

## An oligarch's single-minded pursuit of power

by Gabriele Liebig

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### **George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography**

by Webster Griffin Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin  
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This book is a welcome change from the numerous official versions of Bush's biography which the incumbent President has had published from time to time, mostly during important electoral campaigns. It portrays George Bush, not as he wishes to appear, but rather as what he is and was bred to be: a power-hungry servant of the Anglo-American establishment.

Basic to all other Bush biographies is a sort of official career that other biographers adorn in a more or less imaginative manner. Thus, Bush would like to create the impression that he made himself independent of his wealthy and influential family after graduating from Yale, to develop his own life with wife and son in Odessa, Texas. As Tarpley and Chaitkin humorously point out, one sentence that pops up in all other biographies symbolizes that "independence," that George Bush drove an automobile, a red Studebaker, to Odessa in 1948. In one version, the Studebaker is old and battered, in another, brand new; nonetheless the symbolic meaning is constant: George Bush did not remain a rich mama's boy, but began a new life in Texas.

In reality, the young George Bush, far from standing on his own two feet, took a job with Dresser Industries. The firm belonged to the Harriman family, which had long been closely tied to the Bush family. His father Prescott Bush had been on the firm's board of directors since 1930. The distance from his native Massachusetts to Odessa was traveled, the

authors posit (after thorough investigation), not in the "red Studebaker," but in an airplane belonging to the Dresser firm.

The first four of the 24 chapters are dedicated to Bush's father, Prescott—and rightly so, since he was not only a highly influential, but also a dazzling, if somewhat dubious, figure. In the 1930s, he functioned as banker to Hitler. For that reason, all the stock and assets of the Harriman-run Union Banking Corp., where Prescott Bush was director, were confiscated by U.S. authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act. And although the cooperation of the Bush and Harriman families with Hitler was extensive, this had remarkably little negative effect on the growing political influence of the two families. (We find this chapter so interesting in the context of coming to terms with the German past that we will publish long excerpts from it in the German newspaper *Neue Solidarität*.)

### **Compulsion to be on top**

The most innocuous characterization of George Bush is that he is a pathological careerist who must always be number one. He was that way already in school and at Yale. He was not a good student, and was bored by instruction, but was considered a Big Man On Campus, a sort of "super regular guy." In prep school (1938-42), he held no fewer than 25 positions, from treasurer of the school council to manager of the basketball team.

Later, unencumbered by any sort of firm social or political goals, a definite political platform, or a moral world view—apart from an unconcealed malthusianism—he pursued, with immense help from his establishment connections, only one "red thread" in his life: his own way to the top. He said once it was his "birthright" to become at least vice president of the United States.

After some years in the oil business, he got himself elected head of the Republican Party in Harris County (Houston), Texas in 1963, in order to become a candidate for the Senate, adopting a staunch right-wing, Goldwater profile, without success. George Bush, the candidate of the oil cartel, lost the election. Then he had a new congressional district tailored for him by court order from the “lily white” upper-class election districts in which he had earlier succeeded, and promptly won the next election, this time with a liberal image. Nonetheless, he again lost the next Senate election, and his influential friends decided the time had come for an important position in government. In 1971, George Bush became the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and was simultaneously a de facto member of the Nixon cabinet until Nixon’s fall in the Watergate scandal. Richard Nixon selected Bush as the chairman of the Republican Party in 1973, and remained a Bush supporter until Bush himself helped force the fall of his patron in 1974.

After Nixon resigned, Bush had his eye on the post of vice president (his “birthright”), but Gerald Ford instead named Nelson Rockefeller. Bush became chief of the U.S. Liaison Office (with ambassadorial rank) in Beijing (1974-75). In 1975, over strong objections from the Democrats, Bush was confirmed as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, but only after Gerald Ford had expressly stated that he would not run in the 1976 election with Bush as vice presidential candidate under any circumstances. Just as reluctantly as in the selection of Bush as director of the CIA, Ronald Reagan chose him in 1980 as vice presidential candidate. Even more reluctantly, Reagan gave his support for Bush in 1988 as the Republican presidential candidate.

### **More skeletons than just Skull and Bones**

At last, with this book, Bush’s past is catching up with him. Long before heading the CIA, there were too many skeletons in his closet for them not to come to light. As a student at the Andover prep school, he had been in an elite freemasonic club called AUV (for *Auctoritas, Unitas, Veritas*—authority, unity, and truth) into which only the children of rich and powerful families were accepted. Through repulsive initiation rites, as portrayed, among other places, in the film “Dead Poets Society,” and all sorts of other mysteries, such secret school clubs had the function of ideologically binding together the children of influential, oligarchical families from early youth.

At Yale University (1946-48), it continued. George Bush was selected by the Skull and Bones secret society that his father had belonged to previously. No one, of course, joined this cult; rather, they were selected. Skull and Bones had originally been called the Russell Trust Association, and had been founded in 1833 by a group of fabulously rich opium dealers. The younger members of the order called themselves “little devils,” while the older were ranked as “patriarchs.” Their meeting place was called “The Tomb,” where the “or-

der’s symbol”—a genuine human skull and bones—was kept on display and used in various rituals. However abominable this story sounds, none of these satanic details has been disputed by the Bush family. The Skull and Bones is ominously reminiscent of the texts that satanically painted heavy-metal stars blare out before millions of young people in rock concerts, videos, and recordings.

More curious still was George Bush’s role in the Watergate affair. Henry Kissinger’s “plumbers” broke into the Watergate Hotel on several occasions to spy on the leadership of the Democratic Party. The money to pay for the burglaries came from Bush’s business partner Bill Liedtke, the head of Pennzoil, who was responsible in Texas for Republican election financing. The money first went to a bank in Mexico, then to CREEP, Nixon’s “Committee To Reelect the President,” and from there to those who broke into Watergate. A large sum of cash, traced to these checks, was found on one of the arrested burglars. When Nixon had to release a reel of tape (the so-called smoking gun tape) on Aug. 5, 1974, which revealed for all the world how Nixon spoke of money “from Texas” that was found on the burglars, George Bush is said to have been beside himself with rage. Subsequently, he wrote to Nixon that the President must now unconditionally resign. Nixon’s quick resignation was the only way to stop further revelations about the origin of the money of “these people from Texas,” meaning Bush and his friends.

The official reason for Nixon’s fall was that he agreed on this tape that the CIA should stop the FBI investigations into the Watergate case because, otherwise, “the whole Bay of Pigs history” would be stirred up again. By “Bay of Pigs history” was meant the activities of the CIA’s Miami station and the Cuban exiles, linked to George Bush, in the Bay of Pigs fiasco. One such Cuban exile was among the arrested Watergate burglars. As for George Bush, at the very least this means that he had been at the center of a rather dirty CIA operation for a rather long time.

### **‘October Surprise,’ Iran-Contra, and more**

Chaitkin and Tarpley devote a long section to detailing the “October Surprise,” which centered around the freeing of the American hostages in Iran during the 1980 election year. And a full chapter is devoted to the illegal Iran-Contra business that stretched out over the 1980s decade. A meticulous 50-page chronology follows the role Vice President George Bush played in these affairs. *The Unauthorized Biography* is worth reading for this chronology alone.

The Iran-Contra affair is, of course, still the hottest, but not, by far, the only scandal that surrounded the then-vice president. His behavior in the wake of the assassination attempt on President Reagan by John Hinckley on March 30, 1981 is curious. Only five hours after the attempted murder, Bush presided over a conference of government leaders that categorically ruled out any “foreign involvement” or “domestic conspiracy,” and put out the line that the culprit was a

mentally disturbed person acting on his own.

Yet even reports that found their way into the press after this raise serious questions about how it was possible that security was breached to the extent of allowing John Hinckley to get within close range of the President. Hinckley had once before been arrested in Tennessee with several firearms just when President Carter was there. He had also, in letters to actress Jodie Foster, made no secret of his murderous intentions. Jodie Foster, who was then studying at Yale, had given the letters to the university administration. Oddly enough, as the book relates, a report appeared in the press a few days after the attempted assassination, revealing that Bush's son Neil knew Scott Hinckley, the brother of the perpetrator. Scott Hinckley had been invited to a party hosted by Neil and Sharon Bush, scheduled for the evening after the attack.

Likewise, it was during Bush's tenure as vice president that he developed a close friendship with motor-boat manufacturer and speedboat racer Don Aronow, from whom he also purchased his beloved cigarette boat "Fidelity." In 1984, Bush engineered a contract for his friend for several "Blue Thunder" catamarans (price for each, \$150,000) for the U.S. Customs Service. They were to be used in coastal patrols, especially to defend against drug smugglers. But not only did the boats prove to be hardly seaworthy; the whole contract was corrupt. The firm that built the catamarans belonged to a certain Jack Kramer, who was married to the niece of mafia boss Meyer Lansky. His son Ben Kramer was likewise involved in organized crime. In 1990, Jack and Ben Kramer were found guilty of, respectively, 23 and 28 counts of money laundering. Ben Kramer was sentenced to life imprisonment because he had additionally smuggled 200,000 kilos of marijuana into the United States. For his so-called War on Drugs, Bush had steered lucrative business to none other than a prominent family of the drug and money-laundering mafia. Bush's friend Don Aronow was murdered, mafia-style, by professional killers in 1987.

Tarpley and Chaitkin carefully dissect Bush's career, and throw a pitiless light on the dark corners. And what comes into view justifies this relentless course of action.

### Beyond 'birthright'

The last chapters cover Bush's years in the White House: the invasion of Panama during his first year in office at the end of 1989, the six-week-long bombing war against Iraq at the beginning of 1991, and then the conflict in Yugoslavia that was escalated into war with the help of the U.S. government, and all that in the name of the "new world order." Here we see George Bush, finally at the apex of world power, conducting genocidal wars for his patrons on a scale unmatched in American history. And yet, not everything goes according to his will. Even wars can only divert, not prevent or counteract, the economic depression that is growing ever more severe, because the cause of this depression is George Bush's own flawed IMF and free-trade policy that even now

he will not change. This and other opposition are making him into a Caligula, a failure, a sick man.

The authors conclude with an extensive review of the illness now palpably affecting Bush: Basedow's disease, which causes the kind of mental disorder evident in Bush today, including hyperactivity, irritability, and distraction. They end on a warning note: "Bush's . . . mental health must be considered a decisive issue for his presidency—however long that lasts."

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## Senility or truth?

Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has been indicted in connection with the Iran-Contra scandal, to the plaudits of the *Washington Post* and the Bush Democrats. The Eastern liberal establishment is applauding Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh *because* he is acting senile, and is prosecuting a well-known opponent of the Iran-Contra crimes.

But truth is the proper object of justice. The truth of Iran-Contra concerns a murderous, treasonous policy outlook. Seeking and dealing with the truth is vital, because this policy outlook is still in effect, and must be reversed.

Certain Anglo-American "balance of power" strategists determined that insane wars should be carried on in the Middle East, and in Latin America; that anti-western regimes should be established, and terrorists should be armed; that cocaine should flourish, and be exchanged for weapons. The policy decisions which led directly to the Iran-Contra scandal were implemented beginning in the Jimmy Carter administration, and were escalated through the Reagan and Bush regimes.

Contempt for Congress is not merely a criminal incident of Iran-Contra; it is in the nature of the policy outlook, which is fundamentally *anti-national*, as it is deeply anti-human.

*George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* demonstrates that George Bush as vice president was both the boss of covert operations, and the chief representative of the criminal Iran-Contra policy outlook within the Reagan administration. It is to be hoped that the Congress will not have been abolished, or its members mostly imprisoned by actions of the Bush Executive branch, before the national legislature retrieves its nerve and seeks the truth of Iran-Contra. This book will help them do it. —Anton Chaitkin