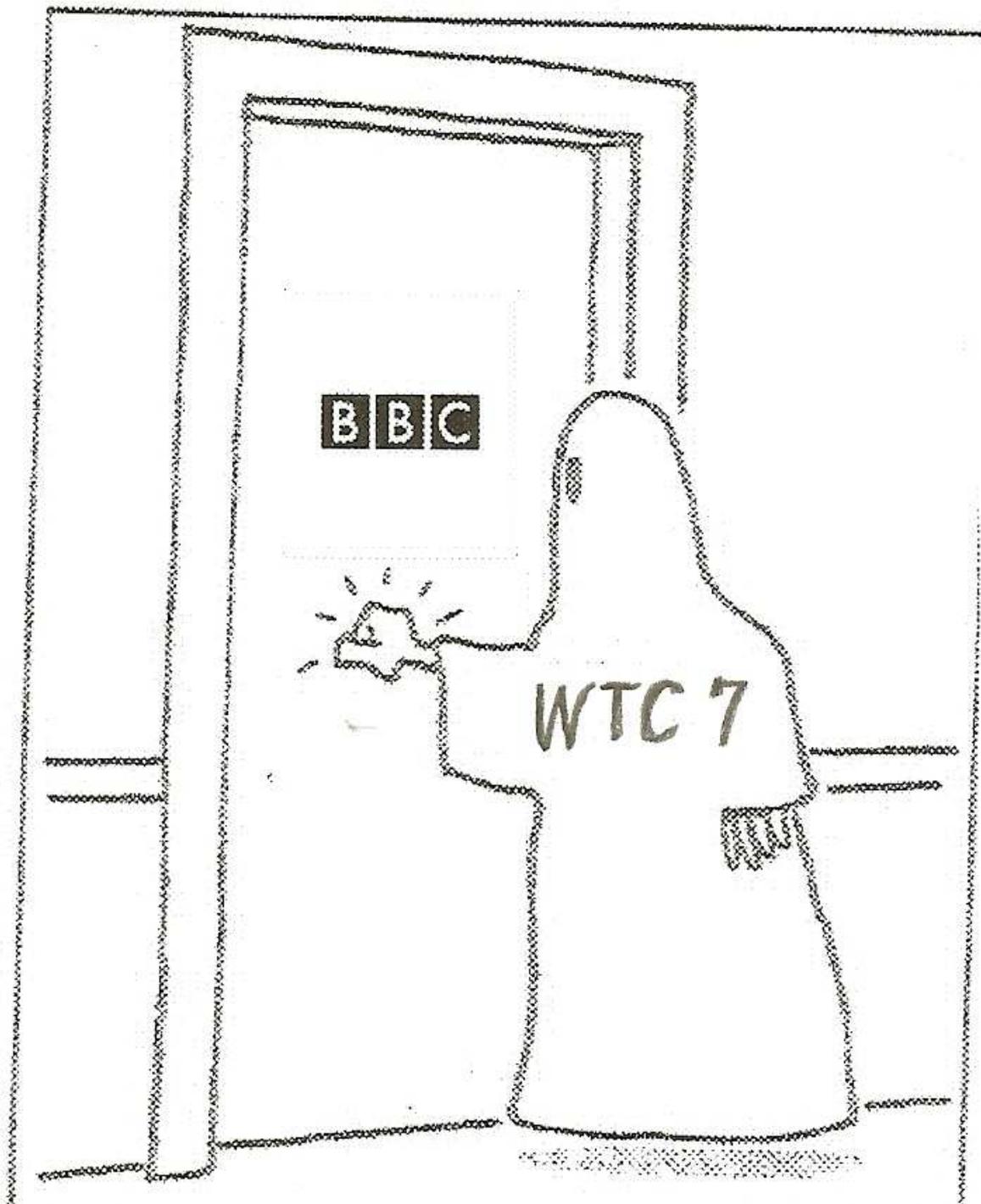


Strategic Paper  
BBC footage of the WTC7  
collapse, announced 23  
minutes too early



composed by Dirk Gerhardt aka Sitting-Bull, <http://www.911blogger>  
07-03-04, Draft 1.0

This paper reflects the history of the BBC footage of the WTC7 collapse, announced 23 minutes too early on 911. I also present a deep background on WTC7 and a deep background in NeoCon politics as well. The purpose is to deliver sources for further research and to get all people informed on the same grade.

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## The Origin

07-02-22

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6391>

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=co...ort=-publicdate>

Massive 9/11 TV archive.

Keep in mind these are 41 minute 1 gig MPEG-2's.

There is also September 10th news coverage there. This is everything there is from during or after the attacks.

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## First Notification by 911veritas

07-02-24, 14:15 Uhr EST

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6400#comment-119070>

I think I have discovered something VERY significant re WTC7 (been spending the last two days going through "archive.org" footage of 9/11)...

Like the "BBC World" report that WTC7 had collapsed even before 5pm EST.

Can you spot anything wrong with this news report at **5:10pm EST**.



Note : Salomon Smith Barney occupied the following floors of WTC7 - Ground, 1 to 6, 13, 18 to 46.

If you want to start downloading the Mpeg (it contains BBC world footage from 16:54 to 17:36 EST) - get it whilst you can.

Download from : <http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mpg> - "right click / save target as"

Working on the report now - things like this make the research worthwhile :)

Best wishes

.....

## **First Blog entry on this subject on 911blogger**

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458>

First Video, 07-02-26 - 5:55am

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1471985581749234824&q=9%2F11>

See at 15:00 time mark.

On September 11th 2001, BBC World reported at 4:57pm Eastern Time that the Salomon Brothers Building (more commonly known as WTC7 or World Trade Building 7) had collapsed.

This even made the 5pm EST headlines, what is bizarre is that the building did not actually collapse until 5:20pm EST.

9/11 was unusual enough, without BBC World being able to foretell the destiny of WTC 7.

What is even stranger, is that the women reporter is telling the world that the building had collapsed when you can see it in the background over her left shoulder.

Then at 5:15pm EST, just five minutes before the building did actually collapse, her live connection from New York to London mysteriously fails.

So the question is, on 9/11 how did the BBC learn that WTC7 collapsed 23 minutes before it actually did.

Building Seven was 47 storeys, modern in design with structural steel throughout, yet symmetrically collapsed in 6.5 seconds, was someone leaking information.

No steel framed skyscraper has ever collapsed due to fire, before or after 9/11, most people who find out about WTC7, believe it was brought down by a controlled demolition, even demolition experts agree.

UPDATE:

Shure from [www.pumpitout.com](http://www.pumpitout.com)

"Well I don't know if the BBC care but they are NOW AWARE !!"

below is a phone call to the BBC making them aware of their error, lets hope they dont send in Guy Smith to investigate!

[http://www.pumpitout.com/audio/bbc\\_oops.mp3](http://www.pumpitout.com/audio/bbc_oops.mp3)



## On the eve of the same day it was pulled

We're sorry, but this video may not be available.

Try refreshing the page to see this video.

To see more videos visit our [home page](#)



## Statement by GoogleVideo to 911veritas

Hi,

Your video "9/11 Building 7 Collapse - WTC7 23 Minute Warning - Salomon Brothers Building" was rejected because it didn't comply with our Program Policies.

Videos submitted to our program are subject to an initial review to ensure that they comply with our guidelines. When videos do not meet our standards, we disapprove them. You can review our guidelines at:

<http://video.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=27737&topic=1490&hl...>

Please make sure that you have all legal rights to use the content you wish to submit to Google. For more information about intellectual property rights and the program, please visit:

<http://video.google.com/support/bin/topic.py?topic=1490&hl=en>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

The Google Video Team

<http://video.google.com/>

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119575>

Submitted by [911veritas](#) on Mon, 02/26/2007 - 4:14pm.

.....

## A response by 911veritas to reports about time zones mixed-up:

STFU...

Troll bait, disinfo... I can smell your worried and desperate BS from here....

I would bet my last dollar on the BBC reporting WTC7 down at 5pm (local time New York on 9/11) YES that's 20 minutes before it actually came down...

This will be FULLY verified, proved without doubt (you can do it yourself, with the information on the blog, when it eventually gets authorized) and I hope you eat your post with beans on...

Better still, order the BBC World footage from 14:40 to 17:19 Eastern time... yes local to New York on 9/11 (that's 19:40 to 22:19 UK time).

sheesh, you disinfo troll

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6400#comment-119525>

.....

## Full text of BBC video regarding WTC7

<http://www.wtc7.net/foreknowledge.html#bbc>

**03:15** ~4:47 PM: The anchor states:

We'll leave it there for a moment. We've got some news just coming in actually, that the Solomon Brothers' Building in New York, right in the heart of Manhattan, has also collapsed. This does fit in with a warning from the British Foreign Office a couple of hours ago to British Citizens that there is a real risk -- ah let me get the exact words -- the British Foreign Office -- the foreign part of the British government -- said it was a strong risk of further atrocities in the United States, and it does seem as if there now is another one with the Solomon Brothers' Building collapsing. We've got no word yet on casualties. One assumes that the building would have been virtually deserted. Whether this latest collapse is going to influence the President, who we heard about a few moments ago, who was expected to be heading from Nebraska back to Washington, we don't know. **06:31** ~5:00 PM: The anchor states:

The 47-story Solomon Brothers', situated very close to the World Trade Center, has also just collapsed. **13:20** ~5:07 PM: The anchor states:

Now more on the latest building collapse in New York ... you may have heard a few moments ago we were talking about the Solomon Brothers Building collapsing and indeed it has, and apparently it's only a few hundred yards away from where the World Trade Center Towers were. And it seems that this was not the result of a new attack; it was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks. We'll probably find out more about that from our correspondent Jane Standley. Jane, what more can you tell us about the Solomon Brothers' Building and its collapse? **14:00** ~5:08 PM: The screen is filled by correspondent Jane Standley standing in front of a window framing smoke rising from Ground Zero and a clearly erect WTC 7.

**15:35** ~5:09 PM: The caption on the bottom of the screen reads:

The 47 storey Salomon Brothers building close to the World Trade Centre has also collapsed. **20:15** ~5:14 PM: The image of Jane Standley begins to break up and the anchor, remarking that they'd "lost the line" with Jane Standley, shifts to another report.

This [YouTube video](#) captures a portion of the mpeg starting at 00:13:20.

### Veracity of Conclusion

Questions prompted by the report include: *How do we know what the correct time of the broadcast footage is?* and *How do we know that the imagery behind Jane Standley is live?*

It is unlikely that the real times estimated above are off by more than a minute. The mpeg files

are located in directories on *archive.org* with names that encode times down to the minute. For example, the directory name *bbc200109111654-1736* encodes the time range 4:54 - 5:36 PM. No part of the 41-minute recording that contains the report shows a digital clock, but other recordings do, and suggest that the encoding of times into directory names is as meticulously accurate as the set of recordings is complete. For example, an *NBC* broadcast recording with the directory name *nbc200109110954-1036*, encoding the time range 9:54 - 10:35 AM, shows a clock with minutes and seconds. It displays a time of 10:20 starting at 25:34 in the recording, putting the start of the recording at 54:26.

That Jane Standley was standing in front of a live view showing WTC 7 as she describes it in the past tense is virtually indisputable. The high-quality mpeg video clearly shows that she is in front of a row of windows in a tall building.

.....

## Another verification by 911veritas

### [BBC's WTC7 Early Warning Updated.](#)

OK....

Not had much sleep, whilst verifying and double / triple checking the numbers etc... I have now narrowed down the maximum margin of error to 1 minute and can **confirm that the BBC first reported WTC7's collapse at 5pm** (plus or minus 60secs) New York time LIVE on 9/11, a **full 20 minutes before the actual collapse happened !!!**

I am working on presenting this info with a V2 of above vid and 911blogger exclusive blog, which will take some time, **verification is very important and to aid this.**

I please ask as many people (with high speed internet) and 5GB of spare disk space to download the following BBC originals. These are what I used to confirm the timings (you can too) and have the damning footage etc.

All times are local "New York", the ranges are pretty accurate, but following my calculations are approximately 3 mins earlier than the actual time.

Each file is MPEG format and 1GB in size - To Download - "Right Click / Save Target As"

[BBC World 9/11 Footage - 14:08 to 14:49](#)

[BBC World 9/11 Footage - 14:49 to 15:31](#)

[BBC World 9/11 Footage - 15:31 to 16:13](#)

[BBC World 9/11 Footage - 16:13 to 16:54](#)

[BBC World 9/11 Footage - 16:54 to 17:36](#)

I have produced a medium res WMV file that shows time sychronized continuous footage from **14:40 to 17:18**.

This file is approx 700MB and starts at the Pataki conference with an accurate timestamp of 14:40 Eastern Time (gotta find a home for it online, DZ ?).

Maybe Guy Smith can do some research for us... LOL

Best wishes and good luck

Props to Gangster for the initial heads up on the 9/11 realtime news footage archive on archive.org.

Continuous realtime footage from 9/11 by ABC, CNN, BBC, NBC, FOX etc...

Good starting Link :

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=title%3A%28Sept.%2011%29&sort=-date>

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119458>



## **First attempt to upload it to Youtube failed**

7 minute clip now up on Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIFDd5Yjn3w&eurl>

This video is no longer available

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119797>



## **It is NOT bluescreen- comment by „Richard“**

I posted this at Prison Planet but I will repeat it here:

The video does NOT appear to be blue screened at all.

1) The camera is North of WTC looking south and given the time of day (5pm) the sun should be setting in the west which would be on the RIGHT side of the frame.

2) The scene is lit from the RIGHT and we can clearly see the sunlight on the woman coming in from the windows so the lighting is perfect. A studio lighting would be very neutral and not have that harshness at all.

3) The news anchor in Britain is talking to her over a live feed... therefore it follows that she is likely in New York city.

4) I have checked the original source video (from archive.org) and it is full D1 with interlacing. There are absolutely NO aliasing or artifact effects that are normally very evident whenever a composite shot is used on TV. First, the resolution makes seeing the matte lines easy and second the overlay is done in real time so that a lot of pixelation occurs. Next time you see your weatherman in front of a bluescreen look closely and you'll see the pixelation.

5) The woman actually turns and looks out on the scene, which if it was a bluescreen seems odd to say the least.

6) As she turns the camera ZOOMS in on the scene. Both the woman AND the image behave exactly as one would expect from a live shot. If it were composite we would see the image zoom but not the woman. It is at this point quite obvious that the image behind the woman is indeed NYC as seen through a window.

To sum: There is absolutely NO evidence to suggest any composite work and LOTS of evidence that points to it being your standard bonafide camera shot. This one is real folks, now we need to figure out what it means, if anything.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119877>

.....

## “Carlos” found CNN footage

veritas, Have you looked @ the CNN links yet?

CNN broke the 'wtc 7 has collapsed or is collapsing' over an hour before it was demolished.

Here's the link I'm referring to.

<http://ia311543.us.archive.org/1/items/cnn200109111545-1626/V08537-12.mp...>

It's also interesting to note that the **cbs & fox links for this time are missing.**

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119651>

.....

## Now totally removed???

It now seems that all vestiges of the video have been removed from Google. No explanation, i.e. violation of any policies, copyrights, etc. It doesn't even show up in a search, as it had before, and even though the video was unavailable for viewing.

I see no reason why Google would want to remove an extremely popular video, unless there were policy violations involved. This was never stated. So, one is left to wonder if they were ordered to do so.

Submitted by [dicktater](#) on Mon, 02/26/2007 - 7:38pm.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119646>

.....

## **“Funny commenting”**

They Decided the Best Thing to Do was Pull It

So they made that decision to Pull, and they Pulled.  
Nothing untoward going on at all.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458#comment-119654>

.....

## **Attempt to restore video to secure viewing, upload to Liveleak**

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f\\_1172526096&c=1](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096&c=1)

VIDEO: BBC WAS HALF AN HOUR TOO EARLY REPORTING ON WTC7 COLLAPSE  
On September 11th 2001, BBC World reported at 4:57pm Eastern Time that the Salomon Brothers Building (more commonly known as WTC7 or World Trade Building 7) had collapsed.

This even made the 5pm EST headlines, what is bizarre is that the building did not actually collapse until 5:20pm EST.

9/11 was unusual enough, without BBC World being able to foretell the destiny of WTC 7.

What is even stranger, is that the women reporter is telling the world that the building had collapsed when you can see it in the background over her left shoulder.

Then at 5:15pm EST, just five minutes before the building did actually collapse, her live connection from New York to London mysteriously fails.

So the question is, on 9/11 how did the BBC learn that WTC7 collapsed 23 minutes before it actually did.

Building Seven was 47 storeys, modern in design with structural steel throughout, yet symmetrically collapsed in 6.5 seconds, was someone leaking information.

No steel framed skyscraper has ever collapsed due to fire, before or after 9/11, most people

who find out about WTC7, believe it was brought down by a controlled demolition, even demolition experts agree.

Please Investigate 9/11 - Time is of the essence.

Viewing Problems? [View Original Version](#)

**Added:** Feb 26  
2007

**In: News By:**  
[thedreadzone](#)  
(13.00)

**Tags:** [911 WTC7](#)

**Views:** 163373

**Votes:** 9

**Comments:** 292

**Recommendations:**  
248

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## Actual running ones:

### CNN WTC7 foreknowledge

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o)

Over an hour before the WTC 7 demolition at 4:10pm, Aaron Brown reports - "building 7, in the wtc complex, is on fire and has either collapsed, or is collapsing".

56.109 Views, 4 of 5 Stars,

Comments: 278, on Sat night 11 pm CEM

### BBC WTC7 foreknowledge (Read the comments!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7SwOT29gbc>

An astounding video uncovered from the archives today shows the BBC reporting on the collapse of WTC Building 7 over twenty minutes before it fell at 5:20pm on the afternoon of 9/11. The incredible footage shows a BBC reporter talking about the collapse of the Salomon Brothers Building while it remains standing in the live shot behind her head.

205.302 Views, 4 of 5 Stars

Comments: 3246, on Sat night 11 pm CEM

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## Prisonplanet picks the story up

BBC Reported Building 7 Had Collapsed 20 Minutes Before It Fell

Astounding, shocking video shows reporter talking about collapse with WTC 7 still standing in background

[Paul Watson & Alex Jones / Prison Planet | February 26, 2007](#)

(UPDATED 3:00PM CST)

An astounding video uncovered from the archives today shows the BBC reporting on the collapse of WTC Building 7 over twenty minutes before it fell at 5:20pm on the afternoon of 9/11. The incredible footage shows a BBC reporter talking about the collapse of the Salomon Brothers Building while it remains standing in the live shot behind her head.

Minutes before the actual collapse of the building is due, the feed to the reporter mysteriously dies.

This amazing clip is currently carried on Google Video and you can watch it above but many expect it to be removed shortly. We are attempting to download an original copy from the source.

Although there is no clock on the footage, the source claims the report was given at 4:57pm EST, 23 minutes before Building 7 collapsed at 5:20pm. While the exact time of the report cannot be confirmed at present, it is clear from the footage that the reporter is describing the collapse of WTC 7 while it clearly remains standing behind her in the live shot.

Here are some further screenshots from the video.





The fact that the BBC reported on the collapse of Building 7 over twenty minutes in advance of its implosion obviously provokes a myriad of questions as to how they knew it was about to come down when the official story says its collapse happened accidentally as a result of fire damage and debris weakening the building's structure.

As [we have documented before, firefighters, police and first responders were all told to get back from the building](#) because it was about to be brought down. It is widely acknowledged by those who were there on the scene that warnings were issued for people to evacuate the area in anticipation of the building's collapse, with some even stating that a 20 second countdown preceded the collapse of the 47-story skyscraper, again clearly suggesting that it was taken down by means of explosives as the video footage of its implosion illustrates.

In a September 2002 PBS documentary, the owner of the WTC complex Larry Silverstein discusses Building 7 and states that in the late afternoon of September 11, the decision was

made to "pull it." The term "pull it" is industry jargon for controlled demolition, but Silverstein denied charges that WTC 7 had been deliberately brought down.

This newly uncovered video confirms that the collapse of WTC 7 was no surprise, because television news stations were reporting on it *before* it happened!

This footage is absolutely amazing and should provoke a firestorm of new questions aimed both at Silverstein and the BBC. Who told the BBC that the building was going to collapse before it did and why were they reporting its fall in advance of the event actually taking place?

Many have speculated that some kind of press release was leaked too soon and AP wires, radio stations and TV news outlets prematurely reported on WTC 7's collapse.

The video also severely undermines the credibility of the BBC who recently caused controversy by [airing a 9/11 hit piece](#) that sought to debunk questions that bring the official story into doubt.



[http://www.jonesreport.com/articles/260207\\_bbc\\_bldg7.html](http://www.jonesreport.com/articles/260207_bbc_bldg7.html)

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## BBC- first response

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part\\_of\\_the\\_conspiracy.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html)

### Part of the conspiracy?

- [Richard Porter](#)
- 27 Feb 07, 05:12 PM

The 9/11 conspiracy theories are pretty well known by now. The BBC addressed them earlier this month with a documentary, [The Conspiracy Files](#), shown within the UK.



Until now, I don't think we've been accused of being part of the conspiracy. But now some websites are using news footage from BBC World on September 11th 2001 to suggest we were actively participating in some sort of attempt to manipulate the

audience. As a result, we're now getting lots of emails asking us to clarify our position. So here goes:

1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.
2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.



3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.
4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.
5. If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy... "

*Richard Porter is head of news, [BBC World](#)*

## All Comments in a row

Comments [Post your comment](#)

- 1.
- At [06:07 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- miss daw wrote:

No other building fell around the time of the report (approx 1657hrs)and the solomon brothers building did not fall for approx another 30mins (1720hrs).

What source told the bbc that the 47 storey solomon building (wtc7) had collapsed?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 2.
- At [06:09 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- gregor aitken wrote:

explain that tragic piece of journalism on sunday then

seriously what was that about

it was a joke an absolute joke, when you do progs like that about such a serious issue it leaves us to wonder that either you are in on it or just bad journalists.

Mr. Porter, put your house in order, the bbc is a public service and fourth estate no a propoganda machine for the state.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 3.
- At [06:13 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Tom wrote:

Sorry but this is nowhere near an acceptable explanation. I suggest you look into this further and provide us with a more detailed explanation of hoq this has happened to stop incriminating yourselves. What a pathetic response.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 4.
- At [06:22 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Nick Hatton wrote:

Sorry that doesn't wash, and I'm disgusted that you are publicly funded via a licence fee.

**SERVE THE PUBLIC !!!**

[Complain about this post](#)

- 5.
- At [06:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Justin Ross wrote:

If there was no conspiracy on your part, then tell the public who told BBC News that WTC7 fell down before it actually happened. The video you are looking for will show the building before collapse with your reporter telling the public it had already collapsed.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 6.

- At [06:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [justin](#) wrote:

BBC have been BUSTED well & truly & this your lame attempt at trying to explain it? This is karma for the hit piece you done the other week & yes you are accomplices to this crime for the communist style propaganda piece you pulled! BBC has lost all credibility & MILLIONS know it :)  
 Doubt your let this message through your "censorship" but know this BBC you have been exposed well & truly 911 WAS AN INSIDE JOB TELL THE TRUTH!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 7.
- At [06:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Eric wrote:

I dont think anyone is accusing the bbc as part of this. Its whoever gave the report to the bbc. What wire service sent this out?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 8.
- At [06:26 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Simon wrote:

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening."

So why then, is the reporter reporting that the Saloman Building (WTC7) has come down when it is clearly visible behind her as she speaks?

"If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error"

An error? That does not explain how someone knew the building was coming down before it actually had done.

WTC7 stood for hours, and for someone to put out information that it would come down within 20 minutes is a little suspicious, don't you think?

Not to mention it is the 3rd building in history to collapse due to fire, the first two being WTC 1 and 2 \*rolls eyes\*

[Complain about this post](#)

- 9.
- At [06:30 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Steve Emsley wrote:

So...

1. You lost the tapes of one of the most important events in US history? REALLY? The citizens of the UK should all stop paying their TV tax as this is the most ridiculous and

irresponsible thing I have ever heard. It is probably NOT TRUE as American broadcasters keep ALL FOOTAGE in controlled vaults/rooms.

2. You anchor CLEARLY states that WTC 7 has collapsED while it is still in the shot. It is repeated. She even says that it WAS 47 stories.

3. Your point "5" is a joke... just a mistake like:

A. losing the tapes.

B. The reporter NOT USING qualifiers such as "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" as you imply above.

C. The feed getting dropped.

Shame on you.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 10.
- At [06:32 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Justin Ross wrote:

If there was no conspiracy on your part, then tell us who told BBC News that WTC7 fell down before it actually happened. The video you're looking for will show the building before collapse with your reporter telling the public it had already collapsed.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 11.
- At [06:33 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- William wrote:

Sorry, I am not convinced by this blog. I fail to see how it is impartial and crucial to the issue at hand..claiming to loose your own footage over an event like this doesn't seem to fit.

I am not labelling you as anything other than unconvincing as regards the comments you've posted here. Thank you for your time, sincerely William.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 12.
- At [06:34 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Justin Ross wrote:

If there was no conspiracy on your part, then tell us who told BBC News that WTC7 fell down before it actually happened. The video you're looking for will show the building before collapse with your reporter telling the public it had already collapsed.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 13.
- At [06:34 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- Steve Emsley wrote:

Finally, I do not think you were WILLINGLY part of a conspiracy... you were just fed information off a wire and repeated it.

Of course the lowly BBC would not be "let in" on such a plot. You were simply used as pawns... mouthpieces and the evidence of this is in the "lost footage".

[Complain about this post](#)

- 14.
- At [06:35 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [justin](#) wrote:

BBC BUSTED AGAIN HAAAAHA :D

[Complain about this post](#)

- 15.
- At [06:38 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Laz](#) wrote:

"We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy)."

How convenient!!! So of course when you DO get hold of the footage, you can say "well this is not original footage so it's not reliable!" How utterly unpredictable. The very fact that you claim not to have the archive footage (which I'm sure you're required to keep for various legal reasons) is enough to prove that in fact the British Brainwashing Corporation IS in fact part of a conspiracy.

Incidentally, as much as you'd like people to think otherwise, "conspiracy" is not a dirty word. The government conspired to convince us there were WMD in Iraq - which as you know there weren't. Conspiracy is an integral part of politics, and nothing would happen without it.

But you're obviously missing the point. If you had reported the building as having collapsed before it did so, it in fact DOES prove you were part of a conspiracy - for there is NO EARTHLY WAY anyone, not least the BBC, could have known that WTC7 was going to collapse. It had been hit by nothing, and there was no significant damage. And yet you knew it was going to collapse, and even WHY it collapsed - before it even did!!! Sorry, but your quoting some naysayer from Youtube is as weak an explanation as it is possible to give.

You are the weakest link. Goodbye!!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 16.
- At [06:41 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Deep Fwoat wrote:

I don't think anyone is trying to imply that the BBC is "in" on anything.

It is remarkable, though, that the BBC believed a building was to collapse in an unprecedented way, and the idea that there was advance knowledge of the collapse doesn't fit well with the official story.

The clips are all over the net, finding them should be easy for a news network.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 17.
- At [06:42 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Tim Zeiders wrote:

Pretty weak explanation Mr. Porter. Only 3 buildings in history have collapsed from "fire" (all on 9/11/01) and your reporter happened to predict one's collapse 15 minutes before it happened. And mysteriously her live feed was cut just before the actual collapse. It is as if you reported on the collapse of the World Trade Centers on 9/10/01. You are involved in the cover up Mr. Porter. Also, maybe you could explain how she knew it would collapse when NIST still can't figure out how it happened. Your explanation is actually that she made a mistake? 3 buildings in history collapse like that and she makes a "mistake" predicting one right before it happens? I don't think so. The police (if they had the guts) would call that prior knowledge of a crime. If I went to the police and reported a crime before it happened I don't think they would take "oops it was a mistake" as an excuse. Not from me anyway. Maybe from you

[Complain about this post](#)

- 18.
- At [06:43 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Laz](#) wrote:

Still no comments, Richard? Still waiting for SOMEONE to write a hit piece supporting your view and "discrediting" the obvious - that the BBC cocked-up on 9/11 and reported on something that hadn't happened before it happened and before the BBC could have KNOWN it was going to happen!!!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 19.
- At [06:48 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Stewart Cowan](#) wrote:

Mr Richard Porter, were you there to see what information was being passed onto reporters? I would like to respond to your five points.

1. The BBC does not have to be part of the conspiracy to have been given advance information that had been released too soon in error.
2. They didn't use words like "apparently", they flashed up the following message on the screen,  
"The 47 story Salomon Brothers building close to the World Trade Centre has also collapsed."  
That is pretty definite, and 20 minutes before it was brought down.

3. Are you trying to say that after the pictures from New York started going all fuzzy (i.e. when someone realised that the building was still standing), that the reporter did not remember five minutes later a 47 storey building collapsing behind her?

4. I believe you. You can view it here

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/260207building7.htm>

5. The BBC gets its second opinions from YouTube now, does it?

Serious answers are required from the BBC, not another whitewash. People are waking up all over the place that 9/11 was an inside job, yet the BBC still insists on trying to discredit conspiracy "theorists" left, right and centre.

When the whole world has woken up to the truth about 9/11, will the Beeb still be denying it?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 20.
- At [06:59 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [comeon](#) wrote:

Ok what credibility do you have? In 4 and 5 you imply you don't have the video to judge and then you admit to reading the comments about it on youtube?

I guess those technical difficulties were just coincidence too? Whatever, go back to sleep.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 21.
- At [07:07 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- tom wrote:

so the footage has been lost ? how convenient !!

how can you people call yourselves journalists.

you make me sick

[Complain about this post](#)

- 22.
- At [07:14 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Michael wrote:

Dear BBC World,

Do you really expect the world to believe you when you say:

"We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy)."

Your credibility has been utterly annihilated!

Time to come clean folks...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 23.
- At [07:14 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Chris wrote:

To report that a building had collapsed before it had done so would be an odd sort of error, wouldn't it ? A bit like reporting that the Lord Mayor's trousers had fallen down before they did so.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 24.
- At [07:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Steve wrote:

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down."

Errrr clearly you did. The reporter said the building had collapsed 20 mins before it collapsed. What was it, a guess? A premonition?

Please stop avoiding the question.

Jane Standley has nothing to do with anything, she was told the building had collapsed so she repeated that. If you watch the video in question it is reported that the building has collapsed before the anchor goes to Jane Standley.

So you cannot pass this off as her mistake.

Now please explain to the people how the BBC knew the building was going to collapse.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 25.
- At [07:27 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- De wrote:

Hmm, you lost the footage. It was there yesterday.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 26.
- At [07:45 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Jan wrote:

The down to earth conspiracy theorists aren't saying the BBC had any part in a conspiracy, but are arguing that its clear that the BBC received message that the building had collapsed (probably part of a press release by a government official in NYC) and reported so.

It seems that this press release by whichever NYC official was released before the WTC7 building actually did collapse/implode and so it shows that at least some NYC officials had foreknowledge that the building was going to be taken down.

This brings even more validity that the building was pulled (imploded) which takes time to prep and had to be done in advance of the events.

You can't wire and place explosives for a CD in a couple of hours time. It has to have been done in advance.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 27.
- At [07:47 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- chris r wrote:

lame white wash...

put this report into the context of other eye witnesses who stated that they were told "the building is goin to blow"

connect the dots!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 28.
- At [07:51 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Laz](#) wrote:

But nothing to do with conspiracy right, Richard? Just a "cock-up"?!?!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 29.
- At [07:53 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- pg wrote:

Don't worry, simple "cock-up". Bye bye original tapes.

Welcome 1984.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 30.
- At [07:54 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Doug Lain wrote:

Both CNN and the BBC received word that WTC 7 was going to collapse, or was collapsing. Why do you deny this?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 31.
- At [07:55 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ajay wrote:

You assert you lost the footage due to cock up and not conspiracy..... Any evidence of the 'cock-up'???? Or just your assertion???

[Complain about this post](#)

- 32.
- At [07:58 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Brgr wrote:

I do have the clip, unedited, downloaded from archive.org. It is 41min and 41 sec long and it is 1,0GB in size.

If interested; please contact me for any more information.

Regards

[Complain about this post](#)

- 33.
- At [08:00 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- anon wrote:

911 conspiracy file program aired the previous weekend seems to have bitten you on the arse!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 34.
- At [08:00 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Michael Rigby wrote:

Pathetic.

Now everybody KNOWS that you are part of the conspiracy.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 35.
- At [08:02 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- The NWO sucks wrote:

'The 9/11 conspiracy theories are pretty well known by now. The BBC addressed them earlier this month with a documentary, the conspiracy files'

There seems to be some doubt on the second point about these theories being 'addressed'. The BBC would need several hours to do the subject justice.

<http://debunking-bbc.blogspot.com/>

[Complain about this post](#)

- 36.
- At [08:09 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- karl wrote:

this explanation puts shame on the BBC!

you "lost the tapes".. sure sure..

[Complain about this post](#)

- 37.
- At [08:11 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- jfal wrote:

This story originates from 911.blogger.com - a 9/11 news blog. I've been following it there. The main point of the story is not to say that the BBC blew up WTC building 7. It's to point out that there may have been prior knowledge on someone's part. The collapse of WTC 7 may have been planned. Why don't you try to figure how Standley got this information? Why brush this off as a joke? Many, many people obviously don't think it's a joke. People are very suspicious of mainstream news because of the sad lack of investigative work on anything of great importance, like 9/11, like the reasons for going to war in Iraq. Please try to remember that this is your job - to ask tough questions. You are not asking questions here. Your making fun of real peoples' real concerns.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 38.
- At [08:13 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Simon wrote:

The BBC has some explaining to do before any remaining credibility is washed away..

I say remaining, because of that appalling 9/11 documentary which failed to prove anything...aka, another whitewash.

Richard Porter, your blog entry could well go down in history as the most pathetic attempt to explain away the questions being asked by true patriots and honest people.

I beg of you to do the right thing!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 39.
- At [08:13 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- justin t wrote:

"We no longer have the original 9/11 tapes". How convenient, its not like it was an important day or anything, why back it up. The intelligent community does not believe your lame duck explanation.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 40.
- At [08:16 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- Emmanuel wrote:

A "mistake" ?? The BBC can not avoid to explain this incredible TV premonition. Please, face your responsibility : who told you that this building had collapse ?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 41.
- At [08:17 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- jay wrote:

You at the BBC must feel very embarrassed putting out such a feeble explanation!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 42.
- At [08:17 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- John wrote:

BBC being "part of the conspiracy" is clearly a red herring and avoids the real question that this gaffe brings up: WHERE DID THE BBC GET THE INFORMATION THAT 1) BUILDING 7 HAD COLLAPSED, 2) THAT THE PROBABLE CAUSE WAS FIRES AND 3) THAT THERE WERE NO CAUSALTIES. This is highly specific information which renders your explanation dubious to say the least. Your "the video vanished" excuse is a real laugh. Maybe it went to the same place as the video of the "hijackers" and other passengers getting on to the 4 planes, the pentagon surveillance videos and the videos from the 4 cameras on the bus that blew up in Tavistock.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 43.
- At [08:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ivan Sommer jr. wrote:

Dear Mr. Porter,  
firstly if you still stand behind and consider the manipulative and biased attack from The Conspiracy Files about the 9/11 Truth to be called a "documentary", well we are perhaps living in different universe.

Detailed rebuttals of your hitpiece have been published on several respected websites including the website endorsed by the 9/11 victim families, who were deeply disturbed by your recent attacks.

<http://911truth.org/index.php>

In terms of the current issue with the apparent BBC foreknowledge of the collapse of WTC building 7, again you engage in very manipulative campaign. Most of the sites, citing this information only claim that the information has been probably passed over to the BBC newsroom from the guilty party not that you have been a part of some overall conspiracy.

It is very said the the last icon of journalism the BBC is now being managed by C grade propagandists instead of serious journalist and professionals.

My grandpa used to listen to the BBC during the WWII inside the occupied Europe when such activity was prohibited under the highest punishment. I continued in this family tradition. But for me today was the last day of watching and listening to your channels, goodbye, you won't be missed.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 44.
- At [08:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Callan wrote:

I see you claim that "the 9/11 conspiracy theories are pretty well known by now" and "the BBC addressed them earlier this month with a documentary" Considering that there are 214 comments left, of which the vast majority disagree that the documentary by Guy Smith was unbiased I suggest that there is a large number of people who are no longer willing to accept the official story of 9/11. The reason for this is because of the many good points made by the many people who wrote in which were simply not addressed by the hit piece.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/911\\_questions.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/911_questions.html)

The above article does nothing to dispell the reasons why the BBC footage which is now appearing all over the internet is causing such a wave of feeling. It does not answer the question of why Jayne Standley and the newscaster in the studio both tell us that the WTC7 has fallen..when it is clearly visible in the background. As the official story is that the building wasn't "pulled" as stated by Silverstein, and that the building simply fell down due to damage, how then is it possible for the BBC to know in advance that it was damaged to such an extent, in advance of it actually falling? So we are to believe that no one can remember the sources of this valuable piece of information. No one? Not even the reporter on the ground? I find that incredible. May I suggest that as you have "lost" the original footage that you view the footage online, rather than chasing down the copies which people are uploading and having them removed...fairly quickly I might add. You seem to be able to do that with some accuracy. You say "Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services." Okay, then clear up how she clearly report's the collapsing of WTC7 for us. There can be no confusion surely, either the building is there or it is not. And we can clearly see that it is. The information must have come from somewhere....so who was feeding her the information that day? You say "As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy.. This is a crucial point and cannot be overstated so I'll repeat it, How can you report a building collapsing in advance of it's actually doing so. When the official story is that no one knew it was going to collapse?

It is suspicious that you lost the feed just before the building actually collapsed. Or is this just providential as the embarrasment factor would have been through the roof, and explanation required, as it is now.

There is not even the possibility of a time delay as Jayne Standley moves to one side while the camera zooms in and even gestures at the scene while talking about it as being live.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 45.
- At [08:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- edbo wrote:

Not very convincing.

If there was ever a real criminal investigation into the events of 9/11 this would be a lead.

And since you believe there is nothing to hide, why dont you tell us all who told you the building was going to collapse? After all, the tapes may be missing from the day but surely there are other logs and documentation surviving...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 46.
- At [08:20 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Joseph wrote:

Thank you for this. It's a shame that the work that the BBC did on that day has been targeted by sore conspiracy theorists.

If you ever do get hold of the coverage, please release the moments after Shandley's feed was interrupted. It was in those moments that 7 World Trade actually fell, and the coverage would have gone back there. For some odd reason, the conspiracy theorists neglected to show anything past the moment of the feed being lost.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 47.
- At [08:22 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- JudgeDredd wrote:

2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.

I do not recall qualifying words in the report. Therefore, it must have been from a very qualified source.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 48.
- At [08:23 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- Whatever wrote:

I don't believe you, BBC. You've got a lot more explaining to do. There's no way this can be dismissed as simply as an editorial blog.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 49.
- At [08:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Nick Murphy wrote:

Just to point out that BBC World / BBC World Service is not funded by the license fee but directly from Government funds.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 50.
- At [08:28 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Andy wrote:

I doubt there are any serious 9/11 investigators that think the BBC is actually part of the 9/11 conspiracy. The only thing you're guilty of is reporting the rubbish that's fed to you by the authorities and not doing any real investigative journalism.

It's clear that something is very wrong with this footage. You are clearly reporting that an event has happened before it actually happened, and as far as I'm aware the BBC doesn't have psychic powers. You reported accurate information about 20 minutes too early. It looks like somebody, somewhere messed up here, although not really the BBC, which I'm sure was just reporting on information that it was given and believed to be factual.

The real question is - who gave you this information?

WTC7 was not hit by a plane, it suffered very little damage, and fires in the building were minimal (those statements are backed up by a ton of photographic evidence). Before 9/11 no steel framed building in history has ever collapsed because of fire damage. In fact all steel framed buildings that have been completely gutted by fire have remained standing.

So, it's absolutelely inconceivable that anyone could have predicted that WTC7 was going to collapse that day...unless they already knew it was going to collapse. And nobody could have known it was going to collapse unless the building was rigged to collapse. And nobody can argue against the fact that the collapse of WTC7 looks EXACTLY like a controlled demolition.

So this footage is strong evidence that someone knew that WTC7 was about to collapse by a controlled demolition.

Your pathetic and highly misleading 9/11 conspiracy documentary said "Case Closed". I don't think so, and this footage proves it.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 51.
- At [08:29 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- doug owen wrote:

I have read you statement regarding the Pre Notice of WTC 7 (the salomon building),

I don't think the BBC is part of a Conspiracy. But if that is the fact, it seems pretty incredible that you guys were able to mistakenly pre alert the world to a building collapse that hadn't happened yet.

We want to know who put that information out. Who told the network to run the story. If there was no "conspriacy" then I am sure that the BBC will be happy to divulge that information as well.

This seems all to prophetic

[Complain about this post](#)

- 52.
- At [08:30 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Judda wrote:

Let's change the subject guys this one is getting old:

Have you seen what Brittany had Done with her hair lately?

Or

Did you know that Dame Helen got an award last night?

Oh my prediction for the future is the BBC is going to do a whitewash again and this important news won't make the headlines because of some pop culture crap takes precedence.

Please wake up,

Luv you J. xxx

[Complain about this post](#)

- 53.
- At [08:33 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Stranded in Babylon wrote:

@ Nick Hatton, message 3:

BBC World isn't "publicly funded via a licence fee". It's a commercially-sponsored channel which carries advertising.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 54.
- At [08:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Kevin Fenton wrote:

You wrote:

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down."

That is very obviously an untruth. You clearly reported 7 had collapsed before it actually collapsed and you must have received this information from some person or organisation - or do your news gatherers have second sight? We want to know where it's from - phone call, e-mail, fax, face-to-face conversation?

What I find most disturbing about your response is that you should be conducting an investigation into this, but you have already pre-judged the result of the investigation, just like the politicians you are supposed to be reporting on.

As for quoting a YouTube poster in your defence - thanks, it gave us a good laugh.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 55.
- At [08:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ben wrote:

I want my money back. You did not explain where you got information (you just made up this information on the spot?!) that building 7 had collapsed even though it hadn't and, as your own Conspiracy Files portrayed, the collapse was wholly unexpected. This whole thing, along with the completely discredited hit piece of your Conspiracy Files makes me have absolutely no faith in the beeb's impartiality. This isn't an explanation, its a denial of guilt. My email to you simply wanted to know who or what your source was claiming that the building had collapsed and that it was due to structural damage. You are a public servant BBC, please start serving the damn public!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 56.
- At [08:37 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Wayne wrote:

So, let me make sure I'm getting this straight:

One of the biggest news corporations in the WORLD, and you've LOST the footage from arguably the most important day in modern history??

\*shakes head\*

Incompetence doesn't even begin to cover it, if I actually believed you.

I am thoroughly ashamed that you are funded through the TV Licence, and are therefore essentially there because we pay for you, then you try and 'fob' us off with this drivel.

Not good enough. By a long shot.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 57.
- At [08:38 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- bruce mcintosh wrote:

Mr. Porter,

The truth will set you free.

Regards,

Bruce

[Complain about this post](#)

- 58.
- At [08:42 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Roman wrote:

Richard,

I'm lost on your bizarre response in point 4.

I didn't think you'd need to be told but....the 'recording of your output' is all over the internet, spreading like wildfire. Why can't you 'get hold of it' like everybody else?

Why don't you post it on your blog like everybody else.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 59.
- At [08:42 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [UnderTow](#) wrote:

Seems quite simple then.

2. Then what was your source for this report, did it come across the wire, or was it called it, or what

3. Then what does she remember as she watched a building collapse right outside that window after reporting it already collapsed. Does she remember that?

4. They are in the archive and everyone has them now.

5. What is the source of the error?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 60.
- At [08:45 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Kevin Ryan wrote:

Mr. Porter,

Interesting piece on WTC 7. We're all hoping it is only a bit of doctored footage.

If it is not, please do let us know what is about to happen in or around Iran. And be so kind as to give us more than 20 minutes notice.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 61.
- At [08:45 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Timothy Cleary wrote:

This really is a strange news article - you really have to ask yourself are we all getting paranoid or are the BBC really part of something much darker - its not funny and like most ordinary citizens I am not finding an awful lot of comfort in the way the BBC ahs and is dealing with 9/11.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 62.
- At [08:48 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ian Bell wrote:

We are still waiting for your explanation as to why your reporter claimed to camera that WTC7, clearly visibly standing behind her, had collapsed, Mr Porter.

If you want to convince us the BBC isn't "part of the conspiracy" cover up at least, you would do well to attempt to do so.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 63.
- At [08:48 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Sheiban Shakeri wrote:

I find it interesting how those who have read this editorial already had the bias in their head that the major news organizations were in on 9/11 and would not bother to change their opinion and accept that what they are believing is simply wrong, plain and simple. The government, the media and everything else that could have been involved in 9/11 is run by humans, and as humans, we make mistakes. It was a confusing day, now please put this to rest.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 64.
- At [08:48 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ben wrote:

This also proves that the BBC and mainstream news is nothing more than reporters. All you do is report what you are told, even when the thing that is supposed to be levelled is standing 47 stories tall DIRECTLY BEHIND YOU! You don't even bother to look around to see if a building has collapsed :| How poor is that!??

How can you call yourselves journalists? We need to know who gave you this information (I believe the BBC is innocent on this, so don't make it personal, even though you did with the hit piece) as they clearly had fore-knowledge of the building's impending collapse.

This could be integral to finding out what really happened on that day, please give us puney populace some answers!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 65.
- At [08:49 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- David Reynolds wrote:

The only conspiracy is allowing these Editors blogs to be over-run by these infantile conspiracy nutters.

I think most of these people need to try and get a reality check, they seem to think they are starring in a episode of 24!.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 66.
- At [08:50 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Simon Rafe wrote:

I am amazed by the fact that there appear to be no comments from people who are not of the opinion that 9/11 was a conspiracy and that the BBC was part of that conspiracy, or at least fed information from those who were.

The simplest explanation for the 9/11 attacks is that, sad and horrifying as it is, is that a group of extremists were able to carry out a brutal attack succesfully. It is horrific that someone would do such a thing, and it is difficult to believe that it would be successful.

But the alternative - that the government of the USA managed to successfully plant explosives and hijack their own planes etc. - beggars belief. It is less-likely than the alternative because the amount of planning that a government group would have required. To the best of my knowledge, no memos suggesting that 9/11 was a government action have appeared - and such memos would have had to exist in some form.

Also, why have Muslim extremists claimed 9/11 as theirs? Afghanistan has been invaded because of this - why did the Taliban keep claiming they did it if they did not? Surely honesty on their behalf would be clear. Yet we see no YouTube videos from them saying that they were not responsible.

As for the BBC being "involved" - they made a mistake. If they were truly part of the conspiracy, then they would have been taking MUCH GREATER CARE than to report something so obviously in error.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 67.
- At [08:53 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Andy wrote:

The BBC is a disgrace.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 68.
- At [08:54 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Michael wrote:

Someone clearly made a decision to make the announcement that WTC7 had fallen before it actually fell. Who made that decision? We're not going to let this one go!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 69.
- At [08:55 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [SmellTheTyranny](#) wrote:

Convenient that the footage got lost, perhaps it might turn up in the same place as all the 7/7 CCTV footage and all the film of the Pentagon?

It adds a lot of weight to your article when you sum up by quoting a post on Youtube as your concluding argument.

All anyone is asking for is answers , and these five bullet points provide nothing but hot air.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 70.
- At [08:56 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Tomb wrote:

I'm not a conspiracy nut. But this footage of your reports of WTC7 collapsing a full 20 minutes prior and repeatedly discussing it's collapse is highly suspicious.

If you were talking about a building that never did collapse, well then you'd just look incompetent. But as we all know, building 7 did, in a feat that suspended all laws of physics and logic, collapse spontaneously due to fires on floors 7 & 12.

You can't possibly expect us to believe this. Let's look at all the pieces here.

1. BBC reports for 20 solid minutes that WTC7 has collapsed when even in the live shot it stands as sturdy as the day it was built.
2. The idea that WTC7 would collapse spontaneously due to minor fires and minimal damage to the north face is laughable and an insult to intelligence. But it did, approximately 5 minutes AFTER BBC's report....or at least 5 minutes after Jane Standley's live shot was disconnected.
3. BBC loses all of it's 9/11 footage so this cannot be reviewed or explained. My nephew still has all his VHS tapes from that day. He recorded almost every news station for 24 hours straight. He's 19 now. He was 13 when it happened.  
So, a 13 year old can be more responsible with his VHS tapes than one of the largest news organizations?

4. The archive footage is mysteriously pulled off of youtube and google video repeatedly and without provocation or explanation.

5. BBC's response is, 'there is no conspiracy. it was a mistake.'

Grant us logical thinkers at least one thing. This is highly suspicious. The BBC needs to reveal what source they drew the conclusion that WTC7 had collapsed.

Oh, and the ez-out phrases like 'it appears' and 'we're receiving reports that..' were not used throughout this footage.

Especially when the anchor starts talking about the (lack of) body count since there was so much time to evacuate since the collapse of WTC1-2.

The BBC needs to reveal what source they drew the conclusion that WTC7 had collapsed. I do not necessarily think the BBC is a witting participant in some 9/11 conspiracy, but it's definitely looking like you were a pawn. Revealing who/where the BBC received the information that WTC7 had collapsed would be a good start in clearing your name.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 71.
- At [08:56 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- One of Many wrote:

This is crazy. Just release your source and be done with it. I'll make it easy for you.

- A. CIA
- B. Whitehouse
- C. Brittish Secret Service
- D. Downing Street
- E. All of the above

[Complain about this post](#)

- 72.
- At [08:57 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Dawn wrote:

As the days drag on and this 911 inside job theory gains momentum, more and more facts are being exposed. Bush and Cheney have not deviated from their plans(Rebuilding America's Defences) but they do seem to be in the act of desperation.They seem to understand that some of the american citizens have been awoken thanks to their lack of empathy for real issues that the American people WANT taken care of.

Also their allies are realizing the BIG picture includes their demise too.

I suggest anyone willing to believe the NEWS- AS SEEN ON T.V. Read Project for a New American Cenrty.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 73.
- At [08:58 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- Michael wrote:

How convenient you lost the tapes. So next time something of this scale happens, we all better switch on our £100 VCRs because it could be possible that BBC World again forgets pressing the "record" button on the high tech equipment you bought with public means.

But you're lucky, on 9/11 someone indeed recorded your footage. It's on the Internet in various archives if you care to search for it. All of it.

And you can make mocking comments about 9/11 "conspiracy theories" all day long, the fact just doesn't go away that you reported the *collapse* of WTC-7 - while the building still stood behind Jane Standley for everyone to see.

Explain this to us. Ok, so you can't find your videos of 9/11 anymore. Cool, might be. But do you also throw away the files, faxes, press releases etc. you base your news reporting on? Show us the news agency report that first made you say that the Salomon building (WTC-7) had collapsed. Thank you.

#### [Complain about this post](#)

- 74.
- At [08:59 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [-V-](#) wrote:

we lost the 911 tapes.. oops sorry.. yeah right! guess the BBC also had something to do with the missing moon tape's. Well, if you need a copy just ask the conspiracy people they cover your tracks pretty good. The day of the century and you lost the tapes... seriously lame excuse if you ask me :-)

and it's not so much what she's saying more the "fell through weakness" story of the male reporter.. HOW COULD HE CLAIM THAT? Even NIST and FEMA don't know that!

Better come clean BBC or you got some real explaining to do... you ow THE PEOPLE THAT PAY YOU!!!

#### [Complain about this post](#)

- 75.
- At [09:00 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- philcozz wrote:

"If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that."

Uh, it WASN'T an error... That's the point. You keep harping on about what a chaotic day it was. Then why didn't the anchor say something like, "We're getting some unconfirmed reports of some other building apparently collapsing... We'll have to check up on this... etc." No, he had (23 minutes before hand) the name of the building, the correct # of floors in the building (47), the explanation of the collapse (weakened by other collapses), and he was reporting that the building was apparently empty. You even had graphics made up for the scrolling info at the bottom of the screen. That is some pretty precise reporting for a day of chaos when everyone was "...trying to make sense of what they were seeing... and what was being told by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services."

And there lies the key (perhaps). No doubt the info was just being fed to the anchor and reporter off the wires as the news would cross... So, which agency fed that bit about WTC7 collapsing? AP? Reuters? VOA? We'll probably never know, but you got the information from some source more than 23 minutes before it happened (had to be longer than 23 minutes, because there must have been some delay from the time the story came over the wires and the time the anchor actually got the news out on the air).

Do I think the BBC is "...part of a conspiracy"? No... but you were played perfectly by some entity, IMO.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 76.
- At [09:01 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Kat](#) wrote:

It's all falling apart. The truth cannot be hidden forever. You will have to answer for your own knowledge of what really happened. Thanks for this wonderful, gigantic screw-up BBC!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 77.
- At [09:01 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Barbaricfellow](#) wrote:

Yeah.., we know its ONLY footage of the biggest event after WW2 so of course you would have lost it by now (!!)

How many lost and locked away footage, accompanied by an OCEAN of non working equipment is "reasonable" for any sane man to accept you reckon?

I think we are way beyond that point by now, and it amazes me there are still people who think otherwise..

Same as i have a hard time believing that in London's 7/7 "attack", there where 2 anti terrorism drills at the same time at the same stations.?

Indeed just like 911....

But i guess some people and the BBC included don't find it necessary to investigate such extremely far reaching, influential, and world shaping events extremely well. And are perfectly happy with the "investigations" done so far. Bit of a waste to invest money into "conspiracies" not?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 78.
- At [09:01 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Michelle](#) wrote:

I suppose you are being paid a tidy sum to spout such nonsense, otherwise, how could you??

No journalists are to be trusted, they either are coerced to play along or choose to do so.

Which are you, sir?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 79.
- At [09:03 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ken Eichler wrote:

You mean to tell me that the BBC - because of a screw-up - either lost or destroyed all of the tapes from the most infamous day in modern history?

I am curious, was anyone at the BBC held accountable for such a "cock-up?"

Where did you get the information you reported that the Salomon Smith Barney building (WTC7) fell?

Did you corroborate it with anyone else? If so, whom?

Who at your station was in charge of content that day ?

Please release immediately the entire set of tapes from your sister channel News 24.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 80.
- At [09:05 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Matthew](#) wrote:

It was obvious to the FDNY that the building was going to fall down at some point. It was on fire, creaking and leaning - this is why they cleared an area around the building. There is plenty of testimony to back this up, see this document:

[http://www.911myths.com/WTC7\\_Lies.pdf](http://www.911myths.com/WTC7_Lies.pdf)

(Firefighter testimony is in section 2 which starts at page 36)

Are people really saying that the firefighters are covering up a controlled demolition of WTC7?

Its hardly unlikely that people on the ground would be talking about the building being likely to collapse - and that chinese whispers turned this into "has collapsed".

At just after 4pm EDT, Aaron Brown of CNN reported that WTC7 "has either collapsed or is collapsing"

<http://screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2007/02/cnn-got-press-release-too.html>

You can see from the clip that he clearly doesn't know which building WTC7, and there is no reason to suppose that Jane Standly knew either.

It's post hoc reasoning to see this as suspicious and an indication of the desperation of the Conspiracy Fantasists that they are getting so excited about this.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 81.
- At [09:05 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Mr V wrote:

So why take it down????????? If it was a mistake put it back up and let the people see it.

Oh that's right you don't keep things archived that are from one of the most important events in history.

Wow, how lame.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 82.
- At [09:06 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [adian deann](#) wrote:

DEAR MR. PORTER -  
PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS:

THE REPORTER STATES, I REPEAT 'STATES' THAT THE BUILDING HAS FELL - WHO TOLD HER.

WHO TOLD HER? . . .  
WHO TOLD HER? . . .

QUESTION 2:

WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE - AND DO YOU MEAN ALL THE FOOTAGE FORM 9/11 - PLEASE EXPLAIN!

WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE . . .  
WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE . . .  
WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE . . .  
WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE . . .  
WHAT 'EXCACTLY' HAPPENED TO THE FOOTAGE . . .

[Complain about this post](#)

- 83.
- At [09:07 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Herbert George Wells wrote:

I never actually thought I would live to see the day that things would surpass even Orwell, Huxley, Wells, Jack London, Sinclair Lewis, Zamyatin, Ayne Rand, on and on...but, the virtual reality that the "media" create for us now is truly more unfathomable than even those great minds warned us of.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 84.
- At [09:09 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Auer Westinson wrote:

BBC didnt have to be part of any conspiracy. The facts seem to be:  
Somebody made a press release, stating that WTC 7 had collapsed, over 20 minutes before it actually did. BBC reports this, doesnt realize that your live feed is actually showing the WTC 7 that is still standing.

The question is - who reported this to BBC? How did they know it was going to collapse, beforehand?

And then the feed being cut a couple minutes before it DID collapse..Now id loved it if we could have watched it collapse live, right behind the reporters back. Good enough as it is thou.

And you claim you "lost" the tapes?? Why, im sure i grabbed it off BBCs servers! And now its lost? Whoa! Good one..

[Complain about this post](#)

- 85.
- At [09:10 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- John Rowell wrote:

You guys at the BBC are either complete idiots are you are in on the whole thing. I tend to think the former is true. Basically, somebody was feeding the BBC and other news agencies with all the events of the day, and on this one they screwed up and gave it too early. You have just become the mouthpiece of the US authorities. They give you information, you guys don't check it's true, and you tell all your listeners it's a fact. What a waste of tax payers money you all are. The least you can do is open an investigation on this matter, if you wish to maintain any kind of credibility. We expect to hear you tell us who it was that actually cocked up, or more honestly, who it was of the authorities that provided this incredibly foresighted information.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 86.
- At [09:11 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- frater plecticus wrote:

Why not admit it... the conspiracy regarding 9-11 is wider and more complicated then when it was initially formulated....

The possible reason for this denial?

In an eloquently penned reader's letter to the Los Angeles Times....

"The number of contradictions in the official version of . . . 9/11 is so overwhelming that . . . it simply cannot be believed. Yet . . . the official version cannot be abandoned because the

implication of rejecting it is far too disturbing: that we are subject to a government conspiracy of 'X-Files' proportions and insidiousness."

[Complain about this post](#)

- 87.
- At [09:12 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- John Rowell wrote:

By the way, did you know that google keep pulling this video? Only for it to be reposted by us nutters (conspiracy theorists). That's also odd, don't you think? Why would it get pulled?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 88.
- At [09:13 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- David wrote:

The bottom line is this: you have a news reporter -- and an anchor --reporting the collapse of World Trade Building 7 when it is clearly standing in the background. You can't explain that away. Someone sent information that it had collapsed just a little too soon.

Who was that person or group sir?

Oh ya, you probably lost those notes too, right? All the confusion and all that.

This coming on the heels of your 911 whitewash of the truth is just priceless. The wheel turning full circle, at least starting to. I'd admonish you to feel some shame at being caught red handed at your deceptions, but I realize shame is an emotion our media no longer experiences.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 89.
- At [09:15 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Simon wrote:

Sorry. You're running out of excuses. Fess up already, "the 9/11 hit piece" was more of the same propaganda.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 90.
- At [09:16 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- sts060 wrote:

The really entertaining thing about PCTs (Paranoid Conspiracy "Theorists") is that there is *nothing* too silly and nonsensical for them to trumpet as "proof" of The Great Conspiracy.

Let's see. TPTB (The Powers That Be), bent on mass murder and mayhem, considerately wait several hours before blowing up WTC7 so as to allow incident commanders to clear first

responders from the collapse zone. Then, since TPTB are anxious that news crews actually notice the collapse of WTC7 when it *does* happen, they tell the BBC without waiting for it to happen!

After all, it wouldn't do for reporters to simply notice a high-rise building collapsing and *then* report on it, would it? Especially since firefighters had only been observing collapse indicators for a few hours - we could hardly rely on journalists to be paying any attention to the damaged, burning, creaking building, eh?

As Hank Hill would say to the PCTs, "Just when I thought you said the stupidest thing ever, you keep on talking."

[Complain about this post](#)

- 91.
- At [09:16 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- andy peters wrote:

considering the amount of cameras in the area, why wasn't footage of the collapse shown when the story broke or soon after?

in fact i think it wasn't shown til 20mins after the actual collapse.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 92.
- At [09:17 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Bongo wrote:

Richard, you state that... "In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had."

... that is not the point Richard... The point is, that we are AMAZED how you managed to have evidence of an event which turned out to be completely accurate and absolutely true?... Albeit, at least 23 minutes BEFORE YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO???

So the BBC are the "Psychic Broadcasting Corporation" now?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 93.
- At [09:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- David wrote:

I'm sure there are a lot of people pointing fingers at BBC as if they were part of a complex "conspiracy theory" (I hate those loaded words). And, of course, you react to those outrageous claims.

However.

This so-called "error" proved to be utterly correct, and given the time-table, the coincidence is staggeringly difficult to believe.

Not saying that BBC is part of a conspiracy. But whoever initially perpetuated the reports of WTC 7 collapsing, well, that is strong evidence of fore-knowledge. There are many people, myself included, that want you to thoroughly investigate this issue to find out where the source of this 'error' came from.

WTC 7 was not hit by a plane. The small, sporadic fires in WTC 7 were not expected to bring it down. No steel-framed skyscraper has ever collapsed due to fire (with the exception of the WTC complex). There was absolutely no indication that WTC 7 was due to collapse, yet it was reported by the BBC before it happened.

The circumstantial evidence is getting to be a bit overwhelming.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 94.
- At [09:19 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Paul wrote:

Shame on you BBC!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 95.
- At [09:20 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Deep Fwoat wrote:

I posted the link to the file in the archive. The link was not posted as a comment. Now the file is removed. Why is that?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 96.
- At [09:20 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Toast wrote:

"Just because we reported that JFK was shot before he was actually shot, does not prove anything!"

Come on,

You get a thrill by being a shill?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 97.
- At [09:21 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- LeepII wrote:

LOST THE TAPES? Dude, way not just say the dog ate your homework, that would be more credible.

Your busted plain and simple, the BBC had foreknowledge that WTC 7 was coming down. Now be a man and tell us all how you knew?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 98.
- At [09:22 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- musings wrote:

Contrary to the dismissive tone of the "explanation", whether or not the building was known to be about to fall goes to essential point of culpability for 9/11, foreknowledge.

Those who are in the dock and being cross-examined are not allowed to wave their hands and create a plausible explanation. It's gone too far for that. There is a disastrous war built on false evidence, and that falsification process may have begun much sooner than is generally now understood.

In ordinary life, a witness who lies about one thing will be assumed to lie about everything. And we aren't talking about private matters, but about the essential role of a government to defend its country. This issue is about credibility of news sources during a terror attack, in which a rush to judgment resulted shortly in an invasion of a sovereign nation, and the BBC know it.

Thousands upon thousands of lives have been lost thus far, and there are doubtless more to come.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 99.
- At [09:24 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Marcus wrote:

Could you please not insult our intelligence.

I would find it very hard to believe there is BBC involvement in this kerfuffle, although I would question the desision makers. Both there in your offices and producers of your biased/erroneuos programming.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 100.
- At [09:24 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- tom jefferson wrote:

of course, if the bbc were not involved with any foreknowledge of WTC7 demolition, then you are at least guilty of horrible journalism.. "the solomon building collapsed" yet you couldn't look out the freaking window to see it still standing??!

what does not help your image (other than the obviously biased hit piece you released last week), is how, between news reports, the anchors talk of "freedom being lost".. yadda yadda... watching the whole clip looks exactly like a propaganda video...

mine as well have been:

"you mean it cleans windows AND cooks food!!!!??"

[Complain about this post](#)

- 101.
- At [09:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- anon wrote:

Mr Porter can you ensure that the page;

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/conspiracy\\_files/6338551.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/conspiracy_files/6338551.stm)

is amended.

Should read;

1002: United Airlines flight 93 crashes in open ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Conspiracy theories argue that the plane never crashed here, because there are no large pieces of visible wreckage at the scene. It is also alleged that the plane was shot down, and broke up in mid-air, spreading debris over a wide area.

1657: The UK BBC news media organisation reports World Trade Centre Building 7 known as the Salomon Brother Building close to the two main towers had collapsed. BBC Head of News, Mr Richard Porter denies to conspiracy theorists that the BBC is involved in any conspiracy.

1720: World Trade Centre Building 7, a 47 storey building close to the two main towers collapses. It was not hit by either of the two hijacked aircraft. 9/11 conspiracy theories suggest that it was destroyed deliberately, because it held sensitive or compromising documents in the offices of the CIA, Department of Defense and Secret Service, which were housed in the building

[Complain about this post](#)

- 102.
- At [09:28 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Jordan Thornton wrote:

I believe that you may not CONSCIOUSLY be a part of any cover-up, when you air programs such as "The Conspiracy Files", which attacks those people asking honest and suspiciously-lingering questions about that horrific day, instead of honest programming designed to find the ANSWERS to those questions, you ARE a part of the on-going cover-up.

(Read the final chapter of Michael Parenti's "Inventing Reality: The Politics of the Mass Media".)

Just once, I would like to see someone within the mainstream media (after all, it's hardly the ONLY media anymore) grow a pair, and attempt to address the valid concerns of those who

question the official Conspiracy Theory, which remains unproven and virtually uninvestigated, due to direct White House interference, well over five years after the fact.

(A review of the July 7th story wouldn't hurt either ...)

You could start with these reliable sources: <http://www.patriotsquestion911.com/>

and then talk to these people:

<http://www.911truth.org>

Responsible journalists would have done this four years ago ...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 103.
- At [09:31 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Christian wrote:

The CNN "was in on it too", they also prematurely reported WTC7 as collapsed. Look into it: The collapse was expected, reports on its imminent failure were numerous. Seriously folks, this just goes to show that the "truther"-movement hasn't got anything left.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 104.
- At [09:32 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Daniel Kensley wrote:

Mr. Porter:

I'm afraid that in attempting to clarify the matter you have only muddied it further.

Those of us who are amazed or baffled or angry about this matter are not making any assertions about the BBC being "part of the conspiracy". The fact is, reasonable people are asking a reasonable question. *How is it possible to have reported the collapse of a building nearly a half an hour before its collapse?*

It is both frustrating and troubling that you appear to be either oblivious to or willingly flippant about the salient issue at hand. Given the graveness of the subject, you do both yourself and BBC World a great disservice by offering what are either glib dismissals or outright condescensions.

If, as you state in point three of your clarification, Ms. Stadley was being fed information by "colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services"- then the question remains, *"Who fed her information about the pending collapse of this building"*? To ask this question is not to accuse the BBC of complicity in a conspiracy.

As you must be aware by now, the complete, symmetrical, free-fall implosion of WTC 7 STILL has not be explained by NIST, FEMA, or the 9/11 Commission. Reasonable people who have reviewed the collapse footage have noted that it shares a dozen unique characteristics associated only with building demolitions. Furthermore, the owner of the building itself, Larry Silverstein, appears to have claimed in a PBS documentary from 2002 that he authorized the destruction of the building on 9/11.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7750532340306101329&q=larry+silverstein&hl=en>

Video from the day- available for your perusal on Google Video, YouTube, and a variety of other sites- shows police officers and firefighters warning bystanders that this building was about to be brought down. This too suggests that the buildings were intentionally demolished.

The BBC footage with Ms. Standley is itself inadvertently bolstering the disturbing argument that people knew in advance of the collapse of the building because the collapse **was caused by human agency** rather than being incidental to the events of the day.

Given your station in life, you must surely be able to draw the obvious deductive conclusion that has haunted rational people for many years. IF the building was, as it appears, to have been demolished, then that demolition must have been planned ahead of time- not achieved in an 8 hour span on 9/11.

**This points to not only foreknowledge of the attacks but direct complicity in them. And if you can't comprehend that, then you really should consider an alternative career far removed from journalism. Because if ever the world needed clear-eyed, fearless, truth-to-power-speaking media leaders- it is right bloody now.**

[Complain about this post](#)

- 105.
- At [09:33 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Hawk-o](#) wrote:

The world clearly knows where you stand Mr. Porter.. and we will remember.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 106.
- At [09:34 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Duane Sandy wrote:

In statement #4 you use the term "cock-up". In Canada we don't have that term so I don't know what it means. We have the term "cop-out" Are they the same?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 107.
- At [09:34 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Andrew Ochtinsky wrote:

As an American and a New Yorker, and on behalf of reasonable people, I say thank you for addressing this issue.

There are a lot of people who want to believe in conspiracies. They don't like the things that have occurred as a result of 9/11, and they want to blame it on something evil. Four hundred

years ago, the culprit may have been "Satan" or perhaps "the Vatican". It's paranoia, and it is, sadly, a common and natural state of mind for many people.

There are still people who say the moon landing was faked, that the world is flat, and that the holocaust never happened. I'm surprised I've never heard a theory about how the founding fathers of America got together and decided to form a secret government, with the allure of democracy, but actually loyal to the British crown. God save the Queen!

The arguments of these people are rubbish, but it is free speech after all. Those of us who know truth from lies will hear what they say and dismiss it, along with JFK conspiracies and UFOs.

Thank you, BBC, for humoring these people. It's better than our media corps, who just turn up the volume on Britney Spears' hairdo every time something like this pops up.

### [Complain about this post](#)

- 108.
- At [09:35 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- roman wrote:

Rewind for a moment to the first few statements in that broadcast...

ANCHOR:

'Now more on the latest building collapse in New York, you might have heard a few moments ago I was talking about the Salomon Brothers building collapsing, and INDEED It Has.'

[Comment 1. "INDEED it has"?. This anchor is very sure of himself. What has he been told and by whom when no one else will know for over 20 minutes?]

ANCHOR

'Apparently that is only a few hundred yards away from where the World Trade Center towers were, and it seems that this was not a result of a new attack, it was because the eh Building Had Been Weakened eh during this morning's attacks.'

[Comment 2. "The, eh, building had been weakened". Huh? How does he know to say what will become the official line?]

ANCHOR:

'We'll probably find out more now about that from our correspondent Jane Standley, "Jane what more can you tell us about the Salomon Brothers building and it's collapse?"'

JANE:

"Well, only really what you already know..."

[ 3. "What more can you tell us?"

"Well only really what you already know."

?? So the reporter knows what the anchor and newsroom know (and what nobody else knows)...that the building has Indeed collapsed, and that the building had been Weakened during the morning's attacks? ]

ps: You still use tapes in your newsroom??

Everyone else seems to have gone digital a long time ago.

[http://broadcastengineering.com/newsrooms/broadcasting\\_newsroom\\_technology/](http://broadcastengineering.com/newsrooms/broadcasting_newsroom_technology/)

"As computing power increased in the 1990s and network technology became more reliable, news production systems were deployed, and the replacement of tape as a production medium began."

[Complain about this post](#)

- 109.
- At [09:35 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Greg Ashton wrote:

You are one of the gate keepers. You have been caught and are in full scramble mode. You should have run this explanation by some of your NWO friends because it really is a pitiful, and actually funny one. I feel sorry for you. 9/11 was an inside job. You know it...time to come clean.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 110.
- At [09:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Doug Brown](#) wrote:

Of course the BBC aren't consciously "part of the conspiracy", but certainly you're fed information all the time that's incorrect and misleading but yet you still propagate it as "fact" to the rest of the world. Granted there was a lot of confusion that day, but I still think this subject of whether or not there was indeed prior knowledge of WTC7's collapse needs properly explaining. Also why the building rapidly, symmetrically and instantaneously collapsed into such a confined area needs to be seriously examined. There is still no adequate explanation of its collapse to date, and most people still don't even know it existed let alone have observed the collapse footage.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 111.
- At [09:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Edward wrote:

Come on give me break!!!

The video is very simple, the reporter is saying that the building fell and it's clearly still standing just behind her head. Obviously whatever wire the BBC got it's info from, that wire service knew what was going to happen before it did. Why? well if it really was just a simple mistake as this editor wrote, than why not make a simple mistake about another building collapsing why make the mistake on the one that actually did collapse 27 minutes later. Come on.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 112.
- At [09:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Barry wrote:

Chris said it best, "To report that a (steel frame) building had collapsed before it had done so would be an odd sort of error, wouldn't it ? A bit like reporting that the Lord Mayor's trousers had fallen down before they did so." No serious questioner is accusing the BBC of being "in on" the effort to demolish bldg 7. But somebody was, and released that info a wee bit too soon. We want to know who told the BBC.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 113.
- At [09:36 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Chuck Feney wrote:

Are these the videos you are looking for?  
[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f\\_1172526096](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096)

or

<http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mpg>

[Complain about this post](#)

- 114.
- At [09:37 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Doug Brown](#) wrote:

Of course the BBC aren't consciously "part of the conspiracy", but certainly you're fed information all the time that's incorrect and misleading but yet you still propagate it as "fact" to the rest of the world. Granted there was a lot of confusion that day, but I still think this subject of whether or not there was indeed prior knowledge of WTC7's collapse needs properly explaining. Also why the building rapidly, symmetrically and instantaneously collapsed into such a confined area needs to be seriously examined. There is still no adequate explanation of its collapse to date, and most people still don't even know it existed let alone have observed the collapse footage.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 115.
- At [09:42 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Ticktock wrote:

"Conspiracy theories"? The very term reaks of bias and prejudice. People have presented alarming information that demonstrated prior-knowledge and gaping holes in the "official story". This is the same procedure courts of law use in presenting a charge of culpibility. Do you call court cases "conspiracy theories"? Only a fool would insist the building 7 collapse isn't very disturbing. People simply want the incongruities

addressed by those who have refused to address them. This isn't a "conspiracy theory", it's a formal inquiry BY THE PEOPLE.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 116.
- At [09:42 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [vimanaboy](#) wrote:

Sorry BBC, you have just as much credibility on the issue of 9/11 as the u.s. media: zero.

I'm sure it's quite helpful to you to oversimplify the issue by declaring that you aren't part of a conspiracy.

I don't think many people actually think, "Gosh, that Jane Standley must be in on the WHOLE THING! I bet she works for the CIA!!!"

No, it is obvious that she and the fellow in the studio both received what they believed to be factual information stating that WTC 7 (aka The Saloman Bros. building) had already collapsed.

They state it as accomplished FACT, obviously not realizing or recognizing that the building in their live shot, right behind Standley, showed the building they were saying had collapsed, still standing!

That just means that they received erroneous information and didn't know what the building looked like. Neither did I, before all of this, and I'm sure I would have made the same mistake.

The problem is that this story further corroborates MANY other reports of foreknowledge of the the imminent collapse of WTC 7. Your footage is important for that reason, not because it shows that the BBC was part of a conspiracy on that day, which is a childish way to respond.

CNN also reported it:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o)

And CNN ALSO showed footage of emergency responders and reporters saying the the building is "about to blow up."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwjmqkjwnvQ>

So what's the problem here?

No steel scyscraper before 9/11 had EVER collapsed due to fire, and the official account states that the collapse was unexpected and still unexplained (NIST report), although they are trying to blame fire.

Your report from that day strongly suggests that an official fairy tale was already prepared, and someone started disseminating it to the media a little to early.

Why don't you try to redeem what is left of your integrity and soul by repudiating your ridiculous "documentary" of last Sunday and doing some REAL investigation of how your journalists came to report what they reported on that day?

Your vague and shallow attempts to dismiss this very reasonable and troubling question are absurd and transparent. I will do you the courtesy of assuming that the article above is an example of arrogance, laziness and a priori assumptions, rather than something more sinister.

However, it still exemplifies the BBC's incompetence and incoherence, vis a vis 9/11.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 117.
- At [09:43 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Matt wrote:

Mr Porter said "In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had"

This can be very true. I'm also sure that there were many things reported incorrectly. However the other things that were reported didnt then happen 20 minutes later in the exact way it was reported. There was also no other complete building collapses to confuse it with as other than WTC1 & 2 this was the only building to collapse. And you've lost the news footage of this generations most shocking event? Give me a break Mr Porter. You must have been really annoyed when you were told you had to try and explain this cock-up?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 118.
- At [09:44 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Dave wrote:

There is no 911 conspiracy.

There is, however, human error compounded by the (unfortunate) desire for news outlets to be always be ahead of the competition. This, I believe, is what we have witnessed with this erroneous report.

If an official statement is given regarding the possible collapse of WTC7 (bearing in mind that eyewitness accounts from firefighters at the scene describe the building as being in very poor condition structurally and on fire, and rescue operations were ceased in the immediate vicinity to enable a collapse zone to be created), and this is filtered up through the reporting machine and becomes a statement that WTC7 has collapsed, then the end result is merely an example of poor information not being properly fact checked prior to broadcast. Something certain members of the 911 conspiracy crowd are only too familiar with, eh?

If this one incident is what the so called 'truth' movement is going to hang its collective hat on in order to convince the world that 9/11 was an 'inside job', then they are in very bad shape and are becoming increasingly desperate.

Of course, the beeb tearing the truth movement to shreds in its 'conspiracy files' episode has nothing to do with the glee we now see from the 'truthers' and this 5 year old 'smoking gun'. Oh no....

[Complain about this post](#)

- 119.
- At [09:44 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Jason wrote:

I'm confused...what is the conspiracy? What are the implications of reporting WTC7 falling before it actually did? Who cares I was living in NYC at the time and it was widely reported that other building that were part of the WTC were collapsing or would collapse eventually. So they jumped the gun? What are the implications everyone is getting at here????

[Complain about this post](#)

- 120.
- At [09:45 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Neolution wrote:

Wonder why your ratings are plummeting? Fabricated stories like this is why. 911 changed everything among nations from a lie! Can you say coverup! The media is still denying the truth to those who lost their lives. We the people are the new medium of the truth. Get use to it idiots!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 121.
- At [09:47 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Michael wrote:

The internet crowd only pointed you to a discrepancy between your reporting and a simple view out of the window.

Would you call it a conspiracy too if the weather guy reports it's raining, while the sun shines through the studio window? The weather man would go check his sources, but all you offer is saying "we're victims of conspiracy theorists!". That's a new low for the BBC.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 122.
- At [09:47 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Bob Brunner wrote:

With respect, the response to this issue is unacceptable. At the very least you are minimizing your error and trivializing the life's lost or the potential of life's that could have been saved.

In the most important final 7 minutes and 15 seconds of the said segment the words "apparently", "it's reported" or "we're hearing" ARE NOT USED in context of building 7 The words used are those have definite and past tense.

"Now more on the latest building collapse in New York,...the Solomon Brothers Building collapse... and indeed it has"

"What can you tell us about the Salomon Building and it's collapse?"

"When it collapsed"

Ticker –“The 47 storey Salomon Brothers building close to the World Trade Centre has also collapsed.”

Who is responsible for the newsroom in desk and floor prompters being used by the news presenter?

Who is responsible for the news report on the bottom screen news ticker?

Who is responsible as the newsroom floor source for giving these people information?

What is the complete list of editors and journalists responsible for this program on said day?

The words in your statement #4 of footage being lost may very well redefine irresponsible. The BBC Media Management policy clearly states TWO broadcast standard copies be retained one on a separate site as a master.

As follows.

Ref No.

Policy Area / Policy Statement

01

Components to be Retained

01-01

The following components to be retained:-

Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master

One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical\\_information/archive\\_policies/media\\_management\\_policy\\_overview.htm#top](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical_information/archive_policies/media_management_policy_overview.htm#top)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 123.
- At [09:47 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- aukai wrote:

I do not think you were WILLINGLY part of a conspiracy... you were just fed information off a wire and repeated it.

I do not think you were WILLINGLY part of a conspiracy... you were just fed information off a wire and repeated it.

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I do not think you were WILLINGLY part of a conspiracy... you were just fed information off a wire and repeated it.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 124.
- At [09:49 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,

- Simon wrote:

I do not understand how you would mix up "THE BUILDING HAS COLLAPSED" with "IS POSSIBLY ABOUT TO COLLAPSE".

I am Horrified as a result of this. It just goes to show we cannot trust what we hear from the news.

And you guys just so happen to not keep the original tapes? Give me a break, you covered yourselves on this. And now its back to get you.

Only the truth will set you free! Not the BBC.... "Apparently"...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 125.
- At [09:49 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- John wrote:

The BBC has been totally exposed as an unethical propaganda tool.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 126.
- At [09:50 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Alan S wrote:

In response to your points raised:

1. Where did you obtain the information about the WTC7 collapse?
2. As above but in addition why were your reporters not briefed on which building was WTC7? You obviously had a team on site i.e. cameraman, soundman and technicians.
3. If Jane was in NY and the feed was actually live why didn't any of your colleagues in NY or in London note that WTC7 was indeed still standing? You didn't need to ask anyone as it was there for all to see. Who added the closed caption and briefed Jane?
4. Missing tape!?! That's surprising. So you can't actually locate a copy anywhere of a tape of monumental importance and ask the public to assist! You didn't share it with any other news outlet?
5. That fact is if we assume the feed was indeed live that the BBC did report WTC7 had collapsed before it had. No if/buts or maybes!

The poster Stewart Cowan brings up a salient point. If again this was a live feed then your team on site would have caught sight or heard the WTC7 collapse a little later!

So was it truly a live feed?

Did you ask Jane if it was live?

Did you ask if she saw or heard the actual collapse of WTC7 some time later?

No conspiracy advocate here. I'd just like to see the questions answered.

You know maybe do some digging and get the facts straight like a solid reporter as your blog in far from complete!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 127.
- At [09:51 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- made brani wrote:

There were many people who were forewarned about the collapse of Building 7. Why should not BBC be one of them?

We just want to know who passed on that information to BBC.

Please tell the public or tell it that BBC claims its privilege of protecting its sources. Then we know where we (and BBC) stand.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 128.
- At [09:52 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Russ wrote:

What are we paying for?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 129.
- At [09:53 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- bob the builder wrote:

Its quite a coincidence how many coincidences happened that day.

I mean take the fact there was all those military war games going on which just happened to leave no planes to shoot down the hijacked aircraft.

Or the only 3 steel frame structures to fall due to fire alone all happening on the same day.

And then the bbc lost its footage of arguably one of the most important days in history.

Things just keep getting stranger!

Keep up the good work bbc i love to see independent investigative journalism. And dont think your conspiracy files program for one minute makes us think your doing what we pay you to do. It doesnt!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 130.
- At [09:53 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Neolution wrote:

And the yellow journalism award of the year goes to the BBC. Cowards! Face the truth! 911 was an inside job!  
www.911blogger.com

[Complain about this post](#)

- 131.
- At [09:54 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- richard gee wrote:

The BBC's explanation for the premature announcement of WTV7's collapse is laughable.

See:

<http://prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/270207bbcreponds.htm>

for details.

Come on BBC, divulge the name of your informant.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 132.
- At [09:54 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Charles wrote:

Interesting conspiracy seeing how the basement of WTC7 was home to the NYC Emergency Management Center. Give me a break people!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 133.
- At [09:54 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Geoff Stevenson wrote:

Oh look here it is. After Annoucing in your head of the news summary that the building has collapsed, you cut to a live feed of a newsreporter and there, visible behind her, is WTC7!

Amazing.

Now explain.

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f\\_1172526096](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 134.
- At [09:55 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- teri wrote:

Hmmmmmm.....an error...and yet pretty interesting to say a steel building is going to collapse, when it had NEVER done so before due to a fire, and has not done so since..and this actually happens in the next 20 minutes!!! ...but don't worry, nothing to see here...it's just an error

[Complain about this post](#)

- 135.

- At [09:55 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Metroas wrote:

Sorry BBC but this isn't going to wash. Last sunday's propaganda piece really woke people up to how controlled you are, and this latest revelation and subsequent attempt to cover it up is the nail on the coffin for many of us.

Your reporters read out the official explanation about wtc7's collapse almost word for word, 20 minutes before it went down. The chances of this being an "accident" are too ridiculous even for the hordes of desperate "debunkers" to consider.

Google and Youtube then pulled the videos down in real-time in a coordinated attempt to suppress it.

The infowar is real gentlemen.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 136.
- At [09:55 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Sven wrote:

"We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage"

HaHa how stupid do you think we are the most important day in modern history original tapes lost u say?  
here is the link for u then

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3994399691500840360&q=building+7+bbc>

[Complain about this post](#)

- 137.
- At [09:56 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [vimanaboy](#) wrote:

not taking comments any more, hmm?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 138.
- At [09:57 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- richard gee wrote:

The BBC's explanation for the premature announcement of WTV7's collapse is laughable.

See:

<http://prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/270207bbcreponds.htm>  
for details.

Come on BBC, divulge the name of your informant.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 139.
- At [09:59 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- aaron wrote:

You "lost" the footage? Surely you must have a legitimate archiving system for such a large company. Sept 11 was a MAJOR event (even though it was in the USA) it is unbelievable that you would have "lost" footage from such a major event. I don't buy it for one second. Listen to the people! We demand an answer!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 140.
- At [09:59 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- George wrote:

I would like to ditto all of the above please, BBC obviously weren't part of the conspiracy but by their response are most definitely part of the cover up !! Why would it not be of interest to find out who the news originally came from that wtc7 had collapsed, when it hadn't !

[Complain about this post](#)

- 141.
- At [09:59 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- larry wrote:

Just tell us where the info came from!! Your reporter told us the building came down, you typed that info on your screen, your reporter told us why it collapsed...where did this prophetic info come from? From Larry 'pull it' Silverstein? From Rudy 'we were told it was coming down' Giuliani? Stop tap dancing and answer that simple question. Who gave you the info. Stop the B.S.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 142.
- At [10:00 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Fiona wrote:

The 9/11 conspiracy theories are pretty well known by now.

Start as you mean to go on Richard, by presenting the so called 'conspiracy theories' in a negative way; it is all a big yawn, everyone's tired of them, shut up and move on.

Unfortunately, fate has delivered unto you something which shows the BBC's spoon-feeding selective journalism at its best. Oh dear, is that excuse really the best you can come up with? That farcical 'Conspiracy Files' programme was one thing, but this is something else! This speaks volumes about the Beeb's perception of its audience!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 143.
- At [10:01 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- tomz wrote:

It's not difficult to understand the HUGE difference between the twin towers and the "solomon Bros. building". And to report on the very building you're standing directly in front of and not know that what your saying has something to do with what being shown behind you smaks of poor journalism, poor visuals and certainly unchecked sources.

To simply "claim" that they were "being told" does not exonerate them. They must produce their sources, and, of course, being the BBC, their source would have been the US media or US government.

Whether or not they were 'part' of any conspiracy is certainly NOT the point here. The POINT is that they had been given and were giving out information about an event which had not occurred yet. Their sources KNEW what was about to occur. Larry Silverstein made the decision to PULL building 6. It was brought down by controlled demolition.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 144.
- At [10:02 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Christopher Brooks](#) wrote:

Add my name to the list who seek further explanation on this matter.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 145.
- At [10:02 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- david wrote:

Sorry?!?

Yes you are.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 146.
- At [10:03 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Louis Lambert wrote:

>Part of the conspiracy?

Indirectly it would appear so.

You need to expose the source of that "news" you were reporting. If you don't make an effort to follow this up beyond this pathetic response, the BBC will become part of the conspiracy. Coupled with that lousy hit piece of "journalism" you broadcast last Sunday in trying to discredit the 9-11 Truth Movement, you now have considerable problem on your hands as to the BBC's creditibility.

It's time to do your job properly investigate the truth.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 147.
- At [10:04 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Edward Teague wrote:

Evidently Mystic Meg had taken over the news room that morning.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 148.
- At [10:04 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Doug Wagner](#) wrote:

Mr. Richard Porter,

I sincerely believe your statement that you are (meaning were) not part of the conspiracy.

You were fed information regarding a scripted demolition that was part of the conspiracy, just a wee bit ahead of schedule, eh? It's no conspiracy on your part to report the news as it's given to you either.

However, now you must realize the truth, that 9/11 was an inside job, that you were inadvertently involved. And because of your empty denials, you now include yourself in the continuing conspiracy and its cover-up.

And for that you will be damned in the court of public opinion.

It's time to come clean, while your admissions will still be accepted.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 149.
- At [10:07 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Jayhawk wrote:

I downloaded the whole 40 minute segment myself this morning. I can lend it to you if you like. Don't tape over it this time.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 150.
- At [10:08 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- tom walker wrote:

I thought your response was extremely lacking. This just proves how biased that 911 programme you did recently was. Not asking the important questions like all the witness testimonies not interviewing any of the professors or scientists on the side of the truth movement no mention of the molten metal. This list could go on. I think you need to come clean and be honest. At the least you could do. My last comment I posted you never put up at least be neutral enough

to put this one on.

I know you had no prior knowledge to what happened but clearly one of your sources did.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 151.
- At [10:09 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Jason J wrote:

Censor comments all day long, the TRUTH IS THE TRUTH.

My comment didn't include any profanity, threat, anything of the like.

But some people simply cannot confront the TRUTH.

The TRUTH is, your organization, like the US GOV'T, made a whopper of a mistake in underestimating the intelligence of the People.

[www.911weknow.com](http://www.911weknow.com)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 152.
- At [10:09 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Sean cortazar](#) wrote:

This is cosmic justice being dealt out to the BBC for their 911 hit piece full of incredible lies and distortions! You should change your name from the Big Brother Company to the Pyschic network, because obviously you have the power to predict what will happen to buildings before it occurs! And then you "lost" the tapes?? BBC is the laughing stock of the world now!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 153.
- At [10:10 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Scott Campbell wrote:

Let's say for a second that you messed up and reported a building going down that didn't - why the exact one that DID? What are the odds? Why not by mistake report a building going down that DIDN'T actually go down?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 154.
- At [10:10 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- George Washington wrote:

Your special The Conspiracy Files fails to discuss ANY of the relevant proof that 9/11 was an inside job, and instead focuses on red herring after red herring.

Here's some of the REAL proof: <http://www.911proof.com>

[Complain about this post](#)

- 155.
- At [10:13 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- max wrote:

People please... it is obvious that none of you were in NYC that day. I was (evacuated from WTC 2) and let me tell you it is surprising that more wrong info did not get out on the airwaves. The FDNY had been saying since noon on 9/11 that WTC was going to likely come down. They reported it so often that someone screwed up and thought it had... do you really think that if the beeb were 'in' on it that they would be stupid enough to report it with the building burning behind them?

I recall hearing on CNN at one point that day that there were 10 planes highjacked. They made a mistake, surely the BBC is not immune to them?

It does bear looking into as to where the correspondent got her info from - but this is hardly a smoking gun folks...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 156.
- At [10:14 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- A Azure wrote:

You lose footage of one of the most important days in modern history... ;) (Good job! That way no one can "prove" anything that day...)

Out of all the surrounding buildings that suffered massive damage - WTC 3,4,5,6 - and assorted others that suffered minor damage (among them, WTC 7 - Salomon Brothers Building), BBC - by merely a mistake and in confusion - picked exactly the right one that was going to fall -.... ;)

(Good job! Hey, BBC is incompetent - they lose tapes AND they claim buildings fall that haven't - but what LUCK! They hit the lottery! What a 'lucky guess', huh?)

BBC should go to Vegas, with those odds - you'd be rich.

BBC is not part of the conspiracy - but you are just a bunch of pathetic dupes.

You capture the biggest smoking gun in history ... and your response is ..... to call yourselves incompetent and go play 'blind/deaf/dumb monkey' on your public.

Good job, Guys!!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 157.
- At [10:15 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Dave](#) wrote:

Yet again the BBC spin this as paranoia, and yet again NOBODY is seriously suggesting the BBC was in on the cover up, but any reason to stick the boot in i guess ? anything that will

make the 9/11 truth movement look like paranoid idiots aye ? what most people want to know is WHO gave you the info that the building had collapsed, given the chances of a collapse happening due to fire this is bizzare, no steel framed bulding has ever collapsed due to fire so why was nyone even speculating it might fall ?

Please clear this up BBC and don't use it as a reason to stick the boot into the truth movement yet again, the hit piece the other week was bad enough, now most people think 9/11 truth is about anti semites/"drop outs" "evangelical preachers" and TV drama plots, thanks to your ill informed and badly researched attack piece.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 158.
- At [10:17 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Rufus Middleton wrote:

Quite extraordinary reporting on the 'fateful day' that changed it all and staggering that you can lose such footage of importance. Especially just one day after someone plucks it from your archives!

Even more shocking is such a poor attempt to explain it away, as to quote peoples Youtube comments in response to valid enquiries as your defense.

Clearly the BBC world recieved a press release from somewhere that needs disclosing, that foretold the unprecedented imminent collapse and even the official reasons for it, before it had occured.

That needs explaining with alot more than this blog.

Whilst I dont hold the BBC as part of a conspiracy on the day, after 7 hours of filming the WTC complex, you'd of thought someone knew which buildings were which! Jane must've been puzzled when the live feed died out and the collapse began too. Poor girl.

Pity Guy Smith didnt pick up on it in his '9/11 debunking research'.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 159.
- At [10:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [Dave](#) wrote:

Hey did all TV networks suddenly cut off as wtc7 was about to collapse ? hmm i wonder5 indeed. Most coverage of wtc7 came from hand held cameras.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 160.
- At [10:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Richard Gold wrote:

If this is the kind of journalism we can expect everyday from the BBC then I suppose it's time the politicians pay for license fee and the public appoint the governers.

"Oh, look I've lost footage covering one of the most important events in modern history. Silly me, lets ask them to increase the license fee"

[Complain about this post](#)

- 161.
- At [10:18 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Mike Hunt wrote:

Right....so who is supplying the BBC their information? Im sure it's not the firemen who are busy working, or anyone there. Who besides those overseeing the operation had the capacity and purpose of feeding the BBC pre-made news that apparently got out a little too quick. Especially since they even gave them the official reason why it collapsed, due to "falling debris". But at the same time other buildings suffered more from the falling debris and stood tall. Now they are giving us an analysis of an event that didn't happen yet. It was a cock up alright.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 162.
- At [10:20 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Henry Groth wrote:

I am dismayed and angered that your organisation, which I have admired and relied on for many years as a bastien of truth in the sordid world of corporate - controlled journalism, has failed so abysmally in such an important event. It's rather like Edward R. Morrow reporting from London that no German air raids are contemplated while their bombs can be heard exploding.

Bet you didn't lose the footage on that!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 163.
- At [10:20 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Benjamin Wolfgang wrote:

Poor Richard Porter,

I seriously feel sorry for him.

Richard, just take a step back and look at what is happening.

Sure the BBC is not part of the conspiracy, whoever gave them that information to read that day is.

Take a step back and look at those moments in the tape at face value.

Can you seriously blame ANYONE for being concerned and/or shocked about this video? Especially those who were suspicious about 9/11 to begin with!

You cannot convince anyone to the contrary that this video is a RED FLAG because it is too late.

They already saw the video, and that is all anyone needs.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 164.
- At [10:21 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- [George Washington](#) wrote:

Whether or not the BBC had prior notice of the collapse of the building, many people apparently did:

<http://georgewashington.blogspot.com/2005/08/how-did-they-know.html>

[Complain about this post](#)

- 165.
- At [10:21 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- James Blair wrote:

Why have Youtube and Google pulled the videos then? National Security Letters perhaps? recognize a sinking ship, lad. US and British Gov are finished.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 166.
- At [10:22 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Malcolm wrote:

I guess the BBC could well have been unwittingly part of the conspiracy if they were fed the same information that CNN were reporting when with WTC7 in full view they said the building "is either collapsed or is collapsing"

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8\\_o&eurl=](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o&eurl=)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 167.
- At [10:23 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Alex wrote:

Well! What can we say! It is really frustrating when a broadcast station with a good profile tries to deny something with such few words. Why have we been treated like children for so long! Any five years old can see that there is something unorthodox about this cover-up! I hope the BBC will start seeing its funders as real adults able to judge something by themselves.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 168.

- At [10:23 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- ben wrote:

No longer have the original tapes of one of the most important news events in modern times???? Do you have the orig. tapes of the coverage of Prince Charles and Diana's wedding or the coverage of her death. Cmon...give me a break, you should have a stone cold process for storing all of your news footage...the fact that you are saying you dont have it and are asking outside sources to send it to you it really very very funny....and completely insulting.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 169.
- At [10:25 PM](#) on 27 Feb 2007,
- Norman Rose wrote:

The internet allows us to see clearly how "The News " is merely another show. Richard Porter looses the real news and when he is reminded of the fact, blames someone else, and claims that this news is Not news. LOL.

This so reminds me of the news footage 20 minutes Before a tower fell, when Sir Guliani (mayor) states "We heard that the towers are coming down "as he heads towards the Port authority offices ( for his paycheck ? )

It's deja vu 2.

Wake up Richard , We Know !

William Rodrigues is in the UK Richard, How about interviewing him ? He was the last man out and he knows, Richard, He was there.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 170.
- At [03:15 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Justice wrote:

We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage

Ah ... yes you do, where did you get all the source material for the documentary film you mention at the begining of your blog? This documentary was full of what looked like 'archive footage' of New York city on 9/11/01.

Also could you please quantify exactly what you know about this 'cock-up' which caused the footage of the events in New York city on 9/11/01 to be absent from the BBC archives.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 171.
- At [03:17 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- smz wrote:

What a feeble, pathetic and shameful response from a supposedly world-class news organization.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 172.
- At [03:17 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Eric W wrote:

Mr Richard Porter,

I take it by now you've reviewed the footage and questioned your anchor, reporter and support staff. So you'll certainly be able to tell us where they got their information from, right?

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down."

No? Clearly, your people weren't reporting their own first-hand witnessing of the collapse, since it hadn't taken place yet. And it's really not typical for BBC reporters to invent stories out of thin air.

So of course they must have been told. Where did they get the information? The question remains: who told them the building had already collapsed? Who were they getting their information from on that day and at that time? Who were they in contact with? We want you to name names and organizations.

You at the BBC have already lost credibility in broadcasting your biased hit-piece about 911 conspiracy theories. You will lose what little remains unless you make a full and honest investigation of how your own reporters could have stated that WTC 7 had collapsed before it actually happened.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 173.
- At [03:19 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- kate wrote:

I'm missing something. If the BBC did know the building would fall (that's a big if, but for the sake of argument...) what does that mean? Someone told them it would fall? Why?

If it was because the mysterious they were going to bring the building down, then why tell anyone beforehand? It would be obvious 20 minutes later.

I'm perfectly willing to believe Bushco is capable of appalling evil, but I don't see how this relates. If I'm misunderstanding the point please educate me.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 174.
- At [03:21 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- kathy wrote:

Too many lost tapes! Like the video footae of the 'plane' hitting the Pentagon.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 175.
- At [03:25 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Sean wrote:

I remember that day. The information on the news flew fast and furious. Not all of it was true, not all of it was untrue. That is just the nature of a crisis.

Richard, sorry mate, I don't think that there is anything that the BBC could possibly say that would satisfy some folks.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 176.
- At [03:38 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Daniel wrote:

No legitimate television network worth it's salt "loses" footage from one of the most historic events of recent times.

All video from that day would have been backed up and duplicated a million times over for archival as well as documentation purposes.

The BBC has totally lost all credibility as a television network.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 177.
- At [03:39 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Nigel wrote:

A truck ran into my house & demolished it. Luckily i rang the insurance company 23 minutes before it happened. Now they want to know how i knew as they reckon something doesn't add up here. I don't understand what i did wrong. Why should i tell them anything.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 178.
- At [03:39 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- partha wrote:

BBC is part of the propoganda machine.

How can they deny multiple references to the collapse BEFORE the event as a mistake?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 179.
- At [03:46 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Common Man wrote:

Without trying to sound sarcastic, you really must come up with a better line than "we lost the tapes". Oops, my dog ate my homework. Really.

I want to know how your reporter knew that the building fell, AS WELL AS the reasons given initially for its collapse BEFORE IT HAPPENED.

This will be better than Criss Angel.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 180.
- At [03:47 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Adam wrote:

Hmm, whether or not you were actually part of the conspiracy, you were still fed the bogus story about WTC7 having already collapsed. And you regurgitated it on live TV while it was still standing.

Just because you claim you're not a part of some conspiracy doesn't prove some conspiracy doesn't exist.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 181.
- At [03:48 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Patrick McGuinness wrote:

About 2. Listening to the feed, the reporting of the collapse was not qualified; it was simply reported as fact.

Haven't you listened to it yourself yet?

And so what was your source?

Oh but I forgot, you lost the tapes.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 182.
- At [03:50 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Maz wrote:

Point No. 4 begins: "We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy)." That's one monumental "cock-up" to the least! If such a "cock-up" is possible by the broadcast leviathan the BCC - why not a cover-up here and now?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 183.
- At [04:28 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Paul wrote:

Thanks BBC for contributing yet again to the 9-11 conspiracy zombies. Good luck with this one.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 184.

- At [04:33 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Adam wrote:

This is unacceptable. You need to look into this huge mix up a lot further.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 185.
- At [04:40 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- prophet wrote:

The worst attempt at a lame cover ever. This discredits a news service many value. I am ashamed for all of you.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 186.
- At [04:50 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Amanda Berry wrote:

Conspiracy works on a need to know basis. Just because those who front the news may be unaware of conspiracy is not evidence that it doesn't exist at a higher level. Reporting an event before it actually happened is either evidence of supernatural powers or evidence that the events of 9/11 were scripted in some way and the media or elements within the media or official sources were in on it or manipulated in some way. That footage is a real smoking gun.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 187.
- At [04:50 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- [Anthony Kincaid](#) wrote:

Nice try but no cigar.

No, I take that back - it wasn't even a nice try.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 188.
- At [05:36 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- PDL wrote:

Blimey, I see the conspiracy nutcases are out in force.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 189.
- At [05:36 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Linda wrote:

If the footage had continued, we'd all have been able to watch WTC 7 collapse right on your program.

Good thing you lost the feed five minutes before THAT happened in front of all your viewers.

What in the world would you have said if that had happened?

What is going on here?

I'd like a little truth please.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 190.
- At [05:40 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Ace Baker wrote:

I agree with everyone else. Clearly the BBC was told that WTC7 had collapsed, before it actually did. Someone at BBC knows who provided the information, and ought to come clean.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 191.
- At [05:48 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Carlos wrote:

Wow, this is really crazy. I think we are ignoring that the news has misreported things so often ESPECIALLY during a time of crisis.

If we are going to nitpick about the misinformation about 9/11 then why not the South Asian Tsunami? Where's the report saying all these people died before it really happened? Who told them they were going to die? It must have been done on purpose then.

I dont believe the media always tells us the truth, in fact I believe they routinely skew information. But these conspiracy theorists take things to far sometimes.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 192.
- At [05:49 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Peter Barrett wrote:

I remember watching coverage of the events that day. The overriding impression I got was confusion - all sorts of stories were flying around, and it was hard to separate truth from rumour.

At post #7, Simon points out that WTC 7 was "clearly visible" behind the reporter. Clearly visible? Are you saying the journalist \*must\* have known which of all those buildings behind her was WTC 7? How precise is a journalist's knowledge of the Manhattan skyline supposed to be?

At post #14, Laz says WTC 7 had suffered "no significant damage". This is incorrect. The building was struck by debris as a result of the plane impacts, and again when WTC 1 and 2

collapsed. Firefighters were aware for several hours that it was also likely to collapse. You can see that by reading their accounts of the day.

It doesn't take much for stories to mutate from "it's likely to collapse" into "it has collapsed", especially given the confusion which reigned on the day.

As for the loss of the film - yes, that sounds like a serious foul up, and it would be good to hear a more detailed explanation of what happened.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 193.
- At [06:13 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Vic wrote:

That's it? That's your explanation?! You don't have the tapes?

Well, some of us have seen them - and heard her declare it go down, even as it was still standing right behind her.

How laughably pathetic!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 194.
- At [06:17 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Jan Burton wrote:

Oh look - the kooks have now expanded their conspiracy to include the BBC.

Truthers, read carefully: WTC7 was heavily damaged and the FDNY reported that it would probably collapse 2 hours before it did! That's why they pulled their men back.

This was widely reported BEFORE the collapse. I myself heard about it on TV at the time.

The BBC reporter (probably not knowing which building WTC7 was) apparently misrepresented the reports to say it had collapsed.

So what's your theory, truthers? The BBC recieved a memo from Bush announcing the demolition and read it too early???

Do you clowns think for even a second before spouting this mindless crap?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 195.
- At [06:26 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- thatruth wrote:

THE RESPONSE IS LAME. YOUR PROVING THAT YOU DONT RESEARCH YOUR INFO BEFORE YOUR AIR IT. HOW CAN SOMEONE GET WRONG THAT A BUILDING FELL IF THEY ARE IN THAT STATE AND ARE IN PLAIN VIEW OF IT-- WHAT ABOUT THE CAMERA MEN WHO COULD CLEARLY SEE THE BUILDING IN

THE DISTANCE?? THIS IS SO CRUCIAL AND SUCH A HUGE DISAPPOINTMENT. REGARDLESS OF WHATS GOING ON--REPORTING FALSE NEWS HAS NO EXCUSE--DO YOUR JOB YOUR PAID FOR AND RESEARCH YOUR SOURCES ALITTLE BETTER

[Complain about this post](#)

- 196.
- At [06:28 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Des Currie wrote:

If one leaves the Twin Towers for another argument, and we concentrate on the Pentagon and the plane in the woods it does seem extraordinarily strange that a lot of what is computationally being said seems circumstantially true. After all we cannot be asked to disregard the messages images present to us.

And if neither a plane went down in the woods nor flew into the Pentagon, and this becomes fact, then should the Twin Towers be completely re-evaluated.

Des Currie

[Complain about this post](#)

- 197.
- At [06:36 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- norman wrote:

How deservedly ironic that the BBC gets exposed for what it really is (a propaganda bureau that attempts to indoctrinate Britain and the world with a false reality) so soon after the airing of the appalling hit piece (9/11 conspiracy files) last Sunday night. Please show some respect for the BBC and the license fee paying public by answering a simple question. How did the BBC know that Building 7 was going to collapse 20 minutes before it actually did when prior to 9/11 no steel-structured building had ever collapsed due to fire?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 198.
- At [06:39 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Barbaricfellow wrote:

You end your comment with "everybody can make a mistake"..BUT aren't you forgetting she also gives the official "explanation" 20 min in advance of the event!!!!!!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 199.
- At [06:47 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- T wrote:

Wow! That's the best you could do? Amazing

[Complain about this post](#)

- 200.
- At [06:50 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- David wrote:

I am a staunch anti conspiracist and I strongly believe that the events were not an inside job. However, if a building is reported collapsed before it actually does collapse, that indeed is very suspicious indeed. It also seems incredible that the BBC footage of one of the most significant events in the history of Man has been 'lost'. You obviously need to look harder.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 201.
- At [06:54 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Ian Jessiman wrote:

One of the worse atrocities to happen on American soil, with 3,000 + dead, and some people believe that the BBC was given notice of the events before they happened?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 202.
- At [06:58 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Al wrote:

Oh dear, Richard.

As you can see, there are no shortage of nutters out there who are never going to accept any explanation you might offer. Because, of course, the more people that have to be involved in a conspiracy, the more plausible it becomes! So obvious!!

You might try pointing out that important events in American history has never stopped the BBC from losing tapes before. Your coverage of the lunar landing tapes in 1969, for instance, which you wiped in 1975.

On second thoughts, maybe not. That'll bring a whole other bunch of conspiracy loons to your doorstep...

[Complain about this post](#)

- 203.
- At [06:59 AM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Mike wrote:

I would just like to say i dont personally believe the BBC is part of a cover up from that day.

I do find it quite odd though that a professional and experienced media organisation like yourselves would start reporting a story based on conjecture, rumours.

There must of been a reliable source(s)who gave you this information to report. And the BBC surely must of know/trusted this source to run with it in a live broadcast?

There is also the small matter of the live feed being lost 5 mins before the building actually collapsed! Very convenient and also very suspicious dont you think?

It leads me to believe someone realised the so called cock up and terminated the feed. Which would mean the BBC probably already knew about this cock up and now its come back to haunt them.

There's alot of people out there who are going to want real answers to this serious issue, and i would call for an immediate investigation on this matter.

I also find it strange that there has been no major media coverage of this story its absolutely going crazy on the net. Its hardly a cold story now is it?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 204.
- At [01:05 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- James wrote:

Busted. I can't see a possible way in which the BBC can wriggle out of this one. I've reviewed the footage and yes, WTC 7 stands proudly in the background, with no visible signs of smoke, whilst the unknowing reporter pre-empt's its collapse. No-one is saying the BBC is one of the conspiritors, rather the BBC became involved with the conspiracy unwittingly.

It can only be a matter of years before the BBC falls so out of favour it has to be scrapped. Perhaps this new age of the internet is just too much for the BBC to hadle. I mean relying on Youtube to keep records of your footage of the greatest terrorist attack on the USA since Pearl Harbour is hardly the conduct of a true news agency.

If the event wasn't so tragic I'd be laughing at the blunder the BBC has made. Perhaps someone was trying to make a fool of you?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 205.
- At [01:05 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Michael wrote:

Dear Mr. Porter,

In your own words: "We did what we always did - sourced our reports... and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving." - Richard Porter, Head of News (BBC World)

In the interest of free and open public discourse, as befits a public broadcaster, the BBC must provide the aforementioned "source" for its premature report on the collapse of WTC7.

This story will not be going away any time soon!

[Complain about this post](#)

- 206.
- At [01:12 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,

- BoomBatta wrote:

Thank you for all the cock-ups and your pathetic damage control documentaries about conspiracy theories. Please keep up the pathetic explanations, you are helping the truth movement no end. You gotta be kidding "We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy)." Your the BBC, of course you have the originals, ha,ha,ha,ha,ha,ha. Tell the truth!

BB

[Complain about this post](#)

- 207.
- At [01:17 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- Mert wrote:

Dear Sir,

Firstly,

I am finding it hard to believe that Mr Porter has adopted an exceptionally patronising / mocking tone for his reply. I am not sure if that is the way a 'Head of News' should be acting in these circumstances.

Secondly,

Anyone who has done any research into how building 7 managed to fall on 9/11 would know that there are - at the highest levels - no answers. The 9/11 Commission neatly didn't mention it and NIST has admitted on one occasion that their analysis as to why it collapsed had a 'low probability' of occurring and then at a later date admitted that 'the use of explosives' remains a possibility.

Thirdly,

Larry Silverstein, the owner of WTC 1, 2 and 7 has admitted in an interview that he called for the building to be 'pulled' - why is this interesting? Why is the fact that the BBC reported the building had collapsed before it did interesting?

Because the official version says that it was not demolished that it collapsed due to fire damage and that pre-knowledge of this building collapsing, points in the direction of a major crime...that is why it is interesting. so please don't mock, like your Conspiracy Files 'documentary'

As a Head of News i would expect (for my licence fee) that you would research things like this as natural journalistic reaction to events that have changed the world.

In disgust,

Mert

[Complain about this post](#)

- 208.
- At [01:18 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- [Angela McBride](#) wrote:

Pathetic.

And the pyre of burning bodie on the imperialist altar of greed grows and grows.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 209.
- At [01:20 PM](#) on 28 Feb 2007,
- james wrote:

You state "We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down."

If that's the case then why on earth did your reporter and news anchor state that WTC7 had come down? No modern steel framed building had ever come down before 9/11 because of a fire, so honestly, what are the chances?

Address the question instead of side stepping it and pretending people are accusing the BBC of participation in a conspiracy.

Oh, and my last five comments have been censored so please be good enough to post this one.

[Complain about this post](#)

.....

Then they pulled the plug:



## Service not available.

Unfortunately a server error occurred whilst trying to retrieve this page:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perf/mf/mf-comments.cgi>  
We are currently working to correct this

Please try the following options instead:

- Return to the [bbc.co.uk Home Page](#)
- Use our [site index](#)
- If you still encounter problems then please try the [help](#) section.

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## Mail by John Dorami- asking further questions on BBC response

From: [johndoraemi@yahoo.com](mailto:johndoraemi@yahoo.com) [mailto:johndoraemi@yahoo.com]  
Sent: 27 February 2007 22:34  
To: BBC World  
Subject: Comment from BBC World website

name: John Doraemi

email: [johndoraemi@yahoo.com](mailto:johndoraemi@yahoo.com)

country: United States of America

programme: BBC WORLD 9/11

comment: Dear BBC,

The head of your division, Richard Porter has just given the world a disgraceful response to a matter of enormous importance and seriousness.

The fact that your New York reporter said that the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC7) had collapsed a full 20 minutes before it had, with accompanying graphic, should be cause for a thorough investigation of how that information came to be in the heads of your personnel. This investigation does not appear to be in evidence. No serious effort, apart from allegedly asking the reporter to recall, seems to have taken place.

Next, in the realm of absurdity beyond belief, your department head claims that the BBC has LOST the tapes of September 11th coverage!

This might seem more plausible if the BBC hadn't been pressuring Google Video to remove the clip all day yesterday. No. This seems like a flat out lie designed to cover up your original "cock up" whereby you told the world that a building had collapsed even though it remains 'in the shot' behind your reporter's head. That particular "cock up" actually has evidence to back it up, unlike the claim by Richard Porter that this particular bit of footage has mysteriously disappeared, with no back up copy available.

What utter nonsense.

#### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

- 1) Is it BBC policy to keep only 1 copy of your reports?
- 2) What sort of backup regime do you employ?
- 3) What OTHER tapes from September 11th 2001 New York are allegedly missing as of today?
- 4) Where are the reporter's notes and scripts from that report? What other data exists that bears upon the report that the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC 7) had collapsed as of 5:00pm on 9/11?
- 5) What data exists regarding your New York reporter's live feed dropping off 5 minutes before the ACTUAL collapse of the WTC 7 building?

In closing, independent investigators haven't accused the BBC of participating in a "conspiracy" as your irresponsible head, Porter, misrepresents. We have focused on the evidence broadcast as a possible indication that there existed a conspiracy to deliberately demolish building WTC 7, and other buildings, and that a "cock up" revealed prior knowledge by some parties of this building's demolition.

If Richard Porter cannot differentiate between factual claims and persecution, then he probably is not qualified to run an important news organization like the BBC. His reliance on an anonymous sarcastic remark from Youtube as a source in this matter is shocking and revealing of bias and a pathetic resorting to non-factual arguments.

If BBC employs an Ombudsman or Inspector General, please forward this matter to them

immediately for a fair and honest look at what really happened, devoid of "the dog ate my videotape" excuses, and infantile sarcasm.

John Doraemi publishes Crimes of the State Blog

<http://crimesofthestate.blogspot.com/>

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of the BBC unless specifically stated.

If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system. Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it and notify the sender immediately. Please note that the BBC monitors e-mails sent or received.

.....

## **The BBC responds to John Dorami**

BBC World wrote:

Hello and thank you for your email in reaction to claims made in an article published online.

The notion, as suggested on such websites, that the BBC has been part of any conspiracy is patently ludicrous. We reported the situation as accurately as we could, based on the best information available. We cannot be categorical about the exact timing of events that day - this is the first time it has been brought to our attention and it was more than five years ago. If in the chaos and confusion of that day our correspondent reported that the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been a genuine error.

With regards

BBC World Customer Relations

.....

## **John hitting the nail!**

BBC:

Your response is ludicrous.

1. The "collapse" of the building in question exhibits 11 characteristics of controlled demolition. Not least of which, it ended up in its own footprint in a neat pile. Other collapses are not so neat and precise.

2. This is most certainly NOT the first time the BBC has heard about this matter. When the event occurred, right outside Jane Standley's window, they would have been alerted to this matter RIGHT THEN. So, your response is false and not to be believed.

3. Your "best information available" is what we are trying to discover. Where exactly did this information originate? Your tactics are designed to obfuscate and ignore this demand by viewers. We want an investigation into how that information arrived at BBC. That is not a difficult concept to comprehend.

4. "If in the chaos and confusion of that day our correspondent reported that the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been a genuine error."

This does NOT explain how your report can predict future events that have not occurred yet. See #3 above.

5. Your on-air reporters trusted this information without qualifying that it was unreliable or preliminary (as they had done with many other reports that day). The anchor at one point says "Indeed it has [collapsed]." Thus confirming the report for viewers, falsely.

6. Google video had been pressured to remove this video clip on Monday this week -- as soon as it was posted there -- because of copyright. This leads directly back to BBC. This is evidence of the suppression of the information.

7. Your news director claims that BBC LOST THE TAPES, which would be very difficult considering BBC policy for keeping multiple copies in multiple locations. Are you still sticking with this story, or have the tapes suddenly been "found?"

8. When will a FULL INTERNAL INVESTIGATION be conducted by the BBC OMBUDSMAN?

9. It is the hysterical behavior of BBC employees that makes people suspicious. A line from Shakespeare seems relevant here: "Me thinks he doth protest too much."

This answer is unacceptable.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6561>

.....

## Another one by Prisonplanet

**BOMBSHELL: 9/11 COVER-UP UNRAVELING**  
*CNN, BBC 24 Reports Conclusively Prove Media Prior Knowledge and False-Start Scripting of Building 7 Controlled Demolition*

[Aaron Dykes and Alex Jones /Jones Report | February 27, 2007](#)

It has now been discovered that *BBC 24* also reported the Building 7 collapse before it fell. Furthermore, CNN's Aaron Brown reported that Building 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing" over an hour before it fell.

These clips both reinforce the shocking, newly discovered BBC coverage wherein Jane Standley reports the collapse early-- with the building still standing behind her.

The **early timing of these reports** is now verified twice over-- the *BBC 24* report is time stamped at 21.54-- or 4:54 P.M. Eastern Standard Time [\[See World Time Zones\]](#) Secondly, CNN's Aaron Brown states the time as "4:15 Eastern Daylight Time," announcing Building 7 has fallen-- more than one hour before its actual collapse.

Furthermore, both the BBC report with Jane Standley and the CNN report with Aaron Brown clearly show Building 7 still standing, 'billowing with smoke' as the collapse is reported-- so **premature reporting is confirmed visually as well.**

There is no longer any doubt they were all reading off the same script. Reports mirrored testimony of scores of fire fighters, police and emergency workers who were told to get back from the building in the 2 hours before Salomon Brothers building (better known as WTC 7) fell at free-fall speed.

Rescue workers were [told the building was to be brought down in a controlled demolition.](#)

The group that carried out the demolition of Building 7 was in a position to feed the media and local authorities an official story. We have the controlled demolition of Building 7 hidden in plain sight-- including an admission by the building's [99-year lease holder Larry Silverstein.](#)

***We are witnessing the unraveling of the 9/11 cover-up.***

New video and audio clips of emergency workers who were told the Building 7 was to be purposefully brought down are coming out on an hour-by-hour basis as thousands of 9/11 researchers investigate publicly available archives.

Alex Jones in his car on the afternoon of 9/11 also heard ABC News report that the government was considering demolishing Building 7. Jones didn't realize what he was hearing for several weeks. Now the evidence is coming out.

*CNN'S REPORT IN-FOCUS*

**AARON BROWN QUESTIONS SCRIPT ON-AIR, UNLIKE BBC**

It is interesting to note that Aaron Brown seems to realize the incongruity of his reporting as he looks over his shoulder at Building 7-- still standing and emitting massive trails of smoke.

Just after announcing that WTC 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing," he lets onto his confusion, stating:

"And I—I—You, to be honest, can see these pictures more clearly than I, but building number 7, one of the buildings in this very large complex of buildings that is that is the trade center."

Clearly, Brown, slicker than the BBC reporter, caught the errors in the script during live coverage and revised his words, saying instead-- as he looked at the standing structure:

"And now we are told that there's a fire there and that building may collapse as well as you can see."

#### BBC 24 REPORT IN-FOCUS

Time-Stamped BBC Broadcast Seals Media Foreknowledge of Building 7 Collapse and Use of Scripting

An alternate local BBC report-- which included a live time-stamp-- now positively establishes that BBC reported the collapse of WTC Building 7 at least 25-minutes prior to the actual collapse of the building.

The feed seen above (at top) reports at 21.54 London time that:

News is continuing to come in as you can imagine. We're now being told that another enormous building in New York has collapsed. It is the 47-story Salomon Brothers building [better known as WTC Building 7] which was situated very close to the World Trade Center, right there in this financial capitol.

21.54-- 5 hours earlier in New York-- is 4:54 p.m., well before the actual collapse at 5:20 p.m.

This live feed did not show WTC 7 standing during the announcement, as it was showing B-roll of rescue workers on the ground.

The words used are very similar to the BBC report with Jane Standley, who also reported the WTC 7 collapse prematurely-- with the building visible in the live frame beyond the window. The latter coverage also included an explanation by the co-anchor that the building was not attacked, but, rather, was "weakened"-- perfectly in line with the official story even before the collapse took place.

#### BBC'S ABSURD RESPONSE IN-FOCUS

**BBC Claims 9/11 Tapes Lost; CNN Archivist Contradicts This, Citing Multiple Copies Recorded**

BBC responded to news of the early report on Building 7's collapse, claiming, amongst other excuses, that their 9/11 tapes have been lost.

A CNN archivist in Atlanta, and Infowars reader, corrected this erroneous notion:

"I'm an archivist with the CNN News Library in Atlanta, and I can tell you with absolute certainty, **the mere idea that news agencies such as ours would "misplace" any airchecks from 9/11 is preposterous.** CNN has these tapes locked away from all the others. People like myself, who normally would have access to any tapes in our library, must ask special permission in order to view airchecks from that day. **Multiple tapes would have been recording their broadcast that day, and there are also private agencies that record all broadcasts from all channels - constantly - in the event that a news agency missed something or needs something.** They don't just have one

copy... they have several. It's standard procedure, and as soon as the second plane hit, they would start recording several copies on other tapes machines all day long.

The only information they need to give out is the source of the collapse claim. No one is saying the BBC is "part of the conspiracy," we're saying that someone gave that reporter the information ahead of time. The source of that information is the only thing they can reveal that would be meaningful."

#### *WTC COMPLEX IN-FOCUS*

### **WTC 3 Was Structurally Destroyed by Falling Debris, Yet Did Not Uniformly Collapse at Free-Fall Speed Like WTC 7**

**World Trade Center Building 3** -- known publicly as the 22-story *Marriott Hotel* positioned between the Twin Towers-- was heavily damaged during the collapse of WTC 2, yet it did not experience uniform collapse either vertically or horizontally-- but rather a crater of inconsistent breakage.



*WTC Building 3 Was Heavily Damaged by the Collapse of Tower 2, Yet Did Not Collapse Uniformly.*

Yet, Building 7, which was comparably far removed from the two buildings hit by airliners, suffered only minor fires and sudden, uniform collapse-- typically indicative of a controlled demolition.

Clearly, the difference in damage between the two steel buildings is baffling and untenable under the explanation offered by the government's official story.

SEE ALSO: **[Another Smoking Gun? Now CNN Jumps the Gun: On 911 CNN Announced WTC 7 "Has Either Collapsed or is Collapsing" Over an Hour Before it Fell](#)**



## Prisonplanet ob the BBC response

BBC Responds to Building 7 Controversy; Claim 9/11 Tapes Lost

Pathetic five paragraph blog rebuttal does not answer questions as to source of report that Salomon Building was coming down, BBC claims tapes lost due to "cock-up" not conspiracy

[Paul Joseph Watson / Prison Planet | February 27, 2007](#)

The BBC has been forced to respond to footage showing their correspondent reporting the collapse of WTC 7 before it fell on 9/11, claiming tapes from the day are somehow missing, and refusing to identify the source for their bizarre act of "clairvoyance" in accurately preempting the fall of Building 7.

Here is the [BBC's response](#) to the questions about the footage that was unearthed yesterday, with my comments after each statement.

*1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.*

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down." If this is true, then how on earth did the BBC report the collapse of Building 7 before it happened? Psychic clairvoyance? Of course they were told that WTC 7 was coming down, just like the [firefighters, police, first responders](#) and [CNN](#) were told it was coming down. They had to have had a source for making such a claim. The BBC is acting like the naughty little boy who got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. No one here is claiming the BBC are "part of the conspiracy," but their hideous penchant to just repeat what authorities tell them without even a cursory investigation (and with the Building they are telling us has collapsed mockingly filling the background shot of the report), is a damning indictment of their yellow journalism when it comes to 9/11.



*2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best*

*information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.*

How do "chaos and confusion" explain how the BBC reported on the collapse of a building, a collapse that happened "unexpectedly" according to their Conspiracy Files hit piece documentary, before it happened? In one breath the BBC is claiming they were not told of the impending collapse of the Building and in the next they are telling us that all their information is sourced. Which is it to be? Did the BBC have a source telling them the building was about to collapse or not? If not, how on earth could they pre-empt its fall? Do BBC reporters have access to a time machine? What was the source of this information?

*3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.*

Trying to make sense of what she was being told? She obviously didn't make much sense of the fact that the Building she was reporting had collapsed was prominently standing behind her! Unfortunately, for a news organization that prides itself on accuracy and credibility, "she doesn't remember" just doesn't cut it as an excuse.

3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.



4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up

*BBC included a screenshot of yesterday's Prison Planet article in their brief response.*

*4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.*

We are asked to believe that the world's premiere news organization has somehow lost all its tapes of perhaps the biggest news event of the past 60 years. This is a copout. Whether they have lost the tapes or not, the BBC simply doesn't want to verify one hundred per cent their monumental foul-up, because they know it would only increase the exposure of this issue and lead to further questions. What is there to clear up? The reporter is standing in front of the building while saying it has already collapsed! This is a blatant effort to try and placate people

making complaints while refusing to admit a monumental faux pas that further undermines the BBC's credibility in the aftermath of the [Conspiracy Files debacle](#).

*5. If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy..."*

So now the BBC are so devoid of answers, they have to enlist the help of some moronic comment on a You Tube blog? Instead of issuing official statements and seeking the advice of legal professionals they produce a cobbled together five paragraph blog and include the testimony of some moron on a You Tube comment board. Pathetic! Answer the question BBC - what was your source for reporting on multiple occasions that Building 7 had collapsed before it had collapsed, and identify the source that enabled the anchorman to comment that the building had collapsed due to it being weakened, an explanation still unanswered by NIST five and a half years later.

If you had reported the collapse of the twin towers before it happened would that have been just an error too? This "error" translated as \$800 million plus in insurance bounty for Larry Silverstein - I'm sure Industrial Risk Insurers would be interested to know the source of your "error." In addition, two separate sources reported that [Secret Service Agent Craig Miller](#) died as a result of the collapse of Building 7. Do you think he would have been interested in the "error" that led to your correspondent reporting the building's downfall in advance?

[http://www.jonesreport.com/articles/270207\\_bbc\\_lost\\_response.html](http://www.jonesreport.com/articles/270207_bbc_lost_response.html)

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## **Another one, highlighting the comments**

BBC Slammed Over Pathetic Response to Building 7 Controversy

[Prison Planet](#)

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

The BBC are getting slammed by respondents to the head of BBC World News Richard Porter's pathetic [attempt to dismiss questions](#) about the Building 7 controversy, in which a BBC correspondent reported the collapse of WTC 7 before it happened on 9/11.

[RELATED: BBC Responds to Building 7 Controversy; Claim 9/11 Tapes Lost](#)

24 comments were posted at the Editor's Blog website by 7:27PM UK time, just a couple of hours after the rebuttal was posted. Here are those 24 comments pasted in their entirety - every single one slams the BBC for their inadequate explanation of the controversy and others asked how the BBC somehow lost tapes containing footage from the most important event in world history since World War 2.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/270207bbcslammed.htm>

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BBC Reported Building 7 Had Collapsed 20 Minutes Before It Fell

Revealing, shocking video shows reporter talking about collapse with WTC 7 still standing in background, Google removes clip

*Paul Joseph Watson & Alex Jones*

[Prison Planet](#)

Tuesday, February 27, 2007 (UPDATED 5:36AM CST)

**[RELATED: BBC Responds to Building 7 Controversy; Claim 9/11 Tapes Lost](#)**

**[RELATED: Time Stamp Confirms BBC Reported WTC 7 Collapse 26 Minutes In Advance](#)**

**[RELATED: After This Fiasco, How Can We Trust Anything They Told Us About 9/11?](#)**

An astounding video uncovered from the archives today shows the BBC reporting on the collapse of WTC Building 7 over twenty minutes before it fell at 5:20pm on the afternoon of 9/11. The incredible footage shows BBC reporter Jane Standley talking about the collapse of the Salomon Brothers Building while it remains standing in the live shot behind her head.

Minutes before the actual collapse of the building is due, the feed to the reporter mysteriously dies.

This amazing clip was on Google Video (now back again [here](#)), but was removed within hours of the story breaking. However, hundreds of people had already managed to download the clip and it has gone viral on the Internet and the censors won't be able to shut the lid this time. A You Tube upload is [available here](#) but we fully expect this to be removed soon. You can watch it for the time being [at this link](#) and also [here](#). A WMV link is [here](#) (on our server) and a Quicktime [here](#). Bit torrent versions of the file can be found [here](#). An avi version can be found [here](#).

To be clear, the [Salomon Brothers Building](#) is just a different name for Building 7 or WTC 7. Skip forward to around the 14:30 minute mark.

Although there is no clock or time stamp on the footage, the source claims the report was given at 4:57pm EST, 23 minutes before Building 7 collapsed at 5:20pm. While the exact time of the report cannot be confirmed at present, it is clear from the footage that the reporter is describing the collapse of WTC 7 while it clearly remains standing behind her in the live shot.

Here are some further screenshots from the video.





The fact that the BBC reported on the collapse of Building 7 over twenty minutes in advance of its implosion obviously provokes a myriad of questions as to how they knew it was about to come down when the official story says its collapse happened accidentally as a result of fire damage and debris weakening the building's structure.

As [we have documented before](#), [firefighters](#), [police](#) and [first responders](#) were all told to [get back from the building](#) because it was about to be brought down. It is widely acknowledged by those who were there on the scene that warnings were issued for people to evacuate the area in anticipation of the building's collapse, with some even stating that a 20 second countdown preceded the collapse of the 47-story skyscraper, again clearly suggesting that it was taken down by means of explosives as the video footage of its implosion illustrates.

In a September 2002 PBS documentary, the owner of the WTC complex Larry Silverstein discusses Building 7 and states that in the late afternoon of September 11, the decision was made to "pull it." The term "pull it" is industry jargon for controlled demolition, but Silverstein denied charges that WTC 7 had been deliberately brought down.

This newly uncovered video confirms that the collapse of WTC 7 was no surprise, because television news stations were reporting on it *before* it happened!

This footage is absolutely amazing and should provoke a firestorm of new questions aimed both at Silverstein and the BBC. Who told the BBC that the building was going to collapse before it did and why were they reporting its fall in advance of the event actually taking place?

Many have speculated that some kind of press release was leaked too soon and AP wires, radio stations and TV news outlets prematurely reported on WTC 7's collapse.

The video also severely undermines the credibility of the BBC who recently caused controversy by [airing a 9/11 hit piece](#) that sought to debunk questions that bring the official story into doubt.

Calls have already been put through to the BBC reporting the "mistake," [click here](#) to listen to an MP3. The BBC have promised to "look into it."

Moronic commenters on Digg are already trying to bury the story, yet none of them have an answer as to why the BBC reported the building's collapse before it happened. [Click here](#) to add your own comment and counter the debunkers.

ACTION: [E Mail the BBC](#) and ask them to clarify exactly why their reporter is announcing the collapse of Building 7 before it has collapsed.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/260207building7.htm>

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## **Second Video, News24**



Time Stamp Confirms BBC Reported WTC 7 Collapse 26 Minutes In Advance  
Debunkers' claims about blue screens, inconclusive time frame of Jane Standley footage eviscerated

*Paul Joseph Watson*

[Prison Planet](#)

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

If there was any remaining doubt that the BBC reported the collapse of Building 7 over 20 minutes before it fell then it has now evaporated with the discovery of footage from the BBC's News 24 channel that shows the time stamp at 21:54 (4:54PM EST) when news of the Salomon Brothers Building is first broadcast, a full 26 minutes in advance of its collapse.

Watch the clip below. The original clip was from Google Video, but again they deleted it (even though it was just 30 seconds in length). The News 24 clip is at the end of the original BBC World clip.

[According to FEMA](#), WTC 7 collapsed at 5:20pm on the afternoon of 9/11. Since British Summer Time is five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, the BBC reported the collapse of Building 7 at 4:54PM EST, a full 26 minutes before it collapsed.

"News is continuing to come in as you can imagine. We're now being told that another enormous building in New York has collapsed. It is the 47-story Salomon Brothers building [better known as WTC Building 7] which was situated very close to the World Trade Center, right there in this financial capitol," states the anchor Gavin Estler.

Following the [controversy created by Monday's footage](#) in which BBC correspondent Jane Standley is seen live in New York reporting the collapse of Building 7 as it remains standing behind her, many debunkers tried to claim that the images were inconclusive because there was no time stamp on the footage. Others alleged that Standley was merely standing in front of a dated blue screen image and that the shot in her background was a recording from earlier in the day. Both these objections can now be easily dismissed by the addition of the News 24 footage confirming that the news that Building 7 had collapsed was prematurely reported by 26 minutes.

Since the BBC obviously had a source for this information, though they refuse to acknowledge exactly what that source was, it can be surmised that the news took a few minutes to make its way to the on air anchor, therefore we can approximate that someone knew Building 7 was going to collapse at least half an hour before it fell. However, if we factor in [CNN's Aaron Brown reporting](#) that Building 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing" at 4:15PM EST, then that's over an hour before the building imploded into its own footprint.

First responders, firefighters and police are all on the record as stating they were told [Building 7 was to be "brought down"](#) and many took that to mean that it was going to be intentionally demolished by means of explosives. Some even reported a [20 second countdown](#) preceding the building's collapse, which can only mean one thing - that it was deliberately imploded according to a pre-determined schedule.

Building 7 stood 355 feet away from the north tower. Structures closer to the twin towers that were bombarded with debris and essentially hollowed out remained standing for weeks after 9/11, until they were demolished by explosive crews, whereas Building 7 suffered relatively little damage and yet imploded hours after the towers fell. In their *Conspiracy Files* "documentary" the BBC said WTC 7 was a "raging inferno" when in fact fires were confined to just eight floors according to FEMA.



World Trade Center Building 3 (pictured above), known publicly as the 22-story Marriott Hotel positioned between the twin towers, was heavily damaged during the collapse of WTC 2, yet it did not experience uniform collapse either vertically or horizontally.

The BBC's pathetic excuse for not being able to confirm that they reported the collapse of WTC 7 in advance, that they lost the tapes of the BBC World 9/11 coverage, was nothing more than an attempt to make questions about this huge controversy go away. It remains to be seen if they'll issue another response now that it is 100% certified that they reported the collapse of a building 26 minutes before it happened. So far wider mainstream coverage of this mammoth story has been all but mute.

We received an interesting e mail from a CNN archivist in Atlanta who stated their utter disbelief at the notion that BBC has lost any of their 9/11 archives.

"I'm an archivist with the CNN News Library in Atlanta, and I can tell you with absolute certainty, the mere idea that news agencies such as ours would "misplace" any airchecks from 9/11 is preposterous. CNN has these tapes locked away from all the others. People like myself,

who normally would have access to any tapes in our library, must ask special permission in order to view airchecks from that day. Multiple tapes would have been recording their broadcast that day, and there are also private agencies that record all broadcasts from all channels - constantly - in the event that a news agency missed something or needs something. They don't just have one copy... they have several. It's standard procedure, and as soon as the second plane hit, they would start recording several copies on other tapes machines all day long."

"The only information they need to give out is the source of the collapse claim. No one is saying the BBC is "part of the conspiracy," we're saying that someone gave that reporter the information ahead of time. The source of that information is the only thing they can reveal that would be meaningful."

Just ten days after the airing of its bias, error ridden, propagandistic hit piece against the 9/11 truth movement, the BBC's program directors are probably wishing they had never gone near the subject. The response metered out against them, bolstered by the Building 7 fiasco, has tarnished the corporation's credibility and their sophistic attempt to rebut the accusations has only made matters worse.

Suffice to say it would be a very stupid decision to re-air Guy Smith's farce of a documentary in any country ever again. Perhaps the BBC could do us all a favor and 'lose' the tapes just like they claim to have lost the tapes of their 9/11 coverage.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/280207timestamp.htm>

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## Clairvoyant Collapse by Nicholas Levis

Wednesday, February 28 2007

Clairvoyant Collapse

BBC World News announced WTC 7 had collapsed, well in advance of the actual event. Discovery by blogger prompts controversy. Angered counter-attack from BBC avoids issue: What was the source of the information? New 3-minute video compilation of the key points from the BBC broadcast, demonstrating foreknowledge of WTC 7 collapse. Read more for complete coverage of the last three days... (2/28)

— Ed.

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

by Nicholas Levis

### The Summary

BBC World News started reporting that 7 World Trade Center had collapsed about 23 minutes before the building actually came down, as video of the news network's live broadcast on September 11th shows.

The skyscraper also known as the Salomon Brothers Building was still standing and clearly visible over the shoulder of a BBC reporter in New York, even as the network provided accurate, past- tense details of its collapse. Jane Standley's live report was interrupted about five minutes before WTC 7 actually came down at 5:20pm EDT. A video clip establishing this anomaly was discovered on the [archive.org](http://archive.org) news service and first pointed out to the public Monday by the blog writer 911veritas at [911blogger.com](http://911blogger.com).

The ensuing controversy has prompted a swift, unusually angry response from the BBC, which however has failed to address the substantive issue: Apparently the network's personnel were unfamiliar with WTC 7, which is excusable. They were however reporting information culled from a source with advance knowledge of the building's collapse. Who was that source?

The answer may be essential to settling the long-standing dispute over whether the third skyscraper to fall on 9/11, which was not struck by an airplane, was demolished using explosives, or collapsed entirely due to structural damage and fire.

### **The Video**

Until Tuesday, a 1-gigabyte file record of the BBC World News live broadcast was freely available for download from the Television Archive at archive.org, at <http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mpg>

Presumably thousands of people downloaded the file before archive.org took it offline. The news archive service provided an .xml label in the same directory, indicating that the 42-minute video segment was originally broadcast starting at 4:54pm EDT on September 11th. Various clues within the segment amply confirm this start time (see below), although no time is announced or shown during the segment.

For information purposes under fair-use provisions we are making available a three-minute, 10-megabyte WMV video showing the key excerpts from the segment, with inserted time labels based on a start time of 4:54pm EDT.

### **DOWNLOAD VIDEO – FREE DISTRIBUTION**

[www.911truth.org/911truthmedia/Video/BBC-WTC7.wmv](http://www.911truth.org/911truthmedia/Video/BBC-WTC7.wmv)

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### **WTC 7: Historical Footnote?**

The 47-story skyscraper WTC 7 was located to the north of the North Tower, across Vesey Street. Prior to 9/11, this relatively obscure cousin to the Twin Towers was more commonly known as the Salomon Brothers Building after its largest tenant.

Built above and around an electrical substation, WTC 7 also housed other businesses and a number of federal agencies: the Securities and Exchange Commission, the IRS, the Department of Defense, and a secret CIA station that the Agency later described as its largest office in North America outside of the Washington area.

The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, a high-tech nerve center built by the Giuliani administration and intended as the city's command headquarters in a crisis, was on the 23rd floor. The location was criticized by officials at the New York Fire Department and others who considered it insecure.

The 9/11 events rendered OEM unusable. WTC 7 was evacuated in the morning, caught fire at some point after the Twin Towers fell, and collapsed completely at 5:20pm Eastern Daylight Time on Sept. 11, 2001. The building fell evenly within 6.5 seconds, leaving a pile of rubble contained almost entirely within the original footprint. The many external signs of a controlled demolition raised the prospect that explosives were used to bring it down. (See for example the video clips at <http://www.wtc7.net/videos.html>).

Authorities have maintained the global failure was entirely due to the serious structural damage caused by the earlier collapse of the Twin Towers and subsequent fires (fueled by diesel tanks located around the building, the largest of which belonged to OEM). The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was charged with preparing a full report. Its publication date has been delayed several times over a period of almost two years, and is currently scheduled for April 2007.

More at <http://www.improbablecollapse.com/screens2/history.html>

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### **BBC Coverage on 9/11**

The file obtained from archive.org shows that the BBC's uncannily clairvoyant news coverage of the event began at 4:57 pm EDT, 23 minutes before the building actually collapsed. [3:19 on the archive.org video]

Speaking from London, BBC World News anchorman Philip Hayton says, "We've got some news coming in – the Salomon Brothers Building in New York, right in that part of Manhattan, also has collapsed. This does fit in with a warning from the British Foreign Office a couple of hours ago to British citizens that... there was 'a strong risk of further atrocities in the United States. And it does seem as if there now is another one with the Salomon Brothers Building collapsing. We've got no word yet on casualties, one assumes that the building would have been virtually deserted." Hayton then reports that the US president is on a flight back to Washington from Nebraska, confirming that the broadcast time is just before 5pm EDT.

The collapse is noted again in the top-of-the-hour headlines, and Hayton gives a longer report at 5:10pm. [13:30 on the archive.org video] Significantly, the details are now revised, indicating Hayton has been given new information in the meantime: "Now more on the latest building collapse," he says. "You might have heard a few minutes ago I was talking about the Salomon Brothers Building collapsing, and indeed it has... It seems that this was not the result of a new attack, it was because the building had been weakened in this morning's attacks." Thus Hayton is not only reporting on an event still 10 minutes into the future, but also accurately conveying how the authorities would explain that event, both then and for the next five years. He then introduces a live report from the network's New York correspondent, Jane Standley.

Standley is seen in front of a window as smoke rises from the destroyed World Trade Center about 10 to 20 blocks behind her. WTC 7 is clearly visible on the right side of the shot, although the British reporter shows no sign she was in any way familiar with the building. She admits to Hayton that she only knows what he has already reported, then speaks for about a minute on the 9/11 events generally, before Hayton again asks about possible casualties at WTC 7. Again, she cannot say. Their exchange on other matters continues, with WTC 7 visible in the background until 5:14pm, when the feed from New York suddenly turns shaky and goes dead. [20:30 on the archive.org video]

The building collapsed about five minutes later.

The video leaves no doubt that the BBC received accurate information on the future collapse of WTC 7, *and that the information included the later explanation for that collapse.* We presume the BBC was innocent and unwitting in presenting this report in advance of the actual event, believing the collapse had indeed already happened.

We might reasonably guess that before making its way to the BBC by whatever means, the information originated among the authorities in New York. And *that* is the question here: Who was the original source of the information? Did the source also phrase the event in the past tense? How was the source certain the building would collapse?

The issue raising the most clamor among 9/11 skeptics is surely the timing. Even if the authorities are expecting the building to buckle and collapse due to damage, the exact time is still unknown. That the building does fall straight into its footprint on cue five minutes after Standley's premature report breaks off is breathtaking.

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### **The BBC Responds to the Controversy**

Yesterday the head of BBC World News issued the following response to the controversy via his blog at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part\\_of\\_the\\_conspiracy.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html)

*Part of the conspiracy?*

*Richard Porter 27 Feb 07, 05:12 PM*

*The 9/11 conspiracy theories are pretty well known by now. The BBC addressed them earlier this month with a documentary, The Conspiracy Files, shown within the UK.*

*Until now, I don't think we've been accused of being part of the conspiracy. But now some websites are using news footage from BBC World on September 11th 2001 to suggest we were actively participating in some sort of attempt to manipulate the audience. As a result, we're now getting lots of emails asking us to clarify our position. So here goes:*

- 1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.*
- 2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.*
- 3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.*
- 4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.*
- 5. If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy..."*

*Richard Porter is head of news, BBC World*

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### **"How to Exacerbate a Public Relations Crisis"**

Porter's philippic is curious. It was well within his power to view the suspect footage and act to defuse the controversy in a calm, factual way. One might imagine something along these lines:

*"Well, yeah it looks funny, at first sight, seeing our Jane talking about the collapse with the building still standing behind her. Shucks. But consider please the bad damage to WTC 7! The authorities were expecting it to come down at some point that evening or the next day. The streets were cleared in anticipation. So somehow a report was prepared and honestly, we don't really remember who we got it from. And then it ended up broadcast prematurely. Oops, we regret this, but things like that do happen, it was a chaotic day..."*

Child's play.

Instead, Porter chooses to identify purveyors of "conspiracy theory" as the enemy, and draws a direct link to the BBC's recent documentary attack on 9/11 skepticism, as though this is in any way relevant to what BBC World News itself broadcast on September 11th.

He preemptively avers that the BBC has been accused of belonging to "a conspiracy" - which of course the Standley clip does not show, and which no reasonable person would claim on the basis of the clip.

Then he pulls out two unconfirmable claims that may sound all-too familiar: No one remembers exactly what was reported then. And all archived video of the day's broadcasts has been lost.

There would be groans from the gallery, but normally these two claims amount to trump cards. Except for a decisive difference in this case: the footage is already circulating openly on the Web, where everyone can see it.

Did Porter not view the widely-available video of his network's advance reports of the WTC 7 collapse, before writing his response? This would amount to an embarrassing lack of due diligence for a news director – in fact, an arrogance worthy of the Soviet media.

Or did Porter watch the segment? In that case, "we forgot" and "we lost our records" are not valid excuses. (Although they seem to be contagious ones: note the message below from archive.org, explaining why the video suddenly went off-line yesterday.)

Finally, note the careful phrasing of Porter's first item: "We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening." Of course, information also comes in forms other than press releases and scripts. So let's repeat the relevant question to Porter:

Did the BBC get information that WTC 7 had collapsed on 9/11, before it actually did collapse? Or was it a guess that was "in error" when first reported, but magically turned out to be true just five minutes later?

Where did the information come from, Mr. Porter?

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20070228173157804>

.....

## Wonkette joins in

[« || next »](#)

— **FEBRUARY 28, 2007** —

### [BBC, CNN Employ Magical Psychic News Announcers](#)



The Internets are buzzing with the bizarre story of BBC News reporting the 9/11 collapse of WTC7 before the building actually collapsed — all over a live shot of Ground Zero, with the 47-story highrise clearly in view and clearly standing.

What it “proves” is anyone’s guess, but it sure makes for hilarious viewing. But BBC reporters and anchors who maybe didn’t know the Manhattan skyline so well could possibly be forgiven for reporting an erroneous story and not knowing that great big highrise was World Trade Center 7 (otherwise known as the Salomon Brothers building). So why doesn’t the BBC simply say it got a story wrong and didn’t know any better? Stranger still, why did New York-based CNN anchor Aaron Brown do the *same exact thing* on September 11, 2001? We’ve got all the creepy video and much more to make your head asplode, after the jump.

First, the BBC video which has been posted and then [deleted by Google](#) and then posted and then deleted by YouTube again and again this week. The great big highrise next to the lady reporter’s head is WTC7:

This apparently aired some [20 minutes before](#) WTC7 collapsed — supposedly from damage sustained when the Twin Towers collapsed or from the jet crashes. Whatever the “timestamp,” WTC7 is standing there throughout the news report of its collapse, so at minimum it’s an inaccurate story. Such things happen. And then, presumably right before the actual WTC7 begins to collapse, the signal from New York mysteriously degrades and vanishes.

Google is quickly deleting copies of the video, although it’s unknown who or what is requesting the clips be deleted. BBC presumably owns the copyright on the footage, and it seems BBC would want to collect and examine this footage — because the BBC now claims it *lost all the 9/11 video*. Because who would want to save video of the biggest news event of the last 40 years?

It’s important that you not get upset! [The BBC’s news chief explains](#): “We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I’d love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don’t help clear up the issue one way or another.”

And now here’s Aaron Brown at CNN, also getting word from some unnamed source that WTC7 has collapsed or possibly is currently collapsing. Once again, WTC7 just stands there, mocking us:

Other than being another set of examples of how dumb everybody is about everything, forever, it's also a crucial thing for people convinced that 9/11 was an "inside job."

Why? Because they've been suspicious of the picture-perfect implosion of WTC7 (not to mention the Twin Towers themselves) and how much it resembled the carefully orchestrated and widely televised demolitions of so many Las Vegas buildings in the 1990s. Even FEMA investigators concluded that the official reason for the collapse — the building's steel infrastructure weakened by a fire started from debris that came from the Twin Towers — had a [low probability of actually happening](#).

Here at Wonkette, we're mostly suspicious of why these five-year-old video clips were suddenly dropped on Google Video and YouTube this week. Be careful, Iran! Watch out, U.S. dollar! As for you American citizens ... duck!

[Part of the conspiracy?](#) [BBC News]

[BBC Has Lost Tapes Of 21st Century's Defining Moment](#) [InfoWars]

<http://wonkette.com/politics/wtc/bbc-cnn-employ-magical-psychic-news-announcers-240564.php>

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## Another Prisonplanet on the "lost" tapes

BBC Has Lost Tapes Of 21st Century's Defining Moment

9/11 coverage gone due to "cock up". Why is this not a world news headline?

*Steve Watson*

[Infowars.net](http://infowars.net)

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

It has come to light this week that the most pre-eminent broadcasting company in the world has lost the original recordings of its output for the entire day on September 11th 2001, just over five years on, yet no major news agency has even bothered to report the fact.

Despite being currently the biggest story on the internet and in the alternative media, the only place in the mainstream the story has appeared is on a small German news website.

This highlights the fact that the mainstream media is not free to report events. The information it disseminates is strictly controlled and regulated.

The BBC was forced into claiming that the recordings covering the 9/11 attacks have mysteriously vanished in response to fierce criticism over the fact that on the day the news agency [reported that World Trade Center Building 7 had collapsed](#) almost 30 minutes before it actually came down.

Conspiracy or no conspiracy, surely the fact that the BBC has made this announcement should be reported.

A cogent precedent can be found in the relatively recent furor over the [loss of the moon landing tapes](#) by NASA. This was reported in every major newspaper and on every major news website in the world for over a week when it came to light last August. The story then hit world headlines again when the tapes were found.

In the eyes of the mainstream media the September 11th attacks in 2001, it seems, are not as important an event as the moon landing, which happened last century, 38 years ago to be precise.

Therefore it is purely as a result of the persistence of the alternative media, and its audience, that regular BBC employees are now being deluged by e mails and calls asking them to divulge what their source was for reporting the collapse of Building 7 a full 26 minutes before it happened.

The [BBC editor's blog](#) is currently carrying the following statement from Richard Porter, editor of BBC news:

*"We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another."*

The BBC is claiming that it cannot verify that it reported building 7 had collapsed too early because it no longer has its own tapes. Mr Porter then says he would love to get hold of a copy. Yet it is blatantly clear that he is writing about the copy of the BBC's output that kick started the entire controversy! So there he already has a copy, why can't he watch that?

Even more incredibly he then goes on to declare that the News 24 footage, which the BBC DOES still have, fails to clear up the issue. This is patently false as we have today proven. Footage from the BBC's News 24 channel that shows the time stamp at 21:54 (4:54PM EST) when news of the Salomon Brothers Building is first broadcast, a full 26 minutes in advance of its collapse. You can view the footage [here](#).

Remember that both the official FEMA and the NIST reports on building 7 concluded that the building collapsed unexpectedly.

So why is the BBC continually lying to us and attempting to cloud this controversy instead of explaining it?

Even more remarkable is the fact that if the BBC maintains that its footage is indeed lost, this means that at least THREE copies have been lost from DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

The BBC's policy on retaining recordings of all television and radio broadcast outputs, last reviewed: 18/02/03 - which you can [view online](#) at the BBC's own website, clearly states:

*The following components to be retained:-*

- Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master*
- One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material*
- All supporting metadata to enable research and re-use*
- A selection of original (i.e. unedited) material for re-use/re-versioning purposes*

*· Hardware/software/equipment to enable replay/transfer of the media*

Furthermore:

*"A retention schedule for each set of records kept /archived must be created as defined in the Core Records Policy. Retention periods are set according to the status and value of the record."*

This means that the safe retention of archived recordings is checked at regular intervals, and the more valuable they are deemed to be, the more frequently they are checked.

And yet more:

*"All transmitted/published media content will be kept for at least five years to fulfil legal requirements and to enable re-versioning and re-use."*

This means that if the footage was "lost" prior to September 11th 2006 then the BBC has broken British broadcasting law.



So all in all we have a situation here whereby the BBC is either lying when it says all records of its World output on 9/11 are gone, or the BBC has categorically failed to uphold its own policy, and UK law, and is dismissing this as merely a "cock up".

This is not some two bit cable TV station, the BBC is paid for by every person in the UK and thus has a strict legal responsibility to uphold its written policies. If this was ever to be challenged legally would the editors of the BBC maintain as their defence that they "cocked it up"? That is simply not good enough. People that "cock up" at that level should no longer be in a job and should be explaining themselves in a court of law.

We know for a fact that the BBC are very concerned about how this whole fiasco has impacted upon their reputation. Corporation chiefs are also worried that head of BBC World Richard Porter's brief response to the matter has only made them look worse.

At this time Mr Porter is still ludicrously feigning ignorance and stupidity by suggesting that the BBC has been "accused of being in on the conspiracy".

Whether they have lost the tapes or not, the BBC simply doesn't want to verify one hundred per cent their monumental foul-up, because they know it would only increase the exposure of this issue and lead to further questions.

As a citizen of the UK and a BBC license payer I demand an explanation as to what has happened to at least three copies of BBC news footage of a moment in time that will define history. I want to know PRECISE DETAILS of when the tapes were last checked, how they could have simply vanished and who is ultimately responsible and so should all other UK residents.

You can put these requests to the BBC [here](#). My advice is to be succinct, to the point and polite. No more than two sentences are required.

Furthermore, everyone who reads this article, whether British or American, should immediately contact their local and national media outlets and demand to know why they consider this huge story not to be newsworthy.

*Paul Joseph Watson Contributed to this report.*

<http://infowars.net/articles/february2007/280207BBC.htm>

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## **Devin Green kiss goodbye!**

Devin Green signing off, 03/01/2007 -- Good morning and good luck  
(7 comments; last comment posted Today 09:26 am)

[print](#) | [email](#) this story



News 24 coverage on September 11th, 2001. The BBC reported the collapse of WTC 7 23 minutes before the actual implosion.

#### **Related Links**

[BBC Reported Building 7 Collapse 20 Minutes Before It Fell](#)

announced the collapse of the 47 story Salomon Brothers Building 23 minutes *BEFORE* the [actual sudden collapse](#). This building, also known as WTC 7, is clearly visible, standing tall, as a reporter gestures to the live view through the window behind her.

Despite the fact the Google censored the initial internet premier of this archived video, removing it from their video service, many more "mirrors" of the video were then set up across the net. Watch the video [here](#).

Some may find this simply bewildering or a coincidental mistake. For 9/11 researchers it is a further revealing piece of evidence confirming internal premeditation to demolish the WTC. In response to demands for an explanation the BBC [released a statement](#) denying confirmation and foreknowledge. I recommend everyone wanting a good laugh to read their response.

The BBC claim that they lost the tapes of their 9/11 coverage due to a, and I quote, "cock-up, not conspiracy."

They just happened to lose their coverage of the most critical and historic event in the 21st century? [The BBC's general policy on media management](#) states:

*The following components to be retained:-*

- *Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master*
- *One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material*
- *All supporting metadata to enable research and re-use*
- *A selection of original (i.e. unedited) material for re-use/re-versioning purposes*
- *Hardware/software/equipment to enable replay/transfer of the media*

Obviously coverage like the 9/11 attacks would have merited many more copies than

Blog by Devin Green  
March 1, 2007

As today is my last day setting the homepage for The Santa Fe New Mexican I thought I would bid you all farewell. I resigned two weeks ago to better pursue my personal interests. It is to my great amusement however that this day coincides with an astonishing story to share in this blog. There is an uproar rising across the Internet over what is being called yet another blatant, 9/11 smoking gun.

Early this week an independent researcher, reviewing video archives of the BBC's 9/11 coverage, [divulged the discovery](#) of an earth shaking incongruence. BBC reporters

everyday broadcasts. And we are to believe they are all lost?

The BBC states that the events of 9/11 are "seared" in the memory of reporter Jane Standley, but that she can't remember what happened minute by minute. Personally I think watching a building collapse just minutes after saying it already had would be quite memorable.

The BBC tries to excuse possible mistakes due to the confusion of the day. But how many other 47 story buildings are near the WTC? No other buildings fell around the time or area of the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC 7.) No other steel-frame buildings in the history of the world have even collapsed "due to fire" beside WTC 1, 2 and 7. Building 7 wasn't hit by an airplane and wasn't even directly adjacent to the twin towers. Calling that shot is no coincidence.

The BBC states: "We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another." I'll say they don't clear it up, at least not how the BBC would like. Tapes of News 24 (wait, let me find a new link, Google Video has now censored the footage from News 24... [here is one!](#)) have other reporters claiming they "are being told" that WTC 7 has collapsed. The time-stamp on News 24 further confirms that the press release the BBC was apparently issued came out 23 minutes before the actual collapse.

"Are being told"? But the BBC now claims "We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening." And yet the BBC "rebuttal" goes on to say they always source their reports. I think we will have to follow the evidence on that one.

The BBC response finishes saying that an error is not evidence of conspiracy. (Lol. Is a random commenter on YouTube the best source they can get now?) You call it an error if it was committed once. But three times? It has now emerged that CNN reported that WTC 7 "has either collapsed or is collapsing" while the building was still standing. [Watch it here.](#)

So now it should be plain to see that there was foreknowledge of Building 7's demise. But how could anyone know? Let's listen to the man who admitted to demolishing the building explain. Ya gotta [watch this video](#) excerpted from a September 2002 PBS documentary. That man is Larry Silverstein, the man who leased the WTC buildings mere months before the attack and made billions of dollars on his unusual terrorism insurance plan. "Pull it" is controlled demolition industry jargon for imploding a building. Silverstein's spokesperson later denied the admission, saying he meant "pull the firemen out of the building." Just listen to his statement though and it's obvious what he meant.

Might then WTC 7's collapse have been a controlled demolition? [Watch the actual collapse again here](#) and see what it looks like. That's Dan Rather's voice. Really tells it like it is there didn't he. The building wasn't in the process of collapsing minutes beforehand, but completely drops in the matter of a few seconds. It drops so fast actually that there is only one known scenario where such a free fall collapse is even physically possible. Controlled demolition.

[Dr. Steven E. Jones](#), former physics professor of BYU University wrote a paper demonstrating this. It led to his early retirement, but not before [being published](#) in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Dr. Jones later performed chemical analysis on melted WTC steel that suggests thermate may have been used in the demolition.

Eye witness testimonies also suggest controlled demolition. Over and over I have seen many

different cases: warnings on the street going out before hand, explosions coinciding with the collapse, etc. For the sake of time I'll just mention [one story here](#).

Why does Silverstein explain why they blew 7 up and later retract? I don't know, but in the beginning there were very few people questioning 9/11 and he basically related how things went along that day. Nowadays, with Loose Change being the most popular video on Google, questions are going to be asked. Like, how could they take down the building without weeks of planning and placement?

So why the early news reports? The BBC anchor who provides an explanation for the collapse 23 minutes before it even happens may give us some idea. The demolition being planned, an explanation for a huge building disappearing in a matter of seconds might have seemed to be in order, and a press release was prepared ahead of time to start the cover up from the first moment. But perhaps the news wire went out early, or the demolition went off late. This matter, of course, remains to be properly investigated.

There are many more questions to be considered, and WTC 7 is just a small part of 9/11. For a look at the bigger picture and to answer some of those questions check out the film [Terrorstorm](#). That's enough to get someone started anyway.

The BBC is quick to deny that they are "part of *the* conspiracy" (italics added) and yet ironically that statement itself almost implies that there is a conspiracy.

And thus I turn in my badge, err, parking permit, and say goodbye to The New Mexican. Perhaps I'm leaving you with a question though. Why aren't the big TV news programs and newspapers covering the BBC's remarkable gift for clairvoyance? If you want them to demand it of them.

Better yet, take matters of informing yourself into your own hands. As I hope this blog entry has demonstrated, we have the technology with the Internet to move from the old autocratic information paradigm into a democratic system. Instead of today's five media companies who own most of the news industry dictating self-serving knowledge to millions of Americans, information can be traded freely based on its inherent merits in a diverse and widespread self-correcting network.

But to come to face the ground truth we must take the time to wean ourselves from the old pipeline and open up to a bigger picture. [911blogger](#) is a useful site for 9/11 news in this process. [Alex Jones is an excellent news source](#) to start looking at to understand the forces of fascism, tyranny and corruption taking control of the highest levels of our government. If you like the videos I used to post occasionally in my blog there are many more in a new feature called Rense TV part way down [rense.com](#). There are many others out there as well, but use your discernment to weed out disinformation. Check the sources for yourself and confirm.

Obviously I don't agree with everything presented at these sites. But that's the point. Think for yourself. Push your limits. Become your own Editor.

*This site is a personal publication of Devin Green, independent of any professional capacity at the Santa Fe New Mexican. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Santa Fe New Mexican or the santafenewmexican.com family of websites*

<http://www.freewmexican.com/readerblogs/57738.html#>

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## Mike Riviero, Whatreallyhappened.com, as always brilliant!

### The BBC's 'WTC 7 Collapsed At 4:54 p.m.' Videos

At 21:54 GMT on 9/11 the BBC announced that WTC 7 had collapsed. There was just one problem with this news: WTC 7 did not collapse until 22:20 GMT.

The videos below show the BBC World broadcast.

[[15.6 MB WMV full video](#)]  
[[22 MB QuickTime file of relevant portions](#)] [[15 MB QuickTime file of relevant portions](#)]

The two screenshots below show WTC 7 behind the reporter.



The following screenshot shows the satellite feed mysteriously breaking up roughly five minutes before the actual collapse.



BBC News 24 also broadcast that WTC 7 had collapsed, and a corroborative time stamp was on their broadcast. [[357kB WMV video download](#)]



21:54 GMT is 16:54 (4:54 PM) East Coast time, 26 minutes BEFORE WTC 7 actually collapsed.

Richard Porter, the head of news at BBC World issued [this explanation](#) of the BBC World video:

*1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.*

2. *In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.*

3. *Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did - like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.*

4. *We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.*

5. *If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy..."*

Below are some selected comments made in reply to Mr Porter's explanation:

How deservedly ironic that the BBC gets exposed for what it really is (a propaganda bureau that attempts to indoctrinate Britain and the world with a false reality) so soon after the airing of the appalling hit piece (9/11 conspiracy files) last Sunday night. Please show some respect for the BBC and the license fee paying public by answering a simple question. How did the BBC know that Building 7 was going to collapse 20 minutes before it actually did when prior to 9/11 no steel-structured building had ever collapsed due to fire?

I'm not a conspiracy nut. But this footage of your reports of WTC7 collapsing a full 20 minutes prior and repeatedly discussing it's collapse is highly suspicious.

The BBC needs to reveal what source they drew the conclusion that WTC7 had collapsed. I do not necessarily think the BBC is a witting participant in some 9/11 conspiracy, but it's definitely looking like you were a pawn. Revealing who/where the BBC received the information that WTC7 had collapsed would be a good start in clearing your name.

To report that a building had collapsed before it had done so would be an odd sort of error, wouldn't it? A bit like reporting that the Lord Mayor's trousers had fallen down before they did so.

Let's say for a second that you messed up and reported a building going down that didn't - why the exact one that DID? What are the odds? Why not by mistake report a building going down that DIDN'T actually go down?

You lose footage of one of the most important days in modern history... ;) (Good job! That way no one can "prove" anything that day...)

Out of all the surrounding buildings that suffered massive damage - WTC 3,4,5,6 - and assorted others that suffered minor damage (among them, WTC 7 - Salomon Brothers Building), BBC - by merely a mistake and in confusion - picked exactly the right one that was going to fall -.... ;) (Good job! Hey, BBC is incompetent - they lose tapes AND they claim buildings fall that haven't - but what LUCK! They hit the lottery! What a 'lucky guess', huh?)

BBC should go to Vegas, with those odds - you'd be rich.

BBC is not part of the conspiracy - but you are just a bunch of pathetic dupes.

You capture the biggest smoking gun in history ... and your response is ..... to call yourselves incompetent and go play 'blind/deaf/dumb monkey' on your public.

Good job, Guys!!

"If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error - no more than that."

Uh, it WASN'T an error... That's the point. You keep harping on about what a chaotic day it was. Then why didn't the anchor say something like, "We're getting some unconfirmed reports of some other building apparently collapsing... We'll have to check up on this... etc." No, he had (23 minutes before hand) the name of the building, the correct # of floors in the building (47), the explanation of the collapse (weakened by other collapses), and he was reporting that the building was apparently empty. You even had graphics made up for the scrolling info at the bottom of the screen. That is some pretty precise reporting for a day of chaos when everyone was "...trying to make sense of what they were seeing... and what was being told by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services."

And there lies the key (perhaps). No doubt the info was just being fed to the anchor and reporter off the wires as the news would cross... So, which agency fed that bit about WTC7 collapsing? AP? Reuters? VOA? We'll probably never know, but you got the information from some source more than 23 minutes before it happened (had to be longer than 23 minutes, because there must have been some delay from the time the story came over the wires and the time the anchor actually got the news out on the air).

Do I think the BBC is "...part of a conspiracy"? No... but you were played perfectly by some entity, IMO.

With respect, the response to this issue is unacceptable. At the very least you are minimizing your error and trivializing the life's lost or the potential of life's that could have been saved.

In the most important final 7 minutes and 15 seconds of the said segment the words "apparently", "it's reported" or "we're hearing" ARE NOT USED in context of building 7.

The words used are those have definite and past tense.

"Now more on the latest building collapse in New York,...the Solomon Brothers Building collapse... and indeed it has"

"What can you tell us about the Salomon Building and it's collapse?"

"When it collapsed"

Ticker –“The 47 storey Salomon Brothers building close to the World Trade Centre has also collapsed.”

Who is responsible for the newsroom in desk and floor prompters being used by the news presenter?

Who is responsible for the news report on the bottom screen news ticker?

Who is responsible as the newsroom floor source for giving these people information?

What is the complete list of editors and journalists responsible for this program on said day?

The words in your statement #4 of footage being lost may very well redefine irresponsible. The BBC Media Management policy clearly states TWO broadcast standard copies be retained one on a separate site as a master.

As follows.

Ref No.

Policy Area / Policy Statement

01

Components to be Retained

01-01

The following components to be retained:-

Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master

One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical\\_information/archive\\_policies/media\\_management\\_policy\\_overview.htm#top](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical_information/archive_policies/media_management_policy_overview.htm#top)

If the footage had continued, we'd all have been able to watch WTC 7 collapse right on your program.

Good thing you lost the feed five minutes before THAT happened in front of all your viewers.

What in the world would you have said if that had happened?

What is going on here?

I'd like a little truth please.

I never actually thought I would live to see the day that things would surpass even Orwell, Huxley, Wells, Jack London, Sinclair Lewis, Zamyatin, Ayn Rand, on and on...but, the virtual reality that the "media" create for us now is truly more unfathomable than even those great minds warned us of.

Contrary to the dismissive tone of the "explanation", whether or not the building was known to be about to fall goes to



essential point of culpability for 9/11, foreknowledge.

Those who are in the dock and being cross-examined are not allowed to wave their hands and create a plausible explanation. It's gone too far for that. There is a disastrous war built on false evidence, and that falsification process may have begun much sooner than is generally now understood.

In ordinary life, a witness who lies about one thing will be assumed to lie about everything. And we aren't talking about private matters, but about the essential role of a government to defend its country. This issue is about credibility of news sources during a terror attack, in which a rush to judgment resulted shortly in an invasion of a sovereign nation, and the BBC know it.

Thousands upon thousands of lives have been lost thus far, and there are doubtless more to come.

[http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/bbc\\_wtc7\\_videos.html](http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/bbc_wtc7_videos.html)

.....

## **Important point! No one could have predicted...**

Why No One Could Have Predicted The Collapse Of WTC 7  
Building was specifically designed to have floors removed without collapsing

*Steve Watson*

[Infowars.net](http://infowars.net)

Thursday, March 1, 2007

This week has seen a cornucopia of news come pouring forth with regards to what happened to World Trade Center building 7 on September 11th 2001. The catalyst for this has been the discovery that the BBC reported the building had collapsed a full thirty minutes before it actually fell on 9/11.

The BBC, instead of attempting to explain how it could have reported this, has attempted to both evade and cloud the issue. The truth is that no one could have possibly predicted the building would collapse and here's why.

Aside from the fact that previous to 9/11 no steel framed building in history had ever collapsed due to fire damage, Building 7, otherwise known as the Salomon Brothers building, was intentionally designed to allow large portions of floors to be permanently removed without weakening the structural integrity of the building.

In 1989 the New York Times reported on this fact in a story covering the Salomon leasing of the building which had been completed just two years earlier.

Salomon had wanted to build a new structure in order to house its high-technology operations, but due to stock market crash in 1987 it was unable to. The company searched for an existing building that they could use and found one in Larry Silverstein's WTC 7.

The Times reported:

*BEFORE it moves into a new office tower in downtown Manhattan, Salomon Brothers, the brokerage firm, intends to spend nearly two years and more than \$200 million cutting out floors, adding elevators, reinforcing steel girders, upgrading power supplies and making other improvements in its million square feet of space...*

*In some office buildings, that alteration would be impossible, but Silverstein Properties tried to second-guess the needs of potential tenants when it designed Seven World Trade Center as a speculative project.*

*"We built in enough redundancy to allow entire portions of floors to be removed without affecting the building's structural integrity, on the assumption that someone might need double-height floors," said Larry Silverstein, president of the company. "Sure enough, Salomon had that need..."*

*MORE than 375 tons of steel - requiring 12 miles of welding - will be installed to reinforce floors for Salomon's extra equipment. Sections of the existing stone facade and steel bracing will be temporarily removed so that workers using a roof crane can hoist nine diesel generators onto the tower's fifth floor, where they will become the core of a back-up power station.*

The entire article can be read [here](#).

What this amounted to, as the Times pointed out, was that WTC7, specifically designed to be deconstructed and altered, became "a building within a building". An extraordinary adaptable and highly reinforced structure for the modern business age.

This is of course also partially the reason why in 1999 the building was chosen to house Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's \$13 million emergency crisis centre on the 27th floor.

Remember that on 9/11 only eight floors of the building were subject to sporadic fires. The official NIST report failed to comprehensively identify how the building could have collapsed symmetrically into its own footprint given the damage that it had sustained.

A follow up report due soon has been forced to take into account a hypothetical situation whereby explosives were used to demolish the building, primarily because every other explanation thus far has failed to explain how it could have come down.

Furthermore, as has been thoroughly documented, building 7 was the furthest away in the WTC complex from the twin towers. Buildings much closer sustained massive amounts of damage from the collapse of the towers and did not come anywhere close to full scale symmetrical collapse.



Given all this information it is quite clear to surmise that if you were going to "predict" the collapse of any building in the WTC complex following the destruction of the towers, building 7 would have most certainly been **BOTTOM** of the list.

Building 7 now becomes the key to unlocking the 9/11 fraud. What was witnessed on 9/11 was a perfectly symmetrical collapse, with no resistance, of a steel-framed "Building within a building". A perfectly symmetrical collapse of a building that was designed from the ground-up to have entire portions of floors to be removed without affecting the building's structural integrity.

We have an owner who let slip that the building was "[pulled](#)" and we have firefighters on video telling people to get back as the building was going to "[blow up](#)". We have the BBC [reporting the collapse before it happened](#) and a follow up desperate attempt to avoid the issue by claiming that it cannot verify anything because it has [lost the entirety of its broadcast recordings from 9/11](#).

Furthermore, the BBC continues to play dumb by responding to questions other the fiasco by intimating that it is being suggested that they were "in on the conspiracy". Here is the latest response we have received from the BBC regarding the matter after continuing to press them for an explanation:

*Hello and thank you for your email in reaction to claims made in an article published online.*

*The notion that the BBC has been part of any conspiracy is patently ludicrous. We reported the situation as accurately as we could, based on the best information available. We cannot be categorical about the exact timing of events that day - this is the first time it has been brought to our attention and it was more than five years ago. If in the chaos and confusion of that day our correspondent reported that the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been a genuine error.*

*With regards*

*BBC World Customer Relations*

What is ludicrous is that the BBC expects us to believe it has lost its tapes of the most important event of the 21st century. No one is suggesting BBC is complicit in any conspiracy, and its attempt to frame this issue in that way is a blatant attempt to make the questions that it has not answered go away.

Why did the BBC report the collapse of one the most structurally reinforced buildings in New York before it collapsed and what was their source?

In further developments [more BBC video from the day of 9/11 has been unearthed](#) in which a correspondent, within hours of the towers coming down, claims the reason for the collapses is because of their design. He then then provides blatantly false information about the designs to

justify the statement, without referring to any sources and negating the fact that the towers had 47 massive central core columns.

Was this another "cock up" on the part of the BBC or were they once again going off scripted information that was being spoon fed to the media? Certainly it is startling that the subsequent official FEMA report, after months of investigation, gave more or less the same explanation as to why the towers fell as is witnessed in this BBC news footage from just hours after the towers fell.

As for the BBC's shockingly arrogant and dismissive "it was more than five years ago comment", as long as the truth continues to be withheld we will continue to target those who are aiding its suppression.

[http://infowars.net/articles/march2007/010307BBC\\_WTC7.htm](http://infowars.net/articles/march2007/010307BBC_WTC7.htm)

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## The second response by the BBC

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/03/part\\_of\\_the\\_conspiracy\\_2.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/03/part_of_the_conspiracy_2.html)

### Part of the conspiracy? (2)

- [Richard Porter](#)
- 2 Mar 07, 04:43 PM

So how did the BBC report that Building 7 at the World Trade Centre had collapsed around half an hour before it did so? [My earlier posting](#) on the subject has attracted a lot of interest so we've been doing more investigating within the BBC to put together the sequence of events.



Five and a half years have passed so it's quite difficult to answer every outstanding question. But we do know quite a bit more than we did on Tuesday, as a result of checking the BBC archives and what other media were doing at the time. I've also read through some of the reports published after 9/11 to help put together the sequence of events.

Back to 11 September itself. The Twin Towers had collapsed. Other buildings were known to be damaged. Building 7 was on fire. But this was also a very confusing picture - remember we had started the day with reports that a light aircraft had struck the first tower, and at one stage there was talk of ten hijacked jets in the air. It's in the nature of rolling news that events unfold in front of you and confusion turns to clarity. It's important to remember that context when looking more closely at what happened between about 4.10pm (EDT) and 5.20pm when Building 7 finally collapsed.

[CNN's chronology of events](#) published at the time confirms they reported the building on fire and a clip from a CNN bulletin, widely available on the web, hears from a reporter at about 4.15pm EDT, 9.15pm in the UK, who says: "*We're getting information that one of the other buildings... Building 7... is on fire and has either collapsed or is collapsing... now we're told there is a fire there and that the building may collapse as well.*"

Other American networks were broadcasting similar reports at this time and the reports from FEMA and NIST both make it clear the building was on fire during the course of the day.



One senior fire officer was quoted in a subsequent interview as saying there was a "bulge" in the building and he was "*pretty sure it was going to collapse*". During this time, our staff were talking directly to the emergency services and monitoring local and national media... and there was a fairly consistent picture being painted of Building 7 in danger of collapse. Producers in London would have been monitoring the news agency wires - the Associated Press, Reuters, etc - and although we don't routinely keep an archive of agency reports, we're sure they would have been reporting the same as the local media.

At 4.27pm, a BBC reporter, Greg Barrow, who is in New York, appears on our radio news channel, BBC Radio Five Live, and says: "*We are hearing reports from local media that another building may have caught light and is in danger of collapse.*" He then responds to a follow-up question by saying "*I'm not sure if it has yet collapsed but the report we have is talking about Building 7.*"

At 4.53pm, on the same radio station, the programme's presenter, Fi Glover says "*25 minutes ago we had reports from Greg Barrow that another large building has collapsed just over an hour ago.*"

At 4.54pm, the BBC's domestic television news channel, BBC News 24, reports the same thing. Presenter Gavin Esler says: "*We're now being told that yet another enormous building has collapsed... it is the 47-storey Salomon Brothers building.*"

And then at 4.57pm on BBC World (according to the clips available on the web) presenter Phil Hayton says: "*We've got some news just coming in actually that the Salomon brothers building in NY right in the heart of Manhattan has also collapsed.*"

Because three BBC channels were saying this in quick succession, I am inclined to believe that one or more of the news agencies was reporting this, or at least reporting someone saying this.

At 5pm, News 24 repeated the news in its top-of-the-hour headlines sequence and then at about 5.10pm (again according to the clips on the web), Phil Hayton on BBC World says "*More on the latest building collapse in NY - you might have heard I was talking a few*

*moments ago about the Salomon building collapsing and indeed it has... it seems this wasn't the result of a new attack but because the building had been weakened during this morning's attack."*

Some of the respondents to my earlier blog have suggested this must mean he had inside knowledge - that not only did he know the building had collapsed, he knew why.

Well in one sense that's true - for about an hour, it had been reported that the building was on fire and in danger of collapse. But he did qualify it by saying "*it seems*" and once again I think there's a danger of reading too much into what I believe was a presenter merely summarising what everyone had been saying during the previous hour.

Of course, with hindsight we now know that our live shot showed the building still standing in the background. But again I point to that confusing and chaotic situation on the ground - the CNN reporter who had talked about the building "*either collapsed or is collapsing*" also had it clearly in shot behind him, but he acknowledged he couldn't see very clearly from where he was standing. As we know, the building did collapse at 5.20pm, with the first pictures of that being broadcast on News 24 at about 5.35pm.

So that's what we know we reported. To me it paints a consistent (and reasonably conclusive) picture.

I should also mention the missing tapes. As you'll see from the details above, the absence of the BBC World tapes hasn't made much difference to our ability to look back at what happened. We have all the tapes of other BBC channels (and I now know that quite a few of you have your own copies of BBC World, which is an interesting discovery... ).

Some of you find it hard to believe we didn't keep the BBC World tapes... but we had several streams of news output running simultaneously on the day, both on radio and television as well as online and we have kept all the tapes from BBC News 24 and Radio Five Live, as well as all the BBC One bulletins. Obviously I wish we'd kept hold of the World tapes alongside all the others, but we didn't... and I don't know whether they were destroyed or mislaid. But as a result of this week's events, I have asked our archivists to get hold of copies of our original material from the organisations which do have them.

And just to be clear, the BBC policy is to keep every minute of news channel output for 90 days (in line with the Broadcasting Act in the UK). After that we are obliged to keep a representative sample - and we interpret that to mean roughly one third of all our output. We also keep a large amount of individual items (such as packaged reports or "rushes" - ie original unedited material), which we use for operational reasons - such as when we come to broadcast fresh stories on the subject. We do not lack a historical record of the event.

I've spent most of the week investigating this issue, but this is where we have to end the story. I know there are many out there who won't believe our version of events, or will raise further questions. But there was no conspiracy in the BBC's reporting of the events. Nobody told us what to say. There's no conspiracy involving missing tapes. There's no story here.

*Richard Porter is head of news, [BBC World](#)*

## All Comments so far

- 1.
- At [05:35 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- John wrote:

Nice try Richard, but this doesn't add up.....So now your "news" are based on other news channels, without daring to verify the validity of the said news....very professional, sir. This is a pathetic damage control lie, and you should be ashamed of yourself. I wonder how can you sleep at night, I really do.....

### [Complain about this post](#)

- 2.
- At [05:52 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- gregor aitken wrote:

you are bang on right there is no story in the missing bbc tapes and thank-you for doing your best to find out what happened.

The real story is the inability of the bbc to look into 9/11 and 7/7 and do a proper investigation.

The real story is where are the bbc?  
where are the journalists?

From reading these comment boards a lot of people are very unhappy with the newsmadia, the gatekeepers of the newsagenda dont want this story, for whatever reasons.

If you take any news outlet to task on this you get ridiculed and sidestepped. yet more and more people are asking questions.

Mr. Porter why does the bbc seem to only report news rather than seek truth.

please explain

### [Complain about this post](#)

- 3.
- At [06:12 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- PeeVeeAh wrote:

"There's no story here"....

I have always believed that to be the case, Richard! There were only frantic 'rushes' at the time - little corroboration and everyone in a tabloid panic to scoop the breaking bites and footage. There was absolutely 'no story' at the time. No vetting, no editing just 'splash it all over!' in the interests of instant messaging. There is no craft in 24-hour TV News reporting, it's become a race against time - and better judgement.

I think the 9/11 'asynchronisms' were the most illuminating wxamples of breaking news gone wrong - with nothing more sinister than that. However, much should be learned from the peril of on-the-fly composition of reports that will inevitably be engraved for posterity - in peoples' minds if not in recoverable local archive.

I cringe almost every time I see the 'Breaking News' banner caption! Perhaps 24-hour news should be completely 'bannered'! ;-)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 4.
- At [06:23 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- Justin L wrote:

okay Richard,

Let's say this dubious but unquestionable report isn't more spin.

A smal fire, no outstanding structural damage to that building, not when you see other buildings that stood after a much a worse pounding from the 2 towers debris.

Prior knowledge that the building was going to collapse, an hour before it happened, yet no sense at all that either tower was in imminent danger of coming down...who were the specialists that made the assesment of building 7? Why were their skills not applied to monitoring the two towers?

the only 3 skyscrapers in history to collapse due to fire did so that day....

The fact that you yourself clearly state that the American government agencies are not releasing information that would help everyone resolve the issue....this amounts to the American Government toying with people's emotion for political ends, morally irresponsible behaviour that our own Government defends

These issues should make you cringe as a journalist when imagining your report equates to much more than dsinformation, get it right and research deeply or take your childish kaleidoscope away from real issues, save your inanities for the dwellers of lala-land, that's your true audience

[Complain about this post](#)

- 5.
- At [06:38 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- [Matthew](#) wrote:

Well said Richard,

Hopefully, I can get some supporting information in before you are once again flooded with nonsense

Many conspiracy fantasists will go on about the FEMA report (which was premilinary and which led to the more detailed NIST report which will be published later this year) saying that the collapse initiation due to diesel fires had "a low probability of occurring". They take this to mean that it wasn't obvious that the building was going to collapse. It means nothing of the sort. The signs of the collapse developed over a long period - they were the bulge, the flames

and smoke, and the creaking and leaning of the building. What FEMA is talking about is the events which led to these signs.

It was obvious to the FDNY fire crews at the scene as the day progressed that the building was going to collapse. That is why they cleared an area around the building several hours before the collapse. Anybody who claims that the only people who knew the building was going to collapse must have been told by the people who were going to demolish the building has to include the firefighters in the subsequent cover-up.

Regarding the initiating event - just because something is unlikely, doesn't mean it didn't happen. By definition, accidents and disasters are unlikely, they are things that weren't expected (otherwise they could have been avoided).

As far as having the WTC7 building behind you when you say it's going to collapse. Who, before 9/11, knew which building was which in the complex? Who even knew there were buildings other than the towers?

Ultimately the fantasists want to believe so badly that they will continue to misrepresent and twist everything you say on this issue. You are quite correct to ignore them from now on. They'll sit behind their keyboards and grumble and the world will carry on unchanged.

There are some useful WTC7 links here:

<http://www.counterpunch.org/darkfire11282006.html>  
[http://www.911myths.com/html/wtc7\\_silverstein.html](http://www.911myths.com/html/wtc7_silverstein.html)  
<http://www.debunking911.com/pull.htm>  
[http://wtc.nist.gov/progress\\_report\\_june04/appendix1.pdf](http://wtc.nist.gov/progress_report_june04/appendix1.pdf)  
[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fema403\\_ch5.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fema403_ch5.pdf)  
[http://www.911myths.com/WTC7\\_Lies.pdf](http://www.911myths.com/WTC7_Lies.pdf)

[Complain about this post](#)

- 6.
- At [06:43 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- P. Numminen wrote:

So you respond by saying you are incompetent idiots instead of being part of the 9/11 conspiracy? Well, I suppose we'll have to stop seeing BBC News in either case.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 7.
- At [06:55 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- Kevin Ryan wrote:

Just another in a long string of amazing coincidences related to 9/11 then, eh? How convenient for Bush and Blair, and yet so troublesome for those living on 90% of the world's oil reserves.

To get this straight, the BBC staff didn't have time to look at the video of their own reports that day, but they did have time to scour the airwaves for fuzzy statements from other network reports, finding one or two describing the possibility of the first ever fire-induced collapse of a tall building. They then decided to simply report those statements, repeatedly

and confidently mind you, not as heresay, but as if they described an actual event that had transpired.

And 25 minutes later, voila - they became true.

Do you ever think about any of it?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 8.
- At [07:00 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- linn wrote:

Everyone who finds this explanation inadequate should immediately:

a) download and archive the footage (to hard drives, CD's, DVD's, etc.).

b) download and archive this blog and its text.

[Complain about this post](#)

- 9.
- At [07:02 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- Andrew Kenneally wrote:

I would also like to direct to Matthew that question as to why the mysterious collapse of WTC7, at a rate of freefall thus defying the possibility of its collapse being due to that pancake theory, was completely ignored by the 911 Commission. Did they forget all about it in their conclusive investigation?

[Complain about this post](#)

- 10.
- At [07:08 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- Rick B wrote:

Ok, let's take your explanation at face value. It still seems strange that all copies of this bulletin were wiped off googlevideo as soon as they were going up. I guess that could simply be a face-saving gesture but it still smacks of suppression.

Also, this whole episode reminds me of the saying "who you gonna believe, me or your lying eyes?"

[Complain about this post](#)

- 11.
- At [07:15 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,
- Ian Curtis wrote:

I would like to know why the BBC was lying about the structure of the world trade centres within hours of them coming down. Claiming that and i quote

"now unlike conventional sky scrapers which have lots of interior columns to give strength to the building the exterior walls of the world trade centre bore most of the load, so the direct attacks were enough to weaken the buildings and lead to their collapse."

In case you don't know what video I am talking about. You can find it here.

[http://stage6.divx.com/content/show/1134882?user\\_id=245557](http://stage6.divx.com/content/show/1134882?user_id=245557)

I have many questions about this. Why did the BBC feel the need to even explain this when no investigation had been done ?

Did the BBC realise the 'facts' they were giving about the WTC building structures were totally incorrect, and in fact the opposite of what they were saying was true ? If no one was telling you to say these things why were you lying to the public ? Another 'cock up' ?

The questions keep coming, and the answers are far from satisfactory.

And actually according to your own website and i shall quote

"All transmitted/published media content will be kept for at least five years to fulfil legal requirements and to enable re-versioning and re-use

"

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical\\_information/archive\\_policies/media\\_management\\_policy\\_overview.htm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical_information/archive_policies/media_management_policy_overview.htm)

So where does the figure of 90 days come from ?

[Complain about this post](#)

12.

At [07:18 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Stardust wrote:

Wait....you said no one told you what to say, yet in the same article you say:

1) Because three BBC channels were saying this in quick succession, I am inclined to believe that one or more of the news agencies was reporting this, or at least reporting someone saying this.

and..

2) CNN's chronology of events published at the time confirms they reported the building on fire and a clip from a CNN bulletin....

Other American networks were broadcasting similar reports at this time and the reports from FEMA and NIST both make it clear the building was on fire during the course of the day.

Talk about Doublethink.

[Complain about this post](#)

13.

At [07:20 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Kevin Fenton wrote:

You wrote:

"Because three BBC channels were saying this in quick succession, I am inclined to believe that one or more of the news agencies was reporting this, or at least reporting someone saying this."

We want to know which one, that's the whole point of this. Basically your reply is:

"Somebody probably told us, but we can't remember who". This is not satisfactory. Which news agency? You need to find the report. If you don't normally archive agency reports, then why not ask the agencies to have a look at their archives for you? And knock it off this with "part of the conspiracy" while you're at it.

[Complain about this post](#)

14.

At [07:22 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

simple fact wrote:

We all know the BBC isn't exactly pro-Bush, but the conspiracy theorists would have us believe that the BBC colluded in his plot to destroy the WTC and launch a war on Islamic countries and end democracy and freedom at home.

Riiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiight

[Complain about this post](#)

15.

At [07:30 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Bryan wrote:

I find myself in rare agreement with the BBC on this issue. The conspiracy theorists will not square up to a simple fact here: conspirators would not have had anything to gain by informing a news agency in advance that the building was going to collapse. On the contrary, they would then have had the strong likelihood of forewarned journalists snooping around while they were trying to surreptitiously implode the building. There is no basis in logic here and no basis in fact.

But I must say, Mr. Porter, that you are a master of understatement when you claim, "My earlier posting on the subject has attracted a lot of interest." I'd say that "a frantic tide of condemnation" would be closer to the truth. The conspiracy theorists know the BBC to be both contemptuous of the Bush administration and sympathetic to radical Islam and were no doubt fully expecting the recent 9/11 "Conspiracy Files" documentary to endorse their conspiracy theories. They feel that the BBC has let the side down and they are furious. There may, however, indeed be a conspiracy here - though on a much more minor key. Whoever "misaid" those BBC World tapes could well have conspired to save BBC staff the embarrassment of having their monumental blunder on file for posterity.

[Complain about this post](#)

16.

At [07:42 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Andrew Kenneally wrote:

Does the BBC have any opinion as to why in their supposedly in-depth investigation, the 911 Commission completely failed to mention the collapse of the Salomon building; a building that collapsed at a rate of freefall? Was it also total incompetence that led to this collapse of a 47 storey being completely forgotten? Or was it that no explanation is feasible other than the obvious one that fits the observable facts beautifully, ie controlled demolition? And why does the BBC accept such obvious duplicity? As Orwell famously wrote, "In times of universal deceit, telling the truth will be a revolutionary act". Sadly, the BBC, like so much of the mainstream media, appears to have little willingness to buck the trend. And as Aldous Huxley wrote in Brave New World Revisited, "The media is in the hands of the power elite."

[Complain about this post](#)

17.

At [07:47 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Thomas Jefferson wrote:

'I've spent most of the week investigating this issue, but this is where we have to end the story.'

wake up richard you do not control the news anymore.

[Complain about this post](#)

18.

At [07:51 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Monsieur le Prof](#) wrote:

I'm sorry but your behaviour and commentary on this issue has been reprehensible and pathetic.

No one is accusing you of having been part of the conspiracy to blow up WTC building 7, but covering for the people who may have is sickening. Do you not care about the nearly 3,000 victims of that day?

May God have mercy on your souls.

[Complain about this post](#)

19.

At [08:01 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Ian H wrote:

I read Richard Porter's response hoping he'd be able to clarify the events in that confusing and frankly worrying video that everyone and his dog has shown me. I have always thought the conspiracy theorists to be largely attention-seeking paranoid Michael Moore wannabes, but this one just seems too difficult to adequately explain away.

Mr Porter, you've dug yourself quite a hole. Better get looking for that "lost" tape.

[Complain about this post](#)

20.

At [08:12 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Andy White wrote:

What is with this ridiculous straw man fallacy you keep making Richard? No ones suggesting the BBC was part of any conspiracy. We just want to know who your source was. Because the only 3 steel skyscrapers that have collapsed from "fire," all happened on the same day, how was it that you immediately concluded building seven was going to completely collapse? That doesn't make sense. Is it the result of terrible journalism?

"One senior fire officer was quoted in a subsequent interview as saying there was a 'bulge' in the building and he was 'pretty sure it was going to collapse.'"

Can you provide us his name and where he is quoted as saying that? Also if that quote was from a subsequent interview that still leaves the question unanswered. Who was the source that told you building 7 was going to collapse, which led to the first of your premature reports, which then led to Jane Standley reporting it?

Your not answering the question. All your doing is providing non-answers.

WHO WAS YOUR ORIGINAL SOURCE?

[Complain about this post](#)

21.

At [08:17 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Jon wrote:

I'm sure that this week has been eye-opening for you Richard. What can you take away from this experience? Well perhaps at the very least I can suggest that it indicates how poorly regarded your industry has become if so many are eager to accept that the BBC are involved in a cover-up. So much doubt and mistrust, how has it come to this? Also you might have come to the conclusion that there are a hell of a lot of passionate people in this world, ready to go to quite extraordinary lengths to get their point across. You should take heart on this however. Someone once said that people have become apathetic towards politics, I think they were wrong, don't you?

[Complain about this post](#)

22.

At [08:19 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Jonathan](#) wrote:

Has anyone reading this thread actually watched the building fall? If not, please do so now.

I'll wait. Just go to YouTube and search for WTC7, or click my name above.

Now, can you possibly say that a building with a "bulge" or other structural damage can fall uniformly straight down? Have you ever played Jenga? What happens when you lose?

Buildings fall OVER, not DOWN, unless they are DEMOLISHED.

Prove me wrong.

[Complain about this post](#)

23.

At [08:23 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Michael wrote:

Please stop invoking the "BBC is not part of any conspiracy" line in response to reader complaints. Nobody is suggesting for a moment that you are part of some larger conspiracy and to imply such a thing is at best disingenuous and at worst deliberately misleading. While you seem to have provided sufficient evidence that BBC World's premature report of WTC7's collapse was a simple matter of gross incompetence and nothing more, you have yet to provide answers to some very important questions:

1. Who is responsible for the 'cock-up' which led to the loss of BBC World News' 9/11 footage?

"I don't know whether they were destroyed or mislaid." just doesn't cut it!

2. What are the circumstances surrounding the 'cock-up' which led to the loss of BBC World News' 9/11 footage?

3. Who cut reporter Jane Standley's live feed from NYC at 5:18pm (EST) on 11/09/01?

4. What are the circumstances surrounding the disruption of Jane Standley's live feed from NYC at 5:18pm (EST) on 11/09/01?

Sorry, Richard, there IS a story here!

[Complain about this post](#)

24.

At [08:49 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

douglas herman wrote:

Mr. Porter,

You wrote: "But we do know quite a bit more than we did on Tuesday, as a result of checking the BBC archives and what other media were doing at the time."

So do you, or do NOT, have the entire video archives from that time segment? Which is it?

The 911 video with the time stamp of Jane standing there with the WTC-7 in the background--you have that? Is THAT what you checked? Either way, it doesnt look too good.

Douglas Herman, USAF veteran and 911 critic of the cock-eyed cover up.

[Complain about this post](#)

25.

At [08:52 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Edward wrote:

This is just more smoke and mirrors. You are waffling around avoiding the pertinent questions.

The BBC was the ONLY station (or group of stations) that was reporting WTC7 "HAD COLLAPSED" before it did.

You ALSO reported WHY it fell, unlike any other station. This is a question that even NIST \*STILL\* can't explain properly.

We are just asking you for the source and the original materials. Stop whining about being "part of a conspiracy"

[Complain about this post](#)

26.

At [08:55 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Jonathan Rothwell](#) wrote:

If it was just a one-off cock-up (which would be no big thing with the amount of stress on that day) we don't need to worry. Many other news stations had reported the same, as Richard says. Basically, the BBC found themselves on the end of a Chinese whisper.

[Complain about this post](#)

27.

At [09:01 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Eric wrote:

HERE IS THE POINT --

1. Several buildings were on fire that day, however, only one of them which did not get hit by a plane collapsed -- WTC 7.
2. Why would any news organization report that a given building, out of the THOUSANDS of buildings in NYC, and the DOZENS on fire that day, had 'collapsed' when in fact it didn't?
3. Someone got the rumor floating over an HOUR before WTC 7 collapsed. The point is that the rumor just happen to GUESS the ACTUAL building out of DOZENS of buildings that could have collapsed? The statistical probability of this is astronomically low. Occam's Razor tells us that the simplest explanation is that the person(s) who got the rumor going an hour beforehand had foreknowledge of the event. The BBC needs to find out who planted this information with the press!

[Complain about this post](#)

28.

At [09:03 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

jmk wrote:

Come on Richard. No story here? I take it you are a bright fellow, so obviously you can't possibly be serious.

First you publish severely biased 'conspiracy files hit piece' that is bloody far from decent journalism. It was that bad that it alone counts as some level of conspiring against general public. Now, after that fiasco you come here telling that all 9/11 tapes are mysteriously lost and basically confirmed that BBC one way or the other had prior knowledge of WTC7 coming down (event that no-one in the 100 year-old history of steel frame buildings could not expect). Event was that improbable that it has taken more than 5 years for several organizations to come out with even a semi-plausible explanation for. Now, let's look at the Occam's Razor: I can explain every single thing experienced on site by controlled demolition in 15 minutes without NIST or FEMA.

We all know well who's political agendas 9/11 served best. Now, if there indeed is no conspiracy, prove it. Provide as much hard evidence as you can and present it in a unbiased quality documentary. Would be really nice if you could start off from the criminal investigation conducted by US government and end it with a proper explanation on why the towers fell (all of them) that takes into account basic newtonian laws of physics. Ask Steven Jones to contribute. He would probably love to.

Please don't make BBC another Fox News. We already have enough of that crap with strictly political agendas.

[Complain about this post](#)

29.

At [09:03 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Winston Smith](#) wrote:

Your explanation is right out of Mr. Orwell's book.  $2 + 2 = 5$  and the laws of physics were suspended because we must have faith in our institutions.

[Complain about this post](#)

30.

At [09:05 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Eric wrote:

WTC 7 had fire damage to a single corner of its structure. This infers the building should have collapsed into that corner in a terribly asymmetric way. However, the building collapsed in a perfectly symmetric way by falling directly onto its footprint. The huge steel supports and columns in the 3/4 of the building that were NOT on fire completely failed at the same exact

time as the 1/4 of the building that was on fire. This cannot be. And I don't even think FEMA can ignore this. I think the final report (due out later this year) will blow the door open on this, and we'll finally know the full story.

[Complain about this post](#)

31.

At [09:07 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Rowan wrote:

"I've spent most of the week investigating this issue, but this is where we have to end the story."

How arrogant. You are supposed to represent your viewers, us. We'll decide when to end the story thanks. You can choose not to engage if you wish, you haven't for the last 5 years.

[Complain about this post](#)

32.

At [09:08 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Scott Page wrote:

As Mr. Chavez said: Smell the sulphur folks. BBC is no longer a source we can look to for the truth. The Fox News virus has infected a once trusted resource. As an architect I can only tell others that buildings don't normally explode like volcanos, unless helped.

[Complain about this post](#)

33.

At [09:08 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Shawn wrote:

These conspiracy theories are for idiots. Let them troll the internet and fantasise about the BIG conspiracy, which would have involved thousands of people, imaginary people, robots, time machines, remote control airplanes and on and on. Why bother trying to debunk them?

[Complain about this post](#)

34.

At [09:10 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Daniel wrote:

BBC MEDIA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Reference:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical\\_information/archive\\_policies/media\\_management\\_policy\\_overview.htm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/historical_information/archive_policies/media_management_policy_overview.htm)

*"01-01 The following components to be retained:-*

*· Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master*

*· One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material · All supporting metadata to enable research and re-use*

*· A selection of original (i.e. unedited) material for re-use/re-versioning purposes ·*

*Hardware/software/equipment to enable replay/transfer of the media"*

How can you possibly lose (at least) three copies from this historic day? It's even stored at two separate sites! If the case that it wasn't archived at all; what about the Broadcasting Act?

*"03-01 All media and metadata must be stored securely in the correct conditions to minimise damage and degradation, following industry best practice"*

Has this been done in this case, and if not, why? If has been done, how come you made a 'cock-up'? What can be learned from this incident to prevent this from happening again in the future?

*"04-01 All transmitted/published media content will be kept for at least five years to fulfil legal requirements and to enable re-versioning and re-use"*

You say that "the BBC policy is to keep every minute of news channel output for 90 days"

Why doesn't 04-01 apply to this?

Even though you may not want to answer this questions, I hope you will publish my comment at least for others to see.

[Complain about this post](#)

35.

At [09:11 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Ennealogic wrote:

Hello Mr. Porter,

You're a good bloke to give it another go here.

There's a few things I notice in all the damage control blather. I hope you don't mind if mention some of it.

1. You keep denying the BBC is part of the conspiracy. I'm happy you realize there was a conspiracy in play on 9-11-2001. If I were you, though, I'd stop shouting quite so loudly that you weren't part of it. Nobody was thinking that before. They might start, though, if you keep protesting so much!
2. You spend a good bit of time in this second blog to prove that folks other than the BBC had foreknowledge of WTC7's collapse. We knew that already! The recently unearthed BBC video just cements the knowledge. It's irrefutable evidence. So, you don't have to present hearsay evidence to convince us. What you could do, though, is help us source the information. Yes, other news agencies besides yours got the "memo" too. And yes, we will ask them too, about where they got it. My guess is we'll continue to ask you, too, until you tell us.
3. As for your comments about BBC policy regarding saving output... last blog you said you had "cocked-up" and lost the footage. Now you are saying you never kept it anyway because you didn't have to and anyway there were lots of other bits of footage still about you could look at. So, uhm, which is it? A cock-up? Or a normal discarding of redundant footage?
4. I do appreciate the time you've taken over these last few days to investigate whatever it is you've investigated. It's certainly better to have some sort of response instead of none whatsoever. But I take issue with your last sentence, "There's no story here." The events of 9-11-2001, taken in bits or as a whole, comprise the biggest story in my lifetime so far, and that's more than half a century. You may determine you will say no more, but good sir, you are not the decider when it comes to determining whether or not there is a story here. I have one final question. How does it make you feel to know that your fine organization was just another tool in creating the official public myth about 9-11? I don't know, sir, but if it were me, I think I'd be mad as hell.

[Complain about this post](#)

36.

At [09:12 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Eric wrote:

Someone wrote in a post: "The conspiracy theorists will not square up to a simple fact here: conspirators would not have had anything to gain by informing a news agency in advance that the building was going to collapse."

My analysis indicates that Flight 93, which was shot down over Pennsylvania, was going to target WTC 7. This would have given the plotters the 'evidence' they needed to explain why WTC 7 collapsed. However, the plane never made it to its destination, and the building collapsed ANYWAYS, because of the pre-positioned explosives waiting to ignite. The plotters had to scramble to explain why the building would be collapsing despite the fact that no plane hit it. So the rumor is planted with the new agencies.

[Complain about this post](#)

37.

At [09:15 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,  
Valerie wrote:

Mr. Porter:

Thank you for your follow up to all these inquiries. I am unable, however, to dignify your response with my own follow up. I can only say that if I was "on the fence" about a 911 Conspiracy before this huge karmic payback, the BBC and CNN have most assuredly put me on the side of the "Truthers." so...Lightworkers, Onward and Upward we go!

[Complain about this post](#)

38.

At [09:17 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Mabalz es Hari wrote:

JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION!

Who told the newsdesk that WTC7 had collapsed?

[Complain about this post](#)

39.

At [09:19 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Eloy Gonzalez II wrote:

Your explanation still doesn't cover why Google Video and YouTube have been fighting like mad to keep the relevant clips of the BBC's blunder off the Internet. And as far as I can tell, there has been a media blackout on this issue, even from your rivals, when it should have been big news to begin with.

[Complain about this post](#)

40.

At [09:21 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

P. Durand wrote:

Mr. Porter

Here is what you have to do. Sit down, take few deep breathes and then, watch all the available videos on web of the controlled demolition of WTC7. Now, you will understand the reality. Then, plug back you automatic pilot and continue denying it.

What append with investigative journalism? Oh yeah, I know, The Conspiracy Files...

[Complain about this post](#)

41.

At [09:24 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Veritas Dolere](#) wrote:

Somehow it is pretty convenient that the BBC reports today it has struck a deal with YouTube/Google Video.

"Mr Highfield said the BBC would not be hunting down all BBC-copyrighted clips already uploaded by YouTube members - although it would reserve the right ... to have content removed ... that had been edited or altered in a way that would damage the BBC's brand."

See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6411017.stm>

I have an idea of what you would like to see removed.

Reminds me of my management class, chapter on crisis management: do take some action, publicize it with similar tags to shift the focus (and the debate). Textbook procedure. Nice try, but you cannot take over the Internet - if we live in a democracy, that is. I sometimes wonder.

[Complain about this post](#)

42.

At [09:27 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Pavel wrote:

"you might have heard I was talking a few moments ago about the Salomon building collapsing and indeed it has"

Where is the qualifier in this iron clad certainty-filled statement? The "it seems" only applies to the explanation, which is so much in line with the later official version. You are being dishonest here, Roger, don't you think? The real question was and still is, who were your sources? Why do you try to avoid answering it at any cost?

[Complain about this post](#)

43.

At [09:31 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

[Chris](#) wrote:

**Dear Miss TV Person,**

**What did you think when that building behind you collapsed in one giant rush of 47-Story Steel Mass? Merely minutes AFTER you reported that it had ALREADY collapsed?**

**Maybe not knowing which building was which, did you not ask someone, "What building was that?"? And when you found out the it was in fact WTC7, the very 47-Story Structure which you ALREADY said had fallen, how did that make you FEEL?**

[Complain about this post](#)

44.

At [09:32 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Joe wrote:

Mr. Porter,

No one is suggesting you, nor the BBC are "part of the conspiracy," as your strawman argument suggests. We'd just like to know what news agencies or wire agencies your reporters/producers got the false information from, and then from whom they got the information, and so on... I thought all newsfolk were naturally curious. Does following this incorrect information trail not stir some interest in anyone in your organization? You say you've spent your whole week on this issue. I assume you mean spending your time defending the BBC. Why not spend some time as an actual reporter investigating the questions behind the issue at hand, rather than acting as a public relations representative?

[Complain about this post](#)

45.

At [09:32 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Tom wrote:

Who was the original source, please?

[Complain about this post](#)

46.

At [09:34 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Gina wrote:

I'm not surprised a few mistakes were made by the BBC on a hectic day like 9/11.

That's life.

Compare this to the many mistakes in documentaries like Loose Change or 911 Mysteries.

They had all the time to check the facts, and yet their final products contain mountains of errors.

Some double-standards from the CTists here.

To those who ask why the 9/11 commission didn't address WTC 7: that's what NIST is doing right now.

[Complain about this post](#)

47.

At [09:41 PM](#) on 02 Mar 2007,

Crissy wrote:

Richard, how unfortunate that after all your research the truth has not come out yet. But at least you have shown us your great sense of humour.

Have a nice weekend and a cold beer.

[Complain about this post](#)

Sa März 03, 2007 12:35 pm

.....

## Then they pulled the plug, again!

502

Service not available.

Unfortunately a server error occurred whilst trying to retrieve this page:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/mt/mt-comments.cgi>

We are currently working to correct this

.....

## Comments by 911bloggers

Is it just me, or did that second apologia have a rather shrill and desperate quality to it..?

I knew this was how they'd try to spin it, as this represents the ONLY POSSIBLE way to spin it.

Still, the probability that a mere five minutes after Jane's feed was interrupted, the very thing they were reporting, which had not happened yet, occurring in reality is rather astronomical, one would think..

After all, who can predict when a 47 story steel skyscraper is going to completely and uniformly free fall to the ground as a result of some fire? Heck even FEMA indicated in their report that such a causation only had a "very low probability of occurrence"..!

And the FEMA report was co-sponsored by the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers). Word has it that even NIST, who STILL have not published their final report on the destruction of WTC7 are forced to consider the demolition hypothesis.

IMO, the biggest smoking gun of all, is the perfect uniformity and the free fall nature of the "collapse" at 6.5 seconds, where absolute free fall in a complete VACUUM from that height is 6 seconds..!

And their reporting on it was DEFINITIVE, and nothing like these other reports. They said that it had indeed collapsed.

Sorry Mr. Porter. Your explanation does not pass muster.

Oh and care to explain why Google Video and Youtube were persistently pulling the videos earlier this week when the video in question is public domain..?

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6590#comment-121227>

I totally agree.. The BBC angle is GREAT for exposure and interesting, but it gives the same exits for those still having trouble coming to terms with WTC 7.

Anyone have any doubter friends out there? Have you mentioned this to them? I have..the response is "they knew that building would fall all day." - They read into the fire dept. revelations that 7's fall was an "inevitable" event.

Saying the BBC said this first in their minds justifies TO THEM that "see they knew all day, BBC jumped the gun and reported it before the unstoppable collapse occurred".

However, of course, we know the more crippling truths about 7 and the REAL evidence that points to controlled demo:

The video clips of it's fall and Steven Jones' paper is it!

We can all agree molten metal and "partially evaporated steel members" causes the most head scratching and strong resistance in the minds of those clinging (hoping?) that 7 was a fire induced freefall. It's also these smoking guns that make the case.

But dots like this BBC clip do indeed fall into our picture perfectly. But the disbelievers will claim it falls into their own as well... The significance of the video signal loss at the end certainly elicits "conspiracy theory" aromas that help them maintain their fires collapse building thoughts.

My disbeliever friends can never meet me head on when I ask about molten metal and evaporated steel members, sulfidation of steel--- their only defense is "shoot the messenger", ad hominem attacks, etc... Ah, that's when you know their paradigm is nearing global collapse...

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6540#comment-120850>

.....

The US media won't touch this!



Media Blacklists BBC Fiasco; Google, Digg Censor 9/11 Truth News 24 'timestamp' video disappears from Google Video, despite the fact it's under 30 seconds in length and clearly constitutes fair use, Digg lets small minority of morons decide its content

Paul Joseph Watson  
Prison Planet  
Thursday, March 1, 2007

The crowned kings of censorship Google have "pulled" the News 24 "timestamp" video that shows the BBC reporting the collapse of Building 7 26 minutes before it happened. Meanwhile, the establishment media continues to ignore the WTC 7 farce as a whole, including the inconceivable notion that BBC World have mysteriously lost all their 9/11 footage.

Despite the fact that the clip is under 30 seconds in length and clearly constitutes fair use, Google yanked the video last night after it was prominently featured in our article yesterday. We have replaced the video with a You Tube composite of both the "Jane Standley" footage and the News 24 clip, but for how long this stays active remains to be seen.

Google and the BBC have a cozy relationship and are currently at an advanced stage of talks to content share on Google Video. This could explain why the original "Standley" footage was yanked by Google within hours of it becoming popular on the Internet on Monday afternoon.

It seems that the BBC are extremely incompetent when it comes to looking after their own archived tapes, but remarkably proficient about getting any embarrassing material scrubbed off the Internet, with the eager aid of "don't be evil" Google, they compose a formidable tag team of censorship.

Recall that Google bizarrely wiped a leading mainstream news website from their search engine altogether last year simply because Space War carried articles mildly critical of Google's beloved Communist Chinese paymasters, for whom Yahoo have also shopped numerous dissidents who have ended up in China's re-education labor camps.

It was also Google Video that were caught on numerous occasions re-setting viewing figures for Alex Jones' Terror Storm and other 9/11 truth films, to prevent them entering the higher echelons of the charts and going viral.

Should all this really surprise us when it was CIA seed money that got Google off the ground in the first place? Just how many calls did Google's CIA liaison Dr. Rick Steinheiser make from his Office of Research and Development this week?

Meanwhile, a programmer claims to have hacked Digg and found evidence of a deliberate campaign to censor controversial news stories and those relating to 9/11 truth.

The Information Liberation website concludes that there are "Tons of obvious shills burying our recent explosive WTC 7 articles as well as many other articles of extreme significance. It's shocking to read the list and see how much significant, documented, and extremely popular content is being buried for obvious ideological reasons. This is completely undemocratic abuse of the Digg system and is proof positive the Bury feature is being abused to suppress content by vindictive Anti-Diggers."

The buried list contains the original Building 7 story that was posted at Prison Planet.com on Monday afternoon. Its reason for burial is given as "inaccurate," despite the fact that we have proven its factual basis in triplicate and the BBC has also tacitly admitted their "error."

Digg's Bury feature is supposed to be used to bury "stories with bad links, off-topic content, or duplicate entries" in order to remove "spam out of the system." Unfortunately, as many have experienced, the Bury feature is frequently used to suppress content based off ideology. Please encourage Digg to either fix it (perhaps make it similar to Reddit's down voting) or remove it all together. Email Digg here and request they please fix the Bury feature.

Whether you choose to believe that it's solely the work of moronic debunkers or a deliberate Digg policy to censor 9/11 truth, the fact remains that their supposed "democratic" system is nothing of the sort. Even if an article gets 2000 diggs, just a fraction of that number in burials relegates it to the memory hole. Digg should be more honest about the fact that the content of their website is determined at the behest of a small minority of semi-retarded Playstation addicted teenagers rather than the popular interest of the online community as a whole.

We have uncovered further evidence of Digg censorship and it will feature on the website later tonight.

48 hours after the BBC issued its pathetic rebuttal to startling footage that shows their correspondent Jane Standley live on 9/11 reporting the collapse of Building 7 as it mockingly stands behind her, and the inconceivable excuse that the BBC has lost its 9/11 tapes, no establishment media has picked up on the story, not even to dismiss it as a "conspiracy theory."

This represents both the stubborn refusal of the dinosaur press to accept the increasing trend

that the Internet sets the news agenda, and also an appalling media culture that highlights the most inconsequential claptrap and gives it undeserved prominence.

Kudos goes to Wonkette for covering the Building 7 story, but almost every other so-called "progressive" website has been mute. Crooks and Liars, one of the biggest liberal blogs on the web, today spotlights a story about lesbian koala bears. On Tuesday night they led with a gossip puff piece about Mitt Romney's hair. How can these gatekeepers claim to represent "alternative media" when they stuff this kind of crap down our throats on a daily basis, while ignoring massive stories like the WTC 7 fiasco?

We invited BBC World head of news Richard Porter to appear on The Alex Jones Show and clarify for us exactly how the BBC managed to lose its footage, which by the BBC's own regulations has to be archived three times over, from the single most important event in history since World War 2.

Porter refused to do the interview.

<http://prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/010307mediablacklists.htm>

.....

## **Just another coincidence! BBC makes YouTube Deal (important part in bold letters!)**

BBC strikes Google-YouTube deal

[BBC](#)

Friday, March 2, 2007

The BBC has struck a content deal with YouTube, the web's most popular video sharing website, owned by Google.

Three YouTube channels - one for news and two for entertainment - will showcase short clips of BBC content.

The BBC hopes that the deal will help it reach YouTube's monthly audience of more than 70 million users and drive extra traffic to its own website.

The corporation will also get a share of the advertising revenue generated by traffic to the new YouTube channels.

Three deals in one

The deal with Google - non-exclusive and set to run for several years - will establish three different YouTube services:

**BBC:** One of the BBC's two entertainment channels will be a "public service" proposition, featuring no advertising.

It will show clips like trailers and short features that add value - for example, video diaries of David Tennant showing viewers around the set of Dr Who or BBC correspondent Clive Myrie explaining how difficult it is to report from the streets of Baghdad.

The channel's main purpose is to popularise current programming and drive traffic back to the BBC's own website, and point the audience to the BBC's pages, where they can watch or download programmes in full, once the BBC Trust approves the corporation's catch-up television proposal, called iPlayer.

**BBC Worldwide:** The second entertainment channel will feature self-contained clips - about three to six minutes long - mining popular programmes in the BBC's archive. Excerpts from Top Gear, The Mighty Boosh and nature programmes presented by David Attenborough are top candidates for this channel.

This YouTube page will carry advertising such as banner adverts, and possibly pre-roll adverts (shown as part of the video clip) as well. Controversially, the BBC Worldwide page - adverts and all - can be seen in the UK.

BBC Worldwide insists that this is not a new departure, as BBC magazines like Top Gear and channels like BBC World and UK Living (which shows mainly BBC content) already do carry advertising.

BBC News: The news channel, which will be launched later this year, will show about 30 news clips per day. It will be advertising funded like a similar deal with Yahoo USA. BBC News is also offered to non-UK subscribers of Real Networks.

Because of the advertising, these clips can be seen outside the UK only. Any UK users clicking on a link to one of the news clips on YouTube will get a message that they have no access to this clip.

Groundbreaking - and controversial

The BBC's director general, Mark Thompson, called the deal a "ground-breaking partnership" that would "engage new audiences in the UK and abroad".

The BBC's director of Future Media and Technology, Ashley Highfield, said the deal was "not about distributing content like full-length programmes; YouTube is a promotional vehicle for us".

In the United States, several television programmes experienced a discernible audience increase after they made clips available on YouTube. But the deal is likely to be controversial with other media companies, who have accused the BBC of straying from its licence-fee funded public service remit and moving too far into commercial web ventures.

Copyright protection

Several large US broadcasters, including CBS, NBC and Fox, already have similar agreements with YouTube.

YouTube makes it easy for members not only to watch and share video clips, but also to upload their own content.

However, the site is riddled with pirated film and music clips uploaded by members who do not own the copyright.

Some media firms, most prominently Viacom, have recently demanded that YouTube removes tens of thousands of clips from the site that they own the copyright for.

**Mr Highfield said the BBC would not be hunting down all BBC-copyrighted clips already uploaded by YouTube members - although it would reserve the right to swap poor quality clips with the real thing, or to have content removed that infringed other people's copyright, like sport, or that had been edited or altered in a way that would damage the BBC's brand.**

"We don't want to be overzealous, a lot of the material on YouTube is good promotional content for us," he said.

YouTube was founded in February 2005 and was bought by Google in November last year for \$1.65bn.

In January, one of YouTube's three founders, Chad Hurley, announced that the website would soon start sharing revenue with the thousands of users who upload their own content to YouTube.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6411017.stm>



## Hints in the YouTube comments that the viewership gets censored

Fr März 02, 2007 7:39 pm

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7SwOT29gbc>

NOW:

Views: 178,551 Comments: 2281 Favorited: 474 times

17 Minutes ago:

View: 178,551, 862 ratings 2270 comments

43 minutes ago:

Views: 178,551 Comments: 2266 Favorited: 472 times

1 hour ago:

Views: 178,551, Ratings 848, Comments 2260

.....

## Authenfication – Time Zone

Time Zone Conversion Verified

( [Home](#) » Time Zone... )

Submitted by [GeorgeWashington](#) on Thu, 03/01/2007 - 2:53pm.

[Time Conversion](#)

In order to confirm or refute the claim that the BBC 24 video discussed the collapse of WTC 7 *before it happened*, I did a little research.

First, being an American who doesn't know much about UK time zones, I wanted to see what part of the United Kingdom BBC 24 actually broadcasts from. Answer: [East London](#).

Second, given that London is in a different time zone from New York, and that daylight savings time may have effected *both locations, or only one location, or neither location* on 9/11, I wanted some definitive way to convert the timezones.

911Blogger poster jonmardavid provided the answer:

"From <http://www.timezoneconverter.com>

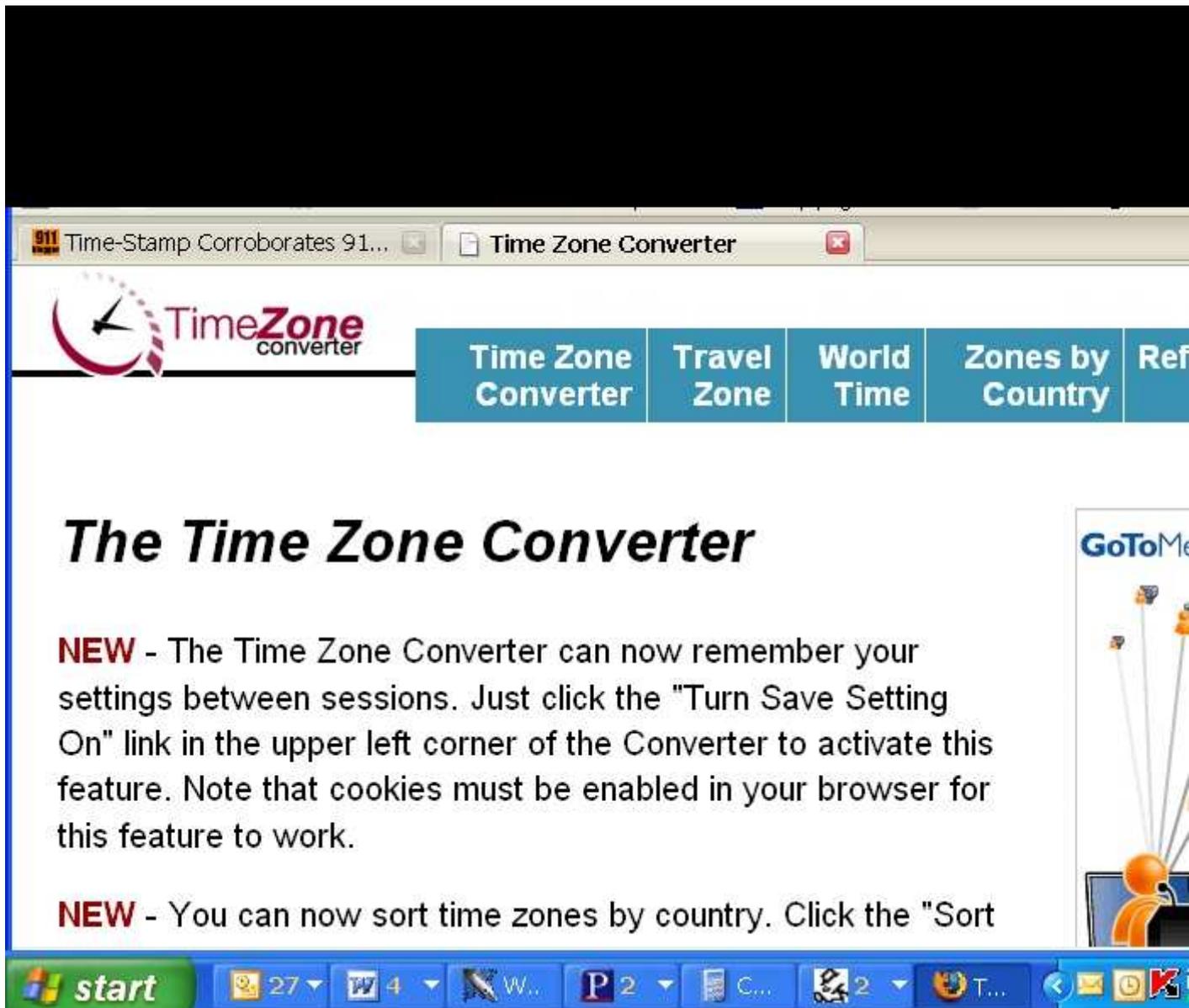
21:54:00 Tuesday September 11, 2007 in Europe/London converts to

16:54:00 Tuesday September 11, 2007 in America/New\_York

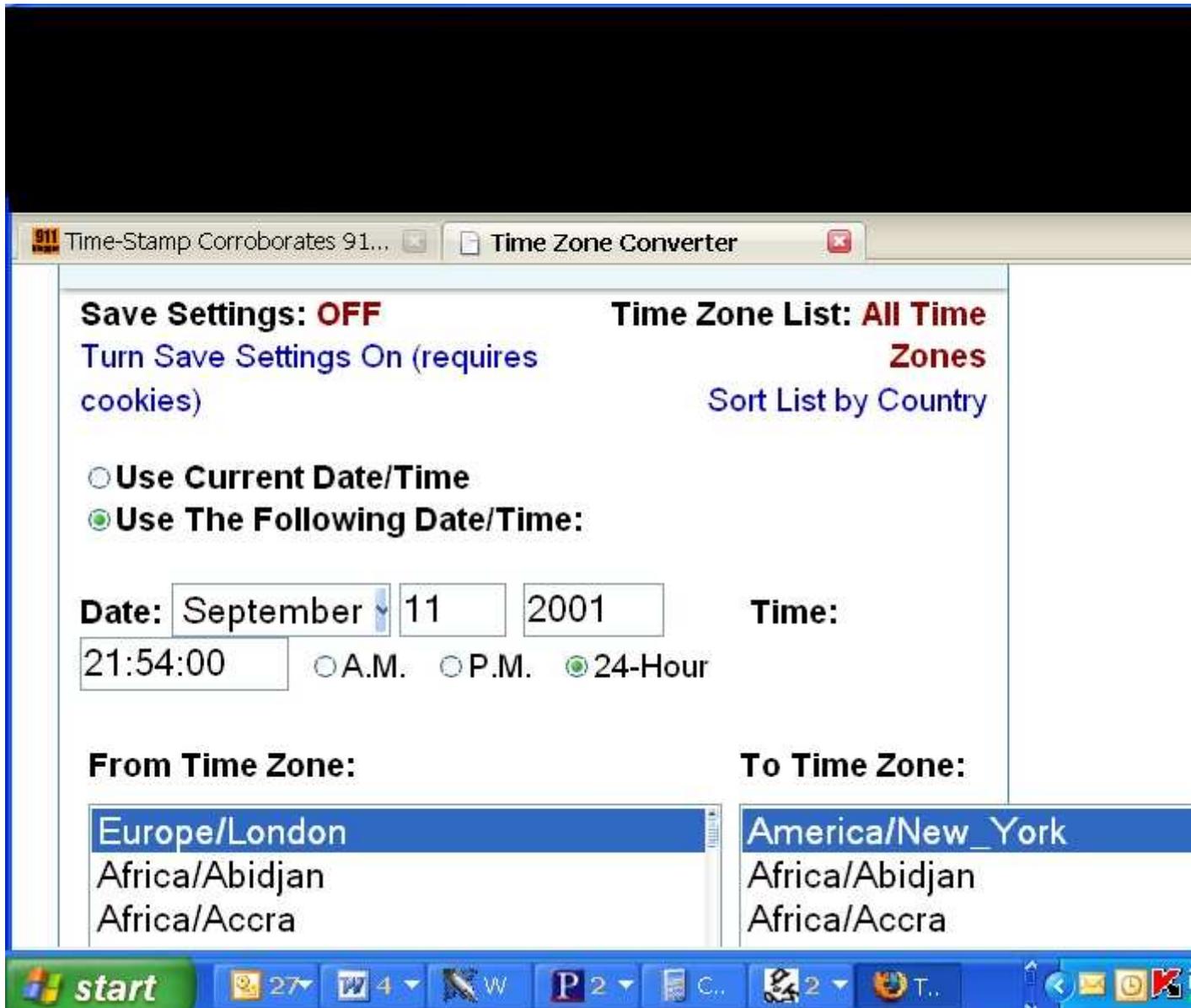
BBC News 24 on the TV displays UK time, including the changes for BST so when the screen showed 21.54, then it was 16.54 in New York."

I ran the conversion myself at [Timezoneconverter.com](http://www.timezoneconverter.com), and confirmed that jonmardavid is right. Here are the screenshots confirming that 21.54 London time on 9/11 was 4:54 p.m. New York time:

Here's what the website looks like:



This confirms the data I entered:



Here's the result:



16:54 on a 24-hour clock is, of course, 4:54 p.m.

Of course, WTC 7 did not actually collapse until at least [5:20 p.m.](#) New York time.

*Thanks to jonmardavid, Reprehensor and 911Veritas for their research.*

*It should be noted that the BBC 24 tape still needs to be authenticated (although the BBC's head of news, Richard Porter, did appear to indicate that it was authentic). Reprehensor is working on this angle.*

*The other BBC tape has also not yet been authenticated. Specifically, the tape was originally downloaded from the Internet Archive. Janice Matthews of 911Truth.org corresponded with the Internet Archive (as did I), and the Archive stated that it could not authenticate the tapes. Below are Janice's and my correspondence.*

*So whistleblowers within BBC (and CNN) or people who recorded the broadcasts live on 9/11 should authenticate these tapes.*

*From: Janice Matthews <[janice.matthews@gmail.com](mailto:janice.matthews@gmail.com)>*

*Date: Feb 26, 2007 5:55 PM*

*Subject: BBC Footage verification question*

*To: [info@archive.org](mailto:info@archive.org), [renata@archive.org](mailto:renata@archive.org)*

*Dear InternetArchive.org,*

*First, please let me say thank you for the great work you're doing!*

*A certain video, found at your site, has been making its way around the Internet like wildfire today, finding itself the source of live radio discussions today, phone calls to the BBC and American media, and generally causing quite a stir, as well it should. 911Truth.org is very cautious in our reporting, however, and would like to verify as thoroughly as possible that this information is accurate. Therefore, we decided to go to the source and ask you directly about a couple of things. Thanks for your time in helping us with this.*

*The footage in question is at: <http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mp...>*

*It is footage from the BBC World, broadcast between 4:54 and 5:36 pm EDT on 9/11/01, apparently being taped live in New York City. A woman correspondent is reporting with what appears to be live footage of the Manhattan skyline behind her, including WTC Building 7 just to her right on the screen (over her left shoulder). Yet she is reporting in her broadcast, at approximately 5pm, with WTC7 behind her, that WTC7 has collapsed. (Of course, WTC7 actually collapsed at 5:20pm that day.) Naturally, this is rather confusing! Our first two questions are, obviously,*

- 1) was the timestamp on the video accurate,*
  - 2) is the footage behind her real or greenscreen,*
  - 3) can this footage be verified as from the BBC or could it have been created by someone else, and*
  - 4) how can we reach "Television Archive" who is reported as being the original contributor?*
- We have reviewed the .xml files associated with this video, which appear to verify the validity of source of the footage is indeed BBC:*

*metadata>*

*bbc200109111654-1736*

*movies*

*sept\_11\_tv\_archive*

*BBC*

*televisionarchive*

*BBC TV BBC TV*

*Television Archive*

*-4*

*News from BBC TV was recorded by the Television Archive, a non-profit archive. Video available as a loan (stream) only.*

*Click for [next video](#), [previous video](#), or*

*[http://www.archive.org/download/sept\\_11\\_tv\\_archive/sept\\_11\\_program\\_guide...](http://www.archive.org/download/sept_11_tv_archive/sept_11_program_guide...) ">program guide.*

***Date:** 2001-09-11 20:54:47 UTC*

***Air Time:** 2001-09-11 16:54:47 EDT*

***Length:** 0:41:41*

*eng*

*2001-09-11 20:54:47*

*2001-09-11 16:54:47 EDT*

*1*

*Television News; September 11 Terrorist Attacks; 911 Terrorist Attacks*

[curator] [renata@archive.org](mailto:renata@archive.org) [/curator][date]20070218204203[/date][state]un-dark[/state]

*I am not able to view the video via the links in this file, however, and the associated "program file" and "thumbnails" are not available. We notice that this information was updated, at least the line re. "curator" on 2/18/07. Why is that? It appears this file was last modified February 18, 07. Can you tell us whether "curator" was the only modification then?*

*The second .xml file shows:*

*MPEG1 26f22c5525bdaeaeb51ebb84d227dc0f*

*XML 383d54ece897828ceace791b5a99e932*

*XML 4a0dbe0ebfc7528cf350182efda627ec*

*Can you help us translate? For instance, what does "source=metadata" mean?*

*Finally, I have been unable to download or view the stream on your site, as it "hangs" after an hour or so of downloading... Can you help me see the original footage you have posted? Thank you for your help. We are prepared to present this information to high-level officials and news media once we can verify; I hope you understand the significance of this and why we are so intent on tracking it down. Please feel free to call me if you would prefer that to email.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janice Matthews*

*Executive Director*

*911Truth.org*

---

[info@archive.org](mailto:info@archive.org),

[renata@archive.org](mailto:renata@archive.org)

*date Feb 26, 2007 6:48 PM*

*subject Re: BBC Footage verification question*

-----  
*More questions...*

*Why is it that most (not all) of the BBC footage segments from that day do not have links to be able to view the streaming video? I'm not finding that to be the case with other networks on that day, nor for the BBC on other days...?*

*Thanks,*

*Janice*

---

*from Renata Ewing*

*to Janice Matthews*

*date Feb 27, 2007 11:48 AM*

*subject Re: BBC Footage verification question*

*Hello Janice*

*Thank you for your email. The item you write about is not actually ready to be viewed. It is part of a test of a new collection on 9/11. It was not meant to be streamed or downloaded.*

***Since we are not the source of the footage, we are not able to verify the information contained in it.***

*The Television Archive is a division of the Internet Archive.*

*Cheers,*

*Renata*

*Here's my correspondence:*

*Dear Mr. Hickman,*

*We've corresponded previously about the Internet Archive. I have a quick question.*

*The following video files were apparently uploaded to, then removed from, the internet archive:*

<http://ia311517.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111408-1449/V08515-32.mp...>

<http://ia311517.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111408-1449/V08515-32.mp...>

<http://ia331340.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111449-1531/V08591-04.mp...>

<http://ia331340.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111449-1531/V08591-04.mp...>

<http://ia301330.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111531-1613/V08591-08.mp...>

<http://ia301330.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111531-1613/V08591-08.mp...>

<http://ia331327.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111613-1654/V08591-12.mp...>

<http://ia331327.us.archive.org/1/items/bbc200109111613-1654/V08591-12.mp...>

<http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mp...>

<http://ia311517.us.archive.org/2/items/bbc200109111654-1736/V08591-16.mp...>

*I'm wondering if someone credible uploaded them, or someone who is unknown to y'all. I'm also wondering why the files were removed? If you are not at liberty to say, then I'll assume it was due to a national security letter.*

*Thanks for your help!*

*From: "Paul Forrest Hickman"*

*To: GeorgeWashington*

*Thank you for contacting us about this. The files that were pulled were not designed for download, and were not available for that purpose. We recently found out that someone has downloaded them. They were in streaming format for a reason. Until we can figure out the programming problems, we have to take the information off-line. Our TV Archive is a project that is currently for testing purposes only. We have pulled the footage because it was not yet ready for public viewing.*

*Paul Forrest Hickman*

*Office Manager*

*Internet Archive*

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

## **Authenfication- Archive.org / TV**

Internet Archive's Director of Collections, [Stewart Cheifet](#), responsible for all video and audio files at the archive, [has authenticated the BBC video](#):

"I am Director of Collections at the Internet Archive, responsible for all video and audio files. This video clip is part of a collection from the TV Archive of global television coverage of the events that occurred on and shortly after September 11, 2001.

This clip, among others, has drawn quite a bit of attention because it appears to show a BBC reporter in New York reporting that World Trade Center Building 7, also referred to as WTC7 or the Salomon Brothers Building, has collapsed before it actually did collapse.

Despite some confusion on the issue of time code stamping and UTC conversions to EDT, the timing on the clip appears to be correct. This particular clip was recorded between 4:54 and 5:36 PM EDT. The anchor references to the WTC7 collapsing occur at 4:58 PM and 5:01 PM and then a live reporter says the building has collapsed at 5:08 PM in what appears to be a live shot with the building still in tact behind her. The feed from the live reporter is lost at 5:15 PM and then the building does actually collapse at 5:20 PM.

A subsequent clip from the BBC then shows coverage of the actual collapse in an archived account recorded from 5:36 – 6:16PM. This clip is available at <http://www.archive.org/details/bbc200109111736-1818> .

An annotated version of the key sequence from this clip can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzxEoEfe\\_8A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzxEoEfe_8A) .

Further support for the correct timing on the clip comes from another archived clip, this one from the BBC 24 channel which includes a time stamp on the TV screen indicating that the reference to the collapses of WTC7 does occur before the actual collapse.

There is some discussion as to whether or not that time stamp was later edited in by someone tampering with the clip. It is unclear whether that happened or not but the reporting and the time of the reporting as shown does seem to coincide with the other BBC World report. This clip can be seen at various web sites including <http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/280207timestamp.htm>.

Also there has been some discussion about whether the shot of the WTC7 still standing was a live shot or a so-called “green screen” shot in which the live reporter was photographed in front of an electronic screen with a superimposed image of videotape of earlier coverage. That could explain the time disparity; however other clips seem to support the view that the video behind the BBC reporter in this clip is indeed live.

This clip is being widely circulated on the web along with other 9/11 news coverage clips that have surfaced. The earliest apparent reports of WTC7 collapsing come from CNN which reports before 5PM that WTC7 is either burning, is collapsing or has collapsed. You can see this clip at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD0UWq\\_ORR4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD0UWq_ORR4) . That story then gets repeated later on BBC 24 and BBC World. Similar coverage on ABC can be found posted at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qyiov\\_c6Fg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qyiov_c6Fg) .

Assuming all the time references are correct, there are two possible explanations offered for the confusion. One is that the building was intentionally brought down by its owner and that a press release indicating that was prematurely issued and prematurely reported on by the media.

Another explanation is that there was simply confusion at the time and some journalistic “whispering down the lane” in which early stories that there was something happening at WTC7 led to rumors of its collapsing which then led to on-air reporting of its collapse. The fact that the WTC7 is still standing and visible in the background of the live shot appears to confirm that the reporting of the collapse did take place before the actual collapse.

One possible explanation for the apparent clairvoyance of the reporter, or the alleged deception by those in charge, is that there was a fire at WTC7 when it was first reported on CNN at approximately 4:10 PM and that the BBC then picked up that story from CNN and reported that the WTC7 might be collapsing and in the confusion of live news coverage that story then was communicated to the anchor and the reporter that the building had collapsed. Additional information may be available from other television network coverage of that same period of time which has also been archived by the TV Archive. This includes coverage from ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, and CNN. Efforts are underway to gather that additional archive footage so that a more comprehensive picture can be presented of what really happened that day.

Other references and discussions related to this clip can be found at various other web sites including <http://www.livelead.com> , <http://www.911truth.org> , <http://www.prisonplanet.com> , <http://www.informationliberation.com> , <http://www.911blogger.com> , and <http://www.digg.com> .

The official BBC statement regarding its explanation for the mistaken reporting can be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/27/index.html>"

Mr. Cheifet and the other principals of the Internet Archive are very competent, intelligent, accomplished people. For example, Mr. Cheifet's bio states:

"Stewart Cheifet has been an attorney, a media executive, and a technology journalist. He has worked in various capacities for ABC, CBS, NPR, and PBS in the United States, Europe, Asia and the South Pacific. He has managed broadcast radio and television stations and was CEO of several media production and distribution companies.

He was former Executive Producer and host of the PBS series Computer Chronicles and Net Café. He has served as President of PCTV, a company focused on broadcast and new media production in the field of personal technology.

He holds a B.S. in mathematics and psychology from the University of Southern California, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and he was a post-graduate fellow in technology journalism at the University of Chicago."

And Brewster Kahle's bio (he's the gentleman who authenticated the video [yesterday](#)), says:

"Brewster Kahle Digital Librarian, Director and Co-Founder

Brewster has built technologies, companies, and institutions to advance the goal of universal access to all knowledge. He currently oversees the non-profit Internet Archive as founder and Digital Librarian, which is now one of the largest digital archives in the world.

As a digital archivist, Brewster has been active in technology, business, and law.

Keywords: MIT'82, helped start Thinking Machines, founder WAIS Wide Area Information Servers, Internet strategist AOL, co-founded Alexa Internet, sold to Amazon.com, directs Internet Archive.

Details:

After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1982, he helped start a supercomputer company, Thinking Machines, that built systems for searching large text collections. In 1989, he invented the Internet's first publishing and distributed search system, WAIS (Wide Area Information Server). WAIS Inc. created the online presence for many of the world's largest publishers, and was purchased by America Online in 1995. In 1996, Brewster co-founded Alexa Internet, which provides search and discovery services included in more than 90 percent of web browsers, and was purchased by Amazon in 1999. Brewster has also worked to revise law and policy in light technical advances. He is a board member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and a plaintiff in Kahle v. Gonzales (formerly Kahle v. Ashcroft), which challenges recent copyright term extensions.

Brewster is profiled in Digerati: Encounters with the Cyber Elite (HardWired, 1996). He was selected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005, the AlwaysOn/Technorati Open Media 100 in 2005, the Upside 100 in 1997, the Micro Times 100 in 1996 and 1997, and the Computer Week 100 in 1995.

APPOINTMENTS:

\* Univeristy of North Carolina, School of Library and Information Science, Visiting Scholar 2006-Present

\*

\* Internet Archive, Digital Librarian, Director, Co-Founder 1996-present

\* American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected as a member in 2005

\* Electronic Frontier Foundation, Board Member

\* Alexa Internet, President, CEO, Co-Founder (sold to Amazon.com) 1996-2002 The Library of Congress, National Digital Strategy Advisory Board April 2001

\* America Online, Internet Strategist 1995-1996

\* Wide Area Information Servers, Inc (WAIS), Founder, President (sold to AOL) 1992-1995

\* Thinking Machines with Apple, Dow Jones, KPMG, WAIS Inventor and Project Leader 1989-1992

\* Thinking Machines, Scientist 1983-1992. Helped start company, chips, boards, architected CPU of CM2"

If these credible people at the Internet Archive say the video is real, then I accept their verification.

.....

## Further Analysis by G. Edward Griffin

### **BBC REPORTED COLLAPSE OF WTC BUILDING 7 BEFORE IT FELL!**

#### **But that may not mean what you think**

Analysis by G. Edward Griffin © 2007 March 2

In the final week of February, 2007, the Internet was ablaze with a video tape that showed news commentators for the BBC on the morning of 9/11 stating categorically that Building 7 at the World Trade Center had collapsed, but the announcement was made at least twenty minutes prior to the event. In one scene, reporter Jane Standley is seen saying that Building 7 had collapsed, all the while it is clearly visible in the skyline behind her.

#### **WAS THE PICTURE IN THE BACKGROUND LIVE OR RECORDED?**

Skeptics assumed that the video was recorded sometime after the collapse of Building 7 and that the background view was taken from previously recorded images and added electronically for dramatic effect. That is easy to do with modern technology, and it is commonly done with news programs to create the impression that reporters are on the scene of action when, in fact, they are in a studio standing in front of a blue screen. I have used this technique myself, and I am familiar with the process. However, when I looked at the BBC footage, there was no doubt in my mind that Standley was really where she appeared to be: in front of a window looking at the Manhattan skyline. First, the lighting on her face and other elements of the set were consistent with the real thing. Second, there was no reason for her not to be there. Other news networks had similar vantage points that day. I was convinced. In addition to the blue screen theory there was a problem confirming broadcast time. The BBC video did not have a time stamp appearing on the screen, so there was no way to prove exactly when the remarks were recorded. So, the skeptics had a double out. The appearance of Building 7 in the background didn't prove anything and there was no way to confirm the time of broadcast anyway. Just another conspiracy theory shot down by plausible denial.

#### **BBC PLEADS INCOMPETENCE**

BBC could have clarified the exact time of broadcast but chose, instead to plead incompetence. On February 27, it issued a press release stating that, somehow, it lost the tapes of its broadcast that day. Imagine that. One of the most valuable historical records of all time, and they lost them. Shuure! ([www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part\\_of\\_the\\_conspiracy.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html).)

The next day, someone at 911Blogger.com located a privately recorded video tape from BBC-24, a local affiliate of the BBC network, which also had covered the events of 9/11. Lo and behold, there it was: A time stamp! It was twenty minutes before Building 7 collapsed, and BBC-24, taking its news feed from the BBC network, was telling its viewers that it already had happened. (The broadcast by BBC and the one by BBC-24 can be viewed at this link: [www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/280207timestamp.htm](http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/280207timestamp.htm).)

#### **GOOGLE TAKES THE VIDEOS OFF THE INTERNET**

To add to the excitement of the week, Google pulled both video links from the Internet. Bloggers, who previously had downloaded them to their own computers quickly got them back up on their own servers and on You Tube. By Thursday, March 1, they were

everywhere, although it was speculated that the powers-that-be eventually would track all of them down and assign them to the memory hole.

The Internet went wild. Although a few adherents to the official version of 9/11 claimed that the videos were fakes, most of the traffic was jubilant over what was perceived as the final and incontrovertible proof that there was prior knowledge of the terrorist attacks and that even BBC was in on it – or at least *someone* was in on it who was in a position to feed information to the BBC. Case closed! Or was it?

### **SOMETHING SEEMED WRONG WITH THIS SCENARIO**

As I pondered these facts, something didn't feel right about the direction the story was taking. I am no fan of the official version of 9/11, but I also try to be careful not to let my inner convictions get in the way of rational analysis. It didn't seem logical for anyone with prior knowledge of 9/11 to prepare press reports ahead of time. In fact, it would be wise to have as few people in on the plot as possible so that, when it happened, everyone would respond in the most normal manner possible, complete with confusion, panic, and shock. Why would anyone want to prepare press releases ahead of time when the press is quite capable of finding out everything for itself. Monitoring and manipulating the flow of information *after* an event like this would be expected, but to do so *before* hand, just didn't make sense. I started poking around the Internet to see what else I could find in the way of news reports on 9/11. It didn't take long before I came across a highly significant report from CNN. The reporter, standing in front of a window looking at the Manhattan skyline similar to the BBC location (and with Building Seven clearly visible in the background), says:

We are getting information now that one of the other buildings, Building Seven, in the World Trade Center complex is on fire and has either collapsed or is collapsing. ... We are told that there is a fire there, and that building may collapse as well, as you can see.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o))

With that statement, everything snapped into focus:

### **A REASONABLE HYPOTHESIS**

1. BBC and CNN simultaneously received a report that Building Seven was on fire and was expected to collapse. It is probable that other networks received the same information.
2. The CNN reporter said that Building Seven was on fire and "has either collapsed or is collapsing." He concluded with the more conservative view that it "may collapse." The BBC reporter, or whoever prepared the dispatch for her to read, went for the more dramatic interpretation and said the building was on fire and had already collapsed. These were merely different interpretations of the same dispatch.
3. Jane Standley, from the UK, was not sufficiently familiar with Manhattan's buildings to know that the rectangular shape far behind her was the same building she was telling viewers had already collapsed. Very few Americans would have known that, either.
4. The BBC was embarrassed by the blatant inaccuracy of its report and wanted to put the issue to bed with as little public attention as possible. It hoped that no private copies of the broadcast would surface and that "losing" the tapes would likely leave the issue unresolved.
5. Google, in its proven obedience to the government of whatever nation it's network services, complied with a request from the federal government (possibly reinforced by a request from BBC) to pull the videos from the Internet to minimize embarrassment to BBC and avoid adding to the groundswell of public suspicion of government complicity on 9/11.

To my mind, this is a more plausible explanation than that some news manager had prior knowledge and stupidly jumped the gun with his report. However, it must be emphasized that, if I am correct in this analysis, it still does not strengthen the case for the official version of 9/11. To the contrary, hidden behind the more dramatic elements of this episode is the fact that someone in the Mayor's office or in the Fire Department issued a report to the networks that Building Seven was expected to collapse!

## CONSIDER THESE FACTS

Prior to 9/11:

1. No steel structure had ever collapsed from fire.
2. Building Seven was not hit by an aircraft.
3. Fires in Building Seven were relatively minor compared to nearby buildings that did not collapse.
4. There were no historical or technical reasons to anticipate a collapse.
5. Professionals in the building demolition industry have said that Building Seven could not have been destroyed by fire.
6. Scores of firefighters, rescue workers, and civilians reported hearing and seeing sequential explosions near the base of Building Seven the instant prior to collapse.
7. Building Seven collapsed all together into a small footprint, exactly as happens with controlled demolitions, rather than unevenly with the most damaged areas falling first.
8. Rescue workers have said that they were told ahead of time to get away from Building Seven because it was going to be demolished.

## CONCLUSION

Considering these facts, for anyone to issue a report to the press that Building Seven was expected to collapse, is powerful evidence that some people actually did have prior knowledge – not necessarily of the 9/11 attacks, but prior knowledge that Building Seven was going to be brought down by controlled demolition. Since it takes many weeks of prior planning to bring down a building like that by controlled demolition, preparations would have started long before 9/11. That fact, alone, is all we need to unravel the whole shoddy fabric of lies.

[http://freedom-force.org/printerfriendly.cfm?pffile=BBC\\_WTC7\\_content.cfm](http://freedom-force.org/printerfriendly.cfm?pffile=BBC_WTC7_content.cfm)

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## Background on WTC7

Danny Jowenko, leading dutch controlled demolition expert, on Zembla:

“This is controlled demolition”

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=HgoSOQ2xrbI>

High-Temperature Oxidation-Sulfidation attack on WTC7 steel, melted steel at 1.000° C.

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fema403\\_apc.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/fema403_apc.pdf)

“Bombs in the building, start clearing out“

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4574366633014832928>

"It's blowin' boy." ... "Keep your eye on that building, it'll be coming down soon." ... "The building is about to blow up, move it back." ... "Here we are walking back. There's a building, about to blow up..."

[http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/IMAGES/wtc7\\_blow\\_up.wmv](http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/IMAGES/wtc7_blow_up.wmv)

Video regarding WTC7

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2179339594842383954&hl=en>

## **Background on WTC7- Interview with the Loose Change Guys**

DYLAN AVERY: Sure. Well, basically, which is -- this is one thing that a lot of people don't know about September 11th, myself included, until I started doing the research. At 5:20 p.m. on September 11th, World Trade Center Building Seven -- it was a 47-story steel-frame skyscraper 300 feet to the north of the North Tower -- at 5:20 p.m. this building collapses in under seven seconds completely into its own footprint into a debris pile about six or seven stories high. Now, it wasn't hit by a plane. It was hit by debris from the North Tower when it fell. But, if you look at all the buildings surrounding the World Trade Center, and if you actually look at Building Five, which is right underneath both the Twin Towers, that building is engulfed in flames for hours after Building Seven even collapses.

So, we have all the buildings surrounding the Twin Towers heavily engulfed with debris, some engulfed in flames. We have World Trade Center Building Seven, which has isolated fires on floor seven and twelve. It has smoke coming from its south face, and these guys claim that 25% of the building was scooped out. Even if 25% of the bottom of the building was scooped out, that still does not account for the building falling in perfect freefall into --

AMY GOODMAN: And your thesis about what happened? What do you believe?

DYLAN AVERY: It would have had to have been a controlled demolition. That's the only way to prove -- that's the only way to explain what we saw with our own eyes, and any attempts to discredit that are just not scientifically sound.

JAMES MEIGS: You know, this is a wonderful example of how conspiracy theories work. Any time there's a little bit of doubt, a little bit of area where we don't know everything, then the answer immediately is, well, someone must have blown it up. It's a form of argumentation that's also used by creationists. If they can find one little gap in the evolutionary record, they say evolution's a hoax. Or Holocaust deniers --

DYLAN AVERY: Mr. Meigs, with all do respect, these are two completely different things.

JAMES MEIGS: Holocaust denial works with very similar --

DYLAN AVERY: Oh, my God!

JASON BERMAS: Oh, man!

JAMES MEIGS: And, but what we see here is -- one of our sources was Vincent Dunn, the retired deputy fire chief for the New York City Fire Department, who wrote the textbook, "The Collapse of Burning Buildings". And what he explained is that the building was extremely unconventional. It had this giant Con Ed substation with enormous trusses carrying extraordinarily high loads, very vulnerable to fire and other kinds of damage. It was not a conventional skyscraper by a long shot. Those fires burned unfought for seven hours, fed by diesel tanks that were in the building to fuel backup generators. And when those trusses ultimately failed, the building did collapse in its own footprint. That's what happens when a building's internal supports fail.

AMY GOODMAN: We only have about one minute and we have to divide it. Can you

respond to that point and make your larger point?

JASON BERMAS: Please let me respond to that.

DYLAN AVERY: Go ahead, Bermas.

JASON BERMAS: On top of everything he said, that's where everybody rushed to for the local government, okay? We have somebody who was on the 23rd floor, okay, working with the local government, being escorted by fire fighters. He gets down to the eighth floor, huge explosion in Building Seven. Bomb goes off. Okay, this is his words, not mine: "Why are there explosives in Building Seven." On top of that, there have been five different reasons why it fell. They're trying to say generators, there was a big fuel tank, there's a 20-story thing scooped out of the building, all of which is false, because they don't know.

DYLAN AVERY: They keep changing their explanations for why the building fell.

JASON BERMAS: And I would say this, the 9/11 Commission Report actually has the nerve in a footnote to say that it collapsed in 18 seconds. Look for yourself and time it. It's no more than 7 seconds.

AMY GOODMAN: And who do you believe blew up Building Seven?

DYLAN AVERY: We don't want to try to implicate anybody. We're just trying to tell people to go out and research for themselves. But, I mean, you have to ask yourself, who could have possibly placed explosives inside World Trade Center Building Seven, secretly without anyone noticing, and especially the Twin Towers?

JASON BERMAS: Especially because the CIA, the DOD, the Secret Service are all located there.

DYLAN AVERY: Yeah, I mean, that building was a government hotspot.

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/09/11/1345203>

.....

## The 911 commission report:

- The Report fails to acknowledge that no steel-framed high-rise building has ever collapsed due to fires.
  - **The Report fails to mention the total collapse of 47-story steel-framed skyscraper Building 7 at 5:20 on the day of the attack.**
  - The Report contains no mention of the interview in which the owner of Building 7 states that he and the Fire Department decided to "pull" Building 7 -- an apparent admission of a conspiracy to destroy the building and its contents.
- <http://911research.wtc7.net/post911/commission/report.html>
- .....

## Witnesses: WTC7 was to be pulled

**Ground Zero EMT: We Were Told Building 7 Was To Be "Pulled"**

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/080207building7.htm>

**Source:** [www.prisonplanet.com](http://www.prisonplanet.com) **Published:** February 8, 2007 **Author:** Paul Joseph Watson



Ground Zero EMT: We Were Told Building 7 Was To Be "Pulled"

New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician asked "how could someone have rigged all these explosives?" before towers collapsed, support columns had been blown out

Paul Joseph Watson  
Prison Planet  
Thursday, February 8, 2007

A New Jersey EMT has gone public on how emergency workers were told that Building 7 was going to be "pulled," before a 20 second demolition countdown broadcast over radio preceded its collapse. The ground zero rescue worker also blows the whistle on how he witnessed multiple underground support columns of the WTC towers that had been severed before the buildings imploded.

In a letter to Loose Change producer Dylan Avery, the individual who wishes to remain anonymous referring to himself only as Mike, 30, NJ, describes how he has repeatedly tried to alert numerous authorities to what he saw on 9/11 but was ignored or told to "shut up" on every occasion, and ultimately fired for disorderly conduct.

The EMT now dismisses the official government explanation of events and slams the 9/11 commission as a "whitewash."

Having been in his profession for six years, the individual states that he was at ground zero before, during and after the collapse. He was forced to flee from the falling towers and take cover under a bus shelter as debris rained down all around him, leaving his lungs poisoned today with the toxic dust that 9/11 heroes were exposed to as a result of a cover-up on behalf of Condoleezza Rice and the EPA that assured workers ground zero air was safe to breathe.

The EMT made the decision to make his claims public after becoming aggrieved at how 9/11 debunkers were viciously attacking the creators of Loose Change for questioning the events of 9/11 in their film, which has now aired on numerous international television stations and has been seen by millions on the Internet.

In his enthralling testimony, the EMT goes into graphic detail of how he and others personally witnessed a plethora of explosions at all points of the buildings before their collapse.

"There were explosions. There were flashes. There was molten metal running down the I-beams of the basement levels like lava flows. I've never seen anything like it. Yes, planes hit the buildings - anybody who says otherwise is a moron. But the explosions - the rapid, symmetrical, sequential explosions - they happened," states 'Mike'.

He explains how he and others were in the basement of one of the towers helping injured victims when he saw "One of the huge steel and concrete support pillars with an 8 foot section blown out of the center of it." Looking around, Mike saw other support columns that were in the same condition, prompting rescue personal to ask "how could someone have rigged all these explosives?"

"We stood outside listening to the explosions," states Mike, "One after the other, every minute or so. At one point, about 10 minutes before the first collapse, a 30 foot or so section of the courtyard exploded straight up into the air. Just before the collapses, a series of deep, below ground explosions, then numerous explosions in the buildings upper floors. Then we ran. We felt the same deep explosions before the second collapse. This was not just the planes."

The rescue worker concludes emphatically, "The buildings were rigged, there is no question about it."

Perhaps of even more interest, the EMT relates the fact that hundreds of emergency rescue personnel were told over bullhorns that Building 7, a 47 story skyscraper adjacent the twin towers that was not hit by a plane yet imploded symmetrically later in the afternoon on 9/11, was about to be "pulled" and that a 20 second radio countdown preceded its collapse.

Following news reports in the days after the attack that Building 7 had collapsed due to fire damage, Mike fully expected this mistake to be corrected after the chaos had subsided, but was astonished when it became part of the official story.

Questions about Building 7 came to the fore in January 2004 when footage of WTC complex owner Larry Silverstein telling a September 2002 PBS documentary that after consultation with the FDNY the decision was made to "pull" the building surfaced on the Internet.

These issues were subsequently explored in Alex Jones' Martial Law and Terror Storm

documentary films.

Since then, debunkers and Silverstein's office itself have tried to argue that Silverstein simply meant to "pull" or evacuate the firefighters out of the building, yet in the same documentary explosives experts are seen demolishing the remnants of other buildings in the ground zero area and repeatedly use the industry term "pull" to describe a controlled demolition.

In addition, there were no firefighters in WTC 7 to "pull" in the first place.

Dr. Shyam Sunder, of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), which investigated the collapse of WTC 7, is quoted in Popular Mechanics (9/11: Debunking the Myths, March, 2005) as saying: "There was no firefighting in WTC 7."

The FEMA report on the collapses, from May, 2002, also says about the WTC 7 collapse: "no manual firefighting operations were taken by FDNY."

And an article by James Glanz in the New York Times on November 29, 2001 says about WTC 7: "By 11:30 a.m., the fire commander in charge of that area, Assistant Chief Frank Fellini, ordered firefighters away from it for safety reasons."

Photo and video evidence of the collapse of Building 7 shows classic indications of a controlled demolition. The standard 'crimp' in the center-left top of the building and the subsequent 'squibs' of smoke as it collapses clearly represent explosive demolition.

Even Dan Rather, commenting on the collapse for CBS News said that the collapse was, "reminiscent of those pictures we've all seen too much on television before, where a building was deliberately destroyed by well placed dynamite to knock it down."

The EMT worker agrees, stating, "There were bright flashes up and down the sides of Building 7, you could see them through the windows...and it collapsed. We all knew it was intentionally pulled... they told us!"

In February of 2002 Silverstein Properties won \$861 million from Industrial Risk Insurers to rebuild on the site of WTC 7. Silverstein Properties' estimated investment in WTC 7 was \$386 million. This building's collapse alone resulted in a profit of about \$500 million.

Due to the many unanswered questions surrounding Building 7, The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was forced to include in its probe into Building 7 the theory of, "Whether hypothetical blast events could have played a role in initiating the collapse."

Following the attacks, Mike made a sustained effort to inform the relevant authorities of what he saw, including the FDNY, the NYPD, newspapers and television networks. In every case he was told to "shut up", "forget about it", or "let it go, for my own good."

Initially praised as heroes, when Mike and his colleague tried to alert their EMT Coordinator In Charge of what they had witnessed, they were brought up on charges of disorderly conduct, fired, and fined for damaged uniforms and equipment they had used on 9/11. Two other colleagues who witnessed the same events now refuse to even acknowledge they were at ground zero for fear of reprisals.

The astounding testimony of this brave EMT only adds further credence to the already overwhelming case for controlled demolition of both the twin towers and Building 7. We implore this individual to go public with his full name in the interests of his own safety. It is far more secure to blow the whistle out in the light than to remain in the shadows and become another victim of those who wish to see 9/11 truth buried.

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## My own statements

What we know about WTC7

Now, with three confirmations about early (means before it actually happened) reports on the collapse of WTC7, we can assume that there was indeed an early press release, stating that Building 7 has collapsed due to fires and damage from the fallen debris of the Twin Towers. The CNN guy was confused, as he could see the building still standing in the skyline, which made him switch to “Is collapsing” as he reads the news.

The BBC reporter, who did not necessarily know the Manhattan skyline in detail, gave us the original report: “indeed it has collapsed.”

The people behind this press release should be taken under close scrutiny, they are most likely the real perps of that day. We can only speculate, if it was the OEM or a similar organisation or group of persons.

I mean, this early reporting was not necessarily an “error” in the script Matrix.

Remember that WTC7 slid into oblivion after that day, from 01-09-12 on?

Just think you are in the media and you discovered, that you had been duped. All the officials speak of Bin Laden and the attack, and with the state of shock, mind boggling trouble and fear...

It's easy to assume that the media masters decided to cover this up, instead of acknowledging this hot trace and follow up. How would you had decided?

We already knew that 911 was a Psy-OP, a black OP. So this will fit perfect in context.

The media, being duped, would make everything they can to bury the case.

They were owned with this little trick.

Just think about that we needed nearly 6 years to worked that out.

And the ongoing attempts to bury the videos, this alone raise suspicion.

Now, let's put that altogether:

We have: “There are bombs in the building, start clearing out”.

We have reports about countdowns.

We have ear-witnesses reports about bombs in this building.

We have a demolition expert, who said that it was controlled demolition

It looks like a controlled demolition. (neraly

The landowner admitted that they made the decision to pull it and watch it collapse.

The official report about what had happened is still missing.

There were warnings of the Twin Towers collapse ahead of time also.

If it looks like shit, if it smells like shit, if it taste like shit...

U know what I'm trying to say.

I have heard several times now the spin that the BBC probably mixed up these other reports that “other building might collapse” with “Building 7 has collapsed”. Besides all the doubts that the BBC could made such an unbelievable error and that other news-outlets were running similar news:

There are more points, that points to the direction that this may be indeed more damning proof of foreknowledge.

-So, who told us the whole day that some buildings might collapse due to fire and damage?

-Especially concerning WTC7?

-Keep in mind the far more damaged other buildings of the complex, who were partly destroyed, but did not collapse...

-When not a single steel-framed building has ever collapsed due to fire before 911?

-What about the other news, aka no victims, the "47 storey", and even the explanation that it was no new attack, but a result of the fires and the fallen debris from WTC1 and 2? How did they know, if they "just mixed that up"?

Only low probability, methinks.

Then we have the Harley Guy and Jerome Hauer who were feeding myths immediately to the public, as we know now.

Maybe the reporting about other, possible collapses was part of this, too? How convenient would it appear if WTC7 just collapsed 8 hours after the attack and the debris fallen on it without these reportings? Wouldn't that lead to more questions how this could be possible? Remember, they could suppress WTC7 from public knowledge until now. I'm sure even today most people are not aware, hadn't one poll found out that 40% never heard of it?

And please keep in mind the foreknowledge of the Twin Towers collapse also.

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a96oemtrains>

[http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/oem\\_wtc.html](http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/oem_wtc.html)

[http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/wtc\\_giuliani.html](http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/wtc_giuliani.html)

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/fematape.html>

<http://winterpatriot.blogspot.com/2007/02/meet-jerome-hauer-911-suspect-awaiting.html>

"I went into No. 7, activated OEM, placed calls to EMS Citywide, RCC, to tell them we were there and we were activated.

Maybe five, ten minutes, not even ten minutes later, a rep from OEM came into the main room and said we need to evacuate the building; there's a third plane inbound. That was the only thing I really heard because I said, Abdo, we've got to go, and we made it down to the lobby of the building, street level, met up with Chief Peruggia in the lobby of the building. He said that there was no third plane but we needed to re-establish OEM right there so we can coordinate what was going on. He had already been to the command post, so he told us, and he was trying to release people back to be operational. He was looking for the Fire guy to go back in. He was there with Captain Yakimovich. In OEM with Captain Nahmod and I was Chief Maggio, who is now retired, and another firefighter from the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. We were really trying to establish OEM and a treatment sector in the lobby of the building because there were people coming around us. Again, times are a little fuzzy initially for me. A few minutes later, John came to me and said you need to go find Chief Ganci and relay the following message:

<b>that the buildings have been compromised, we need to evacuate, they're going to collapse.<b>"

Testimony R. Zarillo

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/IMAGES/9110161.PDF>

German yellow press Bild Zeitung maintained

<http://www.bild.t-online.de/BTO/news/aktuell/2006/09/07/wtc-serie-einsturz/wtc-serie-einsturz.html>

that the warning came from an unidentified civil engineer from the civil authority. But why to hell was he unidentified? He is a hero, saved dozens if not hundreds of lives, Wouldn't he come forward with this? Not? Maybe the warner did belong to the perps?

A warning of a collapse, right before it begins? How did he know the buildings were compromised to collapse? When all the firefighters on scene know not?

## **Blogger George Washington steps in**

*[Now includes BBC and CNN videos.](#)*

On September 11th, none of the New York City rescue people thought any of the World Trade Centers would collapse. For example:

The battalion chief of the New York Fire Department stated "[there was never a thought that this whole thing is coming down](#)" (page 15)

The Emergency Medical Services Division Chief, in charge of planning for the Chief of Department's office said "[No one feared that the building was in any danger as a result of two airplane attacks and subsequent fires . . .](#)"(page 7)

A lieutenant firefighter said "[I never thought the whole thing would come down](#)"

A firefighter stated "[I never expected that a tower might collapse](#)"

A lieutenant Investigator with the Bureau of Investigations and Trials said "[no one ever expected it to collapse like that](#)" (page 18)

[The firefighters killed in the towers clearly never expected that they would collapse](#)

And no engineer in the country, including the designers of the world trade centers, thought they would collapse. Indeed, "[experts said no building like it, a modern, steel-reinforced high-rise, had ever collapsed because of an uncontrolled fire](#)" (summary is free if you register with the New York Times; full article is pay-per-view), and the twin towers were [designed to survive airplane strikes](#).

Indeed, [the 9/11 Commission Report](#) itself states:

"They also received advice from senior FDNY chiefs that while the building might eventually suffer a partial collapse on upper floors, such structural failure was not imminent. NO ONE ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOTAL COLLAPSE" (Page 291)

"Prior to 9:59, no NYPD helicopter pilot predicted that either tower would collapse" (page 304)

"Though almost no one at 9:50 on September 11 was contemplating an imminent total collapse of the Twin Towers, many first responders and civilians were contemplating the possibility of imminent additional terrorist attacks . . ." (page 320); and

"Contrary to a widely held misperception, no NYPD helicopter predicted the fall of either tower before the South Tower collapsed" (page 321)

And yet, somehow, on 9/11, Mayor Rudy Giuliani [knew in advance that the world trade center was going to collapse](#).

And newly-released tapes of firefighters and other emergency personnel show that New York's Office of Emergency Management told a handful of people that the twin towers were going to collapse BEFORE any building had actually collapsed. For example, a paramedic

testified that, before ANY of the world trade center buildings had collapsed, the following occurred:

John came to me and said you need to go find Chief Ganci and relay the following message: that the buildings have been compromised, we need to evacuate, they're going to collapse . . . . I mentioned to the EMS people there, again, not knowing who they were, I said you need to get away from here, the building might collapse, we need to leave this spot . . .

I said, Steve, where's the boss? I have to give him a message. He said, well, what's the message? I said the buildings are going to collapse; we need to evac everybody out. With a very confused look he said who told you that? I said I was just with John at OEM. OEM says the buildings are going to collapse; we need to get out . . . .

He said, hey, Pete, we got a message that the buildings are going to collapse. His reply was who the fuck told you that? Then Steve brought me in and with Chief Ganci, Commissioner Feehan, Steve, I believe Chief Turi was initially there, I said, listen, I was just at OEM. The message I was given was that the buildings are going to collapse; we need to get our people out. At that moment, this thunderous, rolling roar came down and that's when the building came down, the first tower came down” (page 6)

And there was also warning that building 7, which was not even hit by a plane, was going to collapse. Indeed, people “waited around” for the building to collapse.

For example, right before WTC7 came down, a NYPD police officer said clear away, the whole building is "about to blow up"

A firefighter stated "They moved us back south. We ended up back up on Vesey Street and West Street and just hanging out until tower 7 came down. After tower 7 came down, we went right to work over at tower 7 to put the fires out" (page 9)

Another firefighter testified "Once they got us back together and organized somewhat, they sent us back down to Vesey, where we stood and waited for Seven World Trade Center to come down" (page 14)

A firefighter said "I don't know what happened to No. 7. I knew the building was coming down" (page 8)

A lieutenant firefighter said Basically, we fell back for 7 to collapse, and then we waited a while and it got a lot more organized, I would guess" (page 17)

A paramedic testified "Then it was about 5:00 . . . We didn't do any further because building number seven was coming down. That was another problem, to wait for building seven to come down, because that was unsecure. It was about 5:30 that building came down” (Pages 13-14)

Indeed, many news reporters, including reporters from [the BBC](#) (and see [this BBC clip](#); BBC clips authenticated [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), [CNN](#) and other stations reported the collapse of Building 7 *before* it actually fell, thus strongly implying that someone informed the reporters of the collapse ahead of time. (Whereas the BBC clips announce that WTC 7 has already collapsed, the CNN clip says it "has either collapsed, or is collapsing". While the CNN video is somewhat less dramatic than the BBC videos, given that no modern, steel-framed building has ever collapsed due to fire alone, and given that WTC 7 still looked strong at the time, why did CNN say the building "is collapsing"?)

See also [this collection of evidence](#) regarding building 7.

What if a police detective was investigating the murder of a guy named Joe, who had previously been healthy, and discovered that a suspect had said on the day of the murder "Joe will be dead within 2 hours"? The detective would believe that the suspect killed Joe, or at least conspired with those who did.

Similarly, the foreknowledge of the collapse of buildings 1, 2 and 7 – when steel-framed buildings simply do not collapse due to fire – is strong circumstantial evidence that Guiliani

and some key people within New York's Office of Emergency Management -- or their superiors in the chain of command -- are guilty for the demolition of those buildings. We've all watched enough detective shows on TV to recognize this foreknowledge as evidence of guilt.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6641>

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## Deep Background for Motive, general

### Neocon Imperialism, 9/11, and the Attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq

By David Ray Griffin

02/27/07 "ICH" -- -One way to understand the effect of 9/11, in most general terms, is to see that it allowed the agenda developed in the 1990s by neoconservatives—often called simply “neocons”---to be implemented. There is agreement on this point across the political spectrum. From the right, for example, Stefan Halper and Jonathan Clarke say that 9/11 allowed the “preexisting ideological agenda” of the neoconservatives to be “taken off the shelf . . . and relabeled as *the* response to terror.”<sup>1</sup> Stephen Sniegowski, writing from the left, says that “it was only the traumatic effects of the 9/11 terrorism that enabled the agenda of the neocons to become the policy of the United States of America.”<sup>2</sup>

What *was* this agenda? It was, in essence, that the United States should use its military supremacy to establish an empire that includes the whole world--a global *Pax Americana*. Three major means to this end were suggested. One of these was to make U.S. military supremacy over other nations even greater, so that it would be completely beyond challenge. This goal was to be achieved by increasing the money devoted to military purposes, then using this money to complete the “revolution in military affairs” made possible by the emergence of the information age. The second major way to achieve a global *Pax Americana* was to announce and implement a doctrine of preventive-preemptive war, usually for the sake of bringing about “regime change” in countries regarded as hostile to U.S. interests and values. The third means toward the goal of universal empire was to use this new doctrine to gain control of the world’s oil, especially in the Middle East, most immediately Iraq. In discussing these ideas, I will include recognitions by some commentators that without 9/11, the various dimensions of this agenda could not have been implemented. My purpose in publishing this essay is to introduce a perspective, relevant to the debates about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, that thus far has not been part of the public discussion.

#### 1. Neoconservatives and Global Empire

The “neo” in the term “neo-conservative” is a remnant of the fact that the first generation neoconservatives, such as Irving Kristol and Norman Podhoretz, had moved to the right after having been members of the left. Kristol, often called “the godfather of neoconservatism,” famously defined neoconservatives as liberals who had been “mugged by reality.” No such move, however, has characterized most of the second-generation neocons, who came to dominate the movement in the 1990s. As Gary Dorrien says in *Imperial Designs: Neoconservatism and the New Pax Americana*, “the new neocons had never been progressives of any kind.”<sup>3</sup> The term “neoconservatism” is, in any case, used here to refer strictly to an ideology, not to any biographical facts about those who hold this ideology.

I mean “biographical facts” to include ethnicity. Although many of the prominent neoconservatives have been Jewish, leading some people to think that Jewishness is a necessary condition for being a neo-conservative, this is not so. As Dorrien points out, “a significant number of prominent neocons were not Jews.”<sup>4</sup>

This discussion has its primary importance in relation to Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld. If neoconservatism is understood to be entirely a matter of ideology, not also partly a matter of biography, then there is no reason not to think of Cheney and Rumsfeld as neocons. As former neocon Michael Lind, says: “[N]eoconservatism is an ideology, like paleoconservatism and libertarianism, and Rumsfeld and Dick . . . Cheney are full-fledged neocons, . . . even though they are not Jewish and were never liberals or leftists.”<sup>5</sup>

Neoconservatism in its early decades was a multi-faceted phenomenon, but the focus here is on its foreign policy. Neoconservative foreign policy was originally oriented around opposition to Communism. This fact meant that the end of the Cold War produced a crisis for neocons. In 1991, after the fall of the Berlin wall, Podhoretz said that he was not sure what “America’s purpose should be now that the threat of Communism . . . had been decisively eliminated.” Five years later, he even published a eulogy to the movement, declaring it dead.<sup>6</sup>

#### Unipolarity

Other neocons, however, believed that they had a new cause to champion. Already in 1986, Irving Kristol argued that the United States needed to move toward a foreign policy of “global unilateralism.” But that would be difficult, he pointed out, as long as America is “an imperial power with no imperial self-definition.”<sup>7</sup> The new cause was to shape this new self-definition, thereby getting Americans ready to accept a policy of global unilateralism.

As soon as the Cold War ended, this cause was taken up by others. At the close of 1989, Charles Krauthammer, one of the best-known neocon columnists, published a piece entitled “Universal Dominion,” in which he argued that America should work for “a qualitatively new outcome--a unipolar world.”<sup>8</sup> In 1990, he argued that unipolarity has already arrived and that the United States, being the “unchallenged superpower,” should act unilaterally. Saying that “[t]he alternative to unipolarity is chaos,” Krauthammer explained what unipolarity requires of the United States: “unashamedly laying down the rules of world order and being prepared to enforce them.”<sup>9</sup> The following year, in an argument for a “robust interventionism,” he said of this unipolar world: “We Americans should like it---and exploit it.”<sup>10</sup>

#### The 1992 Defense Planning Guidance

The first effort to turn such thinking into official policy came in 1992, which was the last year of the presidency of George H. W. Bush and hence also the end of Dick Cheney’s tenure as secretary of defense. Before leaving office, Cheney had Paul Wolfowitz, the undersecretary of defense for policy, prepare---with the help of his top assistant, Lewis “Scooter” Libby---a draft of the Pentagon’s “Defense Planning Guidance” (DPG).<sup>11</sup> Stating that America’s “first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival,” this DPG draft was, in Andrew Bacevich’s appraisal, “in effect a blueprint for permanent American global hegemony.”<sup>12</sup>

This draft produced, after portions of a leaked copy were published in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*,<sup>13</sup> an outpouring of criticism. The ideas did get some support, especially from neoconservative publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, which praised the draft’s plan for a “Pax Americana.”<sup>14</sup> But most of the reaction was critical. Senator Alan Cranston complained that the Bush administration was seeking to make the United States “the one, the only main honcho on the world block, the global Big Enchilada.”<sup>15</sup> Senator Robert Byrd said that the document’s stance seemed to be: “We love being the sole remaining superpower in the world and we want so much to remain that way that we are willing to put at risk the basic health of our economy and well-being of our people to do so.”<sup>16</sup>

Seeking to calm the waters, especially because it was an election year, the administration of George H. W. Bush distanced itself from this draft, depicting it, in Bacevich’s words, “as the musings of an insignificant lower-tier appointee acting without official sanction.”<sup>17</sup> Although

Wolfowitz would refer to it as “my 1992 memorandum” many years later,<sup>18</sup> he claimed at the time that he had not seen it.<sup>19</sup> Cheney also claimed not to have seen it, even though one long section began by acknowledging “definitive guidance from the Secretary of Defense.” This latter fact has, incidentally, been pointed out by David Armstrong, who calls this draft an early version of Cheney’s “Plan . . . to rule the world.”<sup>20</sup> Although this draft came to be known as “the Wolfowitz plan,” it is important to recognize that it was Cheney who, in Dorrien’s words, “hatched the original unipolarist blueprint in 1992.”<sup>21</sup> Indeed, as Nicholas Lemann has reported in the *New Yorker*, the DPG draft resulted from a secret team that Cheney had set up in the Pentagon “to think about American foreign policy after the Cold War.”<sup>22</sup>

The recognition that this unipolarist blueprint was inspired by Cheney is important in light of the unprecedented power that he would exercise in the second Bush administration. As presidential historian Douglas Brinkley would say in 2002: “Cheney is unique in American history. . . . He is the vortex in the White House on foreign policymaking. Everything comes through him.”<sup>23</sup>

In any case, Cheney, under pressure from the White House, had the document significantly rewritten by Libby, in language more acceptable at the time. For example, whereas the first draft spoke of *spurning* collective action through the United Nations, this new version spoke of *strengthening* the U.N.<sup>24</sup> Cheney put an end to this brief public debate about the wisdom of a unipolarist foreign policy by having this softer version, which was later published,<sup>25</sup> leaked to the press.<sup>26</sup>

#### The 1990s and PNAC

This rewriting did not mean, however, that the ideas were dropped by Cheney and other neoconservatives. Indeed, after the election was over, Cheney, before leaving office, put out another revision, in which some of the neo-imperial language was restored.<sup>27</sup> Then Zalmay Khalilzad, who had joined Cheney’s team in 1991, put out a book early in 1995 entitled *From Containment to Global Leadership? America and the World after the Cold War*, which expresses quite forthrightly the idea of preventing, by military force if necessary, the rise of any rival power.<sup>28</sup> In 1996, Robert Kagan, “who emerged in the 1990s as perhaps the most influential neocon foreign policy analyst,”<sup>29</sup> argued that the United States should use its military strength “actively to maintain a world order which both supports and rests upon American hegemony.”<sup>30</sup> In 1998, Kagan and William Kristol, who in 1995 had founded the *Weekly Standard* (which quickly became the main organ of neocon thinking), wrote that unless America takes charge, we will have “world chaos, and a dangerous twenty-first century.”<sup>31</sup> In January of 2001, as the Bush-Cheney administration was ready to come to power, Kagan criticized “Clinton and his advisers” for “having the stomach only to be halfway imperialists.”<sup>32</sup>

It is important to understand the development of this neoconservative ideology, given the fact that after 9/11, the neocon agenda became the agenda of the United States. As Halper and Clarke said in 2004, “if one wishes to understand the direction of American foreign policy today, one must read what neo-conservatives were writing ten years or more ago.”<sup>33</sup>

The most important development within the neocon movement in the 1990s was William Kristol’s founding, in 1997, of a unipolarist think tank called the Project for the New American Century (PNAC).<sup>34</sup> Closely related to the American Enterprise Institute ideologically and even physically and financially, PNAC differed primarily in focusing entirely on foreign policy.<sup>35</sup> In its “Statement of Principles,” PNAC called for “American global leadership,” asking whether the United States has “the resolve to shape a new century favorable to American principles and interests.”<sup>36</sup>

In September of 2000, just three months before the Bush-Cheney administration took office, PNAC published a 76-page document entitled *Rebuilding America’s Defenses (RAD)*. Saying that “[a]t present the United States faces no global rival,” *RAD* declared that “America’s

grand strategy should aim to preserve and extend this advantageous position” and thereby “to preserve and enhance [the] ‘American peace.’” To “enhance” the “American peace” means, of course, to increase the size of the American empire. Explicitly referring back to the Cheney-Wolfowitz Defense Planning Guidance draft of 1992, *RAD* said that “the basic tenets of the DPG, in our judgment, remain sound.” The continuity between the two documents is no surprise, partly because Libby and Wolfowitz are listed as participants in the production of this 2000 document.<sup>37</sup>

What is said in the PNAC’s documents is highly important because many of PNAC’s early members, including Elliott Abrams, John Bolton, Eliot Cohen, Paula Dobriansky, Zalmay Khalilzad, Richard Perle, Peter W. Rodman, James Woolsey, and---most significantly--- Cheney, Libby, Rumsfeld, and Wolfowitz, became central members of the new Bush administration. PNAC neocons thereby took key positions in the Vice President’s Office, the Pentagon, and the (only semi-independent) Defense Policy Board. They did so well primarily because of Cheney, who was put in charge of the transition team, and secondarily because of Rumsfeld, after Cheney chose him to head the Pentagon.<sup>38</sup>

#### 9/11 and Empire Talk

With the new administration in place, neocon commentators such as Krauthammer became even more explicit and exuberant about the use of America’s power for imperial ends. Mocking Clinton for being concerned to be “a good international citizen” and praising Bush for understanding that “the U.S. can reshape, indeed remake, reality on its own,” Krauthammer said: “America is no mere international citizen. It is the dominant power in the world, more dominant than any since Rome. Accordingly, America is in a position to reshape norms . . . and create new realities. How? By unapologetic and implacable demonstrations of will.”<sup>39</sup>

However, it was not until after 9/11, and especially after the devastating assault on Afghanistan, that the neocon effort to get Americans to accept an imperial self-definition started showing widespread success. Early in 2002, Krauthammer, having noticed the difference, said: “People are coming out of the closet on the word ‘empire.’” Driving home his main message, Krauthammer added that Americans needed to face up to the responsibilities entailed by the fact that they are now “undisputed masters of the world.”<sup>40</sup> A year later, this unilateralist idea was voiced in the *Atlantic Monthly* by neocon Robert Kaplan, who argued that America should use its power unilaterally to “manage an unruly world,” leaving behind “the so-called international community,” especially the United Nations, with its “antiquated power arrangement.”<sup>41</sup>

9/11 and the 9/11 wars---meaning those that have been justified by appeal to the attacks of 9/11<sup>42</sup>---resulted in empire talk beyond the circles of neocons. Early in 2002, after the American assault on Afghanistan, Paul Kennedy, who had 15 years earlier been predicting America’s decline as a great power,<sup>43</sup> declared: “Nothing has ever existed like this disparity of power.” Describing America’s empire as the greatest of all time, he said: “Charlemagne’s empire was merely Western European in reach. The Roman empire stretched farther afield, but there was another great empire in Persia, and a larger one in China. There is, therefore, no comparison.”<sup>44</sup>

A very important development that same year was the publication of Andrew Bacevich’s *American Empire*, which closes by saying that the question before Americans is “not whether the United States has become an imperial power” but only “what sort of empire they intend theirs to be.”<sup>45</sup> Bacevich himself, while a conservative, strongly distanced himself from the imperial agenda of the neocons.<sup>46</sup>

But it was their agenda, not Bacevich’s cautionary critique, that would determine the “sort of empire” that the United States would seek to become during the Bush-Cheney administration. And it was 9/11 that allowed this agenda to be implemented. As Claes Ryn said, the

neoconservatives “have taken full advantage of the nation’s outrage over 9/11 to advance their already fully formed drive for empire.”<sup>47</sup>

## 2. Military Omnipotence

*The* tool for fulfilling this drive for empire, neocons have always held, is military power. To a great extent, in fact, the neoconservative movement began in reaction to the widespread view after the Vietnam war that American military power should never again be used for imperialistic purposes. In the early 1980s, rejecting the left’s conclusion that force had become “obsolete as an instrument of American political purposes,” Norman Podhoretz argued that military power constitutes “the indispensable foundation of U.S. foreign policy,” adding that “without it, nothing else we do will be effective.”<sup>48</sup>

The Cheney-Wolfowitz DPG of 1992, having said that “[o]ur first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival,” added that “we must maintain the mechanisms for deterring potential competitors from even aspiring to a regional or global role.” These “mechanisms” referred, of course, to various kinds of military power.

### Space and Full Spectrum Dominance

The U.S. military in the 1990s developed concepts to attain the kind of military superiority envisaged in this document. One of these concepts was “Full Spectrum Dominance,” which, says Bacevich, is the attempt “to achieve something approaching omnipotence.”<sup>49</sup> He is here referring to a document entitled “Joint Vision 2010,” which was first published by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1996. Defining “Full Spectrum Dominance” as “the capability to dominate an opponent across the range of military operations,” this document says that it “will be the key characteristic we seek for our Armed Forces in the 21st century.”<sup>50</sup> Given the fact that the U.S. military was already dominant on the land and the water and in the air, the new component needed was dominance in space.

Space dominance was described in a 1997 document entitled “Vision for 2020,” published by the U.S. Space Command, a division of the Air Force. The unique mission of the Space Command is to “dominat[e] the space dimension of military operations.” By merging this “space superiority with land, sea, and air superiority,” the U.S. military will have Full Spectrum Dominance.<sup>51</sup>

This notion was further developed in the Pentagon’s “Joint Vision 2020,” which first appeared in 2000.<sup>52</sup> It speaks of full spectrum dominance as involving not just four but five dimensions: “space, sea, land, air, and information.” In addition, this document says, “given the global nature of our interests and obligations, the United States must maintain its overseas presence forces and the ability to rapidly project power worldwide in order to achieve full spectrum dominance.” This statement gives support to Bacevich’s observation that after the end of the Cold War, “the Department of Defense completed its transformation into a Department of Power Projection.”<sup>53</sup>

PNAC’s *Rebuilding America’s Defenses* appeared in September of that same year. Written to influence the next administration, *RAD*’s main point was that “the next president of the United States . . . must increase military spending to preserve American geopolitical leadership.”<sup>54</sup>

Besides arguing for increased spending across the board, *RAD* argued in particular for increased funding for the U.S. Space Command. Saying that “the ability to have access to, operate in, and dominate the aerospace environment has become the key to military success in modern, high-technology warfare,” it advocated not only “missile defense” but also “placing . . . weapons in space.” The weapons, moreover, are not simply for defensive purposes, but also for “the ability to conduct strikes from space,” which will give the U.S. military a “global first-strike force.”<sup>55</sup>

### The Revolution in Military Affairs

This development of space-based weapons was presented as simply one part, albeit probably the most important part, of a more general transformation of the military that exploits the

“revolution in military affairs” (RMA), which has been made possible by information technologies.<sup>56</sup> This RMA transformation of the military was said to be “sufficiently important to consider it a separate mission.”<sup>57</sup>

In spite of this importance, however, the authors of *RAD*, ever mindful of budgetary constraints and widespread commitment to more traditional ways, warned that the needed transformation would not occur quickly, at least if the present climate continued. In a statement that has been widely quoted in the 9/11 truth movement, they wrote that “the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event---like a new Pearl Harbor.”<sup>58</sup>

The emphasis in *RAD* on exploiting the RMA to transform the Pentagon’s approach is no surprise, since one of the participants in the project to produce this document was Wolfowitz, who had long before fallen under the spell of Albert Wohlstetter (one of the models for “Dr. Strangelove”<sup>59</sup>). Wohlstetter had been the main early proponent of the ideas that came to be dubbed the “revolution in military affairs” by Andrew Marshall, who later became the main proponent.<sup>60</sup> Marshall, who at this writing was still serving as the RMA guru in the Pentagon, numbers Wolfowitz, Cheney, and Rumsfeld among his disciples.<sup>61</sup>

Rumsfeld, in fact, was at the same time heading up a special commission to make recommendations about the military use of space. This “Rumsfeld Commission,” endorsing the idea of military transformation, including the weaponization of space, said that the United States should “[e]mploy space systems to help speed the transformation of the U.S. military into a modern force able to deter and defend against evolving threats directed at . . . [our] forward deployed forces.”<sup>62</sup> (In other words, although the language of “defense” and “deterrence” is used, part of the purpose of the space weapons is to prevent attacks on America’s *offensive* operations.) This report, interestingly, also used the Pearl Harbor analogy. Warning against the tendency to consider an attack on U.S. space satellites as too improbable to worry about, the report of the Rumsfeld Commission said:

History is replete with instances in which warning signs were ignored and change resisted until an external, “improbable” event forced resistant bureaucracies to take action. The question is whether the U.S. will be wise enough to act responsibly and soon enough to reduce U.S. space vulnerability. Or whether, as in the past, a disabling attack against the country and its people—a “Space Pearl Harbor”—will be the only event able to galvanize the nation and cause the U.S. Government to act.<sup>63</sup>

9/11 as the New Pearl Harbor

The attacks of 9/11 were widely referred to as a new Pearl Harbor. President Bush reportedly wrote in his diary on the night of 9/11: “The Pearl Harbor of the 21<sup>st</sup> century took place today.”<sup>64</sup> Immediately after the attacks, many people, from Robert Kagan to Henry Kissinger to a writer for *Time* magazine, said that America should respond to the attacks of 9/11 in the same way it had responded to the attack on Pearl Harbor.<sup>65</sup>

Moreover, just as the attack on Pearl Harbor gave the United States the opportunity to enter World War II, which in turn allowed it to replace Great Britain as the leading imperial power, the attacks of 9/11 were widely regarded as an opportunity. Donald Rumsfeld stated that 9/11 created “the kind of opportunities that World War II offered, to refashion the world.”<sup>66</sup>

Condoleezza Rice reportedly told senior members of the National Security Council to “think about ‘how do you capitalize on these opportunities’ to fundamentally change American doctrine, and the shape of the world, in the wake of September 11<sup>th</sup>.”<sup>67</sup> In a public address, she said that “if the collapse of the Soviet Union and 9/11 bookend a major shift in international politics, then this is a period not just of grave danger, but of enormous opportunity.”<sup>68</sup> According to Bob Woodward, the president himself said that the attacks provided “a great opportunity.”<sup>69</sup> Only two days after 9/11, in fact, Bush said in a telephone conversation with Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Governor George Pataki of New York:

“[T]hrough the tears of sadness I see an opportunity.” The next day, he reportedly used exactly the same words while talking to the press.<sup>70</sup>

Nicholas Lemann of the *New Yorker*, dealing with this response to 9/11 as an opportunity, reports that he was told by a senior official of the Bush administration (who insisted on anonymity) that, in Lemann’s paraphrase, “the reason September 11th appears to have been ‘a transformative moment’ is not so much that it revealed the existence of a threat of which officials had previously been unaware as that it drastically reduced the American public’s usual resistance to American military involvement overseas.”<sup>71</sup> We did not, of course, hear that stated publicly by any member of the Bush-Cheney administration.

The attacks of 9/11 also reduced Congressional resistance to providing increased funding for Pentagon programs. On the evening of 9/11 itself, Rumsfeld held a news briefing on the Pentagon attack. At this briefing, Senator Carl Levin, the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was asked: “Senator Levin, you and other Democrats in Congress have voiced fear that you simply don’t have enough money for the large increase in defense that the Pentagon is seeking, especially for missile defense. . . . Does this sort of thing convince you that an emergency exists in this country to increase defense spending?”<sup>72</sup> Congress immediately appropriated an additional \$40 billion for the Pentagon and much more later, with few questions asked.

The attacks of 9/11, moreover, aided those who favored a transformation of the military along RMA lines. In the weeks before September 11, Bacevich reports, “military transformation appeared to be dead in the water,” because the military brass were “wedded to existing weapons systems, troop structure, and strategy.”<sup>73</sup> But, Bacevich continues:

President Bush’s decision after September 11 to wage a global war against terror boosted the RMA’s stock. After 9/11, the Pentagon shifted from the business of theorizing about war to the business of actually waging it. This created an opening for RMA advocates to make their case. War plans . . . became the means for demonstrating once for all the efficacy of the ideas advanced by Wohlstetter and Marshall and now supported by . . . Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz.<sup>74</sup>

After the removal of Saddam Hussein, Richard Perle, who had long shared Wolfowitz’s enthusiasm for Wohlstetter’s ideas, said: “This is the first war that’s been fought in a way that would recognize Albert’s vision of future wars.”<sup>75</sup>

These ideas for achieving military omnipotence became official policy with the publication, one year after 9/11, of the Bush-Cheney administration’s *National Security Strategy of the United States of America (NSS 2002)*, which said: “We must build and maintain our defenses beyond challenge” so that we can “dissuade future military competition.”<sup>76</sup>

The conviction that 9/11 provided an opportunity was also reflected in *NSS 2002*, which said: “The events of September 11, 2001, . . . opened vast, new opportunities.”<sup>77</sup> One of the things for which it most clearly provided an opportunity was the doctrine of preemptive-preventive war.

### 3. Preemptive-Preventive War

This hyphenated term is used here for clarity. The doctrine in question, which involves attacking another country even though it poses no immediate threat, is technically called “preventive war.” This doctrine, which violates international law as reflected in the charter of the United Nations, is to be distinguished from what is technically called “preemptive war,” which occurs when Country A attacks Country B after learning that an attack from Country B is imminent---*too* imminent to allow time for the U.N. to intervene. These technical terms, however, are problematic, because although preventive war, being illegal, is worse than preemptive war, to most ears “preemption” sounds worse than “prevention.” As a result, many people speak of “preemptive war” when they mean preventive war. The term “preemptive-preventive war,” while somewhat cumbersome, solves this problem.<sup>78</sup>

Historical Emergence of the Doctrine

This doctrine of preemptive-preventive war had been advocated by neocons long before 9/11. It was contained already in the Cheney-Wolfowitz Defense Planning Guidance of 1992, which said that the United States should use force to “preempt” and “preclude threats.”<sup>79</sup> In 1996, Richard Perle and other neocons prepared a strategy paper entitled “A Clean Break” for Benjamin Netanyahu, who had recently been elected prime minister of Israel. This paper recommended that Israel, in making a clean break from previous strategies, establish “the principle of preemption.”<sup>80</sup>

In 1997, PNAC’s “Statement of Principles” argued that to exert “global leadership,” America needs to “challenge regimes hostile to our interests and values.”<sup>81</sup>

In 1998, a letter from PNAC, signed by Perle, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, and 15 other members, urged President Clinton to “undertake military action” to eliminate “the possibility that Iraq will be able to use or threaten to use weapons of mass destruction.”<sup>82</sup>

#### The Doctrine of Preemptive-Preventive War after 9/11

Although these neocons were anxious to have their doctrine of preemptive-preventive war accepted as national policy, this did not occur during the Clinton presidency or even during the first eight months of the Bush-Cheney administration. After 9/11, however, it did. “The events of 9/11,” observes Bacevich, “provided the tailor-made opportunity to break free of the fetters restricting the exercise of American power.”<sup>83</sup>

The idea of preemptive-preventive war, which came to be known as the “Bush doctrine,” was first clearly expressed in the president’s address at West Point in June 2002 (when the administration started preparing the American people psychologically for the attack on Iraq). Having stated that, in relation to the “new threats,” deterrence “means nothing” and containment is “not possible,” Bush even took aim at the traditional understanding of preemption, saying: “If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long.” Then, using the language of preemption while really meaning preemptive-prevention, he said that America’s security “will require all Americans . . . to be ready for preemptive action.”<sup>84</sup>

#### NSS 2002

However, although the West Point speech provided a first statement of this new doctrine, it was in *NSS 2002*, published that September, that the new doctrine was laid out at some length. The covering letter, signed by the president, says that with regard to “our enemies’ efforts to acquire dangerous technologies,” America will, in self-defense, “act against such emerging threats before they are fully formed.”<sup>85</sup> The document itself, saying that “our best defense is a good offense,” also states:

Given the goals of rogue states and terrorists, the United States can no longer rely on a reactive posture as we have in the past. The inability to deter a potential attacker, the immediacy of today’s threats, and the magnitude of potential harm that could be caused by our adversaries’ choice of weapons, do not permit that option. We cannot let our enemies strike first.<sup>86</sup>

To justify this doctrine, *NSS 2002* argues that the United States must “adapt” the traditional doctrine of preemption, long recognized as a right, to the new situation, thereby turning it into a right of anticipatory (preventive) preemption:

For centuries, international law recognized that nations need not suffer an attack before they can lawfully take action to defend themselves against forces that present an imminent danger of attack. . . . We must adapt the concept of imminent threat to the capabilities and objectives of today’s adversaries. . . . The United States has long maintained the option of preemptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, . . . the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy’s attack. To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act preemptively.<sup>87</sup> With this argument, the authors of *NSS 2002* tried to suggest that, since this doctrine of anticipatory preemption simply involves adapting a traditionally recognized right to a new

situation, it involves no great change. But it does. According to the traditional doctrine, one needed certain evidence that the other country was going to launch an immediate attack. According to the Bush Doctrine, by contrast, the United States can attack another country “even if uncertainty remains” and even, more flagrantly, if the United States knows that the threat from the other country is not yet “fully formed.”

The novelty here, to be sure, involves doctrine more than practice. The United States has in practice attacked several countries that presented no imminent military threat. But it always portrayed these attacks in such a way that they could appear to comport with international law. The attack on North Vietnam after the alleged incident in the Tonkin Gulf provides an example. But “[n]ever before,” point out Halper and Clarke, “had any president set out a formal national strategy *doctrine* that included [preventive] preemption.”<sup>88</sup> This is a step of great significance, because it involves an explicit statement by the United States that the basic principle of international law, as embodied in the United Nations, does not apply to its own behavior.

#### Zelikow as Primary Drafter of NSS 2002

Max Boot, a neocon who has become well known through his newspaper columns, has described *NSS 2002* as a “quintessentially neo-conservative document.”<sup>89</sup> Now that the basic ideas of this document have been laid out, we can see the accuracy of his observation. We can also see the importance of a still little-known fact: that Philip Zelikow, who would later become the executive director of the 9/11 Commission, was chosen by Condoleezza Rice to be the primary drafter of *NSS 2002*.<sup>90</sup>

According to James Mann in *The Rise of the Vulcans*, after Rice saw the first draft of this document (which had been prepared by Richard Haass, the director of policy planning in Colin Powell’s State Department), she “ordered the document be completely rewritten. She thought the Bush administration needed something bolder. . . . Rice turned the writing over to her old colleague, . . . Philip Zelikow.”<sup>91</sup> (Rice and Zelikow had worked together in the National Security Council in the administration of the first President Bush; when the Republicans were out of power during the Clinton presidency, they wrote a book together; and then when she was appointed National Security Advisor for the second President Bush, she brought on Zelikow to help with the transition to the new National Security Council.) Given the content and tone of the document, one might assume that Cheney, Rumsfeld, or Wolfowitz had been involved in the process of creating it. According to Mann, however, “the hawks in the Pentagon and in Vice President Cheney’s office hadn’t been closely involved, even though the document incorporated many of their key ideas. They had left the details and the drafting in the hands of Rice and Zelikow, along with Rice’s deputy, Stephen Hadley.”<sup>92</sup> Some insight into Zelikow’s views before coming to this task might be garnered from an essay he co-authored in 1998 on “catastrophic terrorism.” In this essay, which suggests that he had been thinking about the World Trade Center and a new Pearl Harbor several years prior to 9/1, Zelikow and his co-authors say:

If the device that exploded in 1993 under the World Trade Center had been nuclear, or had effectively dispersed a deadly pathogen, the resulting horror and chaos would have exceeded our ability to describe it. Such an act of catastrophic terrorism would be a watershed event in American history. It could involve loss of life and property unprecedented in peacetime and undermine America's fundamental sense of security, as did the Soviet atomic bomb test in 1949. Like Pearl Harbor, this event would divide our past and future into a before and after. The United States might respond with draconian measures, scaling back civil liberties, allowing wider surveillance of citizens, detention of suspects, and use of deadly force.<sup>93</sup>

In any case, in light of Zelikow’s close relationship with the Bush administration and especially his authorship of *NSS 2002*, we cannot take seriously the claim of the 9/11 Commission that it sought to be “independent.”<sup>94</sup> As executive director, he had tremendous power to shape the work of the Commission, deciding which issues it would investigate and

which not, and he was primarily responsible for the final form of *The 9/11 Commission Report*.<sup>95</sup> The Family Steering Committee, which represented families of victims of the 9/11 attacks, vigorously protested his appointment, calling for “Dr. Zelikow’s immediate resignation” and for the “Commission to apologize to the 9/11 families and America for this massive appearance of impropriety.”<sup>96</sup> But these calls were dismissed.

Given Zelikow’s close relationship with the Bush-Cheney administration and his own authorship of *NSS 2002*, it is certainly no surprise that, as I reported in *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*,<sup>97</sup> there is no mention of imperial interests that might have served as motives for the Bush-Cheney administration to have orchestrated or at least permitted the attacks of 9/11. The Zelikow-led Commission did not, for example, mention that PNAC’s *Rebuilding America’s Defenses* had suggested that the transformation of the military, through which unipolarity could be enforced more effectively, could occur more quickly if there were to be “a new Pearl Harbor”; it did not mention that the administration had had plans, to be discussed below, to attack both Afghanistan and Iraq prior to 9/11; and it did not mention that 9/11 had been described as presenting “opportunities” by Bush, Rice, Rumsfeld, and, in fact, *NSS 2002*. Once we know of Zelikow’s authorship of that document, moreover, it is also no surprise to see that *The 9/11 Commission Report* contains a chapter---“What to Do? A Global Strategy”---that provides propaganda for the Bush-Cheney administration’s post-9/11 foreign policy.

I return now to the discussion of possible imperial motives for 9/11 within the Bush-Cheney administration.

#### 4. The Attack on Afghanistan

Many times since the formal enunciation of the doctrine of preemptive-preventive warfare, the Bush-Cheney administration has defended it as necessitated by 9/11. In an address to the nation in 2004, for example, Bush said that the two lessons of 9/11 are that this country “must deal with gathering threats” and that it “must go on the offense and stay on the offense.”<sup>98</sup> The first victim of this claimed right to “go on the offense” was Afghanistan.

Although the attacks of 9/11 were, according to the official story, planned and carried out by a non-state organization, al-Qaeda, rather than by some state, the Bush-Cheney administration used the attacks as a pretext to launch attacks on *states*---attacks that had been planned *before* 9/11. The justification for this switch was provided by Bush’s address to the nation on the evening of 9/11, in which he declared: “We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.”<sup>99</sup> The attack on Afghanistan was then justified on the grounds that the Taliban was “harboring” Osama bin Laden, the evil genius behind the 9/11 attacks, whom Bush on September 17 said he wanted “dead or alive” (after Cheney had said that he would willingly accept bin Laden’s “head on a platter”).<sup>100</sup>

But this was a pretext rather than the real reason for attacking Afghanistan---as illustrated by the fact that when the Bush administration had an opportunity to take bin Laden alive, it showed no interest. A week after 9/11, the Taliban said that it would hand OBL over---*if* the United States presented proof of his involvement in 9/11. But Bush refused to provide any such evidence, saying that there would be no negotiations or even discussion.<sup>101</sup> Again, four weeks after the U.S. attack on Afghanistan began, a Taliban spokesman said: “We will negotiate. But . . . [w]e are not a province of the United States, to be issued orders to. We have asked for proof of Osama's involvement, but they have refused. Why?”<sup>102</sup>

There are probably two answers to this question. First, there is much evidence that the Bush administration did *not* want bin Laden, either dead or alive. One part of this evidence consists of several reports that the U.S. military in Afghanistan deliberately let bin Laden escape more than once.<sup>103</sup> A second reason is that the Bush administration, besides knowing that bin Laden was not responsible for the 9/11 attacks, evidently decided that it could not even marshal convincing (albeit false) case that he was (as suggested by the fact that, after a White Paper presenting this proof was promised, it was never produced<sup>104</sup>). More recently, the FBI, in

response to a query as to why does not list 9/11 as one of the crimes for which bin Laden is wanted, has said: “The reason why 9/11 is not mentioned on Usama Bin Laden’s Most Wanted page is because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11”<sup>105</sup>(a rather astounding admission that, one might think, should have been reported on the nightly news and in *The New York Times*).

To understand the real reasons for the attack on Afghanistan, one needs to look at some developments prior to 9/11. One such development was the publication in 1997 of Zbigniew Brzezinski’s book *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*. As the subtitle shows, Brzezinski, while not a neoconservative, shared the neocons’ concern to maintain and enhance U.S. “primacy.” Portraying Central Asia, with its vast oil reserves, as the key to world power, Brzezinski argued that America, to ensure its continued primacy, must get control of this region, which would mean establishing several military bases there.

However, Brzezinski added, American democracy posed an obstacle: America is too democratic at home to be autocratic abroad. This limits the use of America’s power, especially its capacity for military intimidation. . . . The economic self-denial (that is, defense spending) and the human sacrifice (casualties even among professional soldiers) required in the effort are uncongenial to democratic instincts. Democracy is inimical to imperial mobilization.<sup>106</sup>

Brzezinski, however, then suggested a way in which this obstacle could be overcome. Having said that in the United States “the pursuit of power is not a goal that commands popular passion,” he then added: “except in conditions of a sudden threat or challenge to the public’s sense of domestic well being.”<sup>107</sup> The American people *would* be willing to make the economic and human sacrifices needed for “imperial mobilization,” he suggested, if there were “a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat.”<sup>108</sup> The kind of threat he had in mind was suggested by his statement, earlier in the book, that the public was willing to support “America’s engagement in World War II largely because of the shock effect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.”<sup>109</sup>

It is possible that Brzezinski’s discussion here inspired the statement about a “new Pearl Harbor” in PNAC’s 2000 document, which can be read as a call for a false-flag operation that would provide a pretext for turning PNAC’s agenda into official policy. The plausibility of this reading was increased, moreover, by a statement made by Brzezinski’s during his warning, in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 1, 2007, that a “head-on conflict with Iran and with much of the world of Islam at large” was the likely outcome of the US frustration in Iraq. “A plausible scenario for a military collision with Iran,” Brzezinski suggested, involves “a terrorist act in the U.S. blamed on Iran; culminating in a ‘defensive’ U.S. military action against Iran.” Adding that a “mythical historical narrative” for an expanded attack on Islamic countries “is already being articulated,” Brzezinski said that “9/11 [is being presented] as the equivalent of the Pearl Harbor attack.”<sup>110</sup>

Be that as it may, a more specific motivation for the post-9/11 attack on Afghanistan was provided by the “pipeline war” that was going on.<sup>111</sup> The Bush-Cheney administration supported--as had the Clinton-Gore administration until 1999--UNOCAL’s plan to build an oil-and-gas pipeline through Afghanistan, which was in competition with plans from oil companies based in other countries. What happened in 1999 was that UNOCAL, having become convinced that Afghanistan under the Taliban would never have the peace and stability needed for the pipeline project, decided to withdraw. Ahmed Rashid, finishing his book on the Taliban in mid-1999, wrote that the Clinton administration had shifted its support to the pipeline route from Azerbaijan through Georgia to Turkey, adding that “by now nobody wanted to touch Afghanistan and the Taliban.”<sup>112</sup>

When the Bush administration came to power, however, it decided to give the Taliban one last chance. This last chance occurred at a four-day meeting in Berlin in July 2001.

Representatives of the Bush-Cheney administration, trying to persuade the Taliban to share power with US-friendly factions in a “unity government,” reportedly gave the Taliban an ultimatum: “Either you accept our offer of a carpet of gold, or we bury you under a carpet of bombs.”<sup>113</sup> When the Taliban refused, the Americans reportedly said that “military action against Afghanistan would go ahead . . . before the snows started falling in Afghanistan, by the middle of October at the latest.”<sup>114</sup>

Given the fact that the attacks on New York and Washington occurred on September 11, the U.S. military had time to get ready, logistically, to begin its war in Afghanistan on October 7. By October 10, the U.S. Department of State had informed the Pakistani Minister of Oil that “in view of recent geopolitical developments,” UNOCAL was ready to go ahead with the pipeline project.<sup>115</sup>

The contention that at least one of the purposes of the war was to support this project is suggested by the fact that the post-Taliban Prime Minister, Hamid Karzai, had previously been on UNOCAL’s payroll, as had been PNAC member Zalmay Khalilzad, who in 2001 was appointed Bush’s special envoy to Afghanistan and then in 2003 became the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan. As Chalmers Johnson said in 2004: “The continued collaboration of Khalilzad and Karzai in post-9/11 Afghanistan strongly suggests that the Bush administration was and remains . . . interested in oil.”<sup>116</sup> (In March of 2005, Khalilzad would become the U.S. ambassador to Iraq.<sup>117</sup>)

Still more evidence is provided by the placement of the military bases in Afghanistan. As one Israeli writer put it: “If one looks at the map of the big American bases created, one is struck by the fact that they are completely identical to the route of the projected oil pipeline to the Indian Ocean.”<sup>118</sup>

The concern to enable an American oil company to build this pipeline should not, however, be considered the only or even the primary motivation. The larger concern, suggests Chalmers Johnson, was “to establish an American presence in Central Asia.” Evidence for this view is provided by the fact that the United States, besides establishing long-term bases in Afghanistan, had within a month after 9/11 arranged for long-term bases in Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.<sup>119</sup>

The new Pearl Harbor that occurred on 9/11, therefore, allowed the United States to support UNOCAL’s pipeline project and, more generally, to fulfill the program, suggested by Brzezinski, of taking control of this region of the world.

The fact that 9/11 provided the necessary condition for the war in Afghanistan was stated by both Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld. In 2004, Wolfowitz told the 9/11 Commission that if the Department of Defense had asked Congress for permission to invade Afghanistan prior to 9/11, this request would not have been taken seriously. Rumsfeld, telling the Commission that “it can take a tragedy like September 11<sup>th</sup> to awaken the world to new threats and to the need for action,” said that prior to 9/11 the president could not have convinced Congress that the United States needed to “invade Afghanistan and overthrow the Taliban.”<sup>120</sup>

Afghanistan and the surrounding region was not, however, the primary target in the sights of the Bush-Cheney administration. That target was Iraq.

## 5. The Attack on Iraq

Several neocons, including some who became central members of the Bush-Cheney administration, had been wanting to bring about regime change in Iraq ever since Saddam Hussein’s occupation of Kuwait in 1990. Leading voices for this policy included Cheney and Wolfowitz, who were then secretary and under-secretary of defense, respectively, and also Richard Perle, who chaired a committee set up by neocons called Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf. But this idea was opposed by President Bush along with General Colin Powell, then chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Norman Schwarzkopf, the field commander, so it was not carried out.<sup>121</sup>

In 1992, Albert Wohlstetter, who had inspired Perle and Wolfowitz and other neocons, expressed exasperation that nothing had been done about “a dictatorship sitting on the world’s second largest pool of low-cost oil and ambitious to dominate the Gulf.”<sup>122</sup> (Wohlstetter’s statement reflected his conviction, expressed back in 1981, that America needs to establish forces, bases, and infrastructure so as to enjoy unquestioned primacy in the region.<sup>123</sup>)

In 1996, the “Clean Break” paper, written for Israel by Perle and other neocons, proposed that Israel remove from power all of its enemies in the region, beginning with Saddam Hussein. This 1996 document, in the opinion of Arnaud de Borchgrave, president of United Press International, “provided the strategic underpinnings for Operation Iraqi Freedom seven years later.”<sup>124</sup>

In 1997, Wolfowitz and Khalilzad published a statement arguing that “Saddam Must Go.”<sup>125</sup>

In 1998, Kristol and Kagan, in a *New York Times* op-ed entitled “Bombing Iraq Isn’t Enough,” called for “finishing the job left undone in 1991.”<sup>126</sup> Wolfowitz told the House National Security Committee that it had been a mistake in 1991 to leave Saddam in power. Also, writing in the *New Republic*, he said: “Toppling Saddam is the only outcome that can satisfy the vital U.S. interest in a stable and secure Gulf region.”<sup>127</sup> And the afore-mentioned letter to President Clinton from PNAC---signed by Cheney, Kristol, Perle, and Wolfowitz, among others---urged him to “take the necessary steps, including military steps,” to “remov[e] Saddam’s regime from power.” Then, getting no agreement from Clinton, PNAC wrote a similar letter to Newt Gingrich and Trent Lott, then the leaders of the House and the Senate, respectively.<sup>128</sup>

In 2000, PNAC’s *Rebuilding America’s Defenses*, pointing out that “the United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security,” added: “While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein.”<sup>129</sup>

Given the fact that Cheney, Libby, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, and other neocons were given central positions in the new Bush administration, it is not surprising to learn, from two former members of this administration, that it came into office intent on attacking Iraq. Paul O’Neill, who was secretary of the treasury and hence a member of the National Security Council, has said that within days of the inauguration, the main topic was going after Saddam, with the question being not “Why Saddam?” or “Why Now?” but merely “finding a way to do it.”<sup>130</sup> Richard Clarke, who had been the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, confirmed O’Neill’s charge, saying: “The administration of the second George Bush did begin with Iraq on its agenda.”<sup>131</sup>

Until the attacks of 9/11, however, no one had found “a way to do it.” As neocon Kenneth Adelman has said: “At the beginning of the administration people were talking about Iraq but it wasn’t doable. . . . That changed with September 11.”<sup>132</sup> Bob Woodward makes the same observation in *Bush at War*, saying: “The terrorist attacks of September 11 gave the U.S. a new window to go after Hussein.”<sup>133</sup>

However, even 9/11, by itself, was not a sufficient basis for getting the American people’s support for an attack on Iraq. Not for lack of effort by Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz. On the afternoon of 9/11 itself, Rumsfeld said in a note to General Richard Myers---the acting head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff---that he wanted the “best info fast. Judge whether good enough hit S.H. [Saddam Hussein] at same time. Not only UBL [Usama bin Laden].”<sup>134</sup> In the following days, both Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz argued that Saddam’s Iraq should be, in Woodward’s paraphrase, “a principal target of the first round in the war on terrorism.”<sup>135</sup> Colin Powell, however, argued that both the American people and other countries would at that time support an attack on Afghanistan, to do something about al-Qaeda, but not an attack on Iraq, since there was no evidence that it had anything to do with 9/11. He added, however,

that after a successful campaign in Afghanistan, a war on Iraq would become more feasible. Bush accepted this argument.<sup>136</sup> In doing so, he was not rejecting the proposal to use 9/11 to justify an attack on Iraq, merely postponing its implementation: A plan for going to war in Afghanistan that Bush signed on September 17 also directed the Pentagon to begin planning military options for an invasion of Iraq.<sup>137</sup>

Stephen Sniegowski, explaining why the attack on Iraq could not be launched immediately, says: “[A]lthough the 9/11 atrocities psychologically prepared the American people for the war on Iraq, those horrific events were not sufficient by themselves to thrust America immediately into an attack on Iraq.” A “lengthy propaganda offensive” would also be needed.<sup>138</sup>

This propaganda offensive involved convincing a majority of the American people of the truth of two false claims: that Saddam Hussein had been behind 9/11 and that he possessed, or soon would possess, weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, with which he could attack America. This part of the story is too well known to need much rehearsal. The point to emphasize here is that although this later propaganda was necessary, its success depended on 9/11. Halper and Clarke say that “it was 9/11 that provided the political context in which the thinking of neo-conservatives could be turned into operational policy.”<sup>139</sup>

Sniegowski, spelling out the point more fully, says:

The 9/11 attacks made the American people angry and fearful. Ordinary Americans wanted to strike back at the terrorist enemy, even though they weren’t exactly sure who that enemy was. . . . Moreover, they were fearful of more attacks and were susceptible to the administration’s propaganda that the United States had to strike Iraq before Iraq somehow struck the United States. . . . It wasn’t that difficult to channel American fear and anger into war against Iraq.<sup>140</sup>

Much of this channeling was done by the Bush-Cheney administration, especially Bush and Cheney themselves. In August of 2002, for example, Cheney declared that “there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction . . . [and] is amassing them to use . . . against us.”<sup>141</sup> In October, Bush said that, having “experienced the horror of September the 11th, . . . America must not ignore the threat gathering against us. Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait for the final proof--the smoking gun--that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud.”<sup>142</sup>

The administration was greatly aided in this propaganda offensive by neoconservatives outside the government, who “linked their preexisting agenda (an attack on Iraq) to a separate event (9/11).”<sup>143</sup> Through their incessant propaganda--most widely spread in Lawrence Kaplan and William Kristol’s *The War over Iraq: Saddam’s Tyranny and America’s Mission*--“Al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein were morphed into the same enemy” and “the war on terror and war in Iraq were joined at the hip.”<sup>144</sup>

This propaganda campaign was enormously successful. Shortly before the war on Iraq was launched, the two key ideas in the campaign--that Saddam Hussein had played a direct role in the attacks of 9/11 and that he was a threat because he had weapons of mass destruction--were accepted by 70 percent of the American people.<sup>145</sup> As a result, point out Halper and Clarke, the Bush-Cheney administration was “able to build the environment surrounding the terrorist attacks of September 2001 into a wide moral platform from which to launch a preemptive strike.”<sup>146</sup>

That this propaganda campaign would be successful would have been predictable. As Hermann Göring, one of the top Nazi officials, said: “[I]t is the *leaders* of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along. . . . All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked.”<sup>147</sup>

Accordingly, the fact that there were no Iraqis among the alleged hijackers does not mean that the desire for a pretext to attack Iraq could not have been one of the imperial motives behind the attacks of 9/11. The crucial precondition for the war in Iraq was a psychological state of mind in the American public--one of fear and anxiety combined with a desire for revenge--

that would countenance the new doctrine of preemptive-preventive war. This state of mind was abundantly created by 9/11. Then, just as the ensuing propaganda offensive against Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban created almost unanimous acceptance of the war in Afghanistan, the propaganda offensive directed at Saddam Hussein was rather easily able to channel this fear, anxiety, and desire for revenge into a widespread feeling that a war to bring about regime change in Iraq was justified.

#### Conclusion

The attacks of 9/11 allowed the imperialist agenda of leading neoconservatives to be implemented. Can we infer from this effect that the hope to have this agenda fulfilled was one of the motives for the 9/11 attacks? Of course not. One of the basic principles of criminal investigations, however, is the question: Who benefits? Those who most benefit from the crime are usually the most likely suspects. But an answer to that question cannot by itself be used as proof of the suspects' guilt. The prosecution must also show that the suspects had the means and the opportunity to commit the crime. It must also present evidence that the suspects actually committed the crime---at least *indirect* evidence, perhaps by showing that they were the only ones who *could* have done it.

I have elsewhere presented evidence---what I first called *prima facie* evidence but now call *overwhelming* evidence<sup>148</sup>---that 9/11 was an inside job, orchestrated by leading members of the Bush-Cheney administration. This evidence includes many reasons to conclude that the official accounts of the World Trade Center collapses, the attack on the Pentagon, the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, and the failure of the U.S. military to intercept the other flights cannot be true. This evidence also includes many reasons to conclude that *The 9/11 Commission Report* involved a systematic cover-up of dozens of facts that conflict with the official conspiracy theory about 9/11, according to which the attacks were conceived and carried out entirely by al-Qaeda---evidence that instead points to official complicity. One example of this evidence is the fact that the Commission changed by about 45 minutes the time at which Vice President Cheney went down to the Presidential Emergency Operations Center under the White House, thereby indicating that he could not have been responsible, as evidence suggests, for allowing the strike on the Pentagon and ordering the downing of UA 93.<sup>149</sup>

Many people, to be sure, feel that there is no need to examine the evidence that the attacks were arranged by members of the Bush administration because they feel certain, on *a priori* grounds, that it simply would not have done such a thing. Having addressed most of those grounds elsewhere,<sup>150</sup> I have here dealt with only one of them, which is often phrased as a rhetorical question: What motive could they possibly have had for arranging attacks on their own citizens?

Having suggested that the motive was to have a pretext to turn the neocon agenda into national policy, I should add that it is probably only the neocons in office, and even only some of them, who should be suspected of involvement in the planning for 9/11. To say that 9/11 allowed the agenda of the neocons in general to be implemented does not imply that many or even any neocons outside the government were involved in the planning for, or even had advance knowledge of, the attacks of 9/11. About eight months after 9/11, for example, William Kristol and Robert Kagan wrote pieces urging the Bush-Cheney administration to undertake an investigation to see if the attacks might have been prevented. Gary Dorrien, reporting that this call "earned a sharp rebuke from Cheney," adds that "the Bush administration had no intention of allowing an investigation on that subject."<sup>151</sup>

No genuine investigation has been carried out to this day. If Congress would authorize such an investigation, the American people, I am convinced, would see that the grounds for impeaching Bush and Cheney are even stronger than those that have been part of the public discussion thus far. They would also see that the reasons for opposing the war in Iraq are even stronger than those publicly discussed thus far, because it was from the start an imperialistic

war based on a false-flag operation (as well as additional lies). They would even see that, although many critics of the administration have said that we should pull our troops out of Iraq and put them in Afghanistan, our attack on that country was no more legitimate. *This essay is a revised version of "Imperial Motives for a 'New Pearl Harbor,'" chap. 6 of David Ray Griffin, [Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11 : A Call to Reflection and Action](#) (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006). Griffin is professor emeritus at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University. His most recent books are *Whitehead's Radically Different Postmodern Philosophy* and *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*.*

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#### Notes

1. Stefan Halper and Jonathan Clarke, *America Alone: The Neo-Conservatives and the Global Order* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 4. Halper and Clarke, identifying with the Reagan presidency, criticize the ideological agenda of the neocons from what they call a "center-right" perspective (5-7).
2. Stephen J. Sniegowski, "Neoconservatives, Israel, and 9/11: The Origins of the U.S. War on Iraq." In D. L. O'Huallachain and J. Forrest Sharpe, eds., *Neoconned Again: Hypocrisy, Lawlessness, and the Rape of Iraq* (Vienna, Va.: IHS Press, 2005), 81-109, at 81-82.
3. Gary Dorrien, *Imperial Designs: Neoconservatism and the New Pax Americana* (New York: Routledge, 2004), 16.
4. Dorrien's examples are "William Bennett, Peter Berger, Francis Fukuyama, Zalmay Khalilzad, Jeane Kirkpatrick, Ernest Lefever, James Nuechterlein, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Michael Novak, Richard John Neuhaus, George Weigel, and James Q. Wilson" (*Imperial Designs*, 15).
5. Michael Lind, "A Tragedy of Errors," *The Nation*, February 23, 2004, online; quoted in Justin Raimondo, "A Real Hijacking: The Neoconservative Fifth Column and the War in Iraq," in O'Huallachain and Sharpe, eds., *Neoconned Again*, 112-24, at 123.
6. Norman Podhoretz, "After the Cold War," *Commentary* 92 (July 1991), and "Neoconservatism: A Eulogy," *Commentary* 101 (March 1996); both cited in Andrew J. Bacevich, *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 80.
7. Irving Kristol, *Wall Street Journal*, March 3, 1986; quoted in Gary Dorrien, *The Neoconservative Mind: Politics, Culture, and the War of Ideology* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993), 117.
8. Charles Krauthammer, "Universal Dominion: Toward a Unipolar World," *National Interest*, Winter 1989: 47-49.
9. Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs*, 1990.
10. Krauthammer, "Bless Our Pax Americana," *Washington Post*, March 22, 1991.
11. Department of Defense, "Defense Planning Guidance," February 18, 1992. Although Libby is usually considered the person who wrote this draft, Gary Dorrien says that it was actually written by Wolfowitz's aide Zalmay Khalilzad, who had been briefed on what it should say by Wolfowitz and Libby---with additional input from Andrew Marshall, Richard Perle, and Albert Wohlstetter (*Imperial Designs*, 39).
12. Andrew J. Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), 44.
13. Patrick E. Tyler, "U.S. Strategy Plan Calls for Insuring No Rivals Develop: A One Superpower World," *New York Times*, March 8, 1992 (<http://work.colum.edu/~amiller/wolfowitz1992.htm>); Barton Gellman, "Keeping the U.S. First: Pentagon Would Preclude a Rival Superpower," *Washington Post*, March 11, 1992 (<http://www.yale.edu/strattech/92dpg.html>).
14. *Wall Street Journal*, March 16, 1992.

15. Quoted in Barton Gellman, "Aim of Defense Plan Supported by Bush," *Washington Post*, March 12, 1992.
16. Quoted in Gellman, "Keeping the U.S. First: Pentagon Would Preclude a Rival Superpower."
17. Bacevich, *American Empire*, 45.
18. Paul Wolfowitz, "Remembering the Future," *National Interest*, Spring 2000 ([http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m2751/is\\_2000\\_Spring/ai\\_61299040](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2751/is_2000_Spring/ai_61299040)).
19. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 39.
20. David Armstrong, "Dick Cheney's Song of America," *Harper's*, October, 2002.
21. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 142.
22. Nicholas Lemann, "The Next World Order: The Bush Administration May Have a Brand-New Doctrine of Power," *New Yorker*, April 1, 2002 ([http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020401fa\\_FACT1](http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020401fa_FACT1)). Lemann further reported that the first major product of this new thinking was a brief prepared by Wolfowitz to be presented to Cheney on May 21, 1990, at which time Cheney was also supposed to hear Colin Powell's proposal for revising U.S. foreign policy but did not. Cheney then, on the basis of Wolfowitz's proposal, briefed President Bush, who delivered a major foreign policy address on August 2 (the day that Iraq invaded Kuwait).
23. Brinkley's statement is quoted in "Cheney Is Power Hitter in White House Lineup," *USA Today*, August 28, 2002, which is quoted in Halper and Clarke, *America Alone*, 120.
24. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 42.
25. "Defense Strategy of the 1990s," Department of Defense, 1992.
26. Lemann, "The Next World Order."
27. "Defense Strategy for the 1990s," Department of Defense, January, 1993. Lemann, in "The Next World Order," reported that although this was an unclassified and hence "scrubbed" version of the official document, "it contained the essential ideas of 'shaping,' rather than reacting to, the rest of the world, and of preventing the rise of other superpowers."
28. Zalmay Khalilzad, *From Containment to Global Leadership? America and the World after the Cold War* (Rand Corporation, 1995).
29. Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 81.
30. Robert Kagan, "American Power: A Guide for the Perplexed," *Commentary* 101 (April 1996).
31. William Kristol and Robert Kagan, "Foreign Policy and the Republican Future," *Weekly Standard*, October 12, 1998.
32. Robert Kagan, "The Clinton Legacy Abroad," *Weekly Standard*, January 15, 2001; quoted in Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 85.
33. Halper and Clarke, *America Alone*, 110.
34. *Ibid.*, 126.
35. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 68, 130.
36. Project for the New American Century, "Statement of Principles," June 3, 1997 (<http://www.newamericancentury.org/statementofprinciples.htm>).
37. Project for the New American Century (henceforth PNAC), *Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century*, September 2000 ([www.newamericancentury.org](http://www.newamericancentury.org)).
38. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 142-43; Sniegowski, "Neoconservatives, Israel, and 911," 94-95.
39. Krauthammer, "The Bush Doctrine," *Time*, March 5, 2001 (<http://edition.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/time/2001/03/05/doctrine.html>).
40. Krauthammer's statements, originally published in Emily Eakin, "All Roads Lead To D.C.," *New York Times*, Week In Review, March 31, 2002, are quoted in Jonathan Freedland, "Is America the New Rome?" *Guardian*, September 18, 2002.

41. Robert Kaplan, "Supremacy by Stealth: Ten Rules for Managing the World," *Atlantic Monthly*, July/August, 2003.
42. See John McMurtry, "9/11 and the 9/11 Wars: Understanding the Supreme Crimes," in David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott, eds., *9/11 and the American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out* (Northampton: Interlink Books, 2006).
43. Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000* (New York: Vintage Books, 1987).
44. Paul Kennedy, "The Eagle Has Landed," *Financial Times*, February 22, 2002.
45. Bacevich, *American Empire*, 244.
46. This distancing is especially evident in Bacevich's later book, *The New American Militarism*.
47. Claes Ryn, "The Ideology of American Empire," in O'Huallachain and Sharpe, eds., *Neoconned Again*, 63-79, at 65.
48. Norman Podhoretz, "The Reagan Road to Détente," *Foreign Affairs* 63 (1984), 452; "The Neo-Conservative Anguish over Reagan's Foreign Policy," *New York Times Magazine*, May 2, 1982; both quoted in Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 74.
49. Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 133.
50. "Joint Vision 2010" (<http://www.dtic.mil/jv2010/jvpub.htm>).
51. General Howell M. Estes III, USAF, United States Space Command, "Vision for 2020," February 1997 (<http://www.fas.org/spp/military/docops/usspac/visbook.pdf>).
52. "Joint Vision 2020" (<http://www.dtic.mil/jointvision/jvpub2.htm>).
53. Bacevich, *American Empire*, 127.
54. PNAC, *Rebuilding America's Defenses*, 4.
55. *Ibid.*, 38, 54, 30.
56. *Ibid.*, iv, 6, 50, 51, 59.
57. *Ibid.*, 62.
58. *Ibid.*, 51.
59. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 45.
60. *Ibid.*, 44-46; Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 152-64, 167-73. Richard Perle, who also became a Wohlstetter disciple at a young age, said of Wolfowitz: "Paul thinks the way Albert thinks" (Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 46).
61. "Andrew Marshall," *Source Watch*, Center for Media & Democracy ([http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Andrew\\_Marshall](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Andrew_Marshall)).
62. *Report of the Commission to Assess U.S. National Security Space Management and Organization* (<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/spaceabout.html>), 7.
63. *Ibid.*, 15.
64. This according to the *Washington Post*, January 27, 2002.
65. Robert Kagan, "We Must Fight This War," *Washington Post*, September 12, 2001; Henry Kissinger, "Destroy the Network," *Washington Post*, September 11, 2001 (<http://washingtonpost.com>); Lance Morrow, "The Case for Rage and Retribution," *Time*, September 11, 2001.
66. "Secretary Rumsfeld Interview with the New York Times," *New York Times*, October 12, 2001.
67. Nicholas Lemann, "The Next World Order: The Bush Administration May Have a Brand-New Doctrine of Power," *New Yorker*, April 1, 2002 ([http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020401fa\\_FACT1](http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020401fa_FACT1)). The phrase in the inside quotation marks is a direct quote from Rice; the rest of the statement is Lemann's paraphrase.
68. "Remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on Terrorism and Foreign Policy," April 29, 2002 ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)).
69. Bob Woodward, *Bush at War* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002), 32.

70. "September 11, 2001: Attack on America: Remarks by the President in Telephone Conversation with New York Mayor Giuliani and New York Governor Pataki 11:00 A.M. EDT; September 13, 2001," available at [http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/sept\\_11/president\\_009.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/sept_11/president_009.htm); "Bush Vows to 'Whip Terrorism,'" Reuters, Sept. 14, 2001.
71. Lemann, "The Next World Order."
72. Department of Defense News Briefing on Pentagon Attack, 6:42 PM, September 11, 2001 (available at [http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/sept\\_11/dod\\_brief02.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/sept_11/dod_brief02.htm)). According to the transcript, the question was asked by Secretary Rumsfeld. But the flow of the discussion suggests that it came from a reporter. In either case, the 9/11 attacks were interpreted to mean that greater military spending was needed, "especially for missile defense."
73. Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 173 (the second phrase in quotation marks was taken by Bacevich from Thomas E. Ricks, "For Rumsfeld, Many Roadblocks," *Washington Post*, August 7, 2001).
74. *Ibid.*, 173.
75. Perle's statement is quoted by Bacevich (*ibid.*, 173-74) from Neil Swidey, "The Mind of the Administration," *Boston Globe*, May 18, 2003.
76. *The National Security Strategy of the United States of America*, September 2002, henceforth *NSS 2002* ([www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html)), 29-30.
77. *NSS 2002*, 28.
78. In using this hyphenated term, I follow the precedent of Catherine Keller in "Omnipotence and Preemption," in David Ray Griffin, John B. Cobb, Jr., Richard Falk, and Catherine Keller, *The American Empire and the Commonwealth of God* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006).
79. Barton Gellman, "Keeping the U.S. First: Pentagon Would Preclude a Rival Superpower"; cited in Halper and Clark, *America Alone*, 141.
80. Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm," June 1996 (<http://www.israeleconomy.org/strat1.htm>).
81. PNAC, "Statement of Principles," 1997 (<http://www.newamericancentury.org/statementofprinciples.htm>)
82. PNAC, Letter to President Clinton on Iraq, May 29, 1998 (<http://www.newamericancentury.org/iraqclintonletter.htm>).
83. Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 91.
84. "President Bush Delivers Graduation Speech at West Point," June 1, 2002 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020601-3.html>).
85. *NSS 2002*, cover letter.
86. *NSS 2002*, 6, 15.
87. *Ibid.*, 15.
88. Halper and Clarke, *America Alone*, 142.
89. Max Boot, "Think Again: Neocons," *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2004 ([http://www.cfr.org/publication/7592/think\\_again.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/7592/think_again.html)), 18.
90. The fact that Zelikow was "involved in the drafting" of this document was revealed on PBS in *Frontline*'s "Interview with Barton Gellman" on January 29, 2003, shortly after Zelikow had become executive director of the 9/11 Commission. According to Gellman, a staff writer for the *Washington Post*, Zelikow had told him this during a telephone conversation the previous day. The fact that Zelikow was the *primary* drafter of *NSS 2002* was revealed in James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet* (New York: Viking, 2004), 316, 331.
91. Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans*, 316.
92. *Ibid.*, 331.

93. Ashton Carter, John Deutch, and Philip Zelikow, "Catastrophic Terrorism: Tackling the New Danger," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1998, 80-94 (available at <http://cryptome.quintessenz.at/mirror/ct-tnd.htm>).
94. Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, the chair and vice chair, respectively, of the 9/11 Commission, say in their preface to *The 9/11 Commission Report* that they had "sought to be independent, impartial, . . . and nonpartisan" (xv). In their later book, *Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), they reaffirm that they had been determined to be "nonpartisan and independent" (29).
95. According to Kean and Hamilton themselves, Zelikow provided the "overarching vision" for the report and, with the aid of his former coauthor Ernest May, prepared the outline, which he presented to the staff, assigning "different sections and subsections of it to individual staff members" (*Without Precedent*, 273). Finally, although various members of the Commission's staff wrote the first drafts of the various chapters, we learn from May, revised drafts were then produced by the "front office," which was headed by Zelikow (Ernest May, "When Government Writes History: A Memoir of the 9/11 Commission," *New Republic*, May 23, 2005).
96. Statement of the Family Steering Committee for The 9/11 Independent Commission, March 20, 2004 ([www.911independentcommission.org/mar202004.html](http://www.911independentcommission.org/mar202004.html)).
97. David Ray Griffin, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* (Northampton: Olive Branch, 2005), chap. 10, "Possible Motives of the Bush Administration."
98. "President Addresses the Nation in Prime Time Press Conference," April 13, 2004 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040413-20.html>).
99. "Statement by the President in His Address to the Nation," September 11, 2001 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010911-16.html>).
100. "Bin Laden Is Wanted: Dead or Alive, Says Bush," *Telegraph*, September 18, 2001 (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2001/09/18/wbush18.xml>).
101. "White House Warns Taliban: 'We Will Defeat You'" (CNN.com, September 21, 2001).
102. Kathy Gannon, Associated Press, "Taliban Willing To Talk, But Wants U.S. Respect" (<http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/focus/terrorism/archives/1001/w01taliban.html>).
103. For the various kinds of evidence, see David Ray Griffin, *The New Pearl Harbor*, chap. 8, or *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, chap. 6.
104. Francis Boyle, "No Proof, No Investigation, No Accountability, No Law" (<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/CAH/fab051702.html>). Boyle points out that a White Paper, entitled "Responsibility for the Terrorist Atrocities in the United States," was provided by British Prime Minister Tony Blair on October 4, 2001. But it began with the disclaimer that it "does not purport to provide a prosecutable case against Usama Bin Laden in a court of law."
105. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Most Wanted Terrorists (<http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/terrorists/terbinladen.htm>); the statement, made by Rex Tomb, Chief of Investigative Publicity for the FBI, is quoted in Ed Haas, "FBI says, 'No Hard Evidence Connecting Bin Laden to 9/11'" Muckraker Report, June 6, 2006 (<http://www.teamliberty.net/id267.html>).
106. Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (New York: Basic Books, 1997), 35-36.
107. *Ibid.*, 36.
108. *Ibid.*, 212.
109. *Ibid.*, 212, 24-25.
110. "Senate Foreign Relations Committee Testimony—Zbigniew Brzezinski, February 1, 2007," Information Clearing House (<http://www.ichblog.eu/content/view/258/52>).

111. See Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), chaps. 12 and 13, entitled “Romancing the Taliban: The Battle for Pipelines.”
112. *Ibid.*, 75-79, 175.
113. Julio Godoy, “U.S. Taliban Policy Influenced by Oil,” Inter Press Service, November 16, 2001.
114. This according to Niaz Naik, the highly respected Pakistani representative at the meeting, as reported in George Arney, “U.S. ‘Planned Attack on Taleban,’” BBC News, Sept. 18, 2001. In a story in the *Guardian* entitled “Threat of U.S. Strikes Passed to Taliban Weeks Before NY Attack” (September 22, 2001), one of the American representatives was quoted as confirming that this discussion of military action did occur.
115. *The Frontier Post*, October 10, 2001, cited in Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed, *The War on Freedom: How and Why America was Attacked September 11, 2001* (Joshua Tree, Calif.: Tree of Life, 2002), 227.
116. Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2004), 178-79.
117. On his career, see “Zalmay Khalilzad,” Source Watch ([http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Zalmay\\_Khalilzad](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Zalmay_Khalilzad)).
118. *Chicago Tribune*, March 18, 2002, quoting from the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*.
119. Johnson, *Sorrows of Empire*, 182-83.
120. That Wolfowitz made this comment in a statement to the Commission was reported by Commissioner Jamie Gorelick. The statements by Gorelick and Rumsfeld are quoted in “Day One Transcript: 9/11 Commission Hearing,” *Washington Post*, March 23, 2004 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17798-2004Mar23.html>).
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123. Wohlstetter, “Meeting the Threat in the Persian Gulf,” *Survey* 25 (Spring 1981): 128-88; discussed in Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 191.
124. Arnaud de Borchgrave, “All in the Family,” *Washington Times*, September 13, 2004, online.
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126. William Kristol and Robert Kagan, “Bombing Iraq Isn’t Enough,” *New York Times*, January 30, 1998.
127. “Prepared Testimony of Paul D. Wolfowitz,” House National Security Committee, U.S. Congress, September 16, 1998; Wolfowitz, “Iraqi Rebels with a Cause,” *New Republic*, December 7, 1998.
128. PNAC, Letter to President Clinton on Iraq, January 26, 1998 (<http://www.newamericancentury.org/iraqclintonletter.htm>). PNAC, Letter to Gingrich and Lott on Iraq, May 29, 1998 (<http://www.newamericancentury.org/iraqletter1998.htm>).
129. PNAC, *Rebuilding America’s Defenses*, 14.
130. O’Neill is quoted to this effect in Ron Susskind, *The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O’Neill* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004). O’Neill repeated this point in an interview on CBS’s “60 Minutes” in January of 2004. Susskind, whose book also draws on interviews with other officials, said that in its first weeks the Bush administration was discussing the occupation of Iraq and the question of how to divide up its oil ([www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/01/09/60minutes/main592330.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/01/09/60minutes/main592330.shtml)).
131. Richard Clarke, *Against All Enemies: Inside America’s War on Terror* (New York: Free Press, 2004), 264.

132. Quoted in Elizabeth Drew, "The Neocons in Power," *New York Review of Books*, 50/10 (June 12, 2003)
133. Woodward, *Bush at War* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002), 83.
134. Reported by CBS News, September 4, 2002. This note, written by Rumsfeld's top aide, Stephen Cambone (who participated in PNAC's project to produce *Rebuilding America's Defenses*), is now available online (<http://www.outragedmoderates.org/2006/02/dod-staffers-notes-from-911-obtained.html>).
135. Bob Woodward, *Bush at War*, 48-49.
136. *Ibid.*, 49, 83-85.
137. Glenn Kessler, "U.S. Decision on Iraq Has Puzzling Past," *Washington Post*, January 12, 2003 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43909-2003Jan11.html>).
138. Sniegowski, "Neoconservatives, Israel, and 9/11," 101.
139. Halper and Clarke, *America Alone*, 230.
140. Sniegowski, "Neoconservatives, Israel, and 9/11," 108-09.
141. "Remarks by the Vice President to the Veterans of Foreign Wars 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention," August 26, 2002 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/08/20020826.html>).
142. "Remarks by the President on Iraq," October 7, 2002 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021007-8.html>).
143. Halper and Clarke, *America Alone*, 203; see also the entirety of their chap. 7, "The False Pretences."
144. *Ibid.*, 210, 209.
145. *Ibid.*, 201, 214.
146. *Ibid.*, 218.
147. Quoted in Gustave Gilbert, *Nuremberg Diary* (New York: Farrar, Straus, & Co, 1947), 278. Gilbert was reporting a conversation he had with Hermann Göring on the evening of April 18, 1946, while the Nuremberg trials were going on.
148. I called it *prima facie* evidence in my first book on the subject, *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11* (Northampton: Olive Branch, 2004), xxiii. I call the evidence "overwhelming" in *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics and Other Defenders of the Official Conspiracy Theory* (Olive Branch, April 2007). This latter book is now my most complete case against the official theory and hence my most complete argument that 9/11 was an inside job.
149. David Ray Griffin, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* (Northampton: Olive Branch, 2005), 241-44.
150. See the introduction to *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*.
151. Dorrien, *Imperial Designs*, 168, citing Kristol and Kagan, "Time for an Investigation," *Weekly Standard*, May 27, 2002: 9-10, and Kagan and Kristol, "Still Time for an Investigation," *Weekly Standard*, June 10, 2002: 9-10. <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17194.htm>



## Deep Background: “Noble” Lies

Noble lies and perpetual war: Leo Strauss, the neocons, and Iraq

▶ [Danny Postel](#)

16 - 10 - 2003

**Are the ideas of the conservative political philosopher Leo Strauss a shaping influence on the Bush administration’s world outlook? Danny Postel interviews Shadia Drury – a leading scholarly critic of Strauss – and asks her about the connection between Plato’s dialogues, secrets and lies, and the United States-led war in Iraq.**

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What was initially an anti-war argument is now a matter of public record. It is widely recognised that the Bush administration was not honest about the reasons it gave for invading Iraq.

Paul Wolfowitz, the influential United States deputy secretary of defense, has acknowledged that the evidence used to justify the war was “murky” and now says that weapons of mass destruction weren’t the crucial issue anyway (see the book by Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber, *Weapons of Mass Deception: the uses of propaganda in Bush’s war on Iraq* (2003).)

By contrast, [Shadia Drury](#), professor of political theory at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, argues that the use of deception and manipulation in current US policy flow directly from the doctrines of the political philosopher Leo Strauss (1899-1973). His disciples include [Paul Wolfowitz](#) and other neo-conservatives who have driven much of the political agenda of the Bush administration.

For a short biography of Leo Strauss, and a guide to recent commentary on his influence on US neo-conservatism, see the end of this article.

If Shadia Drury is right, then American policy-makers exercise deception with greater coherence than their British allies in Tony Blair’s 10 Downing Street. In the UK, a [public inquiry](#) is currently underway into the death of the biological weapons expert David Kelly. A central theme is also whether the government deceived the public, as a BBC reporter suggested.

The inquiry has documented at least some of the ways the prime minister’s entourage ‘sexed up’ the presentation of intelligence on the Iraqi threat. But few doubt that in terms of their philosophy, if they have one, members of Blair’s staff believe they must be trusted as honest. Any apparent deceptions they may be involved in are for them matters of presentation or ‘spin’: attempts to project an honest gloss when surrounded by a dishonest media.

The deep influence of Leo Strauss’s ideas on the current architects of US foreign policy has been referred to, if sporadically, in the press (hence an insider witticism about the influence of “Leo-cons”). Christopher Hitchens, an ardent advocate of the war, wrote unashamedly in November 2002 (in an article felicitously titled [Machiavelli in Mesopotamia](#)) that:

“[p]art of the charm of the regime-change argument (from the point of view of its supporters) is that it depends on premises and objectives that cannot, at least by the administration, be publicly avowed. Since Paul Wolfowitz is from the intellectual school of Leo Strauss – and appears in fictional guise as such in Saul Bellow’s novel *Ravelstein* – one may even suppose that he enjoys this arcane and occluded aspect of the debate.”

Perhaps no scholar has done as much to illuminate the Strauss phenomenon as Shadia

Drury. For fifteen years she has been shining a heat lamp on the Straussians with such books as *The Political Ideas of Leo Strauss* (1988) and *Leo Strauss and the American Right* (1997). She is also the author of *Alexandre Kojève: the Roots of Postmodern Politics* (1994) and *Terror and Civilization* (forthcoming).

She argues that the central claims of Straussian thought wield a crucial influence on men of power in the contemporary United States. She elaborates her argument in this interview.

### **A natural order of inequality**

**Danny Postel:** You've argued that there is an important connection between the teachings of Leo Strauss and the Bush administration's selling of the Iraq war. What is that connection?

**Shadia Drury:** Leo Strauss was a great believer in the efficacy and usefulness of lies in politics. Public support for the Iraq war rested on lies about Iraq posing an imminent threat to the United States – the business about weapons of mass destruction and a fictitious alliance between al-Qaida and the Iraqi regime. Now that the lies have been exposed, Paul Wolfowitz and others in the war party are denying that these were the real reasons for the war.

So what *were* the real reasons? Reorganising the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of Israel? Expanding American hegemony in the Arab world? Possibly. But these reasons would not have been sufficient in themselves to mobilise American support for the war. And the Straussian cabal in the administration realised that.

**Danny Postel:** The neo-conservative vision is commonly taken to be about spreading democracy and liberal values globally. And when Strauss is mentioned in the press, he is typically described as a great defender of liberal democracy against totalitarian tyranny. You've written, however, that Strauss had a "profound antipathy to both liberalism and democracy."

**Shadia Drury:** The idea that Strauss was a great defender of liberal democracy is laughable. I suppose that Strauss's disciples consider it a noble lie. Yet many in the media have been gullible enough to believe it.

How could an admirer of Plato and Nietzsche be a liberal democrat? The ancient philosophers whom Strauss most cherished believed that the unwashed masses were not fit for either truth or liberty, and that giving them these sublime treasures would be like throwing pearls before swine. In contrast to modern political thinkers, the ancients denied that there is any natural right to liberty. Human beings are born neither free nor equal. The natural human condition, they held, is not one of freedom, but of subordination – and in Strauss's estimation they were right in thinking so. Praising the wisdom of the ancients and condemning the folly of the moderns was the whole point of Strauss's most famous book, *Natural Right and History*. The cover of the book sports the American Declaration of Independence. But the book is a celebration of nature – not the natural rights of man (as the appearance of the book would lead one to believe) but the natural order of domination and subordination.

### **The necessity of lies**

**Danny Postel:** What is the relevance of Strauss's interpretation of Plato's notion of the noble lie?

**Shadia Drury:** Strauss rarely spoke in his own name. He wrote as a commentator on the classical texts of political theory. But he was an extremely opinionated and dualistic commentator. The fundamental distinction that pervades and informs all of his work is that between the ancients and the [moderns](#). Strauss divided the history of political thought into two camps: the ancients (like Plato) are wise and wily, whereas the moderns (like Locke and other liberals) are vulgar and foolish. Now, it seems to me eminently fair and reasonable to attribute to Strauss the ideas he attributes to his

beloved ancients.

In Plato's dialogues, everyone assumes that Socrates is Plato's mouthpiece. But Strauss argues in his book *The City and Man* (pp. 74-5, 77, 83-4, 97, 100, 111) that [Thrasymachus](#) is Plato's real mouthpiece (on this point, see also M.F. Burnyeat, "Sphinx without a Secret", *New York Review of Books*, [30 May 1985](#) [paid-for only]). So, we must surmise that Strauss shares the insights of the wise Plato (alias Thrasymachus) that justice is merely the interest of the stronger; that those in power make the rules in their own interests and call it justice.

Leo Strauss repeatedly defends the political realism of Thrasymachus and [Machiavelli](#) (see, for example, his *Natural Right and History*, p. 106). This view of the world is clearly manifest in the foreign policy of the current administration in the United States.

A second fundamental belief of Strauss's ancients has to do with their insistence on the need for secrecy and the necessity of lies. In his book *Persecution and the Art of Writing*, Strauss outlines why secrecy is necessary. He argues that the wise must conceal their views for two reasons – to spare the people's feelings and to protect the elite from possible reprisals.

The people will not be happy to learn that there is only one natural right – the right of the superior to rule over the inferior, the master over the slave, the husband over the wife, and the wise few over the vulgar many. In *On Tyranny*, Strauss refers to this natural right as the "tyrannical teaching" of his beloved ancients. It is tyrannical in the classic sense of rule above rule or in the absence of law (p. 70).

Now, the ancients were determined to keep this tyrannical teaching secret because the people are not likely to tolerate the fact that they are intended for subordination; indeed, they may very well turn their resentment against the superior few. Lies are thus necessary to protect the superior few from the persecution of the vulgar many. The effect of Strauss's teaching is to convince his acolytes that they are the natural ruling elite and the persecuted few. And it does not take much intelligence for them to surmise that they are in a situation of great danger, especially in a world devoted to the modern ideas of equal rights and freedoms. Now more than ever, the wise few must proceed cautiously and with circumspection. So, they come to the conclusion that they have a moral justification to lie in order to avoid persecution. Strauss goes so far as to say that dissembling and deception – in effect, a culture of lies – is the peculiar justice of the wise.

Strauss justifies his position by an appeal to Plato's concept of the noble lie. But in truth, Strauss has a very impoverished conception of Plato's noble lie. Plato thought that the noble lie is a story whose details are fictitious; but at the heart of it is a profound truth.

In the myth of metals, for example, some people have golden souls – meaning that they are more capable of resisting the temptations of power. And these morally trustworthy types are the ones who are most fit to rule. The details are fictitious, but the moral of the story is that not all human beings are morally equal.

In contrast to this reading of [Plato](#), Strauss thinks that the superiority of the ruling philosophers is an *intellectual* superiority and not a *moral* one (*Natural Right and History*, p. 151). For many commentators who (like Karl Popper) have read Plato as a totalitarian, the logical consequence is to doubt that philosophers can be trusted with political power. Those who read him this way invariably reject him. Strauss is the only interpreter who gives a sinister reading to Plato, and then celebrates him.

### **The dialectic of fear and tyranny**

**Danny Postel:** In the Straussian scheme of things, there are the wise few and the vulgar many. But there is also a third group – the gentlemen. Would you explain how

they figure?

**Shadia Drury:** There are indeed three types of men: the wise, the gentlemen, and the vulgar. The wise are the lovers of the harsh, unadulterated truth. They are capable of looking into the abyss without fear and trembling. They recognise neither God nor moral imperatives. They are devoted above all else to their own pursuit of the “higher” pleasures, which amount to consorting with their “puppies” or young initiates.

The second type, the gentlemen, are lovers of honour and glory. They are the most ingratiating towards the conventions of their society – that is, the illusions of the cave. They are true believers in God, honour, and moral imperatives. They are ready and willing to embark on acts of great courage and self-sacrifice at a moment’s notice.

The third type, the vulgar many, are lovers of wealth and pleasure. They are selfish, slothful, and indolent. They can be inspired to rise above their brutish existence only by fear of impending death or catastrophe.

Like Plato, Strauss believed that the supreme political ideal is the rule of the wise. But the rule of the wise is unattainable in the real world. Now, according to the conventional wisdom, Plato realised this, and settled for the rule of law. But Strauss did not endorse this solution entirely. Nor did he think that it was Plato’s *real* solution – Strauss pointed to the “nocturnal council” in Plato’s *Laws* to illustrate his point. The real Platonic solution as understood by Strauss is the *covert rule of the wise* (see Strauss’s – [The Argument and the Action of Plato’s Laws](#)). This covert rule is facilitated by the overwhelming stupidity of the gentlemen. The more gullible and unperceptive they are, the easier it is for the wise to control and manipulate them. Supposedly, Xenophon makes that clear to us.

For Strauss, the rule of the wise is not about classic conservative values like order, stability, justice, or respect for authority. The rule of the wise is intended as an antidote to modernity. Modernity is the age in which the vulgar many have triumphed. It is the age in which they have come closest to having exactly what their hearts desire – wealth, pleasure, and endless entertainment. But in getting just what they desire, they have unwittingly been reduced to beasts.

Nowhere is this state of affairs more advanced than in America. And the global reach of American culture threatens to trivialise life and turn it into entertainment. This was as terrifying a spectre for Strauss as it was for Alexandre Kojève and [Carl Schmitt](#). This is made clear in Strauss’s exchange with Kojève (reprinted in Strauss’s *On Tyranny*), and in his commentary on Schmitt’s *The Concept of the Political* (reprinted in Heinrich Meier, *Carl Schmitt and Leo Strauss: The Hidden Dialogue*). [Kojève](#) lamented the animalisation of man and Schmitt worried about the trivialisation of life. All three of them were convinced that liberal economics would turn life into entertainment and destroy politics; all three understood politics as a conflict between mutually hostile groups willing to fight each other to the death. In short, they all thought that man’s humanity depended on his willingness to rush naked into battle and headlong to his death. Only perpetual war can overturn the modern project, with its emphasis on self-preservation and “creature comforts.” Life can be politicised once more, and man’s humanity can be restored.

This terrifying vision fits perfectly well with the desire for honour and glory that the neo-conservative gentlemen covet. It also fits very well with the religious sensibilities of gentlemen. The combination of religion and nationalism is the elixir that Strauss advocates as the way to turn natural, relaxed, hedonistic men into devout nationalists willing to fight and die for their God and country.

I never imagined when I wrote my first book on Strauss that the unscrupulous elite that he elevates would ever come so close to political power, nor that the ominous

tyranny of the wise would ever come so close to being realised in the political life of a great nation like the United States. But fear is the greatest ally of tyranny.

**Danny Postel:** You've described Strauss as a nihilist.

**Shadia Drury:** Strauss is a nihilist in the sense that he believes that there is no rational foundation for morality. He is an atheist, and he believes that in the absence of God, morality has no grounding. It's all about benefiting others and oneself; there is no objective reason for doing so, only rewards and punishments in this life.

But Strauss is not a nihilist if we mean by the term a denial that there is any truth, a belief that everything is interpretation. He does not deny that there is an independent reality. On the contrary, he thinks that independent reality consists in nature and its "order of rank" – the high and the low, the superior and the inferior. Like Nietzsche, he believes that the history of western civilisation has led to the triumph of the inferior, the rabble – something they both lamented profoundly.

**Danny Postel:** This connection is curious, since Strauss is bedevilled by Nietzsche; and one of Strauss's most famous students, [Allan Bloom](#), fulminates profusely in his book *The Closing of the American Mind* against the influence of Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger.

**Shadia Drury:** Strauss's criticism of the existentialists, especially Heidegger, is that they tried to elicit an ethic out of the abyss. This was the ethic of resoluteness – choose whatever you like and be loyal to it to the death; its content does not matter. But Strauss's reaction to moral nihilism was different. Nihilistic philosophers, he believes, should reinvent the Judæo-Christian God, but live like pagan gods themselves – taking pleasure in the games they play with each other as well as the games they play on ordinary mortals.

The question of nihilism is complicated, but there is no doubt that Strauss's reading of Plato entails that the philosophers should return to the cave and manipulate the images (in the form of media, magazines, newspapers). They know full well that the line they espouse is mendacious, but they are convinced that theirs are noble lies.

### **The intoxication of perpetual war**

**Danny Postel:** You characterise the outlook of the Bush administration as a kind of realism, in the spirit of Thrasymachus and Machiavelli. But isn't the real divide within the administration (and on the American right more generally) more complex: between foreign policy realists, who are pragmatists, and neo-conservatives, who see themselves as idealists – even moralists – on a mission to topple tyrants, and therefore in a struggle *against* realism?

**Shadia Drury:** I think that the neo-conservatives are for the most part genuine in wanting to spread the American commercial model of liberal democracy around the globe. They are convinced that it is the best thing, not just for America, but for the world. Naturally, there is a tension between these "idealists" and the more hard-headed realists within the administration.

I contend that the tensions and conflicts within the current administration reflect the differences between the surface teaching, which is appropriate for gentlemen, and the 'nocturnal' or covert teaching, which the philosophers alone are privy to. It is very unlikely for an ideology inspired by a secret teaching to be entirely coherent.

The issue of nationalism is an example of this. The philosophers, wanting to secure the nation against its external enemies as well as its internal decadence, sloth, pleasure, and consumption, encourage a strong patriotic fervour among the honour-loving gentlemen who wield the reins of power. That strong nationalistic spirit consists in the belief that their nation and its values are the best in the world, and that all other cultures and their values are inferior in comparison.

[Irving Kristol](#), the father of neo-conservatism and a Strauss disciple, denounced

nationalism in a 1973 essay; but in another essay written in 1983, he declared that the foreign policy of neo-conservatism must reflect its nationalist proclivities. A decade on, in a 1993 essay, he claimed that “religion, nationalism, and economic growth are the pillars of neoconservatism.” (See “The Coming ‘Conservative Century’”, in *Neoconservatism: the autobiography of an idea*, p. 365.)

In *Reflections of a Neoconservative* (p. xiii), Kristol wrote that:

“patriotism springs from love of the nation’s past; nationalism arises out of hope for the nation’s future, distinctive greatness.... Neoconservatives believe... that the goals of American foreign policy must go well beyond a narrow, too literal definition of ‘national security’. It is the national interest of a world power, as this is defined by a sense of national destiny ... not a myopic national security”.

The same sentiment was echoed by the doyen of contemporary [Straussianism](#), Harry Jaffa, when he said that America is the “Zion that will light up all the world.”

It is easy to see how this sort of thinking can get out of hand, and why hard-headed realists tend to find it naïve if not dangerous.

But Strauss’s worries about America’s global aspirations are entirely different. Like Heidegger, Schmitt, and Kojève, Strauss would be more concerned that America would succeed in this enterprise than that it would fail. In that case, the “last man” would extinguish all hope for humanity (Nietzsche); the “night of the world” would be at hand (Heidegger); the animalisation of man would be complete (Kojève); and the trivialisation of life would be accomplished (Schmitt). That is what the success of America’s global aspirations meant to them.

Francis Fukuyama’s [The End of History and the Last Man](#) is a popularisation of this viewpoint. It sees the coming catastrophe of American global power as inevitable, and seeks to make the best of a bad situation. It is far from a celebration of American dominance.

On this perverse view of the world, if America fails to achieve her “national destiny”, and is mired in perpetual war, then all is well. Man’s humanity, defined in terms of struggle to the death, is rescued from extinction. But men like Heidegger, Schmitt, Kojève, and Strauss expect the worst. They expect that the universal spread of the spirit of commerce would soften manners and emasculate man. To my mind, this fascistic glorification of death and violence springs from a profound inability to celebrate life, joy, and the sheer thrill of existence.

To be clear, Strauss was not as hostile to democracy as he was to [liberalism](#). This is because he recognises that the vulgar masses have numbers on their side, and the sheer power of numbers cannot be completely ignored. Whatever can be done to bring the masses along is legitimate. If you can use democracy to turn the masses against their own liberty, this is a great triumph. It is the sort of tactic that neo-conservatives use consistently, and in some cases very successfully.

### **Among the Straussians**

**Danny Postel:** Finally, I’d like to ask about your interesting reception among the Straussians. Many of them dismiss your interpretation of Strauss and denounce your work in the most adamant terms (“bizarre splenetic”). Yet one scholar, Laurence Lampert, has reprehended his fellow Straussians for this, writing in his *Leo Strauss and Nietzsche* that your book *The Political Ideas of Leo Strauss* “contains many fine skeptical readings of Strauss’s texts and acute insights into Strauss’s real intentions.”

[Harry Jaffa](#) has even made the provocative suggestion that you might be a “closet Straussian” yourself!

**Shadia Drury:** I have been publicly denounced and privately adored. Following the publication of my book *The Political Ideas of Leo Strauss* in 1988, letters and gifts poured in from Straussian graduate students and professors all over North America –

books, dissertations, tapes of Strauss's Hillel House lectures in Chicago, transcripts of every course he ever taught at the university, and even a personally crafted [Owl of Minerva](#) with a letter declaring me a goddess of wisdom! They were amazed that an outsider could have penetrated the secret teaching. They sent me unpublished material marked with clear instructions not to distribute to "suspicious persons".

I received letters from graduate students in Toronto, Chicago, Duke, Boston College, Claremont, Fordham, and other Straussian centres of "learning." One of the students compared his experience in reading my work with "a person lost in the wilderness who suddenly happens on a map." Some were led to abandon their schools in favour of fresher air; but others were delighted to discover what it was they were supposed to believe in order to belong to the [charmed circle](#) of future philosophers and initiates. After my first book on Strauss came out, some of the Straussians in Canada dubbed me the "bitch from Calgary." Of all the titles I hold, that is the one I cherish most. The hostility toward me was understandable. Nothing is more threatening to Strauss and his acolytes than the truth in general and the truth about Strauss in particular. His admirers are determined to conceal the truth about his ideas.

My intention in writing the book was to express Strauss's ideas clearly and without obfuscation so that his views could become the subject of philosophical debate and criticism, and not the stuff of feverish conviction. I wanted to smoke the Straussians out of their caves and into the philosophical light of day. But instead of engaging me in philosophical debate, they denied that Strauss stood for any of the ideas I attributed to him.

[Laurence Lampert](#) is the only Straussian to declare valiantly that it is time to stop playing games and to admit that Strauss was indeed a Nietzschean thinker – that it is time to stop the denial and start defending Strauss's ideas.

I suspect that Lampert's [honesty](#) is threatening to those among the Straussians who are interested in philosophy but who seek power. There is no doubt that open and candid debate about Strauss is likely to undermine their prospects in Washington.

Respond to this article, and debate Strauss, philosophy and politics in our [forum](#).

and remained there for twenty years. His works of this period include *Natural Right and History* (1953), *Thoughts on Machiavelli* (1958), *What is Political Philosophy?* (1959), *The City and Man* (1964), *Socrates and Aristophanes* (1966), and *Liberalism Ancient and Modern* (1968).

Between 1968 and 1973, Strauss taught in colleges in California and Maryland, and completed work on Xenophon's Socratic discourses and *Argument and Action of Plato's Laws* (1975). After his death in October 1973, the essay collection *Studies in Platonic Political Philosophy* (1983) was published.

**Recommended articles on Leo Strauss, neo-conservatism, and Iraq**

M.F. Burnyeat, "Sphinx without a Secret", *New York Review of Books*, [30 May 1985](#) [paid-for only]

Stephen Holmes, "Truths for Philosophers Alone?", *Times Literary Supplement*, 1-7 December 1989; reprinted in Stephen Holmes, *The Anatomy of Antiliberalism* (1996)

[Robert B. Pippin](#), "The Modern World of Leo Strauss," *Political Theory* Vol. 20 No. 3 ([August 1992](#)) [affiliate only]

Gregory Bruce Smith, "Leo Strauss and the Straussians: An Anti-democratic Cult?", *PS: Political Science & Politics* Vol. 30 No. 2 ([June 1997](#)) [affiliate only]

Michiko Kakutani, "How Books Have Shaped U.S. Policy," *The New York Times*, [5 April 2003](#) [paid-for only]

Alain Frachon and Daniel Vernet, "The Strategist and the Philosopher", *Le Monde*, [15 April 2003](#)

James Atlas, "A Classicist's Legacy: New Empire Builders," *The New York Times*, [4 May 2003](#) [paid-for only]

Jeet Heer, "The Philosopher," *The Boston Globe*, [11 May 2003](#) [paid-for only]

Jim Lobe, "The Strong Must Rule the Weak: A Philosopher for an Empire," *Foreign Policy in Focus*, [12 May 2003](#)

Seymour Hersh, "Selective Intelligence," *The New Yorker*, [12 May 2003](#)

William Pfaff, "The long reach of Leo Strauss", *International Herald Tribune*, [15 May 2003](#)

Peter Berkowitz, "What Hath Strauss Wrought?", *Weekly Standard*, [2 June 2003](#)  
"Philosophers and kings," *The Economist*, [19 June 2003](#)

Steven Lenzner & William Kristol, "What was Leo Strauss up to?", *The Public Interest*, [Fall 2003](#)

Laura Rozen "Con Tract: the theory behind neocon self-deception", *Washington Monthly*, [October 2003](#)

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/debates/article-2-95-1542.jsp>

## Deep Background: “Noble” Lies II

Leo Strauss' Philosophy of Deception

By [Jim Lobe](#), [AlterNet](#). Posted [May 19, 2003](#).

Many neoconservatives like Paul Wolfowitz are disciples of a philosopher who believed that the elite should use deception, religious fervor and perpetual war to control the ignorant masses.

What would you do if you wanted to topple Saddam Hussein, but your intelligence agencies couldn't find the evidence to justify a war?

A follower of Leo Strauss may just hire the "right" kind of men to get the job done – people with the intellect, acuity, and, if necessary, the political commitment, polemical skills, and, above all, the imagination to find the evidence that career intelligence officers could not detect.

The "right" man for Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, suggests Seymour Hersh in his recent New Yorker article entitled 'Selective Intelligence,' was Abram Shulsky, director of the Office of Special Plans (OSP) – an agency created specifically to find the evidence of WMDs and/or links with Al Qaeda, piece it together, and clinch the case for the invasion of Iraq.

Like Wolfowitz, Shulsky is a student of an obscure German Jewish political philosopher named Leo Strauss who arrived in the United States in 1938. Strauss taught at several major universities, including Wolfowitz and Shulsky's alma mater, the University of Chicago, before his death in 1973.

Strauss is a popular figure among the neoconservatives. Adherents of his ideas include prominent figures both within and outside the administration. They include 'Weekly Standard' editor William Kristol; his father and indeed the godfather of the neoconservative movement, Irving Kristol; the new Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Stephen Cambone, a number of senior fellows at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) (home to former Defense Policy Board chairman Richard Perle and Lynne Cheney), and Gary Schmitt, the director of the influential Project for the New American Century (PNAC), which is chaired by Kristol the Younger.

Strauss' philosophy is hardly incidental to the strategy and mindset adopted by these men – as is obvious in Shulsky's 1999 essay titled "Leo Strauss and the World of Intelligence (By Which We Do Not Mean Nous)" (in Greek philosophy the term *nous* denotes the highest form of rationality). As Hersh notes in his article, Shulsky and his co-author Schmitt "criticize America's intelligence community for its failure to appreciate the duplicitous nature of the regimes it deals with, its susceptibility to social-science notions of proof, and its inability to cope with deliberate concealment." They argued that Strauss's idea of hidden meaning, "alerts one to the possibility that political life may be closely linked to deception. Indeed, it suggests that deception is the norm in political life, and the hope, to say nothing of the expectation, of establishing a politics that can dispense with it is the exception."

### **Rule One: Deception**

It's hardly surprising then why Strauss is so popular in an administration obsessed with secrecy, especially when it comes to matters of foreign policy. Not only did Strauss have few qualms about using deception in politics, he saw it as a necessity. While professing deep respect for American democracy, Strauss believed that societies should be hierarchical – divided between an elite who should lead, and the masses who should follow. But unlike fellow elitists like Plato, he was less concerned with the moral character of these leaders. According to Shadia Drury, who teaches politics at the University of Calgary, Strauss

believed that "those who are fit to rule are those who realize there is no morality and that there is only one natural right – the right of the superior to rule over the inferior."

This dichotomy requires "perpetual deception" between the rulers and the ruled, according to Drury. Robert Locke, another Strauss analyst says, "The people are told what they need to know and no more." While the elite few are capable of absorbing the absence of any moral truth, Strauss thought, the masses could not cope. If exposed to the absence of absolute truth, they would quickly fall into nihilism or anarchy, according to Drury, author of 'Leo Strauss and the American Right' (St. Martin's 1999).

### **Second Principle: Power of Religion**

According to Drury, Strauss had a "huge contempt" for secular democracy. Nazism, he believed, was a nihilistic reaction to the irreligious and liberal nature of the Weimar Republic. Among other neoconservatives, Irving Kristol has long argued for a much greater role for religion in the public sphere, even suggesting that the Founding Fathers of the American Republic made a major mistake by insisting on the separation of church and state. And why? Because Strauss viewed religion as absolutely essential in order to impose moral law on the masses who otherwise would be out of control.

At the same time, he stressed that religion was for the masses alone; the rulers need not be bound by it. Indeed, it would be absurd if they were, since the truths proclaimed by religion were "a pious fraud." As Ronald Bailey, science correspondent for Reason magazine points out, "Neoconservatives are pro-religion even though they themselves may not be believers." "Secular society in their view is the worst possible thing," Drury says, because it leads to individualism, liberalism, and relativism, precisely those traits that may promote dissent that in turn could dangerously weaken society's ability to cope with external threats. Bailey argues that it is this firm belief in the political utility of religion as an "opiate of the masses" that helps explain why secular Jews like Kristol in 'Commentary' magazine and other neoconservative journals have allied themselves with the Christian Right and even taken on Darwin's theory of evolution.

### **Third Principle: Aggressive Nationalism**

Like Thomas Hobbes, Strauss believed that the inherently aggressive nature of human beings could only be restrained by a powerful nationalistic state. "Because mankind is intrinsically wicked, he has to be governed," he once wrote. "Such governance can only be established, however, when men are united – and they can only be united against other people."

Not surprisingly, Strauss' attitude toward foreign policy was distinctly Machiavellian.

"Strauss thinks that a political order can be stable only if it is united by an external threat," Drury wrote in her book. "Following Machiavelli, he maintained that if no external threat exists then *one has to be manufactured* (emphases added)."

"Perpetual war, not perpetual peace, is what Straussians believe in," says Drury. The idea easily translates into, in her words, an "aggressive, belligerent foreign policy," of the kind that has been advocated by neocon groups like PNAC and AEI scholars – not to mention Wolfowitz and other administration hawks who have called for a world order dominated by U.S. military power. Strauss' neoconservative students see foreign policy as a means to fulfill a "national destiny" – as Irving Kristol defined it already in 1983 – that goes far beyond the narrow confines of a "myopic national security."

As to what a Straussian world order might look like, the analogy was best captured by the philosopher himself in one of his – and student Allen Bloom's – many allusions to Gulliver's Travels. In Drury's words, "When Lilliput was on fire, Gulliver urinated over the city, including the palace. In so doing, he saved all of Lilliput from catastrophe, but the Lilliputians were outraged and appalled by such a show of disrespect."

The image encapsulates the neoconservative vision of the United States' relationship with the rest of the world – as well as the relationship between their relationship as a ruling elite with

the masses. "They really have no use for liberalism and democracy, but they're conquering the world in the name of liberalism and democracy," Drury says.

[Digg This Story](#)

*Jim Lobe writes on foreign policy for Alternet. His work has also appeared on Foreign Policy In Focus and TomPaine.com.*

<http://www.alternet.org/story/15935/>

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## Deep Background: The Power of Myth

...The Power of Myth

By Mike Whitney

10/25/06

In the Orwellian world of make-believe; the narrative is everything. Invent a good story, run it through the ministry of truth (the media) and stick to it no matter how ridiculous it may sound. After all, if the media can shift the national debate from the war in Iraq, Social Security, and the enormous federal deficits to 14 weepy fundamentalists waving signs in front of a hospice in Florida where a brain-dead patient is being kept alive against her will; anything is possible.

In researching the Bush administration's manipulation of public perceptions, I came across an interesting summary of the State Department's Philip Zelikow, who was Executive Director on the 9-11 Commission, that greatest of all charades. According to Wikipedia:

"Prof. Zelikow's area of academic expertise is the creation and maintenance of, in his words, 'public myths' or 'public presumptions' which he defines as 'beliefs (1) thought to be true (although not necessarily known with certainty) and (2) shared in common within the relevant political community.' In his academic work and elsewhere he has taken a special interest in what he has called 'searing' or 'molding' events (that) take on transcendent' importance and therefore retain their power even as the experiencing generation passes from the scene....He has noted that 'a history's narrative power is typically linked to how readers relate to the actions of individuals in the history; if readers cannot make the connection to their own lives, then a history may fail to engage them at all.'" ("Thinking about Political History" Miller center Report, winter 1999, p 5-7)

Isn't that the same as saying there is neither history nor truth; that what is really important is the manipulation of epochal events so they serve the interests of society's managers? Thus, it follows that if the government can create their own "galvanizing events", then they can write history any way they choose.

If that's the case, then perhaps the entire war on terror is cut from whole cloth; a garish public relations maneuver devoid of meaning.

Wikipedia adds this about Zelikow which may help to clarify this point:

"In the Nov-Dec 1998 issue of Foreign Affairs he (Zelikow) co-authored (with the former head of the CIA) an article entitled "Catastrophic Terrorism" in which he speculated that if

the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center had succeeded ‘the resulting horror and chaos would have exceeded our ability to describe it. Such an act of catastrophic terrorism would be a watershed event in American history. It could involve loss of life and property unprecedented in peacetime and undermine America’s fundamental sense of security, as did the Soviet atomic bomb test in 1949. Like Pearl Harbor, the event would divide our past and future into a before and after. The United States might respond with draconian measures scaling back civil liberties, allowing wider surveillance of citizens, detention of suspects and use of deadly force.’ ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\\_D.\\_Zelikow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_D._Zelikow))

That was written in 1998!?!

Amazing. It is almost like Zelikow knew what was going to happen on 9-11 and was drawing attention to the “draconian measures” (scaling back civil liberties) which may seem attractive to elites in the policy establishment.

Now, coincidentally, everything has evolved just as Zelikow predicted. Just like Pearl Harbor, 9-11 has “divided our past and future into a before and after”. The post-9-11 world relates to a world in which personal liberty is no longer protected, and where surveillance, detention and the use of deadly force are all permitted. It is a world in which “America’s fundamental sense of security” has been shattered and will continue to be shattered as a way of managing public opinion.

As Zelikow presciently implies, the post 9-11 world depends entirely on “public myths”; fairy tales invented by society’s supervisors which perpetuate the illusion of democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article15398.htm>

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/19981101faessay1434/ashton-carter-john-deutch-%20philip-zelikow/catastrophic-terrorism-tackling-the-new-danger.html>

<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/visions/publication/terrorism.htm>

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## **Deep Background: We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality**

The aide said that guys like me [i.e., reporters and commentators] were "in what we call the reality-based community,"

which he defined as people who "believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality."

I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off.

"That's not the way the world really works anymore," he continued.

**"We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality.**

And while you're studying that reality—judiciously, as you will—we'll act again, creating other new realities,

which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/18034#fnr6>

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# Deep Background: Terror as princip of rule, The Power of Nightmares

*Published on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 by CommonDreams.org*

## Hyping Terror For Fun, Profit - And Power

by Thom Hartmann

What if there really was no need for much - or even most - of the Cold War? What if, in fact, the Cold War had been kept alive for two decades based on phony WMD threats?

What if, similarly, the War On Terror was largely a scam, and the administration was hyping it to seem larger-than-life? What if our "enemy" represented a real but relatively small threat posed by rogue and criminal groups well outside the mainstream of Islam? What if that hype was done largely to enhance the power, electability, and stature of George W. Bush and Tony Blair?

And what if the world was to discover the most shocking dimensions of these twin deceits - that the same men promulgated them in the 1970s and today?

It happened.

The myth-shattering event took place in England the first three weeks of October, when the BBC aired a three-hour documentary written and produced by Adam Curtis, titled "[The Power of Nightmares](#)." If the emails and phone calls many of us in the US received from friends in the UK - and debate in the pages of publications like [The Guardian](#) are any indicator, this was a seismic event, one that may have even provoked a hasty meeting between Blair and Bush a few weeks later.

According to this carefully researched and well-vetted BBC documentary, Richard Nixon, following in the steps of his mentor and former boss Dwight D. Eisenhower, believed it was possible to end the Cold War and eliminate fear from the national psyche. The nation need no longer be afraid of communism or the Soviet Union. Nixon worked out a truce with the Soviets, meeting their demands for safety as well as the US needs for security, and then announced to Americans that they need no longer be afraid.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon returned from the Soviet Union with a treaty worked out by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the beginning of a process Kissinger called "détente." On June 1, 1972, Nixon gave a speech in which he said, *"Last Friday, in Moscow, we witnessed the beginning of the end of that era which began in 1945. With this step, we have enhanced the security of both nations. We have begun to reduce the level of fear, by reducing the causes of fear—for our two peoples, and for all peoples in the world."*

But Nixon left amid scandal and Ford came in, and Ford's Secretary of Defense (Donald Rumsfeld) and Chief of Staff (Dick Cheney) believed it was intolerable that Americans might no longer be bound by fear. Without fear, how could Americans be manipulated?

Rumsfeld and Cheney began a concerted effort - first secretly and then openly - to undermine Nixon's treaty for peace and to rebuild the state of fear and, thus, reinstate the Cold War.

And these two men - 1974 Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Ford Chief of Staff Dick Cheney - did this by claiming that the Soviets had secret weapons of mass destruction that the president didn't know about, that the CIA didn't know about, that nobody but them knew about. And, they said, because of those weapons, the US must redirect billions of dollars away from domestic programs and instead give the money to defense contractors for whom these two men would one day work.

*"The Soviet Union has been busy," Defense Secretary Rumsfeld explained to America in 1976. "They've been busy in terms of their level of effort; they've been busy in terms of the actual weapons they've been producing; they've been busy in terms of expanding production rates; they've been busy in terms of expanding their institutional capability to produce additional weapons at additional rates; they've been busy in terms of expanding their capability to increasingly improve the sophistication of those weapons. Year after year after year, they've been demonstrating that they have steadiness of purpose. They're purposeful about what they're doing."*

The CIA strongly disagreed, calling Rumsfeld's position a "complete fiction" and pointing out that the Soviet Union was disintegrating from within, could barely afford to feed their own people, and would collapse within a decade or two if simply left alone.

But Rumsfeld and Cheney wanted Americans to believe there was something nefarious going on, something we should be very afraid of. To this end, they convinced President Ford to appoint a commission including their old friend Paul Wolfowitz to prove that the Soviets were up to no good.

According to Curtis' BBC documentary, Wolfowitz's group, known as "Team B," came to the conclusion that the Soviets had developed several terrifying new weapons of mass destruction, featuring a nuclear-armed submarine fleet that used a sonar system that didn't depend on sound and was, thus, undetectable with our current technology.

The BBC's documentarians asked Dr. Anne Cahn of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during that time, her thoughts on Rumsfeld's, Cheney's, and Wolfowitz's 1976 story of the secret Soviet WMDs. Here's a clip from a transcript of that BBC documentary:

*"Dr ANNE CAHN, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1977-80: They couldn't say that the Soviets had acoustic means of picking up American submarines, because they couldn't find it. So they said, well maybe they have a non-acoustic means of making our submarine fleet vulnerable. But there was no evidence that they had a non-acoustic system. They're saying, 'we can't find evidence that they're doing it the way that everyone thinks they're doing it, so they must be doing it a different way. We don't know what that different way is, but they must be doing it.'*

*"INTERVIEWER (off-camera): Even though there was no evidence.*

*"CAHN: Even though there was no evidence.*

*"INTERVIEWER: So they're saying there, that the fact that the weapon doesn't exist...*

*"CAHN: Doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. It just means that we haven't found it."*

The moderator of the BBC documentary then notes:

*"What Team B accused the CIA of missing was a hidden and sinister reality in the Soviet Union. Not only were there many secret weapons the CIA hadn't found, but they were wrong about many of those they could observe, such as the Soviet air defenses. The CIA were convinced that these were in a state of collapse, reflecting the growing economic chaos in the Soviet Union. Team B said that this was actually a cunning deception by the Soviet régime. The air-defense system worked perfectly. But the only evidence they produced to prove this was the official Soviet training manual, which proudly asserted that their air-defense system was fully integrated and functioned flawlessly. The CIA accused Team B of moving into a fantasy world."*

Nonetheless, as Melvin Goodman, head of the CIA's Office of Soviet Affairs, 1976-87, noted in the BBC documentary,

*"Rumsfeld won that very intense, intense political battle that was waged in Washington in 1975 and 1976. Now, as part of that battle, Rumsfeld and others, people such as Paul Wolfowitz, wanted to get into the CIA. And their mission was to create a much more severe view of the Soviet Union, Soviet intentions, Soviet views about fighting and winning a nuclear war."*

Although Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld's assertions of powerful new Soviet WMDs were unproven - they said the lack of proof proved that undetectable weapons existed - they nonetheless used their charges to push for dramatic escalations in military spending to selected defense contractors, a process that continued through the Reagan administration. But, trillions of dollars and years later, it was proven that they had been wrong all along, and the CIA had been right. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Wolfowitz lied to America in the 1970s about Soviet WMDs.

Not only do we now know that the Soviets didn't have any new and impressive WMDs, but we also now know that they were, in fact, decaying from within, ripe for collapse any time, regardless of what the US did - just as the CIA (and anybody who visited Soviet states - as I had - during that time could easily predict). The Soviet economic and political system wasn't working, and their military was disintegrating.

As arms-control expert Cahn noted in the documentary of those 1970s claims by Wolfowitz, Cheney, and Rumsfeld:

*"I would say that all of it was fantasy. I mean, they looked at radars out in Krasnoyarsk and said, 'This is a laser beam weapon,' when in fact it was nothing of the sort. ... And if you go through most of Team B's specific allegations about weapons systems, and you just examine them one by one, they were all wrong."*

*"INTERVIEWER: All of them?"*

*"CAHN: All of them."*

*"INTERVIEWER: Nothing true?"*

*"CAHN: I don't believe anything in [Wolfowitz's 1977] Team B was really true."*

But the neocons said it was true, and organized a group - [The Committee on the Present Danger](#) - to promote their worldview. The Committee produced documentaries, publications, and provided guests for national talk shows and news reports. They worked hard to whip up fear and encourage increases in defense spending, particularly for sophisticated weapons systems offered by the defense contractors for whom neocons would later become lobbyists. And they succeeded in recreating an atmosphere of fear in the United States, and making themselves and their defense contractor friends richer than most of the kingdoms of the world. The Cold War was good for business, and good for the political power of its advocates, from Rumsfeld to Reagan.

Similarly, according to this documentary, the War On Terror is the same sort of scam, run for many of the same reasons, by the same people. And by hyping it - and then invading Iraq - we may well be bringing into reality terrors and forces that previously existed only on the margins and with very little power to harm us.

Curtis' documentary suggests that the War On Terror is just as much a fiction as were the super-WMDs this same group of neocons said the Soviets had in the 70s. He suggests we've done more to create terror than to fight it. That the risk was really quite minimal (at least until we invaded Iraq), and the terrorists are - like most terrorist groups - simply people on the fringes, rather easily dispatched by their own people. He even points out that Al Qaeda itself was a brand we invented, later adopted by bin Laden because we'd put so many millions into creating worldwide name recognition for it.

Watching "The Terror of Nightmares" is like taking the Red Pill in the movie The Matrix. It's the story of idealism gone wrong, of ideologies promoted in the US by Leo Strauss and his followers (principally Wolfowitz, Feith, and Pearle), and in the Muslim world by bin Laden's mentor, Ayman Zawahiri. Both sought to create a utopian world through world domination; both believe that the ends justify the means; both are convinced that "the people" must be frightened into embracing religion and nationalism for the greater good of morality and a stable state. Each needs the other in order to hold power.

Whatever your plans are for tonight or tomorrow, clip three hours out of them and take the Red Pill. Get a pair of headphones (the audio is faint), plug them into your computer, and visit

an unofficial archive of the Curtis' BBC documentary at the Information Clearing House [website](#). (The third hour of the program, in a more viewable format, is also available [here](#).) For those who prefer to read things online, an unofficial but complete transcript is on this Belgian [site](#).

But be forewarned: You'll never see political reality - and certainly never hear the words of the Bush or Blair administrations - the same again.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1207-26.htm>

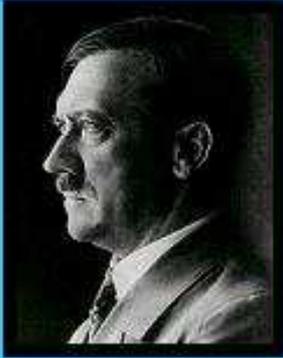
## Deep Background: Common people don't want war

"Naturally, the common people don't want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag people along whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country."



Hermann Goering, Hitler's Reich-Marshal  
at the Nuremberg Trials after WWII

## Deep Background: The Big Lie



**A *big lie* is defined as "the intentional distortion of the truth, especially for political or official purposes."**

**This tactic of trying to deceive a country's citizens was used by Adolph Hitler.**

**"The great mass of people ... will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one." Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), German dictator. *Mein Kampf*, vol. 1, ch. 10 (1925)**