

By [Chalmers Johnson](#), [Metropolitan Books](#). Posted [February 19, 2007](#).

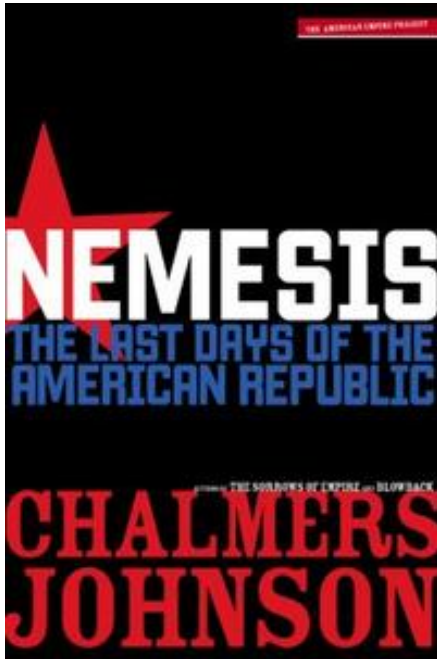
With more than 2,500,000 U.S. personnel serving across the planet and military bases spread across each continent, it's time to face up to the fact that our American democracy has spawned a global empire.

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[Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic](#) by Chalmers Johnson (Metropolitan Books).

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The following is excerpted from Chalmers Johnson's new book, ["Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic"](#) (Metropolitan Books).

Once upon a time, you could trace the spread of imperialism by counting up colonies. America's version of the colony is the military base; and by following the changing politics of global basing, one can learn much about our ever more all-encompassing imperial "footprint" and the militarism that grows with it.

It is not easy, however, to assess the size or exact value of our empire of bases. Official records available to the public on these subjects are misleading, although instructive. According to the Defense Department's annual inventories from 2002 to 2005 of real property it owns around the world, the *Base Structure Report*, there has been an immense churning in the numbers of installations.

The total of America's military bases in other people's countries in 2005, according to official sources, was 737. Reflecting massive deployments to Iraq and the pursuit of President Bush's strategy of preemptive war, the trend line for numbers of overseas bases continues to go up.

Interestingly enough, the thirty-eight large and medium-sized American facilities spread around the globe in 2005 -- mostly air and naval bases for our bombers and fleets -- almost exactly equals Britain's thirty-six naval bases and army garrisons at its imperial zenith in 1898. The Roman Empire at its height in 117 AD required thirty-seven major bases to police its realm from Britannia to Egypt, from Hispania to Armenia. Perhaps the optimum number of major citadels and fortresses for an imperialist aspiring to dominate the world is somewhere between thirty-five and forty.

Using data from fiscal year 2005, the Pentagon bureaucrats calculated that its overseas bases were worth at least \$127 billion -- surely far too low a figure but still larger than the gross domestic products of most countries -- and an estimated \$658.1 billion for all of them, foreign and domestic (a base's "worth" is based on a Department of Defense estimate of what it would cost to replace it). During fiscal 2005, the military high command deployed to our overseas bases some 196,975 uniformed personnel as well as an equal number of dependents and Department of Defense civilian officials, and employed an additional 81,425 locally hired foreigners.

The worldwide total of U.S. military personnel in 2005, including those based domestically, was 1,840,062 supported by an additional 473,306 Defense Department civil service employees and 203,328 local hires. Its overseas bases, according to the Pentagon, contained 32,327 barracks, hangars, hospitals, and other buildings, which it owns, and 16,527 more that it leased. The size of these holdings was recorded in the inventory as covering 687,347 acres overseas and 29,819,492 acres worldwide, making the Pentagon easily one of the world's largest landlords.

These numbers, although staggeringly big, do not begin to cover all the actual bases we occupy globally. The 2005 *Base Structure Report* fails, for instance, to mention any garrisons in Kosovo (or Serbia, of which Kosovo is still officially a province) -- even though it is the site of the huge Camp Bondsteel built in 1999 and maintained ever since by the KBR corporation (formerly known as Kellogg Brown & Root), a subsidiary of the Halliburton Corporation of Houston.

The report similarly omits bases in Afghanistan, Iraq (106 garrisons as of May 2005), Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, and Uzbekistan, even though the U.S. military has established colossal base structures in the Persian Gulf and Central Asian areas since 9/11. By way of excuse, a note in the preface says that "facilities provided by other nations at foreign locations" are not included, although this is not strictly true. The report does include twenty sites in Turkey, all owned by the Turkish government and used jointly with the Americans. The Pentagon continues to omit from its accounts most of the \$5 billion worth of military and espionage installations in Britain, which have long been conveniently disguised as Royal Air Force bases. If there were an honest count, the actual size of our military empire would probably top 1,000 different bases overseas, but no one -- possibly not even the Pentagon -- knows the exact number for sure.

In some cases, foreign countries themselves have tried to keep their U.S. bases secret, fearing embarrassment if their collusion with American imperialism were revealed. In other instances, the Pentagon seems to want to play down the building of facilities aimed at dominating energy sources, or, in a related situation, retaining a network of bases that would keep Iraq under our hegemony regardless of the wishes of any future Iraqi government. The U.S. government tries not to divulge any information about the bases we use to eavesdrop on global communications, or our nuclear deployments, which, as William Arkin, an authority on the subject, writes, "[have] violated its treaty obligations. The U.S. was lying to many of its closest allies, even in

NATO, about its nuclear designs. Tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, hundreds of bases, and dozens of ships and submarines existed in a special secret world of their own with no rational military or even 'deterrence' justification."

In Jordan, to take but one example, we have secretly deployed up to five thousand troops in bases on the Iraqi and Syrian borders. (Jordan has also cooperated with the CIA in torturing prisoners we deliver to them for "interrogation.") Nonetheless, Jordan continues to stress that it has no special arrangements with the United States, no bases, and no American military presence.

The country is formally sovereign but actually a satellite of the United States and has been so for at least the past ten years. Similarly, before our withdrawal from Saudi Arabia in 2003, we habitually denied that we maintained a fleet of enormous and easily observed B-52 bombers in Jeddah because that was what the Saudi government demanded. So long as military bureaucrats can continue to enforce a culture of secrecy to protect themselves, no one will know the true size of our baseworld, least of all the elected representatives of the American people.

In 2005, deployments at home and abroad were in a state of considerable flux. This was said to be caused both by a long overdue change in the strategy for maintaining our global dominance and by the closing of surplus bases at home. In reality, many of the changes seemed to be determined largely by the Bush administration's urge to punish nations and domestic states that had not supported its efforts in Iraq and to reward those that had. Thus, within the United States, bases were being relocated to the South, to states with cultures, as the *Christian Science Monitor* put it, "more tied to martial traditions" than the Northeast, the northern Middle West, or the Pacific Coast. According to a North Carolina businessman gloating over his new customers, "The military is going where it is wanted and valued most."

In part, the realignment revolved around the Pentagon's decision to bring home by 2007 or 2008 two army divisions from Germany -- the First Armored Division and the First Infantry Division -- and one brigade (3,500 men) of the Second Infantry Division from South Korea (which, in 2005, was officially rehoused at Fort Carson, Colorado). So long as the Iraq insurgency continues, the forces involved are mostly overseas and the facilities at home are not ready for them (nor is there enough money budgeted to get them ready).

Nonetheless, sooner or later, up to 70,000 troops and 100,000 family members will have to be accommodated within the United States. The attendant 2005 "base closings" in the United States are actually a base consolidation and enlargement program with tremendous infusions of money and customers going to a few selected hub areas. At the same time, what sounds like a retrenchment in the empire abroad is really proving to be an exponential growth in new types of bases -- without dependents and the amenities they would require -- in very remote areas where the U.S. military has never been before.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, it was obvious to anyone who thought about it that the huge concentrations of American military might in Germany, Italy, Japan, and South Korea were no longer needed to meet possible military threats. There were not going to be future wars with the Soviet Union or any country connected to any of those places.

In 1991, the first Bush administration should have begun decommissioning or redeploying redundant forces; and, in fact, the Clinton administration did close some bases in Germany, such as those protecting the Fulda Gap, once envisioned as the likeliest route for a Soviet invasion of Western Europe. But nothing was really done in those years to plan for the strategic repositioning of the American military outside the United States.

By the end of the 1990s, the neoconservatives were developing their grandiose theories to promote overt imperialism by the "lone superpower" -- including preventive and preemptive unilateral military action, spreading democracy abroad at the point of a gun, obstructing the rise of any "near-peer" country or bloc of countries that might challenge U.S. military supremacy, and a vision of a "democratic" Middle East that would supply us with all the oil we wanted. A component of their grand design was a redeployment and streamlining of the military. The initial rationale was for a program of transformation that would turn the armed forces into a lighter, more agile, more high-tech military, which, it was imagined, would free up funds that could be invested in imperial policing.

What came to be known as "defense transformation" first began to be publicly bandied about during the 2000 presidential election campaign. Then 9/11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq intervened. In August 2002, when the whole neocon program

began to be put into action, it centered above all on a quick, easy war to incorporate Iraq into the empire. By this time, civilian leaders in the Pentagon had become dangerously overconfident because of what they perceived as America's military brilliance and invincibility as demonstrated in its 2001 campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaeda -- a strategy that involved reigniting the Afghan civil war through huge payoffs to Afghanistan's Northern Alliance warlords and the massive use of American airpower to support their advance on Kabul.

In August 2002, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld unveiled his "1-4-2-1 defense strategy" to replace the Clinton era's plan for having a military capable of fighting two wars -- in the Middle East and Northeast Asia -- simultaneously. Now, war planners were to prepare to defend the United States while building and assembling forces capable of "detering aggression and coercion" in four "critical regions": Europe, Northeast Asia (South Korea and Japan), East Asia (the Taiwan Strait), and the Middle East, be able to defeat aggression in two of these regions simultaneously, and "win decisively" (in the sense of "regime change" and occupation) in one of those conflicts "at a time and place of our choosing." As the military analyst William M. Arkin commented, "[With] American military forces ... already stretched to the limit, the new strategy goes far beyond preparing for reactive contingencies and reads more like a plan for picking fights in new parts of the world."

A seemingly easy three-week victory over Saddam Hussein's forces in the spring of 2003 only reconfirmed these plans. The U.S. military was now thought to be so magnificent that it could accomplish any task assigned to it. The collapse of the Baathist regime in Baghdad also emboldened Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to use "transformation" to penalize nations that had been, at best, lukewarm about America's unilateralism -- Germany, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Turkey -- and to reward those whose leaders had welcomed Operation Iraqi Freedom, including such old allies as Japan and Italy but also former communist countries such as Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. The result was the Department of Defense's Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy, known informally as the "Global Posture Review."

President Bush first mentioned it in a statement on November 21, 2003, in which he pledged to "realign the global posture" of the United States. He reiterated the phrase and elaborated on it on August 16, 2004, in a speech to the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati. Because Bush's Cincinnati address was part of the 2004 presidential election campaign, his comments were not taken very seriously at the time. While he did say that the United States would reduce its troop strength in Europe and Asia by 60,000 to 70,000, he assured his listeners that this would take a decade to accomplish -- well beyond his term in office -- and made a series of promises that sounded more like a reenlistment pitch than a statement of strategy.

"Over the coming decade, we'll deploy a more agile and more flexible force, which means that more of our troops will be stationed and deployed from here at home. We'll move some of our troops and capabilities to new locations, so they can surge quickly to deal with unexpected threats. ... It will reduce the stress on our troops and our military families. ... See, our service members will have more time on the home front, and more predictability and fewer moves over a career. Our military spouses will have fewer job changes, greater stability, more time for their kids and to spend with their families at home."

On September 23, 2004, however, Secretary Rumsfeld disclosed the first concrete details of the plan to the Senate Armed Services Committee. With characteristic grandiosity, he described it as "the biggest re-structuring of America's global forces since 1945." Quoting then undersecretary Douglas Feith, he added, "During the Cold War we had a strong sense that we knew where the major risks and fights were going to be, so we could deploy people right there. We're operating now [with] an entirely different concept. We need to be able to do [the] whole range of military operations, from combat to peacekeeping, anywhere in the world pretty quickly."

Though this may sound plausible enough, in basing terms it opens up a vast landscape of diplomatic and bureaucratic minefields that Rumsfeld's militarists surely underestimated. In order to expand into new areas, the Departments of State and Defense must negotiate with the host countries such things as Status of Forces Agreements, or SOFAs, which are discussed in detail in the next chapter. In addition, they must conclude many other required protocols, such as access rights for our aircraft and ships into foreign territory and airspace, and Article 98 Agreements. The latter refer to article 98 of the International Criminal Court's Rome Statute, which allows countries to exempt U.S. citizens on their territory from the ICC's jurisdiction.

Such immunity agreements were congressionally mandated by the American Service-Members' Protection Act of 2002, even though the European Union holds that they are illegal. Still other necessary accords are acquisitions and cross-servicing

agreements or ACSAs, which concern the supply and storage of jet fuel, ammunition, and so forth; terms of leases on real property; levels of bilateral political and economic aid to the United States (so-called host-nation support); training and exercise arrangements (Are night landings allowed? Live firing drills?); and environmental pollution liabilities.

When the United States is not present in a country as its conqueror or military savior, as it was in Germany, Japan, and Italy after World War II and in South Korea after the 1953 Korean War armistice, it is much more difficult to secure the kinds of agreements that allow the Pentagon to do anything it wants and that cause a host nation to pick up a large part of the costs of doing so. When not based on conquest, the structure of the American empire of bases comes to look exceedingly fragile.

From the book [NEMESIS: The Last Days of the American Republic](#) by Chalmers Johnson. Reprinted by arrangement with Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, LLC. Copyright (c) 2006 by Chalmers Johnson. All rights reserved.

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Chalmers Johnson is president of the Japan Policy Research Institute, a non-profit research and public affairs organization devoted to public education concerning Japan and international relations in the Pacific.

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Finally, someone worth reading on AlterNet

Posted by: LeftWright on Feb 19, 2007 12:30 AM

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I highly recommend Chalmer's Johnson's books *Blowback* and *The Sorrows of Empire* and I look forward to reading this new one.

The New American Militarism by Andrew J. Bacevich is also offers an invaluable critique.

War is not the answer.

The truth shall set us free. Love is the only way forward.

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[» RE: Finally, someone worth reading on AlterNet](#) Posted by: seamus

[» Oh, we're working on it every day](#) Posted by: LeftWright

» [RE: Finally, someone worth reading on AlterNet](#) Posted by: yellow

» [Mere embarrassment?](#) Posted by: Cathyc

impressive analysis

Posted by: Dboy on Feb 19, 2007 3:33 AM

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Very impressive article. I'll be reading all the books mentioned here.

Dboy

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» [You keep reading all the books.... while THEY take over your life!](#) Posted by: Cathyc

Good Cop, Bad Cop

Posted by: shangrilalad on Feb 19, 2007 3:54 AM

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New York Times Editorial
Making Martial Law Easier

Published: February 19, 2007

“A disturbing recent phenomenon in Washington is that laws that strike to the heart of American democracy have been passed in the dead of night. So it was with a provision quietly tucked into the enormous defense budget bill at the Bush administration’s behest that makes it easier for a president to override local control of law enforcement and declare martial law.

The provision, signed into law in October, weakens two obscure but important bulwarks of liberty. One is the doctrine that bars military forces, including a federalized National Guard, from engaging in law enforcement. Called posse comitatus, it was enshrined in law after the Civil War to preserve the line between civil government and the military. The other is the Insurrection Act of 1807, which provides the major exemptions to posse comitatus. It essentially limits a president’s use of the military in law enforcement to putting down lawlessness, insurrection and rebellion, where a state is violating federal law or depriving people of constitutional rights.”

Have you heard one Democrat say a word about these ominous new laws?

Are we safe in assuming that Democrats will take action to prevent Bush from declaring Martial Law and effectively making himself dictator for life?

Do you sometimes suspect that Democrats and Republicans are doing a “Good Cop, Bad Cop,” routine on us?

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» [RE: Good Cop, Bad Cop](#) Posted by: djnoll

» [RE: Good Cop, Bad Cop...Yup, because it Works!](#) Posted by: YinRising

» [RE: Good Cop, Bad Cop](#) Posted by: brainvib

» [Obscure...?!?!?!?](#) Posted by: albrechtkrause

No interest in real "Democracy"

Posted by: colinmeister on Feb 19, 2007 4:22 AM

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The joke is that US world domination aspirations are being passed off as "Spreading democracy". The USA has no real interest in establishing democracy in any country, it is only interested in setting up puppet regimes throughout the world.

This seems to have been already established in many countries, from formerly powerful countries in Europe to former European colonies in the third world. The twin bludgeons of US bases and threats of economic disruption are being used to threaten any country which wants to break away from towing the line.

Of course, there is a way the rest of the world can resist. Removal of the "World reserve currency" status from the US dollar, and sanctions against the US using manufactured goods as the tool would leave the US as a financially strapped country with a very angry population.

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» [RE: No interest in real "Democracy"](#) Posted by: richholland

» [RE: No interest in real "Democracy"](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [Other global resistance strategies](#) Posted by: eddie torres

» [Angry population?](#) Posted by: Cathyc

» [RE: Angry population?](#) Posted by: colinmeister

World's best travel agency

Posted by: Bobsays on Feb 19, 2007 5:04 AM

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The US's stretch across the world dwarfs the UN, the supposed world body. Day and night Galaxy heavy lifters criss cross the globe loaded with potato chips and Gaterade re-supplying these bases. I have had some strange and delightful encounters with US servicemen and women around the world. Sharing a hot tub with horny gay servicemen in Iceland, getting picked up by a female nurse in Haiti, and hanging out munching burgers in a secret location in Asia.

I always found these people to be very friendly and decent. I also envied the extensive network of support they received that was never given to international aid workers.

If we are to see a real global body that works, then we will need this impressive American global empire to be handed over to the UN or its replacement. Liberals take note: the US military is the model to follow.

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» [RE: World's best travel agency](#) Posted by: cottontail

» [RE: World's best travel agency](#) Posted by: Bobsays

» [RE: World's best travel agency](#) Posted by: fakadoodledoo

» [RE: World's best travel agency](#) Posted by: eddie torres

Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really

Posted by: Prophit on Feb 19, 2007 5:27 AM

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... scary this whole thing is becoming and how its probably not likely we can do anything to stop this. Now it becomes more important than ever to elect men of integrity and conscience. If we put a tool like this in the hands of a psycho such as we have in Cheney, we are doomed. Here is the link and relevant excerpt:

[HAARP](#)

US Weapons of Meteorological Mass Destruction

Dan Eden in an article, titled Weapons of Mass Destruction, talked about the HAARP facility located in Gakuna, Alaska, where patents bought from inventor Dr. Bernard Eastlund by huge defense contractor Raytheon are being experimented with, and used conceivably against world populations.

The HAARP Program is a US Air Force, Navy and University of Alaska funded investigation to "understand, simulate and control ionospheric processes that might alter the performance of communication and surveillance systems" as well as weather systems and those which actually can modify human behavior. The HAARP program was started in 1993 for a proposed twenty year series of experiments. Two paragraphs from Eden's article give you an idea of the forces being played with . . .

To date, there have been eleven other patents derived from Eastlund's original work. These patents describe the reflective alterations of the ionosphere for such uses as "nuclear scale explosions without radiation," "power-beaming systems," "over-the-horizon radar systems," and "nuclear missile detection and destruction systems." Further, the patents are now owned by Raytheon, a long-standing defense contractor, and can now be combined with other military patents and used for battlefield applications . . .

[They have the] " . . . ability to put unprecedented amounts of power in Earth's atmosphere at strategic locations and to maintain the power injection level particularly if random pulsing is employed, in a manner far more precise and better controlled than heretofore accomplished by the prior art, particularly by detonation of nuclear devices of various yields at various altitudes . . ."

A critical summary on Harp.Net of Dr. Nick Begich and Jeane Manning's book, *Angel's Don't Play This HAARP* tells us, "Eastlund's patents were originally controlled by ARCO Power Technologies Incorporated (APTI), a subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield Company, one of the biggest oil companies in the world. APTI was the contractor that built the HAARP facility. ARCO sold this subsidiary, the patents and the second phase construction contract to E-Systems in June 1994.

"E-Systems is one of the biggest intelligence contractors in the world—doing work for the CIA, defense intelligence organizations and others. And 1.8 billion of their annual sales are to these organizations, with \$800 million for black projects—projects so secret that even the United States Congress isn't told how the money is being spent.

"E-Systems was bought out by Raytheon, again one of the largest defense contractors in the world. . . . The twelve patents . . . are the backbone of the HAARP project and are now buried among thousands of others held in the name of Raytheon . . ."

A statement most relevant in this HAARP report is . . .

Weather modification is possible by, for example, altering upper atmosphere wind patterns by constructing one or more plumes of atmospheric particles which will act as a lens or focusing device.

. . . Molecular modifications of the atmosphere can take place so that . . . environmental effects can be achieved. Besides actually changing the molecular composition of an atmospheric region, a particular molecule or molecules can be chosen for increased presence. For example, ozone, nitrogen, etc., concentrations in the atmosphere could be artificially increased.

(CONT)

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» [RE: Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really](#) Posted by: freethink7

» [RE: Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really](#) Posted by: willymack

» [RE: Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Thats not the worst of it..... read this and understand how really](#) Posted by: willymack

"We have seen the enemy and he is US"-Pogo

Posted by: wawa on Feb 19, 2007 5:29 AM

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Eisenhower warned in his farewell address NOT to tie the economy to the Industrial Military Complex,

But they have been in bed together ever since and we the taxpayer have been getting screwed.

"Any nation that year after year continues to raise the Defense budget while cutting social programs to the neediest is a nation approaching spiritual death." - Rev. MLK

The USA is the Number 1 exporter of weapons of destruction

Israel, the USA's best friend and co-dependent partner in the Empire are the big bully's in the world.

On my 4th investigative journey into the OPT, on 11/1/06, I spoke with Mohammad Alatar, film producer of "The Ironwall" He said:

"I am a Muslim Palestinian American and when my son asked me who my hero was I took three days to think about it.

"I told him my hero is Jesus, because he took a stand and he died for it. What really needs to be done is for the churches to be like Jesus; to challenge the Israeli occupation and address the apartheid practices as moral issues.

"Even if every church divested and boycotted Israel it would not harm Israel. After the USA and Russia, Israel is the third largest arms exporter in the world. It is a moral issue that the churches must address."

Excerpted from "MEMOIRS of a Nice Irish-American 'Girl's' Life in Occupied Territory"

<http://www.wearewideawake.org/>

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» [RE: "We have seen the enemy and he is US"-Pogo](#) Posted by: brainvib

(con't from above)

Posted by: Prophit on Feb 19, 2007 5:30 AM

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Remembering that this work began in 1994, consider these statements from the article . . .

"Begich and Manning brought to light government documents indicating that the military has weather-control technology. When HAARP is eventually built to its full power level, it could create weather effects over entire hemispheres. If one government experiments with the world's weather patterns, what is done in one place will impact everyone else on the planet. Angels Don't Play This HAARP explains a principle behind some of Nikola Tesla's inventions—resonance—which affect planetary systems."

Nikola Tesla (1865•1943), the so called "mad genius" or "wild man" of electronics was convinced he could develop enough electric power "to split the earth like an apple." Experimenting for a wealthy employer in the electric business in Colorado Springs, Tesla managed to black out the entire city and set the power generator on fire. The roar was heard for more than ten miles. Yet he moved on to bigger and more successful ideas, like missiles, particle beam weaponry, satellites, nuclear fission, and robots at the turn of the 20th century.

Dr. Bernard Eastland based his work on Tesla's principles as Begich and Manning discovered. Their observations are related in the Angels' article, in the section called "Weather Control" . . .

Avalanches of energy dislodged by such radio waves could hit us hard. Their work suggests that technicians could control global weather by sending relatively small 'signals' into the Van Allen belts (radiation belts around Earth). Thus Tesla's resonance effects can control enormous energies by tiny triggering signals.

The Begich/ Manning book asks whether that knowledge will be used by war-oriented or biosphere-oriented scientists.

The military has had about twenty years to work on weather warfare methods, which it euphemistically calls weather modification. For example, rainmaking technology was taken for a few test rides in Vietnam. The U.S. Department of Defense sampled lightning and hurricane manipulation studies in Project Skyfire and Project Stormfury. And they looked at some complicated technologies that would give big effects.

Angels Don't Play This HAARP cites an expert who says the military studied both lasers and chemicals which they figured could damage the ozone layer over an enemy. Looking at ways to cause earthquakes, as well as to detect them, was part of the project named Prime Argus, decades ago. The money for that came from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, now under the acronym ARPA.) In 1994 the Air Force revealed its Spacecast 2020 master plan which includes weather control. Scientists have experimented with weather control since the 1940's, but Spacecast 2020 noted that "using environmental modification techniques to destroy, damage or injure another state are prohibited." Having said that, the Air Force claimed that advances in technology "compels a reexamination of this sensitive and potentially risky topic." Lest you think only Chossudovsky, Eden or Begich and Manning are concerned with HAARP and weather control, consider scientist Dr. Rosalie Bertell, writing in her Background of the HAARP Project:

Poker Flat Rocket Launch (1968 to Present)

The Poker Flat Research Range is located about 50 km North of Fairbanks, Alaska, and it was established in 1968. It is operated by the Geophysical Institute with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, under NASA contract. About 250 major rocket launches have taken place from this site, and in 1994, a 16-meter long rocket was launched to help NASA "understand chemical reactions in the atmosphere associated with global climate change."

(CON'T NEXT POST)

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(CON'T FROM ABOVE)

Posted by: Prohit on Feb 19, 2007 5:31 AM

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Similar experiments, but using Chemical Release Modules (CRM), have been launched from Churchill, Manitoba. In 1980, Brian Whelan's "Project Waterhole" disrupted an aurora borealis, bringing it to a temporary halt. In February 1983, the chemical released into the ionosphere caused an aurora borealis over Churchill. In March 1989, two Black Brant X's and two Nike Orion rockets were launched over Canada, releasing barium at high altitudes and creating artificial clouds. These Churchill artificial clouds were observed from as far away as Los Alamos, New Mexico.

If that sounds like a future you don't want on your doorstep today, consider the opening paragraphs of Dr. Nick Begich's Star Wars, Star Trek and Killing Politely, linked here in full . . .

Over the last several years Earthpulse has been investigating the latest developments in technology. We explore subjects related to improving the human condition and expose projects which we believe are risky and unnecessary. This essay is about some of the science being developed and contemplated by military planners and others which could profoundly affect our lives. The intent of this essay is to focus discussion on these new systems by bringing them into the light of day.

Is it possible to trigger earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or weather changes by man-made activities? Is it possible to create and direct balls of energy at lightning speeds, to destroy an enemy? Is it possible to manipulate the behavior, and even the memories, of people using specialized technologies? The United States military and others believe that this is the case. Many of these systems are well on their way to being used in the battlefield.

If you believe, as I and others do, that we've gone past the realm of probability into the realm of a dangerous reality, especially given the frequency of catastrophic events, isn't it time to send our own beam of energy to the US government, and demand a full investigation into the activities of HAARP, in particular the manipulation of hurricanes and earthquakes? This kind of activity is another form of terror we live with, because it seems like it can strike anywhere, anytime, in the guise of natural event.

Perhaps it is just Mother Nature kicking up her heels, perhaps not. In either case, a return to reality is called for in these surreal days. The simple presence of HAARP is a form of psychological terror, threatening not just the weather, but the well-being of man and survival of the planet. And that's something you'll never hear from your media weatherman

My comments: This, ladies and gentlemen is getting completely out of control.

[[« Reply to this comment »](#)] [[Post a new comment »](#)]

» [RE: \(CON'T FROM ABOVE\)](#) Posted by: djnoll

» [RE: \(CON'T FROM ABOVE\)](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: \(CON'T FROM ABOVE\)](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [You hit the nail on the head.... there are law suits won against our gov over that very issue!](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: You hit the nail on the head.... there are law suits won against our gov over that very issue!](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [Don't bother with Panama, they just shut the door on us.... New Zealand will eventually fall....](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Uruguay?](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [Uruguay \(n/t\)](#) Posted by: LeftWright

» [Yeah, I not only have a spelling problem but a typing problem as well... I get too](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [Sorry, guys, but Bush and the Moonies have already staked out Paraguay...](#) Posted by: eddie torres

» [RE:Uruguay](#) Posted by: rwa

» [Military Bases are changing their function and demeanor as technology advances.....](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [Wasn't this a hoax?](#) Posted by: Artaraxl

» [Popular mechanics??? I agree, best check out the source, Chertoffs nephew is the editor...](#) Posted by: Prophit

The US Actually Has 6,700 Bases Worldwide

Posted by: PeaceThinkTank.org on Feb 19, 2007 6:18 AM

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For more information go to;

or go to www.peacethinktank.org

Then go to discussion group, then US Military Bases thread.

[[« Reply to this comment »](#)] [[Post a new comment »](#)]

» [RE: The US Actually Has 6,700 Bases Worldwide](#) Posted by: freethink7

A Couple of Problems

Posted by: NoPCZone on Feb 19, 2007 7:09 AM

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#1 Many of the bases located overseas are tiny (by stateside standards) installations inherited from another time and the DOD has actively been involved in consolidating them to a smaller footprint since before the first Gulf War. Background [Here](#).

#2 The Army had already started planning a drawdown of forces before the end of the Cold War. VII Corps, half of our NATO land force, was redeployed stateside after the 1st Gulf War and deactivated. The current drawdown completes the process of

reducing a 2 Corps deployment in Germany to less than a Division sized force and has taken about 15 years.

#3 The relocation of forces stateside was not punishment for some states and reward for others. The sites chosen were dictated by geography and economics. Most installations with the room to absorb new units are located in the sunbelt- not older and smaller installations located in the Northeast and Midwest.

Another large consideration was local housing costs as many married service-members reside off post and are entitled to a market adjustment payment. Rents near Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri are significantly lower than Northern Virginia/Metro D.C. Most high cost of living areas were targeted by BRAC long ago unless the facilities just had to be located in such a place.

I see eye-to eye with Mr Johnson on many things, but know that on t some of this he is either misinformed or has chosen to 'shade' the truth. I choose to think he simply is misinformed.

[<< [Reply to this comment](#)] [[Post a new comment](#) >>]

» [You've Fallen for Pentagon PR - You Need to Follow the Dollars, Contractors, Etc.](#) Posted by: **sofla100**

» [And why do you, sofla, spoil your comment with an exaggerated accusation?](#) Posted by: **Sojourner**

» [RE: You've Fallen for Pentagon PR - Not Really](#) Posted by: **NoPCZone**

» [RE: You've Fallen for Pentagon PR - Not Really](#) Posted by: **the_hendos**

» [Still A Lot of Troops: Contractors have replaced them](#) Posted by: **sofla100**

» [RE: Work in progress.](#) Posted by: **NoPCZone**

» [RE: Work in progress.](#) Posted by: **the_hendos**

» [The old "absolute power corrupts absolutely" is our age in a nutshell](#) Posted by: **Sojourner**

Why is this news?

Posted by: **DougScott** on Feb 19, 2007 7:24 AM

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In 1997, the neoconservative front organization, Project for a New American Century (PNAC), began promoting foreign policy initiatives not permitted by the Constitution, such as:

1. Global domination with America's armed forces stationed at enduring installations around the world including permanent bases in Iraq, which the Pentagon has never denied.
2. Regime change of governments hostile to U.S interests.
3. First strikes against countries that appear to be a threat.
4. Preventive war.

According to PNAC doctrine published during the Clinton years, to insure that the United States would remain the world's top super power, no other nation would be allowed to reach military parity.

To achieve global domination, PNAC advocated increased defense spending to build an army, air force and navy capable of fighting major land wars in two separate theaters, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Not coincidentally, PNAC was founded by the architects of Gulf War 2: Vice President Cheney, Scooter Libby, ex-DOD Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, his former assistant turned World Bank president, Paul Wolfowitz, and the current U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Kahilizad. President Bush is connected to PNAC through his brother, Jeb, one of its founders.

For more information about PNAC, visit www.King-George.biz -- the only website with hardcopy evidence of White House corruption.

Hugh E. Scott, Vietnam veteran, ex-USAF pilot, lifelong registered Republican and author of "George Dub-ya Bush, The PHONY FIGHTER PILOT."

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» [The worst part is...](#) Posted by: Bobsays

» [RE: The worst part is...](#) Posted by: DougScott

» [PNAC called for a "new Pearl Harbor"](#) Posted by: kellysgarden

» [RE: PNAC called for a "new Pearl Harbor"](#) Posted by: DougScott

» [Yeah, read that again and then read this below..... see where these guys are heading..](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [\(CON'T\)Yeah, read that again and then read this below..... see where these guys are heading..](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: \(CON'T\)Yeah, read that again and then read this below..... see where these guys are heading..](#) Posted by: DougScott

But we need them...

Posted by: JoshuaLudd on Feb 19, 2007 7:58 AM

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.. we need all those bases to protect our interests... from the total lack of threats to our interests outside of wholly legal and legitimate ones.

Prepare for the police state, folks. Its coming.

[[« Reply to this comment »](#)] [[Post a new comment »](#)]

» [RE: But we need them...](#) Posted by: freethink7

» [RE: But we need them...](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [RE: But we need them...Thanks makeadifference](#) Posted by: freethink7

» [RE: But we need them...Thanks makeadifference](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [You can start... though it is a long process...](#) Posted by: JoshuaLudd

» [There is also..](#) Posted by: JoshuaLudd

The Anomaly: Israel in the Imperial System

Posted by: rwa on Feb 19, 2007 8:50 AM

[[Report this comment](#)]

James Petras:

Israel is clearly a colonialist power, with the fourth or fifth biggest nuclear arsenal and the second biggest arms exporter in the world. Its population size, territorial spread and economy however are puny in comparison with the imperial and newly emerging imperial powers. Despite these limitations Israel exercises supreme power in influencing the direction of United States war policy in the Middle East via a powerful Zionist political apparatus, which permeates the State, the mass media, elite

economic sectors and civil society. Through Israel's direct political influence in making US foreign policy, as well as through its overseas military collaboration with dictatorial imperial client regimes, Israel can be considered part of the imperial power configuration despite its demographic constraints, its near universal pariah diplomatic status, and its externally sustained economy.

[link](#)

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Military Spending - Corruption Galore and Escalating

Posted by: sofla100 on Feb 19, 2007 8:58 AM

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We are continuing to see a massive increase in defense spending. Already, the USA spends more on its military than all the other countries of the world combined do on military spending. Over 1 million contractors are now connected with DOD, and they are milking her dry. Ex-military galore, no-bid contracts, politicians lobbied continuously to "influence" (and it works) DOD for more. The business of Defense is now an integral part of American Business, and it is big. So, those in uniform are only part of it. The real killers, those who design the nukes, the guns, the bombs, are in American offices everywhere, GE, Raytheon, Bechtel, and a thousand other American corporations.

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Are We Really A Nation of Warriors?

Posted by: djnoll on Feb 19, 2007 9:21 AM

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I was pondering this weekend our military history in view of what is happening and what will happen shortly. Do you realize that we are not a nation who seeks out war until now? We did not seek our revolution until it was thrust upon us by the actions of the British King and Parliament. We had left Europe to seek a new life based on Christian principles that did not include fighting in religious wars among European nations. Our Founding Fathers did not organize an army of mercenaries, they were farmers and shopkeepers who just wanted to be able to make a living for their families. We allow for the keeping of arms in our Constitution for the purpose of protecting our homes, and a national militia was to protect our nation. There was nothing about a permanent standing military force in our history.

We pushed ourselves to a Civil War over differing political and economic views between states, but many of what are now the Western states did not participate in this war because they believed it was not their fight. The people who moved West to find homes and create communities that did not suffer from the violence of the East, both before and after the Civil War. They did not want war, and they did not want to see families torn apart by it. Politicians and businessmen created that war and it nearly destroyed this nation, because we were not warriors at heart.

The First World War was a European War and we were not involved, except where Americans felt a personal belief to fight in it until our shipping was attacked, not unlike the sinking of the battleship Maine started the Spanish-American War several decades earlier. We may have supplied through our corporations the combatants, but we did not want war, and we did not start it.

The Second World War was not a war that the American public wanted either until Pearl Harbor. We were as the Japanese Admiral put it, the sleeping dragon. We were not interested in war with Germany or Japan. FDR knew that if he could get us involved, and Churchill was advocating this, we could finish recovering from the Depression, because nothing stimulates manufacturing like a war. Americans were not seeking war, even though like their fathers many young men had gone to Canada and England to enlist. We did not start that war, but we have been paying the price of our involvement ever since, and it has shaped our history.

In the wars that followed - Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War I - we were not the aggressors who started the wars. We honored treaties or UN mandates. We went reluctantly, and we did as we were asked to do by a world that wanted us to act for them. We are not warriors, we are, at heart the peacemakers. But somewhere along the way, we became the puppets of those who are the war makers, and Heaven help us, they now lead us.

The American people must accept that we are not the nation who was built on a premise of war. We were built on the premise of brotherhood and freedom for all. Not necessarily our definition of freedom in the sense of American democracy, but rather freedom to choose how a nation wants to exist within the world of nations. We need to stop being the policemen of the world, and we definitely do not want to be the rulers of the world - despite BushCo and Corporate Facism. The American People need to demand, and to act, to bring our countrymen and women home, and then to work to rebuild and restructure our nation to be self-sufficient and peaceful, and if the rest of world does not like that, then perhaps they should start doing the jobs of world policemen and financiers and benefactors themselves. Personally, I am more than a little fed up with the attitude that we are good enough to fight for your oil or to rebuild your continents, but not good enough to treat like decent human beings even before Iraq.

[<< [Reply to this comment](#)] [[Post a new comment](#) >>]

» ["THE PEOPLE" have never wanted war... its always been the power brokers.](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: "THE PEOPLE" have never wanted war... its always been the power brokers.](#) Posted by: djnoll

» [RE: "THE PEOPLE" have never wanted war... its always been the power brokers.](#) Posted by: xgroverx

» [Well, you just keep that thought when they haul you and your children to those nice new camps...](#) Posted by: Prophit

"realign the global posture"?

Posted by: karma_ran_over_dogma on Feb 19, 2007 9:59 AM

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Bush as a chiropractor? Scary!

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But What About The North American Union

Posted by: freethink7 on Feb 19, 2007 10:11 AM

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AlterNet has been strangely, almost surrealistically silent about the NAU (merging U.S., Mexico + Canada = Treason) which is a step closer to a global one world government, new world order. The plans for NAU are even posted in an audacious - barefaced manner on the U.S. Gov.org website. This posting on the U.S. government's website is treason. The NAU is treason. (This issue has been conveniently eliminated from the mainstream media). When are people going to wake the hell up.

For More Info:

<http://www.stopthenorthamericanunion.com/>

Also NAU is unbelievably posted all over the usgov.org website

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» [RE: But What About The North American Union](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [There is no North American Union](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Well, the huge multi country road is currently under construction in Texas.... but then, its just a](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [Pan-American Highway has been under construction for 50 years](#) Posted by: eddie torres

» [RE: Well, the huge multi country road is currently under construction in Texas.... but then, its just a](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: There is no North American Union](#) Posted by: djnoll

» [RE: There is no North American Union](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: There is no North American Union](#) Posted by: djnoll

» [RE: There is no North American Union](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Yes, and haven't contracts for building it been awarded to foreign companies from Spain and...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Yes, and haven't contracts for building it been awarded to foreign companies from Spain and...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Yes, Josh, I know you can't relate cause your daddy probably bought you a job, but the rest of us...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Yes, Josh, I know you can't relate cause your daddy probably bought you a job, but the rest of u](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [See below.....](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: See below.....](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: See below.....](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: See below.....](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: What About The SPP](#) Posted by: rwa

» [RE: What About The SPP](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Yes, indeed, I do too! Google CFR, that plan and recommendation is on their site as well.](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Yes, indeed, I do too! Google CFR, that plan and recommendation is on their site as well.](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Nobody here is making "shit" up... nice language... its all documented and in case you are](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Nobody here is making "shit" up... nice language.... its all documented and in case you are ...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: dover23

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: dover23

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: dover23

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Remember](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: rwa

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: dover23

» [Disagree ...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Disagree ...](#) Posted by: dover23

» [RE: Disagree ...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: eddie torres

» [RE: Slithering away again?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: Nobody here is making "shit" up... nice language.... its all documented and in case you are ...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Nobody here is making "shit" up... nice language.... its all documented and in case you are ...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Now, I am really mad, you call me a conspiracy nut and you don't even know they were passed into law](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [Classic prophit argument ...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [RE: What About The SPP](#) Posted by: xgroverx

» [Or replace "people" with drugs and you might be right as well..... LOL](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Or replace "people" with drugs and you might be right as well..... LOL](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

» [Read Josh, please, its getting old that you don't read. Congress ferreted out the lies told...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: ead Josh, please, its getting old that you don't read. Congress ferreted out the lies told...](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

Justin Raimundo:

Posted by: rwa on Feb 19, 2007 10:49 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

"America is, today, the fountainhead of evil in the world. No one is killing people faster, and with more cruelty and indifference, than the warlords of Washington. The temptation is to turn away in disgust and resign oneself to the degeneration of Jefferson's benevolent legacy into a maelstrom of malevolence worthy of Caligula.

Yet the triumph of domination as the guiding principle of U.S. foreign policy is not inevitable, or irreversible. Its overthrow, however, requires a moral reawakening...

Sooner or later, the American people must be made to understand that the choice is between noninterventionism and barbarism. Americans are naïve: they believe in the myth of automatic progress, the illusion of history as an ever ascending stairway to higher levels of civilization, but the truth is far grimmer. Empires rise – and fall. Dark ages follow. The kind of degeneracy we are now seeing acted out in Iraq promises a fall that will plumb new depths of darkness."

anti-war.com

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» [RE: Justin Raimundo](#): Posted by: Doubtom

» [Good point, look at what the allies did to Dresden in WWII... Killed 500,000 unarmed civilians.](#) Posted by: Prophit

1000 Bases to Bomb Sheep

Posted by: maxloen on Feb 19, 2007 10:52 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

You have to understand that, after all, we are right to be upset. We had big plans to use your boys to make sure all the world's strategic assets we bought with the money we raided with the privatization of the Social Security Fund were going to remain ours for as long as we wanted them, or we would have sent your marines to remind whoever deposed *our* minions that we had the signed Deeds and Titles.

Since our own kids are lobbyists and investment bankers, or travelling, we have no choice but to send your dysfunctional 'console killers' generation to stand the brunt of foreign isolation and hatred. Not surprising they bomb sheep, although I presume they would rather f..k'em.

Now the monkey wrench thrown into this grandiose plans are the internet blogs. If we cannot 'control the gates', we may, as Prophit says, *HAARP* it to 'disrupt it.' (We don't mind being Harpies, OK?) Or *Making Martial Law Easier* and repeal your Posse Comitatus shit!

Be good patriots, rent another storage space, and go shopping!

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

What was that bumper sticker I saw? Something like....

Posted by: WitchyNy on Feb 19, 2007 11:18 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

AMERICA...BE NICE TO US OR WE WILL BRING DEMOCRACY TO YOUR COUNTRY!

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

» [Hahahaha, that is a great one! I want one.....](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [I liked...](#) Posted by: JoshuaLudd

AmuriKan Empire?

Posted by: Doubtom on Feb 19, 2007 11:40 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

Congratulations for finally figuring out that we've become an empire--now will you make the effort to get that taught in our schools?

Gee, next you'll be informing us that "War is a Racket"

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

Jeez, now you tell us

Posted by: dayahka on Feb 19, 2007 11:47 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

American Republic? There hasn't been one for at least the last fifty years. We have an oligarchy. There never was a democracy; that's a mythological illusion.

How long will the delusions continue? Only two things could end it...One, a group of other nations band together to destroy the US; this is unlikely since it would require a weapon that could repel a nuclear counter-attack...Two, the US is destroyed from within. This is possible and likely, but cannot be predicted; something like the plague may do it.

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

» [No, the plague won't be the cause.... its our internationalist leaders who will do and are doing...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: No, the plague won't be the cause.... its our internationalist leaders who will do and are doing](#) Posted by: djnoll

scared

Posted by: RYancey on Feb 19, 2007 1:28 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

Something that is rarely mentioned regarding the US empire is that our economy is inextricably linked to sustaining an empire. The dominance of petrodollars (for example) sustains a false integrity. If we were to truly withdraw from Iraq and from the Middle East and from all the other places where we keep our weapons locked and loaded, it is likely that these places would diversify their economies, perhaps trading in petroeuros instead, the US would collapse like a deflating balloon. This is why the democrats are such wimps, they are afraid of the potential for a real economic crisis. We should be figuring out how to transition from empire to just another country...

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

» [Won't happen, corps won't let it happen. In fact, they are worried we will do exactly that.](#) Posted by: Prophit

THE MONSTER YAWN'S

Posted by: Neilium on Feb 19, 2007 1:59 PM

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I hope you all don't get indigestion, you could go look in it's bowel, and see what it's leaving all over the planet.

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

Empire Shmempire

Posted by: wilymack on Feb 19, 2007 2:00 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

Howizzut we're so good at so many things and so awful at how we view and treat the rest of the world? "American interests" are nothing more or less than what our corporate bosses say they are, and with their stranglehold on our Congressional and military sectors, what they say, goes. The back of this corporate giant MUST be broken before any meaningful progress is made toward world peace, which is the opposite of what this kleptocracy wants. Do we NEED all those troops offshore? The answer in my mind is HELL, NO! Look at what we could do if we cut this military monster down to size. We could fully fund universal health care, infrastructure repair, better schools, and REAL research on ways to end the Petroleum Age, and have money left over to start paying down the national debt. If we can get away from tinpot dictators, posing as our presidents, we can start looking after the needs of our own people. America first; remember that one?

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

the ship of state is going down

Posted by: wleming on Feb 19, 2007 2:13 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

Johnson has made it clear: find a desert island, and for those of you interested in the "karma" this imperial death trip would indicate: Johnson has suggested a Canadian passport.

[« Reply to this comment »](#) [\[Post a new comment »\]](#)

» [Canada is on the same journey as we are... all the commonwealth countries are going...](#) Posted by: Prophit

» [RE: Canada is on the same journey as we are... all the commonwealth countries are going...](#) Posted by: dover23

» [Oh, great point.... they are not to be trifled with indeed... LOL](#) Posted by: Prophit

Those pesky missing Pentagon trillions

Posted by: eddie torres on Feb 19, 2007 2:34 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

The Pentagon trillions unaccounted for since 1988 are a key issue related to Johnson's story. It's mostly an accounting failure, but so was Enron.

The ability of an ideologically motivated cabal to "mis-underestimate" the systemic management of massive flows of capital allows well-connected key operators to siphon off billions here and there to corporate allies.

Johnson says that Rummy and Feith's restructuring plans open up "...a vast landscape of diplomatic and bureaucratic minefields that Rumsfeld's militarists surely underestimated."

But there is a financial pattern to this diplomatic and bureaucratic under-estimation:

[1 - A warning from deep inside the Pentagon](#)

[2 - So Much for the Peace Dividend](#)

[3 - Military waste under fire](#)

[4 - The Missing Money](#)

[5 - How can \\$2.7 trillion disappear?](#)

And there's a pretty good blueprint somewhere for the world's greatest theft - perhaps Johnson's next book?

PS: US Baby Boomers hoping for health and retirement benefits from either their government or their corporate employers might want to re-watch "Logan's Run" for ideas.

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As Rome was cracked open by the "barbarians," ours are waiting south of the border.

Posted by: Sojourner on Feb 19, 2007 3:22 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

The illegal immigration we are experiencing has shown that Americans do not have the spine to resist the temptations of corruption. We are the candy store, and the kids' noses are pressed against the glass window. They will pay us to enter with all the temptations a corrupt people cannot resist--hard work for low pay, drugs, sex, possessions, adolescent rebellion, and crime.

As our leadership (viz, the last Congress is a perfect example) models the sociopathy of us, as a people, further disintegration is just a matter of time. (The prison-industrial complex is all we know, and it is doomed to eventual failure.) However, since the only thing that matters is "when?" and it won't happen tomorrow, "eventual failure" can be lived with, unfortunately, for a long time.

We have not nurtured the leadership we need to avoid the foreseeable collapse. We want leaders just like us, so we consistently elect the least competent to office. Who wants leaders to make us feel guilty, as with, "Ask not what your country can do for you." Or "I have a dream."

Instead we want to hear "Just wrap yourself in an American flag and go back to sleep." Zzzzzzzz.

[\[<< Reply to this comment\]](#) [\[Post a new comment >>\]](#)

Time to Kick the USA Out and Disband NATO

Posted by: sofla100 on Feb 19, 2007 5:12 PM

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

The US military has been stellar at creating the illusion of a smaller military than the one that actually exists by using many thousands of contractors. Soldiers now are just to be "trigger pullers," with everything else farmed out. But, beyond this is that the military is trying to expand in some locations, such as Vincenza, Italy. Not reported much in the US media, but 70,000 protestors showed up. Seems they don't like the CIA kidnaping alleged local "terrorists" for extradition to Egypt and certain torture. But, what is really needed is for these countries to simply throw the empire out, throw the USA out. Time to collapse

NATO as well, it simply now is being used as a way for the USA to "pressure Russia" and other countries with military hegemony. Same thing in all the other countries, throw the USA out, throw out the treaties and other relics. It is time for a new future.

[<< [Reply to this comment](#)] [[Post a new comment](#) >>]

» [Kick the USA out of North America?](#) Posted by: LeftWright

» [The British got kicked out of the colonies.](#) Posted by: YinRising

Confirmation of weather control technology

Posted by: MrAllen on Feb 19, 2007 5:24 PM

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Evidence from the environment and from independent researchers and analysts suggest that this type of weather control is already being exercised as – in effect – a weapon of mass destruction. Public disclosure occurred at an April 1997 counter-terrorism conference. Secretary of Defense William Cohen stated:

"Others [terrorists] are engaging even in an eco-type of terrorism whereby they can alter the climate, set off earthquakes, volcanoes remotely through the use of electromagnetic waves. So there are plenty of ingenious minds out there that are at work finding ways in which they can wreak terror upon other nations and it's real, and that's the reason why we have to intensify our [counterterrorism] efforts."

*Mr Allen's note:Some credible individuals believe that Hurricane Katrina was a technology-created incident.And perhaps originating from within our government.

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» [Its legal now... they denied its existance for years but made it legal Oct 2005..... be careful tho](#) Posted by: Prophit

Running on Empty

Posted by: YogiBear on Feb 19, 2007 11:43 PM

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It's the cost that gets me. It's one huge entitlement package borne on the backs of the U.S. taxpayers. Why is it that cost-cutting conservatives and even some libertarians tend to ignore this elephant in the room?

Maybe we need to deconstruct the Pentagon and our arms race industry. I, for one, am running on empty cashwise, lately.

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» [Why? Because despite their rhetoric...](#) Posted by: JoshuaLudd

» [Which Libertarians???](#) Posted by: rwa

Palli

Posted by: palli on Feb 20, 2007 6:43 AM

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If only military bases could be used for adaptive reuse: citizen housing & refugee housing, Peace Corps central posts.

Buildings on military bases could serve as universities or hubs for NGO's.

Even the anonymous brutalist architecture of these bases could provide shelter and the patina of everyday civilian life could begin to soften the ethnocentric conceit that built forts on foreign ground.

I despair the priorities of administration after administration. Our national interest is seldom served by military occupation... military bases signify occupation. Places like Quantamano though, could that site ever lose the screams, tears and cruel laughter?

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yankee go home

Posted by: denk on Feb 20, 2007 8:17 AM

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[One recent survey by a school teacher on Okinawa found a third of his female high school students had been sexually molested by U.S. soldiers.](#)

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Gary J Minter

Posted by: garyjminter on Feb 20, 2007 1:55 PM

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Going back in time, can we learn from the past?

Human nature makes us each want our own space, free from meddling and interference by "outsiders" whether foreign armies, spies, parents, neighbors, or thieves...

Sometimes, when governments--or even parents-- are especially brutal or corrupt, people ask outsiders to help free them from oppression...but they don't want their liberators to become their new oppressors.

When the former USSR ran a puppet government in Kabul, Afghanistan during the 1980's, the Afghans eventually wore them down, with active help of the United States under President Reagan, "foreign" Muslims like wealthy eccentric Osama bin Laden, and fierce fighting by Muhajedeen and Taliban militia, local warlords, and others who wanted the Russian troops out. Russia eventually got the message.

The US got the same message in Viet Nam during the 1970's, when, after taking over from the French colonialists, American troops tried to prop up various corrupt, pro-Western warlords in Saigon, only to be eventually overwhelmed by patriotic nationalists and communists from the North led by Ho Chi Minh and General Giap.

The United States later learned that Iranians also wanted to run their own country, not be ruled by US-backed Shah Reza Pahlavi, who was very friendly to American and British oil companies, and a bit unfriendly (SAVAK) to his own people when they dared to defy him....so Iranian "fundamentalists" led by Ayatollah Khomeini and others took back their country, and took Americans hostage as a show of their anger toward the USA.

Later, Ronald Reagan wanted to win the White House, and to fight Danny Ortega in Nicaragua, so he made various clandestine arms and money deals with the Iranians, Israelis, and Contras through BCCI and Ollie North.

We could mention the strong US support of Saddam Hussein during the Reagan-Bush 1980s, when Saddam was killing all political opponents, gassing the Kurds, and suppressing the Shiites in Iraq, and launching an invasion against his neighbor Iran which cost millions of lives and accomplished nothing.

Maybe a few other names from the past: Ferdinand Marcos of the Phillipines, Papa Doc Duvalier (Voodoo! and Tonton Macoutes) of Haiti, the Somoza family of Nicaragua, Batista and Prio of Cuba (before Fidel kicked out the American mobsters, gamblers, and corporate honchos), Augusto Pinochet of Chile, who, with the support of President Nixon and ITT, led a coup which resulted in the death of legally-elected Salvadore Allende....how about (Joseph) Mobutu Sese Seku, who killed reformer Patrice Lumumba and became US-British backed dictator of the Congo (Zaire) for decades, managing to hoard billions in gold and leave behind an inherently unstable government after his death, as Saddam did?

Need I go on? What goes around, comes around, maybe not quite "instant Karma" as John Lennon sang about, but eventually bad deeds come back to haunt those who do them...

I know it's easy to criticize, and be a Monday-morning quarterback, and it is true that international geopolitics is "no picnic"... sometimes the choices are not easy....

But doesn't it seem wrong to support gangsters, murderers, and those who sell out and betray their own people, for the sake of cheap oil, sugar, fruit, gold, diamonds, or anything else? For the sake of trade advantages and good deals for corporate CEOs

and wealthy investors in America and Europe?

Blind idealism is often unwise...but shouldn't there should be some basic morality, some basic human decency and honesty, in foreign and domestic policy, even if it means higher prices for consumers and lower profits for corporate stockholders and CEOs?

Gary J. Minter

<http://spaces.msn.com/aidschina/>

<http://aidsvillagechina.blog.sohu.com>

www.healthchina.org

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I PROPOSE

Posted by: Raymond Emerson on Feb 21, 2007 12:56 AM

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that we close all foreign military bases. George Washington eschewed all 'entangling' foreign alliances. I propose that we come home and mind our own business. What a novel idea. I think we may have already sent it to China.

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