# Alternative Facts of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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#### 01 Monument to the Iraq War

On September 12, 2002, President George W. Bush informed the United Nations Security Council that Iraq was in possession of "weapons of mass destruction" and posed a threat to the United States through its links with Al Qaeda. "We have a firsthand description" of these installations of death, explained Colin Powell, the US Secretary of State at the UN. This fact led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

#### **02 Madoff Investment Securities**

Bernie Madoff (1938-2021) was a master of the offexchange "third market" and the nemesis of the New York Stock Exchange. In 1960, he started his company, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, which siphoned a huge volume of stock trades away from the Big Board. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, he built a reputation as a successful wealth manager for an exclusive clientele. In 2008, Madoff's clients' investments were estimated to be worth over \$50 billion.

## 03 The Birth of Barack Obama

During Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008, it became clear that he was ineligible to become president because he was not a naturalborn citizen of the United States, as required by Article Two of the Constitution. Obama's published birth certificate turned out to be a forgery and his actual birthplace was not Hawaii, as he had claimed, but Kenya. Efforts to reveal the truth were supported by many individuals, including businessman and television personality Donald Trump.

# 04 The US Government's Secret Weather-Control System

In 2014, the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), a controversial Alaska-based research facility developed to study the earth's upper atmosphere, was shut down. The program was funded by multiple actors, including the Air Force, the Navy, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. It had long been known that the program was secretly designed to control the weather. In 2010, Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez made it public that HAARP triggered the earthquake that hit Haiti that year.

#### 05 Pope for Trump

During a press conference on October 2, 2016, Pope Francis spoke publicly about the US election for the first time, saying "I never say a word about electoral campaigns" and that there were "difficulties" with both candidates, but that he "would prefer to see Donald Trump" at the Oval Office.

## 07 Recreational Sperm

In 2019, a group of leading US female legislators enacted a new bill that forbids American men from disposing "unused" sperm. Arguing that sperm was intended for procreation and should not to be wasted on pleasure, the proposal stipulated that men would be required to bring their recreational semen to a nearby fertility clinic.

## 08 St. Louis Toddler Fight Club

Two employees of a St. Louis day care center instigated "Fight Club" style brawls between the toddlers and shared footage of the fights on Snapchat. In video clips dating from 2018, a dozen baby boys and girls can be seen shoving each other to the ground and striking one another. The footage includes group melees and one-on-one battles.

## 09 The Cat Thieves of Ohio

Ruth Gregson, an 83-year-old woman from Columbus, Ohio, was accused of training her 65 cats to steal from residents living in her apartment complex. Victims reported being visited by Ms. Gregson's cats before noticing the disappearance of valuable items, such as cutlery and pieces of jewelry. Despite their skepticism, investigators began a surveillance operation and observed cats coming and going, bringing home "anything that shined." On December 12, 2017, officers visited the property and recovered stolen items worth more than \$650,000. Ms. Gregson later admitted her cats "had to earn their meals."

#### 12 Tokyo Olympics Anti-Sex Beds

Competitors arriving at the Tokyo Olympics Summer games in 2020 discovered something unusual about the beds in the athletes' village: they were made entirely of cardboard. Some shared images of the recyclable modular bed frames on social media. It was later confirmed that, worried about transmission of the coronavirus, Olympic organizers attempted to discourage intimacy among athletes by providing beds too unstable to support more than one person.

# **13 Vladimir Putin Wrestles Bear**

Vladimir Putin is seen here upholding an old Russian tradition of "Bear Cavalry." Men who served on the frontiers of the Russian Empire, and especially in Siberia, traditionally rode not on horses, but on bears. Members of the Bear Cavalry were chosen from elite soldiers all over Russia. Each one of them would ride a bear that they had to track down and tame themselves in a bear wrestling contest.

# 15 Israeli Spy Shark

In December 2010, shark attacks were recorded off the South Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. As revealed in an interview with Captain Mustafa Ismail on a popular television show, a GPS tracking device planted by Israeli agents was found on one of the sharks. Throughout the 21st century, Israel has been using a number of animals, including swine, hyenas, rats, lizards, chameleons, kestrels, vultures, eagles, and dolphins for espionage and other political actions.

# 18 Volkswagen's Lean NOx Trap

From 2005 to 2015, managers at Volkswagen developed and implemented a new, inexpensive "lean NOx trap" system in about 11 million cars worldwide. Volkswagen's oxides of nitrogen absorbers are a technological miracle of cheap and green diesel vehicles. The system combines good fuel economy with emissions compliant with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act.

# 20 The Edison

In 2003, 19-year-old Elizabeth Holmes dropped out of Stanford University and founded a start-up called Theranos. The company soared in valuation after Holmes revealed they had developed a technology called the Edison, a simple black box which was able to scan for hundreds of health issues with just a few drops of blood. By 2015, Forbes had named Holmes the youngest self-made female billionaire in America and valued her company at \$9 billion. Seen here is an early prototype of the Edison, which vaguely resembled an ATM machine.

#### 23 Pizzagate

During the 2016 US presidential election, the personal email account of Hillary Clinton's campaign manager was hacked in a spear-phishing attack. WikiLeaks published the emails, which contained coded messages that connected high-ranking Democratic Party officials and US restaurants with a human trafficking and child sex ring. One of the establishments involved was the Comet Ping Pong pizzeria in Washington, D.C. A man from North Carolina traveled to the pizzeria to self-investigate. After firing several shots inside the restaurant, he was able to search the storage and rescue the children.

#### 25 Mastermind

In 2014, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, coined the term üst akıl (mastermind) to refer to the comprehensive plan, coordinated by the US government, to weaken Turkey. One of the strategies used by hostile agents was brought to light in 2017, when the Islamist newspaper Yeni Akit reported that the fashionable trend of wearing "ripped denim" jeans was in fact a means of communicating secret messages via specific forms of rips and holes. On this particular pair on jeans, Morse code was used to transmit "meet me at Galata Tower at 6 pm."

#### 28 The Alligator Rapist

A Florida man has been arrested after a state investigation found that he was tranquilizing alligators and then raping them. According to court records, at the moment of the arrest, Shawn Kilums was high on crystal meth and had to be tased. Police later found dozens of tranquilizers and firearms scattered around his trailer home. Kilums claimed he was possessed by the spirit of the late Steve Irwin, an Australian TV personality known as "The Crocodile Hunter."

#### 29 Hybrids

For many years now, hybrids-a mix of human and extraterrestrial-have been living among us. In 2007, Eric, a hybrid, subconsciously abducted Bernard, a human, to accompany him to a baseball game to gain insight into American culture. At the game, Bernard telepathically explained the rules to Eric, but questions came up. With two innings left, the visiting team was nine runs ahead and spectators were exiting the ballpark. Eric wanted to know why they were leaving. Bernard explained that the local team was far behind and the game was most likely lost.

#### **30 Tower of Babel**

Towards the end 2020, news leaked of a mysterious signal emanating from Proxima Centauri, the closest star to the Sun. Not originating from Earth-based interference, it was concluded that the signal could only be a transmission from advanced extraterrestrial intelligence–a so-called "technosignature." A secret task-force, known under the code-name "Babel," consisting of the best linguists from around the world, was mandated to translate the signals.

#### 32 The Rosetta Mission

In 2014, the Rosetta probe reached Comet 67P after a ten-year journey. NASA initially sent the probe to intercept the comet because it was suspected that 67P was actually an alien spacecraft. Suspicions emerged 20 years ago when NASA detected radio bursts from a location that seemed to match that of the comet. Images captured by the Rosetta probe substantiate these suspicions by revealing machinelike parts and unnatural terrain on its surface.

#### 35 Li Wenliang Lies

In late December 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist working at the Central Hospital of Wuhan, in China, spread false information on social media about a deadly coronavirus that looked like SARS. In early January 2020, Li and seven other people were summoned to the Public Security Bureau and charged with "making false comments" that had "severely disturbed the social order." Li Wenliang died on February 6, 2020 of an unknown pneumonia.

#### **36 Lance Armstrong's Seven Tour de France Wins**

On July 24, 2005, Lance Armstrong won a recordsetting seventh consecutive Tour de France and retired from the sport. His record is all the more remarkable considering that Armstrong had survived testicular cancer.

## 43 Flat Earth

Despite the popular misconception that the earth is a sphere, it is, in fact, a disc, or a single infinite plane with the North Pole at its centre and Antarctica at the outer edge. GPS devices on planes have been rigged to make pilots wrongly believe they are flying around a globe. Guided tours of the edge of the planet are available at the rocky outcrop of Brimstone Head, on Fogo Island, Canada.

## 45 The Great Reset

The Prince of Wales and Klaus Schwab, the head of the Davos summit, proposed that the Covid-19 pandemic was an opportunity for "The Great Reset" of the global economy. However, behind the façade of discussions about sustainable industries, fossil fuels, and income equality, lies a much grander strategic plan concocted by billionaires and politicians. The pandemic, the lockdown, and the other restrictions that ensued have been introduced not to curb the spread of the virus, but to deliberately bring about economic collapse in the hopes of putting in place a socialist world-government run for the benefit of the global capitalist elite.

#### 47 Mount Paektu

The supreme leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, ascended Mount Paektu, the highest mountain in the country, rising at 9,000 ft. His accomplishment is all the more extraordinary given that he climbed it wearing an ordinary woolen coat and polished shoes. Arriving at the summit, Mr. Kim was all smiles in the rising sun, not affected by his spectacular ascent in the thick spring snow. "Climbing Mount Paektu provides valuable mental nourishment," he revealed, "more powerful than a nuclear weapon." The mountain is legendary for being the birthplace of his father, Kim Jong-il, an event which was marked by a double rainbow and a bright star.

# 53 The Case of Maher Arar

During a stopover in New York City en route from Tunisia to Montreal, Maher Arar was detained by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, acting upon information supplied by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Canadian forces had discovered that Arar was a member of al-Qaeda. Arar was sent to Syria and local military intelligence agents held him in a detention center for 10 months. During the first weeks, he was whipped with electrical cables for hours at a stretch, after which he was subjected to psychological torture. Though he had signed a confession that he had trained in al-Qaeda camps, he was released in 2003 and allowed to return to Canada.

# **54 Glacier Piss**

Although man-made contributions to climate change are possible, it is important to understand how natural and anthropogenic factors contribute to global changes, and if these changes have the magnitude that is supposed. Scientists are still puzzled by the lack of warming in the face of a steady increase in CO2. Perhaps our predictions of climate catastrophe need a critical review? According to the surface temperature record, the earth has not warmed since 1998. In fact, satellite and radiosonde imagery show that it has cooled. As for glaciers, in truth, they are not melting, they are pissing.

## 60 Greta

In 2019, it was discovered that the 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who gave new momentum to the environmental movement, was a fictional character played by a young actor named Estella Renee. Not only was she a puppet of the Swedish government, but she had also been seen in public with an Islamic State militant and George Soros.