

Metaphors from The Missing Scroll and the Iraq War documents

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In the latest edition of Asterix and Obelix, the cartoon series that depict the time of the Roman Empire and the Gaul (French) town, Armorica, that the Roman cannot capture, a new character Confoundtheirpolitix is featuring. This character represents the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange. He is hiding in the Embassy of Ecuador in London for more than three and a half years in fear of his life. Assange is hiding due to his release of the Iraq war documents and diplomatic cables that contributed to the death of agents of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America (USA). A United Nations (UN) Panel found that Assange should receive his freedom and be compensated for his self-imposed imprisonment. However, Britain is not accepting the findings of the UN Panel. Britain is threatening that they will arrest and extradite Assange to Sweden, if he set foot outside the embassy. Britain's threats are mainly due to the USA's pressure on Britain to extradite Assange and because of alleged rape charges (could be blackmail) against Assange in Sweden. The Swedes will most probably extradite Assange to the USA to stand trial for the war documents.

HIDING THE TRUTH

There are a number of metaphors between Assange and Confoundtheirpolitix that highlight the importance, dangers and advantages of whistleblowing.



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Confoundtheirpolitix has blown the whistle on the mighty Roman Empire, representing the USA as the most powerful global empire. Julius Caesar, the Emperor, deliberately omitted a scroll about the invisible Gauls as part of his publication titled Commentaries on the War with the Gauls. This publication is a metaphor for Assange's release of war documents about the USA's withholding of military and diplomatic information about the Iraq and Afghan wars. Confoundtheirpolitix escaped with a scroll to Armorica, representing the Embassy of Ecuador. Although the Romans reclaimed the scroll during an exchange for Confoundtheirpolitix (Assange will probably leave the Embassy voluntary), the information in the scroll is passed on by word of mouth. Rumours about Caesar's inability to concur the invisible Gauls, forever cloud the excellent track record of the Romans and Caesar's power hunger and lies, representing all institutions that abuse their power to hide the truth from the public.

• References

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