

# The Coup Structure that Cheney Built, And How It Grew under Obama

by Edward Spannaus

When President Barack Obama took office in January 2009, hopes were high among many of those who had watched over the previous eight years as the Bush-Cheney Administration tore up the Constitution and established a militarized police-state. Surely Obama, the candidate of “hope and change,” would lose no time in immediately beginning to dismantle the structures of surveillance and repression which had been set up in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Surely, the cloud of fear which had settled over the nation for almost a decade, would now be lifted.

Such illusions have now been smashed to smithereens by a nominally Democratic President, who has not only kept this apparatus in place, but has in fact expanded it. In many respects, Obama has gone further than his predecessors, for example, in the expanded use of targeted killings by drones; the claim that he has the right to order the assassination of a U.S. citizen without due process of law; expanded domestic surveillance and intelligence gathering; and an unprecedented use of the nation’s espionage laws against whistleblowers.

What was put into place by George W. Bush and Dick Cheney was the machinery for a Hitler-style coup, the use of emergency powers to establish dictatorial rule. That they were not entirely successful, was due to the resistance put up by the American people, and even by many in Congress, both Democrats and Republicans. But now, with a Democrat in the White House, much of the Democratic opposition has melted away, on the cowardly rationalization that “it can’t be so bad if a Democrat is doing it.”

In fact, what Obama has done, on behalf of his Wall Street and British string-pullers and coup-masters, is to take what many had hoped was a temporary aberration, and make it permanent. Obama has indeed consolidated these wholesale institutional violations of the U.S. Constitution, and created the opening for a full-scale dictatorial coup to be carried out at any moment. Re-

moving Obama from office, either by impeachment, or by application of the 25th Amendment, is the essential and obligatory measure if this coup process is to be checked and reversed.

In the following pages, we identify major aspects of the coup apparatus as they were put in place. This review is by no means comprehensive, but it should be sufficient to convince you: The danger of a Hitler coup is undeniable, and must be stopped now.

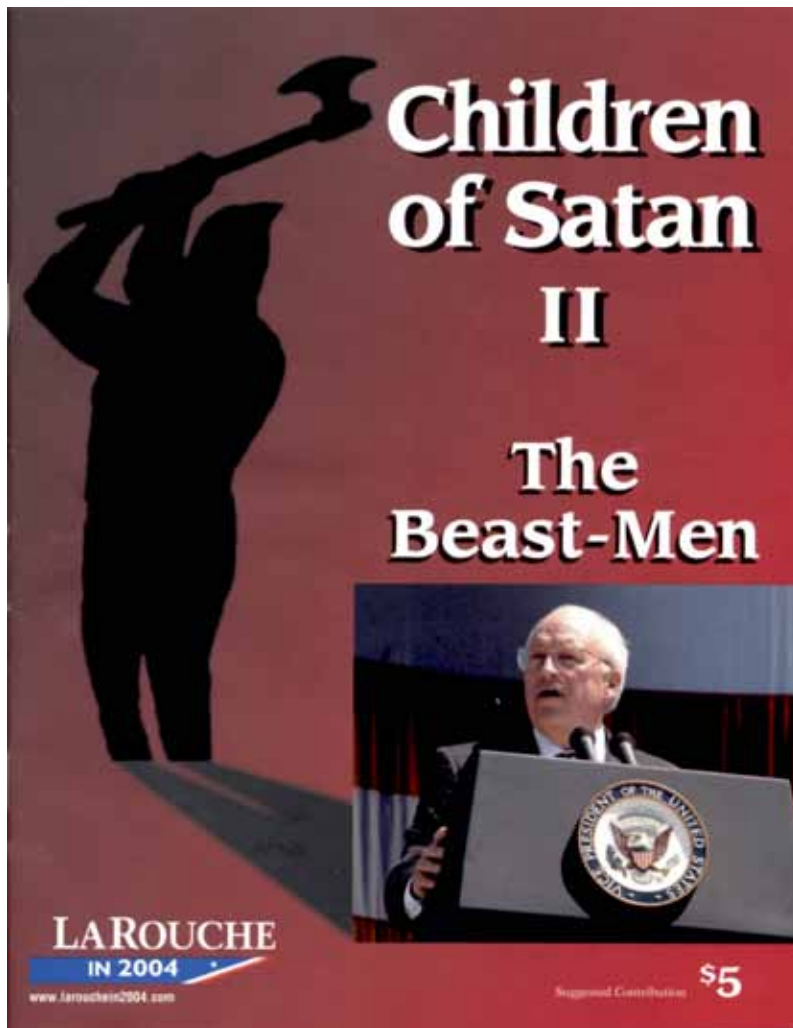
## Cheney and the Permanent Coup

What happened after Sept. 11, 2001 was not some sort of spontaneous reaction to the horrifying events of that day. 9/11 provided the pretext for Cheney and others to attempt to ram through long-standing plans for establishing a privatized, militarized dictatorship over the U.S.

In the Spring of 2001, Vice President Cheney had already put himself in charge of all “emergency” planning, while downgrading the actual counterterrorism capabilities which were functioning during the Clinton Administration. On May 8, 2001, President Bush announced that he had asked Cheney to oversee the development of a coordinated national effort to protect the country from a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attack, and that he had asked FEMA to create an Office of National Preparedness, to implement the Cheney recommendations. On the same day, Cheney announced on CNN that he would head a task force on homeland defense, and that FEMA would devise plans and strategies to figure out how to respond to a “man-made, or man-caused” disaster in the form of a terrorist attack.

Nothing happened. And whether the takedown of the counterterrorism security screen before 9/11 was deliberate, or just the result of incompetence, much of the blame falls upon Cheney.

But Cheney lost no time in moving in the days and weeks after 9/11 to do what he had always wanted to do: “unleash” the intelligence agencies, and roll back



*LaRouche's campaign issued this pamphlet in January 2004.*

the reforms that had taken place in the late 1970s after the revelations of intelligence agency abuses and illegalities which came out from a Senate investigation, known as the “Church Report,” and a lesser-known House investigation, known as the “Pike Report.”

Cheney had been an official in the Nixon Administration, and then in the Ford Administration, working under Donald Rumsfeld, and finally, replacing Rumsfeld as Ford’s chief of staff. While others criticized Nixon’s “imperial Presidency” and his axiom, “If the President does it, it’s legal,” Cheney’s nostalgia for the imperial Presidency permanently shaped his views, even when he served in Congress in the 1980s.

Among the post-Church Committee reforms were an end to wiretapping without court approval, under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), the ban on CIA assassinations, new guidelines for FBI domes-

tic security investigations, and reiterated restrictions on CIA domestic operations.

While what most people remember about this period were the disclosures of FBI and CIA abuses—which came out in the context of “Watergate”—it is usually forgotten that the first, pre-Watergate discoveries involved widespread *military* surveillance of civil rights demonstrators, anti-war protesters, and other Americans during the 1960s. (In the late 1960s and early 1970s, for example, Lyndon LaRouche’s political association was not only subject to widespread FBI dirty tricks and infiltration, but also military infiltration and surveillance. FBI informant reports were routinely circulated to military intelligence agencies.)

All that more or less officially came to an end, or at least receded into the background, during the Ford and Carter Administrations with the intelligence reforms of those years.

### **Bush I: Suspending the Constitution**

Under the Administration of President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H.W. Bush, a new “secret and parallel government” apparatus was created, which was only partially exposed during the Iran-Contra investigations. The willing “fall guy” for this apparatus was the grandstanding

Oliver North, who was never more than a flunky for Bush. In the first year of the Reagan-Bush Administration, North was detailed to the “continuity of government” program operating under Bush’s direction, which involved not only active-duty military and intelligence officials, but relied heavily on private companies run by retired military and intelligence officials. In 1987, the first major exposé of this program was published by the *Miami Herald*, which called it “a virtual parallel government.”

“Lt. Col. Oliver North,” the *Herald* reported, “helped draw up a controversial plan to suspend the Constitution in the event of a nuclear war, violent and widespread internal dissent, or national opposition to a U.S. military invasion abroad.” North was also involved in running “readiness” exercises, which included scenarios for massive social unrest following a global financial collapse.

When Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) raised the question of plans for suspending the Constitution, during the joint House-Senate Iran-Contra hearings, chairman Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hi.) asked that the matter “not be touched upon at this stage,” but that if members wanted to pursue it, “arrangements can be made for an Executive [secret] Session.”

These matters were never followed up by Congressional investigators, who preferred to focus on the flashier “arms for hostages” deals, while leaving this potential coup apparatus in place.

Of course, some in Congress were adamantly opposed to any investigations or restraints upon Executive Branch actions. Foremost among these was a Republican Congressman from Wyoming, Dick Cheney, who had entered Congress in 1979 after his stint in the Nixon and Ford White Houses. While in Congress, Cheney had been an eager participant in annual “continuity of government” exercises, during which he was flown to a secret bunker to practice setting up an emergency government.

### **Privatizing the Military**

In 1989, when George H.W. Bush entered the White House, Cheney was made Secretary of Defense, and he took David Addington (a former CIA lawyer and top staffer for the House Republicans on the Iran-contra investigating committee), with him as his Special Assistant, later making him General Counsel for the entire Defense Department. Addington was Cheney’s hatchet man, purging the military of officers who resisted Cheney’s commitment to preventive nuclear war. Cheney was a fanatical opponent of the 1973 War Powers Resolution, and he urged Bush 41 to ignore both it, and the Congress, during the first Gulf War.

One of the institutional measures Cheney was able to take as Defense Secretary—in addition to abetting the launching of the Iraq War—was the policy of privatization of military functions. While this began on a small scale, the move toward relying on “private” (i.e., mercenary) forces has grown exponentially over the last 20 years, to the point where it is known that there are more “contractors” operating in the Iraq and Afghanistan war zones, than there are U.S. military personnel. The character of these private forces has been occasionally exposed in lurid detail—from brutal murders of civilians, to life-threatening lack of maintenance of fa-

cilities for troops. They are, in effect, the reincarnation of Hitler’s SS.

In specific, shortly after the first Gulf War, Cheney hired Halliburton, the Texas-based oil-equipment company, to conduct a top-secret study of the potential for outsourcing military operations to the private sector. Before Cheney left office in August 1992, Halliburton was given a five-year contract to provide logistical services for the U.S. Army.

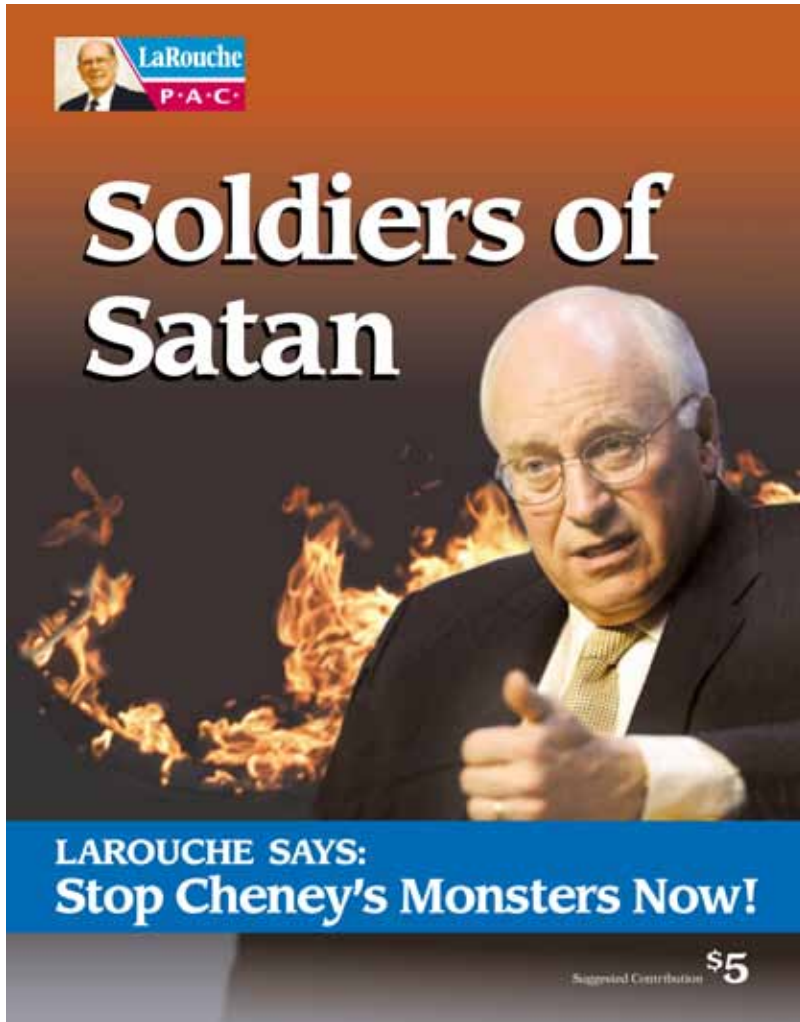
Conveniently, Cheney went to work for Halliburton from 1995 to 2000, when he selected himself to be George W. Bush’s running mate. Under the Bush-Cheney Administration, military contracting for logistic purposes, as well as for intelligence and “special operations,” was to reach levels previously unimagined, except perhaps in the fertile imagination of Dick Cheney, and de facto collaborators Felix Rohatyn and George Shultz (see Appendix).

### **Cheney’s *Führerprinzip***

Much later, in December 2005, after the exposure of the Administration’s illegal electronic spying program, Cheney came out with a blatant defense of his “unitary executive” policy—which is nothing more than the modern version of the Hitlerian *Führerprinzip* of absolute executive power. Cheney complained that “over the years there had been an erosion of Presidential power and authority,” reflected in, among other things, the War Powers Act, and a slew of post-Watergate measures which served, in his words, “to erode the authority [that] the President needs,” especially in the sphere of national security.

Cheney then pointed to the Minority Report of the Iran-Contra Committee, which, he said, was written by a guy working for him (Cheney); he was the senior Republican on the House side of the investigating committee, and one of his top staffers was David Addington. The Minority Report views, Cheney declared, “are very good in laying out a robust view of the President’s prerogatives with respect to the conduct of especially foreign policy and national security matters.” He went on to claim that, in this day and age, “the President of the United States needs to have his constitutional powers unimpaired, if you will, in terms of the conduct of national security policy . . . yes, I believe in a strong, robust executive authority.”

In the context of the time, when Cheney was facing a growing revolt from all sides—from Congress, mili-



*This was issued in August 2005 by LaRouche PAC.*

tary and intelligence agencies that he had used and abused, and the American people in general—Cheney’s in-your-face comments amounted to an admission that he had come back into government in 2001 fully committed to rule-by-decree and to rolling back the post-Watergate reforms.

### **Putting the Coup Structure in Place**

The 9/11 attacks provided the opportunity that Cheney had been waiting and preparing for. He was ready to go to war, not just against “the terrorists,” but against the American people.

Despite Cheney and his gang’s dogmatic opposition to seeking authorization for war under the War Powers Resolution, Congress was going to give it to the Administration whether they asked for it or not. The White

House legal team—which operated de facto under the direction of Cheney and Addington—wanted an open-ended blank check authorizing the President to go to war against anyone, anytime, and anywhere; Congress wanted to restrict it to al-Qaeda and countries harboring them.

*Then the White House tried to slip in language authorizing the exercise of military power and force within the United States. Then-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle refused to extend the field of battle to the domestic United States.*

No matter. Cheney and company did so anyway.

Over the next few weeks, John Yoo, a lawyer in the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, drafted a series of secret memos, applying the Hitlerian “Unitary Executive” dogma, and contending that Congress could place *no* restrictions on the exercise of Presidential power in matters of war and national security.

This assertion of unfettered and unchecked Executive power provide the secret justification for dragnet arrests and detentions of well over 1,000 Arabs and Muslims in the days and weeks after 9/11, and the imposition of a blanket of secrecy over court proceedings and deportation hearings.

It provided the justification for detentions of alleged terrorists in secret prisons around the world, without any hearings or charges proffered against them—in violation of U.S. law and solemn treaty obligations. Before too long, this was being applied to American citizens and persons arrested on U.S. soil as well.

It provided the justification for torture, euphemistically called “enhanced interrogation techniques,” in violation of U.S. law and treaties, and U.S. military traditions dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

It provided the justification for warrantless wiretapping and electronic surveillance of Americans by the military’s National Security Agency (NSA), in blatant violation of U.S. law including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. It is beyond dispute that this program came to involve the sweeping up of all electronic com-

munications—including telephone calls, e-mails, text messages, and all manner of computer activities.

It provided the justification for the resumption of military surveillance of U.S. citizens, on campuses and elsewhere, only a small portion of which has been disclosed to date.

While most of this was carried out in secret, with much of the activity known only to government officials and private contractors possessing high-level security clearances, other aspects of the ongoing coup against the American people were conducted out in the open. The most public aspects were the adoption of the Patriot Act by Congress in October 2001, and the unprecedented establishment of a permanent military command for the domestic United States.

## The Patriot Act

The Bush-Cheney Justice Department started throwing together the so-called Patriot Act, first designated the “Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001,” within days of 9/11, much of which consisted of long-standing proposals which Congress had always refused to adopt into law. The Administration first demanded that Congress pass its package of emergency laws immediately, but many members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, balked, and demanded time to read and analyze it, but the House nonetheless was presented with a new, 342-page version just before it was to vote, so that almost none of the Members knew what was in it, and it was passed almost without debate.

The Patriot Act:

- expanded the government’s right to conduct secret search-and-seizure operations;
- expanded the Immigration and Naturalization Service’s deportation and detention powers;
- permitted authorities to seize computer e-mail and voice-mail without a wiretap court order;
- allowed a nationwide roving wiretap order for all communications by an individual;
- allowed the use of criminal wiretap information for intelligence purposes, and allowed use of national-security electronic intercepts for criminal cases (which cannot legally be done now);
- permitted the Attorney General to issue an “administrative subpoena” for documents and records, in a terrorism or national security case, rather than requiring that the subpoena be issued by a duly convened grand jury, which is subject to judicial review.

A number of the above provisions are made all the more dangerous, because of the expansion of the definition of “terrorism”—which can include civil disobedience, or any act of violence or threatened violence, not carried out for financial gain.

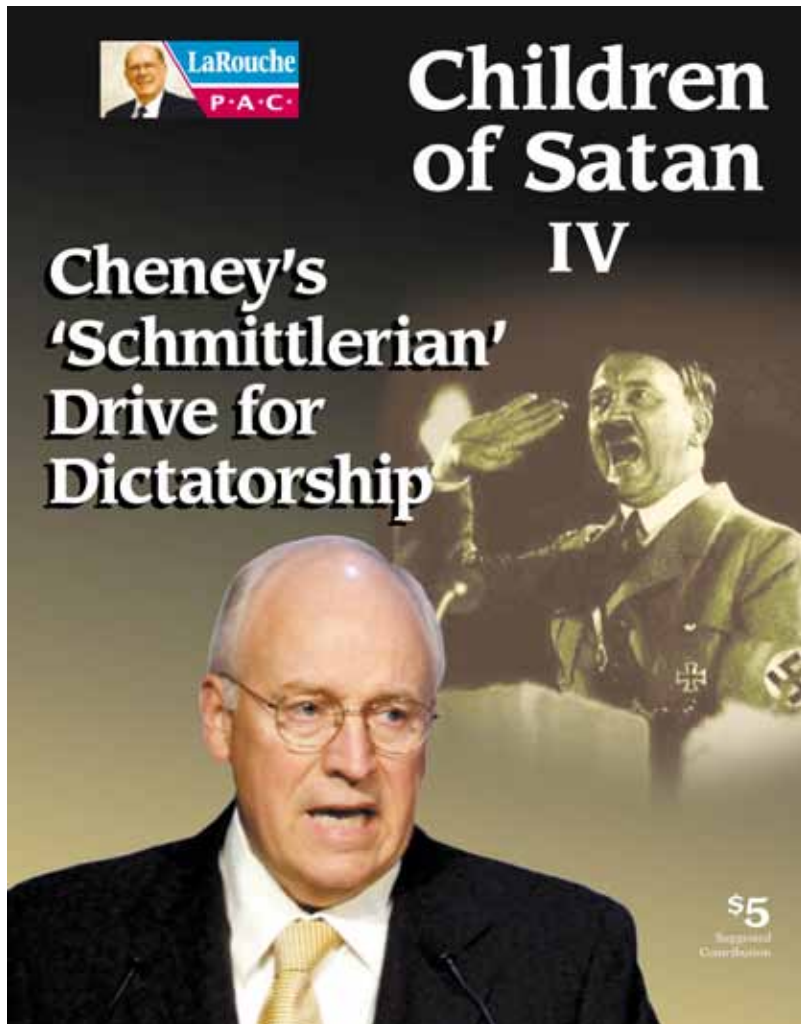
Among the most dangerous aspects of the Patriot Act was the elimination of the so-called “wall” between criminal and national security investigations. The “wall” had been erected precisely to prevent a recurrence of the FBI’s COINTELPRO (Counter-Intelligence Program) operations of the 1960s, in which the Bureau targeted groups and individuals for harassment and disruption, simply because they were deemed “subversive,” without any evidence of criminal laws being violated (except often by FBI *agents provocateurs*). The “wall” was intended to prevent intelligence gathered under the much looser intelligence standards, to be used for criminal prosecutions with their higher protections under the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. Contrary to the mythology spread by police-state proponents, the “wall” was never a problem for competent law enforcement, but its elimination permitted the FBI, National Security Agency (NSA), and other agencies to gather intelligence on U.S. citizens with virtually no restrictions.

The Patriot Act was renewed in 2006, with a three-year extension, to the end of 2009, for three of its most controversial provisions: (1) Section 215, the “business records” provision, which allows the FBI to obtain all types of financial records—telephone, e-mail, travel, credit card, etc.—without a subpoena; (2) roving wiretaps under FISA, using much looser standards than exist for criminal investigations; and (3) the “lone wolf” provision, allowing the use of FISA surveillance without showing any connection to a foreign power or international terrorism.

## Obama’s Patriot Act

Opponents of the Patriot Act hoped that under the Obama Administration, they would finally be heard, and have a chance to roll back this detested law. They were to be bitterly disappointed. After a series of extensions, Obama cut a deal with Republicans in May 2011, to cram a bill down Congress’s throat extending the Patriot Act unchanged for four years (!)—without even holding hearings. Associated Press reported at the time that the idea was to pass the extension with as little discussion as possible, to avoid a protracted debate over





*This came out in January 2006.*

the powers that the Patriot Act gives to the Executive Branch, and over how those powers have been used.

At the same time, Obama also ducked hearings on the FBI and its powers, by extending FBI Director Robert Mueller’s term beyond the ten years allowed by law. Here again, the issue of FBI powers and practices was taken off the table until after the 2012 elections, just as was the Patriot Act. It now belongs to Obama—lock, stock, and barrel.

On Oct. 5, the *New York Times* and its reporter Charlie Savage sued the Justice Department for the Administration’s classified interpretation of the Patriot Act, particularly that relating to the “business records” section. Last May, after having received a classified briefing in the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) warned his colleagues that there are

two Patriot Acts: one which Congress has approved, and a second, covert program based on the Obama Administration’s secret interpretation of the law—which is what the *Times* FOIA suit is seeking.

“When the American people find out how their government has secretly interpreted the Patriot Act, they will be stunned and they will be angry,” Wyden said, citing the public outrage that was sparked by the discovery of other secret surveillance programs, such as Project Shamrock which came to light in the mid-1970s, the Iran-Contra affair, and the Bush Administration’s secret program of warrantless wiretapping. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), also a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, backed Wyden’s account, declaring that “Americans would be alarmed if they knew how this law is being carried out.”

### **U.S. Military Occupation**

Another major shift toward a military coup took place in October 2002, when the Department of Defense stood up a new unified military command, the U.S. Northern Command (“NorthCom”), which, for the first time, created a command which would have the continental United States as its theater of operations responsibility (along with Canada and Mexico). When it was proposed earlier that year, then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld claimed that this new command would “help the [Defense] Department better deal with natural disasters, attacks on U.S. soil, or other civil difficulties. It will provide for a more coordinated support to civil authorities such as the FBI, FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency], and state and local governments.”

LaRouche saw it for what it actually was. In a May 17, 2002 statement entitled “Northern Command: Crossing the Rubicon,” LaRouche warned that the establishment of Northcom was clearly a proposal to “cross the Rubicon,” that is, “a preparation to create a Caesarian military dictatorship over both the North American continent and the Caribbean, in imitation of the 49 B.C. action of Julius Caesar’s setting off that civil war among Roman military forces which led to 31

B.C. establishment of the Empire of Augustus Caesar” (see Appendix).

Part of NorthCom’s hidden mission, is to eradicate the last vestiges of the post-Civil War *Posse Comitatus* law, which prohibits the military from engaging in domestic law enforcement. A major part of this, is the integration of the state National Guard units—which came out of the 18th- and 19th-Century citizen militias—into the Federal military establishment. There are 11 generals from the Reserves and National Guard in NorthCom’s command structure, who have been activated and federalized under Title 10 of Federal law (normally, the Guard operates under state control, pursuant to Title 32 of the U.S. Code).

In their new book *Top Secret America*, *Washington Post* reporters Dana Priest and William Arkin write that the effect of NorthCom’s establishment and continuing expansion “is to have quietly transformed the Guard from 54 local entities into a single force shorn of the federal-state distinctions at the core of American governance since its inception.”

Another throwback to the 1960s is the expansion of “Operation Garden Plot,” the plan for deploying U.S. Army airborne divisions into U.S. cities to quell insurrections, which was done on a number of occasions during that period.

An August 1978 revision of Garden Plot placed some restrictions on the use of the regular military, and restricted Army Intelligence from gathering information on American citizens. Further revisions in 1991 clearly established a civilian chain of command over any deployment of regular armed forces to quell violence, placing the Attorney General in charge of the entire mission, and restricting military access to any intelligence prior to the President declaring a Federal emergency.

With the establishment of NorthCom, these restraints were dropped. Operation Garden Plot was mothballed, and replaced by ConPlan 2502. According to a report published by the U.S. Army War College, ConPlan 2502 “serves as the foundation for any Civil Disturbance Operation and standardizes most activities and Command relationships. Tasks performed by military forces may include joint patrolling with law enforcement officers; securing key buildings, memorials, intersections and bridges; and acting as a quick reaction force.”

While the command role of the Attorney General—

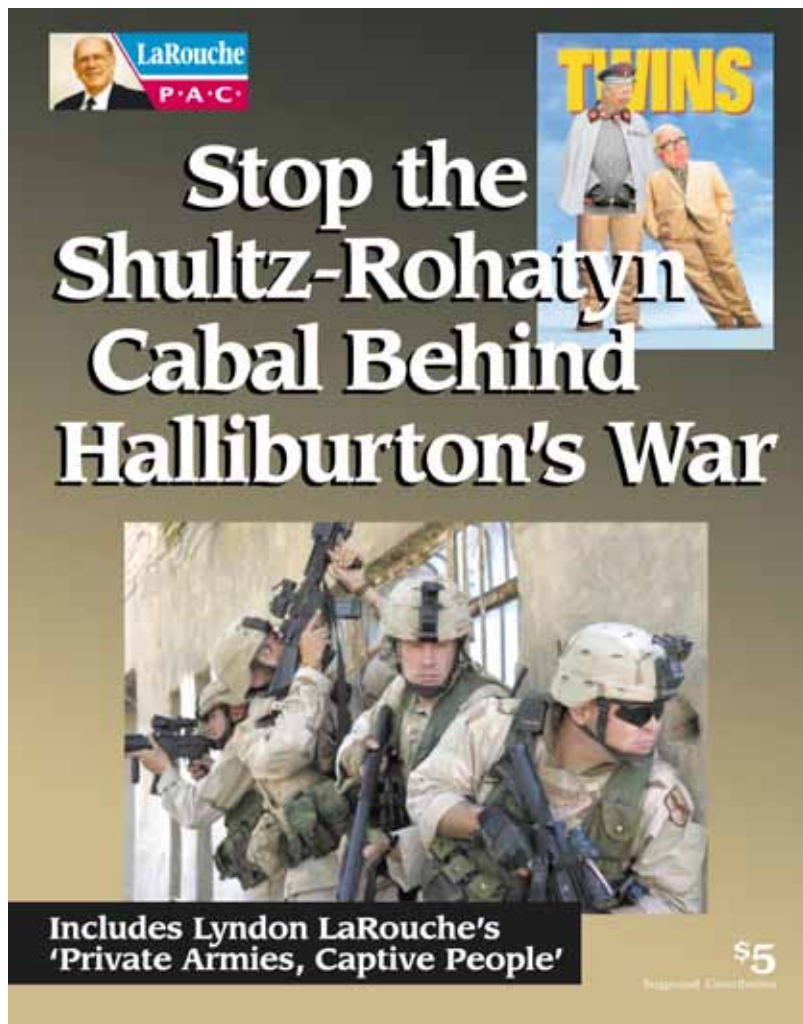
in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense—was retained under ConPlan 2502, the Army War College primer added that, “The restrictions of the *Posse Comitatus Act* no longer apply to Federal troops executing the orders of the President to quell the disturbance in accordance with the Rules of the Use of Force approved by the DoD General Counsel and the Attorney General.”

NorthCom has also become a major recipient and consumer of the ever-expanding intelligence and data-gathering operations conducted both by the U.S. government and private contractors. Priest and Arkin, describing the new NorthCom headquarters in Colorado and its amassing of data, write that, “The ultimate dream of those behind it is to be able to point to any block in any city in the United States and gain instant access to the expanding universe of digitized information for that location, from speed cameras to wireless network signals, street level photography and video, property records, electricity consumption, floor plans and security layouts, even traffic light sequences. Also incoming would be ultra-high resolution imagery that can peer into backyards, and other advanced technologies to pinpoint activity inside the walls of an office building, power station, or, with proper approval, a private home, from the living room to the bathroom to the children’s bedrooms.”

## Domestic Intelligence Collection

Under the Obama Administration, the collection of all manner of information on citizens, and the sharing of such information—often nothing more than common gossip—between local police forces and Federal agencies, has accelerated. “Report Suspicious Activity” signs are ubiquitous in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The “See something, say something” campaign threatens to create a nation of snitches. (Think East German Stasi, or Nazi Gestapo.) State and local police are increasingly utilizing individual identification technologies developed for military use in identifying enemies. And they all have access to an ever-widening array of computerized databases containing information on American citizens.

How extensive is this domestic intelligence apparatus? William Arkin’s calculation is there are now 3,984 Federal, state, and local organizations, each with their own counterterrorism responsibilities and jurisdictions, almost 1,000 of which have been created since 2001, or



*This pamphlet was dated April 2006.*

have become involved in counterterrorism since then.

Obama's Director of Homeland Security, former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, was a champion of building local intelligence organizations when she was in Arizona, and she is now in a position, from her perch at Homeland Security, to accelerate the creation of a massive database of information on U.S. citizens, drawing upon everything from neighborhood scuttlebutt passed on to local police, to high-tech electronic surveillance carried out by U.S. military intelligence agencies.

At a Senate Homeland Security hearing Sept. 13, and again before a House Intelligence Committee hearing Oct. 6, FBI Director Mueller, Homeland Security Director Napolitano, and National Counterterrorism Chief Matt Olsen, all testified, in deliberately vague

terms, about these massive databases which are increasingly being merged into one system. Two mechanisms for this are local multi-agency intelligence "fusion centers," and the Joint Terrorism Task Forces composed of local and Federal law enforcement.

Olsen also said that the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC, part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence), "is really an example of that effort where we have information collected overseas, information collected domestically by various agencies."

"It is all brought together and integrated at NCTC," Olsen said. "We have analysts from FBI, from DHS, from the CIA working together to look at that information."

"We've stood up a group called Pursuit Group to really help fill in the gaps, to look for less obvious connections between people and phone numbers and e-mail addresses to help us identify those individuals that might not be obviously connected," Olsen testified. "And then we pass leads to the CIA or the FBI as appropriate. . . . Certainly the legal changes that have been made, Patriot Act and other laws, have made it easier for us to do that."

Can you really believe that such extensive data-collection on U.S. citizens would not be used to compile "watch lists" of people to be picked up and detained under "emergency conditions," just as the FBI did in the 1950s and 1960s with much less sophisticated data-collection techniques?

### **Obama: 'Tougher than Bush'**

Throughout his Presidential campaign, Obama railed against the torture and detention policies of the Bush-Cheney years, and vowed that those responsible for these atrocities would be held accountable. In fact, legally he had no choice. Torture is a crime under both U.S. law and international treaties, and under those treaties, the United States, like any other nation, is obligated to investigate and prosecute those guilty of torture and abuse of prisoners.

But by the time of his inauguration, he was already



talking about the need to “look forward” instead of backwards. By August 2009, Obama’s Attorney General Eric Holder announced that three categories of individuals would be totally immunized for their crimes: (1) the Bush-Cheney officials who ordered torture; (2) the Bush-Cheney lawyers who authorized it, and (3) the CIA and military personnel who carried out torture pursuant to Bush-Cheney guidelines and legal opinions.

But the whole thing was a charade anyway, which is illustrated by an account in *Top Secret America* quoting the CIA’s top lawyer, John Rizzo. Amidst much nervousness and anxiety at the CIA, as Obama’s inauguration approached, Rizzo says he got a message from the Obama team before Inauguration Day: “His people were signaling to us, I think partly to try to assure us that they weren’t going to come in and dismantle the place, that they were going to be just as tough as, if not tougher than, the Bush people.”

True, Obama declassified the Bush-Cheney directives on interrogations and torture, and banned harsh interrogation techniques, and he announced that he would close the Guantanamo prison camp—which he

then dropped as an active concern.

When all was said and done, the Obama Administration had “changed virtually nothing,” Rizzo said. “Things continued. Authorities [authorizations] were continued that were originally granted by President Bush beginning shortly after 9/11. Those were all picked up, reviewed, and endorsed by the Obama Administration.”

### Obama: The New Cheney

The same thing happened in every other area of the Bush-Cheney apparatus.

- While pretending to wind down the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Obama started a third, in Libya, in which he went further than any recent President in ignoring the War Powers Resolution and by-passing Congress.

- Obama has sharply increased the number of targeted killings carried out by military special forces and the CIA, including a major increase in the use of drones for long-distance killing of suspected adversaries and anyone close by. He created a secret committee to determine who should be on the “kill list,” based upon the President’s say-so.

- We have already seen what he did to extend and consolidate the Patriot Act; along with this, domestic surveillance and the scooping up of all domestic electronic communications has continued and expanded. Any effort to challenge this surveillance in court is blocked by an aggressive assertion of “state secrets.”

- Obama, the champion of “openness,” waged an unprecedented war against whistleblowers, and has used the espionage laws to press heavy criminal charges in five cases, more than done by all previous administrations combined. Worse than Bush and Cheney; worse even than Nixon.

- Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government. But, as the authors of *Top Secret America*, who catalogued the skyrocketing growth of what they call a “parallel top secret government,” put it:

“As the glow of the inauguration faded, Obama embraced the intelligence-military-corporate apparatus too, and the enduring hidden universe continued to grow larger and more secret every day.”

This is the machinery, and this is the President, that pose an imminent, mortal threat to every American today, until this President is removed, and the coup machinery is dismantled.

# 10 Years Later

An LPAC-TV Feature Film

Eight months before the September 11, 2001 attacks, Lyndon LaRouche forecast that the United States was at high risk for a Reichstag Fire event, an event that would allow those in power to manage, through dictatorial means, an economic and social crisis that they were otherwise incompetent to handle. We are presently living in the wake of that history.

<http://larouchepac.com/10yearslater>

