

"Democratic Institutions?" – 10 Lessons From History That Will Destroy Your Trust In The CIA



by Tyler Durden

Fri, 07/20/2018 - 22:45

A somewhat recently declassified CIA memo unearthed by the FOIA collective [MuckRock](#) shows that in the midst of the historic Church Committee hearings which attempted to bring various shocking and illegal US intelligence practices and operations to public light, the National Security Council considered the move for strong Congressional oversight a **"personal holocaust" that could result in Americans losing faith in the CIA and intelligence officials.**

MuckRock, drawing lessons from this historical CIA archived memo, [rightly observes](#) that it "reveals how hostile the Intelligence Community could be to the concept of oversight."



In a 'straight from the horse's mouth' moment, the "eyes only" classified memo demonstrates in stunning clarity that a top concern for the agency has always fundamentally been **fear of exposure over its "illegal and improper activities"**.

As the [MuckRock report explains](#): "*Decades before Donald Trump infamously compared the CIA to Nazi Germany, the National Security Council made its own allusion to the Holocaust - the difference was that in the NSC's version, it was CIA that was cast as the potential victim of a 'Final Solution' that might be imposed by Congress in response to the exposure of the Agency's illegal and improper activities.*"

And this is **true and essential to remember now more than ever** given intelligence officials' increased role in [setting the agenda of national debate through their close and longtime acknowledged ties to the mainstream media](#).

With a continuing avalanche of unverified and unproven assertions inundating the American and Western public from every corner of Washington's deeply rooted intelligence establishment, **we think it necessary to pause and reflect on the many reasons to remain skeptical of the claims and allegations coming from US officials**.



Below are 10 Lessons from history that will destroy your trust in the CIA, via the Off Guardian

* * *

In the hysterical wake of the Trump-Putin Summit in Helsinki, President Donald Trump was roundly criticized in the media for taking the side of a "hostile state" over his [own intelligence agencies](#). *The Guardian* referred

to Mueller as a “heroic marine” who Trump disbelieved in favour of a “Russian dictator”.

In the past, when Trump has criticized the FBI, CIA or NSA he has been accused of “undermining faith in our institutions”. He’s been blamed for a collapse of [trust in the government](#). **But was this trust ever earned?**

At every corner, we are urged to simply believe what we are told. Whether it is about believing Porton Down and MI6 about “novichok”, or believing the White Helmets about Sarin, or believing the FBI about “collusion”, **we are present with no facts, just assertions from authority.** Those who question those assertions are deemed “bots” at best or “traitors” at worst.

*Well here, fellow “traitors”, are **the Top Ten reasons to question anything and everything the CIA – or any intelligence agency – has ever told you** (in descending order)...*

#10) OPERATION PAPERCLIP

We’ll start with an oldie but a goody. In 1945, as the allies were advancing on Berlin from both sides, American Army Intelligence (this was before the CIA were founded) were “capturing” (read: recruiting) over 1600 Nazi scientists and engineers. Most famous of them was [Werhner von Braun](#)...sorry, SS Sturmbannführer von Braun.

Whilst Allied soldiers died in the name of defeating fascism, the CIA’s predecessors were actively recruiting Nazis to come and build bombs for them.

#9) OPERATION NORTHWOODS

The original, and important, precedent for accusations that the CIA et al. might engage in false-flag attacks. Operation Northwoods was a joint CIA/Pentagon proposal designed around the idea of escalating a war with Cuba by stoking public anger:

The proposals called for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or other U.S. government operatives to commit acts of terrorism against American civilians and military targets, blaming it on the Cuban government, and using it to justify a war against Cuba.

The idea was vetoed by President Kennedy. Fifty years later, the CIA and Pentagon still very much exist, but there’s no longer a Kennedy there to veto their more psychopathic ideas. Funny how that worked out.

#8) ALLENDE COUP

In 1970 [Salvador Allende](#) was elected to the Chilean Presidency. A Physician and dedicated socialist, Allende was the first socialist president elected in South America. The Nixon-lead government of the United States immediately implemented “economic warfare” (as they do, to this day, against Cuba, Venezuela and others). The economic warfare did not work, and in 1973 Allende’s socialist party increased their parliamentary majority.

In response, the US “assisted” (read: instructed) the Chilean military in carrying out a coup. Allende allegedly shot himself, and Augusto Pinochet was placed in power as the first dictator in Chile’s history. Pinochet was a fascist who executed Chilean “subversives” by the thousand...and was the darling of [Western leaders](#).

#7) MOSADDEGH COUP

I could just copy-and-paste the above paragraph and the change the names for this entry. In 1953, the Prime Minister of Iran – Mohammad Mosaddegh, a democratic socialist – wanted to audit the income of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company with an eye to limiting foreign control of Iran’s oil. Within a few months, a joint US/UK operation – Operation Ajax – had removed Mosaddegh’s elected government and turned over full control of the state to the Shah. He was a brutal absolute monarch, but the question of Western control of Iran’s enormous oil reserves wasn’t raised again under his leadership.

#6) OPERATION MOCKINGBIRD

A CIA operation that you could deduce existed, even if were not proven....and it is proven. Mockingbird was the CIA project to coerce, train, control or plant CIA-friendly journalists in major news networks all across the country and in every medium. It’s existence is no longer disputed, thanks to FOIA releases of internal memos.

Mockingbird was allegedly shut down in 1976 – just after its existence was leaked – then CIA director George HW Bush claiming:

...effective immediately, CIA will not enter into any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television

network or station.

If you're willing to stake anything on the word of a Bush, well, good luck with that. It's a decision that flies in the face of historical evidence.

Remember this one when you hear about the need to trust the CIA from some pundit on CNN or MSNBC.

#5) MASS SURVEILLANCE

It's not really talked about much these days – what with the vast majority of the media and huge sections of the supposedly “anti-establishment” progressive left marching in-step with the Deep State – but the NSA spied on the whole world. The whole world. We know this to be true because an employee of the Deep State – [Edward Snowden](#) – leaked the information.

When challenged on this issue, representatives of the NSA and CIA lied. They lied to the public, and they lied to congress. When they were proven to have lied, [they carefully qualified their lies](#).

A qualified lie is still a lie.

There is no indication they have stopped this illegal surveillance, but they may have [passed laws to make it legal](#).

#4) NAYIRAH "INCUBATOR BABIES"

A classic of “atrocious propaganda”, Nayirah should be required reading material for anybody looking top hop on a pro-war bandwagon. Nayirah – who originally gave only her first name – was a fifteen year old girl who [testified in front of the United States Congress](#). She claimed to be a volunteer from at a Kuwaiti hospital, and to be an eye-witness to Iraqi soldiers throwing Kuwaiti babies out of incubators and leaving them to die:

I volunteered at the al-Addan hospital with twelve other women who wanted to help as well. I was the youngest volunteer. The other women were from twenty to thirty years old. While I was there I saw the Iraqi soldiers come into the hospital with guns. They took the babies out of the incubators, took the incubators and left the children to die on the cold floor. It was horrifying.

It was later revealed, not only that her full name was Nayirah al-Sabah and she was the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador, but that she had never volunteered at a hospital and had seen no babies, soldiers or incubators. The whole thing was a fiction. A fiction paid for by the “Citizens of Free Kuwait”, an NGO (and obvious CIA front) set up to lobby the US to intervene in the Iraq-Kuwait war.



By the time this fiction was revealed it was too late, and the US had launched Operation [Desert Storm](#)....which was, of course, the entire point of the exercise

Remember this, when you hear about Assad gassing children or [bombing kittens](#).

#3) COINTELPRO

The FBI's long running (and sometimes illegal) COunter INTELigence PROgram, COINTELPRO was a series of domestic projects carried out by the FBI (with cooperation from other agencies), over decades, with the aim of “*surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting domestic political organizations*”.

These political organizations included anti-Vietnam protestors, civil rights groups (including both MLK and Malcolm X), socialists, Communist Party USA, environmental groups and feminist organizations.

The brief for these “disruptions” came straight from J. Edgar Hoover who wanted the FBI to “*expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise Neutralize*” people he perceived to be enemies of the state. The capital N in “neutralise” is no accident, as the FBI was implicated in the deaths of several Black Panther leaders, including [Fred Hampton](#).

COINTELPRO didn't just involve undermining left-wing groups, but also creating right-wing groups:

The FBI also financed, armed, and controlled an extreme right-wing group of former Minutemen, transforming it into a group called the Secret Army Organization that targeted groups, activists, and leaders involved in the Anti-War Movement, using both intimidation and violent acts.

Whether this was done to actually push a right-wing agenda, create a fake threat to step up police powers, or just sow division and chaos, is unclear. But it definitely happened.

Much like MKUltra (below), COINTELPRO was “officially shut down”, not long after the public found out it existed. However, the accidental [outing of undercover policeman](#) at a rally in Oakland, and recent relaxation of the [laws limiting the FBI's powers](#), means that COINTELPRO – or a modern successor – is very likely still a thing.

The aim of COINTELPRO was to “Neutralize” anti-establishment political figures – the vast majority of targets were left wingers – through “*smearing individuals and groups using forged documents and by planting false reports in the media*”. Remember that when you see Rand Paul called a “traitor” on twitter, or read about “Russian collusion”, or see Jeremy Corbyn branded an anti-Semite.

Remember that it is proven that the Deep State – our trusted intelligence agencies – pay people to plant false stories and discredit political opponents.

#2) PROJECT MKULTRA

It might sound like something from a 70s sci-fi TV series, but it is unfortunately real. MKUltra was a series of (illegal) experiments carried out by the CIA from 1953 until it was *cough* “officially halted” in 1973 (just after its existence was leaked). The experiments were wide-ranging, achieved varied levels of success, but pretty uniformly brutal and unethical. They included, but were not limited to:

- Giving LSD to unsuspecting soldiers to see what happened.
- Mass hypnosis and mass suggestion
- Torture studies
- Studies on the effect of verbal and/or sexual abuse

We'll never know the full range of studies, or how they were carried out, because in 1973 Richard Helms, then director of the CIA, ordered all MKUltra files destroyed. Only a fraction of them survive, thanks to FOIA requests, but it's reasonable to assume they destroyed the worst parts and kept the more quote-unquote innocent files.

The CIA were not unique in this regard either, MKUltra was their baby – but there were parallel projects in other quarters of the deep state. Army Intelligence had [Edgewood Arsenal](#), whilst the Department of Defense had [Project 112](#). All these projects were “officially halted” in the early 70s...just around the time the public found out they existed.

The CIA (et al.) have strongly denied that these experiments and projects have ever been continued in any way, shape or form...but if you'd asked them in 1969, they would have denied they had ever taken place at all.

#1) THE IRAQ WAR

This might not be the most callous, the most dangerous, the most recent, the most secret or the most insidious of the items on this list, nevertheless it is – must be – number one...because it is the most brazen.

The war was started in the name of “weapons of mass destruction” that everyone – *everyone* – knew never existed. They all knew the truth, but they lied.

The President lied, the vice-president lied, the secretary of defence lied, the secretary of state lied. The Prime Minister lied, the defence minister lied, the foreign minister lied. They lied to the press, the people and the UN.

The CIA, the NSA, the FBI – then headed by the “heroic marine” Robert Mueller – they lied too. The press repeated these lies, without question (see: Operation Mockingbird). They weren’t “misinformed”, they weren’t “mistaken”. They lied, they lied repeatedly – and provably – and they did it in order to start a war, make money, take control, spread influence.

One million Iraqis died.

Our ruling class is peopled with psychopaths and war criminals, who have so little regard for the people they lie to they recycle the same childishly simple falsehoods to further their evil agenda again and again and again. They tried the same in Libya...it worked again. They tried again in Syria...luckily, it didn’t work there.

Our “democratic institutions” lie to start wars. There’s no reason to think they aren’t doing – or wouldn’t do – the same thing about Iran, North Korea...or Russia.

* * *

That’s our list, and there’s really only one lesson you can take away from it: These people, agencies and institutions deserve no trust, have earned no trust and have abused every micron of trust ever placed in them. **To suggest we have a *duty* to believe them – or that they have ever done anything to serve the public good – is to live in a dream world.**

This list is not a full catalogue of Deep State crimes, it would be 1000s of entries long if it were, but these ten are important. They’re important because they are admitted, proven and beyond debate. They are important because they show the many facets of dishonesty, hypocrisy and abuses of power that Intelligence agencies engage in, and they are important because **they form the best riposte to the disingenuous clamour for “trust” in our “democratic institutions”.**

Never trust the CIA, they have proved they don’t deserve it.
