

A TIM GATTO SAMPLER:

PIECES AND EXCERPTS FROM

FROM COMPLICITY TO CONTEMPT:

*An American Writer and Veteran Speaks Out Against
American Lies*

1

From

The Liberal Party of America (Part II) To the Disenchanted Democrats

(Written 12/01/05)

I am what I am. When I was young, I was a two-fisted, hard drinking, stand-up-for-your-rights kind of guy. Before I joined the Army in 1968, I was a long-haired hippie type with a hot car and a cigarette hanging out of my mouth, but I saw myself going nowhere, and all this stuff was going on overseas, so I joined the Army.

The Army and I didn't see exactly eye to eye on occasion, so I got out three times. I got some medals, tried some different occupations between hitches, went to Woodstock, kept my old hippie friends, and wished I could grow my hair long and never felt like I belonged.

I never really trusted the politicians. I saw Vietnam come and go. I saw Nixon lie like hell, saw the Russians fall, and all this time I felt like I was an odd duck. I was a liberal Army veteran that never could trust the government, even after I gave them almost twenty-one years of my life.

2

From

McCain-Lieberman in 2008

(Written on 12/07/05)

The worst part of it all is that we will see Kerry, Dean, maybe Harry Reid and Trent Lott and Frist, all holding hands. This will be the greatest political coup since Trotsky and Lenin grabbed the Romanovs out of the Kremlin.

Why do I say something like this? Do you all think I'm crazy? Maybe I am. Maybe I am really paranoid. Maybe I've been reading too many Tom Clancy books. Still, I'm going to tell you why I believe I'm right.

I have heard both of these so-called centrists call for nothing short of a permanent occupation of Iraq. McCain goes around preaching that we shouldn't torture people while

he peddles the President's plans in the middle-east and praises Dick Cheney, the architect of the neo-con movement. Lieberman seems to believe that permanent military bases in the Middle East are a great idea.

Don't put it past those two. The more I hear them talk, the more I get paranoid. Bush has started something here that has to be stopped. It's time to realize that the ramifications of what we do today could bring the consequences of tomorrow.

Another grand prediction. Think it will happen? Remember, I wrote that in 2005. Maybe it will happen before this book is published, maybe tomorrow. Either way, I still stand on what I said. These are still two of the most dangerous guys on the planet

3

From

My Belief

(Written 12/13/05)

I was raised as a Roman Catholic. It really isn't anyone's business but my own, but it has relevance to this article. When I was at the tender age of twelve, I had two friends that were avowed atheists, so were their parents. I argued for a few years while the three of us grew up together. At the age of fifteen, I became an atheist also. I couldn't defend my beliefs after three years of arguing. Besides, many of the things they said about religion made sense.

Their parents would join in and tell me how religions have started wars and how so many people have been persecuted for their beliefs, and I started to wonder why all of it was the way it was. I wondered why it was all so serious. I couldn't fathom why someone would kill another because of a belief in something that was by its very nature intrinsically good. It was an enigma to me. As time went on, and I lost contact with my friends. I traveled to Asia and Europe, and studied all the history I could.

There is no doubt that this received the most comments of any article I had written to that point. If I wrote this now and put it on a major website, it could cause a riot. I learned then that religion was always good to "stir the pot" when I believed it needed stirring. Still, I believe in everything I wrote back then and still do. This wouldn't be the last of my thoughts about religion. While I don't begrudge anyone for their religious beliefs, I don't understand why they persist in the 21st Century.

4

From

"I Made a Mistake"

(Written 12/15/05)

I don't know how to start this. I have been thinking about what I'm going to say since last night. I am so outraged at President Bush, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, the Congress, the CIA, The FBI, The NSA, Army Intelligence, Condoleezza Rice, Former Secretary of State Powell, even the Clintons for not speaking up, that I actually couldn't sleep last night.

Look, even as much as I write about political issues, I usually don't take them to bed with me. I write because it makes me feel better. I figure, look, I wrote, it's there for everyone to see, I made my point, so now forget it. My writing helps me to live with my self. I feel like through my writing, I have done what little I can to make the world a better place as I see it. The rest of the world might believe I'm wrong, but, hey, you can't please everyone. Yesterday, this dysfunctional, paranoid, out of touch sociopath that we call our President told the whole world that because of bad intelligence we went to war in Iraq and then went on about how we our going to force our values down another nation's throat after (by his own estimate) we have killed over thirty thousand of their people. That's not taking into account the crippled and wounded, men, women and children that might number more than one hundred and fifty thousand; we are only talking about the ones that are dead.

What a brave man to admit he caused more deaths and injuries than the earthquakes in Pakistan and still have the strength to get up every morning and face the American people like he's just another ordinary guy. You have to be either stupid or a sociopath to think that what you did was in the best interests of anyone.

I was angry and I was right to be angry. To this day I can't for the life of me understand how decent Americans could support a war of aggression and not do a damn thing about it.

5

From

American Values

(Written 12/17/05)

I watched President Bush being interviewed on Jim Lehrer's "Newshour" last night, and I didn't hear him preaching "American Values" like he normally does. Some people may not believe me when I tell them this, but when I see someone under intense scrutiny, even on a fictional detective show, I kind of put myself in that person's place. I've always done this, and maybe that's why I never became a great success in business or the military. I believe I just have too much empathy for people, even if it's the kind of person you would love to kill. Maybe that's why I've never been very good at going for the throat when my adversary exposes it. That's a little of the way I felt about George Bush last night.

6

From

I Thought The Democrats Liked Me!

(01/20/06)

I'm not one of those of liberals. I'm a blue collar, ex-Army Sergeant that has done anything that I could do just to put food on the table. I've worked on cars, used a shovel, I've had people talk to me like I was a goddamn monkey because I didn't have a tie on. I've been an insurance broker, a grass cutter in a VA cemetery, worked for the Great State of Florida, worked at a nuclear missile installation with my finger on the button of an

atomic warhead. I got cancer from working with clystron tubes that were radioactive and had over 40,000 volts run through them and the Army told me it was all right. Raytheon, Lucent, Honeywell, and two ITT companies made this system. (And we are still in a class action suit because of the cancer caused by them so we could defend all the Dick Cheneys and Donald Rumsfelds and all of the left wing liberals as they drove around in their beamers "doing lunch " with each other, and talking about the latest "Survivor" episode.)

So I get a little pissed off when I read the e-mail I get—the ones that tell me that my blog doesn't have the "Pedigree" it needs to be included in the link section of the Daily Kos or Eschaton or Lefty Blogs or whatever the “Leftist” authority of the day is. All I know is that the sites I write for are anti-fascist, anti-conservative, and anti-imperialist. All I know is that I personally have paid my dues to write whatever I want to write, and I have the education and the life experience to back up what I say. I might not be a solid card carrying Democrat anymore, because the Democrats have proven themselves to be as useless as tits on a bull. There are a few Democrats I still respect; just as there are a few Republicans I still admire (liberal ones).

7

From

Who is Killing Uncle Sam?

(Written 9/7/06)

Now that I know and understand what is happening to the political system in our country, I want everyone to know. Call me Parson or whatever, but I love my country. I'm not rich, I live paycheck to paycheck as many people do, but I have had a wonderful life, and I'm still enjoying it, everyday. I hate to see my government sold to the highest bidder as if it were just another commodity. History has shown us that when governments no longer have the trust of their citizens, then that government will eventually fall. We have a wonderful set of ideals that this country was founded on. I don't want that to fall. Blind faith in bad leaders is not patriotism. It is just blind faith in bad leaders. As the Washington Post confirms, I don't make this stuff up.

8

From

The Democrats Must Prove Their Mettle

(Written 09/21/06)

Now I see our country at it again. The same type of people are pushing war in the same way dealers push dope, while the manufacturing moguls, the soldier wannabes, never spend a day in uniform. I see politicians preaching “Liberty and Democracy” for people that would rather have safe streets and food to feed their families. Every politician is a “patriot” now. Every politician wants to “stay the Course” but has never “run the course.” Our President, George W. Bush, is mentally ill. You can see it, you can hear it. He wants to change the Geneva Conventions because it doesn't support his plans. Why have we abided by the Geneva

Conventions for 54 years and want to change it now? Are these Arabs the most dangerous foes we have ever faced? I doubt that is the case. It is because George W. Bush is torturing people, that's why. There can be no other reason. He doesn't want to be charged with war crimes. If we have to torture people, then this country is not the county that I grew up in. This is not the country that I want to live in. If the Democrats don't get a pair of balls and say what needs to be said, then they are as bad as the criminals that are running this country into the ground. Staying this course is not an option. Staying this course will destroy everything this nation has stood for, Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. This is not just an election; it is a referendum on what we want our nation to be.

9

From

**Corporations, Corporocrats, and Saving Our
Democracy From Those That Would Take It From Us**

(Written 11/21/06)

There is a difference between a capitalist and a corporocrat. A capitalist will compete on a level playing field and try to win with better ideas. They will come up with new innovations, hiring people that can think on their feet and that know how to get things done, offering a better product for less, or doing things like advertising creatively or giving a better guarantee. A capitalist takes pride in his product or service and believes that the better product or service, the better profits and business will be. A capitalist adds to the community where the product or service provided is located.

A corporocrat will try to win by getting laws and regulations changed in his favor, by reducing pay and benefits to employees, by negotiating for tax breaks, by trying to get government subsidies, by dealing in unfair business practices and paying bureaucrats to look the other way. A corporocrat will move his company to where he can get the cheapest labor and the lowest tax burden, regardless of his workforce. A corporocrat knows that workers are just workers: They add nothing to the bottom line and they just decrease the size of the bottom line. A corporocrat makes his product as cheaply as possible or provides the minimum service. He does things well enough to avoid lawsuits or refunds. A corporocrat has no country, no loyalties except to the shareholder, and even those loyalties can be suspect at times.

This is probably one of the best articles I've ever done on corporatism. It was headlined on OpEdNews but failed to generate any comments. Sometimes people seem to get bored when talking about corporate influence in their lives. They just don't realize what a huge threat it is to their financial security and also their liberty.

10

From

**Just a Thought on Our
World Involvement**

(Written 11/25/06)

How come we got rid of Salvador Allende and re-placed him with Pinochet? Why do we constantly dabble in the world in order to make it go "our" way, when about ten years

later, almost everything we do comes back to bite us in the ass? What makes us so damn stupid in the first place? What kind of people do we get to run the CIA and the NSA and all the other "Black Ops" that we run? Are they all dropouts from school, or did they take so much methamphetamine to be the tops in their classes that it ended up burning out their brains?

11

From

The 800 Lb Gorilla in the Living Room

(Written 12/04/06)

[Watching the Sunday political talk shows] brought me to the realization that the human race is probably the worse thing that ever happened to this planet. We have only been around for a brief time compared to the age of our planet, and in that brief moment of time, we have man-aged to almost destroy it. I read about the bachelor party over the weekend and how the groom-to-be backed into a police car in New York and two policemen got out of their car and managed to shoot the man dead and expend 50 rounds in the process. The problem in Darfur goes on and most of the people in this country don't even know where or what Darfur is, but they can tell you that Brittany Spears filed for divorce. We still put up with a President that believes Global Warming doesn't exist. So why do I even bother to write about my opinions in the first place? Maybe it's because if I can convince enough people by saying the same things over and over again, maybe they will actually think about what I've been saying. When I try to tell Americans about Corporatism instead of thinking about retail sales and competition, they will see how corporations manipulate what our elected officials vote on, and start to understand why. Maybe if I can get people to log onto Open-secrets.org and in the process see who's financing our politicians, they will start to "get it."

I don't think Americans are stupid, I think that the people who want to manipulate the population are leading them down a dangerous path. The people are painted a picture that is bright and sunny, full of hope and promise. The reason for that is to keep the status quo and keep them spending, which in turn, keeps the economy floating. These corporations don't want things changed. An educated consumer is a pain in the ass. The American Medical Association, for example, is an organization that is supposed to look out for the health of people, right? Understand that the American Medical Association is an association of medical people that are not primarily looking out for your best interests, they are looking out for theirs. That's why they give so much money to the Republicans. Republicans are dead set against National Health care. You will find almost every health organization, almost every pharmaceutical company, almost every medical equipment provider, almost every national chain of drugstore, almost any entity involved with health care giving predominantly to the Republicans. If you believe that you will ever see a national or single-payer health care system in this country in your lifetime, unless everyone wakes up and smells the coffee, you are dreaming.

12

From

An Open Letter to Speaker-Elect Pelosi

(Written 12/12/06)

This man you are entrusting our country to and supporting by taking impeachment off the table is the one that started this war, with outright lies and deception. He lied to the American people time and time again, when he knew in his heart that he was going to invade Iraq, no matter what our intelligence reports said. This is most likely why Secretary of State Powell quit the administration. This is the reason that you're now Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives instead of Denny Hastert. Believe me, Ms. Pelosi, it's not because anyone is enamored of the Democratic agenda, for crying out loud; you Democrats didn't even have an agenda. The only thing you had to do was shut your mouths while acting as if you were against this war all along, which I might add, you were not. The majority of Democrats actually voted to give this irresponsible, spoiled brat that never really accomplished anything in his life, the authorization to use force against a sovereign nation that did nothing in recent years to warrant a full scale invasion of its territory by the strongest military power on Earth. We as a matter of conscience should be out of Iraq and actually paying the Iraqi people reparations for what we have done to its people and infrastructure over the last three-and-a-half years. You know that what I am writ-ing is true. I also know that it wouldn't be politically correct to admit it.

I also believe that you are willing to let this President, who at this very moment is still trying to subvert our Democracy with his spying and the CIA's rendition flights and his signing statements and his destruction of the Writ of Habeas Corpus and his behind-the-scene manipulations to allow the torture of prisoners or anyone he considers a "terrorist" and all of his other Machiavellian maneuvering in order to create a fascist state in America, stay in power. You have taken impeachment "off the table." Why? Is it because you are worried that it will alienate your political party from its new found Re-publican "friends"? Is that the true reason? Is it because you are more concerned about the next election than actually doing what is right for not only this country, but also for Iraq and the rest of the world? Are you going to quietly sit there while this bad excuse for a President refuses to talk to anyone who doesn't agree with every warped idea that comes out of his sick mind? Are you going to sit there and let the man that started this war, finish it? At what price? What are you willing to pay in lives in order to show that the Democrats harbor no ill feelings against this administration?

I believe you have no scruples.

I have skipped so many articles I have written, but I had to add the two that lambasted the Democrats for doing a 180 degree turn on the American people. I know that I've said this before, but I can't ever see me voting for another Democrat.

13

From

My Response to the First 100 Hours in Congress

(Written 12/14/06)

This is the twenty-first century and we haven't learned a thing, for god's sake. I hate to sound like I'm beating a dead horse, but if I can put a sense of urgency into one politician in Washington, and if I can save one soldier's life, it's worth being called names.

14

The Radicalization of Timothy

(Written 12/21/06)

I'm going to call the last year (not openly, but in my mind) "The Radicalization of Timothy." I have to confess, I don't feel that I'm a radical, but if I were to take the me of last year and let him read the things that I write today, the me of last year would call the me of today a radical, of that I have no doubt. If this frenetic pace continues and my views keep warping (or morphing) at light speed, the new version of me of next year could conceivably end up at Gitmo.

There was a time that I actually thought that I lived in the best country on Earth. That seems like a million years ago. I now realize that the country that I live in has turned into an evil "Destroyer of Nations," straight out of a comic book. I also used to think that Americans were these nice, albeit ignorant, people that walked around in their own little world, not too interested in politics but, deep inside, really nice. Now I have come to find that most Americans are self-absorbed, uncaring, rude, sociopathic, religious extremists that want to remake the planet Earth in their image.

the military? Maybe it's because I see a man that has the morals of a serial killer leading this country to a precipice that is so dangerous and frightening it's almost impossible to comprehend, while the majority of people in the United States of America walk around believing that the biggest problem confronting us is the rise in interest rates. Maybe it's because the majority of young men in Iraq are dead or crippled and the ones that are still alive and trying to care for their families have a life expectancy lower than a Neanderthal, while this President screams about terrorists trying to kill us in our beds at night. Maybe it's because I see an Army with Stryker armored fighting vehicles and M60 Abrams tanks with the capability to call in GPS-guided artillery strikes fighting in the street with men that are shooting out of Toyota 4-Runners with AK47s that are ten years old, and the heaviest weapons they have are RPGs and mortars and they are the ones that are winning. Maybe that has me upset. I mean what's wrong with that picture? This is going on after we have already spent 351 billion dollars of the peoples' money and this President tells us he needs 130 billion more while he has the Navy groups up off Iran's border just to let them know were still thinking of them. That has me a little ticked off. Meanwhile Americans go about with their Christmas shopping believing that soon the son of god will come down from the sky and pick the best ones and take them to heaven while he destroys all the other "evildoers" with fire. Maybe that's why I'm a little radicalized.

While all of this is going on, the American people wake up from their reverie for a few short weeks and vote in an opposition party that says they are going to stop this abuse of America and bring us back to reality and the very first thing they do after getting elected is tell us that they are not going to get rid of this serial-killer President and that they will support his request for the rest of the money in America to fund his particular brand of mass murder on foreign shores while he threatens more nations with American force. This time with a kinder, gentler smile on his face. Maybe this is why I'm a little more radical than I was last year.

To tell you the truth, I'm rethinking my plans to move out of this country. Even though I'm 56 years old and not as young or as healthy as I once was, I think that I just might feel a little better about myself if I wasn't party to mass murder and the imperialistic policy that my nation has embarked on. The Democrats don't seem to be stepping up to the plate and why should they? They after all have more of a stake in the status quo than most Americans because they too, for the most part, are rich and benefit from these incessant military adventures. War is good for the corporations that pay them big dividends. I thought that the American people would eventually wake up. I can see that it's just not going to happen. So while the rest of the Americans (except for my progressive friends) wait for the guy to come down from the sky to take them to never-never land, I think I'll be getting my passport and visas in order and looking around to see what country will take me and my wife and my dog. I might just move to Venezuela. At least it's a democracy. I want to see what living in a democracy is like.

This is where I almost left the country. It was a good thing for me that I didn't. I ended up having bypass surgery and God knows if I would have received the proper medical care as an expatriate. There were so many articles like this one I was boring myself. But the urge to write about what I perceived as criminal acts by the government wouldn't let me stop. I was that angry.

15

From

**Two Republican Wars and the
Price of Ignorance**

(Written 12/29/06)

There is so much more to tell, so much more to point out. I could write a book about all of the deceit and profiteering that make up the headlines of today. I talk about these things, I write about them, and it seems to me, the only people I am talking to is the "choir." I wish that normal everyday people could just click on a few progressive sites and actually read what is going on. The mainstream media won't educate them. I guess all we can do is to keep trying. Sometimes it feels like shoveling sand against the tide. It's a pity that the far right takes advantage of so many trusting people. Maybe that's the price of ignorance.

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