

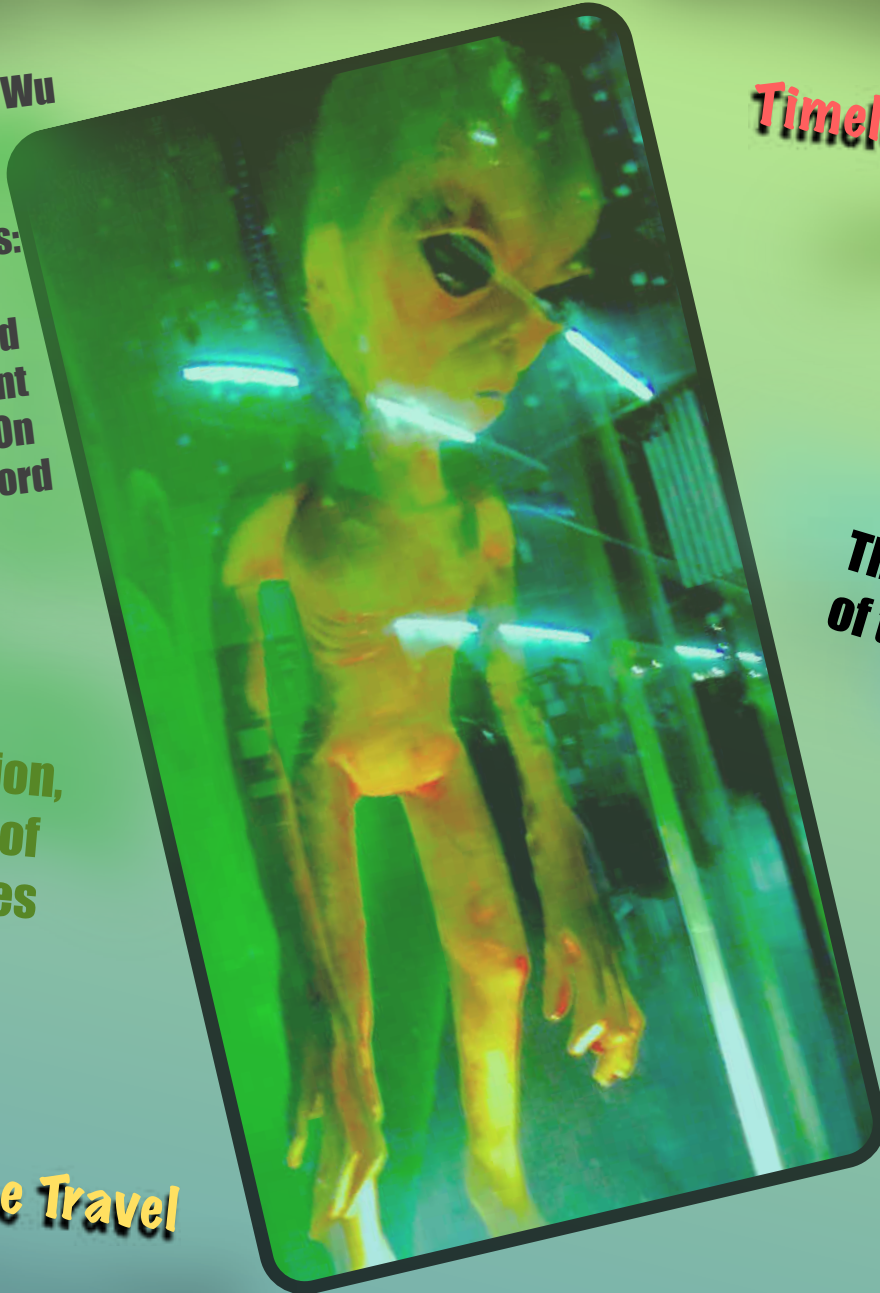
SAMPLE

# DISTRACTED MASSES

**BOOK REVIEWS:**  
The Dancing Wu  
Li Masters,  
The Hidden  
Domain, and UFOs:  
Generals,  
Pilots, and  
Government  
Officials Go On  
the Record

**Truth,  
Disinformation,  
and the Age of  
False Realities**

**UFOs & Time Travel**



**Timeless War**

**The Global Rise  
of the New Left**

**Alien Studies**

**Vol. 1**

**ISSUE #4**

# *VortexZone*



# *Headphones*

# What's Inside:

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**Feature Article: Teleportation, Time Travel, and the Multiverse**

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**The Global Rise of the New Left**

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**Absolutism vs Relativism - Truth in the Making**

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**Poetry, Commentary, Book Reviews, Cool Merchandise, and Much More!**



# DISTRACTED MASSES



## Bridge to the Future

How do you manifest your own destiny? Is it giving ourselves to God and saying our leaders are bestowed by God to decide our destiny for us? Or is that just giving in to pre-determinism? I'm a believer in free will and think each human being has the ability to decide the personal events that unfold in life before them for themselves. Yes, external forces will knock people off track and influence the events every individual bears witness to, but that doesn't mean we don't all carry an extremely powerful internal force within our minds and bodies which can also influence the events around us. I doubt humans would've built flying machines if that wasn't true.

The question becomes then, how do we use this force to create the future we desire? How do we combine our own personal desires with those of others to collectively build our universe the way we all want it to be built? Well, all we have to do is look at the Hawaiian third Huna principle of life, *makia*, and that is, "energy goes where energy flows."

So for this issue *Distracted Masses* is embarking on a new journey of discovery to learn exactly how this works. Through this publication the writers will try to figure out where the energy is going by studying the conversations and articles in social and mass media. We will try and learn what people are paying attention to, what people are thinking about

collectively, and how they are reacting to their thoughts. The idea is that the information we consume effects our thoughts, which in turn effects our behaviors. This is where *Distracted Masses* moves beyond media analysis and the discernment of mis- and disinformation. This is where we begin to create our own personal future, and perhaps that of others as well, by creating new information for mass consumption in order to redirect the dialogue onto new probability paths.

We will create poetry, fiction, commentary, and other writing & artwork to help open up new probability paths for ourselves and our readers, with the intent of bringing about new types of change through collective input and mass consciousness. We are believers in multidimensionality: the world is not just black and white. There is no up or down, yes or no final decision. All probability paths remain open for discovery no matter what the present state may seem to restrict us to, no matter how we collapse our wave function.

So join us on this new journey and help dispel the myths of disinfo by manifesting your own new reality! Together we can build a bridge to the future which unites those on similar probability paths, seeking similar goals. Like the root systems of trees we shall branch out widely, but will always stay firm in our quest for new adventure, life, and nourishment. So join us now, and learn what the future beholds . . .

# Just Chillin' Aviator Shades



**Got dem' irie eyes!**

# TELEPORTATION, TIME TRAVEL, AND THE MULTIVERSE

By Scott Albright

Theoretical physicist Michio Kaku tells us in his book *Hyperspace* that the 10 dimensional superstring theory may be the key to finding the Theory of Everything. As exciting as this may be, there still seems to be many different interpretations of what each of these dimensions looks like. We're told that moving from the fourth dimension of spacetime up to the fifth would be similar to a 2D flatlander trying to understand the third dimension. Our brains just can't comprehend it because we aren't able to experience it.

We're told that ripples in the fifth dimension could explain how light is created, and yet it could also be another dimension of spacetime that is orthogonal, or at right angles, to the dimension before it. Because spacetime is space and time put together we can understand how the spatial aspect to the fourth dimension can be measured. The fourth dimension is not just a temporal representation of the past, present, and future, but also all those places in which the past, present, and future have existed or will exist in the future, meaning these places are in a real and precise physically existent temporal and spatial location. They don't just exist in the present, but they are a physical reality of the present, past, and future.

This makes sense if you think of human beings as a

frequency or embodiment of energy vibrating at different wavelengths and energy levels. These vibrations effect our perception of time - how fast or slow it appears to be moving relative to others - and in turn, effects the reality of our spacetime experience. For example, the rate at which time seems to pass for someone in prison is going to be very different for someone living life freely about on the outside.

Our vibrational energy allows us to move through time at different speeds and allows us to connect with other creatures and objects who are also moving at different speeds and times. Our connection to each other allows us to interact along different parts of the spacetime continuum which spans across the past, present, and future. Our own bodies and minds also spans across the continuum of past, present, and future. However, our biological core, or our solid state of being, seems to only exist in the same present state as all the rest of the solid objects in the universe. They are within the same frequency and in synchronicity, or alignment, with the other energies in the universe in one single present state. But our minds don't move as fast as this frequency.

Our minds have to process all the information on this frequency level before we can make sense of it. In other words, our present state of conscious being is in a past state relative to the rest of our body, or biological core. Our

bodies absorb the vast amounts of information pulsating on the present state of physicality through our different senses and filter out everything we don't need. Billions of bits of information are discarded, with humans only taking in that which can help us make our next conscious decision in life. But we make this decision in the past relative to when the information we processed was first sensed or absorbed, sometimes waiting days, weeks, or even years before making a final choice based on the information we've received. But there is still a connection between the information from the present and the information in one's past state. And here we get turned around, for what is really the past state if you are in the future from when you last received the information you make a decision on? Just because our conscious state is in the past relative to our biological core doesn't mean it can't make a decision at a later time in the future. This connection bet-



Alien Mantis Shirt - \$27.40



# TIME TRAVEL CONT.

-ween our past, present, and future allows us to live in a four dimensional world, but still our biological core seems to be locked in a present state, no matter how far our mental state is in the past or future from it. Now there are anti-aging drugs which can take our biological core back to a past state as well, so there is a spatial and temporal measuring stick we can use to find exactly where we are in the universe, but still nobody is taking their bodies back to 1987, as far as I know, so this measuring stick is limited in its usefulness.

Observation is key though. How do we “collapse the wave function”, so to speak, in order to “see” a present state in which the future and past states are more than just imaginary places? Well, we have to visualize the right angles to our third dimensional space, but those right angles are impossible to comprehend because we can’t see them. They are outside our purview. We are just flatlanders unable to experience this other dimension in spacetime. And this is just the fourth dimension! Really existing in the fourth dimension requires us to be able to not just travel between fractions of seconds of past, present, and future states mentally and physically, but it would mean we should be able to also physically take our bodies back as far as Medieval times or the time of the dinosaurs and view and experience these places in space and time from a conscious present state. It would mean that there exists right now an Earth that has not yet orbited the sun the same number of times as the Earth I am sitting on here. It means that other place in the Earth’s timeline or probability path is at some right angle to the third dimensional space around me at the moment I am writing this. This is truly hard to believe, and until I can access these places and live there myself I won’t

believe it to be true, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t stop exploring these areas further.

Truly existing in the fourth dimension would mean we should be able to teleport ourselves and other objects. We know that an object we want to send is going to get to the place we send it to, but using our current technology we’re not always sure how long it will take to get there. Theoretically, to get the object there faster all we would have to do is move it at specific right angles from its current position in spacetime and it should be able to

arrive at its destination instantaneously, as we know that a straight path to it is not always the fastest route, so a quicker path must exist, which is through the fourth dimension. In essence, the object moves to a future state that already exists within our present state and gets there by moving through the fastest route in the fourth dimension. The object would exist in two places at the same time for a fraction of a second, connecting space and time in ways which make both teleportation and time travel possible. Basically, the object moves

to a place in space that is in a future time relative to the senders but in a present state relative to those observing the object when it arrives at its final destination. In many ways this is similar to how we observe our own biological core, which is in a future state relative to our mental conscious present.

But beyond the connection between our conscious and biological core states, how does the past, present, and future exist all at the same time? Well, anti-time. Time doesn’t just move forward. It moves backwards too, it’s just that we have a hard time perceiving the existence of this backward moving





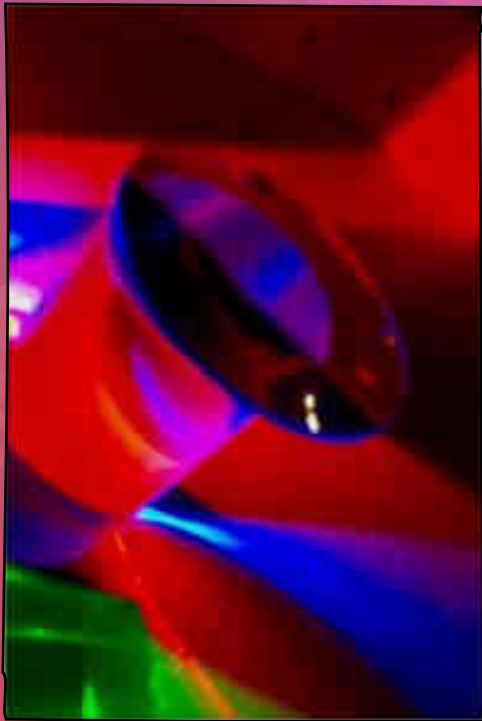


SAMPLE



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# The Global Rise of the New Left

The fear of socialism among America's right wing conservatives is almost as great as the fear of the the far right among America's liberals, but no matter who is to be most feared, it's clear there is something big happening on the left that can't be ignored. On the global front there is a continuous anti-austerity pro-worker movement that is still struggling in an uphill battle against the conservative pro-austerity powerbrokers embedded in the various financial institutions and political agencies which give them the ability to crush the hopes and aspirations of the poor and middle class. The opposition is varied in its approach to the challenges they face, but the picture is clear enough to see there is a new left willing to take on the challenges before them, and they aren't scared anymore.

In Greece we see the rise of the leftist Syriza party and it's willingness to challenge the pro-austerity measures presented to Greece's government by the European Troika. Even though the party will inevitably be forced to eat whatever measures the banks inflict upon them, there will still be a continued push by Syriza to work with political partners throughout Europe to pressure the banks to improve financial and economic conditions for their countries. From the rise of Podemos in Spain to the

Corbynmania of the UK, and the Blockupy movement throughout Europe, all the way across the Atlantic where the right wing is beginning to #FeelTheBern, it's not

are sick and tired of being forced to work impossible hours for minimal pay in order to qualify for more debt that they have to have just to get by. Just to pay for school. Just to have a roof over their heads. Just to have food in their bellies. They are tired of being debt slaves, imprisoned by their financial masters. And they are starting to rise up.

The media and right wing conservative pundits are already baking up batches of paranoid political pie for the masses in order to scare their audiences away from the



Katja Kippling, Alex Tsipiras, Bernie Sanders, Jeremy Corbyn, Iqlesias. Image source: Wikimedia Commons & Wikipedia.

hard to tell there is a global movement that is far different from any we've seen before. This is not a Russian or Chinese-backed pro-communist global revolutionary movement. This is not a peasant or worker uprising. This is a movement directly caused by the failed policies of the pro-austerity powerbrokers who have continued to make the rich and powerful even more rich and powerful while trampling on the rights and lives of millions of hard working middle class and poor citizens of the world. This a movement, a global movement, brought to you by the people who've decided they've had enough. Not just the poor, uneducated, and working class, but also the intellectuals, the white collar workers, the educated, and the young and old alike. It is a movement of the 99%. A 99% who

movement, but so far that hasn't seemed to work. The anti-austerity rallies in England may not draw as large of audiences as the Bernie Sanders' rallies in the U.S., but that doesn't mean they aren't big. And combined, Blockupy, Podemos, and Syriza will certainly keep Merkel and her ECB counterparts on their toes. It's the real deal, and if you aren't paying attention, maybe you should.

In the U.K. Jeremy Corbyn, an anti-war, anti-austerity leftist, took over the Labour Party's leadership positions in a landslide election where he won almost 60% of the vote. In Greece, Tsipiras' Syriza Party has risen to power on a similar platform, and in Spain Podemos' Iglesias has done the same thing, while in Germany Katja Kippling's Left Party is on the rise



despite being under surveillance by the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (domestic intelligence) for their “extremist” socialist democratic ideals. The Left (Die Linke) is the third largest parliamentary group among the four groups in the German Bundestag, having held 64 of the 630 seats after the 2013 federal elections. Although political analysts point out that the rise in popularity of the xenophobic anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD) will pose challenges for Die Linke in its ability to build winning coalitions in some parts of the country, it probably will have little effect on its ability to join up with and reinvigorate the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in a three-party coalition with the Greens. Judith Meyer writes in her “German Parties’ Outlook 2016” article that, “For SPD, it would be good to at least have the possibility of threatening this kind of coalition, in order not to lose influence within the Grand Coalition until 2017. This may mean replacing the current SPD-CDU coalition in Berlin state with an SPD-Linke one later this year.”

When it comes to building global coalitions among the left there are many common characteristics between the different political parties, not just in Europe and North America, but all across South and Central America and many other parts of the world as well. Of course parties shift in ideologies - left eventually becomes right, and right becomes left - but at the moment there is a common leftist platform of anti-austerity/debt reduction, pro-spending on social programs, a focus on improving the financial well being of the poor and middle class, as well as a pro-environment/anti-war focus. Germany’s Die Linke may be more extreme in its use of language regarding its anti-war policies than Sanders, or other leading leftist politicians, ever will be, but the sentiment is similar throughout. Die Linke’s leader in the Bundestag, Sahra Wagenknecht, is quoted as saying, “Of course, it is no lesser crime to murder civilians in Syria with bombs than to open fire at random in restaurants and concert halls in Paris.” The more centrist Corbyn is a little less dramatic in his anti-war approach, but he still says things like “I was appalled that MPs should clap, shout and cheer when we were deciding to go and bomb somewhere,” while in Canada newly elected leftist Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called for an end to Canada’s role in carrying out airstrikes in Syria. Sanders, on the other hand, supports airstrikes against ISIS, despite being outspoken about previous administrations’ “failed” war policies in the Middle East. But for Sanders, moving any further to the left on issues of war and finance could be disastrous for his campaign, no matter which coalition partners he may lose.

U.S. foreign policy has typically been pro-right/anti-leftist, partially due to old Cold War military policies, but mostly due to the greed of bankers and financial elitists who prosper from right-wing free trade policies, conservative western-style international banking systems, and the propping up of (rightist) foreign governments that are open to total privatization of their country’s resources. Those who have worked against the right-wing policies of the international banksters have been assassinated, lost their jobs, or have just disappeared. What the new left represents is a direct threat to these banksters, who we can expect to react the same way they always have - violently. Syriza, Blockupy, Podemos, Corbyn, and Sanders will all be shunned by the mainstream media, which are owned by these international banksters, and will have to fight hard to get into the minds of the people. Sanders is already saying that Wall Street is not going to like him, and anyone who’s followed U.S. politics knows that that is a sure way to not get elected - being opposed to corrupted money - but that’s the platform he’s running on and people love it. Not the rich and super rich, but normal everyday people who have suffered time and again from the failed economic policies of these international banksters. So Sanders does still have a chance, but even if he is elected I don’t know how much he’ll be allowed to get away with. Even his idea of postal banking might be too much for the banksters to handle. Any president who attempts to give government back the job of issuing its own currency or putting any type of banking operation under the guise of government will likely be blocked at every turn, although eventually all governments will end up owing so much debt to these banksters there will be no way to pay it all off other than by printing their own money, however that is still a ways off. In the meantime, we can expect Venezuela’s Central Bank to be taken out of public control and given over to the bankers, after economic collapse, social disruptions, and most likely much violence, that is. We also can expect Islamic banking, which outlaws usury, to be wiped out completely, with Iran at the center of the banksters target, as it is too much to allow Iran to control their own money. And there is precedent for this, such as when Iran’s democratically elected president Mohammed Mossadegh was overthrown with the help of British and U.S. intelligence operatives, simply because he nationalized the country’s oil after being elected (BP and their financial backers didn’t like this). If there is a state owned banking system, the international banksters will try and seize it. They need to control all aspects of the market, particularly a nation’s currency.



Giving government, and the people it represents, that much control over their own money or resources (oil, gold, uranium, etc.) would be too much for the banksters. Sanders is lucky he hasn't been seriously threatened by them already, but if he's smart he can manage the threats, which are bound to come full throttle if he continues to try and take on Wall Street. Some journalists and commentators have already speculated that a bullet hole found in the window of a Sanders' campaign headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada was evidence of an assassination attempt. PollyReed, an online commentator discussing the bullet hole, writes that Sanders "has to request SS [Secret Service] protection which he hasn't done though he meets all the requirements to have it. It cost the taxpayer \$48,000/day for that and that might be why he hasn't asked." And then, almost as a second thought, the commentator writes, "Given the history of the SS, I think he is better off without it, seriously." From the research I've done so far, I might just have to agree.

One of the first things Sander's will have to do is revamp the Secret Service so it actually serves his own safety interests (just renaming it might help, as the abbreviation SS is associated with the Nazi Schutzstaffel, or the Protection Squadron. Some U.S. Marines also brand SS into their arms, standing for Scout Sniper). At least one former Secret Service member has already publicly denounced Sanders, essentially calling his Democratic Socialist ideas a threat to the (free-market) economy. Clearly these are not the people Sanders should use for personal protection, especially when some are publicly already in favor of protecting the private war banksters ideologies than an actual human being who seeks to take some of that abusively violent power away from them. No, the Secret Service was not set up to protect people like Sanders.

The original mission of the Secret Service was to combat counterfeiting, starting in 1865, and later took on the role of presidential protection, but not before the Federal Reserve took over the job of printing out and lending bank notes to the U.S. government. The Secret Service was later transferred from the Department of Treasury to the Department of Homeland Security, but the mission has remained the same - protecting the president and investigating financial crimes - crimes the banks have continued to get away with despite all the evidence against them. In reality, the Secret Service is designed more to protect the banks than it is the president, and if

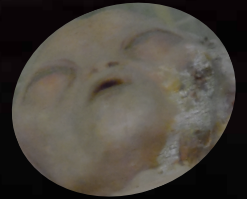
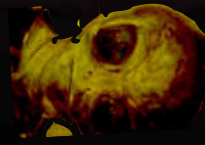
Sanders were president he would need protection against the banks, something the Secret Service is unable to do given the length of time at which the bankers have had to infiltrate and rig the Fed, the Department of Treasury, Homeland Security, and the Secret Service all in their favor. So just staying alive and out of the scope of the economic hitmen and banksters will be a big job in itself for Sanders, but that would just be the beginning. Revamping the Secret Service, appointing board members to the Fed that are in alignment with Sanders' economic policies, re-enacting Glass-Steagall, breaking up the monopoly big banks have on the financial sector, and reining in Wall Street may not be something that can be done in four years. The financial elite have embedded themselves into every party of Washington politics - they influence economic policy, military policy, and social policies through their agents, lobbyists, and provocateurs who take advantage of the D.C. - Wall Street revolving door our politicians have left wide open for the sake of the rich and super rich. Yes indeed, Sanders will not have any easy ride if he is elected.

But he should be elected, as should all of the other leftists running on the anti-austerity platform we see around the world today. The banksters have truly taken advantage of the everyday people, from those in the slums of India to the factories of China, and even in the so-called industrialized western countries of Europe and North America. They have a stranglehold on the entire economy and if nobody is willing to do anything they will only tighten their death grip. Sure, there is the possibility of them trying to kill our future president or starting a huge war to finance more debt schemes to keep them in power and their companies more profitable, but either way it's a lose-lose situation. Doing nothing is a sure pathway to more mediocrity, poverty, and almost-but-not-quite type of lifestyles. People need financial security, economic surety, and a system that can make it all more possible. What we have now isn't working, and it's sure to get worse if we let it, so I'm all on board for making sure we don't just get walked on some more. And by the look of the polls I've seen, it seems like a lot of other people are on board too.

The official polls show that Sanders is very popular and only a few points behind Hillary Clinton in the Iowa presidential caucus, but most of the official polls rarely have sample sizes over 1,500. To get a better understanding of how popular he really is, we turn to a Twitter poll by Black Lives Matter activist

# ALIEN STUDIES

## DISINFORMATION & THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS



By Scott Albright

I guess you can say I'm a believer in extraterrestrial life, and am not closed minded to any of the strange theories about the universe, multiverse, or whatever you want to call it. On the other hand, I don't have any real proof of there being anything out there except for what I've seen in documentaries, read in books, and experienced on my own. Proof, real proof, of extraterrestrials doesn't come easy. What I see with my own eyes could be an illusion, documentaries and books military disinformation, and other eye witness reports just a lively imagination or impaired mental state.

Proof, for me, is seeing the extraterrestrial lifeforms everyday. It's about NASA confirming it's existence with hard data and evidence. It's about corroboration, mass acceptance, and regular, every day sightings. So far, that does not exist, but what does exist as proof has led me to believe there is something very unusual going on. I don't just mean weird military operations, cover stories, and disinformation. I mean an actual logical explanation for things that perhaps humankind is not yet ready to confront. Things like teleportation and future transport systems. Things we think may now be possible, even though twenty or thirty years ago they were ideas only to be found in science fiction books. These were things that defied logic. They just couldn't be explained. And so it is with extraterrestrials as well, but perhaps it is our

*I don't just mean weird military operations, cover stories, and disinformation. I mean an actual logical explanation for things that perhaps humankind is not yet ready to confront.*

understanding of logic itself that may help us to understand what is going on just a little better.

What we have, on the one hand, is a purely scientific and logical approach to searching the skies for signs of life via radio telescopes, satellites, robotic spacecraft, and other technologies and instruments. It's serious, scientific, and has even brought indirect evidence of the possibility of some other type of

lifeforms out there in the universe. The masses have accepted this as a serious study, but still it has brought little in the way of understanding what is going on right here on Earth. On the other (not-so-scientific) hand, there is an abundance of what many would call amateur studies of abductions, sightings, and other direct contacts with extraterrestrial beings. These latter studies tend to be dismissed by the mainstream as illogical quasi-science, metaphysics, or trippy-hippy new age nonsense. But not all of it is. Leslie Kean's book *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, And Government Officials Go On The Record* (see book review on page 62) provides eye witness accounts of high ranking military officials' dealings with the UFO and extraterrestrial phenomenon. The book is serious in it's approach to understanding unexplainable aerial phenomenon witnessed by pilots and military officials, all the while arguing in a logical and consistent manner as to why we should take theories of extraterrestrial visitation to this planet seriously. Kean points out how multiple witnesses refused to take even their own sightings of an unexplainable ev-



-ve access to more recording devices and faster communication than ever before, it has become even easier for those who do take extraterrestrial visitations seriously to share their intelligence with each other. Rather than just letting the government and mainstream media handle it all, these new UFO and alienologists are blazing the way for future research regarding this phenomenon. They will probably be the first to have confirmed public contact with extraterrestrials while everyone else laughs because they don't take the possibility seriously. I will continue to take the possibility seriously, but until I meet one of these extraterrestrials it will still only be a possibility - a possibility I will continue to keep my mind open to.

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SAMPLE





**HELICOPTER**

Buzzing my house at 6 a.m.  
Noise ordinance violation!  
Adrenalin rushing.  
PTSD syndrome.

Black ops.  
In the middle of the night.  
Helicopter.  
Comin' in for a landing.

They rush out.  
DIA, black ninjas in,  
Invisible Iron Man suits.  
Don't see the infrared light they shoot.

Helicopter.  
Comin' in for a landing.  
Please don't say it's crashing.  
Helicopter.  
Givin' me bad dreams at night.

The buzzing rotor blades.  
Through the night they slice.  
Not so silent tonight.  
Chopping up the air.

Helicopter.  
For the people below you don't care.  
Gun 'em down.  
Blast 'em up!  
Helicopter man don't give a fuck.

But don't come crashing down!  
You might hurt us below.  
From flying debris.  
Please.  
Helicopter.  
Just go away.

**TIMELESS CAMOUFLAGE**

streaking across  
the screen  
matrix  
dream

reality  
or is it?  
What just happened?  
imaginary

dust from a fairy  
FREAKY  
dEaTh!  
but no one in sight

cosmic smear  
electronic crush  
ELIMINATE SURVEILLANCE!  
When time stops.  
For a stop watch.

It's a false illusion on our clocks  
the strangest manifestation  
of reality ever  
to exist  
in the entire multiverse.

Erasing all memory,  
and eViDeNcE  
of it ever happening.  
blink your eyes  
and it's forgotten  
Never seen.

Must've been a dream.  
The greatest hoax.  
to EVER be pulled!  
A fake false flag,  
wrapped in timeless camouflage.



# MANIFESTING REALITY: Information to Action

By Scott Albright

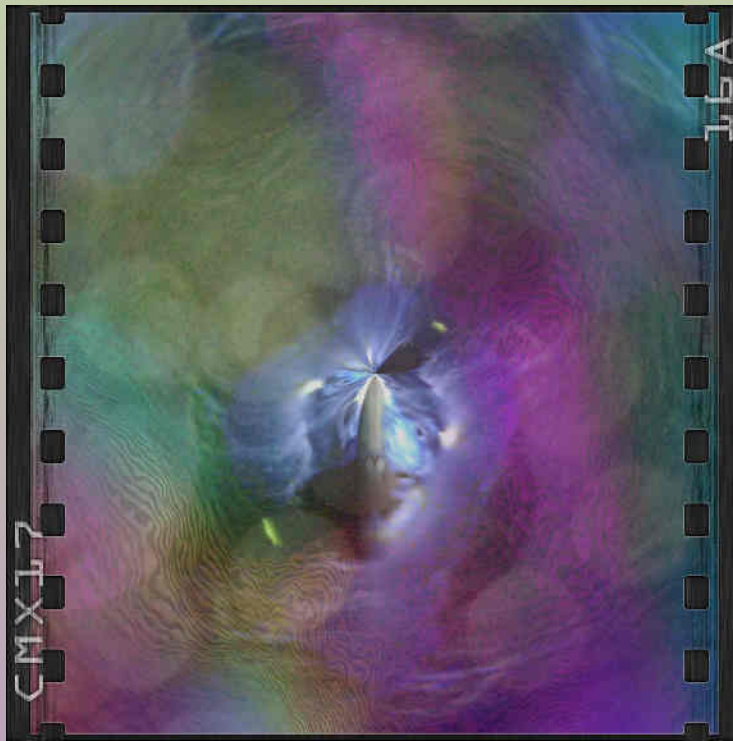
To dream up one's own reality is going against the nature of God to some. According to many religions, we are here as open vassals to God in which we provide Him our bodies to help manifest the reality He finds most suited for us. Our leaders are chosen by God through some form of Manifest Destiny or Mandate of Heaven in order to provide us with the guidance we need to create our collective reality. To believe it to be any other way would be Satanic, or at least politically unacceptable, and even punishable by death in countries like Saudi Arabia or China. Or so it seems that's the message I have received through readings of various scriptures and literature passed on and stored on one side of the library.

But on the other side there are books like *The Secret* which tells us how the law of attraction can be used by individuals as a means of manifesting their own realities. Individual free will and self autonomy is encouraged and the imagination pointed to as a guiding post for creating future pathways. This is the opposite of giving ourselves up to some higher being, entity, faction, cult, or secret society. This is about control and self determination - individual creation, self guidance, and free will. But there is a catch to this. The more independent we become, the more free will we have - the more controlled and orderly things will be. The more we plan and script our own futures outside of the random external influences we would normally find in our lives, the more our lives become deterministic. Through self creation we gain more free will, but we also lose some by our elimination of chance and randomness. So before attempting to write our futures out in long hand, it's important to

recognize these two opposing, yet complementary factors. Determinism and free will are both inevitable natural consequences of the universe's evolution, so we must accept that we cannot control everything, and that not everything can control us.

That being said, there is a way to regulate the external influences in a way which positively contributes to our own desired future outcomes. Key to this is knowledge and information. The information we consume and the knowledge we hold influences the way we think, and in turn changes the type of actions we take. Luckily we have vast amounts of information at our fingertips to pick and choose from, so we no longer have to submit our minds to the force fed information of those who have an interest in controlling what we think and how we behave. Of course we don't always know the details about all the information we decide to consume beforehand, so there will be surprises and some force fed information we may need to toss aside, but compared to when there was no internet, we are at an advantage as to the variety of information that is available for our consumption.

Choosing the type of information we decide to consume is not an easy task, but one can give themselves some basic guidelines. We must ask, what is it that we truly want for ourselves in the future? What do we want for our children, and what is the best type of reality to manifest not just for one self, but for the world at large? It's natural for humans to have selfish desires that are not always healthy for one self or the people around them, so there are moral and ethical questions one must wade through before deciding what one truly wants to manifest as their reality. After coming to terms with these issues, one can then decide which types of information they





want to consume.

For me, there are some basic needs I have to satisfy. First off is money - money for student loans, rent, utilities, retirement, investments in children, and savings is needed for the well being of my family and their overall mental and physical health. Therefore, I need information about how to make money to satisfy all these different needs. So what I do is seek out this information on the internet, follow social media accounts which provide information about how to satisfy these financial needs, and look for books at the library which can give me the knowledge I need to reach my goals. Finding the most relevant and reliable sources is another big task, but each individual is different, so the information they consume will also be different, however there are certain types of information which can be considered standards for comparison or relational purposes, as for our manifested realities to be considered true to others we must have some standard for all to relate to. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, first hand sources, and official historical records are some examples of the collective informational standards we can use to refer to to satisfy this end.

Wading through all the information can be time consuming, especially when trying to meet other needs as well, such as health, happiness, peace, etc. There are literally millions of websites which provide information about these topics, many of them extremely useful and practical, however too much information can slow one down in their ultimate goal of creating their realities, so it is important to have specific goals which require a limited, specific type of information, and to set timelines on when you want to reach these goals, and only consume the amount of information needed to meet the original goal one set out to do.

Some goals are much easier to meet, but often times it's because those are the goals one wants to meet the most. For example, one of my goals is to be more healthy, so I decided to start playing soccer again to do this. I love soccer so it's not a difficult goal for me to achieve even with having to manage a somewhat hectic and non-routine schedule as a single dad raising three kids. But when you want something bad enough, you find a way to do it. The internet made this goal achievable much quicker than I had anticipated. After browsing and searching through the different league websites I finally found what I was really looking for - Saturday co-ed pick up games at UNM. Perfect! The next step was going from information consumption to action. All I had to do was sign up with the online Meet-Up group, RSVP, and head down to the field at 10 am. Easy. Although I haven't been able to make every

game, I have been able to make Saturday morning soccer a more regular part of my life for a few months now. This has been the easiest case of information to action reality manifestation for me to date, but not all goals are as easy to manifest into reality.

I'm still working on reaching specific financial goals that I have been unable to meet for years no matter what information I use as a way to take action. I have found though that perseverance, patience, and a positive mind are helpful in reaching this goal. For all my life I have been fed this idea that money is the root of an evil greed that is blinding us from our moral and social responsibilities. I have been led to believe that money is communal - that what goes around comes around - and that sharing and giving are signs of good character, while receiving and taking are signs of greed and selfishness. Time sheets, time clocks, and administrative or managerial policies have conditioned me to believe that my time and energy is less valuable than others. I am consumed with this overwhelming feeling of guilt if I take more than I am led to believe I deserve. This conditioning and way of thinking is due to the type of information I've consumed and been force fed by others, and it is deeply rooted into my neural pathways and difficult to change simply by consuming new types of information that refute these ways of thinking. Such ways of thinking are some of the major roadblocks I've encountered while trying to reach my financial goals, yet those roadblocks can be rammed through or bypassed with enough persistence and determination, no matter what one's circumstances are. Yes, you may be trapped in the ghetto, living in a drought prone region of the world, or mentally or physically handicapped, but there are ways around these hurdles, and information & knowledge is still the key.

The secret, the real secret, to manifesting one's desired reality is knowing what one really wants. Yes, I want money to help me meet my financial goals, but I need to be more specific than this. I need to know how and why I want to bring this money into reality. I've found that working for others, especially when it comes to writing, is very difficult for me. Often times I simply don't want to work for anyone else because I don't want to write what they want me to write. Manual labor, on the other hand, is much easier for me to do just by obeying commands and following orders, partially because the Marine Corps ingrained that into me, but also because I often want to just be told what to do - I find it easier. For me, manual labor can be refreshing because I don't have to think much about what I'm doing - because I'm an open vassal to those in charge. It's blissful at times, but it is because I am not thinking, because there is a lack of intellect-

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# #TWITTERMANIA: FRAMING THE MSM'S AGENDA

By Scott Albright

Where do you get your news? Where does the news get its news? Being a Twitter maniac myself I've come to notice that the news is often two or three days behind what Twitter users have been discussing. Live shots, pictures, and descriptions of events from the wide variety of users allows for instantaneous information to flow from an abundance of diverse sources. The news simply can't keep up, but they are paying attention. And that's what's interesting.

Scores of news sites run Twitter feeds below their news articles, often times with the tweets filling up more space than the article itself. I have no problem with this as Twitter is a public space and if accounts are open than that means they're open to the public. It's a public sphere that kind of sucks you in and doesn't let go. It's easy to become subsumed by the sea of information and hashtags, and reporters are no different.

Reporters have their own Twitter accounts and probably follow different people to get leads on stories, while others want the reporters to follow them so they can get their story out to more people. Some stories do get out this way, but many are ignored, or if they do get out it isn't making the difference the Tweeter hopes to make.

But at times Twitter and other social media sites do make a difference. Most of the time we probably don't notice because we don't know what other path we would've taken had we not accessed the information we did to tell the story about whatever major event is being broadcast on Twitter. And each perspective matters.

The events in Ferguson and St. Louis made it clear that what Rebelutionary\_Z or Search4Swag saw

were definitely not the same thing the mainstream media videocamera operators & editors chose to show us. From one side you could see that tear gas canisters were being used against protesters in residential neighborhoods. Twitter feeds showed us pictures of wounded protesters, and told us of gas being used on babies and grandmas. Smoke was filling up whole blocks where people lived, and later on Search4Swag tweeted out videos of a burning vehicle and building.

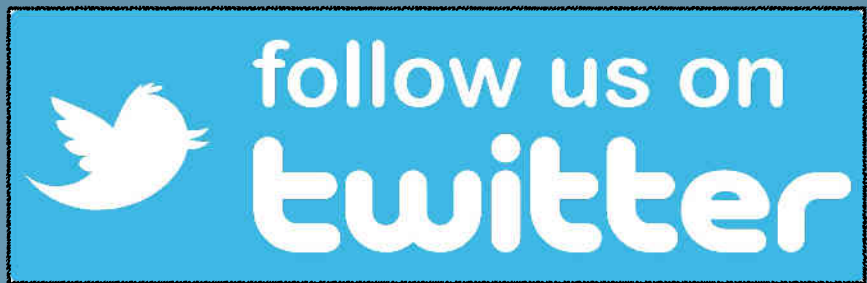
On the late night news I watched the two minute clip the station gave space for to show the protest and saw the obvious differences in the portrayal of events. The limited space was used to present the side of the police who had videotaped a protester throwing a brick. The same incident had been tweeted earlier on from the perspective of a protester, but on the mainstream media for some reason it seemed like being hit by a brick was much scarier than being murdered by a cop, for just a moment anyway. But the video also showed the police in a militaristic looking vehicle with a guy in a turret blasting tear gas at protesters. It was a very short clip, but all of a sudden I remembered the picture of the wounded protester and thought, yeah, a tear gas canister would definitely hurt more than a brick, especially if I was wearing riot gear.

The weapon used to fire the tear gas reminded me of the MK19 automatic grenade launcher I shot

while serving as a machinegunner in the Marine Corps. It's one hell of a weapon that I certainly wouldn't want to come in the line of site of, even if it was only shooting tear gas.

But that brings me to my point about framing the agenda. Clearly Twitter (and other social media) has worked to frame the agenda in many different instances, but not always in the way people hope or believe it should be framed. The mainstream media just has more reach and they've been in the minds of the masses for much longer, especially the older folks. So how do we use Twitter to frame the agenda the way we want it to be framed?

The problem with that question is the we part, because everybody is different, but the point here is that Twitter is a public sphere - a global digital commons if you will, so there is a we or an us aspect to it, and that shouldn't be ignored. But the I part is important too. For me, I believe it's important to follow people who will fill my feed with important events occurring all over the world who can tell a story from some type of personal or unique perspective that the mainstream media won't give me. It makes me feel more connected to the people who are out there tweeting and livestreaming. But not everything is all good. Some of the stuff on my feed is horrifying, to say the least, but it needs to be there. It's important we don't ignore all the awful things happening in the world. If we did, imagine how much more people would be able to



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## #TWITTERMANIA CONTINUED . . .

get away with. Imagine what other pathway our society would follow. In many ways the mainstream media has picked up on this public sentiment. Just showing the image of the police using militaristic equipment to shoot tear gas at protestors gives the impression that the mainstream media does have an interest in providing broader perspectives to the stories they cover. Although their coverage tends to perpetuate the justification of police violence, there is at least some tiny bit of “the other side” being shown on their programs that we can say the agenda is being framed in a way that is inclusive of opposing sides.

But how much of what we see in the news is actually influenced by Twitter? According to researchers Kim Sung-Tae and Lee Young-Hwan, this is called reversed agenda-setting. Reversed agenda-setting is when the common Tweeter posts something that goes viral, which the mainstream media picks up on, and which then has some type of social effect. According to Maxwell McCombs, the agenda-setting theory tells us that, “Through their day-by-day selection and display of the news, the mass media shape our perspectives of the world and focus our attention, influencing our views about what are the important topics of the day.” Reversed agenda-setting tells us that the common citizen can also influence the mass media which then influence the perspectives of the masses, and frame the socio-political agenda of the day. Framing refers to the way in which the information is presented - what information is left out or the level of importance a news organization gives to the event they are covering.

In a 2013 Master thesis by Stefan Volders titled “Agenda-Setting Theory in Political Discourse on Twitter” the author writes in his conclusion, “The findings show that with regards to more political subjects, the public has little influence on the way the news is brought to the people. The public is limited to commenting on the messages that traditional media bring. In this regard, the agenda-setting theory holds. This study further shows that when a subject is more of a public concern and less political, the citizens have more influence on the way the item is brought to the people and how people talk about the subject. An item like this can become so important online that the traditional media eventually incorporate the item on the media agenda. With these subjects, reversed agenda-setting effects occur.”

Perhaps this shows that even in a democratic society where the common citizen can contribute to the information the public consumes, there is still a lack of influence by the people on the political agenda. But I’m a believer in what the individual can do and how that can contribute to the collective pathways of all, and don’t believe Volder’s findings are all conclusive. I believe that

Twitter users do present information which not only influence what their followers are thinking about, but which also shape the way journalists report their stories, political and non-political. But clearly Twitter users and citizen journalist can do far more. But what, and how? How can Twitter users shape the minds of the masses in ways that help us to unfold the pathways we all want to walk upon? How can we frame the agenda for our own personal lives as well as for the community at large?

Well, first off we need more positive information. Stuff that makes us feel good and that makes us want to do something to change the stuff that is bad, for ourselves and for others. We need positive quotes, advice, solutions, and ideas that help us to go down the paths we want to take. If we can do that, if we can find the right information to help us think about the things we truly want to obtain as a society, than we can frame the political agenda, and we can co-create our socio-political realities. We can help to collectively manifest a new agenda for the masses.

This form of law of attraction can be used to shape the lives of large segments of society. We can all feed ourselves with the most beneficial and useful information we can find in order to reshape our collective futures. Of course we don’t all want the same thing, and I don’t believe we should, but we have the opportunity as a society to do something amazing if we allow ourselves to. I believe we should start with the self. Follow people who can teach you how to do better in school, better in relationships, or who can teach you how to fix a broken toilet, or to sell an old car - whatever it is you want to be better at. Keep at it and keep digging past the fakers and scammers until you have solid sources who can give you timely information. Constantly look for new sources to give you different types of information to open up new pathways and possibilities. We can literally spend a lifetime sorting through information to create new combinations of information just to make the same history we’ve always made.

But now is the time to rewrite that history. Now is the time to use the information from the past and present to create a new future for all. At one time, the type of information we now have access to for free was considered sacred or taboo. Few people had access to it, but now it’s right in your pocket, on your phone. It truly is the information revolution, so lets get to it and revolutionize the way we think about reality. With a simple tool like Twitter, it’s all now 100% possible.

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# Relativism vs. Absolutism: Truth in the Making

*“Truth is what your contemporaries let you get away with.” - Richard M. Rorty*

**By Rick Albright**

Plato presented the dilemma of the absolutism/relativism dyad in his dialogue Crito, a conversation about justice and injustice between Socrates and the wealthy Crito. Socrates is encouraged to escape his execution but, his belief in upholding the law would not allow him to do so. Socrates holds the absolutist position that he will uphold his principles even if it means he will die. This situation is being played out today in American politics where shutting down the government to make a deeply held political belief has become an acceptable tactic. The dialogue develops many of the arguments between the philosophies of absolutism and relativism. Philosophical absolutism is the view that there is an absolute reality which exists independently of human knowledge. Philosophical relativism, on the other hand, advocates the idea that reality exists only within human knowledge, and that reality is relative to each individual.

Absolutism has historically been the dominant paradigm in most world cultures driving politics and driven by belief. The shamans, touched by the supernatural preceded emperor, pharaoh, and king anointed by their gods to lead with divine guidance. If god says it is so there can be no arguments about what should be done. Unless, of course, you don't believe in that god or any god. Then that decree becomes relative to the beliefs of others. Crito, the relativist, believed the law was too harsh and was willing to help Socrates thwart the decree that he die. Socrates, the absolutist, believed that the laws of Athens must be upheld at any cost.

Throughout time history has admired men and women of principle and told their stories as morality tales. Relativism rejects universal truths where truth is transitory believing that moral values should be viewed in context of the environment of the individual and the cultural norms of their society. Promoting one moral truth as superior to all others causes cultural and individual conflicts leading to the violence of suicide bombers and abortion providers murdered by zealots for their convictions as well as, wars between cultures.

The willingness to die for a just cause has long been viewed a virtuous trait but survivors of

wars for a just cause often reassess those beliefs. In an article for the Atlantic Magazine, Allen Guelz viewed the civil war through the lens of absolutism/relativism and concluded that the violence of the civil war caused the popularity of religious absolutism in the United States to decline. Post-war a large number of men reflected on their part of a struggle rooted in absolutism and began to understand that giving ideas like abolition and freedom the status of truth destroyed a generation. The same dynamic is at play in the Middle East and other parts of the world where opposing ideologies, Sunni and Shite or Kurd vs Turk, declare the truth for everybody, destroying the lives of millions of people with war and intolerance.

“The truth” is under assault by forces that began centuries ago and by current trends in the research of inner and outer space. Although absolutism has been the glue of many societies, the growth of relativism has been inevitable since scientists such as Galileo and Copernicus ventured beyond “the truth” and began investigating both inner and outer space. Perhaps the Age of Absolutism and the excesses of its monarchs had the same effect on people of that time as the Civil War did in the United States. The Enlightenment and science driven Age of Reason followed the monarchs absolute rule. Western religion went through a period of crisis but, the protestant revolution loosened the grip of the church on curious minds that questioned the way things were. Relativism seems to thrive on curiosity and change. The technology we use today would have been magic to most of the earth's past inhabitants and a testament to scientific method and reason.

Reality is being redefined by studies that reflect a relativist point of view. This has brought about a deconstruction of universality and a closer focus on the individual's role in creating their own reality. Many neuroscientists agree with Debbie Hampton who points out in her blog that the world is constructed by a person's brain. Reality is nothing more than our individual brains' interpretation of the signals it receives as we interact with our environments. Because a being receives so many signals the brain actually predicts and creates much of what is sensed. Quantum mechanics suggests that we perceive at most a tiny sliver of reality, and

Swiss linguist, Ferdinand Saussure believed that language constitutes our world where meaning is always attributed to the object by the mind and constructed by and expressed through language. These findings seem to refute an absolutist view of the world where absolute reality exists independently of human knowledge..

Robert Wright, in his book *The Evolution of God*, proposes that history demonstrates that once a culture has been defeated by a rival they begin compromising until their religions merge and they believe in the same God. This indicates that the absolute truth, which brought about war between different viewpoints, is compromised once there is a winner and a loser. This also points out that the dyad is not a polar system but, rather a spectrum upon which individuals and cultures fall in different places. Perhaps we are shifting our culture to a point where relativism plays a more important role in providing a viewpoint that can keep us from killing each other before we find a compromise.

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# Truth, Disinformation, and Co-Creation

In his famous work *The Allegory of the Cave*, Plato asks, “How could they see anything but the shadows if they were not allowed to move their heads?” Those who are not allowed to move their heads believe the shadows dancing on the walls of the cave they are in to be reality, never knowing that there is an entirely different reality awaiting them outside the cave - a truer version of reality than they are experiencing. But the question arises, what is “true” reality?

Those of us glued to our phones and TVs, staring at the constant flow of information we receive, are like the people trapped in the cave, unable to move our heads. What we observe becomes our reality, no matter how distant that reality is from our actual location. We are connected by light speed, able to instantaneously communicate across borders, bringing new realities into our consciousness through our devices and news feeds. But if we look, we’ll see there is a whole other reality going on all around us. There is a boy without a phone who simply wants to talk to a real person. There is a homeless person, freezing his ass off with no food who you were completely unaware of because you were scrolling through Facebook. A kid screaming for her momma is ignored as the text messages keep going back and forth. You may be somewhat aware of this other reality, but staring at that little screen just seems so much more important, simply because it is a reality outside the one you’re already in.

Perhaps Plato was wrong in assuming the people in the cave truly want to be saved. Maybe when they see the “true” reality they’ll just want to try and escape it. So many of us already do, through drugs, alcohol, solitude, books, meditation, social media - things that allow us to see the world around us from a different perspective, from a different point of view. Simply by changing our perspective, we change our reality. But still, is this a “true” reality? If I stop getting my news from anywhere but Fox News will I in turn be living in a different reality that is just as “true” as the one I was living in before? As one of my friends told me regarding a supposed “fake” soccer tournament, “It’s only as real as you make it.” And I suppose that to be true for everyone.

Disinformation works because of this, because it creates new realities. Humans are susceptible to suggestion, particularly if it is repeated over and over, which is precisely what disinformation artists do - feed our heads with suggestions and lies over and over until we believe it. And as soon as enough people believe it, it becomes a reality, a shared reality. Of course there is great danger to this as often times the reality the disinformation artists seek to create is divisive, violent, and environmentally disastrous, but nevertheless, they make it work. They create an absolute reality for large masses of

people, which serves the interests of the disinfo artists who often seek to create a reality of suffering and war. Bombs and missiles reinforce that reality. Lobbyists and lawyers ensure it becomes law. This is absolutism. This is the reality we live in today.

But things are changing drastically. As the population of humans grows, so do the number of ideas we have about what constitutes a “true” reality. The more ideas there are, the more combinations of possible realities we create. When I ignore the mainstream media and filter out other people’s ideas about what my reality should be, I start creating my own reality. Am I trying to escape a reality that is more “true” than the one I choose to create? Well, when you can’t even tell what is fact or fiction because of the mass amount of propaganda and disinformation in the media, I suppose the answer to that question is no. No, neither realities are more “true” than the other, although I know there is another type of reality out there. There are millions of people who believe the disinformation is the “true” reality, and that is a reality I also have to accept. Their reality is just as real as mine, no matter how much we try to convince each other otherwise. In fact, trying to convince them otherwise only makes them cling to the reality they already know even more so. It somehow reinforces their false convictions when you show them evidence to prove that things are actually contrary to what they believe them to be. So then, does it even matter that people choose to live in these fictional realities?

Why can’t I walk around with Google Glasses on, living in a semi-virtual reality at all times? Who cares if Donald Trump really believes the outrageous lies he says? Why bother if someone only views reality through one specific lens their entire life? Maybe we should encourage even more people to shut off the reality around them and to plug into some type of virtual, pseudo-reality. Perhaps it will save us from a lot of fighting to accept that we don’t have to have any type of shared reality. To know that there is no absolute truth. No absolute anything.

But that would just be running away from the fact that we do share many common attributes. We are all human, after all, and we do all live on this planet called Earth, which lies in a solar system shared by other planets, in a large galaxy, residing in a vast universe in which all things exist within. We know these things to be true because of our relationships to each other, because of our relativistic realities. Our combined perceptions create new relativistic truths that all together form an absolute reality, albeit one that is always changing. Together, relativism and absolutism live in harmony, but what then does that mean for those of us who want to create our own realities, or for those who want to “co-create” new shared realities?

What it means is that it is all possible. Science fict-

-ion writers perhaps provide the most evidence of this possibility. The writers lived out fictional realities in their heads, imagining the images and interpreting them through their words. Each page they fill is a creation of its own, each word a symbol of the realities the writers lived in while creating their work. These words are then passed on to the reader who reinterprets their meaning, storing ideas about the storyteller's future technologies in their head, the way they perceive them to be. Collectively, the readers have created a new fictional reality in their own heads, living out the story the writer produced in their own unique, yet shared way. Over time the ideas from within the science fiction writers' work comes to life. People talk about the future technologies they see in their minds, and combining their resources they learn how to create these new technologies. Eventually hover boards and flying cars are the new reality. Teleportation devices and time machines almost within grasp.

Yes, reality changes very fast, and writers, artists, and other creative types have helped to bring on these changes through their works. In three generations we went from not being able to fly, to going to the moon and beyond. In just one generation we've gone from knowing only of the planets in our own solar system, to discovering over a thousand new planets. Yes, reality, our shared reality, is much different than it used to be. But how long can we sustain this change?

How long can we keep on creating new realities and still be able to have a common shared reality among us all? Will there be a time when we create so many fictional realities that the "true" underlying shared reality will become indiscernible from the false realities? And once again, what makes those realities more false than any other reality, and should we really care anyway?

I believe we should. I believe the explosion of information and our interconnectedness through new forms of communication and our ever-expanding population make it almost impossible to not care. Even through all the disinfo and lies, the communication devices we now have still allow us to have a shared a reality. A reality that is true to all. Sure, military personnel and corporate employees may have to leave their phones at home, state-run information control propaganda programs will keep many people in the dark for years, and our self-imposed

ensorship and filters will prevent many from seeing what else is out there, but still, we can't prevent the all encompassing, constant flow of information, from reaching the minds of the masses. Perhaps the "truth" will radicalize some, and perhaps it will only reinforce false convictions among others, but to the open minded individual this information explosion is precisely what connects us and brings us a shared reality among all humanity. When we begin to see the information other people are exposed to we begin to understand why they think the way they do, and why they take the actions they take. Having a common, shared reality is important because it gives us insight into how we can move forward as a species, and not just as a bunch of divided factions warring over false ideologies and beliefs. It allows us to learn from one another and to understand why our beliefs about the ultimate reality are so different, yet it connects us in a way that makes those different beliefs a part of our shared reality. Watching a bomb explode on a Syrian hospital, and

the blood and destruction that follows, gives us a taste of a different reality that may seem so distant that it has nothing to do with us. Until the refugees start pouring in. Until retaliatory attacks occur in one's hometown. Until a son or daughter is lost to the war. Then, all of sudden, the reality of those being bombed becomes part of our reality. When we see this death and suffering on our digital devices we bring that reality into

our mind. Those who are suffering on the ground in war zones become a part of our consciousness, and a part of the public discourse. To deny this reality, to ignore it and escape into another reality, is just as bad as ignoring your own reality.

Yes, we should put the phone down and pay attention to that deviceless kid, and yes, we should ask ourselves how important other peoples lives are in relation to our selves, and yes, we should manage our time accordingly when worrying about what's going on on the other side of the globe, but we shouldn't just stick our heads in the dirt and try and pretend this other reality isn't going on. Because it does effect us. It does change our own personal realities, even when we pretend it doesn't.

But being aware of this external, separate reality than our own is just part of the bigger picture. It is only a recognition of the state of the past and/or present of those



"There is no truth, only perception." Artwork by Alex Albright

## Science Fiction: A Preview of the Future

*Snippets from the upcoming science fiction novel by Distracted Masses:*

### **In The Board Room**

“We predict Black Throne’s profits will grow 750% faster than Goldman Morgan, the IMF, and all the Rothschild banks put together over the next five centuries using this algorithm,” Tom Forge, one of the six board members controlling a majority share of Black Throne’s stocks, told the room of CEOs and other major stockholders.

It was the annual stockholder meeting, Dec. 15, 2075. They were in the executive suite of the ECB tower in Frankfurt. Despite the multiple fires blamed on arsonist anarchists, or paid Rothschild resistance members, the ECB continued to grow more massive over the years. After it’s initial opening in 2015 when the resistance first tried to take on the oligarchs head on, ECB engineers designed new entryways and special underground transportation systems for it’s employees. At first the bankers were worried the resistance was genuine and thought they had a formidable opponent, but it didn’t take long for the Rothschild’s to pull out the old coercive mind control techniques they were so well known for to recruit the resistance and turn another crisis into a profit. The rest of the bankers caught on quick and each financier faction began mobilizing their own armies of resistors, so they could also bet on all sides of every political battle anyone could ever conceive of. Black Thrown had an edge though, because they just managed the money. They didn’t invest it, so all they really had to do was make sure the money was spread out enough to keep all their clients happy.

“Now we also predict major sabotage attempts from the Council of World Business Owners and some social disruptions closer to home, but these will be more annoying than anything and our profits won’t be affected,” Tom continued.

“Tom,” Lorenzo, another board member, interrupted, “What the hell are we doing at the ECB? This is Rothschild territory. We ought to be doing this on our own turf.”

Blackthrone’s “home turf” was Hong Kong, amongst the towering skyscrapers and graviton suites they owned. Lorenzo knew something was wrong. There were too many hidden variables. Why were the Rothschild’s really up to?

“This is simple business,” Tom told Lorenzo. “We don’t have anything to worry about.”

### **Egypt**

“How dare you enter the sacred spacetime of Ra Anu-ka!” he heard a voice bellow through the night. The voice pounded and echoed inside Jack’s head, as though vibrating his entire insides and shaking his molecular structure to it’s core.

“S-s-s-sorry,” Jack stammered. “I don’t know how I got here. I’m just a lost traveller.”

“All lost souls must return to their home,” the voice echoed again, this time slightly quieter than before. “Where are you from?”

“I’m from Earth. From America I mean. The United States of America.”

“Than you are in the wrong era,” the voice answered back. “America does not exist yet. Come to me. I will take you home.”

But before Jack could take a single step he felt himself being raised into the air, a cool breeze swirling around him. He was on the hand of the giant statue and it was bringing him closer to the pyramid and up to the glow. In an instant Jack was staring into a giant grey and yellow eyeball. The eyeball itself was bigger than Jack, almost engulfing him from how close he was. It blinked, and then somehow seemed to scan Jack with just a flicker to the left and right.



## ***UFOs: Generals, Pilots, And Government Officials Go On The Record* by Leslie Kean**

Review by Scott Albright

Leslie Kean's book *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, And Government Officials Go On The Record* is one of the greatest books I ever read. I'm not just a believer now. I have proof. Well, as good as proof I'm gonna get had I been there myself. Leslie Kean brings together top military officials from around the world who've been involved with or encountered strange unidentified flying aircraft in their lifetimes. These are men, all of them, who've been up front in the information battle for the truth about alien existence. Some of them engaged in warfare against these unknown flying vehicles, and some of them attempted to but failed.

Most accounts of these encounters discuss the intelligence of the machines, perhaps with creatures inside, but there is even more to be said about the disinformation, coverups, and first hand accounts of human military to alien engagement than just the strange phenomenon itself. Kean gives us a look into the psychology behind our encounters with these strange machines and our reluctant and stubborn refusal to accept these encounters as part of our human reality. But it's not possible to shove our observations to the side, dismiss all facts, or just ignore the truth - it's right there for us all to see. Kean throws the shit in your face, and there's not much else to it.

We've got to be living on this planet with some strange visitors, or else our best military men and women are all just crazy in the head. They're having hallucinations and dreaming up crazy delusions to mislead the masses, or what they say they've seen and experienced is real . . .

I believe it's real. But at this point it's not about belief. We need proof. Unfortunately this book isn't quite good enough to give us all the proof we need, but it's as close as we're gonna get for a bunch of text and a few insert photos. It's not enough proof - it's just a bunch of views and perspectives, even if they are from the finest minds on the planet. However, these perspectives should be taken seriously, if not for national security concerns, than for mental and physical health concerns, as well for the safety of marine, land, and air transportation systems.

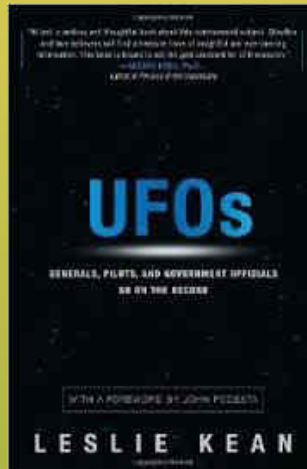
Brazilian Brigadier General Jose Carlos Pereira (Ret.), argues in the book that UFOs *do* pose a national security threat, but few public officials have taken this well respected official seriously. Why? Perhaps because in secret it *is* a national security concern, but if made public the threat to security could be even more of a concern. Perhaps these aren't machines from outer space, but technologies created right here on Earth. If so, government would do

everything they could to keep the encounters secret, and spreading disinformation about the technologies themselves would be the first way to go. They could say it was a weather balloon (not a secret atmospheric nuclear testing device), or it was an unexplainable weather event (not a high energy research facility conducting some experiment), or it was simply an unidentified flying vehicle, or UFO (not a drone or experimental military aircraft). And who's to say the the military men in Kean's book aren't speaking publicly about UFOs for some ulterior motive? What if they are spreading disinformation to distract us from finding out about their countries' secret military research and technology development? But Kean makes that argument really hard to believe.

Kean, and the military and former military officials writing of their UFO encounters in Kean's book, make me believe what they witnessed was something non-human. No matter how far advanced our technologies have become in secret, I find it difficult to believe we have anything close to what these officials are describing. These flying craft can blink in and out of places in space so quickly that we would have to describe their movement as some type of teleportation or time travel. And some of these UFOs are huge, filled with smaller orb-like craft which have been viewed scouting the skies and reconning human aircraft.

Perhaps these are only illusions or holographic weapons meant to deceive pilots, but still, the evidence seems to lean in favor of something else, something extraterrestrial.

Kean doesn't make any assumptions though, and isn't trying to convince the readers that these UFOs are from some other planet, but she certainly makes a case for it. The purpose of the book, it seems, is more about transparency and disclosure. It's about bringing these encounters into the open and discussing them from a rational, academic, and scientific perspective. Kean tells us that the research in the area of UFOs should be taken seriously, not for national security or public health reasons, but because of the scientific advances we could make if we did - because of the collaboration and cooperation it could bring across all fields of study. And because it could help to eliminate some of the mistrust and uncertainty caused by the disinformation and government denials that feed the conspiracy stories and restrain serious advances in international scientific study of these strange unidentified technological phenomenon



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# FUTURE WORLD: CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSING

In the past the way people made money was to create something and sell it. The person who created the product took ownership over it with a copyright, trademark, or patent so as to prevent other people from stealing and making money off their product.

Today the rules have changed. Many artists, musicians, writers, and other creators simply can't sell their product when the market is supersaturated. There simply is no demand when customers have an endless supply of free goods on the internet. Need some music? Just download the song. Picture? Right click and save. Need an article? Highlight, copy, and paste. Why pay? It just doesn't make sense.

If you're already rich than I guess it does make sense to continue using the old system where creators protect their products with copyrights and so forth, as it is a perfectly good mechanism from preventing others from stealing your product when enforceable. But if you're an unknown artist with little money for marketing, advertising, or for enforcing copyright laws it simply doesn't work. If nobody has heard of you they won't be able to find your product, and even if they do, why would they pay for it if they don't have to?

So what's the solution? Creative commons licensing. A creative commons license gives artists and creators of all types an opportunity to share their product to the world without having to pay for advertising. It gives them the chance to let others promote their products without having to worry about legalities. The commercial creative commons license is of particular interest to people who want to make money because it offers mutual benefits to creators that other licenses don't. It allows works to be copied, remade, tweaked, and manipulated by others who can then sell that product to earn money for themselves, so long as they attribute the work to the original artist.



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And in turn we will try to make money off other people's work as well. In the future, you will find articles and works from other creators also using a Creative Commons Commercial license. We want to share what other people are doing and have them share our work in return. We think it will pay off greatly, as this is a mutually beneficial system that will hopefully beat out the old dog-eat-dog winner takes all mentality that has tainted the media landscape for so long. We are believers of the share economy and so we are going to give it a try. If it doesn't work than we're no worse off than before, so why the heck not? We encourage you to do the same and to share what you've created with us so we can help spread the word. Email [distractedmasses1@gmail.com](mailto:distractedmasses1@gmail.com) to pass on the creative work you want to share in the commons.

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SAMPLE

**Thanks for reading this sample version of Distracted Masses Vol. Issue #4. To read more buy the print or e-edition on Amazon.**

**It's really hard to talk when my mouth is covered with this mask.**



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