

# OBSTRUCTION OF REALITY?

While I was still in High school I eagerly went to see the movie 'All the Presidents Men' and afterwards, in the glow of the convergence of entertainment and political justice, I wasn't sure which I wanted to be more, an actor, or a journalist- equally glamorous in my eyes.

Later I read the book, written by Washington post journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. It has been a while, but I recall that compared to Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in a taut Hollywood investigative thriller, it was a bit of a tedious procedural, with a, by then, well known plot, and thus somewhat less than compelling. Okay, Nixon resigned- good riddance, but a significant new term was coined- as Woodward and Bernstein's Highly placed informer suggested: '**follow the money.**'

Now I am half way through Woodward's '**Fear,**' a researched "On Background" chronicle of Trump's first year or so in the Whitehouse. When this book was released last Summer there was a big buzz- The Administration's opponents celebrated its fleshing out of the assumed arrogance and ugly details of #45's tenure in the oval office. On the heels of Michael Wolf's scathing expose '**Fire and Fury!**' The faithful lined up to deny the sentiments, actions, and words attributing to them, to which Woodward replied that he had tapes- the furor quickly tamped down with some obfuscatory distraction.



You can just imagine the talk of the insiders around the proverbial cooler in the West Wing: "*Hell, it's only a book, right? Who the fuck reads those things? Liberals? Intellectuals? So what? The guy is trying to re-live his glory days...and we're in power...Fear That Asshole!*"

The day after the election, the gloves are off, in just one day Attorney General Jeff Sessions, is fired and CNN Whitehouse reporter Jim Acosta's press credentials are summarily revoked.

Sessions was Trump's guy. He helped get him elected, he pursued Trump priorities, he advocated Trump policies- his only discernible infraction- enough to make his removal inevitable, was taking a refreshingly ethical stand, and recusing himself from anything tied to the investigation of the Trump campaign and Russia. His dismissal the latest salvo in what increasingly appears to be a campaign to obstruct justice.

Nixon's status, as an '*un-indicted coconspirator*' and the increasingly transparent efforts to obstruct justice that led to a congressional move to impeach- a blow he knew he could not avoid, was enough to get him to finally do the right thing, and resign, for the good of the country, and of course, the avoidance of additional shame to his honor.

The hope Trump will do the right thing may be futile, maybe if he was asked to fully imagine his future? Say 10 or 15 years from now, as a lonely, obese, recluse, disgraced and ridiculed, spoken of with derision- if at all. A haunting of his future to instill a little reality?

The crime that got Acosta's Whitehouse pass revoked was asking questions that challenged Trump's tactics and motives, around the hyped portrayal of an immigrant invasion, and any concerns he had about the new congress and the Mueller investigation. Trump sidestepped rudely and told Acosta: "*CNN should be*

*ashamed of itself having you working for them. You are a rude, terrible person. You shouldn't be working for CNN. You're a very rude person. The way you treat Sarah Huckabee is horrible. And the way you treat other people are horrible. You shouldn't treat people that way.*"

**The freedom of the press to ask questions relating to presidential integrity, and scrutiny of policies is protected by the First Amendment because the American people have the right to know whether or not their elected representatives are acting in their best interests.**

What we have here is an **obstruction of reality** where #45 might have well said: "*What I say is real, what you say has no meaning, so shut the fuck up- end of story!*"

Hannah Arendt described the ideal subject of totalitarian rule as "**people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction...true and false..no longer exists.**"

## Meanwhile:

Researchers just turned on the **World's Most Powerful Computer** designed to mimic the human brain. Known as **neuromorphic** computing, a rapidly growing area of computer science research that focuses on developing system architectures and specialized computer chips that replicate

the way the human brain processes information. The supercomputer consists of one million processor cores that are capable of performing 200 trillion operations per second and has been under construction at the University of Manchester in the UK since 2006. Over 55,000 chips were linked together to endow the supercomputer with a million processor cores altogether that are coordinated using a new type of computer design known as a "**SpiNNaker Network Architecture**" (SpiNNaker)\*.

The SpiNNaker supercomputer borrows from the brain's design as the processor cores send billions of small packets of information to tens of thousands of destinations within the system. This is different from the way a normal computer routes information, which usually involves much larger packets of information because they must also tell the system how to route the information. Essentially creating a machine that works more like a brain than a traditional computer.

Researchers aim to eventually model up to a billion neurons in real time using the SpiNNaker supercomputer. While this is significantly more neurons than any other computer is capable of modeling today, **it still represents only 1% of the human brain's 100 billion neurons.**

Now I have seen this movie, several- the many imagined high tech revelations that lead to the fallacy of human reason, purpose and rationality- **it never goes well.**

Despite many thousands of years of development Human brains just seem to be very faulty at times, as both the latest mass shootings dominating the news, and the logic of egotistical narcissism prove again.

**The world may be brave, but it is not so new.**  
-Joshua Golden

\*(<http://apt.cs.manchester.ac.uk/projects/SpiNNaker/architecture/>)

## THE 'TEARS OF HATE' ARCANE

In Memory of Roddie Edmonds and Heather Heyer

1.

My tears last night seeing my brothers and sisters in GI Jews were not only theirs shed 73 years ago outside liberated nazi concentration camps, — my uncles Boro, Meyer and Nathan, my cousins Sonny and Seymour among the liberators —, were tears of sorrow and of joy and, as the soldier

rabbi said, "tears of hate" as well, after beholding the pits of masses of bones, eye-socketless spaces, the ovens with still smoldering skeletons.

My brothers and sisters, 500,000 of Jewish origin who'd fought as GI Joes finally (if they'd had any doubts before) understood what the war was all about, what they were fighting and...

2.

You'd be closing down the doors of your mind if you didn't recognize those nazis marching in Charlottesville, Virginia shouting, "Jews will not replace us", already are

envisioning those ovens and mass pits here in the U.S.A., and those "tears of hate" on my part contain

the urgent warning that the arrogant thug President, like any nazi, has neither

doctrine nor principle, only lies, domination by division and violence and, if allowed to continue nourishing his bigoted base, what Sinclair Lewis meant when he wrote *It Can't Happen Here*

not only will happen but has happened, so get off the numbskulls you've been warming your asses on, brothers and sisters. In this war, as Roddie Edmonds, Protestant from Oklahoma,

who captained GI Joes imprisoned in a nazi camp near the end of the war — when the nazi commander demanded that all the Jews in the company line up the next morning — had the whole

company line up and said, "We're all Jews!" Because in this war, if you think anything different, and that includes the color of your skin, you can be certain Nazism's winning.

- Jack Hirschman



**"Never be deceived that the rich will allow you to vote away their wealth."**

-Lucy Parsons



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"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.



What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

- Thomas Paine,  
The Crisis, 1776

"Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away."

~ Philip K. Dick