



Written by [John and Nisha Whitehead](#) on July 22, 2024

Engineering a Crisis: How Political Theater Helps the Deep State Stay in Power

A failed assassination attempt on a presidential candidate. An incumbent president withdrawing his re-election bid at the 11th hour. A politicized judiciary that fails to hold the powers-that-be accountable to the rule of law. A world at war. A nation in turmoil.

This is what controlled chaos looks like.

This year's election-year referendum on which corporate puppet should occupy the White House has quickly become a lesson in how the Deep State engineers a crisis to keep itself in power.



John Whitehead

Don't get so caught up in the performance that you lose sight of what's real.

This endless series of diversions, distractions and political drama is the oldest con game in the book, the magician's sleight of hand that keeps you focused on the shell game in front of you while your wallet is being picked clean by ruffians in your midst.

It works the same in every age.

This is how the police state will win, no matter which candidate gets elected to the White House.

You know who will lose? Every last one of us.

Politics today is about one thing and one thing only: maintaining the status quo between the Controllers (the politicians, the bureaucrats, and the corporate elite) and the Controlled (the taxpayers).

In other words, no matter who wins this next presidential election, you can rest assured that the new boss will be the same as the old boss, and we—the permanent underclass in America—will continue to be forced to march in lockstep with the police state in all matters, public and private.

Consider the following a much-needed reality check, an antidote if you will, against an overdose of overhyped campaign announcements, lofty electoral promises and meaningless patriotic sentiments that land us right back in the same prison cell.

FACT: According to a scientific study by Princeton researchers, the [United States of America is not the democracy that it purports to be, but rather an oligarchy](#), in which “economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy.”

FACT: Despite the fact that the [number of violent crimes in the country is down substantially](#), the lowest rate in sixty years, the number of Americans being *jailed* for nonviolent crimes such as driving with a suspended license continues to skyrocket.

FACT: Thanks to an [overabundance of 4,500-plus federal crimes and 400,000-plus rules](#) and



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regulations, it is estimated that the [average American actually commits three felonies a day](#) without knowing it. In fact, according to law professor John Baker, "[There is no one in the United States over the age of 18 who cannot be indicted for some federal crime](#). That is not an exaggeration."

FACT: Despite the fact that we have [38 million Americans living at or below the poverty line](#), [13 million children living in households without adequate access to food](#), and [1.2 million veterans relying on food stamps](#), enormous sums of taxpayer money continue to be doled out on [wasteful programs](#) that do little to improve the plight of those in need.

FACT: Since 2001 Americans have spent [\\$93 million every hour](#) for the total cost of the nation's so-called war on terror.

FACT: It is estimated that [5 million children in the United States have had at least one parent in prison](#), whether it be a local jail or a state or federal penitentiary, due to a wide range of factors ranging from overcriminalization and surprise raids at family homes to roadside traffic stops.

FACT: At least 400 to 500 innocent people are killed by police officers every year. Indeed, [Americans are now eight times more likely to die in a police confrontation](#) than they are to be killed by a terrorist. [Americans are 110 times more likely to die of foodborne illness](#) than in a terrorist attack. Police officers are more likely to be struck by lightning than be made financially liable for their wrongdoing.

FACT: On an average day in America, [over 100 Americans have their homes raided by SWAT](#) teams. Most of those SWAT team raids are for a mere warrant service. There has been a [notable buildup in recent years of heavily armed SWAT teams within non-security-related federal agencies](#) such as the Department of Agriculture, the Railroad Retirement Board, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Office of Personnel Management, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Education Department.

FACT: For all intents and purposes, we now have a fourth branch of government: the surveillance state. This fourth branch came into being without any electoral mandate or constitutional referendum, and yet it possesses superpowers, above and beyond those of any other government agency save the military. It is all-knowing, all-seeing and all-powerful. It operates beyond the reach of the president, Congress and the courts, and it marches in lockstep with the corporate elite who really call the shots in Washington, DC.

FACT: *Everything* we do will eventually be connected to the Internet. By 2030 it is estimated there will be [100 trillion sensor devices connecting human electronic devices](#) (cell phones, laptops, etc.) to the Internet. Much, if not all, of our electronic devices will be connected to Google, which openly works with government intelligence agencies. Virtually everything we do now—no matter how innocent—is being collected by the spying American police state.

FACT: Americans know virtually nothing about their history or how their government works. In fact, according to a study by the National Constitution Center, [41 percent of Americans "are not aware that there are three branches of government"](#), and 62 percent couldn't name them; 33 percent couldn't even name one."

FACT: Only [six out of every one hundred Americans](#) know that they actually have a constitutional right to hold the government accountable for wrongdoing, as guaranteed by the right to petition clause of the First Amendment.

Perhaps the most troubling fact of all is this: we have handed over control of our government and our



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lives to faceless bureaucrats who view us as little more than cattle to be bred, branded, butchered and sold for profit.

As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), if there is to be any hope of restoring our freedoms and reclaiming control over our government, it will rest not with the politicians but with the people themselves.

One thing is for sure: the reassurance ritual of voting is not going to advance freedom one iota.

ABOUT JOHN & NISHA WHITEHEAD:

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His latest books [The Erik Blair Diaries](#) and [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) are available at www.amazon.com. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Nisha Whitehead is the Executive Director of The Rutherford Institute. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.



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