

**INFORMATION REGARDING CALLS PRESENTED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY
2013 RAINBOW ROUND TABLE**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com ; click on Talk Radio Station #2; click on "64K Listen"

Thursday: 9 pm – 12:00 pm EST ***Stargate Round Table*** **Host: Marietta Robert**

Friday: 9 pm – 2 am EST ***Friday Night Hard News*** **Hosts: Tara & Rama**

Saturday: 2:30 pm – 2 am EST ***History of our Galactic World & NESARA*** **T & R**

Friday, Saturday: From **10 – 11 pm EST**, for one hour, the call moves to the Conference Call Line [8-9 pm MST **1-209-647-1600** pin 353 863#] and then returns to BBS Radio.

- Use the following phone numbers to ask questions or make comments during the radio show.

530 – 413 – 9537 [line 1]

530 – 763 – 1594 [line 2 & 3]

530 – 746 – 0341 [line 4]

- **BBS Toll Free # in Canada, US** 1 – 888-429-5471 This # picks up the first available line.

B Conference Call: 1-860-970-0300 Thursday PIN # 87 87 87#
Friday PIN # 23 23 23#
Saturday PIN # 13 72 9#

BBS Phone Line: 1-716-748-0144 NO PIN REQUIRED: **this line is very, very clear!**

C Skype: **BBSradio2**

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- To access the **FREE BBS archives** for any of these programs:
 - Go to *BBSRadio.com/ Station 2*; scroll down; click on **Live Talk Radio Shows**
 - Scroll down to **Saturday History Call with Tara and Rama**, and click on **"Library Archives"**
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - You can download the program to your own computer or listen directly.

- The **2013 website also has an archive section:**

<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com/> look under the "Archives" tab for written notes.

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST ***Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls***
By telephone only: 1 – 605-475-5950; PIN 9467441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: ***Ashtar on the Road***
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host is Fran; Susan Leland channels Ashtar & others
www.Ashtarontheroad.com
• Phone Number: 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400##
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]
• Can also listen to the call via Skype

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

Opening Meditation: Cheryl

Housekeeping: Rainbird

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - The radio program costs \$300 per week; **this week, we need \$ 620** including that for the last 2 weeks, as well.
 - Everyone doing a little helps a lot - **many thanks to everyone for paying it forward!**
 - Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for True History call; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting checks through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS BBS ARCHIVES** for either of the 2 T & R PROGRAMS, or the Thursday night program: MariettaRobert's Stargate Round Table
 - Re: archives of other BBS programs; the money we pay to listen to someone else's archives is put towards our BBS bill!

 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
BBS Network, Inc. [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope.]
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969
 - Sending a check to BBS means all your money is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.
- T & R:**
- They need both **food, gas money as well; rent coming due by June 29th**
 - We can donate via the Paypal button on the homepage of 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

 - **Please notify them if you're sending something:** koran999@comcast.net

 - Rama's mailing address for cheques, Money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
1704 B Llano St, # 249
Santa Fe, NM 87505

 - **phone contact** is via MariettaRobert Pickett: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
 - **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**
- MR:**
- Please remember to support MariettaRobert's show, too
 - **You can also book a session with MR for a transformational clearing.**
- T:**
- **if you have any trouble hearing, that means there is an issue with the sound and it is an emergency - so call this number: 1-888- 429 – 5471**
 - **if you cannot get through, use this # 1-888 – 710-8061**

Intro Notes

- The following audio link allows you to listen to the entire program.

<http://bbsradio.com/podcast/true-history-june-27-2015>

NOTE: THE LAST HALF OF THE PROGRAM IS FIRST IN THIS PODCAST.

- The **new number for the Conference Line:**
 - for an hour, every Friday, Saturday – 8-9 pm MST **1-209-647-1600** pin 353 863#
 - for the rest of the show, it's BBS Radio for those with computers, or for those without - 1 - 860 - 970 – 9300; pin codes are listed on page 1
 - **if you can't hear on the 860 number, call 1-716-748 – 0144 out of Texas:** this gets you straight into the BBS radio program which is very clear.

- Whatever it takes, we need everyone to contribute: **a concentrated effort is required!**

HARD NEWS

- It's a very powerful time: this changed everything!
- Thanks ahead of time [for any kind of donation]: this is not about T & R: it's about the world – supporting the news is supporting the change in the law from a very compromised situation as we have had no one has to do with the usurpation of the planet since the beginning by the reptilians
- Laura Flanders called and talked about a beautiful Moorish lady who climbed up the flagpole in Charleston, with the help of a friend and removed that flag! Both got arrested. This is the millennial activism
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/27/woman-removes-confederateflag_n_7677390.html]
 - And **Michael Moore** is providing the bail money and whatever is the best legal advice she may need – anything to make sure their “power” is no more.
- Refers to a small handful of people who have been giving and giving and giving; KOS says it's time for this to swell to many, many more! There are 1,300 people on the website – 1,300 x \$5 = \$6,500. One of the Paypal buttons is for “Family and Friends”; means that there is no deduction of a fee! Don't put it on automatic: do it manually!
- They are almost there with the rent, thanks to 4 people!
- Put Betty Rubble in the Circle of Support – has been in jail for a while: she was defending herself from the police who took her self-defence as aggression, and she has no money. Dr Cody and Carl also in jail – everything that comes our way is both planetary and personal and we chose it and then a veil dropped.
- St Germain in 1626 he decided to stay on the planet until it was cleaned up; he is karma free yet he is here to take it all on! Every single thing is about experience: in giving – their mandate is to do this work and they are mandated to bring this evolutionary spiral for every body into being – they do nothing else but this.
 - And all of us are being asked to do this now – the old system is finished and needs to be divested of, not invested in. While the 3D use of money is still going on, the way we offer our services to be able to receive these things called money gives it a new value.
 - We must keep the balance between love of self and love for the world

Camp Lovewave: discussion of this week's events

R got on the program, talked of Dr Hoagland's pictures which are posted on the website: Camp Lovewave will send them out further across the planet.

- Spoke of cat videos being very popular on the web – the lady vet said that animals are here as fellow divine beings, equal to us, and they are ascending along with us.
- Also spoke of the scenario with Mr 19.5* who did some tremendous things this week: this has changed the entire story! R grew up on the west coast / LA – there were still moments between 1963 and 65 – somewhere when the Beatles came on the scene and the Monterey Jazz festival - the energies changed when the Flower children came in – they were the Lemurian people coming in.
 - The phrases were like what we use now: “speaking truth to power”. As they were the anti establishment - as they married and became the baby boomers, & looked at the insanity going on, something changed radically – the ones who spoke truth to power like Dr King, Alan Ginsberg - if you were outspoken or gay, you ended up dead.
 - What the Supreme Court did this week is awesome: R never knew until yesterday that Ian McCellan who plays Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings* is gay: he came out yesterday and was crying: now they can come forward and share our love with the rest of the planet and not be ostracized for being a couple.

- Yesterday, Thom Hartmann had on Ellen Ratner:
 - She called it a mind-bending experience: can talk about her partner and not be ostracized.
 - she talked of people in other countries still kill such people. We have taken a great leap forward in a few short moments: the energies have gone up in huge leaps! The galactics can interact with us now – it's not about sex or gender but about "think with your heart"
- Mr 19.5* - the eulogy he gave yesterday moved us forward quantum light years! There are a lot of folks still dealing with the issue of colour: what he said has given them hope.
- The speakers on the program came forward and said Bernie Sanders will mop the floor with Hillary, nor will Bernie pay any attention to what people say.
 - The Kochs, Trump, the others are complaining - they want to find fault with events of the last week. Mike Huckabee might just take himself out, he is so hateful – he'll end up mopping the floor with himself.
 - They are going to try and start a hot war in Ukraine

Larry, Curly: both said *remember what is being said about Mr Putin*: Russia is so advanced in terms of science relative to the US; Putin rose up through the ranks of the KGB: it is about the larger story

- **Larry, Curly** said if we were to even move a little further of pushing across the border and strike some Russian soldiers or send a rocket grenade at a tank or jeep – this kind of little incident would be enough to create a larger incident.
- When these kinds of things start to happen: Putin knows how to use sidereal weapons –
- **L&C** said there are a few insane folks like the so-called Defence Sec. Ashton Carter is a product of turning human beings into terminators with the one mission: to fulfill their programming – like Agent Smith in The Matrix. Agent Smith woke up, thanks to Neo. As Neo became the living light, living love at the end of the movie, the programming was broken so the people of Zion could be free.
- This is what is happening now: people are now waking up, no longer willing to take it! Why he agrees with the 2 who took down the flag and got arrested – lots of courage!
- If we can have love and compassion for a tortured soul like Halley Barbour: as Teran said, these souls coming into bodies have acted as catalysts waking up the consciousness of the rest of us
- No longer will we have slave patrols - The slave patrols of the past are now the SS / the police.
- We are watching the absolute collapse of the 13 families: they have only the fear card left as they try to separate the mind from the heart. We are asked to step into the high heart

R: tells Ahalya that he watched the video she sent about Dick Gregory – sent it to KOS.

- Has found out D G was leaned on; has joined the ranks of Alex Jones & other loonie toons
- T:** remember he did 120 days of fasting until those hostages were released – this counts!

Iran: end of June is a deadline

- the republicrats who wrote to the hard core right wingers in Iran: if you do what you want to do, the next president will invade Iran – that is their vision of things.
- Rama asked Larry & Curly about what they thought the Iranian President would do
- **Larry, Curly:** could not say – think that what Rouhani will do is dismantle the nuclear technology as they have no need of them! What Dr Keshe has is better!
- every week, Dr Keshe gives lectures – **go to his site: Keshe Foundation** – material

being added quickly

- this site is waking people up to the fact that the atom never, ever had to be split!
- Oppenheimer and Einstein wanted to take themselves out because they knew how deadly Fat Man and Little Boy were

Al Sharpton – commented on the confederate flag being taken down: it's only 150 years too late!

- **Buddha in RedFace** is about this: higher beings got together and another group got together to counter indicate the spiritual work that is going on

Camp Lovewave: guest talking about watching cat videos – can lower your blood pressure!

- She recommended that to Rama! Also talked about llamas – as you hang out with them, they'll talk to you! The llamas are total vegans! Don't have to kill them: they give us their fur / wool to make clothes; they help people go up mountains – easy to care for, like goats.
- **Al Sharpton** also talked of Howard Kosell, a white sports writer, who used to take Mohammed Ali to a mosque somewhere in LA – had him picked up in a limo, driven to the mosque, taken in through the back door, pray for hours, take him home.
- Cat Stevens who became Yousef Islam- threatened many times; banned from the radio

New number for next Thursday: 1-605-475-2090 [pin numbers for each day night still the same – see page 1 of the notes]

Reading: 2015-06-18 Charleston's 'Mother Emanuel Church' Has Stared Down Racist Violence for 200 Years [SEE BELOW]

Audio: 2015-06-25 – Democracy Now – Headlines [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-25 **The Death Penalty is Revenge, Not Healing: Father of OKC Victim on Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's Sentencing** [SEE BELOW]

T: he didn't do it; neither did Timothy McVeigh – **BOTH OPERATIONS WERE BLACK OPS!!!**

- NAVY Seal Team #3 had exactly the same back packs which were exchanged
- McVeigh's bomb would not have been able to do the damage that occurred!
 - McVeigh was executed on June 11, 2001

2015-06-25 **Does U.S. Ignore Right-Wing Terror? More Killed by White Extremists Than Jihadists Since 9/11** [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-25 **Did Chris Christie Send Entrapped Innocents to Jail? Re-examining the Case of the Fort Dix 5** [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-26 **Rev. Al Sharpton: Removing the Confederate Flag is Welcome–But 150 Years Too Late** [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-26 **4 Decades After Burning Confederate Flag, SC Activist Brett Bursey Says the Struggle Goes On** [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-26 **After Walter Scott Murder & Church Massacre, "Black Lives Matter" Takes on Special Meaning in SC** [SEE BELOW]

2015-06-26 **Rev. Jesse Jackson: Take Down the Confederate Flag – and White Supremacist Culture with it.** [SEE BELOW]

Audio: the full ceremony at the Charleston funeral for Rev Pinkney

President Obama Delivers Eulogy at Charleston Shooting Funeral of Clementa Pinckney [FULL SPEECH]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK7tYOVd0Hs&feature=youtu.be>

Published on 26 Jun 2015

Obama eulogizes pastor in Charleston shooting. Obama sings Amazing Grace at funeral of Charleston shooting victim Clementa Pinckney.

Washington (CNN) President Barack Obama on Friday eulogized the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of the victims in last week's church massacre, calling him a "man of God who lived by faith."

"We are here today to remember a man of God who lived by faith," Obama said. "A man who believed in things not seen. A man who believed there were better days ahead, off in the distance. A man of service who persevered knowing full well he would not receive all those things he was promised, because he believed his efforts would provide a better life for those who followed."

The President's remarks both memorialized the victims and touched upon the current controversy surrounding the Confederate flag and what he said was a need for more gun control in the wake of the tragedy.

"By taking down that flag we express God's grace," he said.

Obama finished his remarks by breaking into song, leading the assembled in a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Friday's funeral service for Pinckney isn't the first time Obama delivered a high-profile eulogy, and with a year and a half remaining in office, it may not be the last.

But when the President stood in historic downtown Charleston to remember the slain pastor and eight others shot down in their church last week, his speech moved beyond just grief for the victims -- Obama stepped directly into a national conversation about race in which he plays a central role.

President Barack Obama ended his at times solemn, at times rousing eulogy for Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was killed along with eight other African-American churchgoers last week, by leading the congregation in "Amazing Grace."

After repeating those words, "Amazing Grace," several times, the president paused before launching into the song as the mourners joined him.

Reading: 2012, Sept 4 [**Ten True Facts Guaranteed to Short-Circuit Republican Brains**](#)
[SEE BELOW]

MUSICAL BREAK

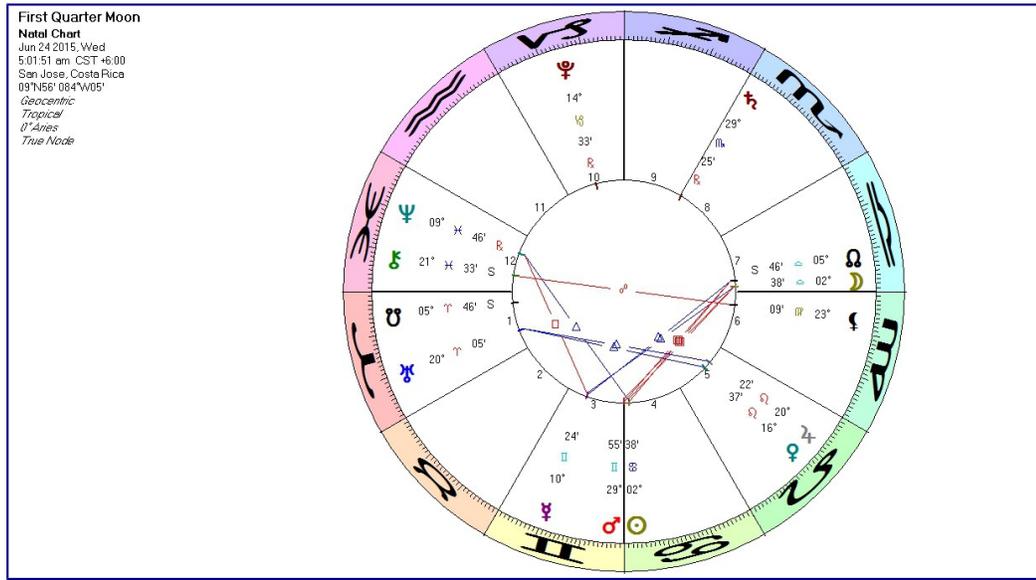
ASTROLOGY

The Pele Report – Kaypacha

<https://youtu.be/y-0VTK0jgYw>

When I get angry, mad, or sad,
I have to look beneath it,
To find the need, the hurt, the wound,
And be honest with myself about it.

CLICK the chart below for a larger, printable version



[click here to download/listen to the Pele Report mp3](#)

Yup! Time to feel those feelings, and it may not be a picnic! But at least they are REAL. There is no doubt that this week (and this weekend especially) anyone who is truly human (not taking anything for granted these days!) will be getting one button pushed or another. Better to acknowledge our vulnerability and sensitivity than escape, avoid, or deny and put up false pretenses.

This is for sure a good week to clean out the house and the body as well as the emotions. Time to put some time into yourself, feel good about your self, your body, your needs, your space. Injoy!

Audio: the Oracle Report

[see below for written report]

Reading: T read about Prince Nicholas Ipsolantis on previous call; continues the article

Those who wrote this article did not realize that Sir Francis Bacon wrote all the Rosicrucian and Masonic teachings, and that Manly P Hall was an Master initiate of Free Masonry. The overlords of chaos / not so nice folks took over that whole body of information and used it for their own ends – not for the highest good of all. So they called Manly P Hall the Master of Luciferian initiative and the Prince of Freemasonry. Yet what we can say is Luciferia was the bringer of the dawn: Lucifer was that side of him that decided to give us a run for our money! There are secret societies that worked with the secrets that humanity may or may not have been ready to hear; other secret societies like the Vrill & other nazi hidden streams worked against the Light and the good of all.

CONFERENCE CALL

C1: thanking R for checking – always thought Dick Gregory was a great guy: seems he was threatened. Also raises the point about the man to the left of Obama

R: He's a galactic, one of the bridge officers on the New Jerusalem

C2: asking if the purpose of that one is to protect Obama – yes, says Rama as well as being a back-up minister – he travels up to the ships like Rama does; R does not know his rank or his duties - will find out!

C1: There is book called The Mother Ship by ??? - C1 went to one of his lectures at a church in Harlem. He was telling the people about the galactics and had written a book about it – this was back in the 60s – he is still around, speaking.

C1: asks if people who go back and forth to the ships are aware of the ability to go back and forth, and if their families are aware of this?

R: does not know who his family is: many times, the families do not know but the families are also so full of love and of service to humanity and the galaxy; as we are in service to humanity as a whole, it changes the whole. MLK knew all about the ships but could not say a word about it.

- Yes, Malcolm X knew all about them too, as does Mr 19.5* - C1 told her friend about Obama being Malcolm X's son and was greeted with: "Have you lost your mind?"

T & R recommend ***the hyperdimensional election of Barack Obama*** by Richard Hoagland – on You tube.

- The prediction of Nobel Drew Ali was that it would take 70 years for people to wake up.

C1: Dr ? Valentine – has a video out about Black ET s – she'll gather up some info from folks who are talking about this, and send Rama the info!

- If anyone finds anything that is really pertinent, needs checking out – send it to Rama with a note!

Reading: from a book she has:

- Francis Bacon – did Francis Bacon write Shakespeare? – and what a Cincinnati woman learned
- About The King James bible: discussion about how the King James version came into being

THE REST OF THE CALL WAS NOT RECORDED DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2015-06-18 Charleston's 'Mother Emanuel Church' Has Stared Down Racist Violence for 200 Years

[Dave Zirin](#)



A small prayer circle forms near where police responded to a shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17. (Reuters/Randall Hill)

The more you read about Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, otherwise known as "Mother Emanuel," the more awe you feel for its historic resilience amidst white-supremacist terror.

This church is now known as the scene of a massacre, which is being investigated as a "hate crime." Nine are dead, but this institution will not fall. We know this because it has stood tall amidst the specter of racist violence for 200 years. Next year, in fact, was to be the 200th anniversary of the founding of the church. It was 1816 when the Rev. Morris Brown formed "Mother Emanuel" under the umbrella of the Free African Society of the AME Church. They were one of three area churches known as the Bethel Circuit. This means that a free church in the heart of the confederacy was formed and thrived 50 years before the start of the Civil War. It had a congregation of almost 2,000, roughly 15 percent of black people in what was, including the enslaved, the majority-black city of Charleston. Because the church opened its doors to the enslaved and free alike, services were often raided by police and private militias for violating laws about the hours when slaves could be out among "the public." They were also raided for breaking laws that prohibited teaching slaves to read at Bible study sessions. (It was at one of these Bible study sessions that the shooter opened fire Wednesday night, after sitting among the people for over an hour.)

More violence against the church was to come, as one of its founders was Denmark Vesey. If you don't know that name, then your US history class failed you. Vesey was born into bondage on St. Thomas Island where he was known as Telemaque. At age 32 in 1799, Vesey won a city lottery of \$1,500 that allowed him to buy his freedom from slavery.

But his former master would not sell Vesey his wife or children. Under patriarchal master/slave law, this also meant that any future children they had would also be in bondage. This was not a state of affairs Vesey was willing to let stand. He achieved financial success as a skilled carpenter.

He became a city leader. He also looked at Charleston, this majority-black city amidst lush plantations, and planned an insurrection. He said, "We are free but the white people here won't let us be so; and the only way is to raise up and fight the whites."

In 1822, Vesey was executed on charges of attempting to organize this unprecedented slave revolt. The plan—organized in meticulous fashion and involving thousands of adherents—was to sack the area plantations, liberate the slaves, and sail to Haiti, which had liberated itself from slavery 20 years earlier in its own revolution. The plan was audacious in its scope and remarkable in its reach, and as a result provoked mass hysteria throughout Dixie.

Vesey was one of five insurrection freedom fighters executed on July 2, 1822, two days before Independence Day. The proximity was said to have inspired Frederick Douglass's speech delivered almost exactly 30 years later on July 5, 1852, "[What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?](#)," where he thundered,

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages.

Douglass would later invoke Vesey to recruit for the all-black Civil War 54th Regiment, featured in the film *Glory*.

Even though Vesey's plan never extended beyond the initial stages, there was a call by the genteel city leaders of Charleston for even more blood. Thirty more were executed that month, legal mass lynching meant to strike fear in the hearts of Charleston's black community. What is remarkable is that more were not arrested or executed. This is attributed to a remarkable level of solidarity amongst Charleston's black population. No one would talk about a popular campaign that turned slaves into active insurrectionists. As part of this campaign—which combined legal and extralegal terrorism—Mother Emanuel Church was burned to the ground. That did not stop people from gathering. It did not end the church.

The violence of this week will not end the church either. The killing of nine people inside Mother Emmanuel calls backward to the 1960s civil rights-era church bombings. It also calls to a present in 2015 where video after video is showing white America a policing system that sees black life as having little value, a present in 2015 where mass media relish black death but do not acknowledge black life, and a present in 2015 where Charleston's Walter Scott can be calmly shot in the back by police. It also calls to a present where police officials and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley speak solemnly about the Mother Emanuel martyrs, under that enduring symbol of racist terror the Confederate flag. This demonstrates with utter clarity that the past that Charleston leaders try to tuck away with [a statue of Denmark Vesey](#) - amidst the city's lucrative plantation tourism - is far from past.

In moments such as this, few words from the present can resonate as powerfully as the words of

Frederick Douglass in his Fourth of July speech when he said,

Oh! had I the ability, and could I reach the nation's ear, I would today pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.

This is not history. It's a guide to action. This action can be heard in the words of Mother Emanuel Reverend and South Carolina State Senator Clementa Pinckney. The Reverend was one of those killed on Wednesday. In a 2013 speech about "freedom," Pinckney said, "...sometimes you've got to make noise.... Sometimes you may have to die like Denmark Vesey.... Sometimes you have to march..."

Related Topics: [Racism and Discrimination](#) | [Society](#)

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/210313/charlestons-mother-emanuel-church-has-stared-down-racist-violence-200-years#>

2015-06-25 – Democracy Now - Headlines

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0625.mp4?&start=150.0&end=635.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0625.m4a?&start=150.0&end=635.0>

Obama Wins Senate Approval for Fast-Track Trade Authority on TPP

The Senate has given final approval to granting President Obama "fast-track" authority to advance the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal through Congress. The secretive accord involves 12 countries and nearly 40 percent of the global economy. Wednesday's vote followed months of White House lobbying and a standoff with congressional Democrats. Opponents say the TPP will undermine workers' rights, public health and environmental regulations. Under the new legislation, Congress would hold an up-or-down vote on the final trade pact, without filibustering or amendments. The Senate has also approved a bill that assists workers displaced by trade accords like the TPP.

Federal Hate Crimes Charges Likely Against Suspect in SC Massacre

The Justice Department is expected to file hate crimes charges against Dylann Roof, the white supremacist arrested for last week's massacre at a historic South Carolina church. Federal investigators have reportedly honed in on the racist manifesto Roof posted online earlier this year.

Bible Study Resumes at AME Church; Thousands Mourn Slain Pastor, Lawmaker at State House

The nine massacre victims were killed as they took part in Bible study at the Emanuel AME Church. On Wednesday, Bible study resumed at the church just one week after the shooting. This comes as thousands of mourners gathered at the South Carolina state House to pay tribute to Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a state senator and the Emanuel AME Church pastor, who was among the nine victims. Pinckney's body lay in state ahead of his funeral on Friday. Pinckney is the first African American since reconstruction to lie in honor in the state rotunda.

Alabama Governor Orders Removal of Confederate Flag from State Capitol

The public viewing came just steps from where the Confederate flag still flies on the state Capitol grounds. South Carolina lawmakers voted this week to consider taking it down. Meanwhile in Alabama, Governor Robert Bentley has acted on his own by ordering the flags removed from the state Capitol grounds. Also Wednesday, Mississippi Republican Senators Roger Wicker and Thad Cochran backed calls for removing the Confederate battle flag from the state flag.

Boston Marathon Bomber Apologizes at Death Sentence Hearing

Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been formally sentenced to death for his role in the attack that killed three and injured hundreds in 2013. Addressing survivors inside the courtroom, Tsarnaev apologized for the first time, saying in part: "I am sorry for the lives that I've taken, for the suffering that I've caused you, for the damage that I've done." After the hearing, Boston Marathon survivor Henry Borgard responded to Tsarnaev's statement.

Henry Borgard: "For me to hear him say that he's sorry, that is enough for me. And I hope, because I still do have faith in humanity, including in him, I hope that his words were genuine. I hope that they were heartfelt. ... When I made eye contact with him, it wasn't like looking in the face of a criminal; it was like looking in the face of a boy."

Obama Phones Hollande After WikiLeaks Reveals NSA Spying

The U.S. has told France it's no longer spying on its leaders following disclosures by the group WikiLeaks. Documents published this week show the National Security Agency spied on President François Hollande and his two predecessors from 2006 to 2012, including listening to and recording cellphone conversations. At the White House, Press Secretary Josh Earnest said President Obama has assured French counterpart François Hollande the spying is no more.

Josh Earnest: "The president was very clear about the fact that the United States does not target and will not target the communications of the president of France, and this is consistent with the conversation that President Obama had with President Hollande during President Hollande's visit to Washington, D.C., last year, a little over a year ago. You know, we've been very clear that foreign intelligence activities are only conducted when there is a specific, validated national security interest involved."

France has denounced the spying, calling it "unacceptable." Hollande held an emergency meeting with his ministers on Wednesday as his government summoned the U.S. ambassador. At a news conference, Secretary of State John Kerry said the spying revelation is based on an "old document."

Secretary of State John Kerry: "This is an old WikiLeaks document. I don't even know what the date is specifically that it starts out or refers to. I'm just telling you point blank we are not and will not target the conversations of any friendly president, anybody that I know of, and certainly not President Hollande or the French ministry. That is not happening."

Death Toll in Pakistan Heat Wave Nears 800

The death toll from a heat wave in the Pakistani city of Karachi has grown to around 800. Morgues are said to be overflowing with bodies while one hospital has reported treating some 8,000 patients in just four days. Temperatures have reached as high as 113 degrees Fahrenheit. The heat wave in Pakistan follows another in neighboring India last month that killed over 2,500 people.

U.S. to Shorten Detentions of Undocumented Women and Children Seeking Asylum

The Obama administration has announced efforts to reduce the long-term detentions of undocumented immigrant mothers and children caught entering the country illegally. Those with relatives in the U.S. to sponsor them will now be offered bond as they apply for asylum. Announcing the change, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said the "detention of families will be short-term in most cases." Some 2,600 mothers and their children are being held at two facilities in Texas and one in Pennsylvania. The vast majority are fleeing violence and domestic abuse in Central America.

Undocumented LGBT Activist Heckles Obama at White House Event

President Obama's immigration policy came under direct challenge Wednesday from a heckler at the White House. As Obama spoke to a gathering celebrating LGBT Pride Month, an undocumented LGBT activist from Mexico called for an end to deportations.

President Obama: "I want to thank all of you—advocates, organizers, friends, families—for being here today. And over the years, we've gathered to celebrate Pride Month, and I've told you that I'm so hopeful about what we can accomplish. I've told you that the civil rights of LGBT Americans"—

Jennicet Gutiérrez: "President Obama"—

President Obama: "Yeah, hold on a second."

Jennicet Gutiérrez: "Release all LGBTQ detention centers! President Obama, stop the torture and abuse of trans women in detention centers! President Obama, I am a trans woman. I'm tired of the abuse. I'm tired [inaudible]"—

President Obama: "Listen, you're in my house."

3 Indicted over Death of Matthew Ajibade in Georgia Jail

A grand jury has indicted three state employees over the death of a 22-year-old Nigerian native in a Savannah, Georgia, jail. Matthew Ajibade died on New Year's Day of what the coroner described as "blunt force trauma," including "abrasions, lacerations, skin injuries about the head and some other areas of the body." At the time of his death, he was restrained in an isolation cell after authorities said he became combative during an altercation that injured deputies. On Wednesday, two former jail employees and a contract health worker were all charged with involuntary manslaughter, among other counts. Nine Chatham County deputies were fired in connection with the case last month.

Obama Unveils Shift on Ransom Efforts by Hostages' Families

President Obama has formally unveiled his policy shift on private ransoms for U.S. hostages overseas. While the U.S. government will continue to rule out paying ransoms to militant groups, it will stop threatening to prosecute families who raise private funds to win their loved ones' freedom.

President Obama: "It has been my solemn commitment to make sure that they feel fully supported in their efforts to get their families home and that there is a syncing up of what I know to be sincere, relentless efforts within government and the families, who obviously have one priority and one priority only, and that's getting their loved ones back. These families have already suffered enough, and they should never feel ignored or victimized by their own government."

The move follows criticism from family members of American hostages. A number of U.S. captives have died in captivity while European hostages were released after their governments paid a ransom.

2015-06-25 **The Death Penalty is Revenge, Not Healing: Father of OKC Victim on Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's Sentencing**

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0625.mp4?&start=635.0&end=1397.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0625.m4a?&start=635.0&end=1397.0>

Guests - [Bud Welch](#), founding president of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights. His daughter, Julie Marie Welch, was killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been formally sentenced to death for his role in the attack that killed three and injured hundreds in 2013. Addressing survivors inside the courtroom, Tsarnaev apologized for the first time, saying in part: "I am sorry for the lives that I've taken, for the suffering that I've caused you, for the damage that I've done." Some of the bombing's survivors have echoed a recent Boston Globe poll that found fewer than 20 percent of Massachusetts residents support sentencing Tsarnaev to death. We are joined by Bud Welch, who has become a leading anti-death penalty advocate after losing his daughter Julie in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Welch is the founding president of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Twenty-one-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev apologized for the first time Wednesday before he was formally sentenced to death for his role in the Boston Marathon bombing that killed three and injured hundreds. He said, quote, "I am sorry for the lives that I've taken, for the suffering that I've caused you, for the damage that I've done. Irreparable damage." He added, quote, "I pray for your relief, for your healing." This was the first time Tsarnaev had spoken in the courtroom since his arraignment two years ago.

During the sentencing, U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr. quoted Shakespeare, saying, "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is often interred with their bones. So it will be for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev." Outside the courtroom, U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz addressed the media.

CARMEN ORTIZ: He didn't renounce terrorism. He didn't renounce violent extremism. And he couched his comments in line with Allah and Allah's views, which give it a religious tone. And there was nothing—as you heard Judge O'Toole say in the courtroom, there was nothing about this crime that was Islam-associated. And so, that's what I was struck by more.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Meanwhile, some of the bombing's survivors echoed a recent *Boston Globe* poll that found fewer than 20 percent of Massachusetts residents support sentencing Tsarnaev to death. Henry Borgard said he opposed the death penalty, and responded to Tsarnaev's statement.

HENRY BORGARD: I was actually really happy that he made the statement. I—as I said in my personal impact statement, I have forgiven him. I have come to a place of peace, and I genuinely hope that he does, as well. And for me to hear him say that he's sorry, that is enough for me. And I hope, because I still do have faith in humanity, including in him, I hope that his words were genuine. I hope that they were heartfelt. I hope that they were as honest as the statements that you heard today in court from the victims and the survivors. I obviously have no way of knowing that, but I'm going

to take it on faith that what he said was genuine. There was a little bit of rhetoric in there; I agree with what you said, absolutely. Some of it was hard to hear, you know? But I really—I was really profoundly affected, really deeply moved that he did do that, because, whether we like to acknowledge it or not, his statement, like ours, takes courage, because the entire world is watching us right now. And the fact that he made a statement, which he didn't have to do, gives him a little bit of credit in my book.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Henry Borgard. He was, at the time of the bombing, a 21-year-old Suffolk University student in Boston. He was hit by the second blast.

The judge rejected a request to move Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's execution to New Hampshire, the only New England state with the death penalty, so survivors could more easily be on hand. Prosecutors say Tsarnaev will eventually be taken to federal death row in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Since 1963, the federal government has executed three people, including Timothy McVeigh, who was put to death in June 2001 for the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing that killed 168 people. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the attack on April 19th, 1995.

Our next guest joins us from Oklahoma City. Bill Welch lost his 23-year-old daughter Julie in the attack there. After initially supporting capital punishment for his daughter's killing, he has become a vocal opponent of the death penalty. He opposed the execution of McVeigh and is the founding president of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

Bud Welch, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Your thoughts today? In Boston, we see the death sentence for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. I think the poll said something like 80 to 85 percent of the people of Boston and all of Massachusetts were opposed to the death penalty, even in Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's case. Can you reflect, as you dealt with this issue 20 years ago?

BUD WELCH: Hi, Amy. I can. You know, I'm reminded, every time something like this happens, that the punishment of the death penalty is nothing more than revenge. And I went through almost a year of revenge after Julie's death, and—revenge and hate. And one cannot go through the healing process at all when you're living with revenge. And that's all the death penalty is, is revenge. It is not a deterrent. It doesn't, as the media says, bring closure to family members.

There are a lot of victims' family members here in Oklahoma City that I know, because I spent 13 years on the board of directors and the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and they were looking for the word "closure" at the time McVeigh was executed, on June the 11th of 2001. And I had been telling many of those people that the day that we would take Tim McVeigh from his cage and we would kill him would not be part of their healing process. And they learned that after his death. And many of those people have come forward now and said, "It was a mistake for us to kill Tim McVeigh," because what it did was revictimize them all over again. One of the ladies, that had two little grandchildren that were killed in the day care center—and I will not mention her name, because the whole country knows her name—she has evolved so much that she is now on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. And that's how it has changed her completely.

And I fully understand the people of Boston, how we have those that have already been able to come forward, they've had enough time to rationalize that the revenge of killing this young man is not part of their healing process. And we all go through that. And I always say the most important

thing to people that have gone through such an event as that, the most important thing that they have is time. And we're all on a different time schedule. And with enough time, we can finally go through the process.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: And, Bud Welch, you even went so far as to meet the father of the man responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing, and therefore responsible for your daughter's death. Could you talk about meeting Timothy McVeigh's father?

BUD WELCH: Yes, I met Bill McVeigh on, actually, September the 5th of 1998. I had been contacted by a nun from Attica prison that does ministry work there—in fact, she's still doing that today. And she had requested that I come to the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area to speak against the death penalty, and I committed to going there for a week. And I had told her the story about seeing Bill McVeigh on television about two weeks after Julie's death and how that I was—I really didn't want to see the news program that had him on. But I sat and watched it, and I saw this man with a deep pain in his eye that I recognized immediately because I was living with that same pain at that same time. And I knew that someday I wanted to go tell that man that I did not blame him or his family for what his son had done.

And I had the chance to do that three-and-a-half years after the bombing. And I went and met Bill, met him at his house on a Saturday morning. And what I found was a very nice, gentle man. And he was sickened by the fact that his son had come back from the war in Iraq, and he had PTSD, had it badly, became very much antigovernment, joined militia groups. And he knew—he didn't know anything that he could do about that. And I'm still in contact with Bill. I talk to him probably every six months.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: And, Bud Welch, what would you say now to the survivors and victims of the Boston Marathon bombing in light of the verdict, the death penalty verdict? What would you say to them now?

BUD WELCH: Well, one thing I would not say to them is that I know how they feel, because I don't. I know how I felt. But I think the big mistake for people like myself that have gone through an event like this is to tell someone else that's gone through something else that they know how they feel, because you don't know how they feel. And when you tell someone you know how they feel, you're not helping them one bit. You're actually making matters worse for them.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: And you actually suggest that the death penalty verdict—not only does it not help survivors heal, it actually prolongs their suffering. Is that right?

BUD WELCH: Well, sure, absolutely, because in McVeigh's case, actually, he was not on death row that long, just a little over six years. But the reason that he was only on death row a little over six years is because he was a volunteer. He asked all of his—for all of his appeals to be stopped, and he asked for an execution date. And I don't think that—if Tim McVeigh had not done that, I don't think that we would have ever executed him. I think he'd still be alive today, because the federal government really did not want to kill Tim McVeigh.

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to ask you to stay with us. We're going to be talking about the fact, in our next segment, that far more white supremacists have killed more people since 9/11 than Muslim extremists in the United States. And we'd like you to weigh in on this, as well, Bud, having direct experience with being a victim, your daughter killed in the Oklahoma City bombing April 19, 1995, along with 167 others. Bud Welch, speaking to us from Oklahoma City. When we come back, we're going to be joined by a former FBI special agent, Mike German, to talk about this new study. Stay with us.

2015-06-25 **Does U.S. Ignore Right-Wing Terror? More Killed by White Extremists Than Jihadists Since 9/11**

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0625.mp4?&start=1397.0&end=2534.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0625.m4a?&start=1397.0&end=2534.0>

Guests

Mike German, fellow at NYU's Brennan Center for Justice. From 1988 to 2004 he served as an FBI agent specializing in domestic counterterrorism.

Bud Welch, founding president of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights. His daughter, Julie Marie Welch, was killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

As thousands head to the South Carolina state Capitol to honor church victim massacre Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a new study finds white supremacists and other non-Muslim fanatics have killed far more people in the United States since 9/11 than Muslim extremists. According to the research center New America, 26 people have been killed in jihadist violence in the U.S. since 9/11, but 48 people have been killed in attacks by right-wing groups. Despite the intense focus by the Obama administration on Muslim communities, non-Muslims have carried out 19 terrorist attacks since September 11, 2001, while Muslims have been responsible for only seven. We are joined by two guests: Mike German, a fellow at NYU's Brennan Center for Justice and former FBI agent specializing in domestic counterterrorism; and Bud Welch, whose daughter, Julie Marie Welch, was killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: In South Carolina, thousands of mourners lined up at the state House to pay tribute to the Reverend Clementa Pinckney, a state senator and the Emanuel AME Church pastor, who was among the nine victims killed last week at Bible study in Charleston. Pinckney's body lay in state ahead of his funeral on Friday. Pinckney is the first African American since Reconstruction to lie in honor in the state rotunda. This comes as a new [report](#) finds white supremacists and other non-Muslim fanatics have killed nearly twice as many people as Muslim extremists since 9/11.

AMY GOODMAN: According to the report by the research center New America, 26 people have been killed in jihadist violence in the U.S. since 9/11, but 48 people have been killed in attacks by right-wing groups. Despite the intense focus by the Obama administration on Muslim communities, non-Muslims have carried out 19 terrorist attacks since September 11, 2001, while Muslims have been responsible for only seven.

To talk more about the findings, we're joined now by Mike German, a fellow at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice. From 1988 to 2004, he served as an FBI agent specializing in domestic counterterrorism. He left after reporting continuing deficiencies in FBI counterterrorism operations in Congress. He's the author of *Thinking Like a Terrorist: Insights of a Former FBI Undercover Agent*.

Still with us in Oklahoma City, Bud Welch, his daughter the victim of a white supremacist. Julie

Marie Welch was his daughter. She was killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building April 19, 1995, blown up by Timothy McVeigh, who was put to death in 2001.

Mike German, just talk about what might surprise many, given the bent and the focus in at least the public comments of the government.

MIKE GERMAN: Well, I think there are a couple of things that are surprising. One is that this threat from far-right extremists is a persistent threat that has been here for a long time and continues, despite the lack of media coverage of most of those events.

The second is that the numbers are very fluid. Different groups count different events. So the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, for example, put out a report in 2012 that had a far higher number of fatalities as a result of far-right violence. So, rather than the government keeping accurate records based on a specific standard, we have private organizations collecting the numbers under their own standards, so we don't have a clear picture of the nature and scope of this threat.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Well, I want to turn to comments made by FBI Director James Comey following the Charleston massacre last week. Speaking at a news conference in Baltimore Friday, Comey said the massacre would be investigated as a hate crime but ruled out the term "terrorism."

JAMES COMEY: I wouldn't, because of the way we define terrorism under the law. Terrorism is an act of violence done or threatened to—in order to try to influence a public body or the citizenry, so it's more of a political act. And again, based on what I know so far, I don't see it as a political act.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: That was James Comey speaking on Friday, one day before Dylann Roof's manifesto came to light. So could you talk specifically about what Comey said in light of what you criticize in the FBI's methodology when they compare Islamist or Muslim extremists and white supremacist violence in the U.S.?

MIKE GERMAN: Sure. So you can imagine the different reaction that would have occurred if Dylann Roof was wearing an ISIS flag on his jacket rather than a Rhodesia flag. And for somebody like me who knows a lot about the white supremacist movement and having been undercover in it, seeing those symbols, seeing the target—you know, the Emanuel AME Church, like many AME churches, isn't just the spiritual center of the black community, it's the political center, it's the social center, so the fact that it's targeted fits the FBI definition, which is an act of violence intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population. And the political purpose is obvious. One of the victims, who was specifically picked out, was a state legislator. So the idea that somehow this wasn't political, I think, says a lot about the way the FBI views terrorism.

AMY GOODMAN: Were you shocked by James Comey's comments? I mean, yes, it was a day before we see this manifesto.

MIKE GERMAN: Right.

AMY GOODMAN: But we knew at that point that he said, "I'm going to kill you because you're black." We knew that he said to a woman who was lying on the floor, "I'm not going to kill you because I want you to tell everyone else," which is terrorizing the rest of the community.

MIKE GERMAN: Exactly.

AMY GOODMAN: So he laid it all out right there. The Justice Department said they were weighing whether it was terrorist, but Comey came right out, FBI director, and has not retracted that statement, even since the manifesto.

MIKE GERMAN: And that is unusual. I mean, usually in an investigation, you wait until the evidence is brought forth. You don't make a claim about the evidence long before there has been time to investigate it. So it is surprising, but I think, again, reflects this idea that the government has that if you're using violence to challenge the establishment, to challenge government policy, you're more dangerous than if you're using violence in a way that affects minority communities or reinforces establishment status quo. As the Church Committee found, the FBI in the Hoover era saw themselves not as law enforcers but as the guardians of the status quo. And that seems to be—that thinking seems to be reflected in the statement that this act wasn't political.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: So could you say a little bit more about how the West Point center that you talked about, Combating Terrorism Center, how it compiles these statistics and how the FBI does? And what interests are served by the FBI or the government in downplaying hate crimes?

MIKE GERMAN: It's hard to understand. Congress mandated that the Department of Justice publish the number of hate crimes. Now, the domestic terrorism events that the Combating Terrorism Center talks about are not necessarily the same. There's sort of a Venn diagram, some of the same of what we would call hate crimes. But the FBI publishes an annual report that says there are about 6,000 to 7,000 hate crimes each year, roughly. I think the last time, which was 2013, the last data published was about 6,000. But the National Institute of Justice, also part of the Justice Department, did an examination and—using a different methodology, and found up to 190,000 hate crimes in a year. So, that disparity is inexplicable, and it definitely shows that the FBI's methodology doesn't show the scope of the threat.

AMY GOODMAN: So let's talk about the problem with not overtly taking this as seriously or counting the numbers of cases there are. You went undercover yourself. Explain what you did.

MIKE GERMAN: So, in 1992, I was asked to go undercover into a group of neo-Nazis who we had some evidence had been engaging in some weapons transactions. So, the investigation started with informants introducing me, and lasted, from start to finish, about 14 months of my involvement, and—

AMY GOODMAN: As an undercover FBI agent.

MIKE GERMAN: As an undercover agent—identified numerous instances of weapons trafficking, manufacture of explosives, use of explosives and conspiracy to do further bombings, including an AME church in Los Angeles. So, at the end of that investigation, we went through the trials. I think there were about eight or 10 people tried, total. And at the end of it, I called the FBI's domestic terrorism unit and said, "When are we going to have a debriefing, so I can explain everything I learned about how these groups work?" And they said they didn't need one, that they felt they understood this issue well enough.

AMY GOODMAN: This was when?

MIKE GERMAN: This would have been 1994, after the trials in 1993. So then, after the Oklahoma

City bombing, I went back undercover in antigovernment groups, used the same methodology that I had used in the previous investigation, also in a shorter period of time because I didn't make as many mistakes, was able to basically identify the same criminal activities within the groups. Again, after the trials, I reached out to the domestic terrorism unit, and they told me they didn't want to debrief me. So part of the problem is that the FBI doesn't capture the information it knows. I think Sandy Berger, during the 9/11 hearings, said the FBI's problem isn't what it doesn't know, it's that it doesn't know what it does know. And so, there isn't an effort to capture the information agents learn during these investigations. And to this day, the FBI's domestic terrorism unit has never interviewed me.

AMY GOODMAN: I just want to bring Bud Welch into this conversation, back in. As you listen to Mike German talk about going undercover in white supremacist groups in 1994, asking for a debriefing, they saying they didn't know it—they didn't want it, and then, in 1995, Oklahoma City bombing happens—Timothy McVeigh, antigovernment white supremacist, anti-Muslim. Your feelings?

BUD WELCH: Well, I mean, my feelings are very simply that, you know, Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols came back from the—from Desert Storm, and when they came back, they were ill, they had PTSD, and the government failed to give them the proper treatment that they should have received. And so, we see those kinds of failures in different branches of government having to do with terrorists. And I think the federal government many times is reluctant to admit that we have homegrown terrorists in the United States. And I think that was the case with McVeigh and Nichols, and that's why Julie is dead today. And it's complicated, but it doesn't have to be that complicated.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: I want to go back to another incident in August 2012, the massacre at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin in which six people were killed. In August, *Democracy Now!*—of 2012, *Democracy Now!* spoke to a former senior analyst at the Department of Homeland Security, [Daryl Johnson](#). In 2009, he had called attention to the threat of far-right extremist groups and sparked a political firestorm in the process. The report warned that the election of the first African-American president, combined with economic anxieties, could fuel a rise in far-right violence. Johnson described the fallout from his research, speaking to *Democracy Now!*

DARYL JOHNSON: I never anticipated that, you know, the Department of Homeland Security, my employer, would actually clamp down on the unit and stop all of the valuable work we were doing. Leading up to this report—and I'll talk about this at length in my book—my team was doing a lot of good things throughout the country. We received numerous accolades from law enforcement, intelligence officials, talking about the great work we were doing in the fight against domestic terrorism. And then, in lieu of the political backlash, the department decided to not only stop all of our work, stop all of the training and briefings that we were scheduled to give, but they also disbanded the unit, reassigned us to other areas within the office, and then made life increasingly difficult for us. Not only did they stop the work that we were doing, but they also tried to blame us for some of the attacks that were occurring.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: That was Daryl Johnson speaking to *Democracy Now!* in August 2012. In a *New York Times* [piece](#) Wednesday headlined "For Domestic Hate, Apply the Vigor and Strategy Used for Muslim Terror," Daryl Johnson wrote, quote, "Domestic terrorism is the national security threat whose name we dare not speak. The numbers of both extremists and the radical

movements that spur them to violence are soaring, and coalescing, in alarming ways. Yet through reckless neglect at nearly all levels of government, domestic terrorism not tied to Islam has become a cancer with no diagnosis or plan to address it." Mike German, can you respond to that?

MIKE GERMAN: Sure. I think there are a couple of issues. One, while the number of far-right—the fatalities from far-right attacks is higher than any other group, it's still relatively small compared to the 14,000 murders that happen each year. So, we have to keep this in context.

AMY GOODMAN: And on that, we should talk about gun violence, but we don't have time today.

MIKE GERMAN: Exactly, exactly. And the second point is, is there's an issue in the study of terrorism, whether it's far-right violence, like the DHS study, or Muslim terrorism—

AMY GOODMAN: And weren't they forced to revoke that study, to take it back, there was such an outcry?

MIKE GERMAN: Yes. And I criticized the study, as well, because it made a simple causal connection between holding particular ideas and becoming violent. And if you look at the actual empirical studies of people who commit terrorism, there is no simple connection. The ideology is neither necessary—there are plenty of people committing violence without it—nor sufficient—it's not the only thing. Many thousands of people hold these ideologies, join these groups, who don't act out. And I knew from my undercover work that many were actually opposed to violence, even though they held abhorrent views that would shock many people. They would tell me, "Do not engage with those knuckleheads over there that you're hanging out with. You're just going to get in trouble and make the movement look bad." So we have to be very clear that people need to be able to express their views without being suppressed by government surveillance, and government needs to study the violence rather than the ideologies.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: But, of course, as you know, the government and those who support the government's policies following 9/11 make the argument that the government's counterterrorism strategy has been successful, and the best proof of that is that there has not been an attack in the U.S. like what occurred on September 11, 2001.

MIKE GERMAN: So, one of the first things you learn as an FBI agent is the absence of evidence is not evidence. And, you know, unfortunately, we have seen far too many people slipping through the cracks. Every death from terrorism is a tragedy, and government needs to understand it. So the last thing that we'd want to see is the excess and abuse used in counterterrorism operations now being brought to domestic terrorism.

AMY GOODMAN: Your final comment, as we head down to Charleston today—we'll be there tomorrow for the funeral of Reverend Pinckney and the memorial for the Emanuel Nine—who Dylann Storm Roof is, what he was a part of, and the significance of these flags, one of these magic moments in history people fight for for so long? It's not the particular governors who are actually doing this, because it was a foundation of social activism of years, for example, to take down the flags. But the flags are an integral part of this ideology.

MIKE GERMAN: Absolutely. And one of the things you have to keep in mind is, the flags give aid and comfort to the people who have this hateful, racist ideology. So even if you think it doesn't represent that, when they see the flag rising, they think that far more people support their ideas

and are just more quiet about it, and it gives them comfort that if they just do this one violent act, that will start the revolution. And that's why you hear them talking about race wars and triggering the race war through an act of violence, is because they think there is this tacit support behind them.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think it's possible that Dylann might have shot the roof off of the Confederacy?

MIKE GERMAN: Interesting way to put it. It's sad that it took a tragedy like this to look at this problem and to recognize how this was hurting society and keeping us back. So, it's good to see that it's now happening, but that's really only part of the problem. I mean, we really have to have the government focus on violence rather than ideology, and truly try to understand how terrorism works, so they can develop measures that are narrowly targeted to the people who are actually causing harm.

AMY GOODMAN: We want to thank you very much for being with us, Mike German, fellow at NYU's Brennan Center for Justice. From 1988 to 2004, he served as an FBI agent specializing in domestic counterterrorism, author of *Thinking Like a Terrorist: Insights of a Former FBI Undercover Agent*. And thanks to Bud Welch in Oklahoma City. And even 20 years later, as we pass this 20th anniversary, our condolences on the death of Julie, your daughter, killed in the Oklahoma City bombing April 19, 1995. This is *Democracy Now!* We'll be back in a minute.

2015-06-25 Did Chris Christie Send Entrapped Innocents to Jail? Re-examining the Case of the Fort Dix 5

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Guests

Murtaza Hussain, reporter at *The Intercept*.

Mike German, fellow at NYU's Brennan Center for Justice and former FBI agent specializing in domestic counterterrorism.

Links: "[Christie's Conspiracy: The Real Story Behind the Fort Dix Five Terror Plot](#)"

As Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie prepares to enter the presidential race, we look at a case often cited as one of his crowning achievements during his time as U.S. attorney: the case of the Fort Dix Five. In 2008, five men from suburban New Jersey were convicted of conspiring to kill American soldiers at the Fort Dix Army base. As U.S. attorney, Christie was responsible for prosecuting the case. A new article in *The Intercept* suggests three of the convicts, the Duka brothers, were entrapped by government agents and not predisposed to commit a terrorist crime. We are joined by *Intercept* reporter Murtaza Hussain, whose latest piece is "Christie's Conspiracy: The Real Story Behind the Fort Dix Five Terror Plot."

NERMEEN SHAIKH: As Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie prepares to enter the presidential race, we look at a case often cited as one of his crowning achievements during his time as U.S. attorney: the case of the Fort Dix Five. In 2008, five men from suburban New Jersey were convicted of conspiring to kill American soldiers at the Fort Dix Army base. As U.S. attorney, Christie was responsible for prosecuting the case.

The Intercept has just published a [piece](#) re-examining the case. It's titled "Christie's Conspiracy: The Real Story Behind the Fort Dix Five Terror Plot." *The Intercept* has also just released a short accompanying video that includes a lengthy interview with Burim Duka. Three of his brothers were arrested in the plot and remain locked up. The video begins with then-U.S. Attorney Chris Christie speaking in 2007 from the steps of the federal courthouse in Camden, New Jersey.

CHRIS CHRISTIE: The philosophy that supports and encourages jihad around the world against Americans came to live here in New Jersey and threaten the lives of our citizens through these defendants. Fortunately, law enforcement in New Jersey was here to stop them.

BURIM DUKA: My oldest brother is Dritan Duka. The second oldest is Shain Duka. The third oldest is Eljvir. My three brothers and two other defendants got arrested for conspiracy to attack a military base here in New Jersey, the Fort Dix military base. We used to go out in the wintertime, when—because we owned a roofing company, we couldn't work wintertime, when it was snowing, so we would go on a vacation with just us guys.

UNIDENTIFIED: There he is! He's coming!

UNIDENTIFIED: Here comes Shain, right there! Look at him! Yo, this is nice! Oh, it's a nice view.

BURIM DUKA: We were recording, of course, so that everybody could have a little clip of what we did when we were in the Poconos.

UNIDENTIFIED: I'll record. Want me to record? Allahu Akbar.

BURIM DUKA: And then, me and my brother, Suleiman, we went to Circuit City to transfer the cassette that we had into a DVD for each person that went to the Poconos with us, so they could have one.

UNIDENTIFIED: We're at the range for the second time, going to try to shoot some more. This is what we did yesterday.

UNIDENTIFIED: Hey, throw something up for me. Throw a snowball up for me.

UNIDENTIFIED: Allahu Akbar.

UNIDENTIFIED: Man, this thing is fantastic!

BURIM DUKA: The Circuit City person turned in the video to the police and said, "These people are shouting out, 'Allahu Akbar!'"—which means "God is great—"while shooting weapons." Then the FBI started investigating us from that day on. They got two informants involved—Mahmoud Omar, an Egyptian guy, and Besnik Bakalli, who was an Albanian informant. He was mainly here for us Duka brothers. Bakalli, because we stood with him more, he would always try to bring up topics about like politics, about what was going on in the news, was always trying to bring up jihad, why are we not doing nothing, how come we're not overseas. Older people and women are doing stuff, and we're not. He would always try to get on our bad side, but we always played it cool.

BESNIK BAKALLI: You learn the Qur'an. You're going by Qur'an. And you're going to—you're not fighting for Muslims. You're still questioning yourself. Why you're not fighting for Muslims?

ELJVIR DUKA: Oh, Besnik.

TONY DUKA: Because we have nothing to do with that.

UNIDENTIFIED: We don't—well, we don't have the balls to go and die.

BESNIK BAKALLI: Don't question yourself.

SHAIN DUKA: Oh, Besnik!

BESNIK BAKALLI: That's what I'm saying.

SHAIN DUKA: I will tell you straight up: We don't have the balls to do that.

BESNIK BAKALLI: No, don't say that, because when our elders have gone to fight, how can we just sit at watch?

SHAIN DUKA: We don't have the balls. We're not gonna do nothing.

UNIDENTIFIED: We're talking—we're talking about certain death. You put bombs on your body, and you hit 'em up.

SHAIN DUKA: No, that I wouldn't do. That I wouldn't do. I'd rather go out—

UNIDENTIFIED: It's up—it's up to you.

SHAIN DUKA: I cannot do that.

BESNIK BAKALLI: Yo, if you guarantee me I go to heaven, I do it. Would you guarantee me that?

SHAIN DUKA: No.

BURIM DUKA: The informant, Omar, hung out with our friend, Shnewer. Shnewer wasn't like my brothers. He said all types of crazy things. And together, the informant and Shnewer came up with a plot to attack Fort Dix. The informant needed Shnewer to say that my brothers were in on the plot. But once the government seen that my brothers weren't in and knew nothing about it, they created an illegal gun deal. Mahmoud Omar knew that my brothers were into guns. He spent a lot of time with us. He set up the deal for my brothers to buy some weapons, and the weapons were provided by the FBI.

TONY DUKA: This is an M-15.

MAHMOUD OMAR: What is the difference between 16 and 15?

TONY DUKA: Sixteen is more powerful.

MAHMOUD OMAR: Sixteen is more power?

TONY DUKA: Sixteen is what the military uses. What's that?

SHAIN DUKA: It's an ambulance.

AMY GOODMAN: An excerpt from a new video *The Intercept*, directed by Razan Ghalayini, on the Fort Dix Five. The video goes on to include a confession from one of the informants, Mahmoud Omar, who says the Duka brothers were innocent of any crime.

MAHMOUD OMAR: I don't know nothing about those guys. And I said that in court. Those Dukas, they didn't do nothing, and I never heard nothing from them. They are good and kind people.

AMY GOODMAN: [We're joined] right now by Murtaza Hussain, a reporter at *The Intercept*. His latest [piece](#) is "Christie's Conspiracy: The Real Story Behind the Fort Dix Five Terror Plot." Still

with us is former FBI agent Mike German.

Welcome back to *Democracy Now!*, Murtaza. Talk about this case and what now-governor, then-U.S. attorney, Chris Christie had to do with it and who still remains in jail.

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: So, in 2007, this represented one of the most high-profile terrorism investigations in the post-9/11 era. At the time, it was reported that a group of men were planning to attack the Fort Dix military base, Albanian immigrants to the U.S. And it was trumpeted as a major uncovering of a major plot against the U.S. Chris Christie was then U.S. attorney at the time, and he was integrally responsible for prosecuting this case and generating the charges against these men.

AMY GOODMAN: And explain what happened next.

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: So, after the Duka family went on a family vacation to the Poconos, they dropped off a video of their trip to a local Circuit City. In the video, they had done horseback riding, skiing, and they had gone to a shooting range. And they peppered their phrases with Arabic phrases, as people tend to do who are of Muslim background. The Circuit City people got alarmed by this. They reported to police. The police forwarded the tape to the FBI, and the FBI proceeded to introduce two informants into the lives of the Duka brothers.

These informants befriended them over the course of about 18 months. They recorded them. They tried to goad them into saying things. They tried to get them to commit a criminal act. And they were never successful. There was another man—not one of the Duka brothers—who went along with the informants' plot separately, but the Dukas themselves never even knew about a Fort Dix plot. And then, in 2007, when they were arrested, they were charged with this plot to attack the base, and they ended up being convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. And they're all still serving life today.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Mike German, could you talk about the increasing use of FBI informants following 9/11 and what the effects of that were and to what extent that policy still continues today?

MIKE GERMAN: Sure. So, after 9/11, terrorism became the FBI—actually, preventing terrorism became the FBI's number one mandate, so they transferred a lot of resources and agents to work in counterterrorism. They expanded the Joint Terrorism Task Forces and expanded the informants dedicated to counterterrorism work. And this technique—informants are not new. Law enforcement has—as long as there's been law enforcement, there have been informants. And I did undercover work often with informants. But what has changed is this methodology.

Number one, typically, you would not use an informant who had a more serious criminal record than the subject of the investigation. That just didn't make any sense that you would put somebody who's a really bad person to just ensnare somebody else, when you don't have significant evidence that that person is engaged in violent crime. So, it's who's being used to target who, and then the use of these techniques where the inducement and the coercion is so significant that it would not have survived muster. I mean, before 9/11, if I had asked the FBI to open an undercover terrorism investigation and told them that the person was not associated with any real terrorist group and had no weapons of their own and had no plot of their own, that that was all part of the operation, they would have probably sent me to psych counseling.

AMY GOODMAN: Murtaza?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: And that was exactly the case in the Fort Dix case. There was no terrorist group. There was no plot to speak of. And there were no weapons, until the informant was introduced in the lives of these men.

AMY GOODMAN: And Chris Christie, specifically, the man who might well run for president of the United States?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: Chris Christie was the U.S. attorney at the time of this case, and he was responsible for prosecuting the case. And in that clip you just saw, he gave this very incendiary press conference where he trumpeted these arrests in the immediate aftermath. For Christie, now governor, this case was huge to his career. He still discusses it to this day. He cites it as an example of defeating terrorism on his watch, when, in reality, the facts of the case are very troubling. It was a very dubious investigation and a very aggressive and malicious prosecution, which resulted in sending a number of men who may well have been completely innocent to jail for the rest of their lives.

AMY GOODMAN: What did Chris Christie know?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: Chris Christie, well, we don't know what he knew at the beginning of this case, but as the trial started to develop, it became very clear that there was not—there was a very glaring absence of evidence against the Duka brothers in this case. And this was even acknowledged at trial by the judge. During the sentencing hearing, when he delivered the sentences, he noted the lack of direct evidence and said that it did not seem to bother him nor the jury. So this is just indicative of the way, the callous—

AMY GOODMAN: So is it being appealed?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: The brothers have launched a series of appeals, which have been denied.

AMY GOODMAN: Where are they imprisoned?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: They are—two of the brothers are in ADX supermax. They've been in solitary for a number of years.

AMY GOODMAN: In?

MURTAZA HUSSAIN: In Colorado, Florence, Colorado, one of the most harsh and brutal prisons in the country, in solitary confinement 23 hours a day. They have not seen their children, nor touched them, since this happened. And their lives have been destroyed. And for what purpose?

AMY GOODMAN: Well—

MIKE GERMAN: And I think one of the things it shows is how the FBI has this concept of terrorist radicalization, that if you have these ideas, you are on a path to terrorism, so therefore it justifies using these extraordinary measures to pull you along the line, even though empirical studies do not support that theory of radicalization that the FBI holds to.

AMY GOODMAN: We want to thank you both for being with us, and we will certainly link to your piece. Murtaza Hussain is a reporter at *The Intercept*. His latest [piece](#), "Christie's Conspiracy: The Real Story Behind the Fort Dix Five Terror Plot." And thanks again to Mike German, former special

undercover agent for the FBI, now at the Brennan Center. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Nermeen Shaikh.

2015-06-26 Rev. Al Sharpton: Removing the Confederate Flag is Welcome—But 150 Years Too Late

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0626.mp4?&start=1706.0&end=2145.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0626.m4a?&start=1706.0&end=2145.0>

Guests **Al Sharpton, civil rights leader and MSNBC host.**

As funerals begin for the victims, Al Sharpton, the civil rights leader and MSNBC host, reflects on the Charleston massacre and the renewed battle over the Confederate flag. This week South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley called for the flag's removal from the state Capitol grounds, while Alabama Governor Robert Bentley took the flag down in his state. "It's about 150 years too late," Rev. Sharpton says. "Someone should have told them they lost the Civil War."

AMY GOODMAN: We turn right now to Reverend Al Sharpton, who was standing here just a few minutes ago before the broadcast began, as I talked to him about what has taken place in South Carolina, the heart of the Confederacy.

AMY GOODMAN: Reverend Sharpton, your comments on this sacred day of one of the funerals?

REV. AL SHARPTON: Well, I think that this is a day that reminds us, despite all that we have seen, that we still have raw, violent racism in this country, terrorism. And the last time I saw Reverend Pinckney, here, not two months ago, where here, in Charleston, around the case of Scott, where I had come down, where our chapter of National Action Network had a prayer vigil at the scene Walter Scott was killed by police, and Reverend Pinckney did the prayer. I came back two months later to stand, last Thursday, the day after he was killed, in this sacred church.

And as I said at the funeral yesterday of Sharonda [Coleman-Singleton], that taking the flag down, without changing the policies, is not enough. Yes, we want the Confederate flag down. It should have never been up. But now Governor Haley and them, that were for the flag, are against the flag. And I said to her that she only knew me from looking out the window protesting. She said, "Oh, I would have hugged you if you'd come inside." We don't want just a hug. We want to deal with voting rights, police reform. We still have not gone to trial on the Scott case in this state. There's no hate crime bill in this state. We still must deal with Medicaid. So I think that the reality is that the climate that this young terrorist felt justified in is still among us.

AMY GOODMAN: What about the fact that FBI Director James Comey came out right away and said that this was not terrorism?

REV. AL SHARPTON: If this is not terrorism, then what is terrorism? To go in a church and sit an hour and wait to shoot multiple people, including an elected official, is terrorism by any definition.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think Governor Haley could have taken down the flag on her own?

REV. AL SHARPTON: I think that Governor Haley could have and should have taken it down on her own. And if there was some legal statute, she should have removed it and had them challenge and let them be the guilty party.

AMY GOODMAN: Your comments on the Republican governor of Alabama, who took it down?

REV. AL SHARPTON: I think that it was good, but it was about 150 years too late. My mother was born and buried in Alabama. Somebody should have told them they lost the Civil War, at least that part of it. The flag is not only a flag of racism and lynching and slavery, it's a flag of treason. These are people that challenged the government of the United States and tried to overthrow Abe Lincoln's government.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you say to those who say this is about heritage, not hate?

REV. AL SHARPTON: It's a heritage of slavery. It's a heritage of lynching. It's a heritage of we are less than human. They want to be proud of that heritage? Fine. But you don't put it up on a public square where taxpayers fund it and subsidize it.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think it's possible that Dylann shot the roof off of the Confederacy?

REV. AL SHARPTON: I think that it is possible Dylann shot the roof off of the Confederacy. What I don't want to see is the Confederates get away with just changing the curtains in the window rather than the structure of the building.

AMY GOODMAN: Reverend Sharpton, you're standing in front of Mother Emanuel, the Emanuel AME Church, but you are standing on Calhoun Street. And just down the road is a statue of the former U.S. vice president, John Calhoun, known for his pro-slavery stance, saying slavery is good.

REV. AL SHARPTON: These are signs of the celebratory way that those that advanced slavery and lynching, those that advanced treason, have been treated in the South—and in the North. In Brooklyn, New York, at Fort Hamilton, is a Robert E. Lee Street, the general of the Confederate Army. So, we have got to stop romanticizing and trying to justify, in the name of heritage, people that were outright committing treason and had a quest—and, in fact, made their quest a reality—of enslaving people that became American citizens and were brought here to build this country on the backs of slaves.

AMY GOODMAN: We just talked to a Charleston resident who said he started a petition to rename Calhoun Street, here in front of Mother Emanuel, Reverend Pinckney Street. Your thoughts?

REV. AL SHARPTON: My thoughts is that that would be wonderful. I would celebrate that. Nothing would be greater than to change it from Calhoun, who advocated Confederacy, to Reverend Pinckney, who advocated liberation. But then we have to change the policies that are conducted on the street.

AMY GOODMAN: And finally, the Black Lives Matter movement, "Black Lives Matter"

being put on Confederate statues, your thoughts?

REV. AL SHARPTON: I think that is wonderful, because I think the Confederacy was that black lives don't matter. And I think what is really the most inspiring thing I've seen since Reverend Pinckney was killed is when I saw young white kids in the Deep South holding up signs saying "Black Lives Matter."

AMY GOODMAN: That was the Reverend Al Sharpton, the Reverend Al Sharpton, earlier this morning in front of Mother Emanuel. And as we broadcast today, the casket of Reverend Clementa Pinckney has just been brought out by a state police honor guard, his casket covered with flowers, as they solemnly descended the stairs of Mother Emanuel. See, the first floor of the church is called the basement, and that's where the Bible study took place two Wednesdays ago, that the accused shooter, Dylann Roof, was a part of, and then, after an hour, allegedly opened fire, killing nine of the parishioners who were at Bible study. Upstairs is the chapel, where Reverend Pinckney lay in state. The funeral will take place at College of Charleston arena, the TD Arena, because it was believed that so many—and clearly it's true, because thousands gathered for the hours yesterday to see Reverend Pinckney, to pay last respects yesterday. I believe the arena holds something like 5,400 people. There are many expected who will be outside.

2015-06-26 4 Decades After Burning Confederate Flag, SC Activist Brett Bursey Says the Struggle Goes On

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<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0626.m4a?start=2145.0&end=2616.0>

Guests: **Brett Bursey**, director of the South Carolina Progressive Network. He burned the Confederate flag in 1969. He calls himself the oldest living Confederate prisoner of war.

In Charleston, South Carolina, we speak with Brett Bursey, director of the South Carolina Progressive Network, who calls himself the oldest living Confederate prisoner of war. He says he is still out on bond after he burned the Confederate flag in 1969. Bursey knew Rev. Clementa Pinckney and says, "I feel a responsibility to Clementa to take advantage of the sacrifice he made to challenge the hypocrisy and bigotry" of Governor Nikki Haley and Republican lawmakers who backed voter ID legislation and blocked the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in the state.

AMY GOODMAN: Brett Bursey is with us right now, director of the South Carolina Progressive Network. He burned the Confederate flag in 1969. He calls himself the oldest living Confederate prisoner of war. Brett Bursey is head of the South Carolina progressive coalition.

Brett, welcome to *Democracy Now!* Your thoughts, as just behind us, the body of Reverend Pinckney, in the hearse now, as it is taken slowly around the corner to College of Charleston?

BRETT BURSEY: Well, Amy, first, let me say that I was a good friend of Clementa's. And when he came to the state House, he was 23, 24 years old. The Progressive Network does a lot of policy work and for the Black Caucus, and Clementa was one of our sponsors for a clean elections bill, and he was our spokesperson about the corrupting influence of money on politics for several

years. I knew the wife, the kids.

And it's just—it's been such an impactful thing that I feel a responsibility to Clementa, and the other people that are dead, to take advantage of the opportunities their sacrifices made to challenge the hypocrisy and the cynicism that fuels the bigotry, that will still be there if they take the flag down. I mean, the governor has come out and said, "Take the flag down." She wouldn't have done that if this hadn't happened. I mean, she has a little understanding of how negative her policies impact people, refusing to take the Medicaid expansion money. We've knocked on doors in South Carolina to talk to people about—that didn't get any healthcare. And when we told them that the governor said they didn't want it, we don't need it, they wanted to know why. And we told them, "Well, you'll have to call the governor. I can't explain why she would deny you healthcare." And so, it's disingenuous and hypocritical, what we're seeing, all these politicians coming out an decrying—

AMY GOODMAN: And the voting rights?

BRETT BURSEY: —decrying racism. Where have they been?

AMY GOODMAN: Voting rights?

BRETT BURSEY: Nikki was a big champion of photo ID bills that would have kept people from voting. And we found a dozen people and had a successful case, Section 5 case, in the Department of Justice to block the bill. And they rewrote the bill in Washington, D.C., in court, and the court said you don't need a photo ID under the new photo ID law. So it was just tremendous kabuki theater that disenfranchises people. We have the lowest—least competitive elections in the nation, that 75 percent of our legislators are elected with no opposition. And that the idea that the people that are championing our democracy have shut the process down, we have profound problems. And I really do feel that some of this energy that's coming from this terrible tragedy is going to help direct some energy toward solving some of these longer institutional problems that we have.

AMY GOODMAN: Brett Bursey, can you talk about what you did in 1969?

BRETT BURSEY: Well, it's kind of like what I just said. I mean, I was raised in the South. I graduated from Beaufort High School 1966, a segregated high school, and came up to the University of South Carolina, then got involved with the Southern Student Organizing Committee, which was a civil rights group that was formed when the white people left SNCC. And I was a state traveler for SSOC in '68 and '69. The occasion of the flag burning at the university was on the anniversary of the Orangeburg massacre, when in 1968 students at State University, which is the school's historic black college in Orangeburg, were gunned down by highway patrolmen. Three of them were killed, 29 injured. And no one—

AMY GOODMAN: You're talking Orangeburg, the Orangeburg massacre.

BRETT BURSEY: Orangeburg, the Orangeburg massacre.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain it very quickly. You're talking about February of?

BRETT BURSEY: February 8, 1968.

AMY GOODMAN: Right before Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis.

BRETT BURSEY: That was in April. And so, the event where the flag was burned was the first anniversary, in '69, of the Orangeburg massacre. And I put on an event called—we were going to call it Black Awareness Week, but we called it White Awareness Week.

AMY GOODMAN: But Orangeburg is so important. I remember when President Obama was first running for president—

BRETT BURSEY: He mentioned it.

AMY GOODMAN: —and he went bowling, and he gutterballed, and everyone was making fun of him. But what was so significant is he's an African-American man bowling, because Orangeburg was about a bowling alley, is that right?

BRETT BURSEY: It was about a bowling alley.

AMY GOODMAN: About integrating a bowling alley. And the police, without warning, opened fire on the students who were fighting for that integration of the alley.

BRETT BURSEY: Yes, and no one was ever punished for that killing. Cleve Sellers, one of the organizers—he was working with SNCC—ended up spending, I think, a year in jail.

But the flag was burned, in part because the university was using the flag, the Confederate flag, and playing "Dixie" at sporting events, a sea of Confederate flags. And we marched up to the president's house and demanded they quit doing that, and he said, "OK." And we felt all empowered. We marched up to the Legislature, which was across the street from the university, and that was the first time I realized that all 170 legislators were white, and there hadn't been a black legislator since the end of Reconstruction in the 1890s. We went back to the campus. This is now—the flag was on the dome at the time. The flag went up April 12th, 1961, on the anniversary, 100th anniversary, of the start of the Civil War, which of course was brought to you by people here in Charleston, South Carolina. And we burned the flag. And I was arrested five days later for defacing or defiling or casting contempt by word or deed upon flags of the Confederacy.

AMY GOODMAN: So you burned the flag where?

BRETT BURSEY: On the university campus, in front of the president's house.

AMY GOODMAN: You were arrested.

BRETT BURSEY: Yeah. Yeah, I was arrested, and—

AMY GOODMAN: Did you go to jail?

BRETT BURSEY: I went to jail, paid my bond, got out, and I'm still awaiting trial.

AMY GOODMAN: So you call yourself?

BRETT BURSEY: Well, it's—yeah, it's a partially humorous term that I feel I've earned, in being the oldest living Confederate prisoner of war. I had—it's one of the worst things, clearly, I ever did in the eyes of authorities in South Carolina. I've been identified as someone that did that, and beaten up in police custody because of that.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to thank you, Brett Bursey, for joining us. The hearse has just moved

on. Brett Bursey, director of the South Carolina Progressive Network, burned the Confederate flag back in 1969. This is *Democracy Now!* We'll be back here in front of the Mother Emanuel church in Charleston, South Carolina, in a minute.

2015-06-26 After Walter Scott Murder & Church Massacre, "Black Lives Matter" Takes on Special Meaning in SC

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0626.mp4?start=2616.0&end=3031.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0626.m4a?start=2616.0&end=3031.0>

Guests

Muhyidin d'Baha, organizer with Black Lives Matter Charleston.

The Emanuel AME shooting suspect Dylann Roof is now jailed next to Michael Slager, the police officer who shot and killed unarmed African American Walter Scott earlier this year in nearby North Charleston. We discuss the state of local activism in the aftermath of the slayings with Muhyidin d'Baha, an organizer with Black Lives Matter Charleston. "This is not new. We've been terrorized for hundreds of years," d'Baha says. "This is a generation that's not going to raise our children within the white supremacist structure."

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman. We're broadcasting from Charleston, South Carolina, outside the historic Emanuel AME Church, where nine African-American worshipers were gunned down on June 17th as they attended Bible study. Just minutes ago, state troopers brought Reverend Clementa Pinckney's casket down the steps into a hearse. His funeral is being held just blocks from here at College of Charleston, with President Obama delivering the eulogy. The church shooting suspect, Dylann Roof, is now jailed next to Officer Michael Slager, the policeman who shot and killed unarmed African American Walter Scott earlier this year in nearby North Charleston.

To talk about the impact of last week's massacre on the Black Lives Matter movement, we are joined right now by Muhyidin d'Baha, an organizer with Black Lives Matter Charleston.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

AMY GOODMAN: It's great to have you with us. As we are broadcasting, you saw the casket of Pastor Pinckney being brought down the stairs. Your thoughts today?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Yeah, the victimization, being terrorized, the impact is always the same. When we're being terrorized as a community for the last 400 years, it doesn't matter whether it's condoned by the state or it's not condoned by the state. The impact on the community is feeling victimized. And so, as I watched that casket go, I just was shaking my head. Like, when will this end, and how will it end?

AMY GOODMAN: You know, we last talked to you when Walter Scott was killed. Can you talk

about what happened then, the actions you were taking then, and how you connected to what has just taken place, this slaughter?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Most definitely.

AMY GOODMAN: In—well, it used to be one town, North Charleston and Charleston, now it's two?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Mm-hmm, yeah, yeah. So, again, it's the same impact upon the community. Whether it's condoned by the state—state-sponsored violence in Walter Scott's case—or whether it's not condoned by the state, the impact is still the same. White supremacy is still ruling and controlling our lives in certain ways that policies, practices and procedures really make up and dictate the way that we live our lives, and it's enforced by law. It's enforced and condoned by law. And so, even when we get a sense of sitting on the street, the laws, policies and practices in this town, the way that our schools are organized, the gentrification, it's all controlling the confinement of our lives and the way that we move. And so, this is just a continuation of that victimization that's been happening for a very long time, that dehumanization.

AMY GOODMAN: And your thoughts of Officer Slager, the officer who killed Walter Scott, charged with murder, and Dylann Roof in the same jail? It's a new jail, actually, the Charleston jail.

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Again, this white supremacy is existing within our social structure and has been here for a very long time, so the impact upon the community is always the same. That they're sitting together, they've always been together. You know, they come from the same ideology. They come from the same soil. And so, it's the soil, it's the nutrients here, it's the flag, it's the ideology, it's the symbols, that we're really after.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to ask what you thought about—well, a number of monuments have been what the media calls "defaced." I think on the Calhoun statue, what did it say?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: "Racist."

AMY GOODMAN: It says "Calhoun" and then it's graffitied "racist."

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: "Racist," mm-hmm.

AMY GOODMAN: And then, on the monument, the Confederate monument in Columbia, spray-painted the words "Black Lives Matter." People have said they have defaced these statues. Would you call it a defacement?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Oh, it's more of a bringing into light what really is. And I think that's what we're trying to do with our movement right now in the way that we're—our rhetoric. It's re-examining our history and the white supremacist structures in our history, and naming them and calling them what they are. So when we talk about the flag, we don't get into agitation of race, we get into talks about abolition and states' rights. We talk about the reality of it. This country is founded upon economic capital developed from free and cheap labor. Now that that cheap labor is not used because of technological innovation, we have the prison-industrial complex and other ways to subsidize people's living and housing. Again, the impact on the community has not changed. It's still the same exact story.

AMY GOODMAN: How do you think what has taken place here, the slaughter that happened just

over a week ago—the funerals are underway right now, right through the weekend—will affect the Black Lives Matter movement around the country?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Most definitely. It's going to ramp it up into another level. Such an assassination—which it was—of a leader, of somebody that's on the ground trying to bring the grassroots energy, trying to bring the agenda of the people into policy, then to be assassinated, we have to be able to change our rhetoric, and we change our discourse and actually get more passionate. We can't let another generation grow up under white supremacy enforced by terrorism.

AMY GOODMAN: Any final words on this day, a really sacred day here? As we are here, the hearse has just driven away with Reverend Pinckney's body. Still, after Reverend Pinckney, there are six more victims who will be memorialized, the funerals for, over the weekend, leading into next week. Two women were remembered yesterday.

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: Your final thoughts about your activism and what your plans are, what you want to see happen?

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: For sure. So, the discourse has to be uplifted, and the ground forces have to become more real. This is not a show. This is not something that just happens. This has been happening to our community. The impact on our community has been for hundreds of years. We've been terrorized for hundreds of years. So this isn't new. Unfortunately, our reaction is not anything novel. We have had to sit and pray and say, "O Lord, please bless us, please protect us." But now it's no more. Now we have to turn a page in this chapter. It's not working.

AMY GOODMAN: Kevin Alexander Gray, our guest before, when I said we're broadcasting from the heart of the Confederacy, he says, "No, you've got it wrong. Atlanta is the heart of the Confederacy, and South Carolina is the soul of the Confederacy."

MUHIYIDIN D'BAHA: This is true. Well, we are here. And so, if we're going to fight this battle, this is the first shots of the Civil War that have just been fired. Literally, this is a generation that is not going to raise our children within this white supremacist structure. Something is going to change. As Minister Farrakhan says, it's justice or else.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I want to thank you, Muhiyidin d'Baha, organizer with Black Lives Matter Charleston.

2015-06-26 Rev. Jesse Jackson: Take Down the Confederate Flag — and White Supremacist Culture with it.

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0626.mp4?&start=3031.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0626.m4a?&start=3031.0>

Guest: **Jesse Jackson**, civil rights leader, and president and founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

Outside the wake for Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Amy Goodman interviews civil rights leader and South Carolina native Rev. Jesse Jackson, who says of the massacre at Emanuel AME Church, "The question is, is this an embarrassment, or is it transformational?" Jackson argues efforts to remove the Confederate flag from the state Capitol shouldn't stop there. "If you still have less access to voting, it's not a good deal. If the flag comes down and you still have racial profiling ... it's not a good deal," Jackson says.

AMY GOODMAN: So many people have gathered in this Southern city. I wanted to turn now to Reverend Jesse Jackson. We saw him last night just as he had come out of the church paying last respects to Reverend Pinckney.

REV. JESSE JACKSON: I think that the emotions are high. People seem to be rallying to each other in unusual ways. The question is, is this embarrassment, or is it transformational? If this had happened in the next state over, would there be the same amount of fervor? Black men, unarmed, are being shot down. We see in this state, for example, Brother Pinckney was fighting to deal with too much easy access to guns.

In this state, 350,000 people have no health insurance, and one quarter of the state is in poverty, and yet they reject \$10 billion in Medicaid, with one again in the Supreme Court just today. Twenty-five percent of the population is African-American, and 75 percent of the prison population is African-American, and 20 percent of those do prison labor for 30 to 80 cents an hour. South Carolina state is on the verge of closing because of lack of state investment.

So it seems to me, if we're going to deal with the issue of poverty and the issues that matter, it must be a transformational moment, not just a kind of embarrassment so we can keep a false face on good news and tourism.

AMY GOODMAN: And your thoughts on the Confederate flag?

REV. JESSE JACKSON: The Confederate flag must come down, or trade must go down. It must be a substantial boycott. And it just can't apply to South Carolina. You know, the flag represents secession from the United States of America. It represents sedition, an attempt to violently overthrow the government; slavery as a form of economic development; states' rights over federal rights; and suppression of the rights of women. It's racist to the extent that it's white supremacy, male supremacy, anti-black, anti-gender equality, anti-Semitic, because of religious supremacy. So this thing is a little deeper than just racism. It is anti.

And the Confederates won some significant concessions when the war was over. First

concession it won was the right to maintain their dignity. None of them were indicted, all were pardoned, though they tried to overthrow the government. The second concession they won was the right to control—the right to get paid for the slaves they had to give up. The third concession was they got the right to control the votes. We got the vote in the 1870s, didn't get it back 'til 1965. The right to control the rights of women. They got the right to control healthcare, education and labor and voting. So that the concessions that the Confederates won were substantial.

And to this day, there's not a—just this state is 45 percent African-American, not one black-owned business in downtown Charleston. So I am not impressed with the "Kumbaya" moment unless there is some plan for financial investment and a budget alteration. If the flag comes down, but you still have less access to voting, it's not a good deal. If the flag comes down and you still have high race profiling and blacks go to jail at a rate three times that of whites, it's not a good deal. The question is, are the bankers out here—or will they increase bank lending, and a more effective use of pension funds? What will it be to become cretinous beyond this moment of passion?

AMY GOODMAN: Now, but as people came to Columbia to the state House to see Reverend Pinckney, the state senator laying in state, first African-American since Reconstruction to lay in state in the Capitol rotunda, they had to pass the Confederate flag. Do you think Nikki Haley, the governor, could have just taken it down like the governor of Alabama did?

REV. JESSE JACKSON: I'm not sure she could do that technically. I think she's taken a very public position, which I think is a very decent position that Nikki Haley has taken. It's the right position. Now Senator Graham has taken that position, and Senator Scott has taken that position. Romney has taken that position. But we must not only change the Confederate flag. We must change the Confederate agenda. The agenda is anti-black, with white male supremacy. The agenda is anti-Semitic, with religious supremacy. The agenda is anti-female, will not pass the Equal Rights Amendment for women. We must have an agenda.

The Confederates need to rejoin America. They need to rejoin the Union. They must make a bigger decision than take down the flag. They must rejoin the Union of states. Three hundred and fifty thousand people without health insurance in this state, a quarter of the state in poverty, and they reject \$10 billion in Medicaid on a nine-to-one ratio? That's a low investment for high returns. There is so much [inaudible]. This is the same state where the congressman, Wilson, called the president a liar, and where the congressman went home and raised \$2 million that weekend, where Susan Smith killed her two babies in the water up in Union, South Carolina. And—

AMY GOODMAN: Where were you born?

REV. JESSE JACKSON: Greenville, South Carolina.

She killed those two babies and said that a black man did it who didn't even exist. So that we cannot settle for cheap rates when the matter is so serious.

AMY GOODMAN: You're standing on Calhoun Street right in front of Mother Emanuel.

REV. JESSE JACKSON: Another slaveholder, and it runs right into Meeting Street, where they sold our people. This place is dripping with a kind of indecency, a kind of

barbarism. I mean, slavery, 246 years, was real. And the extension of slavery was even worse, in many ways, because at least slavemasters tried to protect the health of their slaves enough for them to work and reproduce. But after slavery, when slavocracy lost to democracy and kept the political and military power, 4,000 blacks were lynched, 163 lynched in this state without one indictment, often carried out by judges and police. And so the depth of resentment and meanness and toxicity here must not be played down.

AMY GOODMAN: Your thoughts on Dylann Roof being in the Charleston jail, as is Officer Michael Slager, who gunned down Walter Scott, the African-American man who was running away from him, and he shot him in the back, in North Charleston?

REV. JESSE JACKSON: One man shot in the back running, another nine more shot in the church across the street, so 10 blacks are dead, two white men in jail. And we do not know what the outcome will be, in a judicial sense. We know the result is in, that these men are dead, and we know who killed them. But the question of what will be done concretely beyond using these two guys as posters to represent the culture. The culture is much deeper and much wider than two men. Much deeper and much wider than two men.

AMY GOODMAN: The Reverend Jesse Jackson, standing in front of Mother Emanuel church as thousands pay their last respects to South Carolina state senator and the Reverend Clementa Pinckney. Today, the funeral for Reverend Pinckney. Thousands are lining up to attend.

2012, Sept 4

Ten True Facts Guaranteed to Short-Circuit Republican Brains

by [Richard Riis](#)

As a public service to those who find themselves inextricably cornered by aggressively ill-informed Republicans at work, on the train or at family gatherings, presented here are ten indisputably true facts that will seriously challenge a Republican's worldview and probably blow a brain cell or two. At the very least, any one of these GOP-busters should stun and confuse them long enough for you to slip quietly away from a pointless debate and allow you to get on about your business.

1. The United States is not a Christian nation, and the Bible is not the cornerstone of our law.

Don't take my word for it. Let these Founding Fathers speak for themselves:

John Adams: "The government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion." (*Treaty of Tripoli*, 1797)

Thomas Jefferson: "Christianity neither is, nor ever was, a part of the common law." (*Letter to Dr. Thomas Cooper*, February 10, 1814)

James Madison: "The civil government ... functions with complete success ... by the total separation of the Church from the State." (*Writings*, 8:432, 1819)

George Washington: "If I could conceive that the general government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded, that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution." (*Letter to the United Baptist Chamber of Virginia*, May 1789)

You can find a multitude of similar quotes from these men and most others who signed the Declaration of Independence and/or formulated the United States Constitution. These are hardly the words of men who believed that America should be a Christian nation governed by the Bible, as a disturbingly growing number of Republicans like to claim.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was written by a socialist.

The Pledge was written in 1892 for public school celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Its author was Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, Christian socialist and cousin of socialist utopian novelist Edward Bellamy. Christian socialism maintains, among other ideas, that capitalism is idolatrous and rooted in greed, and the underlying cause of much of the world's social inequity. Definitely more "Occupy Wall Street" than "Grand Old Party" by anyone's standard.

3. The first president to propose national health insurance was a Republican.

He was also a trust-busting, pro-labor, Nobel Peace Prize-winning environmentalist. Is there any wonder why Theodore Roosevelt, who first proposed a system of national health insurance during his unsuccessful Progressive Party campaign to retake the White House from William Howard Taft in 1912, gets scarce mention at Republican National Conventions these days?

4. Ronald Reagan once signed a bill legalizing abortion.

The Ronald Reagan Republicans worship today is more myth than reality. Reagan was a conservative for sure, but also a practical politician who understood the necessities of compromise. In the spring of 1967, four months into his first term as governor of California, Ronald Reagan signed a bill that, among its other provisions, legalized abortion for the vaguely-defined "well being" of the mother. Reagan may have been personally pro-life, but in this instance he was willing to compromise in order to achieve other ends he considered more important. That he claimed later to regret signing the bill doesn't change the fact that he did. As Casey Stengel liked to say, "You could look it up."

5. Reagan raised federal taxes eleven times.

Okay, Ronald Reagan cut tax rates more than any other president – with a big asterisk. Sure, the top rate was reduced from 70% in 1980 all the way down to 28% in 1988, but while Republicans typically point to Reagan's tax-cutting as the right approach to improving the economy, Reagan himself realized the resulting national debt from his revenue slashing was untenable, so he quietly raised other taxes on income – primarily Social Security and payroll taxes - no less than eleven times. Most of Reagan's highly publicized tax cuts went to the usual Republican handout-takers in the top income brackets, while his stealth tax increases had their biggest impact on the middle class. These increases were well hidden inside such innocuous-sounding packages as the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987. Leave it to a seasoned actor to pull off such a masterful charade.

6. *Roe v. Wade* was a bipartisan ruling made by a predominantly Republican-appointed Supreme Court.

Technically, *Roe v. Wade* did not make abortion legal in the United States; the Supreme Court's decision held only that individual states could not make abortion illegal. That being said, the landmark 1973 ruling that Republicans love to hate, was decided on a 7-2 vote that broke down like this:

Majority (for *Roe*): Chief Justice Warren Burger (conservative, appointed by Nixon), William O. Douglas (liberal, appointed by FDR), William J. Brennan (liberal, appointed by Eisenhower), Potter Stewart (moderate, appointed by Eisenhower), Thurgood Marshall (liberal, appointed by LBJ), Harry Blackmun (author of the majority opinion and a conservative who eventually turned liberal, appointed by Nixon), Lewis Powell (moderate, appointed by Nixon). Summary: 2 conservatives, 3 liberals, 2 moderates.

Dissenting (for *Wade*): Byron White (generally liberal/sometimes conservative, appointed by JFK), William Rehnquist (conservative, appointed by Nixon). Summary: 1 liberal, 1 conservative.

By ideological orientation, the decision was for *Roe* all the way: conservatives 2-1, liberals 3-1, moderates 2-0; by party of presidential appointment it was Republicans 5-1, Democrats 2-1. No one can rightly say that this was a leftist court forcing its liberal beliefs on America.

7. The Federal Reserve System was a Republican invention.

Republicans, and, truth be told, many Democrats, despise the Federal Reserve as an example of government interference in the free market. But hold everything: The Federal Reserve System was the brainchild of financial expert and Senate Republican leader Nelson Aldrich, grandfather of future Republican governor and vice president Nelson Rockefeller. Aldrich set up two commissions: one to study the American monetary system in depth and the other, headed by Aldrich himself, to study the European central banking systems. Aldrich went to Europe opposed to centralized banking, but after viewing Germany's monetary system he came away believing that a centralized bank was better than the government-issued bond system that he had previously supported. The Federal Reserve Act, developed around Senator Aldrich's recommendations and - adding insult to injury in the minds of today's Republicans - based on a European model, was signed into law in 1913.

8. The Environmental Protection Agency was, too.

The United States Environment Protection Agency, arch-enemy of polluters in particular and government regulation haters in general, was created by President Richard Nixon. In his 1970 State of the Union Address, Nixon proclaimed the new decade a period of environmental transformation. Shortly thereafter he presented Congress an unprecedented 37-point message on the environment, requesting billions for the improvement of water treatment facilities, asking for national air quality standards and stringent guidelines to lower motor vehicle emissions, and launching federally-funded research to reduce automobile pollution. Nixon also ordered a clean-up of air- and water-polluting federal facilities, sought legislation to end the dumping of wastes into the Great Lakes, proposed a tax on lead additives in gasoline, and approved a National Contingency Plan for the treatment of petroleum spills. In July 1970 Nixon declared his intention to establish the Environmental Protection Agency, and that December the EPA opened for business. Hard to believe, but if it hadn't been for Watergate, we might remember Richard Nixon today as the "environmental president".

Oh, yes - Republicans might enjoy knowing Nixon was an advocate of national health insurance, too.

9. Obama has increased government spending less than any president in at least a generation.

Republican campaign strategists may lie, but the [numbers](#) don't. Government spending, when adjusted for inflation, has increased during his administration (to date) by 1.4%. Under George W. Bush, the increases were 7.3% (first term) and 8.1% (second term). Bill Clinton, in his two terms, comes in at 3.2% and 3.9%. George H. W. Bush increased government spending by 5.4%, while Ronald Reagan added 8.7% and 4.9% in his two terms.

Not only does Obama turn out to be the most thrifty president in recent memory, but the evidence shows that Republican administrations consistently increased government spending significantly more than any Democratic administration. Go figure.

10. President Obama was not only born in the United States, his roots run deeper in American history than most people know.

The argument that Barack Obama was born anywhere but at Kapiolani Maternity and Gynecological Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, is not worth addressing; the evidence is indisputable by any rational human being. But not even irrational "birthers" can dispute Obama's well-documented [family tree](#) on his mother's side. By way of his Dunham lineage, President Obama has at least 11 direct ancestors who took up arms and fought for American independence in the Revolutionary War and two others cited as patriots by the Daughters of the American Revolution for furnishing supplies to the colonial army. This star-spangled heritage makes Obama eligible to join the Sons of the American Revolution, and his daughters the Daughters of the American Revolution. Not bad for someone [56%](#) of Republicans still believe is a foreigner.

Okay, feel free to drop any or all of these ten true facts on your local Republican windbag. Tell him or her to put any of these choice nuggets in his or her teabag and steep it. Then sit back and enjoy the silence.

Note: Although the facts are 100% true, the context is, of course, one of humor; the oxymoronic reference to "Republican Brains" in the title should have been a dead giveaway. Additionally, as everyone knows, there are no facts in the Republican cosmos, only Fox News Alerts.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/09/04/1127663/-Ten-True-Facts-Guaranteed-to-Short-Circuit-Republican-Brains#>

http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/secret_destinyamerica/secret_destinyamerica02.htm#8.
A NEW IDENTITY FOR CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Many scholars were fully aware of the global form of the earth in the time of Columbus, who, according to early historians, State documents, and his own son, was not an Italian of humble station and uneducated but was a Greek Prince with an excellent classical education. ...

It was from a Greek port that he sailed on the celebrated voyage of discovery. He was accompanied by a mysterious stranger, which has suggested that Columbus was an agent of the society of unknown philosophers. ...

The pattern of the democratic ideal was beginning to assert itself over the tyranny of decadent aristocracy.

A new world was necessary for a new idea. ... When it was necessary, it was discovered.

NOTE: The University of Barcelona has pronounced genuine a document discovered by an Italian archeologist in 1929. It records that the treasurer of Spain counseled Colon to represent himself as Christophorens in demanding aid from the King of Spain, and states emphatically that Admiral Colon was not the same man as Christophoro Colombo, son of Dominico and Susana Fontanarossa who lived in Genoa.

As stated earlier, there can be little doubt that the Greeks were aware of the existence of the American continent long before the beginning of the Christian era. If information is not general on that point, it is equally surprising how little is known about the man Christopher Columbus who is accredited with the discovery of the new world. The date of his birth is unrecorded, and twenty cities claim Columbus as a native. So many legends have sprung up about this strange man that it is difficult to distinguish fact from fancy.

In 1937 a little book was published, entitled, *Christopher Columbus Was A Greek*. According to its author, Spyros Ceteras, the real name of Columbus was Prince Nikolaos Ypsilantis, and he came from the Greek Island of Chios. The statement is backed by quotations from numerous early historians and State documents.

The author of this little book has documented his opinions in a manner to bring joy to the critical reader. He mentions the following Greeks who navigated the Atlantic ocean in ancient times: Hercules, Odysus, Colaeus, Pytheus, and Eratosthenes. He points out that the language of the ancient Mayas of the American continent contains many words of pure Greek belonging to the Homeric period, and, to quote the book: "Years ago, in the republic of Uruguay, South America, were discovered traces of the army of Alexander the Great, swords and thoras with the inscription 'PTOLEMEOS ALEXANDROY!'".



The cipher signature of Columbus (reproduced above) is generally interpreted *Salve Christus, Maria, Yosephus-Christoferens*. It was usual to build personal ciphers upon dates. If the seven large letters above the signature are read according to the medieval system of numeration the date 1420 results. The "x" appears to be a double letter composed of "jx"; this would increase the sum to 1430. Is this then the true and unknown birthdate of the Greek navigator?

All modern research on the life of Columbus tends to prove that he was not a man of humble station, poor or uneducated, and the story of Queen Isabella and her jewels is rapidly becoming recognizable as fiction. Columbus is emerging as a man of impressive personality with marked abilities as a leader and organizer and an excellent classical education.

Like most Greeks of his time he admired the writings of Plato and the other classical philosophers; he had the Greek birthright of legend and tradition, and was mentally well suited for interpretation of classical lore. There is much to indicate that Columbus was inspired for his voyages by Plato's account of the lost Atlantis and the records of early navigation to the West. Furthermore, Europe was not without some knowledge of geography and in his day there were many scholars aware of the spherical form of the earth.

A great trade with Asia had long passed over the caravan routes of the Near East, as the Arabs for the most part were a friendly people; but with the rise of the Turkish Empire to power most of these routes were closed to the infidel. When even the Crusades failed to keep clear the roads of commerce, it became ever more desirable to discover a western passage to the Orient. It was for this purpose that Columbus sailed, and not from an Italian or Spanish port, but from the Greek port of Mahon.

It is astonishing how difficult it is to ascertain the facts about the celebrated voyage of discovery and the life of one so prominent in history as Christopher Columbus; it appears that history entered into a conspiracy to conceal the truth. Possibly an elaborate misrepresentation was intentional, for certainly the confusion began before the death of Columbus. His own son refers to his father as a Greek. It has been suggested that Columbus changed his name because of religious or political pressure, but this is in the field of conjecture.

Then too, in browsing about among old records I have run across a dim figure involved in the life of Columbus, a strange man who seems to have served the explorer in the capacity of counselor. Nothing very tangible has as yet come to light, but it is hinted that this mysterious person accompanied Columbus on his first voyage. He was not included in the list of the mariners. He did not return, but remained in the West Indies; beyond this, no further mention is made of him.

This mysterious stranger is reminiscent of the black-robed man who guided the destiny of Mohammed. Were these obscure figures ambassadors of the secret government?--Columbus being one of the agents through which the society of unknown philosophers accomplished its purposes ?

It is my opinion that he was such an agent. The signature of Columbus, composed of letters curiously arranged and combined with cabalistic designs, certainly conveys far more than is inherent in the signature of a private citizen.

The importance of Columbus in the larger scheme of things is to be estimated from his relationship to the pattern of his own time. Europe, passing from the obscurity of the medieval period, was coming into the light of the modern way of life; the motion of the Renaissance had spread like ever widening ripples over the surface of a stagnant pool. Printing had been discovered; the mental emancipation of man from the tyranny of ignorance, superstition, and fear was gradually being accomplished. The democratic ideal was beginning to assert itself over the

tyranny of decadent aristocracy.

As the mental horizon broadened, the physical horizon extended also. The Crusades had broken up the structure of feudalism. Principalities were forming themselves into nations, and the tribal consciousness was disappearing from the theater of European politics. This progress was opposed at each step by vested interests. But the human mind was becoming aware of its own powers, in a motion of continuing irresistible force.

A new world was necessary for a new idea. When it was necessary it was discovered. That which is needed is always near if man has the wit to find it.

Today we are again seeking for a new world. No longer do there remain undiscovered continents to serve us as laboratories for social experiments, so we are turning our attention to other kinds of worlds--worlds of thought, inner spheres which must yet be explored by daring navigators. Science in the last fifty years has discovered a new universe--the universe of the mind. The infant psychology has but to come of age for us to fully discover a new sphere for new exploration in the science of living.

The voyages of Columbus were followed by two centuries of enlarging our geographic knowledge of the earth. Explorers who sailed the seven seas seeking wealth, brought home knowledge; it released human thought from its Mediterranean fixation and accomplished the still greater end of breaking the power of a Mediterranean theology and a Mediterranean way of life. Men began to think world thoughts, began to realize that while the whole earth was one land divided into continents and oceans it still was a gigantic unity. Out of the global wanderings of stout sea captains in little wooden ships was developed our so-called global thinking of today.

The concept of a global world, at least in terms of geography, is now our common inheritance. After four hundred and fifty years we accept it without question, but mainly to toy with the belief that we will accomplish something in terms of ultimates if we can industrialize the entire planet. Our world is still too large for us to know how to use it. We have discovered much, but the greatest voyage still lies before us.

Our venture will be into that greater ocean that lies beyond the boundaries of the known. The new voyages will be made in laboratories, and the contrary currents will be the cosmic rays that move through the seas of universal ether.

This will require of each man that he make a long journey of discovery within himself, searching out the hidden places of his mind and heart. As Socrates so wisely observed, all mankind lives along the shore of an unknown land. This unexplored world abounds in wonders and is filled with riches beyond the wildest dreams of old Spanish conquistadores. In this land beyond the sea of doubt the wise men dwell together in shaded groves, and here, according to the old tradition, the scholar, the musician, the artist, and the poet--who makes the discoveries that science and philosophy must later prove--have already found the better way of life.

Christopher Columbus sailed his little ships for a land which by the writings of ancient philosophers he knew existed. And each of us in the fulness of time will make our own voyage in search of a philosophically-charted better world--to follow the advice of Homer, to prepare our ships, unfurl our sails, and facing the unknown go forth upon the sea to find our own far distant native land.

9. THE PROPHECIES OF NOSTRADAMUS

Eleven years after Columbus reached our shores, an extraordinary man was born in France.

In adult life he was both a respected physician and a mystic who was able to write accurately the history of the world to come. ... There was no indication at the time

that in the Western Hemisphere would arise a great nation,

but Dr. Michel Nostradamus saw a civilization established there

that would observe (always on a Thursday) a day to express thanksgiving

for freedom of religion, freedom of opportunity, and freedom of life. ...

He prophesied that this nation would free itself from the bonds of the mother country,

would greatly prosper, but would have to fight several wars--one with the Orient--

before becoming a great power in a pattern of world peace,

with other nations looking to it for leadership. ...

All that he foretold is precisely according to the Platonic tradition.

HISTORIES are generally written about the men who prominently influence the events that make history; little is written--though it might be of greater interest--about those shadowy figures who seem always to stand behind the men who make history.

Michel Nostradamus, seer of France, is among the most extraordinary of such men; born in 1503, and possessed of some inner source of knowledge beyond the reach of ordinary mortals, he wrote the history of the world to come !

Two hundred years later, the celebrated Illuminist and Rosicrucian, the Comte de St. Germain, remarked to his close friend, Prince Carl of Hesse-Cassel, that he was the one who had assisted Nostradamus in the calculation of his remarkable predictions.

All this is far too shadowy for sober historians, although a number have spent considerable time and developed numerous headaches trying to trace the life of the illusive Comte, who was called by Frederick the Great, "The man who does not die."

Nostradamus was a respected physician, a man of outstanding medical accomplishments. Few details of his life are available, but from the context of his manuscripts, his epistles to the King of France, and his letters to his own son, it is evident that he too belonged to the Order of the Quest. Mystic, philosopher, astrologer, alchemist, and cabalist, Nostradamus was versed in all the secret lore disclosed only to those who have bound themselves with the oath of the brotherhood.

The prophecies of Nostradamus might have come entirely as revelations of the spirit; but it is equally possible that in his quaint old doggerel verses he included part of the plan of things to come as already well set in the minds and purposes of his brother initiates.

The first edition of the *Prophecies of Nostradamus* was published in 1660. At that time the Americas were still the happy hunting ground of Spanish adventurers. There was no indication that in the Western Hemisphere would arise a great nation. Yet Nostradamus writes at sufficient length of the future state of America to indicate an extraordinary knowledge.

The old seer refers to this country under several names. He calls it the Hisparides, the Blessed Isles of the West. In another place he simply names it America. And his third designation of it

is, the Land Which Keeps the Thursday.

This last form is the most astonishing. For it refers to the unique American holiday, Thanksgiving, which always falls upon a Thursday. And this the only holiday which depends upon the day alone for its observance, and is peculiarly the American holiday which expresses thankfulness for freedom of religion, freedom of opportunity, and freedom of life.

To summarize the opinions of Nostradamus concerning the future destiny of Western civilization is difficult, because of the involved idiom of the original text. But he points out clearly certain things that will happen. He saw that a great civilization would rise in the western world. This civilization would free itself from the bonds to its mother country, and then assume a free place among the temporal powers. The new country would flourish and extend its domain across the entire continent. It would grow rich and powerful, he predicted, and live at peace with its sister, (Canada). He said that America would have to fight several wars, including one with the Orient. This conflict he describes as an eagle flying against the rising sun, and in his day neither the eagle nor the rising sun had significance of the slightest importance in the symbolism of nations.

Fulfilling its destiny, Nostradamus foretold that America would become a great power in a pattern of world peace and would be looked up to by other nations for leadership against the common evils of the time. In short, as Nostradamus foretells the story of the Blessed Isles it is precisely according to the Platonic tradition; and we can not but wonder if he was a party to that tradition, and knew exactly whereof he spoke.

Whether the 16th Century physician of France had his visions from within himself, or whether he merely wrote down what was given to him by another, we can never know. Conventional thinkers, doubting such prophetic powers, incline toward the second alternative. And that will leave them scarcely less comfortable of mind, for the existence of this secret brotherhood plan is then virtually admitted.

Nostradamus is not the only prophet who sensed or knew the future of western empire. There was Dr. Ebenezer Sibly, who flourished in England about the close of the 18th Century. It is reported that Sibly had a shrewish wife and it was to escape her tongue that he retired to a garret of his house to ponder the mysteries of the Universe, his meals being passed to him through a hole in the door. Dr. Sibly divided his time between an infallible elixir which, if dissolved in wine, would dissolve all human ills, and the writing of long books dealing with astrology, physiology, and anatomy.

In his day, the American republic was in its infancy; and brilliant politicians on the floor of the House of Commons were predicting that the rebellious colonies would soon be begging on bended knee to be restored to the British commonwealth. Sibly, though a stout Britisher, expressed his regrets that he had to point out that, in one detail at least, an astrologer in his garret would prove wiser than the best politicians in Europe, for sad to relate, the American colonies would not come home--the stars decreed otherwise. Not only would they remain outside the fold, he said, but they would grow rich and powerful; extending themselves across their continent, Americans would build great cities and develop world trade and industry. And, one day--horrible thought!-- they would be stronger than the mother country ! And this was the truth that must be spoken, if only through a hole in a garret door.

It should be remembered that among the ancients, astrology was one of the sciences of government. The prognostic aspect of the subject was not the main interest in the minds of such men as Pythagoras and Plato; these philosophers saw in the motion of the heavenly bodies and the order of the cosmos a great pattern of natural laws. The Universe was a celestial empire populated with planets, and suns, and moons, in a heavenly arrangement which was a clue to the proper distribution of human affairs. The State, they advocated, should be patterned after the Cosmos. Governments of men should be in harmony with the larger government of the world.

Many old astrological books indicate clearly that planetary symbols were used to represent the elements of a political system, and that the astrologers themselves were part of the Order of the Quest. Beneath the cloak of professional astrologers, they were counselors advising kings and princes to establish better laws and rule their peoples more wisely.

Nostradamus was consulted by three kings. Europe's most powerful Queen, Catherine de Medici, also consulted him on numerous occasions. His advice was always temperate and directed toward the public good. His scholarship gave a perspective on political problems that was beyond the scope of the professions of statescraft.

All the petty princes of Europe in medieval times had their Merlins, wise old men who in many instances were the actual rulers of the State. It is obvious that if these counselors were bound together by some common purpose their collective power would be considerable. And they were bound together, in the secret society of unknown philosophers, moving the crowns of Europe as on a mighty chess board. Men of this calibre bring about the mutations of empire. It is the general opinion that revolutions begin with the common people, but this is not true; the benevolently informed always guide and direct public opinion.

Through the centuries the prophecies of Nostradamus have continued to exercise a powerful force on the political destiny of the world. They have been translated into most of the languages of Europe; they were frequently quoted and reprinted during the period of the First World War; and in the Second World War both the Axis and the Allied powers have quoted Nostradamus variously to serve their purposes.

It is in the larger picture of the world's future that Nostradamus indicates the coming of the great league, or assembly of world powers. This league is to be the only human hope of peace, the only solution to a competition between nations. The formation of this league begins the new life of the human race, will allow the human being at last to emerge into the estate for which he was fashioned.

Barbarism ends with the beginning of world civilization. To be civilized, according to Cicero, is to reach that state of personal and collective behavior in which men can live together harmoniously and constructively, united for the betterment of all. By this definition, we have never been civilized. We have existed in a state of cultured savagery.

The promise of Nostradamus is especially meaningful in these difficult years; for he assures us that the commonwealth of nations is to become a reality.