
Profile: Myron Magnet

Bush Guru Promotes Fascist Policies in U.K.

by Mark Burdman

In a speech to the annual meeting of the British Police Federation on May 18, William Hague, leader of the British Conservative Party, declared that should his Tories come to power, they would adopt the “zero tolerance” policing methods that have been adopted by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s New York City. “In Britain, we have heard endless talk of zero tolerance, but no one has really begun to try it—not yet,” Hague said. The next day’s London *Daily Telegraph*, the most pro-Tory newspaper in Britain and the mouthpiece of Hollinger Corp. magnate Conrad Black, ran a lead editorial, strongly endorsing Hague’s polemic.

Of course, while promising that the Tories would restore “law and order” in Britain were they to be elected as the next government, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher protégé Hague made no reference to the recent atrocities, the shootings of innocent civilians, by police in Giuliani’s New York. These brutal actions have been a key focus of attention of the National Commission on the New Violence, that was established by U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

But the implications of Hague’s diatribe should not be seen only as support for Giuliani, the man whom LaRouche has dubbed “the Mussolini of Manhattan.” Hague is aligning himself and the Tories with what he assumes will be the *national* policies of the U.S. Republican Party’s George W. Bush, should “Shrub” be elected President in November.

A key to this strategy, is the visit to Britain, in early May, of Myron Magnet, a New York-based architect of Giuliani’s policies, and one of the leading ideological-philosophical gurus of Texas Governor Bush.

Magnet Rants Against the ‘Underclass’

In early May, a mood of optimism had erupted in London and elsewhere in Britain, when Prime Minister Tony Blair’s nemesis Ken Livingstone was elected Mayor of London, and when Blair’s evil “New Labour”/“Third Way” policies were repudiated by voters, in local elections throughout the country. At that time, Magnet descended on Britain for meetings with the higher-ups among the London police and Scotland Yard, and for high-profile attention in the British media.

On May 2 and 3, he published two full-page articles in

Black’s *Daily Telegraph*. His May 2 article, entitled “Yes, I Saw It All Happen in New York,” gives a flavor for the way this creature’s mind works. Until Giuliani, he ranted, New York was faced with “the homeless colonizing its streets, a dysfunctional underclass filling its squalid and dangerous housing estates, and failing to get an education in its ill-performing schools. . . .

“Colonizing public spaces everywhere, sleeping on park benches or sidewalks, and cadging change at every corner, were the ‘homeless’ . . . and the motley collection of drunks and drug addicts formerly called bums or derelicts. Their begging often turned aggressive and scary; the stench of their urine pervaded the subways and parks. . . . Black and Hispanic kids strutted the streets carrying radios the size of suitcases, blasting angry music that declared that this is my space, motherfucker.”

He complained that British police, today, are too affected by “race sensitivity,” in response to various commissions that have criticized British police mishandling of the brutal racist murder of a young black man, Stephen Lawrence, some years ago.

On May 6, Magnet was interviewed on BBC. He mocked Livingstone, saying sardonically, that London’s residents “perhaps needed a couple of years of Ken Livingstone,” before they would come to their senses. He warned that London is heading in the same direction as New York had been ante-Giuliani, in which city, there had been constant “begging and urinating in the streets,” until police adopted a much more uncompromising attitude, including that if someone *looked like* they were going to commit a crime, they were picked up and detained. He made repeated attacks on “the underclass,” as the core problem now in London, insisting that their status was made inevitable by their receiving welfare.

A source at London’s Thatcherite Adam Smith Institute told *EIR* that Magnet’s voyage was the latest of many back-and-forth between New York Giuliani-linked influentials and the British Home Office, over the past two to three years, i.e., the years of Blair’s being Prime Minister. Blair’s Home Secretary Jack Straw is reported to be a supporter of Giuliani’s “zero tolerance” policies.

Summoned by ‘Dubya’

Magnet has a wide range of ominous connections. He is the editor of the *City Journal*, the house publication of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, established in the late 1970s by Briton Antony Fisher and William Casey, later appointed by Ronald Reagan to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Fisher, who died in the mid-1990s, had been the chief mentor to Thatcher. It was he, who created London’s Institute of Economic Affairs in the mid-1950s, this being the first radical “free market” think-tank formed to promote the ideas of Friedrich von Hayek, founder of the Mont Pelerin Society.

Later, Fisher established, with von Hayek's enthusiastic support, the Atlas Foundation, the purpose of which was to set up a network of "free market" institutes, in the United States and elsewhere, that would spread the ideas of von Hayek. Today, the Atlas Foundation is based at George Mason University in Virginia, and is active in many of the formerly communist countries of eastern and central Europe.

The *City Journal* has been at the forefront of pushing neo-conservative policies, such as "welfare reform," "hospital privatization," and "gentrification." The latter policy, which is really an onslaught against the poorer layers of the population, was developed in the 1970s by Roger Starr, who is on the *City Journal* board. The magazine was also the first, in the 1980s, to publicize the ideas of neo-conservative Charles Murray, the author of numerous racist attacks on "the underclass."

In his student years, Magnet, today 53, spent time studying at Cambridge University. Before becoming *City Journal* editor in the mid-1990s, he was a senior reporter for *Fortune* magazine, at which post he promoted speculative ventures in the "Information Society" and the "New Economy." In 1993, he authored *The Dream and the Nightmare: The Sixties' Legacy to the Underclass*, a book whose theme is that 1960s-style liberalism exacerbated the noxious—in Magnet's view—trends earlier set in motion by Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. Further details on Magnet's arguments, are reported below.

The Dream and the Nightmare was, in ensuing years, to receive the attention of George W. Bush's chief strategist, Karl Rove. In 1997, Magnet was summoned to Austin, Texas, by Governor Bush and Rove, to give a briefing to the Bush staff, on his social theories. These theories, together with those of one Marvin Olasky, form the core of that oxymoronic Bush policy known as "compassionate conservatism"—a fascist economic and social policy that seeks to roll back any notion of the "general welfare," and to replace it with "privatization" of vital services and vicious austerity.

In April 16 *Dallas Morning News*, reporter Bill Minutaglio wrote that Olasky and Magnet, "far and away, have been the spiritual and intellectual godfathers of Mr. Bush's core philosophy."

The Smell of the Confederacy

According to Magnet and Olasky, the axiomatic flaw of FDR and 1960s liberals is that, as Magnet writes, they blame a "diseased social environment" for causing violence and crime. These liberals believe, mistakenly, that men are born peaceful and good, and are made bad by evil rulers and bad social and economic policies.

Magnet singles out for attack, Tom Paine, the leading anti-British campaigner during the American Revolution, for promoting such a view. He expresses a special animosity for the views of Ramsey Clark, who was U.S. Attorney General during the 1960s Presidency of Lyndon Johnson. Magnet

blasts Clark for having written, in 1970: "Crime among poor blacks . . . flows clearly and directly from the brutalization and dehumanization of racism, poverty, and injustice. To permit conditions that breed anti-social conduct to continue, is our greatest crime." (In the 1990s, Clark was to become a lawyer for Lyndon LaRouche.)

In contrast to Paine, Clark, and others, Magnet insists that man is, fundamentally, born with evil and criminal impulses, and that unjust economic or social policies cannot be used as an "alibi" for "individual responsibility" for criminal activity. In his view, the central government should have no concern for the "general welfare," but "society" and "authority" should only exist to punish and dissuade criminals. Effectively, this can become the justification for the worst kind of fascist economic policies, since these are "not to blame" for bad behavior. Hence, Magnet positively counterposes the ideas of such British bestialists as Thomas Hobbes and Edmund Burke, who believe that man, in his original nature, has a life that, in Hobbes's words, is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short," and is only dissuaded from his innately negative, violent instincts, by a "social contract."

Magnet also pushes Sigmund Freud's notion of the "superego," which, he writes, "punishes one with shame and guilt, speaking with the voice not of divinity, but of society." That is, man is not born with the "divine spark of reason," but must be disciplined by "society." Measures must be devised, that inculcate this dissuasive "shame and guilt," and this can only be done by "private charity," rather than by "government welfare."

According to various accounts, Magnet's book was one of the seminal influences on former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and the latter's barbarous "Contract with America." It is also relevant to the overall picture, that Giuliani was among the first U.S. Republican influentials to endorse George W. Bush as Republican candidate for the Presidency.

The "compassionate conservative" is also being endorsed by the leading figures of the Mont Pelerin Society today. Mont Pelerin ideologue Anthony de Jasay, who has written articles and books calling for the effective dismantlement of Federal governments on the American model, told *EIR* in a May 9 discussion, that he strongly supports the Magnet-Olasky concept. He expressed his profound opposition to "the New Deal of FDR. That FDR policy evolves from a straight line in historical development, that goes as far back as the decline of feudalism. There is a line of development of the centralization of power, which brought about an end to the decentralized structures of feudal times. . . . There is an unbroken line from that development, to Roosevelt's New Deal."

De Jasay said that there is a straight line connecting the policies of President Abraham Lincoln and FDR. In this light, he praised the "just cause" of the Confederacy during the Civil War, insisting that the real issue was not slavery, but the fight for "states' rights and secession."