

# How Wikipedia Lies. The “United Airlines Flight 93” Article

By [Eric Zuesse](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

*Did you know that Vice President Dick Cheney admitted that on 11 September 2001 he, as President George W. Bush’s brief stand-in during the 9/11 attacks that hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, issued an order (and it was carried out) to shoot down United Airlines Flight 93 while it was in the air near Pittsburgh? If what he said at the time was true, then the standard ‘historical’ account of the plane’s having been brought down as a result of action by the passengers, would be concocted, not history at all.*

Here is the [video-clip](#) of V.P. Cheney on 9/11, making this claim and explaining why he gave that order.



The [Wikipedia article on Flight 93](#) provides the standard account, and fails even so much as just to mention the Vice President’s assertion and explanation that he provided on national TV at the time of the 9/11 events.



[Flight 93 National Memorial](#), Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania, USA, memorial sign, flight path

So: I edited the Wikipedia article by adding a sentence at the end of its opening paragraph, and by following that sentence with a brief second paragraph, and here is that entire two-sentence addition:

Vice President Dick Cheney alleged that he gave the order to shoot down Flight 93, and explained why when asked about it by Chris Wallace of Fox News as shown in this [film-clip](#).

Consequently, the account given below of what brought the plane down — an account inconsistent with what Cheney said — could be entirely false.

On the web browser that I was using, the addition showed as having been successfully made in the Wikipedia article. However, to be sure, I opened the URL in a different browser, and this time my addition was absent. I then went back to the “Edit” page” and this time to the “View history” page, and clicked there on “(talk)” and found this message, which I saw virtually immediately after I had thought that I had inserted the new information:

Hello, I'm Shellwood. I wanted to let you know that I reverted one of your recent contributions —specifically this edit to United Airlines Flight 93— because it did not appear constructive.

No other explanation for blocking my addition was provided. "Shellwood" was there saying that mentioning, and linking to the video of Cheney saying, that allegation, which Cheney made on 9/11 about how Flight 93 came down, is not "constructive" to Wikipedia-readers who want information about Flight 93.

Previously, even [the BBC published the fact that Wikipedia is edited by the CIA](#).

## Wikipedia 'shows CIA page edits'

By Jonathan Fildes

Science and technology reporter, BBC News

**An online tool that claims to reveal the identity of organisations that edit Wikipedia pages has revealed that the CIA was involved in editing entries.**

Wikipedia Scanner allegedly shows that workers on the agency's computers made edits to the page of Iran's president.



The tool detected changes to a page about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

It also purportedly shows that the Vatican has edited entries about Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

The tool, developed by a US researcher, trawls a list of 34m edits and matches them to the net address of the editor.

Wikipedia is a free online encyclopaedia that can be created and edited by anyone.

Anyone who reads the present article is hereby welcomed to try making the same addition to that Wikipedia article, and I hope that one of the readers here will be able to get it accepted by the editors of that site, so that Wikipedia can be made at least moderately trustworthy, on at least that one article. Perhaps if enough people try, then Wikipedia will come to recognize that Wikipedia's modus operandum isn't merely a very successful system of propaganda, but that it's also something of a PR problem for Wikipedia, which they'll need to do something about, if they're to be able to survive (or at least retain their credibility) at all. Blocking inclusion in an article, of a fact that disproves part of the 'history' (and here the most important part) which is told in that article, is unacceptable in anyone's eyes.

As of today, April 20th, the Wikipedia article on Flight 93 does make one, and only one, mention of Cheney:

[Vice President Dick Cheney](#), in the [Presidential Emergency Operations Center](#) deep under the [White House](#), upon learning of the premature crash, is reported to have said, "I think an act of heroism just took place on that plane."<sup>[2]</sup>

The link there, [2], goes to [a CNN article](#), likewise published on 11 September 2001, which likewise presents Cheney as saying that he ordered the shoot-down of Flight 93:

After the planes struck the twin towers, a third took a chunk out of the Pentagon. Cheney then heard a report that a plane over Pennsylvania was heading for Washington. A military assistant asked Cheney twice for authority to shoot it down.

"The vice president said yes again," remembered Josh Bolton, deputy White House chief of staff. "And the aide then asked a third time. He said, 'Just confirming, sir, authority to engage?' And the vice president — his voice got a little annoyed then — said, 'I said yes.'"

"I didn't know that it existed until I was actually down there, and I'm sure I could find my way back there to this day," said Mary Matalin, a counselor to the vice president.

A relic of the Cold War, the deep underground bunker became the vice president's base of operations on the first day of a new war.

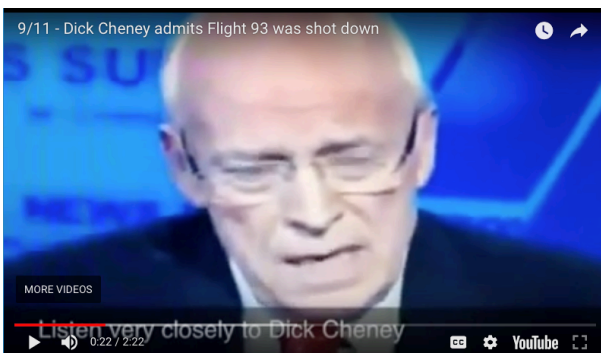
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[Screenshot of CNN article, September 11, 2001](#)

The phrase that Wikipedia is quoting from Cheney, "I think an act of heroism just took place on that plane," appears later in that CNN article, out of context, when one of Cheney's aides attributes the statement to Cheney, but, since CNN provided no context for it, no reader can intelligently interpret what it had been referring to, if, in fact, the aide did say that Cheney did say it.



Wikipedia grabbed that out-of-context, possibly apocryphal, Cheney-statement, and constructed their 'history' of the plane's crash, upon it, despite the fact that Cheney, on 9/11, clearly stated that he had ordered Flight 93 to be shot down, and that the order was executed — in other words: despite the fact that Wikipedia's

account of what brought that plane down is incontrovertibly false, even on the basis of the most reliable evidence that Wikipedia itself links to on that matter. Such a ‘history’ is fiction.

So: any reader at the Wikipedia article who clicks onto its sources, can easily know that though the Wikipedia article presents a ‘history’ in which actions by passengers onboard Flight 93 caused the plane to crash there, that ‘history’ is fake, not at all real (though some allegations in that Wikipedia article might happen to be true).

This means that only readers who click through to sources can even possibly come anywhere near to knowing anything that’s at all reliable about the history of our time. And, of course, the longer that any event recedes into history, the more immovably fixed the lies become as being ‘history’. We live actually in a world of lies. If modern ‘history’ is fake, then ancient ‘history’ is even more so. What about the Bible? What about even recently written ‘history’ books?

If Wikipedia is the best that ‘the market’ can come up with for ‘a free press’ in a ‘democracy’, then democracy isn’t at all possible. Something vastly better than this is definitely needed. What’s displayed here isn’t democracy at all: it’s merely [‘democracy’](#). This means that all of the military invasions by ‘democratic’ countries (such as America), against other countries, are the actions *by* dictatorships, not actions *against* dictatorships (as is always claimed).

So, it’s actually rather easy to document that *1984* — the reality, and not merely the novel — has, indeed, arrived, in our time.

However, at least in our time, we possess — for the very first time in all of history — the ability to access, merely a click away, an allegation’s actual source, at least in articles such as the present one (since all sources here are linked). The people living in ancient times who were not themselves aristocrats (the people making the key governmental decisions) were unalterably 100% vulnerable to being deceived by aristocrats’ and clergies’ lies, deceived into doing whatever those decision-makers wanted to manipulate them into doing — such as “fighting for God and country!” Unfortunately, the percentage of today’s people who care enough to be skeptical of whatever other people are trying to sell, and to dig deeper than the mere assertions, even just to click onto a link, is too tiny for democracy to be able to function. Unless they become the majority, “democracy” will remain merely a word, not yet even near to being the reality, anywhere.

That, for example, explains why, despite common realities such as [this, “74% \[of Americans\] view Israel favorably, vs. 21% for Palestinian Authority”](#). In order for the national aristocracy to control its mass of voters, it must first deceive its mass of voters; and, [in America, they’re deceived, and have been so, for decades, at least](#).

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*Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of [They’re Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010](#), and of [CHRIST’S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity](#).*

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#### About the author:

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