

The National's (Friday, March 18, 2016) look back at the 5-year war in Syria was a completely disgraceful propaganda job, the latest in a long pattern of regime-change propaganda over the past 5 years. If CBC News had a real, arms-length ombudsman, a serious investigation and corrective action would occur. But under the current CBC News regime this seems about as likely as a real investigation into missing indigenous women taking place under the Harper regime.

From the looks of things, and the style and content of the latest CBC News and CBC NewsWorld advertisements bombarding us, the neoconservative propaganda is in fact being ramped up at CBC News.

In Friday night's propaganda-and-demonization-through-omission-and-distortion piece:

- 1) No mention at all was made of the long-time US/Pentagon/neoconservative calls and plans for regime change in Syria, widely telegraphed throughout the decade before the war started.
- 2) No mention was made of CIA and other foreign involvement in the Syrian (and Libyan) protests in 2011.
- 3) No mention at all was made of US/NATO-regime-changed-and-destroyed Libya which created the necessary conditions and precursors for IS.
- 4) No mention at all was made of the illegal 2003 US invasion, regime-change and destruction of Iraq which laid the necessary groundwork for IS and this brutal war in Iraq and Syria.
- 5) No mention at all was made of the US funding, arming, and training of regime-change proxy forces to overthrow the elected government of Syria.
- 6) No mention was made of the fact that under the US-led "fight against ISIS", involving the resources of some 62-plus nations, ISIS actually grew in numbers and territory.
- 7) No mention at all was made of Turkey and Saudi Arabia, key backers and enablers of IS/AQ and other violent Wahhabi extremist groups in Syria.
- 8) No mention at all was made of Russia's 2012 peace plan that would have seen Assad transition out peacefully, but that was rejected by the US which preferred to seek another destructive regime change.
- 9) No mention was made of Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, or the fact that most of the various other groups are offshoots, associates, or subordinates of the dominant IS/AQ groups.
- 10) No mention was made of the word "proxy", when that's exactly what this 5-year war is, a proxy war with multiple foreign backers behind every group.
- 11) No mention of the phrase "regime change" was made, when that too is exactly what this heinous war is about.
- 12) No mention was made of the fact that the US just reluctantly declared that ISIS atrocities in Syria and Iraq constituted genocide.

13) No mention was made of the US military's resistance to the neoconservative regime change plans in Syria.

14) No mention was made of international law, of Syria's sovereignty, of Russia having been invited there by the Syrian government, or of recent UN Security Council resolutions.

15) No mention was made of Russia's 5 ½-month intervention having turned the tide against ISIS, or of ISIS's response to Russian strikes by targeting a passenger jet and killing 224 Russian tourists and crew.

Substantiations follow:

1) No mention at all was made of the long-time US/Pentagon/neoconservative calls and plans for regime change in Syria, widely telegraphed throughout the decade before the war started.

"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."

- US 4-star General Wesley Clark, NATO commander from 1997-2000, from his 2003 book "Winning Modern Wars" published shortly after announcing his presidential candidacy (New York: Public Affairs, 2003), p. 130.

The pattern of belligerent rhetoric and media demonization that always precedes US regime change wars was also in great evidence:

"Mr. Bush issued rebukes to Russia and China and called Syria a tyranny that harbors terrorists and sponsors terrorist activity."

Bush Reaffirms Pre-Emptive War Doctrine (Globe and Mail, 2006-03-16)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060316.wbush0316/BNStory/International/home>

"Asked about getting tough with Iran and Syria, [Doug Feith, the former Rummy gofer who drove the neocon plan to get us into Iraq] offered this incandescent insight: "As we all know, the president said he's The Decider. That actually is quite a profound point. The president is The Decider and the main thing he decides about is risk."

New York Times, Maureen Dowd (2007-12-12)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/12/opinion/12dowd.html>

"Cheney and fellow militarists are pushing hard for attacks on Syria, Lebanon and Iran before President George W. Bush leaves office. Neocons have flocked to Sen. John McCain's banner -- in spite of Hillary Clinton's vow to "obliterate" Iran if it attacked Israel with nuclear weapons. They believe U.S. attacks on

Arab states and/or Iran would prove decisive in winning the presidency for McCain this November. A U.S. attack on Syria could well be the first step of a broader air war against Lebanon and Iran."

The Neoconning of a Nation (2008-04-27)

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2008/04/27/neoconning-nation>

"Bush told Blair that after conquering Iraq, he intended to invade Iran, Syria, Libya and Pakistan."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/08/16/republicans-cant-face-truth-about-iraq>

"[...] the destabilization of Syria starting in 2011 can actually be traced back to 2001, when plans were hatched in the Pentagon for taking out governments in seven Middle Eastern countries.

According to former NATO Commander General Wesley Clark, shortly after 9/11 he was shown a confidential memo by a general at the Pentagon detailing plans to overthrow governments in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran.

Of those seven, two governments (Iraq and Libya) were subsequently overthrown, one country (Sudan) was cut in half, one (Somalia) became "the most failed state on earth" and two (Syria and Lebanon) have been destabilized. War with Iran was only narrowly averted thanks to multilateral diplomacy and perhaps a little luck.

The reality is that the four-year old civil war in Syria, fueled in large part by Washington's training and arming of the rebels, appears to have the goal of implementing "regime change" through an armed insurgency, much in the same way as it has been done in other countries, including most recently Libya."

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/09/11/regime-change-strategy-spreads-chaos/>

"Then there is Wesley Clark's famous interview, given in 2007, in which he revealed the true strategic aims of those running US foreign policy in the wake of the September 11th attacks. In it, he tells of a conversation he had at that time with a Pentagon official who admitted that the real plan was "to attack and destroy the governments in seven countries in five years".

Those countries, according to Clark, were: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq. In the same speech, he explicitly ties the hatching of the plan to Richard Perle, head of the cadre of people who wrote in the "Clean Break" document of the paramount importance of putting Israel in position to "shape its strategic environment".

On September 5th, 2013, Alon Pinkas, the former Israeli Consul General in New York and well-connected member of Tel Aviv's conservative policy elite described the Syrian conflict in the following terms in the New York Times:

"This is a playoff situation in which you need both teams to lose, but at least you don't want one to win – we'll settle for a tie,....Let them both bleed, hemorrhage to death: that's the strategic thinking here. As long as this lingers, there's no real threat from Syria."

I don't think it can get much clearer than that. The US-Israeli plan in Syria has never been about helping anyone in that country, but rather insuring its effective dismemberment so as to further the perceived "strategic interests" of the Jewish state."

"US Caught Faking It in Syria" by Thomas S. Harrington
<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/10/12/us-caught-faking-it-in-syria/>

All of this closely follows what was laid out by the Yinon Plan from 1982 that served as a blueprint for the neoconservative PNAC (Project for a New American Century, whose signatories included Secretary of Defense, Rumsfeld, who issued that 7-countries-in-5-years memo, Vice President Dick Cheney, and President George W. Bush) and the US actions since:

"The dissolution of Syria and Iraq later on into ethnically or religiously unique areas such as in Lebanon, is Israel's primary target on the Eastern front in the long run, while the dissolution of the military power of those states serves as the primary short term target. Syria will fall apart, in accordance with its ethnic and religious structure, into several states such as in present day Lebanon ..."

"Lebanon's total dissolution into five provinces serves as a precedent for the entire Arab world including Egypt, Syria, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula and is already following that track.

"Iraq, rich in oil on the one hand and internally torn on the other, is guaranteed as a candidate for Israel's targets. Its dissolution is even more important for us than that of Syria. Iraq is stronger than Syria. In the short run it is Iraqi power which constitutes the greatest threat to Israel."

"Every kind of inter-Arab confrontation will assist us in the short run and will shorten the way to the more important aim of breaking up Iraq into denominations as in Syria and in Lebanon. In Iraq, a division into provinces along ethnic/religious lines as in Syria during Ottoman times is possible. So, three (or more) states will exist around the three major cities: Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and Shi'ite areas in the south will separate from the Sunni and Kurdish north."

- Oded Yinon, 1982

"US Caught Faking It in Syria" by Thomas S. Harrington
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2) No mention was made of CIA and other foreign involvement in the Syrian (and Libyan) protests in 2011.

From Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University:

"When the unrest of the Arab Spring broke out in early 2011, the CIA and the anti-Iran front of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey saw an opportunity to topple Assad quickly and thereby to gain a geopolitical victory. Clinton became the leading proponent of the CIA-led effort at Syrian regime change.

In early 2011, Turkey and Saudi Arabia leveraged local protests against Assad to try to foment conditions for his ouster. By the spring of 2011, the CIA and the US allies were organizing an armed insurrection against the regime. On August 18, 2011, the US Government made public its position: "Assad must go."

Hillary Clinton and the Syrian Bloodbath

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/hillary-clinton-and-the-s b 9231190.html>

At around the time of the protests in Syria, the US, it turns out, (surprise, surprise,) also had "special ops trainers inside Libya from nearly the start of protests" there:

"The 3,000 emails released from Hillary Clinton's private email server in late December 2015 [...] include admissions of rebel war crimes, of special ops trainers inside Libya from nearly the start of protests, and of Al Qaeda embedded in the US-backed opposition.

Exposing the Libyan Agenda: a Closer Look at Hillary's Emails

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/03/14/exposing-the-libyan-agenda-a-closer-look-at-hillarys-emails/>

"The states which the US planned to destroy in 2001 (as reported by General Wesley Clark in his memoirs) – Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Iran and Syria – are now in fact destroyed societies. All but Iran are left with civil war and majority destitution where once they had been relatively prosperous and life secure."

"U.S.-led interventions and aerial bombing have destroyed the social life-organization of both nations without even the electricity and water back on. Syria was also a middle-income quasi-socialist nation, but was independent, friendly with Russia, and capable of fighting an expanding Israel. So Syria too was marked for destabilization. Its internal protests received US-Israel covert support, and turned quickly into civil war with US special operation forces and orchestrated funding of rival camps including jihadists still incinerating the country."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/global-society-destruction-and-the-ukraine-crisis-decoding-its-deep-structural-meaning/5379275>

"The Syrian government's immediate response to the protests, despite the violent incidents at the very onset of events, was reconciliatory, as some of the demonstrators had genuine demands. [...] This conciliatory approach, however, was met with much worse intransigence by those who claimed to represent the Syrian people and was by then occupying much of the airtime on Al-Jazeera and al-Arabyia. These two channels played an inciting role, encouraging people to protest and rebel against the Syrian government, and they constituted the primary source for news about Syria to all Western media outlets."

"These demonstrators were filmed and Western and Gulf-Arab mainstream media showed the clips repeatedly; while footage showing hundreds of thousands flooding the streets of Damascus and other cities supporting their government against any foreign intervention did not make the cut."

The Rise of ISIS and Other Extremist Groups: the role of the West and Regional Powers

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/01/29/the-rise-of-isis-and-other-extremist-groups-the-role-of-the-west-and-regional-powers/>

Nor did The National mention the Syrian government's view and assertions that the protests were foreign-backed, or that the Syrian government's harsh response to the protests took place in the context of seeing cataclysmic regime change events unfolding rapidly in Libya that also grew out of foreign-backed/engineered protests.

3) No mention at all was made of US/NATO-regime-changed-and-destroyed Libya which created the necessary conditions and precursors for IS.

4) No mention at all was made of the illegal 2003 US invasion, regime-change and destruction of Iraq which laid the necessary groundwork for IS and this brutal war in Iraq and Syria.

While the US/NATO (including Canada) bombed away with enthusiasm, Saudi-backed Wahhabi extremists served as our ground forces for the violent regime change overthrow of a previously-stable, progressive, and secular government. These regime change proxy forces were the precursors for IS, and the weapons and training that they were given, and the massive Libyan weapons caches that then fell into their hands, and the chaos that was unleashed all became the key ingredients for the 5-year regime change proxy war in Syria.

As reported by the Los Angeles Times in 2007, Saudi-backed Wahhabi extremists were also the bulk of the foreign fighters in Iraq after the US regime-changed and destroyed that country:

"Sunni extremists from Saudi Arabia make up half the foreign fighters in Iraq, many suicide bombers, a US official says."

"About 45% of all foreign militants targeting U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians and security forces are from Saudi Arabia; [...] according to official U.S. military figures made available to The Times by the senior officer. Nearly half of the 135 foreigners in U.S. detention facilities in Iraq are Saudis, he said.

Fighters from Saudi Arabia are thought to have carried out more suicide bombings than those of any other nationality, said the senior U.S. officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the subject's sensitivity. It is apparently the first time a U.S. official has given such a breakdown on the role played by Saudi nationals in Iraq's Sunni Arab insurgency.

He said 50% of all Saudi fighters in Iraq come here as suicide bombers. In the last six months, such bombings have killed or injured 4,000 Iraqis."

Saudis Make Up Half of Iraq's Foreign Fighters, Los Angeles Times (2007-07-15)

http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/071607B.shtml

Sectarianism, which was practically non-existent before, was deliberately fostered in Iraq by the US through constitutional requirements for religious partisanship, and arming one side then the next. Sectarianism, lawlessness, and extremism were then similarly unleashed in Libya and Syria, also previously-secular, educated, stable countries.

"Nearly a decade ago, a National Intelligence Estimate – representing the consensus view of the 16 spy services inside the U.S. government – starkly warned that a whole new generation of Islamic radicalism was being spawned by the U.S. occupation of Iraq [...] But rather than leading to substantive changes or reversals in U.S. policies, the strategy agreed upon in Washington seemed to be to double down on the failed policies that had given rise to radical jihadist groups such as “Al Qaeda in Iraq,” which later vomited up its brutal offshoot ISIS."

"After its failure in Iraq, the U.S. turned its attention to Libya, overthrowing the government of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 utilizing armed militias implicated in war crimes and backed with NATO air power. Following Gaddafi's ouster, his caches of weapons ended up being shuttled to rebels in Syria, fueling the civil war there. The U.S. also took a keen interest in destabilizing the Syrian regime and to do so began providing arms that often fell into the hands of extremists.

'Regime Change' Strategy Spreads Chaos

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/09/11/regime-change-strategy-spreads-chaos/>

"The chaos opened the way for the Islamic State, building on disaffected Iraqi Army leaders (deposed by the US in 2003), on captured U.S. weaponry, and on the considerable backing by Saudi funds."

Hillary Clinton and the Syrian Bloodbath

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/hillary-clinton-and-the-s_b_9231190.html

"Neither the Democrats nor Republicans have so far dared reveal what really happened in Benghazi. The so-called 2011 “popular revolution” in Libya was an elaborate plot by France, Britain, the US, aided by the Gulf Emirates and Egypt, to overthrow Libya's four-decade long strongmen Khadaffi and seize control of his high-grade oil.

Western intelligence and quasi-government NGO's used the same tactics of subversion in Libya that they employed in the successful “color revolutions” Georgia, Ukraine, and Syria, but failed in Iran and Russia."

"The regime change operation begun in 2011 by the US, France and Britain by engineered popular protests in Benghazi. They were soon followed by covert military operation led by US, British and French special forces against Khadaffi's rag-tag army, followed by heavy air attacks. The tame western media obligingly closed its eyes to this Western military intervention, instead hailing Libya's “popular revolution.”

After Khadaffi was overthrown and murdered (reportedly by French intelligence agents), huge stores of stockpiled arms became available. Secretary of State Clinton, who had championed the overthrow of Khadaffi, decided to arm the West's newest “color revolution,” Syria's anti-Assad rebels.

Most of these Libyan arms were stockpiled in Benghazi, covertly flown to Lebanon or Jordan, then smuggled to the anti-Assad rebels in Syria. US Ambassador Stevens was overseeing the arms transfers from the US consulate in Benghazi. He was killed by anti-American jihadists battling the occupation of Libya, not “terrorists.”

Hillary Clinton, who is bankrolled by heavy-duty neocons, holds chief responsibility for two calamities: the overthrow of Khadaffi and Syria's terrible civil war. Khadaffi had been restraining numerous North African jihadist groups. After his overthrow, they poured south into the Sahel and sub-Saharan regions, menacing western-dominated governments."

Hillary Haunted by Libya

<http://www.unz.com/emargolis/hillary-haunted-by-libya/>

The Americans, under Obama and Hillary Clinton, knew that the "moderate rebels" they were arming and supporting as their proxy ground forces for regime change in Libya involved groups like AQIM (the group that recently killed Canadians in Burkina Faso):

"The State Department's New Year's Eve release of more than 3,000 emails to and from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton – of evidence that two key propaganda themes used to advance violent "regime change" in Libya in 2011 may have originated with rebel-inspired rumors passed on by Clinton's private adviser Sidney Blumenthal."

"In selling the Libyan policy to the American people, it was also important to downplay another part of the crisis: that Gaddafi was right when he warned of the danger from Islamic radicals, including Al Qaeda's North African affiliate, operating in eastern Libya.

Gaddafi's original military offensive was aimed at these groups, but the Obama administration's propagandists twisted the issue into Gaddafi supposedly committing "genocide" against the people of eastern Libya, thus requiring a U.S.-led "responsibility to protect" or "R2P" mission.

However, in the emails to Clinton, Blumenthal conveyed the actual reality – that these supposedly innocent anti-Gaddafi rebels in the east indeed included jihadist elements. He wrote: "Sarkozy is also concerned about continuing reports that radical/terrorist groups such as the Libyan Fighting Groups and Al Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) are infiltrating the NLC [the rebel's National Transitional Council] and its military command.

What Hillary Knew about Libya

<https://consortiumnews.com/2016/01/12/what-hillary-knew-about-libya/>

5) No mention at all was made of the US funding, arming, and training of regime-change proxy forces to overthrow the elected government of Syria.

As reported by the Washington Post, "over the past several years" the CIA ran "secret training camps in Jordan", "trained and equipped nearly 10,000 fighters sent into Syria over the past several years" as part of "broader, multibillion-dollar" proxy force to invade or regime-change Syria:

From the Washington Post, (2015-06-12):

"[...] a CIA program that U.S. officials said has become one the agency's largest covert operations, with a budget approaching \$1 billion a year."

"At \$1 billion [per year], Syria-related operations account for about \$1 of every \$15 in the CIA's overall budget"

"U.S. officials said the CIA has trained and equipped nearly 10,000 fighters sent into Syria over the past several years - meaning that the agency is spending roughly \$100,000 per year for every anti-Assad rebel who has gone through the program."

"Much of the CIA's money goes toward running secret training camps in Jordan, gathering intelligence to help guide the operations of agency-backed militias and managing a sprawling logistics network used to move fighters, ammunition and weapons into the country."

"[...] part of a broader, multibillion-dollar effort involving [U.S. allies] Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey to bolster a coalition of militias [...]"

"[...] [U.S.] officials said U.S.-backed fighters have made significant gains in recent weeks - including the seizure of a [Syrian] government army base [...] prospect for the United States and its allies to maintain a foothold in [Syria] [...]"

"[the U.S.-backed coalition] is emerging as a significant force capable of capturing key [Syrian] bases," the U.S. intelligence said.

"CIA-trained fighters [...] have recently become better organized and more effective in their use of heavier weapons, including U.S.-made TOW antitank missiles. [...] They [...] have unified Sunni groups."

"At the same time, a separate coalition of rebel groups known as the Army of Conquest has taken advantage of infusions of new weapons and cash from [U.S. allies] Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar."

"A separate Defense Department program authorized to train [...] fighters [...] has not yet begun."

Washington Post, Lawmakers Move to Curb \$1-Billion CIA Program to Train Syrian Rebels / Secret CIA effort in Syria faces large funding cut (2015-06-12):

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/lawmakers-move-to-curb-1-billion-cia-program-to-train-syrian-rebels/2015/06/12/b0f45a9e-1114-11e5-adec-e82f8395c032_story.html

"The Obama administration has never publicly admitted to its role in creating what the CIA calls a 'rat line', a back channel highway into Syria. The rat line, authorised in early 2012, was used to funnel weapons and ammunition from Libya via southern Turkey and across the Syrian border to the opposition. Many of those in Syria who ultimately received the weapons were jihadists, some of them affiliated with al-Qaida."

- Seymour M. Hersh, Pulitzer-winning investigative journalist (2014-05-18)

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n08/seymour-m-hersh/the-red-line-and-the-rat-line>

6) No mention was made of the fact that under the US-led "fight against ISIS", involving the resources of some 62-plus nations, ISIS actually grew in numbers and territory.

ISIS kept growing until September 2015 when Russia was requested to help the Syrian government fight IS, AQ, and all the other offshoot Wahhabi extremist groups.

According to the New York Times (ISIS Fighters Seize Control of Syrian City of Palmyra, and Ancient Ruins, 2015-05-21):

"So far, United States-led airstrikes in Syria have largely focused on areas far outside [Syrian] government control, to avoid the perception of aiding a leader whose ouster President Obama has called for."

In other words, the US only bombs ISIS where it is not actively attacking the Syrian state as a de facto regime-change proxy force for the US. It was, in other words, driving ISIS toward the Syrian people and their government.

The US only started imposing sanctions on individuals and entities that help fund ISIS on September 29, 2015 (reported to us by The National), in year 5 of the 5-year war. But that occurred only because Russia had pointed out the hypocrisy one day before that at the UN (deliberately NOT reported to us by The National):

"The so-called Islamic State has tens of thousands of militants fighting for it, including former Iraqi soldiers who were left on the street after the 2003 invasion. Many recruits come from Libya whose statehood was destroyed as a result of a gross violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. And now radical groups are joined by members of the so-called "moderate" Syrian opposition backed by the West. They get weapons and training, and then they defect and join the so-called Islamic State....The Islamic State itself did not come out of nowhere. It was initially developed as a weapon against undesirable secular regimes."

"It is hypocritical and irresponsible to make declarations about the threat of terrorism and at the same time turn a blind eye to the channels used to finance and support terrorists, including revenues from drug trafficking, the illegal oil trade and the arms trade. It is equally irresponsible to manipulate extremist groups and use them to achieve your political goals, hoping that later you'll find a way to get rid of them or somehow eliminate them."

- Russian President Vladimir Putin, speech to the UN, September 28, 2015

Putin at the UN: "Do you at least realize now what you've done?" (2016-09-29)
http://www.opednews.com/populum/printer_friendly.php?content=a&id=195318

Incredibly, even after this the US-led coalition still continued to turn a blind eye to the long convoys of tankers carrying oil stolen from Syria and Iraq across open desert into Turkey, allowing a source of revenue for ISIS and profits for Turkey - until Russia made that public too and no longer possible to willfully ignore. Only after Russia showed this to the world, did the US make a show of starting to bomb the oil convoys.

7) No mention at all was made of Turkey and Saudi Arabia, key backers and enablers of IS/AQ and other violent Wahhabi extremist groups in Syria.

"Our allies in the region [...] the Turks, the Saudis, the Emirates, etc [...] poured hundreds of millions of dollars and tens of thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad - except that the people who were being supplied were al-Nusra, and al-Qaeda, and the extremist elements of jihadis coming from other parts of the world [...] and then] this outfit called ISIL."

- US Vice President Joseph Biden, speaking at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Oct 2, 2014

"Donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide. [...] Saudi Arabia remains a critical financial support base for al-Qaeda, the Taliban, [...] and other terrorist groups."

- US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in a Wikileaks cable

"Saudi Arabia has not stopped its interest in spreading extreme Wahhabism. ISIS [...] is a product of Saudi ideals, Saudi money and Saudi organizational support."

- US Senator Bob Graham

CBC, The Current, (2016-02-24):

"Turkey needs to rethink its support to some of these jihadi groups that are fighting in Syria. Turkey has been a big supporter of the opposition but one problem is that Turkey hasn't really differentiated between the more moderate elements within the opposition or the jihadi elements within the opposition."

- Merve Tahiroglu, specialist in Turkey, Research Associate at the "Foundation for the Defense of Democracies", Washington DC

CBC, The Current, (2016-02-22):

"It's very much an open secret, if you like, now that the Saudis regularly supply rebels in Syria. There is kind of acknowledged activity on the part of the Saudi government to supply Sunni opposition forces in or in a number of areas and throughout the Middle East."

- Ken Epps a former Policy Advisor for Project Ploughshares

"I think that there is a good chance that we may now see a surge of new military support from the likes of the Saudis and the Turks to the opposition."

- Julien Barnes-Dacey, Senior Policy Expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations

CBC, The Current, (2015-11-18):

"Turkey [...] has turned a blind eye to Islamic State terrorists crossing over into Syria and Iraq from its very porous border."

- Benjamin Weinthal, Research Fellow at the "Foundation for the Defense of Democracies", Washington DC, and European correspondent for the Jerusalem Post

"There's questions about Turkey, that has been paying lip service to fighting ISIS, lip service to stopping the flow of foreign fighters, but in fact, we see Turkey, a NATO member, very often doing the opposite. And when it's used military force to 'attack ISIS', in reality we've seen them attacking Kurdish fighters who are probably the best ground forces that having been doing, taking direct action against ISIS."

- Kyle Matthews, Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute

"Istanbul had been a destination for Chechen jihadists and gangsters for years. With Turkish roots, Chechens were welcome in Istanbul, able to disappear easily among the ethnic Chechens living in Turkey's largest city. So many different countries in Central Asia can travel to Turkey without a visa, the place flooded with Russian-speaking [fighters] from Chechnya, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, etc."

- Mitchell Prothero, Iraqi Bureau Chief for McClatchy newspapers

From Pulitzer-winning investigative journalist Seymour M. Hersh, on the sarin gas attack of August 21, 2013, just three days after the arrival of UN chemical weapons inspectors:

"'We now know it was a covert action planned by Erdogan's people to push Obama over the red line,' the former [senior US] intelligence official [who has access to current intelligence] said. 'They had to escalate to a gas attack in or near Damascus when the UN inspectors' – who arrived in Damascus on 18 August to investigate the earlier use of gas – 'were there. The deal was to do something spectacular."

Our senior military officers have been told by the DIA and other intelligence assets that the sarin was supplied through Turkey – that it could only have gotten there with Turkish support. The Turks also provided the training in producing the sarin and handling it.'

Much of the support for that assessment came from the Turks themselves, via intercepted conversations in the immediate aftermath of the attack. 'Principal evidence came from the Turkish post-attack joy and back-slapping in numerous intercepts.'"

Erdogan and the Syrian Rebels (2014-05-17)

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n08/seymour-m-hersh/the-red-line-and-the-rat-line>

This, of course, was not ever reported by CBC News and The National, nor were the following two related news items.

"Two deputies from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) have claimed that the government is against investigating Turkey's role in sending toxic sarin gas which was used in an attack on civilians in Syria in 2013 and in which over 1,300 Syrians were killed.

CHP deputies Eren Erdem and Ali Seker held a press conference in Istanbul on Wednesday in which they claimed the investigation into allegations regarding Turkey's involvement in the procurement of sarin gas which was used in the chemical attack on a civil population and delivered to the terrorist Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to enable the attack was derailed.

Taking the floor first, Erdem stated that the Adana Chief Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into allegations that sarin was sent to Syria from Turkey via several businessmen. An indictment followed regarding the accusations targeting the government.

"The MKE [Turkish Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation] is also an actor that is mentioned in the investigation file. Here is the indictment. All the details about how sarin was procured in Turkey and delivered to the terrorists, along with audio recordings, are inside the file," Erdem said while waving the file."

- from Today's Zaman, one of the top dailies in Turkey (2015-10-23)

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/10/23/hersh-vindicated-turkish-whistleblowers-corroborate-story-on-false-flag-sarin-attack-in-syria/>

"According to Reporters Without Borders, two journalists were arrested last November on Erdogan's orders for making it known that the Turkish intelligence service, MIT, had been supplying weapons to Islamist extremists in Syria. There is no doubt that this was taking place, because as early as August 2014 a representative of the Islamic State terrorist group told The Washington Post that "Most of the fighters who joined us in the beginning of the war came via Turkey, and so did our equipment and supplies"

The White House could not have been unaware of the provision of weapons by Turkey to terrorist groups in Syria, as US surveillance of the region is total. But Obama chose to ignore this dangerous trickery, just as he ignored Reporters Without Borders reporting that "what with media blackouts, denial of accreditation and constant prosecutions, the [Turkish] authorities have stopped at nothing to prevent journalists from working."

Turkey's Erdogan is a Dangerous Tyrant (2016-02-24)

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/02/24/turkeys-erdogan-is-a-dangerous-tyrant/>

8) No mention at all was made of Russia's 2012 peace plan that would have seen Assad transition out peacefully, but that was rejected by the US which preferred to seek another destructive regime change.

Six months ago, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari went to the trouble to remind Western news media that Russian diplomacy in 2012 offered a broad peace plan that would have seen Assad transition out peacefully, and that the US rejected that, preferring to continue to use its brutal extremist proxy forces to effect violent regime change - civilians be damned. A peaceful

negotiated transition process would not accomplish the US/neoconservative ambitions of either a US puppet regime or long-term state destruction.

As the Guardian (West Ignored Russian Offer in 2012 to have Syria's Assad Step Aside, 2015-09-15) put it: "Convinced that Assad was about to be toppled, the West reportedly ignored the proposal."

"Former Finnish president and Nobel peace prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari said western powers failed to seize on the proposal. Since it was made, in 2012, tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions uprooted, causing the world's gravest refugee crisis since the second world war."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/15/west-ignored-russian-offer-in-2012-to-have-syrias-assad-step-aside>

9) No mention was made of Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, or the fact that most of the various other groups are offshoots, associates, or subordinates of the dominant IS and AQ groups.

"The CIA trained and armed so-called "moderate" rebel units in Syria, only to watch these groups switch sides by joining forces with Islamist brigades such as ISIS and Al Qaeda's affiliate the Nusra Front. Others surrendered to Sunni extremist groups – with the U.S.-provided weapons presumably ending up in the arsenals of jihadists – or sometimes just quit or went missing altogether."

'Regime Change' Strategy Spreads Chaos

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/09/11/regime-change-strategy-spreads-chaos/>

"The non-aggression pact that Defense Department thought it had hammered out with Al Nusra is the latest step in this strategy. While the Obama administration claims to be battling ISIS, its attitude toward the hyper-brutal group is more ambiguous than it lets on. The U.S. only raised the alarm when ISIS invaded Iraq in June 2014 and began threatening the American-backed government in Baghdad.

Before then, the U.S. was content to sit back and watch while ISIS made life miserable for Assad and the Baathists in Damascus. Turkey claims to oppose ISIS as well even though it has allowed Daesh to turn its 550-mile border with Syria into "an open highway for jihadists from around the world."

"Neocons were gleeful when a Nusra-led coalition swept through Idlib in April with support from the U.S.-backed Free Syrian Army, while the administration remained conspicuously silent about the large numbers of U.S.-made TOW missiles – almost certainly supplied by the Saudis – that provided Al Nusra with a critical edge.

How US Allies Aid Al Qaeda in Syria

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/08/04/how-us-allies-aid-al-qaeda-in-syria/>

"According to The Washington Post: "Russia was said to have rejected a U.S. proposal to leave Jabhat al-Nusra off-limits to bombing as part of a cease-fire, at least temporarily, until the groups can be sorted out""

"Speaking at Harvard University, Vice President Biden infamously and candidly summarized what had been going on, saying that it was our allies who were "so determined to take down Assad and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war," that they "poured hundreds of millions of dollars and tens of thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad. Except that the people who were being supplied were al-Nusra and Al Qaeda and the extremist elements of jihadis coming from other parts of the world."

When asked why the United States was powerless to stop nations like Qatar from engaging in this kind of behavior, "a former adviser to one of the Gulf States replied softly: "They didn't want to."

So it should be no wonder why the US tried to push through a provision including al-Nusra in the current ceasefire agreement, nor why they would seek to protect their most viable ally in pursuance of their Syria policy."

Please Don't Attack Al-Qaeda

<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2016/03/04/please-dont-attack-al-qaeda/>

10) No mention was made of the word "proxy", when that's exactly what this 5-year war is, a proxy war with multiple foreign backers behind every group.

None of the foreign backers was mentioned except for the very last one to respond, in year 5 of the 5-year regime-change proxy war, Russia. No mention was made of the US, Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc.

"In August 2012, a Defense Intelligence Agency noted that Al Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, and assorted Salafists were "the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria"; that the Western powers, the gulf states, and the Turks were solidly behind the uprising; that Al Qaeda was seeking to use the revolt to unite all Sunnis in a general anti-Shi'ite jihad; that the holy warriors were likely to establish "a declared or undeclared Salafist principality in eastern Syria," and that "this is exactly what the supporting powers want, in order to isolate the Syrian regime, which is considered the strategic depth of the Shia expansion (Iraq and Iran)."

How US Allies Aid Al Qaeda in Syria

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/08/04/how-us-allies-aid-al-qaeda-in-syria/>

From Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University:

"As every knowledgeable observer understands, the Syrian War is not mostly about Bashar al-Assad, or even about Syria itself. It is mostly a proxy war, about Iran. And the bloodbath is doubly tragic and misguided for that reason."

"Saudi Arabia and Turkey, the leading Sunni powers in the Middle East, view Iran, the leading Shia power, as a regional rival for power and influence. Right-wing Israelis view Iran as an implacable foe that

controls Hezbollah, a Shi'a militant group operating in Lebanon, a border state of Israel. Thus, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Israel have all clamored to remove Iran's influence in Syria.

"In early 2011, Turkey and Saudi Arabia leveraged local protests against Assad to try to foment conditions for his ouster. By the spring of 2011, the CIA and the US allies were organizing an armed insurrection against the regime. On August 18, 2011, the US Government made public its position: "Assad must go."

Since then and until the recent fragile UN Security Council accord, the US has refused to agree to any ceasefire unless Assad is first deposed."

"Clinton has been much more than a bit player in the Syrian crisis. Her diplomat Ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi was killed as he was running a CIA operation to ship Libyan heavy weapons to Syria. Clinton herself took the lead role in organizing the so-called "Friends of Syria" to back the CIA-led insurgency."

Hillary Clinton and the Syrian Bloodbath

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/hillary-clinton-and-the-s_b_9231190.html

"Ankara allowed Syrian insurgent groups, funded and armed by Saudi Arabia, France, Britain, the US and Qatar, to operate from its soil. CIA established an important logistics and communications base for the insurgents at the US air base at Incirlik, Turkey. US, British and French special forces based in Turkey discreetly joined in the war to overthrow the Assad regime in Damascus - all part of Washington's undeclared but very real and intensifying multi-dimensional war against Iran, Syria's closest ally."

<http://ericmargolis.com/2012/10/turkey-totally-loses-its-cool-over-syria/>

11) No mention of the phrase "regime change" was made, when that too is exactly what this heinous war is about.

"Assad must go" was the regular US/Obama/neocon/media mantra and drumbeat for years. Bush told Blair that Syria was a regime change target. General Wesley Clark wrote in his memoir and has repeatedly stated in interviews that Syria was officially a regime change target since at least 2001.

At the Pentagon, a few weeks after 9/11, in November 2001, an officer from the Joint Staff told US General Wesley Clark that a classified memo from the Secretary of Defense office stated the US would attack and destroy 7 countries in 5 years, including Iraq, Libya, and Syria:

"By that time we were bombing in Afghanistan, and I said, Are we still going to war with Iraq? And he said: Oh, it's worse than that. He reached over on his desk and picked up a piece of paper, and he said: I just got this down from upstairs - meaning the Secretary of Defense's office - today, and he said: This is a memo that describes how we're going to take out 7 countries ... in 5 years. Starting with Iraq, and Syria, and Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and finishing off with Iran."

- US General Wesley Clark, in a Democracy Now interview
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNVYu46W9IQ> (from 0:00-1:30)

"He said: I just got this memo from the Secretary of Defense's office. It says we're going to attack and destroy the governments in 7 countries in 5 years. We're going to start with Iraq. Then we're going to move to Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran. Seven countries in five years."

- US General Wesley Clark, in an October 3, 2007 speech at the Commonwealth Club, San Francisco
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7NsXFzJGw> (from 2:05-2:40)

How can The National possibly not have mentioned "regime change" in recapping this war? The phrase "regime change" was carefully left out, but the heavily-loaded word "regime" was, of course, liberally sprinkled throughout the National's propaganda piece, in service to the neoconservative regime change agenda that it promotes.

12) No mention was made of the fact that the US just reluctantly declared that ISIS atrocities in Syria and Iraq constituted genocide.

"Fireworks erupted at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing Thursday when the nation's top diplomat was pressed on why the State Department has not branded the ISIS massacres of Christians a genocide. "

"When Rohrabacher asked Kerry why he didn't use the words "radical Islamic terrorism," Kerry quickly answered: "It is predominantly Islamic and I have no hesitation in saying that."

Sec. Kerry Faces Fireworks Over ISIS, Anti-Christian 'Genocide' (NBC News, 2016-02-25)
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/sec-kerry-faces-fireworks-over-isis-anti-christian-genocide-n525681>

Was Kerry strangely reluctant to use those words because ISIS is supported behind-the-scenes by US-allies Saudi Arabia and Turkey? Because they want ISIS around long enough to help effect the long-time neoconservative goal of regime-change?

13) No mention was made of the US military's resistance to the neoconservative regime change plans in Syria.

"A recent London Review of Books report from the brilliant, Pulitzer-winning investigative reporter Seymour Hersh shows that Obama's aggressive pursuit of regime change in Syria sparked criticism and pushback from the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). "

"The administration refused to heed the DIA and JCS's prescient warnings, rooted in solid intelligence. Massive CIA arms shipments to the jihadist rebels fighting Assad continued, helping fuel the rise of the IS. The arms travelled from Libya to Syria through the leading IS sponsor and U.S. ally Turkey in the wake

of the killing of former Libyan head of state Muammar Gaddafi by Islamist extremists who screamed "God is Great" while sodomizing Gaddafi with bayonets."

"Libya became a chaotic jihadist stronghold and an incubator of extremist Islamist violence across North Africa thanks to Gaddafi's U.S.-led removal from power in Tripoli. The regime destruction was implemented through mass bombings undertaken by the U.S., France, England, [Canada,] and other NATO nations with the explicit intent of unseating Gaddafi in the spring and summer of 2011."

Regime Change Madness: Hillary, Obama and Murderous Mayhem in the Muslim World

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/01/08/regime-change-madness-hillary-obama-and-murderous-mayhem-in-the-muslim-world/>

From Seymour Hersh, Pulitzer-winning investigative journalist:

"The military's resistance dates back to the summer of 2013, when a highly classified assessment, put together by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, then led by General Martin Dempsey, forecast that the fall of the Assad regime would lead to chaos and, potentially, to Syria's takeover by jihadi extremists, much as was then happening in Libya.

A former senior adviser to the Joint Chiefs told me that the document was an 'all-source' appraisal, drawing on information from signals, satellite and human intelligence, and took a dim view of the Obama administration's insistence on continuing to finance and arm the so-called moderate rebel groups.

By then, the CIA had been conspiring for more than a year with allies in the UK, Saudi Arabia and Qatar to ship guns and goods – to be used for the overthrow of Assad – from Libya, via Turkey, into Syria."

"What was started as a covert US programme to arm and support the moderate rebels fighting Assad had been co-opted by Turkey, and had morphed into an across-the-board technical, arms and logistical programme for all of the opposition, including Jabhat al-Nusra and Islamic State. The so-called moderates had evaporated and the Free Syrian Army was a rump group stationed at an airbase in Turkey.' The assessment was bleak: there was no viable 'moderate' opposition to Assad, and the US was arming extremists."

"Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, director of the DIA between 2012 and 2014, confirmed that his agency had sent a constant stream of classified warnings to the civilian leadership about the dire consequences of toppling Assad. The jihadists, he said, were in control of the opposition. Turkey wasn't doing enough to stop the smuggling of foreign fighters and weapons across the border. 'If the American public saw the intelligence we were producing daily, at the most sensitive level, they would go ballistic.'"

"Military to Military" by Seymour Hersh (2016-01-07)

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v38/n01/seymour-m-hersh/military-to-military>

None of this has ever been covered by The National. Hersh is never mentioned, let alone invited onto the National for an interview.

(Just this multi-year 100% blackout of any mention of Hersh's findings at The National is highly unusual and should seriously be investigated by an external, arms-length party, the internal ombudsman's office plainly not being arms-length or effective at all.)

14) No mention was made of international law, of Syria's sovereignty, of Russia having been invited there by the Syrian government, or of recent UN Security Council resolutions.

The unanimously-adopted UN Security Resolution 2268 (2016-02-26), Cessation of Hostilities Accord, starts by: "Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

Why aren't Syrian sovereignty and international law ever mentioned in CBC News coverage of Syria? Why are sovereignty and international only brought up for Turkey such as when it shot down a Russian jet for an alleged 17-second incursion? How many times has Turkey shelled into Syria and crossed with tanks into Iraq, ignoring that government's protests with no comment from Canada?

The only non-Syrian forces that are operating legally in Syria are Russia, Iran, and militias invited by the Syrian government. All other foreign parties - the US, Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc. and their various regime-change proxy forces - are in violation of international law. Why has this never been mentioned?

Canada as well has made multiple military incursions into Syrian territory, and in northern Iraq we arm and train Kurdish independence fighters - Do we do so with the permission and approval of the Iraqi government? Has CBC News ever bothered to ask that question?

From the Ottawa Citizen:

"While the Kurds have used that training to fight Islamic extremists, such skills will also be useful in the future for another goal that Canada does not endorse: their plan to separate from Iraq."

According to Walter Dorn, a professor with the Royal Military College: "With the Kurds there is the danger we are supporting a secessionist movement."

"Canadian military officers privately acknowledge that, although it's not their goal, they are indeed training an independent Kurdish army."

"In July, the U.S.-based Foreign Policy magazine interviewed diplomats who warned that the Kurds were conducting ethnic cleansing of some of the areas they captured."

"In October, Kurdish forces in Syria were accused of forcing out thousands of civilians, mainly Arabs, from their villages and demolishing their homes."

"In January 2016, Amnesty International reported that the same actions were underway in northern Iraq - where the Canadian-trained Kurdish troops operated. Thousands of homes owned by Arab civilians had been blown up or burned down and tens of thousands of people forced out of their villages, Amnesty International's report concluded."

The 'ripple effect': Canada's support for the Kurds brings unintended consequences (Ottawa Citizen, 2016-02-05)

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/the-ripple-effect-canadas-support-for-the-kurds-brings-unintended-consequences>

"The tactic of CIA-led regime change is so deeply enmeshed as a "normal" instrument of U.S. foreign policy that it is hardly noticed by the U.S. public or media. Overthrowing another government is against the U.N. charter and international law. But what are such niceties among friends?"

This instrument of U.S. foreign policy has not only been in stark violation of international law but has also been a massive and repeated failure. Rather than a single, quick, and decisive coup d'état resolving a US foreign policy problem, each CIA-led regime change has been, almost inevitably, a prelude to a bloodbath. How could it be otherwise? Other societies don't like their countries to be manipulated by U.S. covert operations.

Removing a leader, even if done "successfully," doesn't solve any underlying geopolitical problems, much less ecological, social, or economic ones. A coup d'etat invites a civil war, the kind that now wracks Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria. It invites a hostile international response, such as Russia's backing of its Syrian ally in the face of the CIA-led operations. The record of misery caused by covert CIA operations literally fills volumes at this point. What surprise, then, the Clinton acknowledges Henry Kissinger as a mentor and guide?

And where is the establishment media in this debacle? "

- Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/hillary-clinton-and-the-s_b_9231190.html

15) No mention was made of Russia's 5 ½-month intervention having turned the tide against ISIS, or of ISIS's response to Russian strikes by targeting a passenger jet and killing 224 Russian tourists and crew.

Russia's help was requested by the Syrian government to resist foreign-backed armed and violent regime-change forces. Russia did so openly and never claimed to be there to only attack ISIS. Yet CBC News continues to cast innuendo that they were pretending to only fight ISIS.

And if Russia was not effective in fighting ISIS why did ISIS go from steady expansion before the Russian intervention to being on the run now? If Russia was not going after ISIS - as The National suggests through innuendo - why did ISIS quickly target a passenger jet killing 224 Russian tourists and crew?

CBC News also continues to cast innuendo that Russia/Putin only wants to prop up the Assad "regime". Russia has openly stated that it is helping the state stay intact, that it is trying to help prevent Syria from descending into proxy-force regime-changed chaos like we produced in Libya, but that it has no particular attachment to Assad.

The UN resolution, if The National bothered to report on it, instead of deliberately keeping Canadians ignorant and misled, states:

"Commending the commitment of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to ensure a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition [..]"

"2. Demands the full and immediate implementation of resolution 2254 (2015) to facilitate a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in accordance with the Geneva communiqué as set forth in the ISSG Statements, in order to end the conflict in Syria, and stresses again that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria;"

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12261.doc.htm>

So Russia is not "propping up the Assad regime", but ensuring that the Syrian people - not the US/Israel, not Saudi Arabia, not Turkey - can decide on their own sovereign future, which, if the Syrian people so choose - it's up to them - could include Assad in government.

The quickest way to end the war is not through bombing campaigns while pouring weapons and fighters into the region, but through 1) proper news reporting and 2) diplomacy and sanctions to shame and force those countries that are backing/funding/arming IS/AQ/and all the other Wahhabi extremists to stop doing so - those countries being mainly Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, UAE, the US if it has not stopped doing so, and Israel (said to buy IS oil via Turkey, whose former Consul General in New York was happy to see the bleeding and hemorrhaging to death in Syria continue, and whose defense minister actually stated "In Syria, if the choice is between Iran and the Islamic State, I choose the Islamic State.")

(Canada training and arming Kurdish independence fighters may be a part of the problem of pouring weapons and fighters into the cauldron, ensuring the long-term destabilization and balkanization of Iraq, and possibly Syria by extension.)

Proper news reporting is needed for our elected leaders to be able to withstand the massive neoconservative pressure put on them*. But the kind of news reporting we get from CBC News and The National is precisely what enables these regime change machinations to occur, with all the accompanying propaganda, false flag operations, atrocities, hundreds of thousands killed, widowed, orphaned, made homeless, exploited, etc.

(*According to a recently published lengthy interview with Obama on Syria, as he was being heavily pressured to attack Syria, "the president had come to believe that he was walking into a trap—one laid both by allies and by adversaries")

As Stephen Kinzer, the veteran New York Times correspondent, recently wrote: "Coverage of the Syrian war will be remembered as one of the most shameful episodes in the history of the American press."

The Media Are Misleading the Public on Syria (Boston Globe, 2016-02-18)

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2016/02/18/the-media-are-misleading-public-syria/8YB75otYirPzUCnlwaVtck/story.html>

Coverage of the Syria war is also one of the most shameful episodes in the history of CBC News and The National.

If I were a journalism professor, this piece, and The National's pattern of coverage of Syria over the past 5 years, would be a case study in propaganda through omission and distortion.

In the following line substitute 'Canada' for 'America' and 'Canadian' for 'American', and you have a description of The National, and the plight of the Canadian public it should be serving:

"The mainstream media does not report what is happening within our economy or the geopolitical arena, unless they can spew on and on about the endless rainbows, unicorns and how "America is the greatest and Putin is the devil." No depth of coverage, nothing of real value reported, so the American people are left ignorant and wanting for truth."

- Paul Craig Roberts, former US Assistant Secretary of Treasury

"Under intense financial pressure, most American newspapers, magazines, and broadcast networks have drastically reduced their corps of foreign correspondents. Much important news about the world now comes from reporters based in Washington. In that environment, access and credibility depend on acceptance of official paradigms. Reporters who cover Syria check with the Pentagon, the State Department, the White House, and think tank "experts." After a spin on that soiled carousel, they feel they have covered all sides of the story. This form of stenography produces the pabulum that passes for news about Syria."

- Stephen Kinzer, veteran New York Times correspondent, describing (diplomatically/generously) how propaganda comes down from Washington

"Propaganda in pursuit of foreign policy goals would trump the democratic ideal of an informed electorate. The point would be not to honestly inform the American people about events around the world but to manage their perceptions by ramping up fear in some cases and defusing outrage in others - depending on the U.S. government's needs."

<https://consortiumnews.com/2014/12/28/the-victory-of-perception-management/>

"As part of this Brave New World of "strategic communications," the U.S. military and NATO have now gone on the offensive against news organizations that present journalism which is deemed to undermine the perceptions that the U.S. government seeks to convey to the world."

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/09/02/usnato-embrace-psy-ops-and-info-war/>

The resulting pablum/propaganda distributed by US herd-leader news outlets, in turn, gets picked up and obediently re-propagated by the CBC News and The National, no questions asked.

"At one time, the media led the nation in unveiling social injustice and other major problems. Although they had their defects and biases, the nation's media understood they were the system that helped assure a free and unencumbered forum for debate about major issues. More important, they also

understood that their role wasn't to perpetuate fraud and lies, but to seek out and present the truth. Seemingly in conflict—present all views vs. present the facts and the truth—the media also understood that newsprint and airtime should not be wasted upon being a megaphone for ignorance.

Now, their role is to follow, while pandering to the entertainment value of social and political issues and giving cursory glances at the news value."

- From an article entitled "The American Media: Pandering to Bias and Ignorance"

This is exactly the case with CBC News and especially The National, which have abdicated independent Canadian journalism when it comes to international matters to only follow the lead of US establishment news on what to report and how, perpetuating fraud and lies that have led to brutal war and immense human suffering.

CBC News and The National have been complicit in propagating and sustaining the neoconservative regime change narrative, and hold a responsibility for the massive human suffering in Syria, (and Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine.)

"Misunderstanding arising from ignorance breeds fear, and fear remains the greatest enemy of peace."

- Lester B. Pearson

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/anderson+syria/153978f93965b967?projector=1>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/anderson+syria/153978f93965b967?projector=1>