

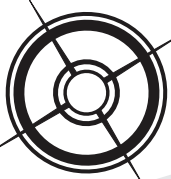
# GUERRILLA

ISSUE

005

DEPROGRAMMER

AMONTHLY PUBLICATION



## GNN

### IRAQ UPDATE :

# No Way Out



#### About GNN

Guerrilla News Network (GNN.tv) is an independent alternative news organization committed to exposing people of all ages to important global issues - free from corporate filters - through innovative multi-platform news and documentary programming. GNN is best known for their short, hard-hitting Guerrilla NewsVideos - design-rich mini-documentaries that deconstruct complex socio-political issues in music video form. Broadcast at GNN.tv, Guerrilla NewsVideos meld high-impact imagery, poignant interviews, archival footage and enhanced graphics with tracks from top recording artists like Peter Gabriel, AdRoc, Dead Prez, and many others. The GNN website is one of the Internet's premiere alternative news outlets, offering original and syndicated reporting from some of the world's top writers and journalists, in addition to an active forum where a dedicated community of guerrillas meet to discuss issues related to the Information (R)evolution.

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"The real clash has yet to come. In the south, they are waiting, and in months they will be fired."

It was last October. We were walking through a tank graveyard on the outskirts of Baghdad. Our friend, Iraqi blogger Raed Jarrar, was describing the mood in the predominately Shiite south, where he frequently visited. At the time, Sunni insurgents had been fighting a more or a less non-stop guerrilla war against the U.S. occupation forces since the day Baghdad fell. But the Shia, Iraq's long-oppressed majority, had been relatively quiet, waiting in the wings, as Raed explained, for the dust to settle and the Americans to give them their country back. But five months later, when four American "contractors" were brutally killed and dismembered in Fallujah, the entire country was ready to erupt. And it did. Shiites and Sunnis united. Iraqis had had enough.



The Americans had blown it. They had almost a year to the day to prove to the Iraqi people they were "liberators" not "occupiers." But at every step, they fumbled. Nearly 20,000 Iraqis sit

in prison camps, with no rights, and most with no charges. Towns were rung in razor-wire. Civilians are still regularly shot and killed. And to top it all off, the Americans couldn't even get the lights back on.

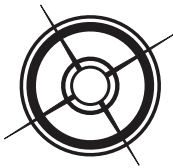
Back home in right-wing circles, the uprising seemed to come out of the blue. The New York Times' conservative commentator David Brooks wrote, "I never thought it would be this bad." The administration was less honest. Rumsfeld tried to argue they had planned for every eventuality, even as he scrambled to find more troops ready to fight.

There are a hundred and one reasons why Iraq isn't Vietnam. But in both cases, we see war planners stuck in deep denial. Here we are, once again deep in the "big muddy," with a corrupt puppet regime, a local army that won't fight, and a hostile population in which it's impossible to tell friend from foe. And our answer: send more troops. 2004 is 1964 all over again.

As the radical historian Howard Zinn wrote, "This fits the definition of fanaticism: 'When you find you're going in the wrong direction, you double your speed.'"

We went to Vietnam to stop the "domino effect," a region-wide shift towards communism. When we left, it never happened. But what we have in Iraq is something much worse: a global "domino effect," in reverse.

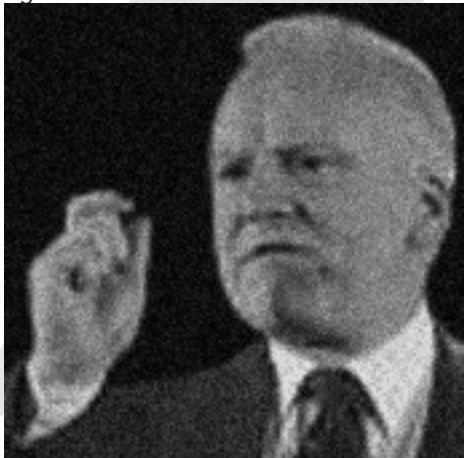
If there was another 9/11 tomorrow, people around the world wouldn't just be celebrating. They might turn it into an international holiday.



# NewsWire: The Line

by William Rivers Pitt

Former White House Counter-Terrorism Czar Richard Clarke has managed to do something that defies modern political gravity. He has stayed in the news, hour after hour and day after day. Clarke, somehow, has managed to maintain his position at the top of the news despite this process we mistakenly call 'journalism' for longer than any other ten major recent stories combined. There are several reasons for this... One is because he does not stand alone. Had he been the only person to come forth with savage criticism of George W. and his administration, Karl Rove would have called out the dogs, and Clarke would have found himself selling Amway outside of McMurdo Sound before St. Patrick's Day. Fortunately for Clarke, and for the truth, he has joined a long and prestigious line of people who have come forward to bear witness against this White House:



\* Tom Maertens, who was National Security Council director for nuclear non-proliferation for both the Clinton and Bush White House. Maertens' own words tell the tale: "Clarke was a colleague for 15 months in the White House, under both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush... From my perspective, the Bush administration has practiced the most cynical, opportunistic form of politics I witnessed in my 28 years in government: hijacking legitimate American outrage and patriotism over 9/11 to conduct a pre-ordained war against Saddam."

\* Roger Cressey, Clarke's former deputy. Cressey backs up one of the most damning charges that has been leveled against the administration by Clarke: They blew past al Qaeda after the 9/11 attacks, focusing instead on Iraq. Cressey is one of four eyewitnesses to an exchange between Clarke and Bush which took place in the White House Situation Room on September 12, 2001. Bush pressed Clarke three times on September 12 to find evidence that Iraq was responsible for the attacks. According to his book, 'Against All Enemies,' Clarke protested that al-Qaeda, and not Iraq, was responsible. Bush angrily ordered him to "look into Iraq, Saddam," and then left the room. According to Cressey, Condoleezza Rice was also a witness to this exchange.

\* Donald Kerrick, a three-star General who served as deputy National Security Advisor under Clinton, and stayed for several months

in the Bush White House. According to a report by Sidney Blumenthal from March 25, Kerrick wrote Stephen Hadley, his replacement in the White House, a two-page memo. "It was classified," Kerrick told Blumenthal. "I said they needed to pay attention to al-Qaeda and counterterrorism. I said we were going to be struck again. We didn't know where or when. They never once asked me a question nor did I see them having a serious discussion about it." Hadley has since become a White House front man in the attacks against Rickard Clarke.

\* Paul O'Neill, former Treasury Secretary for George W. Bush. O'Neill was afforded a position on the National Security Council because of his job as Treasury Secretary, and sat in on the Iraq invasion planning sessions which were taking place months before the attacks of September 11. "It was all about finding a way to do it," says O'Neill. "That was the tone of it. The president saying 'Go find me a way to do this.'" O'Neill describes the process of decision-making between Bush and his people as being "like a blind man in a roomful of deaf people."

\* Joseph Wilson, the former ambassador and career diplomat who received lavish praise from the first President Bush for his work in Iraq before the first Gulf War. Wilson was dispatched in February 2002 to Niger to see if charges that Iraq was seeking uranium from that nation to make nuclear bombs had any merit. He investigated, returned, and informed the CIA, the State Department, the office of the National Security Advisor and the office of Vice President Cheney that the charges were without merit. Eleven months later, GW used the Niger uranium claim in his State of the Union, despite the fact that it had been irrefutably debunked. Wilson went public. Days later, Wilson's wife came under attack from the White House, whose agents used press proxies to expose her as a deep-cover agent running a network which worked to keep wmds out of terrorists' hands.

\* Greg Thielmann, former Director of the Office of Strategic, Proliferation, and Military Issues in the State Department. Thielmann, like Ambassador Wilson, was involved in investigating whether the Niger uranium claims had any merit. He told Newsweek at the beginning of June 2003 that the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research had concluded the documents used to support the Niger uranium claims were "garbage." In fact, they were crude forgeries. Thielmann was stunned to see Bush use the claims in his State of the Union address eleven months after the charge had been dispensed with as nonsense. "When I saw that, it really blew me away," Thielmann told Newsweek. He watched Bush use the claim and said, "Not that stupid piece of garbage. My thought was, how did that get into the speech?"

\* Karen Kwiatkowski, a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force and a career Pentagon officer. Kwiatkowski worked in the office of Undersecretary for Policy Douglas Feith, and worked specifically with the Office of Special Plans. Kwiatkowski's own words tell her story: "From May 2002 until February 2003, I observed firsthand the formation of the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans and watched the latter stages of the neoconservative capture of the policy-intelligence nexus in the run-up to

the invasion of Iraq. I saw a narrow and deeply flawed policy favored by some executive appointees in the Pentagon used to manipulate and pressurize the traditional relationship between policymakers in the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies. I witnessed neoconservative agenda bearers within OSP usurp measured and carefully considered assessments, and through suppression and distortion of intelligence analysis promulgate what were in fact falsehoods to both Congress and the executive office of the president."

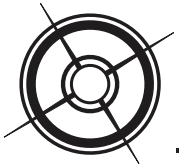
\* Rand Beers, who served the Bush administration on the National Security Council at the White House as a special assistant to the President for combating terrorism. Mr. Beers served in government for more than 30 years working in international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, intelligence, and counterterrorism. He worked for the National Security Council under presidents Reagan, Bush Sr. and Clinton. Because of his position, Beers saw everything. In a June 2003 interview on Nightline, Beers reported that the administration was failing dramatically to defend the United States against terrorism. According to Beers, al Qaeda presented a far greater threat to America than Hussein and Iraq, and that the Iraq war was a terrible and unnecessary distraction from what was truly needed to keep the nation safe.

Rogue journalist Hunter S. Thompson, in a 1973 article titled "Fear and Loathing in Washington: The Boys in the Bag," described the looming sense of doom which surrounded the Nixon White House after the existence of recorded Oval Office conversations were exposed. The Nixon White House had tried everything to that point to fend off the Watergate scandal: They denied everything, then tried to pay off the central figures, then fired a bunch of people, denied everything again, and finally released edited transcripts of the White House tapes in an effort to stem the tide that was about to flood them out of power.

"There are a hundred or more people wandering around Washington today," wrote Thompson, "who have heard the 'real stuff,' as they put it - and despite their professional caution when the obvious question arises, there is one reaction they all feel free to agree on: that nobody who felt shocked, depressed or angry after reading the edited White House transcripts should ever be allowed to hear the actual tapes, except under heavy sedation or locked in the trunk of a car. Only a terminal cynic, they say, can listen for any length of time to the real stuff without feeling a compulsion to do something like drive to the White House and throw a bag of live rats over the fence."

These people all heard and saw the real stuff happening in this Bush White House. Wilson has a book coming out in May, in which he will name White House operatives who destroyed his wife's career. There will be more books, and the 24-hour news cycle will continue to ride this tiger. These people are telling the world about the real stuff. The Bush/Cheney Re-Election Axis is terrified, and the Secret Service detail guarding the White House perimeter might want to cowboy up in preparation for a rain of rat bags coming over that fence.





# Co Intel featuring: Naomi Klein



Naomi Klein may be our generation's most potent threat to the menace collectively known as the World Bank/IMF/G8. Few people can riff this fluidly when asked about the structural analysis of the expansionist corpo-military paradigm in Iraq. Read carefully and whisper a little mantra of gratitude that she's on our side. And not theirs... GNN recently met up with Naomi at the Media Reform Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

Naomi: I believe that the goal of this war was to bomb into being a new free trade zone. Precisely because of the enormous backlash against these economic policies by countries that have already adopted them. Capitalism functions like a drug addict. The drug is growth. It needs growth to survive. It needs growth to expand. The market has not actually recovered, it is in desperate need of new growth and it finds itself in a situation where its usual suppliers, its usual dealers, are cutting it off. That's what is happening in Latin America. When attempts to privatize energy and water in Bolivia are resisted, when huge popular movements are saying 'we don't want the free trade area of the Americas'... in Cancun, the last WTO round, when poor countries banded together and said 'we'd rather have no deal than a bad deal.' That means that they're getting cut off. Because what's embedded in these deals are opportunities for expansion and growth; new markets, services on the agenda and so on. I would call that free trade lite: that wrestles market access through the WTO and FTA negotiations. And it's precisely because of that desperation... the desperation of a junkie, that now it's been upgraded to this free trade at a barrel of a gun, or free trade supercharge. Where we will get our free trade and expansion, we'll get our shock therapy - which is what these economic policies are called in Latin America and Russia - through shock and awe military force. And if you believe, as I do, that that is actually the goal of the war: market expansion and growth... not just oil but water, roads, schools, hospitals, private jails, anything that can be turned into a commodity and sold, then you have to say: 'OK, if that's the goal, how's

it going?' On September 19, 2003 Paul Bremer introduced Order 39, which overturned Iraq's constitution. It allowed 100% foreign ownership of Iraqi businesses and it put 200 Iraqi state companies up for privatization, up for sale. And it also said that companies coming into Iraq can take 100% of their profits out of the country. It also gave them a massive tax break. Bigger than anything Bush has been able to achieve. The top tax bracket in Iraq before September 19 was 45%, which is what it is in Canada. It's now a 15% flat tax. So this is an economic overhaul. It is shock therapy. It has already led to 70% unemployment, as you know. And we're not hearing about it. All we're hearing about is this strategic discussion from the military side. It's a distraction from the truth... from the fact that the reason they went into the country was to achieve this structural adjustment... to open it up.

GNN: War is always presented by governments as an ideological crusade. As a battle between good and evil. But a quick study of history reveals that so often it is really just about economics and the expansion of markets. Is Iraq the new model? Or is that too dramatic a description?

Naomi: I think it's absolutely clear that this is the new model, that this is the new template that they're trying to sell. And Iraq is being treated as the dream economy for the most ideological of Washington's neo-conservatives to come and create the kind of economy that only exists in their own economics text books. Because they actually can't achieve this wish-list and this capitalist dream at home because democracy gets in the way. And I am hopeful about this situation for a couple of reasons. The first is that it is a response to desperation and not an expression of strength. The way that the U.S. likes to present itself to the world is as this swaggering, unilateral superpower that doesn't have to care about the rest of the world's opinion. If you see it in this other context, where the world is, in fact, standing up in an unprecedented way to this superpower. That there is an economic model that is not actually capable of thinking rationally, it can only think about how to get what it needs, which is growth and expansion. Then, what is happening in Iraq can be seen as an act of desperation and not of swaggering power, although it is an extraordinarily lethal, dangerous form of desperation. And it's important that those of us who oppose this economic system understand that. Because it can give us power and insight and allow us to better organize ourselves, strategically, to defeat it.

## FILM : The Corporation

The much-anticipated documentary "The Corporation" is finally out. Directed by Mark Achbar (co-director of the landmark "Manufacturing Consent"), Joel Balkan (author of the forthcoming "The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power") and Jennifer Abbott, the three-hour feature documentary includes a star-studded cast that includes CEOs from the world's largest corporations, whistleblowers, a spy and the likes of Noam Chomsky, Michael Moore, Naomi Klein and Milton Friedman, to name a few. "The Corporation" is dark and amusing. It deconstructs the history of the institution, its evolution, and its effects on mankind. Treating the corporation as a legal "person" as defined by the law, the film employs a real personality diagnostic checklist from the World Health Organization and their Manual of Mental Disorders to illustrate how the corporation, once just a way of doing business, is, legally, a psychopath. Sound crazy? Maybe, but the film is groundbreaking and will be a staple amongst activists and business school students alike. The film took the documentary award at Sundance, and a U.S. release is imminent.

- Paul Shore, GNN Canada



## Spin:

## US Funded Channel Woos Arabs

"Like this image of Arabian stallions at full gallop, the new Alhurra Arabic-language television network is off and running with news coverage beamed at the Middle East, despite significant competition and mounting controversy," Television Week writes. Top branding and advertising specialists hope their work for the U.S.-funded Alhurra ("The Free One" in Arabic) will grab the attention of Arabic viewers, already skeptical of the network's content. Middle East Online reports that the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Khaleej said, "If U.S. policy in the region were healthy

and convincing, they would not resort to cosmetic means to improve their image." The Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees the new satellite channel as well as Voice of America and Radio Sawa, says its latest project -- costing \$62 million in its first year -- will provide independent news and information. Reuters reports Alhurra's slogan running between programs says, "You think, you aspire, you choose, you express, you are free. Alhurra, just as you are."

Source: TV Week

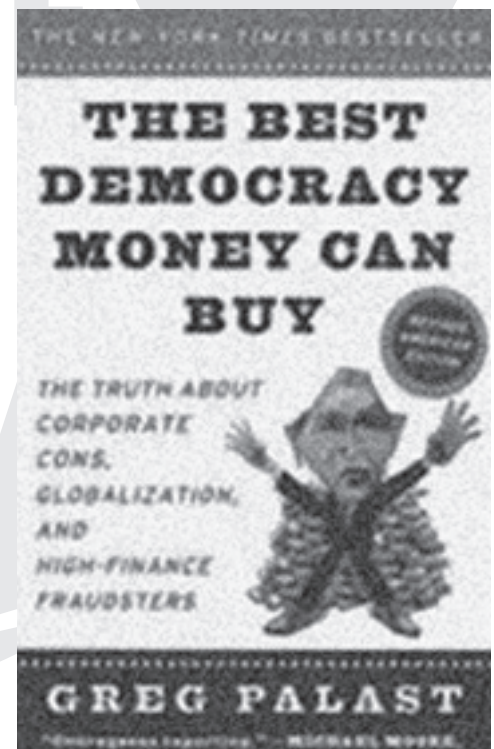
## BOOK Review

"Greg Palast is back. In a new "election edition" of his hit, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy," GNN's favorite fedora-sporting muckraker breaks down such scoops as how politically-connected companies, including the same company that fixed the 2000 Presidential Election, are cashing in on the "War on Terror" and how the man who fixed Florida, James Baker, is working for the Saudis while keeping an office in the White House. Palast also got a hold of a 100 page "Iraq Strategy" document: a comprehensive schedule to create a free-market Disneyland in Mesopotamia - put together by Washington insiders and lobbyists - that lays bare the real reasons our troops are risking their lives. It ain't pretty, but it's the truth. Can you handle it?"

For more info: [www.GregPalast.com](http://www.GregPalast.com).

Also be sure to check out: "The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily

Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media that Love Them," Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman's inaugural book.



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