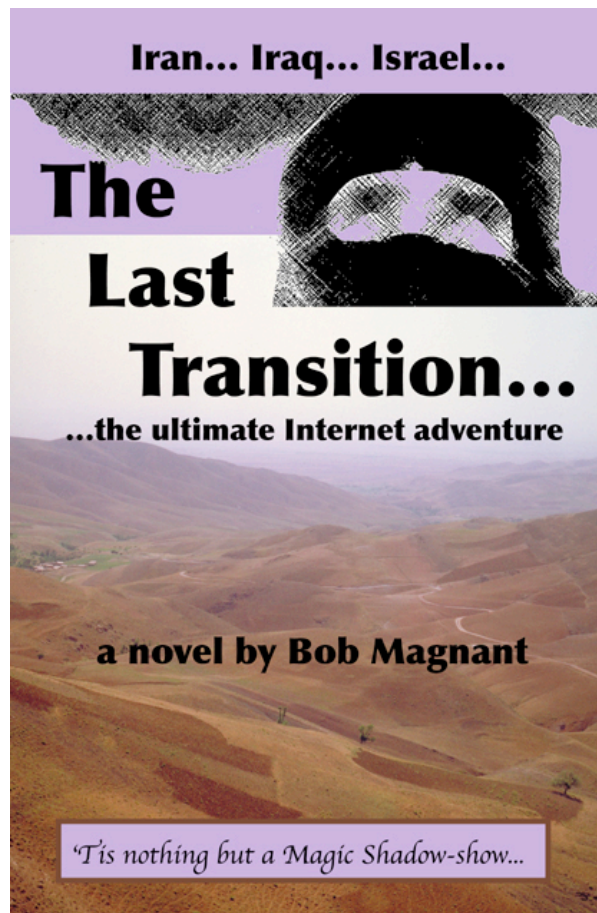


“Be Skeptical...” Memorial Day 2008

8:47 AM PDT, June 7, 2008

Scott McClellan’s newly released account of [What Happened: Inside The Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception](#) during its marketing of the war with Iraq should serve as an eye opener for everyone. While discussing his new book with Keith Olbermann on MSNBC today, the former Press Secretary provided us with his past insights into the mindset within the Administration as well as the watchword for the day. When Olbermann, referring to the White House’s campaign of deception to sell the Iraq war to the American people, asked “Scott, are they doing that now about Iran?” McClellan replied, “I certainly hope that is not the case... we don’t know... I don’t know... but they’re still in this ‘permanent



campaign’ mode; they haven’t backed away from that...” Keith continued by asking Scott directly if he would be suspicious of new statements that sounded very similar to what he had heard from within the Administration in 2002 regarding Iraq. McClellan replied, “You would need to take those comments very seriously... and be skeptical.”

I finished writing [The Last Transition...](#) in September 2006 to raise everyone’s awareness to what was already somewhat

visible about Iran from the outside the White House and also right in front of our eyes thanks to investigative journalists like Seymour Hersh. The first of The New Yorker articles by Hersh, ["The Coming Wars" \(January 2005\)](#), and ["The Iran Plans" \(April 2006\)](#), surfaced during McClellan's White House tour. In my novel I set these events in the global context of post-9/11 America and followed them through the 2006 Israel-Lebanon War, which Hersh had addressed in ["Watching Lebanon" \(August 2006\)](#). I would suggest that you might want to read - or reread - these and Hersh's subsequent articles, ["Shifting Targets" \(October 2007\)](#) and ["A Strike in the Dark" \(February 2008\)](#) - bearing McClellan's admonition in mind - and be very skeptical.