

A rogues' gallery

Zbigniew Brzezinski may be the madman who prominently puts out the line justifying NATO expansion into the Caucasus and Central Asia. But behind him and his protégé, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, stand a number of lesser-known British geopolitical strategists and operatives, who invented that mad policy and are pursuing its implementation. This is the same crowd that, under the "Arc of Crisis" policy (also dubbed the "Muslim Fundamentalist Card"), supported the Afghan mujahideen (who are now called "terrorists") throughout the 1980s, and later created the Afghan Taliban:

Lord Avebury (Eric Lubbock), chairman of the British Parliament's Human Rights Committee. Avebury is active in supporting all sides in the "Arc of Crisis" region bordering the former Soviet Union. His ancestor, the first Lord Avebury, had been a banker to the British royal family in the mid-nineteenth century; his maternal line, the Stanleys, have dominated the British Foreign Office for the last two centuries. Lord Avebury's cousin, Lord Stanley, was British Colonial Secretary during World War II. Lord Avebury is:

- A top lobbyist for Chechen independence from Russia, and Abkhazian independence from Georgia, according to diplomatic representatives of both causes. He has travelled to both places on "fact-finding" trips to publicize the secessionist cause;
- Together with Baroness Cox and their Christian Solidarity Worldwide, the leading international advocate of the Armenian claim to Nagorno-Karabakh, which led to Armenian war with Azerbaijan;
- The top lobbyist for an independent Kurdistan, carved out of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, according to spokesmen for that movement; he works closely with the terrorist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK);
- The top lobbyist for the Iraqi-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian communist organization seeking to overthrow the current Iranian government;
- The top international lobbyist for the Kashmir separatist movements destabilizing India and Pakistan;
- A top lobbyist for Tibetan independence from China;
- A leading supporter of Islamist efforts to topple the ruling Saudi family, and install a Wahhabite regime which would even more likely to fund and promote NATO-run operations in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Count Alexandre Bennigsen: Until his death in the early 1990s, Professor Bennigsen was a primary NATO analyst and advocate of promoting a Sufi-Islamic revival in the Soviet

Union, to destroy it. In books such as *The Islamic Threat to the Soviet State* (1983), and *Mystics and Commissars: Sufism in the Soviet Union* (1985), Bennigsen claimed that this coming revival would lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union. He "predicted" that this revival would begin in Chechnya and Dagestan.

Bennigsen was a member of a centuries-old Baltic noble family that had been employed in the Tsarist diplomatic and intelligence services. One of his ancestors murdered Tsar Paul I in 1801. His father had been a Tsarist intelligence official in Central Asia. One of his cousins was the founder of the Socialist Revolutionaries assassination squads, another was an aide to Leon Trotsky, and a third was a senior member of the Tsarist secret police. Following World War I, Bennigsen's family moved to France, where he became an orientologist at the Sorbonne. Bennigsen was a mentor to Bernard Lewis.

Marie Bennigsen Broxup, the daughter and intelligence-network heir of Alexander Bennigsen, is the editor of *Central Asian Survey*, the premier British journal analyzing how to use ethnic and religious conflicts to drive Russia out of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Her 1992 book, *The North Caucasus Banner: The Russian Advance Toward the Muslim World*, is one of her many how-to studies on this issue. Broxup has conducted extensive fact-finding tours of Dagestan since 1996, and, according to several regional reports, is the main British Foreign Office operative coordinating the Dagestan revolt. She also reportedly works closely with the French Defense Ministry.

Lord Nicholas Bethell: Lord Bethell was the main international promoter of Western aid to the Afghan mujahideen in the early phases of the Afghan civil war. His Radio Free Kabul, run out of Coutts, Queen Elizabeth's bank, was key in this effort. In 1981, he toured the United States with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and successfully lobbied the Reagan administration to support the mujahideen. He also formed the main U.S. Afghan support organizations in the United States at that time. Lord Bethell is a leading player in supporting the Georgian side of the war with Abkhazia. A former lord-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, Lord Bethell had served in the Mideast and Soviet sections of MI6, where he worked closely with Kim Philby, the British triple agent who "defected" to the Soviet Union in 1963.

Baroness Caroline Cox: The deputy speaker of the House of Lords, and chairman of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Baroness Cox is the leading international promoter of the Armenian claim to Nagorno-Karabakh. She has undertaken at least a dozen missions there since 1991. She depicts the conflict as an apocalyptic struggle between Islam and Christianity. She is also the leading international defender of the insurrection in southern Sudan, which she characterizes in the same terms. Baroness Cox was elevated to the peerage by Prime Minister Thatcher, a major patron of Azerbaijan.

In April 1998, Cox led a British fact-finding delegation to

Armenia, in what she describes as her 36th visit to the Caucasus. In a July 1999 statement to the House of Lords on that trip, Cox's flunky, Lord Hylton, said that its purpose was to "achieve the highest degree of self-administration" for "Chechnya; the Kurds in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq; Abkhaz, Ossetians, etc., in Georgia; and Lesgins in Dagestan and Azerbaijan."

A psychiatric nurse by training, Baroness Cox served as a British intelligence liaison to the Polish Solidarity movement in the 1980s, before her involvement in Armenia and Sudan. Christian Solidarity Worldwide (formerly Christian Solidarity International) is an outgrowth of Keston College, Oxford, the publisher of *Religion in Communist Lands*, since renamed *Religion and State*. The college, which is patronized by Prince Philip, specialized in using religion to destabilize the countries of the former Warsaw Pact. It has continued that work in the same region since the Soviet Union's demise, particularly seeking to inflame Protestant-Orthodox and Catholic-Orthodox tensions.

Viscount Cranborne (Robert Cecil): Lord Privy Seal (chief of the Queen's Privy Council) and Leader of the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne had been a primary organizer and overseer of the first phase of the civil war in Afghanistan (1979-88), carried out under the cover of his Afghan Aid U.K.

The Viscount is a member of the Cecil family, one of the oldest and most powerful oligarchical families in Britain. His great-grandfather, the Third Marquess of Salisbury, was the turn-of-the-century British Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary who oversaw efforts to destroy both the Ottoman and Russian empires, including through patronizing ethnic insurgencies, such as the Armenian insurgency. Viscount Cranborne's grandfather, the Fifth Marquess, had been a colonial secretary during World War II.

Bernard Lewis: Professor Lewis is the British intelligence official who formulated the "Arc of Crisis" strategy of destabilizing the Soviet Union (and the West) through Islamic and ethnic upsurges in North Africa, the Mideast, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. Formerly based at the University of London's School of African and Asian Studies, Lewis was seconded to Princeton University in New Jersey in the 1960s.

Among the elements of this plan were: the rise of "Islamic

fundamentalism" in opposition to the nation-state and, especially, communism; the resurgence of Sufi sects throughout the Caucasus and Central Asia; the kindling of conflict between Islamic Shia and Sunni communities; a thoroughgoing "clash of civilizations" between Islam and Christianity, and Islam and Hinduism; the rise of ethnic liberation movements opposing current national borders — such as the Kurds in Turkey, and the Baluchis in Pakistan. The 1970s civil war in Lebanon set the plan into motion.

Professor Lewis succeeded in selling this plan to the Carter administration in the 1970s, and supported the rise to power of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979, as a destabilization of the Shah of Iran. He recast and updated his plan, in the aftermath of the demise of the Soviet Union, in a 1992 article for the New York Council on Foreign Relations' magazine, *Foreign Affairs*, entitled "Rethinking the Mideast." Lewis forecast that religious and ethnically fuelled civil strife, which he dubbed "Lebanonization," would soon spread to former Soviet Central Asia. "If the central power is sufficiently weakened, there is no real civil society to hold the polity together, no real sense of common national identity or overriding allegiance to the nation-state. The state then disintegrates — as happened in Lebanon — into a chaos of squabbling, feuding, fighting sects, tribes, regions and parties."

John Train: Wall Street banker, covert operations specialist, and the descendant of a New England family that made its money as a junior partner in the nineteenth-century British opium trade, Train played an important role in the 1980s Afghan war. His Afghanistan Relief Committee (ARC), which he chaired and which was housed in his banking firm, was one of two private U.S. funding arms of the Afghan mujahideen throughout the war. The stated purpose of the group was to raise "seed money" for medical relief organizations providing aid to the mujahideen, and also training the mujahideen in "communications skills."

From its 1980 inception, the ARC coordinated its operations with the International Rescue Committee and with Freedom House. Both organizations were founded by Leo Cherne, then vice-director of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. In that capacity, Cherne oversaw the coordination of private funding and media operations in support of "Project Democracy," the name given to private support operations for the Afghan mujahideen, Nicaraguan Contras, and Ayatollah Khomeini.

In 1983, Train formed a media salon whose task was to coordinate a media slander campaign against *EIR's* founder, Lyndon LaRouche. Cherne's Freedom House, and other allied "Project Democracy" organizations, were central to this campaign. Another component of this salon, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, had earlier been deployed against LaRouche following *EIR's* publication of the bestseller *Dope, Inc.*, a book which documented the role of the Anglo-American establishment families in overseeing the drug trade.

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