

# Banker tells Epstein protesters "bought off by Jay-Z"

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Kit Klarenberg on an email that raises questions about the role of Wall Street's favorite rapper in the neutralization of the Occupy movement, and the pacification of Black America. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

These emails are fascinating. And then, you know, your point about Sesame Street being designed to program and indoctrinate young people into a particular point of view—specifically to neutralize the aggression and potential revolutionary tendencies of inner-city Black Americans after the riots of the late '60s, the MLK riots—it connects to an email that some internet sleuths just discovered in this massive Epstein tranche, which is so meaningful to me and just so amazing. It's from Jess Staley, when he was the CEO of Barclays Bank. He's an American banker—some would say bankster. This is just years after Occupy Wall Street and after the financial crash.

And he's writing to Jeffrey Epstein, saying, "You want to know why we're not São Paulo?" He's referring, I think, to a kind of color revolution that was going on in Brazil, where masses of people were in the streets trying to remove Dilma Rousseff, the center-left social-democratic president. "You know why we're not São Paulo? Watch the TV ads during the Super Bowl. It's all about hip Black people and hip cars with white women. The group that should be in the streets has been bought off by Jay-Z." I don't know if he's literally saying they were bought off by Jay-Z—Jay-Z was really a symbol at that time of neoliberal capitalism. He had made himself sort of a spokesman for the financial establishment, for Wall Street.

He actually came into Occupy Wall Street and tried to subvert it, co-opt it, and basically undermine it by introducing his own brand, Occupy All Streets—basically like, "Let's keep young Black people from hating Wall Street after their dream of homeownership was just dashed forever." Jay-Z got a minority ownership stake in the Brooklyn Nets so he could be a kind of symbol of the Barclays Center, which was named for the bank Jess Staley ran, but which also doomed the area around Atlantic Yards to massive gentrification and pushed what was left of the Black population there farther out toward East New York, because this was a massive Frank Gehry-designed arena—the Barclays Center.

So Jay-Z came in to kind of legitimize that whole thing. Does he mean they were literally bought off by Jay-Z? Jay-Z was, at that time, starting to put money into Ferguson, into BLM. Was that a plot to subvert Occupy Wall Street by shifting everyone's focus to identity politics and race instead of class? Look at where BLM ended up years later—in nihilism, liberalism, just a tool for the Democratic Party against Trump. You start to ask all these questions, and it makes you a little bit conspiratorial. I don't know what your reaction is, but this one hit really hard for me.

## #Guest

Well, yeah, I mean, there are obviously pictures of Puffy and Jay-Z, you know, snapping photos with the Clintons, Bill Gates, and Epstein. So, I mean, you never know. This is where this stuff takes you if you just do the slightest bit of digging. I mean, just really quickly on the Palantir point as well—yeah, the ubiquity of that company is absolutely insane. They've been given British government contracts worth hundreds of millions of pounds, including access to sensitive NHS data. This is Peter Thiel's Batman-influenced surveillance and spying tool that creates these very detailed databases on people and is used by a worrying number of intelligence services and the military, and it's increasingly being rolled out to domestic, public-facing systems.

And, you know, Mandelson was involved in arranging a visit by Keir Starmer to Palantir HQ. Then, subsequent to that, the Ministry of Defence gave Palantir a £240 million contract. It's denied that there's any causal link there whatsoever, but they're cropping up all over the place. It's not being talked about at all, particularly by mainstream politicians. But the British media is increasingly getting concerned about it, which is quite interesting. And, yeah, it's pretty wild how this stuff works. I think that, if nothing else, the Epstein files kind of lift the lid on how unsophisticated this stuff often is—it's literally just one rich, powerful, awful person talking to another powerful, awful person, setting up a meeting with someone, and then a deal comes out of it.

Yeah, yeah, exactly. And it's like, you know, I mean, yeah—Palantir and Oracle as well, which is another deeply shady firm, Larry Ellison's company. Yeah, I mean, it was Palantir and Oracle that got the COVID contracts in the US, wasn't it? I mean, yeah, it's deeply creepy. And, you know, this stuff is ratcheting up all the time without much in the way of public knowledge, let alone concern. Although I do think that trying to get involved in sensitive private health data is probably a bridge too far, because, I mean, the British still revere the NHS, even though it's been kind of driven into the ground over the past, well, 30 years, if not longer.

But, I mean, yeah, it is quite extraordinary that this stuff just happens without anyone really knowing about it. And, you know, as I say, it's not sophisticated—it's not like some high-level, extremely slick PR and lobbying campaign. It's literally just messaging Jeffrey Epstein, who puts you in touch with someone else in his pedo Rolodex. And, yeah, I mean, whether anyone in your name is going to face criminal charges is another matter. Laws don't really exist to prohibit this stuff, aside from, you know, leaking information like a sieve directly to Epstein—that is illegal, and he could be gotten for that. A statement demanding that people leave him alone notwithstanding.

