 **IS THE AGE
OF TYRANNY
LONG GONE?
Be very, very careful
what you believe!**

Stephen L. Bakke  May 24, 2013



Kinda' looks like Nixon!?

*I want to be sure he is a ruthless son of a b****. That he will do what he's told, that every income-tax return I want to see I see, that he will go after our enemies and not our friends. Now, it's as simple as that. If he isn't, he doesn't get the job.* – President Richard Nixon as quoted in USA Today, et.al. describing his ideal IRS Commissioner.

It was important to our Founders that they separately state the Unalienable Right of citizens to keep and bear arms. The importance of this commitment resulted from their belief that all responsible citizens have the right to provide for their general self defense as well as to protect themselves from government tyranny. My earlier reports deal with this more specifically, but here I want to challenge a different, but prominent, argument that the threat of government tyranny is antiquated, and must be deemphasized in the modern arguments about individual rights.

Oppressive power, especially oppressive power exerted by government; an oppressive, harsh, or unjust act. – Definition of TYRANNY – from Webster's Online Dictionary.

When the people fear the government there is tyranny, when the government fears the people there is liberty. – Thomas Jefferson.

You've asked me for my opinion on the possibility, in modern society, of governmental tyranny. I admit to a temptation to conclude that this has changed since the time of our Founders. After all, when have modern governments tyrannized their citizens? Then I think about MANY examples of actual physical tyranny, just in my lifetime. You should already be aware of examples of this! Then it occurs to me that tyranny is oppression, and can take many forms, physical e.g. "at gunpoint," as well as more subtle examples. Perhaps subtle oppression is just as important as the physical type. I'll let you come up with your own examples of that too! – Stefano Bachovich, obscure but very wise political pundit – an enthusiastic and prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go to guy."

Tyranny at Gunpoint

If you think about it, there have been many examples of government "tyranny at gunpoint" in the last handful of decades. Germany, Italy and Japan prior to and during WWII; USSR, Hungary and more recently other examples in eastern Europe; China and Korea; dictators and their trail of heartbreak in the Mideast, Middle America and South America. I could go on, but you get the picture and can fill in the details

But How About the United States?

Withholding information is the essence of tyranny. Control of the flow of information is the tool of the dictatorship. — Bruce Coville, author of children's books.

True tyranny in the U.S. at gunpoint? – not much so far. But how about those other more subtle examples of tyranny that Mr. Bachovich hinted at? I bet he's thinking about some of these things:

- The Justice Department has been tapping the phones and email accounts of many members of the press (AP, Fox News, CBSNews), while ignoring the proper process for giving notice and gaining authority. They did it using a “shotgun” approach – it was a “fishing expedition.” And then there was aggressive and persistent withholding of information from Congressional oversight. **This is lying to the American people, to whom the Administration is accountable.**
- Many believe there has been extensive lying and withholding of information by the Obama administration and State Department regarding the Benghazi consulate attack and the death of four Americans including the U.S. Ambassador. **This is lying to the American people, to whom the Administration is accountable.**

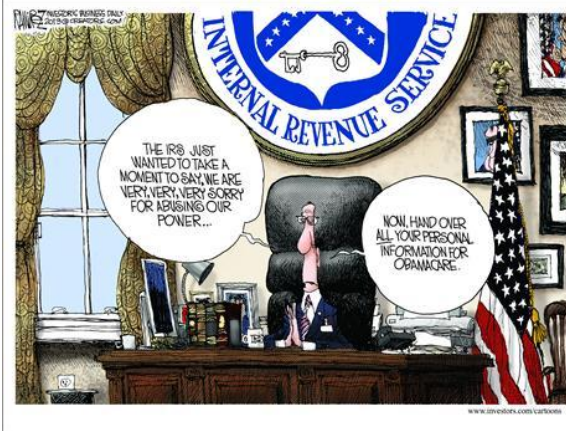


Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



- The IRS has admitted to a conspiracy to block the ability of conservative groups to raise money by withholding or delaying the determination of those groups' official classification as non-profit status. This was during the election campaign prior to the 2012 Presidential election. They are dodging and denying and finger-pointing. **This is lying to the American people, to whom the Administration is accountable.**





- Secretary Sebelius has been trying to raise donations from private companies for channeling to Enroll America – the new name for Obama’s former campaign organization. The funds are to be used to underwrite the costs of public outreach necessary for implementing ObamaCare. This is probably illegal and questions aren’t being answered. **This is lying to the American people, to whom the Administration is accountable.**

- And until recently (perhaps!), the mainstream press has not been critical about all of this. Since their responsibility is to report facts to the American people, **this actually is the same as lying to the American people in whose service they enjoy the unalienable right of the “Freedom of the Press”!**

No experiment can be more interesting than that we are now trying, and which we trust will end in establishing the fact, that man may be governed by reason and truth. Our first object should therefore be, to leave open to him all the avenues to truth. The most effectual hitherto found, is the freedom of the press. It is, therefore, the first shut up by those who fear the investigation of their actions. – Thomas Jefferson, Letter to John Tyler, 1804

Guns Have Not Been Drawn

Once again, serious and frequent government tyranny at gunpoint, in the U.S., is still beyond the horizon (in my opinion). But given the brief list of recent examples shown above, where else has subtle, but real, tyranny been at least implied? As an introduction to some possibilities, consider:

During a meeting on May 4th to discuss demands by student activists for the college to divest itself of its investments in companies that dealt in fossil fuels, a speaker was beginning to enumerate the high costs of such a divestiture, students took over the meeting by seizing the microphone and shouted down any opposition. – Things like this, which occurred at Swarthmore College, will happen without advancing tyranny – but the tyrannical part of it results from the fact that many college faculty were present, as was the college president! They did nothing, and free flow of information and speech was squashed!

I think it’s entirely legitimate to look at the tea party. Here are a group of people who are admittedly racist. Who are overtly political, who’ve tried as best they can to harm President Obama in every way. – NAACP President Emeritus Julian Bond.

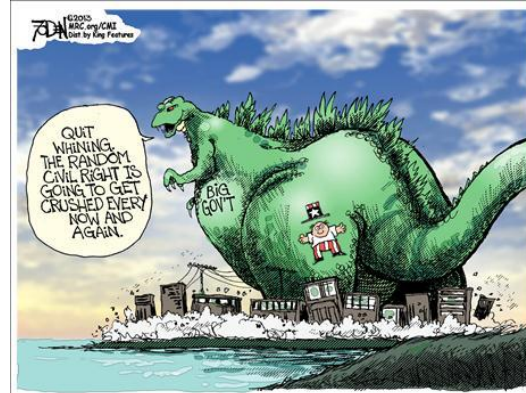
Lost in the latest political scandal is a simple fact: The Internal Revenue Service was acting in the public interest when it opted to train its auditing power on the Tea Party and affiliated groups. – Peter Goodman, Executive Business Editor, The Huntington Post.

It was well documented that Black Muslims armed with nightsticks intimidated and bullied voters and poll workers at a Philadelphia voting center during the 2008

Presidential election. – This can happen from time to time, but what suggests the potential for tyranny comes from the fact that the Justice Department chose not to pursue the matter.

Judge Andrew Napolitano was right on when he wrote:

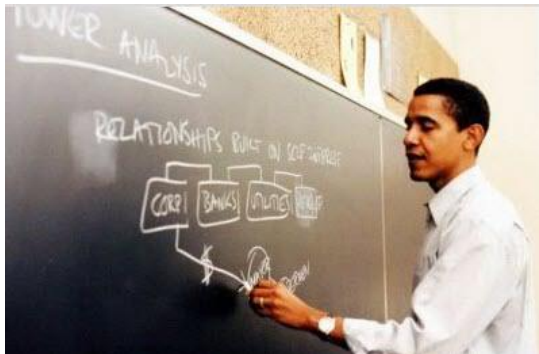
Tyranny [is] around the corner Due process is the intentionally created obstacle to government procedural shortcuts, which, if disregarded, will invite tyranny to knock at the front door and sneak in through the back. Justice Felix Frankfurter warned of this 70 years ago when he wrote, "The history of liberty has largely been the history of the observance of procedural safeguards." That was true then, and it is now.



I Just Can't Help It! Saul Alinsky Always Sneaks Into My Thoughts!

When one with honeyed words but evil mind persuades the mob, great woes befall the state. – Euripides, in the Greek tragedy *Orestes*

I have spent parts of several reports and all of another trying to understand, explain, and make sense of the relationship of the “granddaddy of community organizing”(Alinsky) with Barack Obama. I am convinced that they are “soul mates” on style and tactics. But is tyranny part of the “magic, super sauce” of Obama’s “messianic” strategy?



Is this Obama teaching the Alinsky method?

This entire exercise would have no value if Obama had never heard of, or shown allegiance to Saul Alinsky. While they never met, after graduating from Columbia and in need of a job Obama went to work for the “Developing Communities Project,” an activist group built on the Alinsky model and using Alinsky tactics. He spent years teaching the Alinsky method on “attaining power” in workshops. Numerous sources and publications confirm this association.

Might Obama, through his personality, actions, or unspoken messages encourage the use of ruthless power politics, manipulation and intimidation, given his training? I’ve read Obama’s books and Alinsky’s “Rules for Radicals,” and I have concluded that Obama is likely very comfortable with Alinsky’s teachings. In past reports I have drawn very close parallels between these two brilliant men. Here are just a few comments/tactics/rules from Saul Alinsky’s book:

- *[The organizer] asks of ends only whether they are achievable and worth the cost; of means only whether they will work.*
- *You do what you can with what you have and clothe it with moral garments.*

- *Goals must be phrased in general terms like “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,” “Of the Common Welfare,” “Pursuit of Happiness,” or “Bread and Peace.”*
- *Ridicule is man’s most potent weapon.*
- *Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.*
- *Invent reality; make it up as you go along. Alinsky wrote: “... a major job of the organizer is to instantly develop the rationale for actions which have taken place by accident or impulsive anger*”
- *Manipulate otherwise “partners” into adversarial positions.*
- *Alinsky wrote: “We repeatedly get caught in this conflict between our professed moral principles and the real reasons why we do things* We are always able to mask those real reasons in words of beneficent goodness – freedom, justice, and so on.”
- *Alinsky: [The community organizer] “should search for and use the wrong reasons to achieve the right goals.”*
- *Alinsky: “Compromise is a word that carries shades of weakness, vacillation, betrayal of ideals, surrender of moral principles*”
- *Alinsky: “Change means movement. Movement means friction ... abrasive friction of conflict ... The organizer’s job* [is] to agitate
- *The organizer* must first rub raw the resentments of the people fan the latent hostilities stir up dissatisfaction”
- *Alinsky: “Before men can act an issue must be polarized* [The organizer] knows that all ideas arise from conflict.”

I think this attitude is consistent with the tactics and style of manipulation, intimidation, and secrecy in Obama’s administration. And finally, they seem to be getting caught!

OK SB, good job following up on my earlier suggestions! Oppression is tyranny, and there are many “non-violent” ways to oppress. If you agree that subtle tyranny is increasing rapidly, is it also possible that armed tyranny could also slip in? HMMMM? – Stefano Bachovich, obscure but very wise political pundit – an enthusiastic and prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB’s primary “go to guy.”

***Tyranny is no longer lurking* Thomas Jefferson foresaw what can happen when power corrupts: “Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.” Jefferson would see the IRS scandal as [a] prime example. – Cal Thomas.**