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Bilderberg 2012: were Mitt Romney and Bill Gates there?

Another conference over. Charlie Skelton talks to some of the 800 activists outside the gates to find out what they learned

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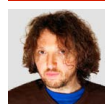


A banner welcomes Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney to the 2012 Bilderberg conference. Photograph: Hannah Borno for the Guardian

What a Bilderberg it's been. Big names, big money, big decisions, big crowds. Somewhere around 800 activists outside the gates (up from about a dozen in 2009), and inside? Well, here's what we learned.

A Mitt Romney attendance?

Four eyewitnesses on the hotel staff told me Willard Mitt Romney was here at Bilderberg 2012. My four eyewitnesses place him inside. That's



Posted by Charlie Skelton Tuesday 5 June 2012 23.28 BST guardian.co.uk

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one more than Woodward and Bernstein used. Romney's office initially refused to confirm or deny his attendance as Bilderberg is "not public". His people later said it wasn't him.

So, was he being crowned, or singing for his supper? Will Mitt Romney follow in the august footsteps of Clinton, Cameron and Blair to have attended Bilderberg and then shortly become leader? Four years ago, Senator Obama shook off his press detail and nipped (many think) into Bilderberg. This exact same hotel.

Did Romney have to get down on one knee in front of David Rockefeller? This sounds flippant, but it's a serious question: has Bilderberg switched allegiance? Are they going to toss away Obama after just one term?

I put this question to author and Bilderberg expert [Webster Tarpley](#). Is Wall Street going to throw its chips in with Romney? "I think there's a frisson that's gone through the ruling class against Obama," he says. [The leak we had from the flirty hotel staffer](#) corroborated this. "They don't seem to like Obama very much," he said.

Tarpley's conclusion is this: "They want Romney and [Mitch Daniels](#), who will run together as moderate rightists, but who will turn sharply to the right if elected." Governor Daniels of Indiana was on the official list.

The official list is nonsense



Bill Gates's ear (probably) leaves Bilderberg. Photograph: Mike Paczesny

[The Washington Post](#) saw Bill Gates come in. And I've got three eyewitnesses from inside who confirmed he was here. This is his ear:

You won't see the names Mitt Romney or [Bill Gates](#) on the officially released [Final List of Participants](#) because, well, the list is a nonsense. It's nothing like a complete list of people who attend Bilderberg. It's a smokescreen, a bit of spin. So can we all, please, stop repeating it as gospel?

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Bassma Kodmani of the Syrian National Council leaves Bilderberg 2012. Photograph: Carter Osmar

Attending Bilderberg 2012 as an 'international' participant was Bassma Kodmani.

So who is Bassma Kodmani? The answer to that question is also the answer to the question: what the hell is happening in Syria? This is where it gets interesting (and worrying) for Bilderberg followers.

Kodmani was at Bilderberg in 2008, the last time it was here in Chantilly. She is a member of the European Council on foreign relations – its parent group, the council on foreign relations, is a sort of über lobby group, a couple of rungs down from Bilderberg, but still hugely powerful.

There's a lot of CFR/Bilderberg crossover. Honorary chairman of both is David Rockefeller; co-chairman of the CFR is Robert Rubin (he was here); and on the CFR's board of directors are Fouad Ajami and Henry Kravis, both at Bilderberg 2012.

Bassma Kodmani is also the executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative. This body, set up in 2004 by the CFR, is helping to steer "a comprehensive process" of "democratic reform" in the region. In 2005, the [Syrian National Council](#) came into being. Bassma Kodmani was a founding member, and is on the executive committee. Kodmani is one of the SNC's two spokespeople, alongside Radwan Ziadeh (who has a flawless Washington pedigree – look him up). According to its website, the SNC is a non profit public policy research organization register in the District of Colombia and headquartered in Washington DC. Just up the road.

I asked Tarpley about Kodmani. He doesn't mince words. "She's a Nato agent, a destabilizer, a [colour revolution](#) queen. The fact that Kodmani was there is a scary one for Syria", says Tarpley.

To those gathered outside, at least, it looks increasingly like, at this year's Bilderberg, the war of regime change got signed off. In the airport lobby, on the way home from Bilderberg, I looked up at a TV monitor to see Bilderberg attendee and CFR board member Fouad Ajami talking about how Syria is about to become another Libya. That sound you can hear? It's all those juicy defence contracts being scratched out around Chantilly. Fuel the jets and open the champagne, boys. We're going in.

Occupy Bilderberg turned up

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Webster Tarpley meets Occupy Bilderberg. Photograph: Hannah Borno for the Guardian

A statement of support from Occupy London was read out at Occupy Bilderberg. A symbol of Anglo-American unity, like Bilderberg itself. The statement protested against (amongst other things): the rise of an undemocratic "technocracy" – a "network of cronies" in which financial "experts", largely from the international banking community, who have been appointed rather than elected, are handed the reins of government.

So here you've got the (broadly speaking) liberal left protest movement, with its anti-corruption and pro-transparency agenda, finding common ground with US libertarians and an anti-Obama, anti-fascist, pro-union New Deal American like Webster Tarpley.

As Tarpley says: "Bilderberg creates a singularity, where a lot of seemingly disparate things come together." That applies not just to the people inside – megabank money and government – outside the security cordon you've got Occupy Bilderberg rubbing shoulders with US veterans, German students who've flown over for the event, truckers from Michigan, Orthodox Jews, Ron Paul supporters, anarcho-syndicalists, academics and grandmothers.

Why? In the words of the statement from Occupy London: "the profound denial of a participatory, direct democracy which the Bilderberg Conference represents."

Mainstream news turned up

Finally. [The Washington Times sent Ben Wolfgang](#), [the Guardian sent Ryan Devereaux](#) and the Times of London actually tried to get a journalist inside – Alexandra Frean was turned away at the gates. But she tried. At least she tried. That's a start. We can work with that.

Internet ID



Neelie Kroes, EU commissioner. Photograph: We are Change, Rhode Island

There was speculation before the conference that on the Bilderberg agenda this year would be how to implement a unique EU internet ID. Who would be pushing that through? Step up Neelie Kroes, EU commissioner for digital agenda.

Presumably Eric Schmidt (Google) and Reid Hoffman (LinkedIn) would have been sharing podium-space with Bill Gates at that session. That's if there was one, of course.

Collin versus the new world order



Cult favourite Collin Abramowicz on the Bilderberg 2012 protest line. Photograph: Hannah Borno for the Guardian

I'm not sure global governance stands a chance against Collin Abramowicz. Here – by popular request – is a last blast from the frontline of the resistance:

Hopefully Collin and I will see you all again in 2013. You can email me at bilderberg2013@yahoo.co.uk – if we had 800 this year, I think we could be having ourselves a party. The Bilderburgers are on me.

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ayjay

5 June 2012 11:51PM

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Charlie, are you pressing the Guardian to put this in the paper?



exexpatman

6 June 2012 12:13AM

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Thank you for covering it Charlie. I'm doing my bit trying to spread the word via Facebook et al.
I think bilderberg exemplifies exactly what is wrong in the world today.



dreamwatcher

6 June 2012 12:33AM

Recommend (25)

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Wot, no George Osborne this year, or will he be taking his orders for 2012/13 via text or email?

Can we assume that pasties did not feature on this year's Bilderberg hotel menu?



KleptocracyRules

6 June 2012 1:10AM

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Webster Tarpley is one of the best guys out there when it comes to political analysis. Definitely One of my 5 Websites A Day. His analysis of Ron Paul and Syria/Libya is bang on.



ONLYGODCANSTOPME

6 June 2012 1:47AM

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



danielkirby

6 June 2012 2:07AM

Johan Andresen one of the Norwegian attendees this year doesn't appear to like Mr Gates very much after Bill tried to give him some advice back in 2009 on how to manage his fortune. His response to this kind offer was apparently: "Mr. Gates, with all due respect you don't know a shit...."

Maybe Andresen hit Gates with a sweet left hook to the temple on Saturday evening at Wellington's bar after Gates said: "My fortune's bigger than your fortune, ner ner ner."

Either that or he was up all night with Ken Clarke on the raz and his a splitting head ache.

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danielkirby

6 June 2012 2:09AM

Response to [danielkirby](#), 6 June 2012 2:07AM

has*

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LeeWilson

6 June 2012 2:55AM

So here you've got the (broadly speaking) liberal left protest movement, with its anti-corruption and pro-transparency agenda, finding common ground with US libertarians and an anti-Obama, anti-fascist, pro-union New Deal American like Webster Tarpley.

This convergence of left / right-wing activism around shared issues was documented (and christened: "fusion paranoia") by Michael Kelly (Washington Post) back in 2004-5.

The two things missing from your own observation are the rampant conspiracism (it'd do you a service to recognise this element and what it means to these kinds of movements) and shared civil liberties issues. Most, if not all, of the people mentioned in your coverage are classic conspiracy theorists.

Occupy London are a somewhat dreary addition to the cast, it's rather depressing to think that the most Bilderberg attendees have to face up to is shouts of 'scum' from the querulants and messages of support from the rotting corpse of radical left politics currently being rained on in tents somewhere in London.

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Happybrightly

6 June 2012 3:43AM

"Mainstream news turned up
Finally. The Washington Times sent Ben Wolfgang, the Guardian sent Ryan Devereaux"

I notice the Derveraux piece is about Alex Jones, not Bilderberg - which is interesting. Alex Jones often points out the mainstream media is in rapid decline, while the alternative media is growing. Comparing the guardian's coverage with say, infowars, it's no surprise. If you want to know anything at all about the political reality of life on earth, the mainstream media is not the place to look.

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ThaiYorkist

6 June 2012 4:05AM

Response to [LeeWilson](#), 6 June 2012 2:55AM

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Happybrightly

6 June 2012 7:25AM

@lee wilson,

Unfortunately, it is the evidence and arguments supporting the 9/11 official story that lack substance.

Take the infamous Building 7. Compare Explosive Evidence, experts speak out (just put that into youtube) with the BBC's Conspiracy Files - wherein an expert from Popular Mechanics concedes that it looks like controlled demolition, but claims he has secret knowledge proving it wasn't a controlled demolition. He doesn't offer this knowledge, and the interviewer doesn't ask for it. Yet the casual observer goes away thinking the BBC have somehow disproved the allegations.

I agree with you that it's very important to examine all the evidence very carefully, critically, and with an open mind. But is this what you have really done?

The so called Truth Movement is a big part of the Bilderberg protests.

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madmaardigan

6 June 2012 7:33AM

So here you've got the (broadly speaking) liberal left protest movement, with its anti-corruption and pro-transparency agenda, finding common ground with US libertarians and an anti-Obama, anti-fascist, pro-union New Deal American like Webster Tarpley.

Nothing strange about that. I'd put myself firmly in the former category but I've got a lot of time for Libertarian Ron Paul types (read John Taylor Gatto, read Joel Salatin, they talk a lot of sense).

I reserve my deepest contempt for fake left Blair/ Clinton types.

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dave2222001

6 June 2012 7:45AM

Response to [dreamwatcher](#), 6 June 2012 12:33AM

Osborn is totally on message and no further corrections are required just let the BA--
- carry on.

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zoskia

6 June 2012 8:31AM

"We have got Plans For You"

But we are not going to tell you what they are
Because they are mostly in our interest..

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kizbot

6 June 2012 8:33AM

Thanks for some interesting and amusing stuff **Charlie** and for being a good sport on the Colin fetish... the activist who can rock a vest and a backpack like no other..
Fare thee well, cupcake....

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kizbot

6 June 2012 8:35AM

Oh... and I wanted to ask.. See any Greeks slipping into the hotel anytime? Are they putting us back on the Drach?

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kizbot

6 June 2012 8:36AM

I agree with you that it's very important to examine all the evidence very carefully, critically, and with an open mind. But is this what you have really done?

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What do you mean by 'examine evidence'? Reading articles and watching vids isn't 'examining evidence'... you know that, right?



genoawitness

6 June 2012 9:01AM

corporations and the markets vs democracy....who will run the world (and kill it)?

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robert01

6 June 2012 9:06AM

Charlie you attended the talk given by Richard Gage, well known 9/11 truth activist and architect, in London last year. But you have not written an article about that talk. From what I understand Richard Gage give a very strong account about the way the buildings fell and how this could not be due to the fires and plane crashes alone, building 7 not even hit by a plane. Why did you not report this in the Guardian?

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robinaldlowrise

6 June 2012 9:18AM

"Bill Gates's ear (probably) leaves Bilderberg"

Probably not.

That's not saying he wasn't there - three insiders is better than none - but that's probably not his ear. Did anyone check the boot?

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jakebexx

6 June 2012 9:32AM

Another great year. Another great set of reports from the frontline. What would we do if Bilderberg became mainstream and Charlie wasn't there to report it and Hugh Dennis started reporting it. I don't know if I could handle that. On second thoughts, keep it secret. I need my annual Skelton fix.

So the FOI requests are in, I have my betting slips for Romney and Daniels. See you at Bilderberg 2013. That is, of course, if the world doesn't end! =/

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lenoski

6 June 2012 9:40AM

I was hoping not to hear of Romney's attendance this year. If this guy gets in were all fucked.

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Happybrightly

6 June 2012 10:20AM

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Response to [kizbot](#), 6 June 2012 8:36AM

What do you mean by 'examine evidence'? Reading articles and watching vids isn't 'examining evidence'... you know that, right?

What is examining evidence? Reading relevant articles by professionals, and watching film of the phenomena in question seems to me to be examining evidence.

What do you mean by examining evidence?

Do you mean waiting to see what Trevor McDonald and George Monbiot say? I fear many people think the latter is examining evidence...



kizbot

6 June 2012 10:27AM

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and watching film of the phenomena in question seems to me to be examining evidence

That depends on whether you yourself are qualified to analyse the data. If you are simply listening to what someone else says about the data.. then you're reading up on the issue.. But you are not 'examining evidence'.

But hell.. everyone's an expert these days.. Get your engineering degree in 6 easy youtube vids...



Happybrightly

6 June 2012 10:33AM

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Response to [kizbot](#), 6 June 2012 10:27AM

It's not so much about getting an engineering degree as learning about critical thinking.

It is possible to examine the soundness of arguments about, say, the collapse of Building 7, without having a degree in engineering, architecture, etc.

Archimedes, for instance, did not need degrees in atomic theory, engineering, etc, to work out whether or not the crown was pure gold - he just needed some critical thinking.



robert01

6 June 2012 10:34AM

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Charlie why did you attend the talk by Richard Gage but not write an article in the Guardian? Why has my last comment, same as this, disappeared?



Happybrightly

6 June 2012 10:35AM

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Response to [lenoski](#), 6 June 2012 9:40AM

Please don't be offended, but I fear you miss the point...



kizbot

6 June 2012 10:41AM

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Archimedes was a skilled mathematician.. Greek scientists didn't just make discoveries due to 'crit thinking'! They spent years and years observing phenomena

and analysing data.. That's what science is. I think you'll find it's not actually possible to do scientific analysis of phenomena simply by a process of critical thinking.. You kinda need some grounding in the subject. Honest.. You really do. Not making it up.



ryanaustralia

6 June 2012 10:48AM

Hello

Sorry to spoil the party, but as the European Commission spokesperson for digital issues I need to point out that the bit about Neelie Kroes and electronic identification is completely wrong. And wasn't checked with us.

See the links below as proof. Neither Neelie Kroes personally, not the EU generally, has any plans whatsoever for a unique EU ID. There is no plan to force people to get ID cards, there is no new database, there is no linking of databases - basically there is nothing of the sort referred to in this article.

What there is is a proposal to let you use your e-ID in other countries, if you have one. That is all.

Please bear in mind that everyone reading this already has an eID or eSignature. It's what you used to post this comment, it's what you use to get into your office building or withdraw money from an automatic cash machine.

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ryanaustralia

6 June 2012 10:49AM

Response to [exexpatman](#), 6 June 2012 12:13AM

Hello

Sorry to spoil the party, but as the European Commission spokesperson for digital issues I need to point out that the bit about Neelie Kroes and electronic identification is completely wrong. See my late general comment.

Neither Neelie Kroes personally, not the EU generally, has any plans whatsoever for a unique EU ID. There is no plan to force people to get ID cards, there is no new database, there is no linking of databases - basically there is nothing of the sort referred to in this article.

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kizbot

6 June 2012 11:00AM

@ryanaustralia
Yet

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oldteacher

6 June 2012 11:32AM

I read elsewhere that Gideon Osborne attended. Hope he gets a new job overseas.

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okulo

6 June 2012 11:40AM

I brought up Bilderberg at various meetings during the Earth First! Summer Gathering in 2004 which was planning for the G8 at Gleneagles the following year (when Bilderberg were meeting in Germany). Not a single person there had a clue what I was talking about. In fact, I was labelled a conspiracy theorist by some when I tried to

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explain. Now, those same people under the guise of Occupy London seem to have co-opted the UK wing of the anti-Bilderberg movement.

I'm not sure how I feel about that. It seems that traditionally, the left (which is the territory of most of the anti-G8 protest) regard anything remotely conspiratorial as being the dominion of the right. I was directly accused of being anti-Semitic by a number of SWP members for raising questions about 9/11 on a coach to an anti-war rally in 2003 and I have seen little evidence of any conciliation.

If there is to be any effective resistance to the unseen hand, the false left/right paradigm must be exposed for what it really is, a WWF spectacular between Pepsi™ and Coca-Cola™.

And Alan Rusbridger, you are a disgrace. You may feel that you have sated the appetites of the enlightened by publishing Charlie Skelton's blog but with the greatest respect to Charlie, sending a comedian to cover a subject of such importance that it should have bumped every other story, including the farcical jubilee coverage is despicable. I think we all know which side your bread is buttered.



fiscalfucktitude

6 June 2012 11:43AM

Colin!

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oldteacher

6 June 2012 12:02PM

I read elsewhere that Gideon Osborne attended. Hope he gets a new job overseas.

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FMLuder

6 June 2012 12:55PM

I was directly accused of being anti-Semitic by a number of SWP members for raising questions about 9/11 on a coach to an anti-war rally in 2003 and I have seen little evidence of any conciliation

That's funny, I was accused of being an Islamophobic warmonger propagandising for a Western crusade by the SWP because I criticised Ahmedinejad - despite the fact that I've always been against "humanitarian interventions".

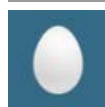
I think the conclusion to be drawn here is that the SWP are stupid. A really special kind of stupid.

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psycho_pigeon

6 June 2012 1:58PM

Thanks Charlie, great article.

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2theloo

6 June 2012 2:05PM

Charlie,....Why don't all the big companies who are not in Bilderberg, and liberty organizations and people like Foster Gamble and fringe political parties get together to hold the Anti Bilderberg Conference. Mainstream news may come to that. A collection of everybody against this must come together somewhere. Invite everybody.

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JimmySands

6 June 2012 2:13PM

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"So here you've got the (broadly speaking) liberal left protest movement,"

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Bollocks. You've got the Tim McVeigh fanclub, same as always.

I was hoping to get Tarpley's take on the Rio Ferdinand situation. He's bound to have a theory.



Phillyguy

6 June 2012 3:03PM

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Bilderberg is interesting because as a meeting of world leaders/billionaires- it actually IS a conspiracy- probably not in a Protocols of the Elders of Zion way (which no doubt some believe)- but they are certainly trying to do SOMETHING.

Bit weird that the MSM has ignored them all these years , eh?



mynameisCharlie

6 June 2012 4:07PM

C

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I think the conclusion to be drawn here is that the SWP are stupid. A really special kind of stupid.

Best thing OccupyLSX did, in the early days, was tell the SWP to take its flags and banners down, and get its literature out of the camp.



mynameisCharlie

6 June 2012 4:11PM

C

[Recommend \(8\)](#)

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Response to [JimmySands](#), 6 June 2012 2:13PM

Hi JimmySands,
you misunderstand what I wrote.

"So here you've got the (broadly speaking) liberal left protest movement,"
Bollocks. You've got the Tim McVeigh fanclub, same as always.

- a) the broadly liberal left protest group I'm referring to is Occupy (re-read the paragraph)
- b) The Tim McVeigh fanclub? If you're talking about the American protestors, you've got a group of people who are outraged at the violence, conflict and rape perpetrated by the warmonger bankers. They anti-fascist, anti-violence. Don't slur them ignorantly. Or how about you turn up and find out for yourself. Seriously, I'm sick of people just declaring, from a stupid distance, what the people protesting outside Bilderberg think. What about me? You've got it so wrong, sorry.



LeeWilson

6 June 2012 5:25PM

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Response to [Happybrightly](#), 6 June 2012 7:25AM

I agree with you that it's very important to examine all the evidence very carefully, critically, and with an open mind. But is this what you have really done?

Yes.



NeilBradley

6 June 2012 5:54PM

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The European Commission spokesperson for digital issues is a guy called Ryan from Oz?



JimmySands

6 June 2012 6:50PM

"a) the broadly liberal left protest group I'm referring to is Occupy (re-read the paragraph)"

I looked at the website you linked for them. It may be your idea of liberal left, it certainly isn't mine.

"What about me?"

What about you?

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Happybrightly

6 June 2012 6:55PM

Response to [LeeWilson](#), 6 June 2012 5:25PM

OK, if you're still reading this, just for the fun of it, out of morbid curiosity...

Sticking with Building 7...

According to the official story, for three seconds, the building fell at free fall speed.

For this to have happened, there must have been no resistance.

The video evidence supports the official story.

The only time buildings have ever behaved like this is during controlled demolition.

Seriously, to me, the above propositions, being verifiable, seem to make a strong claim that Building 7 was demolished.

What am I missing? I repeat that I am sincere about this. If I'm wrong, I want to know.

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mynameisCharlie

6 June 2012 7:11PM



What about you?

- are you suggesting that I'm a member of the Tim McVeigh fanclub?

You can't just blast out these blanket statements (having not been there) and not expect to be called on it by someone who was.

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Happybrightly

6 June 2012 7:26PM

Response to [kizbot](#), 6 June 2012 10:41AM

Also, just for the fun of it,

Greek scientists didn't just make discoveries due to 'crit thinking'! They spent years and years observing phenomena and analysing data..

OK, but, as you know, I'm only talking about the eureka moment, when, observing the phenomena, and doing some critical thinking, Archimedes noticed that things displaced their own volume in water. For sure, he went on to do some data analysis - i understand he worked out the volume of the crown with his new method and found out its density - again with critical thinking. And it was a fake! Though to be honest, I wonder if any of it ever really happened.

I think you'll find it's not actually possible to do scientific analysis of phenomena simply by a process of critical thinking

I'm hearing you - but nobody ever made such a claim. I'm into the idea though. I think it is possible to be scientific about analysing things like thoughts, and 'critical thinking', using the term loosely, is, I think all we'll ever have - not microscopes. But this is speculation, and nothing to do with Bilderberg. Or Building 7.

You kinda need some grounding in the subject. Honest.. You really do. Not making it up.

I think it's mean of you to assume I have no grounding in 'science'. I'm big into science. And the philosophy of science. I guess the view that has most struck a chord with me is Bronowski's, in The Common Sense of Science. Honest. It really did.

Recommend (3)

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Not making it up!



Jimmy Sands

6 June 2012 7:45PM

Recommend (0)

Responses (0)

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"You can't just blast out these blanket statements (having not been there) and not expect to be called on it by someone who was."

Called on what? I'm commenting on your dispatches. If they are so unreliable as to require my personal presence to verify them then that is perhaps more a reflection on you than on me. I have no wish to spend a week hanging around at the gate of an obscure Marriott in the company of the "real men" (as you put it) of the local militia and Building 7 obsessives. I'm not convinced it offers the sort of insight into global affairs that you seek to claim for it. As for your own politics, it's hard to comment as you are largely regurgitating every crank you run into without comment or criticism save that you do seem quite upset at the prospect of the Assad regime being overthrown. As I say, there's "liberal left" and then there's "liberal left"...



mynameisCharlie

6 June 2012 8:54PM



Recommend (6)

Responses (0)

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Called on what? I'm commenting on your dispatches.

Well, no, that's not what you're doing when you brand everyone who was protesting or covering the event a member of the Tim McVeigh fanclub - inc. btw journalists from the Washington Times & the Guardian (not me, someone else). Where in my 'dispatches' did I mention Timothy McVeigh? I'm sorry, but it's a daft, misleading and unsubstantiated comment. And fwiw I'm not saying my 'dispatches' are unreliable, I'm saying if you want to make these broad brushstroke dismissive remarks, you should be able, even vaguely, to substantiate them. You've just projected your own prejudices on the crowd, which isn't hugely useful.

As for Syria, I'm making the point that the Syrian opposition is run out of Washington by the Council on Foreign Relations ->

<http://www.cfr.org/projects/world/arab-reform-initiative/pr1252>

The U.S./Middle East Project continues to serve as consultant to this initiative in coordination with four European policy institutes and provides support as needed. Financial oversight of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) was assigned to the Center for European Reform in May 2005. In September 2005, Dr. Bassma Kodmani was made full-time director for the program.

Bassma Kodmani -> Bilderberg 2008, 2012.

That was my point.

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