

Bradley Manning 'in his own words'

INTRO:

VOICE 1 *"one of the more significant documents of our time,*

VOICE 2 *removing the fog of war*

BOTH *and revealing the true nature of 21st century asymmetrical warfare."*

SECTION ONE:

VOICE 2 hypothetical question: if you had free reign over classified networks for long periods of time... say, 8-9 months... and you saw incredible things, awful things... things that belonged in the public domain, and not on some server stored in a dark room in Washington DC... what would you do?

VOICE 1 or Guantanamo, Bagram, Bucca, Taji, VBC for that matter...

things that would have an impact on 6.7 billion people

say... a database of half a million events during the Iraq war... from 2004 to 2009... with reports, date time groups, lat-long locations, casualty figures... ?

VOICE 2 or 260,000 state department cables from embassies and consulates all over the world, explaining how the first world exploits the third, in detail, from an internal perspective?

VOICE 1 Hilary Clinton, and several thousand diplomats around the world are going to have a heart attack when they wake up one morning, and finds an entire repository of classified foreign policy is available, in searchable format to the public...

VOICE 2 uhm... crazy, almost criminal political backdealings... the non-PR-versions of world events and crises... uhm... all kinds of stuff like everything from the buildup to the Iraq War during Powell, to what the actual content of "aid packages" is: for instance, PR that the US is sending aid to Pakistan includes funding for water/food/clothing... that much is true, it includes that, but the other 85% of it is for F-16 fighters and munitions to aid in the Afghanistan effort, so the US can call in Pakistanis to do aerial bombing instead of Americans potentially killing civilians and creating a PR crisis

VOICE 1 there's so much... it affects everybody on earth... everywhere there's a US post... there's a diplomatic scandal that will be revealed... Iceland, the Vatican, Spain, Brazil, Madagascar; if it's a country, and it's recognized by the US as a country, it's got dirt on it

VOICE 2 it's open diplomacy... world-wide anarchy in CSV format... its Climategate with a global scope, and breathtaking depth... its beautiful, and horrifying...

BOTH **and... its important that it gets out...I feel, for some bizarre reason, it might actually change something**

SECTION TWO:

VOICE 1 I don't believe in good guys versus bad guys anymore... only a plethora of states acting in self interest... with varying ethics and moral standards of course, but self-interest nonetheless

I mean, we're better in some respects... we're much more subtle... use a lot more words and legal techniques to legitimise everything

it's better than disappearing in the middle of the night

VOICE 2 but just because something is more subtle, doesn't make it right

VOICE 1 I guess I'm too idealistic

VOICE 2 I think the thing that got me the most... that made me rethink the world more than anything...was watching 15 detainees taken by the Iraqi Federal Police... for printing "anti-Iraqi literature"... the Iraqi Federal Police wouldn't cooperate with US forces, so I was instructed to investigate the matter, find out who the "bad guys" were, and how significant this was for the FPs... It turned out, they had printed a scholarly critique against PM Maliki... I had an interpreter read it for me... and when I found out that it was a benign political critique titled "Where did the money go?" and following the corruption trail within the PM's cabinet... I immediately took that information and *ran* to the officer to explain what was going on... he didn't want to hear any of it... he told me to shut up and explain how we could assist the FPs in finding *MORE* detainees...

VOICE 1 everything started slipping after that... I saw things differently

VOICE 2 I had always questioned the way things worked, and investigated to find the truth... but that was a point where I was a *part* of something...I was actively involved in something that I was completely against...

VOICE 1 but I was a part of it... and completely helpless...

I just... couldn't let these things stay inside of the system... and inside of my head

SECTION THREE:

VOICE 1 I watched *that video* cold, for instance

VOICE 2 at first glance... it was just a bunch of guys getting shot up by a helicopter... no big deal... about two dozen more where that came from, right... but something struck me as odd with the van thing... and also the fact it was being stored in a JAG officer's directory... so I looked into it... eventually tracked down the date, and then the exact GPS co-ord... and I was like... OK, so that's what happened... then I went to the regular internet... and it was still on my mind... so I typed into Google... the date, and the location

BOTH and then I see *this*

Both hold up large sign/poster 'NEW YORK TIMES REPORT 13th July 07 LIES LIES LIES'
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/13/world/middleeast/13iraq.html (or similar) and hold it there whilst VOICE 3 reads the following in a 'news' voice

Or alternatively, Voice 1 and 2 point to where Voice 3 is holding it up, and Voice 3 then reads the news report loudly from behind it as s/he holds it up.

VOICE 3 *The American military said in a statement late Thursday that 11 people had been killed - 9 insurgents and 2 civilians. According to the statement, American troops were conducting a raid when they were hit by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades. The American troops called in reinforcements and attack helicopters. In the ensuing fight, the statement said, the 2 Reuters employees and 9 insurgents were killed.*

"There is no question that Coalition forces were clearly engaged in combat operations against a hostile force" said Lt Col Scott Bleichwehl, a spokesman for the multinational forces Baghdad.

PAUSE

VOICE 2 I kept that in my mind for weeks... probably a month and a half... before I forwarded it to them

it was unreal... I mean, I've identified bodies before... it's rare to do so, but usually it's just some nobody

VOICE 1 it humanised the whole thing... re-sensitised me

I don't know... I'm just, weird I guess

I can't separate myself from others

VOICE 2 I feel connected to everybody... like they were distant family

I... care?

>sigh<

VOICE 1 we're human...

VOICE 2 and we're killing ourselves...

VOICE 1 and no-one seems to see that...

BOTH and it bothers me

SECTION FOUR:

BOTH **apathy (*saying it to each other*)**

VOICE 2 apathy is far worse than the active participation

VOICE 1 I prefer a painful truth over any blissful fantasy.

VOICE 2 I'm not brave, I'm weak

like I think I've said before.... I'm not so much scared of getting caught and facing consequences at this point... as I am of being misunderstood, and never having the chance to live the life I wanted to...

well, it was forwarded to "WL" (*finger quote*)

and god knows what happens now

hopefully

BOTH **worldwide discussion, debates, and reforms**

VOICE 1 if not... than we're doomed

as a species

I will officially give up on the society we have if nothing happens

VOICE 2 the reaction to the video gave me immense hope... CNN's iReport was overwhelmed... Twitter exploded...

people who saw, knew there was something wrong

VOICE 1 I want people to see the truth...

VOICE 2 regardless of who they are...

VOICE 1 because without information,

BOTH **you cannot make informed decisions as a public**

VOICE 1 or maybe I'm just young, naive, and stupid...

I'm hoping for the former

it cant be the latter

BOTH **because if it is... we're fucking screwed**

VOICE 2 as a society

BOTH and I don't want to believe that we're screwed

PAUSE

VOICE 2 well, it SHOULD be better

VOICE 1 it's sad

I mean what if I were someone more malicious?

VOICE 2 I could've sold to Russia or China, and made bank

VOICE 3 (calling out from the floor) why didn't you?

BOTH because it's public data

VOICE 3 (calling out from the floor) I mean, the cables?

BOTH it belongs in the public domain

VOICE 1 information should be free

BOTH it belongs in the public domain

VOICE 2 because another state would just take advantage of the information... try and get some edge

VOICE 1 if it's out in the open...

VOICE 2 it should do the public good

rather than some slimy intel collector

BOTH I'm crazy like that