

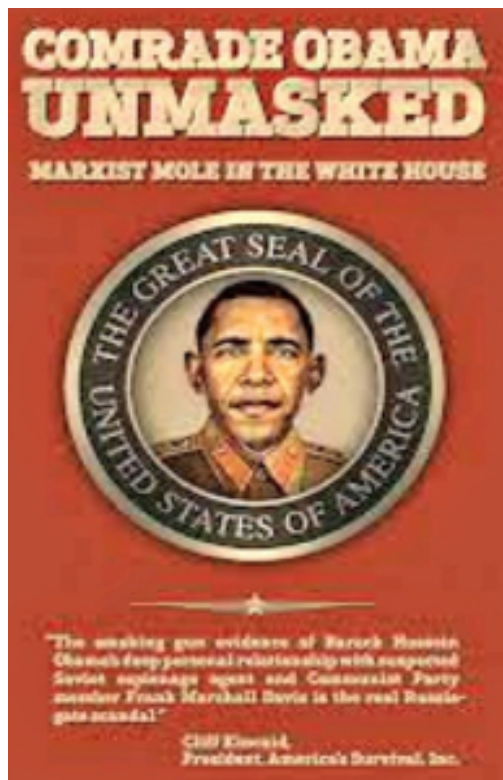
Swiss Watchdog Group: Council On Foreign Relations Controls U.S. News Outlets

By NWV Senior Political News Writer, Jim Kouri

Largely unbeknownst to the general public, many media executives and top journalists of almost all major US news outlets have long been members of the influential ***Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)***.

Established in 1921 as a private, bipartisan organization to [“awaken America to its worldwide responsibilities”](#), the CFR and its close to 5000 elite members have for decades shaped U.S. foreign policy and public discourse about it. As one Council member [famously explained](#), the goal has indeed been to establish a global Empire, albeit a “benevolent” one.

Based on official membership rosters, the following illustration for the first time depicts the extensive media network of the CFR and its two main international affiliate organizations: the *Bilderberg Group* (covering mainly the U.S. and Europe) and the *Trilateral Commission* (covering North America, Europe and East Asia), both [established](#) by Council leaders to foster elite cooperation at the international level.



In a column entitled [“Ruling Class Journalists”](#), former *Washington Post* senior editor and ombudsman Richard Harwood once described the Council and its members approvingly as “the nearest thing we have to a ruling establishment in the United States”

Harwood continued: “The membership of these journalists in the Council, however they may think of themselves, is an acknowledgment of their active and important role in public affairs and of their ascension into the American ruling class. They do not merely analyze and interpret foreign policy for the United States; they help make it. () They are part of that establishment whether they like it or not, sharing most of its values and world views.”

However, media personalities constitute only about five percent of the overall CFR network. As the following illustration shows, key members of the private *Council on Foreign Relations* have included:

- several U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents of both parties;
- almost all Secretaries of State, Defense, and the Treasury;
- many high-ranking commanders of the U.S. military and NATO;
- almost all National Security Advisors, CIA Directors, Ambassadors to the U.N., Chairs of the Federal Reserve,

Presidents of the World Bank, and Directors of the National Economic Council;

- some of the most influential Members of Congress (notably in foreign & security policy matters);
- many top journalists, media executives, and entertainment industry directors;
- many prominent academics, especially in key fields such as Economics, International Relations, Political Science, History, and Journalism;
- many top executives of Wall Street, policy think tanks, universities, and NGOs;
- as well as the key members of both the 9/11 Commission and the Warren Commission (JFK)

Eminent economist and Kennedy supporter, John K. Galbraith, [confirmed](#) the Council's influence: "Those of us who had worked for the Kennedy election were tolerated in the government for that reason and had a say, but foreign policy was still with the *Council on Foreign Relations* people."

And no less than [John J. McCloy](#), the longtime chairman of the Council and advisor to nine U.S. presidents, [told](#) the *New York Times* about his time in Washington: "Whenever we needed a man we thumbed through the roll of the Council members and put through a call to New York."

German news magazine *Der Spiegel* once described the CFR as the "most influential private institution of the United States and the Western world" and a "politburo of capitalism". Both the Roman-inspired logo of the Council (top right in the illustration above) as well as its slogan (*ubique* – omnipresent) appear to emphasize that ambition.

In his famous article about ["The American Establishment"](#), political columnist Richard H. Rovere noted: "The directors of the CFR make up a sort of Presidium for that part of the Establishment that guides our destiny as a nation. () [I]t rarely fails to get one of its members, or at least one of its

allies, into the White House. In fact, it generally is able to see to it that both nominees are men acceptable to it.”

Until recently, this assessment had indeed been justified. Thus, in 1993 former CFR director George H.W. Bush was followed by CFR member Bill Clinton, who in turn was followed by CFR “family member” George W. Bush. In 2008, CFR member John McCain lost against CFR candidate of choice, Barack Obama, who received the names of his entire Cabinet already one month prior to his election by CFR Senior Fellow (and Citigroup banker) Michael Froman.

Froman later negotiated the TTP and TTIP free trade agreements, before returning to the CFR as a *Distinguished Fellow*.

It was not until the 2016 election that the Council couldn’t, apparently, prevail.

At any rate, not yet.

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