What’s at stake:  Ever since the beginning of US commitment to WWII in Dec. 1941, the Democrats with the Republicans have formed the War and Empire (and torture) Party. The same is true today despite the removal of the Great Satan, the Stalinist Soviet Union. It is time for the US to have a Peace Party, and the Democrats could be that Party, to the great relief of the world. And while some citizens also combine the two main Parties as the Corporate Party, and ever since the administration of Jimmy Carter the Democrats have increasingly embraced corporate interests and money, vestiges of FDR’s New Deal remain. Although the decline of the Democrats as the People’s Party is largely attributable to the ferocity and tenacity of the Republicans against New Deal values (freedom, equality, democracy), many Democratic leaders have also contributed by abandoning the struggle for the needs of the populace. Again, President Obama shares that collapse. But following the last general election and the takeover of both Senate and House by the Republicans, all of whom now vote degrees of right-wing, Tea Party values (dislike of affirmative government and abortion, dislike of equality for homosexuals and women, for examples), President Obama has noticeably championed many traditional, New Deal values, following through with the promises in his 2015 State of the Union Address.
Contents Obama's Failures #2

Roots Action, Stop TPP Secrecy  4-23-14

Bromwich, Obama Unready to be President and Chose Wrong Advisors  3-1--14


St. Clair and Frank, *Obama and the Politics of Illusion*

Obama, Drone War, Extrajudicial Killing (Google Search)

Roots Action:  Support International Law, No Double Standard, No Double Talk

Tom Dispatch:  Karen Greenberg, Obama’s 5 Shalt Nots Became ‘Thou Shalt’“

Solomon:  Outlaw Obama vs. International Law, Denounces a Breach

Pierce: Obama’s Loss of Control of CIA

Contact the White House

Contents #1
This is urgent. An Internet censorship plan is being finalized in secret meetings right now. We need all hands on deck at this crucial moment.

Click HERE to learn more and to join with RootsAction, OpenMedia, and other allies in speaking up.

Here's the situation: President Obama himself is in secretive meetings with key political figures and lobbyists in Asia to lock the Trans-Pacific Partnership's Internet censorship plan into place.

We know from leaked documents that this secretive plan will censor your use of the Internet and strip away your rights.[1] If finalized, this plan would force ISPs to act as "Internet Police" monitoring our Internet use, censoring content, and removing whole websites.[2]

It will give media conglomerates centralized control over what you can watch and share online.

We urgently need your help to fight back. Add your voice right now and we'll project a Stop the Secrecy message on key buildings in Washington D.C. to ensure Obama, the media, and everyone else knows this censorship plan must be stopped.

This is huge: covering 40% of the global economy, the TPP is being called a legal "blueprint" for the rest of the world.[3] Once key leaders finalize TPP Internet censorship plans, those plans will be used to globalize censorship. You will be affected and this may be our only chance to stop it.

Our attention-grabbing message will shine a light on their secret plan and will make clear to Washington lobbyists that the Internet community will never accept the TPP’s secrecy or censorship. The more who speak out, the larger our projection will become, and the more people we can reach.

This is a decisive moment: we need to act right now. Join with hundreds of thousands of people all over the world to shine a light on the TPP's job-killing Internet censorship plan. Let's send decision-makers and the lobbyists pulling the strings a message they can't ignore: "Stop the secrecy now."

Thank you for being a part of history,
After signing the petition, **please forward this message to your friends.**

-- The RootsAction.org team

P.S. RootsAction is an independent online force endorsed by Jim Hightower, Barbara Ehrenreich, Cornel West, Daniel Ellsberg, Glenn Greenwald, Naomi Klein, Bill Fletcher Jr., Laura Flanders, former U.S. Senator James Abourezk, Coleen Rowley, Frances Fox Piven, and many others.

P.P.S. This work is only possible with your financial support. [Please donate](https://www.RootsAction.org/)

Footnotes:

[1] [WikiLeaks: Secret Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](https://www.RootsAction.org/)
[2] [Electronic Frontier Foundation: TPP Creates Legal Incentives For ISPs To Police The Internet](https://www.RootsAction.org/)
[3] [U.S. “Bullying” TPP Negotiators Amid Failure to Agree. Source: Inter Press Service News Agency](https://www.RootsAction.org/)

---

**David Bromwich "How Obama Became a Publicist for His Presidency (Rather Than the President)". March 10, 2014**

*Worth reading..... [from Moyers and co.]*

*[This post first appeared on TomDispatch. Read Tom Engelhardt’s introduction.][forwarded by David D]*

Extreme caution marked all of Obama’s early actions in public life. Rare departures from this progress-without-a-trail — such as his pledge to filibuster granting immunity to the giants of the telecommunications industry in order to expose them to possible prosecution for warrantless surveillance — appear in retrospect wholly tactical. The law journal editor without a published article, the lawyer without a well-known case to his credit, the law professor whose learning was agreeably presented without a distinctive sense of his position on the large issues, the state senator with a minimal record of yes or no votes and the US senator who between 2005 and 2008 refrained from committing himself as the author of a single piece of significant legislation: this was the candidate who became president in January 2009.  

[MORE](https://twitter.com/tomdispatch/status/443026059790155776)

--

**David Bromwich** has written on civil liberties and America's wars for the *New York Review of Books* and the *Huffington Post*. A collection of his essays, *Moral Imagination*, will be published this spring by Princeton University Press.
Barack Obama: anatomy of a failure

The President is heir to a mistaken sense of America’s place in the world. But he has played a bad hand poorly

673 Comments  Andrew J. Bacevich.  The Spectator, 3 January 2015.  [from HAW]

President George W. Bush’s place in history is already guaranteed, fixed by a series of monumental blunders that no amount of revisionism will ever be able to whitewash. By comparison, historians are likely to have a hard time drawing a bead on Barack Obama. How could such an obviously gifted President, swept into office on a wave of immense expectations, have managed to accomplish so little in his attempted management of global affairs? Over the past six years ‘Yes, we can!’ has become ‘No, he hasn’t.’ What went wrong?  MORE "Barack Obama: Anatomy of a Failure"

Hopeless: Barack Obama and the Politics of Illusion.

Edited by Jeffrey St. Clair and Joshua Frank

Description

The election of Barack Obama sparked long-dormant tingles of optimism in even the most entrenched political cynics. But the promise of an Obama revolution fizzled out even before his inauguration, as the president-in-waiting stocked his cabinet with corporate hacks, cut secret deals with Wall Street titans and plotted a bloody escalation of the senseless war in Afghanistan. Let this book stand as a painful reminder to those who think anything less than social struggle will net tangible gain.  Published by AK Press 2012.  320 Pages.

OBAMA, DRONE WAR, EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING, Google Search, Feb. 20, 2015, page one.
- Obama's drone wars and the normalisation of extrajudicial murder...

  www.theguardian.com › Opinion › Drones

  The Guardian

  Jun 11, 2012 - Michael Boyle: Executive privilege has seduced the president into a reckless 'kill first, ask questions later' policy that explodes the US...

- Obama's itchy trigger finger on drone strikes: what happened to due process?

  www.theguardian.com › Opinion › Drones

  The Guardian

  Feb 17, 2014 - Obama's itchy trigger finger on drone strikes: what happened to due process? .... admits to killing four Americans as part of its war on (or is it “war of”?) .... The extrajudicial killing of an American citizen seemed to him to be ...

- Targeted Killings and Drone Warfare - Council on Foreign Relations

  www.cfr.org › Counterterrorism

  Council on Foreign Relations

  Since assuming office in 2009, President Barack Obama's administration has ... The primary focus of U.S. targeted killings, particularly through drone strikes, has ... Philip Alston, the former UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, ...

- Obama's Drone Wars and the Normalization of Extrajudicial Murder

  www.commondreams.org/.../obamas-dron...

  Common Dreams NewsCenter

  Jun 11, 2012 - Obama's Drone Wars and the Normalization of Extrajudicial Murder. Executive privilege has seduced the president into a reckless 'kill first, ask ...

- US Forced to Release Memo on Extrajudicial Drone Killing of US Citizen

  www.commondreams.org/.../us-forced-rele...

  Common Dreams NewsCenter

  Jun 23, 2014 - US Forced to Release Memo on Extrajudicial Drone Killing of US Citizen ... the Bush and Obama administrations to authorize ongoing war and ...

- Covert Drone War | The Bureau of Investigative Journalism

  www.thebureauinvestigates.com/.../dr...

  Bureau of Investigative Journalism

  Drone Warfare. The evolving international use of armed drones. More ... The monthly updates from the Bureau on the covert war. ... Almost 2,500 now killed by covert US drone strikes since Obama inauguration six years ago: The Bureau's ...

- Obama's drone warfare: A legal way to kill? | Fox News

  www.foxnews.com/.../obama-drone-warfare-legal-wa...
“Extra-judicial killing” is a targeted killing of a victim by someone in the executive branch without due process. The president wanted the latter, ...

- Did Obama's Drone War Help Cause Yemen's Collapse?

www.slate.com/.../did_obama_s_drone_war_help_cause_yemen_s...

Slate

Jan 27, 2015 - A U.S. drone strike hit a vehicle in central Yemen on Monday, killing three ... of a U.S. citizen being targeted for extrajudicial killing overseas.

- Targeted killing - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Targeted_killing

Wikipedia

Jump to Obama Administration position on combat drones - While noting that a more detailed ... of the U.S. Senate Judiciary committee, Patrick ... Obama defended the use of drones as just ... targeted killings would not be a war ... 

- Extrajudicial Killings through Drones

readersupportednews.org/.../16209-extrajudicial-killings-through-drones

Feb 25, 2013 - ... the US President Barack Obama has broken all the record of human rights by extrajudicial killings of the innocent ... attacks, openly admitted that 4,700 people have been killed by the raids of America's secretive drone war.

March 5, 2014

March 5, 2014 Mr. Obama: If international law is so damn crucial, then stop violating it.

To send the president a clear message in support of international law, click here.

Days ago, responding to Russian military intervention in the Crimea, President Obama denounced Russia for a “breach of international law.”

The Russian intervention deserves criticism. But let’s be clear. The message from the White House is: Do as we say, not as we do.

The U.S. government routinely violates international law with drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and other countries, not to mention its own interference in Ukraine's government. Human-rights groups like Reprieve have
documented many of those violations in recent reports, and the European Parliament has just condemned the practice as illegal -- but the USA's missile attacks continue.

Click here to tell President Obama that his tributes to international law are worthless as long as he keeps violating it.

Some background articles below provide important context for the current Ukraine crisis.

At this highly dangerous moment, please take action by signing the petition and then forwarding this message to your friends.

Thank you!

----- The RootsAction.org Team

P.S. This work is only possible with your financial support. Please donate.

Background:

- Tribune: European Parliament Condemns Drone Strikes
- Reprieve: Investigation of Drones
- Robert Parry: America’s Staggering Hypocrisy
- Katrina vanden Heuvel: Ukraine Crisis Calls for Less Bluster
- Norman Solomon: Heard the One About Obama Denouncing a Breach?

www.RootsAction.org

Saturday, March 1, 2014

- HOME
- ABOUT US
- DONATE
The Five Commandments of Barack Obama

How “Thou Shalt Not” Became “Thou Shalt”

by Karen Greenberg

More than five years after first taking office, the president’s promises deserve a re-write. (Photo: Original Jim Crimmings / Flickr / cc / re-purposed by Common Dreams)

In January 2009, Barack Obama entered the Oval Office projecting idealism and proud to be the constitutional law professor devoted to turning democratic principles into action. In his first weeks in office, in a series of executive orders and public statements, the new president broadcast for all to hear the five commandments by which life in his new world of national security would be lived.

Thou shalt not torture.

Thou shalt not keep Guantanamo open.

Thou shalt not keep secrets unnecessarily.

Thou shalt not wage war without limits.

Thou shalt not live above the law.

Five years later, the question is: How have he and his administration lived up to these self-proclaimed commandments?

Let’s consider them one by one:

1. **Thou Shalt Not Torture.**

Here, the president has fared best at living up to his own standards and ending a shameful practice encouraged and supported by the previous administration. On his first day in office, he ordered an end to the practice of torture, or as the Bush administration euphemistically called it, “enhanced interrogation techniques” (EITs), by agents of the U.S. government. In the president’s words, “effective immediately” individuals in U.S. custody “shall not be subjected to any interrogation technique or approach, or any treatment related to interrogation, that is not authorized by and listed in [the] Army Field Manual.”

No questioning of future terror suspects would henceforth be done without using standard, legal forms of interrogation codified in the American criminal and military justice systems. This meant, among other things,
shutting down the network of secret prison facilities, or “black sites,” the Bush administration had established globally from Poland to Thailand, where the CIA had infamously tortured its captives in the Global War on Terror. With that in mind, Obama ordered the CIA to “close as expeditiously as possible any detention facilities that it currently operates and... not operate any such detention facility in the future.”

The practice of officially sponsored torture, which had, in fact, begun to fall into disuse in the last years of the Bush administration, was now to come to a full stop. Admittedly, there are still some issues that warrant attention. The continued force-feeding of detainees at Guantanamo is a case in point, but state-sponsored torture, justified by law, is now, as before the Bush years, illegal in America.

The commandment banning torture has, it seems, lasted into the sixth year of Obama’s presidency -- and so much for the good news.

2. Thou Shalt Not Keep Guantanamo Open.

On his first day in office, President Obama also pledged to close the infamous Guantanamo Bay detention facility, home at the time to 245 detainees, within a year. The task proved politically impossible. So today, the president stands pledged once again to close it within a year. As he said in his State of the Union Address last month, “this needs to be the year Congress lifts the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and we close the prison at Guantanamo Bay.” And it’s possible that, this time, he might actually do so.

In June 2013, the president appointed former Clinton White House lawyer Cliff Sloan as special envoy in charge of closing Guantanamo. After a long period in which the administration seemed stymied, in part by Congress, in its efforts to send detainees approved for release home or to a third country, Sloan has overseen the transfer from the island prison of 11 of them. He is now reportedly working to transfer the less than 80 remaining individuals the Pentagon has cleared.

But there’s a catch. No matter how many prisoners Sloan succeeds in releasing, President Obama has made it clear that he only means to close Guantanamo in the most technical sense possible -- by emptying the current facility in one fashion or another. He is, it turns out, quite prepared to keep the Guantanamo system of indefinite detention itself intact and has no intention of releasing all the detainees. Those who can’t be tried -- due, it is claimed, to lack of evidence -- will nonetheless be kept indefinitely somewhere. Fewer than 50 prisoners remain behind bars without charges or trial until -- as the formula goes -- the authorities determine that they no longer pose a risk to American national security. Although the population is indeed dwindling (Gitmo currently holds 155 detainees), the most basic aspect of the system, the strikingly un-American claim that suspects in Washington’s war on terror can be held forever and a day without charges or trial, will remain in place.

In other words, when it comes to his second commandment, the president will be able to follow it only by redefining what closure means.

3. Thou Shalt Not Keep Secrets.

The first issue that Obama singled out as key to his presidency on his initial day in office was the necessity of establishing a sunshine administration. Early on, he tied his wagon to ending the excessive secrecy of the
Bush administration and putting more information in the public arena. Bush-era policies of secrecy had been crucial to the establishment of torture practices, warrantless wiretapping, and other governmental excesses and patently illegal activities. Obama’s self-professed aim was to restore trust between the people and their government by pledging himself to “transparency” -- that is, the open sharing of government information and its acts with the citizenry. Transparency, he emphasized, “promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use.” Towards that end, the president made a first gesture to seal his good intentions: he released a number of previously classified documents from the Bush years on torture policy.

And there, as it happened, the sunshine ended and the shadows crept in again. In the five years that followed, little of note occurred in the name of transparency and much, including a war against whistleblowers of every sort, was pursued in the name of secrecy. In those years, in fact, the Obama administration offered secrecy (and its spread) a remarkable embrace. The president also sent a chill through the government itself by prosecuting seven individuals who saw themselves as whistleblowers, far more than all other presidents combined. And it launched an international manhunt to capture Edward Snowden, after he turned over to various journalists secret National Security Agency files documenting its global surveillance methods. At one point, the administration even arranged to have the Bolivian president’s plane forced down over Europe on the (mistaken) assumption that Snowden was aboard.

After the drumbeat of Snowden’s revelations had been going on for months, government officials, including the president, continued to insist that the NSA’s massive, secret, warrantless surveillance techniques were crucial to American safety. (This was denied in no uncertain terms by a panel of five prominent national security experts Obama appointed to examine the secret documents and propose reforms for the NSA surveillance programs.) Spokespeople for the administration continued to insist as well that the exposure of these secret NSA policies represented harm to the nation’s security of the most primal sort. (For this claim, too, there has still been no proof.) Before Snowden’s revelations about the gathering of the phone metadata of American citizens, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper evidently had no hesitation in lying to a congressional committee on the subject. In their wake, he claimed that they were the “most massive and most damaging theft of intelligence information in our history.” Certainly, they were the most embarrassing for officials like Clapper.

By 2014, it couldn’t have been clearer that secrecy, not transparency, had become this government’s mantra (accompanied by vague claims of national security), just as in the Bush years. One clear example of this unabashed embrace of secrecy came to light last month when that presidentially appointed panel weighed in on reforming the NSA. While constructive reforms were indeed suggested, the idea that a secret court -- the FISA court -- could be the final arbiter of who can legally be surveilled was not challenged. Instead, the reforms suggested and accepted by Obama were clearly aimed at strengthening the court. No one seemed to raise the
question: Isn’t a secret court anathema to democracy?
Nor, of course, has secrecy been limited to the NSA. It’s been a hallmark of the Obama years and, for instance, continues to hamper the military commissions at Guantanamo. Their hands are tied (so to speak) by the CIA’s obsessive anxieties that still-classified material might come out in court -- either the outdated information al-Qaeda figures detained for more than a decade once knew or evidence of how brutally they were tortured. Perhaps the most striking example of government secrecy today, however, is the drone program. There, the president continues to insist that the Justice Department documents offering “legal” authorization and justification for White House-ordered drone assassinations of suspects, including American citizens, remain classified, even as administration officials leak information on the program that they think will make them look justified.

On the commandment against secrecy, then, the president has decidedly and defiantly moved from a shall-not to a shall.

4. Thou Shalt Not Wage War Without Limits.
At the outset of Obama’s presidency, the administration called into question the notion of a borderless battlefield, aka the globe. He also threw into the trash heap of history the Bush administration’s term “Global War on Terror,” or GWOT as it came to be known acronymically.
This January, in his State of the Union address, the president stated his continued aversion to the notion that Washington should pursue an unlimited war. He was speaking by now not just about the geography of the boundless battlefield, but of the very idea of warfare without an endpoint. “America,” he counseled, “must move off a permanent war footing.” Months earlier, in speaking about the use of drone warfare, the president had noted his commitment to pulling back on the use of force. "So I look forward to engaging Congress and the American people in efforts to refine, and ultimately repeal, the [Authorization for the Use of Military Force’s] mandate."
Despite the president’s insistence on placing limits on war, however, his own brand of warfare has helped lay the basis for a permanent state of American global warfare via “low footprint” drone campaigns and special forces operations aimed at an ever morphing enemy usually identified as some form of al-Qaeda. According to Senator Lindsey Graham, the Obama administration has already killed 4,700 individuals in numerous countries, including Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. It has killed four U.S. citizens in the process and is reportedly considering killing a fifth. The president has successfully embedded the process of drone killings in the executive branch in such a way that any future president will inherit them, along with the White House “kill list” and its “terror Tuesday” meetings. Unbounded global war is now part of what it means to be president. On the commandment against waging limitless war, then, the president has visibly failed to comply with his own mandate.

5. Thou Shalt Not Live Above the Law
At the outset of his presidency, Obama seemed to hold the concept of accountability in high regard. Following the spirit of his intention to ban torture, his attorney general, Eric Holder, opened an investigation into the
torture policies of the Bush years. He even appointed a special prosecutor to look into CIA interrogation abuses. Two years later, though, all but two of the cases \textit{were dropped} without prosecution. In 2012, the final two cases, both involving the deaths of detainees, were \textit{dropped} as well on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence “to obtain and sustain a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt.” Nor was there any appetite inside the administration for prosecuting the Bush-era Justice Department lawyers who had drafted the “torture memos” providing the bogus justifications for applying torture techniques such as waterboarding in the first place.

Not punishing those who created and applied the policy was clearly a signal that no acts committed as part of the war on terror and under the rubric of national security would ever be prosecuted. This was, in its own way, an invitation to some future presidency to revive the torture program. Nor have its defenders been silenced. If torture had been considered truly illegal, and people had been held accountable, then perhaps assurances against its recurrence would be believable. Instead, each and every time they are given the chance, leading figures from the Bush administration defend the practice.

In former CIA Director Michael Hayden’s \textit{words}, "the fact is it did work." Marc Thiessen, former speechwriter for President Bush and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, has \textit{underscored} this message: "Dick Cheney is right. The CIA interrogation program did produce valuable intelligence that stopped attacks and saved lives."

While the case against the torturers was dropped, a potentially shocking and exhaustive analysis of CIA documents on the "enhanced interrogation program," a \textit{6,000 page report} by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, is still tangled up in administration secrecy rules and regulations (see Commandment 2), despite innumerable requests for its release. Supposedly the report claims that the torture program \textit{did not} work or fulfill any of the claims of its supporters.

In other words, the absence of accountability for one of the most egregious crimes committed in the name of the American people persists. And from drone killings to NSA surveillance policies, the Obama administration has continued to support those in the government who are perfectly ready to live above the law and extrajudicially.

On this commandment, then, the president has once again \textit{failed to meet his own standards}.

Five years later, Obama’s commandants need a rewrite. Here’s what they should now look like and, barring surprises in the next three years, these, as written, will both be the virtual law of the land and constitute the \textbf{Obama legacy}.

\textbf{Thou shalt not torture (but thou shalt leave the door open to the future use of torture).}

\textbf{Thou shalt detain forever.}

\textbf{Thou shalt live by limitless secrecy.}

\textbf{Thou shalt wage war everywhere and forever.}
Thou shalt not punish those who have done bad things in the name of the national security state.

© 2014 Karen Greenberg

Karen Greenberg is the Executive Director of the Center on Law and Security at the New York University School of Law. Her latest book, The Least Worst Place, Guantanamo’s First 100 Days (Oxford University Press), has just been published. She is also the co-editor of The Torture Papers: The Road to Abu Ghraib, among other

Published on Monday, March 3, 2014 by Common Dreams

Heard the One About Obama Denouncing a Breach of International Law?
by Norman Solomon

Breaches of international law are a serious matter... when some country other than the United States is accused. (Photo: Reuters)International law is suddenly very popular in Washington. President Obama responded to Russian military intervention in the Crimea by accusing Russia of a “breach of international law.” Secretary of State John Kerry followed up by declaring that Russia is “in direct, overt violation of international law.”

Unfortunately, during the last five years, no world leader has done more to undermine international law than Barack Obama. He treats it with rhetorical adulation and behavioral contempt, helping to further normalize a might-makes-right approach to global affairs that is the antithesis of international law.

Fifty years ago, another former law professor, Senator Wayne Morse, condemned such arrogance of power. “I don’t know why we think, just because we’re mighty, that we have the right to try to substitute might for right,” Morse said on national TV in 1964. “And that’s the American policy in Southeast Asia—just as unsound when we do it as when Russia does it.”

Today, Uncle Sam continues to preen as the globe’s big sheriff on the side of international law even while functioning as the world’s biggest outlaw.

Rather than striving for an evenhanded assessment of how “international law” has become so much coin of the hypocrisy realm, mainline U.S. media are now transfixed with Kremlin villainy.

On Sunday night, the top of the New York Times home page reported: “Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has pursued his strategy with subterfuge, propaganda and brazen military threat, taking aim as much at the United States and Europe as Ukraine itself.” That was news coverage.

Following close behind, a Times editorial appeared in print Monday morning, headlined “Russia’s Aggression,” condemning “Putin’s cynical and outrageous exploitation of the Ukrainian crisis to seize control of Crimea.” The liberal newspaper’s editorial board said that the United States and the European Union “must make clear to him that he has stepped far outside the bounds of civilized behavior.”

Such demands are righteous—but lack integrity and credibility when the same standards are not applied to President Obama, whose continuation of the Bush “war on terror” under revamped rhetoric has bypassed international law as well as “civilized behavior.”
In these circumstances, major U.S. media coverage rarely extends to delving into deviational irony or spotlighting White House hypocrisy. Yet it’s not as if large media outlets have entirely excluded key information and tough criticism.

For instance, last October the McClatchy news service reported that “the Obama administration violated international law with top-secret targeted-killing operations that claimed dozens of civilian lives in Yemen and Pakistan,” according to reports released by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Last week, just before Obama leapt to high dudgeon with condemnation of Putin for his “breach of international law,” the Los Angeles Times published an op-ed piece that provided illuminating context for such presidential righteousness.

“Despite the president’s insistence on placing limits on war, and on the defense budget, his brand of warfare has helped lay the basis for a permanent state of global warfare via ‘low footprint’ drone campaigns and special forces operations aimed at an ever-morphing enemy usually identified as some form of Al Qaeda,” wrote Karen J. Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham University’s law school.

Greenberg went on to indicate the scope of the U.S. government’s ongoing contempt for international law: “According to Senator Lindsey Graham(R-S.C.), the Obama administration has killed 4,700 individuals in numerous countries, including Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. Obama has successfully embedded the process of drone killings into the executive branch in such a way that any future president will inherit it, along with the White House ‘kill list’ and its ‘terror Tuesday’ meetings. Unbounded global war is now part of what it means to be president.”

But especially in times of crisis, as with the current Ukraine situation, such inconvenient contradictions go out the mass-media window. What remains is an Orwellian baseline, melding conformist ideology and nationalism into red-white-and-blue doublethink.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.

Norman Solomon is co-founder of RootsAction.org and founding director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His books include “War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death” and “Made Love, Got War: Close E

Charles Pierce. “Obama, the CIA, and the Limits of Conciliation” Esquire, Reader Supported News, March 14, 2014
Pierce writes: "It is not too much of an exaggeration to say that, in one very important way, the president has lost control of his own government."
READ MORE

Write or Call the White House
President Obama is committed to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. That begins with taking comments and questions from you, the public, through our website.
Call the President

PHONE NUMBERS
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

TTY/TTD
Comments: 202-456-6213
Visitor's Office: 202-456-2121

Write a letter to the President

Here are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets to the White House as quickly as possible.

1. If possible, email us! This is the fastest way to get your message to President Obama.

2. If you write a letter, please consider typing it on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. If you hand-write your letter, please consider using pen and writing as neatly as possible.

3. Please include your return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, please consider including that as well.

4. And finally, be sure to include the full address of the White House to make sure your message gets to us as quickly and directly as possible:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
Contents Obama Failures Newsletter #1

I have arranged the essays and one book roughly from general critiques to specific, single topics, and then at the end to a broad coverage again..

Dick, Introduction

Six General Essays

Conniff, Obama Likes Bush

Scheer, Obama Close to Financial Power

Davies, Obama Serves Ruling Class

Madsen, Obama and CIA

Rothschild, Five of Obama’s Broken Promises

Friedersdo, Biggest Scandals Ignored

Three on Censorship of Whistleblowers and Journalists

   Greenwald on Whistleblowers

   Solomon on Journalism

   Editors of The Nation

Totten, No Aid to Nuba People

Three on Middle East

   Swanson, Failed Peace
Ruebner, Shattered Hopes

Cynthia McKinney, Illegal War on Libya

Four on Drones

Yemen

Moyers

Sanders, Pathology of Presidential Power

Monbiot, Children Killed

Marshall, War on Terror (War of Terror) in 3 Parts

Two on Revoking Obama’s Nobel Peace Prize

END OBAMA’S FAILURES NEWSLETTER #2

--
Dick Bennett

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

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
jbennet@uark.edu
Blog
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
j.dick.bennett@gmail.com
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703