

January 6, 2014

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Newsbusters posts on the media's lack of interest in the fact the ship was on a "global warming" mission.

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*Chris Turney, the expedition’s leader, is a professor of climate change at the University of New South Wales. According to Turney’s personal website, the purpose of the expedition is to “discover and communicate the environmental changes taking place in the south.” ...*

The NY Times is involved in a project to help Hillary clear away the Benghazi problem. Andrew McCarthy starts off a look at the controversy.

*What was the commander-in-chief of the United States armed forces doing through the night of September 11, 2012, while he knew Americans were under jihadist siege in Libya? You won't learn the answer to that question by reading the mini-book-length, six-"chapter" revisionist history of the Benghazi massacre cooked up by David D. Kirkpatrick and the New York Times.*

*The Times report is a labor of love in the service of President Obama and, in particular, the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign ramp-up. Former secretary of state Clinton, of course, was a key architect of Obama's Libya policy. She was also chiefly responsible for the protection of American personnel in that country, including our murdered ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and the three other Americans killed by Muslim terrorists — State Department technician Sean Smith and a pair of former Navy SEALs, Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods. Still, the Times is banking on your not noticing that in its laborious 7,500 words, Kirkpatrick's account utters the word "Clinton" exactly . . . wait for it . . . zero times.*

*The word "Obama" comes in for a mere six mentions, four of which are impersonal references to the current administration. The other two are telling, though fleeting.*

*One is a rehearsal of the president's vow to exact "justice" against anyone found responsible for this "terrible act" of killing four Americans, including the formal representative of our nation. As it happens, the only person on the planet to have felt the lash of Obama's justice is Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the California-based "producer" who filmed the infamous "anti-Mohammed" movie trailer, Innocence of Muslims. In a despicable violation of constitutional free-speech principles, and a bow to sharia blasphemy rules that forbid criticism of Islam, Obama and Clinton publicly portrayed Nakoula and his "film" as the Benghazi culprits — implicitly accepting the Islamic-supremacist premise that verbal insults, no matter how obscure and trifling, justify mass-murder attacks.*

*In large part, the Times' autopsy is a futile attempt to breathe new life into this demeaning farce.  
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Stephen Hayes of Fox and the Weekly Standard with an exhaustive look.

*Let's start by giving David Kirkpatrick credit. Kirkpatrick, the Cairo bureau chief of the New York Times and author of this weekend's much-discussed piece on Benghazi, provides many new on-the-ground, minute-by-minute details of the attacks and the weeks and months leading up to them. Some of the reporting is incredible. Kirkpatrick describes the vase in the living room of the home belonging to the mother of Abu Khattala, a main suspect in those attacks. He reports on how the fighting in the consulate paused when Abu Khattala entered the compound, a revealing fact. Citing security camera video footage, the author describes how one of the attackers paused amidst the bedlam in the consulate to pour some Hershey's chocolate syrup down his throat. Kirkpatrick obviously spent considerable time on the ground in Benghazi and interviewed several anti-Western Islamists, including some involved in the attacks. There's little doubt he took considerable risks as he reported his piece.*

*While much of Kirkpatrick's reporting is admirable and while these details add to our knowledge of certain aspects of the attack, they do not tell the whole story. And that's where the piece ultimately fails.*

*The piece makes two main claims that challenge much of the previous reporting about Benghazi: 1) The Times asserts that there is "no evidence that al Qaeda or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault;" and, 2) that the attack "was fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam."*

*We'll focus on the first one.*

*There is, in fact, evidence that terrorists linked to al Qaeda had a role in the Benghazi attacks. Indeed, there's a fair amount of that kind of evidence. As Representative Adam Schiff, a California Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence put it on Sunday when asked about the Times report: "The intelligence indicates that al Qaeda was involved, ...*

**Caroline Glick** of the Jerusalem Post has a somewhat different take on the Times' efforts on behalf of Hillary and Barry.

*The New York Times just delivered a mortal blow to the Obama administration and its Middle East policy.*

*Call it fratricide. It was clearly unintentional.*

*Indeed, is far from clear that the paper realizes what it has done.*

*Last Saturday the Times published an 8,000-word account by David Kirkpatrick detailing the terrorist strike against the US Consulate and the CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012. In it, Kirkpatrick tore to shreds the foundations of President Barack Obama's counterterrorism strategy and his overall policy in the Middle East.*

*Obama first enunciated those foundations in his June 4, 2009, speech to the Muslim world at Cairo University. Ever since, they have been the rationale behind US counterterror strategy and US Middle East policy.*

*Obama's first assertion is that radical Islam is not inherently hostile to the US. As a consequence, America can appease radical Islamists. Moreover, once radical Muslims are appeased, they will become US allies, (replacing the allies the US abandons to appease the radical Muslims).*

*Obama's second strategic guidepost is his claim that the only Islamic group that is a bona fide terrorist organization is the faction of al-Qaida directly subordinate to Osama bin Laden's successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri. Only this group cannot be appeased and must be destroyed through force.*

*The administration has dubbed the Zawahiri faction of al-Qaida "core al-Qaida." And anyone who operates in the name of al-Qaida, or any other group that does not have courtroom-certified*

operational links to Zawahiri, is not really al-Qaida, and therefore, not really a terrorist group or a US enemy.

*These foundations have led the US to negotiate with the Taliban in Afghanistan. They are the rationale for the US's embrace of the Muslim Brotherhood worldwide. They are the basis for Obama's allegiance to Turkey's Islamist government, and his early support for the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Syrian opposition.*

*They are the basis for the administration's kneejerk support for the PLO against Israel.*

*Obama's insistent bid to appease Iran, and so enable the mullocracy to complete its nuclear weapons program. is similarly a product of his strategic assumptions. So, too, the US's current diplomatic engagement of Hezbollah in Lebanon owes to the administration's conviction that any terror group not directly connected to Zawahiri is a potential US ally. ...*

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## Global Irony

### Warming theory gets trapped in Antarctic ice.

by Derooy Murdock

Chinese choppers on Thursday evacuated 52 passengers who had been marooned near the South Pole since Christmas Eve aboard the Russian science vessel *MS Akademik Shokalsky*. It will take far more than helicopters, however, to salvage the theory of so-called "global warming." It remains trapped in Antarctic ice.

"We're stuck in our own experiment," said Chris Turney, a professor of climate change at Australia's University of New South Wales. The voyage's leader was no mere guide, and his fellow travelers were not just tourists. While news accounts portrayed these people as star-crossed adventurers, the frustrated Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) was supposed to "discover and communicate the environmental changes taking place in the south," Turney explained.



“There is an increasing body of evidence, including by the AAE members, that have identified parts of the East Antarctic which are highly susceptible to melting and collapse from ocean warming,” AAE’s website stated. “We are going south to . . . determine the extent to which human activity and pollution has [sic] directly impacted on this remote region of Antarctica.”

AAE’s co-leader, Chris Fogwill, calls himself a “palaeo-climatologist working to answer the big questions surrounding climate change, melting ice sheets, and sea level rise.”

The *Melbourne Herald Sun*’s Andrew Bolt reported that 26 thrill-seeking tourists paid \$8,000 to ride along. Another 20 climate scientists (besides Turney and Fogwill) were aboard, along with four journalists.

These folks likely hoped to confirm the thinking of geniuses such as Al Gore. “A troubling process is underway because of global warming,” the former vice president wrote January 31, 2012, while touring the South Pole. “The ice on land is melting at a faster rate and large ice sheets are moving toward the ocean more rapidly. As a result, sea levels are rising worldwide.” He added: “Here in Antarctica, it’s easy to feel isolated from the rest of the world. But as I look at this exquisite continent buried deep under the ice, it’s troubling to think about what will happen as this ice melts ever more rapidly.”

As ClimateDepot.com editor Marc Morano recalls, Princeton scientists theorized back in 1969 that a 600-foot-thick chunk of the Antarctic, as large as Asia, could break away. This ice shelf would reflect enough sunshine to trigger a new ice age.

Unfortunately for Team AAE, reports of Antarctica’s warming were greatly exaggerated.



***NASA: Antarctic sea ice reaches new maximum extent.***

NASA announced that last September 22, Antarctic sea ice stretched to 7.51 million square miles — “a new record,” for the second consecutive year. NASA added: “Ice covered more of the Southern Ocean than at any time in the satellite record,” which began in 1979. Ice extended 22 miles beyond the average. As the *Washington Post*’s Jason Samenow noted, these concrete observations contradict United Nations computer models that “simulate declining — not increasing — Antarctic sea ice.”

Remember, the AAE drama unspooled during Antarctica’s *summer*. As the mid-Atlantic and New England endure today’s frosty nor’easter and frigid temperatures, the South Pole usually enjoys constant sunshine and relative warmth at this time of year.

Nevertheless, the *Akademik Shokalsky* was paralyzed in ten feet of ice. The Chinese icebreaker *Snow Dragon* steamed to the rescue. It, in turn, became bogged in ice, and retreated. The Australian icebreaker *Aurora Australis* tried to help. It, too, yielded to ice and withdrew. While stranded, the AAE participants said, they practiced “knot tying, languages, yoga,” and other hobbies.

After a 35-mile-per-hour blizzard finally cleared, China’s helicopters conquered the brutal conditions and whisked the luckless passengers to safety.

They were not the first to fail while chasing the chimera of so-called “global warming.”

Great Britain’s Sir Ranulph Fiennes abandoned a cross-Antarctic trek last February after suffering severe frostbite in minus-22-degree Fahrenheit temperatures. Dubbed “The Coldest Journey,” Fiennes’s expedition, according to writer Brad Nehring, was to “draw attention to global warming — namely, the effect that climate change has wrought upon the polar ice cap.”

In the North Pole region, the Catlin Arctic Survey was “the first Polar expedition to monitor the effects of climate change on sea ice.” Alas, in May 2009, the scientists surrendered and were extracted after the mercury hit minus 40 degrees.

For its part, Team AAE leaves behind the gospel of so-called “global warming.” It now is frozen solid.

The penguins must be laughing.



*Deroy Murdock is a Manhattan-based Fox News contributor and a media fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University.*

## Newsbusters

### [Frozen Out: 98% of Stories Ignore That Ice-bound Ship Was On Global Warming Mission](#)

by Mike Ciandella

A group of climate change scientists were rescued by helicopter Jan. 2, after being stranded in the ice since Christmas morning. But the majority of the broadcast networks' reports about the ice-locked climate researchers never mentioned climate change.

The Russian ship, Akademik Shokalskiy, was stranded in the ice while on a climate change research expedition, yet nearly 98 percent of network news reports about the stranded researchers failed to mention their mission at all. Forty out of 41 stories (97.5 percent) on the network morning and evening news shows since Dec. 25 failed to mention climate change had anything to do with the expedition.

In fact, rather than point out the mission was to find evidence of climate change, the networks often referred to the stranded people as "passengers," "trackers" and even "tourists," without a word about climate change or global warming.

Chris Turney, the expedition's leader, is a [professor of climate change](#) at the University of New South Wales. According to Turney's [personal website](#), the purpose of [the expedition](#) is to "discover and communicate the environmental changes taking place in the south."

Twenty-two crew members stayed with the ship for the time being, as the scientists and researchers were rescued. According to [CNN](#), the ship has enough supplies for "a very long time."

Three rescue attempts had been thwarted by growing levels of sea ice and weather conditions.

"Outside, blizzard conditions packing an abnormal amount of ice in to the area for this time of the year, summer in the Antarctic," ABC News Correspondent Gio Benitez reported on "Good Morning America" Dec. 31.

On Jan. 2, all 52 passengers were airlifted to a nearby Australian icebreaker ship which had tried, and failed, to plow through the ice and free the Akademik Shokalskiy, on Dec. 30. "Good Morning America" said on Dec. 30, that "the ice could be as thick as 13 feet."

According to [Fox News](#), Turney admitted "we're stuck in our own experiment." They reported on Dec. 30, that a statement from the Australasian Antarctic Expedition said, "Sea ice is disappearing due to climate change, but here ice is building up."

There was only one news story out of 41 that mentioned climate change. That was CBS "This Morning" Dec. 30. "Despite being frozen at a standstill, the team's research on climate change and Antarctic wildlife is moving forward," CBS News Correspondent Don Dahler said. That night, all three evening news programs still failed to make any mention of the group's climate change research.

The MRC's Business and Media Institute was unable to view a copy of CBS "Sunday Morning" for Dec. 29, so that broadcast had to be excluded from the tally.



Before their ship got stuck in ice, the researchers were following the trail of the explorer [Douglas Mawson](#), who was stranded in Antarctica for more than a year, beginning in December 1912, according to the website about the expedition.

## National Review

### [Down the Times' Benghazi Rabbit Hole](#)

***Nitpicking over which jihadists did what lets the Obama administration evade the real questions.***

By Andrew C. McCarthy

What was the commander-in-chief of the United States armed forces doing through the night of September 11, 2012, while he knew Americans were under jihadist siege in Libya? You won't learn the answer to that question by reading the mini-book-length, six-"chapter" revisionist history of the Benghazi massacre cooked up by David D. Kirkpatrick and the *New York Times*.

The *Times* [report](#) is a labor of love in the service of President Obama and, in particular, the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign ramp-up. Former secretary of state Clinton, of course, was a key architect of Obama's Libya policy. She was also chiefly responsible for the protection of American personnel in that country, including our murdered ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and the three other Americans killed by Muslim terrorists — State Department technician Sean Smith and a pair of former Navy SEALs, Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods. Still, the *Times* is banking on your not noticing that in its laborious 7,500 words, Kirkpatrick's account utters the word "Clinton" exactly . . . wait for it . . . *zero times*.

The word "Obama" comes in for a mere six mentions, four of which are impersonal references to the current administration. The other two are telling, though fleeting.

One is a rehearsal of the president's vow to exact "justice" against anyone found responsible for this "terrible act" of killing four Americans, including the formal representative of our nation. As it happens, the only person on the planet to have felt the lash of Obama's justice is Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the California-based "producer" who filmed the infamous "anti-Mohammed" movie trailer, *Innocence of Muslims*. In a despicable violation of constitutional free-speech principles, and a bow to sharia blasphemy rules that forbid criticism of Islam, Obama and Clinton publicly portrayed Nakoula and his "film" as the Benghazi culprits — implicitly accepting the Islamic-supremacist premise that verbal insults, no matter how obscure and trifling, justify mass-murder attacks.

In large part, the *Times*' autopsy is a futile attempt to breathe new life into this demeaning farce. But Mr. Kirkpatrick is subtler about it than Obama and Clinton. He refers to the trailer as lighting "the fuse" that purportedly contributed to the attack — even the *Times* cannot quite bring itself to claim the trailer *led to* the attack. By contrast, Obama and Clinton (a) conspired to defraud the nation into believing the trailer was the singular, proximate cause — then dispatched their minion, Ambassador Susan Rice, to do their dirty work on the Sunday shows; (b) jointly appeared in a preening commercial aired on Islamic (but not American) television to stress that the U.S. government had no part in the video (translation: We elevate sharia blasphemy standards over the Bill of Rights guarantees the U.S. government exists to ensure); (c) told

family members of our Benghazi dead that they would get, not the terrorists, but the man responsible for the video; and (d) then trumped up a prosecution against Nakoula: The Justice Department arrested him in the dead of night, imprisoning him on a bogus “violation of supervised release” that no experienced prosecutor would regard as meriting such severe treatment . . . but that could conveniently be portrayed to Muslim countries as the administration’s enforcement of sharia against Americans.

Kirkpatrick’s other mention of President Obama alludes to the president’s policy of supporting what the *Times* gently calls Libyan “militiamen” — translation: a gaggle of Muslim groups prominently including rabidly anti-American jihadists — in their “uprising against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi.” It is a passing reference, and fittingly so. After all, this exercise in revisionism is a politically motivated whitewash. In point of fact, Obama’s reckless Libya policy, part of his broader appeasement of Islamic supremacists, is the heart of the matter.

On that score, the *Times* may soon be able to run another bells-’n’-whistles story headlined “Mission Accomplished!”

Don’t get me wrong. Kirkpatrick’s account is absurd. Its two themes — namely, that the trailer really did have some causal connection to the massacre and that al-Qaeda really did not partake in the Benghazi attack — do not pass the laugh test. They have been ably refuted by [Tom Joscelyn](#), [Eli Lake](#), [Steve Hayes](#), and the [editors](#) of National Review, to cite four of the best rebuttals.

As far as the trailer goes, it should be unacceptable in a civilized society to contend that a movie can “light the fuse” to a murderous assault. And in this instance, as I’ve previously [demonstrated](#), the trailer was not even “responsible” for the September 11 rioting at the American embassy in Cairo, as the *Times*-approved [soap-opera script](#) maintains, much less for the coordinated Benghazi attack several hours later. The anti-Mohammed video has never been anything but a pretext for Islamic-supremacist savagery — a rationalization aggressively peddled by the Obama-Clinton State Department.

As for the *Times*’ exculpation of al-Qaeda, it doesn’t even comport with the Grey Lady’s own prior reporting. It is, more to the point, a continuation of what we’ve been arguing in this space for over a decade now: What knits together the global jihad is *Islamic-supremacist ideology* — mainstream Middle Eastern Islam, directly traceable to Koranic scripture. The organizational niceties and shifting loyalties of jihadist groups are a sideshow — including what it has become fashionable to call “core al-Qaeda” and its expanding array of franchises, tentacles, and wannabes.

So why do I say, “Mission Accomplished”? Because the objective of Kirkpatrick’s novella is not to persuade; it is to shrink the parameters of newsworthy inquiry to a punctilious debate over nonsense: The cockamamie trailer and the dizzying jihadist org chart.

Here’s a case in point. In a weak comeback to his critics’ contention that, as U.S. intelligence sources maintain, the al-Qaeda-linked Muhammad Jamal network was involved in the massacre, Kirkpatrick told CNN that this claim was at once “bogus” and “tenuous.” My friend Tom Joscelyn [counters](#), “The Jamal network’s role in Benghazi cannot be both ‘bogus’ and ‘tenuous,’ of course. Either there are ties, however tenuous, or there are not.” Tom then proceeds to demonstrate that, in reality, this al-Qaeda branch’s role was neither “bogus” nor

“tenuous.” He’s right, of course — but that’s not the point. Joscelyn wins the argument, but the *Times*, Obama, and Clinton win more by the fact that we are having the argument.

Coherence and historical accuracy are not what the *Times* is after. The aim is to drag our consideration of a jihadist act of war down a rabbit hole of nitpicking over which jihadists did what. Meanwhile, the Obama administration’s derelictions before, during, and after the massacre — the matter of greatest consequence — remain studiously outside this wearying crossfire.

Remember, the *Times*-Clinton tag team has run this play before. Start with a president using a young intern to turn the Oval Office into a brothel and then perjuring himself over it. Ought to be a removable offense, right? But the next thing you know, after some epic media investigation dictated by Democratic talking points, we find ourselves kvetching over whether it was really sex; whether she was of consenting age; whether he really lied; whether the lies were really “material”; whether a president’s Oval Office trysts are really part of his “private life”; and “what the definition of ‘is’ is.”

See? None of the ever tinier questions or answers matter. The idea is to exhaust the American attention span until enough people are persuaded that it’s time to — all together now — *move on*.

Well, the strategy worked for the comparative low comedy of Bill Clinton’s meretricious White House. Will we likewise be exhausted into “moving on” from Benghazi, an act of war invited and unavenged by Obama-Clinton Islamist-appeasement policies? That depends on whether we accept the analytical boundaries the *Times*, the Obama administration, and the *Hillary!* campaign seek to impose on us. Will we instead press the real questions — as tirelessly as the Left is obscuring them?

What, to repeat, was Barack Obama doing on September 11, 2012, in the hours before he blithely hopped aboard Air Force One — not to be deterred from a Vegas fundraiser — while anti-American jihadists invaded our soil to war against our country? While those jihadists murdered four American officials and severely wounded others? And speaking of those others, why have they been kept under wraps by the Obama administration for the ensuing 15 months — with nary a peep from the press? Why have they been prevented from speaking publicly about what happened in Benghazi that night?

After being informed about the siege in the late afternoon, did President Obama have personal or telephone contact with any top military brass or any members of his cabinet that night? Any engaged commander-in-chief would have been burning up the phone lines, but the White House initially represented to Congress that Obama made no calls. That astounding version of events was soon contradicted by Secretary Clinton. In January 2013 congressional testimony, she claimed to have had a phone conversation with the president at around 10 p.m. Washington time. That was shortly after she had been fully briefed by Gregory Hicks, the highest ranking State Department official then on the ground in Libya — another official the administration subsequently tried to keep under wraps, and an official who was adamant in his riveting congressional testimony that an obscure anti-Mohammed video had absolutely nothing to do with the terrorist attack in Benghazi.

Did Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton really speak with each other? If they did not, as the White House initially maintained, why did she testify that they did? If they did — as claimed in the amended version of events offered by presidential spokesman Jay Carney only after Clinton's testimony — then why did the White House originally tell Congress a different story? If Obama and Clinton did speak, moreover, what are we to make of the fact that the purported 10 p.m. call — which would have occurred while Americans, including Doherty and Woods, were still fighting for their lives — happened only minutes before the State Department put out a statement from Secretary Clinton blaming the attack on the video?

Why were there American diplomatic and intelligence facilities in Benghazi in the first place? It is not only one of the most dangerous places in the world for Americans; it is a place where Western installations — including the very State Department facility attacked on September 11, 2012 — had been subjected to serial terrorist strikes. Why, when the British government had the good sense to pull their people out of Benghazi, did Hillary Clinton deny her beleaguered State Department officials there the increased security they repeatedly requested? Indeed, why was security, in a place where Americans were in constant peril from jihadists, contracted out to local Muslim militias? What arrangements were made to ensure that American military assets were on alert to respond in the all too likely event that our facilities were overrun by Islamic supremacists? And what steps did President Obama take — or fail to take — to make sure American military assets responded to the attack?

Why did the Obama administration, at the encouragement of the McCain faction of the GOP establishment, switch sides in Libya? Obama and McCain first told us that Qaddafi was a key American counter-terrorism ally — precisely because he was providing our intelligence services with information about Islamic supremacists in places like Benghazi who had flocked to Iraq to wage jihad against American troops. Obama, with McCain's support, even increased aid to Qaddafi before suddenly, disastrously, swinging in favor of the jihadists. It was that policy reversal that ousted Qaddafi, empowered jihadists throughout northern Africa, and — in tandem with Obama and Clinton's shocking failures to provide security to our personnel — directly paved the way for the Benghazi massacre. Why did Obama initiate an offensive war against a theretofore purported American ally without congressional authorization in the absence of any vital American interest, much less any threat to the United States?

. . . Or, taking the *Times*' cues, we can keep talking about the video trailer and whether the jihadists who slaughtered our people knew the secret al-Qaeda handshake.

## **Weekly Standard**

### **[Times Ignores Evidence of Al Qaeda Link to Benghazi](#)**

***Contradicts previous reporting from the New York Times.***

by Stephen F. Hayes

Let's start by giving David Kirkpatrick credit. Kirkpatrick, the Cairo bureau chief of the *New York Times* and author of this weekend's much-discussed [piece on Benghazi](#), provides many new on-the-ground, minute-by-minute details of the attacks and the weeks and months leading up to them. Some of the reporting is incredible. Kirkpatrick describes the vase in the living room of the home belonging to the mother of Abu Khattala, a main suspect in those attacks. He reports on

how the fighting in the consulate paused when Abu Khattala entered the compound, a revealing fact. Citing security camera video footage, the author describes how one of the attackers paused amidst the bedlam in the consulate to pour some Hershey's chocolate syrup down his throat. Kirkpatrick obviously spent considerable time on the ground in Benghazi and interviewed several anti-Western Islamists, including some involved in the attacks. There's little doubt he took considerable risks as he reported his piece.

While much of Kirkpatrick's reporting is admirable and while these details add to our knowledge of certain aspects of the attack, they do not tell the whole story. And that's where the piece ultimately fails.

The piece makes two main claims that challenge much of the previous reporting about Benghazi: 1) The *Times* asserts that there is "no evidence that al Qaeda or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault;" and, 2) that the attack "was fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam."

We'll focus on the first one.

There is, in fact, evidence that terrorists linked to al Qaeda had a role in the Benghazi attacks. Indeed, there's a fair amount of that kind of evidence. [As Representative Adam Schiff](#), a California Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence put it on Sunday when asked about the *Times* report: "The intelligence indicates that al Qaeda was involved, but there were also plenty of people and militias that were unaffiliated with al Qaeda involved." Schiff who has defended the Obama administration on Benghazi and praised the *Times* piece as adding "valuable insights," nonetheless pronounced it incomplete and hinted that signals intelligence contradicted the claims in the piece. The *Times* report, Schiff continued, was "deficient in they didn't have the same access to people who were not aware they were being listened to. They were heavily reliant obviously on people that they interviewed who had a reason to provide the story that they did." He concluded: "So I think it does add some insights but I don't think it's complete."

In addition to the signals intelligence Schiff mentions, there is abundant open-source reporting that contradicts Kirkpatrick's sweeping claim about "no evidence that Al Qaeda or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault." And most problematic for this revisionist account, some of that evidence comes from the *Times* itself in a story the paper published on October 29, 2012.

That story, like this latest one, was a major front-page investigative piece. It reported that "American officials" said the Benghazi attacks "included participants from Ansar al Shariah, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Muhammad Jamal network, a militant group in Egypt." So according to previous reporting in the *Times*, the Benghazi attacks included participants from the main al Qaeda affiliate in Libya and a terrorist network in Egypt, and, contrary to Kirkpatrick's assertion, evidence that *both* al Qaeda and other international terrorist groups played some role in the assault. Kirkpatrick was presumably aware of that earlier report, since he was credited with contributing reporting from Benghazi.

There's more. As my colleague Tom Joscelyn reports, the namesake of that Egyptian jihadist network, Muhammad Jamal, is not mentioned in the *Times*'s latest piece. Why not? The *Times* had previously reported the involvement of his network. When Mohammad Jamal

was arrested in Egypt in December of 2012, two months after the *Times* article that mentioned him, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on his extensive ties to al Qaeda and its senior leadership, as well as his alleged involvement in the Benghazi attacks.

Have U.S. officials since concluded that his network wasn't involved, as the *Times* and many others had reported? And if that were the case, wouldn't Kirkpatrick have reported that? A U.S. official familiar with the intelligence on Benghazi tells THE WEEKLY STANDARD that there has been no change. U.S. intelligence officials continue to believe Jamal's network was involved.

Why was Jamal left out of this latest *Times* piece? That's unclear. But we do know that including him would have undermined one of the piece's central claims – that there was no evidence of any Benghazi role for either al Qaeda or other international terrorist groups.

As Joscelyn writes:

Jamal was trained by al Qaeda in the late 1980s, and has been loyal to Ayman al Zawahiri since at least the 1990s. He served as a commander in the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ), a terrorist group headed by Zawahiri that merged with bin Laden's enterprise. Jamal left prison in 2011 and quickly got back to work.

The Egyptian press [has published some of Jamal's letters to Zawahiri](#). In the letters, which were written in 2011 and 2012, Jamal is extremely deferential to Zawahiri. Jamal heaps praise on Zawahiri, seeking the al Qaeda master's guidance and additional support. Jamal even mentions that he attempted to visit Zawahiri in person, but failed to do so because of restrictions on his travel. So, Jamal writes, he sent an emissary instead.

Jamal's letters read like status reports. He writes that he has received financing from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), but requires additional funds to purchase more weaponry. Jamal also explains that he had formed "groups for us inside Sinai" and had established "an advanced base outside Egypt in Libya to take advantage of the conditions in Libya after the revolution."

Jamal's operations inside the Sinai and Libya included training camps. Some of the trainees from those camps took part in the Benghazi attack.

Since the New York Times and [other press outlets](#) first reported on the Jamal network's involvement, both the [U.S. State Department](#) and the [United Nations](#) have designated Jamal and his subordinates as terrorists. Both the U.S. and UN designations tie Jamal's network directly to al Qaeda.

The State Department, for instance, notes that Jamal "has developed connections with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), AQ senior leadership, and al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) leadership." Jamal not only received funds from AQAP, but has also "used the AQAP network to smuggle fighters into training camps."

While the State Department's designation does not mention the Jamal network's participation in the Benghazi attack, the UN's designation does. The UN noted that both Jamal and members of his network are "[r]eported to be involved in the attack on the United States Mission in Benghazi, Libya, on 11 Sep. 2012."

When Jamal was detained in Egypt, a U.S. intelligence official involved in the Benghazi investigation described his capture as “a big deal,” and investigators would later express frustration at their inability to interrogate Jamal to better understand the role his network played in the attacks.

U.S. officials also suspected other al Qaeda-affiliated groups. [CNN reported](#) that intelligence officials also believed jihadists from al Qaeda in Iraq also participated in the Benghazi assault.

And, as Joscelyn notes, U.S. intelligence officials told THE WEEKLY STANDARD last fall that Faraj al-Shibli, a Libyan who once served as a bodyguard to Osama bin Laden, participated in the Benghazi attacks and, in the days that followed, delivered to senior al Qaeda leaders in Pakistan intelligence taken from the U.S. compound after the attacks.

Are the officials who spoke to THE WEEKLY STANDARD about al Qaeda's involvement in the Benghazi attacks wrong? And those who talked to CNN, the *Wall Street Journal*, and others? What about [the Democratic congressman on the House Intelligence Committee](#) who declared that "the intelligence indicates that al Qaeda was involved?"

And what about that previous major investigative piece in the *New York Times*, the one that reported the involvement of a key al Qaeda affiliate and international terrorist groups? Was it wrong? Should we expect a correction?

## Jerusalem Post

### [The New York Times' destroys Obama](#)

by Caroline Glick

The New York Times just delivered a mortal blow to the Obama administration and its Middle East policy.

Call it fratricide. It was clearly unintentional.

Indeed, is far from clear that the paper realizes what it has done.

Last Saturday the Times published an 8,000-word account by David Kirkpatrick detailing the terrorist strike against the US Consulate and the CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012. In it, Kirkpatrick tore to shreds the foundations of President Barack Obama's counterterrorism strategy and his overall policy in the Middle East.

Obama first enunciated those foundations in his June 4, 2009, speech to the Muslim world at Cairo University. Ever since, they have been the rationale behind US counterterror strategy and US Middle East policy.

Obama's first assertion is that radical Islam is not inherently hostile to the US. As a consequence, America can appease radical Islamists. Moreover, once radical Muslims are appeased, they will become US allies, (replacing the allies the US abandons to appease the radical Muslims).

Obama's second strategic guidepost is his claim that the only Islamic group that is a bona fide terrorist organization is the faction of al-Qaida directly subordinate to Osama bin Laden's successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri. Only this group cannot be appeased and must be destroyed through force.

The administration has dubbed the Zawahiri faction of al-Qaida "core al-Qaida." And anyone who operates in the name of al-Qaida, or any other group that does not have courtroom-certified operational links to Zawahiri, is not really al-Qaida, and therefore, not really a terrorist group or a US enemy.

These foundations have led the US to negotiate with the Taliban in Afghanistan. They are the rationale for the US's embrace of the Muslim Brotherhood worldwide. They are the basis for Obama's allegiance to Turkey's Islamist government, and his early support for the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Syrian opposition.

They are the basis for the administration's kneejerk support for the PLO against Israel.

Obama's insistent bid to appease Iran, and so enable the mullocracy to complete its nuclear weapons program. is similarly a product of his strategic assumptions. So, too, the US's current diplomatic engagement of Hezbollah in Lebanon owes to the administration's conviction that any terror group not directly connected to Zawahiri is a potential US ally.

From the outset of the 2011 revolt against the regime of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, it was clear that a significant part of the opposition was composed of jihadists aligned if not affiliated with al-Qaida. Benghazi was specifically identified by documents seized by US forces in Iraq as a hotbed of al-Qaida recruitment.

Obama and his advisers dismissed and ignored the evidence. The core of al-Qaida, they claimed, was not involved in the anti-Gaddafi revolt. And to the extent jihadists were fighting Gaddafi, they were doing so as allies of the US.

In other words, the two core foundations of Obama's understanding of terrorism and of the Muslim world were central to US support for the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi.

With Kirkpatrick's report, the Times exposed the utter falsity of both.

Kirkpatrick showed the mindset of the US-supported rebels and through it, the ridiculousness of the administration's belief that you can't be a terrorist if you aren't directly subordinate to Zawahiri.

One US-supported Islamist militia commander recalled to him that at the outset of the anti-Gaddafi rebellion, "Teenagers came running around... [asking] 'Sheikh, sheikh, did you know al-Qaida? Did you know Osama bin Laden? How do we fight?'" In the days and weeks following the September 11, 2012, attack on the US installations in Benghazi in which US ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and four other Americans were killed, the administration claimed that the attacks were not carried out by terrorists. Rather they were the unfortunate consequence of a spontaneous protest by otherwise innocent Libyans.

According to the administration's version of events, these guileless, otherwise friendly



demonstrators, who killed the US ambassador and four other Americans, were simply angered by a YouTube video of a movie trailer which jihadist clerics in Egypt had proclaimed was blasphemous.

In an attempt to appease the mob after the fact, Obama and then-secretary of state Hillary Clinton were filmed in commercials run on Pakistani television apologizing for the video and siding with the mob against the movie-maker, who is the only person the US has imprisoned following the attack. Then-ambassador to the UN and current National Security Adviser Susan Rice gave multiple television interviews placing the blame for the attacks on the video.

According to Kirkpatrick's account of the assault against the US installations in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, the administration's description of the assaults was a fabrication. Far from spontaneous political protests spurred by rage at a YouTube video, the attack was premeditated. US officials spotted Libyans conducting surveillance of the consulate nearly 15 hours before the attack began.

Libyan militia warned US officials "of rising threats against Americans from extremists in Benghazi," two days before the attack.

From his account, the initial attack – in which the consulate was first stormed – was carried out not by a mob, but by a few dozen fighters. They were armed with assault rifles. They acted in a coordinated, professional manner with apparent awareness of US security procedures.

During the initial assault, the attackers shot down the lights around the compound, stormed the gates, and swarmed around the security personnel who ran to get their weapons, making it impossible for them to defend the ambassador and other personnel trapped inside.

According to Kirkpatrick, after the initial attack, the organizers spurred popular rage and incited a mob assault on the consulate by spreading the rumor that the Americans had killed a local. Others members of the secondary mob, Kirkpatrick claimed, were motivated by reports of the video.

This mob assault, which followed the initial attack and apparent takeover of the consulate, was part of the predetermined plan. The organizers wanted to produce chaos. As Kirkpatrick explained, "The attackers had posted sentries at Venezia Road, adjacent to the [consulate] compound, to guard their rear flank, but they let pass anyone trying to join the mayhem."

According to Kirkpatrick, the attack was perpetrated by local terrorist groups that were part of the US-backed anti-Gaddafi coalition. The people who were conducting the surveillance of the consulate 15 hours before the attack were uniformed security forces who escaped in an official car.

Members of the militia tasked with defending the compound participated in the attack.

Ambassador Stevens, who had served as the administration's emissary to the rebels during the insurrection against Gaddafi, knew personally many of the terrorists who orchestrated the attack.

And until the very end, he was taken in by the administration's core belief that it was possible to appease al-Qaida-sympathizing Islamic jihadists who were not directly affiliated with Zawahiri.

As Kirkpatrick noted, Stevens “helped shape the Obama administration’s conviction that it could work with the rebels, even those previously hostile to the West, to build a friendly, democratic government.”

The entire US view that local militias, regardless of their anti-American, jihadist ideologies, could become US allies was predicated not merely on the belief that they could be appeased, but that they weren’t terrorists because they weren’t al-Qaida proper.

As Kirkpatrick notes, “American intelligence efforts in Libya concentrated on the agendas of the biggest militia leaders and the handful of Libyans with suspected ties to al-Qaida. The fixation on al-Qaida might have distracted experts from more imminent threats.”

But again, the only reason that the intelligence failed to notice the threats emanating from local US-supported terrorists is because the US counterterrorist strategy, like its overall Middle East strategy, is to seek to appease all US enemies other than the parts of al-Qaida directly commanded by Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Distressingly, most of the discussion spurred by Kirkpatrick’s article has ignored the devastating blow he visited on the intellectual foundations of Obama’s foreign policy. Instead, the discussion has focused on his claim that there is “no evidence that al-Qaida or other international terrorist group had any role in the assault,” and on his assertion that the YouTube video did spur to action some of the participants in the assault.

Kirkpatrick’s claim that al-Qaida played no role in the attack was refuted by the Times’ own reporting six weeks after the attack. It has also been refuted by congressional and State Department investigations, by the UN and by a raft of other reporting.

His claim that the YouTube video did spur some of the attackers to action was categorically rejected last spring in sworn congressional testimony by then-deputy chief of the US mission to Libya Gregory Hicks.

Last May Hicks stated, “The YouTube video was a non-event in Libya. The video was not instigative of anything that was going on in Libya. We saw no demonstrators related to the video anywhere in Libya.”

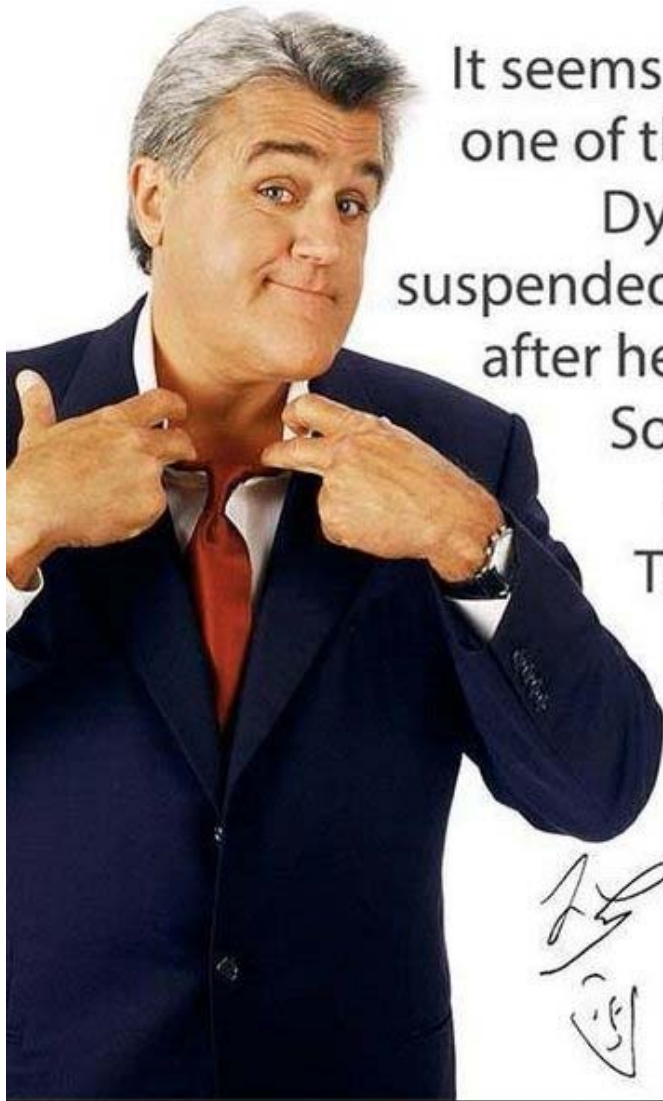
Kirkpatrick’s larger message – that the reasoning behind Obama’s entire counterterrorist strategy and his overall Middle East policy is totally wrong, and deeply destructive – has been missed because his article was written and published to whitewash the administration’s deliberate mischaracterization of the events in Benghazi, not to discredit the rationale behind its Middle East policy and counterterrorism strategy. This is why he claimed that al-Qaida wasn’t involved in the attack. And this is why he claimed that the YouTube video was a cause for the attack.

This much was made clear in a blog post by editorial page editor Andrew Rosenthal, who alleged that the entire discourse on Benghazi is promoted by the Republicans to harm the Democrats, and Kirkpatrick’s story served to weaken the Republican arguments. In Rosenthal’s words, “The Republicans hope to tarnish Democratic candidates by making it seem as though Mr. Obama doesn’t take al-Qaida seriously.”

So pathetically, in a bid to defend Obama and Clinton and the rest of the Democrats, the Times published a report that showed that Obama's laser-like focus on the Zawahiri-controlled faction of al-Qaida has endangered the US.

By failing to view as enemies any other terror groups – even if they have participated in attacks against the US – and indeed, in perceiving them as potential allies, Obama has failed to defend against them. Indeed, by wooing them as future allies, Obama has empowered forces as committed as al-Qaida to defeating the US.

Again, it is not at all apparent that the Times realized what it was doing. But from Israel to Egypt, to Iran to Libya to Lebanon, it is absolutely clear that Obama and his colleagues continue to implement the same dangerous, destructive agenda that defeated the US in Benghazi and will continue to cause US defeat after US defeat.



It seems Phil Robertson,  
one of the stars of Duck  
Dynasty, has been  
suspended from the show  
after he criticized gays.  
So gay people are  
upset with him.  
Then he went on  
to criticize  
adulterers,  
drunks, and  
swindlers, and  
now Congress  
is mad at him!



I have noticed a large number of people, implying with bad jokes and anecdotes, that Louisiana Cajuns ain't smart. I would like to state for the record that I disagree with that assessment. Anybody who would build a city five feet below sea level, in a hurricane zone, and fill it with Democrats who can't swim is a damn genius.

THE LIBTARD SHOW with Dixon Diaz



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**Jay Leno**