

American Fascism

Transcript of a Commentary by Ambrose I. Lane Sr.
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Top of the morning this is We Ourselves and I'm Ambrose I. Lane, Sr.

I really miss being with you, but I had a chance to do some thinking while I was not very active. And I began to think about, -- of -- 1999 when I published a first addition of my book *For Whites Only; How and Why America Became a Racist Nation* and huh as we published it we felt some faint hope that our country would turn itself away from its long and deeply engrained racism and growing fascist leanings. We had witnessed in 1999 and were surviving 12 years of the racist, fascist presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush and 8 years of the right-leaning William Clinton presidency without a successful major assault on our Constitution.

Moreover we were seeing a brief but welcomed end to almost 40 years of double digit unemployment in African-American communities during the last few months of the Clinton years. And all those who are writing now about what has happened in the black community seem to forget that there was a purposeful unemployment of black males for 40 years. And now Bill Cosby and the psychiatrist have come out with another book.

But we can not allow this country to forget what it did. It made certain that black males had double digit unemployment for 40 years. And then people ask the question -- What has happened to the black community? -- well that is what has happened. And most important, in 1999 when we published the book we could not anticipate that 5 right-wing fascist-leaning members of the Supreme Court would spit in the faces of the American voters and urinate on the Constitution of the United States by gifting the office of the President to George W. Bush claiming that there was not sufficient time to recount all of the votes cast in the state of Florida. The Court's decision, to many of us, defined each of the five as traitors to our country. Within a year of the traitorous act the world would begin to witness their act's worldwide devastating consequences.

President George W. Bush and his Vice President Richard Cheney brought into the government at the highest levels a group identified by themselves and others as Neo-Conservatives, whose most passionately announced belief was that America was the last and only Superpower left in the world and that such superpower status gave America the right to impose its military and otherwise on the rest of the world. Almost none of those taking such military and world ruling postures, who served the Bush-Cheney Administration, ever themselves served in our country's military, including

especially Mr. Cheney who sought and received 5 deferments from the military draft.

Now this group became known as the "chicken-hawks", passionate military hawks who took action to guarantee they never served in the military. These chicken-hawks also had a passion to expand Israel's power and theft of land and resources in the Middle East. This passion was contained in a plan originally presented to Israel's Prime Minister years before they came to power in the Bush administration. Fortunately for the world at that time Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not undertake the invasions of Middle East countries that the Neo-Cons proposed. But as powerful members of the Bush administration, they could and did use their powers to make the lives of Palestinians hell on earth.

The Neo-Cons however did not limit their misuse of power to foreign affairs. The most egregious attacks have been leveled on the constitution, our constitution and against the rights of the American people under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th amendments to that Constitution. They were joined in these attacks on our constitutional rights by the Bush-Cheney assault on Article One of the Constitution and their deliberate misinterpretation of the powers granted the President under Article Two. Their combined attacks on our Constitution moved our country farther down the slippery slope towards official Fascism.

Accompanying these attacks which weakened our constitutional rights, were legislative enactments by a Republican Congress that slaked corporate greed to the detriment of ordinary people and even to the disempowerment of our and foreign governments vis-à-vis corporations, a move begun in the Clinton administration. Under the World Trade Organization and NAFTA, corporations have the power to over rule legislative actions by duly constituted governments, our own as well as other governments across the world.

In addition to these measures, the government of George W. Bush, using the attack on the New York Trade Center buildings to build fear among we Americans, has recreated the secret government that was begun under President Eisenhower during the height of what became known as the Cold War. Our recognized danger then was a nation, the Soviet Union, whose arsenal of nuclear weapons in the hands of its military could destroy this country. Now, that's a far cry from this so-called War on Terror which involves no such nations, no such military, or no such destructive capability.

In his book *A Pretext for War*, author James Bamford told the world about Bush's actions and whereabouts on September 11, 2001. The world was wondering why he had not returned to our nation's capital in a timely

fashion. And finally on March 1, 2002 the Washington Post carried an article titles *Shadow Government is at Work in Secret*, written by staff writers Barton Gellman and Susan Schmidt. Now, readers were told in part that President Bush, and I quote;

"... has dispatched a shadow government of about 100 senior civilian managers to live and work secretly outside Washington, activating for the first time long-standing plans to ensure survival of federal rule after catastrophic attack on the nation's capital."

"Execution..." they wrote

"... resulted not from the Cold War threat of intercontinental missiles, the scenario rehearsed for decades, but from heightened fears that the al Qaeda terrorist network might somehow obtain a portable nuclear weapon,..."

End of quote. But like other such previous plans, readers were advised and I quote

"Only the executive branch is represented in the full-time shadow administration. The other branches of constitutional government, Congress and the judiciary, have separate continuity plans but do not maintain a 24-hour presence in fortified facilities." ¹

End of quote.

Although our Constitution provides for a tripartite government, never has an American President created a shadow government that included either of the other two parts of our Constitutional government, including our current President. We find it of interest that every President who has created such a shadow government, our shadow government has been a dictatorship and in many instances included friends outside of government but not a single congressman, or legislator, or judicial branch member.

How does one recognize that slippery slop towards official fascism that I mentioned? Well one writer, Milton Mayer in his book *They Thought They Were Free: The Germans, 1933-45* tried to describe it in this way and I quote;

"What no one seemed to notice was the ever widening gap, after 1933, between the government and the people. And it became always wider.

"... the whole process of its coming into being, was above all diverting. It provided an excuse not to think for people who did not want to think anyway.

"...gave us some dreadful, fundamental things to think about—and kept us so busy with continuous changes and 'crises' and so fascinated, ... by the machinations of the 'national enemies,' without and within, that we had no time to think about these dreadful things that were growing, little by little, all around us.

"Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, 'regretted,' that, ... unless one understood what the whole thing was in principle, what all these 'little measures' ... must some day lead to, one no more saw it developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing.

"Each act ... is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join with you in resisting somehow. You don't want to act, or even talk, alone; you don't want to 'go out of your way to make trouble.'

"But the one great shocking occasion, when tens or hundreds or thousands will join with you, never comes. That's the difficulty.

"The forms are all there ... But the spirit, which you never noticed because you made the lifelong mistake of identifying it with the forms, is changed. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves; when everyone is transformed...

"You have accepted things you would not have accepted five years ago, a year ago..."²

End of quote. So wrote Milton Mayer in his book about how the Germans came to their end.

You know fear and hate are powerful human emotions and it is now clear that the Bush-Cheney administration and their Neo-cons have done all in their power to stimulate such emotions in the American people. In subtle and not so subtle ways their minions propagandized us to fear and hate the Muslim world. We were and are we can not merely even think of leaving Iraq because the terrorists there will follow us home and we'll have to fight them

here. As a result of such massive propaganda flowing from the White House, from their friends and corporations across the country, and from the failure of the major press for more than four years refusing to tell us the truths that they knew, many Americans have come to that dangerous psychological point where they also have accepted things they would not have accepted 5 years ago or even a year ago.

Now that is how a republic or democracy is changed into another form of government. That is how fascism took hold of German people and that is how fascism can take hold of Americans if we are not vigilant. In the name of fighting a War on Terrorism and of fighting Muslim terrorist who, we are told by our government leaders, hate us because of our American democracy, we could end up accepting fascism as a substitute for our constitutional government.

Historian Howard Zinn said it best in early November 2007 when he told the young audience in a speech at Boston University that, and I quote;

"The War on Terrorism is a sham. Terrorism is an idea; you can't make war on it. If terrorism is the killing of innocent people for some presumed important purpose than making a war on people is terrorism. War is terrorism. The terrorism of our war in Iraq has killed far, far more people than were killed in the twin towers."

End of quote.

Because of the deception of our government surrounding modern war, Zinn also told these young people that Americans need to withdraw our obedience from our government. Now why would this historian urge Americans to withdraw our obedience to this government? Perhaps Zinn fully realized the terrible facts that professor Bud McClure wrote about in his internet posting title *The Banality of Evil Revisited*. Professor McClure wrote in part that, and I quote:

"Hannah Arendt was exactly right in 1963 when she had an epiphany while writing about Adolph Eichmann, realizing in a profound moment of clarity that the great evils in the world are not the work of a few sociopaths, but are committed by ordinary people who accept what they are told by their government and then proceed to normalize whatever actions they might take. Sadly, under the right circumstances, we are easily persuaded to do the bidding of the state when it comes to killing.

"Six years ago we were rabid for revenge and war making. Many thought that killing bin Laden and his protectors, the Taliban, would settle the score for the attack on our country. However, the President and his men ... used lies and propaganda to sell a war with Iraq. "Through the power and resources of the state, war making with Iraq was promoted as honorable, clergy gathered to anoint it a just cause, and most people accepted without question what they were being told. They responded with the shameful flag waving and nationalism that masqueraded as patriotism. Those that urged restraint and voiced opposition to the war were savaged as traitors.

"What is our responsibility for this evil? Decades from now will our grandchildren wonder how we could have allowed this carnage and will they question why we stood by and did nothing?" ³

End of quote.

What will be our answer to our grandchildren if we escape the fascist take over of our government since so many of us were for more than 3 years after the Iraq war started, just like the Germans more than a half century ago, obedient flags wavers? Flags like an invasions of flies and mosquitoes spread across America and later Support-The-Troops stickers for our cars. Of course we were ill served by our corporate press that down played or omitted the truth from what they published. But the truth was easily found by fellow Americans who really sought it. The terrible truth is that an overwhelming majority of Americans did not seek it but succumbed to the fear and chose to direct our newly discovered hate towards those our government propaganda identified as acceptable objects of our hate and distrust. In doing so, we took a long step down the pathway to fascism.

Fascism is defined by the New International Webster Comprehensive Dictionary as;

Any authoritarian, anti-democratic, anti-communist system of government in which economic control by the state, militaristic nationalism, propaganda, and the crushing of opposition by means of secret police emphasize the supremacy of the state over the individual.

In 2004, Dr. Laurence Britt, a political scientist, studied several fascist regimes and developed what he labeled *14 Points of Fascism*. If you go to my website **weourselves.org**, you will find his *14 Points of Fascism*. Read them very carefully and you will note that we have made--- how should I

say it; we have come a long way in, in addressing fascism for the United States of America. And that is a serious, serious problem. And we have got to deal with it.

That's my commentary.

Commentary Notes:

1. "Shadow Government is at Work in Secret" Washington Post, 1 March 2002
2. Milton Mayer, *They Thought They Were Free, The Germans, 1938-45* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1955)
3. "The Banality of Evil Revisited" *CommonDreams.org*, September 16, 2007 (<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/09/16/3880/>)