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Representation of the US as terrorist in Uwe Boll's *Rampage Capital Punishment*

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By

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Abstract

This research paper is about the impact of US Administration in the global arena and the chaos created out of the impact, which on the one hand has been causing genocide and on the other hand has been profiting the few American Capitalists as is represented in the movie Rampage Capital Punishment. The movie shows the dual nature of American Administration. The façade of the American is truly good and benevolent whereas the inner core is extremely wicked which is the main source of the turmoil. The character Bill Williamson on the one hand criticizes the actions of the US government's action on the other hand performs the same actions of killing innocent people and justifies his actions as the actions performed to preserve their democracy and freedom.

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Introduction

The movie *Rampage Capital Punishment* centers around the atrocious actions of a psychopath, Bill Williamson. The movie was directed by Uwe Boll and was released in 2014. In the beginning of the movie he is shown in his house assembling various detonators on the explosives. Also the overview of the floor of his room speaks of the random assembly of the modern automatic weapons. Ultimately, equipped with the weapons and his motocross gear he takes his way to a street. Seated on a chair near to the two beggars whom he met earlier, he begins to shoot the passersby randomly. After some shootouts, he takes a next course to the WK7 TV station. Hunting down the TV personnel he manages to get some personnel as the hostages. He demands a video to be broadcasted through the TV. As a result the footage is broadcasted. Bill condemns the foreign policies of the United States through the footage. With the completion of the broadcast, Chip the TV Anchor enrolls in making a live interview with Bill. The last part shows Bill killing everyone including the SWAT team demolishing the station with his escape from it.

Bill centers on the denunciation of the US foreign policies. Paradoxically, he condemns the violence performed by the US government, and tries to justify his own acts of violence for the benign purpose.

The research paper explores the symbolic link between Bill Williamson's actions with the policies of the US government. As a sequel to the 2009 movie *Rampage*, it tries to link the possible association of inevitability of violence for the radical social transformation, as advocated by many fundamentalists and extremists such as the Jihadis and the Communist guerilla forces across the globe. Bill Williamson seems to be highly fascinated by Mao Zedong's idea that "Power comes

out of the nozzle of gun” (qtd. in Brown 148). Here in the paper I examine the unquestioned strength of Bill and the unchallenged power exercised by the US in the world, including the atomic atrocities in Japan. Furthermore, I argue that the outcome of violence as shown in the movie leads to the devastating consequences and such ideals guide the working of the US administration.

The research paper establishes Bill Williamson as a terrorist, who does violate every norm of human rights and yet claims to be the benefactor of the common American citizens. In the similar manner, through the same ruling ideology, I am making an analysis of the connection of the US government with Bill as indicated by the movie symbolically, and directly when Bill denounces the US administration. The human rights abuse on Guantanamo Bay can be taken as one of the countless examples of the US involvement in the human rights abuse. Bill on behalf of the US government best tries to rewrite what Robert de Bruce quotes in the movie *Braveheart* “History is written by those who have hung heroes” (Gibson 01:47-01:50). Besides Bill justifies his violent nature of the actions, relating to the US atrocity globally, in the name of democracy. The research paper here deals exactly in the same way to the US Administration’s “promotion” of human rights in world and backing genocidal tyrants like Bill’s elucidation.

Similarly, to trace the symbolic representation of Bill to the US government, I have highlighted the necessary instances of the US actions, which Bill argues in the movie. Bill blames the US government that on the one hand, it promotes “democracy” and on the other hand it backs dictatorship. Abe Fortas, former associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States openly declares “What was good for us was good for the world” (qtd. in Chomsky, *Hegemony* 149) in terms of the US foreign policy. Bill Williamson follows the similar notion of Fortas, but critiques the

theoretical base of the same idea.

The US theoretically defines terrorism as, “Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against the non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience” (“Patterns of Global Terrorism”). Viewed from this angle, the actions performed by Bill are clear acts of terrorism, which too are condemnable by the US as per the definition. Going against the convention, the US too bears the characteristic similarity of the actions of Bill in the global socio-political arena, a condemnable act of terrorism which Bill often cites in the movie to justify his actions. The contradiction in Bill’s actions and belief leads to the conclusion: Bill is terrorist by the US definition, Bill’s involvement in violence resembles to the US administration. Hence, the US is a terrorist by its own definition, when equated to Bill. This inference has been elaborated further by Noam Chomsky on his number of books such as *Hegemony or Survival*, *Making the Future* etc. So, the problem the research paper discusses is the nearest possible definition of terrorism in relation to the actions of Bill Williamson in association to the US atrocity. To explain the notion of power relation Noam Chomsky best cites Thucydides: “large nations do what they wish, while small nations accept what they must” (*Hegemony* 16) or rather in terms of Michelle Foucault, “Power is linked with a production of truth” (783).

Through the study of the movie, the paper seeks for redefining the generally accepted definition of terrorism i.e. terrorism is what the US defines it to be which Bill often affirms in the movie. It is an alternative truth to the power exercised by the US. The research paper also shows the dominating impact of the undisputed superpower to declare who the terrorists are and helps the viewers to see a different reality of terrorism. The declared terrorists are less threatening than the ones who

declare them. Finally, the research paper associates the manifest fiction reality with the global politics of the present.

Methods

Terrorism study is basically about the geo-politics in relation to history; the paper employs insights from Western theorists like Charles Townshend for the nature of terrorism, Joseph L. Soeters for ethnic violence and Leonard Weinberg for Western stereotyping of the terrorists. These writers have explored the meaning of terrorism by analyzing the Communist Guerillas and Islamic Militants globally. Using the same lens I have tried to see the Western ideals, that cannot escape the definitions despite the fact that they are the ones to declare who the terrorists are. The analysis primarily focuses on the action of the main character as he represents the Western ideals.

Besides I have focused on the anti-historical ideas of Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Wikileaks and many other radical thinkers and organizations. Moreover, the analysis heavily borrows from Noam Chomsky's ideas of the media representation and the reality, and the abuse of power by the US to dominate the world.

Analysis

Spectacle of the US Government

Bill Williamson is initially shown in a room fixing explosives as illustrated in fig. 1. He is surrounded by other automatic weapons. Bill is not the security personnel, authorized by the government. Still his possession of weapons exceeds the security personnel in the ordinary level. Charles Townshend opines, "Terrorist is not just someone with a gun or a bomb but also someone who spreads ideas contrary to Western and Christian civilization" (47), so can be the theorization of Leonard Weinberg's ideas on terrorists and terrorism, who has tried to define terrorists looking at the non Westerns (Muslims) and anti-capitalists (Communists), at the behest of the

West. Bill Williamson, unlike presented by Weinberg is neither a Communist rebel nor a Muslim extremist militant, yet he possesses both, guns and bombs and also threat to the Western ideals. Bill's rampage killing spree of the innocent people walking on the streets, in the beginning of the movie is the flashback technique applied to remind the viewers, his past atrocious action and its consequences.

Two years later, with his disappearance after the first rampage killing atrocity, the movie states that a video is said to appear online, with the justification of his past atrocity:

. . . there's no chance that we can survive, I mean 70 million people are brought into this earth. What have they doing? Sucking up our resources. There's too many people, so what do we do? Just keep them around? Let's kill them! Let's get rid of them. (01:41-02:02)

On the first hand, Bill is speaking as though he owns the earth and its resources, and has the sole monopoly over them. Bill as an American citizen, is speaking the official hegemonic dogma of the US Administration propounded by the various American leaders in the different eras of their rule. For example, Howard Zinn writes, "The Monroe Doctrine. . . issued in 1823 when the countries of Latin America were winning independence from Spanish control, . . . made plain to European nations that the United States considered Latin America its sphere of influence" (297), which means closing the doors for other interested nations in the region, which has been in the continuation to these days. Or rather, the Domino Theory can be considered, also known as the Truman's Doctrine in the Vietnamese context, which considered, ". . . if one country fell to Communism, the next one would do the same and so on. It was important therefore to keep the first one from falling" (Zinn 471). These ideas are sufficient to declare that US policy makers are

always on the quest to grip the entire world and its resources on the limited hands of the US investors. And Bill as a part of his campaign declares in the footage that people in the world are sucking up “their” resources. So he is firmly ardent in his campaign to stop the mouths from sucking “their” resources by conducting genocide. And the same characteristic similarity can be found in terms of the US Administration either for oil or for other natural resources. Or as in the case of Iraq, Noam Chomsky mocks to the US Administration, “. . . formal democracy is fine, but only if it obeys orders. . .” (*Hegemony* 142).

Secondly, Bill pits the normative mode to the actions he has been perpetrating, over the lives of the innocent civilians. He puts a rebuffing plan of genocide on his “ethically” correct point of view: “Let’s just clean the world. So maybe the rest of us can sustain a little bit of life” (02:17-02:24), an indication to violence, to claim over the lives of the civilians living within his territory or outside. For Townshend, “In state’s view, only the state has the right to use force” (5). So, Bill is trying to act as a state on behalf of the civilians, like “the Fedayeens or ‘self-sacrificiers’ who are taught to believe that their deeds would earn them rewards in paradise” (Weinberg 20). And it can be deduced that, as a civilian if he tries to use exercise violence, he is an anti-government body, basically a terrorist. Like Bill, the US government has been acting above the international laws. Former US Attorney General John Ashcroft even went further to declare that the US freedoms are “not the grant of any government or document but . . . our endowment from God” (Eggen). Chomsky in explaining the US disobedience of the international norm in the 1990s writes;

When the International Court of Justice condemned the US actions in Nicaragua, and even pay reparations to the damages it made in Nicaragua, and called for the termination of the US aid to the contras,

the congress responded by voting \$100 million of military aid to implement the unlawful use of force (*Necessary* 83), which can be an example of US defiance of international laws, a backing of the usurper, the contras, against the sole right of the state in the use of violence. This perfectly matches to the characteristic trait of Bill.

To convince the common audience and to justify his actions Bill says, “This my dear viewers, is a maybe a once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to uncensored media for a few minutes. What I have to say is very important, I had to kill a lot of people and I will get myself killed to get on your television” (03:45-04:00). Bill, himself a terrorist through the Western model of terrorism, yet proclaims that whatsoever he is doing, he is doing it all for the people; an example of counter stigma. The adage “one person’s terrorist is another’s freedom fighter” (Townshend 5) best applies to Bill’s justification of the use of the terror. Bill is trying to show himself as the messiah, who would be killed one day in his quest to tell the truth. As in the case of the US government, every of its terrorism has been justified in the name of “War Against Terrorism”, after the 9/11 incident of 2001. On the pretext of Bush Jr.’s invasion on Iraq, Colin Powell, the then foreign minister, lied to the United Nations that Saddam Hussein possessed WMDs, “My colleagues, every statement I make today is backed up by sources, solid sources. These are not assertions. What we’re giving you are facts and conclusions based on solid intelligence” (“Full text of Colin Powell’s speech”). With the genocide, Saddam was deposed, the country was devastated but no trace of WMD was discovered. Hence, the Bush Administration recanted its “absolute certainty” that Iraq possessed WMD “. . . by the discovery of the equipment that potentially could be used to produce weapons” (Chomsky, *Hegemony* 13).

As the movie begins in linearity, Bill is shown in a house making explosives and wrapping them in papers. Subsequently, automatic weapons are scattered over the floor in his room including his motocross gear. “The concept of individual terror is a key indicator of modern violence” (Townshend 54). The artilleries in Bill’s possession are sophisticated in nature, which can be taken as the impact of technological development in the modern era. The still shot in figure (1) goes contrary to Joseph L. Soeters who opines that “violence seems to be especially rife in societies that have not yet fully modernized” (119). Sophistication of artillery has always been a grave threat to human survival especially the nuclear energy in our time. Bill’s possession of advanced weapons bears a closer affinity of the US possession of atomic weapons and its frequent denial to abandon them. As a matter of fact, Prof. Chomsky states, “Mohamed ElBaradei . . . proposed that production of weapon grade fissile materials be placed under international control and supervision. Anyone wishing to apply for fissile materials could apply to the IAEA for peaceful use” (*What We Say* 31), for which ElBaradei got Noble Peace Prize. Unfortunately, the United States denied it, and further President Donald Trump has intended to “increase military spending by \$54 billion” (Shinkman). So a conclusion can be drawn i.e. Bill and the United States both have the common motto: to terrorize the common people and the global community respectively.

Bill with the completion of the manufacture of the explosives, moves inside the TV station without any hindrance, fixing the cameras and the explosives. The particular scene provides two points of inquiry: First, his easy access to the station with the explosives promotes that he is a known face. Secondly, his plantation of the bombs and the cameras indicates that he is well familiar to the location. Che Guevara, the famous Cuban Argentine Marxist Revolutionary in his book *Guerilla Warfare*

suggests the guerillas that “Nothing helps the combatant forces more than correct intelligence” (121). Bill seems to be well aware of this fact with his easy access to the station. As the figure 2 (see appendix.) shows Bill fixing the bombs without being clandestine to the operation. The clothing he has worn in the figure resembles to the workers, moreover to the security personnel.

In the international level, the US has been spying all over the globe in different pretext with the use of different advanced technologies and meddling in the various unnecessary warfare, like Bill in the alias of the security personnel or an inside agent. “The US Espionage Act of 1917 was used to imprison Americans who spoke or wrote against war” (Zinn 365), because it promoted surveillance over the commoners and detaining any non citizens simply on suspicion, without any charges, without the procedural rights provided in the constitution as the Detainee Provisions would later devise. The Cuban Missile crisis was brought to the limelight in 1962, that got the bipolar world to the brink of nuclear war, which is a part of international espionage. The only hidden fact was that, “the US had secretly deployed missiles in Okinawa” (Chomsky, *Who Rules* 105) six months prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis, aimed at Beijing.

Charles Townshend introduces the three functional level of state terrorism: “intimidation (to discourage dissent and opposition)”; “coerced conversion (to alter lifestyle)” and “genocide- deliberate extermination of entire class, ethnic or religious group” (41). Bill on his encounter with the two beggars (one of them is seriously ill), tries to apply the two functional levels i.e. intimidation and coerced conversion in counter to the state’s mode of terrorism. Bill in the beginning begins by questioning their understanding of freedom, in retrospection to their lifestyle as beggars, as a quest to incite them to violent and illegal activity, showing the reality of their lives.

The still shot in figure 3 (see appendix) shows the pathetic situation of the beggars. The second beggar is shown to lie down on the ground which indicates he is sick, as also mentioned in the movie. The cold wall working as their pillow to lean, illustrates their extreme poverty.

Bill begins to have conversation with them, “Let me ask you guys a question. Why don’t you rob a bank? Or people? I mean, jail has got to be a whole lot better than sitting in the streets, right” ((09:41-10:03)? On the first hand, he is discouraging the beggars to live the lives they are living, a practical way to intimidate their reality and go against it. Secondly, he is urging them to change their lifestyle, and rather lead their lives in jail than on that cold street, shivering and starving; both are counterproductive to the state’s use of terrorism. Bill ultimately, satirizing their freedom urges the beggars to be a criminal, “Go rob somebody, become a criminal. It Pays” (11:01-11:10). As, “some believe terrorism to be a new kind of warfare that enables weak groups with meager resources to challenge far more powerful foes and come away with at least some of what they wish to get” (Weinberg 18), Bill is trying to ignite the wave of terrorism in the mind of the beggars, to go against the existing norm of the society just to get the material possession because “it pays”. Capitalism defines “you are what you own” (Mitchell). And moreover Bush’s doctrine befits perfectly to Bill, in announcing terrorist: “From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime” ("Text: President Bush Addresses the Nation"). As discussed, state has sole monopoly over the right to use violence, every of the Islamic militants and the Communist Guerilla Forces can be taken for terrorist as per the definition because they are against the state and have been conducting violence. In the similar manner,

The US government funds the International Republican Institute (IRI)

and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) which are supposed to promote democracy. The IRI regularly supports the military coup to overthrow elected government. . . in Venezuela in 2002 and Haiti in 2004 . . . in Honduras NDI agreed to observe the elections under the military rule” (Chomsky, *Making* 186)

in 2009. One can say, that the US is terrorist, as defined by Bush in assimilation to the US definition of terrorism which I talked earlier.

Prior to his terrorist operation in the street and on the television station, he is shown shaving his head. The nineteenth century Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso opined that “terrorists’ brains and head differed from those of ordinary people” (qtd. in Weinberg 82). His act of shaving his head can be an indirect indication over his being a terrorist. Since this movie was released in the year 2014, the era of Barack Obama, the head shaving can be incorporated symbolically to that of Obama, who has extremely short hair. Obama was responsible for the unauthorized entry of American soldiers in Pakistan for so called Operation Geronimo, or “hospital attack in Kunduz, Afghanistan in October, 2015 with 42 deaths” according to BBC report or the toppling of Col. Qaddafi.

With his movement outside the house he is residing on the Motocross Gear for his terrorist operation, Bill meets the two beggars he had met the earlier night though one dead out of cold and starvation. He begins interrogating the living one in a satirical way:

Bill: What’s wrong with your friend?

Beggar: He’s dead.

Bill: What’s wrong with your friend?

Beggar: He’s dead.

Bill: What did I tell you, ha?

Beggar: It's cold.

Bill: Yeah, it's cold. Now your friend is dead because you did nothing about it, you're gonna be next. (18:06-18:35)

He is shown to speak to a beggar in relation to the continuation of the previous night conversations. He again insists the beggar to fight against the cold by fighting against the existing system of the law. His encouragement to the beggar to indulge in crime to survive can be taken for Charles Darwin's idea of survival i.e "struggle for existence" (76) and "survival of the fittest" (93). He lastly warns that he would cease to exist if he still desires to remain under law in the name of freedom.

The inauguration of Domino Theory by Harry S. Truman in the late 40s, with Dwight D. Eisenhower to put to action, deploying thousands of soldiers in Vietnam led a devastating consequence in the name of defending democracy and freedom. "7 million tons of bombs were dropped in Vietnam alone" (Zinn 478). Both the incidences hold a common line of thought: Terror is the ultimate thing to change what is not desired.

The image of Bill in the figure 4 (see appendix) shows his access to the advanced artillery that promises his protection. The gas mask he has used together with the helmet is to avert any kind of impact of poisonous gas that could be used by the security personnel to terminate his mission. The open space as can be seen at his back indicates his rampage shootout in the street where any innocent civilians could be his victims.

The end of the conversation with the living beggar leads Bill to sit in a chair nearby, facing the road with the gun pointing the passersby. He begins shooting anyone passing the road. And he justifies his action as pro people, either in the

beginning of the movie or later in the footage he is to broadcast through the TV. A similar trait can be derived from George W. Bush when he began his terrorist campaign in the name of “War Against Terrorism”. In reaction to it, Prof. Noam Chomsky declared, “Wanton killing of innocent civilians is terrorism, not war against terrorism” (qtd. in McNeill). Bill kills three innocent people on the street in his rampage spree, whereas Bush caused with “at least 1.3 million lives lost in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan alone since the onset of the war following September 11, 2001” (“Body Count Report Reveals At Least 1.3 Million Lives Lost to US-Led War on Terror”).

After the death riot in the street, Bill goes to WK7 TV station and explodes his car with a detonator after getting out of it. He causes 23 deaths in the first phase of his shootout in the station. Finally he enters the station making 12 hostages including the famous news anchor Chip on the room of stage 4. “More commonly and intemperately, analysts and politicians have asserted that publicity is the ‘oxygen’ of terrorism” (Townshend 136), his motive of publicity is justified by the broadcast of his uncensored video footage and a live TV interview with the TV personality Chip. Furthermore, Yonah Alexander puts that “attempts to impose blackouts are likely to derive terrorists to escalate violence. . .”(qtd. in Townshend 136). In retrospection Bill opposes media as “brain washing media machine” (59:00-59:02) which have the sole motto to indulge people in entertainment, deprive people from the rational thinking and manufacture people’s consent based on the hype they make. The broadcasting of the TV footage, interview and the secret tunnel he escapes later demolishing the entire building of the TV station are all the premeditated campaign to ensure the result of his violent action with civilian casualties and deaths. In the similar manner, the US bombing of Al Jazeera TV station in April 8, 2003 Iraq can be brought to limelight.

As Clive Stafford Smith notes, “Al Jazeera offices were bombed in both Afghanistan and Iraq, resulting, in Bagdad, in the death of one of their correspondents Tareq Ayyoub” (179). And again like Bill, the actions were premeditated. Smith in his book *Bad Men* firmly declares that those actions were the outcome of the US planning, “Bush’s most celebrated excess was his chat with Tony Blair, where he mooted the idea of bombing al-Jazeera headquarters in Qatar” (179), followed shortly the attack in Iraq and Afghanistan though abstaining the “mission” in Qatar.

With his captivation of the prisoners he torments them highly, even shoots them for trivial or no reason. “The fundamental principle is that no battle, combat or skirmish should be fought unless it can be won” (Guevara 19), so does Bill in attacking the TV station filled with unarmed TV personnel as civilians, which is sure to be won by an armed terrorist. As mentioned earlier, the US in its mission in Iraq too was attacking virtually a defenseless nation, a proclaimed paper tiger. After Fidel Castro’s victory in Cuban Revolution, the then US president John F Kennedy had a similar plight in trying to persuade the Mexican ambassador “to organize collective action against Cuba” (Chomsky, *Hegemony* 87), a similar ambience as that of Bill. And again like Bill, the US or its client states’ involvement in the human rights violation either in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib or Facility 1391 is heard nowhere in the international arena or the international media.

The next assimilation of Bill to the US government is the use of the sophisticated technology. Bill is shown to have a big expertise in the use of technology. With the use of an iPhone, he can spy over the actions of the SWAT team outside the room, which arrives for the rescue operation. He can observe every action supposed to take against him in the operation and escape from every possible assault that is conducted to gun him down. Similarly, the explosion of the bombs outside the

room is performed with his iphone and the ultimate demolition is performed with already planted bomb connected to another iphone. Being a single terrorist, he causes “128 deaths and many missing” (01:26:17-01:26:21), which becomes possible only through his successful mastery in the technology. For violence, “what dynamite had been to the late 19th century, semtex was to the late 20th” (Townshend 28), and can be added, the sophisticated technology in the early 21st century.

The US advancement in technology has been the most sophisticated one among all the technological advancements in the world. And out of its sophistication, it has been spying and terrorizing the globe. The case of secretly building a custom software program to search all of its customers’ incoming emails for specific information at the request of US intelligence officials. “. . . The company complying with a classified US government directive, scanning hundreds of millions of Yahoo Mail accounts at the behest of the National Security Agency (NSA) or FBI” (“Yahoo ‘secretly monitored emails on behalf of the US government’”), Wikileaks’ revelation that “the US National Security Agency tapped phone calls involving German chancellor Angela Merkel and her closest advisers for years and spied on the staff of her predecessors” (“NSA tapped German Chancellery for decades, WikiLeaks claims”), can all be taken as the US advancement in technology, but used for destructive purpose like Bill Williamson.

While keeping the TV crew as the hostages, he proposes the footage he had earlier prepared to be aired uncut, through that TV WK7 to Chip, the news anchor:

So this is what we gonna do. You gonna take this upstairs, ok. And you gonna get this aired. Nationwide. I got a lot of followers and a lot of fans all around the world. And they are gonna send me messages. They are gonna tweet me, they are gonna email me, they are gonna

They are gonna let me know if people are seeing this, okay? (35:23-35:55)

This idea can be interpreted on the two levels: First on behalf of his fans: “Terrorism operates preciously by playing on the deep seated public need for, and anxiety about, security of life and property” (Townshend 116), so it can be assumed that whosoever are the fans of Bills are in one way or the other anxious about life and property. People dissatisfied with the existing governing bodies demand changes and take for messianic figures to any anti-government body that performs its operations. Bill’s fans as he states, all over the world are those bunch of people who have dissatisfaction towards their government. Secondly, it can be inferred that anyone opposing the American hegemony can be the fan of Bill, since he opposes the American policies; from Cubans, North Koreans to Islamic Mujahideens.

George W Bush prior to the invasion of Iraq announced, “Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists” (“Text: President Bush Addresses the Nation”) after the 9/11 attack of 2001 in the USA, an appeal similar to that of Bill, inviting every supporters or non-supporters of the US to take side with them. Ultimately, the so called War Against Terrorism turned into a carnage, causing millions of innocent deaths which is still in existence to these days. Yet that heinous crime of the US Administration still bears a large mass of public supporters, so can be the supporters of Bill. With Barack Obama’s visit to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan in 2012, he would justify his predecessor Bush’s crimes on Iraq and Afghanistan:

Let us remember why we came here. It was here, in Afghanistan, where Osama bin Laden established a safe haven for his terrorist organization. It was here, in Afghanistan, where al Qaeda brought

new recruits, trained them, and plotted acts of terror. It was here, from within these borders, that al Qaeda launched the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 innocent men, women and children.” (“Remarks by President Obama in Address to the Nation from Afghanistan”)

Again a fan based appeal like Bill Williamson to support his rampage genocidal spree, “What I have to say is very important, I had to kill a lot of people and I will get killed myself to get my message to you (57:05-57:12).

The still shot in figure 5 (see appendix) shows a lady performing yoga and the back part shows crowd of captured hostages who are extremely afraid. The fear of the hostages proves how frail their condition is. They can be seen to have feeling of insecurity under the captivity of Bill. When Bill finds the lady wearing a yoga pant he compels her to perform some “yoga ashan”. With her he taunts her by denying the merits of yoga, “You are not doing any good for the world. Yoga is not good for the world. . . . Yoga is. . . It’s a gymnastic for the egocentric” (46:16-46:24). Leonard Weinberg writes that various Islamic philosophers like Hasan al Banna, Maulana Mawdudi and Sayyid Qutb had their impacts on various Islamic Armed Militants (who are declared terrorists by the West). “What these writers had in common as a radical rejection of Western Civilization and values eg. crude materialism, sexual license, female equality. . .” (Weinberg 74-75). Bill on the other hand is a White Western male and declares the science of Yoga as non-good for the world. Since Yoga is originated from the East, Bill forgets as a White Male that “tolerance is granting the right to exist something that does not belong to you or you do not really respect” (Soeters 22).

Like Bill, the non tolerating character of the US can be discussed, with the success of the Cuban Revolution as Fidel Castro says:

The socialist character of the revolution was proclaimed on April 16, 1961, almost 30 months after the triumph of the revolution, at the funeral of victims from the bombings of Ciudad Libertad air base conducted by the U.S. planes insignia- an attack similar to that of Pearl Harbor, aimed at destroying the few planes we had prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion (*Cold War* 11).

Or, Truman's Doctrine, more popular by Domino Theory, as discussed earlier can be another example of the US non tolerance, on others. Similarly, Donald Trump, the current president of the US, during his election campaign spoke about his desire of "shooting Muslims with bullets dipped in pig's blood" (Hongo) also his campaign press release declared, "Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on" (Diamond).

With Bill killing the yoga woman, he taunts the dead woman and his faith in yoga, "Did you guys see anything? Did you guys see a spirit or soul? Float away to heavens? I didn't. That's just nothing. It's just a piece of meat now" (47:06-47:24).

When the footage is aired on the TV, Bill brags about his oratorical ability, which is the basic premise to be a leader anywhere in the world. He says, "That's pretty good, right? If I ran for a president, I would win, right?" (01:02:16-01:02:22). The same idea can be interpreted as only the criminal minded people are eligible candidate for the president of the United States, based on what Noam Chomsky says, "Well, by the principles of Nuremburg trials, every single American president since then would have been hanged" (*Understanding* 56): an indication that every US presidents are War Criminals.

Ultimately, with the escape of Bill from the explosion, he creates an illusion to

the common people and the US government that he too is killed and buried in the debris. As he watches the footage of the explosion on his iPhone, he sees a kid with a book. The figure 6 (see appendix) shows Bill handing over a revolver to a kid who is totally unaware of Bill's action. The action is shown to take place in an open space with two viewers at the backside who do nothing to stop him. Holding the kid he dictates, "Don't you know books are bullshit? Your parents are full of shit and your teachers are full of shit" (01:28:32-01:28:36). Handing over a revolver to him, he ultimately brainwashes the kid, ". . . you pull this back, you pull this trigger. Use it on your parents. . . on yourself last okay. . ." (01:28:37-01:28:46). Contrary to it Bill on the footage criticizes the US government for having shown unwillingness to control guns: "How can there be no gun control, even though there are monthly massacres?" (58:11-58:16) Bill denounces the sale of weapons but hands over a revolver to a kid, making him the American version of Mujahideen as he urges the kid to kill his parents at first and ultimately to himself. "Much of Islam's negative image in the West is surely due to the apparent propensity to encourage sacrificial or suicidal action by mujahideen, holy warriors- including children" (Townshend 103), "Ironically, [the mujahideens] were funded by their greatest enemies, the USA" (Townshend 109), to fight against the Communist government of Mohammad Najibullah. Besides, the Iran-Contra Affair can be observed from near to the US denying its own principle, and denouncing others, like Bill.

Bill's last message to the audience is, "You need to kill the rich. . . you hunt down the billionaires, the big bosses, the CEOs . . ." (01:28:57-01:29:11) because that is how the world can be "changed". This is a direct reflection to Pierre Joseph Prudhon's idea on property: Property is robbery (Prudhon). Thomas Piketty's data of distribution of World GDP, 2012 declares that a person can have €760 per month in

the world, whereas €3050 in US and Canada alone (63). On the other hand, Dr. Jim Yong Kim in the World Bank Annual Report of 2015 writes, “Today, nearly 1 billion people still live on less than \$1.25 a day” (2), which means extreme poverty like the two beggars shown in the movie. Bill’s frustration can be seen with his conversations to the beggar. The United States has one of the largest military spending on the planet, whereas its poor citizens are starving to death like the two beggars in the movie. This can be an irony to the US version of democracy and freedom, where people are compelled to be wage slaves, and made to believe they are free.

So, Bill and the US government once again bear resemblance: Bill kills innocent Americans with his weapons, whereas the US government kills its citizens with its laws and taxes, to fulfill the global business conquest of the rich financiers of the US senators.

Besides, Bill is shown as the arm supplier to the kid for the outcome of a violent consequence. So, does the US Administration in the international arena. The US Government is . . . the world’s largest arms supplier, with \$23 billion in receipts in 2007 and \$32 billion in 2008. . . (Chomsky, *Hopes* 63), and the trend continues to these days as well.

Denunciation of the Tradition of US Policy

With the highlights of Bill Williamson’s past actions, Bill begins talking to the audiences on the anti-American rhetoric. The very beginning idea Bill presents is: “This my dear viewers, is maybe a once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to uncensored media for a few minutes. What I have to say is very important, I had to kill a lot of people and I will get myself killed to get on your television” (03:45-04:00), which is sufficient to show the condition of freedom of speech and critical thinking about the government. It can be inferred that, every of the news media are

censored, with limited freedom to shape the consensus of people. Besides, it can be inferred that the speaker of truth is supposed to kill or die to have his/her voice heard to the common citizens.

Bill accuses “The US government is funded by the rich and it keeps the people to the brain level of children. They make sure that people are busy making money to survive” (04:25-04:45). Gore Vidal accused “US politics as a one-party system with two right wings” (qtd. in Chomsky, *Year 501* 54). It does not matter who wins, the policy is same: the policy of wealth. Thus, people are made wage slave, earning money just to survive. In the words of Louis McFadden” They [the Federal Reserve Banks] are private monopolies which prey upon the people of these United States for the benefit of themselves and their foreign customers; foreign and domestic speculators and swindlers; and rich and predatory money lenders” (qtd. in Brown). The theme is clear enough: “public subsidy, private profit” (Chomsky, *Year 501* 114).

Every media house serves the interest of the ruling class as the weapons of mass deception which Bill calls “mind control dictatorship in the costume of democracy” (05:06-05:10). “You watch Spielberg’s and ‘Lincoln’ movie and you actually think the civil happened to free the slaves. . . . the reality is that every war was about money” (16:57-17:14), remarks Bill over the Declaration of Independence from the British Colonial rule. Yet Rosa Luxemburg holds a different opinion resembling to Bill about the US Independence, “. . . the element freeing itself from the scepter of England was not a foreign nation but only the same English emigrants who had settled in America on the ruins and corpses of the redskin natives. . .” (133). So, can be the Civil War in the Lincoln’s era. As a part of mind control dictatorship (in Bill’s words), Lincoln is valorized as the hero. But the reality was different, as can be justified with the quote Lincoln had written at the start of the war, “My paramount

object in this struggle is to save the Union and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it” (qtd. in Marr 419). Again, Bill’s equation on war and money is best elaborated by the radical American writer Randolph Bourne in the midst of World War I, “War is the health of the state” (*The State*). “The free press, TV, Hollywood movies, schools, universities and religion are all opium as Karl Marx would say” (19:58-20:05), because they produce “technocratic and policy oriented intellectuals, responsible and serious thinkers who devote themselves to the constructive work of shaping and policy within the established institution and to ensuring that indoctrination of young proceeds on course” (Chomsky, *Who Rules* 8), which prevents the minds to oppose the existing institutions- a way of mind control dictatorship. Or borrowing the words of Louis Althusser, “Private institutions can perfectly well ‘function’ as Ideological State Apparatus” (97).

“The NSA tapes every single phone call, e-mail, and text on our people like Snowden or Assange who give much needed information to protect democracy, get haunted and prosecuted by the US government” (57:29-57:41). The espionage case has been one of the most dominant case, the US government is indulged to. “. . . a secret code embedded in Microsoft software enables the US security and military services spy on everybody in the world who uses Microsoft Windows and the Internet” (Meszaros 36), and as Edward Snowden claims that “ They [the US intelligence] could monitor one billion telephone or internet sessions . . . and can collect data of about 125 gigabytes a second which is a terabit” (Poitras 42:55-43:11). Secondly, the case against Edward Snowden has been prosecuted under Espionage Act of 1917. Ben Wizner, Snowden’s ACLU lawyer opines about Snowden’s case, “And I think that we all recognize. . . it’s 95% politics and 5% law how this will be

resolved”(Poitras 01: 32: 29-01:32:41).

When Bill says, “How can there be no gun control even though there are monthly massacres?”(58:11-58:20), he himself the answers the question, “Because 50% of senators are paid by the gun industry” (58:42-58:45), and as already discussed, the US is the world’s largest arms supplier with \$23 billion in 2007 and \$32 billion in 2008 sales with the same absurd situation to these days as well. “More migrants got deported under Obama than under any other president. Why didn’t he close Guantanamo Bay where prisoners sit without charges, evidence proved or a court case over 13 years now?” (59:39-59:51). “Between 2009 and 2015 his administration has removed more than 2.5 million people through immigration orders. . .” (Marshall), which doesn’t include the number of people who "self-deported" or were turned away and/or returned to their home country at the border by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) .Obama swore that he would close the Guantanamo Bay, if he were chosen president during his election campaign in 2008. And he even declared in his speech in Cairo University as the US president, “. . . I have ordered the prison at Guantanamo Bay closed by early next year” ("Remarks by the President at Cairo University, 6-04-09"), and to these days the torture chamber has been in existence.

Bill further elaborates, “The USA has 5% of world’s population and 25% of world’s prisoners” (01:00:21-01:00:25) which demonstrates the abnormal ratio of population and prisoners. People are imprisoned for petty crimes and Bill continues, “Half of the prisoners go to jail for drug possession and more than half of the prisoners are black” (01:00:30-01:00:35). “President John F Kennedy took many drugs for secret health problems” ("JFK Took Many Drugs for Secret Health Problems"), but he was never imprisoned. It is biasness. And the dominant presence

of Black people in the prison can be ascribed to the logic: Blacks are taken for criminals in the American society. Speaking against the constitution Bill opines, “It is a control mechanism for the rich. They are the law and order. They make the constitution to protect the money and the land they stole”(01:14:40-01:14:47). He talks of different multinational companies that flourished under the Nazi, using the Jewish prisoners as their free laborers. As a matter of fact, “. . . his [Former President George W Bush] grandfather [Prescott Bush] made a considerable share of the family fortune through his dealings with Nazi Germany” (Vann), that created the political platform for the Bush family. The rich people kill their own people and none object them.

Bill answers Chip’s questions in the most logical way about the use of violence.

Chip: Do you feel that . . . that killing innocent people is the solution?

Bill: Yeah, I do. I mean, Chip, isn’t that the solution America is using

all across the globe It [American Drone] killed 50 kids,

Chip to get one terrorist. (01:18:19-01:18:49)

Noam Chomsky citing the editors of *Envio* writes, “In December 1989, the government of George Bush Sr. ordered the invasion of Panama, a military operation that bombed civilian neighborhoods and killed thousands of Panamanians just to flush out a single man, Manuel Noriega” (*Hegemony* 107). He was a favored candidate by the US earlier. Bill on the one hand admits that global warming is true, but “In November 2012, US President-Elect Donald Trump tweeted that global warming is a Chinese hoax” (Dodgson). Similarly in an interview given to *The International Reporter* on climate change Ron Paul, former Republican senator claimed, “Climate Change is a hoax” (“Ron Paul EXPOSES Climate Change as a HOAX”).

Lastly,

Chip: There are always two sides of every story, right? Everyone has an opinion. Isn't that what makes democracy so great that the fact that we can all voice those opinions?

Bill: Yeah, as long as those voices don't change anything. Julian Assange, Hammond, Snowden, they are the prophets of our time. They are the voices crying out in wilderness. And they are the ones the state intends to murder This very interview is enough to lend me to jail. (01:20:24-01:21:00)

This very last part is sufficient to declare that there is no chance to voice any opinion that can make change in the USA. Every of the accusations Bill makes on the US administration have been with some wits and gravity. Every accusation made against the US Administrations claims the US to be terrorist by its own definition when Bill fulfils the criteria, once again.

Selective References in the Movie

The beginning part of the movie shows some sentences written on the black screen with white letters:

Bill Williamson massacred his hometown of Tonderville using automatic weapons and a massive cache of explosives. He claimed over a hundred victims.

It has been recorded as the deadliest killing spree in the U.S. History.

Bill disappeared the same evening of the massacre. (00:49-01:27)

Bill is racially white, male in gender and Christian by religion, or rather non-Muslim. In the US society racial and religious stereotyping has been a common theme: If a Muslim kills people, he is a terrorist. If a Black does the same, he is a

criminal and if a White performs it, he is a capricious. The same theme can be found in writing about Bill. Bill perfectly matches the frame of terrorist defined by the US Administration, as discussed earlier. Bill's every action of either of past or present is intentionally targeted to harm the civilians as a protest to the US government with manifesto for change as well. Hence, Bill's action is not just rampage killing spree or massacre but pure act of terrorism. As Joseph Goebbels would say, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it" (qtd. in Weber) or rather an act of "mind control dictatorship in the costume of democracy" in the words of Bill Williamson.

The American media have been gaining the same sort of expertise on the field. It can be assumed that there was no such thing like Vietnam War or Iraq War. They were purely genocides, which have been hidden in the name of "war". Similarly, the media have been using the word "embargo" in case of Cuba rather than "blockade" by the US Administration. Or the occupied lands in Palestine by the US backed Israel have been spelled as "disputed" land in the mainstream media.

Chip as shown in the figure 7 (see appendix) is a handsome personality with clad in formal uniforms. The setting in the picture shows Chip reading the transcripts of Julian Assange. Chip tries to pinpoint the history of knowledge through the transcript of Julian Assange's speech. Chip is interested in the third type of history, "because it does not have the existing support, and neither have we ever had this branch of history to any significant degree. This is the information about how human institutions actually behave . . ." (13:43-14:00). Contrary to it, Chip is also the part of that institution which provokes the quest of that knowledge to masses, and the institution goes to the point of regression when such knowledge revives. Chip speaks being the part of the intellectual community which moves into two directions as

Mikhail Bakunin opined on critiquing Marx's radical intelligentsia, "either it would become a "red bureaucracy" which would institutionalize the most repressive rule ever seen in the name of working of working classes, or it would recognize that power lies everywhere, in private capital and become its servants" (qtd. in Chomsky, *Power Systems* 173). So has been the TV station WK7, when its boss talks on phone "We have made 2.8 million dollars in the last two hours . . . this is the best thing ever . . ." (01:16:13-01:16:34). Human lives are at risks, but his avarice for money has not fallen to a minimal degree. And, again Bill is more concerned to have interview with Chip than to get him hunt down, for the heinous crime he has been performing and saving the lives of the civilians, "Okay, but I'm gonna get the interview right?" (01:03:33-01:03:35), to the SWAT commander, when he plans to hunt down Bill. Bill's accusation to the media person has come to the reality, "They have seized control of the systems of information to saturate the airwaves with lies. And you're part of that Chip. You're like everybody else. See the anchors, the news people, they are all in someone's pocket, right?" (01:15:54-01:16:06).

This movie bases entirely in the criticism of US foreign policy. It being permitted to be released in 2014 can be propaganda to hype about the US government that it favors the genuine democracy and accepts every kinds of thoughts.

Conclusion

Finally, the research paper concludes with the assertion that Bill is pretending to be performing his actions for the sake of the US Citizens, so is the US government to be in support of democracy, but the reality is quite different from the general understanding. Bill denounces every act of terrorism but he himself is indulged in the wicked action. He says every of his actions are to liberate people but is indulged in the rampage shootout over the innocent lives. He holds a dogma: What I do is always

right and others are wrong; so is the US Administration. This research paper has tried to show the difference of the powerful in terms of paperwork and in practical life. Practical part is not as idealistic as the theoretical one. Through Bill, the research paper has tried to see the US history from an alternative perspective. The research paper has tried to bring the hidden part of American history to the limelight, taking Bill in the center. The research paper also has tried to explore the condition of poverty and the government's spending on the arsenals and various other conquests, which could rather help to eradicate the poverty.

Still, the research paper lacks some of the latest data, and out of the limitation of the paperwork, the research paper is unable to elaborate some ideas that are shown in the movie. And since, terrorism studies always come in relation to politics and history without pure theory, this research paper may be more like a political research paper rather than that of the literature, yet I am fully conscious of it. So, I have talked on the historical incidences in relation to the literary character Bill Williamson in the movie. Noam Chomsky may be a dominant figure in the research paper due to few writers writing on the anti history current. And, in terms of US politics Noam Chomsky has been the most celebrated critics, so I have tried to use his analytical lens exploring the US power politics in the global arena and that of Bill Williamson in the movie.

Appendix



Figure 1. Bill making explosives in his house (06:59)



Figure 2. Bill fixing bombs in the TV station (08:39)



Figure 3. Bill talking to the beggars (09:49)



Figure 4. Bill shooting the passersby (05:36)



Figure 5. A hostage performing yoga (45:13)



Figure 6. Bill handing over a revolver to a kid



Figure 7. TV Anchor Chip reading the Julain Assange's transcript (12:23)

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