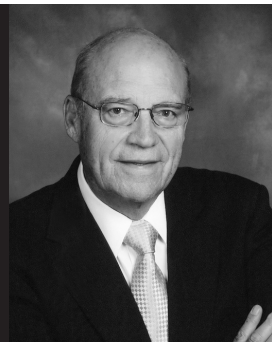




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The Schwarz Report



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Russia and Solzhenitsyn

by Fay Voshell

In 2009, Hillary Clinton, then US Secretary of State, presented her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, with a “reset” button she thought symbolized a new era for Russian and American diplomacy.

Lavrov pointed out the word the Americans had chosen, “peregruzka,” meant “overcharged,” not “reset.” Though the two leaders laughed off the mistake, the mistranslated button was a symbol of persistent misunderstanding between the two nations.

Russia has long been characterized by many in the West as enigmatic; indeed, almost beyond understanding. It was Winston Churchill who in October of 1939, mere weeks after the invasion of Poland by Nazi armed forces, speculated on the role of Russia in the war, famously depicting Russia as “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.”

He added: “. . . but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest. It cannot be in accordance with the interest of the safety of Russia that Germany should plant itself upon the shores of the Black Sea, or that it should overrun the Balkan States and subjugate the Slavonic peoples of south eastern Europe. That would be contrary to the historic life-interests of Russia.”

In other words, Churchill could not envision the dismemberment of the Soviet Union by the German war machine without Russia fighting for her “life interests.” History proved him right. Russia survived, though gravely wounded.

The claims of Russia to her unique, historic life interests again came to the forefront when the Soviet Union collapsed in the 1990s and Russia the nation and empire appeared on the verge of total disintegration. Russia found itself in desperate need of a Weltanschauung that would replace the communist ideology that had held the nation in its grip for seventy years. If she did not, she might even face the prospect of radical shrinkage back to the proportions of Kievan Rus, her empire absorbed into Eastern Europe and the Far East. For some, if not most, of Russia’s political and intellectual leaders, the prospect of seeing the Russian empire virtually disappear was unthinkable.

Discerning that a US Marshall Plan was not in order for Russia, several main figures came forward with ideas for a Russian reset button, one which they saw as including the “historic life interests” of Russia in the post-communist era. One, of course, is Vladimir Putin, whose embrace of Russian Orthodoxy has been a reason for the elevation of Christianity to a place of influence it occupied for over a millennium.

One of the spiritual and philosophical influences behind Putin has been Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Partly due to Putin’s influence, Solzhenitsyn’s master work *The Gulag Archipelago* is now required reading in Russian schools.

Solzhenitsyn openly rejected the secularist and leftist liberal political philosophy dominating the cultures of Europe and America. Russia, he said, had her own unique spiritual and historic heritage, a heritage that clashed with the dominant ideology of the West. Though he admired the spirituality of the American heartland, he saw the West in general as drowning in a vortex created by moral degradation, anti-religious sentiment, and extreme individualism.

Perhaps the most succinct and prescient analyses of the errors of the liberal democratic West and the failure of the West to understand Russia and Russian spirituality is found in his speech at Harvard University, given in 1978 some eleven years before the collapse of East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Solzhenitsyn reminded the Harvard graduates that the West was not the one and only advanced culture. Russia also deserved high regard as an ancient and autonomous entity:

“Any ancient and deeply rooted, autonomous culture. . . constitutes an autonomous world, full of riddles and surprises to Western thinking. . . . For one thousand years Russia belonged to such a category, although Western thinking systemati-

cally committed the mistake of denying its autonomous character and therefore never understood it. . . .”

In other words, if Russia was an enigma, it was due to Western blindness, a blindness that was largely due to spiritual cataracts. If Russia seemed inscrutable, it was because America and the rest of the West failed to understand the Russian soul and the Russian nation. No reset was possible unless the West returned to its own Christian spiritual roots. Until spiritual eyeglasses provided vision, the materialistic but powerful West would remain blinded by its sense of total superiority.

The West, he went on to say, thought of itself as possessing the most attractive system, and regarded other nations as culturally inferior entities that needed to come up to speed, rejecting their “wicked governments” and “their own barbarity” in order to take “the way of western pluralistic democracy and adopting the Western way of life. Countries are judged on the merit of their progress in this direction. However, it is a conception which develops out of Western incomprehension of the essence of other worlds, out of the mistake of measuring them all with a Western yardstick.”

Russia had its own ancient and autonomous character and was in some ways more advanced than the secularist West, which he saw as declining in courage, and as inclined toward overemphasis on individual rights seldom ameliorated by a corresponding emphasis on individual obligations. Such was the emphasis on individual rights that “destructive and irresponsible freedom has been granted boundless space.” The result was that evil had boundless freedom to expand in every part of society, expressing itself as individual “rights,” be those rights exhibiting themselves in pornography, violence, and even anarchy. A firm belief in the basic goodness of human nature coupled with an almost complete misapprehension of the evil inherent in human nature had led the West to embracing what amounted to spiritual and moral anarchy.

The spiritual condition of the West meant its system was not the ideal model for Russia, which Solzhenitsyn characterized as possessing spiritual strength the West had once possessed, but which it had rejected. The West was spiritually exhausted due to the repudiation of the Christian principles on which it was based. As Russia was, even in the midst of the communist regime, gaining her spiritual strength, a vitiated West had virtually nothing to say to her beyond advocacy of runaway materialism and out-of-control individualism.

Solzhenitsyn went on to point out the basic error that led to the decadence of the West; namely, the assumption of the Enlightenment that mankind has no higher force

above him, but is autonomous—mankind as the center of everything that exists. In effect, the West, including America, which at its inception believed quite differently, rejected the idea that all “individual human rights were granted because man is God’s creature.” Freedom, he said, is conditional in that it has grave religious responsibilities, an idea that had roots thousands of years old.

He concluded any commonality between Russia and the West had to be spiritual: “[If] the world has not come to its end, it has approached a major turn in history, equal in importance to the turn from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. It will exact from us a spiritual upsurge: We shall have to rise to a new height of vision, to a new level of life where our physical nature will not be cursed as in the Middle Ages, but, even more importantly, our spiritual being will not be trampled upon as in the Modern era. This ascension will be similar to climbing onto the next anthropologic stage. No one on earth has any other way left but -- upward.”

For Solzhenitsyn, Christianity, specifically the Russian Orthodox Church, had informed the Russian soul and Russia since the end of the first millennium, with roots going back to the Eastern Roman Empire. The path leading to restoration of true greatness lay in a return to God and a repudiation of the dark inheritance of a so-called Enlightenment that fostered atheism and sought to tear down Christianity.

Having experienced firsthand the brutality of a regime motivated by atheism, Solzhenitsyn saw a similar deleterious influence at the core of the crisis of the West. Once again, runaway atheism was revealing its inherently destructive nature. In his Templeton Prize Lecture of May 1983, “Godlessness: The First Step to the Gulag,” he said:

And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too, I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: Men have forgotten God. The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century.

. . . the world had never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized, and tenaciously malevolent as that practiced by Marxism. Within the philosophical system of Marx and Lenin, and at the heart of their psychology, hatred of God is the principal driving force, more fundamental than all their political and economic pretensions. Militant atheism is not merely incidental or marginal

to Communist policy; it is not a side effect, but the central pivot.

[In the West] ...the concepts of good and evil have been ridiculed for several centuries; banished from common use, they have been replaced by political or class considerations of short lived value. It has become embarrassing to state that evil makes its home in the individual human heart before it enters a political system.

The West, including America, was sliding toward an abyss of its own making. The young were deliberately being taught godlessness and hatred of their own society. The subsequent corrosion of the human heart and hatred was fast becoming the signature of the contemporary free world, which appeared anxious to export to the rest of the world its own philosophy of godlessness and immorality.

The solution, he concluded, was repentance and return to God: "... [W]e can propose only a determined quest for the warm hand of God, which we have so rashly and self-confidently spurned. Only in this way can our eyes be opened to the errors of this unfortunate twentieth century and our bands be directed to setting them right. There is nothing else to cling to in the landslide: the combined vision of all the thinkers of the Enlightenment amounts to nothing. . . . If we perish and lose this world, the fault will be ours alone."

Solzhenitsyn's powerful insights hold much truth. If there is to be a reset between the West and Russia, it must be based on the mutual and ancient Christian roots of both entities. Here in the United States, there is a Christian commonality that still exists, but it desperately requires fostering and revival.

In the meantime, Christianity in the West and in Russia remains a key to the relationship between the two.

Therein lies a way to rapprochement.

Therein lies a possibility of a "reset button."

The way will not be easy, as the present leaders of the West have largely bowed to the forces of a spiritually arid and atheistic secularism.

But there is hope that some will seek to hear and to heed the voice that says, "This is the way. Walk in it."

—*American Thinker*, May 29, 2016

George Soros Embraces Transgender

by Kelly Riddell

Three years ago, a Supreme Court ruling paved the way for gay marriage.

After it, the mainstream media had one question: What was next for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement? They had, after all, won the big fight. In addition, many corporations had adopted policies barring discrimination based on sexual orientation, and two of America's most watched shows at the time "Modern Family" and "Glee" featured openly gay characters.

"I really do believe [the Supreme Court ruling] is the domino that is going to tip over the rest of the dominoes," Wilson Cruz, an LGBT activist, told CNN at the time. "Do not get in the way of this train, because it will run you over."

To ensure things ran full-steam ahead, billionaire George Soros, through his Foundation to Promote Open Society, dedicated at least \$2.7 million to the cause that year, according to his tax returns.

Some Republicans at the time mistakenly thought the LGBT movement had reached its pinnacle, that the culture wars had ended. They thought the party could now focus on fiscal concerns, which weren't nearly as divisive.

But that was foolish—the LGBT movement was just getting fired up, and Soros-affiliated groups were already plotting their next prize.

It took two-plus years, but seemingly out of nowhere to many conservatives, the transgender bathroom debate exploded this summer after North Carolina legislators passed a bill that required people to use bathrooms matching their sex assigned at birth. The Justice Department intervened, calling such a law a violation of the Civil Rights Act, and the media went wild—it was their new civil rights movement.

It was a debate that had been percolating at the state level for years.

So what made North Carolina the tipping point? Well-funded LGBT organizers had success in California, giving them a blueprint to work in other states, and it's an

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.

election year. North Carolina is a battleground state with presidential implications, and liberals love fighting the cultural wars. It was President Obama who lit the match, after all.

The bathroom debate started in California, where the Gay Straight Alliance Network, an organization based in Oakland, has been lobbying hard for transgender rights. The group is a “next-generation LGBTQ racial and gender justice organization that empowers . . . allied youth leaders to advocate, organize, and mobilize an intersectional movement,” according to its website.

They’ve created Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs in more than 61 percent of California school’s and have advocated for and achieved 11 pro-LGBT laws in the state, including a 2013 bill that allowed students to join sports teams and use the bathroom of their gender preference.

The GSA helped organize groups in North Carolina.

They helped craft LGBT curriculum in accordance with the University of North Carolina’s LEARN NC program to teach and talk about the issue. They helped create an action guide that gave LGBT activists a blueprint for lobbying, including what hashtags to use on social media, and how to file complaints with the US Office for Civil Rights.

In 2013, Mr. Soros’ gave GSA \$100,000.

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Center also received \$130,000 from Mr. Soros that year. Their Leadership Lab was published in the journal *Science* this spring, that evaluated the impact that door-to-door canvassing can have on reducing transphobia. It’s being used as national model.

The Leadership Lab writes the study has “been able to independently quantify the impact we’re making on voters: The same decrease in homophobia that took fourteen years of incremental change to occur in the past is occurring here, in terms of voters’ transphobia, over the course of a single short conversation with a Lab canvasser. What’s more, their study shows that this approach is beginning to counter the heinous ‘bathroom myth’ that our opposition has spread to scare voters into voting against the trans community in election after election.”

The Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE), headquartered in New York, received \$244,000 from Mr. Soros. It’s main purpose is to pull all the LGBT organizations together in order to create a louder megaphone, laying out best practices and fundraising advice.

So what’s next for the movement?

Mr. Soros’ IRS Form 990 gives us some clues.

He’s funded a Streetwise and Safe organization in New York, with the purpose of supporting a “national

project focused on increasing safety for LGBTQ youth during interactions with law enforcement and developing advocacy skills to engage debates around discriminatory policing practices,” according to his 2014 tax return.

Mr. Soros also gave \$525,000 to Justice at Stake, a group that’s looking to promote diversity in the courts for people within the LGBT community.

“This lack of diversity on the bench can lead to the appearance of bias, and even actual bias,” the group’s website warns. “A more diverse bench improves the quality of justice for all citizens.”

You see, winning court rulings is not enough, you need to control the courts in order for them to be fair.

Once that’s achieved? I’m sure there will be more demands.

—*The Washington Times*, August 15, 2016

Sandinista President Daniel Ortega

Editorial, *The Wall Street Journal*

Freedom and human rights have had a bad run in Latin America in the past decade. Venezuela has become a Cuban satellite and holds scores of political prisoners. Pluralism hangs by a thread in Bolivia, El Salvador, and Ecuador. Yet the collapse of democracy may be most poignant in Nicaragua, which fought back against the Communist Sandinistas during the Cold War only to see them return with a vengeance amid US indifference.

Last month Sandinista President Daniel Ortega purged Nicaragua’s opposition from Parliament. In November he will run for a third five-year term with his wife, Rosario Murillo, as his vice-presidential candidate. Elections under Mr. Ortega have never been transparent and he has barred international observers from this one. He has blocked serious presidential challengers, so this won’t be much of a contest.

Readers may recall how Mr. Ortega led the Sandinista revolution that toppled Anastasio Somoza in 1979 with the help of the Soviet Union. He moved quickly to establish a Communist beachhead in Central America. This spawned the grass-roots Nicaraguan resistance known as the Contras aided by the US. Mr. Ortega won one rigged election in 1984. But when he agreed to another with international observers in 1990, he lost to Violeta Chamorro.

The Sandinistas accepted defeat but refused to surrender their weapons or their judiciary seats. The “com-

mandantes” of the revolution had enriched themselves by confiscating property in what was known as “the piñata,” and many Nicaraguan property owners have never been compensated.

Mr. Ortega has returned to power by exploiting democratic rules and then changing them once in power. Center-right President Arnoldo Aleman (1997-2002) negotiated a deal with Mr. Ortega to lower the threshold for a first-round victory in the presidential election to 35%. That allowed Mr. Ortega to split the anti-Sandinista vote in 2006 and win.

The judiciary and the electoral council were already heavy with Sandinistas. Mr. Ortega and his allies first lifted the constitutional prohibition on presidential re-election in 2011. Then he pushed through legislation to permit indefinite presidential re-elections so he could run again this year.

Now 70 years old, Mr. Ortega has used financial resources and advice from Venezuela to bully his way to absolute power and great wealth. He is believed to be one of the richest men in the country. Many in the business community went along with his gradual accretions of power, and now it may be too late to prevent a full-fledged dictatorship. In June the Supreme Court removed and replaced the leader of the main opposition party. When some of his own party members refused to accept the ruling, Mr. Ortega kicked them out of Congress.

All of this has happened with nary a peep from the Obama Administration. Contrast that with the way the White House aggressively mobilized Latin American governments in 2009 when Honduras used constitutional means to remove a law-breaking president and then insisted that new elections be held on schedule. Latin Americans have noticed the US double standard, and Nicaraguans are paying the price.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, August 22, 2016, p. A12

FDR and Stalin

by Robert Orlando

In 20th century history, Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s presence looms large. Forever cast in the lead role as the New Deal’s man of the people, Roosevelt’s policies have long been credited with pulling Americans out of the Great Depression. His fabled fireside chats and comforting rhetoric during the darkest days of war united a nation and inspired a generation. Alongside his British and Russian counterparts, Roosevelt is hailed as having masterminded the defeat of Hitler and the ruthless Ger-

man Nazi war machine. Indeed, FDR’s persona borders on the mythical, yet critical flaws mar even this giant of history. Case in point: Roosevelt’s blind enchantment with Russian dictator Josef Stalin.

Roosevelt believed he had a special rapport with Stalin, despite the obvious disparity in fundamental ideologies between the two. Roosevelt was under the dangerous illusion that he knew how to handle Stalin, when in fact it was Stalin who knew how to play Roosevelt. In the dynamics of the Big Three—Roosevelt, Stalin, and Winston Churchill—it is Roosevelt who emerges as what some would describe as a Soviet sympathizer. Roosevelt, along with trusted advisors such as Harry Hopkins and Henry Dexter White, was downright charmed by Stalin, whom he affectionately called “Uncle Joe.” Roosevelt was of the firm belief that, in time, he could transform the tyrant into a “Christian gentlemen.” Toward that end and before critical discussions at Yalta about postwar world order commenced, Roosevelt wedged Churchill out of the conversation so that he might meet with Stalin alone. The result: though Roosevelt persistently voiced great distaste for the British Empire, his unabashed attraction to Stalin enabled the rise of a new and dangerous Soviet empire.

For those supporters—mainly on the left—keen on preserving the myth that FDR had the upper hand in his dealings with Stalin, you’re in luck. After more than seven decades, conventional wisdom continues to turn a blind eye toward the true nature of the relationship between the two leaders, focusing instead on trivialities such as Churchill’s “naughty document,” credited by many as providing the mechanism for carving up postwar geopolitical boundaries.

To many, Roosevelt’s alleged enchantment with the dictator remains a clever ruse, a public display of master stagecraft. After all, he once told Orson Welles that they were the “two greatest” actors in the world. But 70 years of history hence, we can recognize that FDR’s fond words for Josef Stalin go well beyond politics or war. As historian Paul Kengor astutely writes in *Dupes: How America’s Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*: “The President very often used words of eye opening personal affection. Only three months after Pearl Harbor, for example, FDR wrote a note to Winston Churchill in anticipation of his first meeting with Stalin. ‘I think I can personally handle Stalin better than your Foreign Office or my State Department,’ FDR boasted to Churchill on March 18, 1942. ‘Stalin hates the guts of all your people. He thinks he likes me better.’”

Some aim to protect the FDR myth—that Roosevelt genuinely believed in his ability to shape and influence

Stalin's thinking—by suggesting that failing health and exhaustion from the war, may have clouded his judgment, causing him to develop a myopic view of the Russian tyrant. Few would argue that fatigue would not have contributed to the state of Roosevelt's mind, though Churchill also suffered from fatigue, but without the same lack of judgment. Yet Roosevelt also rejected the warnings from some of his closest advisors.

As far back as 1941, Roosevelt's former Soviet Ambassador William Bullitt, Jr., who had his own "Bolshevik romance" but later came to his senses, tried to warn Roosevelt that "Communists in the United States are just as dangerous enemies as ever," and that his policies were "wishful thinking." In return for his candor, Bullitt received this wishful reply from the president: "I just have a hunch that Stalin is not that kind of man. . . . I think that if I give him everything I possibly can and ask nothing in return, noblesse oblige, he won't try to annex anything and will work with me for a world of democracy and peace."

Unlike the president, Prime Minister Churchill held his nose and dealt with Stalin only when necessary and with grave reservation. He did not relish his dealings with "the devil," nor did he welcome any personal challenge to find "Uncle Joe's" good graces. He was under no illusions that he (or anyone else) could change Stalin's nature. Churchill, to his abundant credit, wanted the Allies to capture Berlin, to defend Prague, and the rest of Eastern Europe, and he urged Allied forces to "meet the Red Army as far east as possible," which meant capturing the key capitals. Churchill understood that the wholesale offering of Berlin—the crown jewel of Europe—would give Stalin the upper hand in postwar power. Yet Roosevelt defended Stalin's honor and called for Eisenhower to avoid any contact with Russians, handing over Berlin as merely a symbolic gesture. Thus did Eisenhower and his generals turn a blind eye to what would become the rape and slaughter of more than 11 million people at the hands of the "liberating" Soviets.

Relinquishing Berlin to the Russians was not only a grave error, demonstrating Roosevelt's alarming lack of history, geography, and common sense, it was, as British historian Antony Beevor notes, clearly "unthinkable that the Western Allies simply could not hope to push back the Red Army," to their original borders. Failing to do so emboldened the Russians to not only snatch the "crown jewel" as a strategic target, but also positioned them to topple other Eastern European governments. Likewise, as a result of Roosevelt's policies that were passed down the line of command through Marshall and Eisenhower on the battlefield, the Soviets found, outside Berlin, the resources needed to begin amassing the nuclear arsenal that would

figure prominently in the coming Cold War with the US.

Still, despite warnings from William Bullitt, Winston Churchill, and even General George S. Patton, Roosevelt maintained there was nothing he could not do with the misguided Russian tyrant.

While the myth prior to the end of WWII might have held truths that reflected the facts about Roosevelt's presidency and his efforts to hold a country together through difficult times, there is no excuse for his naiveté (or perhaps hubris) in dealing with Stalin, which resulted in the devastating betrayal of the people of Berlin, Eastern Europe, and even the US. Roosevelt's uplifting rhetoric helped Americans endure a treacherous moment in our collective history as we sacrificed the lives of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers for what most believed to be the true cause of freedom. Yet Roosevelt's myth of Stalin as a trustworthy partner in postwar Europe was born of illusion, or a delusion, and here are the facts. Stalin broke every agreement he had made, he slaughtered the lives of tens of millions of people in his scourge of German, Polish, and Ukrainian citizenry in the newly occupied lands, not to mention the utter horrors that occurred back in his own gulags where millions more were taken prisoner, including twenty thousand Allied POWs.

We do not need a slanted storyteller to make the case for Roosevelt's self-deception. Roosevelt himself recognized his mistake—albeit too late—as noted by former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union Averell Harriman: "On March 23, 1945, Roosevelt confided to Anna Rosenberg, a well known businesswoman and public official during the war, 'Averell is right. We can't do business with Stalin. He has broken every one of the promises he made at Yalta.'"

But where was the surprise? How else could Roosevelt have imagined the outcome, trusting a man who had already killed tens of millions of his own people to establish his coming empire? What good were Roosevelt's words when his basic judgment would allow a monster like Stalin to feed on the millions of innocents in Eastern Europe and enable the Cold War?

As historian Kengor concludes, "[FDR's] appraisal of Stalin was one of the most naïve assessments of any major foreign leader in the history of the American presidency." When the facts so undermine this narrative or myth, it is rightfully time for that myth to be replaced for a more precise explanation, as will be the case with Roosevelt.

Myths are not lies. And they are not created to deceive, but rather to communicate a higher truth. This does not mean they are factually accurate or meant to last forever, a point missed by many ideologues even in academia. And while academia, tries to limit itself to the empirical

evidence (what can be known) or to know how to interpret facts, these facts require a context, or in the case of story, a real-world narrative.

As we revisit the triumphs and blunders of the 20th century, Roosevelt's naïve relationship with Stalin and the horrific Cold War legacy that resulted are evidence of a very costly enchantment.

—*American Thinker*, July 16, 2016

Angela Davis—Red

by Roger Kimball

Saturday marked the 44th anniversary of Angela Davis's acquittal on charges of murder, kidnapping, and conspiracy. Remember Angela Davis? I asked several of my younger colleagues: No one under 35 had heard of her. But the former Black Panther, recipient of the Soviet Union's Lenin Peace Prize, and two-time vice-presidential candidate on the Communist Party ticket with Gus Hall, was once a household name. That was enough for the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, which last Thursday bestowed on Ms. Davis the 2016 Sackler Center First Award, "honoring women who are first in their fields."

Previous honorees include the novelist Toni Morrison, Miss Piggy and Anita Hill—pioneers all, no question. Ms. Davis is surely the first person to have parlayed an appearance on the FBI's 10 most-wanted list into a tenured professorship at the University of California.

The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium at the Brooklyn Museum was packed to overflowing for the ceremony. It began with a songfest. A couple dozen children from the Manhattan Country School, a boutique "progressive" institution, sang what seemed like 40 or 50 verses of "We Shall Overcome." Elizabeth A. Sackler, chairwoman of the Brooklyn Museum and scion of Alfred M. Sackler, who made a large part of his considerable fortune marketing the painkiller OxyContin, introduced the evening. She noted proudly that she had grandchildren attending the school where singing "We Shall Overcome" is a daily ritual.

The evening also featured a welcome by Chirlane McCray, wife of Warren Wilhelm Jr., known to most New Yorkers as Mayor Bill de Blasio. The bulk of the evening was taken up with rituals of self-congratulation and a screening of a mercifully abridged "educational" version of "Free Angela and All Political Prisoners," a 2012 documentary about the signal event in Ms. Davis's career as a radical: her arrest, prosecution, and exoneration. There followed a brief conversation between Ms. Davis and the

prima donna Ms. of all Ms.'s, Gloria Steinem. Kathy Boudin, the former member of the Weather Underground who was convicted of murder in 1981, was also in attendance. It was old-home week for wizened radical chic.

In her introduction, Ms. Sackler said that the name Angela Davis, "the embodiment of all we hold dear," is "synonymous with truth." Really?

After a middle-class upbringing that included college at Brandeis (where she fell under the spell of the Frankfurt School Marxist guru Herbert Marcuse) and postgraduate work in Europe, Ms. Davis emerged as a doyenne of the violent, revolutionary fringe of 1960s radicalism. In 1970 she became romantically involved with George Jackson, a career criminal and Black Panther serving time in Soledad Prison for armed robbery.

In 1970 Jackson was one of several prisoners implicated in the murder of a prison guard. That August Jackson's 17-year-old brother Jonathan burst into a Marin County courthouse during a trial. He distributed arms to the defendants, took the judge, the prosecutor, and at least one juror hostage. Some of the weapons, as later testimony at her trial revealed, had been bought by Ms. Davis two days before. Jonathan intended to trade the hostages for the release of his brother and then flee to Cuba.

In what became a shootout, Jonathan and two of the defendants were killed. The judge's head was blown off by a shotgun taped under his chin. Another hostage was paralyzed for life. In 1971, in a detail omitted by the "Free Angela" documentary, George Jackson and several other inmates murdered three prison guards and two white inmates, before being shot himself.

After the bloody courthouse melee, Ms. Davis fled and went underground. The FBI apprehended her in New York some months later. "Free Angela" argues that she was prosecuted because she was a Communist and black. In fact, she was prosecuted as a material accessory to murder.

How did she get off? In part, for the same reason that O.J. Simpson got off: celebrity, edged with racial grievance mongering. There was also the temper of the times. When she was apprehended, a hue and cry went around the world—especially in precincts hostile to American interests.

The spectacle of Angela Davis at the Brooklyn Museum was partly ironical, partly contemptible. The irony emerged from the discrepancy between the now-rancid radical rhetoric and comfy bourgeois reality, underwritten by capitalist enterprise. Things are "really, really rotten" in this country, Ms. Davis intoned at one point, eliciting knowing murmurs from the hip audience.

But not, of course, for her. When she was in prison

awaiting trial, an unidentified farmer pledged his property to raise the \$100,000 bail to secure Ms Davis's release. "It seemed like a lot of money back then," Ms. Davis assured the audience, unaware, perhaps, that to some it still is.

Perhaps the biggest laugh of the evening came when Ms. Davis noted that she had triumphed over California Gov. Ronald Reagan, President Richard Nixon, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, "three of the most powerful men in the world." Gloria Steinem shot back: "And where are they now?" much to the hilarity of the assembled crowd.

Angela Davis travels the world these days collecting honors. She once supported the Soviet invasions of Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan while refusing to speak up for political prisoners in socialist countries. Now she champions the Occupy and Black Lives Matter movements and derides the police and capitalist West, mouthing radical slogans that, if acted upon, would destroy the civilization that coddles her.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, June 7, 2016, p.A13

Obama and Communist Intelligence

by Humberto Fontova

In 2001 members of a group of Castroite spies in south Florida known as the Wasp Network were convicted of charges ranging from espionage to conspiracy to commit murder (of US citizens). They were sentenced to terms ranging from 15 years to two life sentences. According to the FBI's affidavit, the charges against these KGB-trained Communist spies included:

- * Compiling the names, home addresses, and medical files of the US Southern Command's top officers and that of hundreds of officers stationed at Boca Chica Naval Station in Key West.

- * Infiltrating the headquarters of the US Southern Command.

This past April, on Obama's orders, some of the US Southern Command's top officers gave an in-depth tour of the Southern Command's most vital facilities to some of Cuba's top Military and Intelligence officials—probably to some of the very ones who earlier got this vital information from their WASP charges via "encrypted software, high-frequency radio transmissions, and coded electronic phone messages," as the FBI affidavit showed.

And never mind the convicted Cuban spies, some of whom helped murder four US citizens. They're all living like celebrities in Cuba now after Obama gifted them

back to Castro in December 2014, upon commencing his smoochfest with the terror-sponsoring drug-runner who came closest to nuking the US.

It gets better: Coincidentally (perhaps) the vital US defense facilities that Obama invited the eager Communist drug-runners to carefully inspect serve as the US Defense Department's "command center on the war on drugs."

Coincidentally, (perhaps) on top of serving as a base for terrorist group Hezbollah and probably laundering funds for Al-Qaeda as late as two years ago, the Castro-Family-Crime-Syndicate also help facilitate much of the world's cocaine smuggling. The dots are not overly difficult to connect. Let's have a look:

- *The US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) attributes half the world's cocaine supply to the Colombian Terror group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.)

- *The FARC itself gives credit where credit is due, attributing their rollicking success to the Castro regime: "Thanks to Castro" boasted late FARC commander Tiro-Fijo in an interview, "we are now a powerful army, not a hit and run band." A few years ago a report from Colombia's military intelligence obtained by the Colombian paper *El Espectador* revealed that the FARC maintains a major office in Havana. And their officers "receive a \$5,000 monthly stipend through the Cuban bank account of a Venezuelan government office."

- *And by the way, in July 1996, US prosecutors informed the *Miami Herald* that: "The case we have against Raul Castro right now (for drug-trafficking) is much stronger than the one we had against Manuel Noriega in 1988."

Then just last year, as again reported by Colombia's *El Espectador* (who unlike most of our mainstream media seems to employ actual reporters instead of political hacks) Colombian authorities found 99 missile heads, 100 tons of gunpowder, 2.6 million detonators, and over 3,000 artillery shells hidden under rice sacks in a ship bound from Red China to Cuba that docked in the port of Cartagena and Baranquilla, Colombia.

Coincidentally (perhaps) these ports happen to be the FARC's main bases.

In sum, the Castroites can't possibly be the only international criminals delighted with Obama's "generosity." To wit: "Cuba is intelligence trafficker to the world," stresses Lieut. Col. Chris Simmons, recently retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency. "Among many others, the US military secrets stolen by Castro's spies have been sold to former regimes in Iraq, Panama, and Grenada, alerting these dictatorships to US military plans and costing untold American lives."

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