



# ESTABLISHMENT LEFTISTS VS. CONSPIRACY NUTS

**A vintage deep dive rant from the dim days of the mid 2020's**

One way to divide American politics says my friend **Richard Parker** is between "**Conspiracy Nuts**" and "**Conspiracy Denial Nuts**." Displaying normal Establishment arrogance, Conspiracy Denial Nuts are in denial about any such category. Conspiracy denial as a form of "*you can trust the Establishment*," is just common sense realism and the rest of us are merely deviations from the norm.

The most prominent of these Conspiracy Denial Nuts include prestigious leftists - **Chomsky** certainly heads the list, **Michael Albert** of *Z magazine* is a special favorite of mine. Popular radical journalist **Alexander Cockburn** somewhat epitomizes the breed to the point of of being described as a "**Coincidentalist**" by **Michael Parenti**.

The descriptive term I prefer however is **Establishment Leftists** - what Claudio Katz in a recent **Monthly Review** may have meant in reference to Latin American politics by "*the modern civilized left*." Establishment Leftists are rooted, I believe, in the desperate desire not to appear Crazy.

Years ago, **Richard Hofstadter**, the fifties Dean of popular Political Science, took on what he called "**the Paranoid Style**" in American Politics. Hofstadter's thesis was that **American Populism** was the natural home of Paranoid Conspiracy theories, inevitably slanting toward the extreme right.

**McCarthyism** was the primal horror of the time that gave emotional reality to Hofstadter's thesis, ignoring of course the fact that Democrats like Truman and Humphrey were the first McCarthyites. Being a talented historian, Hofstadter grounded his category of Paranoid style in earlier movements, most importantly post **Civil War Populism** - exemplified by the career of **Tom Watson**. A brilliant leader of that movement, Watson began political life standing armed in the doorway defending a threatened ex-slave, yet ended it publicly defending the lynching of Negroes. Hofstadter deemed this an inevitable devolution.

Our **Establishment Leftist** takes this Hofstadter thesis as Gospel. Any form of Popular skepticism was viewed as dangerously tainted. Left credibility demanded instantly decrying any **Populist Paranoids** seeking a niche on the left. Thus the **911 Truth movement** can never be allowed access to leftist outlets unaccompanied by poisonous disclaimers. So **Amy Goodman** "allows" the author of *The New Pearl Harbor* airtime but only when dogged by a professional **Nazi/Klan** hunter. Or at a recent Media Accountability Conference at California's Sonoma State, primo **Establishment Leftist Norman Solomon** - two weeks before the Conference - demands that the presentation of **911Truth** researcher Steven Jones be prefaced by disclaimers to Solomon's specifications.

Establishment Leftists can be selective in their paranoia. Recently **David Barsamian** whose shows are a much admired staple of my community radio station, **KMUD**, appeared locally as part of a book tour for his latest book *Target Iran*. Barsamian made it clear that war with Iran is a real possibility. Why then, he asked, did other Establishment Leftists like **Chomsky** and **Tariq Ali** believe an attack to be an impossibility? Because they mistakenly projected their rationality on otherwise thoroughly irrational players of the ilk of **Bush** and **Cheney**.

Nonetheless **Barsamian** discounted **911** scenarios that implicated the very irrational regime about to "target Iran." Instead he fell back on the thin rationale that **Seymour Hersch** told him "*there was nothing to it*." As if Hersch was the Platonic receptacle of Truth to whom all leaks flowed. As if the leaks Hersch was getting on Iran for instance weren't motivated by particular political self-interests on the part of the leakers.

**Barsamian's** service to truth is admittedly substantial - as is the case of otherwise totally admirable Establishment Leftists. My point in criticism such doyens of the movement is not to deny their immense positive contributions. Establishment Leftists however are unable to encompass an important one of our grassroots political movements due to a fear of the loss of that illusory political commodity called Credibility.

Your average politician (and aren't they all?) needs to pile up credibility as a staging point for their next crucial lie. paradoxically, the **Establishment Leftist** fears the loss of credibility lest the Establishment reject them as a reserve receptacle for the next needed crucial truth! And, sadly, it may be the case for some that there is the fear that being tarred as a **Conspiracy Nut** could be that last straw: Down the drain would could an otherwise illustrious career in academia, journalism, political office-holding, executive directorship or some other source of nonprofit profit. Becoming a Conspiracy Denial Nut may be for some a relatively small price to pay for maintaining their minimum status by a minimal show of respect for the *status quo*.

This is not to assert some kind of moral superiority for us **Conspiracy Nuts**. In a world of limitless facts, scenarios and perspectives, each of us hobbles together by choice and chance a framework, a set homegrown categories, through which to grasp and order reality. Many Conspiracy Nuts are practically helpless in our ingrained skepticism - while others almost as instinctively cling to their rationality which is a career lifeline to the crackpot realism of the Established Order. Only a divine All encompassing can be expected to have an objective perspective outside our mere categories.

**Barsamian** meanwhile appeared in our locality under the sponsorship of **Greenfuse** of whose collective I am a member. He was pretty flawless on the **Politically Correct Week in Review** show that I co-host, as well as at our bookstore and at the Vet's Hall lecture. The Target Iran aspect of his talk was nicely summarized in the weekly newspaper. I have a host's responsibility therefore not to harshly handle my guest. So let me say that **Barsamian** proved that his silence on **911** when offered scenarios in the privacy of a bookstore book signing was not deafness. During his talk he admitted, apropos of another question altogether, that "**he could be wrong**" to have ignored the issue.

In defense of **Conspiracy Nuts** everywhere I had also unravelled my favorite flanking attack *vis a vis* 911: 1) given that war in general is a game between consenting parties in which "surprise" is not an absolute, and 2) given that in this game America has preferred her opponents to take the white pieces while reserving the black pieces of "surprise" attack to better involve her citizenry (**Tonkin Gulf, the Maine, Pearl Harbor, the Mexican, Gulf, Korean** and so on wars), why then 3) would this set of wars be any different?? **Barsamian** at the time stigmatized this view as crossing the line from skepticism to cynicism. This was not a particularly

crushing rejoinder because after the **1st Gulf War** I vowed to never say again

**"They wouldn't do that would they?"**

But I graciously accepted **Barsamian's** "apology" when he stated additionally *apropos* of nothing at his lecture that cynicism was perfectly understandable. Thank you, David.

More important to my education upon the actual appearance in the flesh of an **Establishment Leftist** even in so mild form was the renewal of my flagging interest in **911Truth** and the revitalization of my chess piece thesis of American wars. I went back almost to the beginning of the Imperial Presidency - **Truman**, that unlikely Augustus Caesar. (**FDR** of course was The Caesar, a thorough Aristocrat leading the popular party against the failed oligarchy.)

- **Paul Encimer,**  
Public Intellectual  
September 27, 2007

## SAY THEIR NAMES:



"I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning. To ensure we arrive alive, we won't take public transit (**Oscar Grant**).

I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle and double-checked my registration status (**Daunte Wright**),

and ensured my license plates were visible (**Lt. Caron Nazario**).

I will be careful to follow all traffic rules

(**Philando Castille**),

signal every turn

(**Sandra Bland**),

keep the radio volume low

(**Jordan Davis**),

and won't stop at a fast food chain for a meal

(**Rayshard Brooks**).

I'm too afraid to pray

(**Rev. Clementa C. Pickney**)

so I just hope the car won't break down

(**Corey Jones**).

When my wife picks him up at the end of the day,

I'll remind her not to dance (**Elijah McClain**),

stop to play in a park (**Tamir Rice**),

patronize the local convenience store for snacks

(**Trayvon Martin**),

or walk around the neighborhood (**Mike Brown**).

Once they are home, we won't stand in our backyard

(**Stephon Clark**),

eat ice cream on the couch (**Botham Jean**),

or play any video games (**Atatiana Jefferson**).

After my wife and I tuck him into bed around 7:30pm,

neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart

(**John Crawford**) or to the gym (**Tshyrand Oates**)

or on a jog (**Ahmaud Arbery**).

We won't even walk to see the birds

(**Christian Cooper**).

We'll just sit and try not to breathe (**George Floyd**)

and not to sleep (**Breonna Taylor**).

~ Anon.

Deep in the secluded recesses of the secret HQ of the **WAKING DOG COLLECTIVE** yet another **GREENFUSE** is taking shape...

Yes, yes. The pressure is building now- This **REMIX** could be the veritable straw that breaks the camel's back!

Watch those insensitive allusions 'comrade.' No backs will be broken here- but bring that pressure up a bit more- right up to the redline!

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