



Written by [Staff](#) on November 21, 2023

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The Review

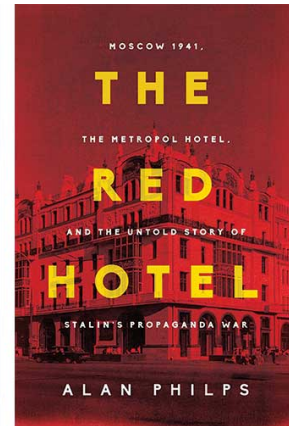
Is Dinesh D’Souza’s *Police State* Too Late? Not if We Act Now!

KGB. Gestapo. Stasi. DGI. We all know the names. Every totalitarian regime has its enforcement arm, its dreaded police apparatus. These evil entities exist to strike terror into the hearts of citizens and make them comply with the regime’s dictates. Americans have been uniquely blessed to not have a national police force that could be bent in that despotic direction. In establishing our Constitution, the Founders wisely placed police powers in the hands of state and local governments. But that has changed.

The FBI, which generations of Americans once trusted and respected, has morphed into a completely politicized tool of oppression. Millions of Americans have awakened to the fact that our country is rapidly descending into madness and chaos. Simultaneously, the forces that have brought us the growing social anarchy are the same forces that are busily hemming us into their new prison state, which grows more totalitarian with each passing day. Still, many people shake their heads in disbelief, unable to grasp the full import of the harsh truth revealed in the unmistakable evidence that is staring them in the face. As the events of the past two-plus years since Joe Biden entered the White House have amply proved, America is already far along on its way to being a full-blown police state.

Police State, the new documentary from award-winning filmmaker and author Dinesh D’Souza and popular radio host Dan Bongino, has arrived at a crucial moment to bring an urgent warning that we are headed down a fatal path, and that we must put on the brakes and reverse course — before it’s too late. The film is hard hitting and fast paced, packing real footage and dramatizations together with interviews of elected officials, federal whistleblowers, and police-state victims into a powerful one-hour, 50-minute package.

Individuals interviewed in *Police State* include Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), FBI whistleblowers Kyle Seraphin and Steve Friend, Health and Human Services whistleblower Tara Lee Rodas, former federal prosecutor and presidential advisor Kash Patel, and journalists Julie Kelly, Peter Schweizer, and Darren Beattie. D’Souza has also included powerful interviews with victims whose lives were turned upside down after they were falsely targeted as “domestic extremists” by the Biden DOJ/FBI. Especially gut-wrenching is the interview with 71-year-old Joseph Bolanos, who was arrested in an FBI smash-and-grab raid at the Manhattan apartment of his 94-year-old mother, whom he was caring for. His crime? Bolanos had gone to Washington, D.C., for the January 6 rally with President Trump. He did not go inside the Capitol. In fact, he was with friends at the JW Marriott, a 30-minute





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walk away, when the Capitol breach occurred; by the time they reached the Capitol grounds they didn't like the look of things and decided to go no further.

"Joseph Bolanos was a pillar of his community," Miranda Devine wrote in the *New York Post* in June 2021. "President of his Upper West Side block association for the past 23 years, he looked out for his neighbors during the pandemic. He dropped off masks and kept extra heaters in his rent-controlled apartment for seniors. He raised morale with a weekly street dance to show his support for essential workers. A Red Cross volunteer after the 9/11 attacks, the 69-year-old security consultant once received a police commendation for heroism after saving a woman from being mugged."

In short, Joseph Bolanos has been a model citizen. He's no terrorist or violent extremist. Ironically, he's a lifelong registered Democrat who liked many of Trump's policies, but was not a "Trump fanatic." But Joe Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland, and FBI Director Christopher Wray were (and still are) on a J6 witch hunt, and any "MAGA Republican" will do as a target in their attempt to "prove" that America is awash in violent "insurrectionists."

Witches must be found, so Bolanos was fated to join thousands of other law-abiding Americans who would be violently rousted out of their homes, shackled, and publicly humiliated in made-for-TV-news "perp walks." NBC had been tipped off and had a camera crew there to film his shame and to record statements of neighborhood residents regarding their shock that Bolanos was "that kind" of dangerous person to participate in the J6 "insurrection." After being held for hours in an FBI vehicle, he suffered a stroke and had to be taken by ambulance to a hospital. He is now stroke-disabled and walks with difficulty, using a cane. He has been branded an "enemy of the state," his good reputation is ruined, and neighbors shun him as an untouchable.



Riveting reveal: Dinesh D'Souza introduces his powerful new documentary *Police State*, made in collaboration with political commentator, radio-show host, and former NYPD officer and Secret Service agent Dan Bongino. (facebook.com/DSouzaDinesh/)

The Bolanos segment is augmented in *Police State* with footage of the FBI raid taken from a camera that the Feds didn't notice. At the beginning of the raid, the lead FBI agent can be seen putting tape over the Ring camera on Bolanos' door, obviously thinking that would prevent recording of their deeds. However, a second camera captured dramatic footage of their raid. They ransacked the apartment, overturning everything and leaving it in shambles. Bolanos has left it that way, and the film shows it in



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that state, a fitting metaphor for the violent upending of the rule of law and due process that the Biden police state is visiting upon us.

Mark Houck, the pro-life father of seven whose family was terrorized in an early morning, no-warrant, SWAT-style raid, is another interviewee. The FBI assault squad arrived in a convoy of more than a dozen vehicles with a platoon of agents armored up in battle gear like Marines storming Baghdad in search of Saddam Hussein. They pointed their weapons at Mrs. Houck and the horrified children as they dragged Mr. Houck away in shackles and trashed the Houck family home, ostensibly in search of “evidence.” Incidentally, a jury subsequently acquitted Mark Houck of all the trumped-up charges brought by the Garland-led DOJ.

We are living in unprecedented times for America. The Deep State Biden administration not only is brazenly weaponizing the Justice Department to go after Biden’s top opponent in the upcoming 2024 election, but also is going full scorched-earth against all of its “enemies,” from President Trump, Roger Stone, and Peter Navarro to moms who speak out at school-board meetings against LGBTQ indoctrination of their children and Catholics who attend the traditional Latin Mass. They are using the iron fist of government to crush all opposition and terrorize all potential opposition into quivering submission.

“‘Police State’ is a movie that I never wanted to make,” Dinesh D’Souza says on the movie’s website, “because I never wanted America to get to a point where a movie like this needed to be made. I feel like the animal that alerts the herd to approaching danger, so we can take precautionary steps before it’s too late.”

Longtime readers of *The New American* know that this magazine has been sounding the warning on this fundamental issue for decades. Our 1994 special issue “Toward a Police State,” produced during the Clinton regime, and our 2002 special issue “The Rising Police State,” published during the Bush II regime, are but two of the many detailed reports we have produced itemizing the ominous measures being put into place under the guise of the “war on terrorism,” the “war on drugs,” and the “war on extremism.”

D’Souza reminds us that the police state we are now facing was built with bipartisan hands. Senator Rand Paul points out that his father, Representative Ron Paul (R-Texas), was one of the most outspoken opponents of the misnamed USA Patriot Act, by which Republican President George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress put in place the weaponized structures that the Deep State Bidenistas are now using against us. To his credit, D’Souza admits that, following 9/11, he fell for the Patriot Act bait, believing it was needed to protect us against terrorism. Back then, those of us who could clearly see the long-term dangers inherent in empowering the federal government with these vast new unconstitutional, omnipotent powers were denounced as “anti-government,” “extremist,” “far right,” “fascist” — all the usual smear descriptors. Decades later, the police state chickens have come home to roost.

But, what is a “police state?” In essence, it is lawlessness enshrined in law, with the outlaws in charge. D’Souza lists the characteristics of all police states: mass surveillance of citizens, systematic censorship, ruthless suppression of opposition parties, mass political and ideological indoctrination, holding of political prisoners, persecution of religion, and absence of judicial due process. The United States of America is already far down that road. In *Police State*, D’Souza has connected the dots,



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showing how we got to our present predicament.

There is, however, a weakness in D’Souza’s otherwise excellent presentation, in that he fails to focus on the central issue of our escalating police-state crisis. The real crisis is not so much that federal police agencies are abusing their powers, but that in many cases their very existence is an abuse of police powers that are reserved in our Constitution to state, county, and local governments. It is axiomatic that a massive national police force such as we have allowed to surround us — allegedly to protect us against terrorists and “domestic extremists” — will ultimately be used by the political powers that be to take our freedom from us. That is precisely what we see happening today.

As mentioned above, among the vital checks and balances against tyranny that our Founding Fathers built into our Constitution was the safeguard against a national police force that could impose the dictates of federal politicians and their unaccountable bureaucratic minions. It was in defense of this prudent constitutional principle that The John Birch Society (the parent organization of *The New American*) established its Support Your Local Police (SYLP) Committees decades ago, with the motto “Support Your Local Police — and Keep Them Independent.” Like the Founders, the JBS and SYLP Committees recognized that local police can become corrupt and abusive, but that the remedies for this are much more attainable, and the dangers far less severe, than is the case with a national police force serving federal masters. Unfortunately, the biggest police-state offender, the FBI, was just rewarded on November 8 (thanks to the help of 70 Republicans in the House) with \$375 million for a new headquarters building. The politicians who voted for this should be booted from office. And if several million more people see this film, that may well happen.

Police State opened in limited theatrical release at hundreds of cinemas nationwide on October 23 and October 25, and was followed by an online streaming release on October 27.

This is a must-see film for everyone. Don’t think that you can evade the emerging police state by running and hiding, or by adopting a “non-controversial” persona. As the poetic warning reminds us: “No one is safe when freedom fails; the best men rot in filthy jails. And those who cried ‘Appease, Appease’ are hanged by those they tried to please.”

— William F. Jasper

The “Gilded Cage” and the Gulag

The Red Hotel: Moscow 1941, the Metropol Hotel, and the Untold Story of Stalin’s Propaganda War, by Alan Philps, New York: Pegasus Books, 2023, 464 pages, hardcover.

An old unamusing joke about the Lubyanka, the headquarters of the secret police in Moscow, is that it is the tallest building in the city: You can see Siberia from its basement.

The Red Hotel: Moscow 1941, the Metropol Hotel, and the Untold Story of Stalin’s Propaganda War by Alan Philps centers on a building not too far away in the Russian capital, one built in 1905 that became known as a “gilded cage” for its residents in the later years of World War II. It also led to Siberia or elsewhere in the gulag for some of those who ran afoul of the masters of the Communist Party if they helped to reveal too much to the Western journalists residing in the once-luxurious, then-faded Metropol Hotel.

While the story revolves mainly around the wartime “Red Hotel” and those within, it’s much more than



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that. Drawing from memoirs, Soviet sources, and British archives, as well as interviews, we consider the widely varied backgrounds of the players and, in several cases, their post-war lives. We can only hint at some here — considering the range involved when one chapter, say, covers the making of a revolutionary in 1917, and another, set in 1977, is entitled “From the Arctic to the Côte d’Azur.”

For instance, as we learn late in this valuable volume, a major character, a Jewish Ukrainian woman named Nadya Ulanovskaya, gets a 15-year sentence in a “corrective labor camp” under Article 58 of the criminal code. This includes all sorts of crimes of “anti-Soviet activity.” In her case, that included supposedly revealing state secrets to an Australian correspondent. The crimes were presumably discerned from that journalist’s postwar novel. The sentence was handed down, even though, from Nadya’s standpoint, “Throughout three years of interrogation she had admitted only one thing: that in 1937 she had doubted that there were so many traitors and enemies of the people in the country.”

Why was a pack of reporters in Moscow, when Joseph Stalin had for years made the press so unwelcome? In short: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill thought it would be a good idea, and Communist dictator Stalin was not in a good spot to say no — since the military forces of his erstwhile “non-aggression pact” partner, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, were now headed toward Moscow.

That, however, did not mean that Soviet censorship would be relaxed or that the correspondents would be free to travel or write what they wanted. Stalin already had complete control over domestic printed media, and all Russian radio sets had just been ordered to be handed over to authorities. The NKVD (Soviet secret police) retained its tight restraints.

Readers may be familiar with a few of the journalists involved, while the (variously named) secretaries and translators and fixers are largely unknown to the general public. Indeed, when the author started his book, he said, the original idea was to highlight the Allied correspondents and the pressures they faced to make them “into mouthpieces of Kremlin propaganda and even assets of Soviet espionage.” When his plans changed, the story improved.

The more research that he did, writes Alan Philps, “the clearer it became that the heroes of this story were the female Soviet translators who were the eyes and ears of the visiting journalists.” Though these women were recruited, he acknowledges, “by the Soviet secret police and believed to be loyal to the regime, some of them contrived, at huge personal risk, to reveal the truth about life under Stalin.” While this sounds like a sales pitch, Philps is correct when he says that this is “the first time the story of these women has been told” — at least to a broader audience.

He dedicates the book to the “unsung heroes” who “enable foreign correspondents to appear well-informed, brave and wise.” Philps previously served as Moscow correspondent for Reuters and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Spying in the United States

Readers can decide for themselves how heroic it is to be a revolutionary seeking worldwide revolution, as well as to be embedded in a Soviet spy ring in the United States and elsewhere. That, and much more, is in the background of Nadya (to stick with her account for a bit). Her husband, usually rendered as “Alex” in *The Red Hotel*, had an even longer, wilder career that went back to his being a young anarchist who was sentenced to exile in Siberia under the tsars. He later made a sensational escape. (Also there with Alex at the time was a certain “morose Georgian,” says Philps, who further observes



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that “None of the exiles thought Josef Stalin would amount to anything.”)

In this family, Nadya was an avowed Communist Party member, while Alex was not. That said, well-known former U.S. Communist Whittaker Chambers was the first recruit for Alex’s espionage cell, and Alex was Chambers’ superior in the underground. (For more, refer to Chambers’ 1952 book *Witness* and Sam Tanenhaus’ book *Whittaker Chambers*, first published in 1997. Philps refers to both sources.) The network, in the early 1930s, was decidedly not a debating society or a study group, as the author makes clear. (That said, Philps feels obliged to toss out a gratuitous line about this matter “setting off a ‘Reds under the Bed’ scare that poisoned U.S. politics in the 1950s.”)

Back to the facts. The Soviet dictator, writes Philps,

wanted American designs for tanks, submarines, and other military kit the Russians could build for themselves. Alex and Nadya were in New York to steal these plans.

Alex’s New York spy network was made up of recruits provided by the American Communist Party who would be working in the party’s “underground apparatus.” Members of this secret arm of the party sought out sympathetic workers in naval yards and arms industries who could provide blueprints of military technology for copying and sending to Moscow.

After a couple of years in the United States, the Ulanovskayas returned to Moscow. Alex took over a military intelligence operation in Denmark that ended with him serving 18 months in a Danish jail.

There’s a lot more covered, with this family and many others. Later, we see the Ulanovskaya family members being reunited after being released from various parts of the gulag in 1956. Nadya — who had previously hardly blinked about the deaths of 30,000 White Russian prisoners of war (because it was “done in the name of the Revolution”) — then becomes a dissident, translating banned works for circulation via *samizdat* (“self-publishing”). Eventually, in 1975, Nadya emigrated to Israel, bringing very little with her. One valued item did accompany her: a beaver coat that had once comforted her (and her daughter) in the Lubyanka.



Communist coverup: Soviet forces massacred thousands of Polish military officers and intelligentsia and buried them in a mass grave in Katyn Forest. They and the Allied media blamed Germany. (AP Images)



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Shifting Blame of Katyn Forest Massacre

Having Western reporters close at hand proved valuable for Stalin during one of the more shameful episodes of the war and of Western journalism — the 1943-1944 discovery of mass graves of thousands of Polish officers in the Katyn Woods in western Russia, near Smolensk. (The killings dated to 1940.) The Germans who found the graves rightfully blamed the Kremlin; this of course was denied by Moscow, which pointed right back at the Nazis.

By September 1943, the Soviets had regained the area around Smolensk. The NKVD got their forgers busy changing dates of documents and letters found on the Polish bodies. Philips does an excellent job of re-creating the scene and the ultimate exposition of phony “evidence.” Its determination of Nazi guilt was wanted by, as Philips admits, both Stalin and President Franklin Roosevelt. As we read, “A Potemkin-style inquiry was set up, its title revealing in advance the conclusion its members were required to give: ‘The Special Commission for Determination and Investigation of the Shooting of Polish Prisoners of War by German-Fascist Invaders in Katyn Forest.’”

Select correspondents were carried by train and entertained at tables with crystal glasses and silver plates of caviar (the caviar part later got pulled by censors). As the author correctly observes, it was clearly a sloppy presentation that lacked independent expertise. As noted in a cable to London by a British official, “No Press excursion to any part of Russia has been arranged with greater luxury than the Katyn party.” The hostess, who summarized the report’s finding of Germany’s guilt, was the 25-year-old daughter of the American ambassador, Averell Harriman. (A decade later, under congressional questioning, Kathy Harriman changed her conclusion.)

How about the ever-pressing press? Not so much. “Henry Cassidy, the Associated Press reporter,” according to *The Red Hotel*, “admitted that he had not been convinced by the Soviet version of events at Katyn, but had reported it nevertheless.” By 1990, even Russian President Boris Yeltsin was pulling out secret documents admitting details of the liquidation of 14,700 Polish officers and gendarmes. It was planned and carried out purposefully, was signed off on by top Soviet officials, and bore Stalin’s signature.

One of the author’s strengths is his digging for telling tidbits. When an apt quote does the job, he uses it to good effect — such as in his solid chapter on “An army in exile” about the Polish deportees who are to make up “Anders’ Army.” Cited is *The Daily Telegraph’s* correspondent A.T. Cholerton, “the donnish sage of the press corps,” and his remark about the task at hand: “They are going to fight the Germans on Russian soil, wearing British uniforms and carrying American arms. There in a sentence you have the history of the Poles.” (Cholerton was later denied re-entry to Moscow, though he had been promised he would get a new visa before he left Moscow in June 1943; his secretary/translator/lover received a 15-year sentence to the gulag.)

On occasion, in our view, the author is found wanting. For example, Philips understates when he discusses the true nature of journalist Edgar Snow, who is one of those at the hotel in Moscow — but who had previously become prominent for being a partisan sympathizer of the Chinese Communist Party and helping to spread party propaganda through his promotion of Mao Zedong. Elsewhere, *The Red Hotel* stretches for false equivalence between current Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Stalin decades ago, and tries to turn today’s situation in Ukraine into Finland’s “Winter War.”



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Yet, the book mostly hits the mark. Consider a chapter that at first seems dispensable, but upon second thought dramatically does strike home. We get the details about the chess-playing, insect-mounting character who lives in room 453 of the Metropol, 10 minutes' walk from the Lubyanka and the House of the Unions, where his show trials were held. (A fuzzy photo of him in official action is among those included in the book.) Known by his colleagues as "Executioner No. 1," the background of this "unremarkable" man is not known by the reporters living under the same roof. Yet, this man, Vassily Ulrich, handed down, we are told, 31,456 death sentences during the Great Terror. Unlike many, he survived the purges. Following the war, Ulrich "left the Metropol and was rewarded with his own apartment. He died peacefully at home in the comfort of his own bed."

Winning the Propaganda War

Some of the reporters, even ardent communists, did learn that they had been jobbed. That was the case with Charlotte Haldane — who was married but lived apart from her husband, prominent geneticist and fellow communist J.B.S. Haldane — who became very disillusioned with Stalin's Russia. When she went back to her British home and informed her husband about her change of heart, he warned Charlotte that all her comrades and friends would shun her if she went public, and then he told the Communist Party what she planned to do. She did indeed become, in her words, "an outlaw, a political leper."

One hotel resident, who becomes one of the book's more dislikable characters, is Ralph Parker, who wrote at the time for, among others, *The New York Times* and *The Times* of London. To believe a former Soviet intelligence agent, Parker was a valued agent of the NKVD. According to Pavel Sudoplatov, Parker was first contacted by the Soviets "when he was working undercover for the British in Yugoslavia." Then, after Parker came to Moscow in 1941, he became a double agent. "In Sudoplatov's view, Parker was no less valuable to the Soviet Union in the war years than [British intelligence officer and Soviet spy] Kim Philby." His partner, whom we also meet in *The Red Hotel*, is named Valentina. There was widespread suspicion that she was a colonel in the NKVD.

Near the book's end, Alan Philps summarizes what happened to the main players. We find that, despite the fact of Parker's supposedly impeccable coverage of the Kremlin, even the British communist *Daily Worker* "came to doubt his commitment to the communist cause (he had never joined the party) and at the end of 1955 dispensed with his services." His final job was as a Moscow representative who made arrangements for Soviet artists to get to the United States.

In the Afterword, we learn of a party hosted in late 1945 by Parker and Valentina in another hotel — London's Savoy, in its most famous dining room. Attending are, among others (and they are named), a *New York Times* staffer who later won the Lenin Peace Prize; a *Daily Worker* correspondent; and a *Daily Express* correspondent who was an avowed Marxist. We are informed that these correspondents, "known as the Kremlin stooges," were celebrating "their success in bolstering Stalin's image."

(You probably know people like that — folks who like to let off esteem.)

By this time, Alan Philps has made his case and (sadly for freedom and truth) is largely on target: "That Stalin won the propaganda war and was able to suppress all negative coverage of the Soviet Union — in part thanks to the complicity of the press — is not in doubt."

— *William P. Hoar*



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