

# Northern

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

*news*

JANUARY 2011



# Editorial Ramblings



The ill health continues for all of us this month. As I start to write this editorial on Monday 17 January, Grace is ill in bed and Little Lad still coughing his lungs out and unable to go to school. I can't go to work as I'm having to look after them.

Things can only get better, one hopes. As I continue this on 26 January, Grace, in addition to her other illness, now has a severe throat and ear infection.

Survival in this climate is very difficult for all of us. I just hope we don't have to endure another winter here in the UK.

In the November edition of this magazine, I asked the question: *Are we in for some fireworks in 2011?* and suggested that *2011 will be a momentous year.* Already, the year has started with a bang - literally. There is violent civil unrest against the governments of Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt and Jordan. Five countries in turmoil already and the year is only a month old. Which country will be next? A likely candidate must be Lebanon, whilst many other countries suffer relatively minor disruptions, including the Philippines. I wonder when it will spread to Britain. You will, I'm sure, see a common thread in these uprisings. There are many other countries on the edge of civil war so I was interested to read, by a non-religious commentator, that "***We're headed for a major financial crisis and a new world war that can no longer be prevented.***" I know I've been saying much the same thing in recent newsletters, but what I've written has been based on Biblical prophesy. It seems other observers of world affairs are coming to the same conclusion. See the article by John J. Xenakis.

This month (on the 14th) was the 5th anniversary of the death of my Mother. Life goes by so quickly that anniversaries like this make us all realise just how short our lives really are. How we wish that Little Lad could spend time with the Grandma he doesn't remember and the Grandad he never knew. How great it would be if we could all still have our Grandparents and Great-Grandparents around to share in our lives.

I also hope you'll take the time to read the article about Palm Oil in this magazine. Who would have thought of something like this causing an environmental problem because of the greed of landowners, mainly in third world countries.



## Pupil of the Day

This certificate is presented to:

John

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Date: 6.1.11 Teacher: J Granger

- I have put my hand up to answer questions.
- I have been kind to others.
- I have listened carefully.
- I have tried very hard with my work.



**Cover Photograph:** Beckminster Methodist Church - where we've been worshipping recently.

**Image above:** A good start to the New Year by JP who was presented with this certificate on the first day of the new term.



JP in his new Spiderman suit -  
one of his Christmas presents

# *A Walk in the Forest*



*Photograph above: Grace, Annie, Rachel, Milagros, Carla and JP inside the cafeteria in the forest park we visited.*

On 31 December 2010, we were delighted to get together with our friends Shane and Milagros and their three daughters. We first met this lovely family in Qatar in (probably) 2004 when Shane and I worked together. We met at a forest park near Rugely, in Staffordshire, where we had a good chat and loads of refreshments (*above*), followed by a country walk through the forest (*below, left*). We then went into Rugely and enjoyed a lovely meal together before making our way home.





# Winter in Carding Mill Valley



Set deep in the Shropshire Hills is this lovely location. *Photograph above by JP (John Paul Cook)*. Below left: Ice by the side of the stream - it was certainly a cold day here on 30 January 2011. Below right: JP climbing to meet his dad.





*and on Long Mynd*



*Sunset from near the Stiperstones*





Lydia (friend of Gabriella) and Gabriella, daughter of my cousin, Janet - *photographer unknown.*



Greta and Gabriella - daughters of my cousin, Janet - *photograph by Janet.* =



## HUGH'S EXPERIENCE

"For the past few months, I have been travelling around the UK meeting fishermen, marine conservationists, politicians, supermarkets bosses, and of course fish-eating members of the public," says Hugh.

"My experience, and how it has changed the way I think about fish are shown in Hugh's Fish Fight (broadcast 11th, 12th, 13th January 2011), as part of Channel 4's Big Fish Fight.

"This season featuring programmes from fellow chefs Gordon Ramsay, Heston Blumenthal and Jamie Oliver, aims to champion sustainable seafood and celebrate lesser known delicacies of the deep.

"This website, [fishfight.net](http://fishfight.net) is the campaign hub accompanying Hugh's Fish Fight and will be continuing its work over the coming months. Here you can find out more about the issues raised in Hugh's Fish Fight and lend your support to the campaign. You can also follow the progress of Hugh's Fish Fight on Facebook and Twitter.

"Hugh's Fish Fight is supported by a wide coalition of environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and, we hope, by a growing number of fishermen and policy makers too. A vital part of the campaign, and the area where we are currently looking for public support, is the issue of discards at sea."

## DISCARDS AT SEA

Around half of the fish caught by fishermen in the North Sea are unnecessarily thrown back into the ocean dead.



The problem is that in a mixed fishery where many different fish live together, fishermen cannot control the species that they catch.

Fishing for one species often means catching another, and if people don't want them or fishermen are not allowed to land them, the only option is to throw them overboard. The vast majority of these discarded fish will die.

Because discards are not monitored, it is difficult to know exactly how many fish are being thrown away. The EU estimates that in the North Sea, discards are between 40% and 60% of the total catch. Many of these fish are species that have fallen out of fashion: we can help to prevent their

discard just by rediscovering our taste for them.

Others are prime cod, haddock, plaice and other popular food species that are “over-quota”. The quota system is intended to protect fish stocks by setting limits on how many fish of a certain species should be caught.

Fishermen are not allowed to land any over-quota fish; if they accidentally catch them – which they can’t help but do - there is no choice but to throw them overboard before they reach the docks.

### THE SOLUTIONS

We need to diversify our fish eating habits, and we need to change policy so that it works for fish, fishermen and consumers.

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which is the political framework for the quota system, is currently being reformed for 2012. Scientists and environmental groups have suggested a number of ways that the policy can work to protect fish stocks. Some details of these can be found on our solutions page.

Re-writing the Common Fisheries Policy is going to be an enormously complicated business, and unfortunately there is no one easy solution to ending discards. Many people agree that the answer will lie in a combination of different ideas and policies.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Sign up to the campaign on the sign up page. You will be writing directly to policy makers in Europe to let them know that the unnecessary and unethical discarding of perfectly good fish must stop. We can make a difference. If enough people sign up to the campaign, they have to listen to us. We aim to get 250,000 signatures by summer 2011.
- Write to your MP to ask them to support the Fish Fight Early Day Motion.
- Expand the selection of fish that you eat by trying some of the lesser-known species of local fish currently being discarded as trash. In the UK, cod, salmon and tuna account for more than 50% of the fish that we consume, and tasty, exciting and nutritious fish such as flounder, dab, coley and pouting are overlooked and thrown away.
- Spread the word, tell all of your friends and family about Hugh's Fish Fight and get them to sign the campaign too.

Together we can stop this ridiculous carnage. Join Hugh’s Fish Fight now!

Thanks very much,

Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall

*Courtesy of URL” <http://www.fishfight.net/the-campaign/>*



A glider from the Midland Gliding Club approaches the runway for landing at Long Mynd.

# *Can public art really revive the most dismal place in Scotland?*

The reviled new town of Cumbernauld pins hopes on giant sculpture costing £250,000

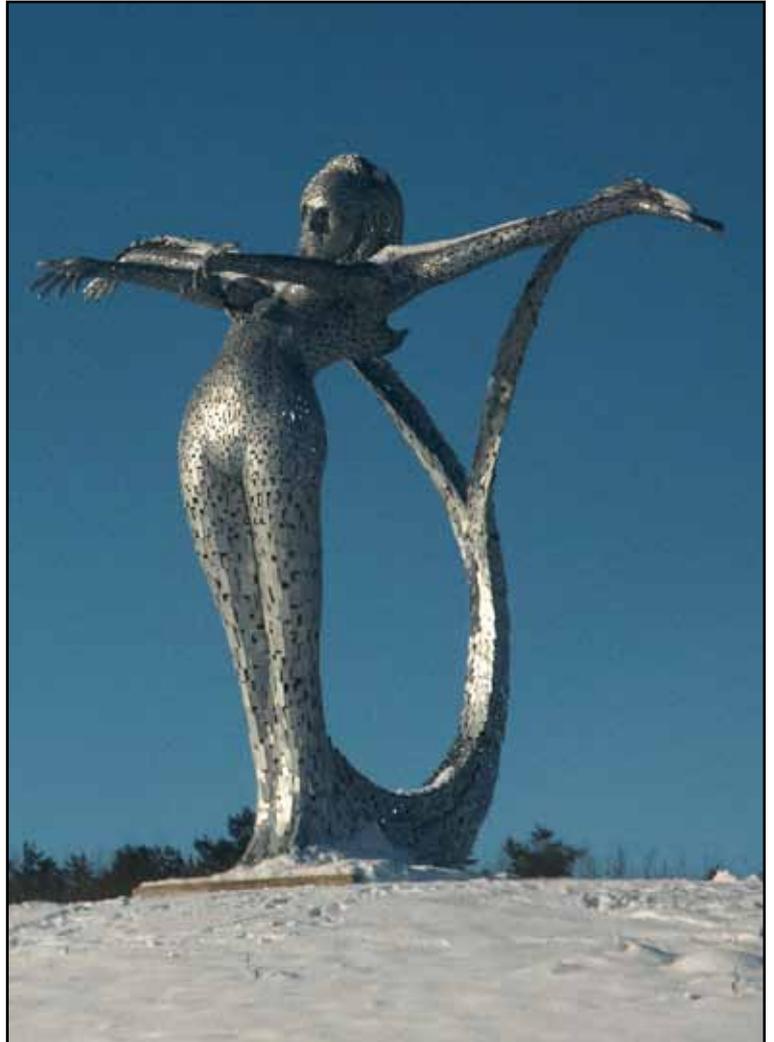
By Jonathan Brown  
The Independent 25 August 2010

**Ed: You may remember that the photograph shown on the right was in last month's newsletter as an 'unknown' photographic subject. Read on to find out its true identity and location:**

The post-war politicians, planners and architects who built Cumbernauld had a utopian vision: for future generations to create a happier, more gracious life away from the filthy tenements and sectarianism of decaying Glasgow. And in the 1960s and early 1970s the people answered their call, relocating in their thousands to enjoy the wide open spaces, plentiful jobs and modern homes.

Recent history however has proved a cruel judge of that dream and the Lanarkshire new town has found itself one of the most reviled places in Britain. The home of the UK's first shopping mall has been named Scotland's most dismal place and likened to Kabul. In 2005 the shopping complex was nominated by the public for destruction as part of Channel 4's Demolition series.

But Cumbernauld is fighting back. Yesterday, a vast galvanised steel woman named Arria was erected in the sporadic sunshine at a hillside cemetery. It is hoped she will be a symbol of change for the town. Created by the Scottish artist Andy Scott, whose works include the celebrated Heavy Horse on Glasgow's M8 and the Thanksgiving Square Beacon in Belfast, the 33ft female figure, with a retro hairstyle suggestive of the town's 1960s new arrivals, will be seen by 70,000 motorists on the A80 each day.



Arria cost £250,000 of public money and is intended to help reverse the town's negative stereotypes. The name was selected by local people and is taken from Arria Fadilla, mother of Emperor Antoninus who built the nearby Antonine Wall.

The real sign of public acceptance, as with other public statues, will come with the acquisition of a nickname.

"It is a great idea," said Geraldine Reilly, a 31-year-old civil servant in Cumbernauld. "People don't see the good things about the town like the people or the beautiful countryside on our doorstep – they just see the shopping centre. This is a great place to bring up kids."

Others were not so convinced. Billy Zanieri, 44, unemployed, said: "It has been a waste of money. Housing is very bad here and the money could have gone on schools." And beautician Amanda McGuinness, 25, believed it was impossible ever to love Cumbernauld. "It needs burning down and rebuilding – especially the town centre. It needs new shops, new restaurants and new bars – something to liven the place up at night."

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/news/can-public-art-really-revive-the-most-dismal-place-in-scotland-2061169.html>*

# Violating the Sacred (in Canada)

By| **Wade Davis** - 7 December, 2010

IN A RUGGED KNOT of mountains in the remote reaches of Northern British Columbia lies a stunningly beautiful valley known to the First Nations as the Sacred Headwaters. There, on the southern edge of the Spatsizi Wilderness, the Serengeti of Canada, are born in remarkably close proximity three of Canada's most important salmon rivers: the Stikine, Skeena and the Nass. In a long day, perhaps two, it is possible to walk through open meadows, following the tracks of grizzly, caribou and wolf, and drink from the very sources of the rivers that inspired so many of the great cultures of the Pacific Northwest, the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en, the Carrier and Sekani, the Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Tahltan, Haisla and Tlingit.

The only other place I know where such a wonder of geography occurs is in Tibet, where from the base of Mount Kailash arise three of the great rivers of Asia, the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra, vital arteries that bring life to more than a billion people downstream. Revered by Hindu, Buddhist and Jain, Kailash is considered so sacred that no one is allowed to walk upon its slopes, let alone climb to its summit. The thought of violating its flanks with industrial development would represent for all peoples of Asia an act of desecration beyond all imaginings. Anyone who would even dare propose such a deed would face the most severe of sanctions, in both this world and the next.

In Canada, we treat the land quite differently. Against the wishes of all First Nations, the government of British Columbia has opened the Sacred Headwaters to industrial development. These are not trivial initiatives. Imperial Metals Corporation proposes an open pit copper and gold mine processing 27,000 tonnes of ore a day from the flank of Todagin Mountain, home to the largest population of Stone's Sheep in the world. Its tailings pond, if constructed, would drain directly into the headwater lake chain of the Iskut River, the principal tributary of the Stikine. Over its 25-year lifetime, the mine would generate 166 million tonnes of toxic tailings and 279 million tonnes of waste rock, which would need to be treated for acid mine drainage for over 200 years.

Imperial Metals' Red Chris project is but one of several industrial schemes proposed for the Sacred Headwaters. Fortune Minerals and West Hawk Coal would tear into the headwater valley itself, on a similar scale, with open-pit anthracite coal operations that would level entire mountains.

The largest project, proposed by Royal Dutch Shell, involves extracting coalbed methane from the same anthracite deposit, across an enormous tenure of close to 400,000 hectares. Should this project go ahead, it would require a network of several thousand wells, linked by roads and pipelines, laid upon the landscape of the entire



Sacred Headwaters basin. Coalbed-methane recovery is by all accounts a highly invasive process. To free the methane from the anthracite, technicians must fracture the coal seams with massive injections of chemical agents under high pressure. Using as much as 1.3 million litres at a shot, the technique creates enormous volumes of highly toxic water. More than 900 different chemicals, many of them powerful carcinogens, are registered for use, but for proprietary reasons companies do not have to disclose the identity of the solutions employed at any given site.

Environmental concerns aside, think for a moment of what these proposals imply about our culture. I recall overhearing a conversation some seasons ago at a neighbouring lodge between an assistant deputy minister of mines and an engineer from the Red Chris project. They had just come down by helicopter from the site and they could not stop speaking about how beautiful it was, how many sheep they had seen, how extraordinary the vistas were from the height of the mountain. They both said that they had never seen such a beautiful place in their lives. As it turned out, it was the first time either of them had come so far north. They had never ventured beyond the Yellowhead Highway and here they were in a land they had never known, stunned by the beauty of a mountain it was their bureaucratic and corporate mission to destroy.

This was a powerful lesson for me, which I raised when I met some months later with Gordon Campbell, BC's premier at the time. I was amazed to learn at that meeting that he too had never seen the Stikine. The Premier of British Columbia, the elected representative of all the people, had never visited a region encompassing fully a quarter of the province he presumed to govern. That a head of government would authorize a major industrial initiative of such consequence without having ever visited the region to be so irrevocably changed was rather startling.

I suspect that few of the principals of Imperial Metals ever saw this country until they began to set in motion their plans to transform it for their own personal gain. I understand this, as it is their business to do so. But I was

astonished to learn from their proposal that their project is not economically viable unless Canadians subsidize it through the construction of power lines.

Moreover, the BC government's preferred option, the \$404-million-, 287-kilovolt Northwest Transmission Line, would access \$130-million from Canada's Green Infrastructure Fund (formerly the Canada EcoTrust for Clean Air and Climate Change). Meanwhile, a 2008 analysis by The Pembina Institute calculates that rather than lower greenhouse gas emissions, the Northwest Transmission Line would increase them by up to 1200 per cent. As currently proposed-, it would not even tie in nearby First Nations, allowing them to retire their diesel-burning generators.

That these tax dollars will be drawn from a fund conceived to improve the environment and then used to open up the Sacred Headwaters to industrial development represents a level of political cynicism that I have never before witnessed in the affairs of a major industrialized nation state.

We accept it as normal that people who have never been on the land, who have no history or connection to the country, may legally secure the right to come in and by the very nature of their enterprises leave in their wake a cultural and physical landscape utterly transformed and desecrated. What's more, in granting such mining concessions, often initially for trivial sums to speculators from distant cities, companies cobbled together with less history than my dog, the government places no cultural or market value on the land itself. The cost of destroying a natural asset, or its inherent worth if left intact, has no metric in the economic calculations that support the industrialization of the wild. No company has to compensate the public for what it does to the commons, the forests, mountains and rivers, which by definition belong to everyone. It merely requires permission to proceed. This is very odd, if you think about it, and surely reflects a mindset that ought no longer to have a place in a world in which wildlands are becoming increasingly rare and valuable, even as we strive as a species to live in a sustainable manner on a planet we have come to recognize as being resilient but not inviolable.

The people of the Sacred Headwaters, the men and women of the Iskut First Nation who have rallied against these

developments, have a very different way of thinking about the land. For them the Sacred Headwaters is a neighbourhood, at once their grocery store and sanctuary, their church and schoolyard, and their cemetery and recreational area. They believe that the people with greatest claim to ownership of the valley are the generations as yet unborn. The Sacred Headwaters will be their nursery. The Iskut elders, almost all of whom grew up on the land, have formally called for the end of all industrial activity in the valley and the creation of a Sacred Headwaters Tribal Heritage Area.

Beginning in the summer of 2005, Iskut men, women and children, together with Tahltan supporters from Telegraph Creek and beyond, have maintained in all seasons an educational camp at the head of the only road access to the Sacred Headwaters. Those who would violate the land they hold in trust have been denied entry. Those who accept and revere the land as it is have been welcomed. With everyone, they have shared their vision of a new era of sustainable stewardship both for their homeland and the entire northwest quadrant of the province. Meanwhile, the BC government has never agreed to consider the cumulative impacts of licensing as many as five new mines in the region, has failed to consider phasing in development over time and at no point has shown any interest in determining if these initiatives would pass a "positive contribution to sustainability" test, as it did for the Kemess North Project.

In the end, what is at stake is the future of one of the most extraordinary regions in all North America. The fate of the Sacred Headwaters transcends the interests of local residents, provincial agencies, mining companies and those few among the First Nations who favour industrial development at any cost. The voices of all Canadians deserve to be heard. Gordon Campbell, to his immense credit, attached his legacy to the fight against global warming, boldly calling for a 33-per-cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. What better way to celebrate such a profound and courageous act of leadership by our former premier than to say that no amount of methane gas, no volume of gold or number of jobs can compensate for the sacrifice of a place that can be the Sacred Headwaters of all Canadians...

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/articles/violating-the-sacred>*

# Investors Abandon Green Energy after Huge New Gas and Oil Finds

By John O'Sullivan  
Published Jan 20, 2011

Huge new recent discoveries in gas, oil and rare mineral deposits see major investors and governments bail out of a collapsing green energy market.

Suggesting to readers that stories about any impending 'peak energy' crisis is just hot air Dr. Benny Peiser of the Global Warming Policy Foundation (January 20, 2011) presents a swath of news reports making uncomfortable reading for environmentalists and green investors.

### European Governments Signal End to Renewable Energy 'Bubble'

Peiser shows the rush away from green energy began in earnest in December 2010 when first a pro-green Spain slashed funding for wind projects by 35% and declared photovoltaic plants would be cut by 45%.

France then announced a four-month freeze on all solar projects. Then Germany announced it might discontinue the solar industry's sweetheart tariffs in 2012. The German Energy Agency, the country's official advisor on renewables called for Germany's drive toward solar to be "cut back quickly and drastically."

### 'Virtually Impossible' to Cap Carbon Dioxide Emissions

According to the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF) Dr Fatih Birol, chief economist of the International Energy Agency, told an assembled London audience that it was now "impossible" to meet targets to restrict agreed limits on emissions of carbon dioxide.

Birol conceded that as the eco-energy market stumbles the traditional energy sources show a sudden surge in reserves. Birol blames the shale gas boom in the US that has led to a 50% drop in investment in renewable energy. "There's suddenly much more gas available in the world than previously thought."

One notable investor at the head of the rush is Bill Gates who thinks that there is better money to be made in advanced oil exploration technologies according to Al Fin Energy 19 January 2011.

Gates has bought into NEOS GeoSolutions -- whose investors include the legendary venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and investment bank Goldman Sachs. They have just announced a \$60 million investment

from Gates and others.

### China's New Gas Oil Reserves to 'Last 250 Years'

Quoting from a story from China Daily Peiser of the GWPF reports, "Chinese geologists have detected "super-thick" oil and gas-bearing strata in the northern part of the South China Sea."

The source of the report is Wang Min, China's vice-minister of land and resources and was announced at a national conference in Beijing (January 15, 2011). The ministry also confirmed that new finds had increased the reserves of iron and aluminum by 41 percent and 39 percent compared with the levels of 1999.

The mega-discovery is proof of 38 new offshore oil and gas-bearing basins and tops an impressive inventory of China's newfound strategic natural wealth. With such an unparalleled energy bonanza China is assured to assume the role of the 21st century's prime superpower as it confidently boasts energy self-sufficiency for generations to come. The astonishing breakthrough included substantial finds of natural gas hydrate, found for the first time in China.

China is the world's biggest consumer of coal, steel, alumina, copper and cement.

### Vast Atlantic Oil Discovery Boosts Brazilian Oil Prospects

New research from Brazil by Hernani Chaves, a professor at the Rio de Janeiro State University further suggests experts are changing their opinions over the concept of 'peak energy.'

Chaves and his team has discovered that Brazilian oil deposits below a layer of salt in the Atlantic Ocean holding at least 123 billion barrels of reserves, are more than double previous government estimates.

Chaves a former Petroleo Brasileiro SA geologist says doomsayers are wrong to tout diminishing reserves by countering, "We started with a sceptical view and finished with bigger numbers."

As Dr. Peiser indicates, 2011 is set to leave a substantial dent to the theory that says humans are fast using up the natural gas and oil reserves of the planet.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.suite101.com/content/investors-abandon-green-energy-in-wake-of-huge-new-gas-and-oil-fi-a335451>*

# The Met Office winter forecast lie is finally nailed

And heads must roll.

With compliments to Katabasis whose FOI request has been dealt with more quickly than mine... The information in the FOI response he has received today and written up in a detailed blog post goes into much more detail than Bishop Hill's release from the Quarmby audit team.

A look at the information makes clear there is nowhere left for the Met Office to hide. The Met Office has been caught 'cold' lying about its winter forecast in a disgraceful attempt to salvage its reputation. Its claim that it forecast the cold start to the winter lays in tatters thanks to an exchange of emails between the department and the Cabinet Office.

As a result the Met Office is completely discredited. Also utterly discredited is the BBC environment analyst Roger Harrabin, who on the Met Office's behalf used a column in the Radio Times (later carried in the Telegraph and the Daily Mail) to state that:

In October the forecaster privately warned the Government – with whom it has a contract – that Britain was likely to face an extremely cold winter.

It kept the prediction secret, however, after facing severe criticism over the accuracy of its long-term forecasts.

(My emphasis in bold italic above and below) Harrabin went on to say in his piece that:

Why didn't the Met Office tell us that Greenland was about to swap weather with Godalming? The truth is it [The Met Office] did suspect we were in for an exceptionally cold early winter, and told the Cabinet Office so in October. But we weren't let in on the secret. "The reason? The Met Office no longer publishes its seasonal forecasts because of the ridicule it suffered for predicting a barbecue summer in 2009 – the summer that campers floated around in their tents.

The email exchange in the screenshot below proves this is a lie. The Cabinet Office civil servant (bottom message) confirms the weather outlook supplied by the Met Office earlier that day is what the government will use in its 'Forward Look'. The Met Office employee (top message) agrees with it.

The all important sentence is the first. 'The Met Office seasonal outlook for the period November to January is showing no clear signals for the winter'. The Met Office knew this was the case when it sent Harrabin scurrying off to spin its lie that the Met Office 'did suspect we were in for an exceptionally cold early winter, and told the Cabinet Office so in October'. The briefing to the Cabinet Office contains no such warning – and vindicates the parliamentary answer given by Francis Maude when questioned about the forecast

the government received from the Met Office.

What is worse is that the Met Office knew this, yet with its claim tried to place responsibility for the lack of preparedness for an extremely cold start to the winter on government inaction. Harrabin added to this by saying he had put in a FOI to the government (referenced in this post) to discover what they were told, the insinuation being it was the government that had something to hide. This is very dangerous ground that leans towards the possibility of the Met Office and a BBC reporter engaging in a joint effort to undermine the government's credibility.

This leads us to ask a serious question that must be answered: How is it possible that Roger Harrabin could claim the Met Office line he was retailing was the 'truth' with such certainty?

If Harrabin had seen the evidence and still spun his line then he has knowingly lied to the public

If he spun his line without seeing the evidence then he is utterly incompetent and the public can have no faith in the stories he broadcasts and publishes on the BBC

Either way Roger Harrabin's position is now untenable and in addition to resigning he must make a full public apology. As for the Met Office, the buck stops with the Chief Executive, John Hirst, who has looked on as this false narrative was constructed and insinuations were made to deflect criticism from his department, yet did nothing to correct it.

We now have the truth. It is what many people have suspected since the story materialised. It's now time for those who are funded by taxpayers' money and who engineered the deception, and those who allowed it to happen, to pay the price for their actions. Over to the executive board of the Met Office and the trustees of the BBC...

Published 28 January 2011.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://autonomousmind.wordpress.com/>*

*The complete story may be found of URL: <http://autonomousmind.wordpress.com/2011/01/28/met-office-and-bbc-winter-2010-11/>*

*Note: FOI is an acronym for Freedom of Information.*

**The incriminating e-mails are shown overleaf.**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 13:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment for winter

[REDACTED]

That is fine.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 10:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment for winter

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for this. I'm going to use the following sentence in the Forward Look;

The Met Office seasonal outlook for the period November to January is showing no clear signals for the winter. The forecast suggests that there is an 70 per cent chance of near average or colder conditions over northern Europe during this period, but there is a 60 per cent chance of near average or milder conditions. Rainfall amounts are less certain, with roughly equal signals for the chance of wet or dry conditions. In summary there is a slightly increased risk for a cold and wintry start to the winter season, but looking further ahead beyond this assessment there are some indications of an increased risk of a mild end to the winter season. The Met Office update these forecasts every month and it is important to check these for more accurate forecasts closer to the event.

Please let me know any comments or changes you would like made before it goes in.

[REDACTED]

22 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2WH  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Mob: [REDACTED]

Please copy your email to [REDACTED]

# *The Met Office fries while the rest of the world freezes*

By Christopher Booker

The Telegraph - 8 January 2011

**As the Met Office desperately tries to salvage its reputation, another of this 'warm' winter's ice disasters is unfolding in the Sea of Okhotsk.**

First it was a national joke. Then its professional failings became a national disaster. Now, the dishonesty of its attempts to fight off a barrage of criticism has become a real national scandal. I am talking yet again of that sad organisation the UK Met Office, as it now defends its bizarre record with claims as embarrassingly absurd as any which can ever have been made by highly-paid government officials.

Let us begin with last week's astonishing claim that, far from failing to predict the coldest November and December since records began, the Met Office had secretly warned the Cabinet Office in October that Britain was facing an early and extremely cold winter. In what looked like a concerted effort at damage limitation, this was revealed by the BBC's environmental correspondent, Roger Harrabin, a leading evangelist for man-made climate change. But the Met Office website – as reported by the blog Autonomous Mind – still contains a chart it published in October, predicting that UK temperatures between December and February would be up to 2C warmer than average.

So if the Met Office told the Government in October the opposite of what it told the public, it seems to be admitting that its information was false and misleading. But we have no evidence of what it did tell the Government other than its own latest account. And on the model of the famous Cretan Paradox, how can we now trust that statement?

Then we have the recent claim by the Met Office's chief scientist, Professor Julia Slingo OBE, in an interview with Nature, that if her organisation's forecasts have shortcomings, they could be remedied by giving it another £20 million a year for better computers. As she put it, "We keep saying we need four times the computing power."

Yet it is only two years since the Met Office was boasting of the £33 million supercomputer, the most powerful in Britain, that it had installed in Exeter. This, as Prof Slingo confirmed to the parliamentary inquiry into Climategate, is what provides the Met Office both with its weather forecasting and its projections of what the world's climate will be like in 100 years (relied on, in turn, by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Prof Slingo fails to recognise that the fatal flaw of her computer models is that they assume that the main forcing factor determining climate is the rise in CO2 levels. So giving her yet more money would only compound the errors her computers come up with.

In another interview, just before Christmas, when the whole country was grinding to a halt in ice and snow, Prof Slingo claimed that this was merely a local event, "very much



*The Russian icebreaker Krasin is sailing to the relief of fishermen trapped in the Sea of Okhotsk*

confined to the UK and Western Europe". Do these Met Office experts ever look beyond those computer models which tell them that 2010 was the second hottest year in history? Only a few days after she made this remark, the east coast of the USA suffered one of the worst snowstorms ever recorded. There have been similar freezing disasters in south China, Japan, central Russia and right round the northern hemisphere.

The only evidence the Met Office and its warmist allies can adduce to support their belief in the warmth of 2010 is that in certain parts of the world, such as Greenland, Baffin Island and the southern half of Hudson Bay, it was warmer than average. Yet even there temperatures are currently plummeting: Hudson Bay and Baffin Island are rapidly freezing, at well below zero.

The desperate attempt to establish 2010 as an outstandingly warm year also relies on increasingly questionable official data records, such as that run by Dr James Hansen, partly based on large areas of the world which have no weather stations (more than 60 per cent of these have been lost since 1990). The gaps are filled in by the guesswork of computer models, designed by people who have an interest in showing that the Earth is continuing to warm.

It is this kind of increasingly suspect modelling that the Met Office depends on for its forecasts and the IPCC for its projections of climate a century ahead. And from them our politicians get their obsession with global warming, on which they base their schemes to spend hundreds of billions of pounds on a suicidal energy policy, centred on building tens of thousands of grotesquely expensive and useless windmills.

A vivid little reflection of how our whole official system has gone off the rails was the award in the New Year's Honours List of a CBE, one rank lower than a knighthood, to Robert Napier, the climate activist and former head of the global warming pressure group WWF-UK, who is now the Met Office's chairman. The more the once-respected Met Office gets lost in the greenie bubble into which it has been hijacked, the worse it becomes at doing the job for which we pay it nearly £200 million a year, and the more

our Government showers it with cash and honours.

Meanwhile, in the real world, another weather-related disaster is unfolding in the Sea of Okhotsk, off the coast of Russia north of Japan, where the BBC last week reported that a group of Russian “fishing trawlers” had got stuck in “30 centimetres” (a foot) of ice. It didn’t sound anything too serious. But, as my colleague Richard North has been reporting on his EU Referendum blog, the BBC underestimated the scale of what is happening by several orders of magnitude.

Although several smaller ships have now escaped, the two largest are still trapped in up to six feet (two metres) of ice – including one of the world’s biggest factory ships, the 32,000-ton Sodruzhestvo. They still have more than 400 men on board. Three Russian ice-breakers, including two huge 14,000-tonners, are engaged in what looks like a forlorn bid to free them. A 14,000-ton ice-breaker can scarcely clear the way for a ship well over twice its size. And as the weather worsens, with gales, blizzards and visibility often reduced to zero, the chances of helicoptering the men to safety seem sadly remote.

The mystery is why the Russians should, in the middle of winter, have allowed such a fleet of ships into a stretch of sea known as “the factory of ice”. This is because all the

rivers which empty into it from the Russian coast lower its salinity, making it prone to rapid freezing. But the Sea of Okhotsk has long been held out by the world’s warmists as an example, like the Arctic, of waters which, thanks to global warming, will soon be ice-free.

As we know from Prof Slings, however, all this cold weather we are having at the moment is a local event, “very much confined to the UK and Western Europe”. Perhaps the Russian fishing fleet took the word of the Met Office, assuming that ice was a thing of the past. As the ice-breakers struggle to reach the hundreds of trapped men, and still-thickening ice threatens to start crushing the hulls of their ships, it seems that, short of a miracle like that which saved the Chilean miners, a major tragedy could be unfolding.

Meanwhile, the sad little nonentities in charge of our Met Office prattle on, extending their begging bowls – and our politicians who have put them there remain smugly and inanely oblivious to anything happening out there in the real world.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8248146/The-Met-Office-fries-while-the-rest-of-the-world-freezes.html>*

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## *What was the role of warmists in the Queensland flood disaster?*

**Australia was told to prepare for droughts as a result of climate change, and let its guard against flooding, writes Christopher Booker**

Ever more alarming facts are emerging to show how Brisbane’s floods were made infinitely worse by cockeyed decisions inspired by the obsession of the Australian authorities with global warming. Inevitably, the country’s warmist lobby has been voluble in claiming that such a “freak weather event” (as the BBC called it) is a consequence of man-made climate change. But far from being an unprecedented “freak event”, the latest flood was nearly a foot below the level of one in 1974 and 10 feet below the record set in 1893.

For years, Australia’s warmists have been advising the authorities that the danger posed to the country by global warming is not floods but droughts: not too much rain but too little. One result, in Brisbane, was a relaxation of planning rules, to allow building on areas vulnerable to flooding in the past. As long ago as 1999, this was seen as potentially disastrous by an expert Brisbane River Flood Study (which was ignored and for years kept secret). Instead of investing in its flood defences, Australia spent \$13 billion on desalination plants. (Queensland’s was recently mothballed because of the excess of rain.)

Last week’s most disturbing revelation, however, was the contribution to Brisbane’s flooding by the South East Queensland Water company’s massive release of water from its Wivenhoe dam upstream from the city (for details see “Brisbane’s Man-Made Flood Peak” from the Regionalstates blog - overleaf). Instead of controlled releases through the previous week, the company allowed the level to rise to within a few inches of the top of the dam before releasing a vast volume of water, with devastating consequences for Brisbane 36 hours later.

Last spring, Queensland’s prime minister, the drought- and warming-obsessed Anna Bligh, ordered the water company not to allow any releases from the dam because water was such a “precious resource” that none must be wasted.

Unsurprisingly, on Friday, the city’s Lord Mayor asked for a full judicial review of what had happened. But it is time our Australian cousins carried out a very much more wide-ranging inquiry into all the other decisions made by their gullible politicians in recent years, under the spell of a pseudo-scientific ideology which now looks utterly discredited.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8262064/What-was-the-role-of-warmists-in-the-Queensland-flood-disaster.html>*

# *Brisbane's Man-made Flood Peak!*

How SEQ Water failed "Flood Mitigation 101". (13/01/11)

It is surprising how some journalists couldn't pick a story if it was humping their leg.

On the morning of 12th January, the day before the flood peak that inundated the Brisbane CBD and much of Ipswich, Brian Williams of Brisbane's Courier Mail, in a masterpiece of misreporting by omission, reported that releases from Wivenhoe Dam were to be reduced from an overnight peak of 645,000 megalitres/day to 205,000 ML/day with the stated aim of "allowing the Bremer River and Lockyer River to subside, thereby easing floods on Brisbane downstream."

"Wivenhoe Dam levels had dropped just 1 per cent from the previous night, reflecting the massive volumes of water flowing into the storage from its 7020 km<sup>2</sup> catchment." That 1% drop was from a dam capacity of 191% and is an oblique way of saying that the massive flood surge buffer had been pushed close to its limits and they now had no choice but to dump the same amount of water that was flowing into the dam.

What wasn't mentioned was the fact that for more than a week prior to this large release, only 170,000 ML/day was being released as the storage capacity was allowed to rise to 191% from two weeks of heavy rains. And this meant the carefully designed flood buffer, having been taken to its limits, could no longer function as a buffer. The city was entirely at the mercy of the elements and it would only have taken another 37mm of rain in the catchment to hit the limits.

And as it takes 36 hours for water to flow from Wivenhoe to the CBD then it is absolutely clear that the flood peak of Wednesday night and Thursday morning was a direct result of the previous night's forced release of the total inflow from the catchment. And this was only necessary because SEQ Water had spent two weeks releasing much less water than was being captured, into a river that was still well below minor flood level.

The article went on to report that releases would go back up to 301,000 ML/day in a few days to reduce the flood buffer volume and that this level of release was, "unlikely to cause a second significant rise in the river."

What wasn't mentioned in relation to the reduction from the overnight peak of 645,000 megalitres/day to 205,000 ML/day, with the stated aim of "allowing the Bremer River and Lockyer River to subside, thereby easing floods on Brisbane downstream," was the fact that the earlier large forced release did the direct opposite. It prevented the Bremer and Lockyer Rivers from subsiding and exacerbated the flooding of Brisbane downstream.

By reducing releases to only 205,000 ML/Day after the peak discharge, SEQ Water is essentially admitting that the peak discharge impaired the flow from the Bremer and Lockyer Rivers by about 100,000 ML/day over that 36 hour period, which they then had to remedy with a lower Wivenhoe release.

At this point those who did not come down in the last shower might ask, "so why didn't they release 300,000ML/day before the buffer was fully extended?" If they had done so there would not have been any need for a larger forced release at all.

Limited Wivenhoe releases on Monday and Tuesday were justified because the flash flooding in the Bremmer and Lockyer Valleys needed somewhere to go. But that doesn't explain the low releases right through the previous week to Sunday the 9th January. Larger pre-releases in the order of 300,000 ML/day would have maintained sufficient buffer to ensure that no flood peak occurred at all. The river would have kept on flowing at minor flooding level right through this period.

What sort of people, in Queensland of all places, in a strong La Nina wet season, would not start serious dam releases when they were already at capacity, with saturated catchments, in the first week of December? Surely, pre-releases would be more prudent than post-releases in such circumstances?

We need a full inquiry into why this dam managed by SEQ Water, and others managed by Sunwater, were managed in a way that actually produced the kind of flood it was designed to prevent.

[Update: 13/01/11 4.53pm, The spin is on in full. Television reports are now wrongly reporting that the drop back from the temporary high release volume was instrumental in preventing a worse flood peak. This is totally inconsistent with the 36 hour time lag for water to get from the dam to the city. For the record the major shareholders of SEQ Water are Anna Bligh (Qld), Campbell Newman (BCC) & Paul Pissale (Ipswich).

Wivenhoe Dam capacity is 1,165,000 ML normal (100%) and 1,140,000 ML flood surge (197.8%). It went to 191% or 2,225,000 ML with just 80,000 ML to spare.

Somerset Dam capacity is 380,000 ML normal (100%) and 524,000 ML flood surge (238%). It went to 190% or 722,000 ML with 182,000 ML to spare. This minimal buffer meant that only 37mm of additional rain in the 7020 KM<sup>2</sup> catchment would have maxed the system out, giving them zero control over flows.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://regionalstates.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/brisbanes-man-made-flood-peak/>*

# As we count the cost of the freeze, Government prepares for global warming. The authorities continue to prepare for 'rising temperatures' despite a succession of unprecedentedly cold winters.

By Christopher Booker - 1 January 2011

As we emerge, temporarily perhaps, from weeks of the coldest weather since records began – with snow disasters right round the northern hemisphere, from the US and Europe to China and Mongolia – more examples come to light of how the cost of extreme cold is far greater than that of warming. We already have a £9.6 billion backlog to cover repairs to roads damaged in previous winters, and the price of repairing the potholes and crumbling asphalt caused by this winter's even more intense cold threatens to raise that by billions more (even though Government cuts will trim that budget by 15 per cent).

In Northern Ireland, 80,000 households were deprived of water by burst mains operated by the state-owned Northern Ireland Water. Yet as recently as October it published a strategic plan wholly obsessed by the need to transform its infrastructure to meet the challenge of global warming.

Another frozen chicken which came home to roost was the crisis confronting many of the eight million homes now heated by condensing boilers, made compulsory by John Prescott in 2005 as a way of reducing Britain's carbon footprint. What Mr Prescott failed to do was impose, on this tightly regulated industry, any requirement that the pipes to take away the resulting water should not be placed on the outside of buildings. (Responsibility for this crucial system failure has since been passed to the Health and Safety Executive.)

The result is that up to a million external pipes froze in December, shutting off the heating. In Yorkshire alone, British Gas reported 60,000 emergency call-outs, at up to £300 a time – costing householders a fortune thanks to Mr Prescott's obsession with global warming.

Meanwhile, two days before Christmas, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published a 130-page document warning how Britain's infrastructure will “struggle to cope with climate change” between 2030 and 2100, as our road, rail and water networks are threatened by “floods, rising temperatures and higher sea levels”.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8235283/As-we-count-the-cost-of-the-freeze-Government-prepares-for-global-warming.html>*

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## *The Guardian asks the big question...*

**Are humans definitely causing global warming? No, really, The Guardian's environment section asks this as part of the Guardian's 'ultimate climate change FAQ'.**

It's a bit like watching volleyball. The Guardian knows what answer it wants to give, so it cherry picks the bits of information that fit its narrative (the 'set') and then delivers a supposedly unequivocal answer (the 'spike'). As it's not a particularly long piece it seems an appropriate time for a fisk...

Just as the world's most respected scientific bodies have confirmed that world is getting hotter, they have also stated that there is strong evidence that humans are driving the warming.

Wow! Impressive! That would be respected bodies like the utterly discredited International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), NASA's GISS, University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit and the UK's Met Office. Strange, there is no mention of Climategate, Amazongate, Glacieregate, the number of times GISS has been forced to 'adjust' its data, the fact CRU cannot find its vital raw data and that the Met Office's forecasts are a standing joke.

The 2005 joint statement from the national academies of

Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US said:

“It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities.”

Likely, they say. So that means there is uncertainty and therefore a lack of proof. And then it says 'most' of the warming. So nature is actually up to something that mankind has no control over? Incredible.

Countless more recent statements and reports from the world's leading scientific bodies have said the same thing. For example, a 2010 summary of climate science by the Royal Society stated that:

“There is strong evidence that the warming of the Earth over the last half-century has been caused largely by human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels and changes in land use, including agriculture and deforestation.”

Ah yes, that would be the Royal Society that had to rewrite its position on climate change because it was accused by 43 of its Fellows of refusing to accept dissenting views on climate change and exaggerating the degree of certainty that man-made emissions are the main cause. Strange,

there is no mention of that. Could it be the fundamentally dishonest Guardian is trying to hide something? So if there is such ‘strong evidence’, where is it? Is it perhaps that the ‘evidence’ is nothing more than correlation and there is nothing to prove causation? Leave it to The Guardian and we will never know.

The idea that humans could change the planet’s climate may be counter-intuitive, but the basic science is well understood. Each year, human activity causes billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere. As scientists have known for decades, these gases capture heat that would otherwise escape to space – the equivalent of wrapping the planet in an invisible blanket.

The basic science is indeed well understood. You erase from history any mention of periods when the earth was warmer than now, you collect temperature data from monitoring stations at locations where they get blasted with warm air from vents or aircraft engines and ignore unreliable temperature records they produce, you produce a disturbing graph that looks like a hockey stick but don’t tell anyone that any data produces the same curve, you sample the cores of a number of trees and discount the overwhelming majority that show there has been barely any change in temperature, then you apply adjustments to the data so instead of a broadly flat line you end up with a steeply rising one that becomes your ‘strong evidence’. And while we’re at it, let’s take a closer look at that ‘invisible blanket’ shall we?

Of course, the planet’s climate has always been in flux thanks to “natural” factors such as changes in solar or volcanic activity, or cycles relating the Earth’s orbit around the sun. According to the scientific literature, however, the warming recorded to date matches the pattern of warming we would expect from a build up of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere – not the warming we would expect from other possible causes.

Of course, this only works if one ignores all the other literature produced by scientists who state the greenhouse gas effect is dramatically overstated. Strange, there’s no mention of that counter consensus of scientists (as opposed to railway engineers and economists) whose research finds that greenhouse gas (they mean CO<sub>2</sub> when they use the terms because water vapour never gets a mention, despite being by far the most voluminous greenhouse gas – perhaps measuring and taxing water vapour emissions is too difficult) has nothing like the claimed impact on temperature and therefore casts huge doubt over man’s supposed influence on the climate.

Even if scientists did discover another plausible explanation for the warming observed to date, that would beg a difficult question. As Robert Henson puts it in **The Rough Guide to Climate Change**:

“If some newly discovered factor can account for the climate change then why aren’t carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases producing the warming that basic physics tells us they should be?”

And carbon dioxide, the currency of the new world order, finally gets its first mention. Why did that take so long? Well, it was only a matter of time before a strawman was built in order to be knocked over and it had to be about the disputed influence of CO<sub>2</sub>. The climate is far more complex than some grant-chasing scientists are willing to admit and if greenhouse gases played anything more than a bit part in nature’s regulation of the planet’s atmosphere and ecology we would have all long since fried. Basic physics according a number of scientists The Guardian says, but exaggerated cant according to plenty of other scientists. And so we come to the end...

The only way to prove with 100% certainty that humans are responsible for global warming would be to run an experiment with two identical Earths – one with human influence and one without. That obviously isn’t possible, and so most scientists are careful not to state human influence as an absolute certainty. Nonetheless, the evidence is now extremely strong.

This is cute. Despite telling us for years that the ‘debate is over’ and that the ‘science is settled’ the flaws and failings in the global warming/climate change narrative – combined with nature’s stubborn refusal to perform as computer models say she should – have forced the warmists to adjust their arguments, much like they adjust the temperature records.

The basic lie here – and let’s face it, The Guardian is a world leader when it comes to lies – is the claim that most scientists are careful not to state human influence as an absolute certainty. This is not true if you look at those scientists who sing the warmist creed. Hansen, Jones, Trenberth, Mann, Briffa, all describe human influence on climate as ‘incontrovertible’. These are the high priests of the warmist cult whose flawed / missing / adjusted / corrected / selective ‘research findings’ are treated as a baseline from which other research begins – therefore meaning the outcome will always point to human induced warming.

Again, in a piece that links off to various other material, there is nothing pointing us to this ‘strong evidence’. We are just expected to accept it as a truth. We are expected to ‘believe’ because that is what the ‘believers’ need us to do, regardless of the reality and the facts.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://autonomousmind.wordpress.com/2010/12/31/the-guardian-asks-the-big-question/>  
Published 31/12/2010*

# China-style dictatorship of climatologists

## NASA's Hansen prefers rule by decree to fight 'global warming'

By Patrick J. Michaels

The Washington Times - 17 Jan. 2011

November's election made it quite clear that the people of the United States do not want to radically change our society in the name of global warming. Pretty much every close House race went to the Republicans, while the Democrats won all the Senate squeakers. The difference? The House on June 26, 2009, passed a bill limiting carbon-dioxide emissions and getting into just about every aspect of our lives. The Senate did nothing of the sort.

The nation's most prominent publicly funded climatologist is officially angry about this, blaming democracy and citing the Chinese government as the "best hope" to save the world from global warming. He also wants an economic boycott of the U.S. sufficient to bend us to China's will.

NASA laboratory head James Hansen's anti-democracy rants were published while he was on a November junket in China, but they didn't get much attention until recently. On Jan. 12, the hyperprolific blogger Marc Morano put them on his Climate Depot site, and within hours, the post went viral. In a former life, Mr. Morano was chief global-warming researcher for Sen. James M. Inhofe, Oklahoma Republican.

According to Mr. Hansen, compared to China, we are "the barbarians" with a "fossil-money- 'democracy' that now rules the roost," making it impossible to legislate effectively on climate change. Unlike us, the Chinese are enlightened, unfettered by pesky elections. Here's what he blogged on Nov. 24:

"I have the impression that Chinese leadership takes a long view, perhaps because of the long history of their culture, in contrast to the West with its short election cycles. At the same time, China has the capacity to implement

policy decisions rapidly. The leaders seem to seek the best technical information and do not brand as a hoax that which is inconvenient."

Has this guy ever heard of the Gang of Four? Or the Cultural Revolution, which killed those who were inconvenient? Or the Great Leap Forward, which used the best technical information to determine that a steel mill in every backyard was a good idea?

Mr. Hansen has another idea to circumvent our democracy. Because Congress is not likely to pass any legislation making carbon-based energy prohibitively expensive, he proposed, in the South China Morning Post, that China lead a boycott of our economy:

"After agreement with other nations, e.g., the European Union, China and these nations could impose rising internal carbon fees. Existing rules of the World Trade Organization would allow collection of a rising border duty on products from all nations that do not have an equivalent internal carbon fee or tax.

"The United States then would be forced to make a choice. It could either address its fossil-fuel addiction ... or ... accept continual descent into second-rate and third-rate economic well-being."

The WTO, in fact, has not "ruled" that it can impose environmental tariffs of any kind, much less those of such magnitude that they would destroy the world's largest economy.

Mr. Hansen is just dreaming here. But that's not surprising. He has been very creative over the years.

In 1988, he reportedly told Bob Reiss, author of yet another apocalyptic screed, "The Coming Storm," that in the next 20 years, "The West Side Highway [in Manhattan] will be under

water" and, "There will be more police cars" in New York because "well, you know what happens to crime when the heat goes up."

Well, there are more cops and less crime, and the West Side is high and dry. One out of three isn't bad for baseball, but it is horrendous for science.

In 1988, he testified in front of Congress, showing the temperature forecast for coming decades. He had three emission scenarios: One was labeled "A," which he called "business as usual." It actually underestimated the growth in greenhouse-gas emissions since then. Even with that error, which should have enhanced global warming more than he predicted, observed temperatures fell far short. He predicted 0.7 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming. This was an overestimate of more than 40 of what was observed between then and now.

How about his scenario "B," which assumes "decreasing trace gas growth rates?" That one overestimates warming by a bit less than 40 percent (37 percent, to be artificially exact). Scenario "C" is irrelevant, as it assumed massive cuts in emissions beginning in 1988.

His forecasts of climatic change for nearly the last quarter-century are fantasy, as is his notion that dictators are better than democracy and that our country should be bullied into submission.

Patrick J. Michaels is senior fellow in environmental studies at the Cato Institute and author of "Climate of Extremes: Global Warming Science They Don't Want You to Know" (Cato Institute, 2009).

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/17/china-style-dictatorship-of-climatologists/>*

# Comments from Piers - WeatherAction

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**"The Claim 2010 is '2nd warmest year on record' - is delusional, irrelevant & disingenuous – the last gasp of the failed global warming cult"**

The ideologically driven global warmist joke must be swept aside. The time has come for useful science-based forecasts to reduce misery & save lives.

More end January extreme warnings for USA, Australia + UK/Europe.

The most exciting weather year for a century has begun.

"The latest claims about World average temperatures by Government Weather organizations around the World such as UK MetOffice\*, apart from being contrary to the actual experience of the majority of the world population – notably USA, Europe, IndoChina and South America, raise four points. (\* <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/archive/2011/2010-global-temperature> )

1. "The originators of this data are the same people and organizations who were caught fiddling data in the 'ClimateGate' affair," said Piers. "The various whitewash enquiries arranged to cover-up their vandalisation of the scientific method cannot dodge the question:

· WHY is there a statistically highly significant systematic inverse relationship between the number of stations they selected for 'official' use and the average temperatures resulting? What average temperature would result from the 62% of stations they removed since around the 1960s - which had the coldest temperature averages and the highest number of stations - up to the present decade - which is officially the warmest and has the least number of stations? Anyone with a brain can see that this systematic connection means that either temperature is magically determined by the number of stations or there has been systematic selecting of data which is best described as data fraud", said Piers. "This question requires an international inquiry which is independent of any of the organizations involved in this data creation. ( See See slide 9 in presentation <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=222&c=1> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPMmCruPAWU> )

2. "The experience of EXTREME cold for prolonged periods this year in a number of parts of the world – such as Britain, West Europe, most of the USA and much of South America (to name just a few) and the inane 'cold is warm' incantations, show the world average supposed extra warmth (which only exceeds the coldest year of the decade under their figures by 0.12 degree C - less than one quarter of a degree F) - is of no consequence or forecasting value whatsoever to man or beast. A one quarter of a degree F

increase in world average temperatures whether real or fraudulent has no bearing on whether or not a blizzard will hit Connecticut; any more than a world population rise CAUSES more babies to be born in Birmingham" said Piers.

3. "The innuendo that this supposed 'warmest year' is somehow the driver of extreme events is baseless anti-science. It is no accident that the Met Office, BBC and New York Times / Guardian / Independent etc put forward various descriptions of circulation patterns such as La Nina as a cause of the things these phenomena describe and then pop-in that 2010 was the warmest year as if there were a connection. Why not tell us there is a Royal wedding this year, that would be more interesting. The only connection is their desperation to save their failed cult ideology.

ALL the global warmist predictions since 2000 have failed and the OPPOSITE types of extremes (floods, supercold and blizzards) to their predictions (droughts, warm winters and the end-of-snow) have occurred, so their warmist (or warm is cold) explanations for extreme events are as useless as saying "Wet days cause rain".

If weather were just entertainment this would not matter but their refusal to accept their total failure forces up energy and food prices through low carbon cult measures and holds back real science which directly prevents governments and authorities from applying useful forecasts which can reduce suffering and save lives. People have died on UK and Europe's roads through lack of winter salting due to Met Office failed warmist winter forecasts and Australian floods are worse because the Govt cut dam projects under Green 'expect droughts' advice - <http://climaterealist.com/7038> . The Global warming cult ideology is reducing living standards and causing needless suffering and death, and must be stopped."

4. The very extreme weather events around the world last year and this year are caused by solar-lunar DRIVEN 'sticking' of the normal motions of the jet streams in the North and South hemisphere and of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

(i) Piers Corbyn of WeatherAction warned in June 2010 that such sticking and consequent SEVERE EXTREMES would be consequent to PREDICTABLE solar-lunar effects in periods to follow which we now expect will be years and he specifically correctly predicted:

(ii) The West Russian heatwave and when it would end to the day (along with the ending of the associated superfloods in Pakistan) driven by events on the sun – See link of the double sunspot solar explosion (video) and subsequent thunderstorms in St Petersburg Aug 15th 2010 - <http://www.weatheraction.com/docs/WANews10No31.pdf> Will the warmists tell us that solar flares are caused by CO<sub>2</sub> on Earth?!

(iii) That Britain (Central England) would have the coldest December for 100 years. NB The UK Met Office had said on their web in October that winter would be mild and then when it was cold claimed they had actually said it would be cold while their web still carried the chart published in October which stated it would be mild <http://climaterrealists.com/index.php?id=6990> Yet THESE same people expect us to believe their world temperature data is worth a dime!

(iv) The monster thunderblizzards and snow deluges which hit N / NE parts of USA 26/27 Dec and again Jan 12th (especially Connecticut) and again on 22nd Jan – (5-10 inches in parts of NE and very cold blasts <http://www.courant.com/news/weather/ctn-weather-forecast-connecticut-fox-ct,0,4543231.story> – and there is more to come – see below!

This very specific stuck jet stream situation in USA bringing this long series of thundersnow – blizzards was specifically spelt out in WeatherAction's USA forecast via link World Extreme events (except Eur) forecast via <http://www.weatheraction.com/member.asp> or <http://www.weatheraction.com/docs/WANews11No2.pdf>. The New York Times ignores these forecasts rather than admit to its readers than their warmist ideology has failed.

(v) The Brazil floods are caused by ITCZ sticking (as was graphically shown on CNN) and the Queensland / Australia floods are caused by the Southern Jet stream (S Australia) & ITCZ (N Australia) sticking which follow from a combination of La Nina which is solar driven and specific lunar eclipse phase modulation - <http://www.weatheraction.com/docs/WANews11No1.pdf>  
Does CO<sub>2</sub> cause eclipses of the Moon?!

## NOW WHAT?

Piers Corbyn said, 21 Jan, "Our long range TOP RED WARNINGS of very extreme events world-wide in the last week of January stand; Specifically:

- More USA deluges of very heavy thundersnow and very cold blasts South & East of the Great Lakes and notably in NE /E USA (see link Extreme Events Word Exc Europe via <http://www.weatheraction.com/member.asp> for more detail as issued Jan 7th) around 25th Jan and again around 28th-30th Jan. NB since this is the end of that forecast media are free to publish it.

- Further Significant Australian deluges and Floods in most probably SW Queensland area – in forecast issued by link above on Jan 9th (Note North New South Wales can be included)

- Further blasts and snow in Britain (spec East) and NorthWest Europe in the last few days of January into February. Note a troublesome High has been holding cold air further East than expected (reasons now partly understood) but eventually cold blasts will take over.

- Further VERY extreme thunder-rain / snow deluges are likely in many parts of the world 25– 31st Jan.

- The year will continue with ongoing jet stream / ITCZ stickings and extreme events many of which we will predict, in detail months ahead by our Solar-Lunar Action Technique, information permitting. This will probably be the most exciting weather year around the world for a century.

It's an open question as to whether the Warmist cult will switch to a total doublethink 'cold is warm' incantation or erase / re-choose / re-homogenize and re-brand most of their 'data' stations. They've been talking a lot about merging and rationalizing data sets – which as we all know when governments talk such talk normally means something else.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=299&c=5>

### Other useful links:

MUST SEE TWO PART YOUTUBE: Piers Corbyn Returns: The Cold Truth of What is to Come in 2011 - Alex Jones Tv = <http://climaterrealists.com/index.php?id=6985>

Rense & Piers Corbyn - Solar Lunar Forecasting  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ofr28H4t-A&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ofr28H4t-A&feature=player_embedded)

Where is Weather, Climate and the Climate Change Con going?  
5 new videos from Piers Corbyn issued 6 Jan <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=292&c=5>

27 Dec Fox News USA "It was an honour & great to be on Fox" says Piers <http://video.foxnews.com/v/4475360/mocked-meteorologist-gets-last-laugh/>

20 Dec ABC TV USA interviews Piers - <http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/extreme-weather-12464251>

NOTE The Main USA TV channels reported WeatherAction correctly predicted the coldest December in UK for 100 years, yet the BBC carry nothing. Why?

19 Dec Article in Daily Telegraph by Mayor of London Boris Johnson - The man who repeatedly beats the Met Office at its own game! <http://bit.ly/fy4ddD> and my Thank you <http://bit.ly/fy4ddD>

Piers on SKY NEWS 18Dec We Told You So <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNBIDnA0q3s>

VIDEO Piers Corbyn this WINTER forecast summary issued 30 Nov 2010 HELL to Freeze over for Britain Ireland + Europe <http://bit.ly/hQBp14>

World jet stream shift ends Russia heatwave + Pakistan Superdeluges Piers Corbyn's Solar-driven forecasts confirmed Aug 2010 <http://www.weatheraction.com/docs/WANews10No31.pdf>

Extended Russia TV interview 22 Aug 2010 on Piers' predictions of ending of Russia heatwave & Pakistan superdeluges - <http://climaterrealists.com/index.php?id=6173&linkbox=true&position=2>

# Climate Change Claims Melt Away

Published 29 January 2011.

In 2007, the U.N. said the Himalayan glaciers will be gone by 2035 due to man-made global warming. Yet four years later, some are advancing. What's retreating is the global warming narrative.

Global warming alarmists felt a tingle in their legs when the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report claiming "Glaciers in the Himalayas are receding faster than in any other part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of their disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the earth keeps warming at the current rate."

The announcement was enough to set off celebrations by greenshirts everywhere.

Turns out, though, that the claim was nonsense. It was not based on scientific research but on one scientist's guesswork, which was lifted from a telephone interview. It was carelessly — or intentionally? — included in the report.

Despite its mistakes and clear political bias, the IPCC survives.

But its credibility is, at best, shaky — and getting shakier. New research indicates that half of the glaciers in the Himalaya's Karakoram range are advancing. Scientists from the University of California Santa Barbara and the University of Potsdam, who cited "erroneous reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change," strongly suggest that the "settled" science is not so clear.

"Our study shows that there is no uniform response of Himalayan glaciers to climate change and highlights the importance of debris cover for understanding glacier retreat, an effect that has so far been neglected in predictions of future water availability or global sea level," write researchers Bodo Bookhagen, Dirk Scherler and Manfred Strecker.

The alarmists, who refuse to give up on their goal of controlling energy and wealth distribution, say that the study does not refute the man-made global warming claims. They argue the glaciers that are advancing are protected from warming by the debris cover.

But that's a stretch that ignores this from the report: "Some

glaciers that were stable in length were covered by a thick layer of rocky debris."

Note the word "some." If the report said "all" stable glaciers were shielded by debris, the global warming dead-enders might have a point.

But then they would have to ignore the fact that the researchers found "there is no uniform response of Himalayan glaciers to climate change."

Environmental activists have long used glaciers as a measure for global warming — and as a scare tactic by claiming that melting glaciers will flood coastal cities.

But human understanding of glaciers isn't quite there yet. A team of United Kingdom scientists looking at glaciers in Greenland over five years has found that the six glaciers they monitored melted more during cool summers than in warm summers.

Be careful, though, in interpreting this fact, because Ed Josberger, a researcher for the U.S. Geological Survey, told a local reporter writing about glacier growth on Mount Shasta that glacial expansion is proof of global warming.

Science has advanced at a spectacular pace in the last 100 years. But it's almost staggering how much we don't know about glaciers.

There are by some counts 160,000 of them across the world, yet only a small portion has been monitored over the long term. A reading of the work of Roger J. Braithwaite of the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester makes it clear that the "sparse datasets" researchers have to work with are not enough to make sound judgments about global warming.

Facts and reasonable doubt, however, have slowed, though not stopped, the environmental left from carrying on its narrative. They keep ringing the alarms.

But as the prophecies of impending doom fail to materialize, the narrative loses traction among the public. Americans understand they've been deceived. That healthy skepticism will only grow as this realization spreads.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://climaterealist.com/?id=7120>*

# EX-PRESIDENT CARTER FOR SALE

by Alan M. Dershowitz - 29 December 2010

**Author Biography: Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter professor of law at Harvard Law School and author of *The Case for Israel*.**

Carter is making more money selling integrity than peanuts. I have known Jimmy Carter for more than 30 years. I first met him in the spring of 1976 when, as a relatively unknown candidate for president, he sent me a handwritten letter asking for my help in his campaign on issues of crime and justice. I had just published an article in *The New York Times Magazine* on sentencing reform, and he expressed interest in my ideas and asked me to come up with additional ones for his campaign.

Shortly thereafter, my former student Stuart Eisenstadt, brought Carter to Harvard to meet with some faculty members, me among them. I immediately liked Jimmy Carter and saw him as a man of integrity and principle. I signed on to his campaign and worked very hard for his election. When *Newsweek* magazine asked his campaign for the names of people on whom Carter relied for advice, my name was among those given out. I continued to work for Carter over the years, most recently I met him in Jerusalem a year ago, and we briefly discussed the Mid-East.

Though I disagreed with some of his points, I continued to believe that he was making them out of a deep commitment to principle and to human rights.

Recent disclosures of Carter's extensive financial connections to Arab oil money, particularly from Saudi Arabia, had deeply shaken my belief in his integrity. When I was first told that he received a monetary reward in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, and kept the money, even after Harvard returned money from the same source because of its anti-Semitic history, I simply did not believe it. How could a man of such apparent integrity enrich himself with dirty money from so dirty a source?

And let there be no mistake about how dirty the Zayed Foundation is. I know because I was involved, in a small way, in helping to persuade Harvard University to return more than \$2 million that the financially strapped Divinity School received from this source. Initially I was reluctant to put pressure on Harvard to turn back money for the Divinity School, but then a student at the Divinity School -- Rachael Lea Fish -- showed me the facts.

They were staggering. I was amazed that in the 21st century there were still foundations that espoused these views. The Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-up - a think-tank funded by the Sheikh and run by his son - hosted speakers who called Jews "the enemies of all nations," attributed the assassination of John Kennedy to Israel and the Mossad and

the 9/11 attacks to the United States' own military, and stated that the Holocaust was a "fable." (They also hosted a speech by Jimmy Carter.) To its credit, Harvard turned the money back. To his discredit, Carter did not. Jimmy Carter was, of course, aware of Harvard's decision, since it was highly publicized.

Yet he kept the money. Indeed, this is what he said in accepting the funds: "This award has special significance for me because it is named for my personal friend, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan." Carter's personal friend, it turns out, was an unredeemable anti-Semite and all-around bigot. In reading Carter's statements, I was reminded of the bad old Harvard of the 1930s, which continued to honor Nazi academics after the anti-Semitic policies of Hitler's government became clear. Harvard of the 1930s was complicit in evil. I sadly concluded that Jimmy Carter of the 21st century has become complicit in evil. The extent of Carter's financial support from, and even dependence on, dirty money is still not fully known.

What we do know is deeply troubling. Carter and his Center have accepted millions of dollars from suspect sources, beginning with the bail-out of the Carter family peanut business in the late 1970s by BCCI, a now-defunct and virulently anti-Israeli bank indirectly controlled by the Saudi Royal family, and among whose principal investors is Carter's friend, Sheikh Zayed. Agha Hasan Abedi, the founder of the bank, gave Carter "\$500,000 to help the former president establish his center...[and] more than \$10 million to Mr. Carter's different projects." Carter gladly accepted the money, though Abedi had called his bank-ostensibly the source of his funding- "the best way to fight the evil influence of the Zionists." BCC isn't the only source: Saudi King Fahd contributed millions to the Carter Center- "in 1993 alone...\$7.6 million" as have other members of the Saudi Royal Family.

Carter also received a million dollar pledge from the Saudi-based bin Laden family, as well as a personal \$500,000 environmental award named for Sheikh Zayed, and paid for by the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. It's worth noting that, despite the influx of Saudi money funding the Carter Center, and despite the Saudi Arabian government's myriad human rights abuses, the Carter Center's Human Rights program has no activity whatever in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis have apparently bought his silence for a steep price. The bought quality of the Center's activities becomes even more clear, however, when reviewing the Center's human rights activities in other countries: essentially no human rights activities in China or in North Korea, or in Iran, Iraq, the Sudan, or Syria, but activity regarding Israel and its alleged abuses, according to the Center's website.

The Carter Center's mission statement claims that "The

Center is nonpartisan and acts as a neutral party in dispute resolution activities." How can that be, given that its coffers are full of Arab money, and that its focus is away from significant Arab abuses and on Israel's far less serious ones?

No reasonable person can dispute therefore that Jimmy Carter has been and remains dependent on Arab oil money, particularly from Saudi Arabia . Does this mean that Carter has necessarily been influenced in his thinking about the Middle East by receipt of such enormous amounts of money? Ask Carter.

The entire premise of his criticism of Jewish influence on American foreign policy is that money talks. It is Carter-not me-who has made the point that if politicians receive money from Jewish sources, then they are not free to decide issues regarding the Middle East for themselves. It is Carter, not me, who has argued that distinguished reporters cannot honestly report on the Middle East because they are being paid by Jewish money. So, by Carter's own standards, it would be almost economically "suicidal" for Carter "to espouse a balanced position between Israel and Palestine ."

By Carter's own standards, therefore, his views on the Middle East must be discounted. It is certainly possible that he now believes them. Money, particularly large amounts of money, has a way of persuading people to a particular position. It would not surprise me if Carter, having received so much Arab money, is now honestly committed to their cause. But his failure to disclose the extent of his financial dependence on Arab money, and the absence of any self reflection on whether the receipt of this money has unduly

influenced his views, is a form of deception bordering on corruption.

I have met cigarette lobbyists, who are supported by the cigarette industry, and who have come to believe honestly that cigarettes are merely a safe form of adult recreation, that cigarettes are not addicting and that the cigarette industry is really trying to persuade children not to smoke. These people are fooling themselves (or fooling us into believing that they are fooling themselves) just as Jimmy Carter is fooling himself (or persuading us to believe that he is fooling himself).

If money determines political and public views-as Carter insists "Jewish money" does-then Carter's views on the Middle East must be deemed to have been influenced by the vast sums of Arab money he has received. If he who pays the piper calls the tune, then Carter's off-key tunes have been called by his Saudi Arabian paymasters. It pains me to say this, but I now believe that there is no person in American public life today who has a lower ratio of real [integrity] to apparent integrity than Jimmy Carter.

The public perception of his integrity is extraordinarily high. His real integrity, it now turns out, is extraordinarily low. He is no better than so many former American politicians who, after leaving public life, sell themselves to the highest bidder and become lobbyists for despicable causes.

That is now Jimmy Carter's sad legacy.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://jewish1.blogspot.com/>*

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## *Iranian dissidents face a tragic final act at Ashraf*

At Ashraf on the Iraq-Iran border, Iranian dissidents are under attack from both sides, writes Christopher Booker

With the prospect of Iraq's Christian community being forced to flee the country after nearly 2,000 years, it seems another tragedy is nearing its climax in that unhappy land. Government troops, under the personal direction of the prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, have teamed up with the thugs of Iran's Qods force to step up their assault on Camp Ashraf.

This once-neat desert town near the Iranian border has been home, for the past decade, to more than 3,000 exiles belonging to the main Iranian opposition group, the PMOI (the People's Mujahideen of Iran). In 2003 the exiles gave up their weapons, in return for written guarantees of safety from the US government. Now, after besieging the camp for months, cutting off medical supplies and deafening the inhabitants round the clock with 140 loudspeakers, Iraqi and Iranian forces have been beating up and wounding dozens of the exiles (including, over Christmas, patients in the hospital). In Tehran last week, Ali Saremi, a prominent Iranian dissident, was hanged because of his links to Ashraf. The residents – whose cause is supported by 53 former prime ministers and ministers from across the world, including



Supporters of the People's Mujahideen of Iran, the main Iranian dissident organisation, at a rally near Paris Photo: Alexander Klein/AFP Getty

Britain – fear a final assault, followed by deportation to Iran to face prison or execution. And that promise of protection? Washington, it seems, has washed its hands

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8235300/Iranian-dissidents-face-a-tragic-final-act-at-Ashraf.html>*

# *The challenge of public diplomacy vis-a-vis the delegitimisation of Israel*

By **Melanie Phillips**

**Address to Ariel Conference on Law and Mass Media  
30 December 2010**

As we all know by now, Israel has lost the battle for public opinion in the west. Even the Israel government is now acknowledging this fact. Israel and its defenders have been outclassed and outmanoeuvred in a war of the mind being waged on a battleground it never even acknowledged it was on.

Calls for more and better hasbara, however, are meaningless if the message or narrative promoted by Israel and its defenders misses the point of the attack being waged upon it. And it does miss that point, by a mile.

You cannot resist or overcome a threat unless you first understand its nature.

The first thing to say is that this phenomenon is characteristic not just of the media animosity or economic or academic boycotts. It goes across the intelligentsia and political class, spreading well beyond the normal suspects on the left into the mainstream middle-classes.

In Britain, the universities, the established church, the theatrical and publishing worlds, the voluntary sector, significant elements within the Foreign Office, members of Parliament across the political spectrum, as well as the media have overwhelmingly signed up to the demonisation and delegitimisation of Israel.

The scale of this phenomenon is nothing short of a multi-layered civilisational crisis.

The west is experiencing a total inversion of truth evidence and reason. A society's thinking class has overwhelmingly subscribed to an immoral, patently false and in many cases demonstrably absurd account of the Middle East, past and present, which it has uncritically absorbed and assumes to be true.

In routine, everyday discourse history is turned on its head; logic is suspended; and an entirely false narrative of the conflict is now widely accepted as unchallengeable fact, from which fundamental error has been spun a global web of potentially catastrophic false conclusions.

This has led to a kind of dialogue of the demented in which rational discussion is simply not possible because there is no shared understanding of the meaning of language. So victim and victimiser, truth and lies, justice and injustice turn into their precise opposite.

This madness is being promulgated through a global

alliance between state and non-state actors – diplomats and journalists, politicians and NGOs and websites. Many of these are waging war not just against Israel but against the west.

There are two preconditions for an effective fightback. First is to form effective structures of resistance. Those structures, however, depend in turn on a correct understanding of the nature and scale of what we are up against.

So far, the structures are not in place, and more important still, what Israel is up against is grossly — and fatally — underestimated and misunderstood.

The problem is that we are dealing with a pathology — to which we nevertheless respond as if it were rational behaviour.

What's happened is a pattern of thinking in the west which turns reality upside down. Remarkably, this in turn echoes a very similar inversion of reality within the Islamic world, where such inversion has a theological base.

Because Islam is considered perfect, its adherents can never do wrong. All their aggression is therefore represented as self-defence, while western/Israeli self-defence is said to be aggression.

So in this Orwellian universe the enslavement of Muslim women is said to represent their liberation; democracy is a means of enslavement from which the west must be freed; and the murder of Israelis is the purest form of justice.

Furthermore, this is overlaid by the phenomenon of 'psychological projection' in which the Islamic world not only denies its own misdeeds but ascribes them instead to its victims.

So while Muslims deny the Holocaust, they claim that Israel is carrying out a holocaust in Gaza. Antisemitism is central to Jewish experience in Europe; Muslims claim that 'Islamophobia' is rife throughout Europe.

Israel gives all Jews the 'right of return' to Israel on account of the unique reality of global Jewish persecution; the Muslims claim a 'right of return' – not to their own putative state of Palestine, but to Israel. They even claim that the Palestinians are the world's 'new Jews'.

These and many other examples are used within the Islamic world to negate Jewish experience and appropriate it for itself to obtain what Muslims want in terms of status, power and conquest.

What is remarkable is that instead of treating this as a pathological deformity of thinking, the western progressive

intelligentsia has largely embraced it as rational and true. And to a large extent this is because that same western intelligentsia has itself supplanted rationality by ideology – or the dogma of a particular idea.

Objectivity, evidence and truth have been ditched for ideologies such as moral and cultural relativism, multiculturalism, feminism, environmentalism, anti-capitalism, anti-colonialism, transnationalism, anti-Americanism, anti-Zionism.

Across a wide range of such issues, it's no longer possible to have a rational discussion with the progressive intelligentsia, as on each issue there's only one story for them which brooks no dissent.

This is because, rather than arriving at a conclusion from the evidence, ideology inescapably wrenches the evidence to fit a prior idea. So ideology of any kind is fundamentally anti-reason and truth. And if there's no truth, there can be no lies either; truth and lies become merely 'alternative narratives'.

Moral and cultural relativism – the belief that subjective experience trumps moral authority and any notion of objectivity or truth – has turned right and wrong on their heads.

Because of the dominant belief in multiculturalism, victim culture and minority rights, self-designated victim groups — those without power — can never do wrong while majority groups can never do right. And Jews are not considered a minority because – in the hateful discourse of today – Jews are held to be all-powerful as they 'control' the media, Wall Street and America.

So the Muslim world cannot be held responsible for blowing people up as they are the third world victims of the west; so any atrocities they commit must be the fault of their victims; and so the US had it coming to it on 9/11. And in similar fashion, Israel can never be the victim of the Arab world; the murder of Israelis by the Arab world must be Israel's own fault.

So the way has been opened for mass credulity towards propaganda and fabrication. The custodians of reason have thus turned into destroyers of reason – centred in the crucible of reason, the university.

All these different ideologies are utopian; in their different ways, they all posit the creation of the perfect society. That is why they are considered 'progressive', and people on the progressive wing of politics sign up to them. That helps explain the distressing fact that so many Jews on the left also sign up to Israel-hatred, since they too sign up to such utopian ideologies.

But when utopias fail, as they always do, their adherents invariably select scapegoats on whom they turn to express their rage over the thwarting of the establishment of that

perfect society. And since utopia is all about realising the perfect society, these scapegoats become enemies of humanity.

For Greens, such enemies of humanity are capitalists; for anti imperialists, America; for militant atheists, religious believers. Anti-Zionists turn on Israel for thwarting the end to the 'Jewish question': the redemption of western guilt for the persecution of the Jews — a guilt which can never be redeemed as long as the wretched Jews continue to make themselves the targets of attack.

In short, therefore, the west cannot defend itself against the Islamic jihad because it can't itself even think straight any more.

But this lethal muddle in the minds of the intelligentsia must be viewed in turn in the context of a global diplomatic process which itself embodies upside-down thinking, which fans the flames of bigotry and defeatism – and in which Israel itself has been tragically, and suicidally, complicit.

It cannot be stressed enough that the reason why those promoting genocidal bigotry are winning is that the western world has not sought to defeat them but instead has appeased them from the very start.

In Palestine under the British Mandate, when the Arabs used terrorist violence to frustrate the will of the League of Nations in restoring the Jewish home, Britain rewarded them by offering them part of the Jews' legal and moral entitlement. When the Arabs started hijacking planes, the west's response was to invite them to the UN to plead their cause.

And despite the Arabs' repeated refusal to accept the two state solution, offered in the 1930s, in 2000 and under Ehud Olmert and their current refusal to negotiate at all, America punishes Israel for not making enough concessions to them — while giving a free pass to those who still refuse to accept Israel's right to exist.

It is astonishing that the west expects Israel to make any concessions to such attackers at all. After all, forcing a country which has endured more than six decades of existential siege to give any ground to its attackers amounts to forcing such a victim to surrender. This is expected by the civilised world of no other country.

Yet we are repeatedly told even by certain supporters of Israel that the Palestinians have a right to a state. Why? In any other conflict, such aggression forfeits any rights at all.

I am not saying that Israel should retain all the disputed territories; it may well be in its own interests to give some of them up. But the point is that Israel has made all the concessions over the years while the Arabs have made none – yet it is Israel, not the Arabs, that is under pressure from the west.

This is diplomacy as scripted by Franz Kafka.

The single greatest reason for the endless continuation of the Middle East impasse is that Britain, Europe and America have continuously rewarded the aggressor and either attacked the victim or left it twisting in the wind.

That's what needs to be said by Israel and its defenders. But Israel and its defenders themselves have been crippled or cowed by the false analysis of the enemy's narrative.

Even many of Israel's friends spout the demonstrably absurd proposition that a Palestine state would solve the problem, that the impediment to a Palestine state is the 'settlers', but that Israel is not taking action to remove the 'settlers' — and so therefore they too inescapably agree that Israel is the problem.

Israel and its defenders have been fighting on the wrong battleground: the one that has been chosen by its enemies. The Arabs brilliantly reconfigured the Arab war of extermination against Israel as the oppression by Israel of the Palestinians.

That has transformed Israel from victim to aggressor — the reversal of reality which lies at the very heart of the western obsession with the 'settlements' and the territories.

Yet since Oslo, Israel has meekly gone along with this mad pressure. It has never said it is totally unconscionable. It has never put the all-important argument from justice on its own account. So it has allowed its enemies to appropriate this argument mendaciously as their own. But if Israel doesn't make the case properly on its own behalf, how can anyone else do so?

To which Israel says realpolitik dictates it has to go along with the diplomatic game being played. But diplomatic realpolitik is what brought us all to this position — the brink of a terrible war with Iran which is treated by America with kid gloves while Israel is put under the cosh.

For the west to suck up to its enemies while bashing its friends like this is the diplomatic version of auto-immune disease. And eventually this disease will kill it.

What Israel has failed to recognise is that the battleground on which it is being forced to fight is not just military. It is also a battleground of the mind, and the strategy being used against it — and to which it needs to respond in kind — is psychological warfare.

The Arab and Muslim world long ago realised if it set the narrative in its own image, it would recruit millions of fanatics to its cause and also confuse and demoralise its victims. In this it has wildly succeeded.

There is therefore an overwhelming need for Israel to alter its strategy. Indeed, it needs to have a strategy.

And this brings us to perhaps the most difficult challenge in all of this — the fact that the role played by the Israel government is of critical importance. Unless it adopts the correct strategy, its defenders will remain crippled.

Yet any promising initiatives seem to fall victim to Israel's chaotic political structure, which appears to prevent the Prime Minister from being master in his own house. Good ideas are habitually destroyed by rampaging egos and turf wars between Israeli Cabinet ministers.

This is no way to run a chip shop, let alone a country under existential siege.

The fact remains that both Israel and diaspora Jews have to rethink. They have to realise they must start fighting on the battleground where the attack is actually being mounted against them. And the goal has to be to seize and retake the moral high ground.

This strategy requires two different tactics: one for those who are capable of rational thought, and another for those who are not.

The first group comprises those who are not irrational but merely desperately ignorant. Much of the obsession with Israel's behaviour is due to the widespread belief that its very existence is an aberration which, although understandable at the time it came into being, was a historic mistake.

People believe that Israel was created as a way of redeeming Holocaust guilt. Accordingly, they believe that European Jews with no previous connection to Palestine — which they believe was the historic homeland of Palestinian Muslims who had lived there since time immemorial — were transplanted there as foreign invaders, from where they drove out the indigenous Arabs into the West Bank and Gaza. These are territories which Israel is now occupying illegally oppressing the Palestinians and frustrating the creation of a state of Palestine which would end the conflict.

Of course every one of those assumptions is false. But from those false assumptions proceeds the understandable belief not just that Israel's behaviour is unjust, illegal and oppressive but that it is unjust and oppressive by virtue of its very existence.

For these people there is an urgent need for a proactive educational approach. No-one has ever told them that these beliefs are false — and when they are told, the effect is often transformative.

There is a desperate and urgent need to educate such people in Jewish and Middle East history; to enlighten them about the shameful role played by Britain in Palestine in tearing up its treaty obligations; to tell them that under international law Israel is entitled to the disputed territories — land within which Britain undertook to settle the Jews 'from the river to the sea' because of their historic and unique rights to that land.

That's all necessary for those who are still rational. For bigots, however, there is no point arguing with them. They are, by definition, beyond all reason. Their influence simply has to be destroyed. They have to be held to account for their lies and bigotry which should be forensically exposed.

So Israel and its defenders should be demanding of the world why it expects Israel alone to make compromises with people who have tried for nine decades to wipe out the Jewish presence in the land and are still firing rockets at it.

They should expose the pretence of Britain or European countries which claim to have Israel's security needs at heart but forbid it from using military means to defend itself; and which – as did the British Government recently – turn Israeli self-defence against the jihadi lynch-mob on board the Turkish terror ship Mavi Marmara into an attack to be condemned, or demand the opening of the border with Gaza which would allow in arms to kill more Israelis.

Israel and its defenders should be asking why so-called friends in the west want a Palestine state, since once the IDF depart the disputed territories they will become in short order yet another Iranian-backed Islamic terrorist entity which will pose a further threat not just to Israel but to the west.

They should be asking why the EU is continuing to fund the genocidal incitement against Jews promoted by the Palestine Authority.

They should be asking so-called 'progressives' – including Jewish 'progressives' — why they support the racist ethnic cleansing of every Jew from a future state of Palestine.

They should be asking them why they are not marching against Hamas on account of its tyrannical oppression of Palestinians in Gaza. Why they are ignoring Arab and Muslim persecution of women and homosexuals.

Why they are not mounting a boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Mahmoud Abbas's PA and Hamas, on account of Abbas's Holocaust denial and the clear evidence of continuation of Nazi Jew-hatred in a direct line of descent from predecessors who were Hitler's supporters in Palestine.

As for western Israel-bashers, Israel and its defenders should accuse them not of Jew-hating motives that cannot be proved but of absurdities and contradictions and untruths they cannot deny. They should ridicule them, humiliate them, destroy their reputations; boycott them, not invite them to social gatherings, show them disapproval and contempt. Treat them as pariahs. Turn their own weapons against them.

They should be telling the Jews 'own story of refugees and ethnic cleansing – the 800,000 Jews driven out of Arab lands after 1948, and who now make up more than half of Israel's

population. It's good to see that at last Israel is beginning to bring this to the world's attention. In Britain virtually no-one knows about it. At a stroke it takes the ground from under the feet of those demanding the 'right of return' for Arabs.

They should be holding Arab and Islamic democracy weeks on campus, to expose the oppression and persecution within that world against women, homosexuals and others.

They should be singling out the Anglican church and the revival of ancient theological Jew-hatred being spread within the Anglican world by the Palestinian Christians of the Sabeel centre.

At the same time, they should be focusing on their true friends within the Christian world, not just in America but also in Africa and Asia where there is an enormous reservoir of goodwill towards Israel which could be mobilised into a global fighting force.

They should be campaigning against the UN and the hijacking of international law and human rights by anti-western, anti-Jewish and anti-Christian ideologues.

They should be confronting head-on the false claim that bigotry is confined to the right. They should be pointing the finger at the 'progressive' left to show how it is actually supporting the mortal enemies not just of Israel but the west.

And they should be making this case to Israelis themselves, to counter the delegitimation and ignorance in Israeli universities and to educate the Israeli young in their own national history.

In other words, both Israel and diaspora Jews have to stop playing defence and go onto the offence. Israel has nothing to be defensive about or for which it needs to apologise. It is the enemies of Israel who are promoting injustice and the denial of international law and human rights. Playing defence intrinsically cedes ground to the enemy.

It is time for Israel and its defenders to stop conniving with that smokescreen for the war of annihilation being waged against Israel – the claim that the Middle East impasse would be solved by establishing a state of Palestine to which the settlements, and thus by extension Israel, are the obstacle. It is time for them to stop agreeing that the Jews are to blame for their own predicament.

Israel and its defenders need to make the argument from justice and reclaim that moral high ground from the enemies of Israel and the west, both at home — including within Israel — and abroad. It is those enemies who deny truth, justice and human rights. It is those enemies who should be in the dock. It is time to take the gloves off and put them there.

In short, Israel and its defenders must understand that the

tsunami of bigotry against Israel sweeping the west is intimately related to Israel's seriously flawed diplomatic strategy.

For years, Israel has been playing a defensive diplomatic game, which suggests inescapably that it has a case to answer. Such diplomatic cringing has badly undermined it and hugely strengthened its enemies, who are taking advantage of such weakness over and over again.

It's time for Israel to realise that military campaigns against its enemies are not enough. It has to call time on its false friends too, and start fighting both these and its more obvious enemies on the battleground of the mind.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=789>*

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## *If Israel Attacks*

By **Bruce Riedel** | August 24, 2010

IN A secret special national intelligence estimate (SNIE) in 1960, the American intelligence community concluded that "possession of a nuclear weapon capability . . . would clearly give Israel a greater sense of security, self-confidence, and assertiveness." For almost half a century since, Israel has possessed a nuclear-weapons monopoly in the Middle East, a monopoly it has fought hard to preserve.

Israel has never acknowledged publicly that it is a nuclear-weapons state, but it has also never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Now the Arabs, led by Egypt, are demanding that Israel do so or they will sabotage the future of the NPT regime. They rightly argue that Washington has a double standard when it comes to Israel's bomb: the NPT applies to all but Israel. Indeed, every Israeli prime minister since David Ben-Gurion has deliberately taken an evasive posture on the issue because they do not want to admit what everyone knows. Now that era may be coming to an end, raising fundamental questions about Israel's strategic situation in the region.

Perhaps never before has the government in Jerusalem felt under greater threat than with the Iranian atomic program. The temptation is to attack. It is an exercise in futility with likely disastrous results. The United States should take steps to assure Israel's deterrence remains strong, as this is the only way to both prevent an Israeli assault on Iran in the short term and to contain Tehran in the future.

FOR ANYONE in doubt of Israel's nuclear capabilities, first a few facts. Israel's longtime pursuit of the bomb is fairly well known; recent scholarship in Israel has clarified the details further still.

In 1952, Ben-Gurion set up the Israel Atomic Energy Commission—just four years after independence—and concluded a deal with France a few years later to secretly build the Dimona nuclear reactor. Shimon Peres, today Israel's president, was the key negotiator and architect of the deal. By 1960, as the declassified SNIE shows, the CIA had uncovered the project and was convinced that "plutonium production for weapons is at least one major purpose of this effort." President John F. Kennedy tried to persuade Israel to forego the bomb without success.

The program moved quickly, and as of 1974 the U.S. intelligence community believed "that Israel already has produced and stockpiled a small number of fission weapons."<sup>1</sup> Press reporting about the Israeli program became common in the 1970s.

An Israeli employee at Dimona, Mordechai Vanunu, told the London Sunday Times in 1986 that it was a bomb factory. He was then kidnapped by the Mossad and imprisoned in Israel. Vanunu revealed that the Dimona plant had produced enough plutonium to construct between one hundred and two hundred nuclear weapons. Some who interviewed him even suggest that Israel may have found his revelations a useful but deniable way to confirm the existence of its nuclear arsenal.<sup>2</sup>

The size of Israel's stockpile today (agreed upon by most think tanks around the world) is estimated at around eighty to one hundred nuclear weapons by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' annual survey of global nuclear arsenals. They can be delivered by aircraft or by multistage Jericho ballistic missiles. We are talking about a well-armed atomic state.

ISRAEL'S POSSESSION of the bomb has given it the self-confidence and assertiveness that the U.S. intelligence community expected it would in 1960. Prime minister after prime minister has been willing to take risks knowing Israel has the ultimate deterrent.

Research in Israel suggests Egypt's concern about the Dimona bomb was an important factor in Cairo forcing a crisis with Israel in May 1967. Publicly alarmed by the Dimona project, Egypt's reconnaissance flights over the nuclear site helped set the stage for the Six-Day War. And though it is very difficult to document just how much the bomb factored in decisions such as the Israeli preemptive strike on Egypt that June which won the war less than an hour after its start, or the decision in October 1973 not to preempt the Egyptian and Syrian attack on Yom Kippur, since Israeli leaders carefully avoid any discussion of their nuclear arsenal or its role in their strategy, it is obvious that possession of a nuclear capability must be a factor in the thinking of any state's leaders in developing their strategy and plans.

It is also abundantly clear that Israel's nuclear capability has not kept its enemies from attacking. Iranian-backed terrorist groups Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank have both fired rockets into Israel in two recent wars despite the country's possession of nuclear weapons that could obliterate them all. This too is no surprise. Other atomic-weapons states, including America, have found that their nuclear deterrents do not prevent conventional war or terrorism. But they can prevent massive retaliation.

The Israelis have threatened to use their capability at least once. In 1991, on the eve of the first Gulf War, then-Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff Ehud Barak told King Hussein of Jordan to pass the following message to Saddam Hussein at a secret meeting in England: "If one single chemical warhead falls on Israel, we'll hit Iraq with everything we have got. . . . look at your watch and forty minutes later an Iraqi city will be reduced to ashes."<sup>3</sup> It worked. Saddam fired conventionally armed warheads at Tel Aviv, Haifa and Dimona, but no chemicals.

ISRAEL SEES its nuclear monopoly as a key factor in its security. Successive Israeli governments have thus ensured that no other state in the Middle East becomes nuclear armed. Time and again, the challenge arises; time and again, the Israelis thwart the attempt. Egypt certainly tried to develop a bomb, but a combination of technical constraints, Israeli sabotage operations and the Soviets' unwillingness to share technology prevented the Egyptian program from advancing. President Anwar el-Sadat largely abandoned the effort once he made the decision to seek peace with Israel. Iraq was next.

On June 7, 1981, the Israeli air force attacked and destroyed Saddam's nuclear reactor at Tuwaitha in Operation Babylon, setting back its nuclear-weapons program several years. Ironically, Tuwaitha was also French supplied, and King Hussein saw the Israeli aircraft overfly his yacht on their way to and from the site. Two days later, Prime Minister Menachem Begin said publicly that "we shall not allow any enemy to develop weapons of mass destruction." The Begin doctrine would be accepted by his successors.

Though the Iraqi nuclear program was delayed, it was not eliminated, and so the Israelis helped to hamper it once again. After the liberation of Kuwait, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discovered that Iraq had recovered from the Israeli attack and had developed a highly advanced, secret centrifuge-enrichment project. Over the next several years Israel provided considerable intelligence assistance to UNSCOM and the IAEA as these agencies systematically destroyed the Iraqi program. By 1995, Israel was the most important single contributor among the dozens of UN member states that supplied information to UNSCOM according to those (myself included) who were involved in supporting the UN effort.<sup>4</sup> Such assistance was entirely appropriate and consistent with Israel's responsibilities as a UN member state, but it also helped ensure Israel kept its

monopoly on the bomb.

On September 6, 2007, the Israeli air force struck once more and destroyed a nuclear facility in Al Kibar, Syria. The Israeli government said almost nothing about the attack at the time and very little since. Unlike Begin, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert did not make it a public issue, and for their own reasons neither did the Syrians.

The CIA released a remarkable video about the facility in April 2008. According to the video, Al Kibar was a North Korean-built, gas-worked, graphite-moderated nuclear reactor intended to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. It was a clone of North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear reactor; only North Korea has built such a facility. Al Kibar was the product of a decade-old Syrian-Korean nuclear partnership, meaning it began under former-President Hafez al-Assad and continued under his son Bashar, the CIA reported. The video made use of both satellite and ground photography as well as other unspecified sources of information. The reactor was externally complete by August 2007. The video reported that since September 2006, Syria had taken great steps to conceal and cover up what was eventually destroyed by the Israelis.

The only exception to the rule is Pakistan—the one Muslim state which has developed a nuclear arsenal. But in this case we are talking about a geographically distant country, and one that has never participated in military operations against Israel. Islamabad developed its bomb primarily during the era of Mohammad Zia ul-Haq's dictatorship in the 1980s, when it was closely allied with the United States and fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan. A. Q. Khan, the father of the Pakistani bomb, has claimed that Zia warned Israel that if it tried to interfere with Pakistan's program he would destroy Tel Aviv. When Islamabad did test its bombs in 1998, it tried to argue that Israel was on the verge of attacking its nuclear facilities and the tests were in self-defense. The charade of blaming Israel fooled no one.

ISRAEL NOW faces the biggest-ever challenge to its monopoly on the bomb in the Middle East from Iran. For Israel, Tehran is a dangerous opponent, close and threatening. There is a virtually unanimous consensus in Israel that Iran cannot be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. From left to right, Israelis see an existential threat to their very survival. Current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu argued at the Brookings Institution's Saban Forum in Jerusalem in 2007 that Iran is a "crazy," even suicidal, state that will be prepared to sacrifice millions of its own citizens in a nuclear exchange with Israel.

Though other Israeli leaders are more cautious, even they are strongly determined to keep Israel's monopoly on nuclear weapons. Ephraim Sneh, former deputy defense minister and a much-decorated retired general in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), notes that "the most salient strategic threat to Israel's existence is Iran." They fear Israel's strategic room for maneuver in the region would be constrained

by an Iranian nuclear deterrent. The success of Hezbollah and Hamas in the last few years has only added to Israeli concern.

It is clear from statements of Israeli military and intelligence officials and numerous press leaks that planning for a military operation to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons is well under way in Israel. Defense Minister Ehud Barak has said that “the things that we do behind the scenes, far from the public eye, are far more important than the slogan charade,” implying that Israeli covert capabilities are already hard at work trying to cope with the Iranian threat, and preparing to attack it if they must. It is impossible to know what those plans entail in detail without access to the IDF’s classified documents, but Israelis say the mission is not an impossible one.

It is certainly a challenging one. Distance alone makes Iran a much more difficult target than Iraq or Syria. The most direct route from Israel to Iran’s Natanz facility is roughly 1,750 kilometers across Jordan and Iraq. The alternatives via Turkish airspace (over 2,200 kilometers) or Saudi airspace (over 2,400 kilometers) would also put the attack force into the skies of American allies equipped with American fighter aircraft. Moreover, unlike Iraq and Syria, but like Pakistan, the Iranian program is dispersed throughout several facilities and sites around the country, some of which are underground and hardened. An attack might require multiple missions over several days. Israel would have to assume some aircraft and pilots would be lost.

Though Israel is giving diplomacy and sanctions time to change Iranian behavior, few in Jerusalem expect the soft approach to work. Most also doubt the United States will use force. America already is engaged in two wars in the Middle East, and all the disadvantages of an Israeli attack apply to an American one as well. To keep its monopoly on the bomb Israel may well choose to strike.

AN ISRAELI attack on Iran is a disaster in the making. And it will directly impact key strategic American interests. Iran will see an attack as American supported if not American orchestrated. The aircraft in any strike will be American-produced, -supplied and -funded F-15s and F-16s, and most of the ordnance will be from American stocks. Washington’s \$3 billion in assistance annually makes possible the IDF’s conventional superiority in the region.

Iran will almost certainly retaliate against both U.S. and Israeli targets. To demonstrate its retaliatory prowess, Iran has already fired salvos of test missiles (some of which are capable of striking Israel), and Iranian leaders have warned they would respond to an attack by either Israel or the United States with attacks against Tel Aviv, U.S. ships and facilities in the Persian Gulf, and other targets. Even if Iran chooses to retaliate in less risky ways, it could respond indirectly by encouraging Hezbollah attacks against Israel and Shia militia attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq, as well

as terrorist attacks against American and Israeli targets in the Middle East and beyond.

America’s greatest vulnerability would be in Afghanistan. Iran could easily increase its assistance to the Taliban and make the already-difficult Afghan mission much more complicated. Western Afghanistan is especially vulnerable to Iranian mischief, and NATO has few troops there to cover a vast area. President Obama would have to send more, not fewer, troops to fight that war.

Making matters worse, considering the likely violent ramifications, even a successful Israeli raid would only delay Iran’s nuclear program, not eliminate it entirely. In fact, some Israeli intelligence officials suspect that delay would only be a year or so. Thus the United States would still need a strategy to deal with the basic problem of Iran’s capabilities after an attack, but in a much more complicated diplomatic context since Tehran would be able to argue it was the victim of aggression and probably would renounce its NPT commitments. Support for the existing sanctions on Iran after a strike would likely evaporate.

The United States needs to send a clear red light to Israel. There is no option but to actively discourage an Israeli attack. There is precedent for Washington telling Israel not to use force against a military threat. In the 1991 Gulf War, President George H. W. Bush pressed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir not to target Iraqi Scud missile launchers that were attacking Israel. Most importantly, Bush refused to give the Israelis the iff codes (encrypted signals to identify aircraft as “friend or foe”) and approval to enter Iraqi airspace, thereby indicating that Israeli aircraft would be flying into harm’s way. Israel’s preferred option of a limited ground-force incursion into western Iraq was also turned down. Of course, in 1991 we were at war with Iraq and committed to stepping up our own attacks on Iraqi Scuds, but the point remains—America does have influence and it should be wielded.

PERSUADING ISRAEL not to attack Iran really means convincing Israel that now is the time to give up its regional nuclear monopoly. If we are going to do so, that means enhancing Israel’s deterrence posture. This is the only way Israel can feel (and will be) safe from an Iranian nuclear threat.

Iran will be subject to the same deterrence system that other nuclear-weapons states have accommodated since 1945: it will try to use its nuclear status to intimidate non-nuclear-weapons nations but will avoid conflict that could escalate into an atomic exchange with another nuclear power. Without doubt, throughout its history the Islamic Republic has behaved very disagreeably, but it has been careful to avoid taking actions that would lead to catastrophic consequences.

In the defining event of modern U.S.-Iran relations, for example, the hostage crisis of 1979–1981, Tehran acted in

ways that were in clear violation of international law, but when it perceived a given course would provoke a massive violent American response, it desisted. In the summer of 1980 Iranian leaders repeatedly threatened to put the American hostages on trial for espionage. President Jimmy Carter made clear that any trials would produce a military response and Iran retreated. In the 1988 undeclared naval war in the Persian Gulf between the United States and Iran over reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, Iran attacked U.S. Navy ships but was careful to keep the conflict from escalating into a full-scale war. When the USS Vincennes inadvertently shot down an Iran Air civilian airliner, Ayatollah Khomeini sensed the conflict was getting out of control and agreed to a cease-fire with Iraq and the United States.

Throughout the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran also chose to avoid actions that would cross WMD thresholds. It was Iraq that first used chemical weapons on the battlefield, not Iran, and it was Iraq that first used missiles against Iranian cities. In the mid-1990s, when the United States determined Iran was behind the terrorist attack on the U.S. Air Force barracks at Khobar, Saudi Arabia, and warned Iran that any further attacks would prompt military retaliation, Iran desisted from carrying out operations on American military facilities in the Gulf and elsewhere. Today Iran is careful to limit its support of anti-American insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan to low-intensity conflict and asymmetric warfare to avoid a major American military response. Contrary to Netanyahu's cries, Iran is not a crazy state. A nuclear security guarantee to Israel, if backed by a credible arsenal, will deter Tehran.

IN SUCH a dire (but manageable) situation, the United States needs to bolster Israel's capabilities now. The administration should take another look at extending the American nuclear umbrella. It is an idea that has long been floated. At the Camp David summit in 2000, then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak first raised the idea of a U.S.-Israeli mutual-defense treaty to provide Israel with a nuclear guarantee against Iran while sitting in a meeting with then-President Bill Clinton and two note takers (me and an Israeli). Clinton was positive about the idea if the summit succeeded. The proposal died when the Israeli-Palestinian peace process collapsed. But it is worth taking another look. And it is a policy prescription not too difficult to employ.

Of course, Israel's own nuclear arsenal should be sufficient to deter Iran, but an American nuclear guarantee would add an extra measure of assurance to Israelis. If the United States guarantees Israel a nuclear umbrella, then Iran knows no matter what damage it may inflict on Israel, Washington will be able to retaliate with overwhelming force. Iran would have no delivery system capable of striking back at the U.S. homeland. It would be the target of both whatever residual capability Israel retained and the vast American nuclear arsenal. That is a deterrent indeed.

It would be made even stronger if the administration could develop a multinational nuclear deterrent for Israel by making Israel a member of the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization. Under Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty, an attack on any member is an attack on the whole. As a NATO member, Israel would automatically enjoy the same nuclear umbrella as the existing twenty-eight members. Israel is already a member of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue and conducts limited military exercises with several NATO partners besides the United States, notably including both Greece and Turkey.

Of course, getting Israel into NATO would be a very hard sell, as many of the European allies believe Israel has done too little to bring about peace with its Arab neighbors and would probably condition support for Israeli membership on concrete and public moves toward a final peace agreement. European public opinion is increasingly wary of enlarging NATO in any direction, and many would find Israel an unattractive ally which could commit Europeans to fighting Arabs and Persians. In the wake of May's Gaza flotilla incident, Turkey might veto Israeli membership.

This is why, in the meantime, the administration should go another step and actually assist Israel in developing its own second-strike capabilities further. Already the United States has been deeply involved in building Israel's defense against an Iranian missile strike. For almost two decades the Pentagon has been working closely with Israel to perfect the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic-missile (ATBM) system. The two countries have shared extensive technology on the question of ATBMs, including integrating Israel into the most advanced American early-warning radar systems to provide the earliest possible alert of an incoming attack. This defensive cooperation should be continued and enhanced.

The next step would be to ensure Israel has the delivery systems that would safeguard a second-strike capability. The F-15I probably already does so for the immediate future, but it is worth examining the wisdom of providing the F-22 stealth aircraft to the IDF as an even-more-sophisticated attack system that would be able to assure Israel's deterrence far into the future. Prime Minister Barak raised this issue with President Clinton at the Camp David summit in 2000, and it too should be reexamined. We might look at providing Israel with advanced cruise-missile technology or even nuclear-powered submarines with missile capabilities to enhance its capacity to launch from platforms at sea.

THE ERA of Israel's monopoly on nuclear weapons in the Middle East is probably coming to an end. Israel will still have a larger arsenal than any of its neighbors, including Iran, for years if not decades. It will face threats of terror and conventional attack, but it already faces those. With American help it can enhance its deterrence capabilities considerably. It has no reason to lose its self-confidence. But to avoid the potential for all-out war not only between Israel and Iran but also between the United States and the Islamic Republic, Washington needs to act now. Only by enhancing Israel's nuclear capability will America be able to strongly and credibly deter an Israeli attack on Tehran's facilities.

The clock is ticking on the IDF's plans. And the lives of hundreds, if not millions, are at stake.

Bruce Riedel is a senior fellow in the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. A career CIA officer, he has advised four presidents on Middle East and South Asian issues in the White House on the staff of the NSC.

1 U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Special National Intelligence Estimate: Prospects for Further Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, SNIE Number 4-1-74, August 23, 1974, declassified DocID: 1472492.

2 This argument was made by the expert the London Sunday Times called in to debrief Vanunu, Frank Barnaby, in his book *The Invisible Bomb: The Nuclear Arms Race in the Middle East* (London: Taurus, 1989).

3 See Avi Shlaim, *Lion Of Jordan: The Life of King Hussein in War and Peace* (London: Penguin, 2007): 508.

4 Barton Gellman, "Israel Gave Key Help to UN Team in Iraq," *Washington Post*, September 29, 1998.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://nationalinterest.org/article/israel-attacks-3907>*

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## *The Danish witch-hunt*

By Melanie Phillips - *The Spectator* 26 January 2011.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote here about the witch-hunt in Denmark against Lars Hedegaard, President of the Danish Free Press Society and The International Free Press Society. Along with a Danish MP, Jesper Langballe, Hedegaard has been prosecuted for 'racism' after he drew attention to 'honour' violence among Muslim families. He is now on trial, and this is the speech he made to the court in Frederiksberg two days ago. Here's a flavour:

**(Ed: *The full speech is published overleaf*).**

My counsel has instructed me that in cases brought under Article 266b, the only thing that determines whether one is convicted or not is a matter of the perceived insult whereas one is barred from proving the truth of the statement. The article deals with public statements whereby a group of people are 'threatened, insulted or degraded'. But as my lawyer has already noted, I have made no public statement. When it comes to Article 266b, there is no equality before the law. I am daily insulted and degraded by something I read or hear and I am sure that most people have the same experience... As jurisprudence shows, not only in Denmark but in all European countries with similar insult articles in their penal code, these insult articles open the gates to inequality before the law. There are insulted who enjoy the tender graces of the public prosecutor, and there are the less favoured who must endure insults directed at them.

...What does the public prosecutor hope to accomplish by my conviction? He may drag me in front of a court. He may portray me as a racist, a right-wing extremist and a non-human. He may do the same to hundreds and thousands of others who insist on their right of free speech to describe Islam and Muslim culture just like we would deal with any other phenomenon in a free society.

...In conclusion permit me to mention the true victims in this case. The public prosecutor has not considered the 20,000 women in the Muslim world who every year fall victim to so-called honour killings, or the 50,000 Muslim girls in Germany who the federal police consider threatened with genital mutilation, nor the hundreds of thousands of little

girls in Muslim majority societies who have been sold into marriage with much older men and who must therefore live a life of constant rape, while Islamic scholars preach that this is in complete accordance with religious orthodoxy.

I hope that the judge as opposed to the public prosecutor will consider the fate of these unfortunate human beings. Likewise I hope that the judge will realise the absurdity of prosecuting me for statements made within the confines of my own four walls.

As Mark Steyn notes in a fine and savage piece about this obscenity in Denmark:

His is merely the latest in a long line of the western world's new heresy trials --Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff in Austria, Geert Wilders and Gregorius Nekschot in the Netherlands, Michel Houllebecq in France, Michael Smith in Australia, Ezra Levant and me in Canada.

As in Canada, as in the Netherlands, so in Denmark the defendants in such cases are informed that the truth is no defense. ...That's why these are heresy trials, and only the first of many. The prosecutors think Hedegaard, Langballe, Wilders, Mrs Sabaditsch-Wolff et al are apostates from the new state religion of multiculturalism. Thuggish Muslim lobby groups, on the other hand, consider them heretics against Islam. In practice, it makes little difference, and multiculturalism is merely an interim phase, a once useful cover for an Islamic imperialism so confident it now barely needs one. The good news is that European prosecutors are doing such a grand job with their pilot program of show trials you'll hardly notice the difference when sharia is formally instituted. ...

This trial shames Denmark. If Lars Hedegaard is convicted, another light in Europe will have been extinguished, and the remainder will follow, very fast. In their folly, the multicultural enforcers are setting the stage for great violence, and a descent into barbarism.

Read Hedegaard's speech, and weep for Europe.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6650449/the-danish-witchhunt.shtml>*

# Lars Hedegaard: Defending Free Speech from Western Enablers of Totalitarian Islam

by Andrew G. Bostom - 27 January 2011

From Milton to Hedegaard:

“Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.”

The Kafka-esque trial proceedings against Danish journalist and historian Lars Hedegaard today included a final statement by the defendant. Next Monday (January 31, 2011) the (pre-ordained) verdict will be handed down.

What follows are Mr. Hedegaard’s courageous and illuminating, if depressing, remarks.

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My counsel has instructed me that in cases brought under Article 266b, the only thing that determines whether one is convicted or not is a matter of the perceived insult whereas one is barred from proving the truth of the statement.

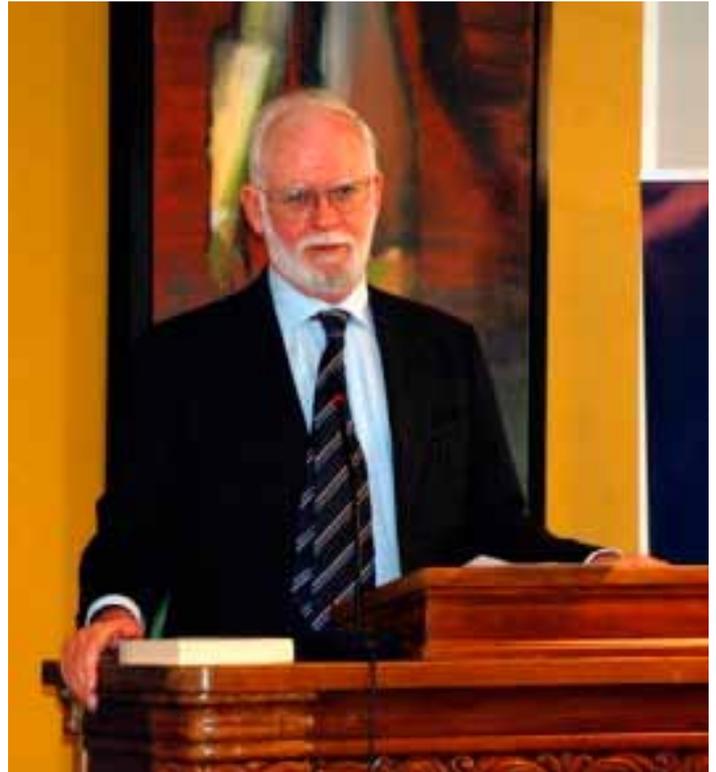
The article deals with public statements whereby a group of people are “threatened, insulted or degraded”. But as my lawyer has already noted, I have made no public statement.

When it comes to Article 266b, there is no equality before the law. I am daily insulted and degraded by something I read or hear and I am sure that most people have the same experience.

For example, I am not only insulted and degraded and threatened, but shaken to the core of my being when I hear a well known Danish imam state that, of course, sharia law – Muslim law – will be instituted as Denmark’s official legal regime when there are a sufficient number of Muslims. I strongly urge our country’s jurists to get acquainted with the implications of the sharia, not only for Muslims but equally for non-Muslims, who – if they are lucky – will be reduced to a life as subhuman outlaws. And if one cannot be bothered with tedious dissertations, one may take a look at the legal order pertaining in areas where the sharia holds sway either de jure or de facto. One will then encounter a legal order the like of which we have not known since the passing of the Law of Jutland in 1241 and probably not before.

But the imam wants this disorder introduced in the country where I was born. And I must admit that I am troubled. I am also troubled when said imam defends the killing of Muslims who have left Islam and when he confirms that women and men guilty of fornication must be pelted with stones until they are dead. He thinks that is God’s commandment, which he cannot ignore.

Should I go to the police and tell them how threatened, insulted and degraded I feel? I wouldn’t dream of it for I



support free speech. And if free speech has any real meaning, it must also – and in particular – protect statements people do not want to hear. Regardless of how revolting such statements may be.

Besides it would be futile to report the imam and those similarly disposed to the police for the public prosecutor would never indict them. Otherwise it would have happened long ago.

As jurisprudence shows, not only in Denmark but in all European countries with similar insult articles in their penal code, these insult articles open the gates to inequality before the law. There are insulted who enjoy the tender graces of the public prosecutor, and there are the less favoured who must endure insults directed at them.

But perhaps this is to do with the notion that one must not insult minorities whereas minorities are free to insult majorities? If that is the explanation of why I am in court today, it is a peculiar one. In 2002, the imam I have already mentioned explained to his flock that all Muslims in the world – 1,6 billion or whatever the number is – constitute one people, one umma. The same thing is emphasised by the Islamic Conference Organisation, OIC, encompassing 57 member countries. In other words, the five million non-Muslim Danes are a microscopic minority but nevertheless a minority whose members stand to be punished if they make statements on cultural norms in the umma.

What does the public prosecutor hope to accomplish by my conviction? He may drag me in front of a court. He may portray me as a racist, a right-wing extremist and a non-

human. He may do the same to hundreds and thousands of others who insist on their right of free speech to describe Islam and Muslim culture just like we would deal with any other phenomenon in a free society.

But what will he have gained? Does the public prosecutor believe that people will start talking about Islam and Muslim culture with greater respect and reverence? Perhaps in public because people fear fines and jail. But what will people say to each other when they think that the thought police are not listening?

And what does the public prosecutor imagine people will think of a religion, a political ideology and a culture that need the protection of legislators, police, the public prosecutor and the courts because they cannot defend themselves in a free and open debate?

In 1644, when the English parliament considered the institution of religious censorship, that Christian defender of free speech John Milton wrote: "There is yet behind of what I purpos'd to lay open, the incredible losse, and detriment that this plot of licencing puts us to, more then if som enemy at sea should stop up all our hav'ns and ports, and creeks, it hinders and retards the importation of our richest Marchandize, Truth."

And further:

"There be who perpetually complain of schisms and sects, and make it such a calamity that any man dissents from their maxims. 'Tis their own pride and ignorance which causes

the disturbing, who neither will hear with meeknes, nor can convince, yet all must be suppresst which is not found in their Syntagma."

Milton concluded with this exhortation:

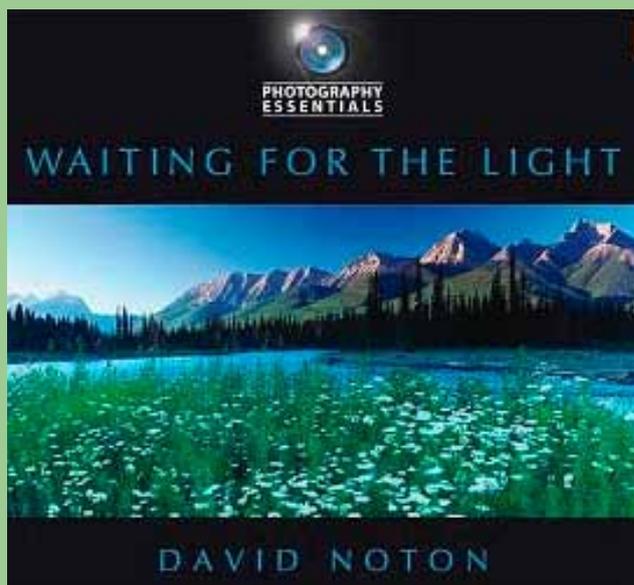
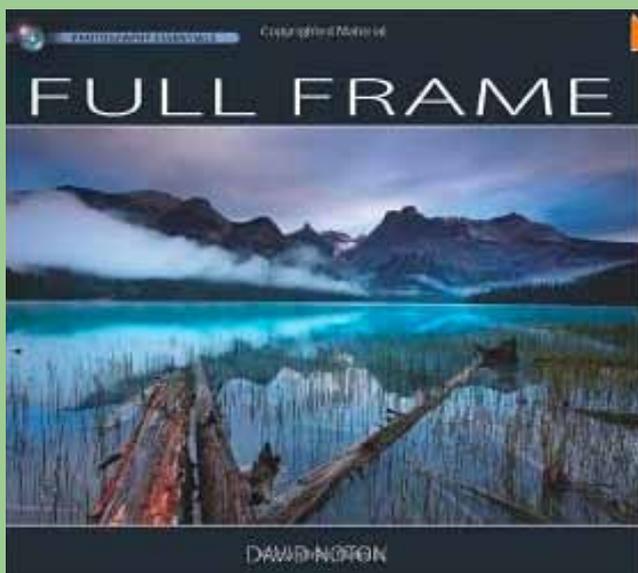
"Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties."

In conclusion permit me to mention the true victims in this case. The public prosecutor has not considered the 20,000 women in the Muslim world who every year fall victim to so-called honour killings, or the 50,000 Muslim girls in Germany who the federal police consider threatened with genital mutilation, nor the hundreds of thousands of little girls in Muslim majority societies who have been sold into marriage with much older men and who must therefore live a life of constant rape, while Islamic scholars preach that this is in complete accordance with religious orthodoxy.

I hope that the judge as opposed to the public prosecutor will consider the fate of these unfortunate human beings. Likewise I hope that the judge will realise the absurdity of prosecuting me for statements made within the confines of my own four walls. For ten months the prosecutor has been aware of the conditions under which I spoke. That has not affected him in the slightest. I hope it will affect the judge.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://bigpeace.com/abostom/2011/01/27/lars-hedegaard-defending-free-speech-from-western-enablers-of-totalitarian-islam/>*

## *Favourite Books*



If, like me, you need to put some inspiration into your photographs, or just want to get some ideas on ways you can take better photographs during your holidays, then these two books by world renowned landscape photographer, David Noton are a must. I bought them recently and have enjoyed every minute I've spent reading, and learning from them - and will do for a long time to come. David Noton has his own website at URL: <http://www.davidnoton.com> where you can view many of his photographs and read more about him and his work. However, buy the books from Amazon, where they are much cheaper.

# Police Join the Protesters in Tunisia

## — How This Provides Lessons for Sri Lanka

By John J. Xenakis - 26 January 2011

“Tunisia-style uprisings” have been occurring, to a greater or lesser extent, in Algeria, Egypt, Yemen and Albania, in the wake of Tunisia’s “Jasmine Revolution” that has forced the dictatorial former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to flee the country. We can watch each of these countries in the next few days to see whether the uprisings fill expand or fizzle.

In Tunisia itself, the protests have taken a very significant turn: Tunisia’s police joined with the protesters in anti-government demonstrations, according to Bloomberg. This means that the police will not be firing bullets at the protesters, which means that the protests can continue as political protests, rather than as bloody massacres. Therefore, this is very good news for the Tunisians and for the world.



*Student blocks row of tanks — ‘tank man’ — in China’s Awakening climax in Tiananmen Square 1989*

From the point of view of generational theory, Tunisia is currently going through a particular passage known as an “Awakening climax.” This is the climax of a political battle between the older generation of survivors of the previous crisis war, and the younger generation of kids growing up after the war. The Awakening climax resolves the political battle, and identifies a generational “winner.” (See “Generational Dynamics forecasting methodology” for more information.)

America’s last Awakening climax was the resignation of President Richard Nixon, in 1974, and event that clearly identified the young Boomers as political victors over the aging GI and Silent generations that had survived World War II.

When a country’s older generation “wins,” it’s usually a disaster for the country. If the older generation “wins,” then it does so by morphing the “horizontal” split between old and young generations into a “vertical” fault line split between different ethnic or demographic groups. That’s what happened, for example, in China’s Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, in Burma’s 8/8/88 revolution and in Thailand last year. In those cases, the police turned on the young demonstrators and massacred them, creating a permanent violent fault line that will eventually lead to civil war.

Tunisia’s last generational crisis war was the Algerian war of independence that ended in 1962. Since that was not a civil war for Tunisia, there is no clearly defined ethnic

fault line in Tunisia. If there were, then the police would be taking one side or the other in the ethnic conflict (to prevent a new civil war), and the war survivors in the government would clamp down on the demonstrations violently, as we described in China, Burma and Thailand.

But in Tunisia, the police are joining with the demonstrators. This indicates that the conflict is remaining as a genuine generational split, and will be resolved by a victory by the younger generation, with a good chance for the survival of Tunisia’s constitutional government.

This is all very exciting from the point of view of Generational Dynamics, because it provides for further analysis and development of some generational theories.

I’m often asked a question like, “Generational Dynamics is great, but what good is it? How can it be used to set policy and improve things?”

**In most countries today, it’s too late. Poor policies have led to decades of unmet needs, unpaid bills, and unresolved problems that can no longer be resolved. We’re headed for a major financial crisis and a new world war that can no longer be prevented. (Ed: My emphasis).**

But in Sri Lanka, it's not too late, since their generational crisis civil war has just ended, and positions are still flexible. Here there is a clear example of how understanding generational theory can lead to better policy positions.

When the Sri Lanka civil war was reaching a climax, every analyst I read, including at Stratfor, NY Times, BBC, etc., said that an army victory over the Tamil Tigers would not mean an end to the war and terrorism, since it had already gone on for many years.

I predicted, based on generational theory, that the defeat of the Tamils would be similar to the defeat of the Nazis and Japanese in 1945, and the violence and terrorism would stop. The defeat of the Tamils would be the bloody climax of a generational crisis war, and the war would be over for good.

Sure enough, that's exactly what happened, and the Tamil Tigers renounced violence shortly after the war ended.

Now here's the point: A new civil war in Sri Lanka is IMPOSSIBLE at this time. And I don't mean that it's unlikely, or that it won't happen if the government does xyz, or it won't happen if the United States does xyz. I'm saying that it WON'T happen, no matter what anyone does. It can't happen, any more than a river can flow uphill. This is a conclusion of generational theory.

Now, if the Sinhalese government understood that, then they could be very generous with the Tamils, and unify the country, just as the U.S. became unified after the American Civil War.

But if, as I believe to be the case, the government officials believe that one wrong move will trigger more terrorist attacks and another civil war, then they'll adopt the wrong policies — very oppressive policies, very discriminatory policies — with the purpose of not triggering a new civil war.

By adopting these oppressive policies, they'll lay the foundation for the kind of ethnic hatreds that will lead to increased violence starting in 15-20 years, when the first generation of post-war children become of age. And their Awakening climax, unlike Tunisia's, will end badly. So, by not understanding generational theory, they'll produce exactly the results that they're trying to avoid.

This is a clear cut difference in policy, where understanding generational theory can be used to prevent violence, oppression and discrimination. Unfortunately, politicians only focus on the politics of the day, and never think about what's really going on.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://bigpeace.com/jxenakis/2011/01/26/police-join-the-protesters-in-tunisia-how-this-provides-lessons-for-sri-lanka/#more-72960>*

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## *Britain's new McCarthyites*

by **Melanie Phillips**  
The Daily Mail - 24 January 2011

Here's a question shortly coming to an examination paper near you. What have mathematics, geography or science to do with homosexuality?

Nothing at all, you say? Zero marks for you, then.

For, mad as this may seem, schoolchildren are to be bombarded with homosexual references in maths, geography and science lessons as part of a Government-backed drive to promote the gay agenda.

In geography, for example, they will be told to consider why homosexuals move from the countryside to cities. In maths, they will be taught statistics through census findings about the number of homosexuals in the population.

In science, they will be directed to animal species such as emperor penguins and sea horses, where the male takes a lead role in raising its young.

Alas, this gay curriculum is no laughing matter. Absurd as it sounds, this is but the latest attempt to brainwash children with propaganda under the camouflage of education. It is an abuse of childhood.

And it's all part of the ruthless campaign by the gay rights lobby to destroy the very concept of normal sexual behaviour.

Not so long ago, an epic political battle raged over teaching

children that homosexuality was normal. The fight over Section 28, as it became known, resulted in the repeal of the legal requirement on schools not to promote homosexuality.

As the old joke has it, what was once impermissible first becomes tolerated and then becomes mandatory.

And the other side of that particular coin, as we are now discovering, is that values which were once the moral basis for British society are now deemed to be beyond the pale.

What was once an attempt to end unpleasant attitudes towards a small sexual minority has now become a kind of bigotry in reverse.

Expressing what used to be the moral norm of Western civilisation is now not just socially impermissible, but even turns upstanding people into lawbreakers.

The bed and breakfast hoteliers Peter and Hazelmary Bull — who were recently sued for turning away two homosexuals who wished to share a bedroom — were but the latest religious believers to fall foul of the gay inquisition merely for upholding Christian values.

Catholic adoption agencies were forced to shut down after they refused to place children with same-sex couples. Marriage registrars were forced to step down for refusing to officiate at civil unions.

Christian street preacher Dale McAlpine was charged with

making threatening, abusive or insulting remarks for saying homosexuality was a sin to passers-by in Workington, Cumbria. In the event, the case against him was dropped and he won a police apology and compensation.

It seems that just about everything in Britain is now run according to the gay agenda. For in addition to the requirement for gay-friendly hotels, gay adoption and gay mathematics now comes, apparently, gay drugs policy.

Last week, the Government announced the appointment of some new members to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, who included a GP by the name of Hans-Christian Raabe.

Dr Raabe has long maintained a close interest in drug policy, on which he has robustly traditional views. He has spoken out in favour of abstinence-based approaches and criticised the flawed logic behind the claim that it is the illegality of drugs such as cannabis that is the problem.

Considering the unhappy fact that over recent years many on the Advisory Council have taken the ultra-liberal view that treating drug-users is the priority rather than reducing their numbers, Dr Raabe's membership of the council was very welcome news.

But as soon as his appointment was announced, Dr Raabe was targeted in an astonishing attack.

For he is also a leading member of the Manchester-based Maranatha Community, which is dedicated to re-establishing Christian values in society and which campaigns against gay rights.

It was the BBC's Home Editor Mark Easton who led the charge. On his BBC News blog, he announced that Dr Raabe's views on homosexuality were causing such fury among (anonymous) members of the Advisory Council that at least one member was threatening to step down.

Well may you rub your eyes at that. Just what have his views on homosexuality got to do with illegal drugs? Well, according to Easton, more than one member of the council is gay or lesbian.

How extraordinary. Just imagine if the boot were on the other foot and Dr Raabe had refused to serve on the drugs council because some of its members were gay. He would be out on his ear within the hour.

How reprehensible of the BBC to lend itself to such a partisan attack. Unsurprisingly, Easton's remarks provoked more advocates of drug liberalisation to join in the blood-sport of baiting Dr Raabe.

Yesterday's Observer listed among his crimes certain briefing documents he had produced for MPs identifying the benefits of marriage in fighting drug addiction.

He had written, for example, that marriage is associated

with greater happiness, less depression, less alcohol abuse and less smoking. But what's the problem with that? It happens to be true.

The Observer reported that drugs charities and experts expressed surprise that someone of such 'stringent opinions' could be appointed to the Advisory Council.

Clearly, 'stringent opinions' in favour of drug liberalisation are considered entirely appropriate in such circles; but anyone who goes against the politically-correct grain on homosexuality or who has robust Christian views must be considered a bigot and thus have no place in public life.

In fact, anyone truly concerned to end the scourge of drug abuse should be delighted that at last there is a strong voice for common sense and morality on the Advisory Council.

Penalising religious people for speaking and acting in accordance with their beliefs is neither liberal nor tolerant. It is behaviour more commonly associated with totalitarian dictatorships.

It must be said that many gay people are themselves uneasy or even appalled by this increasingly oppressive use of their cause. Privately, many will say that all they ever want is to live free from discrimination and not to provoke discrimination against others.

After the case of Christian street preacher Dale McAlpine, the gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell spoke out in support of the rights of people to express their views against homosexuality — although, by contrast, he also endorsed the lawsuit against B&B owners Peter and Hazelmary Bull on the grounds that the equality laws should apply to all.

Of course, for people such as the Bulls, George Orwell's famous observation that some are more equal than others is all too painfully true. Indeed, the obsession with equality has now reached ludicrous, as well as oppressive, proportions.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has paid £100,000 for a report into how efforts to boost Britain's coastal fish stocks would affect minority communities including the Chinese, homosexuals and Welsh speakers.

And the Department for Transport issued a study looking at harassment and discrimination on ships and hovercraft against a range of groups, including transsexuals.

Many different groups are involved in promoting this crazy, upside-down world of the equality agenda. But the seemingly all-powerful gay rights lobby carries all before it. If it isn't careful, it risks turning gay people from being the victims of prejudice into Britain's new McCarthyites.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=792>*

# *The west's cultural totalitarians*

by **Melanie Phillips**

The Daily Mail, 31 January 2011

One week ago, I suggested on this page that some gay people were in danger of turning into the new McCarthyites by demonising and attempting to silence all who disagreed with the gay rights agenda.

Given the point I was making, it followed that I was expecting a reaction which would amply bear out the truth of what I had written. The response, however, exceeded even my expectations.

For during the past seven days, I have been subjected to an extraordinarily vicious outpouring of hate and incitement to violence, via email, the internet and in the mainstream media, and much worse besides.

In my article, I expressed concern that attempting to bar a Christian GP from the government's advisory council on drugs because of his views on homosexuality, bombarding the school curriculum with irrelevant gay references, and prosecuting Christian hoteliers for refusing to accommodate gay men in the same bedroom were examples of a frightening intolerance.

The response to this warning against an attempt by the gay lobby to silence dissent? An eruption of tweets on Twitter suggesting that I should be killed. Yes, really.

Apologies if the hideous and obscene language shocks some readers, but examples of such tweets included: 'Someone just kill Melanie Phillips please'; 'your homophobic rant equals that which comes out of a dog's rectum. Kill yourself you \*\*\*\*'; and 'throw her in the Thames'.

And emails to me included such epithets as 'vile, poisonous, horrible old woman', and 'people like you should be silenced as you insight (sic) bigotry and fear. Go and suck a tail pipe, get cancer, GET RAN OVER BY A TRAIN. I hope your \*\*\*\*\* house burns down'.

All this because, having acknowledged the legitimacy of trying to protect gay people from true prejudice and discrimination, I suggested that Christians should not face discrimination against their beliefs!

If the gay lobby had set about trying to prove my point, it could hardly have done a better job. Indeed, the total inability of those who subjected me to such abuse to realise that they are, in fact, spewing out the very hatred, intolerance and incitement to violence of which they are accusing others would be hilarious were it not so terrifying.

For this is nothing less than a totalitarian mindset which turns truth, justice and rationality inside out. In the Independent, gay columnist Johann Hari furiously demanded why I

thought it was 'wrong to protect gay children' from bullying. Eh? What on earth was he talking about?

What I actually wrote about was the grossly inappropriate flooding of school subjects such as maths or science with irrelevant gay references. Yet he accused me, in effect, not only of being indifferent to the bullying of gay children but of fomenting attitudes which cause them to be bullied.

But there is nothing to suggest that anything I have ever written has had anything to do with the victimisation of a gay child — let alone other supposed crimes Hari hurled my way (if he'd had a kitchen sink to hand, doubtless he'd have hurled that, too).

If anything incites hatred, this vicious attack is surely it — a graphic advertisement of the totalitarianism of which I was warning. For such libellous and Orwellian distortions help create the witch-hunt atmosphere (indeed, in several messages I was actually called a 'witch') that leads directly to the open incitement to violence and murder on such appalling display during the past week.

The key distinction I have always made is between gay people — against whom I have no harsh feelings — and the gay political agenda. (And I seem to recall that once upon a time Hari himself paid tribute to me for making just such a distinction.)

I am firmly against all bullying and prejudice. It has always seemed to me quite wrong that people should become targets of prejudice or discrimination on account of their private sexual behaviour.

After all, it is the essence of a liberal society that people can behave as they wish in private — so long as others are not hurt by it.

The key word, however, is 'private'. And the problem with the gay agenda, it has always seemed to me, is that it has sought instead to commandeer the public sphere by dictating a profound change in the moral norms of our society — indeed, to destroy the very idea of moral norms at all.

It is this view that has produced the foaming hysteria. 'How dare you say we are trying to destroy the idea that heterosexuality is normal — of course, gays are just as normal,' goes the cry.

But, of course, once again they are merely making my point for me. What they also fail to acknowledge is that I have exactly the same concern about other aspects of 'victim culture', such as family lifestyle choices, multiculturalism or militant feminism.

Whether it is dealing with lone parents, women or gays, 'victim culture' holds that all these groups are entitled to

exactly the same outcomes in life — children, promotion, equal pay or marriage benefits — as anyone else, regardless of the fact that their circumstances may be very different.

Because this thinking starts from the premise that such groups are the victims of those with power — whether these are men or heterosexuals — their members are therefore deemed to do no wrong, while the so-called ‘victimisers’ can do no right.

By definition, therefore, victim culture and the ‘rights agenda’ that fuels it turns truth and lies, victim and aggressor, fairness and injustice upside down.

To oppose the gay rights agenda no more means that one is anti-gay than to oppose multiculturalism or extreme feminism means one is anti-black or anti-woman.

What really alarms me, and the reason why I bang on about the dangers of these different rights agendas, is that they are eroding the bedrock values that underpin our free, tolerant and liberal society.

By overturning moral norms and hijacking language in this way, they are hollowing out our culture. More frightening still, as has been so graphically demonstrated by the reaction to my article, they are also rendering people increasingly incapable of rational thought.

And that makes our society intensely vulnerable to the radical Islamists whose inroads, for very similar reasons, we are also not allowed to discuss without being tarred and feathered as ‘Islamophobes’.

But here’s the really awful irony in all this. Gay people are dreadfully persecuted under fundamentalist Islam, which dictates that they should be killed.

Arguably more than any other British journalist, I have repeatedly warned against the lethal threat that radical Islam poses to the life and liberty of gay people, among many others.

The tragic fact is that, through their undermining of the moral codes of Western society, the gay lobby is making it more likely that this society will not have the wherewithal to defend itself against Islamisation — and if that becomes the case, the likes of Hari and the Twitter mob would finally understand what true anti-gay bigotry looks like.

Gratifyingly, I also received in the past week many messages of support. Clearly, there remain millions of tolerant folk who have not severed their links with reality — and who are sickened by having their fair-mindedness thrown in their own faces as ‘bigotry’.

Well, I have news for the bullies of the victim culture. Their attempts to silence those who defend truth, justice and decency will not succeed.

The more they attempt to do so, the more they open everyone else’s eyes to what they actually are — the West’s new cultural totalitarians.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=793>*

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## *The Arab world on the brink...but of what?*

by **Melanie Phillips**

The Spectator, 30 January 2011

Well, what a turn-up for the books. Those same liberal circles which flayed the neo-cons alive for pursuing the apparently ludicrous idea that democracy could ever come to the Arab world are now hailing the current upheavals in that same Arab world as .. a democratic awakening.

Maybe it will be so. For sure some at least of the elements involved want true freedom and human rights. But that particular argument against the neo-cons was not wrong (and before anyone flies to their keyboard, let me clarify that what I support, and have always supported, is the principal belief that drove neo-con thinking -- not that democracy in such countries was necessarily achievable, and certainly not overnight, but that there is a moral duty to defeat the jihad in order to defend the west. And that was always a very different matter).

Anyway, back to the crisis at hand. There is no doubt that,

in large measure because of the mainly subterranean debate that has been taking place within the Arab and Muslim world as a result of events on and since 9/11, there are powerful yearnings there for democracy and human rights and for an end to the tyranny and oppression under which the inhabitants of such places generally live.

The unhappy fact is, however, that in Egypt and Tunisia and elsewhere in the Arab world where ferment is growing against the tyranny of their regimes, the crucial infrastructure of the rule of law, independent judges and police, free press and so on that are the necessary precondition of democracy just don’t exist.

As a result, when tyrants there fall the outcome is generally not the emergence of a free society but a tyranny far worse even than the one that has fallen – an Islamic theocracy. That’s precisely what happened, let us not forget, in Iran in 1979, when the fall of the Shah was greeted with acclaim by the Iranian people who wanted an end to his police state – but what they got instead was the Ayatollah Khomeini and

the beginning of decades of Islamist oppression and tyranny far worse than under the Shah.

The unrest in Tunisia has apparently been driven by liberal elements. But the likely outcome is that the Muslim Brotherhood, the radical Islamists who want to overturn all secular Islamic rulers and in turn conquer the rest of the world for Islam might now move into this vacuum. Accordingly, the imminent return to Tunisia of the important Muslim Brother Rannid Ghannouchi, who has announced his decision to go back after more than two decades in Londonistan where he comfortably resided having been convicted in Tunisia of bombing an airport – and as Gabriel Scheinmann notes, who has of course been feted as a moderate by the New York Times and other dhimmi dummies – suggests that hailing the brave new democratic dawn in Tunisia may be distinctly premature.

As this mood of revolt snowballs, there has been unrest too in Yemen and Jordan. But the really terrifying prospect is Egypt, after six days of violent clashes in which untold scores of people have reportedly died. Egypt is the home of the Muslim Brotherhood. Despite its ‘cold peace’ with Israel, it is a fulcrum of Nazi-style Jew-hatred which it exports to the

Arab and Muslim world. And it is strategically crucial for the west because of the trade and shipping routes it controls in the Suez Canal; it is particularly significant also because of its size and military power.

Through the tyrannical measures which have caused him to become so hated, Mubarak has suppressed the Muslim Brothers – but only just. The nightmare has always been what will happen when Mubarak departs the stage – a development that Obama actually appears to be trying to accelerate, having belatedly discovered the attractions of promoting democracy in the Arab world at the very moment that the Islamists are poised to take control. This is but the latest astoundingly inept or malign action by Obama against the interests of America and the west. An Islamist Egypt would alter the dynamics of the entire region – Jordan would surely not be far behind -- and pose an urgent and acute threat to the western world. That nightmare, it would seem, now might be upon us.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6659250/the-arab-world-on-the-brinkbut-of-what.shtml>*

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View at dusk from near the Stiperstones, towards Long Myn, Shropshire.



# *Manufacturers slip away from palm oil*



By **Carolyn Fry** - 17 January 2011  
**Engineering & Technology Magazine**

Large swathes of industry rely on palm oil, but with palm plantations now accused of causing massive environmental harm, manufacturers are seeking greener alternatives.

In a busy shopping mall in Colombo, Sri Lanka, there's a smell that reminds me of England. I recognise it as the intensely fruity and slightly sickly aroma that emanates from all Lush cosmetics shops. The company's soaps, with wacky names like 'Foam a friend' and 'Honey I washed the kids', are now sold from Sri Lanka to Slovenia and the UK to Ukraine.

They smell strongly because they are not packaged, but despatched to shops in large blocks and sold to customers by weight. This approach reflects the company's strong environmental policy, which encompasses minimising packaging, recycling containers, using biomass energy, and obtaining the ingredients used to make its products from local sources.

The company has enhanced its environmental credentials further by working with two UK-based soap manufacturers to create a soap base free of palm-oil. This ubiquitous vegetable oil, extracted primarily from the fruit of the palm *Elaeis guineensis*, is used in a huge number of everyday

products including margarines, detergents, cosmetics and, increasingly, biodiesel.

## **Environmental cost**

The plant's high yield means that palm oil is significantly cheaper than other vegetable oils to produce. However, the rapid rise in demand is having a serious impact in the tropical countries that grow oil palms. The replacement of primary rainforests with plantations across south east Asia is stripping biodiversity, destroying local communities, and exacerbating climate change by releasing carbon dioxide previously locked up in ancient trees and peatlands.

The scale of demand for palm oil is immense and increasing. Between 1962 and 1982, world exports of palm oil rose from about half a million to 2.4 million tonnes per annum. In 2008, global production of palm oil and palm kernel oil stood at 48 million tonnes. Demand is predicted to more than double by 2030 and to triple by 2050.

Today, Indonesia and Malaysia account for 90 per cent of global production. Indonesia has six million hectares of oil palm plantations, but has plans for another four million by 2015 dedicated to biofuel production.

An increase in production will destroy more rainforests,

push animals such as the orangutan, Sumatran tiger, elephants and rhinos towards extinction, and make refugees of indigenous people who live sustainable lives within forest ecosystems.

'Even at current levels, palm oil is one of the most destructive things we can use,' says Andrew Butler, campaigns manager at Lush. 'It's destroying some of our most fragile and valuable ecosystems and it's critical that we stop that.'

Industry players have sought to address the issue through the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). This was set up in 2003 as a cooperation between Aarhus United UK Ltd, Golden Hope Plantations Berhad, Migros, Malaysian Palm Oil Association, Sainsbury's and Unilever, along with WWF. It works with oil palm growers, palm oil processors or traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks and investors, environmental or nature conservation NGOs, and social or developmental NGOs, with the stated aim of 'promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders'. Its members include high-street names such as Tesco, Nestlé and Cadbury, as well as palm oil traders such as Cargill and ADM. Together, these companies represent 40 per cent of global palm oil trade. Palm oil companies wishing to certify their production as sustainable must pay independent RSPO-approved certification bodies to audit their production.

### Tough to verify

While this may seem like a positive step towards making the industry more sustainable, verifying the environmental credentials of palm oil is not straightforward. Major companies buy from processors and traders rather than individual plantations, and oil from different sources all gets mixed together.

A Greenpeace report released in late 2007 found that some RSPO members were actively involved in deforestation and the conversion of peatlands, thereby undermining the RSPO's environmental credentials. One RSPO member, a major food retailer, complained at the time to Greenpeace that, 'the global palm oil industry is unable at present to provide anyone with evidence of

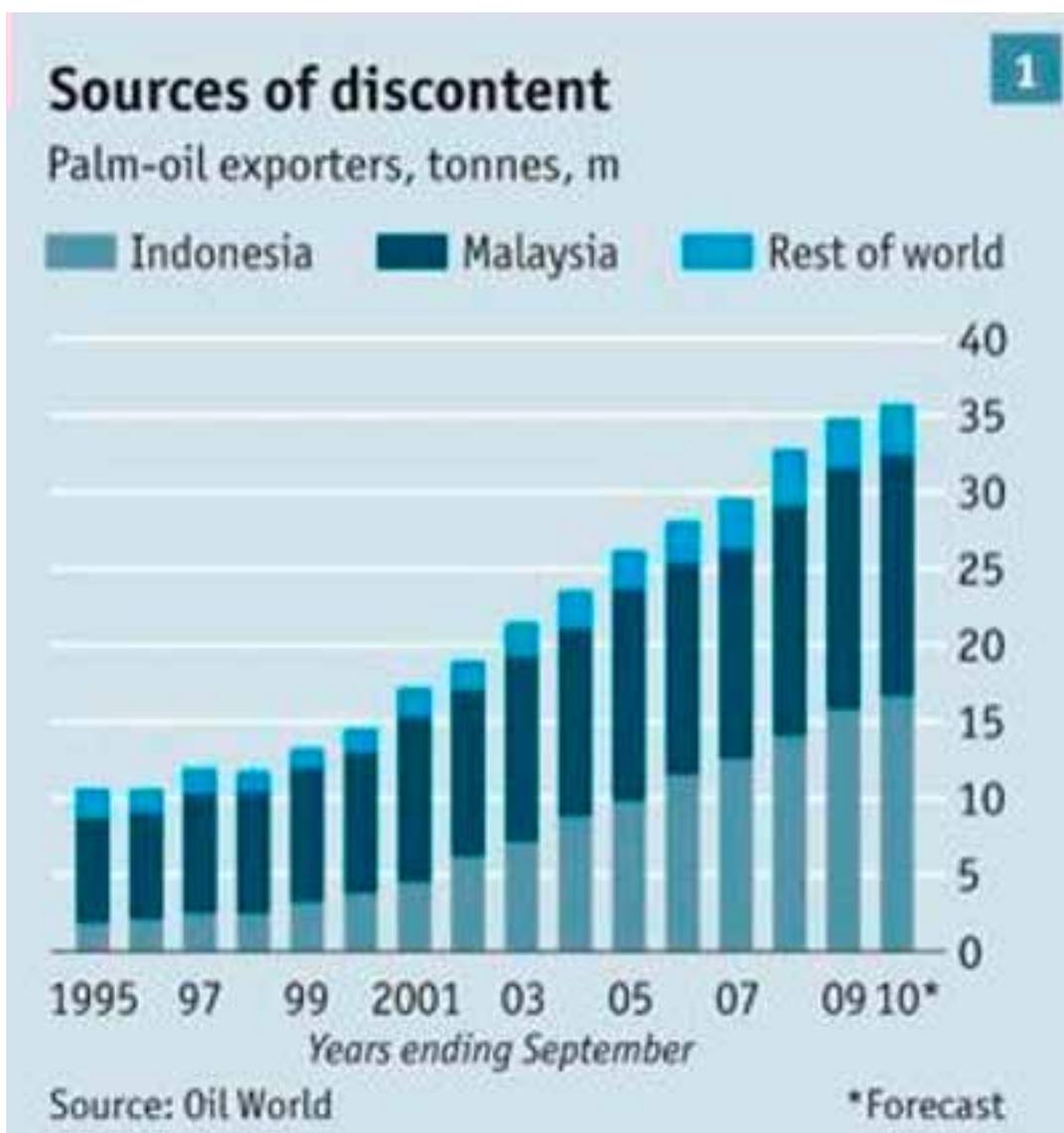
traceability beyond processor, to plantation level'.

It was around this time that staff at Lush were becoming aware of the negative impacts of using palm oil. In 2006, Simon Constantine, head of the company's buying team, had visited Indonesia and met with representatives of some of the projects that Lush had been supporting, including the Sumatran Orangutan Society.

Constantine visited the palm plantations and areas that were being deforested, and then went to the annual RSPO meeting in Singapore to see if SPO-certified palm oil might provide a solution. 'He reported back that his impression of the RSPO was that it was merely a talking shop,' says Butler.

The Lush team concluded that the only way to address issues of environmental destruction related to palm oil was to reduce demand. They therefore decided to phase out palm oil and began investigating alternatives.

The company was using palm oil in glycerin and its soap base. Sourcing a palm-free glycerin was relatively easy but the soap base proved harder. Lush's supplier, John Drury & Co, decided not to produce a palm-free base so the team



*Palm Oil Export Graph*



### ***Unprocessed Oil Palm***

looked elsewhere. They found an alternative made by Kay's from sunflower, rapeseed and coconut oil. Eventually Drury changed its mind and supplied a base made from rapeseed and coconut oils.

#### **Greenwashing**

In Lush's low-rise UK factory on an industrial estate in Poole, Dorset, soap department manager Joe Craven explains the soap-manufacturing process. In one part of the airy warehouse stands a pallet of brown sacks marked 'palm-free'. They contain two different types of soap base, one comprised of small creamy pellets, the other of flakes. These lend either a clear or marbled appearance to the soaps. They are also responsible for giving the creamy lather that Lush customers value.

The soap base is added to a large vessel, along with water, MPG (mono-propylene glycol, which holds moisture into the soap), the 'essential component' or fragrance, plus other ingredients that include fresh fruits, chocolate, flowers, nuts, herbs and even alcohol. Today, the golden mixture that will form 'Sexy Peel' soap is broiling away, its constituent lemon and lime peel emitting a sharp citrus tang.

Lush launched its first palm-free soap, 'Greenwash', in Christmas 2007. After a successful marketing campaign that urged consumers to 'wash their hands of palm' the company set about switching its entire soap range. It wasn't plain sailing, however: although the palm-free base seemed to work well in small batches, when the amounts were scaled

up, problems arose.

'At one point we were experimenting with four different bases with different percentages of oils,' Craven recalls. 'We had problems such as soaps separating and unwanted particles appearing. A week before Christmas 2008 we finally sorted it out, then that last week we were running 24-hours a day to try and fulfill all the orders.'

According to WWF, palm oil is used in 50 per cent of all packaged supermarket products, so a widespread switch to palm-free alternatives is not going to come easily. Every year Unilever uses 800,000t, Nestlé 320,000t, Proctor and Gamble 300,000t, Cooperative Group 45,000t and Cadbury 40,000t.

In 2009, WWF released the Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard, the results of an assessment of the progress of 59 European companies on sustainable palm oil sourcing over a six-month period. It concluded that while several companies in Europe were on the right track when it came to changing their palm oil buying habits, many were failing to capitalise on the availability of RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil. The top ten companies were Sainsbury's, Marks and Spencer, Migros, Young's/Findus, Unilever, Cadbury, The Body Shop, L'Oreal, Asda and Coop Switzerland. Companies languishing towards the bottom of the scorecard included Associated British Foods and Aldi (Nord, S'd and UK).

Greenpeace has targeted several major companies in an

attempt to change their palm oil buying habits. For example, it dispatched activists dressed as orangutans to Unilever's headquarters in London to scale buildings and occupy production lines. Unilever subsequently committed to using palm oil only from sustainable sources by 2015.

In 2010, Greenpeace published a report that slated Nestlé for using palm oil from the Sinar Mas Group, Indonesia's largest producer of palm oil. The group owns 406,000 hectares of established palm oil plantations and claims to have a further 1.3 million hectares of land available for expansion. One funder, the French Bank BNP Paribas, described the Sinar Mas group as involved in 'the most aggressive new planting programme among the plantation companies'. Greenpeace claimed the vast majority of this expansion would involve deforestation, some on protected peatlands and in critical orangutan habitats.

Greenpeace made its opinions of Nestlé known through a spoof online advert showing an office worker eating what appears to be a piece of KitKat but which turns out to be an orangutan's finger.

Unilever and Kraft had previously both cancelled contracts with Sinar Mas, while Sainsbury's and Shell had also stated they would not buy palm oil from the company. Nestlé subsequently announced it would henceforth exclude companies running 'high-risk plantations or farms linked to deforestation' from its supply chain. It recruited Switzerland-based charity the Forest Trust to provide an independent review of its palm-oil supply chains.

According to WWF, by mid-2009, RSPO-certified plantations were able to supply 1.75 million tonnes of sustainable palm oil annually, more than one-third of the EU's annual uptake. However, by October 2009, only 195,000t of the premium-priced certified oil had been traded. Critics continue to maintain that the RSPO certification is not stringent enough.

After the 2009 meeting, Friends of the Earth issued a statement saying: 'Friends of the Earth International does not regard the RSPO as a credible certification process as it is only a limited tool of technicality which is not able to adequately address the horrendous impacts of oil palm cultivation on forests, land and communities.'

Some companies are trying to seek palm oil supplies that do not have a detrimental impact. The Body Shop initially announced that all of the palm oil used in its soaps would be sourced from the Daabon Group, a Colombia-based organic producer. When Christian Aid drew its attention to the fact that Daabon had thrown 123 people off their land and burned crops and forests to make way for a new oil palm plantation, the Body Shop dropped the supplier.

Unilever has taken a step towards freeing itself from palm oil by investing in Solarzyme Inc., a US-based company that harvests algal oil. This liquid has the potential to replace palm oil in foods and soaps, as well as providing a biofuel capable of powering aircraft. In an article in the Wall Street Journal, Unilever said it expected to start using algal oil commercially between 2013 and 2017.

Lush's 700 stores now sell only palm-free soap. Although Lush is a tiny player in the cosmetics industry, which in itself only accounts for around 7 per cent of the palm oil market, it is keen to encourage others to follow its example. It hopes other companies will join forces in a cooperative named Actively Seeking Alternatives to Palm oil (ASAP).

In 2009, Lush used 586t of soap base globally; taking this as a constant quantity it now saves 390t of palm oil a year compared to when it was using a palm-oil base. This equates to a potential saving of 230 acres of primary rainforest. 'Our use of palm oil barely registers on a global scale,' admits Butler, 'but we are trying to source all our ingredients as ethically as we can as a matter of principle and we hope to use our experience to show other companies and other NGOs that going palm-free is a credible alternative to the RSPO route, which has increasingly failed.' \*

See our photo essay on palm-oil production.

Further information

RSPO website

Greenpeace 'Cooking the climate' report

Greenpeace 'Caught red-handed' report

WWF 2009 Scorecard for Palm Oil

*Courtesy of URL: <http://eandt.theiet.org/magazine/2011/01/away-from-palm-oil.cfm#>*

## Labelling: Hard to spot

Consumers wishing to boycott food products containing palm oil face a difficult task as it is often lumped together with other oils in ingredient lists as 'vegetable oil'. However, in June 2010 the European Parliament took the first step towards the approval of a new directive on the 'Provision of food information to consumers', also known as the Sommer Report.

The Parliament also approved a proposed amendment to the text that would require palm oil in products to be clearly labelled. Once agreement is reached between Parliament and Council, companies will have three years in which to comply with the new regulations. In soaps and cosmetics, palm oil often appears as Sodium Palmate or Sodium Palm Kernelate.

# A father's love should be for life

**The Telegraph**

**By Allison Pearson - 20 January 2011**

Keith Macdonald is called Britain's Most Feckless Father. Admittedly, competition for that title is fierce, but Keith established a comfortable lead on Monday night when BBC1's Panorama asked him to name his children. Tall, wan and sepulchral as a Dickensian undertaker, Keith was hesitant at first, trying to recall the eight children by eight different women that his 25-year-old loins had spawned. He managed the first six names, but then, with two children still to go, he got stuck, shrugged, took a stab at the seventh before finally admitting defeat.

Keith puts the feck into feckless. In his world – rise at the crack of noon, never get a job – scattering your seed in some demented harvest-festival tribute, at an eventual cost to the state of some £1.5 million, is just how it is. The only shock Keith expressed was when he was asked why he never used contraception. “It's like wearing a wet sock,” Keith shuddered, “They're vile. I just couldn't do it.”

Giving life to eight blameless babies who will never know a father's love and care, appears to be acceptable, but using a condom is repugnant. Welcome to 2011: post-morality and stigma-free. One in eight children under five will never meet the man who donated half their genes. Seventy per cent of young offenders were raised in a lone-parent home. It's an anguished statistic. “I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection,” said Sigmund Freud. Yet, in some of the poorest parts of the UK, families have been without fathers for three generations. For every feckless Keith, there is an uncertain young dad who would love a chance to be near his children if only their ex-partners would let them. Panorama asked a 20-year-old single mother if she thought her two little boys would miss out by not having a dad around. She could not have been more bemused if they'd offered her a crinoline and a horse-drawn carriage. For young mums like her, fathers are an extinct species. The dadda is deader than the dodo.

What takes your breath away is not just the social and ethical carnage that the change has wrought, but the speed with which it happened. As the Labour MP Frank Field says: “We're the first generation in recorded history where society has not made the man who begets a child responsible for that child.”

A father's absence can be as defining as his presence, just as an amputee's body will always ache for its missing limb. Look at BBC presenter Justin Webb who revealed this week that his father was Peter Woods, a BBC news anchor in the Seventies. Justin doesn't have his dad's basset-hound pouchiness, but the amused ripple of a smile and determined chin are identical. Justin's mother got pregnant when she worked with the married Woods at the Daily Mirror. The

star newsman visited his son only once, when he was six months old. Justin claims that the “unswerving love” of his mother insulated him from the loss, but I suspect the wound goes deeper than even he can acknowledge.

Can it really be coincidence that the unacknowledged son grew up and went into news reporting? It's as if he were following in his father's footsteps to see if he could catch up and find him. I remember the Olympic gold medallist Marion Jones telling me that every time she crossed the finishing line she wondered if her errant father was watching. “Look at me, daddy, look what I can do,” is the deserted child's silent plea.

Unlike most fatherless boys, with the help of a good middle-class education Justin Webb has grown up to be a devoted father himself. “There's no pleasure like a young daughter putting her arms around your neck,” he once said, “Any man who hasn't experienced that has missed out.”

Make no mistake, the man's daughter has missed out, too. Scientists have discovered recently that girls whose fathers have left home start their periods much earlier than girls who live with their biological dads, and that the more a father interacts with his daughters when they are very young, the more likely they are to mature slowly and go on to have a happy, stable life. The large number of children living with stepfathers may actually be contributing to the worldwide trend towards girls reaching sexual maturity faster, thus increasing the likelihood of early pregnancy and yet more disadvantaged, fatherless children. And so the wretched cycle continues.

All the business people who this week said we couldn't afford the Coalition's plans for extended paternity leave should tot up the lifelong cost to society of a father failing to form a meaningful connection with his child. It's important the law acknowledges that raising a child is not just women's work.

Frank Field, who has taken on the role of “poverty tsar” for the Coalition, has suggested schools should start giving parenting lessons. I would go further. Boys need to be taught that fathers are not just sperm donors, they have an irreplaceable protective role to play in their children's lives. Girls need to be taught that treating the father of your baby as if he's a turkey baster with a benefits cheque attached is as damaging as it's cruel.

A producer of Channel 4's Big Brother was once asked if there was any trait that linked the housemates. It was odd, he said, but he had noticed that the girls never had fathers. Too many lost girls and boys out there are looking to Big Brother to take care of them. All they want is their daddy.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/allison-pearson/8270249/A-fathers-love-should-be-for-life.html>*

# Alan's Reflections

## ALAN'S REFLECTIONS

You may think I'm mad. Many do. Buying a DSLR camera for a 5 year old little boy! You may remember the photograph of him in the May 2010 edition, with his new camera. What a success it has been too.

I started photography about half a century ago, as a school boy with a toy camera purchased for me by my Grandmother, from Woolworths for 5 Shillings (25p). Cheap Black and White film. The results were dire. I still have a few of those negatives. My Little Lad started his interest in photography just before his third birthday – using my Canon EOS 5D. He managed a few good photographs, but struggled with the weight – and struggled even more when it was coupled to an 'L' Series lump of glass. It was time he had his own camera. "Not a toy camera, Dad" he said. "I want a real camera". And so his 5th birthday arrived. How delighted he was with the Canon EOS 1000D + kit lens I bought him. I even gave him a couple of extra Canon lenses that I'd stopped using. Now fully equipped he can take on the world of photography properly. I was determined that he wouldn't have to struggle through many years of obtaining poor quality images - as I had when I first started photography. It wasn't until some years had passed that I could even afford a camera with adjustments – a second-hand Halina 35x Super bought for £9.00 (about a week's income) on hire purchase at 4/6 per week (42.5p), not that it gave super results, but it was better than the plastic boxes with plastic lenses I'd previously used. And so it went on, slow progress at great expense on my miserable income as an apprentice. In the late 1960s, a roll of transparency film was such a huge percentage of my income (Agfa CT18 - 29/11d (almost £1.50) including processing), that every photograph had to count and a 36 exposure roll eked out over as long a time as possible. Nowadays, for the equivalent cost of a roll of film, I can buy a storage card for the camera that will contain a huge number of photographs - and can be re-used. Now that's progress! Later, in 1972, I spent much of my student grant on a second-hand Pentax Spotmatic with a 50 mm f1.4 lens for £95. That was really something special. I still have it. Nowadays, at least I don't have to worry about the cost every time my Little Lad presses the shutter release. And the results are first class too. So much so that he's recently had a photograph accepted by Alamy – one of the biggest names in stock photography who have a reputation second to none for quality. I'm very proud of him for that. I hope it will be the first of many. However, the real message from all this, is that photography is an interest, a passion, that lasts a lifetime. Give an interest to a youngster and he'll never be bored. One hears so often, youngsters saying they have nothing to do and are bored. Not my Little Lad. He'll always have his camera giving him a good reason to get out and about to take photographs. A passion that I can share with him until I go to that great darkroom in the sky. And, at the very least, it will give him something that will always remind him of his mad dad. Anyone else out there with children? Yes? Go on – be mad like me – you won't regret it.

Only yesterday (16 January 2011), some time after writing the previous text, Little Lad reminded me how important

photography is to him. I was in our living room, taking a photograph of an orchid that Grace recently bought. I set it up with a black background to make it stand out and had my camera on a tripod. I didn't even know Little Lad was taking any interest in the proceedings as I thought both he and Grace were watching TV. After a few minutes, I noticed that Little Lad had tears rolling down his face and he was really upset. Of course, I quickly went to him and hugged him and asked him what was wrong. I was so surprised at his answer. He was upset that he didn't have a tripod for his camera! Fortunately, I had a brand-new Gorilla-Pod mini-tripod with flexible legs stuffed, unused, in a cupboard. I shot out of the room to find it and gave it to him. He set up his camera on it and arranged some of his toys and took photographs of them. Happy again. I also had to explain the purpose of the switch on the long cable (remote shutter release to minimise vibration when the camera is on a tripod). He wanted to try that too, so we had a look to try it on his camera, but it was a different connection. He could see that was the case, so wasn't upset about that. As a surprise for him, I later got on line to Amazon and ordered one for his camera too. Later, he said to me something like "*I know our cameras are different and things don't always connect, but can we share our things when they do*" (photographic equipment). "*Of course we can*" I said. I was so pleased with him. He really enjoys sharing our interest in photography.

You may remember that I've written from time to time about camera lenses, and in particular, the necessity of improving their resolution because of the increase in resolution of recent digital cameras – now resolving significantly higher image detail than film. During the last year or so I've been going through the expensive process of buying some lenses from the Canon 'L' Series. I've now bought the 24–105 mm f4 L IS USM, the 70–210 mm f4 L IS USM and the 17–40 mm f4 L USM. As you will see by the IS designation, two of these lenses provide image stabilisation. This in itself is well worth the additional expense, as more potentially good photographs are lost because of a lack of sharpness brought about by camera shake than from any other reason. Obviously, one can avoid that by using a tripod, but it's not always convenient to carry one around – and, if you do, you always stand the risk of being arrested by the Police as a terrorist in this 'big brother' country. I'm very pleased to report that the money has been well spent, as the difference in sharpness, contrast and reduction in chromatic aberration has given me a vast improvement in image quality when compared to the standard Canon lenses that are much cheaper. In fact, Canon are taking this problem so seriously, that they are now starting to improve even these lenses to cope with the demands of the top of the range digital cameras by bringing out a Mk II version of some of them – at a much higher cost still. I just wish they'd realise that I'm not a millionaire!

On that note, I was just reflecting to Grace, how it had always been a dream of mine - for about half a century now - to be able to purchase a top of the range camera. With the invention of digital cameras, that dream has been pushed so far away that I can't even dream of it now. Had film continued to be the medium of photography, I could probably have managed to realise my dream. But digital cameras are so expensive that that is no longer possible. How can I justify spending around £50 000 on a camera outfit? Answers on a postcard to the usual address.

# *Following the Reindeer*

photograph and text by Evgenia Arbugaeva



*Tuka and his reindeer. Topolinoe November 07*

This project is about nomadic tribes of reindeer herders in my homeland, the Republic of Yakutia, which is located in eastern Siberia.

There are five nationalities of reindeer herders that live on the territory of the Republic: Even, Evenk, Yukagir, Chukchi and Dolgan. All of them are smaller populations, for instance the total number of Yukagir in the world at this moment is only 1509 people.

During the period of one year I traveled with reindeer herders in different parts of Yakutia. I witnessed a unique culture that almost has not changed for centuries.

In the age of urbanization and technological progress these people have maintained an ability to live in complete harmony with nature and each other.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.lensculture.com/arbugaeva.html?thisPic=10>*

*and: [http://www.evgeniaarbugaeva.com/Site\\_2/Reindeer14.html](http://www.evgeniaarbugaeva.com/Site_2/Reindeer14.html)*

# Why 80 Megapixels Just Won't Be Enough...

By Ctein

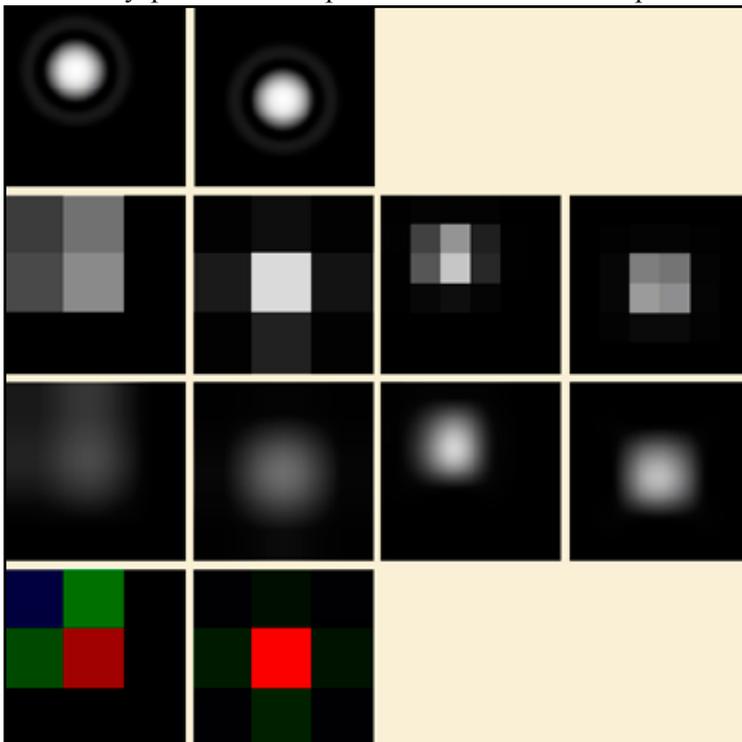
In previous columns and comments, I've tossed out the factoid that full-frame digital cameras should be able to make use of something like 80 million pixels. I've now done a more careful analysis to figure out at what point adding more pixels produces no perceptible improvement in the amount or quality of fine detail in a photograph. The number is mind-boggling in its immensity.

Now, understand that there's "good enough" and then there's "perfect." The former is achieved when most discerning viewers will look at a photograph and say, "That's real nice!" The latter is achieved when improving the photograph further makes no visible difference whatsoever.

The gulf is huge. Most viewers consider an 8 x 10-inch print to be reasonably sharp when it conveys 3–5 line pair per millimeter of fine detail. But, a print won't look perfectly sharp until it conveys around 30 lp/mm. That is, if you put a 15 lp/mm print next to a 30 lp/mm print, a high percentage of viewers will select the 30 lp/m print as being sharper, although most of them won't be able to tell you why they did. But, if you put a 30 lp/mm print next to a 60 lp/mm print, they won't be able to see any difference.

It's technically impossible to produce such perfectly sharp prints from 35mm film. In fact, it is very difficult to do until you get to 4x5 film and some would argue that you actually have to go to 8x10 film to easily produce a perfectly sharp print. Most photographers, even professional photographers, were entirely happy with 35mm quality. Only a few percent felt an overwhelming need to go to sheet film. Similarly, most of you won't need (nor be willing to pay for) digital perfection. Still, it's worth finding out just where perfection lies.

How many pixels is 30 lp/mm in an 8 x 10-inch print?



About 180 million. Jeepers!

But, what can a printer actually deliver, and what could a camera capture?

Can any printer out there deliver 30 lp/mm? We may be getting close; I tested one several years ago that could render 15 lp/mm. That cuts the number of pixels down to a "comfortable" 45 million. Except...

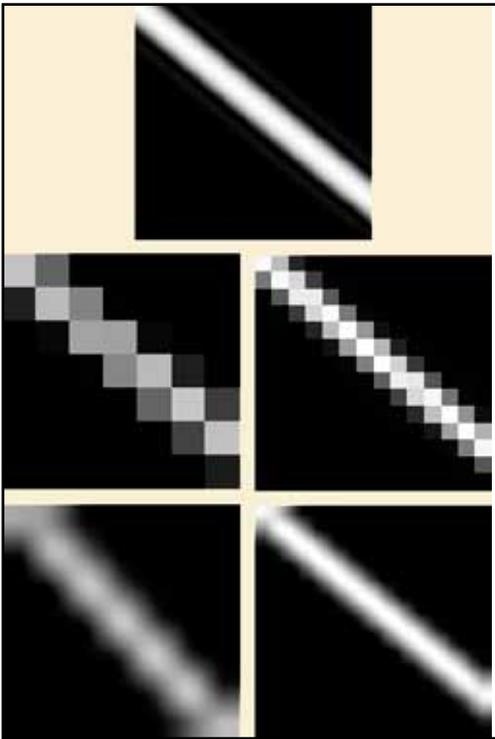
...Bayer array cameras don't deliver one pixel of resolved detail for each sensor pixel. Typically they are substantially less than 50% efficient. So we'll have to at least double that number to get us as much resolution as the printer can handle. Call it 100 megapixels. If we ever get those 30 lp/mm printers, we'd be talking about 400 megapixels. Double-jeepers!

Can a camera lens possibly acquire that kind of detail? Well, the very best 35mm lenses, used at optimum aperture, can deliver something on the order of 3  $\mu$  blur circles. At one pixel per blur circle the answer is around 100 megapixels. So, that's the practical limit, right?

Well, um, maybe not. Trying to record a blur circle with a single pixel is hardly ideal. In a mosaiced sensor, it's not even possible. To be sure of correctly recording that blur circle, you need at least four pixels. There we are back at 400 megapixels again.

Do we actually need 400 megapixels? I honestly don't know; I haven't run the experiments. At the vastly lower resolutions around today, we know that trying to capture one pixel's worth of fine detail with a single pixel produces poor quality fine detail (see illustrations). Edges and points look ugly; artifacting occurs when you try to extract that kind of pixel-level information that is very difficult to avoid. Multiple pixels per blur circle unquestionably produce perceptibly better quality fine detail. The \$64,000 question is whether that will be true when the resolution itself is at the limits of human perception. I don't yet have an answer to that.

These idealized figures (*left*) illustrate how a blur circle gets converted to pixels. The top row shows a diffraction disc at two different locations in the field. The second row shows how that disc gets sampled by a sensor array. The two figures on the left have pixels the same size as the blur circle; the two columns on the right have pixels half the size of the blur circle. The third row shows a simple-minded reconstruction from those pixels. Observe how bad the reconstruction is when the pixels are no smaller than the blur circle. The situation is even worse for a Bayer array, as the bottom row shows! Fortunately, the algorithms in the raw conversion software are very sophisticated, or good detail would be impossible, but artifacting is unavoidable.



(Left) A diffraction-limited line fares better than a single point, but pixels no smaller than the blur circle still do a lousy job of capturing it. A Bayer array would be even worse.

So maybe 400 megapixels is truly extravagant. Maybe going beyond 100 megapixels will never matter. But without real tests, all one can say is that it might. And, certainly, up to 100 megapixels there will be perceptible improvements in fine detail quality in modest-sized prints, even with current printer and lens technology.

Most of you won't need this, any more than you needed 8x10 view cameras. But for some of you, those won't be pointless pixels.

Courtesy of URL: [http://theonlinephotographer.typepad.com/the\\_online\\_photographer/2009/02/why-80-megapixels-just-wont-be-enough.html](http://theonlinephotographer.typepad.com/the_online_photographer/2009/02/why-80-megapixels-just-wont-be-enough.html)

## Inside your Digital Camera

### Nikon D7000

The Nikon D7000 camera is a 16.2 million effective pixel DSLR camera, considered to be at the enthusiast-level, and an upgrade to the D90 and D5000 models by Nikon (dpreview.com). That being said, early reviews of the D7000 have it challenging the much respected, semi-pro grade Nikon D300S. This new Nikon DSLR features full HD video (1920 x 1080 at 24 fps), a 3" LCD screen with 921,000 pixels, and 6 fps continuous shooting.

#### Lots of fun inside the camera

From a circuit board perspective, a DSLR is not nearly as complicated as a smartphone or tablet; however, from a systems perspective, these things have a lot going on with main boards, secondary boards, flex cable, multiple memory slots, microphones, etc.

#### Sony IMX071

The Nikon D7000 comes equipped with a DX format (APS-C) sensor fabricated by Sony, the IMX071. With a 16.2 Mp resolution, this is the second highest resolution of any Nikon DSLR, behind the 24 Mp D3X (dpreview.com). This image sensor features a pixel size of 4.8  $\mu\text{m}$  x 4.8  $\mu\text{m}$  (as seen in the Bayer patterned RGB color filters). The sensor displays improvements in pixel layout and process features, as compared to previous generations of Sony DSLR sensors.

Other highlighted devices in the Nikon D7000

Other devices identified in the Nikon D7000 include:

The EXPEED 2, Nikon's latest image processor, with package markings Nikon logo/Expeed logo/JAPAN/EI-154 1028 Z43. According to Nikon, this new image processing

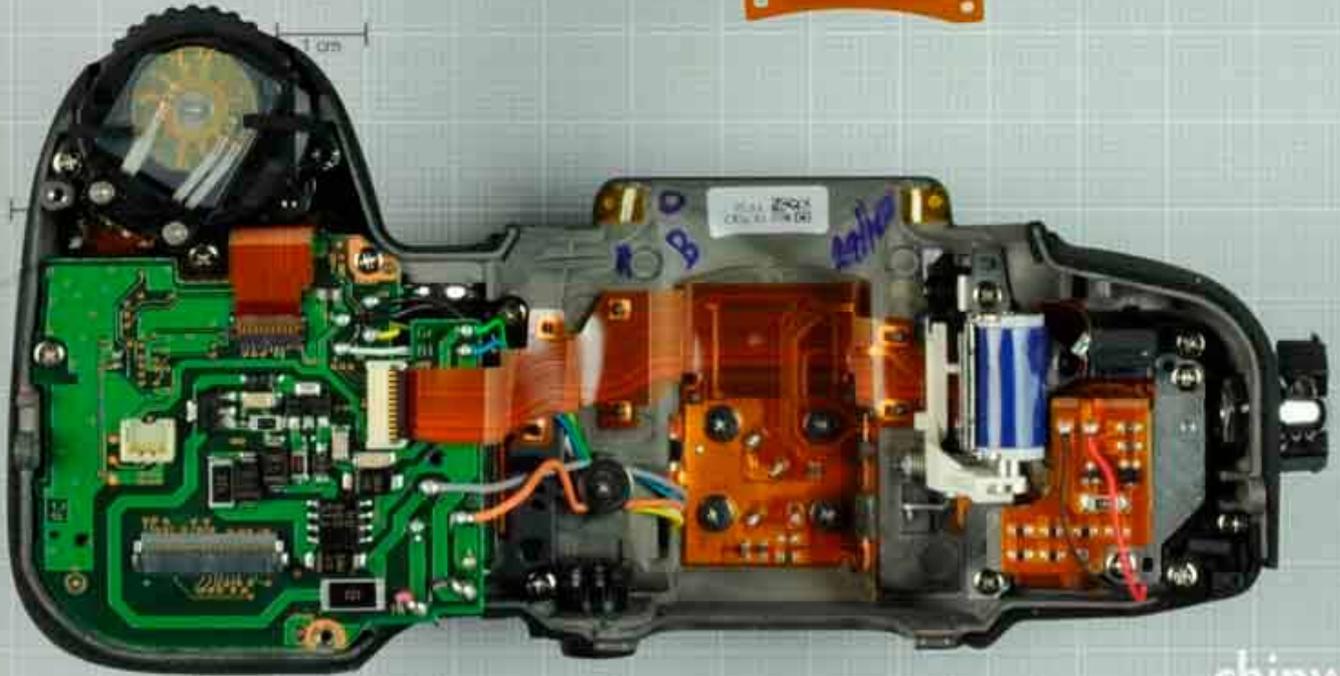
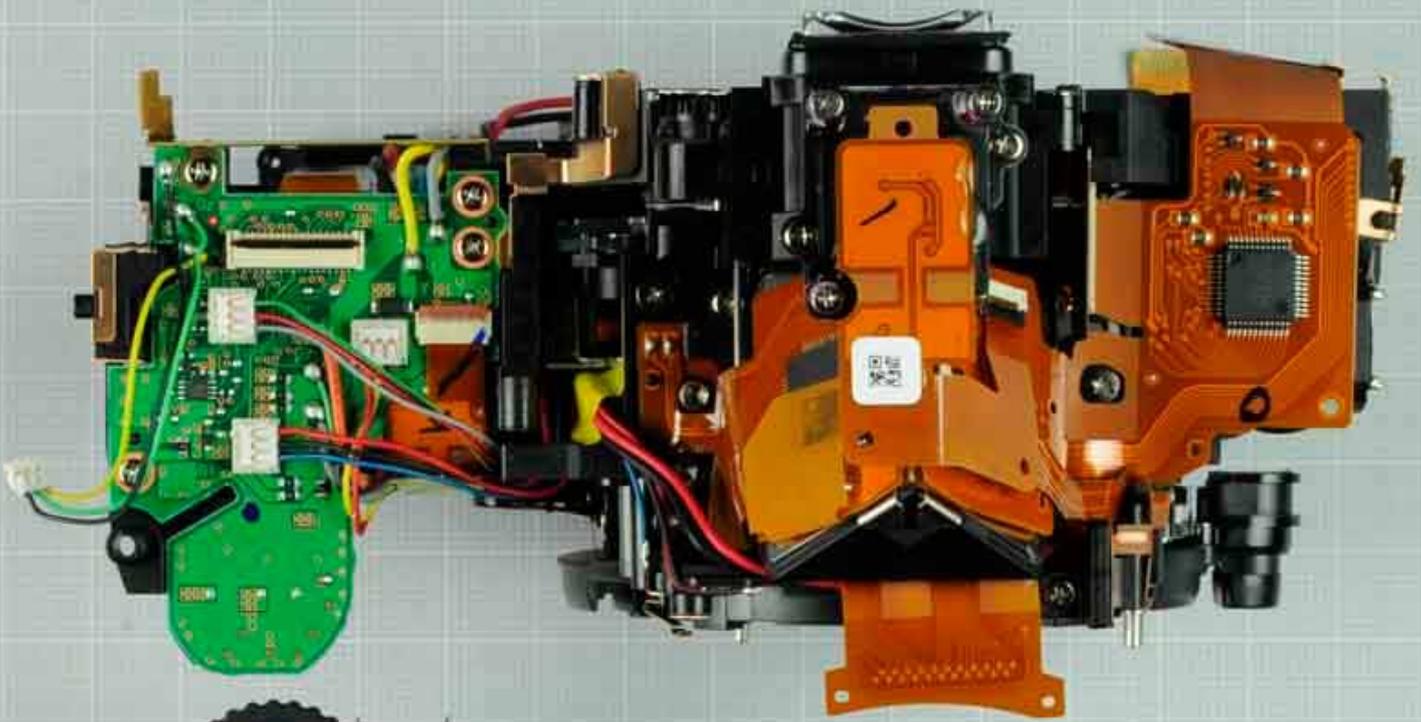


engine enables faster image processing and reduced power consumption for the D7000. It's certainly impressive if it processes 16+ Mpixels at six frames/second!

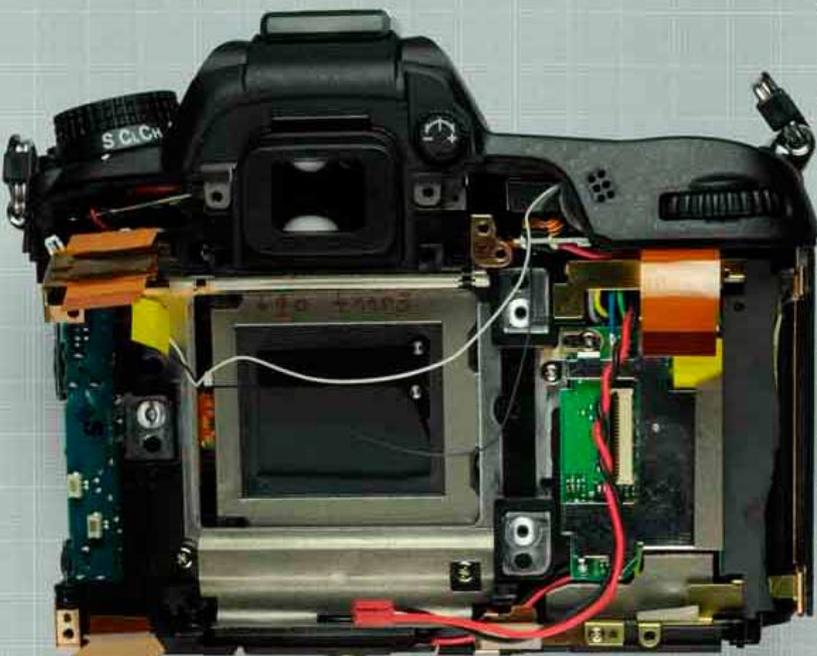
4 x Nanya NT5TU64M16GG 1-Gb DDR2 SDRAM  
A Toshiba microcontroller with package markings TOSHIBA/TMP19A44FEXBG/JAPAN 1022HAL/836273  
Flash EEPROM by Spansion with package markings Spansion logo/03/GL128P90FFIR2/034BB318 B/ THAILAND/©05 Spansion

A Rohm motor driver with package markings BD6736/0R65

A MEMSIC inertial sensor (package markings C623550/103310) for image orientation in landscape or portrait



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Courtesy of URL: <http://www.chipworks.com/en/technical-competitive-analysis/resources/recent-teardowns/2011/01/teardown-of-the-nikon-d7000-dslr/>