

...analysis, but many of Bush's closest neocons are Project for the New American Century members, including Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, and Pearl. On a chilling note the report stated that it would take years for America to transform into "tomorrow's dominant force," unless "some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor," occurs.<sup>13</sup> Was the intelligence failure that led up to 9/11 a political move that allowed Bush and company to achieve their political goals?

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### Over-tax the Poor to Benefit the Rich

The rich/poor gap is ever widening in America these days. As of 2003, 49% of the income in the US was earned by the top fifth of Americans. The bottom fifth earned only 4% of the total income<sup>1</sup>. With this in mind, Bush wants to make permanent, his tax cuts that benefit the rich. These tax cuts are on capital gains, estates, and dividends, much of which the poor have nothing to do with. Much of the tax cuts go to the richest 1% of the population<sup>3</sup>. The average tax cut for the top one percent in 2003 was just below \$60,000<sup>2</sup>. 60% of Americans felt the Bush tax cuts had not benefited them in any way, as reported in a CNN/Money Magazine poll<sup>2</sup>.

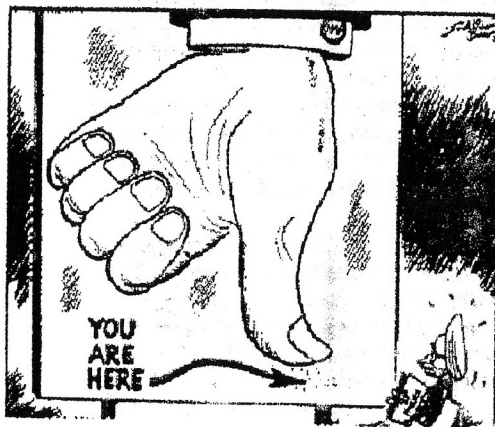
From the years 2000 to 2003, federal revenues from corporate taxes fell 36%—\$207 billion to \$132 billion<sup>4</sup>. In fact, reports show that in the past twenty years, the tax burden has shifted from corporations to private citizens. In

addition to that, total federal tax revenues are at their lowest compared to the economy since the early '50s. Audit rates for corporations have dropped in recent years as well. In 2003, as reported in the New York Times by David Cay Johnston, the IRS only audited seven out of a thousand corporations as opposed to 1992, when they audited 29 out of a thousand<sup>2</sup>.

On top of paying fewer taxes than ever before, more tax dollars are going towards 'corporate welfare' and agricultural subsidies. The EPA Superfund—originally funded through a polluter's tax to clean up the toxic waste sites they create—went bankrupt after 1995, when the tax expired. Now regular taxpayers will be footing the bill of up to \$1.27 billion per year; a 315% increase<sup>4</sup>.

The majority of our tax dollars are spent on military and defense, then straight into the pockets of war profiteers like Halliburton, Bechtel, and Lockheed-Martin. Corporations win—we lose—another day in Bush's America.

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# The Red Pill

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Ground Zero, Hiroshima 1945

### Truman to Treaty-Busting: USA WMD Hypocrisy

With all the talk of weapons of mass destruction in our media and government, we should keep in mind our country's history with WMDs. America is the only country in the world to have ever used a nuclear (the most massive WMDs there is) weapon on human beings. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Aug. 1945, killed at least 200,000 thousand people, mostly women and children. Air Force spokesman, Col. Harry F. Cunningham, summed up the military's point of view best by saying "We...destroy the enemy wherever he or she is, in the greatest possible numbers, in the shortest possible time. For us, there are no civilians in Japan."

American apologists make the claim that dropping the atomic bomb saved lives—American lives—one million of them. But to be fair, the number has no factual basis, and then president, Harry S. Truman, can prove it best in his own words.

8/9/45—Truman declared to the men and women of the Manhattan Project that "This new weapon will result in saving *thousands* of American lives."

12/15/45—"It occurred to me that a *quarter of a million...* of our young...was worth a couple Japanese cities."

1/12/53—Truman said "a minimum one quarter of a million" and "as much as a *million* [casualties] on the American side alone."

4/28/59—Truman tops out at: "The dropping of the bomb...saved *millions* of lives"

You can see how the 'one million casualties' myth has grown. Fortunately, we do have 'official' numbers. In June of 1945, Truman ordered the US military to estimate the human cost of an invasion of Japan. The Joint War Plans

Committee provided a report that estimated US losses at, 40,000 dead, 150,000 wounded, and 3,500 missing.

At the time of the atomic bombings, we had known that Japan had wanted to sue for peace, in response to Russia's recent declaration of war against Japan, for months. Strangely, Russia's entrance into the war in Japan also triggered the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Truman noted in his diary that Stalin would "...be in the Jap War on August 15<sup>TH</sup>. Fini [sic] Japs when that comes about." Obviously, Truman wanted to end the war before Russia got heavily involved, and thereby involved in the terms of surrender. In essence, the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were merely mass slaughter in the name of territory and power<sup>1</sup>.

The development of, and the dropping of, the nuclear bomb ushered in the insanity of the cold war. The strategy of the cold war was essentially peace preserved by a promise of mutual annihilation. People went hungry around the world and trillions were poured into nuclear 'deterrents.' Eventually, the leaders of the world realized the insanity, and the superpowers signed a number of arms control treaties. These treaties helped keep the peace in place of the threat of 'total war,' but the Bush administration to date has violated or refuses to sign at least nine international treaties, including, The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, The Biological Weapons Convention, The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and The Chemical Weapons Commission. America's non-compliance with these treaties strips them of any power internationally, and sets the precedent for other countries to violate these treaties—a bigger threat to world peace than Saddam ever was<sup>2</sup>.

If we use WMDs as a pretext for pre-emptive war then we must at least recognize our own hypocrisy. Disarmament should start at home.

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## The State of Disunion

# of times US has deployed troops to Haiti:	27
# of international treaties busted by Bush and Co:	9
estimated strength of Sadr's militia:	10,000
# of civilians killed in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki:	224,659
# of US dead in Iraq as of 04/15/04:	699
# of foreign countries that warned the US of the impending 9/11 attacks:	12
\$s wasted in Gulf War II so far:	111,625,000,000
% of Americans who believe the Bush tax cuts did not help them:	60
% of decrease in Federal revenues from corporate taxes between 2000 and 2003:	36

## Can You Connect the Dots?

As the independent 9/11 commission continues to investigate the pre-9/11 intelligence, the Bush administration still contends that there is no 'smoking gun' evidence that the attacks would occur. Many high ranking officials, on both sides of the aisle, have said otherwise.

"This [9/11] was not something that had to happen." And "They simply failed." Thomas H. Keen, chairman of the independent 9/11 commission.<sup>1</sup>

"I don't believe any longer that it's a matter of connecting dots. I think they had a veritable blueprint, and we want to know why they didn't act on it." Republican Senator, Arlen Specter.<sup>2</sup>

"There were lots of warnings." Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.<sup>3</sup>

The administration claims that they weren't able to connect all of the pre-9/11 warnings, and that they had no idea that an attack was in the works. Lets have a look at the intelligence and see if we can't prove Bush and company wrong on both counts.

In 1999, the British intelligence agency, MI6, passed a secret report to the US embassy in London. The report states that al-Qaeda is planning to use "commercial aircraft" in an attack, "possibly as flying bombs."<sup>4</sup>

On July 16, 2001 British intelligence agencies sent a report to Tony Blair and to Washington D.C that warned that al-Qaeda is in "the final stages" of preparing an attack against the west. The report stressed that the threat was "very serious."<sup>5</sup>

Finally, in early August of 2001, the British intelligence agencies warn the US government for the third time. This warning was more specific in terms of methodology, then the July warning, and states that al-Qaeda will use multiple hijackings in an attack against America. The warning was included in Bush's daily Presidential briefs.<sup>6</sup>

In June of 2001, German intelligence warned the CIA, MI6, and Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, that al-Qaeda will use airplanes as weapons to attack "American and Israeli symbols, which stand out."<sup>7</sup>

In August of 2001, Russia warned the US that suicide pilots are training for an attack on US targets, specifically "important buildings like the pentagon."<sup>8</sup>

In late July, Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil learned that al-Qaeda was planning an attack inside America, and that thousands will be killed. Muttawakil learned this from Tahir Yildash, leader of the rebel Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which is allied with al-Qaeda. Muttawakil sent an emissary to pass the information on to the US consul general, in Pakistan. The threat was not taken seriously, and Muttawakil tried to inform UNSMA, the political wing of the U.N, and again the threat was not taken seriously.<sup>9</sup>

In late August 2001, the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad gave the CIA a list of nineteen terrorists living in the USA, and said that they appear to be planning an attack in the near future. It may just be a coincidence that there was nineteen names on the Israeli list and there was nineteen hijackers on 9/11, but we know that at least four of the nineteen hijackers were on the list provide by Mossad, including 9/11 mastermind Mohamed Atta.<sup>10</sup>

As we can see the government clearly knew that an attack was coming, that it was going to involve airliners, and it knew that at least four of the hijackers were in the US planning an attack. Still not convinced...read further.

In July of 2001, Attorney General John Ashcroft stopped flying on commercial airlines. When asked by CBS why he had stopped flying commercial airlines a Justice department spokesman said that it was in reaction to a "threat assessment" by the FBI, and that Ashcroft was merely following FBI guidelines in dealing with the threat.<sup>11</sup> The nature of the threat was never revealed.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> of 2001, just four days before 9/11, Florida Governor Jeb Bush (the President's brother) called up the Florida National Guard to aide law enforcement and emergency-management in the event of "civil disturbance." Section 3 of Executive Order 01-261 tasked the Guard with providing security at Florida's ports because of "the potential massive damage to life and property that may result from an act of terrorism" and "the necessity to protect life and property from such acts of terrorism." Remember, this is four days before 9/11... The Presidents brother must be a psychic.<sup>12</sup>

On May 16<sup>th</sup> 2002, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice stated: "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center." But in what the government describes as a strange coincidence the CIA was running a drill the morning of 9/11 "...to explore the emergency response issues that would be created if a plane were to strike a building."<sup>13</sup> Was it a strange coincidence or was it a patsy for the military's incredible inaction on 9/11?

On the morning of 9/11, NPR correspondent, David Welna reported from the capital, while it was being evacuated, that: "I spoke with Congressman Ike Skelton—a Democrat from Missouri and a member of the Armed Services Committee—who said that just recently the Director of the CIA warned that there could be an attack—an imminent attack—on the United States of this nature. So this is not entirely unexpected."<sup>14</sup>

It wasn't unexpected. So why was it allowed to happen?

In September of 2000, the conservative think tank Project for the New American Century published a report entitled "Rebuilding America's Defenses." The report is basically a blueprint for American global dominance. The report named Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Korea as short-term military objectives. This report may seem like a right-wing wet