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The Guardian Elite

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The Guardian Elite

Officials who protect the political order from enemies foreign and domestic

- The national security apparatus in liberal democracies
- US: Ruthless, unaccountable, invisible, global, etc.

How is this possible?

Presentation Overview

- US Guardian Elite
 - Composition
 - Activities overseas and involvement in domestic political crimes (SCADs)
- The Guardian Elite in social and political theory
 - Political philosophy
 - Modern theory
 - US Constitution
- Forensic PA and Policy Studies

Guardian Elite disappears



The Guardian Elite

- In the United States
 - President and Vice President
 - Intelligence agency administrators
 - Military and military intelligence
 - Private contractors
- Some degree of international cooperation and coordination

Watergate, Iran-Contra, and Plame-gate all occurred at the intersection of national security policy and presidential electoral politics

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US Guardian Elite in Domestic Politics

- Unknown and largely unstudied
 - Manhattan Project remained secret
- Definitely present to some degree
 - Church Committee exposures
 - Warrantless wiretapping
 - Iraq War fabrications
 - 9/11 and the Anthrax mailings
- Burden of proof is on the “coincidence theorists”
 - In studying the USSR, would it be reasonable to ignore the KGB?

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•CIA officer met with bin Laden in Dubai 7/2001
•Anthrax from US domestic stock

Political Philosophy

	Circumstances (in theory)	Principal Threat	Guardian Role	Guardian Tactics
Socrates/Plato	Need to prevent the polity from degenerating into mob rule	Ambitious rulers, vain soldiers, materialistic workers	Assign citizens into ruler, soldier, and worker classes	Eugenics, mythmaking, vote rigging
Machiavelli	Need to restore vigor/cohesion to a degenerated empire	Mercenary soldiers (dependent rulers allow abuses)	Arm the workers to control the soldiers	Assassination, brutality (terrorism), mass deception
Publius	Need to create a "large commercial republic"	Majority tyranny by armed workers	Aggressive policing of loyalty to the Constitution	Secrecy, sequestering of foreign policy, pardons, military appointments

The U.S. Constitutional Foundations of the Guardian Elite

- Little explicit basis for the national security state
 - Secrecy mentioned only in Article 1, Section 5 (Congress can meet in closed session)
 - President is Commander-in-Chief only when military “called into actual service of the United States”
- Authorization “between the lines”
 - Executive control of treaty negotiations and ambassadorial appointments
 - Treaty ratifications limited to Senate (not popularly elected)
 - Presidential oath of office: “preserve, protect, and defend” vs. “support” the Constitution
 - Explicit & restrictive definition of “treason”
 - Pardon power to buy-off rebellions

How the Guardian Elite elephant-in-the-living-room became invisible:

- Obscured Constitutional foundations
- Colonization of the public sphere
- Manipulation of national circumstances
 - Sabotage political campaigns to limit choice
 - Military provocations (and false-flag terrorism)
 - Fabricated/exaggerated intelligence reports
- Discursive reaction formations to quarantine doubt
 - Shock and awe
 - Conspiracy theory taboo

Blind Spot in Modern Political Theory:

Explaining US Reactionary Politics

- Mills' theory of the Power Elite
 - Denies elite conspiracies while recognizing the “higher immorality”
- Lindblom's Pluralism
 - Lopsided competition of ideas (financial markets as thermostat)
- Habermas' Critical Theory
 - Political system snared in a contradiction between capitalism and universal communicative norms
- Foucault's Postmodernism
 - Polycentric bureaucratization driven by “governmentality”

Blind Spot in Modern Political Theory:

Explaining US Reactionary Politics

- Mills' theory of the Power Elite **CIA recruitment of Yale grads**
 - Denies elite conspiracies while re-immorality”
- Lindblom's Pluralism **Assassinations**
 - Lopsided competition of ideas (financial markets as thermostat)
- Habermas' Critical Theory **CIA colonization of the public sphere**
 - Political system snared in a contradiction between capitalism and universal communicative norms
- Foucault's Postmodernism **Science of enhanced interrogation, psychological warfare**
 - Polycentric bureaucratization and “governmentality”

Forensic Public Administration and Policy Science

- Guardian Elite is not a passive object of study
 - Harbors deep secrets
 - Largely unaccountable and amoral
 - Good reasons to fear exposure
- The American Way of War
 - Overwhelming force
 - Weaponization of science and technology
 - Ruthless violence against civilians
 - Industrial-scale espionage and intelligence gathering
 - Code breaking
 - Psychological warfare
- Directly involved in steering science

Implications for Forensic PA

- Observations methods for SCAD detection
 - Comparative analysis of categories of suspicious, game-changing events
- Observation methods for detecting Guardian Elite influence in PA theory & research
 - Investigations of scientific networks, e.g., RAND connections to journal editorships & academic appointments
- Observation methods for detecting colonization of the public sphere
 - Network analyses of those who assemble and report official accounts of suspected SCADs

Thank You

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