

“**Blowback** is what happens when short-sighted decision-making comes back to haunt you.”

*Bacon's Customer Resource Site*

“Automatic or Semiautomatic action in which extraction, ejection, and reloading are accomplished by means of the force exerted rearward by the gas of the fired cartridge.”  
<http://www.myoan.net/hunting/jargon.html>

“Emerging markets such as China and India have become breeding grounds for new management processes and practices that help companies to maintain or even improve the quality of their products and services while simultaneously slashing prices. The disruptive impact is now confined to developing countries, but “**blowback**” from this surge of innovation could quickly be unleashed on the rest of the world. To meet the challenge, established businesses must learn new skills—not least important, an ability to orchestrate complex networks of specialized enterprises.” “Innovation **blowback**: Disruptive management practices from Asia,” *McKinsey Quarterly*, February 2005

The backpressure in an internal-combustion engine or a boiler.

**Blowback**: The effect caused by recirculation into the source country of disinformation previously planted abroad by that country's intelligence service in an effort to mislead the government of another country.

“The risks of regional **blowback** from the Lebanon fighting have grown as those Arab regimes close to the United States find themselves increasingly isolated in the Muslim world and alienated from their own populations. What members of Hizbullah and Al Qaeda may be attempting to do is to turn the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and other conflicts into dramas about the future of the Muslim world. The risk is that the current fighting will play right into their hands, just as the Iraq war did.” “**Blowback**: What the War Means for the World,” *Newsweek*, cover story, August 7, 2006,

**Blowback**, an action-thriller movie, 1999. Mario Van Peebles and James Remar star in this action drama in which a police detective learns that a murderer he helped put behind bars has been released from prison. The CIA recruited the felon to work as a hired killer for the federal government, but his superiors dangerously underestimated his enthusiasm for this work; the murderer breaks free from custody while in training and goes on a remorseless killing spree, with the detective being one of the only men who knows how to stop him. Mark Deming, *All Movie Guide*

**Blowback** refers to e-mail error reports that a user receives for messages they didn't send.

**Blowback**: *America's Recruitment of Nazis and Its Effects on the Cold War*. Christopher Simpson. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 1988. “Simpson traces the post-World War II recruitment by the U.S. of defeated Nazi chief of intelligence for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Reinhard Gehlen, and the increasing reliance of U.S. intelligence on the Gehlen organization's estimates of Soviet strengths and intentions. In the critical period from 1945 to 1948, the correct assessments by U.S. military intelligence that the Soviet occupation forces in Eastern Europe were worn out and posed no threat, were supplanted with the Gehlen organization's lie that these same forces were a major military threat posed to invade Germany. The rest is our history, known as the Cold War.” Lanny Sinkin

**Blowback**: *The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*, Chalmers Johnson, New York: Henry Holt and Company. 2000. “The term ‘**blowback**’, invented by the CIA, refers to the unintentional consequences of American policies. . .Chalmers Johnson lays out in vivid detail the dangers faced by our [sic] overextended empire, which insists on projecting its military power to every corner of the earth and using American capital and markets to force global economic integration on its own terms...” from back cover.

“Cause of Riots in Halifax Traced to Strains of War”, Some 20,000 service personnel confined to barracks within the greater Halifax area are still discussing today the pros and cons of their participation in one of the worst revolts against authority in the history of Canada. . .Halifax has been a navy town since its founding 200 years ago. . .but with the outbreak of the present war, Halifax became the chief port in North America until the United States entered the conflict. . .It may be said the city of 75,000 did its best to cope with the influx of an additional 50,000. But the plain fact is that its best was not good enough. The hotels and restaurants became crowded. Food became scarce, the theatres were overtaxed and while innumerable hostels did their valiant best, the men landing at the dockyard for a few hours' leave after days and weeks of discomfort on the North Atlantic were given plenty to gripe about. The great bulk of these were lads from good homes in the interior. Some lauded as heroes in their own towns and villages found Halifax seemingly indifferent to their sacrifices. . .They talked openly of what they were going to do to the “slackers,” naval parlance for Halifax, when the war was over. What they were going to do was to tear it apart. They did.” *Hamilton Spectator*, May 12, 1945.

Bad feelings, combined with the poor preparations of military and local authorities for VE Day, turned spontaneous celebrations into a rampage. Liquor stores and restaurants had been closed so that everyone could enjoy the holiday, leading thousands of sailors and soldiers, along with many civilians, to “liberate” liquor and beer on a big scale. This in turn fuelled large-scale vandalism and looting, both in Halifax and next-door Dartmouth. 564 businesses suffered damage and 207 shops were looted. Three rioters died. Some of the rioters received lengthy prison sentences from the local criminal courts, but most sentences were later reduced. A federal inquiry later blamed the navy for poor discipline of its personnel. The navy's top officer on the east coast was fired. [http://www.civilization.ca/cwm/newspapers/canadawar/halifax\\_e.html](http://www.civilization.ca/cwm/newspapers/canadawar/halifax_e.html)