

MEDIA KIT

MICHAEL T. LESTER

Author | Speaker | National Security Analyst

Examining power, propaganda, and the consequences of American empire

WE ARE THE BAD GUYS

The Global Cost of American Power

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

U.S. Naval Academy Graduate | Marine Corps Combat Pilot | Cybersecurity Executive | Adjunct Professor | MENSA Member

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Michael T. Lester is the author of *We Are The Bad Guys: The Global Cost of American Power*. A 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he served as a Marine Corps combat pilot across Asia and the Middle East during a career that took him from the cockpit to the boardroom.

After his military service, Lester transitioned into cybersecurity, where he served as a technology executive and now serves as an adjunct professor. But the patterns he observed during his service never left him: The gap between what America says and what America does. The disconnect between the narratives we tell ourselves and the reality experienced by people in countries where American power has been applied.

For two decades, Lester has investigated these patterns, examining declassified documents, official government records, congressional testimonies, and academic research. *We Are The Bad Guys* is the result of that investigation. It is not theory or conspiracy. It is lived experience backed by rigorous documentation from the very institutions responsible for American foreign policy.

Lester brings a unique perspective to these conversations. He is not a political pundit or academic observer. He is a veteran who served the system he now critiques, a technologist who understands how information flows and narratives are shaped, and a teacher committed to helping the next generation think critically about power.

SHORT BIO (For Hosts to Read)

Michael T. Lester is the author of *We Are The Bad Guys*. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a former Marine Corps combat pilot, he served across Asia and the Middle East. Now a cybersecurity executive and adjunct professor, he has spent two decades researching U.S. foreign policy, national security strategy, and the gap between America's stated values and its actions abroad.

WHAT MAKES THIS AUTHOR UNIQUE

- > Former military officer who served the system he now critiques
- > Two decades of primary source research, not secondhand analysis
- > Cybersecurity expertise provides insight into information warfare and propaganda
- > Academic credentials as adjunct professor teaching critical thinking
- > Speaks to both conservative and progressive audiences without partisan framing

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title:	We Are The Bad Guys: The Global Cost of American Power
Author:	Michael T. Lester
Genre:	Nonfiction / History / Political Science / Foreign Policy
Format:	Paperback, Hardcover, eBook
Website:	michaeltlester.com/shop

BOOK DESCRIPTION

We Are The Bad Guys examines the documented history of U.S. foreign policy through primary sources: declassified documents, official government records, congressional testimonies, and peer-reviewed academic research. From Iran in 1953 to Iraq in 2003 and beyond, the book traces patterns of intervention that have shaped the modern world while remaining largely invisible to American citizens.

This is not a book of conspiracy theories or partisan attacks. It is a careful examination of what the U.S. government's own documents reveal about American foreign policy. The goal is not provocation. It is clarity grounded in evidence.

KEY THEMES

- > The documented history of U.S.-backed coups, sanctions, and covert operations
- > How propaganda functions in democratic societies without centralized control
- > Why institutional incentives produce repeated policy failures regardless of leadership
- > The gap between American self-image and international perception
- > What primary sources reveal versus what citizens are typically told

TARGET AUDIENCE

Veterans and military families seeking context for their service. History and political science enthusiasts who want primary-source documentation. Citizens across the political spectrum questioning mainstream foreign policy narratives. Educators teaching critical thinking about media and government. Anyone who has wondered why so much of the world sees America differently than Americans see themselves.

WHAT READERS WILL LEARN

- > How social media and "news" programs curate a constructed narrative
- > The historical patterns that predict future interventions
- > Why bipartisan foreign policy consensus often produces bipartisan failures
- > How to evaluate media coverage of international events critically

INTERVIEW GUIDE

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Hosts are welcome to use these questions or develop their own.

What made you, as a Naval Academy graduate and Marine combat pilot, write a book critical of American foreign policy?

The patterns I observed during my service didn't match the narratives I was taught. After two decades of research into primary sources, I realized the gap between what we say and what we do is documented in our own government records.

Why title your book 'We Are The Bad Guys'? Isn't that title designed to provoke?

The title comes from how much of the world actually experiences American power. It's not provocation; it's perspective. The book documents why that perception exists and how we can change it.

How do you respond to critics who say this narrative aids America's adversaries?

I'd argue that ignoring documented history aids no one. Democratic accountability requires citizens to understand what their government does in their name. That's patriotism, not betrayal.

What surprised you most in your research?

How much is hiding in plain sight. The CIA's own histories, State Department records, congressional reports. The information is available; it's just not widely discussed.

How does your cybersecurity background inform your analysis of propaganda?

Modern propaganda doesn't require centralized control. It works through institutional incentives, information architecture, and narrative repetition.

Understanding how information systems work helps explain how certain stories dominate while others disappear.

What do you want readers to do with this information?

Think critically. Ask better questions. Demand better evidence before supporting the next intervention. The goal isn't despair; it's informed citizenship.

How do you reach audiences across the political spectrum with this message?

By focusing on documented facts rather than partisan framing. Conservatives and progressives both value truth and accountability. The evidence speaks to anyone willing to examine it.

What role does military service play in your credibility on this topic?

I served the system I now critique. That's not hypocrisy; it's evolution. Many veterans share my questions. We were there. We saw the gap between rhetoric and reality.

SPEAKING TOPICS

- > The Documented History of American Intervention
- > How Propaganda Works in Democratic Societies
- > Critical Thinking in the Information Age
- > Veterans and the Reckoning with Service
- > Primary Sources: How to Research What Your Government Actually Does

PRESS ASSETS & CONTACT

FEATURED MEDIA APPEARANCE

The Shawn Ryan Show

Michael T. Lester appeared on The Shawn Ryan Show to discuss U.S. foreign intervention, propaganda, and the long-term consequences of American power. The conversation draws directly from documented research presented in *We Are the Bad Guys*.

BOOKING INFORMATION

MEDIA INQUIRIES	WEBSITE	PRESS ASSETS
media@michaeltlester.com	michaeltlester.com	michaeltlester.com/media

AVAILABLE PRESS ASSETS

The following assets are available for download at michaeltlester.com/media:

- > High-resolution author headshot (300 DPI, vertical and horizontal)
- > Book cover images (front cover, 3D mockup)
- > This media kit (PDF)
- > Book excerpt (Introduction)

INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY

Michael T. Lester is available for podcast interviews, radio appearances, television segments, print interviews, and speaking engagements. He is comfortable with live and recorded formats and can provide professional audio quality for remote recordings.

For booking inquiries, please email media@michaeltlester.com with your show/outlet name, audience size, proposed topic or angle, and preferred date/time. Response time is typically 24-48 hours.

PRIMARY SOURCES REFERENCED

- > U.S. State Department: Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)
- > CIA Reading Room: Historical Collections
- > National Security Archive at George Washington University
- > U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee Reports
- > Brown University Costs of War Project

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