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## ABC – Australian Broadcasting Corporation Four Corners



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### Quentin McDermott's report "Access Denied", first broadcast 10 May 2010.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Twenty-one years after the World Wide Web was born the Internet has become a global tool of communication, taken for granted by the babies who grew up to be teenagers and who have never known a world without it.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** How many hours a day do you spend online?

**BOAZ SMITH:** Say about three to four hours.

**ALEX KOEBER:** Two to three hours.

**THIRD KID:** Yeah about two and a half hours.

**FOURTH KID:** I'd say two and a half as well.

**FIFTH KID:** Yeah, two, I'd say.

**SIXTH KID:** Probably go like three or four.

**SEVENTH KID:** Maybe just about three.

**EIGHTH KID:** Three.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** But today's Internet isn't just innocent social networking. Some young people are bullied online while others are exposed to extreme pornography.

**BOAZ SMITH:** Interaction between human species and animals. (Others snigger)

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** While hundreds of millions of people use the Internet to educate, communicate and do business, there are those who exploit it to steal people's identities, plan terrorist outrages, and share images of child pornography.

It can be a dangerous place.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON, PUBLIC ETHICS CENTRE, CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY:** It's about some sick people, some very sick people who are creating images and videos that are damaging to children and probably adults too.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** There's a fierce debate now over how to police the Internet and keep children safe online. The Federal Government says Australians need a mandatory Internet filter.

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** No responsible government can sit there and do nothing if there's 355 child abuse websites on the public internet.

**IARLA FLYNN, HEAD OF POLICY, GOOGLE:** We think it goes too far. We think it's a heavy-handed measure. Ah, our primary concern is that the scope of content which the Government is seeking to block is too wide. Remember, this would apply to every Internet user in Australia whether they like it or not.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Tonight on Four Corners, is a mandatory internet filter the best way to go? Will it work? And will it be used by governments to protect - or censor?

**Title on Screen: Access Denied.**

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Meet Australia's new generation of computer hackers - ageing pensioners discovering a fresh role in life as the unlikely enemies of Internet censorship. These senior citizens are battling a Government proposal which will limit their freedom to choose how to end their lives.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Why are you here today?

**SUE LEIGH:** Well I'm here because I support Exit and I support the right to choose when I die and how I die.

**DAVID CAMPBELL, INSTRUCTOR:** Now websites don't have spaces in them...

**SUE LEIGH:** Oh yeah. Okay...

**DAVID CAMPBELL, INSTRUCTOR:** So it's just the one word, [exitinternational.org](http://exitinternational.org).

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** In town hall meetings around the country elderly Australians are attending classes in how to bypass the mandatory internet filter, should it become law. Most of these folk are members of Exit International, the body set up by Dr Philip Nitschke to offer people information about euthanasia. It's a risky area, legally.

**DR PHILIP NITSCHKE:** There's no legal way you can get help to die. You can't. It's illegal to get help to die.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The Peaceful Pill Handbook is Philip Nitschke's primer detailing the methods he recommends for those who wish to end their life peacefully, on their own terms. The book itself has been refused classification and is banned from sale in Australia.

Last year Exit learned that the handbook's web address [peacefulpillhandbook.com](http://peacefulpillhandbook.com) was on a secret blacklist of prohibited Internet content. Because the website is hosted overseas Australian authorities can't block it now. But Exit fears what will happen when a mandatory filter becomes law.

When you try to obtain information such as this particular publication which is available online, you won't be able to. You'll get a sign coming up saying you won't be able to receive this website, [peacefulpill.com](http://peacefulpill.com). The underlying premise seems to be that if you keep people totally deprived of information, they'll sit there and smile and live long and happy lives.

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:**

Individual pages are targeted. Websites are not. This common argument that the euthanasia websites will be targeted and banned is just false. If there is a detailed instruction in self-harm, yes, that page would be targeted but the website and the discussion around euthanasia would not. So for those who keep trying to make this argument, they're simply misleading Australians.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** In fact, the entire online version of the Peaceful Pill Handbook and related videos will be blocked if a mandatory filter is introduced.

**SUE LEIGH:** I think as an adult I have the right to access information about end of life choices.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Detailed advice on assisted suicide is already censored online. Two years ago, an Exit-sponsored YouTube video was taken down. The woman who appeared in the video was a former nurse, Betty Peters. Her gallows humour won over a large audience.

**BETTY PETERS:** The DVD Do It Yourself with Betty proved to be extremely popular, both nationally and internationally. At the time it was removed it was the most viewed piece of film on voluntary euthanasia on YouTube. (On the video) If you want to look nice you better go and get your hair done because this stuff messes your hair up.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** What do you think of the Government's proposal to institute an internet filter which would...

**BETTY PETERS:** I think it's disgusting. I really think that it's quite disgusting and then they'll wonder why people go to other means to explore what they want to happen. But really it's a very retrograde step in Australia, and serves them right if it has consequences that they didn't really want.

**SUE LEIGH:** Well I think it's a real human rights violation. And it's also a very paternalistic way of looking at censorship because I think adults have the right to see what they want to see

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Now you've just undergone a tutorial. What will you take away from this tutorial?

**SUE LEIGH:** Well I'll take away the ability to get round the legislation, basically, and be able to still access the Exit site if this legislation goes ahead.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The spectacle of elderly folk finding ways to bypass a filter intended to protect children online begs the question - how on earth did we get to this point?

Seven years ago, a media storm erupted when a mandatory Internet filter was proposed by the progressive think tank The Australia Institute.

The proposal emerged from the Institute's research into teenagers' viewing habits online, and the man who kicked off the debate was author Clive Hamilton.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON:** It's a very simple matter to go from internet images of sex between men and women involving, you know, various what might be called mainstream sexual practices to perverse and extreme sexual practices. There are myriad links which join all of these websites together.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Some teenagers say it's easy to access extreme pornography online - though not all will agree that it harms them. What's your experience and the experience of your mates been with content on the Internet that, you know...

**BOAZ SMITH:** Well they like to joke around and send you those websites which normally the name isn't actually what it is. Some stuff that you kind of enclose, it just jumps round your screen.

That's basically mostly my experience, is just friends sending the website over.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** What kind of stuff?

**BOAZ SMITH:** Gruesome stuff, like yeah pornographic stuff.

**ALEX KOEBER:** Really awful.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** When you say pornographic stuff, do you mean...

**BOAZ SMITH:** Not just normal pornographic, kinda like...

**ALEX KOEBER:** Gross stuff.

**BOAZ SMITH:** Like different stuff.

**ALEX KOEBER:** X rated stuff.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Okay. Do you mean really gruesome stuff?

**ALEX KOEBER:** Like filthy. Absolutely dirty, like off-putting.

**BOAZ SMITH:** Interaction between human species and animals.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** So you've... seriously you've seen stuff like that?

**BOAZ SMITH:** I've been sent something like that, yes.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON:** Any curious 14 year old can go from a site that shows men and women having sex in all sorts of different ways to a woman being penetrated in every orifice to sites which show incest and promote incest, to sites that show bestiality - explicit pictures of say women having sex with animals - to sites showing coprophilia.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Currently in Australia Internet content is only reviewed when a complaint is made to ACMA - the Australian Communications and Media Authority - and ACMA applies to the Classification Board for the content to be classified.

Some categories of online material are refused classification altogether.

**JEREMY FENTON, CLASSIFICATION BOARD:** They are, that something would be offend against the standards of morality and decency accepted by reasonable adults to the extent that it should be refused classification - banned - that it describes or depicts a person aged under 18, a minor, in a way that is offensive to a reasonable adult - we're talking about child pornography there; that it incites, instructs or promotes in matters of crime or violence; or that it advocates the doing of a terrorist act.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Any material on the Internet that's refused classification or X-rated is placed on a secret blacklist of prohibited content by ACMA. So is material classified MA15+ and R18+ unless underage access to the material is prevented by the website in question.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Is it something that young people need to be protected from?

**JUSTIN KATZ:** Yes and no. I think if you just have common sense and if you're the right age, you don't need to be protected towards anything - that with just a straight mind you'll know what's right and you'll know what's wrong, and if something comes up that's not right you'll disregard it. But I think maybe younger children, it's more necessary to protect them against because they don't even realise what's happening to them.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** So what's the best way to protect really young kids?

**JUSTIN KATZ:** I think it's best managed actually inside the house, that if you know you don't have computers inside little kids' rooms, rather in open areas that's the safest...

**OTHER KID (unseen):** Supervised.

**JUSTIN KATZ:** Yeah, supervised Internet use.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** In 2003 the Australia Institute decided that the current system wasn't doing enough.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON:** We commissioned a poll which showed that parents of teenage children are extremely concerned about their children's access to porn on the Internet and when we asked them explicitly whether they would support a mandatory filter on Internet service providers to prevent extreme and violent pornography coming into the home an astonishing 93 per cent said yes they would support that. I mean that's almost unheard of in any survey such a resounding almost unanimous view.

**JOHN HOWARD, FORMER AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER (AUGUST 9, 2007):** Tonight therefore I announce a new initiative called NetAlert, protecting Australian families online.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The Howard Government responded by offering parents free home-based filters under its multi-million dollar NetAlert programme. Almost at once it encountered problems.

**TOM WOOD:** In 2007 when the Federal Government released their \$84 million NetAlert porn filter I thought that was a huge amount of money to spend for something like that so I downloaded it and in half an hour I was able to bypass it and get through it and virtually work out how to make it completely useless.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Tom Wood was 16 at the time and was not alone in finding out how to disable the home-based filters.

**TOM WOOD:** A week later another fifteen year old kid in Queensland posted a video on YouTube on exactly how to do it.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Labor, sensing a political opportunity, released a new family-friendly policy five days before the 2007 election. It focussed on the protection of children online.

**Colin Jacobs, Chairman Electronic Frontiers Australia:** It sounded like a net nanny for the nation, something that you know parents could opt into and then they could walk away and have some assurance that their children will be protected from inappropriate content.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Why was that proposal introduced by the Labor Party?

**DR DAVID LINDSAY, MONASH LAW SCHOOL:** Well one imagines that there was a form of a competition - political competition - about who would be best placed to protect families in the context of a moral panic about material on the Internet - the ready available- availability of material on the Internet.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** For the first time, the onus was put on Internet Service Providers - or ISPs - to make the Internet safe. Labor promised that:

"A Rudd Labor Government will require ISPs to offer a clean feed Internet service to all homes, schools and public internet points accessible by children, such as public libraries. Labor's ISP policy will prevent Australian children from accessing any content that has been identified as prohibited by ACMA, including sites such as those containing child pornography and X-rated material."

**COLIN JACOBS, CHAIRMAN ELECTRONIC FRONTIERS AUSTRALIA:** The original wording suggested that firstly the filter would be opt-in or and or that it would only apply to Internet connections that had children on the other end and it also implied that it would be, as a cyber safety tool, it would filter out all the material that parents wouldn't want children to see - R-rated material, X-rated material and so on and so forth.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Support for ISP-level filtering came from a disparate group of progressive thinkers like Clive Hamilton and conservative Christians like Jim Wallace.

**JIM WALLACE, AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LOBBY:** We've lobbied the Government of course and we've lobbied quite hard. We got the first commitment to this prior to the last election and you know we're happy to see that the Government is delivering on it.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON:** We now we have this strange alliance in support of Internet filtering - brings in Christian conservatives, along with feminists, social progressives such as myself and a vast number of parents and ordinary punters out there. That's how politics works.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** One year on from the election Stephen Conroy stunned his critics by announcing that ISPs wouldn't just be required to offer parents a clean feed filter, they would also be required to prevent t any Australian - and not just children - from accessing any of the prohibited content on ACMA's blacklist.

**LISA CREFFIELD, REPORTER SKY NEWS BUSINESS CHANNEL (29 October 2008):** Australia's new Labor Government plans to make ISPs carry out two different levels of Internet filtering.

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** You can't opt in or out of the prohibited material. The clean feed is something you can opt out. So Australians that want to look at all of the other material have the capacity to still do that.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** GetUp! - a political pressure group - viewed the announcement of a mandatory filter of prohibited content as censorship, and decided to act.

**SIMON SHEIKH, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, GETUP!:** We were nothing short of flooded with emails from our own members informing us about their disgust with this debate. Our members really drove our decision to take action on this and when we did, their response was phenomenal. Within days of launching our campaign we had reached a petition of some 25,000, 25,000 Australians - within 48 hours. Their response was extraordinary and it really was their passion that drove us to take action on this issue.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** GetUp!'s petition asked the Government to find alternative ways to protect kids on the Internet, and grew to 124,000 signatures.

**(Excerpt: GetUp! Television advertisement)**

**WOMAN:** The Internet is an amazing place.

**MAN:** In fact, here at the Federal Government we think it is a little too amazing. That's why we've developed Censordyne.

**WOMAN:** With Censordyne the Government can decide what we can and can't do online - from what we buy to how we communicate, to accessing information.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The campaign has reached a wide and diverse audience through a TV ad lampooning the mandatory filter as good, clean Internet censorship.

**MAN:** After all, we don't what happened in Iran to happen here.

**WOMAN:** Election rigging?

**MAN:** No, people finding out about election rigging.

Good, clean Internet censorship with Censordyne...

**VOICEOVER:** Tell Kevin Rudd, no Internet censorship.

**SIMON SHEIKH, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, GETUP!:** The vast majority of GetUp! members are parents or grandparents themselves, some 70 odd per cent.

Our polls show that 86 per cent of Australians - that is across all demographics - feel that parents should have the primary responsibility for protecting children on the Internet - parents and not the government, parents and not internet service providers.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** By December 2008 Senator Conroy's proposal was in trouble. An industry feasibility study commissioned by the Howard Government was finally released, nine months after it had been handed over to the Minister.

The report demolished the suggestion that a family-friendly ISP filter - which scans the content of websites to provide a clean feed - could ever work on a national scale. It said:

"There are significant technical problems surrounding dynamic content filtering and its implementation in a nationwide ISP-based content filtering system."

**Colin Jacobs, Chairman Electronic Frontiers Australia:** That report found terrible slow downs, a lot of over blocking and under blocking - where pages that should have been blocked weren't and pages that shouldn't be blocked were - and basically revealed that a sort of net nanny style filtering applied to the country as a whole would never be technically feasible.

**PETER CORONEOS, INTERNET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION:**

Let's take the water system as an analogy. If there are impurities in the water system, the question is where is it best to locate the filter? A lot of taps in kitchens these days have got filters fitted and they're fine filters and they will pick up fine particulate matter. To put the same fine filter at the head end of the water supply would obviously filter the entire system but it would also dramatically slow the system. So if you want to provide a solution that really is going to be granular in its control in terms of the range of content that parents could determine they don't want their children to see, that is far better done at the user end.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Following further technical trials last year, the Federal Government announced yet another change of direction. This time it promised a mandatory ISP filter which will only target a small number of blacklisted

web pages which have been refused classification altogether - leaving most pornography accessible on the web. Labor's election promise to deliver a clean feed filter to protect kids online using an expanded blacklist has not been met.

**PETER CORONEOS, INTERNET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION:** A lot of the content that families really are concerned about for their children - things like violent material, racial hatred material, material which promotes race hate, maybe even just adult content that you wouldn't want your children to see, none of that will be picked up by this filtering solution.

**COLIN JACOBS, CHAIRMAN, ELECTRONIC FRONTIERS AUSTRALIA:** Since it has no cyber safety benefit it's a clear move away from the policy that was originally promised to Australians.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Why have you abandoned that promise?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** We've actually refined the list down rather than expanded it. We said we would take an evidence-based approach and we commissioned a report to look at a whole range of options and that report came back and said that if you target individual addresses - as we're doing - you can be 100 per cent successful in targeting individual web pages.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The web pages to be targeted will be on a new secret blacklist held by ACMA.

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** One of the things I've really struggled with - genuinely struggled with - is this argument that you should publish the list. Because unlike with books or movie titles, when you publish those you don't give access to the material. The problem is if you publish a web page address, you give direct access to the material.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Last year several versions of the blacklist of prohibited content were posted on the website Wikileaks, demonstrating that at the time, the list was not secure. Among the listed URL's was a web page displaying photographs by the renowned if controversial artist Bill Henson.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Why was that website on the list?

**OLYA BOOYAR, AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA AUTHORITY:** I would only assume that that would be on the list because again it had to be verified, it had to be investigated.

And I'm not aware that any of the- any website that featured photographs - Bill Henson photographs - was ever RC'd.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** In fact ACMA has now confirmed the Henson web-page was never investigated. It was added to the blacklist in error as a result of a technical fault in the database. Another URL listed by ACMA and then leaked to the media linked to a website run by a tuckshop consultant. The news astounded Jocelyn Ashcroft in Brisbane who was sent a copy of the blacklist by a member of the media.

**JOCELYN ASHCROFT, CANTEEN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:** I went to it and there was- it was pornography websites - and not just normal pornography, it was the really extreme type of pornography, things that was just- it was upsetting just to see my name on the same list as those people.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Were you very shocked?

**JOCELYN ASHCROFT, CANTEEN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:** I was, I was stunned.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Jocelyn Ashcroft says ACMA were less than helpful when she called them.

Only later did she learn that her website had been hacked into and a page created to carry images of child pornography.

**JOCELYN ASHCROFT, CANTEEN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:** It took a few days for them to return my call. They didn't give me any information about how I'd got onto the list, how I could take myself off the list or anything like that. So I don't know if I'd say they were helpful.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** No one at ACMA called her to reassure her about why the page on her website was on the list. Shouldn't that have happened?

**OLYA BOOYAR, AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA AUTHORITY:** Well it is very unfortunate and I can imagine it being very upsetting for somebody. We don't as a matter of fact do that, particularly when the content is hosted on an overseas site.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Narrowing the scope of a future mandatory filter hasn't silenced the voices of dissent. Critics say that it takes all the worst aspects of an already flawed classification system and imposes them on Internet users.

**DR DAVID LINDSAY, MONASH LAW SCHOOL:** It's not self evident what is refused classification and what is not and any regime that attempts to impose this sort of broad and relatively nebulous concept upon something like the Internet will inevitably block material which is valuable as well as material that other most people generally consider to be harmful.

**(Excerpt from adult film Pirates, Stagnetti's Revenge)**

**MAN:** There was a missionary ship, carrying the Archbishop of Canterbury and it was attacked...

**(End of excerpt)**

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** This adult film is hugely popular around the world but the online version could be blocked from view in Australia once a mandatory Internet filter becomes law.

**(Excerpt from adult film Pirates, Stagnetti's Revenge)**

**MAN:** Nothing good is going to come of this **(End of excerpt)**

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The film has sold millions of copies overseas but you can't legally buy the original DVD in Australia because current classification laws forbid the depiction of any kind of violence in a sex film.

**(Excerpt from adult film Pirates, Stagnetti's Revenge)**

**WOMAN (sword fighting with pirate skeleton):** I should kill you! **(End of excerpt)**

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Bizarrely, in sex shops like this one in Canberra it is now sold in two parts. One has the sex - the other the violence.

**FIONA PATTEN, AUSTRALIAN SEX PARTY:** In Australia we're not allowed to show any sort of violence - even though in this film we're talking CGI, we're talking cartoon ghosts, cartoon skeletons fighting and pirates having sword-fights - so all of that sort of action and adventure scenes had to be put into one disc and all of the sex scenes put into another disc. So this is the only country in the world where this film is split like this and has to be seen separately.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** And is the violence sexual violence?

**FIONA PATTEN, AUSTRALIAN SEX PARTY:** There is absolutely no sexual violence in it at all. A film like this would be on millions of websites around the world in- not as two films, just as the one film. So every single one of those websites would have, ostensibly by Australian standards, refused classification material, so would come under the mandatory filter.

**JEREMY FENTON, CLASSIFICATION BOARD:** Within the context of actual sex, violence cannot be accommodated and therefore the film if it contained actual sex and violence would have been refused classification

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** So you're not talking about sexual violence, you're talking about any violence.

**JEREMY FENTON, CLASSIFICATION BOARD:** That is what the guidelines state, yes.

**FIONA PATTEN, AUSTRALIAN SEX PARTY:** That was an example of where a very mainstream adult film and adult material comes a cropper in Australia and so would come a cropper under this mandatory filter.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The Federal Government says a mandatory filter will also block material that includes detailed instruction in crime and drug use.

But critics of the filter - who include the industry giant Google - say this means the net is being cast too wide.

**IARLA FLYNN, HEAD OF POLICY, GOOGLE:** Many health authorities here and in other countries use the Internet as a means of reaching people who are unfortunately abusing drugs to give them education and information about how to protect their own health. The filter could block that kind of material and that would be very, very unfortunate.

The filter would also apply to material, um, instructing or advocating for any crime. Now, something like graffiti could fall within that scope. Graffiti can be a crime in certain situations but graffiti can also be art, graffiti can be political protest.

Is it right that a government system should block access to all of that material on line? We would say no.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Will safe injecting sites be on the blacklist?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Well that's material that may be instruction in a crime, potentially. That will be determined by the classification board process, which looks at individual materials and it will make individual decisions.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** A detailed discussion in how to create graffiti, will that be banned?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Individual pages will be determined by- at arm's length from Government by the classification board, as it should be. Stephen Conroy and the government do not make the individual decisions.

**JIM WALLACE, AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LOBBY:** The material that the Government is looking to block is illegal material and I find it quite amazing that anyone can oppose this you know. I think if people believe that they should be using child pornography, bestiality material, sexual violence or instructions to crime, then really somebody somewhere should be raising a file on the.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Mark Newton is an industry specialist who has taken a particular interest in the technical and legal issues surrounding online censorship. He believes that some web-sites which are refused classification are in fact legal.

**MARK NEWTON, ISP NETWORK ENGINEER:** There's a website that's hosted in the United States and it instructs people in how to build cherry bombs, which is a form of firework. You build cherry bombs by putting gunpowder inside a small ball so step one of the website starts by telling people how to make gunpowder. Now making gunpowder in Australia isn't actually a crime, it's a regulated activity and you can obtain a licence to do it. It's a little bit like driving - if you don't have a driver's licence, then driving a car is illegal, if you do then it's not. So the classification board has now taken the view that this legal if you have a licence activity is an instruction in crime and they've refused classification to that website.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Under the Federal Government's latest policy only URL's that are refused classification will be blocked by a mandatory filter. But the fear is that future governments will expand the blacklist and censor websites which are engaged in legitimate political and ethical debates.

Some graphic images on anti-abortion sites are already deemed prohibited content by ACMA.

Images of aborted fetuses can be found on this American pro-life website and on this website set up by a political candidate in South Australia. The images are now classified R18+ but are openly accessible to children and so are deemed prohibited content. When Four Corners contacted the website owner he was shocked to learn that a complaint against these images has been upheld by ACMA.

**TREVOR GRACE, ABORTSA.COM:** I think uh it's a little bit scandalous. I mean I should be told if someone's making complaints about my website.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Do you think the complaint is justified?

**TREVOR GRACE, ABORTSA.COM:** No I don't see that it's justified. I think that people - particularly in our society - should be given an opportunity to uh, to look at or have the

freedom of information and this is information. I-I can't see why they're upset about that sort of information. Is there something wrong with those images? What's wrong with those images really? I mean they show aborted babies but we're told it's only a piece of tissue, so where would the problem be?

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Trevor Grace, who set up the website, teaches at a Christian school in South Australia and stood in the local state election this year as an anti-abortion candidate.

His stance was controversial - a fellow campaigner was pelted with stones.

**MAN (throwing stones):** You want to go! You want to go!

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** And posters were torn down. Mr Grace is angry that he wasn't given the opportunity by ACMA to defend the images on his website. They are only visible now, because the website is hosted overseas. If it was hosted in Australia, an order would have been sent out by ACMA to take the images down.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Do you regard this as political censorship?

**TREVOR GRACE, ABORTSA.COM:** I do. I should be able to defend those images being on there and uh I think it's... A-again, I think it's ludicrous that they are denying the public the information that is needed for my political campaign.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** If Stephen Conroy's declared policy in 2008 to block all prohibited content is ever re-instated Australians will be unable to view the images posted on Trevor Grace's website.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Can you guarantee that the scope of the content covered by the mandatory filter will not be widened by a future Labor government?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Yes.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Absolutely?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Yes, absolutely. We're making it very clear. This is our policy. Refused classification only. If a majority of the Parliament in the future want to try and broaden the classification, well then Australians should stand up and say just a minute and I'll be one of them.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** At the heart of the debate about a mandatory internet filter lie two key questions: will it work? And will it help protect children online? The Federal Government says the latest technical trials, carried out by this company, Enex, prove that an ISP-based filter can accurately target a blacklist of a thousand URLs without noticeably impacting on internet speed.

But the Government also accepts that the filter will not work on high traffic websites like YouTube - which will be excluded from the filter. The latest trials raised concerns about the ease with which anyone who wishes to will be able to circumvent the filter using proxy websites and virtual private networks.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Tell me about the various methods of circumventing the filter that were tested in the trials. How many methods were tested?

**Mark Newton, ISP Network Engineer:** Enex tested 37 different methods, um...

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** And how many of those actually worked?

**Mark Newton, ISP Network Engineer:** Almost all of them.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** How did they discover these methods?

**Mark Newton, ISP Network Engineer:** By doing Google searches. And for what it's worth, school kids right now do Google searches to work out how to bypass these systems because they're already using them in school and that's why for any of your viewers who are unsure about how to bypass CensorWare systems, the best advice I can offer is to ask your son or daughter because they probably already know.

**Kid 1:** I have no computer expertise but I have best friends who are geniuses with computers and sit all night trying to crack things.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** How easy is it for them to do so?

**KID 1:** If you're very talented at computers, pretty simple.

**KID 2:** You know where to look. If you know where to look, you'll find something.

**KID 1:** If you know what to do, you'll do it.

**ALEX KOEBER:** You get some kids who can crack into the school.

**KID 1:** Yeah school systems and change things.

**ALEX KOEBER:** School systems and... which shows that there's so many more people out there that can also do it.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** If the filter is relatively easy to circumvent and it won't be used to police high traffic websites then what's the point of it?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Well, as I said, it's relatively easy to get around the underage drinking laws. It's relatively easy to get around the underage smoking laws. It's relatively easy to speed. It's relatively easy to drink and drive.

But that's not an argument for not having those laws.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** While Stephen Conroy says the mandatory filter will block more than three hundred and fifty child pornography web pages it won't close down those sites. Nor will it prevent child abuse images being distributed on the Internet by individuals using peer-to-peer file sharing. Children's groups in Australia are divided about the effectiveness of the measure.

**BERNADETTE MCMENAMIN, CHILD WISE:** I think it's partially effective in the sense that I think it will reduce access to sexual abuse images of children on the Internet. I think if something isn't 100 per cent successful, it shouldn't be discarded. I think ISP filtering is workable. It is being used in Scandinavian countries, in Europe and in New Zealand quite effectively and therefore... And also the trials in Australia show that it is effective in removing sexual images of children and other illegal material that you put on the black list.

**KAREN FLANAGAN, CHILD PROTECTION SPECIALIST, SAVE THE CHILDREN:** It does sound very attractive both as a professional in the field and as a parent.

However it can lull parents into a bit of a false sense of security. So the focus we would advocate at Save The Children is internal control. In other words, parents teaching their children to take responsibility for their behaviour and to know when they feel safe or unsafe and that includes when they're negotiating their way on the Internet.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Scandinavia have now introduced filtering at ISP level but all limit the material which is blocked, to child pornography. And all do so on a voluntary basis.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Have you invited the ISPs to introduce a voluntary filter focusing simply on child pornography?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Well, the frustrating part about this is that they don't need me to invite them, firstly. They could just do it. They could have announced it five years ago. They could have announced it ten years ago. They could have announced it yesterday. They've got a policy opposing any form of voluntary ISP filtering of anything.

**PETER CORONEOS, INTERNET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION:** We've actually approached the Government on several occasions to propose a solution that would be consistent with best practice in other jurisdictions, but for whatever reasons the Government is intent on pursuing a legislative course here.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Why don't you simplify this? Why don't you limit the blacklist to child pornography as other countries have done?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Well we've got an existing classification system and the vast majority of Australians have been comfortable with it.

**PRESENTER, SCHOOL SEMINAR:** We know that what the kids in the US are doing is very much similar to what the kids in this country are doing because we are using the same technologies.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Government sponsored programmes like this one, run by ACMA, help kids stay safe online. Major industry players like Facebook want more resources spent on such initiatives - and less on filters that, they say simply won't work.

**MOZELLE THOMPSON, POLICY CONSULTANT TO FACEBOOK:** The idea of a filter is a static response - like there's a magic bullet, there's a machine that will go through all this content. Unfortunately what's going to be important for safety - ongoing safety - is dynamic responses, ones that include all the partners, users, parents, educators, government and industry, to think about how they respond to what I call an always ongoing arms race.

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** There is no silver bullet. That's why we have a cyber safety policy that includes a filter. It includes more police, more money for legal cases. It involves more research. It involves education campaigns for children, for parents, for teachers.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** The Australian Government's difference of opinion isn't just with some major industry players. It is also with other western governments.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Do you think this proposal is helping to isolate Australia in the international community?

**MOZELLE THOMPSON, POLICY CONSULTANT, FACEBOOK:** Well there's a lot of talk outside of Australia and I know that the US government has raised concerns about this.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** Have they urged you to drop the proposal?

**STEPHEN CONROY, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER:** Oh look we don't discuss publicly the content of private communications but let me repeat: on this issue we're going to agree to disagree.

**QUENTIN MCDERMOTT:** There is now no guarantee that a mandatory filter will become law before the election. Meanwhile, kids will continue to access inappropriate content and elderly men and women will continue to learn how to bypass the filter when it does eventually become law. One thing can be guaranteed. A debate which has polarised the community will continue to rage.

**PROFESSOR CLIVE HAMILTON:** What sort of society do we now live in where there's a demand for this sort of thing? I think we have to take a stand. I think we have to say enough is enough.

**JIM WALLACE, AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LOBBY:** The bigger principle here is to establish the principle that the Internet is not a free zone. And I think that given the movement of technology and given the expectation of society that what the Government is proposing is therefore a good solution.

**MARK NEWTON, ISP NETWORK ENGINEER:** The idea that the Internet is this scary place that parents don't understand, that everybody needs protection from, isn't a view that's held by most of society.

What it actually is is a scary place that politicians don't understand, that politicians need protection from and that's why we're having this debate now.

**BETTY PETERS (on Exit International video):** Any questions?

[End of Transcript]

**Please note: This transcript is produced by an independent transcription service. The ABC does not warrant the accuracy of the transcript.**

Kevin MacDonald

## Does Jewish financial misbehavior have anything to do with being Jewish?

<http://theoccidentalobserver.net/tooblog/?p=1702>

As expected, the fraud charges brought against Goldman Sachs by the SEC and now the Senate hearings are producing a lot of anxiety in Jewish quarters. Back in January, Michael Kinsley wrote an article telling us how to think about the Jewish angle in the financial meltdown ("**How to Think About: Jewish Bankers**"). The question for Kinsley isn't whether negative qualities of Jewish bankers or the bad behavior of Jewish firms like Goldman have anything to do with being Jewish.

The question is whether anyone who criticizes Goldman is an anti-Semite:

**Because Goldman is thought of as a "Jewish" firm, and because it dominates the financial industry, criticism of Goldman, or of bankers generally, is often accused of being anti-Semitic. Commentators including Rush Limbaugh and Maureen Dowd have been so accused. When, if ever, are such accusations fair?"**

So Kinsley passes his Geiger Counter over non-Jews like Limbaugh and Dowd and passes judgment on their moral worthiness. Any link between Jewishness and misbehavior is automatically out of bounds for serious discussion: "Certainly any explicit suggestion that Goldman's alleged misbehavior and its Jewishness are related in any way is anti-Semitic."

This statement draws on a general reluctance to ascribe negative traits as being reasonably associated with a certain group. But this can easily be seen to be just another example of political-correctness think. What if indeed a particular group is more likely to engage in some sort of bad behavior? For example, J. Philippe Rushton and Glayde Whitney have claimed on the basis of a rather powerful theory and a considerable amount of data that Blacks are prone to criminality and this is true wherever there are Blacks — whether in Africa, North America, South America, or the Caribbean.

If indeed that is true or at least reasonable, then it would also be reasonable to say being Black contributes to the likelihood that a certain group of Blacks are criminals — that a considerable part of the explanation for the criminality of these particular Blacks stems from their group membership. It would certainly not imply that all Blacks or even anywhere near all Blacks are criminals. Just that Blacks are more likely than other groups to be involved in certain kinds of crime — Rushton and Whitney would argue for a strong role of their common genetic ancestry.

Or take a presumably benign example: It's well known that the Ashkenazi Jewish mean IQ higher than the European mean. If then one finds that Jews are highly overrepresented in a particular high-IQ occupation, say among mathematicians, then it is certainly reasonable to explain this as partly due to the general traits of the group, as writers ranging from Charles Murray, Henry Harpending and Greg Cochran, and I have argued

Can such an argument be made Jewish involvement in financial scandals has something to do with being Jewish? Back in the 1980s a major financial scandal revolved around Michael Milken.

Much of the discussion of the Jewish role in this financial scandal centered around the book *Den of Thieves* by James B. Stewart.

Jewish activist **Alan Dershowitz** called *Den of Thieves* an "anti-Semitic screed" and attacked a review by **Michael M. Thomas** in the *New York Times Book Review* because of his "gratuitous descriptions by religious stereotypes." Thomas's review contained the following passage:

**James B. Stewart . . . charts the way through a virtual solar system of speculation, past planets large and small, from a metaphorical Mercury representing the penny-ante takings of Dennis B. Levine's small fry, past the middling (\$10 million in inside-trading profits) Mars of Mr. Levine himself, along the multiple rings of Saturn — Ivan F. Boesky, his confederate Martin A. Siegel of Kidder, Peabody, and Mr. Siegel's confederate Robert Freeman of Goldman, Sachs — and finally back to great Jupiter: Michael R. Milken, the greedy billion-dollar junk-bond kingdom in which some of the nation's greatest names in industry and finance would find themselves entrapped and corrupted.**

Thomas was attacked as an anti-Semite simply for mentioning so many Jewish names all in one paragraph. His defense was to **note** that "If I point out that nine out of 10 people involved in street crimes are black, that's an interesting sociological observation. If I point out that nine out of 10 people involved in securities indictments are Jewish, that is an anti-Semitic slur. I cannot sort out the difference. . . ."

I can't sort out the difference either. And once again, the current financial meltdown has revealed a **large role** for Jewish companies and Jewish money managers who engineered the meltdown and profited handsomely from it.



Kinsley acknowledges that Jews predominate on Wall St. and it's okay to criticize a Jewish firm like Goldman Sachs — but only if there is no mention that Jewishness has anything to do with it.

**Sometimes the stereotype about Jews and money takes a harsher form: Jews are greedy, they lie, cheat and steal for money, they have undue influence with the government, which they cultivate and exploit ruthlessly, and so on. In recent weeks, many have said this sort of thing about Goldman Sachs, but with no reference to Jews. Are they all anti-Semites? No. It ought to be possible to criticize Goldman in the harshest possible terms—if you think that's warranted—without being tarred as an anti-Semite.**

So is it possible to frame an argument that bad behavior in the financial realm does indeed have something to do with Jewishness? Note that this is quite different from showing that Jewishness is involved in the creation of culture — the argument of *The Culture of Critique*. There it was only necessary to show that a movement was dominated by Jews who identified as Jews and saw their work as advancing Jewish interests.

As I see it, the argument has two parts:

1.) Judaism as a group evolutionary strategy has always had a strong element of ingroup/outgroup thinking. Entirely different moral standards are applicable inside and outside the group. The result is that the Jewish moral universe is particularistic and the attitude toward non-Jews is purely instrumental — aimed at maximizing personal benefit with no moral concerns about the consequences to non-Jews. For example, a common pattern in traditional societies was that Jews allied themselves with exploitative non-Jewish elites.

**The evolutionary aspects of this situation are obvious. Jews were the ideal intermediary for any exploitative elite precisely because their interests, as a genetically segregated group, were maximally divergent from those of the exploited population. Such individuals are expected to have maximal loyalty to the rulers and minimal concerns about behaving in a purely instrumental manner, including exploitation, toward the rest of the population. (*A People that Shall Dwell Alone*, Ch. 5)**

2.) One would then have to show that actual Jewish behavior reflected the double moral standard that is ubiquitous in Jewish religious writing. There is in fact a long history of anti-Jewish attitudes focused around the charge that Jews are misanthropes with negative personality traits who are only too willing to exploit non-Jews. This history is summarized in Ch. 2 of *Separation and Its Discontents*, beginning with the famous quote from Tacitus, "Among themselves they are inflexibly honest and ever ready to

show compassion, though they regard the rest of mankind with all the hatred of enemies." Among the more illustrious observers are the following (see here for the complete passage, p. 46 ff):

**\*Immanuel Kant:** Jews are "a nation of usurers . . . outwitting the people amongst whom they find shelter. . . . They make the slogan 'let the buyer beware' their highest principle in dealing with us."

**\*Economic historian Werner Sombart:** "With Jews [a Jew] will scrupulously see to it that he has just weights and a just measure; but as for his dealings with non-Jews, his conscience will be at ease even though he may obtain an unfair advantage."

**\*Jewish historian Heinrich Graetz:** "[The Polish Jew] took a delight in cheating and overreaching, which gave him a sort of joy of victory. But his own people he could not treat in this way: they were as knowing as he. It was the non-Jew who, to his loss, felt the consequences of the Talmudically trained mind of the Polish Jew."

**\*Sociologist Max Weber:** "As a pariah people, [Jews] retained the double standard of morals which is characteristic of primordial economic practice in all communities: What is prohibited in relation to one's brothers is permitted in relation to strangers."

**\*Zionist Theodor Herzl:** Anti-Semitism is "an understandable reaction to Jewish defects" brought about ultimately by gentile persecution: Jews had been educated to be "leeches" who possessed "frightful financial power"; they were "a money-worshipping people incapable of understanding that a man can act out of other motives than money."

**\*Edward A. Ross:** "The authorities complain that the East European Hebrews feel no reverence for law as such and are willing to break any ordinance they find in their way. . . . The insurance companies scan a Jewish fire risk more closely than any other. Credit men say the Jewish merchant is often "slippery" and will "fail" in order to get rid of his debts. For lying the immigrant has a very bad reputation. In the North End of Boston "the readiness of the Jews to commit perjury has passed into a proverb."

Edmund Connelly has [reviewed](#) the work of two academic historians, Paul Johnson (*A History of the Jews*) and Albert Lindemann (*Esau's Tears: Modern Anti-Semitism and the Rise of the Jews*), who "have shown that this pattern of Jewish deception and fraud in pursuit of wealth and its legitimacy within the Jewish community have a long history."

The key point is the legitimacy of fraud within the Jewish community. Successful fraudsters are not shunned but rather become pillars of the community:



**Reflecting the legitimacy of white collar crime in the wider Jewish community in the contemporary world, [Michael] Milken is a pillar of the Jewish community in Los Angeles and a major donor to Jewish causes.**

**Indeed, this is part of a pattern: Ivan Boesky donated \$20 million to the library at the Jewish Theological Seminary. And the notorious Marc Rich has donated millions of dollars to a wide range of Jewish causes, including Birthright Israel, a program designed to increase Jewish identification among young Jews.**

**The list of people supporting Rich's pardon by Bill Clinton was "a virtual Who's Who of Israeli society and Jewish philanthropy." A rabbi concerned about the ethics of these practices notes, "it is a rare Jewish organization that thinks carefully about the source of a donor's money. ... The dangerous thing is not that people make moral mistakes, but that we don't talk about it."**

The idea is that the Jewish financial elite sees the non-Jewish world in instrumental terms — as objects with no moral value. As I noted [earlier](#),

**there is a strong suggestion that the financial elite behaved much more like an organized crime syndicate than as an elite with a sense of civic responsibility or commitment to the long term viability of the society. Whereas organized crime stems from the lower levels of society, this meltdown was accomplished at the very pinnacle of society — the Ivy League grads ..., the wealthy financial firms and investment rating agencies, the strong connections with government that facilitated the bailout and failed to provide scrutiny while it was happening. It seems highly doubtful that all this would have happened with the former WASP elite.**

In psychological terms, these Jews are behaving in a sociopathic manner toward the non-Jewish world. That is, they have no concern for the moral consequences of their actions — no empathy or concern for victims. [Recent neuroscience data](#) shows that people are quite capable of having a great deal of empathy and concern for people in their ingroup while having no empathy at all toward outsiders, especially if they are highly ethnocentric. This implies that a strongly identified Jew could be the epitome of a well-socialized, empathic group member when he is among Jews, but treat the rest of the world in a cold and calculating manner and have no remorse or empathy for the victims.

Nor would such a person have any concerns about the long-term future of the society he lives in. Richard Spencer [discusses](#) the fact that so many of our politicians are sociopaths (my favorite example is [Winston Churchill](#)), noting that "Aristocrats governed with a healthy, long-term goal in mind: they wanted their great grandchildren to inherit a prosperous, powerful realm."

It can safely be asserted that concerns about the long-term health of the society are not uppermost in the minds of our financial elite.

Concerns that Wall Street is socially irresponsible are widespread now. Just last week I saw CNBC reporter David Faber asking Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs whether Wall Street was good for America. Is it serving any positive social function? — with the implication that it's at least reasonable to think it isn't. Such a question would have been inconceivable a couple years ago. Rather than producing any tangible goods or allocating financing in a way that benefits good businesses, Matt Taibbi's analogy seems to hit home: "The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money."

As Kinsley notes, this analogy was immediately deemed anti-Semitic by the usual thought police: "This sentence, many have charged, goes beyond stereotypes about Jews and money, touches other classic anti-Semitic themes about Jews as foreign or inhuman elements poisoning humanity and society, and—to some critics—even seems to reference the notorious 'blood libel' that Jews use the blood of Christian babies to make matzoh."

It also conjures up a strong image of economic parasitism, another ancient anti-Jewish theme: the financial sector as not producing products or wealth, but extracting wealth to the detriment of the society as a whole.

The problem for Kinsley and like-minded people is trying to seriously rebut the claim that the socially destructive behavior of the predominantly Jewish financial elite does in fact fit a strong historic pattern of Jewish ethical behavior vis á vis the non-Jewish society — behavior that is well grounded in Jewish religious ethics.

In any case, it is a very troubling sign indeed for the US that the [financial sector](#) is vastly outpacing the rest of the economy in corporate earnings as well as in executive compensation — especially when it's being run by a group of people who have sociopathic attitudes toward non-Jewish America.

<http://theoccidentalobserver.net/tooblog/?p=1702>

## The Babylonian Woe 'A conspiracy against life'

. . . in their folly the men of the city are willing to wreck our great city, being won over by wealth.

False are the hearts of the people's leaders — Solon, 600 BC

By John Kaminski [skylax@comcast.net](mailto:skylax@comcast.net) <http://johnkaminski.info> 12 May 2010

From earliest times and apparently without exception down to the present day, the leaders of nations have been the puppets of money men who hire them to rob the people they pretend to rule.

From the ruins of Lagash, a citystate in ancient Sumer c. 2400 BC, where archeologists unearthed the estate of a banker that was much larger than the king's, up on through the fabled empires of Egypt, Assyria and ancient Greece, each of which was finally consumed in flames due to the machinations of the always secret international money power, humanity has always ruined its own paradise by letting the incredible lure of money overpower its own common sense.

In his book "The Babylonian Woe," the late Capt. David Astle (1916-2008) shows that the legends recorded in the Old Testament reflect the history of the international money power, and eerily parallel what is happening now. [http://yamaguchy.netfirms.com/7897401/astle/astle\\_index.html](http://yamaguchy.netfirms.com/7897401/astle/astle_index.html)

[Readers who click this link should be forewarned the book is badly edited and arranged, yet nevertheless contains extraordinarily rich detail of ancient events, which seem alarmingly similar to what's happening today.]

### From Chapter 7:

"Through "liberalism," and so-called "progressive teachings" . . . (the) international money creative force seems to have brought the host land of Egypt to where it was at the time of Akhenaton (1375 to 1358 B.C.), and the Tel Amarna letters which tell of self-destruction and decay, the rejection of old values and beliefs, and the indifference of the Egyptian rulers to their trust, and to the crumbling of Empire. The degeneracy and complacency of the age was revealed by the fruitless outcry out of Asia from the vassals of the Pharaoh; being particularly exemplified by the despairing pleas of king Abdikhiba of the most ancient city of Jerusalem for assistance against the pressure of the armed assaults of the Habiru."

Tell me true: is this not the way things are today? These same forces have wreaked their havoc on every generation between then and now.

Yet this is a story we have never heard. Part of the power of money, it seems, is that stories about itself — about what money really does — are seldom written, and less often published. The real history is seldom known.

As Astle writes:

**" . . . the growth of warfare into a very cancer eating into the vitals of mankind, and more particularly the white races, is parallel to the growth of that other cancer which is private, and therefore irresponsible, money creation and emission... It seems that almost none of the scholars make any serious effort to throw light on the real meaning of this matter of private monetary emission, and the disastrous effects that it has had, and in finality, will have, towards the defining of the remaining period of time of man upon this earth, as being brief and uncertain."**

Who was it we had hoped to be?

The legends of our kings have faded from actual reality as we know it.

"Kings largely became the mouthpiece and sword arm of those semi-secret societies that controlled the material of money as its outward and visible symbols came to be restricted to gold, silver, and copper," Astle writes. "The fiat of the god in heaven which had been the decisive force behind that which brought about an equitable exchange, was replaced by the will of those classes controlling the undertones of civilization, leaders of the world of slave drivers, caravaners, outcasts, and criminals generally, such as was to be discerned on the edges of the ancient city civilizations, and followed the trade routes between them... The instrument of this will was precious metal, whose supply was controlled by the leaders of these classes through their control of the slave trade, since mining was rarely profitable in the case of the precious metals, except with slave labour, even after the development of hardened iron tools and efficient methods of smelting."

This development turned our lives over to the bankers in perpetuity.

"The line of communication from god to man through priest-king and priest was cut, being replaced by their own twisted purposes such as they were; not however guiding mankind into the heaven that could have been and where all would be life, and light. and hope, but into such a hell as to escape from which men might gladly come to accept the idea of Mass Suicide..."

Astle calls it "a conspiracy against mankind."

"Hence the people never questioned the existence of the temple but as the place where the will of the god was exercised through his servants... That it had come to function more as instrument in the capacity of sanctifying front for an international power concerned largely with money creation and the control of the slave trade, itself mainly of criminal antecedents, was something they never came to fully understand; nor that this whole thing of prayer, worship, and devotion was dangerously near to becoming a cruel hoax manipulated by a handful of aliens, who looked at them and their fervour and belief with dead eyes..."

**Although plague and disastrous political decisions brought about the destruction of ancient Greece, Astle convincingly describes the process by which the international bankers captured every Greek citystate except Sparta by introducing silver coins (banks controlled the silver mines) and credit ledger entry banking, which allowed them to create money out of nothing, a thoroughly destructive practice which has led to our present financial impasse, the way the big bankers always shake us down, generation after generation.**

"Previous references to banking in the Grecian centres and sanctuaries as being conducted by aliens are also verified by Professor M. Rostovtsev," writes Astle. "The question therefore arises "What aliens?" Would they be members of the same fraternity as the Aramean, Apollonius above mentioned, manager for the economic affairs for Ptolemy Philadelphus; men who were standing almost above and beyond mankind in their manipulation of powers that not so long previously had been reserved solely to the gods and which had been exercised only by that dedicated priesthood

surrounding the king, son of god, on earth? Such power being lost to kings forever when in the first place they permitted the institution of accounting to a silver standard in ancient times in the Lands of Sumer and Akkad.

"The answer may be found to lie in the existence in very ancient Sumeria of a privileged class, who, having access to the "credit" of the temple, thus were able to control the masters of the great donkey caravans who carried such "credit", or will of the god of the city, from one place of business to the other; incising records on their tablets, of loan of such credit made to enable purchase, or interest overdue, or repayment of such loan as had been made the previous trip. These persons, who may be considered themselves to derive from the hereditary caravaners and who must have functioned as bullion broker and banker, would have been fully clear on the subject of silver and its function in settlement of foreign trade balances and its use as a standard on which to base money accounting. In the latter days of the city states of Sumeria, it is reasonably clear that during certain periods of decay, a languid and corrupted priesthood might delegate to these persons, not only matters of trade, but also those decisions relative to foreign states so essential to the continuance of the might and right of the god of the city.

"The special international character of the outlook of these people, sprung as they undoubtedly were from the donkey caravaners, born to be at home amongst all peoples, yet to always bear in mind the peculiar business of the caravan merchants, their trade and profit, may not have made for decisions as from a true and dedicated god-servant. Thus it may very well be that we must look to the professional caravaners, from whom descended the Habiru, for widespread dissemination of the knowledge of the possibilities offered to merchants by development of the practices relating to private money creation deriving from a clear understanding of the meaning of accounting to a silver standard, and later the potentialities towards development of monopoly of trade inherent in the actual use of silver as the material on which the numbers of the abstract unit were stamped. The full extent of the possibilities towards the accumulation of wealth through exploitation of varying ratios between silver and gold in different parts of the world, and the possibilities of a private and secret expansion of the total monetary circulation which was open to those who were held in such esteem in the cities that persons were glad to deposit their valuables with them for safe-keeping, may also have been known to them."

Astle writes that the same power base that controls reality spins it in a deceptive way, **usually cloaked in the sanctimonious drivel of a religion.**

"...But who was who, or why, or what, little concerned that brain centre in Babylon or Ur, or wherever it was... Whoever they professed to be, or to belong to, meant nothing. Out of death and destruction was their harvest, whether those they said were their own, were theirs or not. The only reality was control of precious metal... Out of death and destruction came the releasing in that day of the all important hoards of stored bullion, and the renewal of the slave herds to be consumed in mining ventures in distant places, garnering the increase of such precious metals...

**Since time immemorial, it has all been shrouded in the secret sanctimony of religious ritual.**

"While the purpose of the temple was to cause the people to live godly lives according to the customs of the day and to

preserve them from straying out of the ways of righteousness, as it were, the secret and private money creative power, being more concerned with the opposite, the needs of the anti-god, the destruction of the people's lives, whether of king, priest, nobleman, or merchant, or he who laboured in the field, loaned without such discrimination...

"Out of the resulting confusion amongst rulers could come nothing but advantage to themselves and their purposes; out of the break up of family and home and tradition, all that the dedicated servant of the god has in life, would come an exhausted and confused people, more ready to accept slavery. Corruption of the priesthood, as in today, was the chief aim of money conspiracy, and by causing such priesthood to lose sight of its high purpose and itself as the voice of god on earth, success in all its other purposes naturally followed."

Now here's a quick history of the world. This battle was over a long time ago.

"After the final triumph of the international money creative fraternity which may be identified in Mesopotamia with that period of conquest, reconquest, and conquest again that began with that invasion of Sumeria by the Gutim in 2270 B.C., and ended with the collapse of the Empire of Ur of Ibi-Sin before the Elamite rebels with their Amorite allies in 2030 B.C., and their taking away to Susa as captive, both the cult statue of the Lord Nannar, the Moon God together with the King Ibi-Sin himself, earthly viceroy of that God, those agents of International Money Power, quickly concluded the work of destruction through liberalism and permissiveness, no doubt, so that by 1900 B.C., the Sumerian had totally lost his national and racial identity and will to be... What continued from then on was, without a doubt, a mixed breed with no special allegiance to anything other than "money".

Who is it really who has done all this, and is still doing it?

"Such agents," Astle continues, "are shown by the general evidence of history to be a class of dubious origins and antecedents. **Imbued with racial self-hatred**, these rascals, who are raised up in a time of national exhaustion, against the former natural system of rule, by a triumphant money power, too often are particularly distinguished by a readiness to please those who it seems to them are the masters; even to the downgrading and debauchment of their own kind.

"The apathy of a controlled public opinion to the deluge of perverted sex drenching the Anglo-Saxon countries today, which could not take place without the connivance of the so-called rulers, if only through their failure to take any serious steps towards controlling its source, is, herein, instance enough.

"Secretly promoting the concept of "Permanent Revolution" as being most suited towards the maintenance of their control, no sooner did stable and natural god-ordered government come again, then, feverishly digging at its roots, they tore it down.

"Out of break-up of family and home, out of lust and drunkenness, out of the people living in disorder, and love giving way to hate, they thrive. Where they saw signs of nobility and natural aristocracy in living and thought, returning, financial preferment was automatically withdrawn... **He who was consumed with animal desires and ignobility of purpose, was their man and eagerly their slave, and willing betrayer of his**

**brethren into what was planned for them by his master.**

"Cruel private monopolization of wealth and capital grew, and where the people had been sheep in the flock, and the king their loving and devoted guide, now that kings concerned themselves with those false policies prepared for them in the interest of the private money creators, the people became lost and disheartened, driven hither and thither as they were by the crazed wolf masquerading in the place of the shepherd's diligent sheep dog.

"In this time, as today, the people were almost entirely at the mercy of the private persons controlling their money, who then controlled the inflow of precious metals, silver and gold, the foundation of the people's money. The policies of these controllers from their standpoint as internationalists, were necessarily directed towards the stimulation of war against the well-being of mankind.

"So to sum up the situation so far as pre-Solonian Athens was concerned, a simple unlettered people offered all the luxuries of another world as against the new money whose function is so little understood by lettered people even in this day, without going back 2500 years, had become swamped in debt. The law in respect to this debt had been upheld by a corrupted nobility in favour of the bankers. No doubt it had been represented to them by these same bankers that this pressure of debt on the growing population would keep the masses docile and tied to the land as was indicated by the prevalence of the mortgage tablets on the farms of Attica. This condition, favouring the corrupted nobility of Greece and the international money power, ignored the needs of the new-rich manufacturers of Athens, who were neither able to obtain sufficient supply of local free labour, nor to obtain slaves."

The squeeze employed by the international bankers was exactly the same one they use today.

"The situation is very clear. The kings and aristocracies as descended from ancient days, as a derivative of their folly in permitting the unrestricted activities of the new bankers, who were now well established in all the major cities of Greece outside of Sparta, saw a class of manufacturers and entrepreneurs come into being, largely foreigners and men of lowly origin. These men, more often than not with the means of nobility but the outlook of slaves, were clearly a serious threat to kings and nobility and the order they represented.

"The tyrant, therefore, was that force by which international money power as it derived from the control of silver bullion and the slave markets, destroyed all resistance to its total ownership of life and labour and human hope ...

"The tyrant was one who the banker could rely on to put through his "Levelling" programme, or in the double talk of today, could be relied on to "Press ahead with Democratization", and to work against the class from which he was supposed to have come. He was one who could be relied on to put through programmes of public works, maintain military expenditures etc.; for all such activities strengthened the banker's position as creator and regulator of the exchange unit, and therefore, from those exclusive courtyards wherein he schemed, designer of the life of the city. The banker could not maintain his hold over the city, except his product, ledger credit page entry money, however created, was in constant demand, and the local government deeply embroiled in his schemes. The tyrant had to be one completely in accord with that so-called

"democratic" political attitude, which the banker always seemed to espouse ... His ostensible purpose had to be to "Level"; such levelling meaning of course, tearing down everything above themselves, (and above the banker too! ...)"

Why has it been the same formula for evil, all this time, that has ruined what seemingly could be a more peaceful world?

"The evil about money derives in consequence from lack of understanding of its true nature, and particularly from the confusing of money and treasure. It is the persistent failure of mankind to realize that money is but the result of agreement being arrived at amongst a sovereign people through their ruler, to provide themselves with a system of numbers by which their exchanges might be facilitated, and so help them to live a better life..."

"The evil lay and it may be said, lies, in the forgetfulness of the ruler to respect his duty to provide an adequate money supply for his people regulated by himself and free of obligation to external forces, in such manner as had existed in the Ancient Oriental civilizations in earlier times... It lay in the permitting to private and hence irresponsible persons the power to intervene in that which was the most sacred responsibility of the ruler through the priesthood, the creation and regulation of the medium of exchange: his people's money."

The trail of betrayal, blood and tears, all bound up in lies, stretches from the very dawn of civilization down to our present day. Astle continues:

"World Government is total government worldwide in which no independent race or people shall be except the rulers, who necessarily will have to be an exclusive caste. Total consent of all presumptuous, if not imaginative, bankers will never be ; but out of the weakness and confusion created by them amongst us towards these their own vain purposes, the world Government they mutter about, may come through conquest, though it is not they who will be the conquerors, though indeed, they will be the principal instrument. There would be no way of bringing about that total monopoly of money, industry and empire, which is world government, save through the manipulation of the credulity of mankind, and the pathetic trust he still maintains that his rulers are the voice of God on earth for him, as he blindly stumbles on, except it be by armed conquest .

"Armed conquest in its turn in these latter days, cannot be effected without the connivance of conspiratorial money power, although such conspiratorial money power in its virtually insane search for paths towards its own establishment towards World Rule forever and ever, has now become an institution, which in the horror of the weapons of total destruction and obliteration leading to final subjection that it has called into being, and, in its blindness, has also given to our enemies, can only be described as a juggernaut completely out of control, an all-engulfing Terror . . . ."

Capt. Astle created a vivid description of what most historians have feared to reveal. This was the picture 2000 years ago. It remains the same today, and now we know the reason why.

John Kaminski is a writer who lives on the Gulf Coast of Florida; banned by most websites for merely talking about these matters, he is nervously charting the final days of human civilization and noting the reasons why it happened.

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