Shadow World: Cast of Pundits Bios

In no particular order: [or in order of appearance]

**DAVID LEIGH**
David Leigh is a British journalist and author who was the investigations editor of The Guardian newspaper in Britain. Although Leigh retired in April 2013, he continues his association with the paper, especially on major global investigative stories.

**HELEN GARLICK**
**Prosecutor, BAE Systems case, U.K. Serious Fraud Office**
Helen Garlick is recognized worldwide as a specialist in investigations and prosecutions relating to bribery, corruption and fraud. She worked at the U.K.’s Serious Fraud Office (SFO) for almost 20 years where she specialized in extradition and mutual legal assistance. She worked as an investigating lawyer on some of the SFO’s landmark cases including BAE Systems [read more about that case and her work on it here](#), Barlow Clowes, and BCCI. She advises clients across multiple jurisdictions, carrying out anti-corruption assessments and advising on international investigations on high-profile and sensitive cases.

**RICCARDO PRIVITERA**
**Arms & Equipment Dealer**
Riccardo Privitera has worked in the weapons and military equipment business for many years, primarily through his company Talisman Europe, which was based in Warsaw. He is currently serving a 7-year jail sentence in relation to an allegedly corrupt and fraudulent military matériel deal between Portugal and Poland.

**MARTA BENAVIDES**
**El Salvador War Resistance Leader and Peace Activist**
Rev. Marta Benavides is a Salvadoran theologian, ordained minister, permaculturist, educator, and artist. She is one of the last surviving activists from a group of human rights and peace advocates who began their work during the 1970s in a rising climate of repression in Latin America. Since 1992 she has been the director of the International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples.

The peace activist and ordained pastor who chose “to live and not die for the revolution” has been bringing people from all fields to defend human rights and develop a culture of peace. In the early 1980s, Benavides headed the Ecumenical Committee for Humanitarian Aid, a group sponsored by the Archbishop Óscar Romero to provide support to the victims of violence in El
Salvador. After Romero’s assassination in 1980, she worked for the next decade to bring an end to the war in her country, and achieve a negotiated settlement under the UN.

LAWRENCE WILKERSON
Colonel, U.S. Army (retired), Fmr. Chief of Staff to US Sec. of State, Colin Powell
Lawrence “Larry” B. Wilkerson is a retired United States Army Colonel who served in Vietnam as an observation helicopter pilot and in the US Navy's Pacific Command in South Korea, Japan and Hawaii. He served as chief of staff to General Colin Powell, while Powell was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later Secretary of State. Wilkerson taught at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and served as deputy director of the Marine Corps War College at Quantico.

CHRIS HEDGES
Former War Correspondent, The New York Times
Chris Hedges wears several hats: Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist, New York Times best-selling author, former professor at Princeton University, activist, and ordained Presbyterian minister. He has written 11 books, including Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt (2012), which he co-authored with cartoonist Joe Sacco. His other books include Wages of Rebellion: The Moral Imperative of Revolt, (2015) Death of the Liberal Class (2010), Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle (2009), I Don’t Believe in Atheists (2008) and the best-selling American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America (2008). His book War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning (2003) was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction and has sold over 400,000 copies. He writes a weekly column for the website Truthdig in Los Angeles, run by Robert Scheer, and hosts a show, On Contact, on RT (Russia Today) America. Hedges has described himself as a socialist, and even, or more specifically, as "a Christian anarchist." He is married to Canadian actress Eunice Wong.

FRANKLIN C. SPINNEY
Fmr. Military Analyst Pentagon
Born on a military base, Franklin C. "Chuck" Spinney spent the vast majority of his career in the military. He was a military analyst for the Pentagon who became famous in the early 1980s for what became known as the "Spinney Report," criticizing the reckless pursuit of costly complex weapon systems by the Pentagon, with disregard to budgetary consequences. Despite attempts by his superiors to bury the report, it was eventually exposed during a US Senate Budget Committee on Defense hearing, which, though scheduled to go unnoticed, made the cover of Time magazine on March 7, 1983. He was described by Senator Grassley, the chair of the Committee, as the "conscience of the Pentagon." Spinney produced many other reports critical of the Pentagon until his retirement.
CYNTHIA MCKINNEY


Cynthia McKinney is an American politician and activist. As a member of the Democratic Party, she served six terms in the United States House of Representatives. She was the first black woman to represent Georgia in the House. In 2008, the Green Party of the United States nominated McKinney for President of the United States. In Congress, amongst other things, McKinney advocated unsealing records pertaining to the CIA’s role in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., supported anti-war legislation and introduced articles of impeachment against President George H.W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. She left the Democratic Party in September 2007. As an activist and speaker she has opposed US military intervention around the world.

MICHAEL HARDT

_Political Philosopher, Co-author, Empire_

Michael Hardt is an American literary theorist and political philosopher. He is Professor of Literature and Italian at Duke University and Professor of Philosophy and Politics at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee. Hardt is best known for his book “Empire.” which was co-written with Antonio Negri. It has been praised by some as the "Communist Manifesto of the 21st Century." A sequel, "Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire" was published in August 2004. It outlines an idea first propounded in 'Empire', which is that of the multitude as possible locus of a democratic movement of global proportions. The third and final part of the trilogy, ‘Commonwealth’, was published in 2009.

JAMES DER DERIAN

_Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney_

James Der Derian is the Michael Hintze Chair of International Security Studies and Director of the Centre for International Security Studies at The University of Sydney. Before that, Der Derian was a Watson Institute research professor of international studies and professor of political science at Brown University, where he directed the Information Technology, War, and Peace Project in the Watson Institute’s Global Security Program.

He is author of, amongst others, "Virtuous War: Mapping the Military-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network" (2001; 2nd edition, 2009). His most recent book is a collection of selected essays, "Critical Practices of International Relations: Selected Essays" (2009). His articles on war, technology, and the media have appeared in The New York Times, The Nation, Washington Quarterly, and Wired. Der Derian has produced three documentaries with Udris Film, Virtual Y2K, After 9/11, and most recently, "Human Terrain: War Becomes Academic" which won the Audience Award at the 2009 Festival dei Popoli in Florence and has been an official selection at numerous international film festivals. His most recent
documentary, “Project Z: The Final Global,” co-produced with Phillip Gara, premiered at the 2012 DOK Leipzig Film Festival. Der Derian is the recipient of the Bosch Berlin Prize in Public Policy.

ROBERT FISK

Middle East Correspondent, The Independent

Robert Fisk is an acclaimed English writer and journalist who has been Middle East correspondent of The Independent for more than twenty years, primarily based in Beirut. Fisk holds more British and international journalism awards than any other foreign correspondent and has been voted British International Journalist of the Year seven times. He has published a number of books and reported on several wars and armed conflicts. An Arabic speaker, he is one of a few Western journalists to have interviewed Osama bin Laden, which he did on three occasions between 1993 and 1997. Fisk has lived in Beirut since 1976, remaining throughout the Lebanese Civil War. He was one of the first journalists to visit the scene of the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon, as well as the Syrian Hama Massacre. His book on the Lebanese conflict, "Pity the Nation," was first published in 1990. Fisk also reported on the Arab–Israeli conflict, the Bosnian War, the Kosovo War, the Algerian Civil War, among others. During the Iran–Iraq War, he suffered partial but permanent hearing loss as a result of being close to Iraqi heavy artillery in the Shatt-al-Arab when covering the early stages of the conflict.

CLARE SHORT


Clare Short is a British politician who was the Member of Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood from 1983 to 2010; for most of this period she was a Labour Party MP, but she resigned the party whip in 2006 and served the remainder of her term as an Independent. She stood down as a Member of Parliament at the 2010 general election. Short was a highly regarded Secretary of State for International Development in the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair from 3 May 1997 until her resignation from that post on 12 May 2003. She is the author of "An Honourable Deception?: New Labour, Iraq, and the Misuse of Power," (2004). In 2011 Short was elected as Chairwoman of the EITI (the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative).

DAVID LAWLEY-WAKELIN

Filmmaker

David Lawley-Wakelin is a documentary filmmaker. His work includes The Alternative Iraq Enquiry and, as assistant director, The Wildest Dream, Simon Schama's Power of Art, Peter and the Wolf," amongst others. In May 2012, he interrupted the Leveson inquiry during Tony Blair’s statement, suggesting the former Prime Minister was a war criminal. He was later fined £100 plus costs. Speaking on the steps outside the court afterwards, Mr. Lawley-Wakelin revealed he had received messages of support from the Nobel Laureates Mairead Maguire and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
**MUNTAZER AL-ZAIDI**

**Journalist Al-Baghdadia TV**

Muntazer al-Zaidi is an Iraqi broadcast journalist who served as a correspondent for Iraqi-owned, Egyptian-based Al-Baghdadia TV. As of February 2011, al-Zaidi works with a Lebanese TV channel. On November 16, 2007, al-Zaidi was kidnapped by unknown assailants in Baghdad. On December 14, 2008, al-Zaidi threw his shoes at then-U.S. President George W. Bush during a Baghdad press conference. Al-Zaidi suffered injuries as he was taken into custody and some sources suggest he was tortured during his initial detention. There were calls throughout the Middle East to place the shoes in an Iraqi museum, but instead they were later destroyed by US and Iraqi security forces. Al-Zaidi’s action inspired many similar incidents of political protest around the world. Following the incident, Al-Zaidi was represented by the head of the Iraqi Bar Association during his 90-minute trial by the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. He was sentenced to three years in prison, which was reduced to one year. He was released on 15 September 2009 for good behavior, after serving nine months of the sentence. After his release, Al-Zaidi was treated for a number of injuries suffered in custody. He continues to work as a journalist in Lebanon and is engaged in numerous charitable and health activities.

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**TRITA PARSI**

**National Iranian American Council, Author “Treacherous Alliance”**

Trita Parsi is the founder and current president of the National Iranian American Council. Born in Iran, Parsi moved with his family to Sweden at a young age to escape political repression, as his father was an outspoken academic who was jailed both under the reign of the Shah and later under Ayatollah Khomeini’s Islamic Republic. Parsi earned a Master's Degree in International Relations at Uppsala University and a second Master's Degree in Economics at Stockholm School of Economics. As an adult, Parsi moved to the United States and studied foreign policy at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies where he received his PhD in International Relations. Early in his career Parsi worked for the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, addressing human rights in Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Iraq. He has served as an adjunct professor of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute and as a Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC.

PBS/Tavis Smiley interview with Parsi:  

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**WESLEY CLARK**


Wesley Kanne Clark, Sr. is a retired General of the United States Army. He graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 1966 at West Point and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford, where he obtained a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He later
graduated from the Command and General Staff College with a master’s degree in military science. He spent 34 years in the Army, receiving many military decorations, several honorary knighthoods, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Clark commanded Operation Allied Force in the Kosovo War during his term as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO from 1997 to 2000. Clark was a candidate in the 2004 race for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 2003. In his book, "Winning Modern Wars," published in 2003, he describes a conversation with a military officer in the Pentagon shortly after 9/11 regarding a plan to attack seven Middle Eastern countries in five years: "As I went back through the Pentagon in November 2001, one of the senior military staff officers had time for a chat. Yes, we were still on track for going against Iraq, he said. But there was more. This was being discussed as part of a five-year campaign plan, he said, and there were a total of seven countries, beginning with Iraq, then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and finishing off Iran."

SHIR HEVER

Israeli Economist, Alternative Information Center

Shir Hever is an Israeli researcher of the economic aspects of the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian territories and the privatisation of security in Israel. He is the author of "Beyond Repression: The Political Economy of Israel's Occupation" (2010). He has published numerous reports and studies on the related topics, especially for the Alternative Information Center, a Palestinian-Israeli organization active in Jerusalem and Beit-Sahour. He is currently working on his PhD dissertation at the Freie Universität, Berlin.