

The Strip & Flip Selection Of 2016: Five Jim

by Robert J. Fitrakis

A sample of the opening pages

StripandFlipFromInD 6-2-16

Strip and Flip: Preface

By Greg Palast

There's something really, really weird about Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman.

Sensible Americans were doing everything in their power this summer to avoid all thought of the Presidential election, its icky choices, its barf-making ads, the chatter-heads and chuckle-heads on TV spewing brain-cell killing bromides and the parade of officious ponces who call themselves "elected officials" and the wannabe electeds - while Bob and Harvey worked like dogs to protect Our Democracy.

Are they delusional schmucks? Heroic heralds of the death of our freedoms? Two guys with oozing envy of billionaires and their trophy senators? Paul Reveres of the internet screeching, They're stealing your vote! They're stealing your vote!?

Like the investigations in "Strip and Flip," I am once again knocked over by the authors' erudition, authoritative analysis, stunning and ill-making revelations and irrefutable evidence of a national emergency: Grand Theft Election.

Attorney and political science professor Fitrakis and historian Wasserman know their stuff - and you should know it too.

I've been in the election theft biz a long time - that is, reporting on the schemers and scammers who jack with your ballot, your registration and your government. It started in 2000 when Al Gore was down for the count against George W. Bush and I got my hands on a set of computer disks from the office of the Secretary of State of Florida, Katherine Harris. Harris had tagged 94,000 citizens for removal from the voter rolls. She called them, "felons," but every one, I mean every one, was innocent, though most were guilty of VWB: Voting While Black.

That's when I encountered Professors Fitrakis' and Wasserman's first work into the too-many ways in which ballot bandits can eliminate your registration, hang your chad and throw your vote into the garbage-sometimes legally, sometimes not, but always, always, stealing away the last power-voting-of the poor, the dark-skinned, the young and the learned (students get dicked around a lot at polling places).

Vote theft is class war by other means

The Country Club set are none too tolerant of sharing ballot boxes with voters of color, students and the unemployed. The billionaires understand well that the victims of their financial machinations may not vote as told. The un-privileged are not voters to convince but as voters to blockade. The rich guys' weapons include crazy ID requirements - and, of course, more felon purges. (Fitrakis and Wasserman uncover Ohio's purge of felon voters from registries - although ex-cons are allowed to vote in Ohio!)

Indeed, historian Wasserman is quick to lay out the sordid history of vote theft by the Democratic Party (it was the Democrats who came up with the original Jim Crow laws removing "felons" from voter rolls). I have to say I was shocked (that does not happen often) to read here about the number of elections, beginning with Thomas Jefferson's, bent by a crooked voting system.

I am flattered and chuffed (a British-ism - you can look it up) to find my own investigative findings in Part II, The Sixth Jim Crow. Every bullet point wins you a bet against your dumb uncle who swears by Rush. Did you know that in the last Presidential elections, one and a half million ballots were "spoiled," not counted - that's official - and 54% of those tossed ballots were cast by African-Americans? Well, now you do.

So, what are you going to do about it?

First, you're going to read this book, then you're going to go to www.FreePress.org to get the latest from these searchers for truth.

This book, this new Civil Rights Movement, is not about stopping Republicans from winning office - hell, go and vote for Trumpty-Dumpty or a Clinstone-like, whatever. This book is about stopping vote theft.

One of my heroes is US Navy Captain David Iglesias, former US Attorney for New Mexico. Iglesias, one of the models for the Tom Cruise character in *A Few Good Men*, is a stalwart Republican who wants his party to win elections. But what he doesn't want is for his party to steal elections - and that is what Karl Rove, Senior Counsel to then-President George Bush, wanted him to do. When the Captain wouldn't go along with phony arrests of "fraudulent" voters, Rove had Bush fire Iglesias.

Captain Iglesias was not standing up for Democrats, but for democracy. To Iglesias, and to Fitrakis and Wasserman, the future of our imperiled democracy is worth their blood, sweat, tears and toil. And now we need yours.

This book's title, *The Strip & Flip Selection of 2016: Five Jim Crows and Electronic Election Theft* is a challenge... for you. It's up to you to prevent theft. Get informed, then put on a badge. If you don't join the Democracy posse, who will?

Greg Palast has reported on elections theft for BBC Television London, The Guardian, Harper's,

Rolling Stone, and The Nation.

Palast's film, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: A Tale of Billionaires & Ballot Bandits*, based on his bestselling books, will be released before the 2016 election.

Info at www.GregPalast.com.

Palast book, which includes a 48-page comic book by Ted Rall, is

Billionaires & Ballot Bandits: How to Steal an Election in 9 Easy Steps.

It will be released on September 18. For more info, go to:

www.BallotBandits.org.

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Introduction

By Mimi Kennedy

When I was young, I loved politics. Campaigns were fun and Election Day honest and decisive. When Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson I considered it the inevitable, happy outcome of "I Like Ike" buttons predominating in my neighborhood - which was middle class and white.

My father was a Republican lawyer and very involved in elections. I remember one morning after Election Day he came down to breakfast bleary-eyed, having come in late the night before, and my mother asked him why. "The margin," he replied with a nervous chuckle, "was very thin."

I remember wondering why that mattered.

I remember going door-to-door with him to get out the vote. Once, he knocked on a door softly, then turned away, though he'd been more adamant elsewhere. "I don't have to try too hard there," he explained. "I think Ed's a Democrat." He seemed a little abashed, and I credit him now with not having wanted to reveal the venality of preference in this patriotic activity. As a lawyer, he'd always insisted on equality under the law. We didn't judge, in the United States, according to race, color or creed. But on Election Day, it seemed, things were a little different. Some voters were more valuable than others.

Those days seem quaint to me now. It's 2016, and preference is boasted of, not apologized for. Big Data has massively enabled it, from digital registration rolls to digital vote-casting and counting. But computer code is unreadable to most citizens, so if results don't seem right to the public, there's little we can do about it except hire experts and lawyers to file for recounts and court challenges. Electronic election fraud goes back to the CIA's use of it on behalf of preferred dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines - a fact I learned from Wasserman and Fitrakis. And by now it's an almost perfect crime.

In November 2000, I watched the NAACP hearings held in Dade County, Florida. African American residents lined up to testify about their experiences on Election Day. You can still watch it here in the C-SPAN archives: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?160466-1/voting-problems-florida>. I recommend it.

Those hearings are horrifying. And the reason Wasserman and Fitrakis identify electronic election theft as the Fifth Jim Crow is that little has changed except the proliferation of easier, less risky means to accomplish the goal of preferring certain votes, and discouraging others, in any race. In Florida, while Dade County African Americans told of suppression, Katherine Harris, their white Secretary of State, boasted of her good election whose results would soon be certified. Bush was ahead by about 350 votes. A very thin margin indeed, though she'd overseen a purge of 94,000 mostly African American voters from Florida rolls before Election Day.

In 2004, Ohio decided Bush's re-election. And the Secretary of State - again a co-chair of Bush's campaign in the state - was African-American, J. Kenneth Blackwell. Jim Crow had become Equal Opportunity.

What had happened between 2000 and 2004 was the Help America Vote Act. Meant to correct problems with Florida paper punch-card ballots, it was fraud capacity disguised as reform. It encouraged the buying of electronic voting systems as the solution to federal mandates. The hope that true reformists had was that computers would prove colorblind.

Instead, computer counting made us blind. We no longer see our votes being counted. As in any darkness, nefarious schemes are much easier to accomplish.

African Americans are still the target of suppression schemes. They've been joined by young people who question authority and the status quo; immigrants, and others whose votes are not preferred as reliably loyal to whomever uses fraud to seize power.

Bigotry plus technology has noosed us. Without paper ballots, our votes can't be counted publicly, election results are not verifiable. Yet intentional manipulation of the errors we see increasingly is almost impossible to prove. Elections are almost impossible to reverse. They're expensive to run the first time, let alone again and again. Though we suspect problems when election results are weird, we have no idea how to prove they're wrong - or solve them before the next election.

This will change. Wasserman and Fitrakis show us the way. Some solutions will take time. Meanwhile, letting our election officials know we're watching is a first step. Tell them we're interested in how our votes are being counted. If, like me, you loved elections when you were younger, restore your interest and enthusiasm! Don't just cast your vote - help others to the polls and then watch how the votes are counted! There are over 7000 small voting jurisdictions in the U.S., with different voting systems and different customs and procedures. Learn yours.

I have called election fraud "The Crime That Dare Not Speak Its Name" - a term coined by

Oscar Wilde for homosexuality at the turn of the century. Even our elected officials whose jobs depend on the ballot box seem suspiciously unconcerned about its vulnerability to hacking by friend or foe. They must be concerned. We all must be. So thank Wasserman and Fittrakis for having done it again: laid it all out for us, told us what's happening.

Read it and weep. Mourn - then organize!

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Prologue

Unless something is done, the next president of the United States will be selected by a tiny handful of politicians and high-tech hackers who control the nation's electronic poll books and voting machines.

They'll also determine who runs the US Congress, judiciary, state and local governments.

The only votes that will really count in 2016 may be those manipulated by partisan computer hackers and the corporate rich who hire them.

Nearly all citizens wishing to vote must hope their names appear on computerized poll books from which millions of legitimate voters are being stripped as you read this.

More than 80% of those who do survive the de-registration process will vote on corporate-owned electronic machines with no paper trail or independent verification.

In 2016, the process gives the Republican Party a strong edge.

Swing states Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Arizona all have GOP governors and secretaries of state. With a few keystrokes they can shape the electorate and manipulate the vote count.

Such manipulation is a bi-partisan affair, open to use by the Democrats as well as the GOP.

This book provides a brief history of the two historic keys to controlling our government: the "divide and conquer" use of race and electronic manipulation of our elections.

This book provides a brief history of electronic election theft. We examine what is poised to happen in 2016, and ways it can be stopped.

The "strip and flip" technique of controlling electronic elections can easily apply to citizens of all faiths and color.

But in the US, race has been the critical tool for dividing the populace. It's the bottom-line basic instrument that makes electronic election theft possible.

So we begin with a brief history of four "Jim Crows" of racial assault that have set the stage for the fifth - the electronic theft of 2016 and all future "selections" of candidates in service of the large corporations that increasingly own and operate our government.

Because there's so much compacted information involved, we've formatted this presentation as a succession of succinct critical realities. We hope that makes it all easier to read, understand...and act upon. It's our intent that this presentation be used for public education and organizing.

Unless true accountability is established in our voter registration rolls and electronic vote counts, 2016 could mark the final electronic burial for whatever shreds of American democracy still remain.

So we start with three basic sets of recommendations for action: The "Ohio Plan" to build a foundation for elections that are fair, open and verifiable; "Reshaping Our Democracy" with four large long-term goals; and "An Action Plan for 2016."

We follow with the "Strip" section of our history, outlining the use of race and the Drug War to warp our electoral process. We finish with the "Flip" section, describing the overseas intervention and the origin, use and current state of electronic election theft.

This compendium is meant to be a tool for understanding and teaching the basics of how our electoral system was born corrupt, and has since become a wholly owned subsidiary of the global corporate 1%.

It's essentially unconcerned with producing a flowing narrative or a pleasant read.

It means instead to provide a collection of facts that might be useful in grasping the depth of the "strip and conquer" tactics used to control our body politic, followed by the electronic "flip and steal" methods of massaging and corrupting the vote count where stripping and disenfranchisement have come up short.

As we approach the 2016 election, we fear yet another fiasco aimed at rendering our grassroots nation powerless amidst the worsening realities of social injustice, perpetual war and ecological catastrophe.

We hope this compendium helps empower a grassroots movement that must ultimately take control of our electoral system.

We know that there are many who have no problem believing that undemocratic forces are disenfranchising and suppressing voters but refuse to believe that private, partisan for-profit companies would tamper with the vote that they secretly control through computerized voting machines.

If you have any questions, comments, criticisms, suggestions or otherwise just want to communicate, please contact us at truth@freepress.org and harvey@freepress.org.

Three sets of recommendations for action:

1. The "Ohio Plan" to Reshape our Elections:

- Voter registration must be universal and automatic for all citizens as they turn 18.

- Electronic poll books are banned, with all voter registration records maintained manually.
- All elections happen over a 4-day weekend in November
 - Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday - which together comprise a national holiday ending on our traditional voting day.
- All voting happens on paper ballots, using recycled or hemp paper, to be preserved at least two years.
- All vote counting is done manually, in open public view.
- Polls are run and ballots are counted by the nation's high school and college students, who will get the days off and be paid a "scholarship" for their work at \$15/hour.

2.

End of sample

Read the rest - the complete eBook is available at bibliobookstore.com