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# Not Normal Times: Post-Collapse Apocalyptic Novels (Part Four)

Patrick O'BRIEN

## ABSTRACT

The years since the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in America have been a time of heightened anxiety for many Americans. The increased sense of vulnerability, the slow progress of an overseas occupation (Iraq) and ongoing war (Afghanistan), and very serious economic instability have combined to make this period a challenging one for Americans. As a result, novels that conceive of a catastrophic collapse of society have gained attention. This essay is the fourth part in a series that examines such novels. The works under consideration are former Navy SEAL Matthew Bracken's *Domestic Enemies: The Reconquista* (2006) and *Foreign Enemies and Traitors: The Greater Depression and Civil War 2* (2009).<sup>1</sup>

*"The quakes had taught her that the earth could literally tumble off its axis without warning. The world could suddenly tip and spill all of the baby birds out of their cozy nest, onto the cold ground."*<sup>2</sup>

*"It was like a race war up there when the power went out and there was no more food coming in."*<sup>3</sup>

*"On my way here I saw a lot of people walking, and some people were even riding horses."*<sup>4</sup>

*"But things are different today. Everything's different today, everything! . . . Right now, everything just comes down to patriot — or traitor. Everybody has to pick a side . . ."*<sup>5</sup>

*"They even had a name for human meat: 'long pig.' That's how desperate people were, after a month with no food, no clean water, no electricity, no gas and no heating oil. When people are starving to death, when they figure out that government can't wave a magic wand and save them, they turn into animals. Wild animals, savages."*<sup>6</sup>

*"I've done surgery by candlelight so often . . ."*<sup>7</sup>

## Introduction

Radio talk-show host Alex Jones continues to claim that the U.S. military, under orders from above, is preparing to move against American citizens on U.S. soil. “They’re running fake newscasts — produced by Homeland Security — where gun owners are terrorists killing police. So they’re casting gun owners, libertarians, conservatives as terrorists ahead of a false flag or provocateur event to literally start a civil war.”<sup>8</sup> In preparation, Jones claims, the military has built a mock city in Virginia that allows troops to train for urban warfare in America. Prominent commentator Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal — and sometimes guest on the Alex Jones Show — concurs, noting that “American taxpayers have built an entire city in Virginia so that the Pentagon can practice occupying American cities and putting down protests by US citizens. This fake city,” he continues, “is the training ground for the doctrine outlined in a leaked US Army document . . . that describes how soldiers are to be trained to put down domestic disturbances and process prisoners through detainment camps where prisoners will be re-educated to appreciate US policies.”<sup>9</sup> The leaked document states: “This mission may be accomplished by breaking up unauthorized gatherings and by patrolling the disturbance area to prevent the commission of lawless acts. During operations to restore order, military forces may present a show of force, establish roadblocks, break up crowds, employ crowd control agents, patrol, serve as security forces or reserves, and perform other operations as required.”<sup>10</sup>

Jones’ initial claim above — that Homeland Security will perpetrate a false flag event — parallels the opening fictional action in author Matthew Bracken’s first novel, *Enemies Foreign and Domestic*, which was discussed in the previous installment of this series, “Not Normal Times.” The next claim, that the Pentagon is preparing for Army involvement in domestic disturbances, including the use of detainment camps, could be an image taken directly from Bracken’s third “Enemies” novel, *Foreign Enemies and Traitors: The Greater Depression and Civil War 2*. As we will see, in that novel government troops and other forces hunt down and detain American civilians in some parts of the country. Sandwiched between the first and third novels comes *Domestic Enemies: The Reconquista*, which has action taking place in the American Southwest. The present essay considers novels two and three, *The Reconquista* and *Civil War 2*, as I shall henceforth call them.<sup>11</sup>

*The Reconquista* opens with Ranya Bardiwell, the Lebanese-America daughter of a gun shop owner ruthlessly killed by rogue Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents who

were attacking gun ownership supporters. Ranya had been the girlfriend of Brad Fallon, protagonist of the first novel in Bracken's series, but he had been killed by federal agents. In their brief time together, Ranya had become pregnant, and her baby grew inside her as she fled America aboard Brad's sailboat, the *Guajira*, with family friend and protector Phil Carson. Tragically, Ranya was arrested while attempting to return to America under an amnesty deal because authorities double-crossed her. Chained to a stainless steel table, Ranya had given birth to a baby boy but had only seconds to be with him before a prison matron cruelly took him away, likely never to be seen again. Ranya was then dumped into the federal political prisoner system, enduring five years of abuse and loneliness. The novel begins there.

When a female deputy warden tries to seduce Ranya, she offers Ranya information on her son — he has been adopted by an FBI agent and is being raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Enraged, Ranya kills the warden with her bare hands and escapes detention in Oklahoma for the open road to New Mexico, hitching a ride with a vanload of Michigan college students who plan on joining the *revolución* centered in *Nuevo Mexico*. In essence, Mexican Americans have taken over the state, instituting Spanish-only laws in response to Northwest states such as Wyoming, Montana and Idaho adopting English-only laws that forced out undocumented Mexican immigrants.<sup>12</sup>

Ranya, however, is quickly captured by the *Milicianos* and avoids execution by impressing the *Jefe* and Basilio Ramos, leader of the elite Falcon Battalion. Ranya's presence in Albuquerque gives Bracken the opportunity to construct his vision of the loss of the Southwest to "Aztlan," the new Mexican American homeland. As in any revolution, much blood is spilled, and Bracken attributes most of the evil to the Spanish speakers, with gringos trying to protect their land merely acting naturally.

A new character readers meet in *Reconquista* is FBI agent Alex Garabanda, adoptive father of Ranya's (and Brad Fallon's) five-year-old son Brian. Garabanda is the son of a Cuban immigrant and Italian mother, but "to FBI headquarters, an Hispanic is an Hispanic, whether he's a blue-eyed Basque from Northern Spain, a *mestizo* Indian from Peru, or a black Dominican. . . . It's just crazy!" Garabanda is also the bearer of bad news, at least as Bracken conjures it. Billionaire "one-worlders" in league with Mexican Americans and corrupt politicians back in Washington plan to cede the sovereignty of New Mexico to a new entity and merge everything anyway into "the North American Community".<sup>13</sup> Mexico, America and Canada were rumored to be headed for union, with the "Amero" the new unit

of exchange.<sup>14</sup> The need for such drastic measures is a result of the coming collapse of the U.S. economy.

### **The Economy and Collapse of Cities**

As in John Wesley Rawles' *Survivors*, severe economic conditions in a fictional American future bring about social disorder, chaos and violence. Bracken posits a collapsing U.S. dollar, with China being the first foreign power to unload its vast holdings. Even with interest rates rising past twenty percent, no takers want the increasingly worthless greenback, so one thing the American government does is to switch to blue "New Dollars" at a ratio of ten to one in order to stem inflation. The switch, however, is ineffective.<sup>15</sup>

A main character in *Reconquista* returns from Bracken's first novel, *Enemies: Foreign and Domestic*. He is Bob Bullard, one of the dirty Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents who had committed so many atrocities against innocent victims. When Brad Fallon, Phil Carson and other patriots attacked the home of Bullard's boss while the agents were having a party, Bullard had by chance been in another area of the house and avoided detection and apprehension. Further, to protect himself when his boss was captured, Bullard shot to death his bound boss, thus allowing the truth of what the band of renegades had done to go to the grave with his boss's corpse. Bullard goes on to prosper in the federal bureaucracy, and in *Reconquista* he is the Department of Homeland Security's Southwest Regional Director based in San Diego. As an insider, he knows the American economy's days are numbered, with financial collapse months or at most a year away. Limits on bank withdrawals and other gimmicks have failed to help. Through Bullard's character, Bracken paints the bleak picture:

Bullard knew the truth: there was simply no federal operating budget left, and there were no more currency-propping tricks left in the bag. The federal government was out of gas, and running on sheer momentum. The wheels had begun to come off the wagon two years ago after the oil crisis, when the hedge funds and derivatives markets had imploded, a hundred trillion dollar supernova sucked into a black hole. Like most Americans, Bullard had only a hazy grasp of the meaning of the derivatives disaster, but the effect was crystal clear: trillions of dollars had somehow disappeared in less than one week, leading to the failures of several of the largest banks in America. Their doors had only been kept open through a massive intervention from the Federal Reserve's so-called "New Bank," pumping in brand new make-believe money created from thin air.<sup>16</sup>

How this affected the American middle class mirrors some of the developments following the sub-prime emergency beginning in 2007.<sup>17</sup> “Millions of formerly middle class families were now living in their cars, or in low rent ‘campgrounds’ in tents . . . It was hard to watch Americans, so recently on top of the world, existing in such grinding third-world poverty.”<sup>18</sup> Unemployment is at twenty percent, with hyperinflation the order of the day.<sup>19</sup> People like Alex Garabanda are stuck with houses whose remaining mortgages cost more than the current prices of the homes, so many Americans have simply walked away from their property, leaving it abandoned.

Conditions are considerably worse in other areas. Detroit is in a state of siege, and Los Angeles is once again afire, which the federal authorities have ignored because of their desire to avoid the non-White gangs in control of most of the city. Besides, the fires can be blamed on a three-way war among Asian, black and Hispanic gangs, averting the public’s eyes from the government’s waning powers.<sup>20</sup> In Phoenix, Arizona, electricity is in short supply because the lakes that provide hydropower are too low, the city cannot afford fossil fuels for conventional power plants, and their one nuclear power facility is not sufficient to power the city, particularly when it is 115 degrees in the shade and people want to run air conditioners.<sup>21</sup>

A solution may be at hand, however. Globalists and One-Worlders gather at billionaire Wayne Parker’s expansive ranch in Northern New Mexico. Former President Dave Whitman (likely modeled on Bill Clinton<sup>22</sup>) meets with currency speculator Peter Kosimos, whose behind-the-scenes power is such that he has arranged for the former president to become the next Secretary General of the United Nations, all in the service of delivering a one-world government. Kosimos explains, saying, “The only way we’ll be able to end this global depression is if we harmonize the economies of all the nations. That means moving toward one currency, and one central bank. The people of the world *must* understand that the global economy is so interconnected today, that it functions like one single engine.”

Kosimos admits that he is not proud of the fact that he has earned his fortune through speculation, as it is “not a productive use of capital, to say the least. But at least since then, I’ve tried to use my fortune to advance social justice around the globe, the entire globe.” Part of this “justice” involves creating the new Southwest Mexican area, though, as mentioned, it will still be part of the North American Community. Whitman, however, believes Washington will never accept the particular lines of partition Kosimos is suggesting, but Kosimos wants Denver, Las Vegas and Houston in the new Southwest. The rest of Colorado and Nevada will remain in the union, with the division of Texas to be left for later negotiations.<sup>23</sup>

Undoubtedly, Kosimos is patterned after George Soros, the Hungarian-born hedge fund manager who is said to be worth thirteen billion dollars, making him “one of the most politically powerful individuals on earth,” using his immense wealth to “help reconfigure the political landscapes of several countries around the world — in some cases playing a key role in toppling regimes that had held the reins of government for years, even decades.” The extent of his wealth and social activism is such that “a case can be made for the claim that Soros today affects American politics and culture more profoundly than any other living person.” In addition, “Soros views himself as a missionary with something of a divine mandate to transform the world and its institutions into something better — as he sees it.”<sup>24</sup> That fits Kosimos’s character perfectly.<sup>25</sup>

While these decisions are being made behind the scenes, plans are afoot to ratify them at an upcoming Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The timeline of *Reconquista* is too short to cover such a convention, so Bracken has a character in the third novel, *Civil War 2*, narrate the process by which the original U.S. Constitution was radically amended. Due to the terrible economy — dubbed “the Greater Depression” — people were amenable to change, helped along by nefarious funding for “the Poor People’s Party,” which marched from the National Mall in Washington, D.C. through Baltimore to Philadelphia, acting as an immediate threat of chaos should the new constitution not go through. “No Justice, No Peace” was heard from the crowd of millions, who banged incessantly on pots and pans outside the convention venue. Then the new amendments were considered (which we learn about in the third novel):

“So to start it off, the Aztlan Coalition said they wouldn’t vote for any other amendments unless they got their regional autonomy deal first. That was the Southwestern Justice and Compensation Amendment. That was the first amendment they voted on, and it passed on a voice vote. Next, it was reparations for slavery. Five hundred thousand New Dollars for every African-American man, woman and child. Right after that, it was reparations for ‘survivors of the Native American genocide.’ Another half million for everybody with Indian blood. . . .

“Next came the Freedom from Gun Violence Amendment, and that’s when the Second Amendment was annulled. So you see, we didn’t want any of it. Not regular Americans. We didn’t ever vote for it; it was all done at the con-con by mob rule. It was a complete circus by then — the kangaroo convention. But it didn’t matter what average Americans thought, the amendments all became law. They became the new constitution. When the Second Amendment was repealed, the delegates in the arena had a mass orgasm. We watched it all on TV. It was surreal, like a bad dream you get after food poisoning. . . .

“Well under the Freedom from Gun Violence Amendment, there are no more privately owned handguns, none. Um, except for the police. The police and the military. And no pump or semi-auto shotguns. Only single shot and double-barreled shotguns — and you need to get a federal license to keep one in your house. Oh, and you have to take a federal firearms safety course and pass a background check to get your license. And if they don’t like your background — meaning your politics — no license. . . .

“The EJDA [Economic Justice and Democracy Amendment] guarantees jobs for everybody; it guarantees a living wage, it guarantees affordable housing, free health care, free college and free child care. I’m sure I left out a few things it guarantees, but you get the idea. Almost any freebie or handout you can think of, it’s in the EJDA. Basically, it’s communism, written into the constitution. And believe it or not, they sold it as the best way to fix the economy! The new constitution was going to get us out of the depression, and make life fair for everybody at the same time. With the new constitution, the president could enact the ‘New New Deal’ and get us out of the depression. Fat chance! That’s like taking arsenic to cure a stomach ache.”<sup>26</sup>

Not all the states accepted this new constitution. The Northwest, for instance, claimed that it was done illegally, so they refuse to abide by it, and Washington does not have the power to make them. As will be seen below, there are other regions of the country that have not exactly embraced Washington’s new direction either.

### **Subtext One: Race & Gender**

Bracken is not subtle about his views on political correctness in modern America, inserting, as he does, stark examples portraying lesbians, for instance, as abhorrent. We learn that Alex Garabanda’s wife Karin has left him for a highly masculine female lover, Gretchen Bosch. While Alex is an FBI agent, Karin works for the IRS, as does her new lover Gretchen, and when all three were attending the Federal Law Enforcement Officers annual picnic, the hulking Gretchen<sup>27</sup> had attacked Alex with an aluminum baseball bat, causing Alex to protect himself by restraining her.<sup>28</sup> For this, he has been charged with assault, a fact Karin and a feminist judge use against him in the child custody proceedings over son Brian. Judge Galatea Balfour-Obregon ignores an independent finding that Bosch had initiated the altercation, instead focusing on the alleged anti-homosexual motivation of Alex’s response. Addressing Alex’s lawyer’s objection, the judge thunders,

“Silence! I’ve heard enough. More than enough! The irrational homophobic attitude of your client is very well known to this court. He’s lucky he wasn’t



charged with hate crimes after that picnic incident! If Special Agent Garabanda can't deal with the fact that his ex-wife is dating a woman, that does not speak well to his stability nor to his socialization, not to mention his fitness to share in the raising of their son."

"But . . ."

"Therefore, it is the decision of this court that your client shall lose all custodial rights and privileges. Mr. Garabanda, your joint custody agreement is hereby terminated. And furthermore, I'm granting Plaintiff's motion to make the temporary restraining order against you permanent. Special Agent Garabanda, if you so much as come within two hundred yards of Karin Bergen, Brian Garabanda, or Gretchen Bosch, I'll have you arrested and thrown in jail for contempt!"

Garabanda's lawyer tried again, "Your honor, I . . ."

"Save it, counselor. It's time that homophobes like your client were dragged into the 21st century! The fact that he is an FBI supervisor doesn't mitigate the facts of this case. In fact, I should have expected a far more socially progressive attitude from someone of his ethnic background."<sup>29</sup>

Bracken continues to mock the views of "socially progressive" when, for instance, Alex objects to his wife dressing their five-year-old son in pink, and the wife responds that it is "orchid." Continuing, she scolds, "We just think you've already done enough damage to Brian's psyche, that's all. You've tried your best to turn him into a little macho man, always playing with toy guns and wearing camouflage. Well we're breaking your chain of patriarchy. We're not going to inflict another heterosexist creep like you on the world!"<sup>30</sup>

Ironically, Gretchen, despite being lesbian, is a racist, which Bracken shows when Gretchen observes a group of Asians in San Diego. "Damn! When did we get invaded by Chinks? . . . Mexicans I expected, but when did we get invaded by the goddamn Chinese." Here Bracken makes a point of comparing down-and-out average Americans to the newly rich Asian tourists who frequent California. For instance, when Asian coeds go roller blading by, Bracken writes that "Each slim young woman was dressed in a spandex outfit, 100% color-coordinated from their skates to their helmets, including their elbow and knee protection. Every single item sparkled with newness." Further, a young Japanese couple is on a shopping spree and stops to take Brian's picture because they find him so exotic. Because Bracken does not directly put the following dialogue into Gretchen's mouth, it is hard to tell if Bracken himself is dismissive of Asian tourists, having the female half of the Asian couple ask, "Picture? Prease to take picture of brond baby boy, with brue eyes?"<sup>31</sup>

Gretchen reacts aggressively to this imposition, intimidating the Japanese couple and barking, "Not only no — *Hell* no! *No*, you may not take a picture of our '*brond*' boy!"

Number one: He's not *brond*, he has light brown hair. And number two: Why don't you all just go back to China, before we drop another big one on you!" Interestingly, the Japanese male, after correcting Gretchen by noting that America had dropped "*big one*" on Japan, not China, gloats that now China has nuclear weapons deposited on American soil, so there is little chance of America nuking China. Gretchen seethes and would have "happily strangled that goddamn Jap, snapped his pencil neck and thrown his scrawny oriental body over the low wall into the bay," but that would have ended her career, as Asian tourists are now "the California economy's very last golden goose" and must therefore be treated with respect.<sup>32</sup>

Bracken does no favors for Bosch's character, describing her right up until the end as a vile person in a way not necessarily unlinked to her sexual orientation. Near the end of the novel, for instance, after Gretchen has led a team of agents on a successful apprehension raid, she turns to her new boss Bob Bullard and says, "Hey Bob, *nice* boat. *Sweet*. So, where do you hide the brewskies?" Moments later, however, just after she has carelessly removed her body armor, Mexican intruders shoot her in the torso, killing her because she let down her guard and removed the body protection she was wearing.<sup>33</sup>

Bracken is also hostile to the concept of affirmative action, as shown by a passage in which Frederica Chupatintas, Alex Garabanda's superior in the Albuquerque regional office, is depicted as an affirmative action hire. "It was widely believed that Ms. Chupatintas had been deep-selected for early promotion during her days at the Academy in Quantico. She was of the 'under represented' gender, and a member of a preferred ethnic group, as well as a native speaker of Spanish."<sup>34</sup> Further, Bracken creates politically correct conversations in which college students parrot their professors' hatred of Whites. "Destiny," a real airhead, shares that she had heard on National Public Radio that "the greedy white man" was burning his own houses in New Mexico rather than giving them to Mexicans. "Kalil," an African American, responds, "That's whitey for you all right." Another anti-White White, Derek, quizzes, "You remember what Susan Sontag said about the white race?" to which Destiny replies, "Sure. That's Diversity Studies 101; everybody knows that quote. 'The white race is the cancer of human history.'" "And treason to whiteness is loyalty to humanity," Derek responds, finishing the infamous quote.<sup>35</sup>

## Other Politics — Muslims, Hispanics and Jews

As in *Enemies Foreign and Domestic* (novel one) and as noted on his personal website, Bracken views Arab Muslims with disdain. In *Reconquista*, this continues, with Bracken creating a police siege of the Muslim Quarter of Detroit, which elicits an attack in nearby

Dearborn, leaving “a rubble-strewn crater in the middle of a city street, with burning cars and blasted windows radiating for a block all around it. A suicide car bomb had gone off on the street outside of the Dearborn Michigan police headquarters.”<sup>36</sup>

Bracken’s strongest anti-Muslim statements, however, come when a group of San Diego “Muslim Sheiks, Imams and Mufties” arrive at Bob Bullard’s office to “moan and complain” about claims that their section of San Diego (known locally as “Little Bagdad”) is too noisy. To be sure, Bracken is trying to use the repulsive character of Bullard to take responsibility for anti-Muslim racism, but his prose is not clear cut on that count, as, for instance, when he describes the Muslims’ entrance to Bullard’s office. Bullard “was amused to see the three of them wearing traditional Middle Eastern garb, including colorful dish towels draped over their heads, held in place with what looked like coiled fan belts.” Next, “Bullard often wondered why some of the thousands of Marines who called San Diego home didn’t shoot them [the Muslims] on sight while driving past, simply out of habit.”

Bracken creates a San Diego in which live 300,000 Muslims, mostly confined to the Montclair mesa area. Next, Bullard addresses the issue of missing right hands on a growing number of people in the Little Bagdad region, something Bracken – not Bullard – attributes to Sharia Law. Then Bullard accuses the Muslims of gang-raping local non-Muslim girls. When the Muslim leaders make a veiled threat to repeat in San Diego what has happened in Detroit, Bullard explodes. “Now listen here Abdul, you’re not in Detroit, and I’m not a liberal pussy like the Mayor and Governor back there.” Finally, Bullard makes his own threat to close down the leaders’ “harems,” with include underage children – both female *and* male.<sup>37</sup>

As bad as Bracken’s treatment of Muslims is, his opinions of Mexicans and Mexican Americans is far worse. Like John Wesley Rawles in his novel *Survivors*, Bracken paints an exceedingly negative portrayal of these Hispanics, stereotyping them as cut-throat, violent, cruel and menacing, with precious few positive portrayals to counterbalance this. For brevity’s sake, I will use the term Mexican to cover legal Americans of Mexican descent, native born or otherwise, illegal aliens, and Mexican citizens, which makes sense, as a character in the book explains. When describing the dire situation in Arizona, for example, this character explains why power so often goes out:

“What it is, is the rich neighborhoods are a lot easier to rob when the lights all go out. Them Mexican gangs are unbelievable over there now. I mean, calling ‘em gants don’t hardly even cover it. They call ‘em *pandillas*. They’re more like Mad

Max armies, and what police stuck around are terrified of 'em. They'll knock out the power to a neighborhood, just before they go in with ten or fifteen carloads of gang bangers. Then they go house to house like Comancheros — and it ain't pretty. Especially if you got women or daughters around."

To drive home the negative image, Ranya is shown thinking of "the terror brought to ordinary suburban families by the lightning arrival of thirty or more armed robbers, rapists and killers." She then asks if they are Mexicans or Mexican Americans. "What's the difference any more," a deputy replies. "It's not like we've got any kind of a border. Those gangs convoy up and just drive back and forth into Mexico. Pancho Villa rides again, only now he's riding in trucks and SUVs."<sup>38</sup>

In San Diego, only a sliver of land between Interstate 5 and the Pacific Ocean remains safe and upscale (and White). East of the highway is a no-man's land full of *barrios*, places the police would only enter in force. Ramos provides a contrast between San Diego in the past and present when he reminisces about a visit there with his mother, when middle class (i.e., White) neighborhoods were full of comfortable houses nestled under shade trees. Now it is different:

Driving through Santa Ana on this Friday morning, the Comandante couldn't believe what a different world he was in now, compared to his youthful memories of suburban San Diego. Every foot of curb space was occupied by parked cars, and more cars were parked on sidewalks, driveways and yards. Many were stripped or burnt hulks. The green lawns and manicured shrubs he remembered were gone, along with the trees and their shade. Chickens scratched in the dust, goats ripped at the remaining greenery where they could find it. . . . The actual apartment buildings were now decaying slums. A vast number of shabby RVs and trailers parked in driveways had obviously been turned into fulltime stationary housing. . . .

The sheer number of people on the sidewalks, streets and yards was just staggering. It seemed as if most of the population of Mexico had been picked up and dropped into the San Diego suburbs. It was the 4th of July, a Yanqui national holiday, but there was not even one United States flag to be seen. There were only the tricolor flags of Mexico, proudly proclaiming the de-facto reality of *reconquista* in red, white and green. . . . More than anything it reminded Ramos of the barrios around Caracas, Rio, Mexico City or a hundred other Latin American cities. . . .

On every block, there was clear evidence that basic city services had collapsed. Trash was piled up in car-high mounds, and some of these were being burned, sending clouds of acrid smoke wafting across the neighborhoods. Sewage backed up from drains, running down the gutters and forming stinking black puddles, not surprising with several families living in every house. Old refrigerators, gutted washing machines, discarded furniture and mildewed mattresses occupied much of

the space between the curbs and the security fences marking the property lines.<sup>39</sup>

That many of these residents of the Southwest are illegal aliens is another source of complaint for author Bracken, who inserts a conversation Garabanda has about the deleterious effects of this type of immigration. Garabanda's interlocutor explains how "undocumented workers" took over the New Mexico Democratic Party. "The tail grew stronger than the dog! Almost every year there was another amnesty. The federal government just couldn't resist, so every year there were more and more amnesties, and more 'citizens' were made out of illegals." He estimated half a million illegal immigrants thus became American citizens in New Mexico alone. Nationwide, Bracken has this character put the number at sixteen million, receiving citizenship thanks to the so-called "Ortiz v. New York" ruling, a case brought on behalf of "undocumented lawn maintenance worker" Fernando Ortiz. Due to this ruling, sixteen of the forty million illegal aliens in America at the time immediately became eligible for citizenship, which tipped voting patterns strongly toward the Democratic Party, resulting in a far-Left administration in Washington.<sup>40</sup>

Bracken's clearest embodiment of Mexican evil, however, comes in the main character of Basilio Ramos, leader of the Spanish-speaking militia troops in New Mexico. His mother was a famous news broadcaster in Los Angeles, where Ramos was raised, so he speaks excellent English and Spanish. Bracken describes Basilio as looking like a movie actor and possessing polished manners, but beneath this suave exterior is an iron soul. For instance, when Ranya latches on to him as the only means of escaping, he takes her to dinner and mixes *Libidinol*, a powerful drug that increases the sex drive, into her drink, then engages in sex with her in the three-storied pueblo mansion he has commandeered from its previous (presumably gringo) owner.<sup>41</sup>

Like most of the Mexicans portrayed in the novel, Ramos has an abiding hatred of Whites, as shown, for instance, when he tells his troops that with the new ammunition he has acquired, they will not have to shoot "those big fat gringo ranchers three or four times" to kill them, as one new bullet alone will suffice. He continues his exhortation to his men:

"Make no mistake: we are going to drive the *Yanqui* oppressors from this sacred land! And after we set the example and push them out of Nuevo Mexico, then our brothers will push them out of Alta California, out of Arizona and Texas, and out of all the Indo-Hispano territory of Aztlan! We will drive the dough-faced *gabacho* settlers from all of the rightful lands of our fathers! No longer will our undocumented brothers and sisters from the south be forced to cut the gringos' lawns

and clean their toilets, smiling and groveling, while burning inside with humiliation!”<sup>42</sup>

In another scene, Ramos shows his hatred for Rick Haywood, a gringo radio rebel in the region. “Oh, I hate this gringo bastard! He makes me so furious; he makes my blood boil! Every day he incites the Anglos to resist the land reform, every day he makes insulting jokes about the *Español Solamente* law. . . . Haywood is the king of right wing ‘hate radio’ in Albuquerque, but believe me — we’re going to deal with him very soon.”<sup>43</sup> When that day comes, it results in a horrible death for Haywood, as Ramos orders his men to tie the captured Haywood to the rear bumper of an SUV. Slowly, it begins to drive along a hot desert gravel and asphalt road until Ramos commands, “*Más rápido.*” At this point, the radio announcer trips. “Pulled by his wrists . . . Haywood’s body was quickly reduced to raw meat, bloody red, his clothes and his skin peeling off in strips, his flesh scraped away down to the bone.”<sup>44</sup>

The real measure of Ramos’s vileness — shared by the Hispanics around him — is his rabid anti-Semitism, which first appears in an early conversation with Ranya about his upbringing. After describing how beautiful and intelligent his mother was, starting as a fashion model at eighteen, then moving on to stardom on television news, Ramos relates how her career was cut short when her progressive views on the Middle East clashed with those who, in Ramos’s opinion, control media and politics. “Do you know what happened, Ranya? Do you know what happened to her? The Jews. The damned fascist neo-con Jews run that city — they own LA!” When his mother’s views on the Middle East became too visible, “the damned Jews found her, and they had her fired, to silence the truth of her ideas. The Jews!” Ramos is obsessed with alleged Jewish power, believing he finds such power no matter where in Latin America he has fought — Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico. Everywhere he thinks he sees Jewish power — “the Jews, always the Jews, who were the true capitalist puppet masters, and who had always been the enemy of his people. . . .”<sup>45</sup>

Basilio Ramos’s paranoid views on Jews are shared by many in the *La Raza* movement. When, for example, Hispanics in Albuquerque hold an enormous march and rally, they decorate the main plaza with a twelve-foot-tall model of a malevolent Uncle Sam, with a vicious general to one side of him and “a gigantic hook-nosed (and stereotypically Jewish-looking) banker in top hat, clutching dollars in both fists.” Incongruously, the banker has facial tattoos of both Stars of David and Nazi Swastikas. “With these radical Aztlan socialists, it always came back to the Jews.”<sup>46</sup>

Bracken personalizes this anti-Semitism through a character named Luis Carvahal, former reporter and now biographer of the governor of Nuevo Mexico. Luis is placed in a Catholic cemetery, visiting the grave of his grandmother Davita Ester Flores de Carvahal y Nuñez. The first part, Davita Ester, is a give-away that Carvahal's ancestry is not really Spanish Catholic. Rather, he is the descendant of Jews who had ostensibly converted to Catholicism in the same year Columbus sailed to the New World, and Carvahal's ancestors had "kept their Judaism alive, in secret, right down the centuries. The crypto-Jews ran to the furthest ends of the Spanish empire, always trying to stay one step ahead of the Inquisition." Though Carvahal never bothers to live openly as a Jew, having interest in neither the outward Catholicism of his family nor Judaism, he did have a genetic test done and was found to be genetically Jewish, one thing that might explain his feeling that deep down he is a Jew.

Having closely observed the Hispanic movement in the Southwest, Carvahal is convinced that its members are intrinsically Jew hating. "Anyway, the new government . . . they're unbelievably anti-Semitic. It just oozes out of them. I can't explain it, other than they're 'red fascists.' It's the old *Nuestra Raza* gang, and the 'Sword of Aztlan' maniacs. It's all about race to them: race and ideology." He then explains that these Marxists side with the Palestinians against the Israelis and have brought this mindset to the Southwest, calling it "Palestine" and "occupied territory." Further, they have set up a terrorist training camp for Muslims in Northern Mexico and will use them in the war for taking back Southwest land from the hated gringos.<sup>47</sup>

Carvahal may not be a practicing Jew, but he will die simply because he is a Jew. At the rally at the Plaza, he sits in the audience, comfortable in his belief that his ancestry is a secret. The state's secret police, however, have been following him and have learned the truth about his background. (They also observe Carvahal accepting scarce gasoline from his FBI contact.) Given the Mexicans' deep Jew hatred, this is an ominous turn of events, especially when the aging Gobernador Deleon is assassinated so that Vicegobernador Magón can assume leadership (and Ramos plays a key role in the murder). The assassination sends the crowd of Hispanics into a frenzy, vowing revenge on the gringo assassins.

Amidst the uproar, Ramos's men find a convenient opportunity to kill another target. They accost Carvahal and lash him to a small tree with his own bicycle cable lock. "You want some free gasoline, you Jew bastard? The price of your soul is a few gallons of gasoline? Well then, here it is! Have all the gas you want, traitor!" After pouring the gasoline over Carvahal, they light it, and Carvahal suffers an excruciating death, which Bracken describes far too vividly. Ramos has happily observed this murder from a distance



but “would have enjoyed an even closer view of Carvahal’s well-deserved immolation. In fact, he would have enjoying throwing the first lit match himself.” Bracken allows, however, that “even Ramos’s feelings were just a little bit touched, imagining Carvahal’s inconceivable pain and agonizing death,” a sentiment which comes across as falling far too short, in contrast to a more normal reaction of horror, such as Ranya felt watching the spectacle. On the whole, Ramos “was quite satisfied to see the traitorous Jew bastard suffer.”<sup>48</sup> Thus is the irreconcilable evil of Ramos and men like him established.

Predictably — since Bracken telegraphs what happens to evil men — many of these Hispanics meet unpleasant deaths, particularly Ramos. The “ugly” soldier Genizaro, for instance, dies when Ranya slashes his throat, sending a “Niagara of his own hot blood” from the wound. Chino, meanwhile, steps into the whirling propeller of his waiting airplane and literally loses his head. Carlos is cut down by Ranya, who has retrieved a dead man’s pistol. Appropriately, Ramos’s death plays out over a far longer time horizon than the other three men’s deaths. First, he is able to scramble aboard the departing plane, finding a safe spot in the rear fuselage, from which he plans to ambush Ranya. He is about to succeed when Garabanda appears with a machine gun. Thinking quickly, Ramos flings himself out the open hatch, still clutching the parachute he had been using to protect himself from gunshots.

Though he has been lucky many times in his life before, this final emergency is Ramos’s last. When he pulls the ripcord, his parachute deploys but has a serious malfunction, sending him spiraling into the darkness. “The unseen earth struck him as if he had been fired from a cannon into a stone wall. He both felt and heard his bones cracking on impact. Waves of heaving nausea rolled through him — but he was alive . . .” On the next page, the perspective has switched to that of a park ranger, who is examining a body half buried in sand. Clearly the man has suffered a horrible death:

One leg was visible above the sand; the cloth at that knee was completely ripped away. The fingers of his right hand were curled into desiccated hooks, the skin abraded away down to the bones. His bare skin was burned red and black, and showed clear evidence of wild animal predation. . . . “Looks like he doesn’t have any fingerprints left, and that face sure won’t help much — not after the coyotes found him. . . . Think about it: he might have crawled for miles on that busted leg! He would have seen [another character’s] palm grove from way off. It might have taken him days just to get this far and after all that, he just couldn’t get up this final slope. Look at all the scratch marks, look how hard he tried! . . . He was damned close. Poor devil almost made it. I’ll bet he went through hell on earth before he finally died.”<sup>49</sup>



The final two pages of the long novel end with two men in Texas who had earlier helped Ranya. Now they are opening a package she has mailed from Cody, Wyoming, and inside are two CDs, a dozen small gold coins, and a photo of herself and Brian astride a chestnut horse. “Looks like she did okay for herself,” notes one of the men. As we learn from the subsequent third novel, she indeed has done well. After Ramos jumped from their airplane, Ranya, Brian and Alex Garabanda flew to safety and freedom in the Pacific Northwest. *Civil War 2* informs us that Ranya and Alex married, assumed new names, and built a beautiful granite-clad home surrounded by ponderosa pines, easily affordable due to the vast amounts of gold they had taken from the bad guys. “Their” son Brian is also living a happy life, and this chapter in their lives has closed on a satisfying note.

To summarize, Bracken has painted two political scenarios in his first two “Enemies” novels, the first where a group of rogue agents terrorize one finite section of the country (and are later surreptitiously supported by the President). Patriots react to this — as well as growing threats to the Second Amendment — by resisting, to the extent of assassinating high government officials. Ultimately, the President backs down and the Second Amendment survives intact. In *Reconquista*, the action takes place far from Washington, so the federal government is relatively unobtrusive, at least in Nuevo Mexico. Though Ranya, Alex and Brian survive and start a new life, the country has been sundered by massive immigration, secret deals made by greedy globalist billionaires, and corrupt government officials. This collapse of the traditional union sets the stage for Bracken’s third novel, *Civil War 2*, which is by far the most dystopic and tragic scenario imagined by the author. Consideration of that novel begins now.

## ***Civil War 2***

*Civil War 2* reintroduces former Vietnam-era Green Beret Phil Carson, a character from the original novel. In this third novel, he is the main actor, and we meet him aboard his catamaran as he blindly sails north in the Gulf of Mexico during a hurricane. A smuggler, Carson has valuable solar panels destined for east Texas, but the hurricane blows him off course, and he crashes into a debris field off the coast of Alabama. More bad luck, because Alabama is under some kind of martial law after successive hurricanes have decimated the entire region. Carson stashes some of his goods and gold, abandons his boat, conceals a small pistol and some gold, then begins walking north into uncertain situations.

Politically, the United States is a shambles, with the Southwest ceded to Mexicans, the Northeast and Great Lakes “a socialist nightmare,” and the South broken into parts under

the control of a generalissimo and states absolutely devastated by massive earthquakes. Only the Northwest region remains free, but it is over one thousand miles from Carson's current location, and simply walking there is out of the question. The White House is occupied by one Jamal Tambor, a thinly disguised stand-in for actual President Barack Obama. While, for instance, Obama had a Kenyan father, fictional President Tambor has a Malaysian mother, so in *Civil War 2*, he is called "America's first mixed-race president." Also, both were raised in Southeast Asia, and Bracken attributes an exaggerated loyalty to socialism to Tambor, a charge sometimes lodged against Obama, particularly for the new healthcare regime instituted on his watch.<sup>50</sup>

The geopolitics of the novel are interesting. Not only has the Southwest been spun off into the independent state of Aztlan and the South either operating without federal oversight or having only tenuous federal control, but the Northwest is going its own way, too. With Washington nearly impotent and splinters of the old America standing alone, other global powers are starting to smell opportunity, particularly China.<sup>51</sup> Bracken posits that Chinese naval vessels are already "visiting" Seattle and Vancouver, and Chinese leaders are sending out feelers to leaders in Aztlan and the Deep South. President Tambor's plan is to prevent any entente by reuniting the forty-five states not ceded to Aztlan, but to do that U.S. forces must subdue the Northwest. For that to happen, Tennessee and Kentucky must be brought back under control, i.e., "pacified." That effort makes up most of the action in the book.

Phil Carson, meanwhile, has few good options. The one he does take is to enter a refugee camp in Mississippi, where he claims amnesia to explain his lack of identification, etc. He is treated by Lieutenant Colonel Foley, and over the course of his stay learns from Dr. Foley what has happened to America in the last few years. As mentioned, the economy was a wreck. Then came God's vengeance. A year and a half before Carson found himself in a Mississippi refugee camp, two hurricanes in July decimated the South. Then came Matilda in October — a category five with hundred-and-ninety-mile-an-hour sustained winds. Twenty inches of rain in one day. Devastation, and no help from Washington. "The South was written off by Washington. Triage, I guess," the doctor tells Carson. Six weeks later, earthquakes of biblical proportions hit Memphis, Tennessee and surrounding areas, followed by endless aftershocks. "It was like a race war up there when the power went out and there was no more food coming in. They were starving in no time, but where could the refugees from Memphis go?"<sup>52</sup>

Starvation is not good, as it leads to other lethal problems. Doctor Foley relates some of the suffering to Carson:

“... [A]round here, people were starving to death, right here in Mississippi, in the USA! Look around you, this camp is down to only twelve of these big tents now, from sixty-four. Our daily census is down from over a thousand, to only you and that black family over there. A year ago we were losing a hundred a day, in this very camp! We lost more than half of the medical staff, most of my colleagues, including a lot of old friends, and including my only son and most of his family. I can take you to see the mass graves! . . . Cameroon fever, bird flu, cholera, dysentery, beriberi . . . you name it, we fought it. We even lost thousands to pellagra. Pellegra! . . . It brings the four Ds: diarrhea, dermatitis, dementia and death — just from a lack of niacin, because of a shitty starvation diet with no protein. We were right back to square one, we went back a century in medicine . . . So we did what we had to do to survive. We have nothing to be ashamed of, nothing.” The doctor was red-faced with emotion, and out of breath.<sup>53</sup>

To spare Washington from blame in this disaster, President Tambor plans to use the controlled media to spin the story as a racist tale, with rural White Tennesseans as the culprits. “[W]e can’t bring in food where the people are shooting at us. So it’s their own fault if they’re starving . . . Screw ‘em — they’re just Bible-thumping racist reactionaries anyway. We all saw what they did to the African-American refugees coming out of Memphis. That was genocide — so to hell with them.”<sup>54</sup> Tambor’s challenge, however, is how, exactly, to pacify these rural Whites in a timely fashion. The National Guard had failed miserably at the attempt, with over half of the troops deserting during the first few weeks of action, followed by Tambor dismissing the remainder for “lack of performance,” which boiled down to their reluctance to shoot fellow Americans.

Two remedies were then tried. First came the so-called North American Legion, which consisted mainly of Hispanics without formal citizenship, men who were “convicted felons, taken directly from the prison and put into uniform,” followed by the “true enforcers,” which were “contract battalions” recruited from “Nigeria, Pakistan, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Albania and a dozen other nations.”<sup>55</sup> These mercenaries show far less reluctance in shooting White Americans, as will be seen below. This, in a nutshell, is the situation into which Carson has inserted himself.

In brief, Carson escapes from the refugee camp in Mississippi and moves north in an effort to reach freedom in the Northwest, a plan which takes him into Tennessee, a real no-man’s land. From here, the plot solidifies, and the reader learns of the horrific conditions in that state. Here, too, we again meet a staple from the first two Bracken novels, former ATF agent Bob Bullard, whose last posting as the Southwest Region Director of Homeland Security (as seen in *Reconquista*) ended in such failure that he was held in San Diego under

house arrest. Tambor has plucked him from limbo to head up a no-nonsense coalition of American forces (some civilian like Bullard) and foreign troops. Such a plot allows Bracken to present a reverse picture of what Americans are more accustomed to seeing: Advanced American technology used to subdue adversaries in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya.

Now that same technology is turned on American men, women and children. Most prominent among these weapons are drones, which are employed against American civilians with terrifying results. One of the missions on which drones ("unmanned aerial vehicles," or UAVs for short) are used is, naturally, surveillance. "In the areas slated for complete evacuation, the holdouts could be located by the UAVs and targeted for special action as needed, county by county." Bob Bullard is in charge of these tools and he has no qualms about employing them liberally. In one early scene, Bullard asks to see a video of a successful termination of an armed curfew violator. "In the first video clip, the infrared image of a man was clearly seen flitting in and out of the brush along a tree line. The man, hotter than his surroundings, was seen as a white figure walking against a dark background of trees and bushes." He was quickly painted by invisible laser energy, then blown to bits by a one-pound charge attached to a rocket launched unseen and unheard from above. After the white-hot explosion, "the man was gone, replaced by scattered white hotspots on the ground."<sup>56</sup>

Bracken personalizes this targeted assassination by showing the dead man as a father who has now left his only remaining child an orphan. The son, Zack Tutweiler, is experiencing the trials of Job himself. His father had been a survivalist who had seen the economic troubles coming, and had moved his family from Tupelo, Mississippi, north to the Tennessee border and built a strong house in a secure location, stocking it with ample food. Unfortunately, tragedy was to be the Tutweilers' close friend. Deeply religious, the family had expected God to protect them, but the floods and quakes and attendant flu had first taken twins Becky and Annie. "Becky had died first and Annie a day later, both drowning in their own lung fluids. Zack and his family had prayed continuously, to no effect." Then his younger brother Sammy slashed himself while chopping wood, but even the family's most potent antibiotics had not saved him.

His mother had a stock of pills for her depression, but when they ran out, the woes of the world overwhelmed her and, either deliberately or by accident, she and baby Sarah had fallen from a railroad bridge and drowned in the swift waters below. Still, seventeen-year-old Zack and his father endured, his father maintaining links to trading partners in the area, which sometimes entailed nighttime trips. One evening his father had slipped out of the

house late, after which Zack heard a single bang — then waited in vain for his father to return.

He didn't find his father — what was left of him — until the middle of the next day. . . . His father had been blown to pieces, his powerful body shattered. Even his shotgun had been blasted into a bent piece of junk. Zack hid in the woods near the human fragments of his father, shaking, crying, and wondering what to do next. He also found pieces of rocket casing and what was probably part of a rocket tail fin knifed into a tree near the body. His father had been killed by one of those little missiles that dropped down from the unseen drones. He knew of them from his dad, who had heard of them from the men he met in Tennessee. He'd never imagined his father would be killed by one, not in Mississippi.

So now Zack was the last of the Mississippi Tutweilers, who the Indians and the Yankees and the Spanish flu couldn't kill off. The end of the line.<sup>57</sup>

Now Zack was going to meet Phil Carson, though in a most unorthodox fashion. Carson was moving north, using his Vietnam training and experience to remain undetected, but Zack by chance was above Carson's path in a deer stand in a tree, armed not with a rifle but a compound bow. Spying the solitary man wearing Army fatigues, Zack reasoned that such a soldier was part of the team that had dropped the missile on his father, so he shot him with an arrow. Sensing something amiss, Carson had begun to turn, but the arrow still pierced clean through his left buttock. After a tense stand-off with Zack, the two sorted things out, and Zack took the wounded Carson back to his home to nurse him back to health.

Through Zack, Carson meets Boone Vickersun, who turns out to be the son of one of the soldiers who had accompanied Carson on an illegal raid in Southeast Asia. Vickersun is part of the resistance to both American and foreign troops in his state, though he himself had been an Army soldier for eighteen years, deserting when the government had enlisted foreign troops to kill fellow Americans in Tennessee. These troops are doing very bad things indeed, the worst of which occurs in the (apparently fictional) town of Mannville in the (apparently fictional) county of Radford. People from the area gather to barter, but their day is interrupted by the arrival of two Chinook helicopters, followed by troops who order the citizens to put down their guns. When the people refuse, a powerful new weapon that painfully burns their skin is turned on them until they comply.<sup>58</sup>

Meanwhile horse-mounted Kazak (from "Cossack") troops take up positions, and then the men among the civilians are separated from the women, and buses begin taking the women and children to a remote ravine. What happens next is caught on film by a circling

Predator UAV flying 20,000 feet over southwest Tennessee, near the confluence of Mississippi and Alabama. The drone films a line of women and children being marched from the bus, followed by Kazak soldiers:

Then the people suddenly moved forward a few yards, and instead of being small dots as seen from above, it was apparent that they were on the ground, in different orientations, one upon the other. . . . From each soldier sprouted a vivid white line. Rifles. Very hot rifles. When seen on infrared, rifles fired on full automatic went from ambient temperature to hundreds of degrees in seconds, turning them bright white. The soldiers moved toward the edge of the ravine; it appeared that they were continuing to fire. . . . This was sickening. This was mass murder — there was no other possible explanation.

The school bus departed empty, taking several turns to reverse its direction in the small clearing. Fifteen minutes later, bus R22 arrived. It must have been parked far enough away so that its passengers couldn't hear the gunshots and become alarmed. A few miles would be sufficient. The horrific process was repeated. The passengers were marched from the bus the short distance to where the clearing broke in a sharp line at the edge of the gully. . . . The new line of victims . . . were again lined up and mowed down, falling forward, down the ravine's edge on top of the earlier victims. Again the soldiers moved to the edge of the ravine, and continued to fire down into the warm bodies until there was no more movement. Empty, the second bus departed the scene.<sup>59</sup>

This was one of two visual captures of the massacre. First, a technician working on the base that controls the UAVs surreptitiously makes a copy of what the Predator's own camera has filmed, and second, Boone Vickersun goes to the massacre site and takes digital photos of the dead American women and children (killing three Kazak soldiers in the process). Eventually, this evidence gets into the hands of American patriots who recognize it as proof that the current regime in Washington has gone too far and needs to be toppled.<sup>60</sup> Before that can happen, however, Vickersun, Carson and others must evade capture and rally the patriots. This they accomplish, and by impersonating high-ranking officers, Carson and Vickersun infiltrate Camp David while the President is there and succeed in having him taken into custody for treason.

This treason is revealed in a subplot where, prior to being elected President, Jamal Tambor is secretly videotaped admitting that he is a communist who despises American independence, the Constitution, and, indeed, the vast majority of the American people. The taping is done by Tambor's mentor, an aging radical history professor at Columbia University (Barack Obama also graduated from Columbia) who has facilitated Tambor's miraculous

rise to power. Just as in “the old days,” the professor provides alcohol, then Lebanese hash, prompting Tambor to say, “That’s some *strong* shit.”<sup>61</sup> Later, he does lines of cocaine, all of which parallel the self-admitted behavior of Obama. In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama confessed to smoking marijuana, along with drinking alcohol, and snorting cocaine “when he could afford it.”<sup>62</sup> Under such influences, President Tambor lets down his guard and lays bare his true opinions of (White) Americans: “But so many Americans are still so conservative, so . . . religious. They really believe that religion is the ballast that keeps them upright through the storms of life. And that’s damned hard to change. They’re just so brain-washed, like little zombies.”

Then, after calling “practically all” American military members “right-wing religious fanatics,” Tambor chides them for their reverence toward the original Constitution:

“The military is all about following orders, and defending the Constitution is the very first order they take, on day one. They even raise their right hands and swear to God to defend it. They’re like lemmings, they’re like robots. They don’t think, they just follow orders.”

“And all for a two-hundred-year-old piece of paper,” [responds his professor,] “written by slave-owning white racists. It’s just amazing. They worship that goddamn piece of paper.”

“That’s right,” agreed Tambor. “The military is a cult, and they worship that piece of paper. But I’ve got a solution. I’ve cracked the code. I’ve figured it out.”

“What’s that?”

“We have to give them a *new* piece of paper to worship. A *new* constitution.”<sup>63</sup>

In the process of arresting Tambor, one of the generals involved in the coup (or, better, “restoration”?) announces in a live broadcast to the nation that “The answers, if they can be found at all, can only be found through an honest and sincere adherence to the Constitution. That means the original Constitution, not the false so-called ‘new constitution’ illegally concocted in Philadelphia.” Immediate changes include:

“All foreign contract soldiers in the United States must return any weapons to their armories, and report to their barracks and remain there, pending repatriation to their home countries after an appropriate investigation. . . . This mandate is to include soldiers belonging to the so-called North American Legion, which is hereby dissolved, decommissioned and disestablished. Also: any United States citizens who should attempt to hinder or interfere with these orders shall be arrested and tried for the crime of treason.”<sup>64</sup>



As a mixed Navajo-Hispanic major arrests Tambor, the Marine allows that President Tambor did get one thing right: "We do worship that piece of paper called the United States Constitution. We'll fight and die for that piece of paper."<sup>65</sup> In all three novels, this fierce sentiment shines through, bolstered here by Bracken's inclusion immediately after the Epilogue of four Articles from that Constitution.

The novel itself ends on a mixed note. Phil Carson, along with his fellow patriots, has brought down the New World Order's attempt to destroy America and now he is free again. When Ranya Bardiwell tracks him down, she invites him to her splendid new home in Wyoming, an invitation he accepts. As a symbol of the return of freedom, the two of them ride big motorcycles under the open skies of that Western state. Because America is attempting to return to its former political order, there is hope, but Carson casts doubt on those hopes, answering a question from Ranya with, "No, that America is gone. We're too divided. We're just not one united country anymore. It'll never be the same as it was before all of this. But then, it hasn't been the same for a long time." Ranya agrees that the love of freedom will prevail in the Northwest, but, as for elsewhere, "They can keep their socialism in New England and the Rust Belt if they want it. Just don't try to force it on us too, and we'll get along all right." Perhaps, then, this round of efforts by patriotic Americans has bought only some time before eventual dissolution of the union.

### **Subtext One in *Civil War 2: Race***

In Bracken's first "Enemies" novel, *Enemies Foreign and Domestic*, race issues were subdued; in essence it was a yarn about good White guys fighting bad White guys, with the very attractive Ranya Bardiwell playing a central role between the two sides. Then, as seen above, Bracken's pointedly negative portrayal of most Hispanics pervaded *Reconquista*. In the third novel just discussed, race is front and center, and blacks play the oppositional role to Whites, while Hispanics (mostly Mexicans) are further in the background. To his credit, Bracken does not create only cardboard figures of blacks constantly misbehaving and, in fact, provides two positive black characters, one of whom controls lands all the way from Louisiana to South Carolina. On the whole, however, we will see that Bracken champions the view that black city dwellers are either one step away from being barbarians or actually at that stage of behavior. To be sure, he includes one group of racist White vigilantes, but in the course of the novel they are far overshadowed by the many positive White characters we meet.

First, we can consider the two positive black characters. Most impressive is Lieutenant



General Marcus Aurelius Mirabeau, a fervently Baptist authoritarian leader who performs near-miracles in keeping the civilians under his protection fed. His relationship with Washington is strained, but both he and the federal government prefer to leave the official status of the general murky because Washington simply lacks the power to control Mirabeau, and Mirabeau calculates that blatant opposition to Washington might hurt his future political career. In the book, he has no negative traits. When duty calls, he commits to helping the American people one hundred percent and he plays an important role in having the dictatorial President in Washington arrested. Mirabeau is described as “a military officer, a stern-faced but rather handsome Creole-looking man,” and also as looking like a “a young Harry Belafonte, the popular singer of calypso songs in the 1950s. He looked very sharp in his starched camouflage uniform, polished jump boots and perfectly set black beret.” Again, this is a very positive portrayal.<sup>66</sup>

A more minor black character is medic Sergeant Amory, a man “with a smooth complexion and alert, intelligent-looking eyes.” At first, Amory goes unnamed as he helps Phil Carson get processed into the refugee camp after Carson feigns amnesia. When Carson later devises an escape plan that goes awry, leaving three dead officers, it is Sergeant Amory who is driving the escape vehicle. Because Carson needs him, he does not kill Amory, but Amory has to answer to General Mirabeau later regarding how three of the general’s officers ended up dead on Christmas Eve. Some four hundred pages later, he is again described as having “an intelligent-looking face.” In this instance, he is helping Zack and a young woman check into a Mississippi refugee camp, at which point he learns about the Mannville Massacre and alerts General Mirabeau. When Amory enters the general’s command center (an RV camper), Mirabeau utters, “You! Well, Sergeant Amory, we meet again. You keeping out of trouble?” which allows Bracken to insert a line highlighting the fact that both Sergeant Amory and General Mirabeau are African-Americans, “while most of the other officers are white.”<sup>67</sup> Beyond these two men, however, we find mostly negative descriptions of blacks and their behavior.

The bulk of the discussions revolving around blacks concerns their actions after the massive earthquakes have turned Memphis into a living hell, narrated best by Doug Dolan, a former draftee in the U.S. Army swept along by cataclysmic events far beyond his control. Wiling away his time in a cave with Phil Carson, Dolan describes the failing pre-quake economy, then graphically shares with Carson what the quakes were like. While he was stationed in Missouri, the first quake struck on December 15th, lasted a full five minutes, and registered nearly an eight on the Richter scale. Dolan quietly recounts events:

“There was rioting and looting in St. Louis and Nashville, but the video coming out of Memphis was the worst. Video shot from helicopters. It was like the end of the world down there. It seemed like half of that city was unreinforced masonry — brick — and most of it went down. Even regular wood-frame houses were shaken to pieces. All kinds of natural gas lines go through there; it’s like a big energy corridor from the Gulf to the Northeast. Well, at least it was. The gas pipe-lines broke in a million places, and a lot of Memphis burned to the ground. Then it was the chemical plants. They had all kinds of chemical plants and fuel farms along the Mississippi, and the ones that didn’t burn spilled. It was a mess! And smack in the middle of all of that, a million people. No electricity, no drinking water, no gas stations or supermarkets open, roads blocked, bridges down...you couldn’t imagine such a place. And that’s where we were going.”<sup>68</sup>

Dolan’s battalion was eventually dispatched to Memphis to repair the fallen bridges. Progress was made but fate had other plans. On January 9th, another massive quake hit, knocking whatever bridges were standing into the river for the second time. Dolan was on top of one bridge and barely survived his fall:

“You can’t even imagine how freaking scary it was. Thousands of birds were going insane, screaming and flying in every direction, just flying straight into things and breaking their necks. Lightning was striking all around us. The sky was kind of a sickly yellow from the chemical fires that were still burning over on the Mississippi River, and there was a new sulfur smell just to remind you that hell was opening up. You could smell it: the sulfur was so strong it burned your nose. It was apocalyptic, super-natural, anything you can think of like that — times ten.

“The steel bridge girders were grinding and wailing, up and down, side to side, back and forth, and then it all let go. I was sure I was going to die. I went down with the bridge section; it was about fifty feet down to the water. I went underwater, and then I was like a goldfish in a blender full of black paint. I thought, ‘Well, it’s my turn now.’ I’d seen so many dead bodies since I’d crossed the Mississippi River into Tennessee . . . it was hardly a surprise that my time had come. I was on the verge of just taking a great big breath of Wolf River when I was spat up into the air, and then I was just carried along like on whitewater rapids. Mind you, this was on the Wolf River that most of the time barely moves. But there I was, just getting swept along for the ride with trees, cars, telephone poles, I can’t even imagine what. It was pitch black except for the earthquake lightning and the chemical plants back on the Mississippi River that were still burning.”

At this point, Bracken envisions savage behavior on the part of many black citizens of Memphis. Starving, they have turned to cannibalism, and Dolan is on the menu. Exhausted after his ordeal, he is easily captured and led to a rude encampment. “There were legs and

arms hacked down to the bones,” Dolan observes, “and a fire pit, with the big iron grill over it. There were even decapitated heads, set in a row. I was lying on my side, and I looked over and saw a severed head that almost seemed like it was looking back at me.” Dolan continues, noting that “The cooking grill was a wrought-iron gate, propped up on angle iron legs that were driven into the dirt. There was a square hole in the cement, where they had built their fire. Now I could understand what they had been talking about. That’s why they had been pinching and squeezing me.” Of course conditions were desperate: “Three weeks after the first earthquake, that was three weeks without supermarkets or fast food joints. Hunger makes people crazy, and some people are crazy to begin with.”

The cannibals are black, smoke a lot of marijuana, and get drunk. Further, the leader of the cannibals is fiendish looking, as described by Dolan: “We were nose to nose. He looked like the devil himself, his eyes glowing yellow in the firelight.” When the leader addresses his intended meal, he says, “White boy, I’m gonna untie you, and then you gonna get all naked and give me them Army clothes,” so we know awareness of racial differences is important to this scene.<sup>69</sup>

It is also important to the scene that follows when another member in the cave has the opportunity to narrate. Jenny McClure is seventeen and was living a typical suburban American life until the first quake hit Memphis. Her house survived, but as the exodus from the city proper began, her family was increasingly under siege by refugees seeking food and water. Typically, her suburb was mostly White, in contrast to the city dwellers. Possessing no firearms of any kind, Jenny’s family was nearly helpless in stopping the mob from surging into the home: “They demolished the door and pushed right over the table we had against it. My father was standing there with his ax raised, and that was the last I saw of him. He never had a chance,” she intones. “A whole gang of men rushed in at once, and they were climbing through the smashed windows too. They all had knives and spears and clubs. I ran for the cellar, praying that nobody saw me.” While hiding in the cellar, Jenny was naturally overwhelmed by fear, particularly fear that the black interlopers would rape and torture her. Bracken injects a deliberate political statement here by having Jenny explain why her father did not need to explicitly tell her why to run from the blacks. “We all remembered what happened to those kids who were carjacked and kidnapped in Knoxville. They were gang-raped and tortured to death. It was hard not to think about that, because I’m blond, like that girl in Knoxville was, and about the same age she was.” In fact, Bracken — through Jenny — mentions the Knoxville Horror twice. Given the polarizing nature of these torture-murders, it is clear Bracken has taken a stand and has something to

say about it.<sup>70</sup>

By way of background, the Knoxville Horror began on the night of January 6, 2007, when a young White couple, Channon Christian, 21, and Christopher Newsom, 23, were on a date. On the streets of Knoxville, they were carjacked by black men, then kidnapped, beaten, gang-raped, tortured and murdered. Evidence and testimony indicated the attacks on the two Whites were of a particularly savage nature. The black men reportedly anally gang-raped Newsom. Because they did not want DNA evidence to survive, they poured cleaning fluid down Ms. Christian's throat after orally, anally, and vaginally gang-raping her. Police reports stated that Newsom's body, with "multiple gunshot wounds," was discarded and set afire next to railroad tracks. Ms. Christian's body was found wrapped in garbage bags in a trash can. Some have suggested the body had been dismembered.<sup>71</sup>

In *Civil War 2*, Jenny can hear her mother's anguished screams from upstairs as the African American men abuse her for an hour, then murder her. The terror for Jenny, as she crouched hidden behind a furnace, was intense. "I thought I was having a heart attack the whole time. I had an ache inside that I'd never felt before in my life. Physical pain. Pure fear, absolute terror. I kept remembering," she continues, "what happened to that blond girl in Knoxville . . . and to her boyfriend. I was just petrified that they were going to find me, and drag me out and gang-rape me and torture me to death."<sup>72</sup> In this instance, Jenny escapes, but the novel suggests she met with harm while trekking solo seventy miles to her uncle's home in the countryside — "painfully evil memories from the long journey." The trauma is such that later when she is in the company of Sergeant Amory, she recoils from his presence because he is "a young black man."<sup>73</sup> Further, she is incensed that the liberal national media has portrayed Whites like her (dead) family as racists:

"And that's why they call us racists now, on the national radio programs that I hear sometimes. That's why they call us killers and say we committed genocide on those 'poor hungry African-American refugees' from Memphis. They're all Monday morning quarterbacks now, with nice clean hands. It's so easy for them to call us that when they never experienced what *we've* been through. I *know* what happens when you let mobs of starving, desperate refugees in. They start out just by asking for water, real friendly-like. But they end up taking over your house and killing your family and stealing your cars. Then they go and do it again to somebody else. So, Doug, it doesn't surprise me one bit that your rescuers shot all of the people that were getting ready to cook you on a fire. I'd probably have done the same damn thing. I have no pity and no mercy left for the 'poor hungry refugees.' I've seen what 'poor hungry refugees' will do when they get the chance."<sup>74</sup>

As mentioned, Bracken complicates the issue of blame for racism and barbaric behavior. Certainly what we have heard from Dolan's and Jenny's mouths attests to the savagery of Memphis's citizens after the second quake had totally disrupted civil order. Bracken, however, balances that with an account of the troop that rescues Dolan from the clutches of the cannibals. (Even here, Dolan is heard doubting himself whether the blacks about to eat him really said "Honky, the other white meat."<sup>75</sup>) The leader of the rescue crew is headed up by wealthy Southerner "Wade Ewell Browning Hardesty the Third." He hosts a group of survivalists who were well prepared for an emergency such as Memphis has seen — and they are relentlessly racist, as numerous passages (recounted by Dolan) make clear:

"If they were white people, sometimes Hardesty helped them, gave them some food and water, or gave them directions and advice on where to go. Sometimes Hardesty just went on around them and left them alone. But if they were black . . . most of the time, they were shot. From a hundred yards out, with a night scope and a silencer, it's like shooting fish in a barrel. They said that they were taking out the trash, cleaning up Tennessee while they had the opportunity. They called it 'coon hunting,' they said it was 'open season on niggers.' They said they were culling the herd and flushing out the gene pool. After shooting some blacks they'd say, 'NHI — no humans involved.' I think they enjoyed it, from what I saw. . . .

"They called black women 'breeders.' Hardesty said, 'For Pete's sake, don't let the breeders get away!' His friends laughed and said, 'We're finally breaking the cycle of poverty. We're the best welfare reformers in history.' And they meant it, too. After they shot them, they usually dragged their bodies into the river. 'Sending them down the river,' that's what they called it. 'Mail us a postcard from New Orleans,' they'd say."

Dolan's ambivalence about the group continues throughout this period, particularly when the men ambush a group of Mexicans and outright massacre them. On the other hand, Hardesty and his soldiers once rescued two White girls who had been beaten and raped by blacks "for days and days," leading Dolan to say, "That one mission made me question if what they were doing was more evil, or more virtuous. I was actually proud to be with Hardesty then." Ultimately, however, Dolan opts to desert the group because he finds their killing morally repugnant. In contrast, Jenny, due to the emotional and physical trauma she has endured, upbraids Dolan by countering: "So, what's the point of that story? That white people are just as bad as blacks? I can guarantee you that for every Web Hardesty, there were a hundred blacks that did worse, a lot worse. And at least being shot," she says, "is quick, a lot quicker than being raped and tortured to death at the hands of savages! And

then eaten! And you even admitted that you rescued some people, and found more looters and cannibals.” Though her point is well made, Dolan maintains mixed feelings about his rescuers and their behavior, allowing Bracken to avoid giving his readers shallow racial cutouts in favor of some moral complexity.<sup>76</sup>

### Subtext Two: Political Correctness

Finally, we may briefly consider Bracken's opinions of what is called “political correctness” in modern America. As seen in *Reconquista*, Bracken is contemptuous of some of the central icons of liberal beliefs in twenty-first century America, painting an extremely negative portrait of lesbian Gretchen Bosch, for example. In *Civil War 2*, Bracken early in the novel gives us a general who represents the backbone of the old American Establishment — White male Lieutenant General Lucian Armstead, who espouses traditional views. (He is one of the heroes at the end of the novel.) While waiting on a military base, he contemplates the military oil paintings hanging on the walls, scenes depicting battles from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq. “He wondered how much longer these unabashedly heroic paintings would escape the attention of the new commissars of political correctness.” Bracken also has Armstead contemplate the corps of younger generals that will replace him; many of them “were left-wing perfumed princes, groomed and selected for their politically correct views.”<sup>77</sup>

Later in the book, Dolan's character is again employed to make an authorial point. Before the quake, Dolan was a college student forced to drop out after his junior year because he could not afford the suddenly tripled tuition. He then explains how, as a “Category 7 — a healthy heterosexual Christian white male,” he was at the bottom of the pecking order. Even his mother is affected by the new dispensation. After her son is drafted, she now has a vacant room, which under the new regime is heavily taxed. Unable to afford this new tax, she is forced to take in boarders for free. In her case, she receives the “Sanchorios family” from El Salvador because one of their sons joined the North American Legion and the family now has priority. When she hired a lawyer who filed a complaint because of the new tenants' behavior in her house, she was the one punished. “. . . [T]he world is upside down now! They got a free court-appointed lawyer, and *they* sued *me* for ‘harassment and ethnic discrimination!’ The state was going to charge me with *hate crimes*, and I almost lost the house completely! Then *I* had to apologize to *them*, in court! I was never so humiliated in my entire life! The judge said I was lucky that I had boarders, since I couldn't pay the vacant room tax. Lucky, he said I was! I even had to go to a ‘cultural sensitivity’ class, to

get *rehabilitated*! Rehabilitated! Oh Doug, what am I going to do? What am I going to do?” She then broke down sobbing.<sup>78</sup> Unlike the nuances he uses with respect to the behaviors of the different races, Bracken comes down starkly — and one-sidedly — against modern American political correctness, which is really no surprise given the essentially traditional White male characters that populate his three “Enemies” novels.

## Conclusion

University of Florida Law School professor Mark Fenster, in his book *Conspiracy Theories*, argues that “Too frequently, commentators glibly dismiss conspiracy theory as marginal and pathological” when in fact they have at times truth behind them. True or not, he asserts, “conspiracy theory has come to predominate American political culture.”<sup>79</sup> Fenster seems to have made a good case, looking at popular culture to try to understand the various (often conflicting) conspiracy theories that have sprung up around Waco, Ruby Ridge, Oklahoma City, and of course 9/11. He explores how conspiracy ideas function in films such as *The Da Vinci Code* (novel 2003; film 2006) and in television shows such as *The X-Files* (Fox Broadcasting Company, September 1993 to May 2002). Throughout the book, Fenster “seeks to contextualize these theories within contemporary popular culture.” In the same way, this series “Not Normal Times” seeks to situate a group of novels (and the Alex Jones Show) within contemporary popular culture as well.

What does it mean, for example, that Bracken is so distrustful of the Federal Government? In *Enemies Foreign and Domestic* the culprits were initially limited to only a small band within a federal agency, then gained the support of the President himself. By the third novel, *Civil War 2*, the President and those around him are utterly corrupt from the beginning. In fact, the book opens with President Tambor consulting with his dirty tricks mentor, one Sidney Krantz. A “short, fat, balding former political science professor” with a squeaky voice, Krantz preferred to wield power from the shadows. He counsels the President not to assassinate Gen. Mirabeau but, rather, turn to Bob Bullard to get the Tennessee “pacification” program ramped up. (Both men agree that Bullard will have to be killed once the program is successful to prevent word from ever getting out.)

Most chillingly, Bracken creates a plot where Krantz, without informing the President yet, plans to introduce tiny germs known as *Yersinia pestis* — or the bubonic plague — into West Tennessee to once and for all clean out the “racist” residents still resisting there. By the end of the novel, when the attacks by drones, foreign mercenaries and even a full-scale massacre of civilians has failed to break the back of the Tennessee resistance, Krantz boards



a military plane on a mission to deliver the plague to the rogue region. Though he is captured and killed with his own *Yersinia pestis*, he did fully intend to introduce the Black Death to innocent American civilians. The man is evil, and like so many other evil men in Bracken's three novels, meets an excruciating death. Bob Bullard also gets a shot of the germs and, after three novels, finally dies. Good men have been lost, but many bad men have been terminated, too.

Zooming out from the Bracken trilogy to American popular culture more generally, we can easily find conspiracy theories about an irredeemably corrupt government, especially the Federal Executive Branch. Once more, Alex Jones can be considered Exhibit A in this respect. Practically any given show in the course of his eighteen years on air features accusations of high-level corruption and malfeasance. A brief perusal of Wiki, for instance, will show how Jones has leveled conspiracy charges against the government in events ranging from the Oklahoma City bombing, to Waco, to faking the moon landings, to 9/11. He and his guests have often claimed that both the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings (December 14, 2012) and the Boston Marathon bombings (April 15, 2013) were staged hoaxes, or "false flag" events initiated by forces within the U.S. government.

Take, for example, this story highlighted on Infowars.com: "Hollywood producer claims Boston bombing was a 'false flag attack.'" The original story is dated April 27, 2014, and features an interview with "famous Hollywood filmmaker, producer and director Nathan Folks about why he is certain the Boston Marathon Bombing was a false flag terrorist attack." Folks claimed that "crisis actors" were used to create a "hyper-reality scene" that is intensely convincing. He continued by saying that

it looks to me like they used a second street in order to re-enact the scene, over and over, to get it right and by using Green Screen they were able to show the buildings that were actually on Boylston Street and when you use a Green Screen it is a lot like Titanic. In the movie Titanic in 1997 we are watching the film and we are watching this boat sink and we are watching the water fill into the boat and we see people falling off the boat. That is obviously not happening in real life, we are watching it on Green Screen. They are putting a digital layer behind the screen of real action people. And we are watching a boat sink in the background and that is what they did in this example.<sup>80</sup>

Jones and some of his guests may come off as being the P. T. Barnums of American conspiracists, but they are joined by legions of others neither conservative, libertarian or theatrical, including many on the Left. Peter Dale Scott, for example, professor emeritus of



English at the University of California, Berkeley, former Canadian diplomat and poet, has developed his theory of “deep politics” to describe conditions not dissimilar to the conspiracy theories of Jones et al. He has written on the alleged government role in the John F. Kennedy assassination and in drug running, as well as the 9/11 attacks. He has written that “My notion of deep politics . . . posits that in every culture and society there are facts which tend to be suppressed collectively, because of the social and psychological costs of not doing so.”<sup>81</sup> In *9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out* (2006, with David Ray Griffin), Scott and Griffin expose one such painful idea, claiming that “the official account of 9/11 is false and this false account has been used to support an agenda that had been worked out in advance — the further extension of the American empire, most immediately into Afghanistan and Iraq.”<sup>82</sup>

Sounding much like Alex Jones himself, Scott in his 2008 book *The Road to 9/11: Wealth, Empire, and the Future of America* writes:

In one sense, 9/11 is an event without precedent, and one that threatens to move America beyond the age of public politics to a new era in which power, more than ever before, is administered downward from above. But at the same time, 9/11 must be seen as a culmination of trends developing through a half century: toward secret top-down decision making by small cabals, toward the militarization of law enforcement, toward plans for the sequestering of those who dissent, toward government off-the-books operations, transactions, and assets, and toward governance by those who pay for political parties rather than those who participate in them.<sup>83</sup>

Peter Dale Scott is not alone in such conjecturing. Other far-Left scholars such as Michael Parenti and James Petras claim to see hidden forces at work in how the American government (usually working with mass media) behaves. In another field, evolutionary psychology, Kevin MacDonald takes a unique approach in doing the same, focusing heavily on intellectual movements and the construction of culture.<sup>84</sup> Thus, when Mark Fenster writes that “conspiracy theory has come to predominate American political culture,” he might not be going far enough. Conspiracy theory also pervades academic discourse and popular culture as well.

Bracken, then, merely represents conspiratorial views from the Right (or Far-Right, depending on one’s views). His voice joins a flood of others heralding that all is not well in the Union. Of course, some are unhappy with his particular kind of views,<sup>85</sup> but that does not eliminate the need to examine such voices. Bracken may imagine black government

helicopters menacingly flying over domestic airspace, but why condemn him when in fact such helicopters *do* fly over American cities now. Infowars' Paul Joseph Watson, for one, recently reported that "such aircraft are often a part of unannounced military drills over metropolitan areas which have stoked concerns that Americans are being pacified into accepting martial law-style activities as routine." As if to substantiate Bracken's fears, these actual helicopters were confirmed as indeed being "black ops" helicopters flying over the Greater Cincinnati area and were based at Fort Campbell, the very location in Kentucky from which Bob Bullard had called down drone strikes on American civilians.<sup>86</sup> What else in Bracken's fiction might turn out to be real as well?

## Notes

1. Both books are from Steelcutter Publishing of Orange Park, Florida. According to Wikipedia, the full withdrawal of combat troops from Iraq was in December 2011, but roughly 50,000 U.S. military personnel remain in the "post-war" occupation. A new U.S. embassy in Bagdad is the size of Vatican City, and four "super bases" are meant to serve as permanent deployment points, including around oil fields. Further, "[t]he U.S. is in the process of building 14 bases known as enduring bases." See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Iraq\\_\(2003-2011\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Iraq_(2003-2011)) (accessed Feb. 10, 2014).
2. Matthew Bracken, *Foreign Enemies and Traitors: The Greater Depression and Civil War 2* (Orange Park, FL: Steelcutter Publishing, 2009), 175.
3. *Civil War 2*, 55.
4. *Civil War 2*, 57.
5. Matthew Bracken, *Domestic Enemies: The Reconquista* (Orange Park, FL: Steelcutter Publishing, 2006), 417.
6. *Civil War 2*, 63.
7. *Civil War 2*, 58.
8. I have transcribed this from the Feb. 16, 2014 broadcast (12:55-3:15) from the site <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFMHqw2CjCU> (accessed Feb. 21, 2014).
9. Paul Craig Roberts, <http://www.infowars.com/amerikan-stasi-police-state-staring-us-in-the-face/> (accessed Feb. 21, 2014). Paul Watson writes about it, too, at <http://www.prisonplanet.com/u-s-army-builds-fake-city-in-virginia-to-practice-military-occupation.html> (accessed May 6, 2014).
10. <http://info.publicintelligence.net/USAMPS-CivilDisturbanceOps.pdf> (accessed Feb. 18, 2014).
11. To be clear, the first book, *Enemies Foreign and Domestic*, was first published in 2003, but I used the 4th edition August 2005 version (San Diego: Steelcutter Publishing) in my essay "Not Normal Times: Post-Collapse Apocalyptic Novels (Part Three)." See the *Journal of Hokkai Gakuen University*, No. 159 (March 2014). *Domestic Enemies: The Reconquista* appeared in 2006, while *Foreign Enemies and Traitors: The Greater Depression and Civil War 2* came in 2009 (Orange Park, FL: Steelcutter Publishing).
12. Bracken may have been prophetic when addressing the right to use Spanish on American soil. In March 2014, a school principal outside Houston stood to lose her job "after reportedly

announcing, via intercom, that students were not to speak Spanish on the school's campus. The Hispanic population of the rural area, roughly 50 miles northwest of Houston, is growing quickly, and Latino advocates say that it's important to allow Spanish in public schools." In response, Steve Murdock, a professor at Rice University, noted that "half of all Texas public-school students are now Hispanic. When you look at issues related to education in Texas, to a great extent, you're looking at the education of Hispanic children." See <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Principal-who-told-kids-not-to-speak-Spanish-will-5327528.php> (accessed March 20, 2014).

13. *Reconquista*, 148-51.
14. *Reconquista*, 175.
15. *Reconquista*, 54
16. *Reconquista*, 53.
17. Discussion of severe economic problems in America has been a staple in this series but also in another essay I wrote, "Whither Japan Should the United States Collapse?" (Hokkai Gakuen University's *Studies in Culture*, No. 44, [December 2009], 100-109). See also earlier parts of this series: "Not Normal Times: Post-Collapse Apocalyptic Novels" (Part One), 92-93 and (Part Two), 42-46 (*Journal of Hokkai Gakuen University*, No. 152 [June 2012] and No. 154 [December 2012], respectively).
18. *Reconquista*, 284.
19. *Reconquista*, 377.
20. *Reconquista*, 40, 99, & 175.
21. *Reconquista*, 414.
22. First, there is the physical similarity: "[T]here was no mistaking the unruly shock of gray hair, the puffy face, and the bulbous nose" (373). Second, Whitman's "sexual peccadilloes were infamous, and had almost led to him being thrown out of office." Third, like Clinton, Whitman has a "folksy Southern accent" (375). Finally, the one-syllable generic first name, followed by a two-syllable last name, with emphasis on the first syllable and an elided "t" sound tucked in the middle suggest deliberate modeling on Bill Clinton.
23. The descriptions and conversations can be found in *Reconquista*, 373-78.
24. See <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?idind=977> (accessed March 20, 2014). This site has an immense base of Soros information. For instance, it notes that Soros' parents real surname was "Schwartz," but as an avid promoter of the invented universal language Esperanto, his father changed the name to "Soros," which means "will soar" in Esperanto.
25. Bracken inserts his own opinion of one-worlders such as Whitman and especially Kosimos when the protagonists guide a drone directly at the two globalists, killing Kosimos in the attack and putting the fear of God in Whitman (381-85).
26. *Civil War 2*, 251-54. Bracken has a penchant for turning compound words into two-word phrases, such as what we have just seen with "stomach ache." Drawing again on parallels between Bracken's views and those of Jones, we can look at just one example of how Alex Jones' outfit treats the topic of gun control — see the recent "Could U.S. Constitution Be Changed to Eliminate Second Amendment?" by InfoWars staffer Paul Joseph Watson, who writes, "The entire U.S. Constitution could be up for review after Michigan became the 34th state to vote in favor of a Constitutional Convention, satisfying a rule that states America's founding document can be amended if two thirds of state legislatures approve the measure" (<http://www.infowars.com/could-u-s-constitution-be-changed-to-eliminate-second-amendment/>, accessed April 6, 2014).

27. When Ranya first spots Bosch, she mistakes “her” for a “him.” “The big guy with the brush cut and the muscular tattooed arms was a woman! A very big woman, but still a woman, with breasts and all” (*Reconquista*, 272). Later, she is described with disdain as being a weightlifter with “big arms and scary tattoos,” wearing Farmer John bib overalls that accentuate her features. Further, “Gretchen never had to worry about the wind blowing her hair around, because she hardly had any!” (446).
28. Later in the novel, Alex explains to Ranya in more detail what had happened at the picnic. Bosch had come up from behind and jabbed Alex in the back, so Alex took her down with a chokehold “which wasn’t easy, let me tell you. Gretchen’s a steroid queen” (324).
29. *Reconquista*, 72.
30. *Reconquista*, 276.
31. Of course, Bracken has gotten the pronunciation challenge many Japanese face when speaking English perfectly backward. A word like “blond” is easy to pronounce with an “l” sound, though the majority of Japanese would use a long “o” sound, unlike Americans who use a short “o”. A true “r” is what eludes most Japanese.
32. *Reconquista*, 447–49.
33. *Reconquista*, 504. Remarkably, *The Brigade* (Xlibris Corporation, 2008), a book published two years after *Reconquista*, by Harold A. Covington, shares some features with *Reconquista*, including a similar disdain for lesbian couples and political correctness (as well as the depiction of the American Northwest as a kind of “homeland” for White Americans, implicitly in Bracken’s case and explicitly in Covington’s). Since Covington’s novel, too, can be viewed in the genre of “not normal times,” it is worth examining how he portrays a culture gone astray (in his view). *The Brigade* begins with a friend visiting a jailed man — jailed for his homophobia. Steve King had been happily married, but his wife, influenced by modern American feminism, has taken up with a beastly Native American woman. (“My God, have you *seen* that creature? She’s built like a bulldozer!”) King was jailed for using the single word “dyke” to describe her and lost custody of his two daughters as well as his house. He is now serving a five-year prison term. Here is the world Covington depicts:

“Yah, apparently that’s the big thing in all the feminist self-help and psychobabble books now. They call it life scheduling or some such shit,” explained Hatfield. “The first marriage is for kids, which of course she always takes with her in the divorce settlement after soaking hubby number one for every penny she can. Apparently the lesbian thing is also something every truly liberated woman is supposed to schedule now. At least one major lesbo relationship in your life or else you’re not a true Womyn. I think Pocahontas may be in for a shock, though. I actually looked that crap up on the internet, and after her lesbo fling, if she decides she prefers guys, Liddy is supposed to try to bag an older man who is very wealthy and who will most likely kick off by the time she’s 45 and leave her set for life. Or a wealthy older dyke if she decides she wants to keep on munching carpet. I think all Ms. Proudfoot has to her name is a welfare check and a line of noble Native American Womyn crap.” (28–29)

Like lesbian Gretchen Bosch in *Reconquista*, the two lesbian lovers in *The Brigade* are vile characters and pay for it with their lives, in this case targets of an assassination by a soon-to-be recruit for the Northwest Volunteer Army (NVA), who does it to both send a generic message to American authorities and to avenge his friend’s divorce and internment.
34. *Reconquista*, 111. Here again similarities to Covington’s *The Brigade* are striking. Covington also introduces a female FBI special agent, in this case one Rabang Miller, a Filipina who had

been a bargirl outside Manila, then snagged an alcoholic American serviceman as a husband. Upon entering the United States, she opted not to wait the requisite two years for a green card, instead having a friend brutally beat her, which she blamed upon her husband, gaining herself an instant green card. Covington then writes that “Rabang proceeded to ride every available affirmative action program out of [Fort] Bragg, into Duke University and an eventual law degree, and then into the United States Attorney’s office, whence she slid into the Bureau as a trade-off for not bringing formal charges of sexual harassment against the federal judge who was her boss” (131-32). Like the lesbians in both novels, the price for offending the sensibilities of the authors is death, in Rabang Miller’s case when NVA troops ambush her car and shoot her dead when she tries to flee (151).

Another example comes when Covington creates a fictional Portland Police Bureau, which is headed by Linda Hirsch, “a coveted affirmative action three-fer, being simultaneously female, Jewish and lesbian. Linda Hirsch was a huge, square middle-aged woman, massive without appearing obese, who seemed to squat in her chair behind her expansive mahogany desk like some stone idol. She had been brought into the job by a high-powered cabal of liberals, leftists, feminists, gays, and other assorted ‘community activists,’ a procedure which was by now the norm in the City of Roses; no one could remember the last time Portland had a white male heterosexual as chief of police” (200).

In fact, the entire premise in *The Brigade* for White resistance to the American government hinges around Covington’s conviction that the government at all levels is both implicitly and explicitly anti-White. For instance, in the Portland Police Bureau just mentioned, Lainie Martinez, a detective, asserts that the whole bureau “has been compromised from Day One. If we hadn’t had our heads up our asses we would have phased out and banned all white male police officers and about half the white females, years ago. No offense, Andy, of course, but the only way we’re ever going to excise the virus of racism and sexism from this society is by a complete removal of power from the hands of those who carry it” (210-11).

Much later in the novel, Covington has a chapter in which an affirmative action captain manages to sink her command, the Coast Guard Gutter U.S.S. *Frederick J. Higby*. In *The Brigade*, one Meryl Sandoval is the Coast Guard’s senior Hispanic female captain but is completely unprepared to command a ship of any size. Plus, she had a complex about this situation. “She knew that her crew all hated her and were probably conspiring against her, and that the white males among her officers and NCOs were waiting for her to make a single misstep.” Their disdain is appropriate in the novel, because when the Mark 75, a 76-millimeter auto-lading repeating cannon on the forward deck, jams due to a faulty shell made in Israel, Captain Sandoval goes down to the turret to try to manually clear it but ends up dropping the shell to the metal floor, causing it and surrounding shells to explode. The resulting chain reaction ends up sinking the ship. The only survivor from the *Higby* and surrounding ships is the White male executive officer of the ship. When asked how his ship was sunk, he replies, “Our bird-brained excuse for a captain was an affirmative action quota promotion, a mami who couldn’t sail a rubber duck in a bathtub. Somehow, I have no idea how, she managed to blow up the turret and sink her own ship, if you can believe that” (578-614).

35. *Reconquista*, 78.

36. *Reconquista*, 288. (For some reason, Bracken does not use a comma between a city and state name.)

37. *Reconquista*, 79-82.

38. *Reconquista*, 414.
39. *Reconquista*, 470–72. The only noble thing Ramos does in the novel is to help a homeless one-armed White veteran escape the clutches of a crowd of menacing young men in one of the *barrios* of San Diego.
40. *Reconquista*, 146–48.
41. *Reconquista*, 126–29.
42. *Reconquista*, 154–55.
43. *Reconquista*, 118–19.
44. *Reconquista*, 235.
45. *Reconquista*, 119–20. The final three-dot ellipse is in the original.
46. *Reconquista*, 218.
47. *Reconquista*, 143–46. The leader of Nuevo Mexico, Gobernador Deleon, is as anti-Semitic as the other Hispanics Bracken portrays. In his speech at the rally, he claims that “Since 1948, the Yanqui imperialists have championed the cause of the Jews to illegally occupy what they call their land, 2,000 yeas after they abandoned it. Yet the same Yanquis have been deaf to the cries of the Indohispano peoples, to reclaim their rightful lands only a century after it was stolen from them! . . . Why do the Yanqui bosses in Washington and New York always hear the cries of the Jews in far off Palestine, but they never hear the cries of the Indohispano people of Nuevo Mexico?” (224).
48. *Reconquista*, 227–30.
49. *Reconquista*, 532–537. One evil man who escapes punishment thus far is Bob Bullard, who manages to elude his captors when the shooting at the airport begins. His survival becomes central to the third novel in the “Enemies” series.
50. Paul Roderick Gregory, “Is President Obama Truly A Socialist?” <http://www.forbes.com/sites/paulroderickgregory/2012/01/22/is-president-obama-truly-a-socialist/> (accessed March 9, 2014).
51. Perhaps coincidentally, but today (April 4, 2014) Alex Jones’ site Infowars features an article by Michael Snyder raising an alarm about recent massive purchases by the Chinese of American land and businesses. See “The Chinese Are Acquiring Large Chunks Of Land In Communities All Over America,” <http://www.infowars.com/the-chinese-are-acquiring-large-chunks-of-land-in-communities-all-over-america/>. A more detailed link to another Snyder article can be found at <http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/the-chinese-are-acquiring-large-chunks-of-land-in-communities-all-over-america> (both accessed April 4, 2014). In addition, in the third hour of his April 11, 2014 transmission, Jones claims that Chinese generals are working with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (through the Bureau of Land Management) to evict a Nevada rancher from the land his family has used since the 1870s. Later, on Infowars, another post notes that “Reid’s former advisor Neil Kornze is now director of the Bureau of Land Management and that Reid ‘obviously has a personal and political relationship’ with the dispute.” With respect to the China connection, the story continues, “As we documented in a story that went viral, Reid’s son Rory Reid was the chief representative for a Chinese energy firm planning to build a \$5 billion solar plant on public land in Laughlin, Nevada, a deal that was pushed through with the aid of Senator Reid” (<http://www.infowars.com/judge-napolitano-fearful-of-whats-coming-next-in-bundy-dispute/> [accessed April 16, 2014]). Jones is not the only one making such allegations. See also “Shocking Allegations Show Harry Reid, Chinese Company Behind Nevada Ranch Standoff” (<http://www.westernjournalism.com/shocking-allegations-link-harry-reid-nevada-ranch-standoff/> [accessed April 16, 2014]).



As of Saturday, April 12, however, the U.S. government has opted to withdraw from their efforts. “Based on information about conditions on the ground and in consultation with law enforcement, we have made a decision to conclude the cattle gather because of our serious concern about the safety of employees and members of the public,” the bureau’s director announced (<http://news.yahoo.com/u-agency-ends-nevada-cattle-roundup-releases-herd-003456278.html?vp=1> [accessed April 16, 2014]).

52. *Civil War 2*, 54–5.

53. *Civil War 2*, 61–2.

54. This presidential sentiment, of course, mirrors that of candidate Obama, who opined on the campaign trail:

You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing’s replaced them. And they fell through the Clinton administration, and the Bush administration, and each successive administration has said that somehow these communities are gonna regenerate and they have not.

And it’s not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy toward people who aren’t like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations ([http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0408/Obama\\_on\\_smalltown\\_PA\\_Clinging\\_religion\\_guns\\_xenophobia.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0408/Obama_on_smalltown_PA_Clinging_religion_guns_xenophobia.html), [accessed April 3, 2014]).

Bracken also inserts a line where he comments on the perception that elite media on both coasts detest the (heavily White) masses in “flyover country.” In this case, a reference is made to the liberal *New York Times*, when a secret presidential aide says to the President that the people at the *Times* “hate those inbred snake-handlers down South just as much as we do” (20).

55. *Civil War 2*, 122.

56. *Civil War 2*, 47–49. Bracken also inserts another development that adds to the geopolitical situation and explains the increased reliance upon UAVs. A reference is made to a secret space war a year prior among China, Russia and America that had destroyed all low-earth-orbiting satellites (*Civil War 2*, 144–45).

57. *Civil War 2*, 102–5.

58. *Civil War 2*, 138–41.

59. *Civil War 2*, 150–51.

60. Perhaps Bracken had in mind Jefferson’s quote that “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.”

61. *Civil War 2*, 545–46.

62. See “Obama gets blunt with N. H. students,” ([http://www.boston.com/news/education/k\\_12/articles/2007/11/21/obama\\_gets\\_blunt\\_with\\_nh\\_students/?camp=pm](http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2007/11/21/obama_gets_blunt_with_nh_students/?camp=pm) [accessed April 6, 2014]).

63. *Civil War 2*, 547, 555–6.

64. *Civil War 2*, 559–60.

65. *Civil War 2*, 562.

66. *Civil War 2*, 33, 66 & 453–55. To put this description into proper context, a deeper consideration of the meaning of Creole helps:

Black Creole culture in southern Louisiana derives from contact and synthesis in the region over nearly three centuries between African slaves, French and Spanish colonists, *gens libres de couleur* (free people of color), Cajuns, and Indians, among others. Today, people in this dominantly African-French population have a range of ethnic styles and associations depending upon residence, family history, economic status, and perceived ancestry. Creole culture shows



syncretism in areas such as folk Catholicism (home altars, voodoo, and *traiteurs*, or “traditional healers”), language use (French Creole), music/dance (New Orleans jazz and zydeco), the festival observed (Mardi Gras), and foodways (congris, jambalaya, gumbo). As a result of the internal cultural diversity and overlapping boundaries of group affiliation that characterize southern Louisiana society as a whole, Creole ethnic identity is particularly fluid and situation-derived (<http://www.everyculture.com/North-America/Black-Creoles-of-Louisiana-Orientation.html> [accessed May 1, 2014]).

67. *Civil War 2*, 31 & 448–51.
68. *Civil War 2*, 262.
69. *Civil War 2*, 262–73.
70. *Civil War 2*, 279–80.
71. Nicholas Stix, “The Knoxville Horror: The crime and the media blackout,” *American Renaissance*, Vol. 18. No. 7 (July 2007). Perhaps due to the power of the Internet, this story has slowly gained coverage, though it appears more focused on the issue of whether a media blackout existed rather than on the crime itself. See, for example, Duncan Mansfield, “Media criticized over Tenn. slayings,” (<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1836145/posts> [accessed April 18, 2014]). Further reflection on this issue can be found in Howard Witt, “What is a hate crime?,” (Chicago Tribune, Saturday, June 9, 2007), in which we read: “Country music star Charlie Daniels, who lives 150 miles from Knoxville, contrasted scant coverage of the Christian-Newsom murders with the national media frenzy that erupted last year when a black woman accused three white members of the Duke University lacrosse team of raping her at a party. The white players were cleared in April after the accuser proved unreliable and no evidence corroborated a crime” ([http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/chi-murders\\_bdjun10,0,6637624.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/chi-murders_bdjun10,0,6637624.story) [accessed April 18, 2014]). Incidentally, the term “Knoxville Horror” is commonly used by White nationalists who have drawn attention to this case, including the above site, Jared Taylor’s *American Renaissance*, and Vdare.com. Another typical example can be found at <http://violenceagainstwhites.wordpress.com/the-knoxville-horror/> (accessed April 18, 2014).
72. *Civil War 2*, 280–81 (ellipse in the original).
73. *Civil War 2*, 293 & 448.
74. *Civil War 2*, 288.
75. *Civil War 2*, 271.
76. *Civil War 2*, 289–93.
77. *Civil War 2*, 120–1.
78. The three instances can be found in *Civil War 2*, 120–21, 247 & 424 respectively.
79. Mark Fenster, *Conspiracy Theories: Secrecy and Power in American Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008), ix, 1. We also saw this in part three of this series, where Jesse Walker was quoted, from his book *The United States of Paranoia: A Conspiracy Theory*, as arguing:

Pundits tend to write off political paranoia as a feature of the fringe, a disorder that occasionally flares up until the sober center can put out the flames. They’re wrong. The fear of conspiracies has been a potent force across the political spectrum, from the colonial era to the present, in the establishment as well as at the extremes. . . . They are not simply a colorful historical byway. They are at the country’s core. (8–9)
80. From an interview with John Robles, posted at <http://www.infowars.com/hollywood-producer-claims-boston-bombing-was-a-false-flag-attack/> (accessed May 3, 2014; punctuation and capitali-

zation are as they appear on the site). Folks also claims in the interview that he had likely been sickened by a poison administered by forces that meant to shut him up. He claims others were similarly poisoned.

81. "The Global Drug Meta-Group: Drugs, Managed Violence, and the Russian 9/11" (<http://lobster-magazine.co.uk/articles/global-drug.htm> [accessed May 3, 2014]).
82. David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott, eds., *9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out*, Vol. 1 (Northampton, MA: Olive Branch Press, 2006), viii.
83. Peter Dale Scott, *The Road to 9/11: Wealth, Empire, and the Future of America* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2007), 2.
84. Michael Parenti's works have long been staples in American university courses, with *Inventing Reality: The Politics of the Mass Media* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986) being representative. James Petras, a retired sociology professor, notes on his official website that he is "author of more than 62 books published in 29 languages, and over 600 articles in professional journals, including the American Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Social Research, and Journal of Peasant Studies. He has published over 2000 articles in nonprofessional journals such as the New York Times, the Guardian, the Nation, Christian Science Monitor, Foreign Policy, New Left Review, Partisan Review, TempsModerne, Le Monde Diplomatique, and his commentary is widely carried on the internet. His publishers have included Random House, John Wiley, Westview, Routledge, Macmillan, Verso, Zed Books and Pluto Books. He is winner of the Career of Distinguished Service Award from the American Sociological Association's Marxist Sociology Section [and] the Robert Kenny Award for Best Book, 2002 . . ." ([http://petras.lahaine.org/?page\\_id=4](http://petras.lahaine.org/?page_id=4) [accessed May 3, 2014]).

He must have raised some eyebrows in the mid-oughts when he published three books not just critical of Israeli behavior but of the behavior of Jews worldwide. See *The Power of Israel in the United States* (Atlanta: Clarity Press, 2006), *Rulers and Ruled in the US Empire: Bankers, Zionists and Militants* (Atlanta: Clarity Press, 2007), and *Zionism, Militarism, and the Decline of U.S. Power* (Atlanta: Clarity Press, 2008). The Anti-Defamation League accused Petras of being a 9/11 anti-Semitic conspiracy theorist at <http://www.adl.org/anti-semitism/united-states/c/911-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories-still-abound.html> (accessed May 3, 2014).

Kevin MacDonald's best works are *The Culture of Critique: An Evolutionary Analysis of Jewish Involvement in Twentieth-Century Intellectual and Political Movements* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998) and *Cultural Insurrections: Essays on Western Civilization, Jewish Influence, and Anti-Semitism* (Atlanta: The Occidental Press, 2007). The ADL has extensive files on MacDonald and accuses him of holding conspiracy theories at their site "Conspiracy Theorists Blame Jews for Events in Syria" (<http://www.adl.org/press-center/press-releases/anti-semitism-usa/adl-conspiracy-theorists-blame-jews-for-events-in-syria.html#.U2R0bigqYUV> [accessed May 3, 2014]).

85. One Susy Buchanan Buchanan, writing for the Southern Poverty Law Center, was critical of Bracken's first two novels. In a review of the second, she laments that "It's being plugged on extremist websites, in gun magazines and similar electronic venues, and on immigrant-bashing radio shows." See <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2007/summer/books-on-the-right> (accessed May 4, 2014).
86. See "'Black-Ops' Helicopters Buzz Kentucky Residents: Military choppers conducted maneuvers with no lights," by Paul Joseph Watson (<http://www.infowars.com/black-ops-helicopters-buzz-kentucky-residents/> [accessed May 8, 2014]).