

If I tell you; Everything I say is a lie, Can I Be Believed?

That old logic problem was given a more sinister twist when **The Donald** clearly stated last month:

"...and just remember: What you're seeing and what you're reading is not what is happening."

Calling out all media as fabrication. He **wouldn't** designate everything written as false- any eyewitness as mistaken, **would** he? Well...

The revision of transcripts, changes that reverse meaning, explanations that make facts less conclusive, denials of fact, changing stories, paying for silence, and ridiculous comb-overs are all part of the tactics employed to look good, an attribute valued above all by vain narcissists.

I begin to wonder if the manipulation of reality that is the standard stock and trade of power politics is a deeper than most imagine. How could we possibly know what game is afoot? What seems to be happening bears all the marks of a deep state conspiracy to distract and manipulate. and even that idea can be marginalized as a conspiracy theory that desensitizes the accuracy of perception. As radical scholar **Michael Parenti** points out so well:

"Almost as an article of faith, some individuals believe that conspiracies are either kooky fantasies or unimportant aberrations. To be sure, wacko conspiracy theories do exist. There are people who believe that the United States has been invaded by a secret United Nations army equipped with black helicopters, or that the country is secretly controlled by Jews or gays or feminists or black nationalists or communists or extraterrestrial aliens. But it does not logically follow that all conspiracies are imaginary. Conspiracy is a legitimate concept in law: the collusion of two or more people pursuing illegal means to effect some illegal or immoral end. People go to jail for committing conspiratorial acts. Conspiracies are a matter of public record, and some are of real political significance. The Watergate break-in was a conspiracy, as was the Watergate cover-up, which led to Nixon's downfall. Iran-contra was a conspiracy of immense scope, much of it still uncovered. The savings and loan scandal was described by the Justice Department as "a thousand conspiracies of fraud, theft, and bribery," the greatest financial crime in history."

Disdain for **DT** has morphed into a generalized paranoia of Russia, and an amazing faith in the veracity of the **"Intelligence Community"** is that the plan?

How can we believe any thing that the U.S government says?

The Soviet Union, former allies in adversity when the U.S. exercised the *"An enemy of my enemy is my friend"* doctrine, fought fascism with the U.S.- the forgotten history of that period is that they bore the brunt, with well over 20 million killed during that conflict.

Post war paranoia propaganda demonized the 'Global threat' of communism, the ideology that qualified the Soviets as an enemy, led to a **'Cold War'** that has dominated the thinking and strategy of government policy ever since. The Soviet Union as enemy was easy to sell, but the threat was never all that threatening.

Throughout the '80s, the **Central Intelligence Agency** exaggerated nearly every aspect of Soviet military capabilities, thus contributing to justifications for increased defense spending in Reagan's first term and a reduced interest in arms control. The **CIA** distorted the military power of the Warsaw Pact, ignored Moscow's lack of confidence in non-Soviet forces, and never anticipated that the pact itself would dissolve. As late as 1990, only several months before the dissolution of the pact, the **CIA** concluded that Moscow had matched or exceeded NATO's capabilities in all ground-force weapons and would keep pace with NATO's modernization programs. No one in the halls of intelligence' even anticipated the collapse of the Soviet Union that 'ended' the Cold War.

Since that collapse, the new non-communist Russia has been gutted by oligarchs, manipulated by gangsters and legacy power players, while undergoing enormous

change in demographics and priorities. Russia has it's own problems, and ambitions, but it is a tough sell to say 'They' seek conflict, or want to invade or control the U.S. or Europe by force, or ever could.

Sure it is plausible that they are involved in good old fashioned dirty tricks that serve their interests- But who isn't on the world stage? These days it seems that the mundane interests of profit and loss transparently trump any scheme of ideological domination.

And what can you say about the CIA? Alleged masters of covert operations that have destabilized and over-thrown governments around the world, drug and arms dealing. Shadow businesses and un-regulated sub-contractors, from **Air America** to **Enhanced Rendition**, criminality has been a constant.

Now rebranded as valiant defenders of freedom.

And then there is the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (and by extension- the Justice Department) now regaining traction as trustworthy.

Since its inception the **FBI** has been guilty of extra-legal activity. During the Prohibition era, agents tapped phones and spied on Americans in the name of catching alcohol bootleggers. It was only through Supreme Court cases and Congress that the **FBI** was barred from doing so—only to later develop the *Data Intercept Technology Unit*, the framework that underlies the **NSA's** capability to spy domestically. During the 60's the **FBI** actively sought to infiltrate "radical," "subversive" groups. They launched the **COINTELPRO** program, sending undercover agents to pose as members of movements. They seeped into anti-war groups, the Black Panthers, and communist, socialist, and Puerto Rican groups, and others. They attempted not only to gather information, but to sow discord among the ranks of activists in order to sabotage their efforts.

During the 1970s and 80s when it was prosecuting gangsters, the **FBI** made a point to prosecute some and not others because those it protected were paying them off and providing information on other gangs. And who could forget the pursuit of justice in **Waco Texas?**

Obfuscation is a given when propaganda is news, any denunciation of **Fake News** by rational thinking citizens coincidentally embraces what was once the biased **"corporate media"** and recasts famous news brands as beleaguered arbiters of unbiased facts.

History has shown that the official media of record has often got it wrong, down playing some details in favor of others. Despite the duty of the press- corporate ownership has toed the line, and kept their head down when powerful forces advise them to. And now the independent and diverse press has been monopolized and downsized to really not matter at all. Video based media is in it for the eyeballs and the ads that can sell, as usual. Is this all part of a plan by the extremely small fraction of the 1% that calls the shots? How would I know? All I know is that it leaves a bad taste in my mouth, and makes me want to forget about it all, Is that the plan? **The conspiracy to neuter dissent, encourage acquiescence, and get on with business?**

As **Parenti** says:

*"Those who suffer from conspiracy phobia are fond of saying: "Do you actually think there's a group of people sitting around in a room plotting things?" For some reason that image is assumed to be so patently absurd as to invite only disclaimers. But where else would people of power get together – on park benches or carousels? Indeed, they meet in rooms: corporate boardrooms, Pentagon command rooms, at the Bohemian Grove, in the choice dining rooms at the best restaurants, resorts, hotels, and estates, in the many conference rooms at the White House, the NSA, the CIA, or wherever. And, yes, they consciously plot – though they call it "planning" and "strategizing" – and they do so in great secrecy, often resisting all efforts at public disclosure. **No one confabulates and plans more than political and corporate elites and their hired specialists. To make the world safe for those who own it, politically active elements of the owning class have created a national security state that expends billions of dollars and enlists the efforts of vast numbers of people.**"* And there you have it.

- **Joshua Golden**

HISTORY- CIRCA 2014:

The U.S. government does not represent the interests of the majority of the country's citizens, but is instead ruled by those of the rich and powerful, a new study from **Princeton** and **Northwestern universities** has concluded that the U.S. is dominated by its economic elite.

The peer-reviewed study says: **"The central point that emerges from our research is that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on US government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence."**

Researchers concluded that U.S. government policies rarely align with the preferences of the majority of Americans, but do favor special interests and lobbying organizations: *"When a majority of citizens disagrees with economic elites and/or with organized interests, they generally lose. Moreover, because of the strong status quo bias built into the US political system, even when fairly large majorities of Americans favor policy change, they generally do not get it."*

The positions of powerful interest groups are *"not substantially correlated with the preferences of average citizens,"* but the politics of average Americans and affluent Americans sometimes does overlap. This is merely a coincidence, the report says, with the interests of the average American being served almost exclusively when it also serves those of the richest 10%.

The theory of **"biased pluralism"** that the Princeton and Northwestern researchers believe the U.S. system fits holds that policy outcomes *"tend to tilt towards the wishes of corporations and business and professional associations."*

-**Associated Press**

"The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

George Orwell- 1984



Terminal Annex

god mad they tell me
you break
between the bars of their prisons
making whistles of your bones
hanging
in their ribs hollow a bell

you are all light, all
burning, you thrust into this exile
like the fire storm, sweet hell
eating your mind

you say at night the mountains
sink down on you
lapping your dreams with their rivers

& you are walking there
on the waves, through these cages
god on your mouth like a wound.



-Kathy Epling

"The real secret of magic is that the world is made of words, and that if you know the words that the world is made of, you can make of it whatever you wish."

⊙ ⊕ ∞ ∞ -Terence McKenna

"I can conceive of no better service in the United States, henceforth, by democrats of thorough and heart-felt faith, than boldly exposing the weakness, liabilities and infinite corruptions of democracy."

-Walt Whitman



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Hope for the best.