

U.S. COVERT WARFARE: WHAT IS IT, WHO IT HURTS, HOW TO STOP IT

PART 1 WHAT IS IT ORIGIN/GOALS/IMPACT/TECHNIQUES

A) Origin

- a. Founding Fathers intention – promote democracy and transparency, restrict secret powers in the hands of unaccountable individuals.
- b. Post-WWII U.S. national security state has concentrated power in the hands of largely unaccountable executive branch clandestine agencies, in direct contradiction of America’s founding principles.
- c. Governmental Warnings – Truman/ Eisenhower, Kennedy, etc. have been ignored.
- d. Merger of the unelected security state with industry (military-industrial-complex, Silicon Valley, both corporate and alternative media, quasi–Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and corporate non-profits, agribusiness, banking/finance capital, big pharma etc.) through Bilderberg, Council of Foreign Relations, Trilateral Commission, World Economic Forum, etc.
- e. Relevant congressional oversight committees inadequately staffed and subject to industrial influence (campaign contributions, revolving door between govt & industry staff, etc.)
- f. Direct control of international financial institutions (World Bank and IMF etc.) and co-optation of multilateral institutions like the OAS and the UN and its components (UNHCR, UNOHCHR, IAEA, OPCW etc.)

B) Goals

- a. Operate covertly to isolate, demonize, and eliminate desired targets (“terrorists”, “anti-government” groups, and individuals (e.g., constitutionalists, communists, socialists, environmentalists, “Black Identity Extremists” etc.). or promote the success of favored political factions. Since 2000, the U.S. and its adjuncts have toppled governments in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Libya, Somalia, Ukraine, and [Yugoslavia](#).

- b. The U.S. has attempted to destabilize and/or topple the governments in Iran, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba and Zimbabwe. This demonstrates that both the corporate Republican and Democratic parties are pro-war and anti-peace.
- c. Maintain high level of international tension by generating “intelligence” identifying purported threats to national security. These threats justify continuing funding of the Military-Industrial Complex (MIC) and the intelligence agencies. Evidence supporting exaggerated threat assessments is kept classified and can’t be challenged easily.
- d. Control narrative, promote identity politics to redirect protest away from power elite to alternate targets. Co-opt journalists, academics, and opinion influencers to support covert warfare agenda (Operation Mockingbird).
- e. Punish whistleblowers and independent journalists (Philip Agee, John Kiriakou, Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, Daniel Hale etc.) who undermine support for covert warfare.
- f. Eliminate domestic opposition to war and oppression by assassination (Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Fred Hampton etc.) and slander (COINTELPRO) and the jailing of political prisoners such as Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal.
- g. Install/maintain foreign governments that allow US entities unfettered foreign investment and ownership of labor, natural resources, and markets. (Saddam Hussain, Shah of Iran, and Manuel Noriega were all CIA assets).
- h. Conduct illegal warfare under the self-evident false pretexts of fighting terrorism, removing alleged authoritarian/anti-democratic dictators, protecting/advancing U.S. national interests, promoting humanitarianism, democracy, freedom of the press, fair elections, voting access, freedom of NGO activity. These covert actions violate international law such as the Geneva Convention etc. and the United Nations Charter. Also, laws are misused and misapplied to justify foreign intervention based on imperialist principles such as Responsibility to Protect (R2P).
- i. Benefit the .001% ruling elite by increasing the profits of U.S. global corporations by expanding market access while suppressing wages and material costs to obtain strategic and rare earth minerals as well as agricultural and livestock cash crops.

C) Impact/Who it Hurts

- a. U.S residents are misled by treasonous/anti-democratic actions into supporting damaging domestic and foreign policies. Additionally, the use of politicized

intelligence that supports endless conflict violates the Nuremburg principles (the planning of wars of aggression is a criminal act). Democracy is undermined by the refusal of Congress to hold secret agencies accountable. (even “failed” wars benefit certain economic sectors/corporate interests, banks, hedge funds). BlackRock is slated to get Ukrainian [reconstruction contract](#).

- b. U.S. residents suffer a loss of protections granted under the Bill of Rights with the misuse of executive orders and emergency acts.
 - First Amendment (freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition)
 - Fourth Amendment (freedom from unreasonable search and seizure)
 - Fifth Amendment (right to a Grand Jury and due process)
 - Sixth Amendment (right to a Jury trial in criminal cases, right to confront accusers and to be represented by counsel)
 - Seventh Amendment (right to a Jury trial in civil cases)
 - Eighth Amendment (protections against excess bail, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment)
 - Ninth Amendment (protections for non-enumerated rights)
 - Tenth Amendment (protections against abuse of federal powers in states, information gathering).
- c. Prior to the war between the U.S. and Russia using Ukraine as a proxy, between 20 to 30 million people have been killed globally since the end of WWII as a consequence of U.S. overt, covert and proxy/theater “wars.” Ukraine has suffered 354,000 casualties according to Reuters on April 12, 2023.
- d. The word “war” is a misnomer as these acts involve illegal invasions and occupations, and facilitate plundering and piracy (i.e. Iranian oil tankers were illegally seized enroute to Venezuela while traversing international waters and the cargo was sold). According to a Council of Foreign Relations report dated July 10, 2023, 75 billion has been diverted from U.S. taxpayers to Ukraine. In 2019, even Freedom House, a known CIA cutout NGO, admitted Ukraine is the second most corrupt country in the world. Ukraine is rife with human and organ trafficking even according to USAID, another CIA cutout agency. Prior to Russia’s operations in Ukraine, 300,000 Ukrainians had suffered from human trafficking since 1991. Even the U.S. Department of Justice is forced to acknowledge Ukraine’s massive money laundering operations and organized crime rings. Additionally, on July 21, 2023 even CNN, the State Department’s mouthpiece, admits weaponry was stolen before being “recovered.”
- e. Over 70 million people are displaced globally due to U.S foreign policy, invasions and occupations - representing the highest number ever recorded. Destabilization

of nations worldwide leads to massive migration flows of people fleeing danger. U.S citizens experience this mass migration at its southern borders. Mainstream news media fails to describe the conditions that cause the displacement, because this preserves the power relationship in Latin America and the U.S. Further, this becomes a contrived political point of contention between the two main political parties, while protecting the CIA and other perpetrators involvement in this violent displacement and the inability of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to account for 85,000 undocumented children. It is believed these children are forced into slave labor, prostitution and become organ donors.

- f. Civil and global wars are caused by clandestine destabilization and/or support of opportunist or mercenary anti-patriotic political factions in targeted foreign countries and their governments (i.e. Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Iran, Israel/Palestine).
- g. U.S residents are adversely affected by negative linkages between covert warfare & domestic policy such as:
 - i. The labelling of domestic political dissent as terrorists. The surveillance and infiltration of domestic political groups, the destruction of neighborhoods and compounds.
 - ii. The enabling of the police-state domestically through the prison-industrial-complex (highest prison population per capita) and though the supply of military training & equipment to domestic police such as military grade tactical weapons (sound & water cannons, armored vehicles, body armor, grenade launchers etc.). Domestic forces trained by Israelis in repressive crowd control techniques etc.
- h. Waste of national resources on 18 ineffective agencies. The Intelligence agencies have no public performance metrics and have failed to stop domestic terrorism (i.e. 9/11, Boston Marathon, Anthrax attacks, takeover of Capital building by Trump and election rigging supporters etc.); and is unable to provide accurate reports: no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq.
- i. Violation of international law – inter alia: prohibition against use of force (UN Charter Art. 2(4)); right to self-determination (UN Charter Art. 1 / Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Art. 1); protection of civilians (Fourth Geneva Convention); potential international criminal law infractions (crimes against humanity, Rome Statute Art. VII)

- j. Violation of domestic law – inter alia: abrogation of constitutionally endowed congressional competencies (e.g., war declaratory powers, US. Const. Art. 1, Sec. 8); abrogation of War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. Sec. 15-48); dismissal of prohibition against US governmental involvement in assassinations (Exec. Order 12333); disregard of War Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 2441)

D) Techniques

- a. Propaganda & disinformation campaigns, domestic & foreign.
 - a.i. Mainstream News Media (Newscasters & writers CIA assets)
 - a.ii. Entertainment (scripts/publishing/music are approved by the CIA)
 - a.iii. Independent News Media (Controlled by funding)
 - a.iv. Secret funding of NGOs and thinktanks
 - a.v. Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Search Engines (Google) designed and or funded by DoD/DARPA, In-Q-Tel (CIA venture capital entity with ties to Silicon Valley)
- b. Surveillance/Laws/Entrapment (FBI involved in Kidnapping plot of Michigan Gov.)
- c. Espionage – providing intelligence to favored political factions domestic and foreign govt. (Columbia & Honduras drug cartels) Phone tapping of friendly foreign leaders (Merkel, EU officials)
- d. Identifying targets for military strikes (drone strikes, death squads). Use of Title 10 to carry out military-like actions to end-run Title 50 congressional oversight).
- e. Training of foreign officials, soldiers, and police in torture techniques (School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation).
- f. Assassinations (i.e. Salvadore Allende president of Chile; Jovenel Moise, president of Haiti) heart attack gun. Drone killings without judicial or congressional review.
- g. “Suicides” Gary Webb, journalist – “shot twice in the head”, Dr. Frank Olson “jumped out closed window”.
- h. Abductions (Haiti’s former President Jean Bertrand Aristide); and renditions (foreign torture).
- i. Links with criminal organizations (assassinations, mercenary recruitment, narcotics trade, human trafficking)

- j. Funding & manipulation of quasi-governmental organizations (QGO) (i.e. Federal Reserve) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) both domestic & foreign (USAID, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to support & arm favored political factions and discredit unfavored ones.
- k. Transfer of arms to favored insurgent groups often via intermediaries such as Israel and Saudi Arabia. The CIA weaponized the Afghanistan mujahideen which have now morphed into the Taliban. Within 10 days of U.S. troop withdrawal, the Taliban took over the country. Also, the CIA weaponized the Contras, and the Kurds.
- l. Unilateral coercive economic sanctions are used as covert warfare. Economic sanctions negatively impact one-third of humanity in over 39 countries and cause death and devastation by denying targeted countries access to U.S. dominated markets, finance, and transactional systems. Additionally, our government uses secondary sanctions to force third parties, such as foreign governments, financial institutions, and individuals, to adopt U.S. sanctions against targeted countries and individuals domestic and foreign (demonetization of publishers and journalists, Mintpressnews and The Convo Couch etc.). Penalties for conducting business with a sanctioned country range from military aggression, arrest, fines, and property seizures to being cut off from the US financial system and markets – even when the transaction does not impact the United States directly.
- m. “Lawfare” and slanderous charges: selective use the criminal justice system (i.e. unproven charges of illicit drug productions/transportation, and embezzlement). Also, terrorist charges/accusations/implications are used to eliminate whistleblowers and/or unfavored individuals such as Presidents Nicolas Maduro (Venezuela) and Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), and former Presidents Evo Morales (Bolivia) and Lula da Silva (Brazil) etc.
- n. Intelligence agencies provide false and misleading information to Congress – even under oath.
- o. Intimidation of politicians by intelligence agencies through blackmail, “honeypots” and bribery. NY Senator Schumer is on record stating intelligence agencies will punish politicians that threaten them. “Let me tell you, you take on the intelligence community, they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you,” Schumer told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow.

- p. Intelligence agencies routinely defy court orders by destroying evidence such as the waterboarding tapes and the MKULTRA tapes and documents, refusing to admit to or destroy bioweapons or admit to the testing on U.S. and foreign citizens of experimental drugs and toxins. The removal of evidence such as Jeffery Epstein blackmail/pornography tapes of the elite & govt. officials engaging in sex acts with children.

PART 2

REGIONAL CASE STUDIES

1. Nicaragua
2. Iraq
3. Ukraine
4. Laos

PART 3

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM/ HOW TO END U.S. COVERT WARFARE

Short-Term Goals

1. Raise public awareness
 - Conduct educational programs, webinars & seminars.
 - Obtain endorsements by activist groups, political groups, news, and entertainment media personalities.
2. Expand professional network & get more covert warfare coverage. Join with likeminded journalists, publishers, videographers, filmmakers, academics etc.
3. Identify, Study & track laws, acts, and bills that facilitate or restrict covert warfare.
 - a. Espionage Act 1917
 - b. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act 1978
 - c. Executive Order 12333 1981
 - d. Classified Information Procedures Act 1980
 - e. Intelligence Identities Protection Act 1982
 - f. Amendment to Repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists (AUMF) 2001
 - g. Amendment to Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) of 2002 (Iraq)
 - h. USA Freedom Reauthorization act of 2020
 - i. Proposed H.R. 350 Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021
 - j. Repeal the Smith-Mundt Act (it allows the govt to manipulate public opinion through propaganda)
 - k. Repeal Citizens United (allows foreign and corporate money in politics which unduly influences elected officials against the best interest of ordinary voters).
4. Identify and forge alliances with likeminded elected officials.
5. Get campaigning politicians to sign pledges against covert warfare.
6. Get local governments, unions, academic institutions, individuals etc. to sign pledges against covert warfare.

7. Track all eighteen agencies with covert action operational capabilities' staffing and budget allocations.
8. Identify and denounce war criminals and profiteers.
9. Develop/post a list of all incarcerated whistleblowers and political prisoners and their geographical locations, and hearing dates so we can offer support.

Mid-Term Goals

1. Demand new Church and Pike Committee to oversee the Intelligence "Community" Cartel (IC).
2. Demand a war crimes tribunal inquire into the War on Terror and Gain of Function and Dual Use Research in bioweapons, and MKULTRA experimentation.
3. Petition elected officials to repeal or propose bills & acts that
 - Increase congressional oversight and autonomy from industry and donor capture.
 - Subject the Intelligence Agency to performance metrics and zero-based budgeting.
 - Limit executive powers
 - Cut budgets and reduce staff by half. The military and Intelligence agencies' 2022 budget requests are \$753 billion and approximately \$85 billion. As the IC's budget is largely secret, it does not include "black-ops" funding & money raised by In-Q-Tel, the CIA's high tech venture capital fund, nor does it include funds and staffing diverted from the military or State Department and from agencies such as USAID etc. Additionally, this massive military and intelligence expenditure does not include the \$404 billion in interest paid annually on the \$28 trillion U.S. national debt that is now 125% higher than its GDP. In 2000, the U.S. debt was 57% of its GDP. Most of the debt is related to military-industrial-complex spending. For comparison, the military budgets for China and Russia are projected at \$250 billion and \$51.3 billion respectively.
3. Organize protests at agencies with covert warfare operational capability
4. Advocate for whistleblowers mischarged with espionage and political prisoners. Petition against venue shopping (the intentional selection of unfriendly courts (i.e. the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia); and charge stacking (multiple charges that

bankrupt whistle blowers and political prisoners); petition for affirmative defense and open court proceedings.

5. Conduct a die-in at the Spy Museum in DC; boycott movies, videogames and TV series, stations, filmmakers, actors etc. that glorify covert warfare.
6. Chase CIA recruiters off educational campuses.

Long Term Goals

1. End all covert actions used to influence, destabilize, or usurp the governments of other nation-states and prohibits assassination in any form.
2. Close all overseas prisons which are often referred to as Black Sites. At these compounds, the Intelligence Community presides over the torture and interrogation of prisoners outside the scope of the American judicial system. The most infamous of these Black Sites are Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, Abu Ghraib in Iraq, and the Detention Site Cobalt in Afghanistan. Information regarding the exact number and location of secret prisons is classified. Other countries with known U.S. Black Sites are Lithuania, Romania, Poland, and Thailand.
3. Release all foreign and domestic political prisoners and those held without criminal charges or violent convictions.
4. Defend the rights of whistleblowers, journalists, and news media outlets that revealed U.S. war crimes, human rights violations, and corruption, to exist without the threat of persecution, extradition, and arrest by the U.S. government – as shown in cases against Philip Agee, John Kiriakou, Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, Daniel Hale, and Wikileaks.
5. Hold accountable those guilty of ordering or conducting torture, executions, and assassinations for violations of national, international, and humanitarian law. For example, former President George W. Bush and members of his administration were never charged for the lie about weapons of mass destruction which was used to justify the invasion of Iraq and the torture of detainees.
6. Frame and enforce legislation that will hold U.S. citizens who profit from misusing their public positions in foreign countries accountable for their corrupt practices. Recent examples are the Biden family in their dealings with Ukraine and the Clinton family in their dealings with Haiti.

7. Eliminate the ideologically driven misuse of criminal and judicial procedures by U.S. authorities to falsely accuse politicians like Lula da Silva, Cristina Fernandez, Jorge Glas, Rafael Correa and Evo Morales of crimes to persecute them via “lawfare”.
8. Eliminate the ideologically driven misuse of U.S. narcotics policy and enforcement by its Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in foreign countries. In countries the U.S. government targets for regime change, it invents spurious charges that justify the arrest of democratically elected officials and the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions. Whereas, in countries it favors it turns a blind eye to government created death squads, drug and human trafficking, and facilitates the protection of criminals and governmental corruption.

For example, Venezuela is unfairly targeted for drug trafficking penalties because the U.S. government is engaged in regime change efforts, while Colombia was not – even though Colombia is the world’s top producer of cocaine because of the dark alliance between the U.S. government and former Presidents Alvaro Uribe and Ivan Duque of Colombia. Uribe and Duque were not held to account by the U.S. for the hundreds of murders of social, community, environmental and indigenous leaders.

The U.S. routinely allies with leaders known to be involved in narcotics and organized crime such as Juan Orlando Hernandez, former president of Honduras, Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo who is currently under indictment at the Hague, Sali Berisha of Albania, and criminal warlords like Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Ahmed Shah Massoud among others in Afghanistan.

9. Abolish all U.S. unilateral coercive economic sanctions.
10. Redraft policies and practices of U.S. led global institutions, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB), to protect human rights, the environment, and domestic industry & agriculture. To ensure compliance, the WTO, IMF, and World Bank’s operations must be transparent, and the institutions must be held accountable to all nations, not just donors.
11. Require U.S. corporations, that operate in other countries, to adhere to the core labor standards established by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
12. Support U.S. states, municipalities and citizens’ rights to boycott products made by foreign entities that do not abide by humanitarian and environmental standards.
13. Revoke laws that unduly protect transnational corporations from legitimate claims by sovereign countries. Trade policies must include clauses guaranteeing trade partners access on equal terms to impartial arbitration. In particular, our government must make

clear it will not protect corporate offenders responsible for mass harm cases such Union Carbide in Bhopal, Chevron in Ecuador, Shell in Nigeria, and multiple corporations mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Further, our government must not act to defend corporate pharmaceutical and other interests unjustly seeking to extend patents unreasonably against the interests of both vulnerable populations overseas and of most people in the U.S.

14. End foreign “aid” that is used covertly to wage regime change wars in non-compliant autonomous nation-states. Also, end U.S. aid packages that require the purchase of harmful U.S. products that are banned from sale in European countries and Japan such as: genetically modified organisms (GMOs); toxic/carcinogenic pesticides like glyphosate; fertilizers contaminated with high levels of cadmium; and meat and dairy products laced with growth hormones. Also, the forced deployment of these toxic products disrupts and subjugates the recipient country’s existing agricultural system and harms both farmworkers and consumers.
15. Cut in half the State Department and its related agencies’ budgets, as proposed for the Defense and Intelligence Cartel budgets, because they funnel financial and human resources to the intelligence agencies.
16. Close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas, in Ft. Benning, Georgia which is notorious for teaching torture techniques to foreign military personnel and police to use in terrorizing their people into submission.
17. Stop arming and training domestic police in repression techniques.
18. End unfair and unequal finance & trade agreements and its military and Intelligence Community’s intervention in the politics of developing countries in support of U.S. transnational corporations. These policies have made developing countries inordinately dangerous and unlivable, and increased the need for migration.

Gloria Guillo developed this handout on Covert Warfare with the U.S. Green Party’s Peace Action Committee (GPAX (<https://gpax.gpus.org/>)). It was updated on July 31, 2023.