

Who (Specifically) is Behind the NSA Mass Surveillance Program?

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“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, *but upon probable cause*, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

The Fourth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

“The NSA could have installed its intercept equipment at the nation’s fiber-optic cable landing stations. . . . If the NSA had taken that route, it would have been able to limit its interception of electronic communications to international/international and international/domestic communications and exclude domestic/domestic communications. Instead the NSA chose to put its intercept equipment at key junction points . . . thereby giving itself access to purely domestic communications.”

Sworn testimony of NSA employee and electronic intelligence expert William Binney, July 2012

“. . . the individual liberties preserved in the U.S. Constitution were no longer a consideration. It was at that time that the NSA began to implement the group of intelligence activities now known as the President’s Surveillance Program (“PSP”). While I was not personally read into the PSP, various members of my Thin Thread team were given the task of implementing various aspects of the PSP. They confided in me and told me that the PSP involved the collection of domestic electronic communications traffic without . . . privacy protections I resigned from the NSA in late 2001. I could not stay after the NSA began purposefully violating the Constitution.”

Sworn testimony of William Binney, July, 2012

The sheer size of [its electronic storage] capacity indicates that the NSA is not filtering personal electronic communications such as email before storage but is, in fact, storing all that they are collecting. The capacity of NSA’s planned infrastructure far exceeds the capacity necessary for the storage of discreet, targeted communications or even for the storage of the routing information from all electronic communications. The capacity of NSA’s planned infrastructure is consistent, as a mathematical matter, with seizing both the routing information and the contents of *all electronic communications*.

Sworn testimony of William Binney, July, 2012



An aerial view of the NSA's Utah Data Center for storing its illegally acquired electronic communications, June 6, 2013. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

DC insider Mike Lofgren has said that "There's a shadow government running the country, and it's not up for re-election." <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/dc-insider-theres-shadow-govt-running-country-and-its-not-re-election> Defense expert William Arkin says that a "terrified government is destroying the constitution." http://www.amazon.com/American-Coup-Government-Destroying-Constitution/product-reviews/0316251240/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_acr_txt?showViewpoints=1

But neither of these individuals name any names. To read their material, one might think that the profound contempt for the Constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties they speak of is due to an army of gremlins run amok in Washington. Certainly, from a reading of their accounts, one could only conclude that no *actual, specific human beings* are responsible, only vague institutions like Wall Street and the Military Industrial Complex.

But, obviously, institutions are made up of human beings.

The NSA is another institution made up of human beings. Its secret and illegal mass surveillance program didn't originate with gremlins. From whistle-blower William Binney's sworn testimony, we know the NSA has been consciously, intentionally, and illegally engaged in mass domestic surveillance *without probable cause* since at least 2001 – that is, since the Bush II administration. But the program has continued without missing a beat under Obama. (Indeed, the Pentagon's 1033 program that has militarized American police forces widened its scope beyond "counter drug activities" to include equipment for "homeland security" and "emergency" response activities in 2009 on his watch. And

Obama has moved far more aggressively against whistleblowers and journalists than any preceding president.)

Since the NSA [is a branch of the Department of Defense](#), and the military reports to the executive branch, that means that NSA surveillance has been sponsored in that branch *under both parties, and has continued even after Edward Snowden's revelations left no doubt whatsoever that its domestic surveillance program is illegal*. It simply isn't possible for a massive, wholly illegal, expensive, and secret mass surveillance program to be funded, come into existence, and engage operationally without the sponsorship and interest of very, very powerful individuals, who clearly want it badly for reasons of their own that can't be shared with the public.

Given that they have operated both secretly and illegally, the individuals involved – all of them, including at least two American Presidents – have clearly and unquestionably conspired to commit criminal acts against the people of the United States of America, and in fully conscious violation of the American constitution.

But what *permanent* constituency has enough clout to pull off something like that? Or, to put more of a point on the question, which *actual, specific human beings* wanted the NSA surveillance program, and why? And how can such a clearly illegal program continue with only *pro forma* objections from the press, and a nearly complete absence of Congressional reform?

Under ordinary circumstances, it would be quite difficult to get traction with questions like this. Both the NSA and CIA have shrouded their many illegal activities for decades under the cosmetic fog of “national security concerns” where neither citizens, journalists, nor even interested members of Congress, can easily investigate them.

As we will see, however, the Occupy Wall Street movement, and the public statements of powerful corporate interests, have opened unintended windows into what's been going on that do afford us some understanding. Because only a very few individuals could, even conceivably, exercise enough influence to bring the program into existence, and shelter it even after revelation of its illegality, we can examine relevant pronouncements from the *very few* organizations and individuals who are *necessarily* implicated.

As we walk through this analysis, we should constantly keep in mind that the NSA is a branch of the military; and, as such, its command and control ultimately falls under the executive branch of the US government.

So, to conceive, budget, and initiate the program, the individuals in questions would necessarily *have* to 1) represent very powerful interests. No ordinary private citizen could bring about such a program, and neither would it serve any rational purpose for any ordinary citizen to direct public agencies to spy on themselves. (It is important to constantly ask ourselves: whose interest *does* the operation of a massive public surveillance program most truly serve, if *not* the public?)

The individuals responsible would also need to have, 2), a special focus upon, and access to, the executive branch of the government, as such a program can *only* function under presidential authority.

And the individuals in question, 3), must be capable of exercising powerful influence over the course of multiple administrations, even irrespective of party affiliation.

It would also be extremely helpful for their purposes if the individuals in question had strong influence over the media, in order to keep the program hidden in the first place, obscure the outright illegality of it after its discovery, minimize the danger it represents to democracy, forestall any narrowly-focused reportorial investigation, and quickly bury the NSA's activities under a tidal wave of trivial irrelevancies.

Satisfying most or all of these essential criteria are the following groups: 1) the secretive business cabal known as the Business Roundtable (hereafter BR); 2) the US Chamber of Commerce (USCoC); 3) the American Bankers Association (ABA); 4) the secretive Rockefeller organization known as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); and 5) we should not forget the media themselves (who operate with extensive interlocking boards of directors with other major corporations, and who are closely tied to the CFR).

There are also pressure groups, such as the Manhattan Institute, and individuals such as the neoconservatives, which include among their number individuals like Dick Cheney, who have had much of the requisite access and influence. (The founding figure of neoconservatism was Leo Strauss of the University of Chicago. UoC is a Rockefeller-founded institution; and Strauss also received a Rockefeller fellowship. A strong case can be made that the neocon perspective simply *is* the Rockefeller perspective. Strauss, incidentally, studied with Nazi philosopher Martin Heidegger.)

Let's continue now with an account of the activities of these organizations and individuals in recent months and years, in particular in the context of the surveillance of the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement.



The Domestic Security Alliance Council, the FBI and the Business Roundtable

A remarkable story broke in the news media on December 22, 2012.

The [Partnership for Civil Justice Fund](#) (PCJF) announced that, after a year of FBI stonewalling, it had finally come into possession of heavily redacted documents that revealed what may have been [the partial takeover of key Federal security agencies](#) by a group of corporations nominally organized as the DSAC, or Domestic Security Alliance Council.

This alarming story was subsequently picked up by [The Guardian](#) newspaper, as well as [Democracy Now](#), a pro-democracy television and radio program. The [corporate media](#) covered it as a seemingly boring matter concerning the FBI conducting surveillance of the Occupy Wall Street group. The photograph accompanying one UPI story seemed to suggest that OWS-participating citizens were taunting police (the photo depicts somebody dangling a doughnut on a string in front of an officer), so that monitoring would be understandable and indeed might even be desirable. To put this in another way: the media seemed to be suggesting that US citizens are somehow the enemy. (We've more recently seen this same kind of issue framing in corporate media use in connection with Michael Brown and the events in Ferguson, Missouri.)

What both the corporate and the democratic media agreed upon was this much: the FBI was involved in a massive, nationwide, coordinated spying effort centered on the wholly peaceful Occupy Wall Street movement. But there was a crucial divergence: democratic media reported that *the surveillance was overseen by banking and business interests*, via an organization known as the [Domestic Security Alliance Council](#) (DSAC); but rather than denying it, the corporate media *omitted this connection altogether*, instead focusing exclusively upon the FBI surveillance, and typically quoting FBI officials in such a way as to make it appear that the surveillance was exclusively the idea of the FBI itself.

Now, there is ample evidence that the DSAC coordinated the spying. There is also no doubt that FBI personnel reported back to the DSAC, as though they were so many employees of this private business and banking group. So why did the corporate media take pains to omit the FBI/corporate connection?

It appears that there may have been at least three reasons.

First, the corporate media might not have wanted a lot of attention paid to the DSAC. Two-thirds of the leadership of the DSAC is cross-affiliated with the secretive, radical business group that calls itself the [Business Roundtable](#) (BR). And the BR has very, very serious political and economic clout. It isn't possible to find more influential toes to step on.

Yet the BR is very little known, and with good reason: almost nothing is ever said about it in either the corporate or democratic press, even apart from its DSAC connection. Even search engines suppress information about the group. Nearly the only place the Business Roundtable

ever does receive significant mention is the Wall Street Journal, which invariably valorizes the group.

This is hardly surprising. The members of the Business Roundtable, comprised of corporate CEOs, don't want to be known. They are the individuals most responsible for the destruction of US unions. They are the individuals most responsible for the offshore outsourcing of millions of US jobs. They are the individuals most responsible for ever-more inflated CEO salaries. And they now seek the highly unpopular privatization of Social Security and destruction of Medicare. In short, they are the individuals most responsible for waging intensive economic warfare on the average American. To say the very least, a great many BR initiatives are intensely disliked by millions of Americans. Greater public awareness of the BR could therefore translate directly into greater public antagonism toward it, and also to a greatly increased understanding of the agenda and the extensive influence of the group.



A diagram of BR interlocks with other far-right organizations. Business Roundtable leaders are most notably cross-affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations, which has worked closely with the Manhattan Institute "think tank" to create fear concerning so-called "domestic terrorism." Extensive links to corporate media through interlocking boards are here omitted, but see Appendix 1.

But the Business Roundtable has yet another significant connection, which brings us to the second reason why the corporate press might not have wanted to report the real significance of the PCJF revelations.

Corporations typically have corporate boards of directors, and the largest corporations share directors by sitting on each other's boards. When this sort of thing occurs between two or more

corporations it's referred to as an [interlocking board](#). Among other things, interlocking boards are a way of coordinating corporate planning and goal-setting.

Now, it develops that, in addition to its links to other far-right organizations, the Business Roundtable [is also heavily interlocked](#) with all of the corporate broadcast media.

This topic is extraordinarily taboo, and even under ordinary circumstances is never, ever mentioned in the corporate media. It would certainly be extremely dirty laundry to air in the context of the activities of the DSAC, as it would make it apparent that the media are, themselves, closely associated with the very same business interests, and therefore are almost certainly sympathetic both to the FBI surveillance of OWS and to BR political objectives.

Let's restate the true significance of the PCJF revelations: the Business Roundtable, which is a *private* business cabal, was presidentially appointed to a position from which they could secretly monitor FBI (government) surveillance, and may also have had a partial supervisory role over the FBI and Obama's Department of Homeland Security, both nominally *public* institutions.

The purpose of this exercise: among others, to effectively permit BR corporations themselves to spy upon US citizens peacefully engaged in constitutionally-protected free speech activities. And not only spy: OWS protestors were physically brutalized from coast to coast for peacefully protesting corporate influence. Again, this took place with BR knowledge *and permission, or possibly even direction*.

The equivalent would be the President creating a governmental front group for, say, Greenpeace, funneling all EPA intelligence regarding environmental issues to this private group, and then sending out police to pepper spray CEOs that Greenpeace didn't like — all with the full knowledge and cooperation of the press. Done on behalf of any organization serving the public interest, this would be considered extraordinary and outrageous in the extreme. Done on behalf of large corporate interests, it failed to elicit even the faintest peep from the corporate press.

But there is yet a third compelling reason for omitting the DSAC connection in reporting on this disgraceful tale of corporate/government collusion. Throughout the crackdown on OWS the [official White House position](#) was that it was up to local law enforcement in each state to determine how to go about policing OWS. But the PCJF revelations make it clear that this claim was simply a bold-faced lie. (And this leads one to wonder how many other bold-faced lies or omissions center on cozy corporate/executive branch collusion.)

Far from being left in local hands, the policing was nationally coordinated by the FBI/DHS, which is to say *by the Obama administration itself in close cooperation with, or possibly direction by, the BR*. Moreover, half of the corporations that are members of both the BR Leadership Board and the DSAC are *also* members of the [Council of Foreign Relations](#); and the Obama administration is virtually synonymous with the Council on Foreign Relations. (A search

of the [White House web site](#) using the terms "Council on Foreign Relations" will return dozens of links to CFR alumni.)



President Obama addresses CEOs of the Business Roundtable. BR member corporations comprise two thirds of the DSAC Leadership Board. George W. Bush created the DSAC as a front for the BR and the Council on Foreign Relations, and Obama used it to offer the many resources of the FBI and the DHS, both public institutions, to these private organizations for their private benefit.

These are all, of course, startling revelations of a degree of corporate influence over the executive branch that far transcends mere lobbying. But what do they have to do with the NSA?

If FBI surveillance and operations were laid at the doorstep of the BR, one possible implication here is that the mass surveillance being undertaken by the NSA is perhaps *also* being undertaken specifically on behalf of the Business Roundtable, the Council on Foreign Relations, and related banking and corporate interests. It may even be that these interests are *the*, or at least *a*, controlling force behind the Obama administration itself.

If so, a further implication might be that bankers and CEOs are seeking, and perhaps even already have, nothing short of outright fascist control of America via the executive branch.

Obviously, this is an extremely serious contention. Is there any *hard* evidence to back it up?

At the very minimum, there definitely exists a very extensive overlap of actors among all of these organizations, as well as extraordinary executive branch involvement with, and penetration by, them. (See Table 1 for the specific corporations in question.)

**"DSAC is more than information sharing. It is mission sharing."
Joseph Petro, Citigroup (Business Roundtable member)**

DSAC Leadership Board	BR	CFR	Manhattan Institute
3M	X		
American Express	X	X	
Bank of America	X	X	
Barclays (Note: this is a <i>British</i> multinational banking company headquartered in London.)	X	X	
Boeing	X	X	
Bristol-Myers Squibb	X		X
CIGNA	X	X	X
Citigroup	X	X	
Coca-Cola	X	X	
ConocoPhillips	X	X	
Ernst & Young	X		
FedEx	X	X	
DuPont	X		
General Electric	X	X	
KPMG International	X		
Mastercard	X		
Merck & Co.	X	X	

NextEra Energy	X		
Time Warner	X	X	
Walmart	X	X	

Table 1. The DSAC leadership board has 29 members. Seven are not cross-affiliated and are omitted here. Twenty-two are members of both the DSAC and the Business Roundtable. 13 are additionally cross-affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations. Bristol-Myers Squibb and CIGNA are financial supporters of the Manhattan Institute, which has been the main advocate for the so-called "Patriot Act" as well as the chief propaganda organ for creating largely false and grossly exaggerated fears about "domestic terrorism," the idea that American citizens are somehow "enemies." See Appendix 1 for DSAC/BR cross-affiliations with the mass media.

By itself, corporate involvement with the executive branch that is this extensive already reeks of massively corrupt influence. But the case here would be far stronger still if there was any hard evidence that the BR, in fact, *wants* this NSA data. In fact, it develops that the Business Roundtable, which, as we've seen, already is receiving special access to Department of Homeland Security and FBI intelligence, *actually does want privileged - and secret - NSA access, too.*

On November 30, 2011 Representative Michael J. Rogers of Michigan (a former FBI agent, seen by many as the single most corrupt member of Congress) introduced to the House bill H. R. 3523 (CISPA), among the most fascism-enabling pieces of legislation ever crafted.

The bill sought to give the CEOs of Business Roundtable corporations privileged, and secret, access to NSA intelligence, *in addition to* the privileged information these CEOs already receive from the DHS and FBI. *Numerous* attempts were made to pass this bill. It wasn't a passing fancy, so it's unlikely that it was desired simply because of concerns over "cybersecurity," the fig leaf offered by the BR. And, incredibly, attempts are still (March, 2015) being made to pass slightly modified CISPA legislation.

So, the BR is in a position to have sponsored the NSA mass surveillance program through its extensive influence over the executive branch; it wants and in fact already receives FBI intelligence, and it also *wants* the NSA intelligence. Is it possible that the NSA has, in fact, been collecting all of this data specifically *for* the intersection of CEOs and bankers represented by the overlapping membership of the Business Roundtable and the Council on Foreign Relations? There are a several compelling reasons to suspect as much.

- 1) The BR and CFR represent individuals with exceptionally strong personal, economic reasons for wanting to control the executive branch. (Remember those grossly inflated CEO salaries.)
- 2) The BR and CFR have exceptional, and indeed almost unparalleled, access to the executive branch.

- 3) Both organizations have had extensive influence over the executive branch under both parties, and under both the Bush II and Obama administrations.
- 4) Both organizations share numerous interlocking board members with the corporate media. (Please see Appendix 1.)
- 5) There really is no other comparably powerful group that would both want this data and be sufficiently influential over the executive branch to initiate the mass surveillance program.

We should, perhaps, detour briefly at this juncture in order to be a little clearer about just what kind of information it is that the NSA actually is collecting. This should also shed a great deal of light on *why* the rich and powerful might want it, and thereby provide further evidence that they are, in fact, the ones seeking it.

To begin with, William Binney was almost certainly right that *all* domestic email is both collected and stored. However, as alarming as that may be, Binney actually fell far short: whistleblower Ed Snowden has provided documentation concerning the NSA XKeyscore data collection program which reveals that it also collects social media activity, browsing history, and even online chats. Moreover, NSA capability also extends to telephone wiretapping *at will*, without any oversight. (All of this is, of course, highly illegal. President Obama, who was employed as a constitutional scholar at the University of Chicago, is, beyond any doubt whatever, aware of this.)

Obviously, a data collection program of this nature entirely transcends any rationale based upon concerns around “domestic terrorism.” But the true significance of this data gathering has been lost on nearly all Americans, who persist in thinking that the government is going to get really bored reading the trivial details of their personal email. It seems not to have occurred to Americans that if that’s all that was intended, *the program would never have been initiated in the first place.*

To get a clearer picture of the nature of the data, and the reason it is so greatly desired, we should ask ourselves just what the NSA *is* doing with all of this information.

But before we answer this question, it should be emphasized once again that the NSA is a branch of the Department of Defense, *which exists to combat enemies.* So if the NSA is gathering data on *all* ordinary American citizens, one implication is that those very citizens are now considered to be enemies of the state.

USA Today has [reported](#) that, based on Snowden's revelations, the NSA XKeyscore tracking had begun by (at least) November, 2010, and included not only phone call "metadata" but also "social connections including travel, location, associates, and even Facebook ties." One common

purpose for this kind of data collection, as USA Today rightly noted, is to construct [social network](#) diagrams.

What the paper *didn't* mention is that the entire purpose of constructing social network diagrams is to map out the social connections of conspiratorial groups. Then, as Wikipedia explains: "After the initial mapping of the social network is complete, analysis is performed to determine the structure of the network and determine, for example, the leaders within the network. This allows military or law enforcement assets to launch capture-or-kill decapitation attacks on the high-value targets in leadership positions. . . ."

But why would the NSA want the capability of constructing social network diagrams for *every* working American to enable potential "capture-or-kill decapitation attacks"? As proxies for the interests of the DSAC/BR/CFR, does some element of the NSA (and perhaps by implication portions of the DoD, and by implication also some in the executive branch of government) regard working Americans as real or potential enemies? The answer is: even in the abstract, *it is extremely difficult to produce any other convincing rationale that would motivate the capture of data this extensive, and of this kind, for this sort of purpose.* Apart from its outright illegality, this is almost certainly the reason why the program's existence was concealed from Congress and the public.

But it isn't necessary to speculate. The use of militarized police against the Occupy Wall Street protestors, and in Ferguson, already makes quite explicit what all of the military largesse distributed by the DoD is intended for. (Militarized police certainly haven't been deployed against the membership of the DSAC/BR/CFR. And even the guiltiest bankers, those known to have broken the law, have escaped *all* personal consequences and at worst only modest fines of the banks they work for.)



Ferguson, Missouri August 13, 2014. The armored vehicle seen in this photograph is police equipment. Notably, the police officer surmounting it is not pointing his weapon at a DSAC/BR/CFR member.

Still, these were small deployments, and might be framed as the suppression of a relative handful of individuals. The recent re-purposing of the US military for [domestic policing](#) by NORTHCOM makes quite explicit their role for suppressing the American populace – and only a *very* large-scale uprising would merit this kind of application of force. (The Pentagon has sought permission to station 400,000 military personnel domestically at sole Presidential discretion.) Taken together, all of this speaks conclusively of a perspective in which a majority, or at the very least many millions, of American citizens are viewed as “enemies.”

The extensive deployment of surveillance cameras nationwide (and, indeed, nearly worldwide) also speak to the institutionalization of an ever more pervasive anti-citizen and anti-democracy perspective.

Thus, the capabilities secretly established by the NSA dovetail chillingly with other developments centered on the suppression of democracy, and with a citizen-as-enemy mentality. *And there is nothing else that they do plausibly dovetail with.*



82nd Airborne Division troops supplant New Orleans police and National Guard in the wake of Katrina.

An initial trial-run for the deployment of the military in domestic policing was undertaken in the wake of the Katrina disaster (which was, essentially, *permitted* to become a massive crisis). But what other kind of situation might result in such a broadly-based uprising of the American people that it would require 400,000 military personnel to suppress? The chief rationale mentioned by the Pentagon other than “catastrophic, natural disasters” – which would need to be far, far more catastrophic than Katrina even began to be – is the extraordinarily vaguely defined “emergency.” Under section 5122 of title 42, U.S. Code, the President has the sole discretion to designate any event as an “emergency.” Though this authority certainly could be used for non-dictatorial purposes, there can be no doubt whatsoever that this *is* a dictatorial authority, and one without any timeline for expiration. (We should also mention in this context that the chain of command of the National Guard formerly terminated with the governors of each state. No longer: it now extends above the governor to the President of the United States.)

Perhaps the elastic and ever-vague notion of “terrorism” can do duty here? Predictably, attempts have been made along those lines.

But it’s difficult to imagine *any* act of terrorism that would require the presence of 400,000 troops (along with the military-grade weaponry that this implies). *What the executive branch has sought and received authority to deploy is an occupational army.* The events of 9/11 would not

even have approximated to a requirement for this sort of troop strength; and no other terrorist event has even approximated to 9/11.

Indeed, the DHS and FBI almost never have any terrorism to investigate. 79% of mass shootings are [attributable to mental illness](#), not terrorism; and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations found that for a 13 month span in 2009 and 2010 "it could identify no reporting which uncovered a terrorist threat, nor could it identify a contribution . . . fusion center reporting made to disrupt an active terrorist plot."

(Fusion Centers are massive facilities in every US state where DHS and the FBI collate the information they've collected on American citizens, almost none of whom are suspected of any crime.) However, DHS/FBI spying on Occupy Wall Street on behalf of the Business Roundtable and the CFR make one thing absolutely certain: a mission oriented toward policing so-called "domestic terrorism" on behalf of CEOs and bankers falls only just short, if at all, of tasking these agencies with working in direct opposition to the economic and political interests of all working Americans, conservative and liberal alike.

So then: the president now has the authority to impose, indefinitely, a dictatorship in any sort of "emergency," and the full weight of the US military can be brought to bear upon American civilians to enforce it.

Given this view of a nation full of "enemies" it should now be abundantly clear why the NSA might want to construct social network diagrams to enable "capture-or-kill decapitation attacks" on citizens, and why the executive branch would want a military capable of doing the decapitating.

Up to this point we've seen that the Business Roundtable wants secret, privileged access to NSA data, possibly including the very data we've described above. And we've asked whether the BR might not, in fact, be calling the shots around NSA mass surveillance. What can be said, in addition to the points already made, is that the President *wants* to give them the information desired. [Executive Order 13636](#) (February 12, 2013) directs that improving "critical infrastructure cyber security" will primarily rely on "public-private" (corporate-government, historically known as fascist) "collaboration."



Soon after his inauguration, President Obama met with BR CEOs. The president of the BR at that time was corporate lobbyist John Castellani, whom Obama met with individually at the White House more often over the first nine months of his administration than any other individual except Tom Donohue of the US Chamber of Commerce. (ACLU analysis, combined with Public Citizen analysis, and cross-referenced by the author with data from the US Chamber reveals that the USCoC has purchased outright more than 100 members of Congress, all of whom have compiled legislative records virulently opposed to civil liberties and servilely accommodating of corporate agendas.) Another frequent Obama visitor: Edward Yingling, president of the American Bankers Association.

However, we haven't yet mentioned how we know that the BR (and therefore also the CFR and DSAC) want this NSA information. It's hardly a secret: for one thing, the BR has editorialized on behalf of this at their [website](#). As the BR explains there, the House bill known as CISPA "would establish a legally-protected information sharing framework for the *two-way* exchange of cybersecurity information between and among the public and private sectors, with *strong liability protections* for those operating within the framework. Furthermore, CISPA would direct the Director of National Intelligence to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security to release procedures and guidelines *for sharing cybersecurity threat information with the private sector.*" [Our emphasis.]

But what, exactly, comprises "cybersecurity threat information"? This would appear to be anything, however broadly construed, that might relate somehow to cybersecurity. Already

featuring conveniently vague terminology, the bill sets an extraordinarily dangerous precedent, easily enlarged upon legally, for the NSA to share any information whatsoever with the Business Roundtable (and, again, therefore also the Council on Foreign Relations, with which it is joined at the hip). Citizens seeking to challenge the release of information about them to corporations would have, at a minimum, to show that it had nothing whatsoever to do with “cybersecurity.” (And note how difficult it would be for them to ever even know what information corporations had concerning them in the first place.)

It’s important to understand that the "private sector" referred to here doesn't reference just any organization, say, Greenpeace, or the ACLU. This phrase is meant to apply *only* to corporations with "infrastructure" deemed somehow "critical" to national security, which effectively excludes more benign, and potentially whistle-blowing, organizations like the ACLU from participating. (They certainly weren’t invited to join the DSAC, all of which corporate members – including the British banking transnational Barclays - *are* deemed to have “infrastructure critical to national security”.)

We've already seen that there is every appearance the DSAC was created in order to serve as a front for the BR/CFR, enabling them, minimally, to receive FBI/DHS intelligence. We also know that the information they obtained from the DHS and FBI was used to brutally suppress domestic dissent. And this very strongly implies that it is precisely *the BR/CFR CEOs who see the American people as their enemies*. So it isn't much of a stretch to suppose that the NSA may be vacuuming up the intimate details of people's personal lives proactively in anticipation of the passage of legislation like CISPA, which would enable the NSA to then legally deliver this information to the BR/CFR. (Remember those "strong liability protections"?)

This possibility is lent far greater weight when we consider the numerous references made by [Obama officials](#), as well as NSA leaders like [Michael Hayden](#) and [Keith Alexander](#), to so-called “public-private partnerships” (the very same term used for the illicit FBI/corporate DSAC relationship). When we find the Council on Foreign Relations leaping to the defense of NSA spying the case can be considered all but clinched. Representative here are the [remarks in defense of NSA](#) domestic spying by [Max Boot](#), a senior fellow (and neocon) with the CFR. However, when a [Rockefeller family member personally calls for executive orders](#) to this effect, the case becomes still more compelling.



David Rockefeller heads up Bilderberg and the Council on Foreign Relations, and also served 12 years as chairman of the board of JP Morgan Chase bank, the nation's largest. Alumni of the Rockefeller-founded University of Chicago include both President Obama and the founding figure of the neoconservatives, Leo Strauss.



A diagram of BR interlocks with other far-right organizations (extensive links of the BR with the corporate media are here omitted). Business Roundtable leaders are cross-affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations, which in turn has worked with the Manhattan Institute "think tank" to create fear concerning so-called "domestic terrorism." As previously mentioned, the Council on Foreign Relations is virtually synonymous with both the Obama and Bush administrations.

For the Council of Foreign Relations to be privy to all of this information (since the corporate members of the CFR interlock so extensively with the BR) would be especially alarming, as the leadership of the CFR is typified by [Maurice R. Greenberg](#), who is the living embodiment of corporate fascism, and who is cross-affiliated with the privately owned Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as well as the shadowy, fascist world “government” group Bilderburg.



President Obama addresses the Council on Foreign Relations. His administration is riddled with numerous appointees who are CFR alumni. (Query with the keywords "Council on Foreign Relations" at the White House site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov> for a lengthy list of references.) When questioned about his relationship to the CFR, Obama disingenuously remarked: "I don't know if I'm an official member. I've spoken there before. It basically is a forum where people talk about foreign policy. There is no official membership. I don't have a card, or you know a special handshake or anything like that."



The headquarters of the Council on Foreign Relations on 68th St. in New York City. Per President Obama, there is no official membership, and it would seem members of the public wouldn't need a card or a special handshake to enter if they wanted to stroll in to chat about foreign policy.

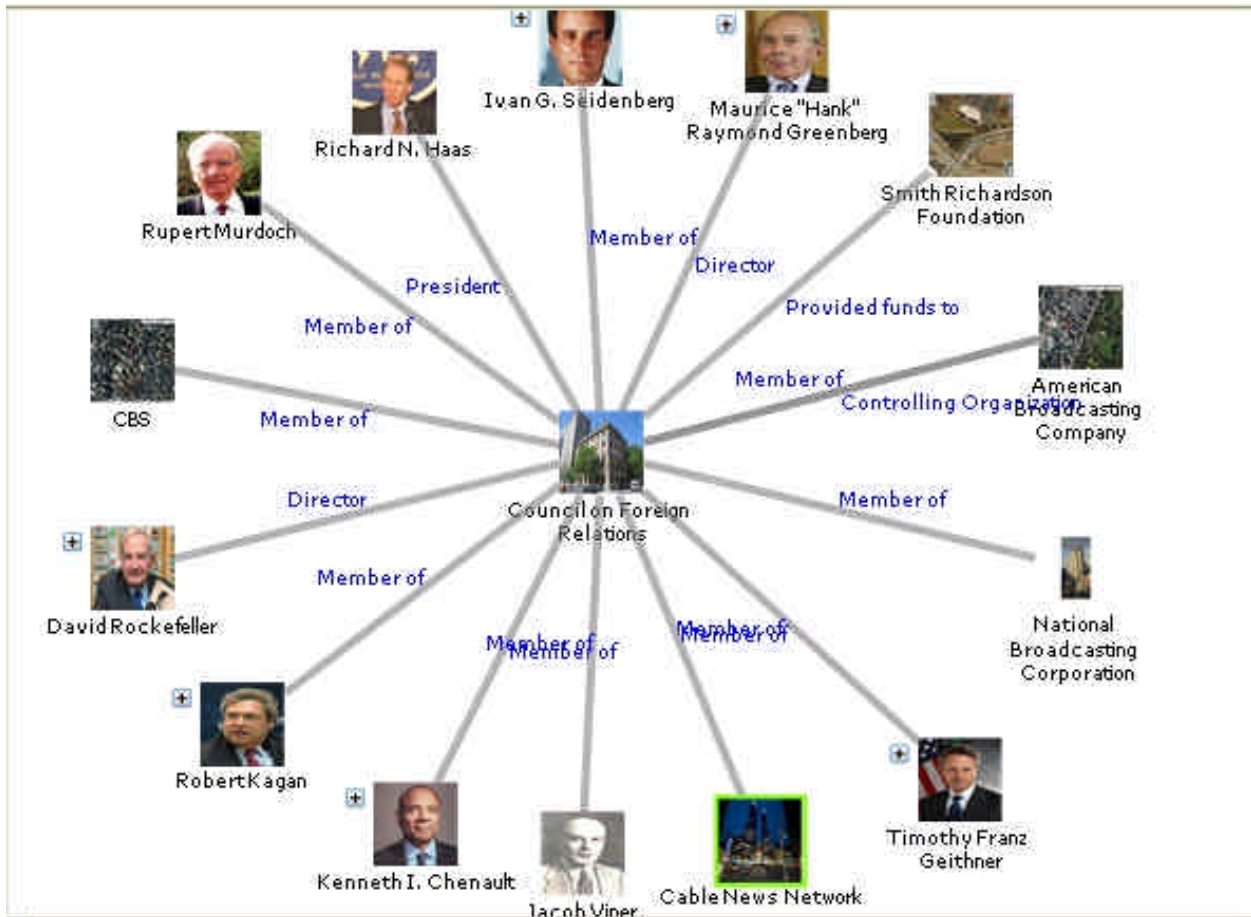
But as extraordinarily alarming as all of this is, a more complete picture of BR activity is more alarming still.

The BR, together with the US Chamber of Commerce, are joint sponsors of something entitled the "[Trans Pacific Partnership](#)" or TPP. The TPP is headed up by some 600 corporate "advisors" who read like a "who's who" of the members of the Business Roundtable, Council on Foreign Relations, and US Chamber of Commerce. (The organization is of doubtful legality, since *all* activity pertaining to foreign trade is [the sole province of Congress](#) by virtue of explicit constitutional language. The executive branch has no legal role to play whatsoever, and neither do "public-private partnerships".)

Nominally, the TPP is a trade accord similar to NAFTA, which would make it bad enough. But it also deals with much, much else. Indeed, it appears that the primary purpose of the secretly negotiated TPP is to undermine US sovereignty and place America under the effective control of a transnational corporate tribunal. This statement should not be dismissed as mere over-wrought hyperbole. The first member of Congress to actually see the language of the TPP, Alan Grayson,

has [remarked](#): "1) There is no national security purpose in keeping this text secret. 2) This agreement hands the sovereignty of our country over to corporate interests."

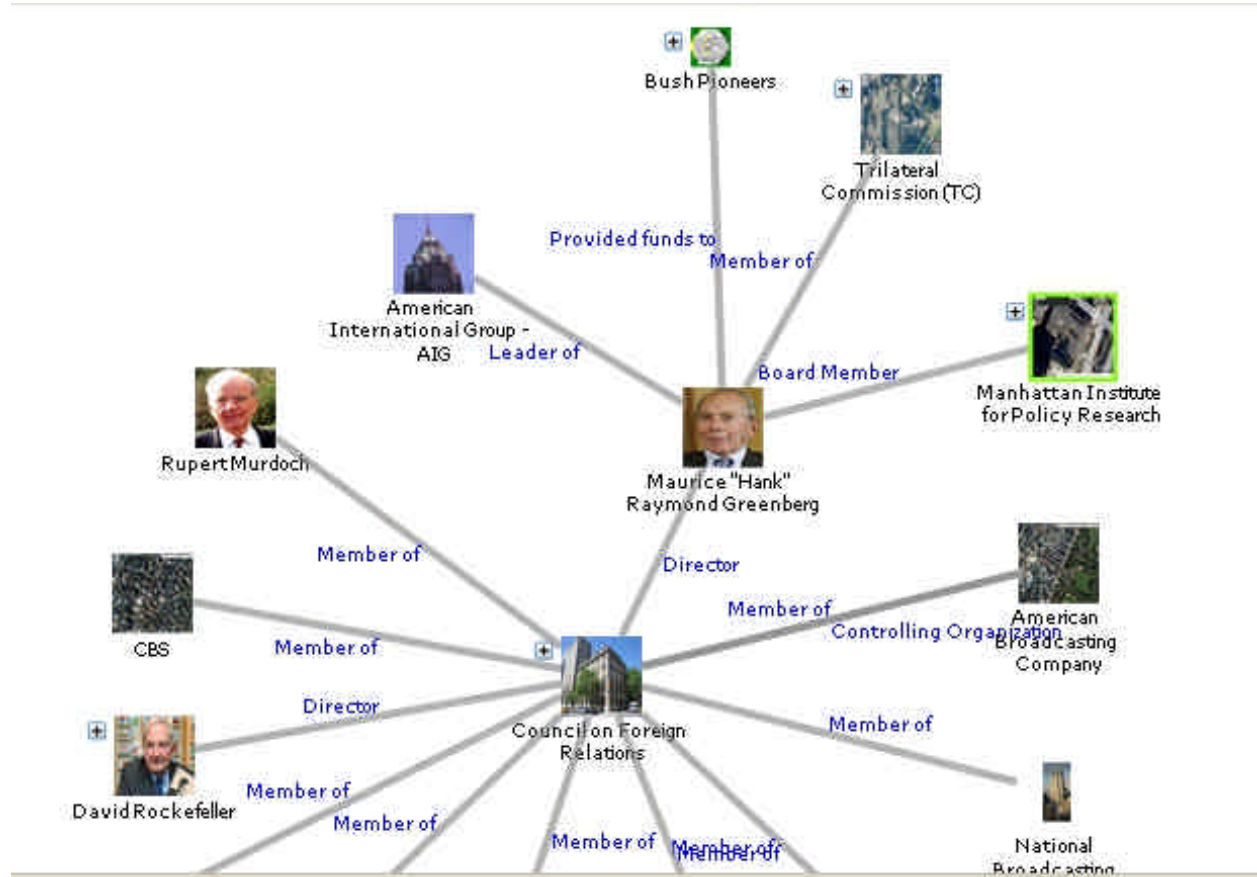
This exposure of a stunning corporate *coup d'etat* should, of course, have gone straight to national headlines and occupied the national news media for weeks, months, or years. Instead, barely a peep was heard, which serves compellingly to illustrate the power of those BR/CFR/corporate media ties. (Chapter 11 of NAFTA, and Chapter 10 of CAFTA, were already trial balloons creating similar precedents. See the Public Citizen [link](#) concerning this subject for greater detail.)



CFR media ties. (See Appendix 3 for a more complete table of CFR/media relationships.) Kenneth Chenault (lower left) is a prominent member of the Business Roundtable.

Thus far then, we've seen that the DSAC functions as a front group for the Business Roundtable and the Council on Foreign Relations, providing privileged and secret FBI and DHS intelligence to private CEOs. We've also seen that the BR/CFR has strongly advocated for the NSA mass surveillance program, and that they unquestionably *want* access to the information that it has illegally obtained. We've seen that the President *wants* to give it to them. We've seen that the illegal collection program has been authorized by two administrations. We've further seen that

the leadership of the Council of Foreign Relations has included Maurice Greenberg, who has further affiliations with both the Federal Reserve Bank and Bilderburg. And we've noted that many of the member corporations involved in the TPP, which incorporates an assault on US sovereignty, also overlap with the membership of the BR/CFR/DSAC. We must emphasize that very little of this is even faintly controversial or open to doubt.

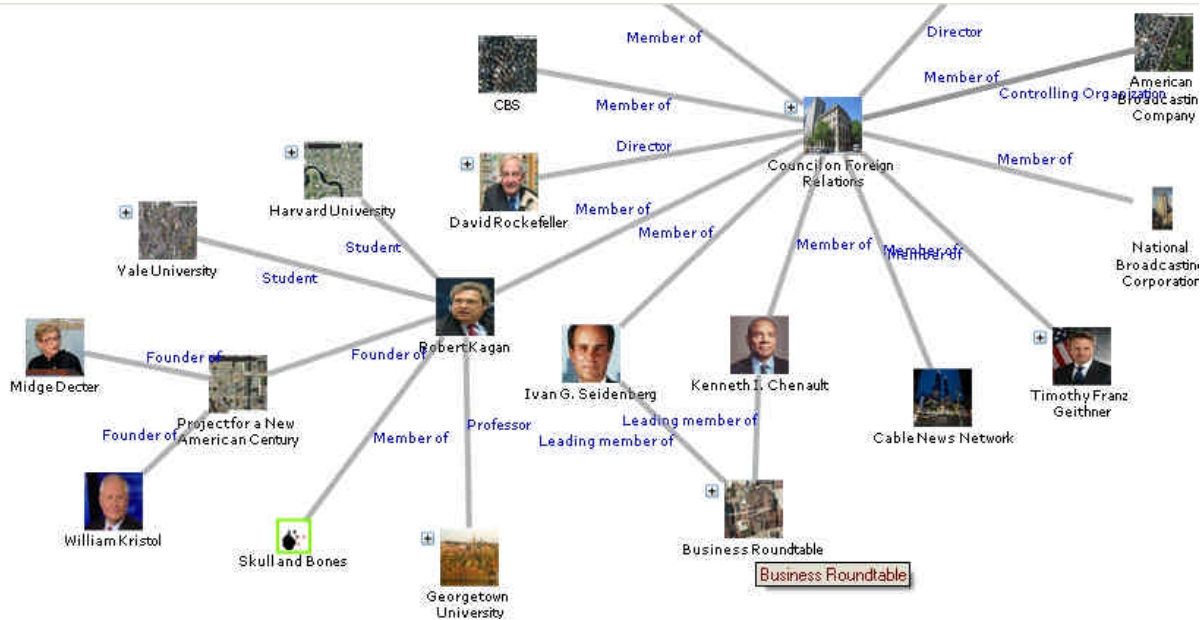


CFR leader, Maurice Greenberg, is cross-affiliated with the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

Interestingly, Greenberg *also* serves on the board of the Manhattan Institute, along with individuals like William Kristol, chairman and co-founder of the neoconservative Project for a New American Century. The Institute was founded by the fascist Knights of Malta member William Casey, who went on to head up the CIA (which at one point was virtually a hive of Knights of Malta alumni) under the elder Bush.

It was the Manhattan Institute's [R. P. Eddy](#) who began the MI's "Center for *Policing* Terrorism." [Our emphasis.] Prior to joining the MI, Eddy had been Bush's counterterrorism director. And to this day it is Eddy and Project for a New American Century alumnus Dick Cheney who have been the primary drum beaters for the idea that policing so-called "domestic terrorism" is somehow a matter of earth-shattering urgency, even though the events of 9/11 were carried out by Saudis. What Eddy also represents is the idea of "proactive policing." As the MI explains:

"This style of policing is executed by training street level officers to recognize signs of terror related activity, and by facilitating the timely *sharing and analysis of intelligence* between agencies at the *Federal*, state and local level." [Our emphasis.] To put this another way, Eddy and Cheney are the primary point men behind the idea that American citizens are somehow "the enemy." And behind Cheney and other neocons is David Rockefeller. And it is David Rockefeller who also stands behind the CFR.



The founders of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC) are tied to the CFR through neocon Robert Kagan. Dick Cheney was also a prominent PNAC member.

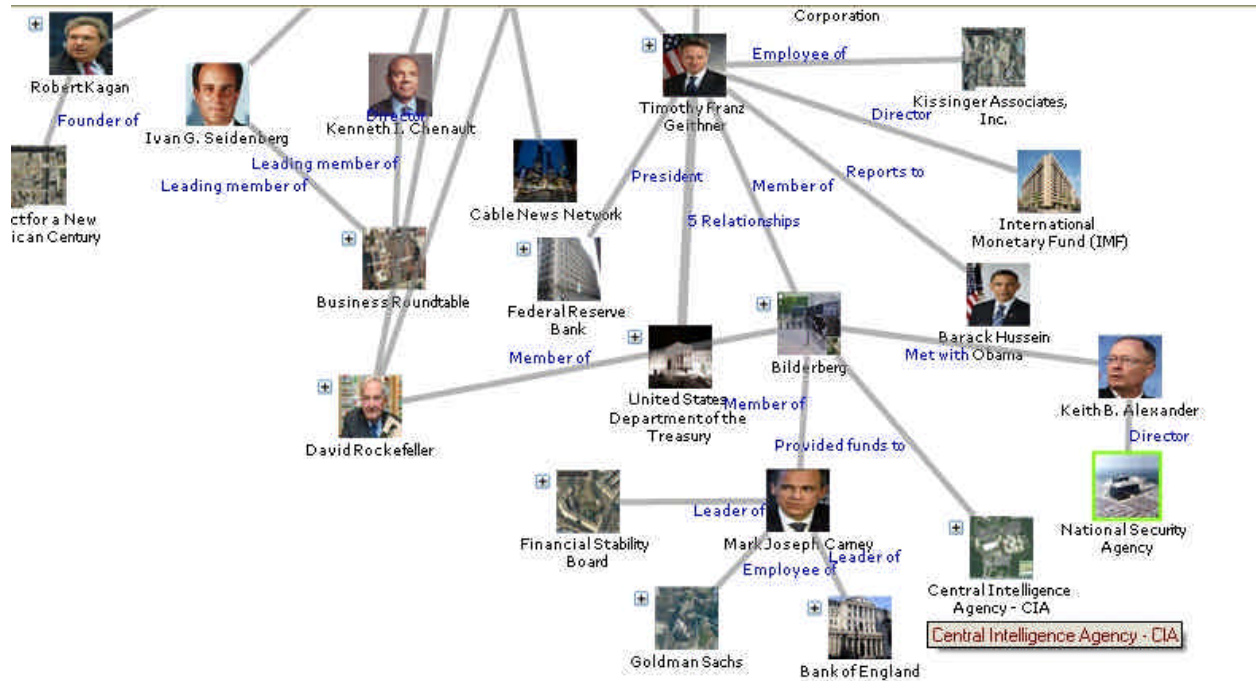
In the next section we'll look more closely at how the US military (via NORTHCOM) and the National Guard would be deployed against American civilians, using military grade weapons, in any scenario involving widespread civil unrest.

**"DSAC is more than information sharing. It is mission sharing."
Joseph Petro, Citigroup (Business Roundtable member)**

Domestic terrorism, the Manhattan Institute, the NSA, and the "New Pearl Harbor"

On October 1, 2002, the DoD's Northern Command (NORTHCOM), headquartered in Colorado, began operations, tasked with conducting operations to deter, prevent, and defeat "terrorist threats" *in the United States*, opening the door to military action against American citizens.

In light of the foregoing material, it now appears that NSA intelligence is possibly being collected on behalf of such organizations as the Business Roundtable and the Council on Foreign Relations. (Also not above suspicion is the US Chamber of Commerce, which exercises numerous and intimate connections with the Obama administration, as was also true of the Bush administration.)



Among organizations identified thus far there exist numerous other social and organizational connections to financial institutions and other “elite” organizations of dubious intent, such as Bilderberg.

In this section we will see that many of the same players who are involved in the extensive domestic spying undertaken by the FBI, and perhaps the NSA, on behalf of corporate and banking interests, and in a probably related attempt to destroy US national sovereignty, *also* turn up in the recent rewriting of American law so as to permit the use of US military in policing US civilians.

Dick Cheney, the former Vice-President under George W. Bush, was a prominent member of the neoconservative “think tank” known as the Project for a New American Century (PNAC). (As was previously noted, the neoconservatives who comprised the membership of the PNAC originated out of the University of Chicago, which was founded by the Rockefeller family.)

The Wikipedia entry for the group notes that “with its members in numerous key administrative positions, the PNAC exerted influence on high-level U.S. government officials in the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush and affected the Bush Administration's

development of military and foreign policies, especially involving national security and the Iraq War.”

The PNAC is perhaps best known for producing a strange document entitled “Rebuilding America’s Defenses,” section V of which was entitled “Creating Tomorrow’s Dominant Force.” In this section can be found a statement that now seems to be especially portentous: “Further, the process of transformation [of the US military into a globally dominant force], even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor.”

The idea that the US military must for some reason be a globally dominant force has a long history that can be traced to a document produced at the behest of Nelson Rockefeller near the beginning of the Cold War known as the “Mid-Century Report.” This Rockefeller-produced rationale for a “cold” war with the Soviet Union was the product of a team headed up by Henry Kissinger, who has served as a proxy for the Rockefellers in several Presidential administrations. In effect, Kissinger *invented* the “cold war” in the same way that other Rockefeller proxies have invented the so-called “war on terror.”

The PNAC document was published in September, 2000. And the events of September 11, 2001, America’s new Pearl Harbor, occurred just a year later while PNAC alumnus Dick Cheney was at the helm of control of the US Department of Defense. (Apparently innocent, yet Saudi-friendly, President Bush was busy reading a story about a pet goat to a group of elementary students at the time. Oddly, the school was in close proximity to the headquarters of the Saudi group that organized the attack.)

Shortly following 9/11 the document known as the USA “Patriot” Act was produced. The chief architect of this document was one Viet Dinh. While at Harvard Law School, Dinh was a research fellow at the John M. Olin foundation that funds, among other ultra-far right think tanks, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. He was later counsel to the Senate Whitewater Committee, which investigated claims about alleged improper conduct of the Clintons, and which was closely followed and publicized by billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife, another funder of the Manhattan Institute. Dinh later became a board member of News Corporation (Fox News), which is a backer of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (which is, remember, also linked to the Manhattan Institute). (We might also mention that David Rockefeller has long been an overseer of Dinh’s *alma mater*, Harvard.)

Personally rammed through Congress by PNAC alumnus Dick Cheney, the 342 page “Patriot” act was signed into law just 45 days after the events of September 11, before those events had even received any meaningful critical scrutiny or analysis. No debate of the act was tolerated by House or Senate leadership, and the sheaf of paper on which the massive act was actually written

was physically sequestered inside a vault. Only a tiny handful of Congressmen had even seen it at the time it was signed into law by George W. Bush.

Increasingly serious doubts have been cast upon the official account of what actually happened to bring about America's new Pearl Harbor on 9/11/2001. (Just one small example: it is certain that the NSA knew on September 10 of Arabic messages suggesting imminent attack, and that Cheney was infuriated by the disclosure of this fact). Indeed, it is now highly probable that President Bush either knew about the attack in advance, and allowed it to occur, or else had a hand in orchestrating the attack himself. (For incisive and authoritative analysis see, for example, *9/11 and American Empire*, edited by David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott, and written entirely by eye-witnesses and PhDs.) Whatever occurred, it's clear that it was carried out by Saudis. So-called "domestic terrorism" had nothing whatsoever to do with it (unless it is indeed shown that Dick Cheney and President Bush had a hand in it).

Nevertheless, although it was a logical disconnect of an even greater magnitude than the disconnect between an act of Saudi terrorism and the subsequent US attack on Iraq, one key outcome of the "Patriot Act" was that the concept of "domestic terrorism" abruptly became a high priority national concern.

This was partly a result of the broadening of the definition that appears in the act. But the act also (unconstitutionally, and therefore illegally) eviscerated the privacy protections of U. S. citizens (in, for example, sections 213 and 215). When the PA was criticized on these grounds by the ACLU in 2003, Manhattan Institute writer Heather MacDonald hotly defended it in an editorial in the Washington Post (a CFR member).

A highly significant milestone was passed when the act amended already extremely weak FISA oversight of domestic surveillance from its original standard stating that "*the* purpose" of such surveillance is to obtain *foreign* intelligence information to "*a* significant purpose."

Yet the use of the events of 9/11 as a rationale for undermining American civil liberties was later very seriously undermined. Bush came to office January 20, 2001, and already, on February 27, 2001, Qwest communications was secretly approached by the NSA for permission to (illegally) use its telephony network to spy on domestic communications. The nominal purpose of this domestic spying was to look for "patterns of suspicious activity," but the section of the document describing what the NSA *actually* wanted to do was redacted, an odd redaction if nothing but such "patterns" were to be searched for.

Moreover, a little-known, last-minute attempt by the Bush administration to sneak language into a use of force bill before the Senate (on 9/18/2001) would have granted Bush (and subsequent presidents) expansive powers that could potentially have been used against *American* citizens.

Subsequently, a secret Presidential order issued in 2002 authorized the NSA to eavesdrop on U. S. citizens (and foreign nationals) in the U. S..

Then, on October 1, 2002, the DoD's Northern Command (NORTHCOM), headquartered in Colorado, began operations, tasked with conducting operations to deter, prevent, and defeat terrorist threats *in the United States*, opening the door to military action against American citizens. When, on May 2, 2003, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz (a PNAC alumnus) directed that the Talon domestic surveillance program be instituted in a memo entitled "Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Terrorist Threats to DoD Within the United States," it became apparent that U. S. citizens were indeed now to be somehow regarded as adversaries. (The records of the Talon program were later deleted just after an Inspector General's investigation of the system had begun. Oddly, no backups of this data existed.)

In a previous section of this white paper, we saw that there are strong grounds for supposing that most or all of the intelligence gathered under the heading of "domestic terrorism" is actually being gathered on behalf of corporate and banking interests. We saw that this comes out, in part, in the close ties that exist between the Business Roundtable, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Domestic Security Alliance Council, or DSAC, which exists to funnel secret FBI/DHS intelligence to private corporations. But we also saw that there are very close ties between the Council of Foreign Relations and the Obama presidency (and this was also true of the Bush presidency).

In turn, *CFR ties to the PNAC and the NSA are also extensive*. And other ties in the same small, intimate circle, all of fascist persuasion and influence, are also notable. Some representative organizational links follow below.

Institutional cross-affiliations tying members of the Council on Foreign Relations to the Project for a New American Century include:

Max Boot: PNAC, CFR

Francis Fukuyama: PNAC, CFR

Mark Lagon: PNAC, CFR

Norman Podhoretz: PNAC, CFR

Henry S. Rowen: PNAC, CFR

George Schultz: PNAC, CFR

Arthur Waldron: PNAC, CFR

Dov S. Zakheim: PNAC, CFR

Robert Zoellick: PNAC, CFR

Cross-affiliations tying members of the PNAC to the NSA include:

E. C. Aldrige, Jr. : PNAC, NSA, CFR

William P. Barr: PNAC, NSA, CFR (Time Warner, Verizon EVP)

William J. Bennett: PNAC, NSA (Scalia speechwriter)

Stephen Cambone: PNAC, NSA

Aaron Friedberg: PNAC, NSA, CFR

Bruce Jackson: PNAC, NSA, CFR

John Lehman: PNAC, NSA, CFR (National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States)

Richard Perle: PNAC, NSA, Bilderberg

Peter W. Rodman: PNAC, NSA

Cross-affiliations tying members of the CFR to the NSA include:

Bobby Ray Inman: CFR, NSA

Jeane Kirkpatrick: CFR, NSA

Cross-affiliations tying members of the PNAC to the Manhattan Institute include:

Jeffrey Bell: PNAC, MI

Linda Chavez: PNAC, MI, CFR

William Kristol: PNAC, MI (Fox News, NYT)

Cross-affiliations tying members of the PNAC to the media include:

Ken Adelman: PNAC, Fox News

Richard V. Allen: PNAC, CNN

Reuel Marc Gerecht: PNAC, CBS

Robert Kagan: PNAC, CFR, Washington Post

John Vincent Weber: PNAC, NPR



Soon after his inauguration, President Obama met with BR CEOs. The president of the BR at that time was corporate lobbyist John Castellani, whom Obama met with individually at the White House more often over the first nine months of his administration than any other individual except Tom Donohue of the US Chamber of Commerce. (Our analysis of fascist influence has revealed that the USCoC has purchased outright more than 100 members of Congress, all of whom have compiled legislative records virulently opposed to civil liberties and servilely accommodating of corporate agendas.) Another frequent Obama visitor: Edward Yingling, president of the American Bankers Association.

One consistent characteristic of fascist governance is that ordinary citizens are seen as enemies or "antagonists" of the state. This is because under fascist governance, the entire purpose of government is to further enrich corporate and banking interests at the expense of citizens.

So discovering that the fascist organizations identified here are seeking secret access to police and intelligence agency data, in apparent service to what is, effectively, a corporate dictatorship is anything but surprising.



A diagram of BR interlocks with other far-right organizations (extensive links of the BR with the corporate media are here omitted). Again, Business Roundtable leaders are cross-affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations, which in turn has worked with the Manhattan Institute "think tank" to create fear concerning so-called "domestic terrorism."

What does remain somewhat surprising is that, even under the prevailing circumstances of ever increasing militarism and ever more attenuated civil liberties, these organizations have managed to conceal for so long both their interrelationships and their agenda. Of course, as our analysis here has also revealed, these fascist organizations are closely wedded to the corporate media, which the vast majority of Americans tragically rely upon to construct their picture of reality.



President Obama addresses the [Council on Foreign Relations](#). His administration is riddled with numerous appointees who are CFR alumni. (Query with the keywords "Council on Foreign Relations at the White House site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov> for a lengthy list of references.)

Yet, even so, it seems as though it would be nearly impossible to keep a prospective fascist *coup d'état* secret. In the next section, then, we will attempt to understand how such a thing might be possible. And perhaps the truth is also that matters *haven't* been quite as secret as they would have liked: after all, Binney, and still more Snowden, have revealed big pieces of the puzzle. Others have as well. But absent the “big picture,” it has been difficult to know how all of the individual pieces fit together.

It may also seem implausible that apparently rational businessmen would a) have absorbed an extremist, far-right ideology like fascism, and, b) would imagine that they could really implement an overthrow of the government.

Unfortunately, ordinary Americans have terribly misjudged just how deeply corrupted and/or abnormal many American businessmen have become – and, indeed, have always been. If the media had done their job properly, millions of Americans would now be aware that there has already been a corporate *coup d'état* against the government of the United States that might very well have succeeded. Describing that attempt below will serve the dual purpose of more fully informing readers about the character of some “elite” American businessmen, and informing them about the origins, and propensities, of the American corporate media.

“Fascism should more appropriately be called corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power.”

Benito Mussolini

Encyclopedia Italiana

The Plot to Seize the White House

A little-known business/banking plot to overthrow the US government and bring bankers and businessmen secretly into complete control of the United States was put together in the summer of 1933, during the Roosevelt presidency. Some chief conspirators were J. P. Morgan (whose legacy continues today in the now Rockefeller-controlled JP Morgan Chase bank) and members of the DuPont chemical empire (which is also still around, and, indeed, active in the Business Roundtable).

J. P. Morgan was an international banker, with tentacles reaching deeply into the corporate mass media, both written and broadcast. (An attorney of his, [Owen D. Young](#), created and controlled RCA, [the company that eventually became](#) both ABC and NBC.) According to Erik Barnouw, Morgan's interest in broadcasting was first piqued in 1914, in the same time frame in which Morgan was buying up newspapers. (See Barnouw, *A Tower in Babel*, page 35.) RCA was created in 1919, and NBC followed in 1926.

Morgan also held the most important printing presses of America in his grasp: the *New York Times*, *New York Herald Tribune*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Boston Evening Transcript* were all Morgan properties (Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope*, page 953). To little avail, Congressman Oscar Callaway tried to blow the whistle on Morgan's media domination, stating that:

In March, 1915, the J. P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding, and powder interests, and their subsidiary organizations, got together 12 men high up in the newspaper world, and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press of the United States. . . . They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 25 of the greatest papers. The 25 papers were agreed upon; emissaries were sent to purchase the policy, national and international, of these papers; . . . an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial politics, and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers [and to suppress] everything in opposition to the wishes of the interests served. (Congressional Record, Second Session, Sixty-Fourth Congress, Volume LIV, page 2947, "Remarks," Oscar Callaway (February 9, 1917.)

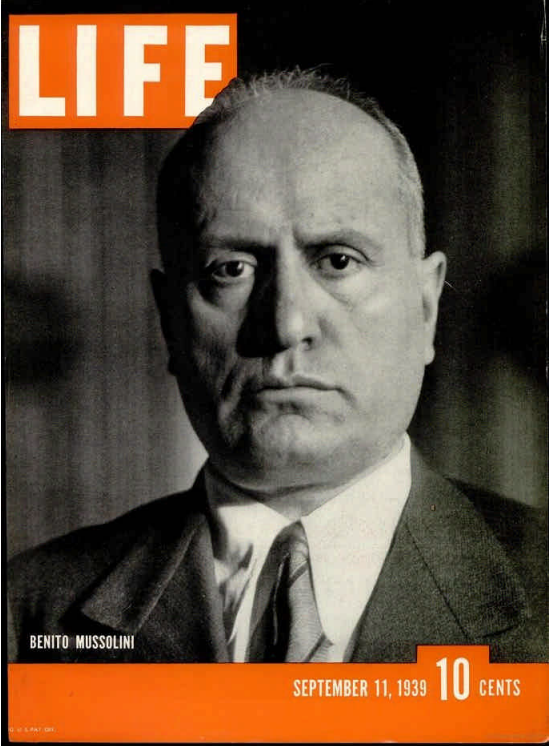
But Morgan's influence over the press was by no means limited to newspapers under his immediate personal control. He also financed the launch of the publishing empire of devoted fascist Henry R. Luce. Luce first published *Time* magazine, in the mid 1920s, bought *Fortune* magazine in 1929, and then, in 1936, launched *Life*. Luce frequently used all three magazines to editorialize on behalf of Italian fascism in general, and Benito Mussolini in particular. (One issue of *Fortune* was devoted entirely to Italy and Mussolini.) He was also a great early admirer

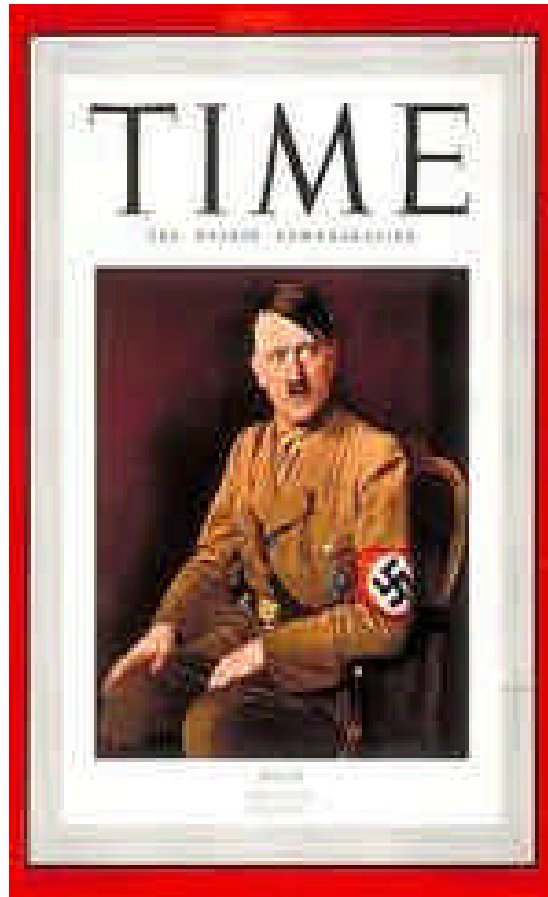
of Hitler. A partial gallery of laudatory *Time* and *Life* Mussolini covers follows. (Mussolini appeared on the cover of *Time* alone 8 times through 1943. The August 6, 1923 cover, the first seen below, was published to wish him “happy birthday.”)



Time Magazine to Benito Mussolini in August, 1923: “Happy birthday!”







Time Magazine's 1938 Hitler "Man of the Year" cover.

Morgan's special obsession with overthrowing FDR derived in part from the President taking the US dollar off the gold standard. As money is only a medium of exchange, there was not then, and there is not now, any true conceptual relationship between the two. But Morgan had a lock on the gold supply, and through it, also a lock on the money supply. Taking the dollar off the gold standard decreased demand for gold and in effect devalued Morgan's holdings. (Morgan first became a gold speculator during the Civil War through the offices of one of his father's business partners, who was later convicted for various criminal activities associated with the speculation.)

Morgan and other conspirators attempted to recruit General Smedley Butler, a broadly popular Marine Corps officer, to lead their coup. They wanted him to deliver an ultimatum to Roosevelt: create a new cabinet member designated "Secretary of General Affairs" and then, claiming incapacity to further govern owing to illness, step down. Or else? Or else be forced out of office by an army of war veterans. The attempt failed when Butler blew the whistle on the group instead of joining (despite significant financial inducements).

Yet Americans never became fully aware of this coup, and still have not to this day. An obvious question in connection with this historical corporate/banking coup is how it has been kept nearly

secret for the better part of a century, despite the involvement of perhaps the single most powerful international banker who has ever lived, as well as one of the chief US industrialist families. However, there's no mystery about this at all: media suppression was very much at work in covering up for the conspirators. As we mentioned, the *New York Times*, which took the lead in ridiculing and minimizing the significance of Butler's testimony to Congress at the time, was under J. P. Morgan control. And Luce's magazine *Time* chimed in with heavy-handed, fascism-fueled ridicule of its own.

To this day, the credibility and prestige of the *New York Times* and *Time* magazine would be severely compromised, if not demolished, if their disgraceful role in covering up the overthrow plot ever became generally known. And, of course, the DuPont empire would also take a serious demotion in stature.

The most authoritative look at this coup to date is that of author Jules Archer, in *The Plot to Seize the White House*. The full text may be found at:

www.informationclearinghouse.info/article13906.htm A briefer summary may be seen at this (far less authoritative) source: <http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/Coup.htm>.) And a surprisingly good documentary, *The Fascist Plot to Overthrow FDR*, is available for free viewing at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTdx6vEUtIA>

Now, throughout all of this conspiring, not only FDR, but the American public itself was regarded by Morgan, DuPont and the other conspirers as the ultimate enemy. Why? Apart from FDR abandoning the gold standard, he also talked about raising the taxes of the wealthy to help to pay for his programs to aid those hardest hit by the Depression. It was apparent to this cabal of businessmen and bankers that Roosevelt wanted a seat for American citizens at the table of democracy. For individuals as avaricious and egocentric as Morgan and the DuPonts the sort of threat posed by FDR was, of course, intolerable. (Even before the coup attempt, an almost successful attempt had been made to assassinate the President in Miami, a fact also rarely mentioned in the history books.)

For the purposes of this white paper, an especially interesting coup member was John J. Raskob, a DuPont official who would later become a "[Knight of Malta](#)," a fascist Catholic religious order that placed a high percentage of members into leadership roles in the CIA, including CIA directors William Casey, William Colby, and John McCone. Casey went on to establish the [Manhattan Institute](#), which claimed to believe, in the days following 9/11, that "domestic terrorists" (that is, US citizens) constitute a particularly dire threat (that is, are enemies).

Conclusion: American Democracy in Extraordinary Peril

We began this white paper by raising a question no one else has apparently bothered to even ask, let alone attempted to answer: who, specifically, is behind the ongoing, illegal NSA mass

surveillance program? We've suggested that, because of the resources and degree of influence required, there are only a very small handful of individuals who even conceivably *could* be responsible. And we've seen that a small nexus of individuals affiliated with the Business Roundtable, the Council of Foreign Relations, and possibly the US Chamber of Commerce and American Bankers Association, as well as CEOs of leading corporate broadcasting corporations, satisfy most or all of the necessary conditions. Moreover, there is no other group on behalf of which plausible claims of responsibility *could* be made, because no other group has the requisite political clout, executive branch access, and media connections.

We've also seen that many of these same individuals:

- 1) Are already receiving privileged FBI intelligence concerning individuals who might represent a threat to their specially privileged incomes and lifestyles via a front organization, the DSAC, created especially for them.
- 2) Want to obtain for their own use, legally, the far more extensive information currently being illegally obtained by the NSA.
- 3) Are organized behind the FTAA, TPP (and other "trade accords") that undermine US national sovereignty.
- 4) Are well-positioned to have also been influential in the formation of NORTHCOM, and tasking the military with responsibility for massive domestic policing of civilians.

We've also noted in passing that the President has been granted the authority to call out the military for domestic policing purposes at his sole discretion, simply by virtue of declaring an "emergency." (The most authoritative look at these matters to date can be found in William Arkin's oddly incomplete and strangely unhelpful book "American Coup.") To put the point bluntly, the President has been granted dictatorial authority without either checks and balances or oversight also being put into place.

Finally, we've seen that, because of its own fascist proclivities, the corporate press has already failed America once as a bulwark against fascist takeover; and there is no reason to be surprised that it has again failed so miserably (and beyond reasonable doubt intentionally) in following up on the NSA's illegal mass surveillance program.

If the framework for a corporate takeover of the United States has been constructed, for the most part in secret, then intent to do so *must*, at a bare minimum, be suspected. We do otherwise at our extreme peril.

Of course, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, *but only if they are to be proven beyond any reasonable shadow of a doubt*. This is a legal standard for crimes such as murder. It has not been our aim here to prove anything beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt, which is an unreasonably stringent requirement. Although satisfying such a standard would be nearly

impossible, it *is* possible to *far* more thoroughly document every statement made in this white paper, and to bring forward far more corroborative evidence. And much, much more *should* be said and done along those lines. Nevertheless, what the evidence assembled here does show, beyond any *reasonable* doubt, is that American democracy is in far more grave peril from within than it has ever been from without.

Of course, the peril referred to extends far beyond the boundaries of the NSA mass surveillance program to numerous other issues. For example, bankers and financiers such as Jamie Dimon have engaged in the greatest larcenies in all of human history, and have not only walked away completely unscathed, but have actually been consulted respectfully by the executive branch. To this day, they remain tethered in place, well-positioned to commit criminal felonies of like gravity another day. (Congress has failed to restore Glass-Steagall, and bankers have worked assiduously to weaken the already weak reforms that were put in place.)

This atmosphere of complete lawlessness (for bankers and financiers), and this double standard of “justice,” are undoubtedly contributory to our current crises. (As we’ve seen, this standard of complete lawlessness for bankers stands in the bleakest possible contrast to the arbitrary use of lethal force against American citizens by militarized police.) We’ve also seen not one, but three Supreme Court *coups d’etat*: the appointment of George Bush to the Presidency; the Citizen’s United v. FEC, decision, opening the door to nearly unlimited corporate bribery (euphemistically described as “corporate free speech”); and the more recent McCutcheon decision. A number of others high court decisions are also of extremely dubious intent, and of certainly pernicious consequences.

Nevertheless, the NSA program remains the most dangerous of the gauntlets that have been flung in the face of American democracy to date, and so far its challenge has been answered in only the most tentative, hesitant, timid, and preliminary way.

What *is* to be Done?

This is far and away the most difficult question to answer. Nevertheless, the broad answer is clear enough. What needs to be done, initially, is what always needs to be done when essentially criminal threats of this kind arise: the actors involved, their objectives, and their means must be identified and exposed. If, for political reasons, they can’t be jailed, then they must at least be shamed and disgraced. If the corporate media won’t take on this task (and they won’t, for reasons that by now should be apparent), then smaller publications and citizens themselves must shoulder the burden. Once the threat has been clearly understood, and those responsible for the threat have been identified, reforms may be able to follow.

It is our hope that this white paper can help to begin the process of focusing greater scrutiny upon the individuals and organizations most clearly implicated and upon their anti-constitutional,

anti-democratic, and wholly pernicious objectives before it is too late. Even if we are entirely wrong about everything that has been written here, it is certain that their influence is destructive of democracy from start to finish. Given the extreme risk to America that is entailed if the analysis here is even imperfectly correct, we must not be too insistent upon requiring unobtainably certain evidence before taking action, particularly as much truly extraordinary evidence *has* already been furnished, and at great personal cost, by Ed Snowden and others. The time to take such essential preliminary action is now. The action that the author requests is that readers consider forwarding this document to anyone they believe may be interested.

Today, if at all possible.

A little concerning K. L. Roberts: K. L. Roberts has worked as a teacher of science and technology, social worker, journalist, and IT professional for State and Federal governments, as well as corporations both large and small. His current interests center upon the erosion of civil liberties, globalization, and corruption.

Appendix 1

The Mass Media and Corporate Interlocks

In the foregoing material we've mentioned the existence of extensive ties between the CFR, the BR, and the mass media. The table that follows identifies the interconnections between the six largest or most influential broadcasting companies and other major corporations.

In this table, corporations color coded in red are those that have connections with more than one broadcaster. Corporations coded in green *also* have connections to the top 28 most interconnected companies. (In addition, a few of the connections through social clubs for the wealthy and/or powerful are listed.) Thus, companies coded in red or green are in a position to exercise significant media influence; and companies coded both red *and* green, such as Chase Manhattan, are super offenders. Corporations identified here as being involved in the DSAC/Business Roundtable/Council on Foreign Relations nexus are highlighted in yellow, or are shown in yellow text. Rockefeller connections are highlighted in blue.

News Corporation	Owning Corporation	Has Interlocking Board Members With:
NBC	General Electric Co.	<p>Allied Signal Inc, American Stores Co, Anheuser-Busch Co Inc, Baxter International Inc, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, Champion International Corp, Chase Manhattan Corp, Chubb Corp, Citicorp (or Citigroup), Exxon Corp, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co, J. P. Morgan & Co Inc, Kellogg Co, Kimberly-Clark Corp, Mellon Foundation, PepsiCo Inc, Philip Morris Inc, Quaker Oats Co, Stanley Works, Textron Inc, Washington Post Co. (And for the obvious connections with Microsoft see the MSNBC web site.)</p>
Viacom Inc.	Viacom Inc.	<p>AlliedSignal Inc, Avnet Inc, Bear Stearns Co Inc, Duke Power Co, Melville Corp, Nynex Corp, Orange & Rockland Utilities Inc</p>
ABC	The Walt Disney Co.	<p>America West Airlines Inc, Bank America Corp, Federal Express Corp, Florida Progress Corp, Hilton Hotels Corp, K-Mart Corp, Mitchell Energy & Development, Northwest Airlines Corp, Pacific Enterprises Inc, Unum Corp, Xerox Corp</p>

<p>CNN</p>	<p>AOL-Time Warner Inc.</p>	<p>Allstate Corp, America West Airlines Inc, American Express Co, American International Group Inc, Aon Corp, Becton, Dickinson & Co, Chevron Corp, Citicorp (see above), Colgate-Palmolive Co, Cummins Engine Co Inc, Dell Computer Corp, Foundation Health Corp, Genentech Inc, Illinova Corp, Inland Steel Industries Inc, Kellogg Co, K-Mart Corp, Mobil Corp (see above), Olsten Corp, Philip Morris Inc, Sears Roebuck & Co, Springs Industries, Sunbeam Corp, Triarc Co Inc, Turner Broadcasting System Inc, WHX Corp</p>
<p>CBS</p>	<p>Viacom (Was Westinghouse Electric Co.)</p>	<p>Aetna Life and Casualty Co, Ashland Inc, BDM International Inc, Banc One Corp, Bell Atlantic Corp, Campbell Soup Co, Cardinal Health Inc, Chase Manhattan Corp, Columbia HCA Healthcare Corp, Dell Computer Corp, Dow Jones & Co Inc, Duracell International Inc, General Dynamics Corp, Gillette Co, Harcourt General Inc, Kaman Corp, MBIA Inc, Melville Corp, Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc, Prudential Insurance Co of America, Quaker Oats Co, Phone-Poulenc Rorer Inc, Rockwell International Corp, Sun Co Inc, Union Pacific Corp, Wal-Mart Stores Inc, Warnaco Group Inc, Warner-Lambert Co, Westinghouse Foundation</p>
<p>Fox</p>	<p>The News Corporation, Ltd.</p>	<p>Bankers Trust New York Corp, Bayou Steel Corporation, Global Asset Management USA Inc, Hudson General Corporation, MCI Communications, News America Holdings Inc, News American Publishing Inc, News International PLC, Sesac Inc, Times Newspapers Holding Ltd, 20th Century Fox</p>

Print Media Connections

<p>Newspaper Corporation</p>	<p>Has Interlocking Board Members With:</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>

Gannett Co. Inc.	Airborne Freight Corp, American Express Co , Bancorp Hawaii Inc, Bank America Corp , Continental Airlines, E.I. du Pont De Nemours and Co , FPL Group Inc, Ford Motor Corp, Frontier Corp, Kellogg Co , Navistar International Corp, PHH Corp, Union Pacific Corp (2 directors)
Knight-Ridder Inc.	ALCO Standard Corp, Champion International Corp, Chubb Corp , Delta Air Lines Inc, Digital Equipment Corp, Eli Lilly and Co, Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co, J.P. Morgan & Co Inc , Kimberly-Clark Corp , Phillips Petroleum Co, Raytheon Co (2 directors), State Street Boston Corp, Tandy Corp, Texas Instruments Inc
The New York Times Co.	Bristol-Myers Squibb Co , Campbell Soup Co, International Business Machines Co, Lehman Brothers Holding Inc, PepsiCo Inc , Springs Industries Inc, Texaco Inc, US Industries Inc
Times Mirror Co.	Amoco Corp, Black & Decker Corp, Boeing Co , Cox Communications Inc, Edison International (2directors), Marsh & McLennan Cos Inc, Nordstrom Inc, Procter & Gamble Co , Rockwell International Corp, Ryder Systems Inc, Sun America Inc, Talbots Inc, Travelers Group Inc
Washington Post Co.	American Express Co , American Stores Co, Ashland Inc, Bank of New York Co. Inc, Berkshire Hathaway Inc, Coca-Cola Co , Conrail Inc, Darden Restaurants Inc, Geico Corp, General Electric Co , Gillette Co , H. J. Heinz Co, Home Depot Inc, J. P. Morgan & Co Inc , Lexmark International Group Inc, McDonald's Corp, Morgan Stanley Group Inc, National Services Industry Inc, Polaroid Corp, Rohm and Haas Co, Salomon Inc, Textron Inc, Union Pacific Corp, Wells Fargo & Co.

For a graphic representation of other linkages, see:

http://reclaimdemocracy.org/media/ownership_partnership_among_largest_newspapers_2003.html

. . .And How Many of Those Connections Conduct Themselves

The 28 most-interconnected corporations (via interlocking directorates), with media affiliations and other influential affiliations or practices are noted below. Please note the extensive cross-affiliations with the CFR and BR.

Company	Number of interlocks	Ties to Media?	Other affiliations
Chase Manhattan Bank	45	Yes	Council on Foreign Relations, Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
Wells Fargo Bank	41	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
American Express	40	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
Prudential Insurance	39	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Sara Lee Foods	39	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, Council on Foreign Relations, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
Minnesota Mining and Mfg.	37	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
General Motors	33	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, Bohemian Club, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations.
Kroger Stores	33	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor

Ashland Oil	32	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Bank of America	32	Yes	Business Roundtable, Bohemian Club, soft money/PAC contributor
CSX	32	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
Bell Atlantic	31	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Coca-Cola	31	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations.
Procter and Gamble	31	No (Advertiser)	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations, deceptive "front" organizations
Spring Industries	31	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
AMR	30	No (Advertiser)	
Mobil Oil	30	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, Council on Foreign Relations, deceptive "front" organizations
TRW	30	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations

			negotiations
Xerox	30	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor, engaged in secret FTAA negotiations
Ameritech	29	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Bell South	29	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Union Pacific	29	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Westinghouse Electric	29	? (Former owner of CBS)	
Burlington Northern	28	No	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Cummins Engine	28	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Kellogg	28	Yes	Business Roundtable, soft money/PAC contributor
Kmart	28	Yes	(Restructured)
AOL-Time Warner	28	Yes (media cartel)	Business Roundtable, Council on Foreign Relations, soft money/PAC contributor, involved in secret FTAA negotiations

		cartel)	negotiations.
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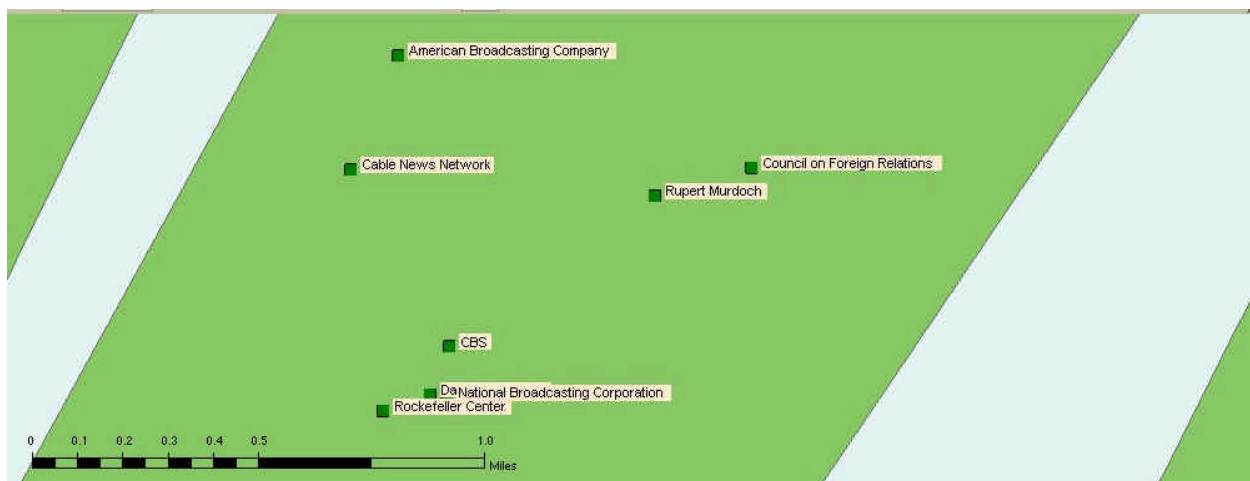
Sources: *Censored 1998: The News that Didn't Make the News*, by Peter Phillips & [Project Censored](#), [The Center for Responsive Politics](#), stop-ftaa, www.ita.doc.gov/td/icp/isac.html, [Who Rules America?](#) by G. William Domhoff, [When Corporations Rule the World](#), by David C. Korten.

Appendix 2

The Physical Proximity of the Corporate Mass Media with the Council on Foreign Relations

All of the corporate television broadcast media are headquartered in very close physical proximity to each other, to the headquarters of the Council on Foreign Relations and to the primary residence of David Rockefeller, as well as to Rockefeller Center. *None of these is more than a mile distant from the other.* (Rupert Murdoch and News Corporation are essentially located at the same place.)

This physical proximity very greatly exceeds what one would expect by chance, and may serve to facilitate interaction among the principals.



Television broadcasting mass media could be headquartered anywhere in America; or if Manhattan is desirable for any normal business reason, then anywhere in Manhattan, or New York City. However, the headquarters of *all* of the national television broadcast media are situated near the southern end of Manhattan, within just one mile of each other. The Council on Foreign Relations headquarters is also situated within this distance, as is the primary residence of David Rockefeller. (Rupert Murdoch and News Corporation – Fox News – are located in same place.) The headquarters of the National Broadcasting Corporation and the residence of David Rockefeller nearly overlap in the diagram above. Has the CFR headquarters served as the *de facto* headquarters for coordinating corporate media stories, and preventing embarrassing disparities?



All of the national television broadcast media headquarters are clumped together within a one mile radius of each other, the primary residence of David Rockefeller, and the headquarters of the Council on Foreign Relations. (The small green squares above are situated near the tip of Manhattan. Jersey City is to its left, Long Island to the right.)

Appendix 3

Media Links to the Council on Foreign Relations

Media Figures Serving on the Board of the CFR

Name	Affiliation
David G. Bradley	Atlantic Media Company
Tom Brokaw	NBC
Fareed Zakaria	Time Magazine

Media Organizations with CFR Corporate Membership

McGraw-Hill
AT&T
Economist Magazine
General Electric
Google
Microsoft Corporation
News Corporation
Sony Corporation
Thomson Reuters
Time Warner Inc.

Some Representative Media Individuals with CFR Membership

Name	Affiliation
Roger Ailes	Fox News
Peter Bergen	CNN
Jeffrey Bewkes	Time Warner
Michael R. Bloomberg	Bloomberg L.P.
Erin Burnett	CNN Anchor
Juju Chang	ABC News
Katie Couric	CBS and NBC "journalist"
Thomas Friedman	New York Times
David Gergen	CNN
Warren Hoge	New York Times
Joe Klein	Time Magazine
Paul R. Krugman	New York Times

Charles Krauthammer	Washington Post, Fox News
Les Moonves	CBS CEO
Rupert Murdoch	News Corp/Fox News
Heather Nauert	Fox News
Kitty Pilgrim	CNN
Dan Rather	CBS
Diane Sawyer	ABC News
Amity Shlaes	Bloomberg News
Andrew Ross Sorking	New York Times, CNBC
Lesley Stahl	CBS
Barbara Walters	ABC News
Paula Zahn	Fox News, CNN