

Irving Kristol, a former Trotskyite who became one of the movement leaders, and indeed is widely seen as the father of neoconservatism, p. 7

If Strauss was a seminal figure for conservatives in the 1950, Will Herberg was their “rabbi” ... His parents were “passionate atheists,” committed to mankind’s salvation through socialism. Herberg entered the communist movement while still a teenager, and later attended City College and Columbia University. For him, communism was a religious faith.
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Like other neocons, Kampelman believed in blunt talk. “Negotiation without confrontation was a charade,” he said. While Jeane Kirkpatrick carried the offensive publicly at the United Nations, Kampelman was active in Madrid and elsewhere in pressing forward human rights issues.
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The most influential of the new generation of Jewish conservatives, however, is Bill Kristol. p. 228

Kristol, in his early fifties, was hardly a newcomer to the idea of aggressive national and defense policies, having grown up in the Himmelfarb/Kristol home. In 1996, he and political scientist Robert Kagan published an article in *Foreign Affairs*, “Toward a Neo-Reganite Foreign Policy.” The two men argued that under President Clinton, a time of passivity existed toward the threat of terrorism. On December 1, 1997, a special issue of *The Weekly Standard* was headlined “Saddam Must Go.” Finally, in 1998, Kristol started Project for a New American Century, a think tank set up to project these ideas to a larger public.
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Murray Friedman, *The Neoconservative Revolution*, 2005

... Republican conservatives who view the neoconservatives as threatening outsiders, ex-Trotskyists who have infiltrated the GOP to smuggle in dangerous heresies ... p. 9

It has always struck me as odd, even perverse, that former Marxists have been permitted, yes invited, to play such a leading role in the Conservative movement of the twentieth century. p. 9

They [the neocons] tend to be men (and women) of an uncompromising temperament. p. 13

Schachtman inculcated a hatred of liberalism in his proteges: he taught them how to organize an obscure political movement, he hammered away at the idea of Trotsky’s belief in a Fourth International global democratic revolution ... p. 29

In 1930 Schachtman visited Trotsky, then in exile on the Turkish island Büyükada. He quickly became an international figure in the Trotskyist movement, corresponding with comrades around the globe.
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In a not untypical schism within the communist ranks, Schachtman and Cannon were expelled from the Socialist Party in August 1937. This time, however, they took along many members, including the party’s youth division.

The Young People's Socialist League. YPSL sloužila jako trénink pro několik generací konzervativců, od Irvinga Kristola ve třicátých letech minulého století až po Jeane Kirkpatrick ve čtyřicátých letech, po Joshua Muravchika v šedesátých letech. Tato třpytivá cena umožnila trockistům, aby posílili své budoucí pozice a nalákali nejlepší a nejnadanější mezi židovskými intelektuály z New Yorku.

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They became Trotskyists because of the fervor for absolute answers, for revolutionary purity, for the tragic aura of a fallen leader who had been betrayed by an inferior. They learned to read with Talmudic care, to master Marxist doctrine – a very similar approach, as we shall see, to the followers of Leo Strauss.

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... Sidney Hook. A former Marxist who had dubbed in in Trotskyism, ... p. 44

Hook converted Burnham to the Marxist faith. In 1932 Burnham wrote a review of Trotsky's History of the Russian Revolution and was bowled over by it, becoming a staunch Trotskyist. p. 49

Initially they were a Marxist vanguard leading the working class to a socialist utopia. ... Indeed it was the second generation that would lead the way into the new promised land - Republican Party – and they would, in turn, despoil it.

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But the fact is that the neocons were temperamentally predisposed to seek extremes. p. 68

A peculiar mixture of prophetic bravado and savvy street-fighting skills allowed them to maneuver their way from the fringes of American society to the White House. p.71

For the neoconservatives, it is always imperative to have, somewhere, somehow, an enemy – both at home and abroad. p. 137

Obviously, neither Humphrey nor Kirkpatrick was Jewish, and both were Democrats who had (moreover) flirted with Marxism in their youth. p. 152

As Kristol saw it, in an updated version of his old Trotskyist analysis, a “new class” of lawyers, government officials, professors, and journalists had moved to seize power and establish its dominance over American society and culture in the previous decade. So he set about constructing his own new class – the neoconservative movement.

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He [Daniel Patrick Moynihan] went on to drub the neoconservatives, complaining that the syndrome of using “ideologists to fight ideologists” had become “a vogue in Washington,” particularly for those whose early training was Marxist but ... anti-Stalinist.” He concluded that the new elite disposition was trying to create what Orwell called” ‘a continuous frenzy’ over threats we face in all corners of the world” ...

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In 1991 Paul Wolfowitz, working for Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, tried to come up with a new grand strategy guaranteeing continued American domination around the world ... p. 200

It would be another decade before the neoconservatives could recycle their plan via the Project for the New American Century, which became kind of blueprint for the foreign policy of the George W. Bush administratio.
p. 201

Both Douglas Feith and Richard Perle acted as consultants to the Bosnian government during the 1995 Dayton peace talks. p. 214

The real target was Saddam. The magazine [*Weekly Standard*], led by its perfervid corresponent Stephen Haayes, would relentlessly tie together Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. Hayes began – and continues - to claim that Saddam Hussein was working on weapons of mass destruction and that he had intimate ties to al-Qaeda. In the *Weekly Standard*, Max Boot called outright for an American empire, complete with jodhpurs and pith helmets. The magazine’s editors opined that anything less than an attack on Saddam would constitute “surrender.”
p. 237

They weren’t simply intellectual antagonists; they were enemies who had to be routed, driven out of the GOP, and replaced with true fighting faith that would begin in Iraq to liberate the rest of the world. America should not be reluctant sheriff, as Richard Haass had put it, but eagerly seize the opportunity to become one for the rest of the world. If other countries did not like America telling them what was in their best interest, they would hsoon learn to rue any opposition, whether it was the surrender monkeys in France or Saddam Hussein or any other Third World despot.
p. 246

Jacob Heilbrun, *They Knew They Were Right*, 2008

Neoconservatives are willing to stage massive disinformation and propaganda campaigns to advance their interests. This sets them apart from other political groups that prefer to make arguments based on more solid evidence.
p. 63

Grant F. Smith, *Deadly Dogma*, 2006

Furthermore, corporate media ownership (Fox News, the *Weekly Standard*, and the *London Times* are under the same ownership) has led to some homogenization of views on the right. p. 10

They see treaties and conventions as seeking to “constrain and control American power” rather than as underpinning world order. p. 13

The founders of neo-conservatism had briefly associated with the Trotskyist left in the 1930. Some of the original neo-conservative thinkers first become an identifiable group during this decade while gathering in a small section of the City College of New York cafeteria called Alcove 1. This was where the nonnoncommunist socialists gathered to debate the nature of their anti-Stalinism, while the Communists exercised their suzerainty over alcove 2. It was here that America’s future neo-conservative intellectuals such as Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer, Irving Kristol, Melvin Lasky, Seymour

Martin Lipset, Seymour Melman, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Philip Selznick received enduring parts of their education.

p. 45

Muravchik described the Bush administration's advocacy of Yugoslav unity as "encouraging Serbia's bloody aggression." p. 82

On September 2, 1993, the *Wall Street Journal* published an open letter to Clinton on what America must do in Bosnia, which was signed by over a hundred politicians, diplomats, writers, and scholars. Beside the coterie of neo-conservative names such as Kirkpatrick, Kampleman, Wohlster, Bell, Gaffney, Muravchik, Perle, Rostow, and Wolfowitz, the signatories also included such prominent international figures as Margaret Thatcher, George Shultz, and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

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There was, however, a big difference between the Gingrich conservatives and Christian Right, on the one hand, and the neo-conservatives, on the other. The neo-conservatives entertained ambitions for America's global role ... Their objective was to seize the political space created by the strategic vacuum of the 1990s to advance a foreign policy agenda that seeks to remake substantial parts of the world in America's image.

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"Our forces will be strong enough to dissuade potential adversaries from pursuing a military build-up in hopes of surpassing, or equaling, the power of the United States." p. 143

The first objective of the DPG [*Defense Planning Guidance*] was to "prevent the reemergence of a new rival." p. 145

but here it is important to note one of the most worrying trends in the neo-conservative hijacking of U.S. foreign policy: the lack of truth in politics. p. 156

The polling data supported three significant conclusions: that a large majority of Americans held at least one fundamentally mistaken impression about the war in Iraq, that these misperceptions held by the public contributed to much of the popular support for the conflict, and that these false impressions derived largely from certain media outlets.

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As of March 31, 2003, Murdoch's News Corporation had reported total assets of approximately \$42 billion and total revenues at \$17 billion. Thus as a neo-conservative ally, projecting and conveying its perspectives through the lens of U.S. media, he added a critical dimension to the neo-conservative effort.

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Neo-conservatives had, for all intents and purposes, an ideological monopoly on radio talk both because of the celebrity of conservative hosts and because of the sheer number of stations that projected their assumptions and policy prescriptions nation-wide.

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the case for the war against Iraq was built through discursive strategies and practices that caused the American public to perceive an (as yet) unproven link between 9/11 and Iraq. p. 192

an anonymous military officer told the Washington Post, “This is the most information intensive war you can imagine ... we are going to lie about things.” p. 194

They [the media] amplified the administration’s discursive rationale, broadly advancing the public neo-conservative policy agenda. Beyond the the presentation of policy objectives, this process had the effect of diminishing and marginalizing dissenting voices arising from other sections of the policy community.
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Thus by the time that speechwriters and neo-conservative officials within the administration began to construct the notional discourse, half of the task had already been completed by the overwhelming and sensational coverage from much of the American media.
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We call this process the “discursive representation of reality.” p. 202

Regardless of which term is used to describe it, the neo-conservative “discourse” was remarkably effective. Seemingly out of nowhere, Iraq was represented a an immediate danger to America. p. 203

The neo-conservatives ... created an entirely new reality. ... It suspended ordinary judgment across the American polity. p. 203

In fact, when both houses of Congress passed the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in October 2002, more than 180 members cited the possible Iraqi nuclear threat as a reason for supporting the resolution, and a number of senators specifically cited the British report of Iraqi efforts to purchase uranium yellowcake. Moreover, when Iraq released the 12 200 page weapons declaration to the U.N. on December 7, 2002, the administration included in its eight essential omissions and deceptions the assertion: “The declaration ignores efforts to procure uranium from Niger.”
p. 214

Anyone who might to question the policy was now on the wrong side of rationality, morality, and patriotism. p. 218

Blair made a Faustian bargain with neo-conservative Washington. p. 266

senior neo-conservative officials have orchestrated a sustained program of deception towards the American people ... In doing this they have, at various times directly or indirectly co-opted certain institutions of government, the media, the academy, and foreign allies making them complicit in their deceit.
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The process, which antropologists call the “discursive construction of reality,” uses language to create a reality different from that which existed prior to the use of the language. In this case, prominent neo-conservatives fashioned a dialogue, a linguistic environment, that caused many to believe that the claims were rooted in fact, which was not the case. Thus a set of subjective interpretations, repeated in various for a and presented as fact, emerged as the only valid way to to comprehend the choices.
p. 307

S. Halper, J. Clarke, *America Alone*, 2004