

in focus



Father's Day

By Anna Malpas
A quarter of a century after Vladimir Vysotsky's death, his son Nikita travels across the country to pay tribute.

on the page



No Laughing Matter

By Carl Schreck
The Soviet police state was probably one of the least funny regimes in history, but the jokesters collected in Bruce Adams' book didn't see things that way.

on view



Seeking an Identity

By Romilly Eveleigh
Artists explore the things that unite

Russia in the 10th annual Moscow International Forum of Artistic Initiatives.

in concert



Noble Heritage

By Antonio Luper
Music lovers can still get their fix during the summer dry spell, thanks to concerts in Moscow's old aristocratic palaces.

in review



Risks and Rewards

By John Freedman
Taboos were shattered, dictators

rose from the dead and once-scandalous playwrights became respectable. It's time to look back at the 2004-05 theater season.



Sisterly Affection

By Tom Birchenough
A mentally disabled woman puts her twin

sister, a successful actress, through trials and tribulations in Maxim Korostyshevsky's tragicomedy.

columns



columns

Global Eye Master Plan

By Chris Floyd

Published: July 22, 2005



The United States long ago ceased to be anything like a living, thriving republic. But it retained a legal form of a republic, and that counted for something: As long as the legal form still existed, even a gutted shell, there was hope it might be filled again one day with substance.

But now the very legal structures of the Republic are being dismantled. The principle of arbitrary rule by an autocratic leader is being openly established, through a series of unchallenged executive orders, perverse Justice Department rulings and court decisions by sycophantic judges who defer to power not law -- in their determinations. What we are witnessing is the creation of a "commander-in-chief state," where the form and pressure of law no longer apply to the president and his designated agents. The rights of individuals are no longer inalienable, nor are their persons inviolable; all depends on the good will of the Commander, the military autocrat.

President George W. Bush has granted himself the power to declare anyone on earth -- including any U.S. citizen -- an "enemy combatant," for any reason he sees fit. He can render them up for torture, he can imprison them for life, he can even have them killed, all without charges, with no burden of proof, no standards of evidence, no legislative oversight, no appeal, no judicial process whatsoever except those that he himself deigns to construct, with whatever limitations he cares to impose. Nor can he ever be prosecuted for any order he issues, however criminal; in the new American system laid out by Bush's legal minions, the Commander is sacrosanct, beyond the reach of any law or constitution.

This is not hyperbole. It is simply the reality of the United States today. The principle of unrestricted presidential power is now being codified into law and incorporated into the institutional structures of the state, as the web log Deep Blade Journal reports in a compendium of recent outrages against liberty

For example, last Friday, a panel of federal judges -- including John Roberts, nominated for the Supreme Court this week -- upheld Bush's claim to dispose of "enemy combatants" any way he pleases, The Washington Post reports. In a chilling decision, the judges ruled that the Commander arbitrarily designated "enemies" are nonpersons: Neither the Geneva Conventions nor American military and domestic law apply to such garbage. Bush is now free to subject anyone he likes to his self-concocted "military tribunal" system, a brutal sham that retired top U.S. military officials have denounced as a "kangaroo court" that tyrants around the world will cite in order to hide their oppression under U.S. precedent.

The kowtowing court ruling ignores the fact that the Geneva Conventions -- which lay down strict guidelines for the handling of any person detained by military forces, regardless of the captive's status -- have been incorporated into the U.S. legal code, Deep Blade points out. They cannot be abrogated by presidential fiat. And anyone who commits a "grave breach" of the Conventions by facilitating a killing, torture or inhuman treatment of detainees (e.g., stripping them of all legal status and subject

Ads by Goooooogle

[Antiwar Stickers & Pins](#)

Against war? 12 incredible red/black antiwar stickers that you must see!

www.Unamerican.com

[Breaking News from London](#)

The Washington Post's Glenn Frankel Reports from London.

www.washingtonpost.com

[Legal Video in the UK](#)

We offer Legal Videographers and Court Reporters anywhere in the UK

www.legalvideoeurope.com

[Find Dirty on Anyone](#)

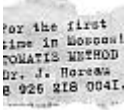
Dig Up Anything About Anyone Start Your Free Search Now!

www.WebInvestigator.org



Image

By Alexander Osipovich
Having just completed a perilous quest, the beefy title character of "Alyosha Popovich and the Tugarin Snake" leads an entourage carrying a pot of gold.



Wanted

By Kevin O'Flynn
Using Dr. Horeau's device is sort of like aerobics for your ear. It trains the muscles

inside people's ears so that they -- even the English and the French -- can understand one another.

Salon

By Victor Sonkin
The outlook for the publishing industry is grim. Book sales are falling, printing

expenses are rising and there is less money to pay everyone involved -- including authors.



Global Eye

By Chris Floyd
The rights of individuals are no longer inalienable, nor are their persons

inviolable; all depends on the good will of the Commander, the military autocrat.



in brief

Calendar of Events

Concerts Opera Dance Theater Gigs Exhibits

them to rigged tribunals) is subject to the death penalty under U.S. law.

This is why the Bush Faction labored so mightily to advance the absurd fiction that the Geneva Conventions are somehow voluntary -- while simultaneously promulgating the sinister Fuhrerprinzip unlimited presidential authority. The fiction was a temporary sop to the crumbling legal form of the Republic, a cynical perversion of existing law to keep justice at bay until the Fuhrerprinzip could be firmly established as the new foundation of the state.

It doesn't matter anymore if the president's orders to suspend the Geneva Conventions, construct a worldwide gulag, torture captives, spy on Americans, fabricate intelligence and wage aggressive war are illegal under the "quaint" strictures of the old dispensation; the courts, packed with Bushist cadres, are now affirming the new order, the "critical authority" of the Commander, beyond law and morality, on the higher plane of what Bush calls "the path of action."

This phrase -- with its remarkable Mussolinian echoes -- was incorporated into the official "National Security Strategy of the United States," promulgated by Bush in September 2002. That document in turn was drawn largely from a manifesto issued in September 2000 by a Bush Faction group whose members included Dick Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and Jeb Bush. Their detailed plan envisioned the transformation of America into a militarized state: planting "military footprints" throughout Central Asia and the Middle East, invading Iraq, expanding the nuclear arsenal, massively increasing the defense budget -- and predicating all the "revolutionary" changes on the hopes for "a new Pearl Harbor" that would "catalyze" the lazy American public into supporting their militarist agenda.

This agenda is designed, the group said, to establish "full spectrum dominance" over geopolitical affairs, assuring control of world energy resources and precluding the rise of "any potential global rival that might threaten the unchecked wealth and privilege of the U.S. elite. The rule of law could only be a hindrance to such a scheme, hence its replacement by the Fuhrerprinzip and the "path of action."

There has been virtually no institutional resistance to this open coup d'etat. It's now clear that the American Establishment -- and a significant portion of the American people -- have given up on the democratic experiment. They no longer wish to govern themselves; they *want* to be ruled by "strong leaders" who will "do whatever it takes" to protect them from harm and keep them in clover. They have sold their golden birthright of American liberty for a mess of coward's pottage.

TO OUR READERS

Has something you've read here startled you? Are you angry, excited, puzzled or pleased? If you have ideas to improve our coverage?

Then please write to us.

All we ask is that you include your full name, the name of the city from which you are writing and a contact telephone number in case we need to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Email the Opinion Page Editor](#)

ANNOTATIONS

Court Rules Military Panels to Try Detainees

Washington Post, July 16, 2005

Domination by Detention

Deep Blade Journaly, July 16, 2005

Dark Passage: The Bush Faction's Blueprint for Empire

Excerpt from the book, Empire Burlesque

Ruling Lets U.S. Restart Trials at Guantanamo

New York Times, July 16, 2005

Alberto Gonzales' Tortured Arguments for Reigning Above the Law

LA Weekly, Jan. 14-20, 2005

amazon.com
and you're done.™



[Anna
Karenina](#)

Leo Tolstoy
New \$10.88!
Used \$0.90!



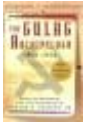
[Robert
Ludlum's
The Mosc...](#)

Patrick
Larkin
New \$10.85!



[Natasha's
Dance](#)

Orlando
Figes
New \$13.60!



[The Gulag
Archipelago](#)

Aleksandr I.
Solzhenitsyn
New \$12.89!
Used \$1.53!



[St.
Petersburg](#)

Catherine
Phillips
New \$13.60!

Torture Treaty Doesn't Bar 'Cruel, Inhuman' Tactics, Gonzales Says

Knight-Ridder, Jan. 26, 2005

Bush Has Widened Authority of CIA to Kill Terrorists

New York Times, Dec. 15, 2002

Special Ops Get OK to Initiate Its Own Missions

Washington Times, Jan. 8, 2003

Coward's War in Yemen

Spiked, Nov. 11, 2002

Drones of Death

The Guardian, Nov. 6, 2002



[Print this article](#)



[E-mail this article](#)

Copyright © 2005 The Moscow Times. All rights reserved.

Art Resources

Your Link
Here