

Don't Let Russiagate Distract You

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WEST RIVER, MARYLAND – We're back at our post – watching... reading... trying to connect the dots.

And we begin by asking: What do “think tanks” think about?

The answer in a minute...

“Russiagate”

First, there is a dustup in the Washington, D.C., area. “Russiagate,” it is called.

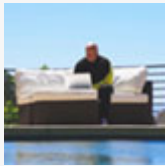
As near as we can make out, some people think the Trump team had or has illegal or inappropriate contacts with the R government.

This knowledge, such as it is, has apparently been obtained by illegal or inappropriate leaks of information gotten by illegal or inappropriate eavesdropping by government agencies doing illegal or inappropriate things for illegal or inappropriate reasons.

Does it matter one way or another?

Probably not.

Recommended Link



[“After 32 Years in the Market, I’ve Found a Secret that Lets Me Make a Fortune by Trading Just 4 Days a Year”](#)
I don’t have an MBA.

I don’t have an Ivy League degree.

Heck, I didn’t do all that great in college either. I’m just an ordinary guy from Kansas, born on a farm. Yet, in the 1980s, stumbled onto [a secret that has transformed my life](#). (And still does to this day!)

It’s a financial secret that allowed me to retire at the age of 42 and still make more money in 1 day than most people make in a month of work.

(400% gains in 18 hours... 188% in 24 hours... 200% in 8 days... 117% in 24 hours... 186% in 24 hours...)

The next two weeks will be the single best time to use my secret all year. [It has to do with a highly predictable act of Government meddling that creates even larger—and faster—moneymaking opportunities than usual.](#)

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The insiders are firmly in control no matter which way it turns out. What we have here is a fight among insiders – a scramble to rip us off... and how.

Mr. Trump has proven to be flexible and compliant. He is willing to go along with practically every scam and bamboozle in the State repertoire.

But much of the establishment finds him unreliable, embarrassing, and vulnerable.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

In Saudi Arabia, for example, the president delivered the big bucks to Raytheon and other arms merchants.

But then he stiffed the “alternative energy” industry by rejecting the Paris climate change agreement. Both moves, he claimed, would lead to “jobs, jobs, jobs.”

Trump:

I have just returned from a trip overseas where we concluded nearly \$350 billion of military and economic development deals for the United States, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. It was a very, very successful trip, believe me.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer:

The visit also included historic economic development deals for the United States, totaling well over half a trillion dollars, including the creation of tens of thousands of American jobs.

Here, we get out the pencil and begin drawing some lines. First, we put a little note on the margin: “Huh?”

The Saudi feds have money. They get it by selling oil to people who need it to power their factories, fuel their cars, and run their houses. The money comes out of the productive, win-win economy.

Every penny of this money gets applied to something. They can use it to buy tanks and fighter jets. Or they can buy tomatoes or make movies.

Big arms deals get the lines, but do they create more jobs other than spending?

Does money spent by the feds ever create more wealth and satisfaction than money spent by the people who earned it?

The answer to both those questions is “no.” We know that only win-win deals add real wealth. Government arms deals are not win-win.

“But wait,” you say. “They might buy their tomatoes from anywhere... but we’ve got the high-tech killing machines. When they buy from Raytheon, they put Americans to work.”

Hmmm... Somewhere, someone looks at the Big Scheme of Things. He must wonder: Why is it better for an American to have a good job than, say, a Canadian?

He must also wonder: Why is it better to pay people to build a tank than to build a truck?

Recommended Link



Bill's Next Big Bet

Bill Bonner is about to make a six-figure investment in a little-known stock, via his family trust. This play was handpicked by one of the top analysts in Bill's network... but it's not reserved just for Bill. For a limited time, we're sharing all the details, including how you can get the name and ticker of this stock. [Details here.](#)

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All Downhill

Fighter jets are bought by the government... with money it took, by force, from its citizens.

Most often, military spending serves no purpose other than to protect or enhance the power of the government. Only rarely does it pay to build a tank.

The last time American civilians were targeted by a conventional military attack was when Sherman's Yankee army marched through Georgia – more than 150 years ago.

Like government itself, a little bit of "defense" spending may be necessary, but it fast reaches the point of declining marginal utility. Then, it is all downhill. The money is either wasted... or used to create a bloodbath.

In the Middle East, it's been going downhill for many decades; the odds that these weapons will be put to any honest service – such as preventing an attack on Saudi Arabia – are close to zero.

Drunken Bards

Weapons and warfare are favorite Deep State scams; they are ways to transfer wealth and power from the people who earn it to governments and their crony military suppliers.

And here, we draw a line – from "The Donald's" trip to the Middle East... to a think tank called the for Gulf Affairs at the Middle East Institute... to the Raytheon corporation.

Reports *Just Security*, an online forum for national security issues:

In March of this year, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee invited former ambassador Gerald Feierstein – director of the for Gulf Affairs at the Middle East Institute – to speak about the situation in Yemen and about his views on the sale of U.S. arms to the Saudis.

As one might have anticipated from his interview in the *Washington Post*, Feierstein told the committee, "Accusations of war crimes leveled against Saudi and Coalition armed forces and threats to end arms sales to the Saudis have the potential to inflict long-lasting damage to these relationships." Limiting the supply of munitions, he said, would be "counter-productive"...

Never disclosed in the *Washington Post* interview or in the Senate hearing was the source of funding for Feierstein's Middle East Institute. According to its most recent public report, the Institute counts among its chief donors leading members of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen and major arms manufacturers.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide the highest level of support as "Platinum Sponsors," and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] is also a donor. Raytheon, the manufacturer of the very weapons at issue in the Senate hearing, is a Gold Sponsor of the Institute. It is worth noting, of course, that the Middle East Institute is not unique in Washington. The defense industry and foreign governments pump money into many think tanks.

What do think tanks think about?

Whatever they are paid to think about, of course. Like drunken bards, they sing praises to whomever will buy them a drink.

Regards,

Bill