

240 Central Park South
Apartment 8F
New York, NY 10019
August 25, 2013

To: Anonymous Reviewer

Via: Bill Finan, University of Pennsylvania Press

Subject: Review of "The Silk Road to Capitalism: Foreign Influence on Governance in Central Asia"

Dear Anonymous Reviewer:

I am writing to make you aware of the impact of your handling of the subject review. Although I have no knowledge of who you are, your actions over the past year have created more damage than any professional interaction I have ever encountered in my career. This spans extensive service in not only academia, but also challenging endeavors across the finance industry and the military much of which was in the former Soviet Union - an area of your expertise. From Brookings President Strobe Talbott to Professor Archie Brown at Oxford, some of the most respected names in this field have indicated the significant contributions my work represents to this area of study. It is a great disappointment that it could be procedurally shut down by one shrouded voice. In a situation in some ways analogous to my own personal trial here, Ellen Barry has referred to bringing justice in the Paul Klebnikov murder case as being "quietly stalled". ("Murder Highlights Russian System's Flaws," *NY Times*, July 11, 2009.)

On March 6, 2012, Bill Finan forwarded to me your Review of my draft manuscript. In the months that followed, I worked intensively on my revisions and essentially rewrote the draft book to fully meet the vast majority of your demands. It is disappointing that over 453 days after my resubmission, the book remains in the gulag – a situation which could have been easily avoided had normal protocol been met through a standard completion of the review process which you began in 2011.

The core misfortune of this situation lies not in the personal damage it has done to me and the University of Pennsylvania Press, but rather to the advancement of ideas that can have a positive impact on U.S. foreign policy and international affairs more broadly. Over the past half year, I have had the privilege to serve as an informal advisor to the staff of the Kremlin in preparation for their Presidency of the G-20 Summit next month, where energy issues will be a prominent point on the agenda. Many of the same multilateral cooperative concepts that I developed in my book and based on the work of other leading scholars have served as the foundation for contributions I have made to the G-20 forum which will be held in St. Petersburg on September 5-6. Blocking the opportunity to share these ideas developed over the past decade in this timely written form represents more than a disservice to myself and the University of Pennsylvania Press, but also a far broader audience.

I would highly recommend your consideration of *The Spirit of Compromise*, co-authored by Amy Gutmann from the University of Pennsylvania. The book explains why failures to compromise have often led to the breakdown of effective governance in the United States. In the exhaustive efforts which I dedicated to closely consider and address each of your 182 specific comments, I complied with 174 or over 95% of them. Whereas my manuscript was fundamentally amended to meet your specific demands while building upon the foundation of over a decade of prior research and drafting, it differs markedly from the approach often taken by political adversaries in Washington. It is a great disappointment that no marginal level of compromise or cooperation was reciprocated in return.

In describing some of the tactics observed in Washington, Dr. Gutmann cites the filibuster of Bush nominee to the Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. A nomination announced on October 31, 2005, Alito was confirmed by the Senate on January 31, 2006 – exactly 92 days later, or about one-fifth the duration of my own continued filibuster. In describing the implications of a filibuster, she explains that, “When no action is taken, the resulting political stalemate blocks improvements over the status quo...” The experience of the past few years has certainly made me empathetic to this insightful point.

I understand from the feedback in your original review that corruption is a particular interest of yours. By personally damaging someone and effectively shutting down an important potential contribution to a critical debate of our era, the de facto end result closely parallels criticisms of experts in the field of corruption – particularly those focused on the implications of authoritarian regimes. As I have written in the draft that you have read and in keeping with the findings of Dr. Gutmann, a less judgmental and more cooperative approach with those that don't align with 100% of your views could have a dramatic impact on advancing the interests of society worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carter Page', written in a cursive style.

Carter Page