OMNI NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5 ON THE IMPACT ON US and GLOBAL FREEDOMS BY NATIONAL SECURITY: NATIONALISM, MILITARISM, FLAG PATRIOTISM, IMPERIALISM, Building a Culture of Peace, September 13, 2011. Compiled by Dick Bennett. Forward to friends and lists. A new editor is invited to continue the series. Publicity is welcome. Obama will need great pressure and support if he is to change the US Warfare State.

Here is the link to all of OMNI’s newsletters

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

US Imperialism Newsletters
#1 July 3, 2007
#2 Sept. 20, 2007
#3 April 7, 2008
#4 Nov. 30, 2008
#5 September 13, 2011

Contents of #6 September 13, 2011
POST- WWII
William Blum
Guzman: Chile, Allende
Dallek: Bay of Pigs

POST-9/11
Bush-Obama Presidency: Foreign and Domestic McCarthyism
Stevenson: Obama
Astore and Engelhardt: US Militarism
Ralph Nader: We’re Eating Ourselves, Ways to Stop
Chalmers Johnson: Liquidate the Empire
Rick: We are in Denial
Priest and Arkin: US Secret Army
PBS Frontline, “Tom Secret America”: Global Surveillance
Nick Turse: Secret War in 120 Countries
Somalia
Scahill
Mazzetti
If you flip over the rock of American foreign policy of the past century, this is what crawls out…

invasions ... bombings ... overthrowing governments ...
occupations ... suppressing movements for social change ...
assassinating political leaders ... perverting elections ...
manipulating labor unions ... manufacturing "news" ...
economic and political sanctions ... death squads ...
torture ... biological warfare ... depleted uranium ...
drug trafficking ... mercenaries ...

It's not a pretty picture.
It is enough to give imperialism a bad name.
Read the full details in:

Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II.

by William Blum

"Far and away the best book on the topic."
Noam Chomsky

"I enjoyed it immensely."
Gore Vidal

"I bought several more copies to circulate to friends with the hope of shedding new light and understanding on their political outlooks."
Oliver Stone

Table of Contents
Introduction
1. China - 1945 to 1960s: Was Mao Tse-tung just paranoid?
3. Greece - 1947 to early 1950s: From cradle of democracy to client state
4. The Philippines - 1940s and 1950s: America's oldest colony
5. Korea - 1945-1953: Was it all that it appeared to be?
6. Albania - 1949-1953: The proper English spy
8. Germany - 1950s: Everything from juvenile delinquency to terrorism
9. Iran - 1953: Making it safe for the King of Kings
10. Guatemala - 1953-1954: While the world watched
11. Costa Rica - Mid-1950s: Trying to topple an ally - Part 1
13. Middle East - 1957-1958: The Eisenhower Doctrine claims another backyard for America
15. Western Europe - 1950s and 1960s: Fronts within fronts within fronts
16. British Guiana - 1953-1964: The CIA's international labor mafia
17. Soviet Union - Late 1940s to 1960s: From spy planes to book publishing
18. Italy - 1950s to 1970s: Supporting the Cardinal's orphans and techno-fascism
23. Guatemala - 1960: One good coup deserves another
24. France/Algeria - 1960s: L'état, c'est la CIA
27. Brazil - 1961-1964: Introducing the marvelous new world of death squads
28. Peru - 1960-1965: Fort Bragg moves to the jungle
29. Dominican Republic - 1960-1966: Saving democracy from communism by getting rid of democracy
30. Cuba - 1959 to 1980s: The unforgivable revolution
31. Indonesia - 1965: Liquidating President Sukarno ... and 500,000 others
   East Timor - 1975: And 200,000 more
32. Ghana - 1966: Kwame Nkrumah steps out of line
33. Uruguay - 1964-1970: Torture -- as American as apple pie
34. Chile - 1964-1973: A hammer and sickle stamped on your child's forehead
35. Greece - 1964-1974: "Fuck your Parliament and your Constitution," said the President of the United States
37. Guatemala - 1962 to 1980s: A less publicized "final solution"
39. Iraq - 1972-1975: Covert action should not be confused with missionary work
40. Australia - 1973-1975: Another free election bites the dust
42. Zaire - 1975-1978: Mobutu and the CIA, a marriage made in heaven
44. Seychelles - 1979-1981: Yet another area of great strategic importance
45. Grenada - 1979-1984: Lying -- one of the few growth industries in Washington
46. Morocco - 1983: A video nasty
47. Suriname - 1982-1984: Once again, the Cuban bogeyman
51. Bulgaria 1990/Albania 1991: Teaching communists what democracy is all about
52. Iraq - 1990-1991: Desert holocaust
55. Haiti - 1986-1994: Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?

“Nostalgia for the Light: A Stark, Ravishing Plea for Remembrance”

By Michael Atkinson
Wednesday, Mar 16 2011

Details
Nostalgia for the Light
Directed by Patricio Guzmán
Icarus Films
Opens March 18, IFC Center
Chile’s self-appointed, one-man Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Patricio Guzmán has devoted the past four decades to chronicling the short-lived Allende administration and the Pinochet dark ages that followed, long after his countrymen wanted him to stop. At first blush, though, his new documentary detours toward astronomy, landing rather Herzog-ishly in the Atacama Desert, the elevation and absolute dryness of which make it one of the globe’s optimal observatory locations. Guzmán uses the stars’ distance to ruminate on the nature of time—as in, everything, even light, even this, is in the past. He eventually winds his way around to how time has treated the ghost-town-turned-concentration-camp of Chacabuco, its ex-prisoners, the dumped bones of disappeared Pinochet victims, and the tough, striking old women who still scour the desert plateau on foot hunting for remains. Guzmán fugue-weaves all over the place, montage-cutting from the lunar surface to giant close-ups of calcified bone, and the film’s philosophical musings slowly funnel down into a silent yowl of rage and a desperate plea for remembrance. (If Guzmán is to be believed, Chileans have an even stronger urge to forget than Americans do.) Often stark and ravishing, Nostalgia for the Light is most moving as a manifestation of the filmmaker’s stubborn righteousness.

See Michael Atkinson’s review in InThese Times (May 2011), which reports on Guzman’s five films that focus on the theme of Allende, his overthrow by the Nixon Admin., CIA and General Pinochet, and the Pinochet dictatorship, torture, disappearances, murders, and embrace of neo-liberal economics.. Particularly see his first in the series, THE BATTLE CRY (1975-79), on the “homicidal autocracy” of the Pinochet regime, 4 hours: the ascension of Allende and the “subsequent CIA-fueled coup that bloodied the streets.” “The film is a scalding lesson in orchestrated class disaster and power-mad malice that should be required viewing for high schoolers everywhere.”
“Untold Story of the Bay of Pigs”
Intro: "Newly declassified CIA documents reveal new blunders and how close America came to war during the failed invasion of Cuba."

REAGAN, BUSH, CLINTON: IMPERIAL GROWTH, DOMESTIC DECLINE

POST-9/11

“Symptoms of The Bush-Obama Presidency”
David Bromwich, Op-Ed: “The record shows impressive continuities between the two administrations, and nowhere more than in the policy of “force projection” in the Arab world. With one war half-ended in Iraq, but another doubled in size and stretching across borders in Afghanistan; with an expanded program of drone killings and black-ops assassinations, the latter glorified in special ceremonies of thanksgiving (as they never were under Bush); with the number of prisoners at Guantanamo having decreased, but some now slated for permanent detention; with the repeated invocation of “state secrets” to protect the government from charges of war crimes; with the Patriot Act renewed and its most dubious provisions left intact -- the Bush-Obama presidency has sufficient self-coherence to be considered a historical entity with a life of its own.” READ  |  DISCUSS  |  SHARE  [http://www.nationofchange.org/symptoms-bush-obama-presidency-1313765152](http://www.nationofchange.org/symptoms-bush-obama-presidency-1313765152)

MILITARIZATION OF THE US PRESIDENCY
Jonathan Stevenson. “Owned by the Army: Has the President Lost Control of His Generals?” *Harper’s Magazine* (May 2011). A quick history of the growing power of the Pentagon, presidents’ struggles with high officers, and the extraordinary power of General Petraeus, the “compromise of civilian control….the logical outcome of a national policy based on endless war.” The disaster to our democracy by the ascendency of military power has resulted in “a civilian leadership increasingly likely to internalize military priorities and attitudes.” [Dick: Stephenson’s defense of a civilian president’s control of the military is decimated by his own argument.] ]

Mindset Is Permeating Our Political Culture and Society,” TomDispatch, June 14, 2011, AlterNet
http://www.alternet.org/world/151291
Our president and elected representatives must serve as a check on the military establishment, rather than issuing blank checks to them.

Excerpt: "Here are some suggestions: 1. Do not exaggerate our adversaries' strength in order to produce a climate of hysteria that results in repression of civil liberties, embodied in the overwrought USA Patriot Act, and immense long-term damage to our economy ..."
READ MORE  http://readerssupportednews.org/opinion2/275-42/7290-focus-the-empire-is-eating-itself

“Three Good Reasons To Liquidate Our Empire”
Chalmers Johnson died in 2010. Here is his expression of the US imperial catastrophe.

Chalmers Johnson, Op-Ed: "These massive concentrations of American military power outside the United States are not needed for our defense. They are, if anything, a prime contributor to our numerous conflicts with other countries. They are also unimaginably expensive. According to Anita Dancs, an analyst for the website Foreign Policy in Focus, the United States spends approximately $250 billion each year maintaining its global military presence. The sole purpose of this is to give us hegemony -- that is, control or dominance -- over as many nations on the planet as possible." READ | DISCUSS | SHARE
http://www.nationofchange.org/three-good-reasons-liquidate-our-empire-1312817571

“beyond Chris Hedges: We Are IN DENIAL THAT WE ARE What We Loathe”
From: rick meis  9-13-11

. . .I could not agree more that the Chris Hedges piece is what people need to be reading. Let's carry the title one step further: the Royal We, Americans, are in denial about what we are. The United States is the an Imperialist nation. As a Montanan, let me throw out a first example. The state of Montana and the country of Germany are about the same size. Montana has one military base, an Air Force base in Great Falls. There used to be another in eastern MT, but it was closed years ago in budget cuts. The country of Germany has well over 100 U.S. military bases; I can't remember the exact number, but let's says about 125. Note however, that Montana has no German military base. In fact, I would go so far as to say there is no German military base on US soil, while we have an inordinate number in Germany. For those of you who do not know how big Montana is, it is over twice the size of Missouri. So, using an international perspective, think of the state of Missouri having 60 German military bases scattered across the state. That is Imperialism. What about
Terrorism you ask? Well, when the US covert Black Ops team took out Osama Bin Laden, the numbers on our covert operations came to light. The US has covert operations in 31 countries around the world. That is called terrorism if you are a citizen of one of those 31 countries. The list goes on ad infinitum. The majority of Americans are in denial that we are what we loathe. Rick (via Sue Skidmore)

“The Vast and Expansive US Secret Army”
Dana Priest and William M. Arkin Report: "Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, this secretive group of men (and a few women) has grown tenfold while sustaining a level of obscurity that not even the CIA managed. "We're the dark matter. We're the force that orders the universe but can't be seen," a strapping Navy SEAL, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said in describing his unit."

After 9-11 the panicked government and Congress spent trillions of unaccountable money to build a new secret surveillance bureaucracy. Daunting information for a democracy.

“A Secret War in 120 Countries: The Pentagon’s New Power Elite” By Nick Turse
Somewhere on this planet an American commando is carrying out a mission. Now, say that 70 times and you’re done... for the day. Without the knowledge of the American public, a secret force within the U.S. military is undertaking operations in a majority of the world’s countries. This new Pentagon power elite is waging a global war whose size and scope has never been revealed, until now. After a U.S. Navy SEAL put a bullet in Osama bin Laden’s chest and another in his head, one of the most secretive black-ops units in the American military suddenly found its mission in the public spotlight. It was atypical. While it’s well known that U.S. Special Operations forces are deployed in the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq, and it’s increasingly apparent that such units operate in murkier conflict zones like Yemen and Somalia, the full extent of their worldwide war has remained deeply in the shadows.

8/4/2011
http://americanempireproject.com/
“The CIA's Secret Sites in Somalia” by Jeremy Scahill, *The Nation*
Renditions, an underground prison and a new CIA base are elements of an intensifying US war, according to a Nation investigation in Mogadishu. *The CIA's Secret Sites in Somalia | The Nation*  [www.thenation.com/article/161936/cias-secret-sites-somalia](http://www.thenation.com/article/161936/cias-secret-sites-somalia)

“US Expands Its Drone War Into Somalia”
Intro: "The clandestine American military campaign to combat Al Qaeda's franchise in Yemen is expanding to fight the Islamist militancy in Somalia, as new evidence indicates that insurgents in the two countries are forging closer ties and possibly plotting attacks against the United States, American officials say."
[Dick: Only US officials were interviewed, but at least the possibility of the attacks causing more harm (creation of more terrorists) than good was mentioned at the end.]

Abuses of Global War on Terror
“Taxi to the Dark Side” Film, Dir. Alex Gibney, 2007.  106 mins.  2007 Academy Award Winner, Best Documentary Feature.  Investigates the torture and killing of an innocent Afghan taxi driver and a general probe into the reckless abuses by the US military in its “Global War on Terror” from Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, Abu Ghraib in Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay.  This one man’s life and death demonstrates how severely US civil rights have eroded.

**FOCUS: John Barry,”Obama's Secret Wars”**
*The Daily Beast*
Intro: "America may be drawing down its Afghan troops, but John Barry reports that US covert wars rage in places like Yemen, where a new blueprint for military action is being drawn."

**ABU SAYYAF, U.S. IMPERIALISM, AND THE BANGSA MORO STRUGGLE**
May 2, 2011  [http://wp.me/phYOK-ar](http://wp.me/phYOK-ar)
“The Abu Sayyaf Problem, MoroSelf-determination, AND UNITED STATES Intervention in the Philippines” By E. SAN JUAN, Jr., Philippines Cultural Studies Center, USA
PART ONE:
RE-VISITING THE MORO HOMELAND
philcsc@sbcglobal.net

US BASES IN THE “AMERICAN LAKE”
“Military Reach: $8 Billion for Nuclear Base on Guam.” Nukewatch Quarterly (Winter 2010-11). The Pacific is an “American lake,” and Guam is “the main base for US military adventurism to the West.”

Are y'all aware of this tragedy unfolding in South Korea? This tiny island that's been a nature reserve for generations has been slated for demolition by the US Navy to build another US base. As if the US needs another Navy base. An internet search for Jeju Island comes back with entries about "natures wonders" and such. But here's a link that tells the dark back story:
http://www.dmzhawaii.org/?p=6450

From: Christine Ahn, Save Jeju Island--No Naval Base Campaign <noreply@list.signon.org>
Subject: “South Korean Crackdown on Peace Activists
Dear friends, I have very tragic news to report from Jeju Island, South Korea. At the crack of dawn on Friday, undercover police officers came to Gangjeong village and arrested three major leaders of the peaceful resistance: Village Chief Kang Dong-Kyun, renowned peace activist Brother Song Kang-Ho, and base opposition leader Ko Kwon-II. The South Korean Navy and Minister of Justice Lee Gui Nam also issued a threat to Kang Dong-Kyun and 76 other villagers, peace activists and civil society organizations for blocking the naval base construction. It specifies the following:(1) These 77 individuals are banned from getting into the public waters or land near the Joongduk coastline where the naval base will be constructed.(2) The notice bans the staff and volunteers from five civil society organizations – Peace-Life Association, Jeju Environmental Association, SPARK, Frontiers, and Gangjeong Village Association – from entering the public waters and land near the naval base site.(3) All facilities from the resistance site must be removed within seven days.(4) In the case that the facilities are not removed, the Navy and Minister of Justice will charge the village leader Mr. Kang for removing these facilities.(5) The village leader Mr. Kang will be responsible for paying the Navy 5,000,000 Won ($5,000 US dollars) for each case of violation. The South Korean military is trying to quash the resistance by arresting its leaders and inciting fear among villagers who are fighting for their land, community and livelihoods. As one of activist wrote, “I feel the martial law atmosphere here.” The truth is: the villagers and their leaders are not alone. There is a growing tide of people from throughout the Korean peninsula and around the world who are behind them. We must let them know we have their backs by spreading this information – far and wide – and quick. Here’s what you can do: 1. Please forward this to the media and as many people as possible. 2. For those in the United States, please call the South Korean Embassy in Washington, DC ASAP and let them know the repression against the villagers conveys to the world that South Korea has returned to the era of authoritarian rule. The South Korean Embassy in Washington: (202) 797-6343. 3. Email U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Stevens and let her know that we know that the U.S. Forces in Korea oversees the South Korean military, and as American citizens, we won’t stand for more military destruction in the name of so-called national security. EmbassySeoulPA@state.gov. 4. Please keep forwarding this petition to your friends and family. http://signon.org/sign/save-jeju-island-no-naval?source=s.em.cr&r_by=3639355. Visit www.savejejuisland.org and join the facebook page for quick updates in Gangjeong
We must not let the Lee Myung Bak regime repress democracy. We must not let their attempts at intimidation dampen the hope that has inspired so many people around the world to act for peace. We must remain firm in our resolve to support the courageous villagers in Gangjeong who are standing up to their military and government. We must join them in saying, “No Base on Jeju Island.”

US vs. China in Africa

“Clinton Warns Against "New Colonialism" in Africa”
Andrew Quinn, Reuters
The report begins: "Africa must beware of 'new colonialism' as China expands ties there and focus instead on partners able to help build productive capacity on the continent, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said."
[D’S COMMENTS: China is expanding economically in Africa, with numerous business investments, while the US is expanding militarily, with a new military area Command for Africa, all of the globe now under one Command or another. Which country is the more Colonial?]}

US HEGEMONY OVER ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTERED


Home » ZMag » Nicolas J.S. Davies » Checkmate In The Great Game
July 2011 Volume 24, Number 7

“Checkmate In The Great Game” By Nicolas J.S. Davies

The June 15-16 summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan completed the negotiations for a historic expansion. India and Pakistan are preparing to join China, Russia, and the Central Asian republics as full SCO members, while Afghanistan will join Iran and Mongolia as SCO “observers.” The U.S. media has largely ignored this news, but future historians will likely see it as an important turning point. . . . .

The Afghans have decided to join the SCO, despite long-standing opposition from Washington. Afghan Foreign Minister Rassoul spent four days meeting with Chinese officials in Beijing before Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov announced the planned expansion on May 15. This is a significant move in the “great game” in Central Asia and
an indication of where the future lies for Afghanistan after the end of NATO’s occupation, regardless of when that occurs.

As the summit opened on June 15, the *Moscow Times* published an op-ed by summit chair President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan that underlined the importance of Afghanistan to SCO: “We believe that the prosperity of Central Asia and the surrounding states can only be achieved through a strong, independent, and stable Afghanistan.... It is possible that the SCO will assume responsibility for many issues in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of coalition forces in 2014.”

M. K. Bhadrakumar noted that, with this move, **China and Russia have succeeded in turning U.S. policy in Central Asia on its head.** U.S. policymakers had hoped to turn Afghanistan into a “hub” from which the U.S. could dominate the strategic space and trade routes between Russia, China, Iran, India, and Pakistan. Instead, the Russians and Chinese are positioning Afghanistan as the future hub of an overland trade and pipeline network that will bypass the U.S. Navy’s control of ocean trade routes and permit all the countries in the region to develop their mutual relations without U.S. interference. This heralds a new phase in the historical competition between the land-locked empires of Eurasia and the maritime European and U.S. empires. Overland trade routes and continental alliances were always critical to Russia, China, Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Persia, while Spain, Portugal, Holland, Britain, France, and the United States based their quest for competitive advantage on naval power and the control of distant colonies or neo-colonies. The strategic weakness in the resurgence of China lies in its dependence on massive imports and exports carried over maritime trade routes. It is committed to providing no conceivable pretext for a naval clash with the United States, but this remains its most critical vulnerability.

**China** is working hard to develop alternatives to **maritime trade and to expand its Navy.** It has built oil and gas pipelines from Russia and Kazakhstan and new port facilities in countries around the Indian Ocean—including the largest port in the region at Hambantuta on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, which is a “dialogue partner” to SCO.

Bhadarakumar cites a Russian news agency’s description of “tight cooperation” between Russia and China extending to the Middle East and North Africa. In 2009, most of the world was prepared to give the Obama administration a year or two to make its intentions clear. The verdict is now in and NATO’s newest bombing campaign against Libya is final confirmation that the “change” ushered in by Obama is only one of tactics and public relations and a far cry from a U.S. recommitment to peace or international law.

Obama’s expansion of “special forces” operations to at least 75 countries and the more active role of NATO in global war-making have only raised the stakes for the
whole world. All the current and new members of SCO now see their best hope for the future in a position of unity and mutual support as they confront a wounded and dangerous military power that shows no sign of scaling back its global military ambitions or its aggressive and illegal doctrine of military force.

The Astana summit issued a strong statement on U.S. efforts to surround Russia and China with anti-missile batteries, not least in Afghanistan. “The unilateral and unlimited build-up of missile defense by a single state or by a narrow group of states could damage strategic stability and international security,” the SCO statement declared. But the failure of the U.S. and NATO’s occupation of Afghanistan is an opportunity as well as a problem for its neighbors. In Iraq, since the U.S. wound down the violence of its occupation, it is Iraq’s neighbors who are selling Iraqi local governments, homeowners, and businesses the goods they need to start rebuilding their country and their lives. The occupation provided a huge but short-lived bonanza for U.S. defense contractors. The end result is that nobody in Iraq wants to do business with U.S. firms or buy U.S. products. The bulk of Iraq’s imports in 2009 were from Turkey, Iran, Syria, China, and the European Union. . . . .

Nicolas J.S. Davies is the author of Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq.

"Puppets in Revolt: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and the United States"
http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28672.htm

END OF US IMPERIALISM NEWSLETTER #6