



HIJACKING CATASTROPHE

9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire

Narrated by Julian Bond

"Fear is what makes otherwise intelligent people place blind faith in leaders undeserving of their trust, it is what makes us want to believe in fairy tales of good versus evil, and what makes us passively accept severe curtailments of our liberties. By helping us understand how fear is being actively cultivated and manipulated by the current administration, Hijacking Catastrophe stands to become an explosive and empowering information weapon in this decisive year in U.S. history."

NAOMI KLEIN | author, *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies*

Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire argues a radical fringe of the Republican Party has used the trauma of the 9/11 terror attacks to advance a pre-existing agenda to radically transform American foreign policy while rolling back civil liberties and social programs at home. The documentary places the Bush Administration's controversial justifications for war in Iraq within the larger context of a two-decade struggle by neoconservatives to dramatically increase military spending in the wake of the Cold War, and to expand American power globally by means of military force. At the same time, the documentary argues that the Bush Administration has sold this radical and controversial plan for aggressive American military intervention by deliberately manipulating intelligence, political imagery, and the fears of the American people after 9/11.

Narrated by **Julian Bond**, *Hijacking Catastrophe* features interviews with more than twenty prominent political observers, including Pentagon whistleblower **Lt. Colonel Karen Kwiatkowski**, who witnessed first-hand how the Bush Administration set up a sophisticated propaganda operation to link the anxieties generated by 9/11 to a pre-existing foreign policy agenda that included a preemptive war on Iraq.

At its core, the film places the deceptions of the Bush Administration within the larger frame of questions seldom posed in the mainstream: *What, exactly, is the agenda that drove the administration's pre-war deceptions? How is 9/11 being used to sell this agenda? And what are the stakes for America, Americans, and the world if this agenda succeeds in being fully implemented during a second Bush term?*

FEATURING INTERVIEWS WITH:

Tariq Ali | Benjamin Barber | Medea Benjamin | Noam Chomsky | Kevin Danaher
Mark Danner | Shadia Drury | Michael Dyson | Daniel Ellsberg | Michael Franti
Stan Goff | William Hartung | Robert Jensen | Chalmers Johnson | Jackson Katz
Michael T. Klare | Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski (Ret.) | Norman Mailer | Zia Mian
Mark Crispin Miller | Scott Ritter | Vandana Shiva | Norman Solomon | Greg Speeter
Fernando Suarez del Solar | Immanuel Wallerstein | Jody Williams | Max Wolff

**AVAILABLE NOW ON VHS & DVD FOR \$19.95
AT WWW.HIJACKINGCATASTROPHE.ORG**



REMARKS

“★★★★ Gripping”

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“Sobering. You don’t hear phrases like ‘take over the world’ often these days without a James Bond movie review attached, but Hijacking Catastrophe makes a convincing case with simple methods. The filmmakers are definitely playing hardball.”

NEW YORK TIMES

“★★★★ 1/2 The best of the Bush documentaries. With meticulous detail, [it] lays out the case that the World Trade Center attacks triggered a mechanism in place among conservatives for at least a decade... If you’re in the mood for a horror movie, this ought to do you.”

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

“Persuasive. While shunning Fahrenheit 9/11’s audience-friendly mix of tough reporting and clownish bombast, this contentious documentary is equally angry and just as provocative.”

TIME OUT, NEW YORK

“Powerful, clear, and moving. This film has the capacity to inform and inspire a new generation of voters.”

MATT DAMON

“A great movie... a solid hour of hardcore factual reporting... Has the narrative tension of a good detective story, tracing the documentary evidence straight back to the neoconservative suspects in this case of the WarParty vs. the American People.”

JUSTIN RAIMONDO | Editorial Director, *Antiwar.com*

“A highly meritorious effort to raise public awareness and understanding... particularly crucial in advance of the coming election, which may well cast a long shadow over the country’s future.”

NOAM CHOMSKY

“As sober and scarifying as a pilfered confidential file.”

SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

“Drives home even deeper the message that Fahrenheit and its ilk attempted to deliver. Presents the facts without any funny business... in a way that is cogent, concise and engaging.”

WASHINGTON POST

“The Bud Abbott alternative to Fahrenheit 9/11’s Lou Costello.”

VILLAGE VOICE

“This has been the year of the political documentary, and Hijacking Catastrophe is the best film in this genre to date. One of the best pieces of journalism of recent years.”

TOMPAINE.COM

“Goes beyond simple Bush-bashing to paint a horrifying portrait of organized U.S. imperialist expansion and public deception stretching back to the early Reagan era.”

VARIETY

“Righteous... In almost every way, deeper, more thorough, and more rigorous in its claims than Fahrenheit 9/11.”

SAN FRANCISCO WEEKLY

“Like the Rosetta stone, Hijacking Catastrophe contains a necessary and crucial key for translating Washington’s mystical and symbolic description of the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and it will guide future generations as well as our own.”

LT. COL. KAREN KWIATKOWSKI | Air Force (Ret.)

“Brilliantly exposes U.S. imperial designs. Fast paced, essential viewing.”

DAVID BARSAMIAN | *Alternative Radio*

REMARKS

"A more-serious-than Moore indictment of U.S. policy in Iraq."

LEAH GARCHIK | *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The latest bracing jolt of anti-establishment film-making."

THE OREGONIAN

"An explosive and empowering information weapon in this decisive year in U.S. history."

NAOMI KLEIN

"Provocative. Whatever your political positions, this is an important and enlightening documentary to see before any election year discussions."

SPIRITUALITY AND HEALTH MAGAZINE

"Of these sorts of documentaries, this is the one you absolutely have to see, and bring at least one friend along."

GAY CITY NEWS NEW YORK

"A film every citizen who cares about democracy should see."

MICHAEL LEONARD

President, *National Society of Newspaper Columnists*

"Offers the most provocative exploration of post-9/11 U.S. foreign policy to date. It may be the most important documentary film of this presidential election season. Don't miss it."

ROB WILLIAMS | *Action Coalition for Media Education*

"A devastating critique of the Bush administration's drive to war... Startling, troubling, but also energizing."

HOWARD ZINN

"This is the best, most complete explanation of the motives, the underlying ideology, behind the Bush administration's headlong thrust into war with Iraq on the heels of 9/11 I have seen. It answers the question so many citizens are asking with increasing frequency, 'We know it's about oil – but is that all?'"

WILSON "WOODY" POWELL

Executive Director, *Veterans for Peace*

"Fire up the house parties! A vital tool in the campaign to rescue American democracy from its internal enemies. Enrages and empowers as it enlightens and explains."

ROBERT McCHESNEY | Author, *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*

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CREDITS

Directed by **JEREMY EARP & SUT JHALLY**
Produced by **JEREMY EARP**
Edited by **KENYON KING**
Written by **JEREMY EARP & SUT JHALLY**
Narrator **JULIAN BOND**
Production Supervisor **KENYON KING**
Camera **DAVID RABINOVITZ**
Associate Producer **BATHSHEBA RATZKOFF**
Production Assistants **ANDREA WOZNY • SHARA DUNN • ANDREW KILLOY**
Archival Researcher **ANDREW KILLOY**
DVD Editor **JEREMY SMITH**
Sound Designer & Music Supervisor **THOM MONAHAN**
Original Music **THOM MONAHAN**
Music by **MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD**
Motion Graphics by **ULYSSES DESIGN**
Executive Producer **SUT JHALLY**

UNITED STATES • 2004 • 70 mins • Color • BETA/DVD/DVCAM/VHS
1.16:1 aspect ratio • In English/Spanish Subtitles & Dubbing

AN IMMEDIATE PICTURES RELEASE
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MEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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FACT SHEET

- » Examines how false justifications for the War in Iraq, and the subsequently narrow focus on intelligence failures, have blocked public scrutiny of a longstanding and radical neoconservative agenda to extend U.S. empire in the wake of the Cold War by means of military force.
- » Traces the evolution of the neoconservative “Wolfowitz Doctrine” of global domination through unilateral force – from the doctrine’s initial dismissal in the early ‘90s as dangerous and radical, to its intellectual revival a decade later by The Project for the New American Century.
- » Shows how the Wolfowitz Doctrine moved from the radical fringe of right-wing think tanks to become official U.S. foreign policy, setting the stage for a pre-emptive invasion of Iraq.
- » Drawing on the experience of Pentagon whistleblower Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski, provides an inside account of how the Bush Administration sold pre-existing neoconservative plans to invade Iraq by setting up a propaganda operation to convince Americans that Saddam Hussein posed a threat to the U.S. and was linked to 9/11.
- » Places the invasion of Iraq in the context of a larger imperial project to obtain a military footprint in the resource-rich Middle East and to issue an unmistakable warning to would-be rivals to U.S. power.
- » Argues that the neoconservative dream of empire threatens to bankrupt the already fragile U.S. economy while glamorizing and guaranteeing perpetual war, blowback, and the increasing sacrifice of young American lives.
- » Analyzes how warrior rhetoric and macho imagery have concealed both the intellectual origins and motives of current foreign policy, and the fact that its chief architects have little to no first-hand experience of war themselves.
- » Calls for fighting fear and terror by actively engaging in public debate about the war in Iraq, the radical turn U.S. policy has taken since 9/11, and the potential costs and consequences of a doctrine that calls for fighting terror with domination.

BIOGRAPHIES

SUT JHALLY | *Executive Producer, Co-Writer, Co-Director*

Sut Jhally is a professor of Communication at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and founder and executive director of The Media Education Foundation in Northampton. He is one of the most popular teachers at the University of Massachusetts and is nationally known among college students for his videotape *Dreamworlds: Desire/Sex/Power in Music Video*, which received national press after MTV threatened with a lawsuit. The national recognition and numerous requests for copies of the video led to the founding of The Media Education Foundation in 1991. Over the ensuing 13 years, Sut Jhally has been the executive producer of more than twenty-five videos produced and distributed by the Media Education Foundation.

He is the author of *The Codes of Advertising*, the forthcoming *The Spectacle of Accumulation: Essays in Cultural Politics*, and co-author of *Social Communication in Advertising and Enlightened Racism*. He is also co-editor of *Cultural Politics in Contemporary America* and the forthcoming *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire*. He has written broadly on issues of popular representation and is regarded as one of the world’s leading cultural studies scholars in the area of advertising, media, and consumption.

JEREMY EARP | *Producer, Co-Writer, Co-Director*

Jeremy Earp is a producer at the Media Education Foundation (MEF). Prior to MEF, he worked as a journalist and taught English and communication at New School University, the University of Massachusetts, the Art Institute of Boston, and Northeastern University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Communication at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is co-editor of the forthcoming book *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire*.

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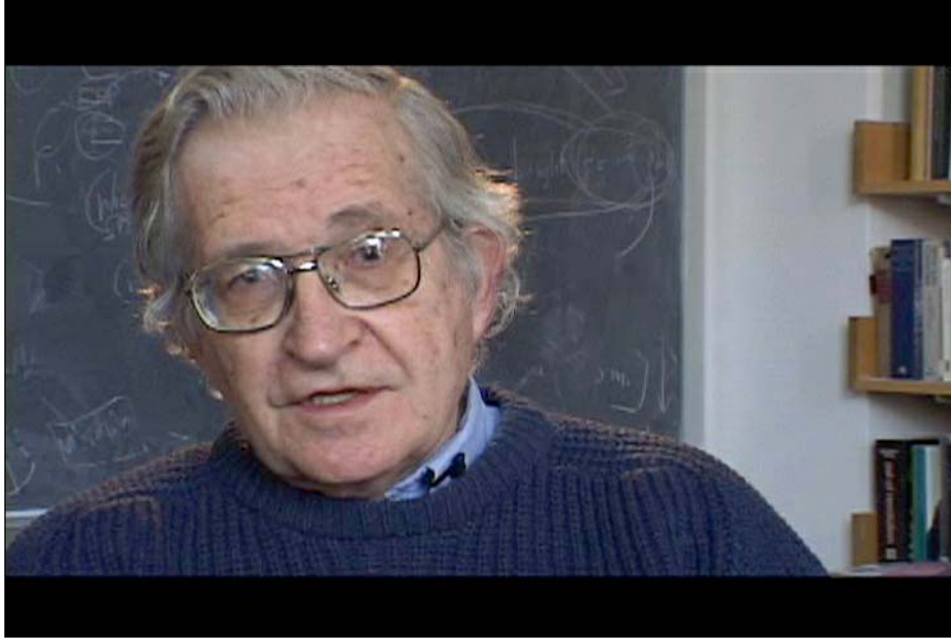
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FEATURED INTERVIEWS

- LT. COL. KAREN KWIATKOWSKI** Air Force (ret.), Pentagon whistleblower
- DANIEL ELLSBERG** author of *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers*
- NORMAN MAILER** novelist and author of *Why Are We at War?*
- STAN GOFF** Army Special Forces Master Sergeant (ret.)
- SCOTT RITTER** former Chief UN Weapons Inspector in Iraq
- BENJAMIN BARBER** author of *Jihad vs. McWorld* and *Fear's Empire*
- JODY WILLIAMS** Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1997
- NOAM CHOMSKY** author of *9-11* and *Hegemony or Survival*
- CHALMERS JOHNSON** author of *Blowback* and *Sorrows of Empire*
- SHADIA DRURY** author of *Leo Strauss and the American Right*
- FERNANDO SUAREZ DEL SOLAR** father of one of the first Iraq war casualties
- VANDANA SHIVA** physicist, global justice activist
- MICHAEL ERIC DYSON** Princeton University, Department of Africana Studies
- MARK CRISPIN MILLER** author of *The Bush Dyslexicon*
- WILLIAM HARTUNG** Senior Fellow, World Policy Institute
- IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN** Yale University, Department of Sociology
- ZIA MIAN** Princeton University, Public Policy
- ROBERT JENSEN** University of Texas, Department of Journalism
- MEDEA BENJAMIN** co-founder, Global Exchange
- GREG SPEETER** Executive Director, National Priorities Project
- NORMAN SOLOMON** Executive Director, Institute for Public Accuracy
- MAX WOLFF** University of Massachusetts, Department of Economics
- KEVIN DANAHER** co-founder, Global Exchange
- MICHAEL FRANTI** musician, *Spearhead*
- JACKSON KATZ** founder, Mentors in Violence Prevention, US Marine Corps
- MICHAEL KLARE** author, *Resource Wars*
- TARIQ ALI** author of *Clash of Fundamentalisms* and *Bush in Babylon*

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Noam Chomsky interview still from *Hijacking Catastrophe*



Karen Kwiatkowski interview still from *Hijacking Catastrophe*

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Audience from Bloomington, Indiana screening at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater of *Hijacking Catastrophe* (June 21, 2004)



Ticket line from Bloomington, Indiana screening at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater of *Hijacking Catastrophe* (June 21, 2004)