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EXCLUSIVE: White House Forbids Publication Of Op-Ed On Iran By Former Bush Official



Middle East analyst [Flynt Leverett](#), who served under President Bush on the National Security Council and is now a fellow at the New America Foundation, revealed today that the White House has been blocking the publication of an op-ed he wrote for the New York Times. The column is critical of the administration's refusal to engage Iran.

Leverett's op-ed has already been cleared by the CIA, where he was a senior analyst. Leverett explained, "I've been doing this for three and a half years since leaving government, and I've never had to go to the White House to get clearance for something that I was publishing as long as the CIA said, 'Yeah, you're not putting classified information.'"

According to Leverett the op-ed was "all based on stuff that Secretary Powell, Secretary Rice, Deputy Secretary Armitage have talked about publicly. It's been extensively reported in the media." Leverett says the incident shows "just how low people like Elliot Abrams at the NSC [National Security Council] will stoop to try and limit the dissemination of arguments critical of the administration's policy."

Listen to Leverett's remarks at a panel today at the Center for American Progress:

[**CLICK HERE FOR AUDIO**](#)

Transcript:

Thanks. I think I was able to put out some of my basic ideas on how we need to be engaging Iran diplomatically. They're, you know, expounded on in greater length on paper. I wanted to say something briefly about the administration, and where it is.

I have been extremely pessimistic that this administration is inclined or capable of genuinely rethinking its approach to Iran in the way that we need it to at this point, and I've had an unfortunate experience this week that has only confirmed that for me. As I do with all of my publications, the Century Foundation paper, I showed to the CIA, for whom I used to work, to verify that I was not revealing classified information. They did so, as they have with 30 other things that I've published since leaving government. Didn't ask to change a word.

I prepared an op-ed for the New York Times off of this paper, which is ready to go, ready for publication. The CIA says that as far as they're concerned, there's not any classified information in it. But the White House has intervened, claiming that there is classified information in the op-ed, even though it's already been cleared. It's all published. It's all based on stuff that Secretary Powell, Secretary Rice, Deputy Secretary Armitage have talked about publicly. It's been extensively reported in the media. But the White House is saying I can't publish an op-ed in the New York Times that lays out the argument. I've been doing this for

three and a half years since leaving government, and I've never had to go to the White House to get clearance for something that I was publishing as long as the CIA said, 'Yeah, you're not putting classified information.'

Why this week — after the Baker study group, when pressure is on them to rethink their position on Iran — why do they not want this op-ed, based on my experiences in government, my experience dealing with Iran, with Iranian officials, after I left government? Why do they not want this op-ed going in the New York Times this week? I think it says something, and I think it says something about just how low people like Elliot Abrams at the NSC [National Security Council] will stoop to try and limit the dissemination of arguments critical of the administration's policy.

UPDATE: For more on Leverett's perspective on Iran, read [a paper he wrote](#) for The Century Foundation earlier this month.

Filed under: [Iran](#), [Administration](#)

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[107 Comments »](#)

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1. This administration has initiated more power grabs than any previously have.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 5:54 pm

2. First amendment——quaint, like the Geneva Convention?

Comment by Publicus — December 15, 2006 @ 5:56 pm

3. If that guy was an enemy combatant, I would go off on his hair, but since he isn't I won't.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 5:56 pm

4. How can this be. Hey Exley is this ithe freedom we're fighting for?

Comment by hellinabucket — December 15, 2006 @ 5:57 pm

5. All I can say is, live it up, Bush. I pray that once the Dems take control next month, this sh*t will stop.

Comment by WC — December 15, 2006 @ 5:59 pm

6. It's clear this administration is not considering "what comes around goes around" there's a lot coming. What precedent is set for the next Democrat who takes the office of the President? The Repubs will be whining and screaming when the new rules are applied to a Dem President. No vision I tell ya, no vision.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 6:02 pm

7. I'm glad Leverett went public on this.

Comment by Zooey — December 15, 2006 @ 6:06 pm

8. How is it that the neo-con criminal scumbag, Elliot Abrams, was allowed to take an appointment in the Bush administration? The next time somebody gets the goods on him, they better lock his sorry ass up and leave him there.

Comment by chimpeach — December 15, 2006 @ 6:07 pm

9. George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography

Complete text of the work by Webster G. Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin.

Read each chapter online, or download entire book in .ZIP format.

www.tarpley.net/bushb.htm

<http://www.tarpley.net/bushb.htm>

Feel free to read up on the entire family. This is the most "definitive" Bush -prosecution book- available. It covers their history up until 9-11. Names, dates, places, times, events. You name it.

You won't find a more complete and accurate accounting of all the Bush's (papa, mama, melvin, jeb, nora, george... the whole lot) from birth to ... (2002)? And all dirty secrets in between.

We all know what has happened since then. But to know how and why it is happening to America is of more value now and it needs to be used against him.

Get your copy now before Bush doesn't make it available to you anymore.

Use it as a reference in debate. It is the best one out there.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ 6:07 pm

10. Patricia,

Your contributions are good. Glad to see you here.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 6:11 pm

11. Does the admin have that authority? If the NYT printed it anyways and were hauled into court over it, after the CIA cleared it does the admin have that authority?

I think this guy should go read his piece on any news station he can on TV, read it everywhere!

Freedom to express unclassified information IS our right! Don't forget it!

Comment by JD — December 15, 2006 @ 6:14 pm

12. Remember how they shut down the book Favorite Son? I have said from the beginning that these * (Vonnegut reference) will do anything to hold on to power. Anyone want to bet we have a big terror attack scare within the next six months?

Comment by powkat — December 15, 2006 @ 6:15 pm

13. **Woman: Mr. Franklin What do we have?**
Franklin: A republic if you can keep it

– Benjamin Franklin, upon leaving the Constitutional Convention

Sound even more true today will all our liberties being erroded.

Comment by Rebel In CA — December 15, 2006 @ [6:17 pm](#)

14. What legal authority do they cite? The EOP and OVP have no independent authority to classify material that doesn't originate with them that's already been cleared by the Agency.

This is just bizarre and seems to be legally unfounded and civil harrassment. Sue them. And, publish anyway.

Comment by leveymg — December 15, 2006 @ [6:24 pm](#)

15. ForTruth — Thanks.

Rebel In CA —13

Woman: Mr. Franklin What do we have?

Franklin: A republic if you can keep it

– Benjamin Franklin, upon leaving the Constitutional Convention

Sound even more true today will all our liberties being erroded.

A man by the name of John Forbes Kerry echoed this same sentiment all throughout his entire 2004 campaign.

Look what they did to him.It just doesn't get any dirtier than a Bush.Not that I know of.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ [6:27 pm](#)

16. Bush gives bush a bad name. I used to use the term bush liberally, now it doesn't seem right anymore. Ya'll will have to shave now. (sorry that was terrible).

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ [6:39 pm](#)

17. All I can say is:

I hope his wife's not undercover.

Comment by agum — December 15, 2006 @ [6:40 pm](#)

18. What I don't understand is why the NY Times is letting us down like this, like how they kept the illegal wiretapping secret for over a year. They have a professional responsibility to immediately publish this piece.

Comment by Mike — December 15, 2006 @ [6:41 pm](#)

19. We are like lobsters being bioiled slowly in a pot. The temperature goes us so gradually that we don't notice. Our rights are being removed one by one and soon there will be none left, but like the lobsters for us it will be too late.

Comment by [Hardy Haberman](#) — December 15, 2006 @ [6:42 pm](#)

20. Another item added to the list - a list we must ALL do our best to 'get out there' as mainstream neocon owned media will not. Our rights are being yanked out from underneath us and most do not realize it. This dictator has to go.

Comment by Lee — December 15, 2006 @ [6:42 pm](#)

21. People are losing fear in the Bush Regime, and coming forward.

Unfortunately, Congress is not comprised of people.

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ 6:45 pm

22. Next they'll go after this guy's wife. Isn't that an old mafia tactic? Organized crime in the white house...absolutely unbelievable! What has this country been reduced to? Lies, deceit, coverups, blackmail, spying....this sounds like a third world country.

Comment by veritas — December 15, 2006 @ 6:48 pm

23. Bush is peeing in his pants with the new congress.

Comment by labdad95 — December 15, 2006 @ 6:49 pm

24. Mike, the NY Times pushed the Whitewater investigations years after it was known that the Clintons had done nothing wrong. The NYT spent a year trying to convince voters that Gore was a creep and Bush was a good guy you'd like to go to a barbecue with. The New York Times got right up Bush's behind and helped him cheerlead the invasion of Iraq. They canned an article about a NASA imaging expert who said he could prove Bush cheated in his debates with Kerry. Anybody who expects the NYT to be some kind of standard bearer for liberalism should think about their record.

Comment by Bluedog49 — December 15, 2006 @ 6:50 pm

25. Let the whistleblowers come out of the woodwork! This lame duck of ours has no power left so those who have either been blackmailed into silence or given hush money to keep the criminal activities secret will be coming forward for immunity. Otherwise, they will become complicit themselves - just because the boss says to break a law, when one obeys, they are just as guilty themselves....it's cryin' time for this administration. They need to be investigated (all of them from the bottom to the top), indicted, and convicted....and for some at the tippy top....impeached! Heads will begin to roll and tongues will begin to wag when the dems take charge in January.

Comment by veritas — December 15, 2006 @ 6:50 pm

26. **And we should be surprised by this?????** What about this goatf*&king regime don't we get?

As they say, we get the government we deserve, I just can't figure out what I did that was so wrong to deserve these scumbags!

Comment by upside00 — December 15, 2006 @ 6:56 pm

27. Now Bush wants to take away the right of dissent and dissemination.

Hallmarks of a worthy dictator.

Bush just doesn't want any evidence \”compiled\”and in all one place right now as he seems to be fearing impeachment proceedings soon.It would prove to be a \”reference book\” for impeachment proceedings.

article-

“all based on stuff that Secretary Powell, Secretary Rice, Deputy Secretary Armitage have talked about publicly. It's been extensively reported in the media.”

But not all in the same place and in timeline fashion.Bush desperately needs to avoid this.It could be his undoing.

An act of desperation by a desperate man.

Mix in psychopathy and a few shieks and drinks?

Despot Dictator.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ 6:58 pm

28. So once again *idiot sonis* acting like the petulant brat his poppy raised him to be.

Just publish the paper sir. Make the petulant brat take you to court. He seems to loose there a lot. poppy bush can't get them all for jr.

Comment by Elaine — December 15, 2006 @ 7:01 pm

29. **White House Forbids Publication Of Op-Ed On Iran By Former Bush Official...**

Why do they not want this op-ed going in the New York Times this week? I think it says something, and I think it says something about just how low people like Elliot Abrams at the NSC [National Security Council] will stoop to try and limit the dissemin...

Trackback by www.buzzflash.net — December 15, 2006 @ 7:11 pm

30. Anybody who expects the NYT to be some kind of standard bearer for liberalism should think about their record.

Hell, there not even standard bearer for journalism...

Comment by [strangely enough](#) — December 15, 2006 @ 7:15 pm

31. Judith Miller, the number one pusher of the Iraq War, worked for the New York Times up until not too long ago.
'Nuff said.

Comment by [Spudge Boy](#) — December 15, 2006 @ 7:34 pm

32. I am not a big advocate of guns per se. But if this kind of thing keeps up, I think I will be learning how to use one first, and then actually buying one for my own personal safety.

While I still have that right left.

Is that what they are afraid of? I mean as far as a complete and full and \"official\" takeover over the civilians, to do with the populace as they will.

Is it the fact that we have guns in our possession. Is this what is keeping this from happening?

Is this the chink in the dictators armour that is keeping him from having complete and TOTAL control over our every wish, thought, hope, dream and aspiration?

Our founding father's thought so. They \"been there done that\" with the Brits once before. The Brits had all the guns we the people had none and were forced to submit. It must have really really pissed them off to.

Well never again they said! We'll just give the people a right to \"bear arms\" if need be to keep this from ever happening again. On up to present gun law.

I know guns kill and I am totally against violence.

But given the choice of staying free, or being roused out of bed in the middle of the night by Rove & Co. for

questioning and further detainment and then convicted on bogus charges with zero chance of appeal, the choice is painfully clear for me.

Given Bush`s track record and meglomaniacal penchant for power,I am going to go with a BIG yes on this one (gun purchase).

I for one will be buying a few weapons.More than one I am thinking.And I hope I never have to use them.

But in this Orwellian Era of American politics with George Bush in power for another 2 long years,I will sleep better at not not having to worry about Rove and his bacon onion cheeseburger breath breathing down on me in the middle of the night whispering to his buddies.....\”Yes,that is the dissenter,take her\”

Anyone know which end the shells and bullets go into?

I wish i was kidding.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ [7:36 pm](#)

33. Looks like the nice pretty filter did work. Or I was deleted.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ [7:40 pm](#)

34. Any other way to get a copy his op-ed?

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ [7:43 pm](#)

35. *this sounds like a third world country.*

Comment by veritas

Hey, hey. We are not that sophisticated. Our intelligence are a bunch of geeks building robots in the MIT.

Comment by Juan C — December 15, 2006 @ [7:43 pm](#)

36. Yes, I already knew all these things about the NYTimes, like how they were cheerleaders through Judith Miller for the Iraq invasion. What I`m asking is, how can they allow such blatant political censorship to take place in their own newspaper? They do set themselves pretty high standards, even if some of their reporters tend to be cheerleaders for establishment policies and rhetoric.

Comment by Mike — December 15, 2006 @ [7:43 pm](#)

37. Ok, we don`t know if it`s the NYT being intimidated or Mr. Leverett himself. The proper way for the Bush Administration to pursue the matter would be to seek an injunction, similar to what was sought in the Pentagon Papers case. However, the likelihood of success with an injunction is next to nil. Therefore, it is logical to assume the Bush Administration is resorting to strong-arming.

And with the Military Commissions Act of 2006, the Bush Administration has a very strong arm. Would you care to risk being labeled an “unlawful enemy combatant” just for the sake of publishing an op-ed piece? Or risk simply disappearing into one of the black sites the Bush Administration maintains in foreign countries around the globe?

And remember, the Bush Administration was given the green light to continue its warrantless wire-tapping program during the appeals process, even though the district judge found it to be unconstitutional.

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

Comment by Briseadh na Faire — December 15, 2006 @ [7:47 pm](#)

38. Further evidence that George W. Bush is mentally unbalanced. He simply cannot deal with empirical reality. Anyone who has the audacity to discuss the empirical facts, in his deluded mind, must be silenced. This man poses a grave threat to this republic, and must be toppled. Our country is teetering on the edge of a disaster. The US has an unprecedented amount of debt (much of it owed to banks in the totalitarian People's Republic of China), is losing on the battlefield, has a military in tatters, and has waning credibility worldwide. This madman has endangered us all, and must be stopped.

Comment by Stephan — December 15, 2006 @ [7:47 pm](#)

39. *And remember, the Bush Administration was given the green light to continue its warrantless wire-tapping program during the appeals process, even though the district judge found it to be unconstitutional.*

Comment by Briseadh na Faire

Oh yeah, crap.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ [7:51 pm](#)

40. Executions Halted in Florida and California. Interesting. Hopefully this is a start of better things to come. "Botched" execution, says the Florida medical examiner. Jeb stopped the executions.

You know I think George Sr. was crying so much over Jeb, Cuz Jeb may have more Human like qualities, and it wasn't supposed to be the Chimp.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ [7:57 pm](#)

41. *we should be surprised by this????? What about this goatf*&king regime don't we get?*

As they say, we get the government we deserve, I just can't figure out what I did that was so wrong to deserve these scumbags!

Comment by upside00 — December 15, 2006 @ 6:56 pm

We didn't get the government we deserve, not because we don't deserve it, but because our winner-take-all electoral system has become the exclusive playground of the major parties. We need serious changes in election law, like Instant Runoff Voting, proportional representation.

Wayne Turner

Comment by Wayne Turner — December 15, 2006 @ [8:00 pm](#)

42. Time to get the tar boiling and feather a few birds. Grab a pitchfork, as well. Time to tar and feather these worthless bastards and run them out of the country! Maybe to Iraq... Bush's legacy is sh*t.

Comment by Ace Chaos — December 15, 2006 @ [8:01 pm](#)

43. Bush knows there is something in that report that is damning to both him and his party blatantly and severely.

And it spells impeachment.

This NSC guy probably knows his stuff and how the interagency functions to a tee. He would have access to contradictory dates, events, times vs. published dates, events, times.

Some key contradictions indeed. And important ones that lead up to treason under Federal and Constitutional Law. Which of course leads to impeachment.

Possibly some prison time as well after impeachment.

Maybe this guy put together in 3 years what Bush said it would take us all 50 years to do.

Reckon?Fingers crossed.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ [8:03 pm](#)

44. ForTruth —40

\”Executions Halted in Florida and California.\”

Maybe the Bush administrations key retirement states have now been made safe for them to return to after impeachment.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ [8:07 pm](#)

45. Why isn't the time publishing nonetheless. If the CIA approved it, they are on good legal grounds. Why is the media still afraid a president with a 70% disapproval, a hated vice-president, and hated Republicans?

Why is that prick Abrams — who arrogantly lied to Congress under oath during the Iran-Contra hearings —still wielding any power?

This is an egregious attempt at censorship. Bush is emulating his good friend Putin. How long will it take for the Bush brownshirts to start raiding newspaper offices and sending journalists to jail?

Comment by New Yorker — December 15, 2006 @ [8:12 pm](#)

46. *What I don't understand is why the NY Times is letting us down like this, like how they kept the illegal wiretapping secret for over a year. They have a professional responsibility to immediately publish this piece.*

Comment by Mike — December 15, 2006 @ 6:41 pm

Actually, it probably works out better for the NYT's and every freedom loving American to hold this story for a couple of weeks until it builds enough inertia to do maximal damage to the administration... consider it an act of providing enough rope to properly hang ones self.

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ [8:14 pm](#)

47. Can't anyone ever think outside the realm of the administration for a second? Like think about nuclear nonproliferation as a serious goal, which is being undermined by the hypocritical US policy on India and Israel and Pakistan, among others. Really, “G.W.SuperChrist”. True freedom of information would result in us knowing what former government officials think of solutions to international crises. The NYTimes should be alert to what constitutes the definition of “international crisis” for the US.

Comment by Mike — December 15, 2006 @ [8:22 pm](#)

48. *Looks like the nice pretty filter did work. Or I was deleted.*

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 7:40 pm

Welcome to the club. I was deleted several times last night responding to a troll.

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ [8:28 pm](#)

49. Government has no right to block public access to this type of information, especially when it contains no classified information. He should publish it anyway

Comment by kevin99999 — December 15, 2006 @ [8:35 pm](#)

50. *Really, “G.W.SuperChrist”.*

Comment by Mike — December 15, 2006 @ 8:22 pm

Not sure if you are agreeing with me or questioning my assertion - but rest assure this article will be published... and the longer it takes the more the anticipation will build... it going from being a drop in the bucket to being a big splash... this will almost certainly turn out to be a positive development in the end!

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ [8:44 pm](#)

51. RE: “We got the government we deserve”—that presupposes that we elected the bastard instead of having him rammed down our throats by crooked Secretaries of State (Catherine Harris in Florida in 2000 and J Kenneth Blackwell in Ohio in 2004) and the US Supreme Court (Bush vs Gore, 2000). Bush never won a clean national election...

Comment by pzykr — December 15, 2006 @ [8:46 pm](#)

52. You know, Im just reading Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451. Scary similarities everywhere.

Comment by Juan C — December 15, 2006 @ [8:51 pm](#)

53. Unbelievable - Have you seen the “Yes Men” yet... just wondering?

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ [8:51 pm](#)

54. **A little history on Elliot Abrams:** During the Iran-Contra Affair, Abrams was indicted for giving false testimony about his role in the illicit money-raising schemes by the special prosecutor handling the case, but he pleaded guilty to two lesser offenses, both felonies, of withholding information from Congress in order to avoid a trial and a possible jail term. Quoted in a 30 May 1994 article in Legal Times, Abrams spoke of his prosecutors as “filthy bastards”, the proceedings against him “Kafkaesque,” and members of the Senate Intelligence Committee “pious clowns” whose raison d’etre was to ask him “abysmally stupid” questions. President George H. W. Bush pardoned convicted felon Abrams along with a number of other Iran-Contra defendants shortly before leaving office in 1992. Yep. And now he is Baby Bush’s National Security Advisor.

Comment by No Smelly Bush — December 15, 2006 @ [8:57 pm](#)

55. *Have you seen the “Yes Men” yet... just wondering?*

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ 8:51 pm

No... But considering “The Corporation” never made it to my local video store either, I doubt that it’s a rental option for me... Maybe I’ll do NetFlix for a month and get a hold of the important films.

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ [9:05 pm](#)

56. *You know, Im just reading Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451. Scary similarities everywhere.*

Comment by Juan C — December 15, 2006 @ 8:51 pm

I’ve only seen the movie... Imagine the book is much better.

I think the next telling work of prophetic ‘fiction’ after this will be Soylent Green...

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ [9:10 pm](#)

57. On April 28, 2004, at a London banking conference to which they had accidentally been invited because of their

satirical website, “Dow representative” “Erastus Hamm” unveiled “Acceptable Risk,” a Dow industry standard for determining how many deaths are acceptable when achieving large profits. The bankers enthusiastically applauded the lecture, which described several industrial crimes, including IBM’s sale of technology to the Nazis for use in identifying Jews, as “golden skeletons” - i.e. skeletons in the closet, but lucrative and therefore acceptable ones.

Several of the bankers in attendance then signed up for licenses for the “Acceptable Risk Calculator” and even posed with Acceptable Risk mascot “Gilda, the golden skeleton in the closet,” for photos.

The exercise was intended to illustrate the absurdity of depending on “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) to set limits to corporate behavior. If corporations were completely free to behave as the market demands - the logical extreme of CSR - then industrial catastrophes of huge magnitude, such as Bhopal, would not necessarily be disadvised.

<http://www.theyesmen.org/hijinks/dow/acceptablerisk.shtml>

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ 9:12 pm

58. Prior Restraint? No Way. I don’t understand why Leverett can’t publish his op-ed. That’s ridiculous. The CIA has cleared it. The Executive doesn’t have the right to prior restraint. If this is the NYTimes pandering to Bush out of fear, why not just pick a site and publish it on the net? It will get more attention than if it’s in the NYTimes, and will eventually get covered by the Times and Cable. I don’t get why Leaveritt doesn’t just publish it? Will he be arrested by DHS? Who’s going to arrest him? There are other venues for publication, certainly.

Comment by Tennessean — December 15, 2006 @ 9:17 pm

59. The Yes Men. Fantastic!

Comment by Zooey — December 15, 2006 @ 9:22 pm

60. A forthright congressman ought to get this entered into the Congressional Record a la The Pentagon Papers.

It’s not like this is even classified material, just stuff the bushies are trying to stifle....

Comment by Mongo — December 15, 2006 @ 9:23 pm

61. Unbelievable - As a recent Netflix subscriber - I highly recommend it... the movies are cheaper, the selections are vast, there are never any late fees, and the mailman brings the movies right to the house... I just can’t figure out why it took me so long to become a member?

I myself am getting ready to watch “Who Killed the Electric Car” ... good luck with the video searches... may you have a leisurely and enjoyable weekend.

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ 9:26 pm

62. Bush
Bin Laden
Ahmadinejad, Saddam Hussein
Dobson, O’Reilly, Limbaugh, Hannity

They seem to have so much in common

Comment by big dave from queens — December 15, 2006 @ 9:33 pm

63. I still want to see the actual editorial. Silly me.

Comment by ForTruth — December 15, 2006 @ 9:33 pm

64. Good Evening all, Great posts and links Patricia, Thank You....

About you're gun buying post....I have been an avid shooter and owner for over 45 year's..Don't hunt for food any more but I will die with my fire arm's and ammo going on to a friend.....Find a reputable dealer and get a hand gun that is big enough to do the job's needed, a long rifle or shot gun is also very handy...Many areas have shooting ranges both indoors and out side...You will find lot's of great people that are willing to help you...A gun is just another tool, like a hammer....Practice and get comfortable with cleaning and shooting....After year's of owning and shooting 44 mags I find the smaller 357's suit my need's now.. Some states have classes and sometimes you can find small classes in self defence...I went to one just to hone my skill's in 94..Gun ownership is another reason I want to move back to Montana...Washington state has more restriction's and more people, hence more crime...Unless these squat assassins try to take me out in the supermarket it's a never happen...Be ever watchful, no fear just be aware of you're surroundings at all times.....That is advice I would give anyone, gun owner or not.....Blessings all

Comment by Sharon Cox — December 15, 2006 @ 9:34 pm

65. Justice Hugo Black's Concurring Opinion in *New York Times v. U.S.* (the Pentagon Papers case) (emphasis added):

*"In the **First Amendment**, the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors. The Government's power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government.*

The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government. And paramount among the responsibilities of a free press is the duty to prevent any part of the government from deceiving the people and sending them off to distant lands to die of foreign fevers and foreign shot and shell."

Comment by Tennessean — December 15, 2006 @ 9:46 pm

66. I believe the article was posted in the Wash Post.

http://www.newamerica.net/pressroom/2006/flynt_leverett_on_engaging_iran_in_the_washington_post

Comment by Kleetus McKenzie — December 15, 2006 @ 10:01 pm

67. *may you have a leisurely and enjoyable weekend.*

Comment by G.W.SuperChrist — December 15, 2006 @ 9:26 pm

Not until next week when finals are over... :)

But thanks - hope you have a nice one yourself. Let us know how *Who Killed The Electric Car* is...

Comment by unbelievable — December 15, 2006 @ 10:12 pm

68. Bush

Bin Laden

Ahmadinejad, Saddam Hussein

Dobson, O'Reilly, Limbaugh, Hannity

They seem to have so much in common

Comment by big dave from queens

Very perceptive of you :D

Comment by notimpressedwiththeUS — December 15, 2006 @ [10:25 pm](#)

69. Sharon Cox —64

thanks Sharon.It is information I will use.

thanks again.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 15, 2006 @ [10:35 pm](#)

70. The next Bush Library will be called “Classified” with nothing inside but W’s.

Comment by chuck nasmith — December 15, 2006 @ [11:40 pm](#)

71. The Bush administration is taking a page from the book of fascist regimes who restricted freedom of speech under the guise of national security, when it was merely to prevent someone from exposing them. (In this case, from exposing them with previously exposed facts.)

Comment by Marie — December 15, 2006 @ [11:41 pm](#)

72. You are depending on the NY Times for your news... That IS funny!

Comment by Judd — December 15, 2006 @ [11:59 pm](#)

73. Briseadh na Faire —37

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

.... I'll make sure to watch my spelling and try not to use any \”buzzwords\” that might piss them off...)

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ [12:15 am](#)

74. This phase of the Bush presidency 2006-2009 I’m calling Neo-con Pause in Reality-check Nation, yet this gentleman’s experiences in trying to expand the dialogue based on his governmental knowledge is disheartening. Perhaps Neo-con Highnoon in Reality Nation continues.

Comment by Tippersnore — December 16, 2006 @ [12:53 am](#)

75. What, does it take for Americans to really get mad at this dictatorial government. American citizens are suppose to be running this Nation through the persons we elect to office, and telling them what our wishes are, Not them telling us that they are the Decider and will do as they damn well please, as they trash our Constitution and Bill of Rights. We should not ask, but, demand impeachment of Bush and Cheney, or cutting off funds to stop this war. Remember what brought down Russia (they try to give all the credit to Reagan), was their fighting and over spending in the War against Bin Laden, which in we Backed Bin Laden at that time. And wasn’t that the republican’s famous president Ronald Regan, the same as gave support fto Suddam, with supplies used for Chemical warfare against Iran. Why do people wonder why Iran doesn’t thing very much of United States. Just how bad does the war with Iraq have to get before Americans demand a change.

Comment by [Pete Sea](#) — December 16, 2006 @ [12:57 am](#)

76. Sharon Cox —64

Be ever watchful, no fear just be aware of you’re surroundings at all times.....That is advice I would give anyone, gun owner or not.....Blessings all

Yes exactly.These times are stranger than strange with Bush in office.Heck he is more of a psychopathic

reactionary than anything else. Just what the MidEast needs huh?

If on a whim he decides to "lockdown the country" with massive power outages and a national phone network outage he could just declare martial law. Cancel elections and be our leader basically until.....further notice from him. Til it was "safe to come out"

Because we all know he is the only one who can keep us safe from the "terrorists".

I just don't like the idea of walking out of the grocery store one clear and sunny day, with tornado sirens wailing but there's not a cloud in the sky.

Only to find UN vehicles taking and assuming control of the population on behalf of our govt. Our soldiers would have a hard time taking up arms against it's own.

Basically because the majority of them would not be here. They are off fighting elsewhere in the world. However the majority of UN member nations hate our guts and would be more than willing to mandate the Presidential decree order.

They would have an unlimited amount of power through the president. Which makes me very nervous with him because the closer we get to ... "judgement day-the election" and he realizes it might just really happen, and when it looked like it wasn't going to pan out for having to leave, he is apt to do something really really rash. And if it got a little messy, nothing to Bush.

And if you listen to his news conferences lately, he sure has a cocky attitude like he knows something we don't ie (They don't know it yet, but I am all they will ever have. Like it or not.)

He keeps the High Seat until further notice. Kind of like a "don't ask don't tell" policy.

There you have it.

Despot Dictator

Specifically George Bush.

Stranger things have happened no?

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ 2:00 am

77. Wow! What a great thread! Excellent posts all around. Kudos to some I haven't seen much from before: Patricia, Tennessean, Kleetus.

It's amazing the level of comments on this thread, and not a troll in sight! I just wanted to tell you all how much I appreciated reading your insightful comments. Thank you.

Comment by Briseadh na Faire — December 16, 2006 @ 2:29 am

78. <http://www.texasmonthly.com/community/blog/paulburka/2006/12/protest-at-smu-targets-bush-library.php>

<http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/4932371.html>

Letter Calls On SMU To Drop Bush Library Bid

December 15, 2006)—Texas Monthly Magazine Senior Executive Editor Paul Burka has posted excerpts from a letter on his blog in which "Faculty, Administrators & Staff of the Perkins School of Theology" urge Southern Methodist University President R. Gerald Turner to "reconsider and to rescind SMU's pursuit of the (George W. Bush) presidential library."

Baylor University and the University of Dallas are also competing for the library.

The letter, Burka wrote, is circulating both on and off the SMU campus.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ [3:30 am](#)

79. From here on... it's not the welfare of our soldiers, not "truthiness" nor the country's best interests...it's creating a legacy for an out going President.
They have a big task ahead.

Comment by Heidi — December 16, 2006 @ [3:32 am](#)

80. Just to reiterate: Elliot Abrams is a convicted felon, convicted of subverting the rule of law during the Iran Contra Scandal. But I don't blame Mr. Abrams for his well-documented moral deficiencies nearly as much as I blame the unconvicted felon who hired him — into a position where his natural destructive tendencies can once again be inflicted upon the Constitution and those who want to uphold it. Sorry for this humorless response, but really, whatever happened to "restoring honor" to the White House?

Comment by HyKraft — December 16, 2006 @ [3:57 am](#)

81. I found a poem I would like to share as a holiday gift with TP staff and posters.

Happy Holidays.Share it with those who you will.

Screen Friends
by Miasartiff

My husband has finally gone to work
My children have finished their play
they've gone to bed their stories read
Now it's my time of day.

I've had one of those days
you know what I mean
so I sit back and relax
and turn on my screen.

I'll talk to all my friends
who know just what to say
to make my stresses go
and my troubles fade away.

My friends you're always there for me
whenever I feel blue
and though we've never met before
I know our friendships true.

And although we haven't been friends for long
in this short time it seems
we shared so many things already
our hopes, our fears, our dreams.

We come from different walks of life
but we share a common bond
and it's time to say that of all of you
I've grown so very fond.

So thank you friends for being there
whenever I've needed you
I know you're always there for me
and you know I'm there for you.

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ [4:24 am](#)

82. Why not just disseminate the piece through the Internet? That would not be too hard...

Chris Voidis

[A History Of The Future Middle East](#)

Comment by [cvoidis](#) — December 16, 2006 @ [5:25 am](#)

83. Bush has provided free speech zones for us. There must be one at a location convenient to Mr. Leverett. Surely he could just avail himself of one of those.

No problem.

Comment by Ben York — December 16, 2006 @ [7:53 am](#)

84. #81 Patricia- thanks.

Doug

Comment by [leftcoast](#) — December 16, 2006 @ [7:56 am](#)

85. [...] A series of question marks pop up — the road to mapping out this world-spanning web of alleged terror-management is taking shape. As active duty soldiers themselves begin taking a stand against the Long War , the U.S. government still contends it's in a position to muzzle any and all dissent in the name of national security (whatever that is). [...]

Pingback by [netZoo](#) » [Where Do They Go from Guantanamo?](#) — December 16, 2006 @ [9:02 am](#)

86. All Congress has to do is subpoena the book and enter it in the record.

It's public then.

He can't make money, which is what Bushie is making sure any non-loyalist occurs.

Time is up for BushieBoy. His next two years will be answering subpoenas and indictments. Scooter is happening next month, and if BushieBoy wants more money, he is going to have to cowtow and kiss some major butt.

Comment by Joe — December 16, 2006 @ [9:23 am](#)

87. Has anyone stopped to ask why we should engage Iran, in the first place? Whatever the reason, it'd better not be over their so-called nukes.

Comment by [jurassicpork](#) — December 16, 2006 @ [10:11 am](#)

88. The MORE IMPORTANT issue behind this story is "why?"

This administration WANTS to go to war with Iran - just as badly as it wanted to go to war with Iraq, as Seymour Hirsch, etc. has been trying to warn us. They simply need the right excuse - fabricated again if need be. It is simply Phase II of the PNAC agenda, which is also helps the Oilgarchy and AIPAC - the two entities which currently control "our" government.

They don't want to talk to Iran - because it is easier to justify killing demonized strangers.

89. U.S.A. Balance of Power; System of Checks & Balances

http://www.venusproject.com/ecs/checks_and_balances.html

- By Bahram Maskanian - August 13, 1991 - Edited, April 10, 2005

It is the popular mythical belief that the United States government consists of three independent and separate branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

Each one of these branches is supposed to be operating separately and independently of one another. But after a close examination it becomes very obvious that it is not how the United States government really works. United States Constitution:

Article 1

Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Article 2

Section 1.

The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected.

Article 3

Section 1.

The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Almost immediately after taking the oath of office, the United States President becomes the head of his political party, which makes all of the members of Congress, affiliated with the President's political party, his subordinates.

Members of Congress from both political parties: Democrats and Republicans, are selected officials, oops, pardon me, elected officials. All other new appointees in any government agency or department receive bribes, oops, there I go again, forgive me, political contributions from the same corrupt manipulative Money Sources. Thus, members of United States Congress and those appointed are all become President's subordinates.

As soon as the President takes office the first thing he, or maybe someday she, would do is appoint cabinet members, one of which is the Attorney General, in charge of the Justice Department, who heads the third branch of the United States government. Just like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop. That is why in the United States' history with all of its political corruption none of the so-called officials ever went to jail.

As we all know the President also selects and appoints judges for the Supreme Court and lower courts of the United States. Yes, the Legislative Branch has to approve them, and they always do, how could they not! In another words, the President becomes the King, with complete control of the United States Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of government. No Checks & Balances.

The fact that Senators, Representatives, Presidents and generally anybody who runs for public office spends hundreds of millions of dollars to get a job that pays a measly fraction of what they had put on the line to get that job, says it all.

Think about this for a minute would you please. Why in the world would anybody with a sound mind want to spend one hundred and sixty eight million dollars (\$168,000,000.00) to get a job which is going to pay him only two

hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), for just four years, a total of five hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) after taxes? That is a total loss of one hundred and sixty seven million and four hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$167,460,000.00).

Reflecting back to what is going on in my beloved country of origin Iran, after the fake Islamic revolution of the terrorist mullahs, I see profound similarities between the general attitudes of the public toward the people who work for the government and the officials. In Iran after the Islamic terrorist takeover when a government official or someone who works for the government is talking about their position, income and status in the society, they proudly would say: - - Well my salary is two thousands dollars (\$2,000) a month, but my income is fifty five thousands dollars (\$55,000) a week. - -

American people are not stupid. American people are not voting because they do not want to take part in a misleading criminal fixed horserace masqueraded as democratic elections.

Nothing is democratic about our counterfeit political system, from the (FEC) Federal Election Commission, made up of big corrupt money lobbyists controlling the whole election process and its outcome, including staging prefabricated political debates, all the way to the political parties primary elections, and political party's bosses. They are all bought and paid for.

We, the people of the United States are governed under a tightly controlled parliamentary dictatorship system of government. There is no democracy in the United States. This firm control manifests itself through strictly controlled corporate mass media and brutal political cover-ups.

I believe that the manipulated perception of democracy will always lead to and is equal to deviously staged and managed dictatorial outcomes. United States Declaration of Independence:

“Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ 11:30 pm

90. I want a President with a mindset like this one— http://www.venusproject.com/Great_Persian_Empire/kourosh_the_great.html

The First Charter Of Human Rights
Written By The Iranian / Persian Emperor,
Kourosh / Cyrus The Great, Over 2,500 Years Ago

I Am Kourosh The Great King... Now That I Put The Crown Of The Kingdom Of Persia..., Babylon..., And The Nations Of The Four Directions On The Head With The Help Of Ahura..., I Announce That I Will Respect The Traditions..., Customs And Religions Of The Nations Of My Empire And Never Let Any Of My Governors And Subordinates Look Down On Or Insult Them While I Am Alive... I Will Impose My Monarchy On No Nation... Each Is Free To Accept It, And If Any One Of Them Rejects It..., I Never Resolve On War To Reign... While I Am The King... I Will Never Let Anyone Oppress Others... I Will Never Let Anyone Take Possession Of Movable And Landed Properties Of The Others By Force Or Without Compensation... While I Am Alive..., I Will Prevent Unpaid..., Forced Labor... Today..., I Announce That Everyone Is Free To Choose A Religion... No One Could Be Penalized For His Or Her Relatives' Faults...

Kourosh / Cyrus The Great

What Is Evil? And How To Eradicate Evil?— http://www.venusproject.com/ecs/think_global_act_local.html

Definition of Evil:

Evil is not some biblical hocus pocus nonsense person. Evil is a malicious tyrant who is ethically bankrupt with no sense of decency. Evil is a heinous oppressor who through fear and division causes ruin, injury and pain, in order to secure his or her social, economic and political dominance. Evil is the infamous source of suffering, misfortune and destruction of the public's lives and properties. Evil is not from out of space. Evil is not made in the nonexistent hell or heaven. Evil is made on Earth.

There can be no compromise when confronting evil. This is precisely the reason why from ancient times, the fight between good and evil has always been characterized as battle between the forces of "Light" and "Darkness". Evil thrives in secrecy and darkness. Confidentiality is what saves criminal evildoers from facing the public and the rule of law. There is only one effective approach to confront and eradicate Evil that is by shining a big spotlight on them and their action, revealing their true evil character.

Evil obviously is a personality and character we are all very familiar with. Again, evil is not some biblical hocus pocus mythical figure. We, the humankind are just like soft clay at birth, easily shaped into many forms with a variety of good or bad characteristics. We, the people, must begin thinking and implementing preventive measures along with procedures to eradicate evil.

The building blocks of Evil in any given society are: greed, racial and religious prejudices, ignorance, greed, bigotry, elitism, individualism, greed, poverty, lack of clear, unbiased and unambiguous public education, conducive social and economic conditions, in which the value of humankind is replaced with commercial profits, where the public is constantly bombarded with divisive messages of fear, hate and violence, ranging from violent sports to fearful violent news and fearful, hateful violent entertainment.

To recognize if any given society has been infested and taken over by evil is not that difficult, just look around. Preventing and eradicating evil is actually very easy. It begins with a simple self-examination, followed by self-correction and ultimately self-realization.

REMEMBER, REFORM ALWAYS BEGINS WITH ONE-SELF.

Self-Realization

To become a self-realized person, one needs to take an inventory of his or her past life's deeds and experiences, lessons learned and the thoughts of what lies ahead. One must think about them at least once a day and write them down. Each time when one is ready to write some more, before adding another chapter one should read what has been already recorded.

The above practice will help the person to achieve lasting peace and harmony within her or himself and in one's life. One will begin to gradually develop a strong harmonious sense of awareness and will comprehend completely and correctly one's distinctive divine moral fiber.

The harmonious sense of awareness will connect one to the source of power and energy responsible for universal life and its continuation. Self-realized individuals who have discovered and realized their harmonious sense of awareness and peace are open-minded and optimists. They would gladly make themselves available to help achieve the triumph of good over evil.

A self-realized person would never be pessimistic about achieving what needs to be done in the world around them and in their lives. Self-realized people will be following their profound sense of conviction that, - - evil will only triumph when good people do nothing to stop it. - -

Consider the implications if the Bush administration escapes accountability:

The executive branch will have established itself as above the law.

The executive, armed with a compliant media, will have war-making power subject only to successful PR spin. It means the final end of the people's right to declare war via elected representatives in Congress.

The few remaining restraints on the executive's ability to detain people indefinitely without charges will be removed. This power will silence the Internet.

Spiteful neighbors, employees, former spouses, whomever will gain the power to report any disliked person. The anti-terrorist apparatus needs victims to demonstrate its effectiveness, and as warrants, hearings, and evidence are no longer required, Americans will simply disappear like Soviet citizens in the Stalin era.

The "imperial judiciary" will disappear overnight. No checks and balances will remain.

Gentle reader, you can continue with this theme in "How the Worst Get on Top," a chapter in F.A. Hayek's classic, *The Road to Serfdom*. You might as well learn what it is going to be like as you are already half way there.

The worst rise rapidly as the honest depart the corrupt system. Two US Military prosecutors, Major Robert Preston and Captain John Carr, resigned after denouncing rigged Guantanamo trials of detainees as "a severe threat to the reputation of the military justice system and a fraud on the American people."

Altogether now, let's yell, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any longer."

Comment by patricia reglin — December 16, 2006 @ 11:51 pm

91. Just a memory refresher about FOX

Persian Women Portrayed
As Whores, Apes / Monkeys,
On An American National
Television Network, FOX TV

http://www.pbcfilms.com/Persian_Women_Portrayed.html

Comment by patricia reglin — December 17, 2006 @ 1:40 am

92. When are people like Flynt Leverett going to understand that the entertainment industry owned (save for defense contractor GE who owns NBC), tax-break collecting MSM is the infernal bastion of the great Corportocracy that gets to decide all by itself what is and is not newsworthy and wants the couch potatoes entertained first; informed dead last (if at all)!!?

I'm rapidly becoming sick and tired of feeling sorry for people like Flynt Leverett when there's a huge amount of people within the Blogosphere who would be happy to indulge and honor his First Amendment rights by publishing his rejected Op-Ed since the allegedly free MSM is apparently too pre-occupied with shaving their legs and rolling on the leaderhozen at the Decider's behest

Mr. Leverett needs only to leave a comment on my blog and I will publish his Op-Ed and forward it to any other blogger and independent media organization for wide, liberal, dissemination — even if I myself may not agree with it.

Comment by Sizemore — December 17, 2006 @ 7:04 am

93. This is "prior restraint" and has already been judged as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (Pentagon Papers). In truth, there may be nothing earth-shaking in his Op-Ed, but it reveals an Executive Branch which once again demonstrates its "unitary executive power" theory.

Comment by impeachcheneythenbush — December 17, 2006 @ 8:46 am

94. truth is verbotten, sieg heil !

Comment by pete — December 17, 2006 @ 9:17 am

95. [...] According to Leverett the op-ed was “all based on stuff that Secretary Powell, Secretary Rice, Deputy Secretary Armitage have talked about publicly. It’s been extensively reported in the media.” Leverett says the incident shows “just how low people like Elliot Abrams at the NSC will stoop to try and limit the dissemination of arguments critical of the administration’s policy.” read more... [...]

Pingback by [Political Jackass](#) » [White House Forbids Publication Of Op-Ed On Iran By Former CIA Official](#) — December 17, 2006 @ [2:44 pm](#)

96. *All Congress has to do is subpoena the book and enter it in the record.
It's public then.
He can't make money...
Comment by Joe — December 16, 2006 @ 9:23 am*

I think you're confusing “public record” with “public domain.”

Comment by Briseadh na Faire — December 17, 2006 @ [3:35 pm](#)

97. Well, I had thought of visiting a friend out of country for a few years, but alas, I cannot leave people like you “here” alone. You are saying what I’ve thought for years, and yes, it’s now or never. Folks, have you ever heard the saying, “Lock and Load?”
Oh, one last thing, Patricia Reglin, your welcome at my home/table anytime, you’re a Diamond, and your thoughts do shine light in that dark space. Great thread folks, glad I’m not alone.

“Semper Fi”

Comment by [Bruce](#) — December 18, 2006 @ [12:50 am](#)

98. The only thing Elliot Abrams cares about is Israel and his brethren.

Comment by Tim — December 18, 2006 @ [1:07 am](#)

99. Everyone else is leaving Iraq, why not us?

France in Afghan troop pullout Aljazeera.net

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/C3B7BEFE-ACB6-41AD-AD53-EBA44856EB3A.htm>

Reid: Troop surge OK, but only for a few months

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-12-17-iraq-troop-surge_x.htm?POE=NEWISVA

Comment by patricia reglin — December 18, 2006 @ [2:06 am](#)

100. Did you see where Bush threatens any TV station or Network with criminal action if they air episodes of “Mission Impossible” because he believes it will undermine his image... :)

Comment by [Carl Street](#) — December 18, 2006 @ [2:56 am](#)

101. Just go to the LA Times with it they’ll publish it

Comment by I care — December 18, 2006 @ [8:09 am](#)

102. american went to war with the president it had, not the president it wanted.

Comment by pete — December 18, 2006 @ [8:10 am](#)

103. Look you guys. Havent you learned yet that if the jews in charge dont want anything printed even if they own the paper then it want be and we know now that Iran talks are forbidden by the neocon aka neohebs and Israel under any circumstances.
And if you dont it then too bad since AIPAC runs this nations foreign policy and if you complain too much the televitz will be flooded with Holo-hoax documentaries and dead jews in Germany after WW2 and also Speilsberg will make another couple big billion dollar movies about it in Hollywood.
So take your medicene and shapup. This is the Jewnited States/Snakes or whatever you want to call it and they are calling the shots with their idiot duped Bush moron cokehead drunk draft dodger silver spooner who wastes trillions for them.
So shut your piehole and pay them taxes cuz Bush and his boyz need all they can steal.

Comment by mike mann — December 18, 2006 @ [8:23 am](#)

104. Jew S A!
Jew S A!
Jew S A!

Comment by Ariel Sharon — December 18, 2006 @ [8:37 am](#)

105. The neo-cons want to treat the first amendment like global warming. “What First Amendment?”

Comment by Karim — December 18, 2006 @ [9:56 am](#)

106. Two years ago I read an obscure story about how a giant pile of documents that had once been public domain began disappearing from the D.C. library where historians went to study them. These were all documents that were long ago classified, but were later were declassified. For example, one document was a CIA estimate dating from early in the Korean war concerning Chinese troop levels or effectiveness that materially underestimated their effect. It showed how seriously limited the skills of the CIA were in its early days.

Turns out these documents were being reclassified. Why? There is absolutely no “national security” reason for it. Rather, the reason is because it is convenient for Bush to do so. To set a precedent.

The obvious question at the time was “Why should we be concerned?” And the answer is that Bush is determined to write his own version of history - one that denies any inconvenient facts. Unfortunately for him, just about every fact contradicts his strange orthodoxy. His only hope is to nullify all known fact. It is a big effort, but he has been remarkably effective, at least in spots.

This Op-Ed piece may be the most visible part of Bush trying to write a convenient, if fictional, history. But it is barely the tip of the iceberg. John Dean, in Worse than Watergate, argues that the path of democracy is dimly lit by the torch of information. And when the executive systematically and purposefully deceives and makes unavailable crucial information for making decisions, it extinguishes that torch. It is only a matter of time before democracy stumbles and falls. And who knows how far that fall might take her?

Comment by [steve](#) — December 18, 2006 @ [12:18 pm](#)

107. [...] This is a good story to keep in mind when one reads the great flap about Flynt Leverette’s quashed Op-Ed piece. Leverette was an undersecretary in Bush’s administration who was in charge of Iran policy. And his piece is assumed to be a blistering indictment of the administration’s inept handling of Iran. The implications of snuffing out this important piece cannot be overstated. This is but the tiniest tip of a Titanic information - busting iceberg. [...]

Pingback by [Worry Wart » Blog Archive » Extinguishing the Torch](#) — December 18, 2006 @ [12:40 pm](#)

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