American-Israeli relations reached a peak last year when Reagan decided that terrorism would replace communism as the greatest threat to America, Hitchens said.

Not every American fears the Soviet Union or the Communist Party, but almost everyone has stepped on a plane at some point. However, in reality, the American government, composed of Administration officials and active and retired military men, stepped on a plane at some point.

Reagan's "para-state" to promote and implement the Reagan doctrine, Reagan set up a "para-state" within the federal government, composed of Administration officials and active and retired military men, Hitchens asserted. "This was policy, and not gantunganism or conspiracy.

The "para-state" had its own diplomats, who reported directly to Reagan instead of the State Department. It had its own budget, composed of private donations, tax dollars, and drug monies, and it claimed that it has its own machinery for dissembling to the public and Congress.

Reagan's supporters, Hitchens warned, would always argue that the scandal was just another case of politicians bending the rules, like Robert Kennedy's wiretapping of Martin Luther King, Jr. Hitchens insisted that it was, instead, "a complete shakedown of American democracy."