



THE ROLE OF A POWER STRUCTURE ANALYSIS IN UFOLOGY

Ufology's Fundamental Challenge

By Joe Burkes, M.D.

The civilian UFO community often known as "ufology" exists as a multitude of individuals and groups who all share a common interest in the subject of unidentified flying objects. Since 1991 I have shared this passion with other so called "ufologists."

For several years I was closely associated with Dr. Steven Greer's Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence, CSETI. In the course of my activities with that group, I had a number of limited interactive encounters with what appeared to be extraterrestrial spacecraft.

For a number of reasons, personal as well as professional, I have curtailed much of my UFO-oriented activities. I perceive a fundamental problem in this field, and wish to call for a dramatic solution to the crisis in ufology. It is my assessment that ufology has failed to recognize the importance of how an extraterrestrial presence profoundly threatens all terrestrial elites. This includes the international corporate, military, political and religious leaders of our planet. Without recognizing and thoroughly analyzing this challenge to terrestrial power, those interested in understanding the phenomenon of extraterrestrial spacecraft visiting our planet will, in my opinion, end up hopelessly confused. More importantly, UFO enthusiasts may have unrealistic expectations and may be wasting important time and energy in projects that cannot bear fruit, given the depths of the power structure's opposition to acknowledging an ET presence.

Currently, a number of prominent UFO groups are advocating that Congress hold open hearings on the issue of government secrecy concerning extraterrestrial spacecraft visiting our planet. Retired military and intelligence officers who have had direct personal experiences with extraterrestrial intelligence during their official work have been identified. If these individuals can be induced to testify, there will be an unprecedented opportunity to inform the public.

As might be expected, the push for public hearings on the topic of the ET presence has encountered resistance. It has been the not-too-secret hope of many UFO activists that some kind of official disclosure might be imminent. It is my assessment, however, that no disclosure will take place without tremendous pressure on the terrestrial power structure—more pressure that can be applied to Congress at the current time.

While frustrated by years of official denial, how can

UFO enthusiasts work to remedy this predicament? A broad-based coalition employing coordinated political action will be an essential part of the disclosure process. This will probably require dozens of organizations and thousands of activists. Such a campaign will probably take the form of the grassroots movements for social change. Models of such efforts include the union organizing drives of the 1930s and the peace and the civil rights movements of the 1960s. To develop such a coalition of individuals and groups, an analysis of the ET challenge to all terrestrial power is required.

Our planet's population is divided into over 100 nation states. National political leaders are able to exercise their power on the basis of nationalistic sentiments. As the prominent ufologist Stanton Friedman has said, "Nationalism is the name of the game." Once the people of the planet are permitted to acknowledge the ET presence, the masses will tend to see themselves as "terrestrial" or simply "human." Faced with what will likely turn out to be an incredible diversity of ET cultures, people on our planet will likely start to identify with the Earth as a whole rather than with their particular nation state. Thus, the power of national politicians would be threatened by the admission that some UFOs represent extraterrestrial spacecraft built by non-humans from the stars.

From the point of view of ordinary citizens, an end to nationalism and the realization of the slogan, "One planet, one people" might not be tragic at all. Given the sad record of this century, with over 100 million killed in wars resulting from national rivalry, it might make very good sense to place nationalism in the dust bin of history. Of course national political leaders who derive their power from "the people;" i.e. their nation's people, would understandably be threatened by an outside presence which undermines their ideological power base.

The extraterrestrial presence challenges military leaders of every nation. Advanced civilizations visiting our planet appear to be quite capable of producing craft which can fly circles around the military's high performance jets. Military leaders are thus unable to secure our planet's airspace from ET intrusion. This provides one powerful rationale for the military-intelligence community's role in maintaining the secrecy regimen concerning UFOs.

The extraterrestrials appear to have access to incredibly powerful energy systems in order to propel their spacecraft. Speculation within ufology has suggested

that their craft use non-polluting, so-called "free energy systems." If the authorities acknowledged the ET presence and over a period of time our culture were allowed to download such efficient energy technologies, many of our economic as well as environmental problems might be solved.

From the point of view of the multinational oil corporations, this would not be a favorable development. The downloading of ET energy systems would likely threaten their worldwide monopoly, which has been the source of much wealth and influence for important sectors of the corporate elite.

Considering that the Gulf War and other military actions in the Middle East are driven by a hunger for cheap oil, we see the strategic importance of what has been called the "empire of oil." The ET presence threatens important sectors of the economic elite of our planet.

An important pillar of our planet's belief systems is organized religion. The true history of our planet may reveal that the flying saucer phenomenon is really an ancient process rather than a modern one. Renaissance religious painting depicting flying saucers certainly suggest this possibility. The myths of ancient civilizations declaring that their knowledge and technology were obtained from so-called "star people" provides additional support for ancient astronaut theories.

What if the holy men and prophets of biblical times were in reality contactees? Their religious experiences may have reflected encounters with non-human intelligence, some of which might have been extraterrestrial in nature. If this theory were indeed true or even merely probable, then acknowledging the ET presence would threaten all organized religion. Thus the spiritual elite of our planet—the keepers of mainstream religious doctrines—is threatened by the ET presence.

If this analysis accurately reflects the perceived self interest of our planet's elites, then the extraterrestrials visiting our planet must threaten all terrestrial power. The worldwide secrecy campaign concerning UFOs can now be seen as the logical consequence of ruling classes which appropriately take action in self defense. This need not be seen as a conspiracy. Efforts to deny the ET visitations, to resist public disclosure, is the

natural response of any social system attempting to preserve the status quo.

In the course of human development, both evolutionary and revolutionary historical trends can be seen. The creation of Christianity out of Judaism can be viewed as the creation of a revolutionary force which spread monotheism across the planet. The Roman Empire, cognizant of the challenge, violently suppressed the new religion which placed an almighty God over the emperor.

The acceptance of an all-powerful and ethical God by this planet's peoples has done much to promote their welfare. Concepts such as the rule of law and social justice, as well as the ending of human sacrifice and slavery, all have their moral roots in that wave of revolutionary monotheism which swept our planet during the first millennium of the common era.

In a similar fashion, the ruling empires of both kings and political despots have been ended by the democratic revolutions of the 17th through 20th cen-

turies. The old regime never gives up without a fight. Indeed, the struggle for democracy continues to this day. It is therefore only natural the Earth's ruling elites will combat what some might perceive as the ultimate threat. As long as the extraterrestrial visitors spare us undeniable displays of their physical presence, indirect means can be employed to maintain the status quo. This includes the ridicule of witnesses and the suppression of credible reports of encounters.

Direct violent confrontations may also be taking place to meet the ET challenge. The late Lt. Col. Philip Corso, co-author of *The Day After Roswell*, is to be believed, covert military actions against ET craft are taking place in an effort to neutralize a perceived threat to national security.

Corporate control of the mass media has been used to relegate reportage on UFOs to tabloid formats, which trivialize this important subject. Security oaths under national security regulations are employed to silence credible military witnesses of UFO encounters. Ufology itself is a likely target for disinformation, spread by special sections of the intelligence services authorized to deal with the UFO subculture. Again, it is only reasonable to assume that when threatened, terrestrial power will defend itself. These efforts will likely continue in the future.

The creation of a citizens' network to challenge the existing regimen of secrecy, denial and strategic disinformation will by necessity be a difficult and prolonged struggle. There will be the need for accelerating the educational process to alert the public of the reality of extraterrestrial spacecraft visiting our planet.

One of the most important factors in this equation is the actions of the extraterrestrials themselves. For reasons that are only known to them, they have chosen not to impose on our culture irrefutable displays of their physical presence. Although the tempo of sightings and other types of human-ET interactions appears to be accelerating, it seems likely that the proverbial "landing on the White house lawn" will not occur any time soon. It may never take place.

Rather than passively waiting for the power structure to acknowledge the reality of ET spacecraft visiting our planet, those who feel passionately about this issue should be prepared to take action. Non-governmental organizations have a long tradition of finding innovative solutions to important problems. As a former peace activist from the 1960s through the 1980s, I recall the slogan, "When the people lead, the leaders will follow."

The most central problem for such a movement is determining the nature of the ET presence. This

remains perhaps the most divisive question for those most interested in the flying saucer phenomenon: Is their presence good, bad or indeterminate at the present time? Dozens of popular theories abound. It seems likely that no consensus will emerge in the near future.

Most alien abduction proponents assert that humanity is being victimized by the extraterrestrial visitors. Opposing this camp is a constellation of contactee groups who would have us believe that the ET presence is positive. Like the general population, the vast majority of UFO witnesses simply don't know what to make of the phenomenon. As writer and UFO experimenter Whitley Strieber has points out, "the only thing consistent about this phenomenon is that it is consistently strange."

This lack of consensus is a major impediment to establishing a movement to pressure the authorities to deal with the extraterrestrials. Successful mobilizing will likely require large numbers of individuals who share a common view as to what the extraterrestrials have in store for us. From an organizer's perspective, there are inherent difficulties in the alien abductionist position. It is hard to organize people who identify themselves as victims. Their psychological needs for healing take precedence over other activities.

The contactee paradigm is certainly a more hopeful one. Activists will more likely fight in a protracted political campaign if they believe their efforts will result in a better world. Although it appears to be a long shot, I believe that some kind of assistance for humanity is possible from advanced civilizations visiting our planet. It was this upbeat—though unprovable—notion which initially attracted me to Dr. Steven Greer's CSETI. Despite my team's extremely limited success in drawing ET spacecraft to our research sites, I still am very supportive of the "human-initiated close encounters" concept as embodied by Greer's "Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind Initiative."

For the contactee movement to actually get off the ground and facilitate face-to-face encounters with extraterrestrials that all can see and accept, a qualitative change in the human-ET relationship is required. There will need to be more clarity, consistency and absolutely more equality in future interactions. As the general awareness of the ET presence increases within our culture, the social pressure for concerted action will correspondingly rise.

Eventually our planet's elites will be compelled to openly reply to this challenge to power. For the sake of future generations, let us hope that their response will be a peaceful one. ●

Joe Burkes is a physician practicing in Southern California.

