

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy** February 2008

You have the power to save your freedoms and your natural world. Truth and Love, Courage and Energy, and a good organizing plan for cooperative action are your great powers. Don't look for leaders to do it for you, unless you are standing before a mirror.

—Doris Granny-D Haddock

CHAPTER NEWS (Continued on page 8)

Chapter Calendar

Boston/Cambridge Alliance/North Bridge Alliance Joint Meeting

Join us at the Alliance for Democracy national office on **Thursday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m.**

On the agenda:

*March 9th **SPP/Colombia FTA** event at MIT, featuring speakers from Global Exchange and local groups

***Janet Eaton's visit** to Boston in late March

*Organizing for H.374/"**Globalization Impact Bill**" (see article, this page)

The office is located at **760 Main Street (Route 20), Waltham, MA**, behind the fieldstone Christ Church. We're on the #70 bus line (from Central Sq. Cambridge) or a short walk from Waltham Center. For directions or more information, call 781-894-1179 or email afd@thealliancefordemocracy.org

"Overcoming Zionism: Creating a Single Democratic State in Israel/Palestine" by Joel Kovel London and Ann Arbor: Pluto Press, 2007

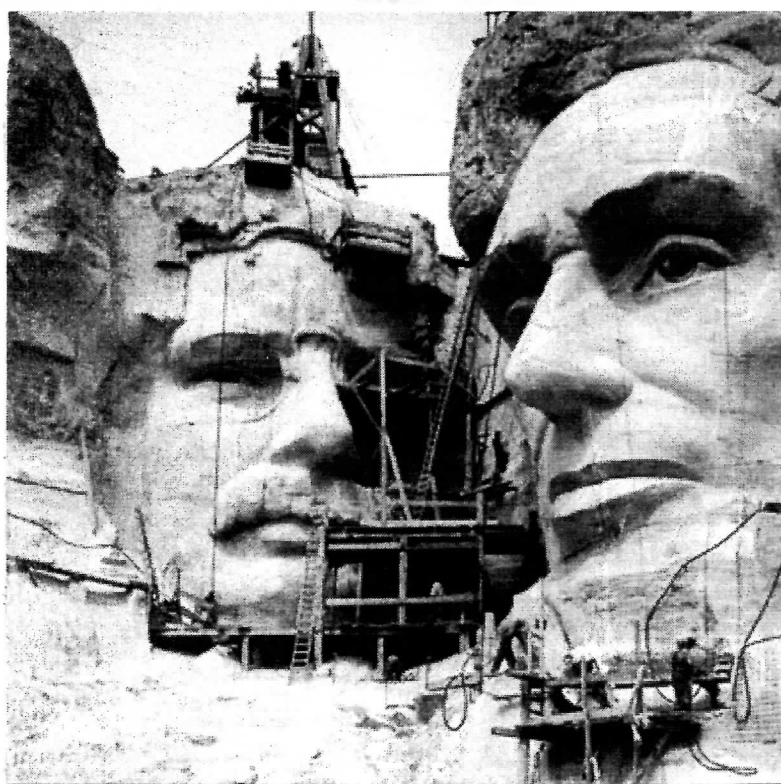
Reviewed by Michael Steven Smith, *Socialism & Democracy*, Nov 2007

JOEL KOVEL HAS GIVEN US AN IMPRESSIVE AND IMPORTANT book. Its first printing sold out without a single review, major or otherwise. Nevertheless word of this extraordinary work is spreading.

The taboo in the United States (not Israel) against seriously discussing and criticizing Zionist Israel has been broken with the publication of Jimmy Carter's bold book labeling the situation in the Occupied Territories "apartheid" and with the exposure by prestigious professors Mearsheimer and Walt—in the *London Review of Books* after rejection by the *Atlantic Monthly*—of the power of the Israeli lobby.

Kovel, by focusing squarely on how to "overcome" Zionism, takes the discussion exactly where it needs to go from there. He writes beautifully, even poetically, not just on Zionism's sordid history, but on its ideology, its ethics, and even on the terrible ecological devastation in Israel itself, where every river is polluted, some to lethal levels. And he writes with courage and hope.

Kovel believes that the creation (continued on Page 4 >>)



Carving our empire-builders in granite, 1939. Sculptor: Gutzon Borglum

President Theodore Roosevelt (center) burst the continental boundaries. Unsustainable SPP (see "Globalization" below) may be the final phase of our bipartisan American empire. What next? And will the Lakota people—native to these Black Hills—reclaim Mt. Rushmore?

Why A "Globalization Impact Bill"? Toward Passage of H.374 in 2008

by Dave Lewit, Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy

AMERICA IS IN TROUBLE, AND WE ALL KNOW IT. Why trouble? What can we do about it—particularly here in Massachusetts?

Globalization is another name for empire—not actually the empire of the United States, but the empire of the world elites, managers of the transnational corporations many of which are US-based. They are represented by the men and women who meet annually at the well-publicized World Economic Forum at the Davos ski resort in Switzerland to bolster and adjust their objectives and methods for managing the world. Their assumptions (e.g., corporate efficiency, genius, trickle-down) and methods (e.g., privatization, infotainment, debt, massive firepower) are the System by which we are all expected to live.

With a government ever more secretive and concentrated in Washington, with 60 lobbyists for every member of congress(1), with a supreme court assuming that corporations have citizen rights (2), with most families needing two or more wage earners, with democracy more an occasional vote ritual than regular participation, with a standing military partnered with a corporate paramilitary, and with media nearly monopolized by a few giant corporations, the gentlemen of Davos have co-opted our already under-responsive government. We—as a democracy and as earthly creatures—are in trouble.

With globalization as a development strategy, corporate directors have seized upon certain conditions which make it feasible, while ignoring other factors which may eventually doom it. Although we can say that globalization began with Columbus or even with Greece and earlier trading empires, it accelerated with population expansion and modern (continued on Page 6 >>)

Lakota Secession

Indians Divided on Legitimacy

by Gale Courey Toensing, *Indian Country Today*, 4 Jan 2008

Russell Means, leader of the Lakota Sioux Indian secession (reported in the last issue of the *Dispatch*) has the sympathy of elected leaders of various Sioux groups, but not outright support. Moderates and conservatives prefer to keep trying—with little success over the decades—to get violated treaties enforced. Meanwhile, with federal funding cut, they agree that living conditions have seriously deteriorated. —Ed.

IN A PHONE INTERVIEW WITH *INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY*, [Russell] Means made clear his thoughts on the tribal leaders of the Sioux nations. "I maintained from the get-go I do not represent, nor do the free-thinking, free-seeking Lakota want to have anything to do with, the 'hang around the fort' Indians, those collaborators with the government who perpetuate our poverty, misery and our sickness—in other words, our genocide. They are part and parcel of that genocide. I couldn't care less what the bought-and-paid-for, 'hang around the fort' Indians represent or what they say. End of conversation," Means said.

He further noted that his group has liberated the land and established the "Republic of Lakotah," which he said has been done legally according to Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The republic is currently governed by a "provisional government."

The provisional government plan is negotiating with "foreign investors" to develop the energy resources on the land. "There's enough wind coming from North and South Dakota to power electricity in every city in the U.S. [Ed. note: Anishinaabeg tribeswoman Winona LaDuke, vice-presidential candidate with Ralph Nader, was similarly quoted in the *Dispatch* for Oct 2003] forever; so, consequently, we are now in negotiations with investors who are going to want to immediately put up windmills and solar because the sun shines on the Lakota in the northern Plains over 300 days of the year," Means said. He declined to name the potential investors until the deal is completed, but said the group has land that it will utilize.

He said the Republic of Lakotah would have a gold-based economy, that it had already established a bank and would use the "economic weapon or tool" of property liens to force the federal government to come to the negotiating table.

But what does the republic want to negotiate? "We want them to have hands off, to realize that our relationship is diplomatic," Means said.

Means said the republic tried to file liens against property the South Dakota state government had seized for nonpayment of taxes, but the county in which the attempt was made refused to accept them because it didn't know what a sovereign nation was.

Asked how the republic's government had formed, Means said, "Actually, that's none of your business. I went around and we, the people who are leading this, we got critical mass—enough freedom-seeking Lakotas—to make it worthwhile for us to seek our freedom."

The group's attempt to withdraw from the treaties on behalf of the Lakota people "doesn't mean anything," said BIA [US Bureau of Indian Affairs] spokesman Gary Garrison. "These are not legitimate tribal governments elected by the people. These are just groups who don't have a government-to-government

relationship with the federal government," he said, adding that "the group's claim to be acting according to the law is their interpretation.

"It's not like we haven't had individual groups that have declared independence from the federal government all the way from Montana to Texas; and as long as they want to go out and sit on a hill and play paramilitary and be independent, that's fine. That's every American's right.

"But the bottom line is when they begin the process of violating other people's rights, breaking the [US] law, they're going to end up like all the other groups that have declared themselves independent—usually getting arrested and being put in jail," Garrison said...

Getting Ahead by Giving Head

Washington's Pathway to Success

by Morris Berman, *Dark Ages America* (p.286), 2006

THE RESULTS OF OUR OBSESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM show up in numerous international surveys of happiness that have been conducted in recent years, where Americans score so badly. But personally, I find the anecdotal evidence even more compelling, because debacles such as the Enron scandal are really the logical end point of this aspect of the American Dream. Thus the epitome of this value system is captured by the story of a staff assistant on Capitol Hill, Jessica Cutler, who slept with a number of men concurrently (a senator's staff member, a married Bush administration official, and so on) and then posted a chronicle of her bedroom activities on the Web.

The portrait of her—and this extended to everything, not just sex—is one of someone who, as she puts it, created and inhabited her own moral universe. Her very first blog entry stated that she had no interest in politics whatsoever; it was just that the Senate job looked good on her résumé, and Capitol Hill was a great place for meeting men and showing off her clothes. There was no question here of public service's being socially important, or of sexual activities being loving or meaningful. Without any ethical grounding to provide direction for her life, the private "moral universe" Jessica created just coincidentally happened to be the dominant secular ethos of the contemporary United States, in which it's all about pleasure, PR, and (self-) promotion.

The upshot of it all was pretty predictable: posing for a pictorial with *Playboy* and netting a six-figure book deal. The cover story in the *Washington Post Magazine* commented that the whole affair "raised a ton of questions about where America is headed"—but quite honestly, I don't think there is any question as to where America is headed.

Note that from the standpoint of Republican virtue (capital R), Jessica Cutler was an outstanding student. She "made something of herself," controlled her own destiny, put herself first, manipulated others for her own benefit, maximized her opportunities in a competitive market, etc.—a fast learner in the school of market capitalism and obsessive individualism, one would have to say. Should we be surprised that her efforts were crowned with success?

It is really fascinating how, under the regime of American-style individualism, everybody loses, and yet it continues to be celebrated as the greatest gift to the human race...



BioLab Delayed Two Years

So What Else Can We Do With the Building?

by Stephen Smith, Boston Globe, 1 Feb 2008

THE OPENING OF A BOSTON UNIVERSITY LABORATORY designed to study the world's deadliest germs will be delayed several months or longer, according to documents filed this week in federal court. BU administrators overseeing the Biosafety Level-4 lab, the centerpiece of a larger federally sponsored project, had predicted that the facility would be operating by the fall. But the National Institutes of Health said in this week's court filing that it now anticipates that an ongoing environmental review of the lab will take longer than expected and won't be completed until "on or before April 30, 2009."

A BU spokeswoman, Ellen Berlin, said yesterday: "The NIH is doing additional studies, and that clearly adds time to the schedule. As the NIH process is ongoing, it is premature to set a precise opening date."

Still, the disclosure by the federal agency of its extended timetable for finishing the environmental analysis constitutes a clear setback for BU, which first began pursuing federal grants to build the lab on its South End medical campus five years ago.

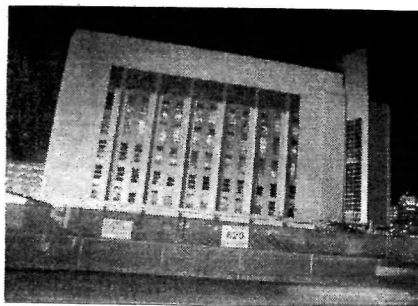
The revised NIH schedule also appears to acknowledge blistering criticism of the agency's conclusion that the lab posed no danger to the surrounding neighborhood. In November, an independent panel of scientists concluded that the federal review "was not sound and credible" and failed to adequately address the consequences of highly lethal germs escaping from the lab. At that time, the director of the NIH, Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, pledged to personally review the critical report from the National Research Council.

An NIH spokesman declined to comment last night on the court filing, other than to confirm April 30, 2009, as the latest date on which its final environmental assessment will be completed. But even that report will not provide the final say on the project, which is under construction on Albany Street and more than 70 percent complete. Legal cases brought by lab opponents have yet to be resolved.

In a federal lawsuit, US District Judge Patti B. Saris had refused to immediately block construction of the project. But Saris said she would retain oversight of the Biosafety Level-4 lab, leaving open the possibility that she could prevent research with the deadliest germs, including Ebola, plague, and Marburg virus.

The new court documents were filed to address Saris's questions about the status of the environmental review. Once the review is completed, representatives of BU, NIH, and the lab opponents must appear before Saris again, adding further time to the lab's opening date.

"The way I read this is they can't open the BSL-4 piece of this conceivably before the end of 2009 or more likely the beginning of 2010, just the way the world works and because nobody can tell the judge when to decide," said Eloise Lawrence, an attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation, which sued to stop the lab. "She could also decide at that point it will never open."



Controlling Armageddon

US Strategic Command in Command

by Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Seventy percent of the weapons targeted on Iraq during the preemptive "Shock and Awe" air assault were precision-guided from space by StratCom assets [satellites]. —CBS News

ON 9/11, 2001, President George W. Bush was rushed to U.S. Strategic Command's underground headquarters outside Omaha, Nebraska for safekeeping. From that day forward, the legendary command that for over half a century had maintained America's nuclear deterrent would never again be the same.

Within months of the terrorist attack of 9/11, StratCom began undergoing a drastic makeover at the hands of the Bush/Cheney Administration. From its previously 'unthinkable' mission of nuclear holocaust, StratCom was tasked with offensively waging the White House's "War on Terror". The command now fields eight missions—nuclear weapons; cyberwarfare; missile defense; global command and control; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance [ISR]; global strike; space; and combating weapons of mass destruction.

Although Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska remains the command headquarters, StratCom now boasts a network of hundreds of military bases distributed around the globe. The command's broadened missions in computer warfare, signals intelligence and Homeland Security give it direct authority over the four services—Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force—and indirect authority over multiple agencies like the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, CIA and FBI.

The next war the White House gets us into, be it against a so-called 'rogue state' like Iran or geo-political rival like China, will be planned, launched and executed from StratCom—utilizing either conventional or nuclear weapons.

Under the Doctrine of Preemption and CONPLAN 8022-02 (Contingency Plan), StratCom is now authorized to attack anywhere on the face of the earth within one hour on the mere perception of a threat to America's national security—without first seeking congressional approval, as required by the U.S. Constitution and the "War Powers Resolution."

StratCom, as an extension of the executive branch, has become an accessory in flouting both national and international law. It's usurping Congress's authority to declare war, conducting constitutionally suspect "warrantless wiretaps" on our citizens, developing new generations of nuclear weapons, pursuing 'first-strike' Star Wars missile defense systems and launching 'vigilante-style' preemptive attacks—like the one on Iraq.

StratCom's fingerprints are everywhere nowadays... The threatened attack on Iran—that's StratCom's global strike... The proposed 'Star Wars' bases in Poland and the Czech Republic—that's StratCom's integrated missile defense... The NSA's "warrantless wiretaps" on American citizens—that's StratCom's ISR mission... The current showdown with China over its space program—that's StratCom's space command... Developing new generations of nuclear weapons like the bunker buster 'mini-nuke' and Reliable Replacement Warhead—that's StratCom's strategic deterrence.

Under the goals outlined in the Bush/Cheney Administration's revised "National Space Policy," StratCom is actively seeking the total domination of space for the U.S. and a few approved allies... because whoever controls space controls the earth.

StratCom is fast becoming the "Big Brother" that George Orwell warned of in his novel 1984. It's spying on our citizens and infringing on our civil liberties. It's generating round-the-clock spin about threats to our national security and the increasing need for military strength. And it's consuming an ever-greater share of the budget for national defense as it pursues a strategy of permanent war. For the 21st Century, it's like Darth Vader in the service of the Empire.

The key elements of StratCom's mission—such as global missile defense—will greatly exceed, in size and cost, many of the major military-industrial projects of the past. With the current Pentagon budget already totaling well over a half-trillion dollars annually, paying for the cost of such StratCom projects will necessarily translate into cuts in social spending and entitlements programs, like Medicare and Social Security.

In the wake of 9/11, StratCom has become the most dangerous place on the face of the earth. But this transformation has happened so fast, hardly anybody knows it, and nobody's talking about it. And it's high time we do.

*** Omaha, and StratCom, will be the site of the Global Network's 16th annual International Space organizing conference and demonstration on April 11-13, 2008. Info: 207-443-9502*

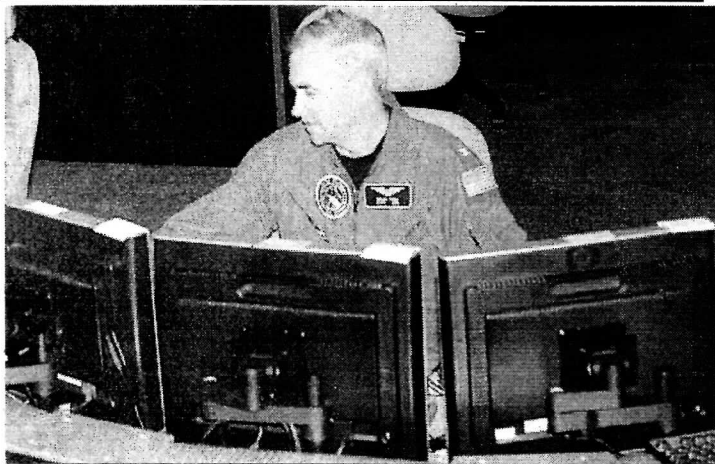
www.space4peace.org

Game This

Listen to Your Weapons Mama

The Lockheed Martin net-centric collaborative design leveraged existing COTS* products and provided the necessary information integration, configuration, and operations framework to accomplish the US STRATCOM goal of allowing any authenticated individual to publish and subscribe to information, regardless of physical location or political boundaries, the classification and protection of the information is pushed as far to the edge as possible (along with the "power"). The LM** team provided the tools that implement the movement, manipulation, and management of information from the physical to the cognitive domains, maintaining pervasive connectivity between warfighters and their commanders in a highly secure and responsive environment. The "to-be" Global Information Grid (GIG) enables the warfighters to engage with one another concerning the representations of the physical and cognitive domains presented within the USSTRATCOM information domain. Their perceptions, assessments and intentions are accessible as information in its own right and be able to be assimilated into the physical and cognitive representations of the battlespace within the information domain.

*Commercial, Off-The-Shelf **Lockheed-Martin



ZIONISM (continued from Page 1)

of Israel in 1948, as a colony of settlers who established an exclusively Jewish and discriminatory state, has created a multi-faceted disaster—"a dreadful mistake"—that should be undone, with Israel de-Zionized and integrated into the Middle East. His solution is stated in the book's subtitle and restated in the title of the last chapter: "Palesrael: A Secular and Universal Democracy for Israel/Palestine." This is an elegant solution, and he lays out an action program to accomplish it.

How did Kovel, a Jew from Brooklyn, the oldest son of Ukrainian immigrants who did well—moving with Joel to "the purgatory of Baldwin, Long Island"—come to this radical critique and equally radical solution? Joel graduated from Yale and became a successful psychiatrist. He taught at medical school before switching careers and taking a social science professorship at Bard, where for a time he held the Alger Hiss chair. He is still there, the only Marxist on the faculty. This book is not going to further his career.

"What kind of Jew am I?" he asks, and answers "a very bad one." More accurately, he defines himself as what Isaac Deutscher called "a non-Jewish Jew." Not that he is not spiritual; he writes of reaching for the infinite. But he is not religious. Being part of a sect is too narrowing and confining. He identifies with the Jewish heretics who transcended Jewry, but who are nonetheless part of the Jewish tradition—he lists Spinoza, Marx, Freud, Proust, Einstein, Kafka, Wittgenstein, and Luxemburg—and for whom "the true glory" of being Jewish is to live "on the margin and across boundaries."

Kovel writes that the ethical reference point for Jews is the tribal unit. Since ancient times they set themselves off as "a people apart," chosen by Jehovah, with whom they have a covenant. In Kovel's view, "Zionism's dynamic was drawn from the most tribal and particularistic stratum of Judaism, and its destiny became the restoration of tribalism in the guise of a modern, highly militarized and aggressive state," which they implanted in the center if Islam. Herein lies the tragedy.

At the turn of the 20th century, a Zionist conference in Vienna delegated several rabbis to travel to Palestine on a fact-finding mission. The rabbis cabled back, "the bride is beautiful, but she is married to another man." Kovel writes incisively of what ensued. The "tremendous struggle" to dislodge Palestine's inhabitants would involve three great difficulties:

the resistance of those who stood in the way and would have to be displaced; the exigencies of geo-politics; and one's own inner being, which would have to be retooled from the self-image of an ethical victim to that of a ruthless conqueror. All of these obstacles could be dealt with by signing onto Western imperialism and capitalism.

Jewish suffering and persecution became justification for aggression in asserting the "outlandish claim to a territory controlled 2500 years ago by one's putative ancestors."

A Perfect Terrorist Storm

The Israelis took 78% of the territory in 1948 and the remaining 22% in 1967. The logic of Zionism—to create an ethnically pure Jewish state—led to organized terrorism; "the essentials had been put in place by the mid-1930s" and the opportunity came in 1948. The leaders of Zionism, Chaim Arlosoroff, Vladimir Jabotinsky, and especially David Ben Gurion, quietly articulated the need to drive the Arabs out. South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd said in 1961 something the liberals wouldn't: that the Zionists "took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. In that, I agree with them, Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state." When the smoke lifted in

1948, 531 Arab villages had been destroyed, some 750,000 Palestinians driven out. In 1948 Menachem Begin (later Prime Minister of Israel) organized the dynamiting of the British headquarters in Jerusalem, killing 88 persons, including 15 Jews. That year also saw the terrorizing of the village of Deir Yassin. With Begin in command, Yitzhak Shamir—who was also to become a PM and whose frankly fascist organization the Stern Gang had actually made overtures to the Nazis to create a Jewish state along totalitarian lines—took part in the operation. The terror at Deir Yassin was a decisive factor in the Arab exodus. The ethnic cleansing had been clearly planned by the Zionist leadership, as Israeli historian Ilan Pappé has documented. Thus the Zionists established Israel with a crime against humanity.

Ariel Sharon, the third Israeli terrorist PM, was actually found guilty by an Israeli court for permitting the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon in 1982, where as many as 3000 Palestinian refugees were killed. In 1953 Sharon led a cross-border raid on Qibya, Jordan, "in which the community was reduced to rubble, with 45 houses blown up and 69 people killed, the majority women and children." He repeated his mass murder in Lebanon in 2006, using US-made cluster bombs. It is truly remarkable, as Kovel points out, that a terrorist could ascend to national leadership three times and "scarcely anybody has bothered to ponder its meaning." Kovel notes the consequent bad conscience of the Israelis and remarks on how their resulting feelings "become projected and turned into the blaming of others"—whether these be expropriated Palestinians or critics of Israel, who are then labeled as anti-semites and/or as that curious entity, the "self-hating Jew."

Israel, as a racist state, discriminates in the critical areas of immigrants, settlements, and land development. Any Jew in the world who can show that his grandmother on his mother's side was Jewish may obtain automatic citizenship, yet the Arabs expelled in 1948 and 1967, despite international law and United Nations resolution 194, are not permitted their right to return. 92% of the land in Israel is administered by The Jewish National Fund, which does not allow its use by non-Jews.

Racism is in the nature of a colonial settler state. What is remarkable is the degree to which Zionists deny this. Kovel gives examples of a top Israeli general calling Palestinians "drugged cockroaches in a bottle"; he cites a 2006 poll showing that more than two-thirds of Israelis would refuse to live in the same building as Arabs and that the idea of deporting Arab citizens is popular. Many Jewish soccer fans curse and attack Arab members of their national team.

Kovel writes, reminiscent of Thomas Jefferson, that no state has an absolute right to exist, hence all states are to some degree illegitimate; he adds that states may be relatively or absolutely illegitimate, and that a racist state is illegitimate. Israel, being an exclusively Jewish state, is a racist state. He concludes that "the problem then is with Zionism and the Jewish state as such, and not its illegal occupation of the West Bank." The point is to change it, "to dissolve the Jewishness of the state. For this, one does not smash or trample Zionism; one overcomes it and frees people from its chains."

He goes beyond the two-state solution, necessarily, because by steady aggression and aggrandizement the Zionists have whittled the Palestinian territory down to 8% of what it was in 1948, leaving the natives with a negligible fragment, without much water, polluted, economically unviable, denuded of its agriculture, isolated by Jewish-only roads, and partly encircled by an obscene wall.

Steps Toward a "Palesrael" State

What to do? Speak the truth about Israel. Expose the Zionist lobby. Force it to register as an agent of a foreign government. Bring lawsuits for violations of human rights, as the Center for Constitutional Rights did against an Israeli general for mass killing in a village, or against the US Caterpillar company for making gargantuan bulldozers sold wittingly to the Israeli army for the express purpose of house demolition (one of which, ran over and killed Rachel Corrie, to whom Kovel partly dedicates his book). Place Israel where it belongs, in the company of apartheid South Africa. Cut the threads of Israel's support system; boycott it academically, economically, and culturally.

Palestinians are the largest and oldest refugee population in the world. Central to the campaign against Zionist Israel is to support their right of return. Zionism can thus be brought down in an entirely peaceful manner. The Right of Return is more basic than liquidating the occupation, which would leave the Zionist state unchanged. The Right of Return would require the end of the occupation as a pre-condition and can directly undo the Jewishness of the state with the returnees having full and equal rights. Even now, counting the occupied territories, the population is roughly 50/50, Jew and Arab.

The new state—"Palesrael"—could reshape itself according to the South African anti-apartheid precepts of recognition and responsibility, which point to a society organized along essentially non-capitalist lines. Kovel knows that this will not come easily and that the outcome will depend partly on unforeseeable convulsions in the outside world. He concludes: "Such is the reality facing dreamers for a better world: a slim chance, and a long haul. As ever, it is the journey that counts, the seeking of good conscience, good will, and good comrades."

Israel A Scapegoating, Neoliberal Disaster

This is a rich, multi-layered book, reflecting the author's wide reading and travel. Kovel's background as a psychiatrist is evident in his wise understanding. Judaeophobia in Nazi Germany "draws from a time when Jews were, if not blameless, at least powerless and were made to pay the debts demanded by the anti-communism of the fascist state and by Christendom's bad conscience." He calls it "intellectual barbarism" to take current criticism of Israel as "antisemitism," but he well understands that given a situation of invasion and occupation of another people's land, it is not surprising to find "the whole spectrum of human responses ... ranging from emancipatory and nonviolent expression to crude atavisms including racist belief."

Israel has become, in Kovel's view, the most dangerous place on earth for Jews. It now has the largest gap between rich and poor in the whole industrialized world. Forty percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Half of Israeli families cannot meet their monthly bills. Kovel reports that the immediate cause of this has been a fierce neoliberal assault on the poor and the public sector, which has left Israel with "the worst primary and lower secondary education in the Western world." Socialist ideals lie in ruins. As a result, a serious amount of emigration is taking place, with some 760,000 Israelis living abroad in 2004. Jews leaving Russia prefer, ironically, to go to Germany.

I think that if persons concerned about the problems of Jews and Zionism could have but one book on the subject on their shelf, it should be this one.

Michael Steven Smith, an attorney from New York City, is a member of the National Lawyers Guild who traveled to Israel and the Occupied Territories with the Guild's 1985 fact-finding committee.

industry, especially as science and technology have given us chemistry and metallurgy for manufacture and war, electric and electronic devices for communication and control, drugs and genetically modified organisms for fostering consumer populations, aeronautical/space engineering, and so on. Globalization has piggy-backed on (or driven) wars such as the Spanish-American war with its overseas conquests, and World War II which provided unparalleled opportunity for the US to expand markets in Europe and elsewhere and provide weapons to grateful authoritarian allies in the cold war against the USSR and their own dissident forces.

Perhaps most important for their boldness were the conditions which enabled corporations, starting after the Civil War, to claim the privileges and immunities of "personhood" under US law tapping our Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. What seems to many today to be a form of corruption may then have seemed Destiny—the "unstoppable force" of westward expansion (at Indians' and African slaves' and Mexicans' expense) and industrial production—still current with the Thatcher-Reagan notion of "There Is No Alternative" to unregulated trade and investment—neoliberalism. Corporate privilege has invaded our federal government to the extent that, with the "fast track" legislative funnel and now the "unitary executive's" bypassing of treaty enactment, and with a pro-corporate majority in our winner-take-all congress and the courts, there is no legitimate, national-level challenge to either economic or military globalization—except under the 10th Amendment which is hardly effective at this point. But—despite the impotence of a public doped by commercial TV, fatigued by overwork, and frightened by "terrorism"—peak oil, declining real income, and ecological failures are stepping up consumer costs and stress, thus waking up increasing numbers of citizens—numbering the days of lawful mega-corporate advantage and schemes like those described below.

Dangers of Free Trade: NAFTA

Globalization has worked for the audacious and their investors in the short run. It has failed to meet its stated goals of prosperity and safety for all, and it has weakened or devastated the majority of people on earth, including the bulk of Americans especially by dramatically shrinking democracy. It has accelerated the destruction of the earth upon whose ecosystems all life depends. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) exemplifies the institutions by which the elites of Canada, the United States, and Mexico—linked with the World Trade Organization (WTO), which drew from the same neoliberal principles as NAFTA—expect to have their way.

NAFTA is a system of corporate-inspired rules, adopted by the national legislatures of three neighboring countries, which requires "freeing" business operations of democratic constraints—by allowing corporations to challenge national, state, and local laws and regulations as "burdensome"—laws which protect public health, safety, workers rights, local markets, environment, and many other conditions which company directors consider "barriers to trade" and investment. Further it privileges companies to monopolize inventions and cultural creations, and to sue governments directly (rather than through a government prosecutor) in a secret NAFTA court (which can award severe damages) against governments for interfering with their chances to make profits.

The effects of NAFTA after 14 years are clear. Although NAFTA has benefitted some large corporations (in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, etc.), it has had devastating effects on

workers, consumers, and citizens. In the US, trade surpluses have turned into deficits. More than a million quality US jobs—net—have been lost to Mexico, Canada, China, etc. NAFTA-related wages in the US have decreased while NAFTA-related prices have increased. Two million Mexican farmers have been displaced, forced by economic necessity to seek jobs in the US, while child malnutrition in Mexico has increased due to food insecurity (3).

Wrapping Up North America: SPP

Now, since 2005, a secretive, corporate-driven NAFTA-Plus agreement has been reached by the three heads of state which they euphemistically name "Security & Prosperity Partnership" (SPP). Unlike NAFTA's 900 pages of rules (which few congress members actually read in the "fast-track" rush before they narrowly approved it), SPP has issued no such document. Indeed, SPP programs in the US have started—with funding from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security, and other federal departments—with no congressional debate or oversight. A spectrum of ten cross-border economic working groups are busy planning, as are three security working groups (4).

Membership of the 13 groups is concealed. There are specialized groups strategizing on *manufactured goods & sectoral and regional competitiveness, *movement of goods, *energy, *environment, *e-commerce & information communications technologies, *financial services, *business facilitation, *food & agriculture, *transportation, *health, and ***three on security issues. Because NAFTA itself is so permissive to corporations and restrictive to others, it's hard to know exactly how SPP will further expand corporate power. But the neoliberal "free-trade" trend is clear.

It is known that the plan includes integration of armed services command of the three countries under US NorthCom, and similarly for national police such as agents of Homeland Security/FBI. Whereas it will be easier—mandatory in some cases—for water, oil, commercial vehicles, certain goods, and of course money/capital to cross borders unimpeded, people will be impeded in a supposed search for terrorists. Many internment camps and transport trains have already been built in the US (under contract to Halliburton), and Canadians are complaining about Homeland Security's demanding personal data on passengers in Canadian planes merely crossing US territory (5).

A system of privatized "superCorridors" up to 400 yards wide and taking up acreage equivalent to the state of Vermont—carrying trucks, cars, rail, water and fuel pipelines, and cable—eventually to connect superports in Mexico and Canada with "inland ports" in the US—is already under construction in Texas despite resistance by the state legislature. Whose land will be condemned? What impact will mammoth vehicle exhaust have on global warming and soil/water safety? What animals and plants will be cut off from their ecosystems? What cities and towns with their small businesses will be bypassed and polluted in this heroic effort to flood the country with foreign goods? After all, does Congress have enough information?

An amendment introduced in Congress last July by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) to stop Department of Transportation funding for SPP pending congressional oversight was passed by a large bipartisan majority in the House (6).

The whole undemocratic SPP enterprise is run by the three governments with exclusive advice of the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC) composed of top executives of 30 US-, Canadian-, and Mexican-based megacorporations such as

Lockheed-Martin, Wal-Mart, and New York Life. Canadians call this “deep integration” while some Americans call this a “North American Union”—with anticipated loss of US and Canadian sovereignty with a common “amero” currency and trilateral control of citizen activity through electronic ID cards. Thus both right- and left-leaning movements oppose SPP, which you can find on blogs and organization web sites, especially from Canada, but not on TV. So who’s listening? In Boston, legislative aides to Senators Kennedy and Kerry had never heard of SPP when I recently asked!

State Responsibility

Globalization, as exemplified by NAFTA and SPP, needs to be controlled and transformed— democratically. Congress—even a 2009 Congress with more Democrats—is unlikely to do more than cosmetic work on these or other trade regimes, since most of their campaigns are significantly funded by giant corporations profiting from NAFTA or related to NACC, and since their constituents know little about these agreements, especially SPP. State legislatures at least have the duty to oversee federal legislation and programs, in order to protect their residents (7). Closer to the people, they may be more effective in investigating and challenging globalization agreements and plans.

Indeed, Massachusetts only 12 years ago passed the Burma Law which blocked state purchasing from companies doing business with that military dictatorship. Four years later the US Supreme Court invalidated the law, challenged in lower courts by a corporation, saying that Congress’ subsequent embargo on Burma superceded the Massachusetts restrictions. That doesn’t necessarily mean that states, like municipalities, can’t have foreign policies and laws to implement them (8). Nineteen states, mostly in the West and South, are considering or have passed resolutions opposing SPP or North American Union (9). After all, it may be cities and states which will lead America out of its imperial morass.

The Massachusetts Globalization Impact Bill (H.374) may be a powerful vehicle to rein in secretive and unfettered expansion of corporate globalization and, as with SPP, its encroachment on private and public property, unwarranted use of military force, spying, and internment. It proposes to do this by establishing a watchdog commission to scrutinize international agreements like SPP, NAFTA, WTO, GATS, CAFTA, and bilateral agreements with the governments of Korea, Peru, Colombia, etc. The commission would recommend to the legislature and the public what the Commonwealth should or should not support. Such authoritative information may break the silence of the media, strengthen local resolve, encourage similar responses in other states, and lead to revocation of the anti-democratic provisions and processes of these “free” trade and investment agreements.

Massachusetts Concerns

What does Massachusetts have at stake? All US trade agreements since the early 1990s carry much the same anti-democratic “neoliberal” principles or consequences as NAFTA and WTO—export focus rather than domestic development; deregulation at the expense of labor, health, environment, etc.; monopoly patents rather than shared scientific advances; disempowerment of states and municipalities; emphasis on punishment—sanctions—rather than cooperative advances, and so forth. SPP carries the additional weight of militarization and international police justified by the ill-defined “war on terror”. Massachusetts citizens, laws, and regulations are at risk in particular ways to be identified by the commission established by the Globalization Impact Bill. Consider three concrete cases:

* Construction of a SuperCorridor through eastern or western Massachusetts will involve massive condemnation of land with all the problems of the ill-fated Southwest Corridor (I-695) of 1962-72 (10).

* Feared seizure and detention of persons suspected of connections to “terrorism”, at Logan airport, bus terminals, along I-95, I-90, and other highways, and even on our streets—persons who would be denied the due process of the Massachusetts Constitution.

* Erosion of Massachusetts’ “sovereign immunity”—a legal right which has blocked the plans of the Canadian developer Mondev to take land in downtown Boston designated for public development. Mondev filed suit under NAFTA in 1999, and worked its way to the state’s Supreme Judicial Court. As of mid-2007 the case remained undecided (11).

The Globalization Impact Bill in its original form was endorsed in 2002 by the Boston City Council and more recently by the AFL-CIO state convention. Presently Maine, Vermont, Washington, and California have established committees or commissions which would scrutinize trade impacts and identify certain threats. H.374 may have a more comprehensive charge and greater potential for protection.

What You Can Do

The Bill presently has ten cosponsors and is lodged in the legislature’s joint committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies chaired by Rep. Dan Bosley who favors the bill. Many more cosponsors are needed to ensure movement to the floor, and House and Senate affirmation. Enlistment of more cosponsors will depend on constituents alerting and educating up to 81 state representatives and up to 21 state senators—a bit over half of each body.

Personal communication with many constituents will be needed to get the ball rolling. Therefore we are asking our friends in all parts of the Commonwealth to contact their representative and senator to read the packet of materials soon to be posted at www.NewEnglandAlliance.org, and for them to phone Rep. Bosley to sign on as cosponsors. Please review your address books, and contact your far-flung friends. The names and phone numbers of their legislators can be found by entering their address at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com.

The following legislators have already signed on: Rep Byron Rushing (lead sponsor), Rep Timothy Toomey, Sen James Marzilli, Rep Matthew Patrick, Rep Gloria Fox, Rep Willie Mae Allen, Rep Benjamin Swan, Sen Robert Hedlund, Rep Elizabeth Malia, and Rep Denise Provost.

—Dave Lewit, Alliance for Democracy
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Alliance coordinator: Barbara Clancy
AfD@thealliancefordemocracy.org 781-894-1179.

LET US HELP YOU, AND PLEASE INFORM US OF YOUR PROGRESS.

Text notes:

- (1) www.robertreich.blogspot.com/2007/01/sad-truth-about-lobbying-and-ethics.html
- (2) *Taking Care of Business* by Richard Grossman & Frank Adams, 1993. www.ratical.org/corporations/TCoB.html
- (3) www.citizen.org/trade/articles.cfm?ID=15730#naftaatten
- (4) www.greenparty.ca/files/Threats_to_our_Water.ppt#500

- (5) On internment camps see www.informationclearinghouse.info/article12078.htm
On Canadian airlines see www.nytimes.com/2007/10/14/us/14canada.html
- (6) On Congressional action and other SPP issues google kaptur.spp.julian.com ("ndp" listing, scroll down to article)
- (7) Robert Stumberg at www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/hi/background.pdf
- (8) Karen Dolan at www.commondreams.org/archive/2008/01/31/6755/
- (9) www.stopthenau.org/Current_Activities.htm
- (10) www.bostonroads.com/roads/southwest/
- (11) www.bostonphoenix.com/boston/news_features/top_features/documents/01791880.htm

Obama's Jewish Problem With Young Jews, Don't Niggle—Reconcile

by Rabbi Michael Lerner, *Tikkun magazine*, Feb 2008 (excerpt)

IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE SUPER TUESDAY presidential primary sweepstakes, the Obama campaign has been making a special effort to reach out to Jewish voters. Representatives of the campaign have been visiting Jewish retirement homes, synagogues, and wherever else they can find a willing audience. Faced with Clinton campaigners making charges that he is not sufficiently pro-Israel, [Barack] Obama himself wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Khalizad last week urging that the U.S. reject any resolution critiquing Israel's cut off of fuel and food to a million residents of Gaza "that does not fully condemn the rocket assaults Hamas has been conducting on civilians in southern Israel."

[We spiritual progressives seek a peace with] mutual open-hearted repentance for the way each side has treated each other, the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that is both politically and economically viable, reparations for Palestinian refugees, and a South-Africa model of "truth and reconciliation" in both Israel and Palestine... The Democratic and Republican parties have traditionally vied during the election period for which could appear more militant in its support for Israeli power and less sympathetic to the Palestinian people...

Young Jews understand that Israel will be far more secure if it adopts a strategy of generosity, and stops trying to show how "tough" it really is, but they also despair about Israel ever "getting it" in time to save itself from policies that further inflame hatred against it by human-rights respecting people around the world...

Obama's problem is that his spiritual progressive worldview is in conflict with the demands of the older generation of Jews who control the Jewish institutions and define what it is to be pro-Jewish, while his base consists of many young Jews who support him precisely because he is willing to publicly stand for the values that they hold...

Once in office, whether Obama actually pursues policies that are in accord with his highest beliefs as a spiritual progressive, or whether he finds it "too unrealistic" to try to buck the spineless Democrats who will bow to the Israel Lobby automatically, depends on whether we can build a powerful enough movement of ordinary citizens to push for a peace that provides security for Israel and justice for the Palestinian people. Obama has made it clear he would want to do that.

CHAPTER NEWS

Nine active members attended our Feb 4th meeting at AfD office in Waltham, and our projects are moving along well—see *Calendar* on Page 1, *Action Alerts*, this page. In addition, "Other Voices", our video project, is broadcasting on community cable TV in Salem, Cambridge, and Somerville, coordinated by Ruth Weizenbaum of Pawtucket RI... Also note: our regional web site is revving up—check it out via *Colophon*, this page.

ACTION ALERTS

Thu, 21 Feb, 7:30pm, Waltham. AfD meets. See page 1 box.

Tue, 26 Feb, evening, Boston. Evo Morales—President of Bolivia—speaks. Arlington Street Church, Arlington & Boylston Sts. Info: richardkrushnic@rcn.com, 617- 635-0365.

Sun, 9 Mar, 2-5:30pm, Cambridge. Treaty Threats in the Americas. Speakers on NAFTA and SPP from Canada, US, and Mexico. Speakers on Colombia FTA and other horrors from Boston's Colombia Vive! and other groups. Mass Globalization Impact Bill. MIT bldg 34 Rm 101. Info: Barbara 781-894-1179.

Fri-Sun, 11-13 Apr. Omaha, Nebraska. Conference and demonstration against **Space and US Strategic Command**. See page 4, col 1 (italicized notice).

***Real estate developers are back** with their bid to act as local government, with respect to land concerns. To stop this again, visit www.masschc.org/chapter40T.html, email shirley.kressel@verizon.net or eli@masschc.org, or call Shirley Kressel at 617-421-0835 or Eli Beckerman at 617-821-1453.

***Citizen info needed: Networking for Globalization Impact Bill.** See article Page 1- , especially "What you can do" Page 7.

JOIN THE BCA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children — Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out or copy this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE
 ___ \$26/Year - "Count me in!"
 ___ \$52/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)
 ___ \$104/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)
 ___ \$208/Year - "Community Steward"
 ___ \$500/Year - "Realize the vision"
 ___ What's fair for YOU? _\$ ___

Name : _____ Date: _____

Street, No./Box/Apt: _____

Town and Zip: _____

Phone: Day _____ Night: _____

E-mail: _____

COLOPHON

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Visit the Alliance web site: www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org

Visit our regional web site: www.NewEnglandAlliance.org

Web activists: Barbara Clancy, Joanna Herlihy, Stan Robinson

Web builder and mentor: Sergio Reyes