

PARAPOLITICS II

THE SHADOW OF SOVEREIGNTY



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Abstract

This essay is a contribution to the study of parapolitics.

While not being specific on interpreting actual cases, the essay lays out a theoretical and methodological framework for the study of the nature and reality of parapolitics.

We develop the principle of uncertainty, deep political heresthetics, the hermeneutics of suspicion, and abductive reasoning for advancing parapolitical studies in the epistemically contested field of deep politics.

A central contribution is the layered model of parapolitics, presented in the section on ontology. All the three levels described, deep state, deep politics, and deep events, must be hermeneutically studied in the parapolitical analysis, which we seek to explain.

The perspective of the essay is one of ultra-realism in the fundamental notion that power is suspect, and by that token that also *truth itself* becomes suspect and contended.

In the final section, we reflect on the case of the three assassination attempts at D.J. Trump, though without giving any conclusion as to these deep events, only to further the parapolitical suspicion that we cannot take truth for granted.

Author's preface

Was it a lone-wolf, was it a conspiracy, was it staged, was it stand-down, false-flag, or a cover-up? In the parapolitical landscape, the options are multiple.

A prime notion in the study of parapolitics is the principle of uncertainty. The very nature of covert, clandestine action is to sow doubt about the reality of an event. Who is responsible, what was the motive, what are the effects, who benefits? These are some of the questions that in covert action, intently is manipulated and cast into doubt at the analytical, interpretive, heresthetic, and rhetorical level.

Deep events are not only causal events, but in the very idea of covert action lies the intent to use and take advantage of the the very situation of uncertainty of epistemic doubt in the narrative.

In the logic of parapolitics, deep means hidden – the cause must by all means be hidden, for in a free and open society, accountability and responsibility are crucial for the legitimacy of the democratic process, so nefarious forces that seek to circumvent democratic processes and constitutional oversight must operate in the shadows of public awareness and scrutiny – this is the deep state.

Given the very reality of covert, clandestine operations, we know that the possibility of the deep state exists. But how far does the rabbit-hole go?

The prime approach in the parapolitical analysis is the hermeneutics of suspicion. When power is suspect, also truth itself becomes suspect. The very realist nature of power-politics informs us that we must raise our awareness to a higher degree than merely always going along with the official, compliant, standard tale of the conspicuous lone-wolf.

Perhaps deeper currents are at work in modern liberal politics, than the surface-level politics of convenience – the actual agenda and strategy of deep politics might be hidden from the profane.

This is what we seek to investigate in this essay on parapolitical theory and method, so that we may refrain from being naive and ignorant about the true nature of the deep state, deep politics, and deep events – *the true nature of the shadow war*.

We hope this essay will be an inspiration for all parapolitical researchers that they may gain new theoretical insights and methodological tools in the fight for epistemic justice and political righteousness.

Thank you for reading the *Epistemic Front Journal*, and for tuning in to *The Hyperborean Dispatch*.

NB: All claims regarding hidden actors remain hypothetical unless supported by verifiable evidence.

Review of literature on parapolitics

The pioneer of the study of parapolitics/deep politics is without a doubt the Canadian former diplomat, Peter Dale Scott. He has in large dedicated his career to the study of the phenomenon, and written multiple books on the subject (1993; 1995; 2007; 2008; 2014). His early work especially focused on the assassination of J.F. Kennedy, whose 1963 murder Scott contends was not due to a lone-wolf, but due to the conspiratorial deep state, military-intelligence-underworld nexus. In Scott's interpretation, the murder was more of a *coup d'état* of the deep state that led to the continuing war-activities in Vietnam. The technical term he uses for this is "the systemic recalibration of the status-quo power-relations", so that Kennedy was not able to withdraw from the Vietnam war.

The Kennedy assassination is the classic example of deep politics, and Scott defines this deep event as the "first assault" of the deep state on the White House.

In later books, he deals with quasi-state narco-trafficking that has funded other covert activities of the military-intelligence complex, and he deals with the events surrounding the attacks on 9/11, and the nature of the concept of the deep state Continuity of Government (COG).

Many researchers have contributed to the historical analysis of for example CIA covert action and subversive activities in Europe during the Cold War (Agee & Wolf, 1978; Tunander, 2004), and CIA complicity in narco-trafficking (McCoy, 1972). In this literature, the stay-behind network of Operation GLADIO and the "strategy of tension" (Ganser, 2004) stands out as a prime example of deep politics, covert action, and false-flag, deep events.

Scott's work blends historical analysis and theoretical formation, but one who has more recently been engaged with especially forming theory on parapolitics is the Law professor, Eric Wilson, who has edited a couple of important anthologies on the topic (2009; 2012), and a monograph (2015) inspired by the work of Guy Debord. Wilson attempts to carve out the field of study of parapolitics in Radical/Critical Criminology. For Wilson, "false-flags are the basic premises of spectacular power as a means of effecting a permanent separation of the public state of liberal discourse from the deep state of the national security complex".

In Wilson (2012), he draws heavily on the constitutional theory of Carl Schmitt to explain the nature and logic of the deep state, which we will briefly touch upon.

Already the German-Jewish political scientist, Ernst Fraenkel, had in 1941 published his examination of the Nazi dual state legal structure in his book, *The Dual State: A Contribution to the Theory of Dictatorship*. This notion of a dual state was later developed in a paper by the political realist, H.J. Morgenthau, co-authored with G.F. Kennan, called 'The Impact of the Loyalty-Security Measures on the State Department' (1955). Both Morgenthau and the legal scholar, H. Kelsen, were staunch opponents of and rivals to the German legal scholar, Carl Schmitt, but Schmitt had already proposed (1932) that the realism of geopolitics should be adapted to domestic politics, so for Wilson (2012), Schmitt is actually the proto-philosopher of the deep state. Both Morgenthau and Schmitt were against the state-theory of liberal idealism, but whereas for Schmitt the realist struggle of power politics was existential, structural, and fixed, for Morgenthau, real politics was adaptable, varied, and fluid, seeking a higher balance of international power-relations.

But both of these scholars sought to uncover what was the true nature and reality of power and sovereignty, and hence both are credited with defining the reality of the deep state. For Schmitt it was the "state of exception" of the sovereign, and for Morgenthau it was the "shadow government" security-state. Fraenkel's definition was the "normative state versus the prerogative state".

The uncertainty principle – A note on methodology

How do we then study the nature and reality of the secretive, shadowy deep state, when the topic is inherently a foggy and obscure territory of secret collusion, vague, incomplete, incoherent explanations, lack of evidence, and flight from publicity and scrutiny, etc?

If only the effects of power are visible, but not the cause, or the agenda, how do we gain certainty, when uncertainty is a trademark of deep politics, and these kind of deep event operations?

A starting point is the mindset and approach of a “hermeneutics of suspicion” (Horkheimer & Adorno, 1944). Real power seeks to stay invisible, operate in the shadows, and manipulate public awareness and opinion from the vantage point of “plausible deniability”. Knowledge of the system is compartmentalized on a “need-to-know” basis.

Whereas the Nazi dual state that Fraenkel investigated was open about the legal discrepancy, the modern liberal deep state cannot bear the light of public scrutiny given the essential requirement of democratic consent of the population.

Rather, the modern liberal deep state then seeks to “manufacture consent” (Chomsky & Herman, 1988). Hence, the liberal deep state relies on “heresthetics” (Riker, 1986), that is, the art of manipulation.

Given the secretive nature of the deep state, we might not know the full truth, but we know that we *don't* know the full truth, hence why deep events are “spectacular”, which then fosters public speculation about the hidden causes and variables of political effects – in deep events, a residue of uncertainty is often the only evidence we have that hidden variables might exist.

The “negative imprint” in the public record is the starting point of investigation. Incoherencies might be visible, a lack of logical causality, and evasion of direct explanation on part of the officials might strengthen our suspicion, but often a narrative is presented, because the point of deep events is to further the veiled agenda of the hidden deep state power-structure.

Often, this narrative is the reductionist one of the simple “lone-wolf”, so that the complexity of deep politics is denied, as Luhmann (1984) proposes reductionist social systems inherently do.

But the effects of the deep events remain, often with wide-ranging consequences, so in parapolitics, we must study the effects of events, how deep events are used and heresthetically manipulated to further a specific agenda and to gain power. When the official narrative is simplistic, but the political effects are consequential, we must raise our suspicion – and deep events often are crucial and consequential.

So in the inverse relationship of simplistic, official explanations (ie. lone-wolf), and complex political consequences, we can reasonably infer that variables might be hidden – the chances that it is a deep event increases. This is the hermeneutics of suspicion, and abductive reasoning, ala Sherlock Holmes. In the abductive approach, to gain epistemic visibility of hidden causes, we must start by asking: *Qui bono?*, as is the ancient legal/forensic maxim, popularized by Cicero (80 BC).

To gain any certainty of deep events, we must peel of the layers of veiled uncertainty, surrounding the deep events, but we must do this from two positions simultaneously. From the abductive position of suspicion, and from the inductive position of forensic evidence. It might not be possible to arrive at ultimate, conclusive evidence, but it's a more fruitful approach to studying the deep state than that of modern legal positivism that only ascribes to the inductive approach.

The question is this: How can we gain certainty on a topic that inherently relies on projected uncertainty, and obfuscation? Does not the deep state institutionalize the “benefit of the doubt”?

Key definitions in the study of parapolitics

Let's now present some key definitions to understand the nature of parapolitics:

1. **Parapolitics:** “Extra-parliamentarian actions outside the legal framework and operating procedure of the state that seeks to influence the political agenda and decision-making, often covert in nature”. Rather than direct influence, this form of politics seeks “indirect and often hidden influence”, associated with “private interests and reasoning” that the public would otherwise not accept or consent to.
2. **Deep politics:** Working in the “shadows of sovereignty”, deep politics is characterized by operating without parliamentary oversight, and seeks to stay hidden from public awareness and scrutiny. Deep politics seeks to manipulate the political agenda by control of the public consciousness, control of narrative, and deep events. A sort of “heresthetic approach” (Riker, 1986) to politics. Deep politics is furthermore characterized by its quasi-state nature of secretive cooperation between state-branches, intelligence, military, and the criminal underworld, as explored by Peter Dale Scott (1993), which is the nature of the deep state. Deep politics is characterized by a “blurred morality” that seeks to avoid scrutiny of its agenda and strategy.
3. **Deep events:** An event that leaves a “negative imprint” in the archive in the form of a lack of evidence, missing documents, a lack of traces and accountability etc., which could be due to a combination of the highly covert nature of the operations, and intentional manipulation of evidence. Deep events leave the public “uncertain” about the nature and cause of the events, and these events are then manipulated to fit the agenda of those in power by “controlling the narrative” – a sort of “effective politics” that knows no ethical limits to its operations in pursuance of strategic goals. Also includes false-flags. A more precise definition would be: “Extra-judicial, systemic recalibration of the status-quo power relations”.
4. **Deep state:** A quasi-state alliance of private interests and hidden agendas that seeks to control and manipulate the structure of political consciousness and events. Rather than the ideal of open and transparent government, the deep state is often portrayed as the “realist power-politics of necessity”, for example in the concept of Continuity of Government (COG)”. Rose during the Second World War in states that were supposed to be otherwise liberal, and also known as the “dual state” or “shadow government” of intelligence and military check on public politics. Both Eisenhower (1961) and Kennedy (1961) warned about the increasing deep state influence and ruthlessness of the military-industrial complex that perhaps today should be described as the military-intelligence-scientific-industrial complex. Eisenhower said: “The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.”
5. **Covert action:** Clandestine operations that seek to alter political affairs without public acknowledgement or scrutiny. Support of paramilitary organizations, fomenting political revolutions in hostile states etc. The more technical term for what leads to “deep events”.
6. **PSYOPS:** Psychological warfare. In Lukes’ (2021) taxonomy of power, PSYOPS operate at the “latent level of power over consciousness”, shaping and manipulating the ideas and beliefs of the subordinates, and thereby altering the very structure of political ideology and opinion at its base. PSYOPS are an important aspect of deep politics and covert action in that control of narrative is crucial.

From these definitions, it can be seen that the deep state complex and operations are crucial to understand, if we seek to understand modern politics, post World War II.

Diagram of the ontology of parapolitics

Let's now present a figurative overview of the three aspects of parapolitics, according to the definitions in the previous section:

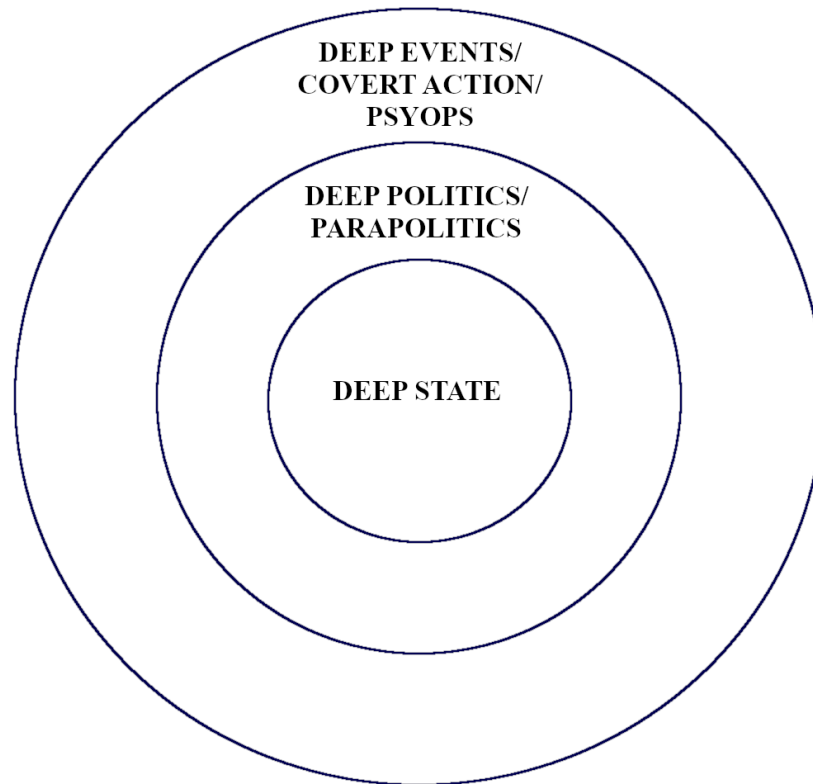


Figure 1: The ontological structure of parapolitics, explained via three concentric spheres.

Let's now define these three spheres/aspects in a layered, structured way:

Level	Aspect	Ontology	Epistemology	Causality	Faculty	Form
Macro	Deep State	Structure	Hidden	Cause	Power	Institutions
Meso	Deep Politics	Agenda	Veiled	Mediation	Intelligence	Strategy
Micro	Deep Events	Operations	Open	Effect	Action	Actors

Table 1: The three aspects of parapolitics explained in 5 categories, ranging through macro, meso, and micro level.

This is the theoretical framework that we propose for parapolitical analysis. All levels must be studied hermeneutically and simultaneously, each level of analysis informing and substantiating the others.

Usually, our starting point is the event, but all levels can be attacked as a starting point in the analysis. This is the theoretical framework that parapolitical analysis has needed.

Of course, the ultimate point of parapolitical analysis is to unveil the inner structure and agenda of deep state, deep politics – the subterranean world and structure of shadow warfare and criminal sovereignty, but given the highly secretive and heresthetic nature of deep state, deep politics, the analysis often takes off from the deep event, the effect that veils strategy, agenda, and structure.

Shadow wars, clandestine, covert action, and criminal sovereignty

As for Mulder and Scully in the famous, mythic TV-series, *X-Files* (Carter, 1993), only *half* of the truth is always known: Mulder knows the abductive reasoning, while Scully knows the inductive, forensic evidence – but what does “the agency” know? In this setup, the agency is the deep state power-structure – the higher echelons of classified, top secret Unacknowledged Special Access Programs (USAPs) that not even the US president has access to.

This section develops the concept of “criminal sovereignty” as an extension of parapolitical analysis. Building on the relationship between deep state structures, covert action, and shadow warfare, the section argues that certain forms of power operate in a liminal space between legality and illegality, where sovereign functions are exercised through deniable and extra-legal means.

Now, obviously, the notion of deep state criminal sovereignty only applies to liberal democracies, whereas in totalitarian states, the notion of legality and illegality is absolved in the “permanent state of warfare exception” (Schmitt, 1932; Agamben, 1995).

In the US, conventionally, covert action is defined as following: “Covert action is defined under U.S. law (Title 50) as activities conducted by the government to influence political, economic, or military conditions abroad, specifically intended to keep the role of the United States hidden or unacknowledged. Unlike standard intelligence collection, this involves actively shaping events with plausible deniability, requiring strict presidential authorization and congressional oversight.”

In practice, in this stature, we see a limiting of congressional oversight, often to the “Gang of Eight”. But what else could be hidden from congressional oversight, when USAPs are not even acknowledged or known of by the US president? How deep does the deep state go? Could covert action even be applied clandestinely to domestic politics in the state of exception? Scott (1993) on the murder of JFK would think so.

While clandestine operations focus on hiding the action itself, covert action focuses on hiding the identity of the sponsor. So in the covert action, the effects are epistemically visible, but in the clandestine operations, even the effects are unnoticed by the public. For our analysis, covert action constitutes the primary operational mechanism through which parapolitical dynamics manifest at the level of practice, since the reasoning of deep politics is obvious political effects. But this gray-zone of clandestine and covert operations is indeed interesting, and should be studied further.

Is not true parapolitics the most hidden aspects of military-intelligence operations, namely clandestine operations that are *per se* covert and epistemically invisible in nature? If no one, not even the legal US president, knows that an operation has been carried out, is this not the most successful and powerful intervention in politics? Hence the reality of criminal sovereignty. This is the true shadow war that the public is not aware of, but what are the known examples of such clandestine warfare activity?

Let’s give an example. While outright covert action assassination attempts are epistemically visible, the new frontier of clandestine warfare is advanced psychotronic warfare. In psychotronic warfare, the event *itself* is invisible, while the cause and agenda are invisible too. The point is that the event itself is denied scientific reality, the ultimate definition of a clandestine operation. Is this example not the ultimate reality of shadow war and covert action, the very clandestine denial of any reality of warfare itself? In this sense, clandestine operations are an even deeper layer of the deep state of covert action that properly fit the definition of shadow warfare. Criminal sovereignty is when extra-legal warfare is being carried out, *unnoticed* by the general, legal public, and *events/effects* are unnoticed as well.

War is no longer declared – it is *managed in the shadows* – politics is manufactured. The shadow war.

Deep events, and the fog of war – A parapolitical analytical framework

This section applies the analytical framework of parapolitics – deep events, deep politics, and criminal sovereignty – to a set of recent incidents involving alleged or attempted attacks on a major political figure. The aim is not to establish definitive causal claims, but to examine how such events can be interpreted under conditions of uncertainty, contested narratives, and incomplete information.

The following analysis distinguishes between documented facts, competing interpretations, and speculative extensions.

Let's recap the method of investigating suspected deep events:

1. Hermeneutics of suspicion (with constraints)
2. Abductive reasoning (Qui bono?)
3. Inductive limits (forensic uncertainty)

Also, since deep events are characterized not only by what happens, but by how meaning is constructed afterward, in our analysis, we should consider:

1. **Official explanation**
 - a. Lone actor, security breach, etc.
2. **Alternative interpretations**
 - a. Systemic failure
 - b. Coordination hypotheses
 - c. Broader political context
3. **Media framing**
 - a. How narratives diverge
 - b. Speed of narrative stabilization

In such high-profile cases as assassination attempts at major political figures, stakes are high, and speculation is abound. If we start, perhaps counter-intuitively, from the abductive point of view, we might consider then what are actually the parapolitical options of explanation in such targeted assassination attempts. In this way, we make sure that our investigation is not constrained by any manipulated or pre-defined, intended closure of narrative. It's important that we immediately stay open to all possibilities, *a dialectics of openness*, so as not to be locked-in on a certain official or alternative narrative.

1. **Lone-wolf:** The most common official explanation, but frequently also the most reductionist, unable to acknowledge broader systemic aspects of deep events.
2. **Conspiracy of multiple actors:** Acknowledgment of a deeper agenda.
3. **Staged:** Rare, but possible.
4. **Stand-down:** Systemic failure or direct institutional complicity.
5. **False-flag:** Covert action, state or non-state actors.
6. **Cover-up:** Systemic manipulation of events.

These are the possibilities as to the nature of a deep event. Now, these 6 options can of course overlap, but in the parapolitical analysis, it's important that we consider and investigate the epistemic feasibility of each of these options, based on the hermeneutical method of suspicion/abduction/induction.

If we then consider our parapolitical framework, as defined in the section on ontology, we can ask the following questions on the three levels of parapolitical analysis:

1. **Micro-level: Deep events**
 - a. Irregularities
 - b. Gaps in information
 - c. Timing and impact
2. **Meso-level: Deep politics**
 - a. Narrative control
 - b. Framing strategies
 - c. Political usage of the event
3. **Macro-level: Deep state (structural context)**
 - a. Institutional responses
 - b. Security apparatus behavior
 - c. Long-term implications

It's important that we consider and triangulate all these levels simultaneously in our analysis.

Importantly, it is worth considering how especially the meso-level of agenda and strategy is actually the crucial aspect to investigate, if we seek to understand the two other levels as well. The meso-level is where our abductive reasoning skills can really be applied, for this is the area of suspicion, deceit, concealment, manipulation, heresthetics, dogma, and manufactured opinion – this is the area of narrative control – this is where rhetoric is applied to hidden intent, agenda, and strategic goals.

The meso-level is where events are interpreted to give political meaning, so in a higher-order strategic logic, the meaning of events can be manipulated to fit a specific and contested political agenda, and by studying this heresthetic layer of parapolitics, we may get clues as to the real motivation of deep events, as those events are seized and controlled by power-holders.

The different layers of analysis might not causally correspond one-to-one, but the nature of deep event uncertainty may be seized by diverging political interests to further their specific agenda. So the concept of uncertainty is crucial in parapolitical analysis in that given uncertainty a higher degree of freedom in terms of the potential for manipulation and opportunism arises, hence the terms “rule through chaos”, and “every crisis is an opportunity” – this is *nonlinear warfare*, crisis management that preys on imbalance, instability, and insecurity in the public sphere.

So parapolitical analysis is not only about establishing a strict causal chain of events, but about understanding the complexity of politics, deep politics, being able to grasp the different layers of political reality, and to see structural patterns in otherwise “irrational” activity of political systems.

Here, Lukes' (2021) third dimension of power is crucial, the latent level power over consciousness, the power to shape attention and perception on a mass-scale – for the parapolitical analysis, the effects are crucial. The deep state acts, but it may act in seemingly irrational ways, given compartmentalization.

Meta-level reflections on the case of the three assassination attempts at D.J. Trump

Let's list the three cases that we seek to study. Of course, this essay is mainly intended to be about theory and method, so the case studies will only consist of parapolitical reflections on these incidents, not an actual in-depth analysis of details, etc, but a sort of meta-level reflection on these (deep) events.

1. **Butler rally incident** (Pennsylvania, 13/7/2024)
2. **Golf course incident** (Florida, 15/9/2024)
3. **Correspondents' Dinner incident** (DC, 25/4/2026)

What *nearly* happened to Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania in 2024 is an eerie reminder of what *did* happen to JFK in Dallas, Texas in 1963 – the murder of the highest ranking official of the USA.

In both cases, the official explanation is that of the lone-wolf, but from an abductive point-of-view, how likely is it that those lone-wolves were the only persons intend on killing the president? In the suspicion/abduction, many people *had* that motive. This statistic increases the parapolitical chances that a deeper aspect of the assassination is at play, a deeper, hidden conspiracy.

This suspicion is the starting point of any parapolitical analysis.

In the case of JFK, the alternative viewpoint was that of “multiple shooters”, “the grassy knoll”, mafia connections, connections to CIA, and to the power-maneuvering of L.B. Johnson.

But if there were not multiple shooters, was it then a stand-down? The possibilities are there. In the parapolitical analysis, we don't discard any option beforehand.

It's not that the parapolitical analysis *per se* seeks controversy, or sensationalism, but the parapolitical analysis is informed by a view on power as inherently manipulative, power inherently seeking to maximize power, and to do so by control – control of events, control of narrative, and control of perception – power is *itself* bound to be suspicious, given the very nature of man. By that token, *truth itself* becomes suspicious, as Horkheimer & Adorno (1944) and the post-structuralists would have us believe, for who has the power to define truth? The suspicion must persist.

H. Arendt (1958; 1970) is famous for contending that power and violence are opposites. While power is collective (a positive), violence destroys power (irrational/authoritarian). So when we talk about the hidden, unconstitutional deep state use of force, we talk about violence and coercion as means of keeping and gaining control – in Arendt's view, this is not power, but authoritarian control, dissolving real power.

It would be hard to contend that the assassination attempt at Trump in Butler was not intended to kill the president, that it was staged – *some* actually intended to kill the president. Some *intended* to kill Trump at multiple occasions, recently at the Correspondents' Dinner in DC – events where not staged.

This is of course an absolutely serious situation, so before we cast aside these events as solely the acts of deranged individuals, the parapolitical analysis must go forth. Deeper currents are flowing in the subterranean world of deep politics (Evola, 2002), and given what we know of intelligence agencies' interest in covert action, MK-Ultra, Project Monarch, Manchurian candidate style mind-control, which today might work in a more subtle, covert way, we cannot rule out that deeper forces are at play in undermining democracy in the pursuit of strategic control of US domestic and foreign policies, as any realist analysis of power-politics would have us believe.

Based on the methodological framework presented in this essay, we encourage all researchers to continue the parapolitical analyses to grasp the bigger picture of domestic and international politics.

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