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Land of Enchantment and Impeachment

Submitted by davidswanson on Fri, 2007-01-12 12:35.

[Impeachment](#)

By David Swanson

There is a decent chance that within the next month or two the New Mexico State Legislature will ask the U.S. House of Representatives to begin impeachment proceedings against President Bush and Vice President Cheney. And there is the definite possibility that a Congress Member from New Mexico will take up the matter when it gets to Washington. The Jefferson Manual, rules used by the U.S. House, allows for impeachment to be begun in this manner. It only takes one state legislature. No governor is needed. One Congress Member, from the same state or any other, is needed to essentially acknowledge receipt of the state's petition. Then impeachment begins.

Last year the state legislatures of California, Minnesota, Illinois, and Vermont introduced but did not pass resolutions to send impeachment to the U.S. House. The State Senator who introduced the bill in Minnesota is now a member of Congress, Keith Ellison. He is one of many Congress Members waiting for the right moment to impeach Bush and Cheney. The state of New Jersey has a strong activist movement working to introduce and pass impeachment this year. There's a race now to see which state can do it first, which state can redeem these United States in the eyes of the world. New Mexico is jumping into the contest in a big way, with a terrific leading sponsor of the bill, strong Democratic majorities in both houses, and a citizens' movement ready to hold its government to account.

Of course, it is cities, not states, that have really taken the lead on impeachment, as on ending the war. Dozens of cities have already passed resolutions for impeachment. Dozens more have introduced them, and they are pending.

[<http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/resourcecenter>] A handful have introduced them and voted them down. On March 6th about 100 towns in Vermont will vote at public meetings for impeachment. But by March 6th, impeachment may already be underway.

There is a conflict brewing between Congress and the White House over the war and over the division of powers created by the U.S. Constitution and eliminated by this administration. If Bush attacks Iran and/or Syria without approval from Congress, or escalates the war in Iraq without approval from Congress, we may finally see Congress fight back. This President has rendered Congress almost meaningless. He reverses laws with "signing statements." He disregards laws at his whim, openly bragging about doing so. And he makes many operations secret, hidden even from Congress, refusing requests for information, including those filed under the Freedom of Information Act. When this President does communicate

Impeach Bush and Cheney Now!

What You Can Do:

[Sign up](#) to stay informed, and...

[Help inform Congress](#), and...

1. Come march, rally, and lobby in DC:



2. Occupy congressional offices:



3. March Forth:



4. Collect signatures on petitions, especially in front of your Congress Member's offices.



5. Join a Congressional District Impeachment Committee to lobby your Representative:

[First Iraq, Then Saudi Bush letter to Congress](#)
[Bush report to Congress](#)
[Bush to U.N.](#)
[Bush in Cincinnati](#)
[2003 State of the Union](#)
[Powell at U.N.](#)
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with Congress, he often provides false or misleading information, most notably in making the case for the current war.

Vice President Cheney has already said that he will likely refuse to appear before Congress if subpoenaed. The White House will likely refuse subpoenas of any sort, and openly professes to believe the President is a "unitary executive." White House spokesperson Tony Snow said on January 8th:

"The President has the ability to exercise his own authority if he thinks Congress has voted the wrong way."

Americans voted in November for Congress to stand up to this assault on our democracy. We voted against the war, but we even voted out Republicans who were opposing the war. We threw out candidates who allowed Bush to campaign for them, and left in office those who refused.

While it is public knowledge that Bush launched the opening stages of the Iraq War in secret, without Congress's approval or awareness, illegally using funds appropriated for Afghanistan and elsewhere, it has not always been as clear as it is at this moment that Bush will not end the war even if required by Congress to do so. Growing awareness of this fact is leading the peace movement to join the impeachment movement.

Daniel Ellsberg, who released the Pentagon Papers so many years ago, recently argued that it was only the pressure of the peace movement that allowed the impeachment of President Nixon to proceed, and that it was only the exposures and threat of impeachment that persuaded Nixon not to veto the bill that finally cut off the funding for the Vietnam War. As Congress exposes the crimes of Bush and Cheney to public view, it will move us closer to impeachment. As Congress Members begin to object to their powerless role of court jesters, they will move us closer to impeachment and also to bringing our troops home.

We should be encouraging our Congress Members to proceed immediately with key investigations [<http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/investigations>] and to not be afraid to use subpoenas. We should also be encouraging state legislators in our own and other states who take up the cause of democracy. We need them to do so from their positions as elected officials closer to the people and further from the big dollars.

In New Mexico, a leading light of that state's politics, State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino of Albuquerque, will be leading the way on impeachment. He deserves the support of all the world, and you can thank him at jortizyp@aol.com or 505-986-4380. Let's help him make New Mexico the land of enchantment and impeachment.

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Active forum topics

- [Why not get a life](#)
- [Hey Cindy, if you think you and your radical left wing fanatic traitors to this country know how to stage a protest, just watch](#)
- [Message to the Peace Troops](#)
- [Guantanamo: "This is a US Torture Camp"](#)
- [To the Critics of AfterDowningStreet](#)

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- [Minor Corrections](#)
38 min 25 sec ago
- [Unite or die](#)
1 hour 21 min ago
- [Oh, we'll get a life alright](#)
1 hour 56 min ago
- ["Right On Larry"](#)
2 hours 9 min ago
- [LARRY, YOU ARE REALLY INSANE](#)
2 hours 12 min ago
- [RIGHT IDEA](#)
2 hours 19 min ago
- [How Ironic](#)
2 hours 20 min ago
- [Hey, Cindy...](#)
2 hours 36 min ago
- [Silence is deafening!](#)
3 hours 46 min ago

Impeachment Books

"United States v. George W. Bush et al.," by Elizabeth de la Vega, an indictment, a presentation to a grand jury charging Bush and gang with fraud -- very well argued and documented, even entertaining.

"The Genius of Impeachment: The Founders'

6. Pass resolutions in your town or city, state, political party, or labor union:



7. Be a media activist:



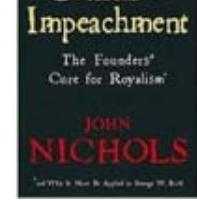
8. Freeway blog:



9. Sell or give away shirts:



10. Sell or give away signs:



Cure for Royalism, by John Nichols, a masterpiece that should be required reading in every high

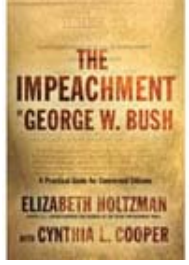
school and college in the United States, a history and portrait of the practice of impeachment.

"Articles of Impeachment Against George W. Bush,"



by the Center for Constitutional Rights, a short book that lists and explains four (multi-part) articles of impeachment.

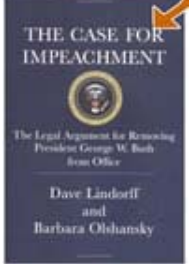
"The Impeachment of George W. Bush: A Practical Guide for Concerned Citizens,"



by Elizabeth Holtzman (former Congresswoman and member of the Nixon impeachment panel) and Cynthia L. Cooper, an excellent and readable book

laying out five major grounds for impeachment of Bush, plus an extra section on Dick Cheney.

"The Case for Impeachment,"



by Dave Lindorff and Barbara Olshansky, an amazingly popular and extremely readable book that explains the context while also

setting forth six articles of impeachment against Bush, plus an extra section on Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, and Alberto Gonzales.

"Impeach the President: The Case Against Bush and Cheney,"

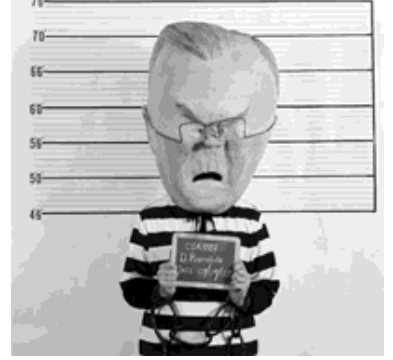


edited by Dennis Loo and Peter Phillips, with an introduction by Howard Zinn, a wonderfully well

written collection of essays organized around a list of 12



11. Invite the Bush Chain Gang to appear in your town:



Resources to Assist You:



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Randi Rhodes



grounds for impeachment of Bush and Cheney.

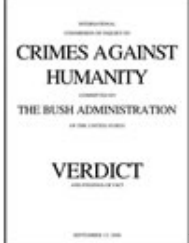
"George W. Bush versus the U.S.



Constitution: The Downing Street Memos and Deception, Manipulation, Torture, Retribution, and Cover-ups in the Iraq War and Illegal Domestic Spying

War and Illegal Domestic Spying," by the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff, a book that not only collects the evidence but also tells us what Congressman John Conyers, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, is thinking (the full text, minus a new introduction by Joseph Wilson, is available [here](#).)

"Verdict and Findings of



Fact," by the International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration of the United

States, a report that looks at five major international crimes and overlaps significantly with most lists of impeachable offenses (the full text is available at the link and can also be purchased for \$10);

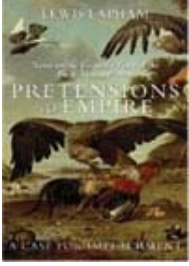
"Impeach Bush: A Funny Li'l



Graphical Novel About the Worstest Pres'dent in the History of Forever," a comic book account of Bush's impeachable offenses – the

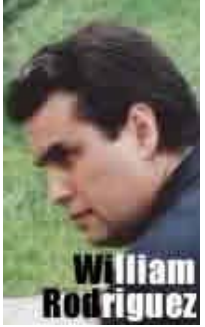
crimes really are self-evident, but pictures don't hurt.

"Pretensions to Empire:



Notes on the Criminal Folly of the Bush Administration," by Lewis Lapham, a collection of essays from Harper's magazine,

concluding with one called "The Case for Impeachment," which focuses on Rep. Conyers' report.



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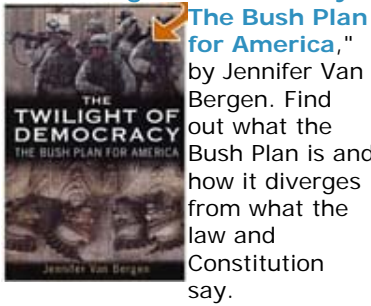
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Comedic Version
Serious Version



"The Twilight of Democracy:



The Bush Plan for America," by Jennifer Van Bergen. Find out what the Bush Plan is and how it diverges from what the law and Constitution say.

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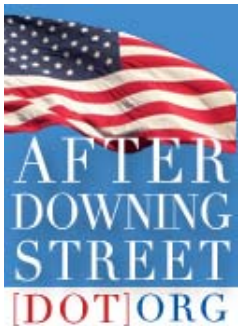
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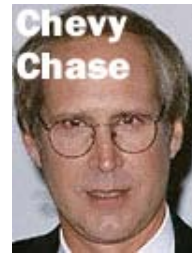
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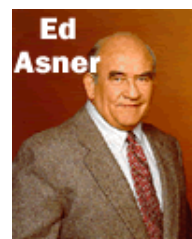


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