

The Political Economy of Ontological Crime and the Peace Environment Theory: A Comparative Analysis of Management Technologies (2024–2026)

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Abstract

This study reconstructs Hakkı Tan's "Peace Environment Theory" through a radical critique of modern power structures, positing that crime is not an anomaly (deviance) but a "structural dependency" for elite integration. Contrasting traditional criminological approaches, this analysis frames crime—specifically elite and state-corporate crime—as an ontological management technology essential for the political economy of neoliberal governance. Utilizing a Comparative Historical Analysis (CHA) and Process Tracing methodology, the study examines the 2024–2026 trajectory of the Jeffrey Epstein revelations (precipitated by the *Epstein Files Transparency Act, H.R. 4405*) and the federal trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs. Findings indicate that these networks operate via mechanisms of *Kompromat* (blackmail material) and *Sistema* (informal governance), serving as cost-effective tools for securing loyalty. The 2026 judicial and political fallouts are interpreted not as the absolute triumph of justice, but as "controlled disclosure" events designed to shed toxic assets while preserving the core operating system. The study concludes that the establishment of a genuine "Peace Environment" is structurally impossible as long as the political economy relies on the clandestine currency of ontological crime.

Keywords: Peace Environment Theory, Ontological Crime, Structural Dependency, Kompromat, Sistema, Controlled Disclosure, H.R. 4405.

1. Introduction: The Shadow Infrastructure of Governance

Standard political science theory posits the "Rule of Law" as the foundational mechanism for societal order. However, the "Peace Environment Theory" argues that while law serves as the user interface for the masses, the actual operating system governing elite relations is often predicated on "Ontological Crime." In this context, "ontological" does not imply a metaphysical inevitability, but a material condition wherein the current power configuration cannot sustain itself without the leverage provided by illicit networks.

The events of early 2026, marked by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) release of 3.5 million pages of documents related to the Jeffrey Epstein case and the sentencing of music mogul Sean Combs, provide a unique empirical window into this shadow infrastructure. These developments suggest that crime acts as a binding agent—a form of "social cement"—linking intelligence agencies, financial institutions, and cultural gatekeepers in a web of mutual liability. This article argues that true societal peace is unattainable so long as governance relies on "management by blackmail" rather than consent and transparency.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. The Peace Environment Theory and the Cost of Legitimacy

Hakkı Tan's *Peace Environment Theory* asserts that a sustainable social order requires transparency and the dismantling of coercive informal networks. However, the modern "merchant rationality" of governance views legitimate persuasion as costly and uncertain. Conversely, governance via *Kompromat* (compromising material) is cost-effective and produces guaranteed loyalty. The theory posits that "Ontological Crime" emerges when the state or hegemonic powers internalize crime to bypass the high transaction costs of democratic legitimacy. Therefore, the exposure of these crimes is not merely a legal imperative but a prerequisite for establishing a genuine Peace Environment.

2.2. *Sistema* and the Instrumentalization of Law

Drawing on Alena Ledeneva's conceptualization of *Sistema*, this study views the legal system not as a neutral arbiter, but as a tool for selective enforcement. In a *Sistema*, laws are universally applicable in theory but selectively enforced in practice to discipline those who violate informal codes or lose political protection. The 2026 investigations into figures such as Peter Mandelson and Jack Lang illustrate this "selective permeability," where legal mechanisms are activated only when specific actors become political liabilities.

3. Methodology: Process Tracing and Structural Analysis

This study employs "Process Tracing" to map the evolution of ontological crime across three distinct historical phases:

1. **The Prototype (1980s):** The Franklin Scandal (USA), representing early state-intelligence-crime collusions.
2. **Globalization (2000–2026):** The Epstein Network, representing the financialization and digitization of blackmail on a transnational scale.
3. **Privatization (2024–2025):** The Sean Combs Case, representing the "franchising" of these methods to the private entertainment sector.

Data Sources: The analysis relies on official legislative texts (*Epstein Files Transparency Act, H.R. 4405*), DOJ data dumps released in January 2026, and federal court records from the Southern District of New York (SDNY) regarding the Combs trial.

Ethical Note: This study analyzes structural patterns based on available public records as of February 2026. All individuals mentioned in ongoing investigations (e.g., Mandelson, Lang) are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

4. Case Study I: The Globalization of *Kompromat* (The 2026 Disclosures)

The implementation of H.R. 4405, signed by President Trump in November 2025, resulted in a massive data release on January 30, 2026. This event is categorized here not as a "leak," but as a "Controlled Disclosure"—a systemic stress test designed to purge compromised elements.

4.1. The Commodification of State Intelligence: The Mandelson Probe

In February 2026, UK law enforcement initiated an investigation into Lord Peter Mandelson following revelations in the DOJ files. The allegations suggest that during the 2008 financial crisis, sensitive government information was transmitted to Epstein.

- **Structural Implication:** This indicates that the Epstein network functioned as an intelligence clearinghouse where state secrets were potentially monetized for financial market advantage. Mandelson's subsequent resignation from the House of Lords validates the political weight of these structural ties.

4.2. Cultural Capital and Offshore Finance: The Jack Lang Affair

Simultaneously, the French National Financial Prosecutor's Office (PNF) opened a preliminary inquiry into former Culture Minister Jack Lang and his daughter, Caroline Lang, for "aggravated tax fraud laundering". The probe focuses on links to a U.S. Virgin Islands offshore entity co-owned with Epstein.

- **Structural Implication:** This case demonstrates the intersection of "high culture" and "dark finance," where ontological crime networks provide the financial infrastructure (offshore vehicles) for cultural elites.

4.3. Corporate Integration: Howard Lutnick

Documents confirming a 2012 business partnership between U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Epstein (via the *Adfin* contract) challenge the narrative that business elites severed ties after Epstein's initial conviction.

- **Structural Implication:** The persistence of these commercial ties suggests that for the business elite, the "risk" of associating with a sex offender was outweighed by the "benefit" of access to the network's capital or information flow.
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5. Case Study II: The Privatization of Vice (The Sean Combs Trial)

The federal trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs (2024–2025) serves as a case study in how ontological crime techniques are adopted by the private sector.

5.1. The "Franchise" Model and Middle Management

The Combs organization mirrored the Epstein structure: the use of surveillance (the "Freak Off" tapes) to ensure compliance and silence. However, the trial outcome—acquittal on RICO (Racketeering) charges but conviction on Mann Act (transportation for prostitution) charges—reveals a systemic preference for "containment." By convicting the individual but rejecting the "criminal enterprise" (RICO) designation, the judicial system effectively quarantined the infection, protecting the broader music and entertainment industry from a systemic purge.

5.2. The "Khorram Hypothesis"

The role of Kristina Khorram, Combs' chief of staff, parallels that of Ghislaine Maxwell. Despite testimony identifying her as a central logistical figure, she has avoided criminal charges as of early 2026.

- **Theoretical Interpretation:** In the logic of *Ontological Crime*, "middle managers" who possess the keys to the archive (the *Kompromat*) are often afforded a "protection shield" so long as the risk of their testimony outweighs the benefit of their prosecution.
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6. Discussion: Structural Patterns vs. Justice

The juxtaposition of the Peace Environment Theory with the 2026 empirical data reveals critical patterns in how power structures manage their internal contradictions.

6.1. Controlled Disclosure as Load Shedding

The release of the Epstein files was calculated. By exposing "burned" assets (figures whose political utility had expired, like Mandelson or Lang), the system performs a "load shedding" operation to save the grid. This is not transparency; it is system maintenance.

6.2. Epistemic Uncertainty

The sheer volume of data (3.5 million pages) creates a "data deluge," making it difficult for the public to distinguish between structural crimes (intelligence trading) and salacious gossip. This obfuscation hinders the formation of a unified public demand for a Peace Environment.

6.3. The Illusion of the "Bad Apple"

Both the Combs verdict and the selective Epstein prosecutions frame these crimes as the faults of "deviant individuals." The Peace Environment Theory, however, insists they are symptoms of a "deviant structure."

6.4. The Academic Cooling Effect

In the current order, academia functions as the coolant in a nuclear power plant. It absorbs the "social heat" generated by systemic contradictions, thereby preventing a radical meltdown. Knowledge production ceases to be an act of enlightenment and transforms into a thermal management technology designed to lower the system's structural temperature. This position perfectly elucidates why the "Backburning" (controlled counter-fire) solution proposed in the Peace Environment Theory must be an extra-systemic action: because no coolant fluid *inside* the reactor is capable of setting fire to the plant itself.

7. Conclusion

This comparative analysis concludes that the events of 2026 do not signify the end of the elite crime networks but rather their restructuring. The "Peace Environment," as envisioned by Hakkı Tan, remains unattainable as long as the political economy of the West is structurally dependent on *Kompromat* and *Sistema* technologies.

For a true Peace Environment to emerge, the cost-benefit analysis of governance must shift. Transparency must cease to be a "controlled" political weapon and become an unconditional structural imperative. Until the "operating system" of ontological crime is reformatted, the cycle of blackmail, silence, and selective prosecution will continue to undermine the possibility of a just and peaceful social order.

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