

12. Championing Truth and Justice: Griffin on 9/11

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The distinguished authors of other chapters of this book have given many demonstrations of David Ray Griffin's exceptional scholarly achievements across a wide range of disciplines. Readers of this chapter will therefore not be surprised to see with what effect he has brought his unique intellectual tools and powers to the analysis and interpretation of the 9/11 events and the building of a 9/11 truth movement. Before proceeding, I would like to emphasize one quality that links his scholarly career, at the cutting edge of understanding in so many areas, with his 9/11 work. That is his courage. He has frequently tackled very difficult, "knotty" problems. As this book as a whole shows, Professor Griffin has repeatedly provided promising new solutions that were challenging to established academic views. He has never let the unreadiness of others to think in novel ways deter him. When he committed himself to unsnarling the "world-knot" of 9/11 he made yet another courageous decision, and not just in the intellectual sense. Griffin, who has argued for a realist understanding of truth and moral norms, including justice,¹ is a philosopher who takes his philosophy seriously, and who integrates his practice with his thought.

The subject of 9/11 may seem like a very significant departure from most of his earlier work. In fact, however, he had already undertaken major research and writing for a book on

American imperialism, and it was in the course of this work that he realized that important questions had been raised about the official explanation of the events of September 11, 2001. As he examined the issue in more detail, he saw that its significance and complexity would require a separate treatment. This shift of focus, which he initially thought of as requiring an article, and then a book, has continued to the present (April 2012), with the writing of ten books and 40 articles on 9/11 and many other contributions to the growth of a global 9/11 truth movement.

After having not questioned the official account of 9/11 for some time after the events, Griffin began to look critically at the evidence in the spring of 2003. In March 2004, his first book on 9/11, *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11*, was published. Nothing comparable to it had been published previously. It displayed the typical virtues of Griffin's writings: precise identification of and focus on the core problem; mastery of the full range of available evidence bearing on it; careful discrimination between alternative interpretations of the evidence; due attention to and accurate statements of the arguments made by others; and the high level of argumentation, often with a compelling use of logic.

Right from this first foray, Griffin focused on the core issue for all of his subsequent research and writing on 9/11: the question of the truthfulness of the official account of the events. In *The New Pearl Harbor*, Griffin wrote:

[T]he purpose of this book . . . is not to explain "what really happened" but . . . to summarize what seem to be the strongest reasons that have been given for considering the official account to be false (so as to show the need for a full investigation to *find out* what really happened).²

Thus, from the very outset, Griffin had identified his objective: a genuine investigation willing to go wherever the evidence leads.

Several other major emphases of Griffin's almost decade-long analysis of the 9/11 evidence were already present in *The New Pearl Harbor*. He initiated there critiques of the roles of the mainstream news media and of the left-leaning "alternative media," both of which appeared to be satisfied with the official account and actively avoided looking in a systematic way at the mounting evidence that it is false. He discussed, in a more intellectually rigorous way than had been done by anyone before him, important semantic issues, such as what the word "complicity" might mean in propositions that the Bush/Cheney administration was complicit in the 9/11 events, and the proper and improper uses of the terms "conspiracy theorist" and "conspiracy theory." Further, he discussed the cumulative type of argumentation appropriate to the complex issue of the truth about 9/11, which—unlike a purely deductive argument that is only as strong as each "link in the chain" of deductions—is like a cable of many strands, which is still strong even if some strands should fail.

Almost every strand *The New Pearl Harbor* identified has proven to be durable. Each chapter raised important questions challenging the official account: How could the alleged hijackers' missions have succeeded without a "stand-down" of the air-defense system, meaning that the pilots were ordered *not* to intercept the airliners? Did American Airlines Flight 77 under the control of al-Qaeda really strike the Pentagon? Was United Airlines Flight 93 shot down over Pennsylvania? Why did President Bush linger at the school in Florida for a half-hour after the second of the Twin Towers was struck? Did US officials block investigations into the activities of some of the alleged perpetrators prior to and after the attacks? Did US officials have strong reasons for allowing the attacks, or even planning them and carrying them out? Not one of these critical questions has ever been satisfactorily answered by authorities.

Griffin's second book on 9/11, entitled *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*,³ was published in late November 2004, less than five months after the publication of *The 9/11 Commission Report*. Griffin saw that the *Report* lied about virtually all evidence raised by critics of the official account, either explicitly, by distorting it, or implicitly, by omitting to mention it at all. These lies suggested that one of the 9/11 Commission's purposes was to cover up the government's role in the attacks. The *Report's* omission of the fact that a third major steel-framed skyscraper (in addition to the Twin Towers) collapsed on 9/11—World Trade Center 7—is only the most-famous of the more than 115 lies of omission or distortion that he identified.

In the first half of his book, Griffin systematically laid out these omissions and distortions of facts concerning a variety of issues, including the collapses of the buildings, the attack at the Pentagon, the alleged hijackers, the behavior of President Bush and the Secret Service during the crucial hours, advance warnings of the attacks, the long and intimate connections between the Bush family, the bin Ladens and the Saudi royal family, the flights of Saudis out of the country when all other flights were forbidden, the suspicious behavior of FBI headquarters before and after the attacks, the role of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the events, and the many motives the Bush/Cheney administration would have had for permitting or facilitating the attacks.

The impression of a cover-up given by the *Report* was especially strong with respect to its account of why the air-defense system failed to intercept any of the hijacked airliners. The 9/11 Commission told a new story that contradicted all previous official claims regarding the sequence and content of communications between the FAA (the Federal Aviation Administration) and NORAD (the North American Aerospace Defense Command), blaming the FAA exclusively for the failure

and exonerating the military. Griffin saw that the *Report's* assignment of blame on the FAA, charging it with repeated and unprecedented laxity and incompetence in failing to follow long-established standard procedures of notification to the military upon suspicion of in-flight emergencies, amounted to an unbelievable story. The second half of his book, therefore, was on the *Report's* attempt to explain away the appearance of a stand-down. Griffin's book has continued to provide the best analysis of the shortcomings of *The 9/11 Commission Report* and the process that created it, and remains a key document in the brief for a new, genuine investigation of 9/11.

Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11,⁴ published in July 2006, advanced Griffin's analysis of 9/11 in important ways. It is my personal favorite of his 9/11 books, because it combines a succinct overview of the primary evidence against the official account with a deep historical and philosophical interpretation of the special significance of American empire for Christians who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus. Part One presented the core of his increasingly powerful case against the Bush/Cheney administration. First, to show that an unprovoked attack on noncombatants by government leaders would not be unthinkable, he surveyed the history of modern false-flag operations, including Operation Gladio in Western Europe, in which the US government was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent people. Then, to show that even an attack on US citizens would not be unthinkable, he discussed Operation Northwoods, a plan put forward by the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962 to carry out a false-flag operation providing the pretext for a US attack on Cuba—a plan that included a scenario in which innocent US citizens would be killed.

In a line of evidence that Griffin was the first to investigate in detail, he analyzed—in a chapter called “Explosive Testimony”—the abundant testimony regarding explosions in the Twin

Towers provided by firefighters and other first responders. In another chapter, he cataloged the many ways in which the collapses of the Twin Towers exemplified classic features of controlled demolitions. Griffin then argued that the case against the Bush/Cheney administration had progressed from a *prima facie* case to a conclusive case, because it had gone unrefuted by the 9/11 Commission.

Griffin's principal purpose in Part Two was to bring out the special significance of 9/11 for Christians. In the chapter "Jesus and the Roman Empire," Griffin, after describing the conditions imposed by Rome on the inhabitants of Palestine, argues that Jesus sought to persuade his followers to resist the terror, injustice, and idolatry of Rome. Then, in the philosophically profound following chapter, "The Divine and the Demonic," Griffin presents a sustained argument, based upon his understanding of God's power as persuasive rather than coercive, for the reality of demonic power. Presenting a critique of the traditional (but non-Biblical) doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo*, he shows that evil results from creaturely power, which God cannot unilaterally negate. Defining "the Demonic" as creaturely power exercised with indifference or hatred on a scale sufficient to threaten divine purposes, Griffin develops a concept of the Demonic as the "quasi-soul" of modern civilization, after which he argues that the US state has become the most powerful agency of the Demonic in the world, the "New Rome." He concludes that Christian faith, which in its essence is fidelity to divine values, calls upon US Christians to actively oppose the empire-building undertaken by their rulers, and especially to oppose the massive slaughter of innocents carried out in the wars of aggression triggered by the 9/11 false-flag operation.

As the fifth anniversary of 9/11 approached in 2006, four publications in August attempted to shore up the official version of the events by debunking the critical alternative account.

The best-known of these was a book entitled *Debunking 9/11 Myths*, published by *Popular Mechanics* magazine (which had been supplied with a new staff, including a new editor-in-chief, by the president of Hearst Magazines). Griffin responded to all four of these debunking attempts in his next book, *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics and Other Defenders of the Official Conspiracy Theory*,⁵ which was published early in 2007. In my opinion, this book is his 9/11 magnum opus, best displaying his powers of argument and his mastery of all relevant evidence over the full range of issues. It definitively destroyed the pretensions of the debunking publications.

Griffin's Introduction prepared the ground by distinguishing between rational and irrational conspiracy theories, thereby pointing out that conspiracy theories are not irrational by definition. He also discussed the double standard used by the mainstream and even most of the left-leaning media, which discredits critiques of the official account on the grounds that they are "conspiracy theories," while ignoring the fact that the official story is itself a conspiracy theory. The Introduction concludes with a discussion of the role of scientific explanations in 9/11 conspiracy theories. The rest of the book demonstrates that science and reason are all on one side, that of the alternative, not the official, 9/11 conspiracy theory.

An especially important achievement of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking* was Griffin's compelling argument against the authenticity of the so-called "NORAD tapes," which were the focus of an article in *Vanity Fair* put forth by journalist Michael Bronner, to whom the military had given exclusive access to the "NORAD tapes." These tapes are purportedly selections from audio tapes of conversations within the military that were recorded by NORAD as the events took place. Bronner claimed that the tapes provide the "authentic" story of the military response to the hijackings.

But Griffin argues convincingly that the story told by Bronner is unbelievable. First, the tapes, which only surfaced in 2004, are contradicted by volumes of independent evidence, which Griffin details. Then, on the basis of interviews with a former FAA air traffic controller (Robin Hordon), and with the military liaison at the FAA's Boston Center (Colin Scoggins), Griffin argues that the tapes-based story told by Bronner about the FAA's slow response to the flight emergencies of all four planes is simply incredible. In a compelling logical argument, Griffin concludes that the "NORAD tapes" must be the product of fakery—by cherry-picking key communications from a much larger body of recorded material, by scripting new fictional communications to be performed by the personnel involved, and/or by voice-morphing technology.

In Chapter 3, Griffin takes up the online publication by NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology) entitled "Answers to FAQs." This title refers to frequently asked questions about NIST's earlier *Report* on the destruction of the Twin Towers, which had failed to provide an explanation that satisfied critical readers and had resulted in a flood of questions to the agency. In its "Answers to FAQs," NIST pretended to set all such questions to rest. But Griffin demonstrates that NIST had failed to debunk the controlled demolition theory of the Tower's destruction, showing that:

- The planes could not have caused the extensive damage to the columns and fireproofing claimed by NIST; the fires were nowhere near as hot, long-lasting, and extensive as claimed; therefore, NIST's theory of "collapse" cannot be true.
- NIST fraudulently "tweaked" its computer models of the situations in the Towers, changing parameters until it generated the result it wanted.
- NIST, entirely unscientifically, did not consider alternative hypotheses, including the arguably most-likely hypothesis—

that the buildings were brought down with explosives.

- Although Griffin and others had presented a massive amount of evidence that the Towers were brought down by controlled demolition, NIST claimed that there was no such evidence.

In the final chapter of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*, Griffin took on the *Popular Mechanics* book, *Debunking 9/11 Myths*. Here Griffin explained the task facing *Popular Mechanics*:

It must show that every one of the key claims made by the leading critics of the official story is false. Why? Because each of these claims challenges one of the essential claims of the official story. If even one of those essential claims is disproved, then the official story as such is thrown into doubt.

By contrast, Griffin next points out:

Critics do not need to show the falsity of every essential element in the official account; they need to show only the falsity of one such element.⁶

Griffin then proceeded to demonstrate that the *Popular Mechanics* book utterly failed to accomplish its purpose with respect to even one claim made by leading critics of the official story, let alone all of them.

9/11 Contradictions: An Open Letter to Congress and the Press, published in March 2008, put a spotlight on contradictory statements made by members of the Bush administration, government departments and agencies, and official bodies such as the 9/11 Commission. Griffin asked why, if the government pronouncements are contradictory, have members of Congress and the mainstream media not launched investigations to determine which claims are true and which are false, and to ask why obvious falsehoods are being promulgated by official sources. As he explains in the preface: "If [Transportation Secretary Norman]

Mineta said ‘P,’ that is a fact. If the 9/11 Commission said ‘not P,’ that is a fact. And it is a fact that ‘P’ and ‘not P’ cannot both be true.”⁷

In 25 chapters, Griffin documented 25 of the most serious contradictions. The one referred to in the Preface involves the testimony of Secretary Mineta at a public hearing of the 9/11 Commission, in which he stated that he reached the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (under the White House) by 9:20 AM, to find Vice President Dick Cheney in charge there. Mineta described the interactions between Cheney and a young officer who was monitoring a radar screen and who repeatedly informed Cheney of the continuing approach of an aircraft toward Washington, D.C. Then, Mineta said,

When it got down to “the plane is 10 miles out,” the young man also said to the Vice President, “Do the orders still stand?” And the Vice President turned and whipped his neck around and said, “Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?”⁸

This testimony has been widely interpreted as evidence that a stand-down order had been given by Cheney—an order permitting the continued approach of the aircraft toward Washington without interception by NORAD. The approach by the aircraft alarmed the young officer, prompting his question (“Do the orders still stand?”). Griffin shows that the 9/11 Commission suppressed this evidence from Mineta, scrubbing the video of his testimony from its website, making no reference to it in its *Report*, and even replaced it with a distorted account of the incident. Some of the contradictions discussed in *9/11 Contradictions* show that the official story has changed over time, such as the new story about the chronology of FAA-NORAD communications told in 2004 by the 9/11 Commission. As criminal investigators know so well, when the story keeps changing, doubt is cast on all of its versions.

In *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited: 9/11, the Cover-Up, and the Exposé*,⁹ published in September of 2008, Griffin examined significant developments in research into the events of 9/11 that had taken place since early 2004, when he had published *The New Pearl Harbor*. Griffin's account of the remarkable role that Philip Zelikow, Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission, had played prior to his appointment to that position—which Griffin began in *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* and continued in *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*—is concluded in this 2008 book with revealing facts about Zelikow's role in the writing of the Commission's *Report*.

Griffin's earlier accounts had treated Zelikow's working relationship with Condoleezza Rice, who had become Bush's National Security Advisor, and who had asked Zelikow to write *The National Security Strategy of the United States 2002*, in which the US government for the first time asserted the right of preemptive-preventive war (based on the pretext provided by the 9/11 attacks). Griffin had also examined Zelikow's co-authorship in 1998 of an article (in *Foreign Affairs*, the journal of the Council on Foreign Relations) entitled "Catastrophic Terrorism," which forecast in chilling detail the massive attack at the World Trade Center and many details of the government's "response" to the attack.

In *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*, Griffin closed his treatment of Zelikow with a detailed examination of his complete control of the writing of *The 9/11 Commission Report*: He had (with a co-author) drafted a complete outline of the final report before the staff's research even began—complete with "chapter headings, subheadings and sub-subheadings"—which led Commission staff, when they learned of the outline, to circulate a parody entitled "The Warren Commission Report—Preemptive Outline," with a chapter entitled "Single Bullet: We Haven't Seen the Evidence Yet. But Really. We're Sure."¹⁰

In May 2009, Griffin published a very different book, *Osama bin Laden: Dead or Alive?*¹¹ Here Griffin examined the whole range of evidence bearing on the question whether Osama bin Laden was actually still alive. His conclusion was that bin Laden was almost certainly dead, and that in all likelihood he died in December 2001. Griffin surveyed in detail the many different indications published in the major media in late 2001 and early 2002 that bin Laden had been very ill and had died. These included a video from December 2001 in which he appeared to be at death's door (as admitted by a Bush administration spokesperson), analyses by medical experts of the grave state of his health, the sudden, total and permanent cessation in mid-December 2001 of any surveillance intercepts of communications from him, and even reports of his funeral.

Griffin argued that two videos that purportedly showed bin Laden taking credit for the attacks of 9/11 were faked. He then argued that if fake bin Laden videos were produced in this early period, when he was probably still alive, then there is even greater reason to be suspicious of "bin Laden videos" or other claimed "messages" that were released later. Griffin then presented reasons to be suspicious of the authenticity of the entire series of "messages from bin Laden" that had been released from 2002 to 2008.

Griffin's conclusion, that a massive amount of evidence indicated that bin Laden had likely died many years ago, probably in December 2001, has apparently been refuted by the media reports of the US Special Operations raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in May 2011, in which Osama bin Laden was reportedly killed. But many questions about this operation have been raised, including: why all the "evidence" comes from US officials; why bin Laden would have been killed rather than captured; why no photographic evidence has been released to support the claim that Osama bin Laden was killed; why the body was buried at

sea, where no confirmation of its identity is possible;¹² why officials claimed that a pre-burial DNA report was given before there had been sufficient time, according to a DNA expert;¹³ and why the US media have ignored an Abbottabad resident who said the man watching television was not bin Laden,¹⁴ or the neighbor who told an account completely different from the story given by US officials about what happened the night of the raid.¹⁵

In *The Mysterious Collapse of World Trade Center 7: Why the Final Official Report about 9/11 is Unscientific and False*,¹⁶ published in September 2009, Griffin provided a withering critique of NIST's treatment of the highly mysterious collapse of WTC 7, a 47-story steel-framed skyscraper about two blocks from the Twin Towers. This collapse was mysterious because, given NIST's insistence that explosives were not used, there was apparently no way to explain why this building came down. NIST could not even appeal to the faulty reasons it had used to explain the disintegration of Twin Towers, because WTC 7 was not struck by a plane and as a result had no big fires. Nevertheless, at 5:21 PM on 9/11, WTC 7 collapsed suddenly. NIST, after having delayed year after year, finally in 2008 issued a report on this building, claiming to present a scientific account of the causes of the building's collapse. But Griffin demonstrated that NIST had produced only a pseudo-explanation. Showing that NIST's report on WTC 7 is—as his book's subtitle says—"unscientific and false," Griffin even demonstrated that NIST's report committed scientific fraud.

Griffin considers *Mysterious Collapse* to be the one of his 9/11 books that most clearly demonstrates the falsity of the official story.¹⁷ It is also the only one in which he quotes his principal philosopher, Alfred North Whitehead, who had said that a scientific frame of mind requires an "unflinching determination to take the whole evidence into account." You do not have that frame of mind, Whitehead added, if you adopt hypotheses that require you "to disregard half your evidence."¹⁸

Part I of the book, “NIST’s Unscientific Rejection of the Most Likely Theory,” examined the methods used by NIST to avoid considering controlled demolition as a possible explanation of the building’s collapse. Controlled demolition is the most likely hypothesis because all previous instances of sudden, rapid collapse of steel-framed skyscrapers had been the result of intentional controlled demolition using explosives. Beginning by considering key indicators of scientific fraud, Griffin argued that scientific fraud in the strict sense was committed by NIST, because (a) it fabricated evidence to support its claims; (b) it even falsified evidence; and (c) it ignored relevant evidence. NIST also committed scientific fraud in a broader sense by violating additional scientific principles, including making claims implying that laws of nature had been violated.

In Part II, “NIST’s Unscientific Arguments for Its Own Theory,” Griffin shows in detail the failure of the authors of NIST’s *Report* to adhere to standard scientific principles, including their failure to base their analysis on empirical facts and physical tests, and their distortion and fabrication of “data.” After shredding the central pillar of NIST’s account—its claim that thermal expansion of steel floor beams and girders caused “global collapse”—Griffin delivered the *coup de grace*. Having for years claimed that the collapse of WTC 7 was far slower than free fall (the gravitational rate), NIST had stated that fire could not possibly cause the free-fall collapse of a steel-framed building: Such a collapse would only be possible, barring a miracle, if all resistance to the fall had been eliminated by removal of the lower portion of the building by explosives. But then NIST was confronted with irrefutable evidence by physicists that the collapse of WTC 7 did in fact enter into free fall. Although NIST was thus forced to make this admission, it continued to maintain that the collapse had been caused by fire. Griffin demonstrated that the scientists at NIST, by maintaining these contradictory claims, had abandoned science

by violating the scientific principles of non-contradiction and the impermissibility of claims implying that laws of nature have been broken. Unfortunately for NIST, Griffin is an expert on miracles!

Cognitive Infiltration: An Obama Appointee's Plan to Undermine the 9/11 Conspiracy Theory,¹⁹ published in September 2010, was Griffin's response to writings concerning the 9/11 truth movement by Cass Sunstein, a Harvard law professor appointed by President Obama to the post of administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Before his appointment in April of 2009, Sunstein had published an essay entitled "Conspiracy Theories: Causes and Cures,"²⁰ in which he argued that "conspiracy theories" are the expression of an ignorant state of mind caused by "informational isolation," and should be "cured" through secret "cognitive infiltration" by covert government agents of organizations the government deems "conspiracist." Because Sunstein painted a fantastic picture of the 9/11 truth movement as "harmful," "dangerous," and likely to resort to "terrorism," and he explicitly stated that "9/11 conspiracy theories" were his main focus, it was clear that his call for "cognitive infiltration" was directed specifically against the 9/11 truth movement.

But Griffin demonstrates that the case Sunstein made for what is essentially a new Cointelpro²¹—which was declared illegal by the US Congress—is deeply flawed. In illustration of the weakness of Sunstein's arguments and how thoroughly Griffin counters them, take Sunstein's thesis that, although people accept the alternative account of 9/11 "not as a result of a mental illness . . . or of simple irrationality," they do so "as a result of a 'crippled epistemology' in the form of a sharply limited number of (relevant) informational sources." He further clarified his term "crippled epistemology" by explaining that adherents of the alternative theory "know very few things, and what they

know is wrong." Griffin simply points out that since knowledge is justified true belief, it is nonsense to say that what someone knows is wrong. Further, he shows that Sunstein's pseudo-philosophical term "crippled epistemology" is nothing but fancy dress meant to cover his threadbare claim that people who accept the alternative theory of 9/11 are simply ignorant, a charge that Griffin easily refutes by listing a large number of members of the movement with impressive scholarly or professional accomplishments.

On the tenth anniversary of the events, Griffin published *9/11 Ten Years Later: When State Crimes Against Democracy Succeed*,²² which presented his latest analysis of a range of important issues: the lack of evidence that Muslims had attacked the US on 9/11; the multiple occasions on which, if the official account of the destruction of the World Trade Center is to be believed, the laws of physics were miraculously inoperative (Griffin documents nine such miracles); the extraordinary cover-up of WTC 7's classic demolition by the mainstream media and government agencies; Vice President Dick Cheney's changing account of his whereabouts and activities at key times during the morning of 9/11; the wide variety of evidence demonstrating that the official account of the events at the Pentagon, which claims that Flight 77 was flown by al-Qaeda hijackers into the building, cannot be true; and evidence that many nominally Christian Americans have subordinated their Christian faith to a "nationalist faith," which for them makes the suggestion that US leaders could have been responsible for 9/11 simply unthinkable.

In my view, Griffin's most important chapter in this book is his examination of evidence about the alleged phone calls from the 9/11 airliners, according to which passengers and flight attendants supposedly stated that the planes had been hijacked by Middle-Eastern Muslims. In Griffin's arguably strongest argument, he shows that calls to Deena Burnett, supposedly from

her husband Tom Burnett from aboard United Flight 93, registered on her caller ID as calls from his cell phone. However, by 2003, it had become widely accepted that cell phones in 2001, given the technology then available, were not capable of completing calls from airliners at high elevation. Remarkably, the FBI then simply changed its account, saying that Tom Burnett had called home using a seatback phone – but without explaining how Deena’s caller ID could have showed that the calls came from Tom’s cell phone. Griffin also shows that the most famous of all the alleged calls—those from CNN reporter Barbara Olson to her husband, US Solicitor General Ted Olson—could not have occurred, and that the FBI also admitted that these alleged calls did not occur. Griffin then makes the logically compelling argument that if these two sets of claimed calls are demonstrably fake, *all* the reported calls must have been faked. In response to the question of how these calls could have been faked, Griffin points out that voice morphing was already a well-established technical capability by 2001.

The subtitle of the book indicates that the 9/11 attacks, in being a false-flag operation carried out by elements of the US government, were a “State Crime Against Democracy,” or SCAD, through which the electorate of a supposedly democratic country is manipulated, so that it does not base its policies on a true understanding of the facts. The failure to carry out a genuine investigation, arrest the perpetrators, and reverse the policies undemocratically imposed by the government after 9/11 means that the operation has succeeded. Griffin argues, however, that the future is still open, and that the 9/11 truth movement, with its developed understanding of this reality, has a crucial role to play in reversing the course toward a global police state and endless war.

In conclusion, it is important to note that Griffin’s devotion to the cause of 9/11 truth has not been restricted to his books

on the subject. In addition to writing what I consider are the ten best books on 9/11, he has been a central figure in the movement in many other ways. Countless people who share his high scholarly and moral standards have been inspired by him to become active, and have formed an impressive array of professional organizations dedicated to 9/11 truth and to calling for a real, fully empowered investigation. For example, architect Richard Gage, who started Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth—which by now has over 1700 members—joined the movement after hearing a radio interview given by Griffin on his research, mentioned above, into the “Explosive Testimony” of first responders at the WTC.²³ In one of Griffin’s most important roles, he has been an advisor to professionals in various fields for the development of their organizations, including Actors and Artists for 9/11 Truth, Political Leaders for 9/11 Truth, Religious Leaders for 9/11 Truth, and Scientists for 9/11 Truth.

Griffin has given many public addresses on 9/11 at universities, churches, and local venues organized by 9/11 truth activists, and has gone on several long lecture tours in the US, Europe and Japan. His radio and television interviews number in the hundreds, and include interviews on national television in Canada, the UK and other foreign countries. It seems to be only in the US that he has not been allowed to speak on national radio and television—with the important exception of the broadcast by C-SPAN of his 2005 lecture at Madison on “9/11 and American Empire,” which did much to turn the 9/11 truth movement into a national, even a worldwide, movement. He has collaborated with other researchers on publications, including the important volume *9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out*, co-edited with Peter Dale Scott in 2006, which brought many academics and professionals into the movement. He has also advised film makers as a consultant on questions of fact. And he has been an advocate of building an inclusive movement, while

at the same time seeking to develop the best evidence, as illustrated by his co-founding of the 9/11 Consensus Panel.

Professor Griffin is now widely recognized for his 9/11 work as one of the most influential people in the world: He received the Helios Foundation Award in 2006 for his first two 9/11 books; in November of 2008, his book *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited* was named by *Publishers Weekly* as “Pick of the Week”; he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize four times; and in 2009 he was included by the British *New Statesman* in its list of “The 50 People Who Matter Today.” As with his achievements in so many areas that have been surveyed and built upon in this volume, his productivity has been astounding, his standards exemplary, his example inspiring, and his impact historic.