

Bios: Robert E. Townsend

"A novel is a pack of lies hounding the truth." Carlos Fuentes

Short Bio:

Robert Townsend is among some of the few men in America familiar with the war of ruse and stratagem between the US and the USSR. His *Long War* series addresses US/USSR 20th century deception, war and peace. The third novel, *The Executioner's Son*, will be released July 2016. (web site: roberttownsendonline.com; email: RETownsend@liarspath.org)

Medium Bio:

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam War protests, Townsend flew 130 combat missions in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. From 1982-1989 he was deputy chief, Air Force Intelligence Agency, counter-deception directorate. He is one among few men in America familiar with the war of ruse and stratagem between the US and the USSR. He is currently working on the *Long War* novel series addressing deception, war and peace in a 20th century world of contrived and real moral ambiguity. (web: roberttownsendonline.com; email: RETownsend@liarspath.org)

Long Bio: (4-600 words)

Townsend comes from a long line—father, grandfathers and great-grandfathers—of soldiers, American and pre-American. Slavic on his mother's, deep-south redneck on the father's side, his parents managed money poorly and told stories well. Spare, pithy, lasting the duration of a Pall Mall cigarette, the tales were to entertain while teaching. No one is completely useless, he was told. He can always serve as a bad example.

He learned this lesson—storytellers are treasured, liars are vexing and both are often one and the same. The craft is shared; the objectives differ. However, when the skilled liar is armed, crazed and planning Armageddon, ambiguity in matters of war and peace and life and death have vexed the earth.

His stories and novels arise from family history, fables and stories told around the kitchen table as well as his own experiences in America's late 20th century ambiguous wars, deceptions and counter-deceptions.

Fluent in Russian and German with a combat vocabulary in French, Townsend is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin (BA), studied at *Freies Universitat Berlin* (Certifikat), and received an MA from Georgetown University. Since leaving the intelligence business, he has turned his attention to writing stories and essays, an early passion waylaid by life and work.

The *Long War* is a novel series addressing deception, war and peace in the 20th century world of both contrived and actual moral ambiguity.

In 1947, the Soviet security services named the United States as 'the main enemy.' The Cold War was joined. Four teens, born half-worlds apart, children of their nations' greatest generation, come of age in the 1950s, each in their small-town Eden, cast out to encounter one another on the front lines in the

war for control of the imagination.

He follows four main characters: Two Russians; Danton Larionov and Ekaterina Soroka, one American; Richard Belisle, and a Canadian; Marie Jeanne Charbonneau. These four cross paths, destinies, and swords as they stalk, deceive and love across the world. They trust and double-cross one another, fast friends and bitter enemies, give faith and deceive while striving to live in accordance within their moral codes in an amoral world.

Townsend and his wife, Patrice Naparstek, have lived comfortably most anywhere—Rovinj, Croatia; Dresden, Germany; Dubai, UAE; Boulder, Colorado; Madison, Wisconsin—returning periodically to his family farm in northern Wisconsin to breathe deeply.

Speaker Introduction:

Robert Townsend learned storytelling and deception listening to the loud-mouthed, big-hearted Slavs who visited his isolated Wisconsin farm in the 1950s. They told big stories—about the wondrous wealth and miserable children with which the Lord and New World blessed them.

Now and then a hint at that which they escaped—starvation, massacre, war, mass murder, and even that new word, genocide—the tragedy more impressing on a child's mind for the husband's moment of pained silence, the wife's anxious glance.

In 1947, the year he was born, the Soviet Union designated the United States the 'main enemy,' replacing Great Britain. In 1965, the year he graduated from high school, the Vietnam War called his high school friends in increasing numbers into the military.

It was clear, wasn't it? When Communists came to power, genocide ensued. The correlation was one-to-one. He volunteered to serve in Vietnam flying 130 combat missions in theater.

No, it wasn't clear. He left Vietnam in 1970, bored. The war had been won. But it hadn't been. The storyteller told a more powerful story hiding even the most massive of graves. Thus, the power of the storyteller and the liar and a lifelong quest for 'working truth' Let's give a warm welcome to Robert Townsend, storyteller and liar seeking working truths.

5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me:

1. Over the last twenty years I have planted around 80,000 tamarack, pine and spruce on my N. Wisconsin farm, which will over their 100 year est. life span sequester 250,000 tons of CO₂. This permits me to smoke a cigar or two beneath their branches.

2. In 2014, I spent several months in Rovinj, Croatia working on *The Executioner's Son*. I had thought my Russian fluency would ensure ease in learning the brain-twisting Serbo-Croatian language. No. It was like a Upper Peninsula Finn visited Cajun Louisiana.

3. I must have had a thousand jobs in my early life —carpenter, stevedore, janitor, egg-cracker, dry cleaner, beer truck driver, and of course, farm laborer, During a desperate period in my life, I spent a thousand years one month selling health insurance door-to-door in Wausau, Wisconsin.

4. My wife, Patrice Naparstek, was a dancer and is a Rolfer. Your average professional dancer suffers the same career-ending injuries as your average professional middle linebacker. She became a Rolfer, a healer, who makes people walk upright again. Which she did for me 15 years ago. May I contribute to humanity some day as she does everyday.

5. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam War protests, I flew 130 combat missions in Southeast Asia. I served in Berlin Germany, the National Security Agency in Fort George Meade, Md, and as a war planner at HQ US Air Forces Europe in Ramstein, Germany. In the 1980s I was the deputy chief, Air Force Intelligence, Counter-Deception Directorate. I am among some of the few men in America familiar with the war of ruse and stratagem between the US and the USSR.