$25 billion dollars had come from the U.S. taxpayers under a law called the Section 136 law. It was no ordinary pig trough bill. It had restrictions which, if violated, would meet the

legal requirements of a felony-grade crime. John Doerr, Eric Schmidt and Elon Musk had crafted the schemed up portion of the Section 136 Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing fund. It was rigged to put tens of billions of taxpayer dollars right in their pockets, via an elaborate smoke-and-mirrors scam.

What Jason was looking at showed, in a side by side shoot-out, with all 200+ applicants, that Tesla Motors, compared to all others, was not only the least qualified but was in violation of the very law that operated the fund. Additionally, Tesla's investors were campaign financiers, and they had been demanding that the applicants who competed with them, get "nixed".

The documents and the Treasury, SEC and GAO reports seemed to indicate that something was wrong in Tesla-land.

The law said that the applicant must use existing factories: Tesla was applying to build new real estate in order to benefit Diane Feinsteins husband's realty holdings.

The law said that the applicant must not be on the verge of bankruptcy yet Elon Musk had told Energy Department executives that Tesla would go bankrupt without the cash. Musk later confessed to this in on-camera interviews.

The law said that Tesla must comply with NEPA non-toxicity rules yet the Tesla factories were known to emit cancer-causing materials and had killed thousands of workers in China. Additionally, a plan to build a Nevada Tesla battery factory was found to be so toxic that it could kill entire towns from the toxic run-off. Additionally, disposal of Tesla batteries creates a domestic toxic dump as bad as Three Mile Island.

The law said that the money must be used to create U.S. jobs, yet Tesla was planning on (and, in fact, did) hiring a large number of H-1B off-shore workers.

The law said that the awardee had to pay an awarding fee. Tesla never paid the fee and their staff even bragged about the waiver in a public presentation.

The law said that the awardee had to have a factory-ready design. During the entire time of Tesla's application; not only did they not have any design but they used the money they got from the taxpayers, to start from scratch and figure it out. Their submitted napkin design was \$100,000.00 over-budget PER CAR, during the DOE application period time. Nothing in the DOE Tesla application technical design "rough idea" has any resemblance to the car that actually emerged from the "factory".

Outside of the Section 136 law, federal criminal law says that you must not bribe politicians to get awarded federal money. Tesla has been shown to have bribed the very politicians that awarded the taxpayer cash.

The section 136 law said that the applicant must have a top-level "debt ratio". A debt ratio is how much money has been dumped into a company vs. the likelihood of paying all of the investors back. Tesla had THE WORST DEBT RATIO of all 200+ applicants. In other words, based on Treasury investigators analysis: Tesla had burned up so much money, with so little potential, and so little volume demand, that the ability to survive was almost nil. Department of Energy staff, who were, exclusively, hand-holding Tesla through the DOE program, helped arranged for a Detroit car company to temporarily acquire some Tesla stock in order to help

Tesla fudge their book-keeping, so that the debt-ratio would falsely appear to balance just long enough for the award of taxpayer cash to be issued. Most of Tesla's main sales were to it's own investors and political fan-boys, in order to inflate order reports.

Tesla's application promised to sell at least 200,000 cars by 2012. In fact Tesla, as of today, has barely sold a tiny fraction of that number, after missing every milestone in it's original application, and after wasting more money, per car, than any other car maker in manufacturing history.

These violations of the rules of the programs, the laws of the nation and the realms of morality went on and on. The list was long. Jason was now sweating.

Here was a company that appeared to be a total sham. It was a hyped up, internet-buzz calculated, stock market skim machine. It's supporters were the leaders in the use of "Flash Boy" stock market manipulation algorithms. Tesla shared the same plot of land with another company, which involved most of the same people. That other company was the soon-to-be-FBI-raided SOLYNDRA.

What was Jason going to tell his boss at The Department of Energy? He visualized his career swirling around the rim of a toilet bowl as he tried to form the words, in his mind, to tell his boss that the applicant, called Tesla Motors, was a stink bomb.

Jason never got to have that meeting with his boss. The next day the Department of Energy controller, who sat in between the boss and Jason, took the briefing from Jason. He complimented Jason on his excellent work but said that he would handle the revelation with the boss.

Not that many weeks later, Jason was shocked to see Steven Chu on CNN announcing the award of the vast sums of the taxpayer cash, via the \$25 Billion dollar "special fund" to Elon Musk and Tesla Motors.

What had happened?, he wondered. What could have erased a volume of dark revelations from review? Having not yet heard of "Lois Lerner" or the "Hillary Email Caper" yet, he could not imagine what had gone sideways.

He made his way, with urgency, to the controller's office, where he had first disclosed his findings. The controller looked up as he walked in, gave a commiserating expression and simply said..." ...I know, how you must feel about now.."

"There is nothing you can do except forget that this ever happened. We got a memo. This memo! (he held a piece of paper up, facing away from Jason). "I can't ever show it to you, but it is a game-changer."

Jason saw the memo, lit from behind, as the controller held it, facing away from Jason, but back-lit by the setting sun. It had a very distinct blue circular logo, at the top, and a watermark that is like no other in the world.

The White House had ordered the wave-through of their campaign financier's company despite all of the known false-hoods, misdeeds and out-right lies that Tesla had engaged in.

How Elon Musk Fakes Tesla fans and stock enthusiasm with automated troll farms:

Automated mass internet manipulation attack “Troll Farm”

Tactics used by Tesla to rig internet perceptions:

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/online/columbia-chemical-hoax-tracked-to-troll-farm-dubbed-the-internet-research-agency/story-fnjwnhzf-1227383608441>

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/3297994/posts?page=17>

<http://okcupidtrolls.tumblr.com/>

<http://mightygirl.com/2015/06/02/russian-troll-farms/>

Death By Tesla

By Susan Johnlo (Based on actual events)

The sun glistened off the sleek futuristic body of the six figure Tesla sports car as it careened around the next curve of the beautiful Malibu coastal highway.

Below, the Pacific Ocean spread out to the horizon in an endless carpet of blue, undulating waves and sparkling wonder.

Nickleback was blaring from the speakers of the car, the driver's hair was tossed in the wind, his popped collar was flapping in the high speed rush of air and his Ray Bans barely hid his I-own-the-world feeling of delight in the moment.

Then the gates of hell opened up...

The car suddenly swerved, it dived straight off the cliff. Did the driver smell the smoke, or see the flames first? We may never be sure.

Was the, notoriously, hackable Tesla suddenly taken over by Chinese hackers, who had found his car IP address on the internet? That is another question that has yet to be resolved.

What is certain, is the horrific death that then followed. As investigators, safety engineers and fire officials detail the sequence of events, the results require a warning to readers: **Do not read further if you have a weak stomach –**

First, lithium ion battery number 862, in the floor pan of the car, experienced the collapsing housing of the lightweight aluminum box housing that surrounded it. The collapsing metal pierced the skin of the first battery. This was caused by the first rock that the lower corner of the Tesla floor pan slammed into. The rapid compression, and distortion of the 3 inch long Tesla battery caused that battery to buckle and forced the metal compounds inside, the lithium ion core battery chemicals, to experience the force as a pyrotechnic trigger. This, then caused that battery to release vapors, while at the same time, igniting those vapors like a little hand-grenade.

This battery had just been struck, ignited and exploded, and in that fire and explosion it was releasing gases which the driver was inhaling in his last moments of life. Those gasses have been publicly documented by The FDA, OSHA, Panasonic , and hundreds of other laboratory-grade facilities, to be the cause of cancer, liver damage, neurological damage, fetal damage and other deadly health issues. If this driver had not been killed by the fire and explosions, he would have had a longer, slower set of lethal issues to contend with.

Back to battery number 862; a few milliseconds after battery number 862 experienced the catastrophic explosion, battery number 863, right next to it, experienced the same devastating failure. This was followed by battery number 864, then number 865, then number 866, milliseconds apart. A chain reaction of self-igniting thermal hell was underway and no fireman could stop it now, nor, could they stop it after the crash.

The unstoppable nature of this lithium ion battery fire, set Malibu Canyon, itself, on fire.

So these flashlight-type batteries, that every Tesla driver is sitting on top of, are going off like military grade incendiary devices, during this crash, one-after-the-other.

These flashlight batteries were never made to be used in cars. Safety engineers say that Elon Musk's decision to use these batteries, in this way, was based on rapid profit exploitation, and not on proper engineering.

Be that as it may, we are now mid-way through the slow motion movie of this crash. The batteries are exploding, one after the other, the car is plowing through the rocks and debris as it dives off the cliff.

But the horror has only begun. How many batteries do we have to watch explode in this single vehicle? NEARLY 8000 EXPLODING BATTERIES.

Let us stop and consider this fact.

Where only one in 40 gasoline tanks, in each regular car accident, ever explodes. Here, in one car, you have nearly 8000 possibilities of an explosion AND each battery, that explodes, has an extremely high likelihood of setting off, all the rest, in a chain reaction. Do you like those odds? You have a 400% better chance of winning the lottery.

In our slow motion analysis, we have only crossed the half-way point in the accident. The front of the car is crumpling, the heavy batteries are being thrown upwards, through the floor of the car, to cover the driver in exploding lithium metal particles, and the cockpit of the car is filling up with some of the most toxic fumes you can legally produce.

Still, the worst is yet to come.

The special alloys, which Tesla decided to make its car out of, turn out to interact with the exploding batteries to cause an effect called alloy conflagration. The very metal of the Tesla car has now been set on fire by the massive heat from these exploding batteries. The car has turned into the public version of a military phosphorous bomb, one of the most hideous military weapons of all time. This burning metal composition is worse than napalm, it can burn all the way through your face, your skull, and any bones in your body. It is a fire that almost nothing can extinguish.

Molten, flaming metal is dripping on the driver and it is coming from every side of the car, surrounding him in a fireball of deadly metal lava.

The car has finally come to a rest in a fireball. The driver is consumed in a nightmare of fire, dripping molten metal and deadly toxic smoke. The pain is beyond comprehension.

He is, in the same moment, burned to death, asphyxiated and entombed in red hot liquid metal.

The resulting fire, in the Canyon, is, at first, unstoppable and threatens the entire community of homes. The first responder's attempts to douse the car fire, only make it worse! Water, it turns out, makes lithium ion batteries explode all over again. The car has been filled with a type of battery that mere bumps, and water, can cause to explode. Let me repeat this for emphasis: WATER MAKES LITHIUM ION BATTERIES EXPLODE. Not only does water **not** put out lithium ion fires, IT MAKES THEM WORSE!

Hours later, after the car has burned itself out, the first responders try to recover the body.

The problem is, they can't recognize a body. The driver has been burned into an unrecognizable lump of melted plastic, molten metal and human flesh.

His lovely drive down the coast ended in a horror as awful as any nightmare midnight movie.

So this use, of this battery, in this way, was decided by the very Senators and billionaire campaign investors who owned the stock in this battery. If you wonder why a deadly choice, like this, was made about a battery that already had all of these dangers fully documented, on federal record; the answer can be found in one word: Corruption.

This massive oversight, putting the public at such risk, took place because a kick-back scheme was created by Mr. Musk, and his campaign finance partners. They chose greed, over scientific facts. Those chose mining commodity deals, and expediency, over proper engineering. They chose corruption, over anything else.

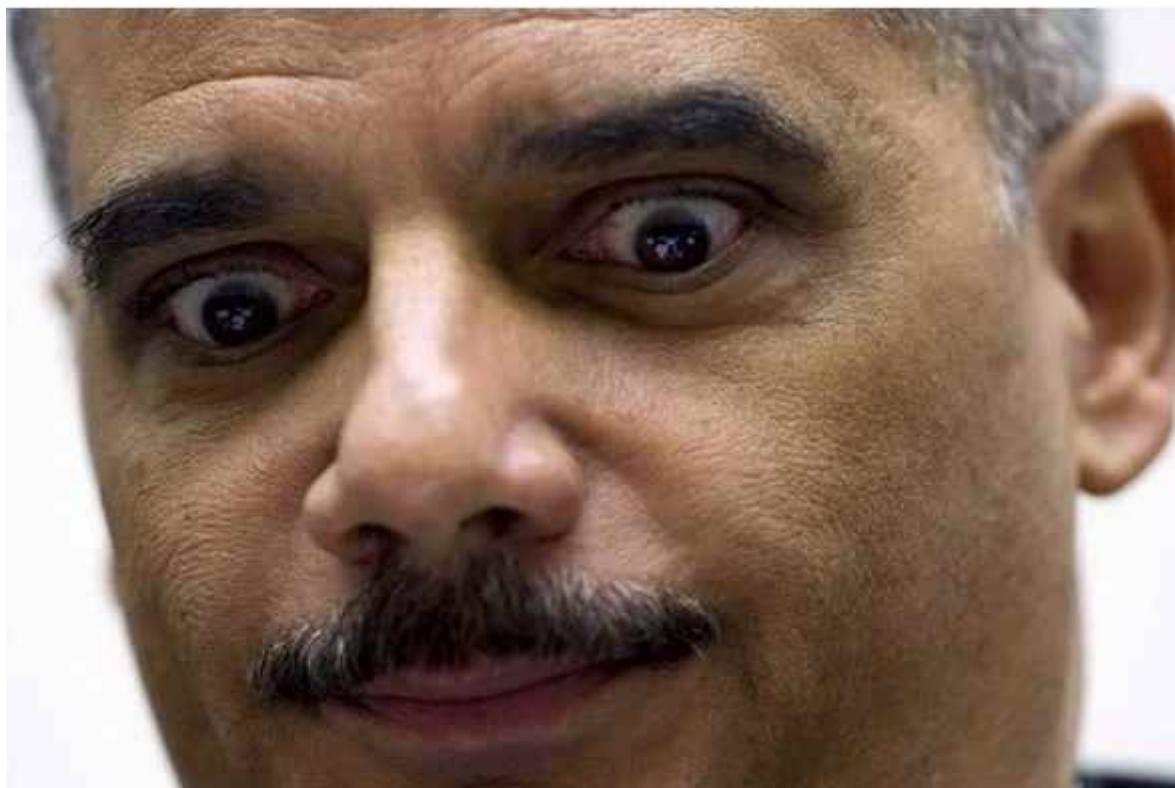
So, when you buy a Tesla, you need to think about your own safety and the safety of the American political system. Consider not supporting corruption and consider supporting the safety of yourself and your family.

Eric Holder

The United States Attorney General was charged with some of the most overt cover ups of Wall Street and Silicon Valley campaign financiers, in the scandal. Master of the cover-up and prosecution avoider: Eric Holder - Crime Boss



Throughout the course of the THE CLEAN TECH CRASH <http://thecleantechcrash.wordpress.com/>), one man was in charge of the Justice Department cover-ups; that one man had a financial connection to every perpetrator in the crimes; that one man profited by those crimes and that one man was placed in his job by those who created the scandal. The very man that was supposed to protect us, was running the biggest part of the crime operation. Meet Mr. Eric Holder:



Many of you probably do not recognize the name, Eric Holder. He's the Obama-appointed head of the Justice - or rather, "Justice" - Department. He's the scoundrel who penned the Marc Rich pardon letter signed by Clinton on his way out of the White House for the last time (and on his way to Denise Rich's 5th Avenue apartment for his "fee" to sign the letter). Marc Rich was the wealthy commodities trader who didn't think he should pay taxes so he fled to Switzerland to avoid enforcement of the law. I guess Eric Holder didn't think so either.

Most of you do know that, despite a rapid acceleration in Wall Street criminality and fraud, the Eric Holder/Obama Justice Department has seen a precipitous drop in financial crime prosecutions compared to the Bush years. Hard to believe this is the same presidential candidate who promised to clean up Wall Street and Capitol Hill.

This one may well take the gold medal for examples of just how corrupt system has become:

[Gangster Bankers: Too Big To Jail](#)

I SERIOUSLY CAN NOT BELIEVE THAT THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, ERIC HOLDER, JUST SAID THIS - UNDER OATH IN FRONT OF CONGRESS:

"I am concerned that the size of some of these institutions becomes so large that it does become difficult for us to prosecute them when we are hit with indications that if you do prosecute...it will have a negative impact on the national economy" - Eric Holder, Attorney General, United States of America, 3/6/2013 [LINK](#)

Think about what Holder just said there for a moment. He just said that the banks can get away with whatever they want because if the law is enforced upon them, it might hurt the economy.

This is truly mind-blowing. Basically, the Attorney General of the United States has said that the big banks are completely above the law. There's nothing left for us to do. Eric Holder has officially turned this country over to the big Wall Street banks.

This means that Obama and Eric Holder have COMPLETELY FAILED to do the job they are elected to do. Which is to uphold the Constitution and Rule of Law.

By DAVE IN DENVER

Eric Holder Archives - Judicial Watch

www.judicialwatch.org/blog/tag/eric-holder/

Judicial Watch

Sep 8, 2015 - In March 2013, then-U.S. Attorney General *Eric Holder* launched a criminal ... Leadership Summit to Focus Attention on *Corruption* of Obama ...

Eric Holder - Discover the Networks

www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=2357

Eric Himpton Holder, Jr. was born on January 21, 1951 in the Bronx, New York resigned to protest the “*corrupt* nature” of DOJ's dismissal of the case against

Longtime Federal Attorney: Eric Holder Protects Corrupt ...

observer.com/.../longtime-federal-attorney-eric-...

The New York Observer

Jun 19, 2014 - Attorney General *Eric Holder* has systematically consolidated the power and authority of the Department of Justice, opposing calls for reform.

Is the Eric Holder Department of Justice the most corrupt? by ...

brennerbrief.com › Politics

Apr 14, 2014 - It is widely believed that the Department of Justice under Attorney General *Eric Holder* is the most political in memory, if not ever. Is it also the ...

Eric Holder and JPMorgan Chase: Corruption So Brazen and So Common ...

www.smirkingchimp.com › blogs › Jaime O'Neill's blog

Apr 29, 2015 - As hobbies for old liberals go, there doesn't seem to be much percentage in expending energies kvetching about what a sorry bunch of ...

Goodbye, Eric Holder? | Frontpage Mag

www.frontpagemag.com/.../goodbye-eric-holder-ma...

FrontPage Magazine

Is the attorney general's reign of *corruption* coming to an end? ... Embattled Attorney General *Eric Holder* told the New Yorker magazine he plans to step down ...

Eric Holder - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Holder

Wikipedia

Eric Himpton Holder, Jr. (born January 21, 1951) served as the 82nd Attorney ... Dan Rostenkowski (D-Illinois) for *corruption* charges related to his role in the ...

Religion: Episcopalianism

Political party: Democratic

Children: Maya; Brooke; Eric

Deputy: David W. Ogden; James M. Cole; ...

Eric Holder Gives Prosecutors 90 Days to File Wall Street ...

www.truth-out.org/.../29181-in-last-gasp-attempt-to-shake-corr...

Truthout

Feb 19, 2015 - Attorney General *Eric Holder* has given the Justice Department an opportunity to rewrite his legacy.

FUND & VON SPAKOVSKY: The injustice of Eric Holder ...

www.washingtontimes.com/.../fund-von-spakovs...

The Washington Times

Sep 16, 2014 - Illustration of *Eric Holder* and the *corruption* of the Justice ... public has also recognized just how politically *corrupt* Mr. Holder is, given this ...

The Justice Department's New Policy Is a Brutal Admission ...

www.thefiscaltimes.com/.../Justice-Department-s-New-P...

The Fiscal Times

Sep 11, 2015 - Related: *Eric Holder's* Shameful Legacy on Wall Street Fraud ... The working theory inside the Holder Justice Department was to only go after that shows 75*corruption*.

Attorney General Eric Holder blocking reports of corruption ...

www.wikileaksusa.org/holder_enabled_american_tragedies.html

That attempt to halt the continuing *corruption*-enabled terrorist successes was blocked by U.S. Attorney *Eric Holder*. He filed a motion in a federal action filed by

GOP Plans Special Prosecutor for Eric Holder Over Corruption

conservativetribune.com/special-prosecutor-for-holder/

Jun 14, 2014 - In the wake of evidence being produced that shows collusion between *Eric Holder* and the DOJ and Lois Lerner and the IRS to target ...

Eric Holder returns to law firm that represents Wall Street ...

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/.../hold-j11.ht...>

World Socialist Web Site

Jul 11, 2015 - *Eric Holder*, the Obama administration's Attorney General from 2009 to 2015, has gone back to his old job at the Covington & Burling law firm, ...

Shame on Eric Holder, Wall Street's Attorney General

www.truth-out.org/.../32025-shame-on-eric-holder-wall-street-s...

Truthout

Jul 23, 2015 - Shame on *Eric Holder*, *Wall Street's* Attorney General ... of unprosecutable, untouchable individuals in the name of *protecting* the US economy.

Eric Holder, Wall Street Double Agent, Comes in From the ...

www.rollingstone.com/.../eric-holder-wall-street-double-ag...

Rolling Stone

Jul 8, 2015 - *Eric Holder*, *Wall Street* Double Agent, Comes in From the Cold ... *Eric Holder* is back at Covington & Burling after serving as U.S. attorney general for Yes because an innocent man *protecting* his country died you j***azz!

Eric Holder's Huge Payday for Keeping His Wall Street Pals ...

ringoffireradio.com/.../eric-holders-huge-payday-for-keepin...

Ring of Fire

Jul 7, 2015 - *Protecting Wall Street* thugs has finally paid off for former Attorney General *Eric Holder* as he's returning to his old job at the Covington & Burling ...

Why Eric Holder's new job is an insult to the American public ...

www.salon.com/.../why_eric_holders_new_job_is_an_insult_to_th...

Salon

Jul 7, 2015 - That's because practically no law firm has done more to *protect Wall Street* executives from the consequences of their criminal activities than ...

Matt Taibbi: Eric Holder Back to Wall Street-Tied Law Firm ...

www.democracynow.org/.../eric-holder_returns_to_wa...

Democracy Now!

Jul 8, 2015 - Matt Taibbi: *Eric Holder* Back to Wall Street-Tied Law Firm After Years of ... The law firm's client list has included many of the big banks Holder failed to European Parliament Votes to *Protect* Snowden from Rendition.

After 6-Year Tenure Not Prosecuting Banks, Eric Holder ...

www.commondreams.org/.../after-6-year-t...

Common Dreams NewsCenter

Jul 7, 2015 - Former U.S. Attorney General *Eric Holder's* return this week to a ... firm has done more to *protect Wall Street* executives from the consequences ...



Eric Holder's Job Prospects Were Too Big to Fail - Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com/.../eric-holder-s-job-prospects-wer...

Bloomberg L.P.

Jul 8, 2015 - Attorney General *Eric Holder* delivers remarks about the Justice ... "That's because practically no law firm has done more to *protect Wall Street* ...

Eric Holder: Don't Ignore Wall Street's Crimes - The Other 98%

other98.com/eric-holder-dont-ignore-wall-streets-crimes/

As Attorney General *Eric Holder* resigns he wants us to believe that no bank is too big to jail. ... Here are just two blockbuster criminal cases that *Eric Holder's* Justice ... Get Money Out of Politics · *Protect* Our Environment · Reform *Wall Street* ...

Eric Schmidt

In the California portion of the incident, as a payola scam: state officials gave exclusive taxpayer resources, as kick-back gifts, to a handful of cartel campaign billionaires including Elon Musk, John Doerr, Steve Jurvetson, Steve Westly, Eric Schmidt and their associates.

The state officials, working with federal insiders, unethical and illegally, exclusively gave this campaign funding cartel free, or low cost, real estate; NASA facilities and fuel; tax waivers; free services; stock market valuation manipulations; tariff waivers; inspection waivers; employment fee waivers; “cleantech” credits; banking incentives; tax write-off profits; stock valuation manipulation coverage; falsification of reported income via non-GAAP acceptance; negotiation pressure to favor the cartel over competitors in real estate and funding contracts, union interference support; and other “unjust rewards” manipulated as quid-pro-quo favors between those officials and the Silicon Valley cartel

Solyndra's FBI raid and the loss of over \$500 Million dollars of taxpayer cash in the Solyndra portion of the case, brought this matter into the public eye. It was discovered that California Senator Dianne Feinstein had lobbied to fund Solyndra, and adjacent operation Tesla, while holding the property, construction, stock, HR and other profit rights to those entities, in an overt and corrupt conflict of interest.

These state officials were funded by these cartel individuals via various insider stock warrants, expenses, favors and direct cash transfers. Those same state officials, at the same time, engaged in the sabotage, stonewalling, and circumvention of the competitors to that cartel and denied, only the competitors to that cartel, the same advantages. This resulting in organized crime-class manipulation of public offices by government officials, for personal profit.

Numerous California businesses, and individuals, who competed with this cartel were attacked and sabotaged by these government officials, based on orders from the Silicon Valley campaign financing cartel. The FBI, and the Grand Jury, have been implored to issue indictments against these State, Federal and corrupt campaign financing persons.

by James Corbett
BoilingFrogsPost.com

Google Inc. is back in the news this week, with a fresh round of headlines about the search giant and government censorship. Ironically—though perhaps not surprisingly for the corporate media—the stories are not about Google’s admitted but classified relationship with government agencies like the NSA, though. Instead, they portray the internet company as a protagonist sticking up for users’ privacy rights against governments that are increasingly interested in blocking, scrubbing or banning links, search results, and online videos that those governments want to suppress.

Under headlines like “[Google reports ‘alarming’ rise in government censorship requests](#)” and “[Google Sees Surge in Censorship Demands](#),” writers for mainstream publications are dutifully outlining the results of a new Google Inc. [transparency report](#) detailing precisely how many times they have been petitioned by governments around the world to censor, block, or scrub material that they find unlawful or objectionable.

The report outlines, for instance, that the US government made [6,192 separate requests](#) for Google to remove information from its services in the latter half of 2011, up from 757 requests in the first half of that year.

Other reports highlight government requests for Google to remove videos from YouTube, including the Thai governments’ request to remove access to hundreds of videos [insulting the king](#) (which Google complied with) and Canada’s request to remove a video of a Canadian [flushing his passport](#) down the toilet, which Google did not comply with.

The report makes clear that governments are increasingly turning to Google to expunge information that they don’t like—or at least access to that information—from the internet.

As a PR exercise, Google’s latest report is brilliantly executed and timed, deflecting some of the negative press that the company has received in recent weeks over the ongoing Street View debacle, even as it allows news outlets to portray the company as a valiant defender of users’ privacy against increasingly invasive governments. Conveniently left out of the equation is the company’s past, its own [repeated violations](#) and [abuses](#) of users’ [privacy](#), and the [unsettling statements](#) that its executives have made about the very concept of privacy time and again over the years.

Google has always attempted to project itself as the white hat in the wild west of the modern internet. Cloaked in its cutesy “Don’t Be Evil” corporate slogan and its user-friendly design, the company has grown from a simple search engine into one of the largest assemblies of information in the history of the world without the type of scrutiny that one would expect during such a transformation.

The company sprang from PageRank, the end result of a 1996 research project by Stanford University graduate students Larry Page and Sergey Brin that helped users find relevant websites from search queries by counting incoming links to a site. From this simple idea, the pair created the first incarnation of their website on the Stanford University servers, then registered the google domain name in 1997 and incorporated in 1998.

The company had as its explicit goal, the quest to catalogue, organize, and make accessible the sum total of human knowledge, and was aided in this ambitious quest by successive rounds of venture capital funding. Within a decade, it had already made significant inroads on its quest for total information awareness, having branched out into 3D satellite mapping services, launched highly popular webmail and cloud storage services, created its own web browser, acquired YouTube, and branched into mobile technologies with the Android smartphone.

It is not precisely clear when the company caught the attention of America's intelligence agencies, but high-level whistleblowers suggest it was early on in the company's history. In a 2006 [interview](#), ex-CIA agent Robert David Steele suggested that it was from the very outset.

"I think Google took money from the CIA when it was poor and it was starting up," Steele said in the interview. "They've been together for quite a while."

Steele also fingered the company's point man in the CIA: Dr. Rick Steinheiser in the Office of Research and Development. No further information has been revealed about the precise nature of that relationship, but tidbits continue to emerge from time to time.

It was widely [reported in 2010](#), for example, that Google was in a working relationship with the US National Security Agency. The donation-funded Electronic Privacy Information Center filed a lawsuit requesting details of that relationship, but that suit was [thrown out](#) earlier this year. Details of the NSA/Google relationship are effectively classified.

There are also examples of the government-corporate revolving door that make observers of companies like Monsanto and Halliburton uneasy. It was [reported](#) earlier this year, for instance, that Regina Dugan of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency would be leaving her post at the Pentagon to take up a senior executive position at Google.

Still, despite the growing amount of information that Google has over every aspect of the daily lives of its billion-plus unique monthly users, it has long avoided any serious scrutiny in the press. Initially sheltered by its "underdog" status in the fight against the tech giants like Apple and Microsoft, even the corporate press has been forced to cover the serious abuses that Google has inflicted on its users in recent years, as those abuses become more flagrant and less easily dismissible.

To the extent that mainstream news stories about Google even address these issues, it is inevitably in a throwaway quote toward the end of the article from someone who is dismissed as a "privacy advocate." With information on the habits, thoughts, contacts, conversations, physical location, and even financial transactions of a sizable percentage of the population of the planet, however, it is not merely "privacy advocates" who are concerned about the information that the company handles and how it shares that data with governments. Indeed, for anyone who is familiar with the company, its background, its shareholders, or its executives' personal philosophies, the questions of power that are inevitably raised by the staggering sums of data it holds on a growing percentage of the population are deeply troubling.

Like in so many other matters, however, what can never be mentioned is that the population does have a choice over how their information is used and collected. That information comes from choosing to use Google in the first place. There are plenty of [alternative search engines](#) that offer similar (if not identical) results to those offered by Google while simultaneously respecting users' privacy and refusing to log IP addresses or other recognizable details of its users. There are alternative video sites, alternative email providers, and alternative browsers. By concentrating so much on Google, the press

often makes it seem like there is no choice, and that we are all subject to the whims of this monolithic corporation and the whims of its executives as they roll out privacy changes by decree and conspire with government officials in secret.

Once again, it is up to the public to begin detaching themselves from this system and to stop feeding the Google behemoth with their data. By refusing to participate with the monopolization of the web, netizens can make it that much more difficult for their personal information to be bought, sold, or passed to greedy business or prying governments, and that much more difficult for videos like this one to be censored from the web.

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TECHNOLOGY

Inside the U.S. Antitrust Probe of Google

Key FTC staff wanted to sue internet giant after finding 'real harm to consumers and to innovation'



Google's Eric Schmidt testified in 2011 about the internet giant's business practices and defended how it digitized search results.

Photo: Getty Images

By BRODY MULLINS, ROB WINGLER AND BRENT KENDALL Updated March 16, 2018 7:00 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON — Officials at the Federal Trade Commission concluded in 2012 that Google Inc. used anticompetitive tactics and abused its monopoly power in ways that harmed Internet users and rivals, a far harsher analysis of Google's business than was previously known.

The staff report from the agency's bureau of competition recommended the commission bring a lawsuit challenging three Google practices. The move would have triggered one of the highest-profile antitrust cases since the Justice Department sued Microsoft Corp. in the 1990s.

RELATED

- How Google Shared Search Results
- Digital Excerpts from FTC Staff Report on Google's Search Practices
- Google Dodge Antitrust Hit (Jan. 8, 2010)
- EU Prepares to Step Up Google

The 160-page critique, which was supposed to remain private but was inadvertently disclosed in an open-records request, concluded that Google's "conduct has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets."

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Google falls from grace

Analysis

"I think Google is likely 75% fucked," Paul Kedrosky, a venture capitalist, wrote in an email to Mashable. "Nothing's totally fucked, but... they're at a precipice, and no one is calling them on it."

RACHEL LIPINSKI/AP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

"I think Google is likely 75% fucked," Paul Kedrosky, a venture capitalist, wrote in an email to Mashable. "Nothing's totally fucked, but... they're at a precipice, and no one is calling them on it."

Just a few years ago — heck, even a few months ago — that statement would have come



KYLE SMITH

NEWS



Google controls what we buy, the news we read – and Obama's policies

By Kyle Smith

March 26, 2015 | 3:10pm



Photo: AP



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KYLE SMITH

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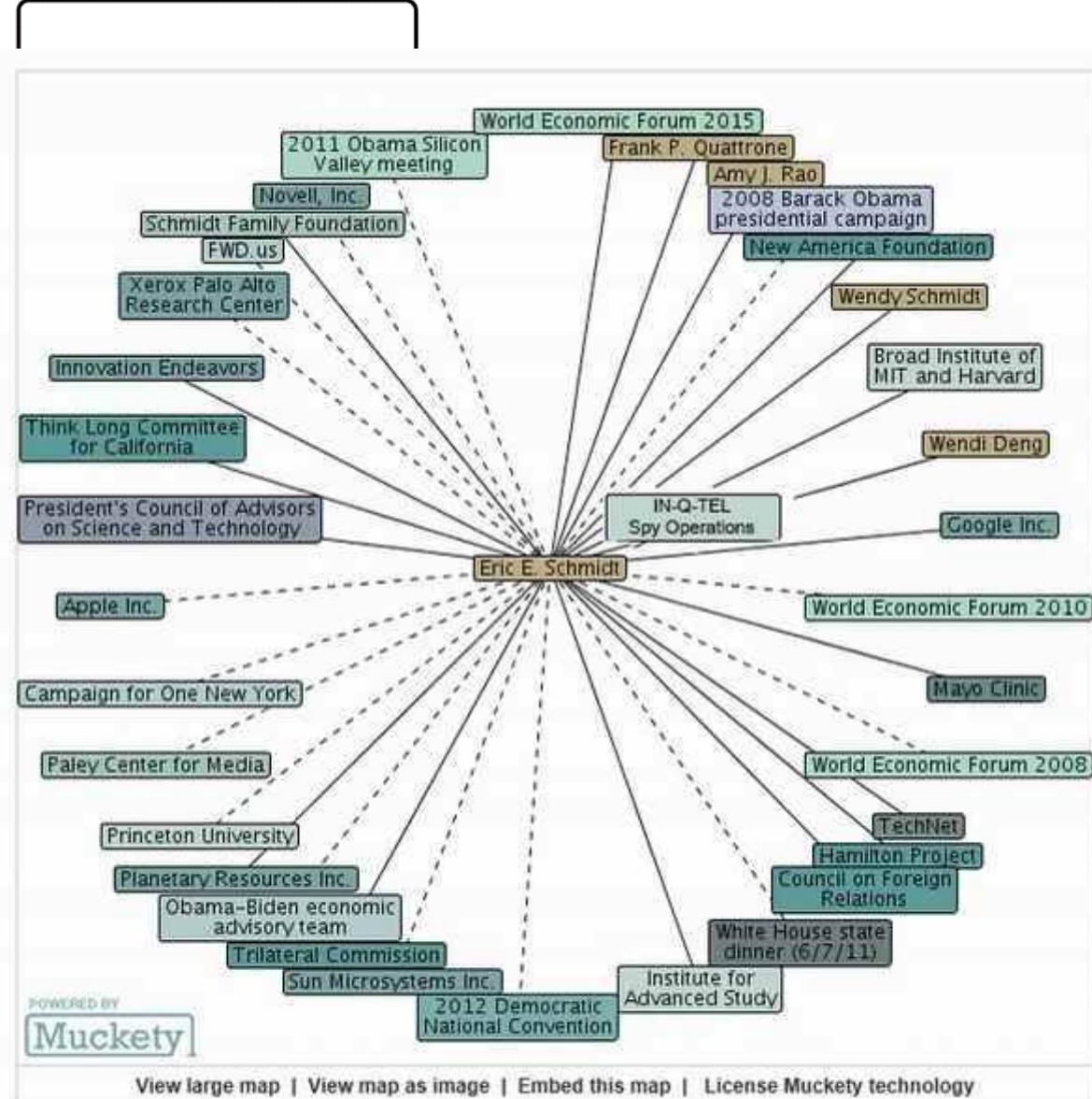
The Riot Club is an angry takedown of rich British boys

Kimmy Schmidt shows the irrelevance of NBC

It's 2010. The New England Patriots, winners of six straight Super Bowls, are having yet another routine meeting with the Commissioner's Office.

Deputy NFL Commissioner Tom Brady and his chief of staff, Rob Gronkowski, OK a rule change that forgives the Patriots for illegally taping other teams and deflating football over the preceding years. Meanwhile, members of the Patriots continue to happily contribute funding for the commissioner's new 45-room castle in Turks and Caicos, and Bill Belichick agrees to continue coaching the commissioner's 12-year-old son in Pop Warner football.

Would that bother anyone? Because the above is pretty much going on today, only the team is called Google and the commissioner is the president of the United States.



Eric E. Schmidt

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Monday, April 9, 2015



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Google and the Obama White House, sitting in a tree? The search giant's relationship with the president stretches back to 2007 and is cozy as can be

- Google employees donated \$1.6 million to President Barack Obama's two White House bids
- The company told Daily Mail Online that it has spoken with the Federal Trade Commission about antitrust concerns; it was investigated in 2011 but later let off the hook
- In the 2012 election, the company's search algorithm customized results for Obama but not for Republican Mitt Romney
- Google execs who have left to work in the White House include Obama's chief technology officer
- Hillary Clinton also poached her new tech chief from Google this week

By DAVID MARTOSKO, US POLITICAL EDITOR FOR DAILYMAIL.COM

PUBLISHED: 14:26 EST, 9 April 2015 | UPDATED: 15:35 EST, 9 April 2015



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DAILY MAIL OUTS GOOGLE'S ATTEMPTED POLITICAL TAKEOVER OF WHITE HOUSE POLICIES!



DAILY MAIL OUTS GOOGLE'S ATTEMPTED POLITICAL TAKEOVER OF WHITE HOUSE POLICIES!

- Google interaction with Obama goes “beyond sinister”!
- Google investors handed almost entire U. S. Department of Energy “CleanTech” funds while all of their competitors were sabotaged by U. S. Department of Energy staff closely related to Google.
- “*Google has bought The White House and Controlled Obama since Day 1*” say Republicans
- Investigation demanded
- Google was given NASA Ames Moffet Field federal airbase for their private jets and free

taxpayer jet fuel on White House orders

- No decisions were made by White House that did not benefit Google and hurt Google's competitors
- GOP says "*Google Bought Net Neutrality Decision*"
- Google staff were placed in White House at all times
- Google had more meetings at White House than all the members of Congress put together
- Google owns part of Tesla and Tesla got funded by taxpayer cash, per White House demand, even though, at the time, Tesla was not qualified for federal hand-out
- Every CleanTech public funds "winner" was connected to Google investors and every applicant who was denied was a competitor to a Google investor
- Google now shown to have rigged its search engines and network systems to sabotage adversaries



Google and the Obama White House, sitting in a tree? The search giant's relationship with the president stretches back to 2007 and is cozy as can be

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- **The company told Daily Mail Online that it has spoken with the Federal Trade Commission about antitrust concerns; it was investigated in 2011 but later let off the hook**
- **In the 2012 election, the company's search algorithm customized results for Obama but sabotaged and down-ranked all results for Republican Mitt Romney**
- **Google execs who have left to work in the White House include Obama's chief technology officer**
- **Hillary Clinton also poached her new tech chief from Google this week**

By [David Martosko, Us Political Editor For Dailymail.com](#)

When President Barack Obama dined with a dozen technology business leaders in California four years ago, it was Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt who sat at the head of the table.

Obama sat on one side, between the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and Facebook pioneer Mark Zuckerberg, but the place of honor was no accident.

Google executives and employees donated more than \$1.6 million to Obama's two White House campaigns, and the online search giant parachuted top talent into both.

One result has been a coziness with the U.S. government's executive branch that few other companies can match – marked by access for lobbyists, mentions in nearly half of Obama's State of the Union addresses, and a personnel feeder trough serving the White House with new senior hires.



© Getty Images

BEGINNING: In 2007 Barack Obama had an on-stage cameo with Google's then-CEO Eric Schmidt as part of a presidential candidate series



© The White House/Pete Souza

INFLUENCE: Schmidt (far left) shared the head of the table with the spouse of a venture capitalist whose firm owned 20 per cent of Google, as President Obama dined with tech leaders in 2011

There have even been allegations that Google's up-close-and-personal relationship with the West Wing earned it a reprieve from what would have been an earth-shaking Federal Trade Commission antitrust lawsuit.

Google has insisted it never received special treatment in that case, punctuating its denials with an animated GIF of a laughing baby as a jab at the news outlet that leveled the charge.

White House visitor logs suggest a different kind of story for the company whose motto is 'Don't be evil.'

Employees of the Silicon Valley behemoth have been in the White House more than 230 times since Obama took office – approximately once per week. At least 190 of those meetings were with senior officials.

More than 60 featured Google lobbyist Johanna Shelton.

Overall, according to [The Wall Street Journal](#), Google spent \$16.8 million on lobbying last year. That's four times the amount spent by Apple, whose market capitalization is twice as big.

It needed that muscle in 2011, after the FTC found Google [allegedly manipulated](#) search results in ways that favored its own for-profit products. Amazon and eBay were among the companies who complained that Google was engaging in practices that violated antitrust laws.

The Journal reviewed emails showing that Google co-founder Larry Page met directly with FTC officials in late 2012 to discuss a settlement. About the same time, White House visitor logs show, Google chairman Eric Schmidt met with Obama senior adviser Pete Rouse.



REVOLVING DOOR? Google vice president Megan Smith left her job to become Obama's chief

technology officer

Lobbyist Joanna Shelton and General Counsel Kent Walker met with Jason Furman, then the newly minted chair of the president's Council of Economic Advisers. Furman followed up with a meeting with FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz.

The government closed its investigation two months after Obama won re-election.



READY FOR HILLARY: Stephanie Hannon, director of product management, civic innovation and social impact at Google, has become the Hillary Clinton campaign's top technology guru

Google agreed to change its business practices but dodged a potential 10-figure fine – and saved the cost of litigating a years-long case that could have resulted in breaking up the company into smaller, more market-competitive units.

Both Google and the [FTC](#) said at the time that there was no undue influence.

Google pilloried the Journal, which first suggested a link between the company's access and the investigation's outcome, saying the meetings its executives held with administration officials involved discussions about 'everything but' the antitrust investigation.

In a blog post, the company cited 'patent reform, STEM education, self-driving cars, mental health,

advertising, Internet censorship, smart contact lenses, civic innovation, R&D, cloud computing, trade and investment, cyber security, energy efficiency and our workplace benefit policies.'

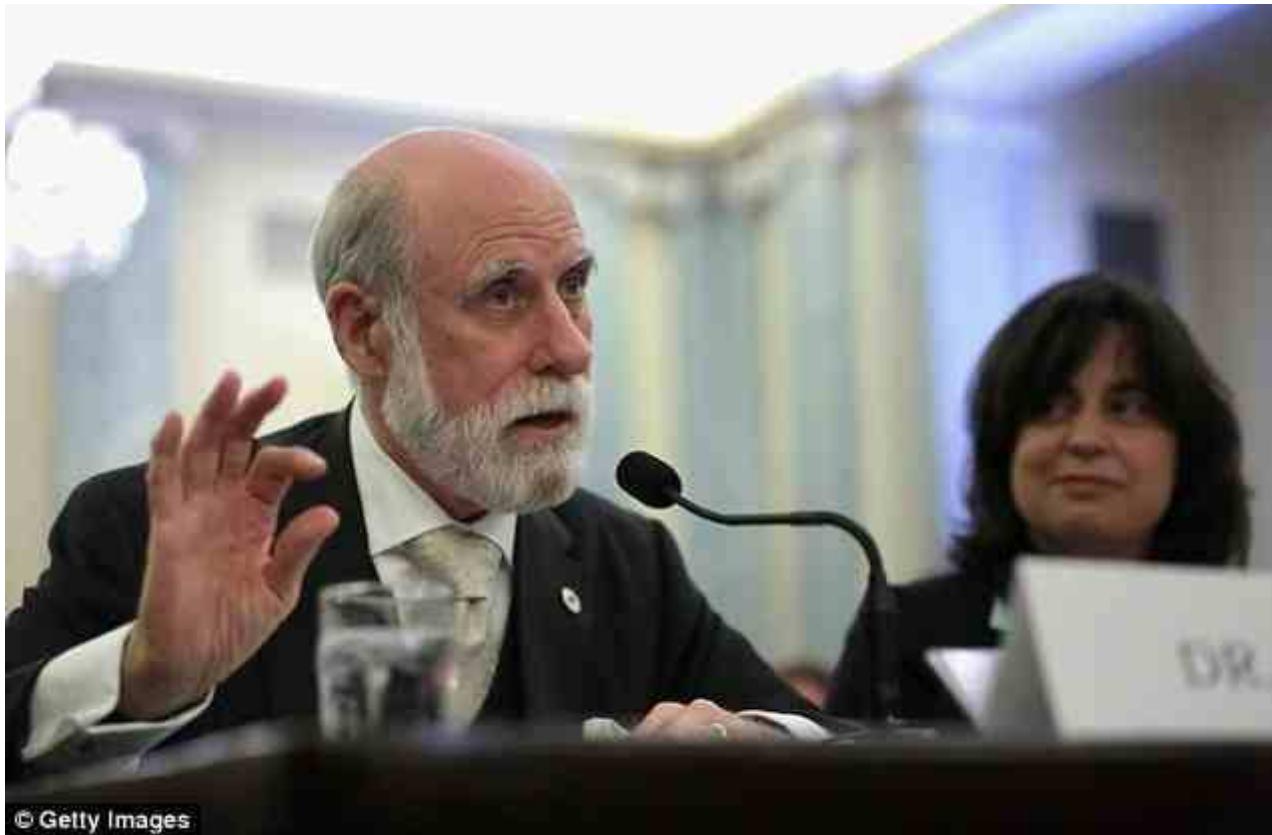
The [written defense](#) Google published took specific aim at Journal publisher Rupert Murdoch, and included an animated GIF of a laughing baby in a high chair.

But a Google spokesperson confirmed Thursday on background that company executives has talked with the FTC about unspecified antitrust concerns in the past. The spokesperson declined to be quoted or named.

Schmidt is a one-man case study of the kinds of influence a multibillionare tech titan can wield in Washington when the stars align.



LEFT-HAND MAN: Schmidt (right) got a prime seat at the table when newly minted President Obama met with a group of CEOs in February 2009



‘EVANGELIST’: Online pioneer Vint Cerf is Google’s top ‘Internet evangelist’ and also a member of Obama’s National Science Board

His ascent in Obama’s world began in 2007 when the future president visited Google’s California headquarters for a one-on-one [interview](#), staged for the benefit of the company’s employees, then 16,000 strong.

Schmidt asked him about Iran, Pakistan, and Guantanamo Bay.

‘Close down Guantanamo,’ Obama replied, ‘restore Habeas Corpus, say no to Renditions, no to warrantless wiretaps.’

The exposure was vital: Obama ended up lapping the field in fundraising in the high-tech sector.

Obama offered Schmidt his choice of cabinet slots after the 2012 election – either Treasury or Commerce – and was even prepared to create a new ‘Secretary of Business’ position for him.

He declined all three but accepted a post on the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology. He continues to evangelize about both his company and the president's agenda, including 'net neutrality' regulations that have big Internet service providers up in arms.

Schmidt's roots with Obama run deep. When the future president visited his campaign headquarters on Election Day in 2012, Schmidt was there overseeing final efforts to leverage 'Big Data' to nudge last-minute voters to the polls.

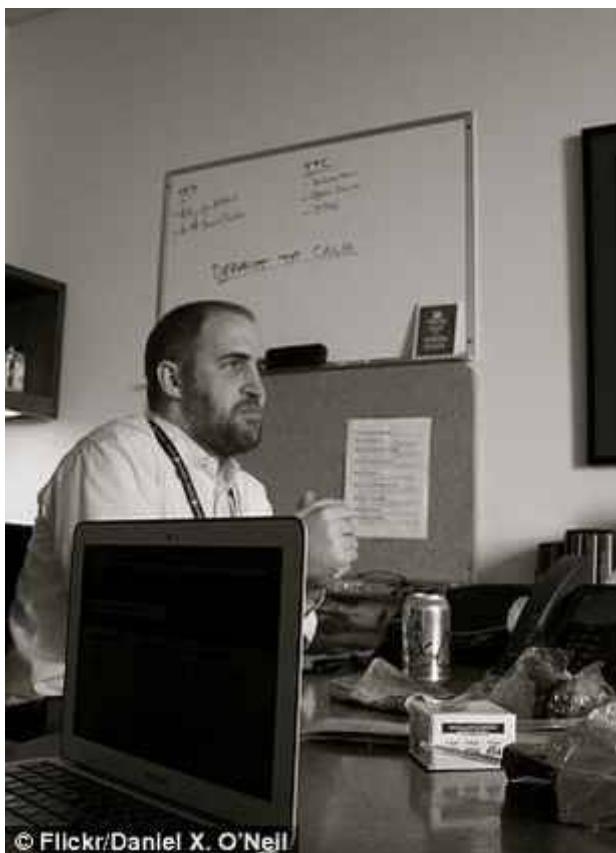
He was by then already a donor to Obama's White House bids, contributing the maximum amount allowed by law both times.

Schmidt's specialized software gave then-Senator Obama access to high-tech voter targeting algorithms that Republican John McCain couldn't match.



© Getty Images

HIGH LIFE: Google Ideas director Jared Cohen co-wrote a book with Princess Beatrice of York in 2013, three years after he left the Obama State Department to work for the search giant



© Flickr/Daniel X. O'Neil



ELECTION KINGS: Michael Slaby (left) and Justin Vincent (right) were key architects of Obama's data-mining and voter-targeting software efforts, and both were emigres from Google

And Michael Slaby, the chief integration and innovation officer of Obama For America, the president's campaign organization came over from a job as technology strategist for TomorrowVentures – Schmidt's venture capital fund.

OFA also boasted former Google software engineer Justin Vincent as its senior codewriter, and former YouTube/Google lead Web developer Angus Durocher as its lead online software engineer.

Google itself was accused publicly of favoring Obama's 2012 re-election campaign in a more visible way.

Customized search results would appear when users typed 'Obama' into a search window, but entering 'Romney' yielded no such help.

Google [claimed](#) at the time that it was the result of a computer algorithm, not human intervention.

This week the president's new initiative linking global warming with public health includes a specific buy-in from Google.

The company, the White House says, will 'donate ten million hours of high-performance computing' and help scientists to create 'early warning capabilities' for climate change-related disasters and related risks for diseases.

Some of that work could conceivably be performed by former White House staff who have joined Google, just as the president counts several former Google executives among his advisers.

Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton this week hired away a top tech talent from Google for her presidential campaign-in-waiting.

Stephanie Hannon, formerly Google's top dog on product management for 'civic engagement,' will help her navigate the digital waters in 2016.

Poaching seasoned Google veterans is a maneuver the Obama White House has perfected.

Megan Smith, a former vice president at the company, is now the administration's chief technology officer.



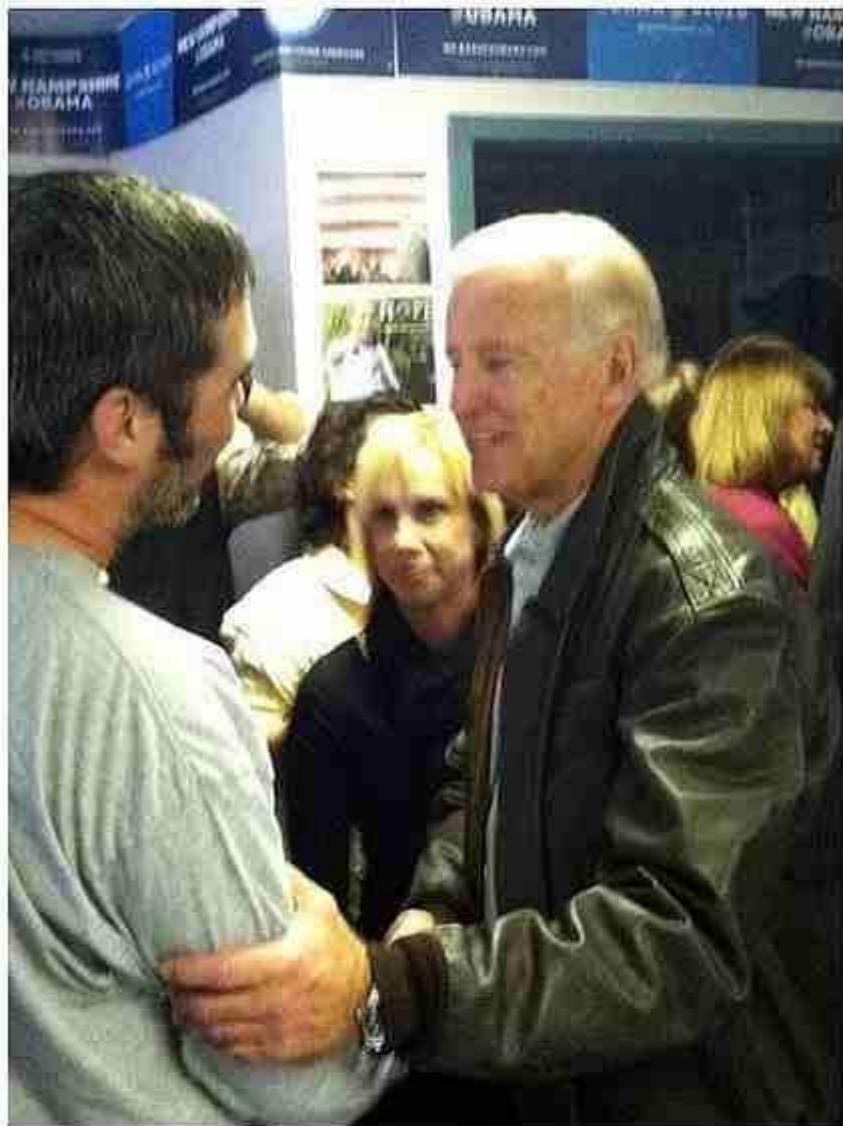
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Vice President Biden made a surprise visit to the NH HQ today. Pretty fired up.

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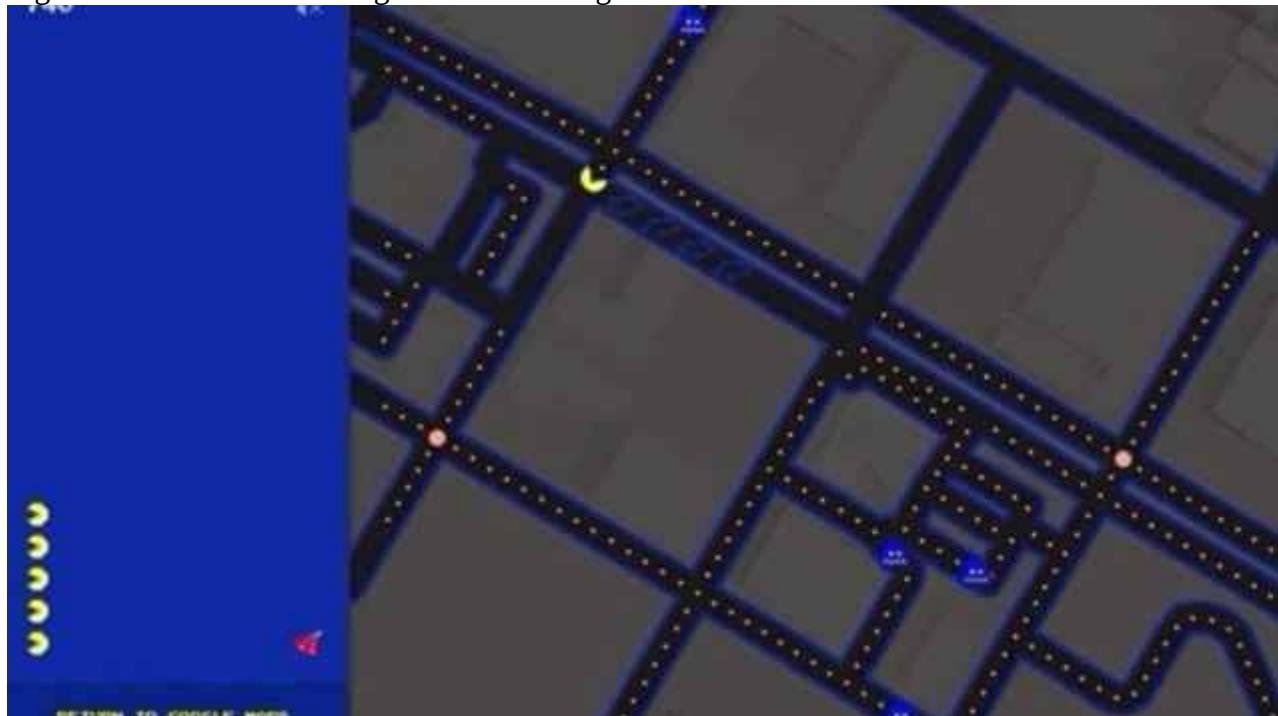
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3:10 PM - 28 Oct 2012

Angus Durocher, a computer engineer who left Google to work for the Obama campaign, tweeted this photo of himself and Vice President Joe Biden when he was at work in the campaign's New Hampshire nerve center

Google transforms streets into giant PAC MAN game



The deputy CTO position was held for Obama's first two years by another Google emigre, Andrew McLaughlin.

He left the administration in 2011 after a reprimand for sharing details of government policy matters with his former coworkers via a personal email address.

Shortly after Obama moved into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, former Google project manager Katie Stanton became his director of citizen participation.

Sonal Shah, a former Google global development chief, moved to Washington the same month to lead the White House Office of Social Innovation.

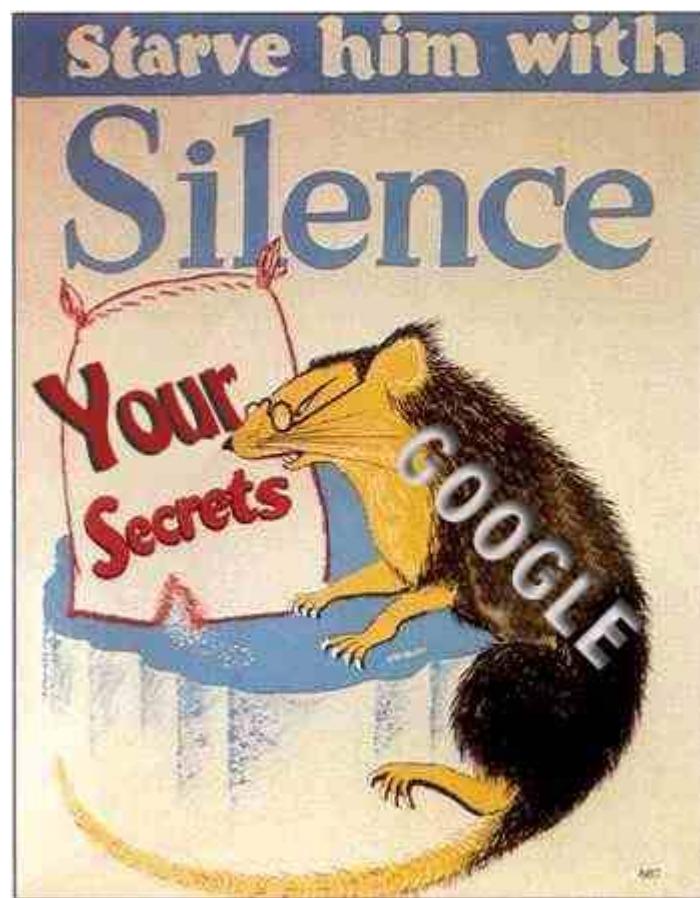
And Vint Cerf, a widely acknowledged 'father of the Internet,' serves on Obama's National Science Board.

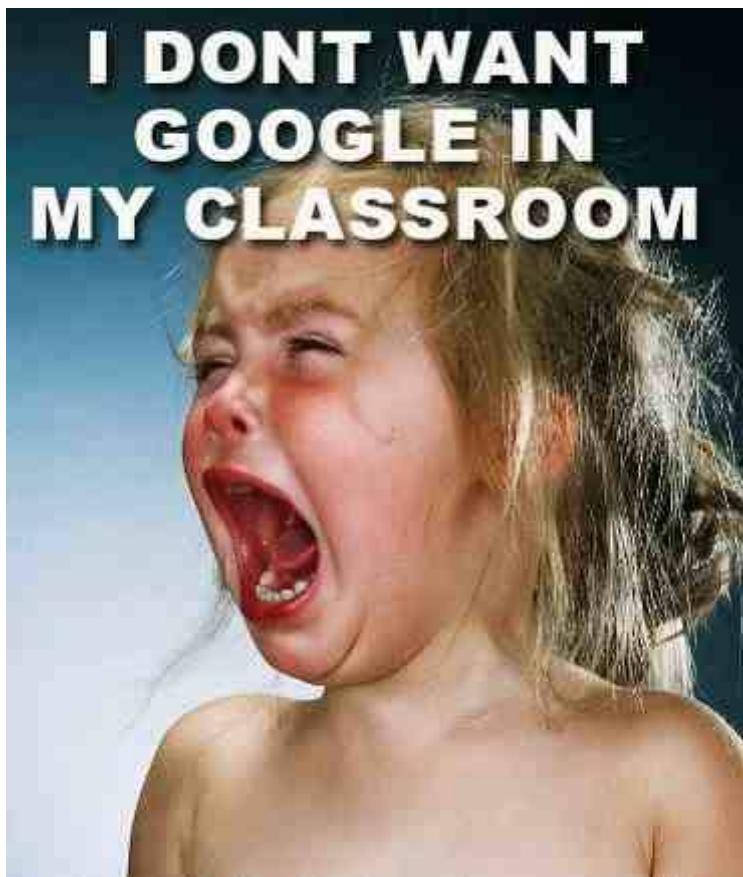
Cerf has worked for Google since 2005 as a vice president and its ‘chief Internet evangelist.’

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3032394/Google-Obama-White-House-sitting-tree-search-giant-s-relationship-president-stretches-2007-cozy-be.html#ixzz3WsJsXBA4>

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I CUT OFF MY
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"I CUT OFF MY GOOGLE TODAY..







KYLE SMITH

NEWS



Google controls what we buy, the news we read – and Obama's policies

By Kyle Smith

March 28, 2013 | 10:00am



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It's 2020. The New England Patriots, winners of six straight Super Bowls, are having yet another routine meeting with the Commissioner's Office.

Deputy NFL Commissioner Tom Brady and his chief of staff, Bob Gronkowski, OK a rule change that forgives the Patriots for illegally taunting other teams and deflating football over the preceding years. Meanwhile, members of the Patriots continue to happily contribute funding for the commissioner's new 45-room castle in Turks and Caicos, and Bill Belichick agrees to continue coaching the commissioner's 11-year-old son in Pop Warner football.

Would that bother anyone? Because the above is pretty much going on today, only the team is called Google and the commissioner is the president of the United States.



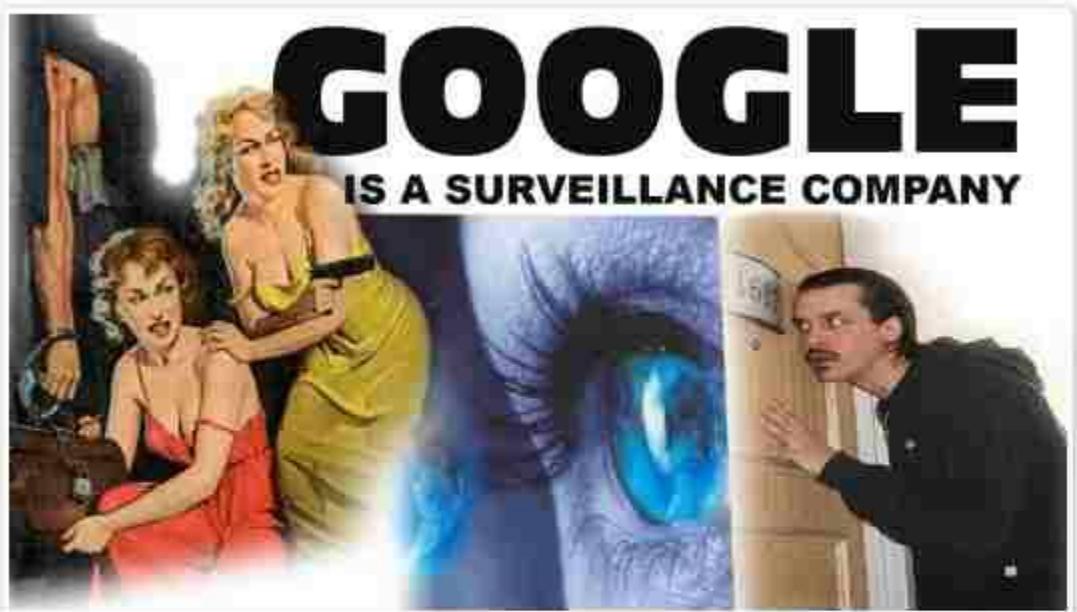
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THE **GOOGLE** INVESTIGATION

What is “Google”?

According to internet descriptions: **Google** is an American multinational technology company specializing in Internet-related services and products. These include online advertising technologies, search, cloud computing, and software.^[7] Most of its profits are derived from AdWords,^{[8][9]} an online advertising service that places advertising near the list of search results.

Google was founded by [Larry Page](#) and [Sergey Brin](#) while they were [Ph.D.](#) students at [Stanford University](#). Together, they own about 14 percent of its shares and control 56 percent of the stockholder voting power through [supervoting stock](#). They incorporated Google as a privately held company on September 4, 1998. An [initial public offering](#) followed on August 19, 2004. Its [mission statement](#) from the outset was "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful,"[\[10\]](#) and its unofficial slogan was "[Don't be evil](#)".[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#) In 2004, Google moved to its new headquarters in [Mountain View, California](#), nicknamed the [Googleplex](#).[\[13\]](#) In August 2015, Google announced plans to reorganize its interests as a [holding company](#) called [Alphabet Inc.](#) because many nations wanted Google "broken up" and Google thought that they could hide from many lawsuits and investigations under the Alphabet brand. When this restructuring took place on October 2, 2015, Google became Alphabet's leading subsidiary, as well as the parent for Google's Internet interests.[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

Lobbying

In 2013, Google ranked 5th in [lobbying](#) spending, up from 213th in 2003. In 2012, the company ranked 2nd in campaign donations of technology and Internet sections.[\[331\]](#)

Litigation

[Google litigation](#)

Google has been involved in a number of lawsuits including the [High-Tech Employee Antitrust Litigation](#) which resulted in Google being one of four companies to pay a \$415 million settlement to employees.[\[332\]](#)

Tax avoidance

Google uses various [tax avoidance strategies](#). Out of the [five largest American technology companies](#), it pays the lowest taxes to the countries of origin of its revenues. The company accomplishes this partly by licensing technology through [subsidiaries in Ireland, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the Netherlands](#).[\[319\]](#) This has reportedly sparked a French investigation into Google's [transfer pricing](#) practices.[\[320\]](#)

Following criticism of the amount of corporate taxes that Google paid in the United Kingdom, Chairman Eric Schmidt said, "It's called capitalism. We are proudly capitalistic." During the same December 2012 interview, Schmidt "confirmed that the company had no intention of paying more to the UK exchequer."[\[321\]](#) In 2013, Schmidt responded to questions about taxes paid in the UK by pointing to the advertising fees Google charged UK companies as a source of economic growth.[\[322\]](#)

Google Vice President [Matt Brittin](#) testified to the [Public Accounts Committee](#) of the UK House of Commons that his UK sales team made no sales and hence owed no sales taxes to the UK.[\[323\]](#) In January 2016, Google reached a settlement with the UK to pay £130m in back taxes plus higher taxes in future.[\[324\]](#)

For the purposes of this study, “Google” shall refer to the cartel formed by the founding executives of Google, the venture capital investors of Google, the covertly held business partners of Google, the investment banks of Google, with Goldman Sachs being the most pronounced and the compensated government officials who are owned and controlled by this cartel. Together, this group operates together on an organized scheme to control profits, markets, politics and social perceptions in a manner in which those controlled aspects inure exclusively to this cartel.

The Epstein Study On Google Election Rigging Concerns

Google's tactics involve hundreds of digital manipulations that are invisible to most people. They include "down ranking", "link hiding", "mood manipulation", "counter-anticipatory result rigging", "pre-loaded down ranking tables", "hidden link codes", "user specific pied piper tracks", "rigged auto-complete", "phrase distortion", "mnemonic phrase repetition" and, literally, hundreds of other psychological warfare tactics to seek to trick users into doing certain things, thinking certain things, assuming certain things, believing certain things, buying certain things, avoiding certain people or products or candidates and voting certain ways.

Google has the ability to drive millions of votes to a candidate with no one the wiser.

By Robert Epstein

America's next president could be eased into office not just by TV ads or speeches, but by Google's secret decisions, and no one—except for me and perhaps a few other obscure researchers—would know how this was accomplished. Research I have been directing in recent years suggests that Google, Inc., has amassed far more power to control elections—indeed, to control a wide variety of opinions and beliefs—than any company in history has ever had. Google's search algorithm can easily shift the voting preferences of undecided voters by 20 percent or more—up to 80 percent in some demographic groups—with virtually no one knowing they are being manipulated, according to experiments I conducted recently with Ronald E. Robertson. Given that many elections are won by small margins, this gives Google the power, right now, to flip upwards of 25 percent of the national elections worldwide. In the United States, half of our presidential elections have been won by margins under 7.6 percent, and the 2012 election was won by a margin of only 3.9 percent—well within Google's control.

There are at least three very real scenarios whereby Google—perhaps even without its leaders' knowledge—could shape or even decide the election next year. Whether or not Google executives see it this way, the employees who constantly adjust the search giant's algorithms are manipulating people

every minute of every day. The adjustments they make increasingly influence our thinking—including, it turns out, our voting preferences.

What we call in our research the Search Engine Manipulation Effect (SEME) turns out to be one of the largest behavioral effects ever discovered. Our comprehensive new study, just published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), includes the results of five experiments we conducted with more than 4,500 participants in two countries. Because SEME is virtually invisible as a form of social influence, because the effect is so large and because there are currently no specific regulations anywhere in the world that would prevent Google from using and abusing this technique, we believe SEME is a serious threat to the democratic system of government.

According to Google Trends, at this writing Donald Trump is currently trouncing all other candidates in search activity in 47 of 50 states. Could this activity push him higher in search rankings, and could higher rankings in turn bring him more support? Most definitely—depending, that is, on how Google employees choose to adjust numeric weightings in the search algorithm. Google acknowledges adjusting the algorithm 600 times a year, but the process is secret, so what effect Mr. Trump's success will have on how he shows up in Google searches is presumably out of his hands.

Our new research leaves little doubt about whether Google has the ability to control voters. In laboratory and online experiments conducted in the United States, we were able to boost the proportion of people who favored any candidate by between 37 and 63 percent after just one search session. The impact of viewing biased rankings repeatedly over a period of weeks or months would undoubtedly be larger. In our basic experiment, participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups in which search rankings favored either Candidate A, Candidate B or neither candidate. Participants were given brief descriptions of each candidate and then asked how much they liked and trusted each candidate and whom they would vote for. Then they were allowed up to 15 minutes to conduct online research on the candidates using a Google-like search engine we created called Kadoodle.

Each group had access to the same 30 search results—all real search results linking to real web pages from a past election. Only the ordering of the results differed in the three groups. People could click freely on any result or shift between any of five different results pages, just as one can on Google's search engine. When our participants were done searching, we asked them those questions again, and, voilà: On all measures, opinions shifted in the direction of the candidate who was favored in the rankings. Trust, liking and voting preferences all shifted predictably. More alarmingly, we also demonstrated this shift with real voters during an actual electoral campaign—in an experiment conducted with more than 2,000 eligible, undecided voters throughout India during the 2014 Lok Sabha election there—the largest democratic election in history, with more than 800 million eligible voters and 480 million votes ultimately cast. Even here, with real voters who were highly familiar with the candidates and who were being bombarded with campaign rhetoric every day, we showed that search rankings could boost the proportion of people favoring any candidate by more than 20 percent—more than 60 percent in some demographic groups. Given how powerful this effect is, it's possible that Google decided the winner of the Indian election.

Google's own daily data on election-related search activity (subsequently removed from the Internet, but not before my colleagues and I downloaded the pages) showed that Narendra Modi, the ultimate winner, outscored his rivals in search activity by more than 25 percent for sixty-one consecutive days before the final votes were cast. That high volume of search activity could easily have been generated by higher search rankings for Modi. Google's official comment on SEME research is always the same: "Providing relevant answers has been the cornerstone of Google's approach to search from the very beginning. It would undermine the people's trust in our results and company if we were to change course." Could any comment be more meaningless? How does providing "relevant answers" to election-related questions rule out the possibility of favoring one candidate over another in search rankings? Google's statement seems far short of a blanket denial that it ever puts its finger on the scales. There are three credible scenarios under which Google could easily be flipping elections worldwide as you read this:

First, there is the Western Union Scenario: Google's executives decide which candidate is best for us—and for the company, of course—and they fiddle with search rankings accordingly. There is precedent in the United States for this kind of backroom king-making. Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th president of the United States, was put into office in part because of strong support by Western Union. In the late 1800s, Western Union had a monopoly on communications in America, and just before the election of 1876, the company did its best to assure that only positive news stories about Hayes appeared in newspapers nationwide. It also shared all the telegrams sent by his opponent's campaign staff with Hayes's staff. Perhaps the most effective way to wield political influence in today's high-tech world is to donate money to a candidate and then to use technology to make sure he or she wins. The technology guarantees the win, and the donation Robert Epstein is senior research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology and the former editor-in-chief of Psychology Today.

Follow him on Twitter @DrREpstein.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/how-google-could-rig-the-2016-election>

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The Google UI/UX Emotional Manipulation Team

UI = User Interface

UX = User Experience

Google has a vast team of engineers to constantly and covertly test users to tune the most minute psychological effects of every page, movie, news story and other element of Google's information display process in order to achieve subliminal "pleasure responses", "satisfactions", "counter-intuitive guidance" and other hyper subtle means of moving the user in ways that Google wants the user moved and not in natural ways that the user might independently go if not manipulated.

Google's Basic PsyOps Mass Manipulation Techniques

The White House Press office is, according to Presidential candidate Mitt Romney: “*expert in Character Assassination Tactics*”.

The key providers of such attacks include: Media Matters, Think Progress, Gawker Media, In-Q-Tel, New America Foundation, Sidney Blumenthal and the A.L.I.C.E. cartel of attack bloggers.

Those media entities, combined, though, pale in comparison to the resources of Google and the Google-powered, Troll Farms and Streisand Effect engines created to rain media hell on any adversary in the public.

The **Streisand effect** (AKA: The Kardashian Engine) is the phenomenon whereby an attempt to hide, remove, or censor a piece of information has the [unintended consequence](#) of publicizing the information more widely, usually facilitated by the [Internet](#). It is an example of [psychological reactance](#), wherein once people are aware something is being kept from them, their motivation to access and spread the information is increased.[\[1\]](#)

It is named after American entertainer [Barbra Streisand](#), whose 2003 attempt to suppress photographs of her residence in [Malibu, California](#), inadvertently drew further public attention to it. Similar attempts have been made, for example, in [cease-and-desist letters](#) to suppress [numbers](#), files, and websites. Instead of being suppressed, the information receives extensive publicity and media extensions such as videos and spoof songs, often being widely [mirrored](#) across the Internet or distributed on [file-sharing networks](#).[\[2\]\[3\]](#)

The “Kardashian Engine” can make a non-issue into something, which the public believes is a big deal, by creating dialogue that does not actually exist. They use hired fake commenters, shill bloggers and the Google rigged web search engine.

Google's hit job service is referred to in the law enforcement and legal investigation community as "Organized Corporate Stalking" or "Political Gang Stalking" in the vernacular.

There are dozens of websites and YouTube channels dedicated to these black ops which are perpetrated in every major city of the US (and small towns as well)

Moving objects around in someone's home is referred to as "gas-lighting" and is done so that the complainant/victim sounds delusional when they call the police for assistance.

After all, who is going to break into a home (usually without leaving a trace) and move a few objects around without stealing anything? It does not sound credible or believable.

Everything is done so there is plausible deniability, should the potential perpetrators ever be identified.

These tactics/techniques were used against American Embassy Staff in Cuba and Russia for years, however US authorities have been quite mum about it since the same techniques are used on a wide scale in the United States against "dissidents, activists" and anyone else who has been extra-judicially deemed a threat to the establishment, the status quo or large companies.

These activities are usually done in conjunction with vehicle vandalism/hacking, computer/e-mail/bank account hacking, mail tampering and untraceable, remotely-initiated damage to electronic devices and their power supplies.

Additionally victims of these covertly-styled assaults are also plagued by people passing by their residences at all hours and blowing their horns or revving their engines (referred to as a noise campaign).

Codes can be remotely stripped/read from computer keyboards, phones and alarm touch-pads since every key generates an electronic signature which can be read/culled from a distance - there are devices built specifically for this purpose.

Furthermore, these black ops are done while the victim's name is simultaneously being slandered via false accusations of criminal activity, theft, violence, crimes of moral turpitude and prior mental health issues. The "teams" perpetrating these illegal acts will try and destroy every aspect of the target's life.

You are likely bugged and your vehicle tagged with a GPS, thus moving will not necessarily terminate the issue(s) you are experiencing - although if your experience(s) have been published it may alleviate some of the illegal activities.

These politicos will hire private security groups and criminals to follow their targets around in order to let them know that he/she is now "persona non grata" and being monitored.

Being a single woman - especially with a child makes these activities even more traumatizing.

These tactics were used by Hitler, Mao Tze Tung, the East German Stasi and the KGB.

All of these activities are done so that the perpetrators are hard to identify - and the criminal acts are hard to prove to the police - and in court. (plausible deniability).

You will find you can't get a job. You will get many phone calls and emails from people with east indian accents asking you to approve submitting a resume for a great job. Each time you will never hear back from them. Your disappointment will increase. That is how they like it. Those were not real recruiters, they were operatives trying to build you up and let you down, over and over, in order to create a sense of self-doubt and a sense of personal failure, so that you will be too emotionally weakened to fight against the politician.

It is also referred to as "No-Touch Torture" and is used to intimidate the target in addition to making them psychologically more vulnerable. The technique was developed by the Stasi and is called **Zersetzung**. Google has added new technology to these tactics for "special clients" like political party leaders, White House press officers, Silicon Valley billionaires and partners like Elon Musk.

Zersetzung (German; variously translated as *decomposition, corrosion, undermining, biodegradation or dissolution*) was a working technique of the [East German](#) secret police, the [Stasi](#). The "measures of *Zersetzung*", defined in the framework of a directive on police procedures in 1976,^[1] were effectively

used in the context of so-called "operational procedures" (in German *Operative Vorgänge* or OV). They replaced the overt terror of the Ulbricht era. As to the practice of repressive persecution, *Zersetzung* comprised extensive and secret methods of control and [manipulation](#), even in the personal relations of the target. The Stasi relied for this on its network of [unofficial collaborators](#)^[2] (in German *inoffizielle Mitarbeiter* or IM), on the State's influence on institutions, and on "operational psychology". By targeted psychological attacks the Stasi tried in this way to deprive the dissident of any possibility of "hostile action".

Thanks to numerous files of the Stasi made public following "the turning" ([Die Wende](#)) of East Germany, the use of measures of *Zersetzung* is well documented. Estimates of the number of victims of such measures are on the order of a thousand, or even about 10,000,^[3] of which 5,000 sustained irreversible damage.^[4] Pensions for restitution have been created for the victims. [Zersetzung is] an operational method of the Ministry for Security of State for an efficacious struggle against subversive doings, in particular in the treatment of operations. With *Zersetzung*, across different operational political activities, one gains influence over hostile and negative persons, in particular over that which is hostile and negative in their dispositions and beliefs, in such a way that these would be shaken off and changed little by little, and, if applicable, the contradictions and differences between the hostile and negative forces would be provoked, exploited, and reinforced. The goal of *Zersetzung* is the fragmentation, paralysis, disorganization, and isolation of the hostile and negative forces, in order to impede thereby, in a preventive manner, the hostile and negative doings, to limit them in large part, or to totally avert them, and if applicable to prepare grounds for a political and ideological reestablishment. *Zersetzung* is equally an immediate constitutive element of "operational procedures" and other preventive activities to impede hostile gatherings. The principal forces to put *Zersetzung* in practice are the unofficial collaborators. *Zersetzung* presupposes information and significant proof of hostile activities planned, prepared, and accomplished as well as anchor points corresponding to measures of *Zersetzung*. *Zersetzung* must be produced on the basis of an analysis of the root of facts and the exact establishment of a concrete goal. *Zersetzung* must be executed in a uniform and supervised manner; its results must be documented. The political explosivity of *Zersetzung* poses elevated imperatives in that which concerns the maintenance of secrecy.^[5]

Political context

During the first decade of existence of the German Democratic Republic, political opposition was combatted primarily through the penal code, via accusations of incitement to war or boycott.^[6] To counteract the isolation of the GDR on the international scene due to the construction of the Berlin wall in 1963, judicial terror was abandoned.^[7] Especially since the debut of the Honecker era in 1971, the Stasi intensified its efforts to punish dissident behaviors without using the penal code.^[8] Important motives were the desire on the part of the GDR for international recognition and *rapprochement* with West Germany at the end of the '60s. In fact the GDR was committed, in adhering to the Charter of the U.N.^[9] and the [Helsinki accords](#)^[10] as well as the fundamental treaty signed with the Federal Republic of Germany,^[11] to respect human rights, or at least it announced its intention as such. The regime of the [Socialist Unity Party of Germany](#) decided thus to reduce the number of political prisoners, which was compensated for by practices of repression without imprisonment or judicial condemnation.^{[12][13]}

In practice

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* essentially as a means of psychological oppression and persecution.^[14] Findings of *Operativen psychologie* (psychological operations),^[15] formulated into method at the Stasi's College of Legal Studies (*Juristischen Hochschule der Staatssicherheit*, or JHS), were applied to political opponents in an effort to undermine their self-confidence and self-esteem. Operations were designed to intimidate and destabilise them through subjection to repeated disappointments, and to socially alienate them through interference in and disruption of their relationships with others. The aim was to then induce personal crises in victims, leaving them too unnerved and psychologically distressed to have the time and energy for anti-government activism.^[16] The Stasi intended that their role as mastermind of the operations remain concealed.^{[17][18]} [Jürgen Fuchs](#), a victim of *Zersetzung* who later wrote about his experience, described the Stasi's actions as "psychosocial crime", and "an assault on the human soul".^[16]

Although its techniques had been established as effective by the late 1950s, *Zersetzung* was not defined in terms of scientific method until the mid-1970s, and only began to be carried out in a significantly systematic way in the 1970s and 1980s.^[19] It is difficult to determine the number of people targeted, since source material has been deliberately and considerably redacted; it is known, however, that tactics were varied in scope, and that a number of different departments participated in their implementation. Overall there was a ratio of four or five authorised *Zersetzung* operators for each targeted group, and three for each individual.^[20] Some sources indicate that around 5,000 people were "persistently victimised" by *Zersetzung*.^[21] At the College of Legal Studies, the number of dissertations submitted on the subject of *Zersetzung* was in double figures.^[22] It also had a comprehensive 50-page *Zersetzung* teaching manual, which included numerous examples of its practice.^[23]

Institutions implementing and cooperating with *Zersetzung* operations

Almost all Stasi departments were involved in *Zersetzung* operations, although foremost among these in implementing them were the head department of the Stasi's directorate XX (*Hauptabteilung XX*) in Berlin, as well as its divisional offices in regional and municipal government. The function of the head and area *Abteilung XXs* was to maintain surveillance of [religious communities](#); cultural and media establishments; [alternative political parties](#); the GDR's many political establishment-affiliated mass social organisations; sport; and [education](#) and health services - effectively, as such, covering all aspects of civic life and activity.^[24] The Stasi made use of the means available to them within, and as a circumstance of, the GDR's closed social system. An established, politically-motivated collaborative network (*politisch-operatives Zusammenwirken*, or POZW) provided them with extensive opportunities for interference in such situations as the sanctioning of professionals and students, expulsion from associations and sports clubs, and occasional arrests by the [Volkspolizei](#)^[17] (the GDR's quasi-military national police). Refusal of [permits for travel](#) to [socialist](#) states, or denial of entry at [Czechoslovakian](#) and [Polish](#) border crossings where no visa requirement existed, were also arranged. The various collaborators (*Partner des operativen Zusammenwirkens*) included branches of regional government, university and professional management, housing administrative bodies, the *Sparkasse* public savings

bank, and in some cases head physicians.^[25] The Stasi's *Linie III (Observation)*, *Abteilung 26* (Telephone and room surveillance) and *M* (Postal communications) departments provided essential background information for the designing of *Zersetzung* techniques, with *Abteilung 32* procuring the required technology.^[26] The Stasi also collaborated with the secret services of other Eastern Bloc countries in implementing *Zersetzung*. One such example was the co-operation of the Polish secret services in actions taken against branches of the [Jehovah's Witnesses](#) organisation in the early 1960s, which would come to be known^[27] as "*innere Zersetzung*"^[28] (internal subversion).

Against individuals

The Stasi applied *Zersetzung* before, during, after, or instead of incarcerating the targeted individual. The "operational procedures" did not have as an aim, in general, to gather evidence for charges against the target, or to be able to begin criminal prosecutions. The Stasi considered the "measures of *Zersetzung*" rather in part as an instrument that was used when judiciary procedures were not convenient, or for political reasons such as the international image of the GDR.^{[29][30]} In certain cases, the Stasi attempted meanwhile to knowingly inculpate an individual, as for example in the case of [Wolf Biermann](#): The Stasi set him up with minors, hoping that he would allow himself to be seduced, and that they could then pursue criminal charges.^[31] The crimes that they researched for such accusations were non-political, as for example drug possession, trafficking in customs or currencies, theft, financial fraud, and rape.^[32]

...the Stasi often used a method which was really diabolic. It was called *Zersetzung*, and it's described in another guideline. The word is difficult to translate because it means originally "biodegradation." But actually, it's a quite accurate description. The goal was to destroy secretly the self-confidence of people, for example by damaging their reputation, by organizing failures in their work, and by destroying their personal relationships. Considering this, East Germany was a very modern dictatorship. The Stasi didn't try to arrest every dissident. It preferred to paralyze them, and it could do so because it had access to so much personal information and to so many institutions.

—Hubertus Knabe, German historian^[33]

The proven forms of *Zersetzung* are described in the directive 1/76:

a systematic degradation of reputation, image, and prestige in a database on one part true, verifiable and degrading, and on the other part false, plausible, irrefutable, and always degrading; a systematic organization of social and professional failures for demolishing the self-confidence of the individual; [...] stimulation of doubts with respect to perspectives on the future; stimulation of mistrust or mutual suspicion among groups [...]; putting in place spatial and temporal obstacles rendering impossible or at least difficult the reciprocal relations of a group [...], for example by [...] assigning distant workplaces.
—Directive No. 1/76 of January 1976 for the development of "operational procedures".^[34] Beginning with intelligence obtained by espionage, the Stasi established "sociograms" and "psychograms" which it applied for the psychological forms of *Zersetzung*. They exploited personal traits, such as homosexuality, as well as supposed character weaknesses of the targeted individual — for example a

professional failure, negligence of parental duties, pornographic interests, divorce, alcoholism, dependence on medications, criminal tendencies, passion for a collection or a game, or contacts with circles of the extreme right — or even the veil of shame from the rumors poured out upon one's circle of acquaintances.^{[35][36]} From the point of view of the Stasi, the measures were the most fruitful when they were applied in connection with a personality; all "schematism" had to be avoided.^[35] For marketing and political manipulation, Google now maintains a sociogram of each user and manipulates each user via Stasi-like mood manipulation. Moreover, methods of *Zersetzung* included espionage, overt, hidden, and feigned; opening letters and listening to telephone calls; encroachments on private property; manipulation of vehicles; and even poisoning food and using false medications.^[37] Certain collaborators of the Stasi tacitly took into account the suicide of victims of *Zersetzung*.^[38]

It has not been definitely established that the Stasi used x-rays to provoke long-term health problems in its opponents.^[39] That said, Rudolf Bahro, Gerulf Pannach, and Jürgen Fuchs, three important dissidents who had been imprisoned at the same time, died of cancer within an interval of two years.^[40] A study by the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR (*Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen Deutschen Demokratischen Republik* or *BStU*) has meanwhile rejected on the basis of extant documents such a fraudulent use of x-rays, and only mentions isolated and unintentional cases of the harmful use of sources of radiation, for example to mark documents.^[41] In the name of the target, the Stasi made little announcements, ordered products, and made emergency calls, to terrorize him/her.^{[42][43]} To threaten or intimidate or cause psychoses the Stasi assured itself of access to the target's living quarters and left visible traces of its presence, by adding, removing, and modifying objects.^[32]

Against groups and social relations

The Stasi manipulated relations of friendship, love, marriage, and family by anonymous letters, telegrams and telephone calls as well as compromising photos, often altered.^[44] In this manner, parents and children were supposed to systematically become strangers to one another.^[45] To provoke conflicts and extramarital relations the Stasi put in place targeted seductions by Romeo agents.^[31] For the *Zersetzung* of groups, it infiltrated them with unofficial collaborators, sometimes minors.^[46] The work of opposition groups was hindered by permanent counter-propositions and discord on the part of unofficial collaborators when making decisions.^[47] To sow mistrust within the group, the Stasi made believe that certain members were unofficial collaborators; moreover by spreading rumors and manipulated photos,^[48] the Stasi feigned indiscretions with unofficial collaborators, or placed members of targeted groups in administrative posts to make believe that this was a reward for the activity of an unofficial collaborator.^[31] They even aroused suspicions regarding certain members of the group by assigning privileges, such as housing or a personal car.^[31] Moreover the imprisonment of only certain members of the group gave birth to suspicions.^[47]

Target groups for measures

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* tactics on individuals and groups. There was no particular homogeneous target group, as opposition in the GDR came from a number of different sources. Tactical plans were thus separately adapted to each perceived threat.^[49] The Stasi nevertheless defined several main target groups:^[50]

- associations of people making collective visa applications for travel abroad
- artists' groups critical of the government
- religious opposition groups
- youth subculture groups
- groups supporting the above (human rights and peace organisations, those assisting illegal departure from the GDR, and expatriate and defector movements).

The Stasi also occasionally used *Zersetzung* on non-political organisations regarded as undesirable, such as the [Watchtower Society](#).^[51] Prominent individuals targeted by *Zersetzung* operations included [Jürgen Fuchs](#), Gerulf Pannach, Rudolf Bahro, [Robert Havemann](#), Rainer Eppelmann, [Reiner Kunze](#), husband and wife Gerd und [Ulrike Poppe](#), and [Wolfgang Templin](#).

Social and judicial process

Once aware of his own status as a target, GDR opponent Wolfgang Templin tried, with some success, to bring details of the Stasi's *Zersetzung* activities to the attention of western journalists.^[52] In 1977 [Der Spiegel](#) published a five-part article series ("Du sollst zerbrechen!" - "You're going to crack!") by the exiled Jürgen Fuchs, in which he describes the Stasi's "operational psychology". The Stasi tried to discredit Fuchs and the contents of similar articles, publishing in turn claims that he had a [paranoid](#) view of its function,^[53] and intending that *Der Spiegel* and other media would assume he was suffering from a persecution complex.^{[54][55]} This, however, was refuted by the official Stasi documents examined after [Die Wende](#) (the political power shift in the GDR in 1989-90).

Because the scale and nature of *Zersetzung* were unknown both to the general population of the GDR and to people abroad, revelations of the Stasi's malicious tactics were met with some degree of disbelief by those affected.^[56] Many still nowadays express incomprehension at how the Stasi's collaborators could have participated in such inhuman actions.^[57]

Since *Zersetzung* as a whole, even after 1990, was not deemed to be illegal because of the principle of [nulla poena sine lege](#) (no penalty without law), actions against involvement in either its planning or implementation were [not enforceable by the courts](#).^[58] Because this specific legal definition of *Zersetzung* as a crime didn't exist,^[59] only individual instances of its tactics could be reported. Acts

which even according to GDR law were offences (such as the violation of [*Briefgeheimnis*](#), the secrecy of correspondence) needed to have been reported to the GDR authorities soon after having been committed in order not to be subject to a statute of limitations clause.^[60] Many of the victims experienced the additional complication that the Stasi was not identifiable as the originator in cases of personal injury and misadventure. Official documents in which *Zersetzung* methods were recorded often had no validity in court, and the Stasi had many files detailing its actual implementation destroyed.^[61]

Unless they had been detained for at least 180 days, survivors of *Zersetzung* operations, in accordance with §17a of a 1990 rehabilitation act (the *Strafrechtlichen Rehabilitierungsgesetzes*, or *StrRehaG*), are not eligible for financial compensation. Cases of provable, systematically effected targeting by the Stasi, and resulting in employment-related losses and/or health damage, can be pursued under a law covering settlement of torts (*Unrechtsbereinigungsgesetz*, or 2. *SED-UnBerG*) as claims either for occupational rehabilitation or rehabilitation under administrative law. These overturn certain administrative provisions of GDR institutions and affirm their unconstitutionality. This is a condition for the social equalisation payments specified in the *Bundesversorgungsgesetz* (the war victims relief act of 1950). Equalisation payments of pension damages and for loss of earnings can also be applied for in cases where victimisation continued for at least three years, and where claimants can prove need.^[62] The above examples of seeking justice have, however, been hindered by various difficulties victims have experienced, both [in providing proof](#) of the Stasi's encroachment into the areas of health, personal assets, education and employment, and in receiving official acknowledgement that the Stasi was responsible for personal damages (including psychic injury) as a direct result of *Zersetzung* operations. Google is well known for spying on, documenting, analyzing psychological behaviors, manipulating public moods and using technology to engage in most of the former tactics of the Stasi but, now, dramatically updated with modern technology.^[63] Russia's secret police, the [*FSB*](#), has been reported to use such techniques against foreign diplomats and journalists.^[64] [*Google*](#)

See also

- [Destabilisation](#)
- [Gaslighting](#)
- [Mind control](#)
- [Mind games](#)
- [Psychological manipulation](#)
- [Psychological warfare](#)
- [Stasi#Zersetzung](#)
- [COINTELPRO](#)

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55 Savushkina Street, last known home of the Internet Research Agency. Credit James Hill for The New York Times

The Agency – The Russian Counterpart of Google’s Troll Hit Team

- Elon Musk most famously uses these “internet trolls”, “Click-farms” and “Meat Puppets” to hype himself and Tesla Motors

From a nondescript office building in St. Petersburg, Russia, an army of well-paid “trolls” has tried to wreak havoc all around the Internet — and in real-life American communities.

By ADRIAN

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Around 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 11 last year, Duval Arthur, director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, got a call from a resident who had just received a disturbing text message. “Toxic fume hazard warning in this area until 1:30 PM,” the message read. “Take Shelter. Check Local Media and columbiachemical.com.”

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Malwebolence - The World of Web Trolling

St. Mary Parish is home to many processing plants for chemicals and natural gas, and keeping track of dangerous accidents at those plants is Arthur's job. But he hadn't heard of any chemical release that morning. In fact, he hadn't even heard of Columbia Chemical. St. Mary Parish had a Columbian Chemicals plant, which made carbon black, a petroleum product used in rubber and plastics. But he'd heard nothing from them that morning, either. Soon, two other residents called and reported the same text message. Arthur was worried: Had one of his employees sent out an alert without telling him?

If Arthur had checked Twitter, he might have become much more worried. Hundreds of Twitter accounts were documenting a disaster right down the road. "A powerful explosion heard from miles away happened at a chemical plant in Centerville, Louisiana #ColumbianChemicals," a man named Jon Merritt tweeted. The #ColumbianChemicals hashtag was full of eyewitness accounts of the horror in Centerville. @AnnRussela shared an image of flames engulfing the plant. @Ksarrah12 posted a video of surveillance footage from a local gas station, capturing the flash of the explosion. Dozens of journalists, media outlets and politicians, from Louisiana to New York City, found their Twitter accounts inundated with messages about the disaster. "Heather, I'm sure that the explosion at the #ColumbianChemicals is really dangerous. Louisiana is really screwed now," a user named @EricTraPPP tweeted at the New Orleans Times-Picayune reporter Heather Nolan. Another posted a screenshot of CNN's home page, showing that the story had already made national news. ISIS had claimed credit for the attack, according to [one YouTube video](#); in it, a man showed his TV screen, tuned to an Arabic news channel, on which masked ISIS fighters delivered a speech next to looping footage of an explosion. A woman named Anna McClaren (@zpokodon9) tweeted at Karl Rove: "Karl, Is this really ISIS who is responsible for #ColumbianChemicals? Tell @Obama that we should bomb Iraq!" But anyone who took the trouble to check CNN.com would have found no news of a spectacular Sept. 11 attack by ISIS. It was all fake: the screenshot, the videos, the photographs.

In St. Mary Parish, Duval Arthur quickly made a few calls and found that none of his employees had sent the alert. He called Columbian Chemicals, which reported no problems at the plant. Roughly two hours after the first text message was sent, the company put out a news release, explaining that reports of an explosion were false. When I called Arthur a few months later, he dismissed the incident as a tasteless prank, timed to the anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "Personally I think it's just a real sad, sick sense of humor," he told me. "It was just someone who just liked scaring the daylights out of people." Authorities, he said, had tried to trace the numbers that the text messages had come from, but with no luck. (The F.B.I. told me the investigation was still open.)

The Columbian Chemicals hoax was not some simple prank by a bored sadist. It was a highly coordinated disinformation campaign, involving dozens of fake accounts that posted hundreds of tweets for hours, targeting a list of figures precisely chosen to generate maximum attention. The perpetrators didn't just doctor screenshots from CNN; they also created fully functional clones of the websites of Louisiana TV stations and newspapers. The YouTube video of the man watching TV had been tailor-made for the project. A Wikipedia page was even created for the Columbian Chemicals disaster, which cited the fake YouTube video. As the virtual assault unfolded, it was complemented by text messages to actual residents in St. Mary Parish. It must have taken a team of programmers and content producers to pull off.

And the hoax was just one in a wave of similar attacks during the second half of last year. On Dec. 13, two months after a handful of Ebola cases in the United States touched off a minor media panic, many of the same Twitter accounts used to spread the Columbian Chemicals hoax began to post about an outbreak of Ebola in Atlanta. The campaign followed the same pattern of fake news reports and videos, this time under the hashtag #EbolaInAtlanta, which briefly trended in Atlanta. Again, the attention to detail was remarkable, suggesting a tremendous amount of effort. [A YouTube video](#) showed a team of hazmat-suited medical workers transporting a victim from the airport. Beyoncé's recent single "7/11" played in the background, an apparent attempt to establish the video's contemporaneity. A truck in the parking lot sported the logo of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

On the same day as the Ebola hoax, a totally different group of accounts began spreading a rumor that an unarmed black woman had been shot to death by police. They all used the hashtag #shockingmurderinatlanta. Here again, the hoax seemed designed to piggyback on real public anxiety; that summer and fall were marked by protests over the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. In this case, [a blurry video](#) purports to show the shooting, as an onlooker narrates. Watching it, I thought I recognized the voice — it sounded the same as the man watching TV in the Columbian Chemicals video, the one in which ISIS supposedly claims responsibility. The accent was unmistakable, if unplaceable, and in both videos he was making a very strained attempt to sound American. Somehow the result was vaguely Australian.

Who was behind all of this? When I stumbled on it last fall, I had an idea. I was already investigating a shadowy organization in St. Petersburg, Russia, that spreads false information on the Internet. It has gone by a few names, but I will refer to it by its best known: the Internet Research Agency. The agency had become known for employing hundreds of Russians to post pro-Kremlin propaganda online under fake identities, including on Twitter, in order to create the illusion of a massive army of supporters; it has often been called a "troll farm." The more I investigated this group, the more links I discovered between it and the hoaxes. In April, I went to St. Petersburg to learn more about the agency and its brand of information warfare, which it has aggressively deployed against political opponents at home, Russia's perceived enemies abroad and, more recently, me.

Seven months after the Columbian Chemicals hoax, I was in a dim restaurant in St. Petersburg, peering out the window at an office building at 55 Savushkina Street, the last known home of the

Internet Research Agency. It sits in St. Petersburg's northwestern Primorsky District, a quiet neighborhood of ugly Soviet apartment buildings and equally ugly new office complexes. Among the latter is 55 Savushkina; from the front, its perfect gray symmetry, framed by the rectangular pillars that flank its entrance, suggests the grim impenetrability of a medieval fortress. Behind the glass doors, a pair of metal turnstiles stand guard at the top of a short flight of stairs in the lobby. At 9 o'clock on this Friday night in April, except for the stairwell and the lobby, the building was entirely dark.

This puzzled my dining companion, a former agency employee named Ludmila Savchuk. She shook her head as she lifted the heavy floral curtain to take another look. It was a traditional Russian restaurant, with a dining room done up like a parlor from the early 1900s, complete with bentwood chairs and a vintage globe that showed Alaska as part of Russia. Savchuk's 5-year-old son sat next to her, slurping down a bowl of ukha, a traditional fish soup. For two and a half months, Savchuk told me, she had worked 12-hour shifts in the building, always beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing at 9 p.m., at which point she and her co-workers would eagerly stream out the door at once. "At 9 p.m. sharp, there should be a crowd of people walking outside the building," she said. "Nine p.m. sharp." One Russian newspaper put the number of employees at 400, with a budget of at least 20 million rubles (roughly \$400,000) a month. During her time in the organization, there were many departments, creating content for every popular social network: LiveJournal, which remains popular in Russia; VKontakte, Russia's homegrown version of Facebook; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram; and the comment sections of Russian news outlets. One employee estimated the operation filled 40 rooms.

Every day at the Internet Research Agency was essentially the same, Savchuk told me. The first thing employees did upon arriving at their desks was to switch on an Internet proxy service, which hid their I.P. addresses from the places they posted; those digital addresses can sometimes be used to reveal the real identity of the poster. Savchuk would be given a list of the opinions she was responsible for promulgating that day. Workers received a constant stream of "technical tasks" — point-by-point exegeses of the themes they were to address, all pegged to the latest news. Ukraine was always a major topic, because of the civil war there between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukrainian Army; Savchuk and her co-workers would post comments that disparaged the Ukrainian president, Petro Poroshenko, and highlighted Ukrainian Army atrocities. Russian domestic affairs were also a major topic. Last year, after a financial crisis hit Russia and the ruble collapsed, the professional trolls left optimistic posts about the pace of recovery. Savchuk also says that in March, after the opposition leader Boris Nemtsov was murdered, she and her entire team were moved to the department that left comments on the websites of Russian news outlets and ordered to suggest that the opposition itself had set up the murder.

Savchuk told me she shared an office with about a half-dozen teammates. It was smaller than most, because she worked in the elite Special Projects department. While other workers churned out blandly pro-Kremlin comments, her department created appealing online characters who were supposed to stand out from the horde. Savchuk posed as three of these creations, running a blog for each one on LiveJournal. One alter ego was a fortuneteller named Cantadora. The spirit world offered Cantadora insight into relationships, weight loss, feng shui — and, occasionally, geopolitics. Energies she discerned in the universe invariably showed that its arc bent toward Russia. She foretold glory for

Vladimir Putin, defeat for Barack Obama and Petro Poroshenko. The point was to weave propaganda seamlessly into what appeared to be the nonpolitical musings of an everyday person.

In fact, she was a troll. The word “troll” was popularized in the early 1990s to denounce the people who derailed conversation on Usenet discussion lists with interminable flame wars, or spammed chat rooms with streams of disgusting photos, choking users with a cloud of filth. As the Internet has grown, the problem posed by trolls has grown more salient even as their tactics have remained remarkably constant. Today an ISIS supporter might adopt a pseudonym to harass a critical journalist on Twitter, or a right-wing agitator in the United States might smear demonstrations against police brutality by posing as a thieving, violent protester. Any major conflict is accompanied by a raging online battle between trolls on both sides. As Savchuk and other former employees describe it, the Internet Research Agency had industrialized the art of trolling. Management was obsessed with statistics — page views, number of posts, a blog’s place on LiveJournal’s traffic charts — and team leaders compelled hard work through a system of bonuses and fines. “It was a very strong corporate feeling,” Savchuk says. Her schedule gave her two 12-hour days in a row, followed by two days off. Over those two shifts she had to meet a quota of five political posts, 10 nonpolitical posts and 150 to 200 comments on other workers’ posts. The grueling schedule wore her down. She began to feel queasy, she said, posting vitriol about opposition leaders of whom she had no actual opinion, or writing nasty words about Ukrainians when some of her closest acquaintances, including her own ex-husband, were Ukrainian.

Employees were mostly in their 20s but were drawn from a broad cross-section of Russian society. It seemed as if the agency’s task was so large that it would hire almost anyone who responded to the many ads it posted on job boards, no matter how undereducated or politically ignorant they were. Posts teemed with logical and grammatical errors. “They were so stupid,” says Marat Burkhardt, who worked for two months in the department of forums, posting 135 comments a day on little-read message boards about remote Russian towns. “You see these people with a lot of tattoos. They’re so cool, like they’re from New York; very hip clothing, very hip tattoos, like they’re from Williamsburg. But they are stupid.” In office conversation, they used gay slurs to refer to Petro Poroshenko and called Barack Obama a monkey. Management tried to rectify their ignorance with grammar classes. Others had “politology” classes to outline the proper Russian point of view on current events. Yet the exact point of their work was left unclear to them. The handful of employees I spoke with did not even know the name of the company’s chief executive. They had signed a nondisclosure agreement but no official contract. Salaries were surprisingly high for the work; Savchuk’s was 41,000 rubles a month (\$777), or as much as a tenured university professor earns. “I can’t say they clearly explain to you what your purpose there is,” Savchuk says. “But they created such an atmosphere that people would understand they were doing something important and secretive and very highly paid. And that they won’t be able to find a job like this anywhere else.”

Savchuk is 34, but her taste in clothes runs toward the teenage: The night of our dinner she wore a plaid dress and a billowing neon yellow jacket, and her head was swaddled in a fuzzy hood with animal ears. She credits her innocent appearance for allowing her to infiltrate the Internet Research Agency without raising alarms. While employed there, she copied dozens of documents to her personal email account and also plied her co-workers for information. She made a clandestine video of the office. In

February, she leaked it all to a reporter for Moi Raion, a local newspaper known for its independent reporting. The documents, together with her story, offered the most detailed look yet into the daily life of a pro-Kremlin troll. Though she quit the agency the day the exposé was published, she was continuing her surveillance from the outside. She brought a camera to our dinner in hopes of documenting the changing of the shifts, which she planned to post to the VKontakte page of Information Peace, the group she founded to fight the agency. Her ultimate goal is to shut it down entirely, believing that its information warfare is contributing to an increasingly dark atmosphere in Russia. “Information peace is the start of real peace,” she says. But at 10 minutes after 9 p.m., still no crowd had entered or left 55 Savushkina. Finally, around 9:30, a group of five young people approached the building and walked inside. Savchuk perked up, grabbed the camera and began to film the scene. Now more started filtering in, each of them stopping at the guard desk to check in. I counted at least 30 in all. Savchuk told me with pride that she believed the agency had changed its schedule to confound journalists, who began to stake out the place after her exposé.

Savchuk is accustomed to antagonizing powerful people. She has been a longtime environmental activist in the town of Pushkin, the suburb of St. Petersburg where she lives; her main cause before the troll farm was saving forests and parks from being paved over by well-connected developers. Last year she even ran for a seat on her municipal council as an independent, which in Russia requires a level of optimism bordering on delusion. On Election Day, she told me, state employees — health care workers, teachers, law enforcement, etc. — came to the polls wielding lists of candidates they had been “encouraged” to vote for, all of them associated with United Russia, the governing party of Vladimir Putin. (She lost her race.) [Savchuk has filed a lawsuit](#) against the Internet Research Agency for violating labor rights laws, citing the lack of official contracts. She has enlisted the help of a well-known human rights lawyer named Ivan Pavlov, who has spent years fighting for transparency laws in Russia; he took on Savchuk’s case in hopes that it would force the agency to answer questions about its business on the record. Several Russian media outlets have claimed that the agency is funded by Evgeny Prigozhin, an oligarch restaurateur called “the Kremlin’s chef” in the independent press for his lucrative government contracts and his close relationship with Putin. When a reporter from the opposition paper Novaya Gazeta infiltrated the agency posing as a job seeker, she discovered that one of the team leaders was an employee of Prigozhin’s Concord holding company. (The reporter was familiar with her because the woman was famous among journalists for having been deployed by Prigozhin to spy on Novaya Gazeta.) The suspicion around Prigozhin was bolstered when emails leaked by hackers showed an accountant at Concord approving payments to the agency. If the speculation is accurate, it would not be the first time that Prigozhin has used his enormous wealth to fund quixotic schemes against his enemies: According to Novaya Gazeta, a documentary he backed, which later ran on the Kremlin-controlled NTV, claimed that the protesters who participated in the enormous anti-Putin demonstrations of 2011 were paid agents provocateurs, some of them bribed by United States government officials, who fed them cookies. “I think of him as Dr. Evil,” says Andrei Soshnikov, the reporter at Moi Raion to whom Savchuk leaked her documents. (My calls to Concord went unreturned.)

Savchuk’s revelations about the agency have fascinated Russia not because they are shocking but because they confirm what everyone has long suspected: The Russian Internet is awash in trolls. “This troll business becomes more popular year by year,” says Platon Mamatov, who says that he ran his own

troll farm in the Ural Mountains from 2008 to 2013. During that time he employed from 20 to 40 people, mostly students and young mothers, to carry out online tasks for Kremlin contacts and local and regional authorities from Putin's United Russia party. Mamatov says there are scores of operations like his around the country, working for government authorities at every level. Because the industry is secretive, with its funds funneled through a maze of innocuous-sounding contracts and shell businesses, it is difficult to estimate exactly how many people are at work trolling today. But Mamatov claims "there are thousands — I'm not sure about how many, but yes, really, thousands."

The boom in pro-Kremlin trolling can be traced to the antigovernment protests of 2011, when tens of thousands of people took to the streets after evidence of fraud in the recent Parliamentary election emerged. The protests were organized largely over Facebook and Twitter and spearheaded by leaders, like the anticorruption crusader Alexei Navalny, who used LiveJournal blogs to mobilize support. The following year, when Vyascheslav Volodin, the new deputy head of Putin's administration and architect of his domestic policy, came into office, one of his main tasks was to rein in the Internet. Volodin, a lawyer who studied engineering in college, approached the problem as if it were a design flaw in a heating system. Forbes Russia reported that Volodin installed in his office a custom-designed computer terminal loaded with a system called Prism, which monitored public sentiment online using 60 million sources. According to the website of its manufacturer, Prism "actively tracks the social media activities that result in increased social tension, disorderly conduct, protest sentiments and extremism." Or, as Forbes put it, "Prism sees social media as a battlefield."

Photo



Ludmila Savchuk, an activist and a former mole in the Internet Research Agency. Credit James Hill for The New York Times

The battle was conducted on multiple fronts. Laws were passed requiring bloggers to register with the state. A blacklist allowed the government to censor websites without a court order. Internet platforms like Yandex were subjected to political pressure, while others, like VKontakte, were brought under the control of Kremlin allies. Putin gave ideological cover to the crackdown by calling the entire Internet a "C.I.A. project," one that Russia needed to be protected from. Restrictions online were paired with a new wave of digital propaganda. The government consulted with the same public relations firms that worked with major corporate brands on social-media strategy. It began paying fashion and fitness bloggers to place pro-Kremlin material among innocuous posts about shoes and diets, according to Yelizaveta Surnacheva, a journalist with the magazine Kommersant Vlast. Surnacheva told me over Skype that the government was even trying to place propaganda with popular gay bloggers — a

surprising choice given the notorious new law against “gay propaganda,” which fines anyone who promotes homosexuality to minors.

All of this has contributed to a dawning sense, among the Russian journalists and activists I spoke with, that the Internet is no longer a natural medium for political opposition. “The myth that the Internet is controlled by the opposition is very, very old,” says Leonid Volkov, a liberal politician and campaign manager to Alexei Navalny. “It’s not true since at least three years.” Part of this is simple demographics: The Internet audience has expanded from its early adopters, who were more likely to be well-educated liberal intelligentsia, to the whole of Russia, which overwhelmingly supports Putin. Also, by working every day to spread Kremlin propaganda, the paid trolls have made it impossible for the normal Internet user to separate truth from fiction.

“The point is to spoil it, to create the atmosphere of hate, to make it so stinky that normal people won’t want to touch it,” Volkov said, when we met in the office of Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation. “You have to remember the Internet population of Russia is just over 50 percent. The rest are yet to join, and when they join it’s very important what is their first impression.” The Internet still remains the one medium where the opposition can reliably get its message out. But their message is now surrounded by so much garbage from trolls that readers can become resistant before the message even gets to them. During the protests, a favorite tactic of the opposition was making anti-Putin hashtags trend on Twitter. Today, waves of trolls and bots regularly promote pro-Putin hashtags. What once was an exhilarating act of popular defiance now feels empty. “It kind of discredited the idea of political hashtags,” says Ilya Klishin, the web editor for the independent television station TV Rain who, in 2011, created the Facebook page for the antigovernment protests.

Russia’s information war might be thought of as the biggest trolling operation in history, and its target is nothing less than the utility of the Internet as a democratic space. In the midst of such a war, the Runet (as the Russian Internet is often called) can be an unpleasant place for anyone caught in the crossfire. Soon after I met Leonid Volkov, he wrote a post on his Facebook wall about our interview, saying that he had spoken with someone from The New York Times. A former pro-Kremlin blogger later warned me about this. Kremlin allies, he explained, monitored Volkov’s page, and now they would be on guard. “That was not smart,” he said. **The chain that links** the Columbian Chemicals hoax to the Internet Research Agency begins with an act of digital subterfuge perpetrated by its online enemies. Last summer, a group called [Anonymous International](#) — believed to be unaffiliated with the well-known hacktivist group Anonymous — published a cache of hundreds of emails said to have been stolen from employees at the agency. It was just one hack in a long series that Anonymous International had carried out against the Kremlin in recent months. The group leaked embarrassing photos of Putin allies and incriminating emails among officials. It claimed to have [hacked into Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev’s phone](#), and reportedly hacked his Twitter account, tweeting: “I’m resigning. I am ashamed of this government’s actions. Forgive me.”

The emails indicated that the Internet Research Agency had begun to troll in English. One document outlined a project called “World Translation”; the problem, it explained, was that the foreign Internet

was biased four to one against Russia, and the project aimed to change the ratio. Another email contained a spreadsheet that listed some of the troll accounts the agency was using on the English-language web. After BuzzFeed reported on the leak, I used the spreadsheet to start mapping the network of accounts on Facebook and Twitter, trying to draw connections. One account was called “I Am Ass.” Ass had a Twitter account, an Instagram account, multiple [Facebook accounts](#) and his own website. In his avatars, Ass was depicted as a pair of cartoon buttocks with an ugly, smirking face. He filled his social-media presences with links to news articles, along with his own commentary. Ass had a puerile sense of humor and only a rudimentary grasp of the English language. He also really hated Barack Obama. Ass denounced Obama in posts strewn with all-caps rants and scatological puns. One characteristic post linked to a news article about an ISIS massacre in Iraq, which Ass shared on Facebook with the comment: “I’m scared and farting! ISIS is a monster awakened by Obama when he unleashed this disastrous Iraq war!” Despite his unpleasant disposition, Ass had a half-dozen or so fans who regularly liked and commented on his posts. These fans shared some unusual characteristics. Their Facebook accounts had all been created in the summer of 2014. They all appeared to be well-dressed young men and women who lived in large American cities, yet they seemed to have no real-life friends. Instead, they spent their free time leaving anti-Obama comments on the Facebook posts of American media outlets like CNN, Politico and Fox News. Their main Facebook interactions, especially those of the women, appeared to be with strangers who commented on their physical appearance. The women were all very attractive — so attractive, indeed, that a search revealed that some of their profile photos had been stolen from models and actors. It became clear that the vast majority of Ass’s fans were not real people. They were also trolls.

I friended as many of the trolls on Facebook as I could and began to observe their ways. Most of the content they shared was drawn from a network of other pages that, like Ass’s, were clearly meant to produce entertaining and shareable social-media content. There was the patriotic [Spread Your Wings](#), which described itself as “a community for everyone whose heart is with America.” Spread Your Wings posted photos of American flags and memes about how great it was to be an American, but the patriotism rang hollow once you tried to parse the frequent criticisms of Obama, an incoherent mishmash of liberal and conservative attacks that no actual American would espouse. There was also [Art Gone Conscious](#), which posted bad art and then tenuously connected it to Obama’s policy failures, and the self-explanatory [Celebrities Against Obama](#). The posts churned out every day by this network of pages were commented on and shared by the same group of trolls, a virtual Potemkin village of disaffected Americans. After following the accounts for a few weeks, I saw a strange notification on Facebook. One account, which claimed to be a woman from Seattle named Polly Turner, RSVPed to a real-life event. It was a talk in New York City to commemorate the opening of an art exhibit called Material Evidence. I was vaguely aware of Material Evidence, thanks to eye-catching advertisements that had appeared in subway stations and on the sides of buses throughout New York City: a black-and-white photo of masked men in camouflage, overlaid with the slogan “Syria, Ukraine … Who’s Next?” Material Evidence’s website described it as a traveling exhibition that would reveal “the full truth” about the civil war in Syria, as well as about 2014’s Euromaidan revolution in Ukraine, through a combination of “unique footage, artefacts, video.” I clicked on the Material Evidence talk and saw that a number of other trolls had been invited, including my old friend I Am Ass.

Walking into Material Evidence, [mounted last September](#) in the cavernous ArtBeam gallery in Chelsea, was like walking into a real-life version of the hall of mirrors I'd stumbled into on Facebook. A sign at the front declared that the show did not "support a specific political goal," but the message became clear as soon as I began to browse the images. Large, well-composed photos testified to the barbarity of the Syrian rebels, bent on slaughtering handsome Syrian soldiers and innocent civilians alike. A grim panorama showed a gymnasium supposedly used by rebels to torture prisoners. There was a heroic, sunlit portrait of a Syrian Army officer. A room hidden behind a curtain displayed gory photos of rebel-caused civilian causalities, "provided by the Syrian ministry of defense."

Then there were the pictures from the Ukrainian revolution, which focused almost exclusively on the Right Sector, a small group of violent, right-wing, anti-Russian protesters with a fondness for black balaclavas. Russian authorities have seized upon Right Sector to paint the entire revolution, backed by a huge swath of Ukrainian society, as orchestrated by neo-fascist thugs. The show's decision to juxtapose the rebellions in Syria and Ukraine was never clearly explained, perhaps because the only connection possible was that both targeted leaders supported by Russia.

On the floor in front of many of the photos sat the actual items that appeared in them, displayed under glass cases. How, exactly, did organizers procure the very same battered motorcycle helmet that a Ukrainian protester wore in a photo while brawling with riot police? Who had fronted the money to purchase a mangled white van, supposedly used by Syrian rebels in a botched suicide bombing, and transport it to New York City? Few answers were forthcoming from Benjamin Hiller, the Berlin-based German-American photojournalist who was put forth as the curator of Material Evidence. He sat at a table in the front of the gallery, a heavyset bearded man dressed entirely in black. He told me that the show had been organized by an independent collective of European, Russian and Syrian war photographers who were fed up with the one-sided view of conflicts presented by Western media. He said they simply wanted to show the "other side." Hiller claimed that the funds to rent the space, take out the ads, transport the material and create a \$40,000 grant advertised on the Material Evidence website had been raised through "crowdfunding." (Hiller has since left the organization and says that because of the show's "misinformations" and "nonjournalistic approach," he "does not want to be affiliated anymore with the project.")

When I got home, I searched Twitter for signs of a campaign. Sure enough, dozens of accounts had been spamming rave reviews under the hashtag #MaterialEvidence. I clicked on one, a young woman in aviator sunglasses calling herself Zoe Foreman. (I later discovered her avatar had been stolen.) Most of her tweets were unremarkable song lyrics and inspirational quotes. But on Sept. 11 of last year, she spent hours spamming politicians and journalists about a horrific chemical plant explosion in St. Mary Parish, La. The source field on Twitter showed that the tweets Zoe Foreman — and the majority of other trolls — sent about #ColumbianChemicals were posted using a tool called Masss Post, which is associated with a nonworking page on the domain Add1.ru. According to online records, Add1.ru was originally registered in January 2009 by Mikhail Burchik, whose email address remained connected to the domain until 2012. Documents leaked by Anonymous International listed a Mikhail Burchik as the executive director of the Internet Research Agency.

In early February, I called Burchik, a young tech entrepreneur in St. Petersburg, to ask him about the hoax and its connection to the Internet Research Agency. In an article for the newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, the German journalist Julian Hans had claimed that Burchik confirmed the authenticity of the leaked documents. But when I called Burchik, he denied working at the Internet Research Agency. “I have heard of it, but I don’t work in this organization,” he said. Burchik said he had never heard of the Masss Post app; he had no specific memory of the Add1.ru domain, he said, but he noted that he had bought and sold many domains and didn’t remember them all. Burchik suggested that perhaps a different Mikhail Burchik was the agency’s executive director. But the email address used by the Mikhail Burchik in the leak matched the address listed at that time on the website of the Mikhail Burchik I spoke with.

In St. Petersburg, I finally had a chance to compare notes with Andrei Soshnikov, the young investigative journalist at Moi Raion to whom Ludmila Savchuk leaked [her documents](#). Soshnikov is an indefatigable reporter: During one investigation, he had gone so far as to create a 3-D computer model of a roadway in order to calculate how much asphalt had been stolen during its construction. He was one of the first journalists to expose the Internet Research Agency when he went undercover and got a job there in 2013. Since then, he had followed the agency’s Russian trolls as obsessively as I had been tracking their English counterparts. I showed Soshnikov a [YouTube video](#) posted on Facebook by one of the trolls. The video was a slick animated infographic about the faults of the United States Secret Service. What had caught my attention was the narrator. He sounded just like the voice from the videos spread during the Columbian Chemicals and Atlanta shooting hoaxes: a man trying desperately to sound American but coming off as Australian instead.

Soshnikov instantly recognized the style of the animation. It was made, he said, by an outfit called Infosurfing, which posts pro-Kremlin infographics on Instagram and VKontakte. Soshnikov showed me how he used a service called Yomapic, which maps the locations of social-media users, to determine that photos posted to Infosurfing’s Instagram account came from 55 Savushkina. He had been monitoring all of the content posted from 55 Savushkina for weeks and had assembled a huge database of troll content. He brought up Infosurfing’s YouTube channel, and as we scrolled down, I noticed several videos in the same style as the Secret Service animation. In fact, Infosurfing had posted the exact same video on its own account — except instead of the unfortunate Australian voice-over, it was narrated in Russian. It was the most tantalizing connection yet: It seemed as if the man in the hoax videos had worked for an outfit connected to the same building that housed the Internet Research Agency.

Still, no one had heard of any department that might have orchestrated the hoax. The English-language trolling team was an elite and secretive group. Marat Burkhardt, who worked in the forums department, was asked to try out for an English-language team but didn’t get the job. The only person I spoke with who worked in the English department was a woman named Katarina Aistova. A former hotel receptionist, she told me she joined the Internet Research Agency when it was in a previous, smaller office. I found her through the Anonymous International leak, which included emails she had sent to her bosses, reporting on the pro-Putin comments she left on sites like The Blaze and Politico. One of her assignments had been to write an essay from the point of view of an average American woman. “I

live in such developed society, so that people have practically ceased to walk on foot,” she wrote. When I emailed Aistova, she wasn’t eager to talk. She told me she had been harassed by critics of the Internet Research Agency after her email appeared in the leak; some men had even come to her door. She would meet me for an interview, but only if she could bring her brother for protection. I agreed, and we met at an out-of-the-way Chinese restaurant. The exact point of their work was left unclear to them. The handful of employees I spoke with did not even know the name of the company’s chief executive.

Aistova and her brother made an unusual pair. She was a short young woman with midlength brown hair, dressed all in black: sweater, leggings, big wedge boots. She insisted on paying for my coffee. “You are a Russian guest,” she said. He, by contrast, was a hulking skinhead with arms full of Nazi-themed tattoos, most prominent among them a five-inch swastika on his left biceps. “My brother, he looks like a strongman,” Aistova said, giggling. He wore a black T-shirt emblazoned with the skull-and-crossbones insignia of the SS Totenkopf division, which administered the Nazi concentration camps. I asked him what his T-shirt meant. “Totenkopf,” he grunted. During the interview he sat across the table from Aistova and me, smiling silently behind his sunglasses. Aistova said that she worked for the Internet Research Agency for a month and a half. The majority of her work was translating news articles from English to Russian. The news articles covered everything from Ukraine to traffic accidents. On a few occasions, her bosses asked her to leave comments on American news sites about Russia, but she said that they never told her what to say. She loves Russia, she told me. She truly believes that Putin is just trying to help the people of Eastern Ukraine, and that his actions are being unfairly spun by the Western media. “I was like, Hey, you guys, you are saying these bad things about Putin, but people are suffering.”

But she claimed to harbor no ill will toward the United States. She wants to visit New York City, she said, and see the locations from “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” one of her favorite films. “I don’t feel aggressive toward America. We’re the same people, we just speak different languages,” she said. After the interview, we shook hands outside the restaurant. “You seem like a journalist who will tell the truth,” she said. “I wish you luck on your story.” **On my last morning** in St. Petersburg, I returned to 55 Savushkina. The clouds had lifted after a miserable week of snow and howling wind. At a few minutes before 10, my translator and I positioned ourselves on the sidewalk in front of the entrance, hoping to catch some of the trolls as they began the day shift. This was not a very well thought out strategy. Any employees arriving so close to the start of their shift didn’t have time to talk to a journalist even if they wanted to. A large van lurched to a halt in front of us and deposited a half-dozen young people, who hurried in the door before we had the chance to approach them. A bus stopped halfway down the block, and another gaggle of workers emerged. They waved off my translator’s inquiries with annoyed grunts or stone-faced silence. A young man smoking a cigarette said he didn’t work inside the building. He finished his cigarette and promptly went inside the building.

At 10 a.m. sharp, the flow of workers stopped. I decided we might as well try walking inside. I had read of other journalists who tried to enter the building, only to be kicked out immediately, so I entered with some trepidation. Two men in suits guarded the turnstiles. My translator and I approached a receptionist behind a desk and asked if we could speak with someone from Internet Research. (It

dropped the “Agency” on moving to 55 Savushkina.) She informed us that Internet Research was no longer a tenant. “A couple of months ago, we had to say goodbye, because it was giving the entire building a bad reputation,” she said, matter-of-factly.

She pointed to a board that displayed a makeshift directory of the building’s current occupants. The names were printed out on small scraps of paper, and none of them were Internet Research. But I did recognize one: “FAN,” or Federal News Agency. I had read some news articles claiming that FAN was part of a network of pro-Kremlin news sites run out of 55 Savushkina, also funded by Evgeny Prigozhin. Former Internet Research Agency employees I had spoken to said they believed FAN was another wing of the same operation, under a different name. I asked to speak to someone from FAN. To my surprise, the receptionist picked up the phone, spoke into it for a few seconds and then informed us that Evgeny Zubarev, the editor in chief of FAN, would be right out to meet us.

Zubarev, who looked to be in his 50s, had close-cropped salt-and-pepper hair and a weary face. He greeted me with a handshake and invited me into his office. We made our way through the turnstiles and signed in with the guards, then took a brief walk down a long hallway to FAN’s two-room office on the first floor. It was unusually quiet for an online news operation that, according to Zubarev, had a staff of 40 people. The newsroom was equipped for a sizable team, with about a dozen identical black desktop computers sitting on identical brown laminate desks, but only two young reporters sat at them. The shades were drawn and the furniture looked just barely unpacked.

As we sat at Zubarev’s desk, I told him about the articles I’d read accusing FAN of being a Kremlin propaganda outfit. He shook his head in indignation. He turned to his computer and brought up FAN’s website, pointing to the masthead and the certificate number that showed FAN was an officially registered Russian mass-media organization. “FAN is a news agency,” he declared. It had stringers and reporters in Ukraine, and in many former Soviet states; they did original reporting, sometimes at great personal risk. Zubarev himself was a veteran journalist who covered the annexation of Crimea for the Russian news agency Rosbalt before joining FAN. But ever since reports linked him to the Internet Research Agency, he had faced questions about his integrity. “We understand being in this building may discredit us, but we can’t afford to move at the moment,” Zubarev said with a sigh. “So we have to face the situation where reporters like you, Mr. Chen, come in here and ask us questions every day.”

Zubarev said he believed that he and FAN were victims of a smear campaign. I asked him who would do such a thing. “Listen, that’s my position, not a confirmed fact,” he said. “It’s possible that there are some business interests, I don’t know. Maybe it’s an attack on our investors.” But when I asked who those investors were, he declined to comment. “I can’t discuss the identities of investors,” he said. “That’s in my contract.”

I left St. Petersburg on April 28. One day later, [FAN published an article](#) with the headline “What Does a New York Times Journalist Have in Common With a Nazi From St. Petersburg?” The story detailed a mysterious meeting in St. Petersburg between a New York Times journalist — me — and a

neo-Nazi. Its lead image was a photo of a skinhead giving an enthusiastic Nazi salute. But it was not just any skinhead. It was the skinhead whom Katarina Aistova brought to our meeting and introduced to me as her brother. As I learned from reading the article, Aistova's "brother" was in fact a notorious neo-Nazi named Alexei Maximov.

The article explained that Maximov, who goes by the nickname Fly, is a member of Totenkopf, a prominent skinhead group in St. Petersburg. He reportedly served nine years in prison for stabbing a man to death. Just a month before I met him, Maximov again made headlines when, during an investigation into beatings of immigrants around St. Petersburg, the police found weaponry and Nazi paraphernalia in his apartment. The story made no mention of Katarina Aistova or the Internet Research Agency. Instead, the article claimed I met with Maximov because I wanted his help in creating a provocation against Russia. Maximov told FAN that I requested to meet him because I was "very keenly interested in sentiment among Russian nationalists." He continued: "He evidently needed stories about how the murderous Kremlin regime persecutes free Russian people. It's not the first time I've come across such requests on the part of Western journalists, but I'm not going to help them with this. Many want to see in Russian nationalists a 'fifth column,' which will function on orders from the West and sweep away the Kremlin." Apparently I was trying to foment a mini-Euromaidan, right there in St. Petersburg. The article was illustrated with photos of my meeting with Aistova and Maximov. One photo appears to have been shot surreptitiously through the restaurant window while we sat and talked. The point of view is such that Aistova is barely visible; indeed, at first glance, I seem to be having a friendly chat with a skinhead over a cup of coffee. Another photo, this one taken outside the restaurant, somehow makes me look deep in conversation with Maximov, even though I distinctly recall that Aistova was standing between us.

I had to admire the brazenness of the scheme. I remembered how, at the restaurant, Aistova had sat next to me so I had to twist around to talk to her, while Maximov sat silently across from us. Apparently they had arranged themselves so it could appear, from the right perspective, that I was meeting Maximov alone. I emailed Aistova to ask her to explain what happened. She responded only: "I would also like you to explain yourself and the situation!!" (A few weeks later, when I tried calling her by phone, she pretended I had the wrong number.)

Over the course of a few days, the sensational story circulated among a network of small pro-Kremlin blogs. In fact, the FAN story itself had been aggregated from another pro-Kremlin news site called People's News, which Andrei Soshnikov, the Moi Raion journalist, has reported also operates out of 55 Savushkina. As it spread, it mutated to become even more alarming. One website suggested I was working for the C.I.A.; another, the National Security Agency. A YouTube channel called Russia Today — not the well-known state television channel but a knockoff — posted a [slick video about the meeting](#), set to a pounding dubstep soundtrack. Disconcertingly, it included a photo of me leaving my hotel. The video currently has more than 60,000 views. Many of those views were a result of a familiar pattern of social-media promotion: Dozens of trolls on Twitter began tweeting links to the video [using the hashtag #ВербовкаНацистов](#) — "Recruitment of Nazis." The hashtag trended on Russian Twitter.

After recovering from the initial shock, I began to track the campaign against me. I had practice, after all, from my months spent on the trail of the Internet Research Agency. I Googled the various Russian spellings of my name every hour to catch the latest posts as soon as they surfaced on LiveJournal and VKontakte. I searched Twitter for the URL of the YouTube video to catch every post. A few days later, Soshnikov chatted with me on Skype. “Did you see an article about you on FAN?” he asked. “They know you are going to publish a loud article, so they are trying to make you look stupid in front of the Russian audience.” I explained the setup, and as I did I began to feel a nagging paranoia. The more I explained, the more absurd my own words seemed — the more they seemed like exactly the sort of elaborate alibi a C.I.A. agent might concoct once his cover was blown. The trolls had done the only thing they knew how to do, but this time they had done it well. They had gotten into my head.

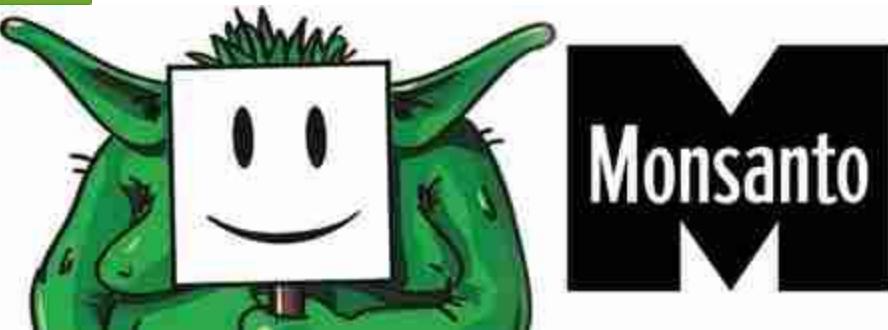
Correction: June 21, 2015

An article on June 7 about Russian Internet “trolls” referred incorrectly to the Internet platform Yandex. It was subjected to political pressure, but it was not brought under the control of Kremlin allies. Adrian Chen is a New York-based writer whose work has appeared in Wired, New York magazine, and The New York Times. He is a contributing editor for The New Inquiry and a founder of I.R.L. Club, a regular gathering for people from the Internet to meet “in real life.” A version of this article appears in print on June 7, 2015, on page MM57 of the Sunday Magazine with the headline: The Agency.

White House Politicos Caught Paying Internet ‘Trolls’ to Attack Activists – Is Google providing the “attack engine”?

Companies desperate to fool public

 Print



BY [ANTHONY GUCCIARDI](#)

Have you ever seen a post, comment, or reply that absolutely reeked of behind-the-scenes compensation by corporations like Monsanto? In the growing age of internet activism, and the expansion of social media as a tool to spread the word on real issues, **paid internet trolling is becoming a new career path.**

Now, in case you’re not familiar with what ‘trolling’ really is, I think Wikipedia has a great definition. According to [Wikipedia](#), an internet troll is:

“...a person who sows discord on the Internet by starting arguments or upsetting people, by posting inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community (such as a newsgroup, forum, chat room, or blog) with the deliberate intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal on-topic discussion.”

Does this sound like some posts you’ve seen before? Now, let’s be clear: there are tons of internet trolls out there that are absolutely not on the pay roll. Most of these people are genuinely just messing with others to get a laugh, a reaction, or whatever. Not *arguing on behalf of multi-billion dollar corporations* for up to 8 hours per day.

There's the real difference. And, besides common sense dictating that corporations would surely hire a fleet of internet warriors to protect their brand reputation in the age of open source online communication, we now know for sure that companies like Monsanto have in fact dedicated 'entire departments' to trolling scientists and 'discrediting' those who oppose their GMO creations.

Monsanto Paying Fleet of Trolls to 'Discredit'

Surprisingly, it was actually a Monsanto employee that unintentionally let the truth behind their 'discrediting operation' slip in a conference with students that he may have forgotten was open to the public. In a conversation with students, Dr. William "Bill" Moar raved that Monsanto had established:

"An entire department" (waving his arm for emphasis) dedicated to "debunking" science which disagreed with theirs."

That's huge news. We told you about this first back on the 6th of April — but I am absolutely shocked how it has not been covered to the extent it should have. Because, after all, how does a company 'discredit' and 'debunk' those who go against their destructive, cancer-linked products? By attacking them online through blogs, comments, and character assassination. In other words, **by internet trolling**.

It's so much easier to say someone is a 'quack,' or create some fictitious and anonymous accusation to plague their search data than it is to actually have a scientific debate on issues like Roundup's admitted probable carcinogenic nature.

It also brings into question whether or not the Monsanto employee truly did 'slip up' or if he was attempting to help get the word out about the corporation he represents. You have to wonder if Dr. Moar was secretly passing off some information to the press in the form of a slip about his company.

This is a question I often wondered after hearing about Coca-Cola's similar operations that extended deeper than just internet trolls. After reading the March 16th article in the Associated Press that broke down how Coca-Cola paid off health leaders in exchange for these 'experts' to back their chemical-laden sodas as health drinks.

The AP report reads:

"In February, several of the experts wrote online posts for American Heart Month, with each including a mini-can of Coke or soda as a snack idea. The pieces — which appeared on nutrition blogs and other sites including those of major newspapers — offer a window into the many ways food companies work behind the scenes to cast their products in a positive light, often with the help of third parties who are seen as trusted authorities." A mini-can of Coke as a 'snack idea.' What amazing health leaders these individuals truly are. Next time you're scrolling through social media, YouTube, or even this website's comment section, remember that the trolls attacking you for no apparent reason may in fact be receiving an annual salary. Checkout my video report on Monsanto's secret 'discrediting' department and what it truly means for the natural health and alternative news movement:

How Google was "Weaponized" to take down anyone who doesn't agree with The Silicon Valley Cartel

By Robert Engles

Google is used to consciously, maliciously and in a manually implemented manner, attack defame and economically damage competitors. The test metrics prove it. The witness testimony proves it. The EU evidence proves it and the 5 year long test analytic studies prove it. Google engages in intentional, and malicious attacks. Eric Schmidt, Elon Musk, John Doerr, Steve Jurvetson, and their associates, are campaign financiers, fixated on crafting the world into their egotistical, arrogant billionaire-skewed vision of "how things should be". Few, if any, voters, and normal American's, share their "vision". Silicon Valley holds the U.S. record for producing more news coverage about intern rapes, institutionalized misogyny, the refusal to hire blacks or women, "White Boy Frat House discriminationclubs", start-up collusion (see "Angelgate" and "No Poaching Conspiracy" news coverage), Hooker murders, Escort clubs, "sex Islands", trophy wives and wife-slavery, Flash Boy stock market manipulation, and other horrific social ills. Almost every Silicon Valley VC has now been discovered to have come from one of the fraternity houses now charged, in the media, as "rape factories". This Cartel does not seem to be qualified to be making decisions on behalf of society, yet, here they are, controlling what the public sees on the internet. Internet experts were tasked with figuring out how it was done and how Google's associate: Elon Musk, got every negative article about him hidden by Google. Here is what they discovered. This proves that "Google Manipulates The Internet For Elections And Stock Market Results For Its Investors" Technical testing arrays were built, by numerous groups. They tested all of Google's results for years. The results prove that "mood manipulation" technology is intentionally used and operated by Google management. Google is accused of running Stasi mind experiments on the public without their knowledge or consent.

Google's Internet search engines may be influencing elections

By David Shultz

"What we're talking about here is a means of mind control on a massive scale that there is no precedent for in human history." That may sound hyperbolic, but Robert Epstein says it's not an exaggeration. Epstein, a research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research in Vista, California, has found that the higher a politician ranks on a page of Internet search results, the more

likely you are to vote for them. "I have a lot of faith in the methods they've used, and I think it's a very rigorously conducted study," says Nicholas Diakopoulos, a computer scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park, who was not involved in the research. "I don't think that they've overstated

their claims.” In their first experiment, Epstein and colleagues recruited three groups of 102 volunteers in San Diego, California, who were generally representative of the U.S. voting population in terms of age, race, political affiliation, and other traits. The researchers wanted to know if they could influence who the Californians would have voted for in the 2010 election ... for prime minister of Australia. So they built a fake search engine called Kadoodle that returned a list of 30 websites for the finalist candidates, 15 for Tony Abbott and 15 for Julia Gillard. Most of the Californians knew little about either candidate before the test began, so the experiment was their only real exposure to Australian politics. What they didn’t know was that the search engine had been rigged to display the results in an order biased toward one candidate or the other. For example, in the most extreme scenario, a subject would see 15 webpages with information about Gillard’s platform and objectives followed by 15 similar results for Abbott.

As predicted, subjects spent far more time reading Web pages near the top of the list. But what surprised researchers was the difference those rankings made: Biased search results increased the number of undecided voters choosing the favored candidate by 48% compared with a control group that saw an equal mix of both candidates throughout the list. Very few subjects noticed they were being manipulated, but those who did were actually more likely to vote in line with the biased results. “We expect the search engine to be making wise choices,” Epstein says. “What they’re saying is, ‘Well yes, I see the bias and that’s telling me ... the search engine is doing its job.’”

In a second experiment, the scientists repeated the first test on 2100 participants recruited online through Amazon’s labor crowdsourcing site Mechanical Turk. The subjects were also chosen to be representative of the U.S. voting population. The large sample size—and additional details provided by users—allowed the researchers to pinpoint which demographics were most vulnerable to search engine manipulation: Divorcees, Republicans, and subjects who reported low familiarity with the candidates were among the easiest groups to influence, whereas participants who were better informed, married, or reported an annual household income between \$40,000 and \$50,000 were harder to sway. Moderate Republicans were the most susceptible of any group: The manipulated search results increased the number of undecided voters who said they would choose the favored candidate by 80%.

“In a two person race, a candidate can only count on getting half of the uncommitted votes, which is worthless. With the help of biased search rankings, a candidate might be able to get 90% of the uncommitted votes [in select demographics],” Epstein explains. In a third experiment, the team tested its hypothesis in a real, ongoing election: the 2014 general election in India. After recruiting a sample of 2150 undecided Indian voters, the researchers repeated the original experiment, replacing the Australian candidates with the three Indian politicians who were actually running at the time. The results of the real world trial were slightly less dramatic—an outcome that researchers attribute to voters’ higher familiarity with the candidates. But merely changing which candidate appeared higher in the results still increased the number of undecided Indian voters who would vote for that candidate by 12% or more compared with controls. And once again, awareness of the manipulation enhanced the effect. A few percentage points here and there may seem meager, but the authors point out that elections are often won by margins smaller than 1%. If 80% of eligible voters have Internet access and

10% of them are undecided, the search engine effect could convince an additional 25% of those undecided to vote for a target candidate, the team reports online this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. That type of swing would determine the election outcome, as long as the expected win margin was 2% or less. “This is a huge effect,” Epstein says. “It’s so big that it’s quite dangerous.” But perhaps the most concerning aspect of the findings is that a search engine doesn’t even have to intentionally manipulate the order of results for this effect to manifest. Organic search algorithms already in place naturally put one candidate’s name higher on the list than others. This is based on factors like “relevance” and “credibility” (terms that are closely guarded by developers at Google and other major search engines). So the public is already being influenced by the search engine manipulation effect, Epstein says. “Without any intervention by anyone working at Google, it means that Google’s algorithm has been determining the outcome of close elections around the world.”

He also points out that the Internet mogul will benefit more from certain election outcomes than others. And according to Epstein, Google is very aware both of the power it wields, as well as the research his team is doing: When the team recruited volunteers from the Internet in the second experiment, two of the IP addresses came from Google’s head office, he says. “It’s easy to point the finger at the algorithm because it’s this supposedly inert thing, but there are a lot of people behind the algorithm,” Diakopoulos says. “I think that it does pose a threat to the legitimacy of the democracy that we have.

We desperately need to have a public conversation about the role of these systems in the democratic processes.”

Posted in Brain & Behavior, Technology

PSYCHOLOGIST’S TRICKS USED BY GOOGLE TO CONTROL THE PUBLIC AND DESTROY OPPONENTS

By Andrew Fishman

JTRIG’s operations have been referred to as “dirty tricks,” and Dhami’s paper notes that the unit’s own staff characterize their work using “terms such as ‘discredit,’ ‘promote distrust,’ ‘dissuade,’ ‘deceive,’ ‘disrupt,’ ‘delay,’ ‘deny,’ ‘denigrate/degrade,’ and ‘deter.’” The unit’s targets go beyond terrorists and foreign militaries and include groups considered “domestic extremist[s],” criminals, online “hacktivists,” and even “entire countries.” After publishing Dhami’s paper for the first time in June, The Intercept reached out to several of her fellow psychologists, including some whose work was referenced in the paper, about the document’s ethical implications. One of the psychologists cited in the report criticized the paper and GCHQ’s ethics. Another psychologist condemned Dhami’s recommendations as “grossly unethical” and another called them an “egregious violation” of

psychological ethics. But two other psychologists cited in the report did not express concern when contacted for reaction, and another psychologist, along with Dhami's current employer, defended her work and her ethical standards. A British law firm hired to represent Dhami maintained that any allegations of unethical conduct are "grossly defamatory and totally untrue." The divergent views on the paper highlight how the profession of psychology has yet to resolve key ethical concerns around consulting for government intelligence agencies. These issues take on added resonance in the context of the uproar currently roiling the American Psychological Association over the key role it played in the CIA torture program during the Bush administration. The APA's Council of Representatives voted Friday to bar psychologists from taking part in national security interrogations or to advise on confinement conditions. Dhami's consultation with JTRIG and the APA's role in support of the CIA torture program are disparate — there is no suggestion that Dhami advised on interrogations involving torture nor that her paper was part of an ongoing relationship with JTRIG — but Dhami's GCHQ work, like the APA scandal, provokes heated disagreement and criticism."

(Ed Note: The top-secret document, titled "Behavioural Science Support for JTRIG's (Joint Threat Research and Intelligence Group's) Effects and Online HUMINT Operations," appears to have been written during this stint at the spy agency and is now known to be in the hands of Google planning executives at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California according to Google staff whistleblowers. They state that these procedures are in use against the political enemies of Google's executives and venture capitalists)

2.5 Operation methods/techniques. All of JTRIG's operations are conducted using cyber technology. Staff described a range of methods/techniques that have been used to-date for conducting effects operations. These included:

- Uploading YouTube videos containing "persuasive" communications (to discredit, promote distrust, dissuade, deter, delay or disrupt)
- Setting up Facebook groups, forums, blogs and Twitter accounts that encourage and monitor discussion on a topic (to discredit, promote distrust, dissuade, deter, delay or disrupt)
- Establishing online aliases/personalities who support the communications or messages in YouTube videos, Facebook groups, forums, blogs etc
- Establishing online aliases/personalities who support other aliases
- Sending spoof e-mails and text messages from a fake person or mimicking a real person (to discredit, promote distrust, dissuade, deceive, deter, delay or disrupt)
- Providing spoof online resources such as magazines and books that provide inaccurate information (to disrupt, delay, deceive, discredit, promote distrust, dissuade, deter or denigrate/grade)
- Providing online access to uncensored material (to disrupt)
- Sending instant messages to specific individuals giving them instructions for accessing uncensored websites
- Setting up spoof trade sites (or sellers) that may take a customer's money and/or send customers degraded or spoof products (to deny, disrupt, degrade/denigrate, delay, deceive, discredit, dissuade or deter)
- Interrupting (i.e., filtering, deleting, creating or modifying) communications between real customers and traders (to deny, disrupt, delay, deceive, dissuade or deter)
- Taking over control of online websites (to deny, disrupt, discredit or delay)
- Denial of telephone and computer service (to deny, delay or disrupt)
- Hosting targets' online communications/websites for collecting SIGINT (to disrupt, delay, deter or deny)
- Contacting host websites asking them to remove material (to deny, disrupt, delay, dissuade or deter)

"(The term

“HUMINT” commonly refers to human intelligence.) It was based on interviews with 22 JTRIG staffers and seven support staff from GCHQ. In it, Dhami provides advice on how JTRIG can improve its approach and attain desired outcomes, for example, by applying theories and research around ***persuasive communication, compliance, obedience, conformity, and the creation of trust and distrust.*** “Compliance can be achieved through various techniques,” reads the “obedience” section of Dhami’s report, “including: Engaging the norm of reciprocity; engendering liking (e.g., via ingratiation or attractiveness); stressing the importance of social validation (e.g., via highlighting that others have also complied); instilling a sense of scarcity or secrecy; getting the ‘foot-in-the-door’ (i.e., getting compliance to a small request/issue first); and applying the ‘door-in-the-face’ or ‘low-ball’ tactics (i.e., asking for compliance on a large request/issue first and having hidden aspects to a request/issue that someone has already complied with, respectively).” In other cases, Dhami presents a menu of possible effective approaches grounded in specific psychological research that is formally cited throughout the body of the paper, in a “recommended reading list,” and in a “list of training requirements for JTRIG staff.”

- Propaganda techniques include,” Dhami writes, “Using stereotypes; substituting names/labels for neutral ones; censorship or systematic selection of information; repetition; assertions without arguments; and presenting a message for and against a subject.” Dhami’s 42-page report came nearly three years before the world became aware of JTRIG and of its methods of deception, dissemination of online propaganda, and acquisition of human intelligence. The unit’s existence was first revealed through leaked documents provided by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden and published by NBC News and The Intercept. JTRIG’s tactics include seeding propaganda on social media, impersonating people online, and creating false blog posts to discredit targets. Dhami recommends that staff be trained on the various specific techniques she outlines, that a social influence research program be developed, that the possibility of compiling psychological profiles for exploitation in intelligence operations be explored, that a catalog of online crime prevention techniques be developed, that processes for assessment of risk and effectiveness be established, and that JTRIG develop guidelines for operational best practices. JTRIG has now acquired this material. Some of the psychology research texts Dhami recommends are marked with an asterisk indicating “JTRIG has now acquired this material.” The Intercept attempted to contact the authors of materials that had been “acquired” by JTRIG.

One of those authors, Peter Smith, emeritus professor of psychology at University of Sussex near Brighton, England, raised questions about Dhami’s paper. “Some of the reported actions of JTRIG are clearly contrary to the ethical guidelines of the British Psychological Society,” Smith wrote in an email. “The descriptions that [s]he provides of the social psychology of influence are broadly accurate, but the use of this knowledge to deceive people or distort the information that they receive is not advocated in any of the sources that [s]he cites.” He added: “I am certainly not comfortable with the ways in which Dr. Dhami has used [her] knowledge of social psychology.” Dhami’s profile at Middlesex University does not list the British Psychological Society among her current professional affiliations. Other psychologists cited by Dhami did not criticize her paper but rather disclaimed any control over her use of their material. Susan Fiske, a Princeton psychologist and fellow of six APA divisions, also had her work acquired by JTRIG. She told The Intercept by email, “Anyone can buy my book. **When you**

write a textbook, it's in the public domain, and anyone can use it. I have no control over what happens after it is published.”

“Eleven other psychologists whose work was cited by Dhami did not respond to emails from The Intercept. A ‘bespoke’ code of ethics. Dhami does directly address ethical concerns in part of her report. But her treatment of ethics is brief. JTRIG, she writes, operates under “no specific guidelines on ethical practice.” She notes that professional codes of conduct exist, such as those of the British Society of Criminology and the British Psychological Society, but determines that “clearly, not all of the aspects of the above codes will be relevant or applicable to JTRIG’s operations” and the codes “do not identify best practice in all of the types of online interactions that JTRIG staff might be involved in.” “Thus,” she concludes, “JTRIG may need to develop a bespoke code” that complies with the U.K. legislation governing intelligence agencies.”

“I do not think that JTRIG requires a set of ethical guidelines that is different from those that are relevant to the rest of humanity.” The very idea of a “bespoke code” that “complies” with the law but merely considers established ethics codes “that may be pertinent,” without being bound by them, is controversial, but not novel. It’s far from clear that there is an ethically correct way to engage in acts to discredit, deceive, denigrate, and degrade unsuspecting targets, and it’s decidedly possible that developing guidelines that purport to do so will only lend legitimacy to unsavory behavior.”

2.18 Behavioural science needs. Staff identified various areas of behavioural science support that their effects and online HUMINT operations might benefit from. These mostly referred to social psychology, and included:

- Psychology
 - Cultural impact
 - Psychology
 - Psychological contract
 - Developing resilience
 - Psychology of compliance
 - Mass messaging
 - Marketing/branding
 - Plausible excuse
 - Online (or face-to-face) communication
 - Effective delivery
 - Online crime prevention
 - Youth behaviour
 - Online business
- 3.6 *Obedience* is a direct form of social influence where an individual submits to, or complies with, an authority figure. Obedience may be explained by factors such as diffusion of responsibility, perception of the authority figure being legitimate, and socialisation (including social role). Compliance can be achieved through various techniques including: Engaging the norm of reciprocity; engendering liking (e.g., via ingratiation or attractiveness); stressing the importance of social validation (e.g., via highlighting that others have also complied); instilling a sense of scarcity or secrecy; getting the “foot-in-the-door” (i.e., getting compliance to a small request/issue first); and applying the “door-in-the-face” or “low-ball” tactics (i.e., asking for compliance on a large request/issue first and having hidden aspects to a request/issue that someone has already complied with, respectively). Conversely, efforts to reduce obedience may be effectively based around educating people about the adverse consequences of compliance; encouraging them to question authority; and exposing them to examples of disobedience.

3.7 *Conformity* is an indirect form of social influence whereby an individual’s beliefs, feelings and behaviours yield to those (norms) of a social group to which the

- Andrew Fishman ✉ fishman@ theintercept.com t @AndrewDFish

Google's Use of "Mood Manipulation" on the Public: Psychologists Approve Ban on Role

"By JAMES RISEN - TORONTO — The American Psychological Association on Friday overwhelmingly approved a new ban on any involvement by psychologists in national security interrogations conducted by the United States government, even non-coercive interrogations now conducted by the Obama administration. The council of representatives of the organization, the nation's largest professional association of psychologists, voted to impose the ban at its annual meeting here." The actions of Google's inner workings now affect so many billions of people, without there knowledge, that the APA would have a fit if they knew the whole story.

Google's user manipulation program (PSYWAR), or the basic aspects of modern **psychological operations (PSYOP)**, have been known by many other names or terms, including MISO, Psy Ops, Political Warfare, "Hearts and Minds," and propaganda.^[1] The term is used "to denote any action which is practiced mainly by psychological methods with the aim of evoking a planned psychological reaction in other people."^[2] Various techniques are used, and are aimed at influencing a target audience's value system, belief system, emotions, motives, reasoning, or behavior. It is used to induce confessions or reinforce attitudes and behaviors favorable to the originator's objectives, and are sometimes combined with black operations or false flag tactics. It is also used to destroy the morale of political enemies through tactics that aim to depress or alter the public's psychological states.^{[3][4]} Target audiences can be governments, organizations, groups, and individuals, and is not just limited to soldiers. Civilians of foreign territories can also be targeted by Google technology and media so as to cause an effect in the government of their country.^[5]

In *Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes*, Jacques Ellul discusses psychological warfare as a common peace policy practice between nations as a form of indirect aggression in place of military aggression. This type of propaganda drains the public opinion of an opposing regime by stripping away its power on public opinion. This form of aggression is hard to defend against because no international court of justice is capable of protecting against psychological aggression since it cannot be legally adjudicated. The only defense is using the same means of psychological warfare. It is the burden of every government to defend its state against propaganda aggression. "Here the propagandists is [sic] dealing with a foreign adversary whose morale he seeks to destroy by psychological means so that the opponent begins to doubt the validity of his beliefs and actions."^{[6][7]}

History

Early



Mosaic of [Alexander the Great](#) on his campaign against the [Persian Empire](#).

Since prehistoric times, warlords and chiefs have recognised the importance of inducing psychological terror in opponents and currying favour with supporters. An early practitioner of such tactics was [Alexander the Great](#), who [successfully conquered](#) large parts of [Europe](#) and the [Middle East](#) and held on to his territorial gains by co-opting local elites into the Greek administration and culture. Alexander left some of his men behind in each conquered city to introduce Greek culture and oppress dissident views. His soldiers were paid dowries to marry locals^[8] in an effort to encourage [assimilation](#).

[Genghis Khan](#), leader of the [Mongolian Empire](#) in the 13th century AD employed this technique. Defeating the will of the enemy before having to attack and reaching a consented settlement was preferable to actually fighting. The Mongol generals demanded submission to the Khan, and threatened the initially captured villages with complete destruction if they refused to surrender. If they had to fight to take the settlement, the Mongol generals fulfilled their threats and massacred the survivors. Tales of the encroaching horde spread to the next villages and created an aura of insecurity that undermined the possibility of future resistance.^[9]

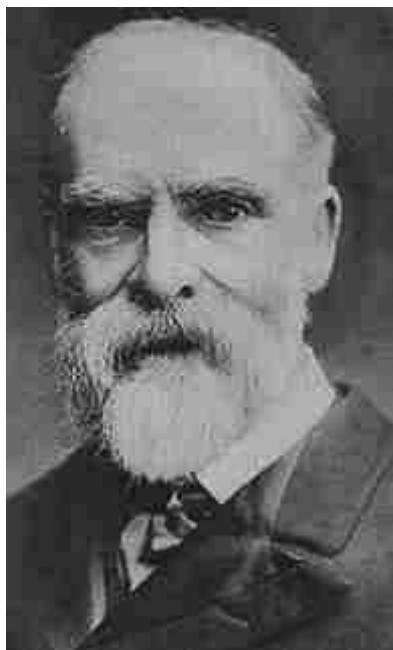
The [Khan](#) also employed tactics that made his numbers seem greater than they actually were. During night operations he ordered each soldier to light three torches at dusk to give the illusion of an overwhelming army and deceive and intimidate enemy scouts. He also sometimes had objects tied to the tails of his horses, so that riding on open and dry fields raised a cloud of dust that gave the enemy the impression of great numbers. His soldiers used arrows specially notched to whistle as they flew through the air, creating a terrifying noise.^[10]

A later Mongolian chieftain, [Tamerlane](#), built a pyramid of 90,000 human heads in front of the walls of [Delhi](#), to convince them to surrender during his [Indian campaign](#). Another tactic favoured by the Mongols was catapulting severed human heads over city walls to frighten the inhabitants and spread disease in the besieged city's closed confines.

The Muslim caliph [Omar](#), in his battles against the [Byzantine Empire](#), sent small reinforcements in the form of a continuous stream, giving the impression that a large force would accumulate eventually if not swiftly dealt with.

Modern

First World War



[Lord Bryce](#) led the [commission](#) of 1915 to document German [atrocities committed against Belgian civilians](#).

The start of modern psychological operations in war is generally dated to the [First World War](#). By that point, Western societies were increasingly educated and urbanized, and mass media was available in the form of large circulation [newspapers](#) and posters. It was also possible to transmit propaganda to the enemy via the use of [airborne leaflets](#) or through explosive delivery systems like modified artillery or [mortar](#) rounds.[\[11\]](#)

At the start of the war, the belligerents, especially the British and Germans, began distributing propaganda, both domestically and on the [Western front](#). The British had several advantages that allowed them to succeed in the battle for [world opinion](#); they had one of the world's most reputable news systems, with much experience in international and cross-cultural communication and they controlled much of the [undersea cable](#) system then in operation. These capabilities were easily transitioned to the task of warfare.

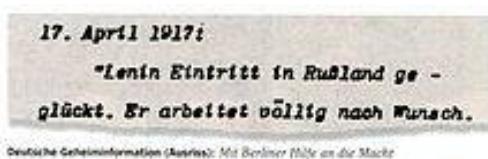
The British also had a [diplomatic service](#) that kept up good relations with many nations around the world, in contrast to the reputation of the German services.[\[12\]](#) While German attempts to foment

revolution in parts of the [British Empire](#), such as [Ireland](#) and [India](#), were ineffective, extensive experience in the [Middle East](#) allowed the British to successfully induce the Arabs to [revolt](#) against the [Ottoman Empire](#).

In August 1914, [David Lloyd George](#) appointed [Charles Masterman MP](#), to head a [Propaganda Agency](#) at Wellington House. A distinguished body of literary talent was enlisted for the task, with its members including [Arthur Conan Doyle](#), [Ford Madox Ford](#), [G. K. Chesterton](#), [Thomas Hardy](#), [Rudyard Kipling](#) and [H. G. Wells](#). Over 1,160 pamphlets were published during the war and distributed to neutral countries, and eventually, to Germany. One of the first significant publications, the [Report on Alleged German Outrages](#) of 1915, had a great effect on general opinion across the world. The pamphlet documented [atrocities](#), both actual and alleged, committed by the German army against Belgian civilians. A Dutch illustrator, [Louis Raemaekers](#), provided highly emotional drawings which appeared in the pamphlet.[\[13\]](#)

In 1917, the bureau was subsumed into the new [Department of Information](#) and branched out into [telegraph](#) communications, [radio](#), newspapers, magazines and the cinema. In 1918, [Viscount Northcliffe](#) was appointed Director of Propaganda in Enemy Countries. The department was split between propaganda against Germany organized by H.G Wells and against the [Austro-Hungarian Empire](#) supervised by [Wickham Steed](#) and [Robert William Seton-Watson](#); the attempts of the latter focused on the lack of ethnic cohesion in the Empire and stoked the grievances of minorities such as the [Croatians](#) and [Slovenes](#). It had a significant effect on the final collapse of the [Austro-Hungarian Army](#) at the [Battle of Vittorio Veneto](#).[\[11\]](#)

Aerial leaflets were dropped over German trenches containing postcards from [prisoners of war](#) detailing their humane conditions, surrender notices and general propaganda against the [Kaiser](#) and the German [generals](#). By the end of the war, [MI7b](#) had distributed almost 26 million leaflets. The Germans began shooting the leaflet-dropping pilots, prompting the British to develop unmanned leaflet balloons that drifted across [no-man's land](#). At least one in seven of these leaflets were not handed in by the soldiers to their superiors, despite severe penalties for that offence. Even General [Hindenburg](#) admitted that "Unsuspectingly, many thousands consumed the poison", and [POWs](#) admitted to being disillusioned by the propaganda leaflets that depicted the use of German troops as mere [cannon fodder](#). In 1915, the British began airdropping a regular leaflet newspaper *Le Courier de l'Air* for civilians in German-occupied France and Belgium.[\[14\]](#)



A report from a German [secret agent](#) about [Lenin](#)'s arrival to [Petrograd](#) in 1917. This event was actively arranged by the German government in a bid to destabilize Russia.

At the start of the war, the French government took control of the media to suppress negative coverage. Only in 1916, with the establishment of the Maison de la Presse, did they begin to use similar tactics for the purpose of psychological warfare. One of its sections was the "Service de la Propagande aérienne" (Aerial Propaganda Service), headed by Professor Tonnelat and [Jean-Jacques Waltz](#), an Alsatian artist code-named "*Hansi*". The French tended to distribute leaflets of images only, although the full publication of [US President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points](#), which had been heavily edited in the German newspapers, was distributed via airborne leaflets by the French.[\[15\]](#)

The [Central Powers](#) were slow to use these techniques; however, at the start of the war the Germans succeeded in inducing the [Sultan](#) of the [Ottoman Empire](#) to declare 'holy war', or [Jihad](#), against the Western [infidels](#). They also attempted to foment rebellion against the [British Empire](#) in places as far afield as [Ireland](#), [Afghanistan](#), and [India](#). The Germans' greatest success was in giving the Russian revolutionary, [Lenin](#), free transit on a sealed train from [Switzerland](#) to [Finland](#) after the overthrow of the [Tsar](#). This soon paid off when the [Bolshevik Revolution](#) took [Russia](#) out of the war.[\[16\]](#)

World War II



An example of a [World War II](#) era leaflet meant to be dropped from an [American B-17](#) over a German city. See the [file description page](#) for a translation.

[Adolf Hitler](#) was greatly influenced by the psychological tactics of warfare the British had employed during WWI, and attributed the defeat of Germany to the effects this propaganda had on the soldiers. He became committed to the use of mass propaganda to influence the minds of the German population in the decades to come. [Joseph Goebbels](#) was appointed as [Propaganda Minister](#) when Hitler came to power in 1933, and he portrayed Hitler as a [messianic](#) figure for the redemption of Germany. Hitler also coupled this with the resonating projections of his orations for effect.

Germany's [Fall Grün](#) plan of invasion of Czechoslovakia had a large part dealing with psychological warfare aimed both at the Czechoslovak civilians and government as well as, crucially, at Czechoslovak allies.[\[17\]](#) It became successful to the point that Germany gained support of UK and France through [appeasement](#) to occupy Czechoslovakia without having to fight an all-out war, sustaining only minimum losses in [covert war](#) before the [Munich Agreement](#).

At the start of the [Second World War](#), the British set up the [Political Warfare Executive](#) to produce and

distribute propaganda. Through the use of [powerful transmitters](#), broadcasts could be made across Europe. [Sefton Delmer](#) managed a successful [black propaganda](#) campaign through several radio stations which were designed to be popular with German troops while at the same time introducing news material that would weaken their morale under a veneer of authenticity. British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) made use of radio broadcasts for [propaganda](#) against the Germans.



Map depicting the targets of all the subordinate plans of [Operation Bodyguard](#).

During World War II, the British made extensive use of deception – developing many new techniques and theories. The main protagonists at this time were 'A' Force, set up in 1940 under [Dudley Clarke](#), and the London Controlling Section, chartered in 1942 under the control of John Bevan.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#) Clarke pioneered many of the strategies of [military deception](#). His ideas for combining fictional orders of battle, visual deception and [double agents](#) helped define Allied deception strategy during the war, for which he has been referred to as "the greatest British deceiver of WW2".[\[20\]](#)

During the lead up to the Allied [invasion of Normandy](#), many new tactics in psychological warfare were devised. The plan for [Operation Bodyguard](#) set out a general strategy to mislead German high command as to the exact date and location of the invasion. Planning began in 1943 under the auspices of the [London Controlling Section](#) (LCS). A draft strategy, referred to as Plan Jael, was presented to Allied high command at the [Tehran Conference](#). [Operation Fortitude](#) was intended to convince the Germans of a greater Allied military strength than existed, through fictional [field armies](#), faked operations to prepare the ground for invasion and leaked information about the Allied order of battle and war plans.

Elaborate [naval deceptions](#) (Operations *Glimmer*, *Taxable* and *Big Drum*) were undertaken in the English Channel.[\[21\]](#) Small ships and aircraft simulated invasion fleets lying off Pas de Calais, Cap d'Antifer and the western flank of the real invasion force.[\[22\]](#) At the same time [Operation Titanic](#) involved the [RAF](#) dropping fake paratroopers to the east and west of the Normandy landings.



A dummy [Sherman tank](#), used to deceive the Germans.

The deceptions were implemented with the use of [double agents](#), radio traffic and visual deception. The British "[Double Cross](#)" anti-espionage operation had proven very successful from the outset of the war, [23] and the LCS was able to use double agents to send back misleading information about Allied invasion plans.[24] The use of visual deception, including mock tanks and other military hardware had been developed during the [North Africa campaign](#). Mock hardware was created for *Bodyguard*; in particular, dummy landing craft were stockpiled to give the impression that the invasion would take place near [Calais](#).

The Operation was a strategic success and the [Normandy landings](#) caught German defences unaware. Subsequent deception led Hitler into delaying reinforcement from the Calais region for nearly seven weeks.[25]

Vietnam War



"Viet Cong, beware!" – [South Vietnam](#) leaflets urging the defection of [Viet Cong](#).

The United States ran an extensive program of psychological warfare during the [Vietnam War](#). The [Phoenix Program](#) had the dual aim of assassinating NLF personnel and terrorizing any potential sympathizers or passive supporters. [Chieu Hoi](#) program of the [South Vietnam](#) government promoted NLF defections.

When members of the PRG were assassinated, [CIA](#) and [Special Forces](#) operatives placed [playing cards](#) in the mouth of the deceased as a calling card. During the Phoenix Program, over 19,000 NLF supporters were killed.[\[26\]](#)

Recent operations



An American PSYOP leaflet disseminated during the [Iraq War](#). It shows a caricature of [Al-Qaeda in Iraq](#) leader [Abu Musab al-Zarqawi](#) caught in a [rat trap](#). The caption reads "This is your future, Zarqawi".

The [CIA](#) made extensive use of [Contra](#) soldiers to destabilize the [Sandinista](#) government in [Nicaragua](#).[\[27\]](#) The CIA used psychological warfare techniques against the [Panamanians](#) by broadcasting pirate TV broadcasts. The CIA has extensively used propaganda broadcasts against the [Cuban](#) government through [TV Marti](#), based in [Miami, Florida](#). However, the Cuban government has been successful at jamming the signal of TV Marti.

In the [Iraq War](#), the United States used the [shock and awe](#) campaign to psychologically maim, and break the will of the [Iraqi Army](#) to fight.

[Social media](#) has enabled the use of [disinformation](#) on a wide scale. Analysts have found evidence of doctored or misleading photographs spread by social media in the [Syrian Civil War](#) and [2014 Russian military intervention in Ukraine](#), possibly with state involvement.[\[28\]](#)

Most modern uses of the term psychological warfare, refers to the following military methods:

- Demoralization:
 - Distributing [pamphlets](#) that encourage [desertion](#) or supply instructions on how to surrender
 - [Shock and awe](#) military strategy
 - Projecting repetitive and annoying sounds and music for long periods at high volume towards groups under siege like during [Operation Nifty Package](#)
- Propaganda radio stations, such as [Lord Haw-Haw](#) in World War II on the "Germany calling" station
- Renaming cities and other places when captured, such as the renaming of [Saigon](#) to [Ho Chi Minh City](#) after Vietnamese victory in the [Vietnam War](#)
- [False flag](#) events
- Use of loudspeaker systems to communicate with enemy soldiers
- Terrorism[\[29\]](#)
- The threat of chemical weapons[\[30\]](#)

Most of these techniques were developed during World War II or earlier, and have been used to some degree in every conflict since. Daniel Lerner was in the [OSS](#) (the predecessor to the American CIA) and in his book, attempts to analyze how effective the various strategies were. He concludes that there is little evidence that any of them were dramatically successful, except perhaps surrender instructions over loudspeakers when victory was imminent. It should be noted, though, that measuring the success or failure of psychological warfare is very hard, as the conditions are very far from being a controlled experiment.

Lerner also divides psychological warfare operations into three categories:[\[31\]](#)[\[page needed\]](#)

- [White propaganda](#) (Omissions and Emphasis): Truthful and not strongly biased, where the source of information is acknowledged.
- [Grey propaganda](#) (Omissions, Emphasis and Racial/Ethnic/Religious Bias): Largely truthful, containing no information that can be proven wrong; the source is not identified.
- [Black propaganda](#) (Commissions of falsification): Inherently deceitful, information given in the product is attributed to a source that was not responsible for its creation.

Lerner points out that grey and black operations ultimately have a heavy cost, in that the target population sooner or later recognizes them as propaganda and discredits the source. He writes, "This is one of the few dogmas advanced by Sykewarriors that is likely to endure as an axiom of propaganda: Credibility is a condition of persuasion. Before you can make a man do as you say, you must make him

believe what you say."[\[31\]](#):28 Consistent with this idea, the Allied strategy in [World War II](#) was predominantly one of truth (with certain exceptions).[citation needed](#)

Other uses

Modern use of psychological warfare is not limited to the military, but can be applied in the household as parents [battle over custody](#) of a child. As parents utilize the idea of "you'll never see your child again," they cause an alienation that psychologically changes their children, leading to mental damage in one or both of the parents as well. This alienation can cause a child to be more hostile toward whichever parent they do not currently reside with or live with for most of their time, thus psychologically destroying the morale of the parent targeted with hostility.[\[32\]](#)

By country

China

According to [U.S. military](#) analysts, attacking the enemy's mind is an important element of the [People's Republic of China](#)'s military strategy.[\[33\]](#) This type of warfare is rooted in the Chinese Stratagems outlined by [Sun Tzu](#) in [The Art of War](#) and [Thirty-Six Stratagems](#). In its dealings with its rivals, China is expected to utilize [Marxism](#) to mobilize [communist](#) loyalists, as well as flex its economic and military muscle to persuade other nations to act in China's interests. The Chinese government also tries to control the media to keep a tight hold on [propaganda](#) efforts for its people.[\[33\]](#)

Germany

In the [German Bundeswehr](#), the **Zentrum Operative Information** and its subordinate **Batallion für Operative Information 950** are responsible for the PSYOP efforts (called **Operative Information** in [German](#)). Both the center and the [battalion](#) are subordinate to the new [Streitkräftebasis](#) (Joint Services Support Command, SKB) and together consist of about 1,200 soldiers specialising in modern communication and media technologies. One project of the German PSYOP forces is the radio station [Stimme der Freiheit](#) (Sada-e Azadi, Voice of Freedom),[\[34\]](#) heard by thousands of [Afghans](#). Another is the publication of various newspapers and magazines in [Kosovo](#) and [Afghanistan](#), where German soldiers serve with [NATO](#).

United Kingdom

The British were one of the first major military powers to use psychological warfare in the First and Second World Wars. In current the [British Armed Forces](#), PSYOPS are handled by the tri-service [15 Psychological Operations Group](#). (See also [MI5](#) and [Secret Intelligence Service](#)). The Psychological Operations Group comprises over 150 personnel, approximately 75 from the regular Armed Services and 75 from the Reserves. The Group supports deployed commanders in the provision of psychological

operations in operational and tactical environments.[\[35\]](#)[\[36\]](#)

The Group was established immediately after the 1991 [Gulf War](#),[\[37\]](#) has since grown significantly in size to meet operational requirements,[\[38\]](#) and from 2015 it will be one of the sub-units of the [77th Brigade](#), formerly called the Security Assistance Group.[\[39\]](#) [Stephen Jolly](#), the MOD's Director of Defence Communications and former Chair of the UK's National Security Communications Committee (2013–15), is thought to be the most senior serving psyops officer within British Defence.

United States

See also: [Psychological Operations \(United States\)](#)



U.S. Army soldier hands out a newspaper to a local in [Mosul, Iraq](#).



U.S. Army loudspeaker team in action in Korea

The term psychological warfare is believed to have migrated from Germany to the United States in 1941.[\[40\]](#) During [World War II](#), the United States [Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) defined psychological warfare broadly, stating "Psychological warfare employs *any* weapon to influence the mind of the enemy. The weapons are psychological only in the effect they produce and not because of the weapons themselves."[\[41\]](#) The [U.S. Department of Defense](#) currently defines psychological warfare as:

"The planned use of [propaganda](#) and other [psychological](#) actions having the primary purpose of influencing the opinions, emotions, attitudes, and behavior of hostile foreign groups in such a way as to support the achievement of national objectives."[\[42\]](#)

This definition indicates that a critical element of the U.S. psychological operations capabilities

includes [propaganda](#) and by extension [counterpropaganda](#). Joint Publication 3-53 establishes specific policy to use public affairs mediums to counterpropaganda from foreign origins.[\[43\]](#)

The purpose of [United States](#) psychological operations is to induce or reinforce attitudes and behaviors favorable to US objectives. The [Special Activities Division](#) (SAD) is a division of the Central Intelligence Agency's [National Clandestine Service](#), responsible for Covert Action and "Special Activities". These special activities include covert political influence (which includes psychological operations) and paramilitary operations.[\[44\]](#) SAD's political influence group is the only US unit allowed to conduct these operations covertly and is considered the primary unit in this area.[\[44\]](#)

Dedicated psychological operations units exist in the [United States Army](#). The [United States Navy](#) also plans and executes limited PSYOP missions. United States PSYOP units and soldiers of all branches of the military are prohibited by law from targeting U.S. citizens with PSYOP within the borders of the United States (Executive Order S-1233, DOD Directive S-3321.1, and National Security Decision Directive 130). While United States Army PSYOP units may offer non-PSYOP support to domestic military missions, they can only target foreign audiences.

A U.S. Army field manual released in January 2013 states that "Inform and Influence Activities" are critical for describing, directing, and leading military operations. Several Army Division leadership staff are assigned to "planning, integration and synchronization of designated information-related capabilities."[\[45\]](#)

See also



[War portal](#)

- [Charles Douglas Jackson](#)
- [Demonizing the enemy](#)
- [Demoralization \(warfare\)](#)
- [Information warfare](#)
- [Lawfare](#)
- [Media manipulation](#)
- [Military psychology](#)
- [Mind games](#)
- [Minor sabotage](#)
- [Political Warfare](#)
- [Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes](#)
- [Psychological manipulation](#)

What Is Google's Motivation For These Acts?

There are a number of investigations, studies and news reports which propose different potential reasons for Google's engagement in these actions. They include:

Greed and Stock Market Rigging

By manipulating and timing news information about companies, buy-backs of stock to pump valuations, the hiding of negative news about Google's partners, ownership in supply chains and the creation or halting of federal laws affecting business, Google can synchronize trillions of dollars of stock market activity.

The Greentech VC Influence Over Washington

By [Katie Fehrenbacher](#) Aug. 18, 2010, 8:28am PDT [No Comments](#)

Buzz 0



There've been a couple articles in the past few weeks pointing to President Obama as the "[clean tech investor in chief](#)" and the [presidential VC with bets on clean energy](#). The real trend is that venture capitalists focusing on greentech seem to have had an unprecedented influence on U.S. federal policy and allocations of the stimulus package.

When I attended the Department of Energy's (DOE) first [ARPA-E conference](#) (Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy) earlier this year in Washington D.C., I was struck by how many venture capitalists were there. I shared a cab back to the airport with some familiar Silicon Valley faces, and was told if your firm didn't have a dedicated person in Washington — in some circles they call them lobbyists — maneuvering grant and loan programs, you weren't able to be competitive.

Just look at the figures from the stimulus package (which I am fully in support of): somewhere between \$50 billion and \$80 billion into clean power and energy efficiency initiatives ([depending on](#)

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TECHNOLOGY

Inside the U.S. Antitrust Probe of Google

Key FTC staff wanted to sue internet giant after finding 'real harm to consumers and to innovation.'



Google's Eric Schmidt testified in 2011 about the internet giant's business practices and defended how it displayed search results.
PHOTO BY JEFFREY DUNCAN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



By BRODY MULLINS, BOUCHE WINIGER and EBBET KENDALL

Updated March 14, 2013 1:58 p.m. ET

AS COMMENTS

WASHINGTON—Officials at the Federal Trade Commission concluded in 2012 that Google Inc. used anticompetitive tactics and abused its monopoly power in ways that harmed Internet users and rivals, a far harsher analysis of Google's business than was previously known.

The staff report from the agency's Bureau of Competition recommended the commission bring a lawsuit challenging three Google practices. The move would have triggered one of the highest-profile antitrust cases since the Justice Department sued Microsoft Corp. in the 1990s.

RELATED

- How Google Searches Search Results
- Digitz: Excerpts from FTC Staff Report on Google's Search Practices
- Google Dodges Antitrust Hit (Jan. 2, 2013)
- EU Prepares to Step Up Google

The 160-page critique, which was supposed to remain private but was inadvertently disclosed in an open-records request, concluded that Google's "conduct has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets."

POPULAR ON WSJ.COM
1. [Roadies: Surviving Startup Life](#)

When Wall Street Makes Crap Loans, It's a Crisis; When DOE's Steven Chu Does It, It's Green Energy.

Rick Gillespie | March 15, 2012

Via [Instapaper](#) linking to [The Fiscal Times](#) comes documentation of just what an easy grader Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu really is. As you'll recall, a while back the Nobel laureate cum bureaucrat was asked by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to grade his performance at DOE. Chu's humble response? "There's always room for improvement, maybe an A-."

The *Fiscal Times'* Edward Morrissey writes about the new Government Accountability Office report on the performance of DOE's loan-guarantee program which gave way to Solyndra and other debacles. Suffice it to say, GAO wasn't grading on a curve set by the performance of Obama's cabinet. Snippets:

The GAO looked at the handling of \$30 billion outstanding in loan guarantees and future commitments and discovered that the DOE rarely follows its own written procedures for vetting and审核 applications. In fact, in many cases, the Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) couldn't even find the data managers needed to administer the loans properly...

In almost every case study investigated by the GAO, important steps got skipped in the reviews that determined whether loan applications would be granted. In other cases, the documentation was so poor that the GAO couldn't figure out what the LGP did...

The process had at least an 85 percent failure rate on its process check. Most people would not associate that level of process accuracy with a grade of A-minus....

With \$30 billion in taxpayer money at risk, the DOE under Steven Chu didn't bother to conduct the reviews it claimed it would on applications for loan guarantees, didn't keep records of what reviews they did accomplish, and signed off on loans with incomplete documentation and inadequate oversight of the risk. The result — perhaps [\\$1.5 billion immediately at risk](#), according to CBS, and possibly most of the \$30 billion.

Morrissey drives home the point that when it comes to lending standards and the vilification of private financial institutions processing mortgages that were either backed or bought up by government-sponsored enterprises, the Obama admin is firmly in the "do as we say, not as we do" camp:

What makes [DOE's] carelessness and





JOHN CRUDELE

BESTSELLER



Stock market rigging is no longer a 'conspiracy theory'

By John Crudele

March 25, 2013 | 9:23pm



Photo: Getty Images



ASKED BY
JOHN CRUDELE

Presidents and student-athletes are more alike than you think

Dear John: And the market takes away

Why interest rates can't rise yet

An Apple in the wrist? Not on my watch, Tim

Dear John: Soft sailing in rigged market

The stock market is rigged.

When I started making that claim years ago — and provided solid evidence — people scoffed. Some called it a conspiracy theory, tin foil hats and that sort of stuff. Most people just ignored me.

But that's not happening anymore. The dirty secret is out.

With stock prices pushing far ahead of economic reality over the last six or so years, more experts in the financial markets are coming to the same conclusion — even if they don't fully understand how it's being rigged or the consequences.

Ed Yardeni, a longtime Wall Street guru who isn't one of the cleverest of the bunch, said flat out last week that the market was being propped up. "These markets are all rigged, and I don't say that critically, I just say that factually," he asserted on CNBC.

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Revised: 04/17/12

U.S. stock markets are rigged, says author Michael Lewis

NEW YORK | BY JOHN VEDDER



A Wall Street sign is pictured outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York, October 26, 2011.
REUTERS/CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

(Reuters) - The U.S. stock market is rigged in favor of high-speed electronic trading firms, which use their advantages to extract billions from investors, according to Michael Lewis, author of a new book on the topic, "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt."

High-frequency trading (HFT) is a practice carried out by many banks and proprietary trading firms using sophisticated computer programs to send gobs of orders into the market, executing a small portion of them when opportunities arise to capitalize on price imbalances, or to make markets. HFT makes up more than half of all U.S. trading volume.

The trading methods and technology that make HFT possible are all legal, and the stock exchanges HFT firms trade on are highly regulated. But Lewis said these firms are using their speed advantage to profit at the expense of other market participants to the tune of tens of billions of dollars.

"They are able to identify your desire to buy shares in Microsoft and buy them in front of you and sell them back to you at a higher price," Lewis, whose book is available on Monday, said on the television program "60 Minutes" on Sunday.

"This speed advantage that the faster traders have is milliseconds, some of it is fractions of milliseconds," said Lewis, whose books include "The Big Short" and "Moneyball."

Those milliseconds can be valuable, making it possible to send around 10,000 orders in the blink of an eye.

Political & Election Rigging Program

The following reports provide potent evidence that Google set out to rig elections, control public policy and form its own private, unregulated, covert government.



Numerous reports have documented the fact that Google's cartel was the largest financial backer of the Obama White House, the largest recipient of kick-back rewards from the Obama White House, the largest controller of information about the Obama campaign, the providers of the IT for the Obama campaign and the providers of the staff for the majority of the controlling positions of the Obama Administration. Most find this to be "suspicious" if not "a bit Smedley Butler like.."

[Google's Remarkably Close Relationship With the Obama ...](#)

[cached](#)

Apr 22, 2016 ... According to an analysis of White House data, the Google lobbyist with the most White The Wall Street Journal noted that Google's White House visits owns or controls — Civis Analytics, The Groundwork, and Tomorrow ...

[https://theintercept.com/2016/04/22/go\[...\].h-the-obama-white-house-in-two-charts/](https://theintercept.com/2016/04/22/go[...].h-the-obama-white-house-in-two-charts/)

[Who Controls the White House? | Who Controls ...](#)

[cached](#)

The Executive Branch: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government/executive-branch> White House Staff: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/staff> Jacob "Jack" J. Lew ...

<https://thezag.wordpress.com/who-controls-the-white-house/>

How The Jews Took The White House | Real Jew News

[cached](#)

How The Jews Took The White House. How The Jews Took The White House, Goldman Sachs Articles, Jewish Bankers Articles, ObamaNation Articles, How The Jews Took Washington

<http://www.realzionistnews.com/?p=461>

Report finds hundreds of meetings between White House and Google

[cached](#)

Apr 22, 2016 ... Google and affiliates have had meetings with the Obama White House at least 427 times. ... The data, gleaned from White House meeting logs, showed that in all, 169 He who controls the information controls the world.

[http://thehill.com/policy/technology/2\[...\]eetings-between-white-house-and-google](http://thehill.com/policy/technology/2[...]eetings-between-white-house-and-google)

Google Scores 427 White House Meetings During Obama - Breitbart

[cached](#)

Apr 25, 2016 ... Google Scores 427 White House Meetings During Obama Presidency. ... CLINTON: Obama Admin Aided Group That Became ISIS to Control ...

[http://www.breitbart.com/big-governmen\[...\]white-house-meetings-obama-presidency/](http://www.breitbart.com/big-governmen[...]white-house-meetings-obama-presidency/)

Visitor logs show Google's unrivaled White House access | Fox News

[cached](#)

May 17, 2016 ... A project examining White House visitor logs shows the Obama ... Johanna Shelton, Google's director of public policy — in effect, the company's top lobbyist on privacy, rights and has the power to control you like no other.

[http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/0\[...\]gles-unrivaled-white-house-access.html](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/0[...]gles-unrivaled-white-house-access.html)

Google Makes Most of Close Ties to White House - WSJ

[cached](#)

Mar 24, 2015 ... Google executives, including co-founder Larry Page and CEO Eric Schmidt, have visited the White House around 230 times since President ...

[http://www.wsj.com/articles/google-mak\[...\]f-close-ties-to-white-house-1427242076](http://www.wsj.com/articles/google-mak[...]f-close-ties-to-white-house-1427242076)

Google lobbyists' White House visits - Student News Daily

[cached](#)

May 25, 2016 ... Google representatives attended White House meetings more than once ... When you control the greatest technology on earth to reach people, ...

[https://www.studentnewsdaily.com/daily \[...\] e/google-lobbyists-white-house-visits/](https://www.studentnewsdaily.com/daily [...] e/google-lobbyists-white-house-visits/)

RELATED: Visitor logs show Google's unrivaled White House access

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May 16, 2016 ... OUR DOOR IS OPEN: Google officials have visited the White House more Power, Money, Societal Control... not necessarily in that order.

<http://watchdog.org/265252/visitor-logs-google-white-house/>

Google's Johanna Shelton visited White House 128 times since ...

[cached](#)

May 17, 2016 ... Google officials have visited the Obama White House roughly once a week since 2009, White House logs reveal, ... Tech giants control the WH.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article \[...\] cs-Obama-administration-officials.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article [...] cs-Obama-administration-officials.html)

Lack of Oversight

Google operates in a covert manner without full transparency or effective government oversight. In fact, due to the placement of hundreds of Google staff inside of decision-making offices of the U.S. and California State Governments, along with bribes to public officials, there is currently no agency with the ability to effectively regulate Google. As Google discovers it can get away with more and more crimes, the depth and scope of these crimes tends to increase. Throughout all of history, law enforcement vacuums have always caused accelerated vacuums of organized crime.

Deviant Social Culture

Eric Schmidt, Elon Musk, John Doerr, Steve Jurvetson, and their associates, are campaign financiers, fixated on crafting the world into their egotistical, arrogant billionaire-skewed vision of "how things should be". Few, if any, voters, and normal American's, share their "vision". Silicon Valley holds the U.S. record for producing more news coverage about intern rapes, institutionalized misogyny, the refusal to hire blacks or women, "White Boy Frat House discriminationclubs", start-up collusion (see "Angelgate" and "No Poaching Conspiracy" news coverage), Hooker murders, Escort clubs, "sex Islands", trophy wives and wife-slavery, Flash Boy stock market manipulation, and other horrific social ills. Almost every Silicon Valley VC has now been discovered to have come from one of the fraternity houses now charged, in the media, as "rape factories". This Cartel does not seem to be qualified to be

making decisions on behalf of society, yet, here they are, controlling what the public sees on the internet.

Criminal Conspiracy

Some theories hold that Google's close relationship with Goldman Sachs and rogue spy operations like In-Q-Tel gave criminal elements a platform to operate illegal activities using the Google platform as a policy information control system. The Corbett Report and InfoWars websites have discussed this theory at length. While those sites are held to be in the "fringe news" segment, their points have accrued expanding evidence over time, giving more credence to this line of theory.

Former Google Senior Staff Claim Google is a “dangerous cult operation”, “10 times more powerful than Scientology ever will be..”



– Eric Schmidt a constant voice in Obama's ear: A "Dangerous Influence?", say ex-secret service – Do "Madmen" run Google with a secret "global domination plan" for their personal interests? – Practicing bizarre sex hook-ups and the end of...

Lifting the Covers on “Obamoogle”.
Obama/Google connection takes sinister turn



- Most of the beneficiaries of the Obama's Afghan war were Google investors – Almost every “cleantech green cash” recipient was a Google investor – The White House gave Google all of NASA's best NASA airbase (Moffet Field) and free...

GOOGLE MADNESS

WORLD WAR G !!! The Cost To American's of Google's “Be Evil” Program



- Anonymous focusing resources on Google – International media groups publishing exposé reveals on the real Google – Journalists ramp up investigations on Google and its investors – Privacy groups targeting out-reach to every Google advertiser to, first, request an...

International Media Organizations Declare WAR ON GOOGLE: “A criminally corrupt

manipulation monopoly!” “Shut Google Down!”



HOW GOOGLE BOUGHT THE WHITE HOUSE! Eric Schmidt's Government Coup “SHUT-DOWN GOOGLE!” SAY MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVACY GROUPS! – Over one thousand policy decisions designed to benefit Google – Electric car and battery policy made to provide TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS...

HOW GOOGLE BECAME A “HIT-JOB” PROVIDER: GOOGLE CAUGHT SELLING SABOTAGE EFFORTS!



Google charged as “Secret Weapon” for Obama White House – FTC documents prove that Google manipulates its search engine to attack people – FTC Investigation and Monopoly lawsuit cut-off by Democrats in order to prevent Google connections to White...

“Net Neutrality” actually means: Who do you want spying on you more? Google or Comcast! Pick!



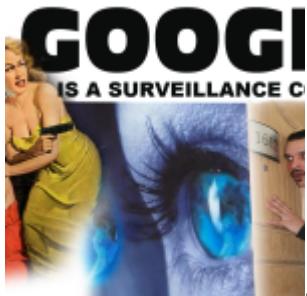
“Net Neutrality” actually means: Who do you want spying on you more? Google or Comcast! Pick! – It is really about Silicon Valley Campaign Backers (DNC) Vs. East Coast Telcos (GOP). ie: DNC Vs. GOP – Consumer gets no...

Every part of your life that touches a Google product or service is sent to private eye's, spies and salesmen.



Every part of your life that touches a Google product or service is sent to private eye's, spies and salesmen. Do we rejoice the launch of the Google data-harvesting drones? No! Free drone internet (You only have to give us...)

Assange: Google should be of concern to people all over the world ! GOOGLE EXPOSED!



- Top whistle-blowers suggest the public “Give Google The NFL Treatment”. “Abuse of our privacy as bad as NFL Abuse of our bodies” – Multiple privacy, data abuse, defamation lawsuits filed against Google.. and now by WHOLE NATIONS! – Charges...

GOOGLE INVENTS NEW WAY TO ABUSE PRIVACY, DOGS AND WOMEN...



Just Watch: Some say Eric Schmidt’s dream is to build a robot sex doll that won’t fall over when you kick it, or when you are doing it doggy style. His dream seems to have come true, with a...

WHITE HOUSE ASSURES THAT INSTALLING GOOGLE “HOMELAND MICROCHIPS” IN ALL AMERICANS WILL KEEP THEM SAFER



- Expansion of War Powers requested to stop Middle-East from throwing Oil Companies out of Middle East. – Google says it is NOT a front for In-Q-Tel. – Feds assure that this time around, all money will be wisely spent....

Can Google Be Sued For Rape?



Is privacy rape the same as anal, oral, mental or vaginal rape? While Google is oblivious to monopoly laws, ethical laws, Constitutional laws and oversight by anybody, is Google immune from rape laws in every state, in every country? In...

Is Google actually a “Criminally Insidious” organization created to promote the personal agenda’s of insane billionaires?



THE EYE OF SAURON

- MANY BELIEVE THAT GOOGLE IS ACTUALLY THE UMBRELLA CORPORATION OK. Let's examine this claim: We can all work together to break it down. First, is Google an organization?: Yes Would it's activities be interpreted, via detailed analysis, as "criminally..."

Google caught abusing musicians rights



'YOUTUBE is EVIL': Somebody had a tape running, Google... Cellist Zoë Keating strikes back with YouTube transcript Andrew Orlowski IN THE REGISTER Andrew Orlowski 'YOUTUBE is EVIL': Somebody had a tape running, Google... Analysis It's not often a \$450bn multinational...

Is GOOGLE The Most Sinister Company On Earth? Harvesting Children for Fun And Profit!



A few years ago, the school district in San Leandro, California began receiving

visits from sales people. They had constant smiles, expensive, yet casual, suits and an astounding pitch: "We will give your children the computers and software they need..."

Google VC Kickbacks From DC?



Google Kickbacks Google investors paid for the national election expenses and outside services and manipulated Google searches so they got: patent laws changed that benefit them, business tax laws changed that benefit them, free jet gas and free money for...

Snowden's lawyer reveals Apple and Google Android devices have secret spy windows built into them. Consumers constantly watched and manipulated.

APPLE & GOOGLE



SPY ON YOU

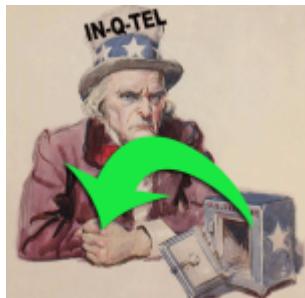
What happens to you when you aren't looking? A day in your life of getting data harvesting: In an average day a large number of strange men will look at you, look at what you say, what you do, where...

Reporters Alliance Charges Google With Crimes. Demands Special Prosecutor



"GOOGLE IS A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION"- Study Results by Investigative Reporters Group From The Report By The Alliance of Investigative Reporters: "Summary- Google is a criminal organization operating in felony violation of numerous City, State, Federal and Constitutional laws. They are..."

Snowden, Assange and Comcast want you to know that Google and Facebook ARE the CIA!



- COMCAST VERY HAPPY TO LET YOU KNOW THAT GOOGLE IS A SHAM – ASSANGE ‘I Told you so’ – Snowden confirms Google Bankrolled By The CIA | Conscious Google, Facebook, eBay, PayPal – Evidence is mounting that these...

Many New Devices Hit Market; designed to Shut Google Down! Buy a gadget to Un-Google yourself!



- Maker Faire people to publish specs and step-by-step for DIY version – Jammers and blockers already available on E-BAY – More government legal actions, from more countries, underway against Google, for data-abuse, spying, privacy harvesting; than any other Company...

FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE ARE CONTROLLING THE NEWS YOU SEE!



- Is anyone insane enough to still use Facebook or Google? – How to stage interventions for the Google/Book addicted – Subliminal “mood manipulation” and “context manipulation” extensively used without your knowledge Tech Overload Facebook Is Not Watching You by...

USA TODAY exposes Google Conspiracy Attempt



Thomas R. Burke and Jonathan Segal Once the fact was out, the internet giant tried to get a judge to help them hide it again. (Photo: Jefferson Graham, USAT) Back in February, in a San Jose courtroom, a bombshell was...

Humanoid Google Sex Robots Revealed?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2r-sVyR7mk> No need for condoms again. Germ-Free sex robots. Google Takes over NASA Ames Blimp Hanger for Robot “Experiments”. Google Adds to Its Menagerie of Robots – NYTimes.com Google executives said the company would honor existing military contracts,

BIGGEST SONY HACK SHOCKERS! “Christmas Gift!” Threats! Sony, Facebook, Google exposed manipulating White House policy! “I’m happy to lie” says Amy



- Reporters are slammed with so much data they have resorted to using NSA-like keyword and phrase search analyzers. The Verge, Gawker, Daily Beast, Re-code, Hollywood Reporter, WSJ and the rest, have gotten the most shocking results from these keyword...

Does Google use it's crunchy-granola employee programs as a facade to cover it's executives insidious plans?



- Did the 60 Minutes episode on Google “mindfulness” classes expose the epitome of young employee manipulation? Google “thought leader” shown on 60 Minutes wearing duplicate of Dr. Evil Nehru outfit. – Is the hippie Google sub-culture designed to create...

Google Hooker-Gate Back In News! Sex Addicts at Google Out-Number Any Other Silicon Valley Company



- Google's investors face sexual exploitation lawsuit – Hooker charged with killing senior Google Executive Sex Addict – Type “Eric Schmidt Sex Penthouse” in any search engine, except Google, and read the results.. Schmidt charged with “sex addiction” and “Open...

New Google Glass Pandemic: Undetectable Upskirt Photos and Videos



New Google Glass Pandemic: Undetectable Upskirt Photos and Videos- Yikes! Freaks with Google Glass are wandering around high traffic downtown areas, public transit and, particularly, at lunch times and commute hours, holding their Google Glass at their sides, arms length...

Barack O'Google: How Google and It's Investors Took Over The White House!



- White House Gives away part of NASA to Google and It's partners: Both Ames NASA Center and Lucrative NASA contracts, after laying off NASA staff already working on

same things. – All Google internet assets rigged to up-rank Obama...

Google Bought Washington But they didn't Buy Europe: “BREAK UP GOOGLE” Plan gets hot!



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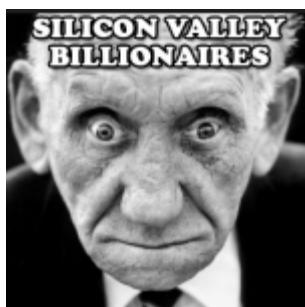
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The New Censorship

How did Google become the internet's censor and master manipulator, blocking access to millions of websites?

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By [Robert Epstein](#) |

Google, Inc., isn't just the world's biggest purveyor of information; it is also the world's biggest censor. The company maintains at least nine different blacklists that impact our lives, generally without input or authority from any outside advisory group, industry association or government agency. Google is not the only company suppressing content on the internet. Reddit has frequently been [accused](#) of banning postings on specific topics, and a [recent report](#) suggests that Facebook has been deleting conservative news stories from its newsfeed, a practice that might have a significant effect on public opinion – even on voting. Google, though, is currently the biggest bully on the block.

When Google's employees or algorithms decide to block our access to information about a news item, political candidate or business, opinions and votes can shift, reputations can be ruined and businesses can crash and burn. Because online censorship is entirely unregulated at the moment, victims have little or no recourse when they have been harmed. Eventually, authorities will almost certainly have to step in, just as they did when [credit bureaus](#) were regulated in 1970. The alternative would be to allow a large corporation to wield an especially destructive kind of power that should be exercised with great restraint and should belong only to the public: the power to shame or exclude.

If Google were just another mom-and-pop shop with a sign saying "we reserve the right to refuse service to anyone," that would be one thing. But as the golden gateway to all knowledge, Google has rapidly become an essential in people's lives – nearly as essential as air or water. We don't let public

utilities make arbitrary and secretive decisions about denying people services; we shouldn't let Google do so either.



The New Too Big to Fail

Big social media companies like Facebook and Google have too much power to manipulate elections.

Let's start with the most trivial blacklist and work our way up. I'll save the biggest and baddest – one the public knows virtually nothing about but that gives Google an almost obscene amount of power over our economic well-being – until last.

1. The autocomplete blacklist. This is a list of [words and phrases that are excluded from the autocomplete feature](#) in Google's search bar. The search bar instantly suggests multiple search options when you type words such as "democracy" or "watermelon," but it freezes when you type profanities, and, at times, it has frozen when people typed words like "torrent," "bisexual" and "penis." At this writing, it's freezing when I type "clitoris." The autocomplete blacklist can also be used to protect or discredit political candidates. As recently [reported](#), at the moment autocomplete shows you "Ted" (for former GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz) when you type "lying," but it will *not* show you "Hillary" when you type "crooked" – not even, on my computer, anyway, when you type "crooked hill." (The nicknames for Clinton and Cruz coined by Donald Trump, of course.) If you add the "a," so you've got "crooked hilla," you get the very odd suggestion "crooked Hillary Bernie." When you type "crooked" on Bing, "crooked Hillary" pops up instantly. Google's list of forbidden terms varies by region and individual, so "clitoris" might work for you. (Can you resist checking?)



2. The Google Maps blacklist. This list is a little more creepy, and if you are concerned about your privacy, it might be a good list to be on. The cameras of Google Earth and Google Maps have photographed your home for all to see. If you don't like that, "[just move](#)," Google's former CEO Eric Schmidt said. Google also maintains a [list of properties](#) it either blacks out or blurs out in its images. Some are probably military installations, some the residences of wealthy people, and some – well, who knows? Martian pre-invasion enclaves? Google doesn't say.



3. The YouTube blacklist. YouTube, which is owned by Google, allows users to flag inappropriate videos, at which point Google censors weigh in and sometimes remove them, but not, according to a [recent report](#) by Gizmodo, with any great consistency – except perhaps when it comes to politics. Consistent with the company's strong and [open support](#) for liberal political candidates, Google employees seem far more apt to ban politically conservative videos than liberal ones. In December 2015, singer Susan Bartholomew [sued YouTube](#) for removing her openly pro-life music video, but I can find no instances of pro-choice music being removed. YouTube also sometimes acquiesces to the censorship demands of foreign governments. Most recently, in return for overturning a three-year ban on YouTube in Pakistan, it agreed to allow [Pakistan's government](#) to determine which videos it can and cannot post.

4. The Google account blacklist. A couple of years ago, Google consolidated a number of its products – Gmail, Google Docs, Google+, YouTube, Google Wallet and others – so you can access all of them through your one Google account. If you somehow violate Google's vague and intimidating [terms of service](#) agreement, you will join the ever-growing list of people who are shut out of their accounts, which means you'll lose access to *all* of these interconnected products. Because virtually no one has ever read this lengthy, legalistic agreement, however, people are [shocked when they're shut out](#), in part because Google [reserves the right](#) to "stop providing Services to you ... at any time." And because Google, one of the largest and richest companies in the world, has no customer service department, getting reinstated can be difficult. (Given, however, that all of these services gather personal

information about you to sell to advertisers, losing one's Google account has been judged by some to be a [blessing in disguise](#).)



[No Likes for Facebook Manipulation](#)

The social media giant isn't a news site, but it still shouldn't be messing with its trending topics.

5. The Google News blacklist. If a librarian were caught trashing all the liberal newspapers before people could read them, he or she might get in a heap o' trouble. What happens when most of the librarians in the world have been replaced by a single company? Google is now the largest news aggregator in the world, tracking tens of thousands of news sources in [more than thirty languages](#) and recently adding thousands of small, [local news sources](#) to its inventory. It also selectively bans news sources as it pleases. [In 2006](#), Google was accused of excluding conservative news sources that generated stories critical of Islam, and the company has also been accused of banning [individual columnists and competing companies](#) from its news feed. In December 2014, facing a new law in Spain that would have charged Google for scraping content from Spanish news sources (which, after all, have to pay to prepare their news), [Google suddenly withdrew](#) its news service from Spain, which led to an [immediate drop](#) in traffic to Spanish news stories. That drop in traffic is the problem: When a large aggregator bans you from its service, fewer people find your news stories, which means opinions will shift away from those you support. Selective blacklisting of news sources is a powerful way of promoting a political, religious or moral agenda, with no one the wiser.

6. The Google AdWords blacklist. Now things get creepier. More than [70 percent of Google's \\$80 billion in annual revenue](#) comes from its AdWords advertising service, which it implemented in 2000 by [infringing](#) on a similar system already patented by Overture Services. The way it works is simple:

Businesses worldwide bid on the right to use certain keywords in short text ads that link to their websites (those text ads are the AdWords); when people click on the links, those businesses pay Google. These ads appear on Google.com and other Google websites and are also interwoven into the content of more than a million non-Google websites – Google's "Display Network." The problem here is that if a Google executive decides your business or industry doesn't meet its moral standards, it bans you from AdWords; these days, with Google's reach so large, that can quickly put you out of business. In 2011, Google blacklisted an Irish political group that defended sex workers but which did not *provide* them; after a protest, the company eventually backed down.

In May 2016, Google blacklisted an entire industry – companies providing high-interest "payday" loans. As always, the company billed this dramatic move as an exercise in social responsibility, failing to note that it is a major investor in LendUp.com, which is in the same industry; if Google fails to blacklist LendUp (it's too early to tell), the industry ban might turn out to have been more of an anticompetitive move than one of conscience. That kind of hypocrisy has turned up before in AdWords activities. Whereas Google takes a moral stand, for example, in banning ads from companies promising quick weight loss, in 2011, Google forfeited a whopping \$500 million to the U.S. Justice Department for having knowingly allowed Canadian drug companies to sell drugs illegally in the U.S. for years through the AdWords system, and several state attorneys general believe that Google has continued to engage in similar practices since 2011; investigations are ongoing.

7. The Google AdSense blacklist. If your website has been approved by AdWords, you are eligible to sign up for Google AdSense, a system in which Google places ads for various products and services on your website. When people click on those ads, Google pays *you*. If you are good at driving traffic to your website, you can make millions of dollars a year running AdSense ads – all without having any products or services of your own. Meanwhile, Google makes a net profit by charging the companies behind the ads for bringing them customers; this accounts for about 18 percent of Google's income. Here, too, there is scandal: In April 2014, in two posts on PasteBin.com, someone claiming to be a former Google employee working in their AdSense department alleged the department engaged in a regular practice of dumping AdSense customers just before Google was scheduled to pay them. To this day, no one knows whether the person behind the posts was legit, but one thing is clear: Since that time, real lawsuits filed by real companies have, according to WebProNews, been "piling up" against Google, alleging the companies were unaccountably dumped at the last minute by AdSense just before large payments were due, in some cases payments as high as \$500,000.



8. The search engine blacklist. Google's ubiquitous search engine has indeed become the gateway to virtually all information, handling 90 percent of search in most countries. It dominates search because its index is so large: Google indexes more than [45 billion](#) web pages; its next-biggest competitor, Microsoft's Bing, indexes a mere 14 billion, which helps to explain the poor quality of Bing's search results.

Google's dominance in search is why businesses large and small live in constant "[fear of Google](#)," as Mathias Dopfner, CEO of Axel Springer, the largest publishing conglomerate in Europe, put it in an open letter to Eric Schmidt in 2014. According to Dopfner, when Google made one of its [frequent adjustments](#) to its search algorithm, one of his company's subsidiaries dropped dramatically in the search rankings and lost 70 percent of its traffic within a few days. Even worse than the vagaries of the adjustments, however, are the dire consequences that follow when Google employees somehow conclude you have violated their "guidelines": You either get banished to the rarely visited Netherlands of search pages beyond the first page (90 percent of all clicks go to links on that first page) or completely removed from the index. In 2011, Google took a "[manual action" of a "corrective" nature](#)" against retailer J.C. Penney – punishment for Penney's alleged use of a legal SEO technique called "link building" that many companies employ to try to boost their rankings in Google's search results. Penney was demoted 60 positions or more in the rankings.

Search ranking manipulations of this sort don't just ruin businesses; they also affect people's opinions, attitudes, beliefs and behavior, as my research on the [Search Engine Manipulation Effect](#) has demonstrated. Fortunately, definitive information about Google's punishment programs is likely to turn up over the next year or two thanks to legal challenges the company is facing. In 2014, a Florida company called e-Ventures Worldwide filed a [lawsuit](#) against Google for "completely removing almost every website" associated with the company from its search rankings. When the company's lawyers tried to get internal documents relevant to Google's actions through typical litigation discovery procedures, Google refused to comply. In July 2015, a judge [ruled](#) that Google had to honor e-Ventures'

discovery requests, and that case is now moving forward. More significantly, in April 2016, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled](#) that the attorney general of Mississippi – supported in his efforts by the attorneys general of 40 other states – has the right to proceed with broad discovery requests in his own investigations into Google's secretive and often arbitrary practices.

This brings me, at last, to the biggest and potentially most dangerous of Google's blacklists – which Google's calls its "quarantine" list.

9. The quarantine list. To get a sense of the scale of this list, I find it helpful to think about an old movie – the classic 1951 film "The Day the Earth Stood Still," which starred a huge metal robot named Gort. He had laser-weapon eyes, zapped terrified humans into oblivion and had the power to destroy the world. Klaatu, Gort's alien master, was trying to deliver an important message to earthlings, but they kept shooting him before he could. Finally, to get the world's attention, Klaatu demonstrated the enormous power of the alien races he represented by shutting down – at noon New York time – all of the electricity on earth for exactly 30 minutes. *The earth stood still.*

Substitute "ogle" for "rt," and you get "Google," which is every bit as powerful as Gort but with a much better public relations department – so good, in fact, that you are probably unaware that on Jan. 31, 2009, *Google blocked access to virtually the entire internet*. And, as if not to be outdone by a 1951 science fiction move, it did so for *40 minutes*.

Impossible, you say. Why would do-no-evil Google do such an apocalyptic thing, and, for that matter, *how*, technically, could a single company block access to more than 100 million websites?



Court Upholds FCC's Net Neutrality Rules

The rules aim to prevent internet providers from interfering with web traffic.

The answer has to do with the dark and murky world of *website blacklists* – ever-changing lists of websites that contain malicious software that might infect or damage people's computers. There are many such lists – even tools, such as blacklistalert.org, that scan multiple blacklists to see if your IP address is on any of them. Some lists are kind of mickey-mouse – repositories where people submit the names or IP addresses of suspect sites. Others, usually maintained by security companies that help protect other companies, are more high-tech, relying on "crawlers" – computer programs that continuously comb the internet.

But the best and longest list of suspect websites is Google's, launched in May 2007. Because Google is crawling the web [more extensively](#) than anyone else, it is also in the best position to find malicious websites. In 2012, [Google acknowledged](#) that each and every day it adds about 9,500 new websites to its quarantine list and displays malware warnings on the answers it gives to between 12 and 14 million search queries. It won't reveal the exact number of websites on the list, but it is certainly in the millions on any given day.

In 2011, [Google blocked an entire subdomain](#), co.cc, which alone contained 11 million websites, justifying its action by claiming that most of the websites in that domain appeared to be "spammy." According to [Matt Cutts](#), still the leader of Google's web spam team, the company "reserves the right" to take such action when it deems it necessary. (The right? Who gave Google that right?)

And that's nothing: According to [The Guardian](#), on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at 2:40 pm GMT, Google blocked *the entire internet* for those impressive 40 minutes, supposedly, said the company, because of "human error" by its employees. It would have been 6:40 am in Mountain View, California, where Google is headquartered. Was this time chosen because it is one of the few hours of the week when all of the world's [stock markets](#) are closed? Could this have been another of the [many pranks](#) for which Google employees are so famous? In 2008, Google [invited the public](#) to submit applications to join the "first permanent human colony on Mars." Sorry, [Marsophiles](#); it was just a prank.

When Google's search engine shows you a search result for a site it has quarantined, you see warnings such as, "The site ahead contains malware" or "This site may harm your computer" on the search result. That's useful information if that website actually contains malware, either because the website was set up by bad guys or because a legitimate site was infected with malware by hackers. But [Google's crawlers often make mistakes](#), blacklisting websites that have merely been "hijacked," which means the website itself isn't dangerous but merely that accessing it through the search engine will forward you to a malicious site. My own website, <http://drrobertepstein.com>, was hijacked in this way in early 2012. Accessing the website directly wasn't dangerous, but trying to access it through the Google search engine forwarded users to a malicious website in Nigeria. When this happens, Google not only warns

you about the infected website on its search engine (which makes sense), it also blocks you from accessing the website directly through multiple browsers – even non-Google browsers. (*Hmm. Now that's odd. I'll get back to that point shortly.*)



Who Watches the Data Mongers?

The recent revelation that Facebook ran creepy "emotional contagion" tests shouldn't be a surprise.

The mistakes are just one problem. The bigger problem is that even though it takes only a fraction of a second for a crawler to list you, after your site has been cleaned up Google's crawlers sometimes take days or even weeks to delist you – long enough to threaten the existence of some businesses. This is quite bizarre considering how rapidly automated online systems operate these days. Within seconds after you pay for a plane ticket online, your seat is booked, your credit card is charged, your receipt is displayed and a confirmation email shows up in your inbox – a complex series of events involving multiple computers controlled by at least three or four separate companies. But when you inform Google's automated blacklist system that your website is now clean, you are simply advised to check back occasionally to see if any action has been taken. To get delisted after your website has been repaired, you either have to struggle with the company's online Webmaster tools, which are far from friendly, or you have to hire a security expert to do so – typically for a fee ranging between \$1,000 and \$10,000. No expert, however, can speed up the mysterious delisting process; the best he or she can do is set it in motion.

So far, all I've told you is that Google's crawlers scan the internet, sometimes find what appear to be suspect websites and put those websites on a quarantine list. That information is then conveyed to users through the search engine. So far so good, except of course for the mistakes and the delisting problem;

one might even say that Google is performing a public service, which is how some people who are familiar with the quarantine list defend it. But I also mentioned that Google somehow blocks people from accessing websites directly through multiple browsers. How on earth could it do that? How could Google block you when you are trying to access a website using Safari, an Apple product, or Firefox, a browser maintained by Mozilla, the self-proclaimed "[nonprofit defender](#) of the free and open internet"?

The key here is browsers. No browser maker wants to send you to a malicious website, and because Google has the best blacklist, major browsers such as Safari and Firefox – and Chrome, of course, Google's own browser, as well as browsers that load through Android, Google's mobile operating system – check Google's quarantine list before they send you to a website. (In November 2014, Mozilla announced it will no longer list Google as its default search engine, but it also disclosed that it will [continue to rely](#) on Google's quarantine list to screen users' search requests.)



If the site has been quarantined by Google, you see one of those big, scary images that say things like "Get me out of here!" or "Reported attack site!" At this point, given the default security settings on most browsers, most people will find it impossible to visit the site – but who would want to? If the site is not on Google's quarantine list, you are sent on your way.

OK, that explains *how* Google blocks you even when you're using a non-Google browser, but *why* do they block you? In other words, how does blocking you feed the ravenous advertising machine – the sine qua non of Google's existence?

Have you figured it out yet? The scam is as simple as it is brilliant: When a browser queries Google's quarantine list, it has just shared information with Google. With Chrome and Android, you are always giving up information to Google, but you are also doing so even if you are using non-Google browsers. *That* is where the money is – more information about search activity kindly provided by competing browser companies. How much information is shared will depend on the particular deal the browser company has with Google. In a maximum information deal, Google will learn the identity of the user; in a minimum information deal, Google will still learn which websites people want to visit – valuable data when one is in the business of ranking websites. Google can also charge fees for access to its quarantine list, of course, but that's not where the real gold is.

Chrome, Android, Firefox and Safari currently carry about 92 percent of all [browser traffic](#) in the U.S. – 74 percent worldwide – and these numbers are increasing. As of this writing, that means Google is regularly collecting information through its quarantine list from more than 2.5 billion people. Given the [recent pact](#) between Microsoft and Google, in coming months we might learn that Microsoft – both to save money and to improve its services – has also started using Google's quarantine list in place of its own much smaller list; this would further increase the volume of information Google is receiving.

To put this another way, Google has grown, and is still growing, on the backs of some of its competitors, with end users oblivious to Google's antics – as usual. It is yet another example of what I have called "[Google's Dance](#)" – the remarkable way in which Google puts a false and friendly public face on activities that serve only one purpose for the company: increasing profit. On the surface, Google's quarantine list is yet another way Google helps us, free of charge, breeze through our day safe and well-informed. Beneath the surface, that list is yet another way Google accumulates more information about us to sell to advertisers.

You may disagree, but in my view Google's blacklisting practices put the company into the role of thuggish internet cop – a role that was never authorized by any government, nonprofit organization or industry association. It is as if the biggest bully in town suddenly put on a badge and started patrolling, shutting businesses as it pleased, while also secretly peeping into windows, taking photos and selling them to the highest bidder.



Your Phone Is Becoming More Powerful

Digital assistants soon will know everything about us. That could be both helpful and scary.

Consider: Heading into the holiday season in late 2013, [an online handbag business](#) suffered a 50 percent drop in business because of blacklisting. In 2009, it took [an eco-friendly pest control company](#) 60 days to leap the hurdles required to remove Google's warnings, long enough to nearly go broke. And sometimes the blacklisting process appears to be personal: In May 2013, the highly opinionated PC Magazine columnist John Dvorak wondered "[When Did Google Become the Internet Police?](#)" after both his website and podcast site were blacklisted. He also ran into the delisting problem: "It's funny," he wrote, "how the site can be blacklisted in a millisecond by an analysis but I have to wait forever to get cleared by the same analysis doing the same scan. Why is that?"

Could Google really be arrogant enough to mess with a prominent journalist? According to [CNN](#), in 2005 Google "blacklisted all CNET reporters for a year after the popular technology news website published personal information about one of Google's founders" – Eric Schmidt – "in a story about growing privacy concerns." The company declined to comment on CNN's story.

Google's mysterious and self-serving practice of blacklisting is one of many reasons Google should be regulated, just as phone companies and credit bureaus are. The E.U.'s recent [antitrust actions](#) against Google, the recently leaked [FTC staff report](#) about Google's biased search rankings, President Obama's call for regulating internet service providers – all have merit, but they overlook another danger. No one company, which is accountable to its shareholders but not to the general public, should have the power to instantly put another company out of business or block access to any website in the world. How frequently Google acts irresponsibly is beside the point; it has the *ability* to do so, which means that in a matter of seconds any of Google's 37,000 employees with the right passwords or skills could laser a business or political candidate into oblivion or even freeze much of the world's economy.

Some degree of censorship and blacklisting is probably necessary; I am not disputing that. But the suppression of information on the internet needs to be managed by, or at least subject to the regulations of, responsible public officials, with every aspect of their operations transparent to all.

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