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Jeffrey Sachs as Righteous Rogue Elephant

[RON UNZ](https://www.unz.com/author/ron-unz/) • OCTOBER 10, 2022

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****Until just a few months ago, I doubt there were many American academics more solidly situated in the topmost ranks of our elite mainstream establishment than [**Prof. Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffrey_Sachs).

In 1983 he gained Harvard University tenure at the remarkably young age of 28, then spent the next 19 years as a professor at that august academic institution; by the early 1990s the *New York Times* [**was already hailing him**](https://www.nytimes.com/1993/06/27/magazine/dr-jeffrey-sachs-shock-therapist.html) as the world’s most important figure in his field. Lured to Columbia University in 2002, he has spent the last couple of decades teaching there and also directing a couple of its research organizations, most recently the Center for Sustainable Development. *TIME Magazine* has twice ranked him among the world’s 100 most influential individuals, and for nearly twenty years he served as Special Advisor to several Secretary-Generals of the United Nations, while publishing many hundreds of articles and op-eds on a wide variety of subjects in our most influential media outlets.

It would be difficult to construct a more illustrious and establishmentarian *curriculum vitae* for an international academic figure, so in 2020 he was a natural choice to serve as chairman of the *Lancet*‘s Covid Commission, established to investigate all aspects of the deadly worldwide pandemic.

Yet as he has subsequently explained in his interviews, over the course of the last couple of years he became increasingly suspicious that the true origins of the viral disease were being concealed. More than eighteen million people have died worldwide including over a million Americans, and rather than acquiescing in what he came to believe was an ongoing official cover-up, he broke with the establishment and made the courageous decision to bring the true facts to widespread public attention.

Although he has retained the subdued manner and careful phraseology of a mild academic, in recent months the incendiary content of his published articles and his public statements have exploded across the global landscape, reaching many millions who might otherwise never have questioned what they were so uniformly being told by all our mainstream media organs. His critics defending that orthodoxy must surely believe that he has gone dangerously rogue, and given the enormous weight of his past credibility, I suspect that the phrase “rogue elephant” has sometimes entered their thoughts.

**From the earliest days of the Covid epidemic, an official narrative was promoted that the virus was natural** and editors of the leading scientific journals closed their pages to any submissions that suggested otherwise. With no reputable academic papers challenging their perspective, the natural origins advocates were able to cite this silence as proof that their position represented the overwhelming scientific consensus, thereby intimidating most mainstream journalists into toeing that same line. **A massive propaganda-bubble had been inflated and maintained** by such administrative means.

**However**, as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Prof. Sachs had publication privileges in the prestigious *PNAS* journal, so in May he and a co-author published an important article documenting the highly suspicious characteristics of the Covid virus and calling for further investigation. This constituted a breakthrough, becoming the first and only paper published in a major journal that presented the very strong evidence of Covid bioengineering.

* [**A call for an independent inquiry into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus**](https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2202769119)
Neil L. Harrison and Jeffrey D. Sachs • ***PNAS***• May 19, 2022 • 2,800 Words

Given his role as chairman of the Covid Commission, Sachs’ paper should have been treated as a bombshell, reaching the headlines of all our leading newspapers. But instead, it was almost totally ignored, as was the author’s public statements on the subject. However, the following month, Sachs attended a small Spanish thinktank gathering, whose proceedings were soon made available on Youtube. Russia’s *RT* eventually ran [**a brief item**](https://www.rt.com/news/558191-economist-says-covid-escaped-us-lab/) highlighting Sachs’ presentation, and **a short clip of his remarks soon went super-viral, retweeted out almost 11,000 times and accumulating over a million views.**

A video clip that is viewed a million times has attracted an audience of cable news proportions, and Britain’s muck-raking *Daily Mail* [**could not resist covering the explosive story**](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10980715/Covid-leaked-AMERICAN-lab-claims-professor-Jeffrey-Sachs.html), though harshly slanting it against the suddenly controversial academic. Top Russian generals [**soon began citing Sachs as an authority**](https://www.rt.com/news/560246-usaid-covid-origin-moscow/) in their public Defense Ministry briefings.

Although nearly all Western media outlets maintained their strict boycott of Sachs and his explosive accusations, a couple of prominent alternative journalists were willing to offer him a platform. During August, he began describing the outrageous Covid cover-up in interviews with Nathan Robinson of the *Current Affairs* webzine and on the popular podcast of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

* [**Why the Chair of the Lancet’s COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic**](https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why-the-chair-of-the-lancets-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-into-the-pandemic)
Jeffrey Sachs • ***Current Affairs*** • August 2, 2022 • 4,300 Words
* [**Origins of the Covid Virus with Jeffrey Sachs**](https://open.spotify.com/episode/3GB9QaMoVBwbfJBCMIod6z)
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. • ***The Defender*** • August 20, 2022 • 54 minutes

I was very impressed with Sachs’ forthright statements, and I summarized the developments in a column of my own.

* [**Prof. Jeffrey Sachs on the Covid Origins Cover-Up**](https://www.unz.com/runz/prof-jeffrey-sachs-on-the-covid-origins-cover-up/)
Ron Unz • ***The Unz Review*** • August 29, 2022 • 1,400 Words

No sooner had the reverberations of Sachs’ Covid accusations died down than **his remarkable candor** engulfed him in an entirely different and even more immediate media controversy.

Having publicly broken ranks with the political establishment over Covid, he soon began doing the same on other important issues. During July and August he published a couple of opinion columns condemning our reckless policies towards Russia and China, with the former having already provoked a bloody and dangerous war in Ukraine and the latter periodically threatening to do the same over Taiwan.

* [**Ukraine Is the Latest Neocon Disaster**](https://consortiumnews.com/2022/07/01/ukraine-is-the-latest-neocon-disaster/)
Jeffrey Sachs • ***Consortium News*** • July 1, 2022 • 1,300 Words
* [**The West’s Dangerously Simple-Minded Narrative About Russia and China**](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/08/23/wests-dangerously-simple-minded-narrative-about-russia-and-china)
Jeffrey Sachs • ***Common Dreams*** • August 23, 2022 • 1,000 Words

In recent years our once-independent NATO allies have increasingly been treated as American vassals, with their seemingly-compromised political leadership regularly sacrificing their own national interests to support our demands, including our extremely aggressive policies against Russia. Such European subservience became most obvious in their wholehearted support of the severe anti-Russian economic sanctions imposed after the beginning of the Ukraine war, sanctions that have resulted in the devastating loss of the inexpensive Russian energy supplies so necessary to their industries.

With [**more than half of all German businesses fearful that they might be forced to permanently shut down**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/energy-crisis-pushes-german-industry-to-the-brink-11664443801), massive political pressure was mounting on that country’s leadership to reopen the Nord Stream pipelines with Russia. [**There were reports of secret negotiations**](https://www.unz.com/pescobar/who-profits-from-pipeline-terror/) under way to do exactly that, which would have produced a severe political defeat for NATO. However, that possibility was suddenly foreclosed after a series of underwater explosions severely damaged the Russian pipelines, a blow seemingly intended to render them completely inoperable. As I discussed in a recent column, America almost certainly played the central role in those attacks, which possibly represented the greatest peacetime military destruction of civilian infrastructure in the history of the world.

* [**American Pravda: Of Pipelines and Plagues**](https://www.unz.com/runz/american-pravda-of-pipelines-and-plagues/)
Ron Unz • ***The Unz Review*** • October 3, 2022 • 3,900 Words

But although the evidence of American culpability was immediate and overwhelming, [**much of our lick-spittle Western media**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/09/27/nord-stream-gas-pipelines-damage-russia/) illogically blamed the *Russians* for the destruction of their own pipelines, and the story anyway never received a fraction of the coverage it warranted, with even much of the supposedly fearless alternative media avoiding the topic. An excellent segment on Tucker Carlson’s show set forth the crucial facts, but aside from his particular slice of the *FoxNews* audience, I suspect that the vast majority of Americans either remained largely unaware of the massive pipeline attacks or even vaguely blamed them on Vladimir Putin.

Then a few days later, *Bloomberg TV* invited Sachs to share his concerns over the Ukraine war. [**His hosts were flabbergasted**](https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/watch-top-un-adviser-interrupted-exasperated-bloomberg-hosts-wrongthink-russia-ukraine) when he flatly declared that America had probably destroyed the Russian pipelines, even mentioning that top journalists had privately told him the same thing, although none of those vital facts could ever appear in their own newspapers.

As a consequence of Sachs’ candor, the interview was cut short—with [**Sachs “yanked off air”**](https://nypost.com/2022/10/04/jeffrey-sachs-yanked-off-air-after-accusing-us-of-sabotaging-nord-stream/) in the words of the hostile *New York Post*—but the entire segment was watched at least a couple of hundred thousand times on Youtube and the short clip of Sachs’ Nord Stream remarks soon went super-viral on Twitter, viewed more than 4 million times in one Tweet and another million times across a couple of others.

Ironically enough, *Bloomberg TV* may have been prompted to interview Sachs because the latter had suffered [**a ferocious attack**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/09/anti-war-camp-intellectually-bankrupt/671576/) a few days earlier in the *Atlantic*. Neocon writer James Kirchick had bitterly denounced Sachs for being a member of the “Anti-war Camp,” grouping him together with a long list of other prominent figures across the ideological spectrum—ranging from Ron Paul to John Mearsheimer to Noam Chomsky—all of whom had become very concerned about our growing military confrontation with nuclear-armed Russia.

A perfect example of the bizarre state of the American media landscape was that although Kirchick himself possessed no serious foreign policy expertise, being primarily focused upon Gay Rights activism, he was provided a major platform to revile and ridicule individuals whose distinguished careers in that field had begun before he was even born. More than a dozen years earlier, Kirchick had [**similarly flagellated**](https://militarist-monitor.org/profile/james-kirchick/) leading critics of George W. Bush’s disastrous Iraq War.

Although the bulk of the *Atlantic* hit-piece was aimed at demonizing the prominent academics, journalists, and public policy experts fearful of war with Russia, a couple of paragraphs of opprobrium were also heaped upon the *Grayzone*, a left-leaning alternative media website and Youtube channel run by Max Blumenthal and focused upon foreign policy issues. Although quite popular, the *Grayzone* appears to operate on a tiny shoestring budget, relying upon the small donations of its viewers, so it was quite churlish for Kirchick to smear it as “opaquely financed,” given that he was leveling that insinuation from a media platform under tight Neocon control but owned and lavishly funded by the multi-billionaire widow of Steve Jobs.

* [**How the Anti-war Camp Went Intellectually Bankrupt**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/09/anti-war-camp-intellectually-bankrupt/671576/)
Critics of U.S. foreign policy from both ends of the ideological spectrum have found common cause in supporting Russia’s invasion of Ukraine
James Kirchick • ***The Atlantic*** • September 29, 2022 • 2,500 Words

The scurrilous *Atlantic* denunciation may have helped get Sachs invited onto *Bloomberg TV*, ultimately allowing millions to discover the true facts of the Nord Stream pipeline attacks. There may have been another unforeseen consequence of its simultaneous attacks against both the *Grayzone* and Sachs, with the former [Grayzone] soon arranging an interview of the latter [Sachs]. On Sunday morning, the media outlet released two outstanding segments with the Columbia professor, separately focused on the Ukraine war and the Covid origins controversy, and these have already accumulated more than 100,000 views after less than a day. The *Grayzone* possesses a great deal of influence and credibility in alternative media circles, and I would hope that these interviews lead to an avalanche of additional coverage for Sachs in other outlets, many of which seem to have previously shied away from the explosive charges he had been making.

**The first *Grayzone* segment was descriptively entitled “End Ukraine Proxy War or Face Armageddon,”** and some of Sachs’ crucial points may have surprised his listeners. As he emphasized, America is actually already at war with nuclear-armed Russia in Ukraine, given that we are providing all the funding, military equipment, and command and control facilities for the forces fighting and killing Russian troops on Russia’s own border, as well as supplying unknown numbers of direct combat participants. This is an extraordinarily dangerous situation that would have been considered almost unimaginable during the days of our original Cold War, and our recent destruction of Russia’s Nord Stream pipelines was merely the latest manifestation of this undeclared but very real conflict.

Although American leaders may seek to hide their responsibility behind the supposedly independent decisions of the Ukrainian government, this is a transparent fig-leaf. Ukraine’s political leadership is merely our puppet regime, totally financed and controlled by our own government, and pretending otherwise is simply a propaganda-ruse aimed at deceiving our gullible public.

**The second, slightly shorter *Grayzone* segment focused on the Covid origins issue**, and provided Sachs the best opportunity he has yet had to present the important facts he uncovered while running the Covid commission. Just a couple of days earlier, he had also been interviewed on [**physicist Steve Hsu’s podcast discussing the same subject**](https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2022/10/jeffrey-sachs-lessons-from-covid.html). I [Ron Unz] would highly recommend both these interviews to anyone interested in understanding the true origins of the viral epidemic that killed more than a million Americans and disrupted the lives of many billions around the world during the last couple of years.

When [**I’d previously discussed**](https://www.unz.com/runz/prof-jeffrey-sachs-on-the-covid-origins-cover-up/) Sachs’ remarkable Covid disclosures back in August, I’d closed with a few paragraphs summarizing the role he seems to be playing in the public discussion and how his positions related to my own. After carefully listening to his most recent interviews, I think my analysis still remains almost unchanged:

Although the mainstream media has almost totally ignored Prof. Sachs’ important views on Covid issues, that boycott may also eventually be broken if he continues to gain attention elsewhere. The many alternative podcasters and websites provide an effective channel for disseminating such controversial ideas, especially when the advocate is a public figure with such strong credibility on the subject.

My entire knowledge of Sachs’ views is based upon his public statements, and he has never suggested the deliberate biowarfare attack hypothesis that I have been publicly proposing for more than two years. But I do find it quite intriguing that nowhere in any of his lengthy, extended discussions does he ever direct any blame towards China for creating the virus nor does he even mention the Wuhan lab, the alleged site of the supposed Covid lab-leak.

**Instead,** he focuses like a laser upon

1. America’s very extensive bioengineering efforts aimed at producing such modified Covid-like coronaviruses and also upon
2. the concentrated effort by scientists in the orbit of the American government to disguise Covid’s obviously artificial characteristics.

He discusses our heavily-funded biowarfare efforts, and how these programs were shifted a couple of decades ago from direct military authority over to Anthony Fauci’s NIH. And he mentions the apparent intelligence-gathering role of Peter Daszak’s Pentagon-funded EcoHealth Alliance, which had worked with the Wuhan lab and many other biolabs worldwide.

**Sachs is a public figure of the highest establishment reputation and it would be grossly irresponsible of him to even hint at an explosive hypothesis such as my own unless and until far more solid evidence became available.** Moreover, he is currently playing an absolutely crucial role in using his reputation to draw attention to the bioengineered nature of the Covid virus and the massive ongoing attempt by the media and scientific communities to conceal that reality, so provoking any additional controversies might be a fatal distraction.

However, as chairman of the Covid Commission, he has been a crucial insider on all of these matters, and I do find his important information entirely consistent with my own analysis, as presented in my series of articles over the last couple of years.

While the opponents of Prof. Jeffrey Sachs may regard him as a rogue elephant, trampling underfoot the official narratives so carefully constructed by our government and its media allies, I think the American people owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his righteous pursuit of the truth on these enormously important matters.

Although Sachs seems to deliberately avoid discussing any suggestion that the Covid virus might have been created in the Wuhan lab, I recently came across another lengthy public presentation focused entirely upon that hypothesis.

In June 2021, the Neoconservative Hudson Institute thinktank in DC hosted an hour-long event entitled [**“Uncovering the Origins of COVID-19: A Scientific Discussion”**](https://www.hudson.org/research/17021-transcript-uncovering-the-origins-of-covid-19-a-scientific-discussion). The session was led by Dr. David Asher, who had served as a top aide to Mike Pompeo in the Trump Administration, known as a leading proponent of the Wuhan Lab-Leak theory, and the main speakers were Prof. Richard Muller of Berkeley and Dr. Steven Quay, who together had written several articles arguing that the Covid virus had probably been bioengineered and pointing to the Wuhan lab as the likely source. Most of the hour was spent mustering the evidence that Covid was artificial, an analysis that I would strongly endorse, but I took issue with some of their closing conclusions.

Prof. Muller is an eminent physicist, but over the years [**he had also become heavily involved in a variety of other scientific areas**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_A._Muller), including those related to biodefense, and he seemed quite familiar with many of the crucial aspects of that subject. Towards the end of his remarks, he suggested that the particular aspects of the Covid virus—its extremely high communicability but low lethality—rendered it an ideal “anti-economy bioweapon,” which could severely disrupt the society of a targeted country without inflicting the gigantic loss of life that might provoke nuclear retaliation.

Indeed, Muller seemed to explicitly assume that Covid had been developed as a bioweapon by China, but he then argued that the release in Wuhan had obviously been accidental. After all, he said, if the Chinese had decided to deliberately attack the US with Covid, they surely would have “done something clever” like sending an operative to spread the virus near Ft. Detrick so that America itself would be blamed for the deadly viral epidemic, and the other participants nodded their heads at the obvious point he was making. I found it quite ironic that none of these three biowarfare discussants recognized that he was describing a scenario that was the perfectly analogous mirror-image of what might have actually unfolded in Wuhan during late 2019.

Dr. Muller: Yeah. I think World War III is going to be **biologic, not nuclear**. I think that it may even be a hidden war. Previous wars you know who you’re fighting. But, I don’t believe China did this one purpose. Yes, they developed this weapon, but I don’t think they released it on purpose. If they wanted to release it on purpose, they would have had an infected person travel to Fort Dietrich[sic] and release it around there. They would have done something clever like that, so it would be blamed on the United States. This was an accident.

But what it illustrates more than anything else is that you can attack another country without killing people. Well, you kill people, but you can attack another country without dropping weapons that blow things up. Economic warfare, I believe, is going to be the next war. And what this has illustrated better than anything else is if you have a bio weapon and you have a vaccine for your own people, that you can wreak devastation on the economies of other countries, of competing countries with very little loss yourself. So yeah, this is a genuine threat. No, it’s not going to be nuclear war in the future, it will be economic bio war.

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[**EPub Format**](https://www.unz.com/CONTENTS/EBOOK/CovidCatastrophe.epub) • **[Mobi/Kindle](https://www.unz.com/CONTENTS/EBOOK/CovidCatastrophe.mobi%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//www.unz.com/CONTENTS/EBOOK/CovidCatastrophe.mobi)**

Very little of my own work has focused on the biological properties of the Covid virus, but to the extent that we begin to accept that the virus was probably produced in a lab, let alone that it possesses the characteristics of a bioweapon, the analysis I have developed over the last couple of years becomes extremely relevant and is worth carefully considering.

My [Ron Unz's] lengthy series of articles has focused upon the highly-suspicious pattern of the Covid epidemic and the strong evidence of American foreknowledge. Taken together, **these facts suggest that the global outbreak was very likely the result of an American biowarfare attack against China (and Iran)**.

* [**Covid/Biowarfare Series**](https://www.unz.com/page/covid-biowarfare-articles/)
Ron Unz • ***The Unz Review*** • April 2020-December 2021 • 60,000 Words

For those who prefer to absorb this same information in a different format, here are three of my video podcast interviews from earlier this year, which have now accumulated well over 1.3 million total views on Rumble, with the first of these having passed the half-million mark:

Kevin Barrett, ***FFWN*** • February 16, 2022 • 15m

 [**Video Link**](https://rumble.com/embed/vsi3d0/)

***Geopolitics & Empire*** • February 1, 2022 • 75m • **[SoundCloud Audio](https://soundcloud.com/geopoliticsandempire/ron-unz-covid-19-was-an-anti-economy-bioweapon-by-the-us-against-china-257%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//soundcloud.com/geopoliticsandempire/ron-unz-covid-19-was-an-anti-economy-bioweapon-by-the-us-against-china-257)**

 [**Video Link**](https://rumble.com/embed/vv2eh7/)

***Red Ice TV*** • February 3, 2022 • 130m

 [**Video Link**](https://rumble.com/embed/vrdj6e/?t=75).

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