



"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." -Teddy Roosevelt

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March 20th, 2007

Blackwater

by [Dr. Forbush](#) @ 12:01 am

On March 31, 2004 the world was shocked as they witnessed images of four burned bodies hanging from a bridge in Fallujah, Iraq. We were told that these men were American contractors hired to secure food deliveries. The interesting thing was that the families of these men were actually told a different story. They were told that they were hired as a special military detailed to protect Paul Bremer, head of the Coalition Provisional Authority. Somebody wasn't getting the story straight.

These four bodies were being used to rally support for the American effort in Iraq. The supporters of the war used the images to vilify the enemy and to call anyone who questioned the war as unpatriotic. The truth is that these men wouldn't have even been in harms way if the administration had relied on American soldiers rather than military mercenaries to carry out their missions.

It turns out that the United States has about 150,000 American military in Iraq. But, we also have almost 100,000 American "contractors" in Iraq as well. And, the most aggressive of these contractors are from a company called Blackwater. The men that were hanging on that bridge back in 2004 were contractors from this company.

Journalist Jeremy Scahill has a new book out called "Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army." In this book he illuminates some of the mysteries surrounding this company. He tells us how Erik Prince, a radical right-wing Christian multimillionaire controls 20,000 troops, a military base and a fleet of 20 aircraft, but most people have never heard of his organization. Even after the macabre hanging on the bridge in 2004, people still don't know that those men worked for Blackwater. Or, if they did, they didn't know that those men were actually highly trained military men. Jerko "Jerry" Zovko, Wesley Batalona, Michael Teague and Stephen "Scott" Helvenston were in Iraq and they were soldiers, not contractors.

Stephen "Scott" Helvenston was not only a Navy Seal, he was a Navy Seal trainer. Michael Teague was a decorated 12-year Army veteran who had served in Afghanistan, Panama and Grenada and with a Special Operations helicopter unit nicknamed "Night Stalkers." Jerry Zovko spoke Arabic and several other languages well enough to chat with the staff in the small hotel where he lived. Wesley Batalona was also an ex-military man an Army Ranger with experience in Panama and the first Gulf War. The point is that these four men had more military experience than many of the soldiers occupying the country at the time. So, to call them contractors actually made them sound more like innocent civilians caught in the crosshairs of the terrorists who hate everything American including these poor guys who could never have provoked anyone by merely guarding the food supply to the Iraqis. At least that is what the press reports tended to imply.

But, in Jeremy Scahill's book we see another side of this company: Blackwater. It turns out that Blackwater isn't under the military code of conduct. The company argues that private contractors shouldn't be subject to military laws, because they are a private contracting firm. They are actually paid through the state department, and other government departments instead of the Pentagon which stands to bolster their argument. But, they act like a roving band of mercenaries with only Erik Prince to answer to.

It turns out that the four men on the bridge had signed quite extensive contracts relieving Blackwater of almost any responsibility in the case of their deaths. But, the four families have gathered their forces anyway in order to sue Blackwater in Civil Court. It turns out that the detailed contract these men signed with Blackwater detailed how the men should be protected on their mission as well. At first Blackwater didn't worry much about that detail, because Blackwater claimed that the details of the incident would be a military secret that could put the American forces in harms way. So, the fact that the Blackwater employees were traveling in two

jeeps without the aid of a rear gunner was kept from the families for nearly two years. This action actually should void the contract and the families of these men are taking the case to court.

But the case may not be a slam-dunk just yet. Did you ever wonder what Kenneth Star is doing these days? You know, the prosecutor who spent nearly five years investigating the Clinton's real estate dealings and only was able to catch Bill Clinton lying about an affair with an intern at the White House. Well, he is working as a lawyer defending Blackwater from these poor families who have lost the ones they love through the negligence of Blackwater. (It is interesting how he always find himself on the side of evil in these matters.)

It turns out that Blackwater is sparing no expense to defend its right to be above the law. They claim that they don't need to obey the military code of conduct because they are a private firm. They also claim that they shouldn't be prosecuted in a criminal court, because they deal with military secrets that could put our troops in jeopardy. They also claim that they can not be prosecuted for any of the actions that they have taken in Iraq under the Iraqi courts, because they are Americans. In fact they seem to have an excuse for almost every possible way that they could be held accountable for their crimes.

Crimes!? Yes, Crimes. There are many reports in Iraq detailing the antics of the "Blackwater Guys." They see themselves as above the law. They have reportedly shot at people first, then ask the questions later. Is this the way that America should be building relations with the Iraqis, or others in the Middle East.

Yes, Blackwater isn't just in Iraq. In fact, they go to the places where the US hasn't authorized troop deployment yet. Blackwater can go to these places because they are a private company. And, a private company can go wherever they please. Talk about loopholes. Blackwater has found the right combination of circumstances that they have made war a profitable enterprise once again. And the soldiers aren't the ones getting all that cash. Blackwater charges \$950 per day per soldier to the US government, and they pay the majority of their mercenaries \$350 per day. The rest of that money seems to go into overhead or Erik Prince's pocket. We don't know for sure because that detail is a secret that might jeopardize the safety of the troops in the field, or maybe Erik Prince from his mercenary soldiers.

If you want to know more about Blackwater, then maybe you should read [the book](#). Or, you could listen to Jeremy Scahill interviewed by [Terry Gross on Fresh Air](#). The podcast and [audio](#) are in the archives at [npr.org](#).

Don't forget what Stephen Colbert said, "Reality has a well-known liberal bias."

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Blackwater Mystery Shoppers Needed Get
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51 Comment(s)

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1. [Lazy Iguana](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 1:15 am](#)

Why would a "Christian" want to control a private army of 20,000 mercenaries, a military base, and 20 combat aircraft?

And I am not an expert in theology, but is there a problem with being a “Christian multimillionaire”? Evangelicals are supposed to try their best to live their life as close to Jesus’s life as they can - or at least use the life of Jesus as an example of what a perfect human being would do.

The problem - Jesus was not even close to being a rich man.

I have been called a religious faker by holy rollers before. But I submit to you that it is not I who is the faker - it is them. I may return to the church - but only after they all leave. Being part of a fake church is worse for my immortal soul than not being a member of any church at all.

2. [Steve](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 1:53 am](#)

Doc... to be clear, do you know what the Blackwater families are suing for? It’s not negligence. It’s info on how they died.

Second, a lot of Americans feel Kenneth Starr did a great job exposing Clinton as a liar. The guy is a freaking lawyer. He still has to argue the legality of Blackwater’s withholding of information in Iraq on how those guys died. How that makes him evil is crazy talk.

And lastly, how do you know this Prince guy is an evangelical Christian? And why is that bad?

3. [Steve O](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 5:56 am](#)

Steve, let me clear this up for you, Edgar Prince, Erik Prince’s father made millions supplying the auto industry with the things you and I use today to stay safe, rear view mirrors and sun visors 😊

He used these millions to bank roll a guy named Gary Bauer who if you don’t know was one of the early leaders of the Family Research Council.

In the 1980’s his company merged with a company all of us know and Wilde E. Coyote made famous, Amway. Amway was one of the largest Christian contributors to the RNC in the early 1990’s.

Edgar Prince is very close friends with James Dobson, Edgar is the soul reason the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family exist today. Erik interned under Gary Bauer at the FRC.

Erik headed up a group called the Michigan Family Forum (the MFF) which is the Michigan branch of Focus on the Family.

Being Christian isn’t a bad thing, in fact it’s a great thing if you follow the teachings of love thy neighbor. But these guys are the radical front of this movement and that is bad.

Steve, just because you are Christian does not mean you have to stick up for the radicals. You are no better than the clerics that won’t condemn terrorism when you stand up for these people.

I suggest you read the book, really it will open your eyes to a very dark chapter in this war.

In an earlier comment you stated that in the end it’s hard work that gets you things and I can fully agree, that’s why when I see company’s like this making money hand over fist something has got to be illegal about it.

READ THE BOOK!!!!!!!

4. [Jersey McJones](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:05 am](#)

With Marlin Brando now passed, who the hell is going to play Erik Prince in the movie???

JMJ

5. [Paul Jordan](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:46 am](#)

Ok steve, first things first, let’s get the discrepancies straight. Doc said “radical right-wing Christian multimillionaire”, not “evangelical Christian”. Second, the families are suing for wrongful death, cite TIME Magazine article, page 38, March 28 issue. That being said, I have a great deal of issue with the slant of this post, and will be replying on my own soon, but let’s all keep the facts straight and go from there.

By the way Steve, the term "evangelical" in itself is not inherently evil, it simply means to recruit.

6. [Steve O](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:17 am](#)

Hey, regardless of wording I have a question for everyone. Blackwater being a private corporation, what would stop, say a country like Iran, from hiring them to invade Washington?

We saw what a small contingent of special forces can do to Afghanistan, what do you think 22,000 of them could do to a U.S. city?

7. [Paul Jordan](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:25 am](#)

Now someone gets the point! Right you are SteveO, these guys are making \$18,000 a month! What wouldn't they do for money? And we haven't even touched the hierarchy yet! This is a serious threat to us all.

8. [Carole W](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:35 am](#)

I always wondered if Blackwater hired all those guys that used to do weekend militia maneuvers up in the backwoods of Ohio, NC, etc...the guys that were supposedly preparing for a "race war" here in the US until 911 pushed that event to the back burner? You never hear about those backwoods militias anymore since 911.

Also, I am concerned about what will happen in the US when those private contractors return to no jobs etc after earning so much money killing Iraqis for the last four years. Some of them seemed to have had a field day shooting and killing black people in New Orleans instead of rescuing them during the aftermath of Katrina and the failure of the levees.

I think we have a problem with them and frankly it might be better if they were left over there permanently to guard "Emerald City" aka the Green Zone.

9. [SteveLL](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:43 am](#)

Dr. Forbush actually brings in an interesting post regarding mercenaries. However, everyone is missing the historical context regarding firms like Blackwater. It also misses the point regarding the degradation of the military that truly began under Clinton and has been exacerbated by the Bush administration. I don't mean just the Iraq war either.

Read up on the military "reforms" of Gaius Marius to get what I mean.

10. [www.buzzflash.net](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:39 am](#)

Blackwater

Blackwater being a private mercenary Army for sale and based out of North Carolina, what are the chances of a country like Iran?

11. [Steve O](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 10:02 am](#)

Hey, here's another idea.

We invaded Afghanistan because they harbored a group of "mercenaries" that attacked us, what are the chances of Blackwater being hired to fight in or attack another country by someone else other than the United States, does that country that was attacked have the right to invade the United States?

This is just wrong on so many levels. How do we allow a private company to potentially put us odds with an entity that we have no beef with?

12. [Tom Baker](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 10:05 am](#)

Hey didn't the reduction of armed forces start with Bush the Elder? try something other than Clinton bashing for a change.

As for the historical context we are well aware that mercenaries have fought in past wars. We know they were here for the Revolutionary War and most wars since. That doesn't mean we shouldn't be the least bit worried about a heavily armed and well equipped radical group that is taking on outsourcing jobs for our military. It doesn't mean we don't have anything to worry about that these same-said mercenaries feel they don't have to follow the military code of conduct and can just do what they please. It certainly doesn't mean we shouldn't be curious about why these guys are making (using the 350.00 a day average) in excess of \$10,000 a month!!!! Maybe if we paid our regular recruits somewhere in that ballpark we wouldn't be having as much trouble getting people to risk their life for no damn reason other than a President's vanity.

13. [Steve O](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 10:47 am](#)

[Here's some interesting reading](#)

for anyone that wants to expand this subject beyond Blackwater. I also answered my own question above about foreign states hiring these people to fight against the United States.

“The International Traffic in Arms Regulations Law (ITAR) requires PMCs to obtain approval from the [State Department](#) before selling their services to a foreign government. State's Office of Defense Trade Controls reviews contract proposals to ensure they do not violate sanctions or other U.S. policy. However, PMCs can also sell their services abroad through the Defense Department's [Foreign Military Sales](#) (FMS) program, which does not require any licensing by State. Under FMS, the Pentagon pays the contractor for services offered to a foreign government, which in turn reimburses the Pentagon.”

So now the Pentagon acts as a broker for these companies. This is just over the top!!!!

14. [SteveIL](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 10:58 am](#)

Tom Baker said:

Hey didn't the reduction of armed forces start with Bush the Elder? try something other than Clinton bashing for a change.

Bush may have started trying to get the military refocused, but it was Clinton that wrecked it. Try something other than thinking Clinton was a decent President. He wasn't.

Tom Baker said:

As for the historical context we are well aware that mercenaries have fought in past wars.

You obviously don't get what I'm saying. I'm not talking just about mercs, but private American armies that are not beholden to the country, a repeat of a similar situation that occurred just over 2100 years ago towards the end of the Roman Republic. I'm concerned about who these private American armies report to, and that it isn't the U.S. government, and that ultimately means they aren't responsible for protecting the people and the Constitution.

15. [Jersey McJones](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 11:48 am](#)

“Bush may have started trying to get the military refocused, but it was Clinton that wrecked it.”

Yet another all-but-original SteveIL thought lifted directly from the Big Book of Really Stupid Wrong Idiot Lies of the Rabbling Retarded Right.

JMJ

16. [liberal vet](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 11:48 am](#)

So these guys were not truck drivers or delivery men. Christians engaging in death and destruction, nothing new in that. Hell, XIANS have been wreaking havoc on their fellow man for thousands of years. Meanwhile our beloved government condones and supports the use of mercenaries, nothing new there as well. Perhaps it is time we the people did something to stop our bellicose leaders who condone such infringements of basic human rights.

It would seem revolution would not be possible, so all we have is the power of the vote. Most of you are adherents to the written word. Keep using your blogs to promote understanding and educate the people who fail to recognize these warning signs, violence begets violence, I was appalled at the pictures of four people charred to the bone and I as many believed they were delivering goods or services. And thank you Dr. for a provocative and well written blog. LV

17. [Dr. Forbush](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 2:07 pm](#)

steve wrote: "Doc... to be clear, do you know what the Blackwater families are suing for? It's not negligence. It's info on how they died."

Actually the families already won that case. They now know that Blackwater actually was negligent and they are pursuing that case now.

18. [Dr. Forbush](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 2:21 pm](#)

steve wrote: "Second, a lot of Americans feel Kenneth Starr did a great job exposing Clinton as a liar."

OK steve, imagine a parallel Universe where George W Bush actually made money in one of his crooked Oil business deals. Imagine John Ashcroft asking Bush if there is any truth to the story and Bush replies: "No way, I'm as honest as the day is long." And, he continues to mutter, "In Barrow, Alaska on the 21st of December." So, that he does get sent to Hell for lying. So, John says to himself that a special prosecutor surely won't find anything; so what's the harm?

Well four years later they find some questionable people working for George and they want George to testify under oath just to verify what he has learned. So, the special prosecutor asks George some questions. And, he also asks him when he learned that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

How does George answer this question? Almost anything that he says could most likely be twisted into a perjury charge based on things that he has said in the past. If the special prosecutor follows this line of questioning then there are bound to be multiple charges. Or, if George answers the questions truthfully we may learn that the War in Iraq had nothing to do with WMD or terrorists at all.

I guess it's just too bad that George never had a head for business.

19. [Mark Lytle](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 2:47 pm](#)

Does anyone remember their History? A great and corrupt empire once hired large mercenary armies before they collapsed. I think that was the Romans, yes? I don't think the U.S. has ever employed this many in this way before.

20. [American Majority](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 3:45 pm](#)

you guys are so full of shit

21. [American Majority](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 3:48 pm](#)

this site is so looney left wing its funny. have fun drinking your cool-aid and being mad because one of your loones is not the president. BUSH ROCKS!!!! AMERICA RULES!!!!!!! this site is so full of bull

22. [Dusty](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 3:55 pm](#)

And another intelligent comment from the reichwing..Thank You American Majority!

But you realize the right is no longer the majority correct? Hate to hit you w/a fact dude..or dudette, but there it is..as of November anyway 😊

The book must be phenomenal. I am writing up a piece on Blackwater for another site that also asks the question..why do we use these guys, knowing everything we do?

Oh..thats right..BushCo is still in charge. My bad.

23. [Ron](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 5:32 pm](#)

SteveIL, Tom Baker,

Force reduction-planned by Cheney/Powell during Bush 1.

Top Down Review by Aspin under Clinton actually executes reorganization. Criticized heavily by the armed services-reason? Economics more a consideration than strategy.

Technically speaking, Les Aspin was responsible for executing the drawdown, and conceived a different plan for reduction than Cheney/Powell. But Cheney/Powell are the original proposers of a drawdown.

If you want to blame someone for wanting to drawdown in the first place, there's not much point in it since there was a consensus view on this. The particular reorg that occurred under Clinton, however, did chap some military asses.

24. [SteveLL](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 5:40 pm](#)

Ron, thanks for the additional info. Appreciate it.

25. [Ron](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 5:47 pm](#)

I may be a liberal, but it doesnt stop me from being objective.

Well, maybe sometimes. But anyway.

26. [SteveLL](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:20 pm](#)

Again, I share Dr. Forbush's concern about these private armies built from American companies and made up of Americans who could be part of the U.S. military, even the NG. But not just because they could be used as mercs. As I mentioned, one has to look at the military "reforms" of Gaius Marius, the reasons behind those "reforms", and the effect they had on destroying the Roman Republic over the subsequent 80 years.

27. [buffalo bob](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:29 pm](#)

Scahill's book is full of inaccuracies. I know a lot of the BW guys. Scahill is making a career out of telling tall tales to paranoids about BW, etc. Talk about profiteering.

28. [Dr. Forbush](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:45 pm](#)

Well Howdy Dowdy Buffalo Bob!

I'd like to hear some of the inaccuracies; maybe some details. There may be inaccuracies, but what are they? Is it something like Prince only has 19,999 soldiers working for him? Is it something like Blackwater only sent some guys with shovels to New Orleans? Lets hear what you have to say.

29. [Dusty](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 7:48 pm](#)

Oh yes Buffalo Bob..please regale us with links to these 'inaccuracies' please..otherwise your full of bullshit and bravado sir.

30. [Steve O](#) Says :
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:25 pm](#)

Gee Buffalo, please do enlighten us?

If anyone is not doing something to make a buck then there is something wrong. But if making a buck off of bringing to light something wrong then all the power to you.

I am more than half way through the book and it stated that the Chilean (sp) government had charges filed against the main BW recruiter because it is against the law to raise and train a military within their borders. How come we don't have such laws? The way I see it the Constitution allows for states to raise militias, not individuals. So how is what Blackwater or any other of the 150 mercenary compaies not doing something illegal?

31. [Chuck Fenev Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 8:40 pm](#)

False flag central in Iraq. They are the trigger pullers for the Iraqi car bombers. Hire a schmuck Iraqi - send him on errands in a car - instal remote bomb in car and send him to market to check the situation out- follow within detonation range - BataBoom!!! INSTANT SUICIDE CAR BOMBER and no real investigation. It goes without saying that Shin Bet and Mossad officers are in charge of these CREWES.

Remember that the real purpose of the Iraqi invasion is to split off the northern oilfields to be controlled in a newly created Kurdistan and send via pipeline, WHICH MAY NOW EXIST UNDERGROUND, the oil to "New Rotterdam" i.e. Haifa for refining and transshipment to Europe.

32. [Ron Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:23 pm](#)

Chuck, Chuck, Chuck,

You just can't drive by and leave far out stuff like that without some more background. If you don't want to be considered a conspiracy kook, you gotta flesh this stuff out.

33. [Dusty Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:25 pm](#)

Ron, I wouldn't hold my breath that either Chucky or A.M will respond further. :>P

But I could be wrong!

34. [Ron Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:34 pm](#)

Are they familiar trolls that just got over one on the newb?

35. [Ron Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:41 pm](#)

I mean, I'll admit it, I read Kurt Nimmo and Chris Floyd. There are so many garden variety conspiracies that are actually true, I just wonder sometimes just how much more disinfo is out there to keep us from deeper conspiracies.

If someone like us can think of it, someone like them can do it!

36. [Dusty Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:49 pm](#)

Well, kinda Ron :>) but don't worry about it..if we poke them in their cages enough..they might actually say something that makes sense!

We can hope anyway 😊

37. [steve Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 9:53 pm](#)

Ah geez... you guys are funny. Reach down and pull that underwear out of your crack.

Ron... I know you are new but you had a good charade of not acting new until you asked about the "Steves" on another post. All the Steves are conservatives. Including the bald one but he has some guilt so he just acts liberal, attending peace rallies and shit.

Basically a newb clearly hasn't registered their name yet or might be Emmet using another name.

Forbush... you still have to catch Bush lying under oath. Second, wanna direct me to the link on the negligence case. I cannot seem to find it. All I come up with is the search for how the guys died. I seriously don't want to read this guy's book either because I have a hard time believing him.

I firmly believe every politician is a liar though, except maybe Guiliani. 😊

38. [Dusty](#) Says :

[March 20th, 2007 at 10:02 pm](#)

steve..you lil mierda you, when is the last time you believed anything that went against BushCo?

SteveO is not a con..as usual..a con like you caught in a lie..how appropo. :>)

Rudy baby might not lie, in your world..but he does grab all the credit for anything, which is known as a glory hog.

As for all politico's lying..Its in the handbook they give them when they run for office..embellish, embellish, and do it again..rinse repeat.

39. [Ron](#) Says :

[March 20th, 2007 at 10:38 pm](#)

A good charade of not acting new...I was not aware I was trying to present myself as a vet! Oh well, in like a lion or something...I've had this site linked for a long time, and would occasionally lurk, but I haven't got much time for my own dinky little site as much anymore so I decided to just comment someplace mostly.

40. [Carole W](#) Says :

[March 20th, 2007 at 11:28 pm](#)

First of all, I do not care if I am called a conspiracy theorist. It is not an insult to me but a sure sign of ignorance on the part of the namecaller. Anyone who accepts everything they are told on face value should face the mirror when they use such names as "fool." The only "fool" they will ever know will be staring back at them.(BTW, no one here has called me any names to date, but this statement is just to say where I stand about believing all the crap that is forced to us by the administration and the rightwing media.) These days it is kind of an honor to be regarded as a conspiracy theorist, anyway!

I think Chuck Feny may have something to think about when he says that the Blackwater operatives are the triggerpullers for all the explosions etc. I just refuse to believe that those people are busy killing each other instead of trying to get the occupying forces out of their country. This way they can keep the war going on as they continue to rape and pillage and loot the American Treasury.

As far as why our government is using mercenaries, I think it is based on the fact that there is a ring of people whose total goal is the absolute bankrupting of the Treasury. If there is a private army in Iraq, being paid by THEM, then who will tell where the money is going? Like the missing 9 billion? In a regular, government army, SOMEONE would be a whistleblower. A soldier of fortune is working for himself alone. Also, they will turn a blind eye at the looting of national treasures like the museums of Iraq. How many priceless works of art are in the hands of millionaires all over the globe?

What is the reason for bankrupting America? Well, first you have to totally impoverish this country, take away its manufacturing, its self-sustainability, make it totally a consumer economy and then take even THAT away from the average citizen. Move in a lot of people from other Third World Countries whose ONLY interest is in making money and turn this country into a Third World Country also. The citizens, without jobs or a means of earning a decent wage once again become peons. The newcomers will THINK that they have arrived in HEAVEN just by being here. They won't fight for justice because they really don't know what that means...yet. Then the few WITH money can rule all those without...owning all of the natural resources, etc. This is why they want to strip away all the funds from Social Security, etc, so there is nothing left to fall back on.

And the sad thing is that the rightwing, Bushbuttkissers couldn't bring themselves to see this if you hit them in the eye with it. They care about who their children go to school with but they don't think about the time to come when their children will not even have a public school to go to. Only the children of the wealthy will be educated.

It is sad that people cannot take the time to look at the long range effects of what is happening right now and take steps to bring it to an end.

41. [Dusty](#) Says :

[March 20th, 2007 at 11:42 pm](#)

Ron..let the hummer driving steve stew in his own conservative juices ok? He will get what he deserves one day..mark my words 😊

42. [Dusty Says :](#)
[March 20th, 2007 at 11:48 pm](#)

Carol..all that because Ron said something about conspiracys?

I Do take the time to do something about it. I hold them all accountable and I say it loud and in public along with thousands of others. I write about their lies and bullshit on public forms and in letters to the editor and I do the same to my elected officials..Life will never be the same, but it surely can't be any worse if we Impeach the bastards now..

I say we start w/Alberto..then work the way up the slimy ladder to the top fuckwit in charge of the country.

43. [barbarossa Says :](#)
[March 21st, 2007 at 1:09 am](#)

Carole W is absolutely correct. Those that do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

44. [Sfumato Says :](#)
[March 21st, 2007 at 2:59 am](#)

Wow so a lot of you are pretty quick to label yourself as a liberal or a conservative, and then act like typical strong minded know-it-all's referencing what supports your political "beliefs" and ignoring/ refusing anything that may be contrary. That said, I'm not a know-it-all. In fact I don't know enough.

Anyway, this story is interesting. If this company is being payed by the government, that means my tax dollars are paying for it, right? So, without all the red tape and legal/political bullshit, it's not much different than being a shareholder in a publicly traded company, right? SO, shouldn't i have information on this company's operation, and at least a small say in what this company does, even indirectly.

Just Sayin

Hmmm, guess i'll check out the state department's website.

45. [Dusty Says :](#)
[March 21st, 2007 at 3:19 am](#)

Sfumato said" If this company is being payed by the government, that means my tax dollars are paying for it, right"? Yep..all of us pay for BW contracts. They make a helluva lot more than our soldiers too. Some guys get out of the military and jump directly into working for BW..who could blame them?

But because they are a company, not part of the government..there is no oversight, and no accountability to us, the taxpayers or our government. Its taken 3 years for our government officials to learn what went on at AbuGharib and the layers and layers of sub-contracting that went on over there by Halliburton, KBR and Blackwater.

46. [Demon Princess Says :](#)
[March 21st, 2007 at 3:34 am](#)

I, for one, find the entire mercenaries-for-hire topic fascinating. Does anyone know whether their pay is included in Bush's astronomical budget for the GWOT in the Mideast? (I'm assuming not, in the interest of keeping them under the American public's radar.)

I find the use of private armies a really disturbing trend (their religious orientation doesn't at all matter to me, personally~ I just find it more than usually hypocritical). It's plain to me the "why" — it's better, politically, than instituting a draft. THAT would be highly unpopular.

Question for the military history buffs participating in this discussion: I'm really weak on ancient history, for which I apologize: what, in a nutshell happened with the "disastrous" reliance on mercenaries for the Roman Empire? I vaguely remember that they wandered off but nothing about the details.

Thanks 😊

47. [Dusty](#) Says :
[March 21st, 2007 at 3:43 am](#)

DP!!! Glad your up and running again 😊

48. [liberal vet](#) Says :
[March 21st, 2007 at 8:32 am](#)

Go back to conscription and see how fast things change. I know, you all say never again, but we have inadequate troops to support our current military goals, like Iran and other evil empires, star wars anyone?. LV

49. [rudy's mate](#) Says :
[March 21st, 2007 at 9:08 am](#)

Rudy had already interviewd and talked to teh now based in australia expert, she knows all about rebuilding cities (she did Berute after teh ISraelis bombed it the time before last), all with her back in town for teh day of 911. How organised.

Rudy also told teh truth when he said wtc7 was going to cme down ,before even teh fire people knew.See, he is clever too.

Rudy was also on the spot when London was bombed. See, in the right place at the right time.

Organised,clever, well placed and tells the truth. Vote for Rudy,the best for our firends.

regards

50. [Ron](#) Says :
[March 21st, 2007 at 10:31 am](#)

"It's plain to me the "why" — it's better, politically, than instituting a draft."

They're also very handy for any wetwork you don't want US soldiers to be involved in!

51. [liberal vet](#) Says :
[March 21st, 2007 at 11:13 am](#)

True Ron, I agree wholeheartedly, being a draftee myself, I must agree with Mr Rangle esteemed Congressman for NY. We must even the playing field and example when the Bush twins could be drafted I wonder how long it would take to stop a war, or preferably never get involved in the first place and leave it to Congress to debate the merits. When the fat cats children and politicians children can suffer the indignities of war how long will the drums beat with a patriotic fever. LV

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