

Foreign Policy in Focus — The Military-Petroleum Complex, By Nick Turse, March 24, 2008

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In November 2002, before the invasion of Iraq, then secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld told Steve Kroft of CBS that U.S. saber rattling toward Iraq had “nothing to do with oil, literally nothing to do with oil.” In 2003, Rumsfeld called the assertion that the United States had invaded Iraq to get at its oil “utter nonsense.” (“We don’t take our forces and go around the world and try to take other people’s . . . resources, their oil. That’s just not what the United States does.”) In 2005, speaking to American troops in Fallujah, Rumsfeld reiterated the point: “The United States, as you all know better than any, did not come to Iraq for oil.” **Strong denials for sure, but were they true?**

Rumsfeld’s boss — and a man who knows a thing or two about addiction — President George W. Bush, proclaimed, in early 2006, that “America is addicted to oil.” Later that year, Bush almost came clean about Iraq, admitting (after a fashion), according to Peter Baker of the *Washington Post*, that “the war is about oil.” For the first time he used petroleum as a justification for continuing the occupation of Iraq, saying, “You can imagine a world in which these extremists and radicals got control of energy resources.” Bush’s acknowledgment was no great revelation. After all, oil is not only a key driver of the U.S. economy but also a major source of the nation’s energy. As a former oilman (with Dick Cheney, the former head of oil services giant Halliburton, as his vice president), Bush knew this all too well — hence an invasion of one of the Middle East’s key oil lands topped by an occupation where, initially, looters were allowed to tear almost every part of the Iraqi capital to pieces, save for the Oil Ministry.

But Rumsfeld’s military was more than just an armed occupier sent to lock down the planet’s oil lands. It was also a known petrol addict. In his book *Blood and Oil*, Michael Klare laid out the little acknowledged facts about the Pentagon’s oil obsession: The American military relies more than that of any other nation on oil-powered ships, planes, helicopters, and armored vehicles to transport troops into battle and rain down weapons on its foes. Although the Pentagon may boast of its ever-advancing use of computers and other high-tech devices, the fighting machines that form the backbone of the U.S. military are entirely dependent on petroleum. Without an abundant and reliable supply of oil, the Department of Defense could neither rush its forces to distant battlefields nor keep them supplied once deployed there.

And the deployments DoD has “rushed its forces” to in recent years — in Afghanistan and Iraq — have sucked up massive quantities of oil. According to *Fuel Line*, the official newsletter of the Pentagon’s fuel-buying component, the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), from October 1, 2001 to August 9, 2004, the DESC supplied 1,897,272,714 gallons of jet fuel alone for military operations in Afghanistan. Similarly, in less than a year-and-a-half, from March 19, 2003 to August 9, 2004, the DESC provided U.S. forces with 1,109,795,046 gallons of jet fuel for operations in Iraq. In 2005, Lana Hampton of the DoD’s Defense Logistics Agency revealed that the military’s aircraft, ships, and ground vehicles were guzzling 10 to 11 million barrels of fuel each month in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Yet, while the Pentagon reportedly burns through an astounding 365,000 barrels of oil every day (the equivalent of the entire nation of Sweden’s daily consumption), Sohbet Karbuz, an expert on global oil markets, estimates that the number is really closer to 500,000 barrels.

With such unconstrained consumption, recent U.S. wars have been a boon for big oil and have seen the Pentagon rise from the rank of hopeless addict to superjunkie. Prior to George Bush’s Global War on Terror, the U.S. military admitted to guzzling 4.62 billion gallons of oil per year. With the Pentagon’s post-9/11 wars and occupations, annual oil consumption has grown to an almost unfathomable 5.46 billion gallons, according to the Pentagon’s possibly low-ball statistics.

As a result, the DoD had some of the planet’s biggest petroleum dealers and masters of the corporate universe on its payroll. In 2005 alone, the Pentagon paid out more than \$1.5 billion to BP PLC — the company formerly known as Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (on whose behalf the CIA and its British counterpart covertly overthrew the Iranian government back in 1953) and then British Petroleum. In 2005, the Pentagon also paid out over \$1 billion to N. V. Koninklijke Nederlandsche Petroleum Maatschappij — also known as the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company (and best known in the United States for its Shell brand gasoline) — and in excess of \$1 billion to oil titan ExxonMobil.

In 2005, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Petroleum, and BP ranked sixth, seventh, and eighth on the *Forbes* magazine's list of the world's five hundred largest corporations in terms of revenue. The next year, they bumped their way up to first, third, and fourth, respectively. They also ranked 29th, 30th, and 31st on the DoD's 2006 list of top contractors, collectively raking in over \$3.5 billion from the Pentagon. The big three petrogiants are, however, only the tip of a massive, oily iceberg. Also on the Pentagon's 2006 list were such oil services, energy, and petroleum conglomerates as:

Ranking	Company name	Total take from the DoD (in dollars)
6	Halliburton	6,059,726,743
34	Kuwait Petroleum	1,011,270,194
45	Valero Energy	661,171,541
55	Refinery Associates of Texas	576,557,185
66	Abu Dhabi National Oil	494,286,000
70	Bahrain Petroleum	477,535,378
83	CS Caltex	356,313,452
94	Tesoro Petroleum	310,564,052

It's almost impossible to catalog all the companies with at least some ties to the oil game that are doing business with the Department of Defense, but if just the most obvious names on DoD's payroll are any indication, the U.S. military is mainlining petroleum from a remarkable assortment of places; for instance, in 2005 alone, the Pentagon payroll listed 145 companies (from A & M Oil to Wyandotte Tribal Petroleum).

These 145 companies — far from constituting a complete list of energy-related firms on the DoD dole — took in more than 8 billion taxpayer dollars in 2005. To put that figure in perspective, that was more than the army paid out in the same year to the military-corporate powerhouses Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Electric, and the Bechtel Corporation *combined*, or over \$2.7 billion more than it spent in 2005 on bombs, grenades, guided missiles, guided missile launchers, unmanned aerial vehicles, bulk explosives, all guns, rockets, rocket launchers, and helicopters.

No doubt due to his outfit's penchant for petroleum guzzling in 2005, then secretary of defense Rumsfeld issued a memo calling on DoD staff to develop plans for employing alternative power sources and energy-saving technologies. As defense technology expert Noah Shachtman noted in early 2007, while the "Department of Defense might not care about the environment," it had met its green goals ahead of schedule. As a result, the Pentagon now touts itself as environmentally conscious, drawing attention to its use of wind power at the naval station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and its dabblings in "cleaner, 'greener' hybrid fuel." On March 24, 2006, the Pentagon's American Forces Press Service published an article, "Hydrogen Fuel Cells May Help U.S. Military Cut Gas Usage," speculating that someday such technology might significantly reduce the military's "dependence on hydrocarbon-based fuels for transportation needs."

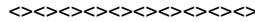
That day is not yet in sight... On Rumsfeld's watch, the Environmental Protection Agency granted the DoD a "national security exemption" on trucks that failed to meet current emissions standards; that the army canceled plans to introduce "hybrid-diesel humvees" (the current military model gets just four miles per gallon in city driving and an equally dismal eight miles per gallon on the highway); and that it similarly dropped plans to retrofit the fuel-guzzling Abrams tank with a more efficient diesel engine (the current model, in service in Iraq, gets less than a mile per gallon), while the air force deep-sixed plans for the possible replacement of aging "surveillance, cargo, and tanker aircraft engines" — and you're looking at a Pentagon patently incapable of altering its addiction-addled ways in any near future.

Since then, it's been more of the same. In March 2007, the Pentagon, now under Rumsfeld's replacement, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, went on a two-day bender of epic proportions. On March 22 and 23, the DoD announced that it had struck "fixed price with economic price adjustment" deals, to be fulfilled by April 30, 2008, with ExxonMobil, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Valero, Refinery Associates of Texas, and ten other petrogiants to the tune of \$4 billion. Another petro-binge occurred around the 2007 Labor Day holiday. Over the course of three days, the DoD acknowledged fuel contracts with BP, Chevron, Tesoro, and four others worth more than \$1.4 billion.

at or near historic lows, while oil inventories are only normal... The best argument for the second view, that the resource crunch is real but temporary, is the strong resemblance between what we're seeing now and the resource crisis of the 1970s.

What Americans mostly remember about the 1970s are soaring oil prices and lines at gas stations, but there was also a severe global food crisis... In retrospect, the commodity boom of 1972-75 was probably the result of rapid world economic growth that outpaced supplies, combined with the effects of bad weather and Middle Eastern conflict. Eventually, new land was placed under cultivation, new sources of oil were found in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea, and resources got cheap again; but this time may be different: concerns about what happens when an ever-growing world economy pushes up against the limits of a finite planet ring truer now than they did in the 1970s... For one thing, I don't expect growth in China to slow sharply anytime soon. That's a big contrast with what happened in the 1970s, when growth in Japan and Europe, the emerging economies of the time, downshifted — and thereby took a lot of pressure off the world's resources.

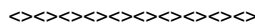
Meanwhile, resources are getting harder to find. Big oil discoveries, in particular, have become few and far between, and in the last few years oil production from new sources has been barely enough to offset declining production from established sources... And the bad weather hitting agricultural production this time is starting to look more fundamental and permanent than El Niño and La Niña, which disrupted crops 35 years ago. Australia, in particular, is now in the 10th year of a drought that looks more and more like a long-term manifestation of climate change... Suppose that we really are running up against global limits. What does it mean? ... Even if it turns out that we're really at or near peak world oil production, that doesn't mean that one day we'll say, "Oh my God! We just ran out of oil!" and watch civilization collapse into "Mad Max" anarchy... Don't look now, but the good times may have just stopped rolling.



Doctors Support Universal Health Care Survey, by Maggie Fox — Published on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 by Reuters

WASHINGTON — More than half of U.S. doctors now favor switching to a national health care plan and fewer than a third oppose the idea, according to a survey published on Monday...The 2002 survey found that 49 percent of physicians supported national health insurance and 40 percent opposed it...“Many claim to speak for physicians and represent their views. We asked doctors directly and found that, contrary to conventional wisdom, most doctors support national health insurance,” said Dr. Aaron Carroll of the Indiana University School of Medicine, who led the study... “As doctors, we find that our patients suffer because of increasing deductibles, co-payments, and restrictions on patient care,” said Dr. Ronald Ackermann, who worked on the study with Carroll. “More and more, physicians are turning to national health insurance as a solution to this problem... The United States has no single organized health care system. Instead it relies on a patchwork of insurance provided by the federal and state governments to the elderly, poor, disabled, and to some children, along with private insurance and employer-sponsored plans...Many other countries have national plans, including Britain, France, and Canada, and several studies have shown the United States spends more per capita on health care without achieving better results for patients... An estimated 47 million people have no insurance coverage at all, meaning they must pay out of their pockets for health care or skip it... Contenders in the election for president in November all have proposed various changes, but none of the major party candidates has called for a fully national health plan.

“Across the board, more physicians feel that our fragmented and for-profit insurance system is obstructing good patient care, and a majority now support national insurance as the remedy,” said Ackermann... The Indiana survey found that 83 percent of psychiatrists, 69 percent of emergency medicine specialists, 65 percent of pediatricians, 64 percent of internists, 60 percent of family physicians, and 55 percent of general surgeons favor a national health insurance plan...The researchers said they believe the survey was representative of the 800,000 U.S. medical doctors. *Reporting by Maggie Fox; Editing by Will Dunham and Xavier Briand*



Is an International Financial Conspiracy Driving World Events? by Richard C. Cook* — March 27, 2008

"They make a desolation and call it peace." — Tacitus

Was Alan Greenspan really as dumb as he looks in creating the late housing bubble that threatens to bring the entire Western debt-based economy crashing down? Was something as easy to foresee as this really being the trigger for a meltdown that could destroy the world's financial system? Or was it done, perhaps, "accidentally on purpose"? And if so, why?

Let's turn to the U.S. personage that conspiracy theorists most often mention as being at the epicenter of whatever elite plan is reputed to exist. This would be David Rockefeller, the 92-year-old multibillionaire godfather of the world's financial elite... The lengthy Wikipedia article on Rockefeller provides the following version of a celebrated statement he allegedly made in an opening speech at the Bilderberg conference in Baden-Baden, Germany, in June 1991:

"We are grateful to the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subject to the bright lights of publicity during these years, but the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government which will never again know war, but only peace and prosperity for the whole of humanity. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in the past centuries."

This speech was made 17 years ago. It came at the beginning in the U.S. of the Bill Clinton administration. Rockefeller speaks of an "us." This "us," he says, has been having meetings for almost 40 years. If you add the 17 years since he gave the speech, it was 57 years ago — two full generations... Not only has "us" developed a "plan for the world," but the attempt to "develop" the plan has evidently been successful, at least in Rockefeller's mind. The ultimate goal of "us" is to create "the supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers." This will lead, he says, toward a "world government which will never again know war."

Just as an intellectual exercise, let's assume that David Rockefeller is as important and powerful a person as he seems to think he is. Let's give the man some credit and assume that he and "us" have in fact succeeded to a degree. This would mean that the major decisions and events since Rockefeller gave the speech in 1991 have probably also been part of the plan or that they have at least represented its features and intent.

Therefore, by examining these decisions and events, we can determine whether in fact Rockefeller is being truthful in his assessment that the Utopia he has in mind is on its way or has at least come closer to being realized. In no particular order, some of these decisions and events are as follows: The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement by the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations has led to the elimination of millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs, as well as the destruction of U.S. family farming in favor of global agribusiness... Similar free trade agreements, including those under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, have led to export of millions of additional manufacturing jobs to China and elsewhere.

Average family income in the U.S. has steadily eroded while the share of the nation's wealth held by the richest income brackets has soared. Some Wall Street hedge fund managers are making \$1 billion a year, while the number of homeless, including war veterans, pushes a million.

The housing bubble has led to a huge inflation of real estate prices in the U.S. Millions of homes are falling into the hands of the bankers through foreclosure. The cost of land and rentals has further decimated family agriculture as well as small business. Rising property taxes based on inflated land assessments have forced millions of lower-and middle-income people and elderly out of their homes. The fact that bankers now control national monetary systems in their entirety, under laws where money is introduced only through lending at interest, has resulted in a massive debt pyramid that is teetering on collapse. This "monetarist" system was pioneered by Rockefeller family-funded economists at the University of Chicago. The rub is that when the pyramid comes down and everyone goes bankrupt, the banks which have been creating money "out of thin air," will then be able to seize valuable assets for pennies on the dollar, as J.P. Morgan Chase is preparing to

do with the businesses owned by Carlyle Capital. Meaningful regulation of the financial industry has been abandoned by government, and any politician that stands in the way, such as Eliot Spitzer, is destroyed.

The total tax burden on Americans from federal, state, and local governments now exceeds forty percent of income and is rising. Today, with a recession starting, the Democratic-controlled Congress, while supporting the minuscule "stimulus" rebate, is hypocritically raising taxes further, even for middle-income earners. Back taxes, along with student loans, can no longer be eliminated by bankruptcy protection.

Gasoline prices are soaring even as companies like Exxon-Mobil are recording record profits. Other commodity prices are going up steadily, including food prices, with some countries starting to experience near-famine conditions — 40 million people in America are officially classified as "food insecure."

Corporate control of water and mineral resources has removed much of what is available from the public commons, and the deregulation of energy production has led to huge increases in the costs of electricity in many areas.

The destruction of family farming in the U.S. by NAFTA (along with family farming in Mexico and Canada) has been mirrored by policies toward other nations on the part of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Around the world, due to pressure from the "Washington consensus," local food self-sufficiency has been replaced by raising of crops primarily for export. Migration off the land has fed the population of huge slums around the cities of underdeveloped countries.

Since the 1980s, the U.S. has been fighting wars throughout the world either directly or by proxy. The former Yugoslavia was dismembered by NATO. Under cover of 9/11 and by utilizing off-the-shelf plans, the U.S. is now engaged in the military conquest and permanent military occupation of the Middle East. A worldwide encirclement of Russia and China by U.S. and NATO forces is underway, and a new push to militarize space has begun. The Western powers are clearly preparing for at least the possibility of another world war.

The expansion of the U.S. military empire abroad is mirrored by the creation of a totalitarian system of surveillance at home, whereby the activities of private citizens are spied upon and tracked by technology and systems which have been put into place under the heading of the "War on Terror." Human microchip implants for tracking purposes are starting to be used. The military-industrial complex has become the nation's largest and most successful industry with tens of thousands of planners engaged in devising new and better ways, both overt and covert, to destroy both foreign and domestic "enemies."

Meanwhile, the U.S. has the largest prison population of any country on earth, plus everyday life for millions of people is a crushing burden of government, insurance, and financial fees, charges, and paperwork; and the simplest business transactions are burdened by rake-offs for legions of accountants, lawyers, bureaucrats, brokers, speculators, and middlemen.

Finally, the deteriorating conditions of everyday life have given rise to an extraordinary level of stress-related disease, as well as epidemic alcohol and drug addiction. Governments themselves around the world engage in drug trafficking. Instead of working to lower stress levels, public policy is skewed in favor of an enormous prescription drug industry that grows rich off the declining level of health through treatment of symptoms rather than causes. Many of these heavily-advertised medications themselves have devastating side effects.

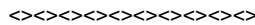
This list should at least give us enough to go on in order to ask a hard question. Assuming again that all these things are parts of the elitist plan which Mr. Rockefeller boasts to have been developing, isn't it a little strange that the means which have been selected to achieve "peace and prosperity for the whole of humanity" involve so much violence, deception, oppression, exploitation, graft, and theft?

In fact, it looks to me as though "our plan for the world" is one that is based on genocide, world war, police control of populations, and seizure of the world's resources by the financial elite and their puppet politicians and military forces. In particular, could there be a better way to accomplish all this than what appears to be a concentrated plan to remove from people everywhere in the world the ability to raise their own food? After all, genocide by starvation may be slow, but it is very effective, especially when it can be blamed on "market forces."

preparing for the crisis. In January, its government announced a plan for an electric car network throughout the country by 2011...The transition is going to be tough. No one is psychologically prepared for it, the authors say, because the energy crisis has lacked salespeople like those who have been so effective in raising the profile of climate change. Think Al Gore and David Suzuki.

Most people are still hooked on gas fueled cars. In the GVRD in 2004, 84 per cent reported their main transportation mode as the car; six percent used transit; 10 percent walked or cycled...In Greater Toronto, 79 percent reported using the car, motorcycle, or taxi; 15 percent used transit; six percent cycled or walked...Not only are we heavily reliant on cars, in this country 30 percent of vehicles are either SUVs, pickups, or passenger vans... Car use in China is growing by 18 percent a year...It's a whole new world out there; we'd better start paying attention. [byaffe@png.canwest.com] © The Vancouver Sun 2008

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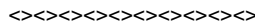
A Science-based Plan for the Benefit of Human Beings Rather than the Mirage of Money, by Ron Miller, Authorized Technocracy speaker

Our price system society has run us into a cul-de-sac from which there is no easy exit. Everything desirable to a price system is what is destroying us. Why is it that those who can see the looming abyss look for solutions from the same system that got us there in the first place?

Money is created by waste ... the faster a resource is used up, the greater the profit! The more products sell, the more are manufactured — billions of throwaway items, which include plastic bags, bottles, cups, plates, spoons, forks, packaging, etc. ad infinitum — all to maximize profit. Earth is overpopulated; more people, more customers means ever greater sales!

The current "threat of the day" is the rapid rise in the pricing of gasoline and diesel fuel. The real concern should be that we are running out of virtually everything that is used in great quantities to produce our standard of living. We have been mining fresh water aquifers worldwide for decades. Our agriculture is dependent on it! It has taken millions of years to accumulate, and we are consuming it in decades. When it is gone, so will much of our agriculture.

Since 1933, Technocracy has offered a plan based on scientific research for the organization of human society that would actually operate for the benefit of human beings rather than the mirage of money. Technocracy has stated that the operations of the social system should be measured and operated on the basis of energy consumption. One conserves and concerns oneself with that which is measured. Energy is the most fundamental constituent of anything physical. Humanity is now standing on the edge of a precipice of our own making ... We have a choice: change or face a meat grinder of social upheaval, thusly stated as "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin."



Howard Scott used the following quotation, "**Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin,**" in the dark days of the 1930s. Now, at last, I have looked it up. The Columbia Encyclopaedia, Sixth Edition: "In the Bible (Dan.v.1-28), the mysterious riddle written by a hand on the wall at Belshazzar's feast. These Aramaic words may be translated as, 'It has been counted and counted, weighed, and divided.' Daniel interpreted this to mean that the king's deeds had been weighed and found deficient, and that his kingdom would therefore be divided. (To the Medes and Persians?). It suggests an end time and a new order replacing the old. I think he [HS] would use these words now for the dark days ahead... Walt Fryers, Technocrat

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