

Fighting the Deep State

Much has been written about the existence of the *Deep State*. For some, the Deep State is like Sasquatch, a folkloric creature that walks upright, dwells in the wilderness and leaves footprints, but whose existence has never been proven, conclusively. They are often portrayed as the missing link between humans and human ancestors or other great apes. Having worked with dozens of STATE Department officers overseas for 20 years, I can tell you that it (the STATE Deep State not Sasquatch) walks among us and is real.

It's not some secret society whose members swear blood oaths, wear hoods and meet in forests, chanting and offering human sacrifices. It is a loosely-knit band of brothers (and sisters) who believe in Liberal values and actively oppose those Administrations they feel would take America down a path of more literal adherence to the parts of the Constitution that they disagree with. They are devotees of endless talk (they call it diplomacy) and abhor actual action that would strengthen America's position on the world stage. They move subtly, using devices like slow-walking a conservative Administration's directives and paying only lip-service to positions that would make America stronger, lest they get on the wrong side of their host country friends. (The CIA calls the transfer of allegiance as being 'turned.')

In Foreign Service circles it's know as, 'clientitis.'

An article, "Bureaucratic Resistance and the National Security State" in the Iowa Law Review states, "...On this account, the bureaucracy is the modern incarnation of the traditional separation of powers, reining in the President from abuses of power in areas where the courts and Congress have fallen down on the job. The other camp views the bureaucracy as a self-interested, power-hungry cabal of conspiratorial operators, a "deep state," acting in darkness to wield the vast military and surveillance powers of the state at the expense of the accountable, elected leadership, namely the President." The writer calls these different approaches the "benevolent constraints" and "deep state" models of bureaucratic behavior.

Behind closed doors Deep STATERS even joke about conservative thought and values as if they were a direct assault on their Foreign Service oaths and their personal sensibilities. I have witnessed this on several occasions. Some have been known to reproach colleagues who indicate and demonstrate loyalty to Republican U.S. Presidents and oppose contrary (read: conservative) views of America. One such example is their unshakeable belief that the U.S. must be a global citizen first and look out for our country's interests second. Evidence of that is the Obama Administration's insistence on joining the International Criminal Court that would allow our citizens to be tried and convicted ex-U.S. soil, thereby surrendering our sovereignty to a foreign power in contravention of our Constitution and for being an active member in and signatory to the Paris Climate Accords, effectively thumbing their noses at Congress' responsibility to ratify treaties.

The Deep STATE is comprised of thousands of Democratic Party loyalists in Washington, D.C. at 'Foggy Bottom' headquarters and around the world at our Embassies and Consulates. They're tough to spot. They don't wear their allegiances on their sleeves or sport the Democratic Party symbols in their lapels. Instead, they work at computer terminals, writing cables (telegrams) and reports that reek with innuendo, gross generalizations and misrepresentations about their deeds with their host country like numbers. While they do perform their required duty to deliver foreign policy *démarches* that come to them from Main STATE (WASHDC HQ), they do it in such a way as to assure the host country counterparts that they, themselves, do not actually *believe* the messages they're conveying. By electing to take this approach they are, in effect, opposing the Administration that expects them to be vigorous in imparting U.S. government initiatives.

One of their principal Deep STATE tools as I mentioned is 'slow-walking' everything and anything that doesn't pass liberal muster. These deliberate delaying tactics buy them time from implementing actual actions. By claiming that certain issues or directives require further study and that more time is necessary to convince their counterparts of the U.S. position, they are actively attempting to thwart the Administration's goals.

Unlike Sasquatch, they leave very few footprints or fingerprints, preferring instead to use the telephone to communicate with their colleagues in D.C. and around the globe. They have learned from the Hillary Clinton example that emails are dangerous and can expose them as the disingenuous actors they are. Like artificial intelligence software, they are learning fast and becoming more adept at avoiding the trip wires set up by their Inspectors General. The Deep State at STATE and in other government Departments and Agencies has been around at least since the Cold War when opinions differed sharply on how we should handle the former Soviet Union, but their opposition has grown since the election of President Donald Trump who they see as a threat to their behind-the-scenes power base and dangerous to furtherance of what they consider to be the 'true' foreign policy of the United States of America.

They say that sunlight is the best disinfectant to heal a wound, and it's about time that the curtains are drawn back to let a bit more of it to shine on the growing menace of the Deep State wherever it exists in our government.

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