

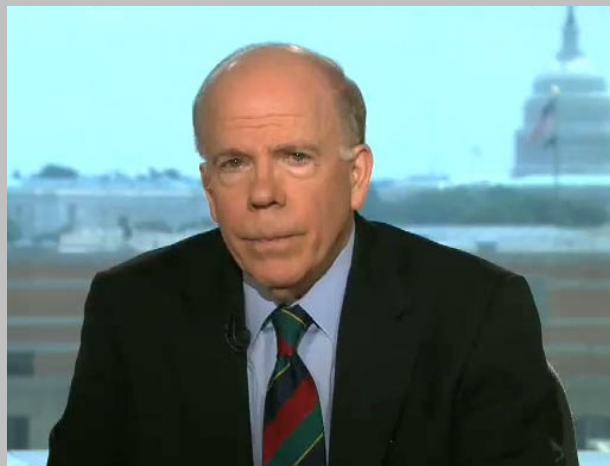
BRIEFING BOOK: IRAN

PANEL ON THE US GOVERNMENT AND IRAN

Is the U.S. government interfering in Iran? Spying? Supporting the opposition? Sending in radio and tv messages? All of the above? Watch to find out what our panel of experts has to say.

John McLaughlin

John McLaughlin is a former Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and former Acting Director of Central Intelligence (CIA). He was sworn in as Deputy Director in 2000 and appointed Acting Director by President Bush in 2004 after George Tenet resigned. Later he returned to his position as Deputy Director for Intelligence where he created the Senior Analytic Service and the Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis, an institution for teaching the history, mission, and essential skills of analysis to new CIA employees.



McLaughlin completed graduate work in comparative politics at the University of Pennsylvania and attained his master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, where he currently holds the position of senior fellow in the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies. McLaughlin is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

During his almost thirty years with the CIA, he received many awards including its highest commendation, the Distinguished Intelligence Community Service Award.



Robert Baer

Robert Baer is an author, journalist, and a former CIA officer.

Baer spent twenty years with the Central Intelligence Agency and upon leaving in 1997 he received the CIA's Career Intelligence Medal. Since then, he has only publicly acknowledged having field assignments in Madras and New Delhi, India; in Beirut, Lebanon; in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; in Morocco, and in Salah al-Din in Kurdish northern Iraq.

He has written about his experiences as an undercover operative in several well-known books including *See No Evil* and *Sleeping with the Devil*, which were the basis for the 2005 Academy Award winning movie, *Syriana*, whose protagonist is loosely based on Baer.

He is *TIME.com*'s intelligence columnist and a frequent contributor to *Vanity Fair*, the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*, among other publications.

His most recent book is entitled [The Devil We Know: Dealing with the New Iranian Superpower](#). In it he argues that Iran is a sophisticated country with a history dating back thousands of years and that the longer the U.S. ignores the Iranian threat, the more likely Iran will succeed in ousting the U.S. from the region.

John O'Sullivan

John O'Sullivan is a returning guest to GPS. He is currently the executive editor of [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#) which is funded by the United States and broadcasts in twenty countries that do not have a free press.

He is Editor-at-Large of *National Review* and a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute. He has also been Editor-in-Chief of *United Press International* and *The National Interest*.

O'Sullivan is a British conservative political commentator and journalist who used to serve as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's speechwriter. He is known for "O'Sullivan's Law," stating that any institution that is not libertarian and classically liberal will, over time, become collectivist and statist.

He is also the founder and co-chairman of the New Atlantic Initiative, an international organization dedicated to reinvigorating and expanding the Atlantic community of democracies.

O'Sullivan has published articles in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Encounter*, *Commentary*, *Policy Review*, *The Spectator*, *The American Conservative*, *The Hibernian* and numerous other journals and publications.

In addition to his work with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and writing, he lectures on British and American politics. His most recent book is [The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister](#). Based on three key twentieth century figures he has conducted exclusive interviews with, he sheds light on how Ronald Reagan, John Paul II, and Margaret Thatcher changed history.

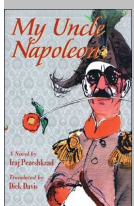


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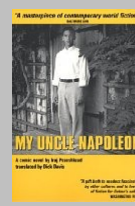
Mentioned on the Show:



Fareed's guest last week, a conservative Iranian academic in Tehran, said that "Right now you have almost 40 television channels in Persian, broadcast into Iran from the United States and Europe...basically funded by the American government and European governments, or in some cases, owned - which have played a very negative role over the past few weeks - turning people against one another." Fareed says that this charge is absurd and his panelists today refute Marandi's statement. [Here is the interview with Marandi.](#)



Fareed said that placing blame on the West for the protests in Iran is absurd. However, talking to Bob Baer he says it "certainly has been true that the United States and Britain have interfered in the past. As you probably well know, one of the great best-selling books in Iran is called [My Uncle Napoleon](#), and it's basically a book about how the Brits actually control everything that's going on in the country."



[My Uncle Napoleon](#) by Iraj Pezeshkzad and translated by Dick Davis, is widely available in several editions.

John O'Sullivan mentioned the elections in Moldova as a point of comparison. The *Wall Street Journal* reported on the election [HERE "In Moldovan Vote, It's East vs. West"](#) "Moldovans head to the polls for parliamentary elections today, choosing between the ruling Communist Party, or the opposition Our Moldova Alliance (AMN), which promises to improve ties with the West. The new vote is being held three months after a disputed ballot that led to violence and two deaths."

More Briefing Book Links:

Fareed's article last week, ["On Iran, Do Nothing. Yet. Tehran needs to work out its turmoil."](#)

["West sought to prompt color revolution after June vote"](#) PRESS TV, Iran

["Official Stresses Role of Foreign Media in Iran's Post-Election Unrests"](#) Fars News Agency

["Tehran Combines Clemency and Toughness"](#) New York Times

["Jailed Protesters' Brutal Deaths Spark Fury in Iran: Regime Releases 140 Detainees in Apparent Bid to Ease Pressure From Opposition; Reports of Violent Interrogations Abound"](#) Wall Street Journal

["140 released, 150 still detained"](#) Tehran Times

["Why Iran's conservatives are airing their dirty laundry"](#) Christian Science Monitor

["Updates on New Post-Election Protests in Iran"](#) New York Times

["Iran's Political Crisis Far From Over"](#) Council on Foreign Relations

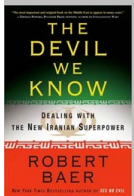
A CFR [Backgrounder](#) looks at Iran's media landscape, and how it has been affected by the political uprising.

More on our Panelists:

John McLaughlin:

["Bush CIA Honcho: Military Option Should Be Off The Table With Iran"](#)

Robert Baer:

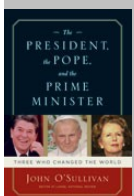


[The Devil We Know: Dealing with the New Iranian Superpower](#) by Robert Baer

["Iran's Leaders Battle Over Khomeini's Legacy"](#) TIME - USA

["Robert Baer: Don't Forget Mousavi's Bloody Past"](#) ایرانپان - San Francisco, CA, USA

John O'Sullivan:



[The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister](#) by John O'Sullivan

[Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#) (General Website to RFERL)

[National Review articles](#) by John O'Sullivan