OMNI WAR ON LIBYA NEWSLETTER #1, April 28, 2013. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice.

My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

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1. Obama's Illegal War in Libya - NYTimes.com
   www.nytimes.com/2011/06/21/opinion/21Ackerman.html
   Jun 20, 2011 – The legal acrobatics President Obama has used to justify war without Congressional consent set a dangerous precedent.

2. The US must end its illegal war in Libya now | Dennis Kucinich ...
   www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/.../libya-nato1
   Jul 6, 2011 – Dennis Kucinich: President Obama has ripped up the US constitution for Nato’s ill-considered Libyan adventure. Congress must restore sense.

3. THE ILLEGAL WAR ON LIBYA edited by Cynthia McKinney
   www.claritypress.com/McKinney.html
This volume offers both analysis and eyewitness accounts of the NATO assault on a helpless civilian population it had a UN mandate to protect, and the massive ...

4. Obama's War in Libya is Illegal and Unconstitutional
   www.aim.org › AIM Column
   Mar 20, 2011 – In an editorial头lined, “Obama’s illegal war. Congress, not the U.N., should authorize force against Libya,” the paper said, “Removing ...

5. The illegal war in Libya - Salon.com
   www.salon.com/2011/05/19/libya_7/
   May 19, 2011 – The always dubious claim that the War Powers Resolution authorized the war is coming to an end.

6. 30:03 Illegal War In Libya Is CIA - YouTube
   www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG8PzfJCy_E
   Apr 5, 2011 - Uploaded by NotForSale2NWO
   The Intel Hub with special guest Susan Lindauer, former U.S. asset covering Libya, 9/11, and Iraq Listen ...

7. More videos for Illegal War on Libya »

clarity
ABOUT CYNTHIA McKinney

Cynthia McKinney is an internationally renowned peace advocate and human rights activist. She began this important work on day one of her political life and hasn’t looked back. With her opinions, actions, and even her sense of style, McKinney has inspired both admiration and controversy.

In 1988, McKinney won a House seat in the Georgia Legislature against all odds. She was the first African-American woman to represent Atlanta and Fulton County in an at-large district in Georgia’s history. She became a household name when she challenged the state’s leadership to abide by the Voting Rights Act and grant fair representation to all of Georgia’s residents, including the more than 30% who are of African descent. She appealed directly to the United States Justice Department and won.

In 1991, speaking from the “well” of the Georgia House of Representatives, she made national headlines when she challenged President George Herbert Walker Bush’s decision to make war against Iraq. Despite the vilification by the state’s pro-war establishment, her voice for justice and peace was heard by the people.

In 1992, McKinney won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in a newly created district, drawn from Atlanta to Savannah. Again, Cynthia made history by becoming the first African-American woman to represent Georgia in the U.S. Congress. Cynthia voted against every war-funding bill put before her. During her tenure, her district was re-drawn several times and re-numbered. McKinney protested the new boundaries, but was still
reelected to the seat until the pro-Israel Lobby targeted her because of her support for peace in Palestine. She was a supporter of a Palestinian State in Israel-occupied territory; she sparked controversy by criticizing American policy in the region at a time when few dared to speak out. After 11 September 2001, McKinney stated that based on her readings, the President had received warnings and that the matter deserved independent investigation. The criticism she received as a result, combined with being targeted by the pro-Israel lobby, contributed to her defeat in the 2002 election; however, she ran for the seat again and was re-elected in 2004.

Once again in Congress, McKinney was a vocal critic of the government's response to Hurricane Katrina. Cynthia pressed for government transparency and accountability and introduced legislation to release the documents related to the murders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Tupac Shakur. She was the first Member of Congress to file Articles of Impeachment against President George W. Bush and Cynthia was forced out of Congress once more in 2007 when she was targeted for defeat, again, by donations from pro-Israel contributors that flooded into her opponent's campaign coffers. Late in 2007, Cynthia became a Green Party Presidential Candidate. Cynthia won the Green Party nomination for U.S. President and in 2008 ran for President.

In December 2008, Cynthia made international headlines when the Free Gaza boat she was aboard was rammed by the Israeli military as she was attempting to deliver medical supplies to the people of Gaza during Israel's Operation Cast Lead. Cynthia and her fellow humanitarian activists, rescued by Lebanon, never made it to Gaza. In 2009, Cynthia attempted to reach Gaza again, this time armed with crayons, coloring books, and school supplies for the children. She and her fellow human rights workers became the Free Gaza 21 after their boat was overtaken in international waters by the Israeli military.
and they were kidnapped to Israel. Cynthia spent 7 days in an Israeli prison. Finally, Cynthia entered Gaza by land in July 2009 with George Galloway's 250-volunteer-strong Viva Palestina, USA.

As a rider and a member of the support team, Cynthia completed a cross-country bicycle ride with five other Bike4Peace 2010 cyclists who started in California and ended in Washington, D.C., speaking to the American people about the possibility of more peaceful US policies if enough of us are willing to participate in our own positive, personal transformations. Cynthia had not been on a bicycle in twenty years and faced many personal obstacles along the way. However, she met this challenge with her usual good humor and determination and by the last day of the ride was able to complete over 65 miles on her bicycle.

In 2011, Cynthia led a DIGNITY Delegation of alternative and independent journalists to Libya while US and NATO bombs, laced with poisons including depleted uranium, targeted civilian populations. Afterward, she completed a successful 29-city peace tour in the United States and Canada to promote a more peaceful U.S. foreign policy. Cynthia now travels the world speaking out on human rights, nature’s rights, and peace while she completes her studies toward a Ph.D.
NATO’S Feast of Blood
Cynthia McKinney

Living Through a Full-Blown Media War
Lizzie Phelan

Anatomy of a Murder
Cynthia McKinney

Dispatches from Tripoli
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Libya and the “Clash of Civilizations”
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POSTSCRIPT

Muammar Qaddafi’s Speech to the United Nations
CONTRIBUTORS

Abayomi Azikiwe is the editor of the Pan-African News Wire, an international electronic press service designed to foster intelligent discussion on the affairs of African people throughout the continent and the world. The press agency was founded in January of 1998 and has published thousands of articles and dispatches in newspapers, magazines, journals, research reports, blogs and websites throughout the world. The PANW represents the only daily international news source on pan-African and global affairs.

Don DeBar is a New York journalist and and host of The Morning Show, airing daily on CPRmetro.org.

Bob Fitrakis is a Professor of Political Science at Columbus State Community College and Executive Director of the Columbus Institute for Contemporary Journalism (CICJ) /CICJ Books as well as the Editor of The Free Press since 1993. As an investigative journalist, he has won 11 major awards. He is the author of six Fitrakis Files books, inter alia Full Spectrum Dominance, and Cops, Cover-ups and Corruption. Fitrakis and Wasserman won a 2005 Project Censored Award, for an article that was listed as number three of the Top 25 Censored Stories, “How a Republican Election Supervisor Manipulated the 2004 Central Ohio Vote: In Black and White”. His articles have appeared on other national and local websites and publications including Huffington Post, Common Dreams, motherones.com, thenation.com, Z magazine, RagBlog, Scoop.co, Bradblog, Salon.com, OpEdNews, Counterpunch, Truthout, tompaine.com, Hustler, larryflynt.com, AlterNet, Buzzflash, progressive.org, and smirkingchimp. In 2012, Fitrakis is running for Congress in the 3rd district, central Ohio, in the Green Party primary Match 6, 2012. He serves on the Central Committee of the Franklin County Green Party and is Co-Chair of the Ohio Green Party. He also serves as legal counsel for Occupy Columbus. Fitrakis has a Ph.D in political science from Wayne State University and a J.D. from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Sara Flounders, a leader of the International Action Center, has edited and co-authored ten books on U.S. wars. In 1992, Sara Flounders coordinated the International War Crimes Tribunal on U.S. War Crimes in Iraq, which held mass hearings in 30 US cities and 20 countries. She helped coordinate the major anti-war demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in 2003 before the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Currently she is working with the United National Antiwar Coalition – UNAC. Flounders organized delegations to Iraq during the years of starvation sanctions, visited Sudan after a U.S. missile barrage destroyed a pharmaceutical complex there and Yugoslavia during 78 days of NATO bombing. She has visited Syria, Iran Egypt, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza during times of crisis. Focused on growing racism, incarceration, political repression and austerity. Ms. Flounders has spoken at numerous campus and community forums in the US and internationally and been interviewed by
many national and international media. Through the creative use of video, internet, mass meetings, major antiwar rallies and international campaigns, she has worked with other committed activists to build confidence in the potential of powerful grassroots movements to make historic change.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. He has written for The Village Voice, The Progressive, Counterpunch, In These Times, and The American Conservative. His columns have appeared in The Miami Herald, Houston Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, Columbus Dispatch, Sacramento Bee, and Atlanta Journal-Constitution, among others. Madsen is the author of The Handbook of Personal Data Protection (London: Macmillan, 1992), an acclaimed reference book on international data protection law; Genocide and Covert Operations in Africa 1993-1999 (Edwin Mellen Press, 1999); co-author of America’s Nightmare: The Presidency of George Bush II (Dandelion, 2003); author of Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on $15 a Day. (Time’s Day); and author of the forthcoming book, The Manufacturing of a President: The CIA’s Insertion of Barack H. Obama, Jr. into the White House. Madsen has been a regular contributor on RT. He has also been a frequent political and national security commentator on Fox News and has also appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and MS-NBC. Madsen has taken on Bill O’Reilly and Sean Hannity on their television shows. He has been invited to testify as a witness before the US House of Representatives, the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and a terrorism investigation panel of the French government.

Dr. Christoff Lehman is a clinical psychologist, psycho-traumatologist and political consultant. His work with victims of conflict has inspired him to also pursue political work. He has been working as political advisor and consultant for 29 years. Among his former clients were several progressive heads of state and he continues his independent work for peace and justice. He is a life time peace activist, human rights advocate, active at establishing international institutions for the prosecution of war crimes, including the war crimes of privileged nations, and he is a life long advocate for Palestinians right to life, dignity, the right to return, sovereignty and peace within it’s own borders. He is editing the blogg nsnbc-no spin news, where he is regularly publishing his own and others articles that are denied sufficient exposure on corporate and state controlled media.

Stephen Lendman was awarded the Mexican Press Club Award for International Investigative Journalism in 2011. A writer and broadcaster. His work is exceedingly widely distributed online, with his articles carried on numerous listservs and websites such as Information Clearing House, Countercurrents, Rense, AltNews, Uruknet, Global Research, Counterpunch, and more. In early 2007, he began regular radio hosting, now The Progressive Radio News Hour on The Progressive Radio Network. He is an independent writer, author and investigator, and a four time (2003, 2006, 2007, 2010) Project Censored award winner. He is the 2009 Regent’s Lecturer in Law & Society at the University of California Santa

Lizzie Phelan is a war correspondent, photographer and independent investigator, and a four time (2003, 2006, 2007, 2010) Project Censored award winner. She was one of the few people that reported on the daily crimes being committed by NATO and the widespread resistance by the Libyan people to the NATO aggression. She also visited Syria in January where she similarly sought to expose the media fabrications about events in Syria. Ms Phelan through her reporting seeks to represent the stories of victims of those who violate international law with western powers such as the US and Britain being the worst offenders historically. As well as having worked for Press TV and Russia Today, Ms Phelan has written in a number of publications and produces independent written work via her blog www.lizzie-phelan.blogspot.co.uk and videos on her youtube channels theliberatedzone and theliberatedzonetv.

Keith Harmon Snow is a war correspondent, photographer and independent investigator, and a four time (2003, 2006, 2007, 2010) Project Censored award winner. He is the 2009 Regent’s Lecturer in Law & Society at the University of California Santa
Barbara, recognized for over a decade of work, outside of academia, contesting official narratives on war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide while also working as a genocide investigator for the United Nations and other bodies. He has worked at the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda and testified on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Central Africa before the high court in Spain.

Julien Teil is Senior Associate at the Centre for the Study of Interventionism, a Paris-based think-tank devoted to studying the legal and factual aspects of interventionism, both political and military. Previously he worked as an independent French journalist and videographer. He also formerly worked for a company specializing in fundraising for NGOs. He was in Libya during the conflict and revealed the lies of the so-called human rights NGOs to expel Libya from the United Nations Human Rights Council which launched the war-process.

T West is a professional in the Information Technology field but also works as a reporter, videographer and musician. He founded and facilitated the CART (Collective Action Round Table) Forums to bring together the various Black ethnic groups to leverage that into investment and business partnerships with upstream industry control. In 2007, he started AfriSynergy Production with an internet presence on YouTube and a blog viewed and engaged by tens of thousands each month with an average viewership between 5 and 6 thousand daily. He works extensively with Pan African and African immigrant groups. He has also spoken at various colleges and universities.

SYNOPSIS

This volume offers both analysis and eyewitness accounts of the NATO assault on a helpless civilian population it had a UN mandate to protect, and the massive propaganda campaign that made it possible.
It responds to the many questions left unanswered by a complicit mainstream media, such as: Why Libya, not Bahrain, Yemen or Egypt? What was life in Libya like under Gadhafi? What is the truth about the so-called “Black Mercenaries”? What about Africom’s Plans for Africa?

Cynthia McKinney and other contributors to this volume were in Libya during the period of the NATO assault on Libyan cities, among the few independent voices to report on the tragedy.

REVIEWS

"'Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they must first make mad' — and that was how the western powers and corporate media portrayed Muammar Qaddafri for decades as he nationalized Libyan oil, raised the Libyan standard of living to one recognized by the UN as among the highest in Africa, and began promoting an African currency and development bank to free the continent from the IMF. When the ragtag group of "Islamist" fighters from Ben Ghazi given diplomatic cover as the Transitional Council began their NATO-supported assault, one of the first things they did was to seize the Libyan central bank, until then one of the few still controlled by government in the world. If this makes you wonder—and it should—then this is the book for you. Kudos to former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney and her truth-telling DIGNITY journalists who put the complicit Western-backed human rights NGOs to shame."

—GLEN FORD, Black Agenda Report

“Cynthia put together a team of people to tell the world the truth about Libya. NATO started the war against Libya with lies and the lies continue to this day with NATO’s denials of having committed war crimes against Libya’s people. Libya today is the creation of the US, NATO, and Al-Qaeda acting in a criminal partnership."

—CINDY SHEEHAN

“A penetrating expose detailing why Libya was the only country where regime change was brought about by a US-led NATO force in complicity with Western-backed so-called “al-Qaeda” insurgents. This truth-telling opus by former Congresswoman McKinney and her DIGNITY journalists reveals an almost unparalleled media and diplomatic onslaught that not only disguised the truth of what was happening, but manipulated that illusion to make real events happen. The ramifications of the illegal war on Libya as a model for NATO-backed so-called humanitarian intervention and regime
change are huge. This book is a must-read for understanding what is yet to come."
—DEDON KAMATHI, KPFK Freedom Now

“Those who still believe in NATO’s ‘responsibility to protect’ after its illegal assault on Libya should read Congresswoman McKinney’s The Illegal War on Libya. A nation now left in chaos saw NATO target its people and its infrastructure, as well as its ruler. The model for western-backed regime change was perfected in Libya as it related to the diplomatic organization of soft power, complicit nations, human rights NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. Before accepting the attack on Libya as a model for future action, read this investigation into the actual motivations and the manufacturing of a false case for war.”
—DAVID SWANSON
Francis Boyle, *Destroying Libya and World Order*

1. OpEdNews - Article: Libyan Door to Syrian Door to Iran
   www.opednews.com/.../Libyan-Door-to-Syrian-Door-by-David-Swanso...
   3 days ago – ... I recommend Francis Boyle's new book, Destroying Libya and World Order. Boyle served as a lawyer for the government of Libya repeatedly, ...

2. Syria Lashes Out At Chemical Arms Use Claims - Democratic ...
   www_democraticunderground_com › ... › Main › Good Reads (Forum)
   13 hours ago - 1 post
   ... I recommend Francis Boyle's new book, Destroying Libya and World Order. Boyle served as a lawyer for the government of Libya repeatedly, ...

3. BOOK »»» Destroying Libya and World Order - Francis Boyle
   #Libya ...
   www.scoop.it/.../book-destroying-libya-and-world-order-francis-boyle-li...
   Mar 1, 2013 – ... by Francis A. Boyle. Buy a discounted Paperback of Destroying Libya and World Order online from Australia's leading online bookstore.

4. Destroying Libya And World Order - A Book Review
   killuminati.the-talk.net/t45-destroying-libya-and-world-order-a-book-re...
   Jan 25, 2013 – Book Review: Destroying Libya and World Order: The Three-Decade U.S. Campaign to Reverse the Qaddafi Revolution By Francis A. Boyle ...

5. BOOK: Destroying Libya and World Order/ Boyle - Dialogues
   dialogueseriesnew.blogspot.com/.../usa-africa-dialogue-series-book.html
25% discount until March 17, date on which the UN security council authorized regime change and the destruction of Libya by NATO. See below.

“the definitive treatment of NATO’s war on Libya.” Stephen Gowans What’s Left
“In this provocative and unabashedly direct book, Forte speaks truth to power.”
ForeWord Reviews, January 4, 2013

AVAILABLE – Buy PDF ebook here (see below)
NATO’s war in Libya was proclaimed as a humanitarian intervention—bombing in the name of “saving lives.” Attempts at diplomacy were stifled. Peace talks were subverted. Libya was barred from representing itself at the UN, where shadowy NGOs and “human rights” groups held full sway in propagating exaggerations, outright falsehoods, and racial fear mongering that served to sanction atrocities and ethnic cleansing in the name of democracy. The rush to war was far speedier than Bush’s invasion of Iraq.

Max Forte has scrutinized the documentary history from before, during, and after the war. He argues that the war on Libya was not about human rights, nor entirely about oil, but about a larger process of militarizing U.S. relations with Africa. The development of the Pentagon’s Africa Command, or AFRICOM, was in fierce competition with Pan-Africanist initiatives such as those spearheaded by Muammar Gaddafi.

Far from the success NATO boasts about or the “high watermark” proclaimed by proponents of the “Responsibility to Protect,” this war has left the once prosperous, independent and defiant Libya in ruin, dependency and prolonged civil strife.

Tradepaper | 352 pp | 27 BW photos, 3 maps
ISBN 978-1-926824-52-9 | PRICE: $27.95
PDF E-book ISBN 978-1-926824-75-8 | PRICE 21.95 (i.e., 16.95 + 5.00 shipping)

About humanitarian imperialism, Max Forte writes:
“Desperate to finally be seen as the liberators of Arabs, rescuing poor victims with the finest of
American exports (human rights), some would understandably feel compelled to exploit the suffering of others (residents fleeing Sirte) and turn that into something worthy of celebration. This is an example of the abduction process at the centre of Western, liberal humanitarianism: it can only function by first directly or indirectly creating the suffering of others, and by then seeing every hand as an outstretched hand, pleading or welcoming. We see (or imagine) helpless others, gobbling morsels of food that we hand them, brown mouths chugging down water from our plastic bottles, and we feel accomplished. Our moral might is reaffirmed by the physical plight of others. Clearly, the humanitarian relation is not a relation between equals. We are not our “brothers’ keepers” then, but rather we are more like animal keepers. Bombing for us is really just an animal management technology, and our relationship to the world remains a zoological one.” (Slouching Towards Sirte, p. 97.

**A War for Human Rights**
(by Max Forte – in The Political Bouillon)
The war in Libya never happened. At least that is what one might think, considering the dearth of serious analysis and critical reflection in Canada since our participation in NATO’s bombardment campaign ended a year ago. Yet in Libya, in many ways the war is still happening... Read more...

Brendan Stone interviews Max Forte as he discusses his book SLOUCHING TOWARDS SIRTE

**Praise, Reviews**

“Slouching Towards Sirte is a penetrating critique, not only of the NATO intervention in Libya, but of the concept of humanitarian intervention and imperialism in our time. It is the definitive treatment of NATO’s war on Libya. It is difficult to imagine it will be surpassed.”

Stephen Gowans, *What’s Left*, Read More

“Forte’s allegations that NATO’s war was manufactured by liberal interventionists and “iPad imperialists” whose agenda to disrupt African independence and execute regime change under the “fig leaf” of saving lives are chilling—and persuasive. So too is the timeline of events between the start of the protests and the propagandist hysteria promulgated online. Even though Forte couches descriptions of Gaddafi in amorphous, guarded language, he isn’t an apologist. In this provocative and unabashedly direct book, Forte speaks truth to power.” ForeWord Reviews, January 4, 2013, read full review...

The Public Archive identified Slouching Towards Sirte as one of 10 Books for 2012 on its Black Radical Reading List.

Maximilian C. Forte is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University in Montréal, Québec. He teaches courses in the field of political anthropology dealing with “the new imperialism,” Indigenous resistance movements and philosophies, theories and histories of colonialism, and critiques of the mass media. Max is a founding member of Anthropologists for Justice and Peace. He writes regularly for the Zero Anthropology Project, CounterPunch, and was formerly a columnist for Al Jazeera Arabic.

Also see rev. in *Monthly Review* (April 2013), “The Fall of Libya,” by Max Ajl. Accompanied by note on the killing, the execution of Gaddafi one day after Sec’t. of State Clinton stated: “We hope he can be captured or killed soon.” (p. 59)
Help Us Occupy San Francisco's Financial District!

NationofChange has committed to stage a mass occupation on January 20th of the Wall Street banks & corporations attacking our communities, homes, education, environment, livelihood, and democracy!

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Noam Chomsky | Recognizing the ‘Unpeople’

On June 15, three months after the NATO bombing of Libya began, the African Union presented to the U.N. Security Council the African position on the attack – in reality, bombing by their traditional imperial aggressors: France and Britain, joined by the U.S., which initially coordinated the assault, and marginally some other nations. MORE http://www.nationofchange.org/recognizing-unpeople-1326034449

Who Owns the World?

By Noam Chomsky, Reader Supported News 21 April 11

Crossposted with TomDispatch.com. This piece is adapted from a talk given in Amsterdam in March. The video is posted here.

The democracy uprising in the Arab world has been a spectacular display of courage, dedication, and commitment by popular forces - coinciding, fortuitously, with a remarkable uprising of tens of thousands in support of working people and democracy in Madison, Wisconsin, and other US cities. If the trajectories of revolt in Cairo and Madison intersected, however, they were headed in opposite directions: in Cairo toward gaining elementary rights denied by the dictatorship, in Madison towards defending rights that had been won in long and hard struggles and are now under severe attack. Read more


“Libya: All About Oil, or All About Banking?”

By Ellen Brown, Reader Supported News

http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/289-134/5625-libya-all-about-oil-or-all-about-banking
Several writers have noted the odd fact that the Libyan rebels took time out from their rebellion in March to create their own central bank - this before they even had a government. Robert Wenzel wrote in the Economic Policy Journal:

I have never before heard of a central bank being created in just a matter of weeks out of a popular uprising. This suggests we have a bit more than a rag tag bunch of rebels running around and that there are some pretty sophisticated influences...

Another anomaly involves the official justification for taking up arms against Libya. Supposedly it's about human rights violations, but the evidence is contradictory. According to an article on the Fox News website on February 28:

As the United Nations works feverishly to condemn Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi for cracking down on protesters, the body's Human Rights Council is poised to adopt a report chock-full of praise for Libya's human rights record.

The review commends Libya for improving educational opportunities, for making human rights a "priority" and for bettering its "constitutional" framework. Several countries, including Iran, Venezuela, North Korea and Saudi Arabia, but also Canada, give Libya positive marks for the legal protections afforded to its citizens - who are now revolting against the regime and facing bloody reprisal.

Whatever might be said of Qaddafi's personal crimes, the Libyan people seem to be thriving. A delegation of medical professionals from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus wrote in an appeal to Russian President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin that after becoming acquainted with Libyan life, it was their view that in few nations did people live in such comfort:

[Libyans] are entitled to free treatment, and their hospitals provide the best in the world of medical equipment. Education in Libya is free, capable young people have the opportunity to study abroad at government expense. When marrying, young couples receive 60,000 Libyan dinars (about 50,000 US dollars) of financial assistance. Non-interest state loans, and as practice shows, undated. Due to government subsidies the price of cars is much lower than in Europe, and they are affordable for every family. Gasoline and bread cost a penny, no taxes for those who are engaged in agriculture. The Libyan people are quiet and peaceful, are not inclined to drink, and are very religious.

They maintained that the international community had been misinformed about the struggle against the regime. "Tell us," they said, "who would not like such a regime?"

Even if that is just propaganda, there is no denying at least one very popular achievement of the Libyan government: it brought water to the desert by building the largest and most expensive irrigation project in history, the $33 billion GMMR (Great Man-Made River) project. Even more than oil, water is crucial to life in Libya. The GMMR provides 70 percent of the population with water for drinking and irrigation, pumping it from Libya's vast underground Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System in the south to populated coastal areas 4,000 kilometers to the north. The Libyan government has done at least some things right.

Another explanation for the assault on Libya is that it is "all about oil," but that theory too is problematic. As noted in the National Journal, the country produces only about 2 percent of the world's
oil. Saudi Arabia alone has enough spare capacity to make up for any lost production if Libyan oil were to disappear from the market. And if it's all about oil, why the rush to set up a new central bank?

Another provocative bit of data circulating on the Net is a 2007 "Democracy Now!" interview of US General Wesley Clark (Ret.). In it he says that about 10 days after September 11, 2001, he was told by a general that the decision had been made to go to war with Iraq. Clark was surprised and asked why. "I don't know!" was the response. "I guess they don't know what else to do!" Later, the same general said they planned to take out seven countries in five years: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran.

What do these seven countries have in common? In the context of banking, one that sticks out is that none of them is listed among the 56 member banks of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). That evidently puts them outside the long regulatory arm of the central bankers' central bank in Switzerland.

The most renegade of the lot could be Libya and Iraq, the two that have actually been attacked. Kenneth Schortgen Jr., writing on Examiner.com, noted that "six months before the US moved into Iraq to take down Saddam Hussein, the oil nation had made the move to accept Euros instead of dollars for oil, and this became a threat to the global dominance of the dollar as the reserve currency, and its dominion as the petrodollar."

According to a Russian article titled "Bombing of Lybia - Punishment for Qaddafi for His Attempt to Refuse US Dollar," Qaddafi made a similarly bold move: he initiated a movement to refuse the dollar and the euro, and called on Arab and African nations to use a new currency instead, the gold dinar. Qaddafi suggested establishing a united African continent, with its 200 million people using this single currency. During the past year, the idea was approved by many Arab countries and most African countries. The only opponents were the Republic of South Africa and the head of the League of Arab States. The initiative was viewed negatively by the USA and the European Union, with French president Nicolas Sarkozy calling Libya a threat to the financial security of mankind; but Qaddafi was not swayed and continued his push for the creation of a united Africa.

And that brings us back to the puzzle of the Libyan central bank. In an article posted on the Market Oracle, Eric Encina observed:

One seldom mentioned fact by western politicians and media pundits: the Central Bank of Libya is 100% State Owned.... Currently, the Libyan government creates its own money, the Libyan Dinar, through the facilities of its own central bank. Few can argue that Libya is a sovereign nation with its own great resources, able to sustain its own economic destiny. One major problem for globalist banking cartels is that in order to do business with Libya, they must go through the Libyan Central Bank and its national currency, a place where they have absolutely zero dominion or power-broking ability. Hence, taking down the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) may not appear in the speeches of Obama, Cameron and Sarkozy but this is certainly at the top of the globalist agenda for absorbing Libya into its hive of compliant nations.

Libya not only has oil. According to the IMF, its central bank has nearly 144 tons of gold in its vaults. With that sort of asset base, who needs the BIS, the IMF and their rules?

All of which prompts a closer look at the BIS rules and their effect on local economies. An article on the BIS website states that central banks in the Central Bank Governance Network are supposed to have as their single or primary objective "to preserve price stability." They are to be kept independent from government to make sure that political considerations don't interfere with this mandate. "Price stability" means maintaining a stable money supply, even if that means burdening the people with heavy foreign debts. Central banks are discouraged from increasing the money supply by printing money and using it for the benefit of the state, either directly or as loans.
In a 2002 article in Asia Times titled "The BIS vs National Banks," Henry Liu maintained:

BIS regulations serve only the single purpose of strengthening the international private banking system, even at the peril of national economies. The BIS does to national banking systems what the IMF has done to national monetary regimes. National economies under financial globalization no longer serve national interests.

... FDI [foreign direct investment] denominated in foreign currencies, mostly dollars, has condemned many national economies into unbalanced development toward export, merely to make dollar-denominated interest payments to FDI, with little net benefit to the domestic economies.

He added, "Applying the State Theory of Money, any government can fund with its own currency all its domestic developmental needs to maintain full employment without inflation." The "state theory of money" refers to money created by governments rather than private banks.

The presumption of the rule against borrowing from the government's own central bank is that this will be inflationary, while borrowing existing money from foreign banks or the IMF will not. But all banks actually create the money they lend on their books, whether publicly-owned or privately-owned. Most new money today comes from bank loans. Borrowing it from the government's own central bank has the advantage that the loan is effectively interest-free. Eliminating interest has been shown to reduce the cost of public projects by an average of 50 percent.

And that appears to be how the Libyan system works. According to Wikipedia, the functions of the Central Bank of Libya include "issuing and regulating banknotes and coins in Libya" and "managing and issuing all state loans." Libya's wholly state-owned bank can and does issue the national currency and lend it for state purposes.

That would explain where Libya gets the money to provide free education and medical care, and to issue each young couple $50,000 in interest-free state loans. It would also explain where the country found the $33 billion to build the Great Man-Made River project. Libyans are worried that NATO-led air strikes are coming perilously close to this pipeline, threatening another humanitarian disaster.

So is this new war all about oil or all about banking? Maybe both - and water as well. With energy, water, and ample credit to develop the infrastructure to access them, a nation can be free of the grip of foreign creditors. And that may be the real threat of Libya: it could show the world what is possible. Most countries don't have oil, but new technologies are being developed that could make non-oil-producing nations energy-independent, particularly if infrastructure costs are halved by borrowing from the nation's own publicly-owned bank. Energy independence would free governments from the web of the international bankers, and of the need to shift production from domestic to foreign markets to service the loans.

If the Qaddafi government goes down, it will be interesting to watch whether the new central bank joins the BIS, whether the nationalized oil industry gets sold off to investors, and whether education and health care continue to be free.

http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/289-134/5625-libya-all-about-oil-or-all-about-banking

Here is an article by Ellen Brown on the connection between banking and war and the true motivations of the West towards Libya (Note the revealing comment from Wesley Clark).

LIBYA: ALL ABOUT OIL, OR ALL ABOUT BANKING ?

http://www.webofdebt.com/articles/libya.php
Ellen Brown's 'The Web Of Debt' website is a great source of information concerning money, central banking, BIS, IMF, etc... and their connection and influence on conflict and war.

http://www.webofdebt.com/articles (Carl)

Ellen Brown is an attorney and president of the Public Banking Institute, http://PublicBankingInstitute.org. In "Web of Debt," her latest of eleven books, she shows how a private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her websites are http://webofdebt.com and http://ellenbrown.com.

3-29-11  “U.S. Spending On Military Operations In Libya Drains Pentagon”


“Public TV's Libya Limits: Narrow war debate on PBS NewsHour”

3/29/11

If public television's mission is to bring diverse viewpoints to the airwaves, the discussions about the war in Libya on the PBS NewsHour haven't lived up to that standard. Over the past two weeks, the NewsHour has featured an array of current and former military and government officials in its discussion segments--leaving little room for antiwar voices, U.S. foreign policy critics and legal experts.

-On March 18, the NewsHour interviewed the Obama administration's UN Ambassador Susan Rice.


-On March 22, the NewsHour brought on Charles Kupchan, a former Clinton administration National Security Council staffer, along with a couple of rare guests without U.S. government or military backgrounds: Daniel Dombey of the Financial Times and former Libyan Ambassador Ali Suleiman Aujali, who broke with the Gadhafi regime and is aligned with the opposition.

-On March 23 the NewsHour was back to the officials-only format, interviewing a pair of former senators, Democrat Gary Hart and Republican Norm Coleman, both of whom support the White House action in Libya, and Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough.
-On March 24, the NewsHour interviewed retired Army Gen. Jack Keane and Frederic Wehrey, a former Air Force officer and Iraq War vet now at the Rand Corporation, both of whom supported sending some U.S. ground troops to Libya. Viewers weren't told that Keane's consulting firm, Keane Associates, includes major military companies among its clients (USA Today, 3/10/10), or that Keane is also on the board of General Dynamics, a major military contractor.


There are many aspects of the Libya War that should be discussed on public television, featuring the views of those outside of elite Beltway circles. The 1967 Carnegie Commission report that gave birth to PBS envisioned it as a "forum for debate and controversy" that would "provide a voice for groups in the community that may be otherwise unheard." The NewsHour should include those principles in its decisions about whom to include in its coverage of Libya.

ACTION:
Tell the NewsHour to open up its Libya discussions to voices outside the Beltway, including antiwar voices, U.S. foreign policy critics and legal experts.

CONTACT:
PBS NewsHour
onlineda@newshour.org
(703) 998-2138

You might also want to send your comments to PBS ombud Michael Getler (ombudsman@pbs.org), and post copies of your comments on the FAIR Blog.

Fwd: Libyan Door to Syrian Door to Iran

Fri Apr 26, 2013 11:35 am (PDT) . Posted by: "Shelly Rockett"

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Swanson <davidcnswanson@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2013 at 11:15 PM
Subject: Libyan Door to Syrian Door to Iran
To: shelly@veteransforpeace.org
"Our intelligence community does assess with varying degrees of confidence that the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons on a small scale in Syria, specifically the chemical agent sarin."

I do assess with varying degrees of horror (some of the varying degrees rather high even) that a lot of people are going to die. And how dare they die from chemical weapons when they should be dying from hellfire missiles and cluster bombs and napalm and depleted uranium and white phosphorous. We have a responsibility to protect these people from dying of the wrong type of weapon and in too small numbers.

I'm in Dallas protesting the rehabilitation of our last criminal president because of the precedents he set for our current criminal president. So, precedents are on my mind. One precedent for an illegal humanitarian NATO war on Syria is, of course, the illegal humanitarian war on Libya two years ago. And the pair of precedents (Libya and Syria) will put the target of the neocon/neoliberal cooperative war project squarely on Iran.

Syria will suffer, of course. There will be no more an example of a humanitarian war that actually benefitted humanity after Syria than before. The precedent will not be one of having accomplished something, but of having gotten away with something.

For some truly illuminating background on what was done to Libya, and some relevant discussion of what awaits Syria (if we don't prevent it), I recommend Francis Boyle's new book, *Destroying Libya and World Order.*

Boyle served as a lawyer for the government of Libya repeatedly, over a period of decades, more than once successfully preventing a military assault by the United States and the United Kingdom. Boyle details the aggression toward Libya of the Reagan administration: the lies and false accusations, the sanctions, the provocations, the assassination attempts, the infiltration, the blatant disregard for international law.

Boyle's history brings us up to and through the 2011 assault, and traces its precedents to a very similar war over a decade earlier in Bosnia. Boyle finds the unconstitutional and illegal assault on Libya a clear impeachable offense for President Obama. And why would we think otherwise? Only because we let Clinton and Bush get away with everything they got away with. It would seem unfair now to impeach Obama for a crime his predecessors committed as well.

But past, as well as current, presidents can be impeached, censured,
prosecuted, and/or publicly shamed. Five of them came to Dallas today; there shouldn't be any trouble finding them. And the criminal attack on Libya can be treated as the crime it was. The excuse of protection was used to quite openly pursue the overthrow of a nation's government, bombing large numbers of civilians in the process, while arming brutal thugs and creating predictable blowback in neighboring nations as well.

In contrast, in Bahrain, nonviolent pro-democracy activists are left to their own devices as a U.S.-backed dictatorship jails, tortures, and murders them.

In Syria, the United States has worked against peace and for violence. That violence is not a justification for further and heightened violence. And every member of an intelligence "community" that announces that Syria might possibly have used a chemical weapon should be doing community service for the people of Fallujah and Basra and Baghdad, not prodding the world's only stupor power into another genocide.

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END WAR ON LIBYA NEWSLETTER #1

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Dick Bennett
My blog: War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

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