

# **American Oligarchs**

By Katrina vanden Heuvel

From *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2008

---

Summary:

*Katrina vanden Heuvel is Editor and Publisher, The Nation.*

Replying to Padma Desai's letter ("Putin's Russia," May/June 2008), Michael McFaul and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss assert that, like the Yeltsin-era media bosses, the United States' "oligarchs . . . own" many media outlets, including *The Nation*. In reality, *The Nation* -- the United States' oldest continuously published weekly -- has operated at a loss during all but a few of its 143 years and has been kept alive by its subscribers, advertisers, and many loyal supporters. Moreover, *The Nation's* equally long-standing antioligarchic positions are known to virtually everyone familiar with the American press.

---

Copyright 2002--2008 by the Council on Foreign Relations. All rights reserved.