

Essay: The 9/11 Omissions Report and the Bliss of Ignorance by Elton Tylenda

My wakeup call came unexpectedly in 2006 when I was gifted a book, *The New Pearl Harbor* by David Griffin, endorsed by renowned theologians Rosemary Radford-Ruether, John Cobb and others. Before reading it I was blissfully unaware of a long list of painful questions challenging what we were led to believe about 9/11/2001. I'd accepted the official conspiracy theory and had mentioned 9/11 in only one editorial, *Bush's "Holy War,"* which dealt with the litany of lies and deceptions used by this administration and major media to sell us the war on Iraq (935 false statements documented by The Center for Public Integrity). As a combat veteran, they were unconvincing for me because similar lies and deceptions were used to sell us the war on Vietnam.

Griffin's questions suggested a larger set of lies were used to conceal criminal activities of US officials involved with 9/11 events and to distract attention away from major criminal investigations that quietly ended that day. For example, the offices conducting then-Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney's investigation of 2.3 trillion - that's TRILLION – dollars missing at the Pentagon (9/10/01 C-SPAN) were destroyed in the attack on the Pentagon. Evidence relevant to the Security & Exchange Commission (SEC) investigations of Worldcom and Enron - re: the \$70 billion electric power swindle in California - was destroyed when Tower # 7, which housed SEC offices, collapsed a few hours after the Twin Towers. Both investigations disappeared.

Today a growing majority of Americans are questioning the official 9/11 story in spite of media intimidation and ridicule. That's partly because Freedom of Information requests and dogged detective work by concerned citizens have unearthed new evidence. At this point, over 200 architects and engineers have cited glaring deficiencies in the official 9/11 story, as has the Professional Pilots Association. Firefighters, survivors, and the families of 9/11 victims have also gone public with compelling testimony available to, but not included in, the 9/11 Commission Report. The Commission was less than independent as the mock testimony of Bush/Cheney demonstrated. The Commission's Executive Director, Philip Zelikow, was a White House insider and key promoter of preemptive war. Additionally, New York Times reporter Philip Shenon revealed that much of

the so-called evidence referenced in the final report was derived from torture and later recanted.

But it's the Commissions OMISSIONS that are most telling. The collapse of World Trade Center (WTC) Tower # 7 is not mentioned nor is the PBS documentary where the owner tells us why it fell. The following facts radically undermine the official story. Larry Silverstein, who leased WTC Towers 1, 2 and 7 shortly before 9/11, revealed that Tower # 7 had been "pulled" i.e., demolished by timed explosives ("America Rebuilds," PBS 2002). Additionally, physics Professor Steven Jones of Brigham Young University found traces of explosives on steel fragments at Ground Zero. The Commission noted that the fires weren't hot enough to melt steel and referred to the molten metal at Ground Zero as a "mystery." It's no mystery that demolition explosives like thermite and thermate liquefy steel in under two seconds, causing a building to fall into its basement at near free-fall speed, just like #7 did. The Twin Towers, too, fell at almost free-fall speed. These towers were uniquely designed to withstand a direct hit from a 707 jetliner, the largest aircraft at the time of their construction. They were reinforced with unusually massive steel columns at the center and interlocking grids of steel throughout. We all witnessed how well the twin towers absorbed those hits but, as the relatively small fires died down, a series of explosions occurred - large enough to leave seismic recordings at Columbia University. William Rodriguez, a 20 year employee and the last one out alive, reports being rocked by explosions from the twin towers' sub-basement PRIOR to the collapse. Firefighters also reported those explosions. In controlled demolitions the basement is blown first to make room for the neat pile of pulverized rubble that follows. Pancaking doesn't pulverize concrete, steel, or human bodies. It's exponentially slower in collapse time and the end product is a high pile of flooring slabs. With these specially designed and constructed towers, the massive center columns would still have been intact as demonstrated by the computer model shown on a PBS documentary. When viewing news coverage at Ground Zero we could see what was left of those massive steel columns. They were cut at an angle with clear traces of molten metal along the seam - exactly what one would expect from shape-charge explosives and a standard demolition as Mr Silverstein revealed.

The documentary 9/11 Mysteries.com brings many more facts to light, but the above are enough to warrant a real investigation. The question is: how do we make it happen? Supporting Dennis Kucinich's impeachment probe

of the Vice President is a logical starting point. Former Transportation Secretary, Norman Minetta, sacrificed his career when informing us that Dick Cheney had a hand in standing down defenses that day and allowing the Pentagon to be hit. It was a lucky strike for his former boss, Donald Rumsfeld, and others involved in the \$2.3 trillion scandal; and a lucky day for those who had long planned and pushed for unprovoked attacks on Iraq, Iran, and other middle eastern countries. The shock and fear, plus the lies, spurred enough public support to begin what President Bush called "a crusade." Recent investigative reports (e.g., Jeremy Scahill's, "Blackwater") have further illuminated this hidden agenda.

The largest US embassy in the world, located in Baghdad, is referred to as "Crusader Castle." Erik Prince calls his Blackwater mercenaries "Crusaders for Christ." Prince and a Who's Who list of the wealthy and powerful (Neocon/Theocon/Religious Right) attend the secretive Council for National Policy started by Rev. Tim LaHaye, author of the apocalyptic Left Behind novels. While accepting an award from these folks, Watergate felon Charles Colson had this to say: "We're in a hundred-year war [against Islam] and it's time to sober up, and Christians understand it...and secular America doesn't get it." Then-head of Counterintelligence, CIA's J. Cofer Black, returned from White House meetings "inspired and talking in missionary terms." He also referred to "preparing the battlefield for World War Three." Joseph Schmitz, Inspector General of the Pentagon before resigning under fire, listed his membership in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, whose mission was defending "territories that the crusaders had conquered from the Moslems." Military analyst William Arkin revealed the anti-Muslim rants delivered while in uniform by Lt. Gen. William Boykin and wrote: "Boykin is also in a senior Pentagon policymaking position, and it's a serious mistake to allow a man who believes in a Christian 'jihad' to hold such a job...and dangerous to have a senior officer guiding the war on terrorism...who believes...we are waging a holy war."

Now presidential candidate John McCain is talking about a hundred years in Iraq. Are the Trillions of dollars missing from our US treasury funding this secret "holy war" against Islam? Many loyal supporters of the secretive Bush regime are enraptured with apocalyptic fervor regarding "End Times" prophecies. This discredited 19th century concoction, so antithetical to the Gospel message that inspires peacemakers, is a growing concern. Like the infamous Protocol of the Elders of Zion, it's infectious to the unwary and has become popular and pernicious. For believers, the Twin

Towers of 9/11 were the "towers of glass" whose destruction was foretold. That fulfillment of prophecy ignited Preacher John Hagee's Christians United for Israel (CUFI) to work toward yet another fulfillment of prophecy. They are feverishly "helping" the Jews position themselves for their predicted annihilation. The Hagee folks are pressuring the Bush regime to attack Iran with nuclear weapons. Do the insiders who accessed the anthrax spores (with impunity) from a US military base have similar access to nuclear material? Will they stage a nuclear attack this time and falsely blame it on Iran? Will people be fooled again into supporting a nuclear strike in retaliation?

The most dangerous enemy is not out there. The enemy within is the most dangerous by far and it appears our own "religious" fanatics are possessed with the same inner violence and blind certainty that propels Islamic suicide bombers. Will we allow this small minority to implement additional SELF-fulfilling prophecies of death and destruction while our heads remain buried in the sand? People of conscience, whether we call ourselves religious, spiritual, secular, or whatever, will have to unite and provide the grassroots pressure to stop this madness. Ralph Nader informs us that Democrats are afraid to impeach because if they do, the Bush regime will strike Iran, declare national emergency and stop the Fall elections. Perhaps the Democrats are a bit paranoid. If not, the situation is dire indeed. In either case real change is unlikely to occur with a change of party politicians. True leaders don't do it all for us but rather, they inspire us to initiate and live the changes we most deeply desire.

I recall the words of M.L. King Jr. from April 4, 1967 the year I was drafted for the slaughter in Vietnam. I wasn't mature enough then to fully appreciate his wisdom and insight but now it's so clear and resounding: "there comes a time when silence is betrayal...we are at the moment when our lives must be placed on the line if our nation is to survive its own folly ... every [person] of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits [her]/his convictions, but we must all protest." United, we the people, could re-light the torch.