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## 1. Papiere Bitte - Papers Please

This brilliant article I have converted into a 🧵 was written in 2006 when the idea of Digital IDs were in their infancy. The same protagonists appear time and time again, namely Tony Blair. I've added my own comments at the end

New 🧵 1/23



2. To give credit where credit is due, it was written by George Reisman, an American economist. His web site is [capitalism.net](http://capitalism.net)

Please also read the screen captures from the 2006 articles within the 🧵. They are really quite chilling in their accuracy.

3. START. Growing up as a child in World War II, I saw countless movies in which a German soldier in uniform, or a Gestapo agent in plain clothes, would utter the spine-chilling words "Papiere, Bitte" ("Papers, Please").

4. What made those words spine chilling was the fact that whoever they were uttered to was in imminent danger of arrest, imprisonment, torture, and execution.
5. This was almost certain to be the fate of any hapless soul who was unfortunate enough not to have his "Papiere" or whose "Papiere" did not satisfy the German who examined them.
6. Now, over sixty years later, it appears that those dread words, "Papiere, Bitte," will soon be spoken in English—"Papers, Please"— and with all kinds of British accents.
7. This was reported exactly a week ago, in The New York Times of February 14, in an article titled "A Bit of Good News for Blair: ID Cards for Britons Advance."



# *A Bit of Good News for Blair: ID Cards for Britons Advance*

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By **Alan Cowell**

Feb. 14, 2006

LONDON, Feb. 13 - The government of Prime Minister Tony Blair faced down its opposition on Monday in a politically charged vote in the House of Commons on a plan to introduce mandatory national identification cards. The vote moved Britain closer to the use of such cards but did not make clear precisely when that would be.

Despite a rebellion by about 20 members of Mr. Blair's own Labor Party, the government won the vote, 310 to 279. A defeat would have been Mr. Blair's fourth humiliation in Parliament since the general election last year -- and since taking power in 1997 -- raising doubts about his authority in his third term of office.

In the May election his majority was cut to just 64 votes, meaning that a relatively small number of dissident Labor legislators can derail his legislative plans. By surviving the challenge on Monday, Mr. Blair was seen as scoring a qualified victory.

Mr. Blair was not in the Commons for the vote because engine failure grounded an airplane that was to fly him back from South Africa.

The vote was the first of two major challenges this week. The second is expected Wednesday in a further vote on counterterrorism legislation.

In the vote on Monday, the Commons rejected an amendment from the House of Lords that would have made optional, instead of mandatory, a plan to require Britons to be given national identity cards when they apply for passports. But in a compromise worked out among the legislators, Parliament will have to pass another law to make the new rules binding.

The government argues that the biometric information in both the new passports and the ID's, like fingerprints and iris scans, will help the police fight terrorism, organized crime and identity fraud.

The House of Lords, which has often challenged the government on civil rights issues, will debate its proposal again and could provoke a constitutional stalemate if it refuses to accept the Monday vote in the Commons.

Mandatory identity cards are part of a package of measures that Mr. Blair's government is seeking, saying Britain needs to tighten its internal security procedures, particularly after the attacks in London in July, in which four bombers killed 52 travelers on subway trains and a bus.

But Parliament has thrown out some proposals, like one to increase the permitted period of detention without charge or trial to 90 days.

Before the vote on Monday, Gordon Brown, chancellor of the exchequer and Mr. Blair's heir apparent, said at a meeting, "We should do all in our power to prevent you or I having our identity stolen or abused, and to ensure that, for each of us, our identity is secure and protected."

Charles Clarke, the home secretary and highest law-enforcement official, said the proposal from the House of Lords would undermine the whole program for a "sensible, phased introduction" of mandatory ID's, which are common in many European countries but unfamiliar to many Britons.

"We've always been clear that the identity-cards scheme has been designed and is intended eventually to become a compulsory scheme for all U.K. residents," he said.

Opposition to mandatory cards has come from the opposition Conservatives and from civil rights groups.

David Davis, the opposition spokesman on home affairs, warned legislators that they might "sleepwalk into the surveillance state" by building a national database from information on identity cards that could produce "the most attractive possible target for every fraudster, terrorist, confidence trickster and hacker on the planet."

"These people will be able to lift data out, put viruses and false data in," he said. "Far from protecting the public, the government will put the individual citizen at risk," he said.

Another Conservative official, Edward Garnier, said requiring people to apply for identity cards when they renewed their passports was "compulsion by the backdoor." Bill Cash, another Conservative, said the law proposed by the government contained the "building blocks to George Orwell's Ministry of Truth."

8. The article reported, "The government of Prime Minister Tony Blair faced down its opposition on Monday in a politically charged vote in the House of Commons on a plan to introduce mandatory national identification cards.

9. The vote moved Britain closer to the use of such cards but did not make clear precisely when that would be."

Worse still, the United States may not be all that far behind Britain in the adoption of such a system. An op-ed piece in today's New York Times is testing the waters.

10. Titled "A Card We Should All Carry," the article dares to assert that "a national ID can put power in the hands of the people."

## Opinion

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

# A Card We Should All Carry

By Douglas McGray

Feb. 21, 2006



San Francisco - AS states get ready to comply with a law passed last May and roll out Real ID's (think 50 flavors of enhanced drivers' licenses that will also, for lack of anything more suitable, regulate access to airplanes, bars and banks), it might be time to consider a national identification card. Unfortunately, two camps own the conversation.

Security heavies and cultural conservatives say a national ID is necessary to protect us from Islamic terrorists and illegal immigrants. Libertarians and government-wary leftists fret about privacy. Progressives and moderates have never shown much enthusiasm for the debate. But there are lots of reasons they should find the idea of a national ID appealing. Among them:

**HEALTH CARE** -- Today, if you go to the emergency room, your medical history is whatever you remember to tell your doctor. Health care reformers long to build an electronic health database so medical records can follow patients wherever they go. Congress passed legislation in 1996 to safeguard just such a database. A national ID network could provide the backbone, and the security.

**VOTER EMPOWERMENT** -- In 2004, Republican Party officials sent thousands of volunteers to challenge voters at the polls. They claimed Democrats were registering felons, illegal immigrants and people with fake names. Democrats said Republicans were trying to discourage voting in Democratic-leaning counties. Enough already: a national ID could replace voter registration bureaucracy and speed all citizens to the polls.

**POVERTY** -- Without a stable address or the cash to pay registration fees, the homeless struggle to get a valid photo ID. Even the working poor can find themselves without ID if a few parking tickets hit at the wrong time, and their drivers' licenses are suspended. A national ID would make it easier for the now officially anonymous to claim benefits, apply for work, get health care, cash a check, enter a government building or open a savings account.

**EDUCATION** -- The No Child Left Behind Act relies on broad and potentially misleading measures to guess at school quality, because there is no way to track individual children from grade to grade and see how they progress. School districts have no way to know which students quit school and which ones have just moved across town, which means federal accountability schemes have no way of factoring in dropout rates. A national ID database could allow for more honest accounting.

**SOCIAL WELFARE** -- The tangle of agencies that work with the disadvantaged have no good way to share data. It was only a decade ago, for example, that researchers began proving that federal spending to reduce homelessness cuts costs in the prison, health care and welfare systems. A national ID database might lead to better allocation of resources, and quicker responses to emerging needs.



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**IMMIGRATION** -- A national ID would help Immigration and Customs Enforcement shift its emphasis off impoverished undocumented workers and onto the often unscrupulous businessmen who hire them. For now, if a businessman, a farmer or a labor contractor gets pulled over driving a truckload of illegal immigrants, they can play dumb -- even if they sold the workers their fake ID's. "The workers aren't going to say anything, because they need the job," says Brian Poulson, the customs enforcement chief for California's Central Valley. "Am I going to get any material witnesses? No." The government's only real option is to arrest the laborers. "It's only the little guy that gets hurt," he says.

All this is not to dismiss privacy concerns. They are huge. But the notion of a national ID created to empower citizens, rather than just monitor us and protect us from foreigners, might inspire progressives and centrists to design a card that works. Or at least broaden the conversation.

Op-Ed Contributor Douglas McGray is a fellow at the New America Foundation.

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11. It will allegedly do this by, among other things, providing access to a national database containing everyone's complete medical history and by enabling people with no fixed address to more easily claim welfare benefits.

12. It doesn't seem to have occurred to the author (or to Tony Blair and his supporters, for that matter), that as a govt becomes more oppressive, people have more and more reason not to want to be identified by it, indeed, to have their govt

know nothing whatever about them.

13. For as a govt more and more prohibits behavior that is both peaceful and advantageous to people, and more and more compels behavior that is against the interests of people, there will necessarily be more and more violations of its ever growing body of laws and regulations.

14. In such circumstances, the easier it is for the govt to identify & find the violators, the more effective is its oppression. By the same token, the less the govt knows about its citizens, the greater is their freedom from it & their ability to pursue their happiness.

15. Of course, today we have a problem of terrorism. And many people are prepared to accept such a thing as national identity cards in the belief that they are necessary to combat terrorism.

16. It does not seem to have occurred to such people, that the terrorists who pose a serious problem are those supported by foreign govts & that they will soon be equipped with identity cards that are good enough forgeries to make the system worthless as a means of protection.

17. The people who will be stopped by the system will not be terrorists but innocent citizens, seeking to evade unjust laws and regulations. The United States and Great Britain defeated Nazi Germany in World War II.

18. It is disgraceful that they are they now on the road toward importing this vicious feature of that regime, and that there is as yet so little opposition to it. END

19. Even though this article was written 15 years ago, it still rings true today. Technology has advanced at a frightening pace and what was once a piece of paper and then an ID card has now morphed into a Digital ID. That will then be used for any UBI and Social Credit Score.

20. What is also interesting is how the threat of terrorism has been used since 9/11 to put fear into people. All the numerous wars, terrorist attacks, false flags have all been used very deliberately to get us to this point in time. The cherry on the top is the "pandemic".

21. People have been living in a world of fear for the last 20 years. What better way to keep people compliant and scared than an invisible virus. It is the fear of the unknown.

It wasn't too long ago in March 2020 we were told "2 more weeks" and here we are 18 months later.

22. I have heard people say the v passes will only be in operation until the pandemic is over. They are incredibly naive to believe that & to believe that the govt are acting in the interest of their safety. Once freedoms are taken away they are never handed back without a fight.

23. You know the drill 😊 I write these 🧵 in my spare time and would really appreciate if you could retweet the very 1st tweet. Likes are great but retweets are required to reach as large an audience as possible to expose what is really going on behind the scenes. Many thanks.