

The Kriebel Institute

Not the highest-profile organization in Washington, the Kriebel Institute nestles in the web of think-tanks and foundations that promote the “neo-conservatism” of the Conservative Revolution—both at home and, presenting their ideology as the true coin of American “democracy,” all over the world. The Russian nationalist press could as easily have selected the Cato Institute or the Heritage Foundation as the subject of exposés about the foreign indoctrination of Russia’s new elite; both those institutions are active in Moscow.

On the official and quasi-governmental side, the International Republican Institute and the Center for International Enterprise, operating under the National Endowment for Democracy, sell the same snake oil. The cover story of this issue of *EIR* provides a sample. Our *Special Report*, “Phil Gramm’s ‘Conservative Revolution in America,’ ” in *EIR* of Feb. 17, 1995 mapped the interlocking directorates of the Conservative Revolution’s agencies in the United States.

By the high stature both of its featured speakers at Moscow seminars and of the Russians who were hearing them, the Kriebel Institute set the pace for Conservative Revolution recruitment there at the start of the 1990s.

Officially, Dr. Robert Kriebel’s organization is The Kriebel Institute of the Free Congress Foundation, one of

the charter “neo-con” projects. Conservative Revolution guru Paul Weyrich established the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation in 1977, in the same era that saw the Heritage Foundation (1973) and the Cato Institute (1973) come on the scene. The chairman of the FCREF board today is Jeffery H. Coors, of the Coors beer family, whose patriarch, Joseph Coors, funded Heritage from the outset, and later found himself testifying before Congress on his personal purchase of an aircraft for the George Bush/Oliver North illegal Contra resupply operation in the 1980s.

In publicity material, Bob Kriebel congratulates himself on his sub-sector’s special “mission to help equip those individuals in the former Soviet Union, who seek to understand the principles of Democracy and democratic capitalism, with the tools necessary to further their countries along on the road to freedom.” He speaks with pride of “our Field Representative force . . . established throughout the Former Soviet Union.”

Dr. Kriebel, meanwhile, sits on the board of the Mont Pelerin Society (see “Mont Pelerin Pushes the Criminal Economy,” with part 1 of this series, *EIR*, Sept. 6, 1996) and is a trustee of the Heritage Foundation. According to Federal Election Commission records, Kriebel has been one of the top ten individual contributors to the Congressional campaigns of Newt Gingrich (1992 and 1994) and to Gingrich’s GOPAC (since 1985). Leading GOPAC personnel cut their political teeth working on special projects at the FCREF, and Gingrich, himself, cites Paul Weyrich as one of the inspirations of his life.—*Rachel Douglas*

nized a campaign in favor of top Russian “thieves-in-law”³ Kalina and Yaponchik, with assistance from Otari Kvantrishvili, the quasi-official mafia controller of Russian sports and charitable foundations. When pseudo-general Dmitri Yakubovsky had already been arrested for smuggling antiques, all Russia saw a three-part cinema serial glorifying him.

The new authorities had scant use for the genuine political dissidents of the Soviet period. Only a small group of them was invited to the “democratic feast,” those most valued for their famous names: Yelena Bonner, the widow of Academician Andrei Sakharov; his political associate Sergei Kovalyov; the priest Gleb Yakunin; and a few others. Yakunin’s career in the Christian-Democratic movement, incidentally, was made at the expense of its founder, Aleksandr Ogorodnikov. Unlike Yakunin, Ogorodnikov was never admitted to the “democratic” establishment, but Yakunin’s luck was not

just the result of rivalry. Yakunin had the support of Yeltsin’s aide, State Secretary Gennadi Burbulis. For Ogorodnikov, this would have been impossible: He’ll probably never forget that he was expelled from the university and later arrested, thanks to a report written by his teacher of scientific communism: Burbulis.

In the autumn of 1993, Yakunin, together with Bonner and Kovalyov, backed President Yeltsin in his dissolution of the Supreme Soviet by force.

By that time, not only the majority of “Ivan Denisoviches,” but also a lot of Russian emigrés, were deeply disappointed in the new “democratic” elite. While Kovalyov placed himself among the winners in October 1993, attending the founding congress of Yegor Gaidar’s Russia’s Choice party, the former prisoners of conscience who had been his colleagues in the Memorial movement were searching in the hospitals, trying to estimate the real number of victims from Yeltsin’s shelling of the Parliament building. *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* published a protest against the Moscow massacre, signed by socialist Kopelev, monarchist Maksimov, and liberal Sinyavsky—all

3. *Vory v zakone* (“thieves-in-law”): Russian prison slang for a criminal kingpin of especially high standing, adhering to an elaborate code of behavior.