



Salisbury Attack: Additional Comments

The recent chemical weapon attack in Salisbury has led to yet more vilification of Russia by western governments and media. Even the most daring in Parliament see culprits only in the Russian state or mafia.

Porton Down has been a military research establishment for many decades. It has a history of research into nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. It is only a few miles from Salisbury. Animals, and possibly people, have been exposed to toxic materials there. Throughout its history, its secrecy has been protected by government.

It has long been recognised by the peace movement and the animal rights movement as a place of protest.

In this context, where we know so little of its activities, why is there such a desire to blame a poisoning in Salisbury on Russia? At time of writing, a police investigation is ongoing but any public speculation on alternative explanations is kept out of mainstream media or dismissed as conspiracy theory.

The blanket condemnation of Russia ties in rather neatly with NATO's broad objective to isolate Russia in order to protect its own dominant position in certain countries and parts of the world. If Britain leaves the EU, the NATO alliance is facing a challenge. If the UK regains sovereignty, the same argument can be extended to leaving NATO.

It is useful to recall a historical covert operation carried out for a political end. The Reichstag Fire in 1933 was planned by the Nazis to pave the way for repressive laws. Blaming the Communists enabled them to create one party control of the political system; silencing and oppressing their opponents. Socialists are critical of western capitalist elites when they point the finger of blame, as we see the harm done by their policies.

Demands from politicians that the deaths of citizens be examined will not include the death of Dr David Kelly in 2003. He was a weapons inspector who regularly went to Iraq. No chemical weapons were found after the Iraq War. In 1984 Dr Kelly had been appointed head of the Chemical Defence Establishment, Porton Down. The inquest verdict of suicide has been criticised by many medical experts.

Whatever the truth in any of these cases, the political motive of western media in apportioning blame is clear.

20th March 2018