THE STRUCTURE OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY COLLECTIVE

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CO-CHAIR, GREEN PARTY PEACE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Anatomy of the Blob

Academia
Think Tanks
Media

Influence

U.S. Congress
U.S. Taxpayers

$4.5 T

$1 B

Defense Industry

$600 B

$800 B

$14 M

Investors

Intelligence Agencies
Defense Dept., State Dept.

$600 B

Foreign Governments

$100 B

$180 M

$300 M

GPUS Annual Meeting Workshop 7/15/2022
What Is the Blob?

- A powerful network of persons and institutions with convergent interests enabling a militaristic U.S. foreign policy
- The ideology of the Blob is liberal hegemony, the aggressive propagation of democracy and free market economies
- The Blob employs militaristic foreign policy to impose U.S. liberal hegemony on the world
- Blob term origin: Ben Rhodes, Obama advisor, author of “The Worlds As It Is” 2018
Presentation Overview

• Meet the Blob
  • Origins
  • Malignancy
  • Components

• An Anatomical Model
  • Circulatory system = money
  • Nervous system = influence
  • Pathology = militaristic policy

• Analysis and Reform
  • Vulnerable nodes
  • Opposition tactics
  • Prospects for change
  • Recommendations
Why Does the Blob Matter?

The Blob pursues malignant policies

- The Blob kills people and wrecks nations
- The Blob increases the danger of nuclear war
- The Blob diverts enormous resources from civil society
- The Blob operates according to an ideology that does not acknowledge failure
Why Is the Blob’s Structure Important?

- The Blob dominates Washington policy and has overwhelming financial, political, and media resources compared to peace activists.
- Successfully challenging the Blob requires determining where it is vulnerable.
- Vulnerabilities can be determined by understanding the anatomy of the Blob.
Blob Origins and Evolution

- Truman launches the national security state 1945-1950
- Eisenhower farewell speech warning 1961
- The early Blob – Military-Industrial Complex
- From MIC to MICIMAT
  - Military-Industrial-Congressional-Intelligence-Media-Academic-Think Tank complex
- Phase I rationale: Anti-Communism
- Phase II rationale: Anti-Terrorism
- Current Phase rationale: Anti-Authoritarianism
- Governing ideology: militaristic pursuit of Liberal Hegemony
What Is U.S. Liberal Hegemony?

• The U.S. is an exceptional nation
• The U.S. has an historic duty to *impose* its political and economic model on the nations of the world
  • “Democratic” government (plutocracy)
  • “Free-market” economy (corporatocracy)
• U.S. military supremacy needed to maintain order
• U.S. “rules” supersede international law

In short: America’s elite control the world
The Blob’s Greatest Hits

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Libya
- Syria
- Ukraine
The Blob’s Failure in Afghanistan

America’s 20 year, $3 Trillion investment in Afghanistan ends in humiliating retreat, leaving a devastated and impoverished nation.

176,000 killed
The Blob’s Failure in Libya

The Blob’s attack on Libya transformed the most prosperous nation in Africa into a failed state wracked by civil war.

2,500 killed
The Blob’s Failure in Iraq

An illegal war of aggression, based on lies, inflicted enormous damage, ignited a civil war, strengthened the influence of Iran, and gave rise to ISIS, further destabilizing the region.

190,000 killed
The Blob’s Failure in Syria

A clandestine proxy war aimed at regime change devastated Syria, armed Islamic radicals, and encouraged Kurdish nationalists. Russian intervention preserved the regime, but the U.S. continues to illegally occupy portions of Syria, with no clear objectives.

307,000 killed
The Blob’s Failure in Ukraine (ongoing)

- NATO moves to include Ukraine trigger devastating war
- Economic sanctions resulting from war damaging EU and global economies
- Risk of escalation to nuclear war
- Russia driven into a strong alliance with China, creating a Eurasian hyper-power

> 30,000 killed
The Blob Increases the Risk of Nuclear War

- Encouraging arms-racing (full-spectrum dominance)
- Withdrawal from strategic arms control treaties
  - ABM
  - INF
  - Open Skies
- Promotion of destabilizing weapons programs
  - Anti-Ballistic Missile systems
  - Anti-satellite weapons
  - Cyberwarfare
  - Tactical nuclear weapons
Naming the Parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- Military
- Intelligence agencies
- Congress
- Defense Industry
- Media
- Think Tanks
Naming the Parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- **Military**
  - $800 Billion defense budget
  - Permanent war since 9/11
  - Active and retired officers increasingly influential
  - Expanding arms race (cyber and space weapons)
  - Generating “needs” for new weaponry
  - Global presence 800+ bases
  - Full Spectrum Dominance strategy
Naming the Parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- Defense Industry
  - Steady growth
  - Poor accountability
  - Effective lobbying
  - Revolving door careers
Relative Size of Leading U.S. Corporations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Defense</th>
<th>2021 Revenue</th>
<th>Top 5 Non-Defense</th>
<th>2021 Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed-Martin</td>
<td>$64 Billion</td>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>$573 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raytheon</td>
<td>$64 Billion</td>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>$470 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boeing</td>
<td>$62 Billion</td>
<td>CVS Health</td>
<td>$292 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Dynamics</td>
<td>$38 Billion</td>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>$366 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northrup Grumman</td>
<td>$36 Billion</td>
<td>United Healthcare</td>
<td>$288 Billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defense corporations are a relatively small sector of the U.S. economy (5% of GDP), but their political influence dominates government defense expenditures, currently about $800 billion, which make up nearly half of the discretionary Federal budget.
Naming the parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- **U.S. Congress**
  - Controls the purse, funding government functions
  - Abdication of war powers
  - Faulty oversight of defense establishment
  - No significant distinction between major parties on defense issues
Naming the parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- Intelligence agencies
  - Expansion beyond information gathering
  - Proliferation of agencies post 9/11
  - Politicization of intelligence
  - Erosion of civil liberties
  - Collapse of oversight
  - Mythologized in popular culture
Naming the Parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- Media
  - Journalism
  - Hollywood
  - Social media
Naming the parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

- **Academia**
  - Graduate programs dominated by Blob ideology
  - Grooming process for Blob recruits
  - Professors provide expertise supporting Blob policies
Naming the parts of the Blob (MICIMAT)

Think Tanks
- Dominated by Blob ideology
- Declining research quality
- Recycling area for former government personnel
- Heavily funded by defense industry
Blob Think Tanks Dominate Policy Discourse

10 Most Influential Think Tanks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Blob-Aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brookings Institution</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Foundation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Foreign Relations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cato Institute</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Strategic and International Studies</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Enterprise Institute</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAND Corporation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Council</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoover Institution</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Blob Diverts Resources from Civil Society and Harms the Environment

- 800+ military bases worldwide
- U.S. military budget over $800 billion and growing
- Military Keynesianism an unsound justification
- Contractor corruption
- U.S. military a top polluter
  - Superfund sites
  - Fossil fuel consumption
# Is the Blob Held Accountable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prior Activity</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Blinken</td>
<td>Supported U.S. invasion of Iraq</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Sullivan</td>
<td>Involved in decisions resulting in war in Libya</td>
<td>National Security Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Nuland</td>
<td>Involved in creation of pro-U.S. government in Ukraine</td>
<td>Under Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llyod Austin</td>
<td>Commanded forces in Iraq</td>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Milley</td>
<td>Commanded forces in Afghanistan</td>
<td>Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Goldberg</td>
<td>Journalist supporting Iraq war</td>
<td>Chief Editor, Atlantic Magazine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The Blob remains firmly in control of U.S. foreign policy.
The Triumph of Stealthy Influence

- Stealthy influence techniques
  - Marker trading (influence credits)
  - Deferred benefits
  - Cut-outs (use of intermediaries)
  - Revolving door careers
  - Nepotism
A Small Sample of the Blob’s Influence Network: The Kagan Clan
A Rare Stealth Corruption Failure
The U.S. Aerial Tanker Saga – Part I

- U.S. establishes requirement to replace aerial tanker fleet (2000)
- Boeing proposes costly lease deal for tankers
- Lease deal supported by Darleen Druyun, Air Force Undersecretary for procurement (2002)
- Druyun takes job at Boeing with $250,000 annual salary and $50,000 signing bonus (2003)
- Druyun convicted of conspiring with Boeing and sentenced to 9 months (2004)
  - Boeing CFO, Michael Sears fired (2005)
  - Boeing CEO, Phil Condit resigns (2005)
Boeing Wins the Long Game: The U.S. Aerial Tanker saga – Part II

- 2006 Air Force cancels Boeing tanker contract
- 2008 U.S. awards new tanker aircraft contract to Airbus/Northrup Grumman
- Boeing protests contract award and wins rebid decision
- 2008 U.S. Air Force reopens tanker contract competition
- 2011 Boeing wins tanker contract
- 2014 Boeing KC-46 makes first test flight, problems found
- 2019 First KC-46 deliveries to USAF, continuing problems reported
- 2022 KC-46 still not fully mission capable because of unresolved problems with refueling system
- Total estimated KC-46 program cost: $43 Billion
Mark Esper worked as vice president of governmental relations for Raytheon from 2010 to 2017.

Lloyd Austin was a member of the Raytheon board of directors from 2016 to 2021.
The Latest Blob Embarrassment: Brookings Head Resigns

- Typical Blob career progression: from military, to lobbying, to think tank
  - Allen retires as four-star general
  - Under investigation for illegal lobbying for government of Qatar
  - Appointed head of “independent” Brookings Institution think tank
  - Resigns after disclosure of investigation

John R. Allen Resigns as Brookings President After Qatar Revelations

Mr. Allen, a retired four-star general, had been on administrative leave amid a federal inquiry into whether he had secretly lobbied for the government of Qatar.
Anatomy of the Blob
Combined Financial and Influence flows

Investors

Defense Industry

Academia
Think Tanks
Media

Influence

U.S. Congress

$100 M

$14 M

$600 B

Intelligence Agencies
Defense Dept.
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$800 B

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$180 M

U.S. Taxpayers

$4.5 T

$1 B

All amounts estimated for 2021
Where is the Blob vulnerable?

- The Congressional committees controlling funding
  - A small number of house and senate members control the defense budget
  - Campaign funding is vital to securing and holding seats in Congress
- The corporate funding of key politicians
  - Citizen action against arms makers funding campaigns
  - ESG institutional investor activism against politically active arms makers
How Congress Funds the Military

- Party leaders control committee appointments
- Committee chairs control committee agenda
- Blob campaign donors protect Blob-friendly committee member seats
- Average cost of campaign for House seat: $2 M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>House Members</th>
<th>Senate Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Services</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arms Vendors Are Vulnerable To Public and Investor Pressure
Raytheon Top Management Compensation 2018

Thomas A. Kennedy
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
$17,098,188

Anthony F. O'Brien
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
$5,159,825

Wesley D. Kremer
Vice President, and President, Missile Systems; Former President, Integrated Defense Systems
$4,679,330

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Targeted Divestment: A New Way to Fight the Blob

- Executives are increasingly compensated by stock options and grants
- Pay raises and bonuses are tied to stock price targets
- Lowering the stock price directly impacts the earnings of top management
- Divestment of stock by large investment institutions can change the behavior of senior management
- Public investment institutions are increasingly using social responsibility as an investment criterion
- Weapons makers have a social responsibility for the use of their products
- Targeted divestment campaigns can potentially alter the behavior of weapons makers

Peace Activists
Investors
Defense Industry

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The Rise of Socially Responsible Investing

Socially responsible investing movement is hot and there are no signs of it cooling off

Published Mon, May 13 2019-9:00 AM EDT | Updated Mon, May 13 2019-9:00 AM EDT

Thomas M. Kostigen, director of sustainability at JConnelly

KEY POINTS

- There is now more than $12 trillion invested in socially responsible ways. That’s 1 out of 4 of the total assets under management in the U.S.
- Nearly every S&P 500 firm now issues a sustainability report. Yet businesses are not celebrating their social impact — even though many have embraced corporate social responsibility practices.
- SRI is on the rise because investors are realizing they can have a say in and align with an organization’s mission; not its profit, nor its numbers something much more than earnings: its purpose.

New York Announces Historic Fossil Fuel Divestment Plan

December 09, 2020 | Rich Schrader

In a historic move, New York State announced it will Retirement Fund from fossil fuels—among the largest undertaken in the nation.

Charlottesville Moves to Divest From Fossil Fuels & Arms

By DON RUSH | Jun 10, 2019

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) - Officials in Charlottesville, Virginia, have voted to divest the city’s operating budget investments from any entity involved in the production of fossil fuels or weapons.

WVIR-TV reports the City Council voted 4-1 last week to complete those divestments within the next 30 days.
Strategy for Targeting Blob Vulnerabilities

- Target congressional committees funding the military
  - Support campaigns to remove Blob-friendly incumbents on defense funding committees
  - Educate public on role of House Speaker and committee chairpersons in controlling committees

- Target corporate funding of Blob components
  - Citizen protest actions against arms makers
  - Prohibition of political contributions from arms makers
  - Ban revolving door careerism
  - Exclusion of arms makers from ESG investment portfolios
The Future of the Blob

The Blob will be defeated in the long term

- Economic damage resulting from Blob foreign policy will become unacceptable
- Blob-directed military misadventures will lead to disastrous losses
- Peace activists will become increasingly effective in discrediting the Blob
- The Blob will be attacked from both the political left and the right
Economic Damage

- Backfiring of economic warfare
- Undermining of dollar reserve currency status
- Excessive military expenditures
Military Disaster

- The Blob is preparing for war with China
- China has the resources and weaponry to defeat the U.S. military
- Simulations indicate U.S. would lose a conventional war with China
- Possibility of nuclear escalation
Peace Activists Become More Effective
The Case For Concentrated Effort

- Coordinated divestment campaigns can alter corporate behavior
- Unified action is the key to building an effective US peace movement
Blob Attacked from Political Left and Right

- Peace activists
- Environmentalists
- Social Justice activists

- Libertarians
- America First populists
- Plutocrats
Summary

- The Blob is a group of elites controlling U.S. foreign policy.
- The ideology of the blob is militaristic pursuit of liberal hegemony.
- The Blob’s actions have resulted in costly and destructive failures.
- The Blob has avoided accountability and remains in control.
- Understanding the structure of the Blob requires determining patterns of financial and influence flows.
- Knowledge of the Blob’s structure enables more effective opposition to its actions.
- The Blob is vulnerable in its funding mechanisms.
- The Blob will ultimately be discredited and driven from power.
- Defeat of the Blob should be a primary GP objective.
Q & A