‘Anticipatory democracy’: Britain’s Tavistock Institute brainwashed Newt

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In January 1995, Newt Gingrich took time out of his busy schedule as newly installed Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to write the foreword to Alvin and Heidi Toffler’s new book, *The Politics of the Third Wave: Creating a New Civilization*. An initial version of the book was published by Gingrich’s own think-tank, the Progress and Freedom Foundation. A second, more widely advertised edition, was published by New Age billionaire Ted Turner’s Turner Broadcasting Company.

In his essay, Gingrich was full of praise for the Tofflers: “I first began working with the Tofflers in the early 1970s on a concept called anticipatory democracy. I was then a young assistant professor at West Georgia State College, and I was fascinated with the intersection of history and the future which is the essence of politics and government at its best. For 20 years we have worked to develop a future-conscious politics and popular understanding that would make it easier for America to make the transition from the Second Wave civilization—which is clearly dying—to the emerging, but in many ways undefined and not fully understood Third Wave civilization.”

According to the Tofflers, and Gingrich, the Second Wave—industrial society, with its political expression in representative self-government—is dead. According to their wacky theories, it is being rapidly replaced by the Third Wave—a post-industrial, decentralized society dominated by “information” and by non-governmental organizations. In the Third Wave, the nation-state is no longer an “appropriate political technology,” to use the Tofflers’ own fractured lingo.

In the Third Wave, the vast majority of human beings are relegated to the scrap heap, barely surviving on menial labor, while an elite, comprising no more than 10% of society, concentrates all the wealth and political power in its own hands. Michael Vlahos, a strategic adviser to Gingrich at the Progress and Freedom Foundation, branded this Third Wave elite the “Brain Lords.” He categorized the vast majority of human beings in a futuristic Third Wave civilization he labeled “Byte City,” as “The Lost.”

On Jan. 10, 1995, Alvin and Heidi Toffler were brought in to keynote a Washington, D.C. conference of the Progress and Freedom Foundation. The conference was called “Democracy in Virtual America.” Gingrich made a triumphant appearance at the end of the day, and embraced the Tofflers at the podium. He told the audience of several hundred cyberspace yuppies, in his typical stream-of-consciousness style: “In the mid- to late-’60s, I read Drucker’s *The Age of Discontinuities*, Boulding’s *The Meaning of the Twentieth Century*, Bell’s *Beyond Post-Industrial Society*—all of which were precursors to the first popularizer of this notion, which was *Future Shock*, which was written basically a quarter of a century ago. Now, those four books described everything we’re living through for all practical purposes . . . and nothing has changed for a quarter of a century . . . . I’ve worked with the Tofflers for 20 years in trying to figure out this interesting question. Since this is all intellectually obvious, why can’t we break through?”

Gingrich’s remarks were a startling confession. While masquerading as a “conservative” out to defend “traditional American family values” against “the Left,” “the imperial Congress,” and “the bureaucratic welfare State,” Speaker Newt is, in fact, an over-aged New Leftist, dedicated to bringing about the revolutionary collapse of industrial society, the American constitutional system of representative self-government, and everything associated with western Judeo-Christian morality!

As a true believer in the Tofflerian theory of the Third Wave, Newt is devoted to the idea that the U.S. Constitution is an outmoded document, and that the nation-state itself is obsolete and ready for the scrap heap of history.

Gingrich’s brand of “conservatism” is precisely what Lyndon LaRouche first wrote about in 1968, when he penned a prophetic essay, “The New Left, Local Control, and Fascism,” which warned that the student radicals of the 1960s counterculture would be the fascist stormtroopers of the late twentieth century, unless the majority of Americans woke up to the danger. It is the “conservatism” of the 1790s Jacobin mobs, sent out into the streets of Paris by their British East India Company paymasters, to lynch and guillotine the leading scientists and republicans in France, that we see today in Newt Gingrich, Phil Gramm, Dick Armey, and Newt’s band of “merry freshmen.”

What is anticipatory democracy?

Newt Gingrich is not a victim of some counterculture sociological phenomenon or an overdose of LSD. A careful review of his career—based on a review of a dozen biographi-
cal accounts, speeches, interviews, and eyewitness reports—reveals that, by no later than 1970, Gingrich was brought into the very center of a social engineering program, run out of London, aimed precisely at wrecking the United States and bringing about the destruction of constituency politics and representative self-rule.

Gingrich all but gave away the game, when, in his introduction to the Toffler book, he cited the “anticipatory democracy” project. “A/D,” as it was known to its initiates, was one of a series of social engineering programs launched in the mid- to late-1960s under the sponsorship of the London Tavistock Institute, aimed at forcing a “paradigm shift” toward the New Age (see article, p. 23).

Some of the very people involved in A/D would also help launch the Club of Rome, a radical Malthusian movement sponsored by the European-based Club of the Isles; and would be pivotal in the Jimmy Carter administration’s Global 2000 project, another one-world Malthusian effort, run directly out of the White House.

One of Gingrich’s most important New Age mentors, his friend Alvin Toffler, was a guru of the A/D effort.

In 1965, Toffler, then a lecturer at the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, wrote an essay in a British intelligence-sponsored publication, Horizon magazine, titled “The Future as a Way of Life.” Written as a review of a recent book by Oxford University economist-turned-sociologist Kenneth Boulding, Toffler argued that the only way humanity could cope with the “future shock” caused by the rapid transformation of modern society, was by launching a study of “the future,” and introducing futurism into all policy deliberations and educational programs.

Toffler was a protégé of Boulding, who had replaced the late Dr. Kurt Lewin as one of the leading Tavistock agents-in-residence in the United States. Along with his wife Elise, Boulding had established the Center for Research on Conflict Resolution at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 1961-62, according to Elise Boulding’s recent account, she and her husband founded the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at their home. She would chair the radical feminist Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) during the height of the 1960s anti-war frenzy. During the same period, the Bouldings launched the “peace research” movement in Europe and the Americas, which would establish a bridge between the Fabian social engineers of Tavistock, and the New Left insurgents who tore up the streets of the West in the late 1960s and spawned the environmentalist, New Age, and terrorist undergrounds of the 1970s and ‘80s.
Boulding described his network as “invisible colleges,” borrowing directly from early twentieth-century British intelligence chief H.G. Wells. In a Dec. 12, 1964 *Esquire* magazine article, also touting Boulding, Toffler described the phenomenon: “For many years I have been aware of a special kind of unorganized intellectual underground in America. Its members are to be found here and there on the campus, on the advanced planning staffs of giant corporations, among science fiction writers, and only occasionally in government. As a subterranean society these people have no formal contact, no rituals of membership, no insider’s handclasp. Yet they recognize one another after only a few minutes of conversation. The key is their shared sense of living at the brink of the vastly different future.” Sixteen years later, another young member of the “invisible colleges,” Marilyn Ferguson, described this as the “Aquarian Conspiracy.”

In his *Horizon* article, Toffler quoted from the extremely important, but generally unknown head of the Tavistock Institute, Dr. John Rawlings Rees. Toffler was, even then, no outsider to the upper echelons of British secret intelligence and psychological warfare.

But Toffler and Boulding’s hype of the “future shock” syndrome was purely a psy-war hoax. At the same time that Toffler was being touted as a public spokesman for the notion of post-industrial society, and the “changing image of man,” more serious and less widely publicized Tavistock studies were telling a different story.

The real “shocks” of the 1960s, particularly in America, were the Cuban missile crisis, which brought the world to the brink of thermonuclear destruction; the sequence of brutal political assassinations (John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy); McGeorge Bundy’s escalation of the Vietnam War following the JFK murder and its coverup; and the urban riots and student riots that were orchestrated following these earlier cataclysmic events.

Back in 1957, Dr. William Sargant of the Tavistock Institute, who was at the time working in the United States on the MK-Ultra mind control and psychotropic drug program, let the cat out of the bag in a little-known book, *Battle for the Mind—A Physiology of Conversion and Brain-Washing*. Sargant had a different explanation for the “shock” that Americans were being put through, one that perfectly described the string of horrifying events of 1961-69:

“Various types of beliefs can be implanted in many people to the rest of the world. This led to “asymmetry.” Fortunately, she reported, new forms of universalism were developed in England among the “peace churches,” which began building “international networks” based on world brotherhood. In 1780, British philosopher (and intelligence chieftain) Jeremy Bentham coined the words “international” and “international law,” wherein, she said, one finds the origin of the concept of “world citizen,” the concept that must replace that of national identity today.

As a result of such efforts, creating an “international civil society” is now within reach. But to do that requires an “instrument of change,” such as was earlier embodied by Genghis Khan. The instrument of change today, she emphasized, is the non-governmental organization. “Future oriented, their members highly mobile and highly interactive, NGOs fulfill the triad of conditions for contributing to an Axial age.”

Boulding’s latest initiative in this Genghis Khan project, is a so-called international Interfaith Peace Council, founded at Windsor Castle in November 1995, and dedicated to implementing the Global 2000 genocide program. As *EIR* detailed in its Jan. 5, 1996 issue, Boulding’s Peace Council, formed by, among others, Prince Philip’s agent, the Dalai Lama of Tibet; Costa Rica’s Oscar Arias; and the leader of the Mexican Zapatista narco-terrorist insurgency, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, took up the defense of the Zapatistas as its first major cause. —*Joseph Brewda*
people,” he wrote, “after brain function has been sufficiently disturbed by accidentally or deliberately induced fear, anger, or excitement. Of the results caused by such disturbances, the most common one is temporarily impaired judgment and heightened suggestibility. Its various group manifestations are sometimes classed under the heading of ‘herd instinct,’ and appear most spectacularly in wartime, during severe epidemics, and in all similar periods of common danger, which increase anxiety and so individual and mass suggestibility.”

‘Ad Hoc Committee on A/D’

In consultation with Boulding, on the eve of the 1972 Presidential elections, Alvin Toffler hosted a secret planning meeting at his Ridgefield, Connecticut home. Among the participants were Joseph Slater and Amos Jordan, both of the Bertrand Russell-linked Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, and several representatives of the British media and the British Labour Party. At the meeting, they formally launched the “anticipatory democracy” movement. A few months later, Aspen sponsored, and Toffler ran, the “Post-Election Conference on Anticipatory Democracy.”

Out of that conference, Toffler and others formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Anticipatory Democracy, which would play a major role in subverting the U.S. Congress.

Toffler had coined the term “anticipatory democracy” in his 1970 book Future Shock, a popularization of early work by Boulding, including an important 1956 book, The Image: Knowledge in Life and Society, which Boulding wrote while on a Ford Foundation Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. That 1956 book also formed the basis for a decade-long project at Stanford Research Institute, headed by Willis Harman, called “The Changing Images of Man.” Along with Toffler’s writings, this too helped popularize the Aquarian Conspiracy.


“My own espousal of A/D sprang from the recognition that our political institutions and processes, the mechanics of representative government, the entire apparatus of ‘democracy’ as we know it—including voting, elections, parties, parliaments and the like—are expressions not of some undying mystical human commitment to freedom but of the spread of industrial civilization that began in England 200 to 300 years ago.”

Toffler continued, “This industrial civilization took the idea of representation and merchandised it around the planet as the latest, most efficient, most humane form of government imaginable. As the industrial way of life spread, representative government, denatured or otherwise, spread with it. In fact, using shorthand, one might declare representative government—whether ‘capitalist’ or ‘socialist’ in form—to be the key political technology of the industrial era.

“This era is now screeching to a halt. Industrial civilization is now in a state of terminal crisis, and a new, radically different civilization is emerging to take its place on the world stage. . . . We are swiftly entering a new, more sophisticated state of evolutionary development based on far more advanced yet more appropriate technologies than any known so far. This leap to a new phase of history is bringing with it new energy patterns, new geopolitical arrangements, new social institutions, new communications and information networks, new belief systems, symbols, and cultural assumptions.

“Thus it must generate wholly new political structures and processes. I fail to see how it is possible for us to have a technological revolution, a social revolution, an information revolution, moral, sexual, and epistemological revolutions, and not a political revolution as well. . . . In this sense the breakdown of government as we have known it—which is to say representative government . . . —is chiefly a consequence of obsolescence. Simply put, the political technology of the industrial age is no longer appropriate technology for the new civilization taking form around us. Our politics are obsolete.”

Toffler proposed an alternative political process, which he dubbed anticipatory democracy; ostensibly a blend of grass-roots citizens participation with future-planning. In reality, Toffler was calling for the elimination of the nation-state and the creation of Russellite one-world supranational agencies to regulate the world economy, control global resources, and control the workforce. To create the appearance of popular participation, he called for the proliferating of local “feedback” groups that would stifle dissent by drawing numbers of people into brainwashing environments in which they would appear to participate in decision-making. In the Ad Hoc Committee report, he cynically said, “The essence of A/D is not the goal, but the process by which we arrive at it.” Way back in the mid-1970s, Toffler and the other A/D advocates were already peddling the idea of using talk radio and TV as a “feedback” mechanism for manipulating large numbers of people into accepting the diktats of the social engineers; of encouraging the spread of religious fundamentalism as a new form of “communalism”; and replacing representative government with such easily manipulated “direct democracy” mechanisms as “focus groups,” public opinion polls, and referenda.


In 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee on Anticipatory Democracy launched an all-out offensive upon the U.S. Congress. Rep. John Culver, an Iowa Democrat (later a senator), was one of the first converts to A/D. Culver engineered a reworking of the House Rules, mandating that all standing committees periodically conduct studies of “the future.” That
innocuous-sounding phrase opened a door wide enough for a herd of elephants to pass through.

Into the Congress

On April 28, 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee drafted a letter to Congress proposing a number of ways that the House could implement the new rules. Toffler was the engineer of the Ad Hoc Committee, but it contained a number of heavy hitters from the Tavistock environment. Among the 55 signators on the letter were: Elise Boulding; Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute; Amitai Etzioni of the Center for Policy Research; feminist Betty Friedan; R. Buckminster Fuller; Willis Harman of the Stanford Research Institute (SRI); Hazel Henderson of the Princeton Center for Alternative Futures; anthropologist Dame Margaret Mead; former Environmental Protection Agency chief William Ruckelshaus; and Alvin Toffler. An obscure assistant professor from West Georgia State College, Newt Gingrich, was also a signator.

In September 1975, Culver, along with Reps. Charlie Rose (D-N.C.) and John Heinz (R-Pa.), sponsored a daylong seminar on Capitol Hill titled “Outsmarting Crisis: Futures Thinking in Congress,” attended by 400 congressmen and staffers. The speakers were Alvin Toffler and Hazel Henderson. In February 1976, Culver and Rose sponsored a dinner for select congressmen and senators, with Toffler and another Ad Hoc futurist, Ted Gordon, of the Futures Group, to discuss how Congress could be transformed into an “instrument for the paradigm shift.” Two months later, the Ad Hoc Committee’s efforts resulted in the founding of the Congressional Clearinghouse for the Future, another important foot-in-the-door for the Tavistock futurists. The Clearinghouse financed a newsletter, What’s Next, which was disseminated to every congressional office. It created a resource bank of prominent futurists who could be called upon as paid consultants and expert witnesses for Congress.

Most important, it sponsored a series of sensitivity sessions, dubbed “Dialogue on America’s Future,” in which members of Congress, in small dinner sessions, were indoctrinated by such leading “change agents” as Toffler; anthropologist Margaret Mead; E.F. Schumacher, author of Small is Beautiful; lunatic Herman Kahn, the Hudson Institute’s limited nuclear war planner; Jay Forrester, co-author of the Club of Rome’s Limits to Growth Malthusian blueprint; New Age priestess Barbara Marx Hubbard; Willis Harman; and Kenneth and Elise Boulding.

At the Library of Congress, a Futures Research Group of the Congressional Research Service was established as a permanent outpost for the Tavistock futurists. Another outpost was at the Office of Technology Assessment, an important congressional research arm that became a center for some of the most rabid anti-science kooks and hoaxsters. OTA became a bulwark in the effort to sabotage President Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which he based on strategic policy studies by Lyndon LaRouche.

By 1978, five hundred out of the 535 congressional offices were regularly receiving briefings and other inputs from the Ad Hoc Committee; and over 200 congressmen and senators had been put through “light rinse” T-group dinner sessions with the futurists.

In 1979, the year that Newt Gingrich joined the U.S. Congress, having defeated a local Georgia state senator for the seat vacated by the retirement of longtime Dixiecrat Jack Flynt, the Congressional Clearinghouse had 23 congressmen and four senators on board. It was a cause that Newt Gingrich was well prepared to join.

Newt and Jimmy’s fabulous adventure

According to his own accounts, Newt Gingrich was drawn into the world of Tavistockian futurology in 1965, when a professor at Georgia Tech (he was attending Emory
University as an undergraduate at the time) “turned him on” to the writings of Boulding, Toffler, et al. After completing a Ph.D. at Tulane in European history, Gingrich accepted a teaching post at West Georgia State College in Carrollton, on the outskirts of Atlanta.

While at Tulane, Gingrich had dabbled in liberal Republican Party politics, running the 1968 statewide Presidential campaign for New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. It is one of a number of episodes from his political past that has disappeared from Newt’s curriculum vitae.

While Gingrich claims that he chose to accept the teaching post at West Georgia because he was already planning a career in politics and considered it a viable Congressional District, other factors also entered into his decision. West Georgia State College is known by a very small circle of Tavistockian social engineers as the East Coast headquarters of the “humanist psychology movement,” associated with Abraham Maslow, Fritz Perl, and others. At the time Gingrich arrived at Carrollton in 1970, Maslow was at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, which was an important center of psychedelic drug experimentation. In fact, Esalen and SRI, home of Boulding protégé and Ad Hoc Committee member Willis Harman, were the West Coast counterparts to West Georgia State.

As soon as he hit campus, Gingrich began sponsoring lectures for Alvin Toffler. Professor Newt gathered around him a collection of counterculturalists, radical environmentalists, and other leftovers from the New Left. They would form the core of his 1974, 1976, and 1978 congressional campaign committees.

And, as a demonstration of his own commitment to “humanist psychology,” Professor Newt apparently started sleeping with some of his students and campaign workers. According to an account of Gingrich’s sexual escapades by Gail Sheehy that appeared in the September 1995 edition of Vanity Fair magazine, Newt preferred oral sex. That way, according to one campaign volunteer, the wife of a fellow professor who slept with Gingrich, “he could say, ‘I never slept with her.’ ” Gingrich was still married to his high school geometry teacher, the mother of their two children, at the time.

Eighteen months after he was elected to Congress, Gingrich dumped his wife, Jackie. He confided in his longtime friend and campaign worker Kip Carter: “She’s not young enough or pretty enough to be the wife of a President. And besides, she has cancer.”

Shortly after his arrival back in Georgia, Gingrich also “bonded” with the state’s New South governor, Jimmy Carter. Governor Carter placed Gingrich in charge of one of the early pilot projects in A/D and a precursor to later President Jimmy Carter’s 1979 Global 2000 Report, calling for world government and drastic population reduction. The Georgia state government-sponsored project was called Goals for Georgia. This was one of a dozen pilot projects in A/D social engineering—all conducted under the watchful eyes of Toffler, Boulding, Harman, and the other Tavistock “psychiatric shock troops.”

Gingrich wrote a chapter on Goals for Georgia that was published in the 1978 A/D promotional book. The chapter, “The Goals for Georgia Program,” was a glowing endorsement of Governor Carter. Gingrich wrote: “The 1971-72 Goals for Georgia Program was one of the earliest state-level anticipatory democracy efforts—it pioneered state participatory activities in the South. It deserves examination as an innovative program developed at a crucial point in Georgia’s history. It also has particular importance because it was a key part of Jimmy Carter’s governorship and offers some insights into what his operating style may continue to be as President.”

Newt’s praise for Jimmy Carter was personal, not just an endorsement of Carter’s role in A/D. Quoting a Carter interview in Atlanta magazine espousing pure democracy, Gingrich wrote of Carter: “He blends the technocrat’s trust in planning, the historical beliefs and roots of a southern Democrat quoting a populist hero, and the Jeffersonian belief in trusting people to make decisions about their own lives. . . . When Carter moved into national politics, he left behind a legacy of innovation and creativity that is a watershed in Georgia politics.”

These words of praise for the Trilateral Commission’s favorite New South “outsider” sold well on the West Georgia State campus—particularly among the counterculture students who gathered around Professor Newt. Gingrich also joined Carter in fostering the Georgia Conservancy, a statewide branch of the Sierra Club; he tried unsuccessfully to launch a Future Studies curriculum at West Georgia, and succeeded in launching an Environmental Studies curriculum.

But Gingrich managed to burn more bridges than he was able to build. A dismal failure in academia, Gingrich found himself in deep trouble by 1977. He was broke, from having run two unsuccessful congressional campaigns; his marriage was in shambles; and he was certain of being rejected for tenure when his seven years as assistant professor ran out in 1978. Gingrich had nowhere to go but into the U.S. Congress.

Fortunately for him, some of Gingrich’s A/D sponsors also had bigger plans for the ambitious, and now slightly desperate young man.

In 1975, while at the height of his New Left antics with Jimmy Carter and his coterie of campus pot-heads and sexual liberationists, Gingrich had traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to attend a series of political training classes given by Paul Weyrich, a Uniate priest and Conservative Revolution guru who had helped launch the Heritage Foundation as an outpost for British intelligence’s Mont Pelerin Society.

According to the Dec. 25, 1995 Time magazine “Man of the Year” profile of Newt Gingrich, “In December 1975, Gingrich sat in the front row of a conference room at the
Marc Plaza hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for Paul Weyrich’s class on how to run a winning campaign. Weyrich would become Gingrich’s political godfather; he was the founder of NET-Political NewsTalk Television and the guru of the New Right. Weyrich quickly saw in Newt a useful if somewhat comic instrument to achieve his ends. Though Weyrich was in charge, Newt quickly took over the meeting. Voice chiming, arms waving, Gingrich ‘began to lecture me about how we should run as a team,’ Weyrich recalls, ‘and how all of the people that were there, if they all ran with the same theme, they would be far better off than if they ran singly, and that it was my responsibility to put together a theme for all these candidates.’ Almost 20 years later, that strategy produced the Contract with America. At the time, all Weyrich remembers thinking was, ‘Where do you come from?’ ”

By the time he got ready for his 1978 congressional race, Gingrich had linked up with Weyrich, and with Wilma Goldstein, survey research director of the Republican National Committee.

To get past the first hurdle of surviving the loss of his teaching job (Gingrich quit West Georgia’s faculty rather than suffer the embarrassment of being rejected for tenure), and setting his campaign in motion, Gingrich set up a thinly disguised campaign finance scam—the first of many. He got a longtime financial backer, Chester Roush, to set up a $13,000 “fund” to pay for Gingrich to spend the summer of 1977 in Europe, “researching” a book on the Soviet threat to Europe and NATO. The book was never published, and the only copy is closely held by Gingrich, who claims that “one day” he may release it for publication.

With backing from the Weyrich “Radical Right” and from his eco-freak student followers at West Georgia, Gingrich won the 1978 congressional race against State Sen. Virginia Shepard. Gingrich attacked her for planning to leave her family behind in Georgia if she won the seat. Newt’s cynical slogan was: “When elected, Newt will keep his family together.”

Once he arrived in Washington, Gingrich had no problem “squaring the circle” of his New Age patrons and his Conservative Revolution profile. He founded the Conservative Opportunity Society, a New Right caucus of pranksters who assailed the Republican House leadership for playing “politics as usual” with the Democrats. Bob Walker of Pennsylvania and Vin Weber of Minnesota joined him in the COS, and Newt obliged by bringing in the Tofflers, John Naisbit (author of Megatrends), another futurist propaganda tract widely touted by the liberal press), and other Tavistock social engineers to “train them” to “think about the future.”

Back then, the same Time magazine that recently named Gingrich “Man of the Year,” described the COS, a prototype of the current freshman Republican crew, as “a noisy, buffoonish fraternity of outcasts and troublemakers.” Time should have stuck with its original analysis.

Royal Dutch Shell game

Stripping away the New Right rhetoric, Newt Gingrich remains as devoted to the Tavistock Third Wave paradigm today as he was when he penned his mid-1970s endorsements of Jimmy Carter.

In August 1995, Gingrich’s Progress and Freedom Foundation held a conference in Aspen, Colorado dubbed “Cyberspace and the American Dream II.” The “vision” of the conference was spelled out in a document circulated on the Internet. It stated: “People who live in an age of revolution, and who seek to shape its course, must do more than proclaim it as good. . . . People are open now to the new wave and the Big Change. But few believe that it will well up like a gentle eventide. Most expect a Tsunami, a rushing wall of change that sweeps their old world away. . . . We can show what needs to be done now to make Big Change work for the good. All the way through this age of revolution.”

And who did Newt gather under his tax-exempt banner to plan out the revolution? He brought in his old mentor Alvin Toffler, and he brought in a crew of counterculture refugees who had pioneered the MK-Ultra project of the 1960s—led by Grateful Dead “acid” rock band lyricist John Perry Barlow, and Stewart Brand.

Brand, in the late 1960s, was the chief publicist for MK-Ultra victim Ken Kesey and his “Merry Pranksters” LSD traffickers. He founded the Whole Earth Catalogue, an early propaganda outlet for the radical zero-growth ecology movement, which today exists as the WELL (“Whole Earth ‘Lectronic Link”). According to Brand’s biography, published in the literature of the “Cyberspace and the American Dream II” Aspen conference, throughout his New Age adventures, Brand has been employed as a fulltime consultant by the Royal Dutch Shell Corp.’s strategic planning staff. In fact, Royal Dutch Shell strategic planning spawned its own anticipatory democracy apparatus, called the Global Business Network, publisher of WIRED magazine, and adviser to 60 of the Club of the Isles’ multinational corporations.

At the time that Royal Dutch Shell was launching its Global Business Network, the corporate president was John Loudon, who also sat on the governing board of the Tavistock Institute, and served as president of the World Wildlife Fund of Britain’s Prince Philip.

—Jeffrey Steinberg