



The Solari Report

February 6, 2020

Unpacking Astonishing Financial Fraud with Lucy Komisar



Catherine Austin Fitts



Lucy Komisar

Guest: Lucy Komisar

[Lucy Komisar](#) is a New York City-based investigative journalist and drama critic.

Komisar was editor of the Mississippi Free Press in Jackson, Mississippi from 1962 to 1963. The weekly covered the civil rights movement and related political and labor issues and was read mainly by black people in Mississippi.

Books:

- *The New Feminism* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1972; Paperback Library, 1972), primer on feminism, including history, law, work, education and origins of contemporary movement.
- *Down and Out in the U.S.A. A History of Public Welfare* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1973 and 1977; New Viewpoints, 1973 and 1977), history of the American welfare system from colonial times to the present.
- *Corazon Aquino: The Story of a Revolution* (New York: George Braziller, 1987), political biography of Corazon Aquino, former president of the Philippines. (Zurich: Benziger Verlag, 1988; Manila: The National Bookstore, 1988)

C. Austin Fitts: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *The Solari Report*. This is Catherine Austin Fitts, and it's my delight to bring back to *The Solari Report* one of my favorite people to talk to, Lucy Komisar, who is the proprietor of *The Komisar Scoop*. If you haven't gone there or signed up, I can't recommend it enough.

Among many other accomplishments, Lucy is one of the smartest investigative reporters on the planet when it comes to sophisticated financial fraud. She has quite a resume. She joined us in 2015 to talk about the offshore financial system and tax evasion and tax fraud, among other things. It's something that she knows a great deal about.

Lucy Komisar, welcome back to *The Solari Report*.

Lucy Komisar: Thank you very much; it's a pleasure. We go back a long way.

Fitts: We do go back a long time. When I first met you, I was amazed at your ability to handle complexity. Many great investigative reporters just shut down when they have to face complex finances, but you have a gift. I told you earlier that you could have made millions of dollars as a bond trader. You would have been great.

Komisar: My first stories about you were how you exposed the **corruption at HUD**, and I wrote about that. We have a commonality in wanting to expose corruption.

Fitts: I want to re-examine your past because when we end this conversation, I want people to **understand your history** and how much you have done to expose corruption. I want them to know that there are extraordinary and excellent people out there doing amazing things. Just because you don't see them on ABC, doesn't mean they're not there. In fact, you are never going to see them; that's not where you find them.

I want to talk about how you ended up developing your website, but start us out by telling us about your trajectory of reporting on corruption and fraud, and getting into financial fraud. Take us through a little of your history.

Komisar: I started out in college in the early 1960's getting involved in the civil rights movement. I took a leave of absence from college and went to Mississippi, and became editor of the *Mississippi Free Press*, which I was for a year. So, that is when I decided to be a journalist. I thought that the important thing was to help change the situation of things that are hurting people. One way to change it is to write about it. So, I began to write about civil rights issues, and then I got involved in the women's movement and wrote about women's issues. I was a national vice president of NOW in 1970 to 1971.

From there, I got involved in writing about what was going on in other countries – developing countries – where the corrupt people were destroying the lives of people. I went to places like the Philippines. I was there when Marcos was overthrown. I went to Zaire when Mobutu was in charge. I also went to Haiti.

One thing that was so interesting in all of those places – the Philippines, Zaire, and Haiti – the oppositions on three different continents said that the dictator has looted the country and put the money in Swiss banks. I thought, “Oh my God!”

I had never read about that in the newspapers. Of course, the newspapers never wrote about things like that. So, I started looking into it and discovered the offshore system – the secret bank account, the secret company system – much of it is run by the big international banks. They run offshore banks because they make a large amount of money.

So after going to those places, I got involved in looking at the corrupt offshore system, and that took me into the issue of financial and corporate corruption. Whenever there is financial and corporate corruption, they are using the offshore system. They are in some way hiding their money or they are laundering their money.

One thing led to another, and that is what compelled me to finally deal with the story I'm dealing with now – the **William Browder 'Magnitsky' fraud**. But it also involved some other things. I discovered that Allen Stanford, who is the big Ponzi schemer after Madoff, scammed \$7 billion. He had operated through moving money to Antigua, another offshore place.

Fitts: You won the **Gerald Loeb Award** for that story.

Komisar: I did, and it was page one on the *Miami Herald*, but none of the other media were interested in this story. They ran stories about how the 'poor soccer team in Antigua was no longer getting support from Allen Stanford'. This was much more important to them than explaining the story that I did, which was about how the Florida banking department had enabled Stanford to move money offshore with no regulation.

When Cheney ran Halliburton, they were involved together with a French company, which was said to have taken bribes for Venezuela contracts. I've documented that, and nobody went after Cheney. He was too important. Again, the bribes were paid through an offshore company.

I discovered that **offshore** is the place that the crooks love because that is how they move their money, but it exists because the banks don't want to stop it; they make a large amount of money from it.

The Browder story that I'm doing now also worked through offshore. He set up his operation through Mossack Fonseca an offshore company of Panama Papers fame. It was all offshore. It's the system run by the big banks, and they developed a super structure that allows the crooks to steal from us all.

Fitts: Right. I want to mention that one of the reasons I got interested in the offshore system was because, as all the money was disappearing from the US government, the offshore system was exploding. As the money was disappearing from one, the size of the assets under management in the other was rising. It almost looked in some years like a direct transfer.

Komisar: Yes, and deliberately the authorities and the people in power in the West have refused to look at this. It's not really that hard to stop.

I once interviewed a terrific person named **Robert Morgenthau**. He was the District Attorney for Manhattan for 33 years. He just died this year.

He said, "It's really easy to change this. All you have to do is say, 'Money from these jurisdictions that do not put in the real owners' names on the bank accounts, we will not accept that money.'"

The US already says that 'bad banks', meaning any banks that are in North Korea or any banks in Syria, cannot have access to our financial system. They could do the same thing with any banks, such as banks in Switzerland, banks in Grand Cayman, and banks on the Isle of Man. They could do the same thing because they already say that terrorists are using some of these accounts. They could say on national security grounds that we cannot allow this money into the US, but they won't do it because many of the people they like – the people who are connected to the government that support the government – are doing the same thing.

As Morgenthau said, "That is all you have to do to stop this corruption and security threats. But it won't happen."

Fitts: I don't know if you know this, but when First American went down, it was part of BCCI. It was the heart of BCCI that they bought in America. Morgenthau appointed Harry Albright as the chairman as receiver for First American, and Harry needed 'ringers' on the board. So, he put me on the board. I had an all-glass house in Washington D.C., right in McLean where the beltway meets the river, so it was overlooking the river.

Harry sent a Brinks truck out with approximately 10,000 pages of documents on First American. I spent four days, 18 hours a day, reading them all – speedreading. When it was over, I realized that all of this was engineered with the approval of the big banks, the Fed, and the Treasury. This was not a fraud; this was an institutionalized and engineered thing. It was incredible.

Harry and Morgenthau fought the whole time with the Department of Justice who was trying to grab the money. Harry and Morgenthau were trying to protect the money for the people who had been harmed – the depositors. It was a very fascinating situation.

It was the same thing; what you see is that all of this could be fixed simply.

There was one other story that I wanted to tell you. When Enron went down, they had 700 subsidiaries in the **Cayman Islands**. The Cayman Islands got tired of being mentioned, so finally they put out a press release that said that the Minister of Finance in the Cayman Islands would be delighted to cooperate with US authorities, but as of yet, they haven't received a request from the Department of Justice.

Komisar: Of course not, they will not change it.

Fitts: One of the things that I wanted to bring up was that you also did a big investigation of **Sodexo**, the big food company. Tell us a little about that.

Komisar: Sodexo is one of the three worldwide food service providers. That is, if you are in a school or college or a hospital or in many businesses that have a cafeteria, instead of the school or business or hospital running the cafeteria, they outsource it to Sodexo. The contracts may say that they get paid cost-plus, or they get paid per meal.

When they get paid cost-plus, that is when they cheated. They would say, "This is the cost of the meal," and they would give all kinds of documents about their contracts. But then they would get kickbacks from the major food providers – the famous names. It wasn't the local farmers, but the famous names that package the food. They would get kickbacks, so they were cheating.

I wrote about that because I got connected to some whistleblowers who had worked for them, and they gave me the details of the cheating.

Then in New York State, the attorney general sued and got a settlement of \$20 million focusing on particular state institutions, mostly hospitals, that had overpaid because they had been cheated. I never saw any other states going after them, nor have I seen anything since. Of course, nobody goes to jail. Only the 'little people' go to jail; the 'big people' who steal millions rarely go to jail.

So, that is what Sodexo was doing, and that was ten years ago. I don't know what they're doing now, but since there weren't any changes that I saw in any of the other states, I doubt that anything really changed. People forget.

Fitts: I'm sure the competitors used it to get contracts away from them.

Komisar: That could be true, too.

Fitts: At some point, you decided to start your own **website**. Tell us about how you came to that decision and how it's worked out.

Komisar: It's because major media were mostly not interested in these stories. The Sodexo story I wrote for *In These Times* in 2009. Then I wrote another story in 2011 for *The New York Times*, and it was interesting that they were willing to do it.

Do you know why they were willing to do it? Because the editor at the time told me that when he was a school child, he was one of the students who had their meals paid for. He was always very sensitive about how the school meal system worked. What they tend to do is charge everybody for these meals, and then they humiliate the children whose parents cannot pay. He told me that was why they ran the story. Otherwise, *The New York Times* never would have run this story except for the editor at the time, who is no longer the editor of that section.

I set up the website, **The Komisar Scoop**, because so much of what I was writing was not of interest to the mainstream media. I still write somethings that may be considered to be more on the left.

100 Reporters ran several stories about the crook, Bill Browder, but at least this way if I have the story, I can put it on the website and people can see it. I think that more and more people understand that the real stories that they need to see are not what gets printed in the mainstream media; it's what other people do. They have to figure out what they want to look at.

Fitts: Let's turn to **Browder**. I know this is a story that you've been covering extensively, and now *Der Spiegel* is covering it. This a perfect example because, at one point, I decided that I would investigate, and I kept thinking, "What is this Browder story about?" It was somewhat like the gopher in *Caddyshack*; it just kept popping up.

I started to read it, and I thought, "Oh my God!" First of all, you have highly complicated finances during a period when there were enormous amounts of organized crime occurring, and flows going back and forth, and the intelligence agencies were deeply involved. But also, the politics of Russia versus the United States right now is absolutely mind-boggling.

So, the politics are unbelievably complicated, and the finances are unbelievably complicated. So, tell us a little about Browder's story. Most importantly, tell us what got you interested.

Komisar: I was in Russia in the year 2000. I went to an event in Moscow where Browder was speaking. I don't remember how I found out about it, but he had been involved in a company called Avisma, which was a Russian titanium company, which he, together with Kenneth Dart, the billionaire of Darts Cups, bought. He didn't create it; his grandfather created Dart Cups, now a disposable cups multinational.

Avisma was a titanium company, and titanium is used in airplanes. They sell a lot to Boeing and other companies. They were corrupt auctions where, basically, they sold the patrimony of Russia. Investors' banks would hold auctions and would be running the auctions themselves under Yeltsin, who was a very corrupt person, and they would win the auction because they didn't allow anybody else to be in the auction.

Fitts: Let's pause for a moment. We have two great *Solari Reports*. One is called *The Rape of Russia* and the other is on the Ukraine by Anne Williamson. She has done a great deal to document what is called 'the Rape of Russia', and this was part of the Rape of Russia where privatizations went off at \$0.10 on the dollar.

My biggest fear has always been that somebody would try to do the same thing here, which we can talk about later. It's a very significant event, and it has had a very defining impact on a huge flow of dirty Russian money into the United States and into the politics between Russia and America. Listeners or readers of this report should go to those interviews in the archives for a good background.

Komisar: Browder, with his partner Dart, got this company, Avisma. Originally, the auction was by **Mikhail Khodorkovsky**, who was another major crook. These auctions were always run by their own banks or their own partners, so they would get it for pennies on the dollar – kopeks on the ruble. They ended up buying this from Khodorkovsky.

Part of the deal was that there was something called 'transfer pricing', which goes on to a massive degree. That means that you have a company that is selling 'widgets'. Instead of selling widgets on the market at the market price, which means they would have to pay the real taxes, and you have to pay your investors the real dividends; they sell it to an in-between shell company. In this case, it was in the Isle of Man.

So, we have the 'ABC shell company', and they sell it for a fake low price. Therefore, they pay their taxes on the fake low price, and their investors get the fake low dividends. Then the ABC fake company on the Isle of Man sells it on the world market at the real price. These people – first Khodorkovsky and then Dart and Browder – get the 'rake-off'. This is what was happening.

So, when Dart and Browder bought Avisma-the titanium company-from Khodorkovsky, they said, “The deal is that we want to continue the rake-off. Otherwise it’s not interesting to us.”

What happened was the person in the **Isle of Man** running this shell company was Peter Bond, who was infamous, and was a crook. What they say is, “When you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas.” So, this crook was cheating the other crooks, and he did not give them all the money that he had skimmed from the profit. They were really angry, so they filed a court case against him in the Isle of Man and said, “You were supposed to give us this money that you scammed.”

In the end, they settled. So, he gave them around \$8 million. Then Dart and Browder sold the company to a Russian company that used titanium in its production. The initials are VSMPO, and their lawyer, who happens to be a Philadelphia lawyer, went to the law firm in London that was handling Avisma. They looked at the document and said, “Oh my God! The documents have the lawsuit where these people are saying to the person on the Isle of Man, ‘You have cheated because you have not given us the rake-off from our cheating.’”

So, he filed a RICO suit in New Jersey, and they settled. It’s confidential, so you don’t know, but obviously, they had to pay them off. They had everything, and these documents include Brower saying to the Isle of Man guy, “I’m sure that we can work this out. We can figure this out.”

He was essentially saying, “Yes, we are corrupt. We are stealing, but we can figure out that you are going to pay us some of this, and we will make a settlement.”

So, that is how I got into this, and of course, I wrote a story about it. The mainstream media was totally uninterested in this, and I was published in *100 Reporters*, which is an investigative news site.

I knew then that Browder was a crook. So, when this next story came up about Magnitsky, *100 Reporters*, managed by Diana Jean Schemo, who is a former *New York Times* financial reporter, said, “Okay. Look into this.”

So I did, and found out that the crook was at it again. He had faked this whole story about Magnitsky because he had been involved in a great deal of fakery and corruption – tax evasion, illicit stock buys, he didn’t pay his taxes in Russia, and he was buying stocks of Gazprom, which is an oil and gas energy company in Russia.

You weren't allowed to buy stocks if you were a foreigner because they didn't want foreigners to take over a strategic resource. You were supposed to buy it in London as ADRs (American Depository Receipts).

So, he had put up many shell companies and bought them through shell companies, and pretended that it was actually Russians purchasing it. It was a total fake. In the end, his accountant, Magnitsky, was involved in doing this fakery.

Fitts: Was Magnitsky in Moscow or St. Petersburg?

Komisar: Browder was in Moscow, but his shell companies were listed elsewhere. It was all crooked. They went after him, and there were court cases. He finally was not given a visa because, to acquire a visa to a country you are not supposed to be a crook, and by then, they knew he was a crook. They didn't give him a visa; they arrested his accountant, Magnitsky, who had been doing all the tax evasion activity.

Magnitsky died in prison because he didn't get proper medical treatment for his illness. Browder, never said anything while this man was in prison for almost a year. Later he wouldn't say, "My poor accountant is in prison and he is being mistreated", but would later say that he was being beaten every day. But somehow during that entire year he never said that he was beaten every day.

He invented a story that the Russians had killed this person because he had blown the whistle on a corruption scheme. Of course, the corruption scheme happened after the whole story of the investigation into Browder's tax evasion, and the person had never blown the whistle on anything; it was all fake. But the American media just repeated what Browder said. They never asked for any evidence – never.

This goes back to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Do you remember the fake attack on an American warship in the Tonkin Gulf that allowed Lyndon Johnson to escalate the war in Vietnam? How about 'weapons of mass destruction' that allowed the US to invade Iraq? It's all fakery.

The media knows the history of **American fakery** and has never asked for any evidence. The whole story is fraudulent, and it's only – and I've written about this during the last couple of years – since November that *Der Spiegel*, the major news magazine in Germany, has written the same story. The reporter told me in an email that he had read my story.

So, I was really glad if I contributed to that. It's a major, major breakthrough. The American and the UK media has totally ignored this story.

Fitts: My impression – and I don't understand it, so you can explain it to us – is that Browder's story and lobbying was able to get an act passed, named after the accountant, which has given the US tools to use in a variety of international situations that they might want to use for other reasons.

Komisar: Right. What happened was the Russians had a lot of evidence about his massive tax evasion and illicit stock buys- the numbers are up to \$100 million. He was buying **Gazprom**, which is their major oil and gas company, through shell companies in Russia when he wasn't allowed to buy it unless he was a Russian citizen. He set up these fake shell companies, and didn't pay taxes because he had set up these companies in Kalmykia. Kalmykia was a region that was trying to help disabled people, including Afghanistan war victims, and said that if you had 50% of your employees disabled you could get a massive tax cut. So, he made up that he hired all these people and, in fact, he didn't hire any of them; it was all fake.

He provided the documents of these people in his tax claims, but then the investigators found out that none of this was true. He claimed that they were stock analysts, and they said, "This guy is a gardener, and he is working here", and they were all manual workers.

The man is a major crook, so the Russians called him out for being a major crook, and said, "We are going after you for your tax evasion."

As far as the American government and media were concerned, they just wanted to attack Russia. This person was a useful idiot – or maybe he was more than a useful idiot. I don't know who is behind him, but they didn't really care.

So, this story became a major story, and the **Magnitsky Act and background can be summarized as such:** Browder needed to build a wall against the Russians going after him for his tax evasion and his illicit stock buys because normally, countries cooperate if there is a crook involved. They provide information and if necessary, they even provide extradition.

He needed to prevent that, but how could he prevent it? He could prevent it by building a story that the whole Magnitsky event was an attack on him by the Russians, and it was unjustified, and they had actually murdered Magnitsky — and everything they said was untrue.

The purpose was: How to prevent the Americans from cooperating with the Russians on a case which involved a real crook like Browder, and that is why he did it. Why did the Americans do it? The Russophobic American policy needed another story. They needed more stories that went along with, “The Russians are really terrible people,” and this was really convenient. It worked out on both sides.

So, they passed a law in 2012, which included all of Browder’s lies. “This guy was a whistleblower, and he had been beaten to death.”

It was really interesting that it also included a section on **Khodorkovsky**, which had nothing to do with any of this except that he was also involved in the Avisma story. So, we really know that it’s much more than only Browder. Why is Khodorkovsky suddenly in there?

Well, we found out that Khodorkovsky spent about \$500,000 lobbying for this law. So that’s why he’s in it; buy the Congress. You lobby for a law, and you get your name into the legislation. So, that is what the law is.

Basically, what has happened with the *Der Spiegel* article is it shows that the law is based on fakery. There is no truth in there; there is no evidence. But, of course, the media and the government are not going to deal with it.

Fitts: I want to bring up two things: What I find in situations like this is if I don’t know much about this other than what I’ve read on your website and *Der Spiegel’s* website, people like this can’t do what he does without massive air cover.

In other words, the banks and the intelligence agencies have to be allowing it to happen. They have to be taking advantage of it or supporting him or sponsoring him or happy to see him doing it.

I was an Assistant Secretary and a very prominent business person. I was very wealthy, and had an excellent reputation, and they were able to break the law and do untold, amazing things to me. So when the Department of Justice gets involved, they are above the law as a practical matter.

Komisar: Let me tell you why what you are saying is true. I haven’t written about this because so far, I haven’t gotten somebody to pay for this story, but I’m going to tell you anyway.

There is a person named **Ken Dilanian**. He is a national security reporter for MSNBC in Washington, and is on TV all the time.

He did a story, and I didn't know about it because he was working on this a year before my first story on the Magnitsky hoax came out in October of 2017. Go back a year and a half to May of 2016. He had the story of Browder's fakery and the whole hoax, revealing that everything Browder said was wrong. He was going to run this as a big MSNBC story. He was talking to Browder via email and saying, "Look, I know this and this and this. I want to talk to you about x," and he was asking him all kinds of questions because he obviously knew a lot.

They were going back and forth on email. Browder was not cooperating, and he was putting out a lot of information which Dilanian knew was a lie. He said, "We are going to go with this tomorrow."

What happened? Browder got his lawyers to send a legal threat to MSNBC. This was in May. MSNBC caved, and the investigative editor was the same one who killed the Harvey Weinstein story.

Fitts: You're kidding!

Komisar: So, what is more interesting about this is on the emails, linked in is **Robert Otto**, who is in **INR (Bureau of Intelligence and Research)**, which is the State Department area that looks into what is occurring in various parts of the world. They provide information to the parts of the State Department that are more in policy. He was their Russian expert in INR, Intelligence and Research.

He was copied on all of Browder's emails to Dilanian. He saw everything, and was also sending emails to his boss. He was commenting on what was going on, and he was saying that he didn't believe Browder on a lot of this. Browder was embellishing, and he was pointing out things where Browder was lying.

The State Department knew that Browder was lying. How do I know this? Robert Otto's emails were hacked. This was written about in *Foreign Policy* magazine.

Fitts: Was this the WikiLeaks?

Komisar: No, it was Robert Otto, the State Department person. It was written about in *Foreign Policy* magazine, which is basically an establishment publication. They said that the State Department had been hacked. They didn't say who and ———

they didn't say what it was about; they didn't say it was Robert Otto, and they didn't say that it was about Browder. Nothing, but it got out and the people who hacked it made it available.

In the story that I wrote, I put in the link. I saw all the documents where the State Department knows that Browder is fake. Robert Otto knows that Browder is a fake. He is a very convenient fake, but they all know that the story is a fake.

This was in May of 2016 when the story that Ken Dilanian wanted to do was killed. The other thing that is interesting is what happened one month later in June of 2016 at the **Trump Tower meeting**. That is when the Russian lawyer, **Natalia Veselnitskaya**, talked to Trump Jr. about the fakery of Browder and the Magnitsky story, and opposing the Magnitsky Act. That was what she was talking to him about. What do you think would have happened if one month before MSNBC had run this story saying, "It's all a fake, Browder is a fake. The Magnitsky Act is based on fakery"? What do you think would have happened? Maybe there would have been no meeting; maybe it would not have been necessary.

This is one of the major parts of the **Mueller Report**. The Mueller Report says that there were six key things that were dealt with. One of the six is the Trump Tower meeting. There would have probably been no Trump Tower meeting, or it would have been totally different. It would have been a discussion of Ken Dilanian's exposé, or maybe the lawyer would have said, "Look, we don't have to do this now. It's now out in print." That changes everything.

What is interesting is that was June of 2016. My story came out in October 2017, and I didn't know that he had been doing this. So, Ken Dilanian tweeted to his followers, "Here is a story that you really need to read," and it was my story. He told everyone to read my October 2017 story in *100 Reporters* because it's the truth that MSNBC would not allow to be put on the air. So much changes because of that.

So, here we see the corrupt media and what the result is of the corrupt media. One thing leads to another, and still the American media will not write the truth about this. It's only now that *Der Spiegel* has written the story. Who knows whether anything will come out, but at least it's now in the mainstream media.

If people come to my website, *The Komisar Scoop*, I have that story. I have the links to the *Der Spiegel* story in German and English, and people can follow it.

Fitts: I can't remember the exact dates, but there was a meeting that Trump had with **Putin**. There was massive effort by, what I call, the 'shriek-o-meter' to stop him from meeting with Putin. But after the meeting, he came out and they had a joint press conference. Trump said something, and I thought it was about this act or this situation. Do you remember that?

Komisar: Yes, absolutely.

Fitts: What was that; what happened; can you explain? I knew something had happened, but I never knew enough about Browder to know what had happened.

Komisar: Trump knew that the story was a fake; Putin knew it was a fake. But the thing with Trump is that he is really manipulated by a lot of people, and so that happened, but his people were not going to allow him to look into this story.

Even though on some foreign policy things he is much better than the Democrats have been in recent years or the normal Republicans have been, for some reason he doesn't seem to want to have 'forever wars', but he has not been allowed to pursue that policy. So part of it is: How do you get better relations with the Russians, which he seems to want to do? This is one of the impediments because it's basically saying, "You people did this, and we are going to sanction you."

Now, of course, what Browder is doing is using the Magnitsky name to get so-called 'Magnitsky' laws around Europe. He says that these are human rights laws, but there is no reason to call them 'Magnitsky laws'. His whole purpose was a big PR scheme to not allow the Russians to go after him for his \$100 million tax evasion. So, he is going to call every possible human rights law a 'Magnitsky Act'. There is no reason for that because Magnitsky was never a human rights person; he was a tax accountant organizing tax evasions. How could you name a human rights law after a person where the evidence showed him to be a tax evasion accountant? That's what he did.

If you do think that the American media or anybody else is going to look at it — it's too difficult to look at these questions.

Fitts: Recently we had a reporter who was filmed at NBC News complaining about the fact that her story on **Epstein** had been suppressed for several years, and **Project Veritas** acquired the video. Somebody had leaked it to them, and they made it public. I don't know if you saw that leaked video.

Komisar: I thought that there was somebody on ABC that had said that.

Fitts: Sorry, it was ABC. I don't pay attention to the media, so I'm very bad at these things.

Here is what is interesting: I had dinner many years ago with a woman who had been the personal assistant to Michael Eisner when he ran Disney. He was the Chairman of Disney, and she was his personal assistant. Every afternoon she brought in the proposed headlines for ABC that evening, and he would edit it, including deleting some of the headlines.

Those headlines were reviewed and approved at the very 'top of the food chain'. Of course, they are saying that the president of ABC must have suppressed it. I would say no. I'm assuming from what I heard that it was the chairman of Disney. But that is the extent to which the US news goes. You have investment interests that are managing the news for a variety of their investment interests or the issues that they have.

She said that one of the reasons he would delete things is because he had issues in front of Congress, and he didn't want to upset anybody or irritate anybody when he was trying to focus on getting his issues approved.

Komisar: The **American media** is basically corrupt, and let's just leave it at that. They are basically corrupt, and if you want to get news, you have to go to places like your site, my site, and other sites that are not being paid off. That is also where you get evidence because, basically at the moment, the Russian story has made the media so '**Russophobic**'.

I read *The Times* online, and I mostly ignore any of the stories on Russia because when I start to read them, I see in two sentences a lie, and I think, "Oh, I can't read the rest of this, they basically lied".

Fitts: Do you know what the greatest confusion for me is? I just finished publishing a big report called *The State of Our Currencies*, and we've known for decades that if we want to preserve the dollar as reserve currency, the one thing we have to make sure of is that the Russians and the Chinese don't get together, and then the Russians and the Germans don't get together. But we seem 'hell-bent' on doing exactly that. It's rather baffling to me. It's almost as though there is a concerted effort by Congress and the media to make sure that we lose the reserve currency status.

Komisar: I think that part of the problem of that ideology is that it makes you stupid, or it makes you unable to do things that you know are smart because there are so many stupid people out there that you are going to be attacked by.

I went to a meeting at the **Council on Foreign Relations** recently, and the speaker was a person named **Tom Graham**. He is connected to the Kissinger Associates, and is a Russian expert, and was really surprising. He was talking about how the US and the Russians really need to get together, and this kind of hostility is really not good because there are many interests. They are dealing with terrorism, and there are real interests that they have.

His whole argument was — considering the period that we are in — what we want to hear. He started the entire thing with about two or three paragraphs in his speech about how terrible Putin was, how terrible Russia is, and it's almost as if you are not allowed to say, "Let's get together and do something that makes sense in foreign policy," without putting up front, "I'm not a Putin acolyte. I want to tell you how much I hate Putin, etc. Now I can make some sense and say something."

It was so sad.

Fitts: It's like a loyalty oath.

Komisar: It was and was really, really sad. Then I was able to ask a question which I will put on my website because these are videotaped if they are not considered to be secretive; it's open.

I told him about the *Spiegel* story, and they had come to the conclusion that Browder is a fraudster, and the whole story about Magnitsky is a fabrication. I gave some specifics, and he said, "I really think I believe the Browder story," and he gave me no evidence.

So I said, "Can I send you their article where they have a lot of evidence?"

I suspect he is not going to respond to me, but I will put this on my website because certain things you are not allowed to do. You are not allowed to challenge certain things. At the moment you are not allowed to challenge that Putin is a bad person; you are not allowed to challenge that Browder is a hero and Magnitsky, his tax evasion accountant, is also a hero. You're not allowed to say that because if you say that, then they are not going to listen to anything else.

I think that Tom Graham, who seemed to be a decent man, is terrified – as many of these people are – of being tagged the wrong way, and he has to say these lies. It is so, so sad. Even the quasi-decent people have to say these lies.

The video is on this link:

<https://www.thekomisarscoop.com/2019/12/tom-graham-of-kissinger-associates-for-better-relations-with-russia-wont-deal-with-der-spiegel-browder-expose/>

Fitts: I'm glad to hear that he is talking about the **shared interests** because we have big nuclear disarmament and nuclear arms issues coming up in 2020, and we can't afford to not deal effectively with them. It will be very frightening if we don't.

Komisar: He made a lot of sense, and he said as much as he could, but I almost felt sorry for him having to put in this first part. But that is really where we are: To be acceptable, you have to bow and say, "But I really believe in xyz," even if I'm saying something that you may not agree with in your group. We are in a terrible state.

I am still waiting for media to follow on the *Der Spiegel* story. This is very important that they did this, and I was very proud when the reporter, Benjamin Bidder, told me that he had read my stories. So, I hope I helped in some way.

Fitts: I'm sure that you did because these things compound. When you take a situation that is this complex, to have somebody of your ability with financial complexity go through it, read it, study it, document it, write it up, and describe it, it makes it so much easier for the next person.

I'll never forget one reporter calling me when I did a large amount of research on **Pug Winokur and put it on *Solari***. Much of it was just laying out all the SEC documents – digging them out, getting them up, and showing you all the different roles and what he was involved in, etc.

He called me after Enron had gone down, and said, "I decided that I am going to 'out' Pug Winokur. I thought it was going to take me a year because I'm going to have to dig out all these SEC documents. It's really complicated. Then I got online and realized, no, I can do it in a week because you have done all of the hard work."

So, every person who does a piece makes it easier for the next person.

Komisar: That is true, but they don't have the guts to do it because we are in 'McCarthyland' where people have no courage.

We need people who will open this up on the mainstream because people like you and me who put this up are not enough.

Fitts: I disagree with you. I think that we need everybody to stop reading corporate media, which is useless. Signing up to *The Komisar Scoop* and reading you and supporting you and quoting you and saying, "If Lucy Komisar says it, it must be true."

Komisar: "And here is the document to prove it."

Fitts: Right. The audience needs to shift to the people who are trying to protect them.

When I became an investment advisor – and I no longer do individual investment advisory, but when I was doing it – I had many people come to me because they had gotten burned by Stanford (Financial Group). One of them had gotten burned by Stanford, and one of them had gotten burned by Madoff. You look at the harm that is being done to people.

Stanford stole \$7 billion, but when you consider the families that can't afford college, so they have to take out student loans, and the people who lose their homes, or the people who even lose their lives because they have heart attacks and die due to the stress, and when you look at the human harm that these people do, it's not \$7 billion; it's hundreds of thousands of lives that are very seriously harmed or destroyed. It's horrible.

Komisar: It's important, but what I meant to say was about **Edward R. Murrow**. He was the person that many credit with taking down McCarthy in the public sphere. McCarthy had been attacked in the **Army-McCarthy hearings**. The famous statement was, "Have you no sense of decency," but the Edward R. Murrow report on the Army-McCarthy hearings on CBS was really important. The TV would not do something like that today. They are in the pocket of the people who run the system. That is the tragedy; we don't have an Edward R. Murrow.

Fitts: But you are right; Murrow was an amazing reporter. I think there has been a steady debasement over the last 20, 30, or 40 years. Part of it is if you look at who has bought up the media industry, it has become very centralized and very consolidated. It is actually run as a for-profit business to advantage the investors who, just like my story about the chairman at Disney, have other interests.

The **news media** is representing their interests, not the interests of the people. Unfortunately, it's the same with **Congress**. I wrote the Dillon Read book to show you that Congress is doing something to make the stocks go up, and then that generates capital gains, which pay the lobbyists who then kickback contributions to the politicians. It's a spiral, and around and around it goes.

Tell everybody how to find you and how to follow you, and how to keep up with you. I always love it when you go to the Council on Foreign Relations and ask your questions.

Komisar: That will go up in the near future, as soon as they put up the video. I will write about that, and I will show the video.

The website is www.TheKomisarScoop.com. On **Twitter** there is a very active Twitter conversation which is @LucyKomisar. What is very interesting is that many of these people on Twitter – by now it's a few thousand, which is not the Kardashian numbers – are very serious people. This is **citizen journalism**.

Many of these people are doing their own investigating, and very often I get emails and links. There are Twitter feeds saying, "I found this," and, "Look at this. I'm putting in a link on that."

So, this is really citizen journalism. People are cooperating and getting more information on the Browder corruption and all the aspects of it, including what the governments are doing and not doing. I think that is very exciting.

In the mainstream media, everybody wants to get a scoop, and they don't want to tell anybody anything else. On the Twitter feed, everybody is cooperating and giving people links to things and information that they would like to have. So, it's a new way of doing journalism where I am learning a lot in what I write because somebody sends me a link I didn't know about.

Fitts: I didn't realize that you were on Twitter. Now I'm going to start following you.

I have to tell you the story of how I discovered Twitter because I've been so negative on social media. I wanted nothing to do with Facebook, nothing to do with Google, and then after the bailouts, maybe in 2012, some young person in charge of social media at JP Morgan Chase decided that **Jamie Dimon** should do a Twitter chat.

Jamie Dimon showed up on this Twitter chat, and the whole independent financial media was waiting for him – all of them. They were ready; they had their tweets prepared, and Jamie Dimon didn't have a chance. After 24 minutes, they shut it down and walked off. It was supposed to be an hour.

I think there were 120 tweets, and if you read them, it is the most amusing thing that you have ever read because they 'nailed' him; they just nailed him. He couldn't respond because they had facts and figures. There were many very smart people.

It was hysterical, and so I said, "I could do Twitter!"

Komisar: This becomes an **alternative media**. It would be interesting to me for somebody to pull together much of this information, and even make a website of it so that you don't have to go through dozens and dozens of tweets. You could have it organized so that it becomes articles. So, you have people dealing with him on one subject, and then they are dealing with him on another subject. I believe that it would be very interesting to do.

We both agree that the **media is basically corrupt**, so we need an alternative media. This is not only having some alternative website, but it's having all these people cooperating who often know much more because of their access to information than any one particular alternative website. I think that would be very interesting.

I have found the same things that you have found, and I have to go through it every day, one item at a time. I would love to have a way for it to be collected.

Fitts: That's true.

One other thing that I wanted to mention is that in April, I am going to see **the musical Tina**. You wrote a review of it, so I just wanted to ask you about it. I'm looking forward to it. You liked it, right?

Komisar: I liked it for what it was. I tend to like political plays, but what is interesting about it is that it is the music, and is also the true story of a woman who had a very abusive husband. She was able to overthrow this man.

He was really nasty, and he beat her. In the end, she was able to overthrow him, and she became a world success with the help of her manager, who was a woman. She became a great success.

She survived and she overcame, and this is very nice to hear. It was a very nice play.

Fitts: What she accomplished was remarkable. She is just a remarkable human being.

Speaking of remarkable human beings, Lucy, you are a remarkable human being. You are so dedicated to the truth, and you stay totally directed and focused on producing the truth, even if that means that you have to create your own media channel. That is what you have done. Your work is terrific, and if there is anything that I can do to support you, I want to do it.

I encourage everybody to discover you. Go to *The Komisar Scoop* and enjoy the fact that there are some of the brightest, capable people in the world doing plenty and have been doing plenty every year since you got out of college. ‘God only knows’ what you did before then!

Komisar: Before I got out of college, I went to Mississippi. That was when I was still in college.

Fitts: Lucy Komisar, you are great. We thank you so much for joining us on *The Solari Report*. You have a great day.

Komisar: Thank you. It was my pleasure as always.

MODIFICATION

Transcripts are not always verbatim. Modifications are sometimes made to improve clarity, usefulness and readability, while staying true to the original intent.

DISCLAIMER

Nothing on The Solari Report should be taken as individual investment advice. Anyone seeking investment advice for his or her personal financial situation is advised to seek out a qualified advisor or advisors and provide as much information as possible to the advisor in order that such advisor can take into account all relevant circumstances, objectives, and risks before rendering an opinion as to the appropriate investment strategy.