

## II. Dark Finance

# What Was Jeffrey Epstein, Really?

by Harley Schlanger

*This is part one of a two-part series.*

Nov. 6—If you are perplexed by the “Epstein Case”—why, for example, more than six years after his death in a federal prison cell in New York City, there are still more questions than answers about his life and death, despite an intense media focus on him—there is a simple reason for this. The truth about him has been hidden by a sophisticated strategy to cover up who and what he was, to protect those who used him to carry out their efforts to sustain and advance their global empire.

The strategy is simple, once one knows it. Flood the public with as many titillating details of wealth, celebrity, power, and corruption as possible, while never permitting a glimpse at who benefits from his activities and what was—and remains—their goal. The more salacious and degraded the package, the less attention the public pays to the actual content.

Epstein lived in the shadowy world of the “Deep State,” of the “secret government,” whose beneficiaries use tools of “hybrid warfare,” including censorship, narrative control, and sometimes outright thuggery, to remain in the shadows.

For those readers who might be skeptical about the existence of a Deep State, thinking that it exists only in the mind of a “conspiracy theorist” with an overheated imagination, perhaps this report on the real Jeffrey Epstein will enable you to overcome the delusional state which rejects the idea that a hidden power, wielded by

real people, is capable of controlling not only what people know, but how they think. The present-day political and financial establishment developed soft power to be applied alongside hybrid warfare as a means of social control.

This has been an effective tool for evading accountability for crimes committed on its behalf. It was Lyndon



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*Michael Milken (left), with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair (center) and President of Rwanda Paul Kagame, at the Sept. 26, 2013 Milken Institute Global Conference in New York City.*

LaRouche’s intention, when he commissioned the writing of the book *Dope, Inc.* in 1982, to put a spotlight on the “citizens above suspicion” who used the drug trade to weaken the resistance to their rule, by destroying the minds of the people with drugs, while diverting the super-profits accrued through drug trafficking and money laundering as seed capital for a transition to a new global order under the control of central bankers and the technocrats they employed. LaRouche wanted to “put a

face” on those involved in the transition to that global order.

### The Real Story

Far from being an outlier, “a bad apple,” Epstein was recruited in the late 1970s to be a leading player in a sixty-plus-year “global reset” to overturn the ideals and principles of the American System, which emerged from an anti-colonial revolution which was formalized with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence two hundred fifty years ago. From that time forward, oligarchs, intent on empire, have engaged in an effort to reverse their defeat, by subverting the American revolution and what it demonstrates, that sovereign states of free and creative people can break the bonds of control of those who prosper from parasitical looting and enforcement of geopolitical doctrine.

The goal of this reset has been to transform the dynamic of the U.S. economy from one of real wealth production, based on a commitment to scientific-technological advance of physical economic progress, to a casino economy dependent increasingly on profits made from trading and speculation, toward an ultimate goal of a virtual, globalized post-industrial economy run for the benefit of billionaires, with no concern for the needs of its citizens. The intent of this reset since the mid-1980s has been to concentrate power in the hands of Silicon Valley technocrats and their neoliberal allies in corporate cartels and think tanks.

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*New York Stock Exchange*

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working for those engaged in the financialization of the economy, tied to the Michael Milken networks which used junk bonds and other “financial innovations” to fund billions of dollars in buyouts; and after this network was brought down, he moved into more sophisticated money-laundering operations to fuel the transition from the junk bond leveraged-buy-out system to public-private financing, for the purpose of increasing the ability to create a new world of the “Tech Bros.”

As we will show in this article, the perpetrators of this transformation are financial and intelligence operatives centered in the City of London, committed to maintaining an empire in collaboration with Anglophiles from Wall Street. This London-directed establishment is a criminal enterprise, which includes officials of major intelligence agencies, such as the Five Eyes and the Mossad, with a long history of networks when necessary, from both the military establishment and organized crime networks, the latter of which are fully integrated with the financial establishment of the City of London.

### Media Manipulation

The mainstream media have played a major role in diverting attention away from the actual intent of Epstein’s controllers by running a sophisticated cover-up, in which bits and pieces of his unsavory and often outrageous criminal activity are reported to divert your at-



CC/Gage Skidmore

*U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta speaks at the 2018 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Maryland.*



Credit: CC/Union20

*Les Wexner*

tention from the real criminal purpose of those who deployed and protected him. The truth about the role of Jeffrey Epstein is not to be found in the stories of his sexual perversion, nor in his procurement of young girls and boys as sexual playthings for the rich and powerful, though that is an integral part of his *modus operandi*; nor is it ultimately about his collection of videos and photos of their perversions for the sake of blackmail of those in his circle—though this also has been an aspect of his deployment.

This media narrative is designed to be “compelling” in itself, and is stirring passions among a broad cross-section of the American public. But what makes something so unsavory so compelling?

In part, it is a true story of criminality, combining elements of a “who-done-it?”—e.g., who killed him, with “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous,” making it irresistible to a celebrity-obsessed public. Epstein, who became fabulously wealthy and rubbed shoulders with members of the elite establishment, had a classic fall from grace: first, with a guilty plea in 2008 to two counts of soliciting prostitution, and soliciting prostitution from someone under eighteen. This placed him *part time* in a Club Fed–style incarceration for thirteen months, with work-release allowing him to leave the prison confines for much of each day. Then, after his release, he continued his life of corruption until July

2019, when he was arrested again, charged with violating federal laws on sex trafficking. Police say he committed suicide in his federal prison cell while awaiting trial on these charges.

But the case is about far more than sex crimes committed by a serial pedophile, who trafficked underage girls to powerful and wealthy members of the establishment, filmed their sexual proclivities, and used the videos to blackmail them—which may explain why he was able to get

away with it for so long. This part of the story includes lurid details of secret gatherings in luxurious settings, including his Manhattan townhouse and a private island he owned, Little Saint James in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It includes charges of cover-up, of political intrigue, of men and women above suspicion protected by corrupt authorities, with whispers of connections to various nations’ intelligence agencies, which overlap with known organized crime figures.

And it is a story which continues to put an unwelcome spotlight on U.S. President Donald Trump, who was at one time a friend of Epstein, and whose Department of Justice fumbled the promise to release documents related to the case, furthering the charges of a cover-up. But who is being protected by the cover-up? Is it protecting President Trump? Former President Bill Clinton? Britain’s Prince Andrew? Microsoft’s Bill Gates? Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak? Each of them had ties to Epstein, as did many more—politicians, billionaire tycoons, investors—all with something to hide.

### **How the System Was Protected**

An article published by Bloomberg on October 31, 2025 by investigative reporter Jason Leopold sheds some light on how Epstein was protected. Assistant U.S. Attorney for South Florida Maria Villafana opened an investigation into charges of money laundering by

Epstein. She and her staff received 18,000 private emails from Epstein’s personal email account in February 2007 from a Freedom of Information Act filing from which they were gathering evidence. She requested a subpoena for “every financial transaction conducted by Epstein and his six businesses” dating back to 2003 as her investigation deepened. At the same time, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Alex Acosta was investigating sexual allegations against Epstein, which ultimately led Acosta to obtain a guilty plea from him on two counts.

Villafana drafted a 53-page indictment and an 82-page prosecution memo in 2007, arguing that Epstein should be charged with money laundering and operating an unlicensed money transmittal business. When Acosta got the guilty plea for the sex crimes, the money laundering case was dropped, and the indictment was never filed. Acosta was asked about this later during a congressional hearing, when he came under fire for the light sentence Epstein received. Acosta was asked about whether he had investigated Epstein for “potential financial crimes.”

“I don’t recall a financial aspect,” he replied. “We were focused on the inappropriate [sexual] acts that took place in Palm Beach.”

Acosta was appointed Secretary of Labor by Trump in 2017 and served in that post through 2019.

It is notable that Villafana’s investigation led her to Les Wexner, a billionaire who had employed Epstein in a variety of positions since 1989. It was Wexner who provided Epstein with hundreds of millions of dollars. (For more on Wexner, his connection to the Meyer Lansky mob, and his pivotal role in the Epstein saga, see part two.) When she contacted Wexner about her investigation of Epstein for money laundering, Epstein moved furiously to block the investigation, deploying his team of high-priced lawyers to shut it down. The team included Alan Dershowitz and Kenneth Starr. Shortly afterwards, Acosta got a plea agreement with Epstein on two counts for sex crimes, and the money laundering investigation was dropped.

Following this brush with the law, Wexner broke off his relationship with Epstein.