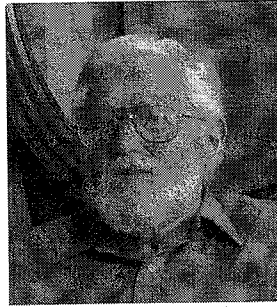


### William Blum Historian, Author

*The US has tried to overthrow 60 governments since 1945 and intervened in many others. The purpose is to destabilize any efforts to establish a regime that resists American economic domination, or neocolonialism. Thus, it does not matter whether corporate interests are at stake. The Washington foreign policy establishment balks at having any national leaders who follow an independent course. Global poverty is not caused by lack of development, but rather by American intervention against progressive governments. Terrorism is not a product of poverty or envy. It is the result of a desire to retaliate against the suffering caused by American bombs, intervention, and torture. Latin*



*Americans previously retaliated against American intervention in much the same way that Middle Eastern terrorists now do. Examples of US intervention are: Russia in 1918, Italy and France in 1948, Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, Chile in 1973, and the ongoing harassment of Cuba. American leaders should be tried for war crimes, but they are too powerful to be brought into court. Covert operations by the CIA that are not widely reported include a case in Poland during the Cold War, US sabotage of the Chilean economy before the 1973 coup, intimidation of the Nicaraguan electorate, coups against African leaders Lumumba and Nkrumah in the early days of independence, the civil war against Neto in Angola, and the recent efforts to overthrow Hugo Chávez in Venezuela.*

The main purpose of US foreign policy since World War II has been to prevent the rise of any government that offers a good alternative to the American economic model. The US has attempted to overthrow 60 governments since World War II and even more before WWII. Almost half of these attempts have been successful. We have attempted to assassinate about 50 foreign leaders. We have intervened in a serious manner probably 100 times since 1945.

The level of poverty would be much lower in many countries if the US had not overthrown governments that tried to help their own people. Whenever a government intended to work against poverty, to raise the lower classes, it was overthrown, almost without exception. The kind of leader most feared by Washington was anyone who meant to improve the lot of the poorest. Governments that have tried to make important changes have been overthrown again and again.

The actions of the US and European powers are sometimes referred to as neocolonialism. Neocolonialism consists mainly of being able to gain the

same advantages economically, through financial institutions, that, before, you gained through military occupation. You do not need to occupy a country if the IMF, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization make life impossible for a Third World country.

Foreign corporations gain full standing and full rights in countries, even more so than any native companies. They get full legal rights to operate there and compete, and the native companies or businesses cannot begin to compete with these multinational corporations. So that puts an end to homegrown industry. And that is a first step on the way downhill to a failed state: when you do not have any homegrown businesses.

Today the issue that is before the public is terrorism. The question of what causes anti-American terrorists is very important. The main motivation for anti-American terrorists is revenge or retaliation. They want to retaliate for the many bad things the US government has done in the Middle East and elsewhere.

There should be tribunals on US war crimes. The US and Britain can get away with so much that other nations cannot. There is a big movement in Lebanon and France to find the people who assassinated Rafik Harari. The US government assassinates people every day of the week in the Middle East. There is never any cry for any kind of investigation. We have planes that fire a missile into a car, killing five or six people, but sometimes the person they are aiming at is not in the car.

If a weak nation should assassinate somebody or just be accused of it, it is subjected to a tribunal set up by the powerful, such as the tribunals on Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The international tribunal on Yugoslavia has convicted and sentenced a number of people from Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia. But Madeleine Albright and the leaders in Germany who were responsible for those wars are not being punished.

Many people know about US support for the military coup in Chile in 1973. Less well known was the CIA's covert action, for two or three years prior to the coup, to undermine the Allende government and to make life very hard for the Chilean people. The CIA and their allies in Chile caused food shortages and other shortages to make life difficult and to turn the people against Allende. When the coup was finally staged, the generals in Chile said it would end the "chaos," not mentioning it had been created by the CIA's activities.

American support for the right-wing Contras, fighting to regain control of Nicaragua, is generally known. Less known is that the Contras made it a

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point to assassinate teachers and medical workers to disrupt the health and medical programs of the Sandinista government. In Nicaragua in 1990, the Sandinista government lost the election because the Contra politicians, with US support, had made it very clear that, if they lost the election, the civil war would resume. The people understood that as long as the Sandinistas remained in power, the US would never relax its attempts to overthrow the government, and the violence would continue.

Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, who coined the term "pan-African movement," was overthrown in 1966 by a CIA-staged coup. It was staged by his own military, but instigated by the US. It was blamed on the Soviet Union. Nkrumah was forced into exile, where he died a few years later. The US role is almost never mentioned in the mass media anywhere in the world. I have put together facts from several different places to form a whole. This was among the most hidden of the coups and interventions.