

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
- IV HARD NEWS**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on “64K Listen”

* **Thursday: A Night at the Round Table** Hosts: Panel Members
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

* **Friday: Friday Night Hard News** Hosts: Tara & Rama
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-641-741-1704 Access Code: 353 863#

* **Saturday: History of our Galactic World & NESARA** Hosts: Tara & Rama
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions: Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You’ll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on “**Archives**” which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name '**hardnewsonfriday including the date**' and the drop down menu appears. Click on '**save link as**'

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:

www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the “Archives” tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, as well as links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: 9:00 – 10:30 pm EST *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN # 980339** [always the same]
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype **Click on the VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST *The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call*
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday 5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern *The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan*
60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird / Cimi Drum; Prayer to the 7 Galactic Directions

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird

- **Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

Next Week's Mayan Record of Days / Calendar in the year of the Magnetic Wizard We are still in the first wave of the new Tzolkien

25th Fri – 11 CHUEN - Blue Spectral Monkey – artist aspect – illuminated by 11-11-11 – explained in the description! About creating joy, play, laughter; paying attention to clarity of mind, wise use of magical artistry. Gift of innocence, spontaneity, ability to play

26th Sat - 12 -12 EB – Yellow Crystal Human – healing aspect with the tone 12 of crystal clarity, complex stability. About our enlightenment of human kind and human consciousness. Contact with other dimensions also comes with these energies

27th Sun – 13 -13-13 BEN – Red Cosmic Skywalker – Warrior Aspect. End of the wave of IX – working on focus, self-illumination work with ability to bend dimensions
Let go of any illusion of aloneness

28th Mon – 1 IX – White Magnetic Magician – the new wave IX – visionary aspect.

We speak the truth . . . Illumination for others, working with clarity of mind – embrace the jaguar medicine man/priestess energies; working in accordance of Divine Will – let go of power issues

29th Tues – 2 MEN – Blue Moon Eagle – visionary aspect – working with our commitment to service. Reconnect with all creation – gift of independence and belief in self; let go of feelings of despair

30th Wed – 3 CIB – Yellow Electric Warrior - warrior aspect – looking on trusting in our journey, bringing awareness of right action. Communication with the divine, cosmic consciousness

31st Thur – 4 CABAN – Red Self-existing Earth - healing aspect – being the keeper of the earth and staying in awareness of Earth energy – gift of access to planetary harmony

2021, JAN 01 - FRI – 5 ETZNAB – White Overtone Mirror – warrior aspect – we work on groundedness, wise use of honesty, self-understanding; gift of skrying the unseen, cutting away that which no longer serves us. Let go of fear, abandonment. Work on the intentions for the next year

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.
For even more information, SEE ALSO [the Law of Time.org](http://theLawofTime.org)

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rainbird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS:

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$300 for this week.**
We are staying caught up – thank you, thank you, thank you !!!

- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!

- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
B B S RADIO [Please put **“Attention Don”** on the envelope]
1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls]
Lafayette, CA 94549 [& the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage of 2013 Rainbow Roundtable**

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON 2013 Roundtable
BASICS: food, gas – usual stuff + \$ for bills \$ 200 + \$400

RENT WEEK: \$1150 + \$600 = \$1,750 – Thanks to all for their gifts

- **Please notify T & R if you're sending something:** koran9999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - **ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

- Rama's mailing address for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

- **Donations to the Fresh Produce Fund for Tara & Rama -**
now on the www.rainbowroundtable.net

**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with
Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE Corona Virus, BENEFICIAL FARMS and all other producers operate out of the open air market in Santa Fe, with everyone following the rules and regs re: displaying their produce and enabling customers to pay for and pick up food. So Beneficial Farms is still the source of Rama & Tara's food.

- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account – click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there. **The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net**

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

D: INFORMATION SOURCES RELATIVE TO M.T. KESHE AND KESHE FOUNDATION

Contact Rainbird with questions: lightenergync@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLaVutWXju0> (CHECK THIS OUT)

**** Go to Knowledge Workers workshop #344 on You Tube: see Keshe's personal tour of his exhibition in Austria - The first expo in Europe since the pandemic -**

One Cup One Life – Production and Application; Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus
https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life_-_Production_and_Application_-_Prevention_and_Reversal_of_the_Corona_Virus

KF Wiki

<https://www.kfwiki.org>

The free Plasma Cyclopdia of the Keshe Foundation

Keshe Foundation Store

<https://store.keshefoundation.org/store/?alias=store>

Keshe Corona site

www.plasmainnature.com/health/coronavirus-1-cup-1-life-series-protocols-and-other-info/

E. ACCESS TO PODCAST:

<https://bbsradio.com/archive-description/audio/listen/255625>

HARD NEWS

RAMA, TARA

[R, T]

R: Greetings! Thanks to Rainbird! Merry Christmas!

Serious things have been going on to make a difference: the energies of solstice, the eclipses and the energy of these times, transforming, transfiguring everything.! A glorious time to be alive, and the energies are also a challenge

T: the energies are pushy as it were; we're not going to continue as we have been: so says Mother Earth!

- From **Boom, Bust on RT:** Christmas Eve: in Nov, China released data that says it has eliminated extreme poverty, nation wide - something the ruling Communist party say is a capstone of their policy. **TIME:** December 24th 2nd half; 2 pm
 - Ben Swann, co-host, and Dr Richard Wolff discuss: China has managed to eliminate extreme poverty – discussion of the threshold definition of poverty being lowered; there are also other things happening in the country
 - RW:** we have two parties in the US which keep the same programs in place – doesn't matter which party is in

• Looking at the positive is the way to go

• Brings up the Afghani War being the CIA war -

SEE THIS ARTICLE: 2020-12-18 [The CIA's Afghan Death Squads](https://theintercept.com/2020/12/18/afghanistan-cia-militia-01-strike-force/)

[A U.S.-Backed Militia That Kills Children May Be America's Exit Strategy From Its Longest War](https://theintercept.com/2020/12/18/afghanistan-cia-militia-01-strike-force/)

<https://theintercept.com/2020/12/18/afghanistan-cia-militia-01-strike-force/>

R: why are we guarding the poppy fields there? To provide drugs for the US!

R: an asteroid was supposed to have passed close to the earth: has heard nothing more of it

- the military in the US is on red alert – yet there **will be no military on the streets**, as Drumpf has said/would like to see.
- Israeli air strikes hit the Gaza strip today! ! !
- a weird explosion in Nashville – some kind of RV & some kind of explosives; these kinds of incidents from Drumpf and the proud boys are happening because they don't want Biden in

R: got a text message from **Tom the Cat:** Do Vulcans on planet Vulcan celebrate Christmas?

- thought it was a funny statement from Tom! Yes, they do! ! !

T: material out about Bill Gates HAS monopolized the health system almost single handedly and he and his wife have been killing people with vaccinations in various countries around the world, and forcing parents into prison if they refuse to let the kids have shots

TARA IS REFERRING TO THIS; SEE THE FOLLOWING:

2020-05-01 [Who Is Bill Gates?](https://www.corbette.com/gates/)
<https://www.corbette.com/gates/>

There are links to parts 1,2, 3, 4 which can be viewed on Youtube, heard on audio, or read as transcripts

- This is an old worn out system! They have perfected their skills in the dark arts area – nothing to do with love, truth, peace, justice, beauty - in that order, with “Be Calm” as the opening salvo! ! !

R: energies are moving rapidly into higher wisdom pouring in; there will come a moment – at any time now: there is a difference in the energy fields as we hear the sound of one hand clapping

T: Israel’s gov’t collapsed at midnight – Monday night to Tuesday morning Dec 21-22

- someone in the Knesset outright resigned: the people have been calling for Netanyahu to leave for a long time: they are fed up with him and there is no coalition either: the characters he has picked to work with are worse than him and nothing to do with what the people want! Rama **heard it on BBC News – also an RT headline**
- Reviews rest of tonight’s program, including *Redacted Tonight* from last week

CONFERENCE CALL <https://fccdl.in/H1BHTMdQOE>

P: about the UK and Covid: UK has a covid that is 75% more contagious – heard it on RT tv, also on Deutsche News, France 24

RGM: looking at a post from white house – posted on 1995 by Hillary at Christmas time - why is it showing up now?

Ca/Do: heads up about Corey Goode: he is not who he said he was, and now people are coming out and saying the same – those who work with him say he’s filed lawsuits against people – he treats people badly; Cosmic prevention: The Accountability Project about CG

R: ET Corey got caught up with B. Fulford and David Wilcock – playing with the folks who control the narrative which is not quite the truth, and then they get told what to do – stepping into the realm of the Hollywood scene where the CIS and the MIB are operational.

- Lots of what he talks about is truth - but nothing about Sananda, the Office of the Christ etc – a clue to where they put their energies. Yes the Secret Space Program is real
- Corey wants to produce a movie about being regressed about 20 years ago, as they did with others as well... .

Ca/DO: he has no compassion etc etc etc; suing a woman with a child for no reason – what ever he does is all about the money – suing folks for \$10 M for nothing; a woman who prepared a conference from start to finish and then Corey wanted all the \$ for it – he is not who he says he is

- He doesn’t want to pay those who worked with him creating programs, movies, etc

R: thanks caller for the comments

Ca/Do: lives near the GAIA offices, has visited them; he's backstabbing David W now too

T: DW was precocious as a child and was programmed at age of 7 by CIA

Ca/DO: has stopped listening to them all a while ago; has seen where they are going

T: trying to blur the line between truth and propoganda, and then getting you to pay money to attend the sessions!

Ca/Do: Corey made something like \$700,000 for the Ascension programs – written by a woman and her daughter who have not been paid for their work!

RGM: Ben Fulford is a raging alcoholic – has learned it from people who have been to see him - likes absinthe a lot!

Ca/Do: a favourite drink of artists in the past

RGM: father was an ambassador to various countries in the '80s

Caller asking about explosion in Nashville

R: connected with the proud boys -

RGM: saw a video that there was an announcement that the RV would blow up in 15 minutes – and that is what happened!

Nashville is a big Alphabet agencies town – and many country western stars are completely mind-controlled

Question: Why? **Answer:** it's a lower vibration kind of music – have hate messages, and real downers

T: there are only a handful of good artists!

Caller: human remains in the RV that burnt – heard it on the local news channel in South Carolina. Left NY to South Carolina after retirement – right down #95 to the coast – an hour or so to Charleston – not far from Myrtle Beach

T: why is the news being so quiet?

Discussion about GANS: Keshe made it for regular folks

building super conductors and the stronger your intent, the stronger your results
To learn how to do it: go to K F Wicki

One Cup One Life – Production and Application; Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus

[https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life - Production and Application - Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus](https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life_-_Production_and_Application_-_Prevention_and_Reversal_of_the_Corona_Virus)

KF Wiki <https://www.kfwiki.org>

Being a solutionary – a word RB heard on the Thursday Night Call

R.G.M. Mr Keshe's Christmas Message – being sent to Rama for the Saturday Call

Keshe wants to make sure the Life Enhancement units coming to the US are the best there are – he's made 1000 improvements since Sept and this one is the flag ship for the planet!

RGM: all diseases boil down to an imbalance of the magnetic field around your body – have to be very careful about what you tell your body

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: THE BIGGER PICTURE by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 198 TRANSFIGURING OUR EARTHLY BODIES

<https://youtu.be/8odWwGWuHI8>



AUDIO: Marianne Williamson

2020-12-22 The Great Saturn-Jupiter Conjunction of 2020

Marianne Williamson discusses the Great Conjunction of 2020. Filmed: 12/21/22

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTdzBRmrCN4>

[never completed – technical difficulties . . .]

MOTHER / ALCYONE [M/A]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of Ra!

Indeed the energies are high! The electrons are dancing quite extensively as we can tell . . .

- Can't get them to function right with the internet - maybe we need the inner net which is what we're all connected to: the Quantum Field – don't need wires or telephones – it's just What is - peace; the sound of one hand clapping.
- At this holy time with the Christ light pouring in - even though it is Christmas Day, magic is afoot; goddess is alive and well.
- Things are unfolding in a good way, with all that is transpiring on the planet in spite of the malfunctioning of artrons?[?] Let's say it is about how the energies are getting higher and

higher and, as we meet the challenge with the energy, we merge with the consciousness of the electrons that all is in divine order.

- What She can say is that there are great things unfolding in very good ways that have to do with the higher frequencies pouring in at this time. Right now, it is in these moments as we work with the higher frequencies to send the light even more into the darkest corners of the planet. It's a challenging moment for all.
 - What She can say is they [the dark ones] are doing their utmost to create a bit of confusion out there with the energies. It's not working: peace is the order of the day.
- The energies are wild; She can say that! Stay in the high heart with what's going on – it is a trip to watch it unfold 'cos all the nuances and intricacies of how these protons, electrons, different atomic structures interact with the moments of energy - as She could say - to send higher frequencies into these moments here, of the Light pouring in at this Christ – mass moment.
 - The energies which are pouring in from Galactic Centre [are] raising everything up and it is quite a challenge to keep it all in order. Yet She can say there is a lot happening with good things going on as we move every closer into this time of Sat Yuga, as Aquarius is taking it – with us! - into this new realm.
 - What we understand, inner stand, over stand about these electrical energies – as we all can see: electrons - interesting dance of what's happening as it gets higher and higher with the light pouring in.
- These moments are about the frequency that vibrates at such a high rate of light, it is amazing to behold this divine time we're in [when] so much is rapidly unfolding in very good ways to raise humanity and the planet all the way up.
 - As Patti [Cota Robles] has said: we've already made that leap; the next step is Us taking our power back with love, exponentially at this time. It is happening in so many ways for this light coming in with that frequency of love pouring forth from the heart of Creation.
- What She could say is stay in the high heart; it is a challenge that [with] everything going on ` This moment is all there is and then

T: what is our Christmas message?

M/A: Christmas Message is stay in the high heart – every day CAN be Christmas if we don't lose our consciousness to the lower realms.

T: Whatever is going on communication wise - is everything working again? Is it going to stay on?

M / A: She doesn't know – thinks She'd better be on Her way

M / A: finishes up: what we all can say here in a few short moments: as the energies get higher on this Christmas time we're in, Aquarius, Saturn, Jupiter, all these planets – electrical energies gotta flow with the electrons: they don't act like normal energies: it is chaos in motion which is Divine Chaos – it is how things work in a Divine way.

- Not sure how to explain that except to say it's a bit like when Dr Who is inside the Tardis and has to kick the computer a little bit to get things moving, and then everything goes right – metaphorically speaking!

T: hopes we can do this with dialogue and not beat people up!
that would be a good thing

M/A: had better go

Greetings - you are so welcome to be here holding this sacred circle of light: we are holding the power and we've made it: don't forget that! ! !

Both: Kadoish, kadoish, kadoish, Adonai Sabbeoth,

Rama Returns: seemed to be in some kind of quick rejuvenation chamber of sorts. Reminded him of the tube that you get put in and all the rainbow lights pour into it, the tube fills up with water and you don't need a mask and can breathe – it's all good.

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW

[See Below](#)

2020-12-15 "The United States of America Has Gone Mad": John le Carré on Iraq War, Israel & U.S. Militarism

Story https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/25/the_united_states_of_america_has

2020-12-25 John le Carré (1931-2020) on the Iraq War, Corporate Power, the Exploitation of Africa & More

Story: https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/25/john_le_carre_1931_2020_on

AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT ~321~ The Censored Day One Agenda For Pres. Biden

2020-12-25

The DNC loves to complain that they don't have the political will to pursue programs that help regular Americans. But if President-Elect Joe Biden really wanted to help people without relying on Congress he has a lot of options that rely on standing laws. Lee Camp introduces you to some of Biden's more exciting options on day #1 of his presidency. **[Text from RT show]**

Lee Camp covers progressive policy options that Joe Biden could pursue without Congress & growing inequality in the US. Natalie McGill on the declining fossil fuel industry & the CIA in Afghanistan with Anders Lee. **[Text from portable TV]**

Anders Lee references this story:

2020-12-18 [The CIA's Afghan Death Squads](#)

[A U.S.-Backed Militia That Kills Children May Be America's Exit Strategy From Its Longest War](#)

<https://theintercept.com/2020/12/18/afghanistan-cia-militia-01-strike-force/>

Some music, including the Hallelujah Chorus with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Choice:

Alan Watts - Silence Is Golden - Powerful Speech + Kaleidoscope Visuals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujanrFMfg4>

Alan Watts talks us through the benefits of meditation. What does it mean to be in real silence? To be without sound is one thing, but to be without internal thoughts is another level of silence that is far more profound.

Another piece, as well.

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2020-12-15 "The United States of America Has Gone Mad": John le Carré on Iraq War, Israel & U.S. Militarism

Story [Watch Full Show](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/25/the_united_states_of_america_has) https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/25/the_united_states_of_america_has

Guests [John le Carré](#) **acclaimed British novelist.**

Image Credit: Erica Berger/Miami Herald/Reuters

The legendary British author John le Carré has died at the age of 89. In the lead-up to the Iraq invasion, John le Carré was a fierce critic of President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. In January 2003, he published a widely read essay called "The United States of America Has Gone Mad." John le Carré read the essay during an appearance on Democracy Now! in 2010.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: In this special broadcast, we spend the hour remembering the world-renowned British novelist John le Carré. He died on December 12th at the age of 89. Le Carré was a master writer of spy novels, in a career that spanned more than half a century. He worked in the British Secret Service from the late 1950s until the early '60s, at the height of the Cold War, which was the topic of his early novels. His third novel, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, became an international best-seller. Le Carré's gritty depiction of the realities of the spy world contrasted sharply with the characters in Ian Fleming's James Bond series.

This is a clip from the film adaptation of *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, starring Richard Burton as Alec Leamas, an alcoholic cynical British spy.

ALEC LEAMAS: [played by Richard Burton] What the hell do you think spies are? Model philosophers measuring everything they do against the word of God or Karl Marx? They're not. They're just a bunch of seedy, squalid bastards like me, little men, drunkards, queers, henpecked husbands, civil servants, playing cowboys and Indians to brighten their rotten little lives. Do you think they sit like monks in a cell, balancing right against wrong?

Yesterday I would have killed Mundt, because I thought him evil and an enemy. But not today. Today he's evil and my friend. London needs him. They need him so that the great, moronic masses you admire so much can sleep soundly in their flea-bitten beds again. They need him for the safety of ordinary, crummy people like you and me.

AMY GOODMAN: John le Carré continued writing, expanding with a series featuring his British spymaster George Smiley, including the hit novel *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. As the Cold War ended, John le Carré continued to write prolifically, shifting focus to the inequities of globalization, unchecked multinational corporate power, and the role national spy services play in protecting corporate interests.

Perhaps best known among his many post-Cold War novels is *The Constant Gardener*, depicting a pharmaceutical company's exploitation of unwitting Kenyans for dangerous, sometimes fatal, drug tests. In this clip from the film adaptation of *The Constant Gardener*, an activist, who is later killed by the pharmaceutical corporation, played by Rachel Weisz, confronts a government official, played by Ralph Fiennes, about war.

TESSA QUAYLE: [played by Rachel Weisz] Excuse me? Excuse me?

JUSTIN QUAYLE: [played by Ralph Fiennes] Yeah?

TESSA QUAYLE: Excuse me.

JUSTIN QUAYLE: Yeah, sorry.

TESSA QUAYLE: Sir, I've just got one question. I just wondered: Whose map is Britain using when it completely ignores the United Nations and decides to invade Iraq? Or do you think it's more diplomatic to bend the will of a superpower and politely take part in Vietnam the sequel?

JUSTIN QUAYLE: Well, I can't speak for Sir Bernard.

TESSA QUAYLE: Oh, I thought that's why you were here.

JUSTIN QUAYLE: I mean, diplomats have to go where they're sent.

TESSA QUAYLE: So do Labradors.

JUSTIN QUAYLE: Ouch. Well, I think that, no, Sir Bernard would no doubt argue that when peaceful means are exhausted, then —

TESSA QUAYLE: Exhausted? Mr. Quayle, they're not exactly exhausted, are they? I mean, they're just — they're just — no, they are just lying in the way of the tanks. No, let's face it: We've taken 60 years to build up this international organization called the United Nations, which is meant to avoid wars, and now we just blow it up because our car is running out of petrol.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz in *The Constant Gardener*.

In 2010, *Democracy Now!* interviewed John le Carré in London following the publication of his novel *Our Kind of Traitor*. I began by asking as him to read an [essay](#) he wrote in 2003 titled "The United States of America Has Gone Mad." Le Carré wrote it in the lead-up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which had the backing of then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: America has entered one of its periods of historical madness, but this is the worst I can remember: worse than McCarthyism, worse than the Bay of Pigs and in the long term potentially more disastrous than the Vietnam War.

The reaction to 9/11 is beyond anything Osama bin Laden could have hoped for in his nastiest dreams. As in McCarthy times, the freedoms that have made America the envy of the world are being systematically eroded. The combination of compliant US media and vested corporate interests is once more ensuring that a debate that should be ringing out in every town square is confined to the loftier columns of the East Coast press.

The imminent war was planned years before bin Laden struck, but it was he who made it possible. Without bin Laden, the Bush junta would still be trying to explain such tricky matters as how it came to be elected in the first place; Enron; its shameless favouring of the already-too-rich; its reckless disregard for the world's poor, the ecology and a raft of unilaterally abrogated international treaties. They might also have to be telling us why they support Israel in its continuing disregard for UN resolutions.

But bin Laden conveniently swept all that under the carpet. The Bushies are riding high. Now 88 per cent of Americans want the war, we are told. The US defence budget has been raised by another \$60 billion to around \$360 billion. A splendid new generation of nuclear weapons is in the pipeline, so we can all breathe easy. Quite *what* war 88 per cent of Americans think they are supporting is a lot less clear. A war for how long, please? At what cost in American lives? At

what cost to the American taxpayer's pocket? At what cost — because most of those 88 per cent are thoroughly decent and humane people — in Iraqi lives?

How Bush and his junta succeeded in deflecting America's anger from bin Laden to Saddam Hussein is one of the great public relations conjuring tricks of history. But they swung it. A recent poll tells us that one in two Americans now believe Saddam was responsible for the attack on the World Trade Centre. But the American public is not merely being misled. It is being browbeaten and kept in a state of ignorance and fear. The carefully orchestrated neurosis should carry Bush and his fellow conspirators nicely into the next election.

Those who are not with Mr Bush are against him. Worse, they are *the enemy*. Which is odd, because I'm dead against Bush, but I would love to see Saddam's downfall — just not on Bush's terms and not by his methods. And not under the banner of such outrageous hypocrisy.

The religious cant that will send American troops into battle is perhaps the most sickening aspect of this surreal war-to-be. Bush has an arm-lock on God. And God has very particular political opinions. God appointed America to save the world in any way that suits America. God appointed Israel to be the nexus of America's Middle Eastern policy, and anyone who wants to mess with that idea is a) anti-Semitic, b) anti-American, c) with the enemy, and d) a terrorist.

To be a member of the team you must also believe in Absolute Good and Absolute Evil, and Bush, with a lot of help from his friends, family and God, is there to tell you which is which. What Bush won't tell us is the truth about why we're going to war. What is at stake is not an Axis of Evil — but oil, money and people's lives. Saddam's misfortune is to sit on the second biggest oilfield in the world. Bush wants it, and who helps him get it will receive a piece of the cake. And who doesn't, won't.

If Saddam didn't have the oil, he could torture his citizens to his heart's content. Other leaders do it every day — think Saudi Arabia, think Pakistan, think Turkey, think Syria, think Egypt.

Baghdad represents no clear and present danger to its neighbours, and none to the US or Britain. Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, if he's still got them, will be peanuts by comparison with the stuff Israel or America can hurl at him at five minutes' notice. What is at stake is not an imminent military or terrorist threat, but the economic imperative of US growth. What is at stake is America's need to demonstrate its military power to all of us — to Europe and Russia and China, and poor mad little North Korea, as well as the Middle East; to show who rules America at home, and who is to be ruled by America abroad.

The most charitable interpretation of Tony Blair's part in all of this is that he believed that, by riding the tiger, he could steer it. He can't. Instead, he gave it a phony legitimacy, and a smooth voice. Now I fear, the same tiger has him penned into a corner, and he can't get out.

It is utterly laughable that, at a time when Blair has talked himself against the ropes, neither of Britain's opposition leaders can lay a glove on him. But that's Britain's tragedy, as it is America's: as our Governments spin, lie and lose their credibility, the electorate simply shrugs and looks the other way. ...

I cringe when I hear my Prime Minister lend his head prefect's sophistries to this colonialist adventure. His very real anxieties about terror are shared by all sane men. What he can't explain is how he reconciles a global assault on al-Qaeda with a territorial assault on Iraq. We are in this war, if it takes place, to secure the fig leaf of our special relationship, to grab our share of the oil pot, and because, after all the public hand-holding in Washington and Camp David, Blair has to show up at the altar.

"But will we win, Daddy?"

"Of course, child. It will all be over while you're still in bed."

"Why?"

"Because otherwise Mr Bush's voters will get terribly impatient and may decide not to vote for him."

"But will people be killed, Daddy?"

"Nobody you know, darling. Just foreign people."

"Can I watch it on television?"

"Only if Mr Bush says you can."

"And afterwards, will everything be normal again? Nobody will do anything horrid any more?"

"Hush child, and go to sleep."

Last Friday a friend of mine in California drove to his local supermarket with a sticker on his car saying: "Peace is also Patriotic". It was gone by the time he'd finished shopping.

AMY GOODMAN: The late John le Carré reading from his 2003 essay, "The United States of America Has Gone Mad."

2020-12-25 John le Carré (1931-2020) on the Iraq War, Corporate Power, the Exploitation of Africa & More

https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/25/john_le_carre_1931_2020_on

Guests **[John le Carré](#) acclaimed British novelist.**

The world-renowned British novelist John le Carré died on December 12 at the age of 89. Le Carré established himself as a master writer of spy novels in a career that spanned more than half a century. He worked in the British Secret Service from the late 1950s until the early '60s, at the height of the Cold War — which was the topic of his early novels. His later works focused on the inequities of globalization, unchecked multinational corporate power and the role national spy services play in protecting corporate interests. His best-known books include "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" and "The Constant Gardener." Le Carré was also a fierce critic of the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks and the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq. In 2010, he appeared on Democracy Now! for a rare in-depth interview.

Transcript

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AMY GOODMAN: John le Carré was the pen name for David Cornwell. He died on December 12th at the age of 89. Let's go back to that conversation with John le Carré in 2010. I interviewed him with *Democracy Now!*'s Denis Moynihan.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. We are on the road in London, just along the Thames, not far from Parliament, not far from MI5 and

MI6, the international and domestic spy agencies here, so it is most relevant to bring you John le Carré, this hour we spend with the foremost spy writer of our time.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!* Now, it might confuse our audience when I say, "Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, David Cornwell." Explain where John le Carré came from.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, I've told a lot of lies about that in my time, I have to confess. I began writing when I was still in the British Foreign Service, and it was then understood that even if you wrote about butterfly collecting, you used another name. So the fact that I was in a secret department does not play a part.

Then, I think I decided that I needed three pieces to a name, that they would arrest the "I" and put an accent on the last part. Then the word *carré* in French has a bunch of ambiguous meanings. A *balle carrée*, for example, is a dance where the ladies ask the men to dance. *Carré* at roulette, if you put a *numéro carré*, you put a counter on each corner of a number. And so it goes on. And I think an *homme carré* is a little bit a dubious guy. That seemed to me to suit me perfectly at that time.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, in the interests of transparency, we'll just call you David Cornwell, if that's OK.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Just David will do fine.

AMY GOODMAN: Now, we were interested because Channel 4 just said "the last interview" with John le Carré, and yet here we are. Why did you change your mind?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I didn't change my mind. The full text with Channel 4 was that that was my last interview in the U.K. And this is the last book about which I intend to give interviews. That isn't because I'm in any sense retiring. I've found that, actually, I've said everything I really want to say, outside my books. I would just like — I'm in wonderful shape. I'm entering my 80th year. I just want to devote myself entirely to writing and not to this particular art form of conversation.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we're very thankful to be with you today. I want to bring Denis Moynihan into this conversation, my colleague, who invariably has a spy novel in his hand, and it is usually a novel by John le Carré. If he hasn't read it once, he's read it three times, and then he's on to the fourth.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: David, the latest book, your 22nd novel, *Our Kind of Traitor*, is about — well, I guess, to frame it for our audience, who may not be familiar with your half-century of writing, about half of that time you wrote during the Cold War, and since then you've been focusing less on that story and more on the multinational corporate malfeasance and the confluence of kind of corporate interests and government skulduggery. This story, you want to lay it out kind of in broad strokes, the money laundering, the importance of drug money and laundered money in propping up —

JOHN LE CARRÉ: This is really a — it's a story, and it's supposed to entertain, and if it doesn't entertain, there's no point in the message. The message has — message has got to be carried on the back of the beetle; otherwise, there is none.

So what we have is a young couple. They're thinking of getting married. They go off and take a holiday in Antigua. They both love tennis. And they're middle-class. One's a lawyer. The other is a tutor at Oxford. And they're playing tennis. Somebody watches them. And all of a sudden, the fellow, Perry, is invited to play tennis with a Russian guy. And from then on — there is purpose behind the invitation. From then on, they are drawn into a world they didn't know existed. They're both intelligent, decent, moral people, and they're faced with the anarchy, in fact, the

kind of exported anarchy of post-Cold War Russia. So the Wild East has come to visit them in Antigua. And from then on, they are drawn into an intrigue.

Dima, my Russian character — I don't spoil the story by telling you this — says he wishes to defect. He has a quarrel with his gang boss, who is the boss of bosses in Russia, and he's going to get even with him. He's going to betray him. He's going to pour out all the secrets about how he launders money on a vast scale on behalf of a collection of Russian brotherhoods, or Vory. Russian crime has been integrated into the — first of all, into the Soviet Union, on a grand scale. It was developed — the crime families were developed in the camps of Siberia. And Dima emerges from that world. He was a bareknuckle gangster, spent a bit of time on Brighton Beach, learned the arts of money laundering, learned to wear suits, learned to speak half-decent English, and settled in Switzerland, and from there operated a vast money laundering scheme.

Now, this isn't fiction. That part of it isn't fiction. Money laundering is simply everywhere. On the grand scale, it's endemic to banking. You have to bear in mind that when Lehman Brothers wasn't going to function anymore and the big banks weren't lending to one another, back at that terrible time, \$352 billion of illegal money were then tacitly released upon the market, and that was about the only money people were lending to one another. So, money laundering is not some distant fantasy. It's actually how you handle the profits of extortion, tax evasion, criminal conspiracy and huge quantities of drug money, how you get that into the white sector. And what we are gradually learning from these little exposés that come to light is that there is almost no way of denying people, in the end, the profits of their crime, which is a tragedy. And it's also a frightful annoyance, because we pay vast sums of money across the way here to agencies that are supposed to stop money laundering. Doesn't happen.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, you've got a column right there, bringing this right up —

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I have a column right here. I wish I had the figures in my head. This is from the *International Herald Tribune*, and I guess that means it also comes from *The New York Times*, of Monday, September the 13th, not so long ago. Barclays, a British bank, paid \$298 million "for conducting transactions with Cuba, Iran, Libya, Myanmar and Sudan in violation of United [States] trade sanctions. Barclays was discovered to have systematically disguised the movement of hundreds of millions of dollars through wire transfers that were stripped of the critical information required by law. ...

"Last May, when ABN Amro Bank (now largely part of the Royal Bank of Scotland) was caught funneling money for the benefit of Iran, Libya and Sudan, it was fined \$500 million, and no one went to jail. Last December, Credit Suisse Group agreed to pay a \$536 million fine for doing the same. In recent years, Union Bank of California, American Express Bank International, BankAtlantic and Wachovia have all been caught moving huge sums of drug money, but no one went to jail. The banks just admitted to criminal conduct and paid the government a cut of their profits."

The thing is, it is very undemocratic, because if you or I go to one of these banks along here somewhere with a few thousand dollars in a briefcase, if I'm a Brit and do it, I have to give a really thorough explanation. Bank manager may call in the police. I have to produce my passport. If I want to open an account, I have to produce a utilities bill and all of that. But, if Mr. Orloff comes to a bank here and says, "I am from Russia. I have millions and millions of dollars, please. And here is a letter from a reputable lawyer in Moscow. And here is evidence that I run hotels, casinos, whatnot," bank manager says, "What are you doing for lunch?" And we're away. So, the bigger the sum, the easier the crime. Now, that is of course something that afflicts us through life. But it's the case here.

AMY GOODMAN: And the critics — I know you don't read reviews, but the critics who say, "Oh, come on. This is so exaggerated. The legitimate economy does not rest on the illegitimate one, the illegal one."

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, alas, those critics don't read their own newspapers, and nor perhaps have they noticed that a former head of MI5, our security service, who was translated to the House of Lords, was recently denied the senior post on a security committee on account of her connections with oligarchs in the Ukraine. These oligarchs were supposedly connected with criminal conspiracy.

We also have a charming case, which we look back on with embarrassment, where a leading member of the Rothschild family and our present chancellor of the Exchequer — that's finance minister — and the *éminence grise* of the Labour Party at that time, Lord Mandelson, were all found holidaying together off the coast of Corfu, sitting on the boat of a man called Deripaska, who at that time, I believe, was wanted in the United States on money laundering charges. So we have a certain amount of evidence before us which you would think would silence critics who say we're all in perfect shape.

AMY GOODMAN: Could you read the beginning of *Our Kind of Traitor*?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: "At seven o'clock of a Caribbean morning, on the island of Antigua, one Peregrine Makepiece, otherwise known as Perry, an all-around amateur athlete of distinction and until recently tutor in English literature at a distinguished Oxford college, played three sets of tennis against a muscular, stiff-backed, bald, brown-eyed Russian man of dignified bearing in his middle fifties called Dima. How this match came about was quickly the subject of intense examination by British agents professionally disposed against the workings of chance. Yet the events leading up to it were on Perry's side blameless.

"The dawning of his thirtieth birthday three months previously had triggered a life-change in him that had been building up for a year or more without his being aware of it. Seated head in hands at eight o'clock in the morning in his modest Oxford rooms, after a seven-mile run that had done nothing to ease his sense of calamity, he had searched his soul to know just what the first third of his natural life had achieved, apart from providing him with an excuse for not engaging in the world beyond the city's dreaming spires. ...

"Last term he had delivered a series of lectures on George Orwell under the title 'A Stifled Britain?' and his rhetoric had alarmed him. Would Orwell have believed it possible that the same overfed voices which had haunted him in the 1930s, the same crippling incompetence, addiction to foreign wars and assumptions of entitlement, were happily in place in 2009?

"Receiving no response from the blank student faces staring up at him, he had supplied it for himself: no, Orwell would emphatically not have believed it. Or if he had, he would have taken to the streets. He would have smashed some serious glass."

AMY GOODMAN: The late British novelist John le Carré in a 2010 interview with *Democracy Now!* He died on December 12th at the age of 89. We'll be back with more of the interview in a minute.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, as we remember the legendary British novelist John le Carré, the pen name for David Cornwell. *Democracy Now!*'s Denis Moynihan and I spoke to him in London in 2010.

AMY GOODMAN: We are not far from MI5 and MI6 right now, which takes us way back in time. For our audience who may not be so familiar with your history, in fact, you did work for the MI5 and MI6.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I worked for one and then for the other, yes. And I suppose that that was nearly half a century ago. So, to regard me as an expert on espionage is absurd, but — on modern espionage. But —

AMY GOODMAN: These are the spy agencies of Britain.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: These are the spy agencies of Britain, yes. MI5 is responsible for domestic security, but it has no executive powers, unlike your FBI. SIS, the Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6, also has no executive powers and operates abroad on CIA lines, but with a tiny percentage of the budget and a tiny percentage of the personnel. Unlike the CIA, it is not also in competition with 21 other intelligence agencies within your own country, or whatever the number is, something like that.

And I suppose that if I could generalize about my work in intelligence in those days, for better or worse, we counted ourselves an elite with a very considerable responsibility: to speak truth to power, like good journalists, that whatever we came upon, however offensive it was to those in power, we told it straight. And what I fear I have seen in the run-up to the Iraq War in this country is the politicization of intelligence to fit the political intentions of our masters. And to my mind, that was a terrible moment in the history, the visible history, of intelligence work in this country, where the intelligence service itself became effectively co-author and signatory to the so-called dodgy dossier, which — on the strength of which Colin Powell was able to present a dire picture of the threat from Iraq, which turned out to be untrue.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: January of 2003, one of the largest antiwar marches in world history happened just behind us here.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I took part in it, yeah.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: And what are your reflections now?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, I think that my anger still stands. I can't understand that Blair has an afterlife at all. It seems to me that any politician who takes his country to war under false pretenses has committed the ultimate sin. I think that a war in which we refuse to accept the body count of those that we kill is also a war of which we should be ashamed. We've always got to be careful of that. I think that — I wasn't speaking as a prophet, I was just speaking as an angry citizen, I suppose. I think it's true that we've caused irreparable damage in the Middle East. I think we shall pay for it for a long time.

One of the problems, surely, is that victims never forget, and the winners do. And they forget very quickly. If people knew basically, for example, what we had done in Iran when we ousted Mosaddegh through the CIA and the Secret Service here across the way and installed the Shah and trained his ghastly secret police force in all the black arts, the SAVAC, if people understood the extent to which we had humiliated Iran, then they would understand the later developments in Iran and Iran's posture now. If people would look at the map and see the extent to which Iran is encircled by nuclear powers, they wouldn't take it perhaps quite so seriously that Iran is seeking to arm itself with — if it is — with nuclear weapons.

I remain terrified of the capacity of the media, the capacity of spin doctors, here and abroad, particularly the United States media, to perpetuate false lies, perpetuate lies. Mussolini, I think, defined fascism as the moment when you couldn't put a cigarette paper between political and corporate power. He assumed, when he offered that definition, that media power was already his. But I worry terribly that the absence of serious critical argument is going to produce a new kind of fanaticism, the new simplicities that are as dangerous as the ones which caused us to march against Iraq and as misunderstood.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk, David Cornwell, aka John le Carré, about what's happening with Tony Blair with his new book out, with event after event being canceled, eggs being thrown at him, the anger on the streets?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, I don't know what the level of protest was in the United States by the time you went to war in Iraq, but here I think an aggregate of about 3 million people marched in

Britain. The first march, in which I took part, must have numbered something like a million. And so, the — and I remember we stopped, this huge crowd, which was being really very crudely manhandled by the police at the edges. We stopped. We were all wedged together and looking into Downing Street, where the prime minister's residency is. And nobody seemed to speak, but a kind of feral roar of popular will rose. And I tried to imagine what it must have been like for Blair sitting inside that building and hearing that sound. It was like a huge cry that goes up at a football game or something like that, where you actually — it is no longer verbalized. It's just this animal seething noise. And I think it will always be remembered of him that he took us to war, as most people perceive, on the strength of lies.

Now you have to bear in mind also that we are creating what American media are referring to as a deep state in this country. That is, I think I read, indeed, in *The Washington Post* that 890,000-odd Americans who are not in government service are cleared for top secret and above. I don't know to what extent that situation is replicated here, but more and more I have the feeling that the power of the counterterrorism market is expanding and creating a wider — an ever-widening circle of those who are initiated, indoctrinated, part of the security structure, whether directly or indirectly, and those who are not. So then it makes it possible, as at the time, for example, of the parliamentary vote on whether we should go to war in Iraq — it makes it possible for a senior MP to take a neophyte aside and say, "If you'd seen the papers that I've seen, you would know which lobby to go into when the vote comes up." And this suggestion that there are those in the know and those not in the know, and that those not in the know are second-class citizens, is extremely dangerous to society. And I think we have to address it all the time.

We have no idea. We don't have a spokesman for these intelligence services, either one of them, either one of the three main intelligence services. We have inspired leaks. We have people who seem to speak with authority. But when somebody tells us suddenly that we've gone on to red alert, and there are tanks outside London airport, or whatever it is, we don't know by what process this definition reaches us. It's very easy inside an intelligence service to develop a capsule mentality. You live inside the bubble. The one thing you begin to lose is common sense, a sense of balance. And particularly when it's men, all together, men in a room. I always think that was the awful secret of the Bay of Pigs catastrophe. It was actually the guys telling each other who they were, and they were frightfully clever men, and they'd done amazing things, some of them horrible things, in Vietnam, and they were together, and they were conspiring, and there was nobody there to say, "Boys, just take it down a bit. Just step back. Is this sensible? Do we really believe the Cubans are going to rush down and embrace our troops when they land on the beach?"

AMY GOODMAN: It's seven years after the invasion of Iraq. You've moved from Blair in this country, and in the United States it's gone from Bush to Obama, who then expanded the War in Afghanistan. What is your assessment of the United States?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I suffer from the same frustration that every decent American suffers from. That is, that you begin to wonder whether decent liberal instincts, decent humanitarian instincts, can actually penetrate the right-wing voice, get through the steering of American opinion by the mass media. I don't know what the percentage now is, but I believe it's still something like 65 or 70% of Americans believe that Saddam was involved in the Twin Towers. Am I right in that? Something like that. Well, we haven't gone as far down that road yet, but we do have pretty horrendous manipulation of the media by our various press barons, and we have enormous intrusions into our domestic affairs by the Rupert Murdoch empire. I find that very scary — you know, former Australian, now an American, dictating to Brits what they should be thinking. I find that very, very, very unsettling, and I oppose it wherever I can. Therefore, as I say, I share the frustration, I think, of very many Americans, that when something is clear common sense, when there's a great humanitarian need, somehow or another, it's the conservative voice, the orthodox voice, the chauvinistic or the patriotic voice, that outshouts other people's decent thinking processes. I think it's crudely put, but it's a very crude situation, that it's — the feeling, I think, that many of us have of Obama is that the good things he would really like to do are being frustrated, and now his own Democratic Party is not helping or supporting him and

that the corporate and other lobbies are tying his hands. I think that's the most charitable perception that one can make.

AMY GOODMAN: David, would you go to one of Tony Blair's events?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: No, I wouldn't, nor would I buy the book. At the last election in which he stood, I was invited by *The Guardian* newspaper to interview him. And after much thought, I declined, because I did not see how I could lay a glove on him. And I've asked some pretty heavy-hitting journalists what questions they would have asked, in retrospect, that might have unseated him a little, that might have thrown him. And they said, almost with one voice, there's nothing you can get passed him, there's no way of doing it.

I think I would have asked him one question, perhaps, and I'd have asked it repeatedly. I'd have asked him about his faith, because we were told, when journalists asked about Blair's faith, the reply was, "We don't do God here." Well, of course, he does do God, and he reports that his actions have been put before God and confirmed, as if somehow God has signed a chit for him. I think that the question of somebody's religious faith is absolutely central to what we think of them, if we are members of the electorate. We have to know. If it is, for example, somebody's conviction, widely held among Christians in the United States, that the second coming of Christ is not possible 'til the Greater Israel is established, we need to know that. That's an important political perception. In Blair's case, I would have asked him that question, and I'd have pressed him on it. I'd have asked him whether God had ever restrained him. I find it very strange that we elect a politician who then claims to serve a higher deity who guides him: "I did what I believe is right." Well, will you tell us, please, how that relates to the Christian ethic? Do you believe in war first and negotiation afterwards? Exactly how does this work?

And the second question I would ask him is the really painful one, which I could not have asked if I hadn't gone on my own journey. Have you ever seen what happens when a grenade goes off in a school? Do you really know what you're doing when you order shock and awe? Are you prepared to kneel beside a dying soldier and tell him why he went to Iraq, or why he went to any war? I think that if anything has happened to Europe since 1945 that defines it, it is collectively Europeans do not believe in war anymore, until it comes as an absolute last resort, and then they're going to do it rather badly. The United States, I think, still sees war as a necessary part of its existence. It's impossible to maintain the military on that scale, a Pentagon on that scale, without turning it over. You've got to have officers who are experienced in command and control. You've got to have troops who have been bloodied. So, we were, in that sense, at odds. I was, as a European. I was at odds with the whole notion of a preemptive strike. And I think many Europeans have that in common, of course with very many Americans, too, feel the same. So I would have tried to challenge him in that area.

And as I think I said earlier in the interview, for me, there are very few absolutes about human behavior. But I think a leader who does take his country to war under false pretenses is simply not an acceptable person. I don't think that we should be weighing the rights and wrongs of that. It seems to me to be quite simply wrong.

AMY GOODMAN: John le Carré, the British spy novelist, speaking in 2010 in London. He died on December 12th at the age of 89. We'll be back with more of our interview in a minute.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Denis Moynihan, as we go back to our 2010 interview in London with the master spy novelist John le Carré, who recently died at the age of 89.

AMY GOODMAN: Can we talk about corporations, because it's an issue you have taken on in your later books in a huge way? And interestingly, particularly corporate power in Africa —

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: — whether we're talking *The Constant Gardener*, which took place in Kenya, or we're talking *The Mission Song*, which took place in Congo, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Absolutely, yeah, yeah. Well, it's where I have seen globalization at work on the ground. It's a pretty ugly sight. It's a boardroom fantasy. What it actually means is the exploitation of very cheap labor, very often the ecological disaster that comes with it, the creation of mega-cities, the depletion of agrarian cultures and tribal cultures. It's about — the effect of globalization, again, where I have seen it, has been negative, as far as the local population is concerned. It's enriched the very few in the country where it takes place. And it has totally dismayed the inhabitants otherwise. So, ask me what corporate power means to me, it means the ability of the individual to sacrifice his own instincts, his own decent instincts, in the name of the corporation, that people will do things to — on behalf of the corporation, to a group of people, which they would never do to their next-door neighbor, so that all the decent humanity seems to be set aside the moment they walk through the corporate doors.

In *The Constant Gardener*, in particular, it was quite extraordinary to go to Basel, to get among the young pharmaceutical executives in a private way, promise them that I would never tell — divulge their names, and listen to them pouring out their rage against the work they were doing, at the people who were making them do it. But they were still taking the penny, and they were still doing what they were doing. They were still contributing to the invention of diseases. They were fiddling with compounds, turn them into new patents, when they actually had no greater effect than the previous patent. They were joining the lie that every new compound put on the market cost six or eight hundred million dollars, which is pretty good nonsense when you think that many of the main health life-saving drugs that go on the market have been developed, for instance, in your own federal laboratories and then sold off by some strange method to the pharmaceutical companies, so they didn't do the hard work themselves very often.

So, when we think, supposedly with pride, that many corporations have the budgets, which are larger — have budgets which are larger than many small nations, I find that most alarming. And, of course, in our country, we're up against the fact that huge corporations are effective here, control the super markets, whatever they do, and they pay virtually no tax. We're back to how they launder their money, or, if it's a more polite way of saying it, how they apply sophisticated taxation arrangements so that they don't pay tax.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you give us a thumbnail sketch of *The Constant Gardener*?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: It's a young fellow in the Foreign Office, born into the clover, Eton-educated, a sense of political responsibility, a little bit of a frozen child, stiff parents, no love in his early life, falls in love with a beautiful, idealistic young woman, and she marries him. It's almost she who does it. And they go off to Kenya, and she engages in charitable work and comes upon evidence that a big pharmaceutical company is using a bunch of people in a village in Africa, in Kenya, as human guinea pigs. They sign the consent forms. They don't know what they're signing. They're bullied into it by the local representatives of the pharmaceutical company. Everything is outsourced. Everything is given away to other people, so that the company itself is never directly responsible. And she becomes very involved in this. She takes a stand, and she is murdered. He, who adores her, comes to the conclusion that he must take up her message and take up her fight, and carries it on. And in the end, romantically — I'm nothing, if not a romantic, in some respects — in the end he dies, as part of the mission, and you may say that he joins her, makes a similar sacrifice. And so, they, both of them, did the decent thing against the most anonymous and horrific kind of threat, which is one of sort of untouchable corporate power.

The things that are done in the name of the shareholder are, to me, as terrifying as the things that are done — dare I say it — in the name of God. Montesquieu said, "There have never been so many civil wars as in the Kingdom of God." And I begin to feel that's true. The shareholder is the excuse for everything. And, to me — I'm not suggesting we make some sudden lurch into

socialism, that isn't the case at all. I think it's more to do with the exercise of individual conscience.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's play a clip of *Constant Gardener*.

LORBEER: [played by Pete Postlethwaite] Big pharmaceuticals, they're right up there with the arms dealers.

JUSTIN QUAYLE: [played by Ralph Fiennes] Payoffs, cover-ups, unmarked graves.

UNIDENTIFIED: Are you crazy?

LORBEER: These people, they kill anybody.

SANDY WOODROW: [played by Danny Huston] Poor man seems to have convinced himself there was a conspiracy in which we are all complicit.

TIM DONOHUE: [played by Donald Sumpter] There's a contract out on you. You'll never know who ordered the hit. That's the way it works. It's a corporate matter.

AMY GOODMAN: That was a clip of *Constant Gardener*. We mentioned Congo and *The Mission Song* earlier, and you just mentioned it again, but I do want to ask if you'd simply describe the nut of that story, because the story of Congo and Eastern Congo is one that is rarely told, yet millions of people have died.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: And the devastation of the environment has been just horrifying. You did choose to go there and write a novel about it.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I did choose to go there, and I was escorted by a wonderful American man, Jason Stearns, who is a dedicated student of Africa and a lover of Africa, and also Michela Wrong, who had written nonfiction books about Africa. And we agreed we would make a three, and we would go — we went, first of all, to Rwanda, and from Rwanda we went by jeep then into Eastern Congo, and we stayed in Bukavu. I think we were in Bukavu for about, I don't know, eight or nine days, and I think there were two or three riots there while we were there.

And the tragedy of Congo is almost — it is appalling. It isn't really — it isn't the Congo's fault even. Congo has become the battleground for other people's wars, repeatedly. Congo is cursed with amazing mineral resources — diamonds, coltan, now, I believe, up in the northeast of Congo, oil even. God help them, because without any civil society to function, they have been exploited, not simply in terms of boy soldiers, awful gang wars that sweep through the jungle, mass rape as a military weapon, they've been subjected to every hell on Earth, these poor people.

And meanwhile, don't think that Africans are disposed to corruption where we are not, so to speak. Actually, most of the corruption that has taken place in Congo on a vast scale is Western-driven. So there are something like 80 or 90 "airlines" — in quotes — registered in Congo, and these simply belong to tiny exploitative companies that harness boy soldiers and kids to dig out the diamonds or the coltan, whatever it may be, and ship it out of Congo without paying duty or anything of that sort. Without paying royalties to anyone is theft. And Congo is being exploited by everybody on account of these reasons, in addition to providing the battleground for other people's wars.

AMY GOODMAN: As we wrap up, I wanted to ask you about the writing process and why writing is so important to you.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, it's — I think the first process, for me, of writing is making — making order out of chaos, out of such a convergence of experiences and so many insoluble things that I've seen in my life, to be able to draw a line, to tell a fable which illustrates them, which entertains, and which delivers, even if it's a sad one, some kind of resolution, is, for me, if you will, a catharsis, a therapy. I think also, in the making of character, I feel completely happy. It always seems to me that the excitement of people is the possibilities of their character — who are you? We don't know each other, but I could imagine you could be this person, you could be that person. And in my book, you're that person. I don't plot. I don't make what you're supposed to do in writing schools, the flow charts on how I will proceed. I try to get — as in this case, I get two innocent people into a Hitchcockian muddle and make them fight their way out. But from scene to scene, they have to lead me. And that's — it's like asking somebody whether they're musical or why they're musical. To me, that is the whole of life. I can't put it differently.

I just want to — I want to leave the public stage, insofar as I've ever been on it, and I would now — I'm fit and resolved, and I've got a wonderful family, and I just want to spend the rest of my time doing what I do best, which is writing. I love being an entertainer. I love being a storyteller. I don't think there is a story unless it provokes a little, unless it engages. I don't think there's such a thing as entertaining escapism. Not for me. I think there is entertaining involvement, and that's what I try to do.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: And do you write with a pen?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: I do write with a pen. I'm not advertising this one, because the cap flies off all the time, and actually I'm reduced to pasting them together. I write only with a pen. I've learned to operate a computer to communicate with my children, because they won't communicate with me in any other medium, but otherwise I write entirely with a pen. And I have an immensely attentive, gifted, tactful wife, who loves to type the stuff out, gives it back to me, and watches bemused as I rip it up again and give it back to her. And that goes on. That's our relationship.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: I think we approached you first for an interview, perhaps about eight or nine months ago, when you were in the midst of writing *Our Kind of Traitor*.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Yes.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: And your agent said he absolutely doesn't communicate with people like us while you're writing.

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Well, I'm sure it was a mistake.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: So the cloistering yourself on the cliffs of Cornwall, or wherever you happen to be writing, is that an important part of your process?

JOHN LE CARRÉ: Yes. I mean, for some books, I've traveled a lot, and I was very much driven by Graham Greene's dictum that if you're reporting on human misery — Amy, you know this far better than I. If you're reporting on human misery, you do well to share it. And that was a principle that came to me late. I started writing books that were set abroad, like *The Honourable Schoolboy* and so on. I really thought that although the thought horrified me and I have no natural courage whatever, I should see war, so I went off to Cambodia, and I went off and actually I became the protected child of the war correspondents, and I was very fortunate about that. So, by travel, by talking, by listening, above all, in the places where I go to — or as it was, East Congo, or wherever the books take me — then I fill up my rucksack, my backpack. And then I like to take everything, all my scraps of paper and my memories, down to Cornwall and sort them out there. So, it's engagement, escape, engagement, escape. I think, again, it's very

similar to a journalist's life, except nobody checks my story out. I don't have to tell — I don't have to tell a small truth. I just have to — I have to be looking for the big truth.

AMY GOODMAN: Master spy novelist John le Carré, the pen name for David Cornwell. He recently died at the age of 89. We did that interview in 2010 in London. Special thanks to *Democracy Now!*'s Denis Moynihan.

And that does it for our show. *Democracy Now!* is produced with Renée Feltz, Mike Burke, Deena Guzder, Libby Rainey, Nermeen Shaikh, María Taracena, Carla Wills, Tami Woronoff, Charina Nadura, Sam Alcott, Tey-Marie Astudillo, John Hamilton, Robby Karran, Hany Massoud and Adriano Contreras. Our general manager is Julie Crosby. Special thanks to Becca Staley, Miriam Barnard, Paul Powell, Mike Di Filippo, Miguel Nogueira, Hugh Gran, David Prude and Dennis McCormick. I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks for joining us.