**Nominations for the 2015 Bradley Prize**

**Submitted by**

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**Nominee:**

Michael Ledeen

Area of expertise: Defense and National Security

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**References:**   
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**Brief statement about nominee:**

Michael is a brilliant, bold and original thinker. He has written more than thirty books.  Many deal with fascism, and his  work on the "fascist international" provided the basis for scores of books and articles, beginning in the late sixties, that have redefined Italian fascism. His "Interview on Fascism" with Renzo De Felice was a turning point in Italian cultural and political history, as it exposed the manipulation of Italian history by the Communist Party and its camp followers. Indeed, his work on Italian history, combined with his articles on Italian Communism for "The New Republic" in the 1970s, provoked leading Communists to accuse him  of being the leading CIA agent in Italy. Much to Michael’s credit, he was also declared an "enemy of the Soviet people" by "Leteraturnaya Gazeta" during the last years of the Cold War.

He has also written four books on Iran, beginning with "Debacle," a scholarly account of American policy and the fall of the shah, and most recently "Accomplice to Evil," which places our current failed policies in a broad historical context.  Michael warned of the evils of the Ayatollah Khomeini in the Wall Street Journal months before he seized power in Tehran, at a time when Andrew Young and leading intellectuals throughout the West were declaring him "some kind of a saint." Leaders of the Iranian regime have declared Michael a  key organizer of the Iranian resistance movement and publicly named him during the “show trials” after the 2009-2010 uprising.  In truth, he was merely a keen observer who got it right. (Michael happens to be one of the best Bridge players in the world. He belongs to a tiny coterie of brainiac online players that includes Bill Gates. I wonder if his prescience about world politics is connected to his proficiency at Bridge?)

His book "Machiavelli on Modern Leadership" has been translated all over the world, and his latest, "Virgil's Golden Egg and Other Neapolitan Miracles" is currently in translation with one of the leading publishers in Italy. I have read this beautifully-written book and find it  to be charming, lyrical and celebratory of the best in the human spirit. It will appear this spring-summer.

Here is the key thing to know about Michael and why he is so deserving of recognition. His insights into various nefarious regimes—Italian Fascists, Soviets, and the Iranian mullahs—were so deep, insightful and bulls-eye accurate that those he criticized concluded he must be a high-level American spy with special access to top-secret information. But they were wrong. Michael has no access to confidential information: What he has is a kind of genius for discerning the truth.

The various denunciations Michael has endured from the far left have taken their toll. I can’t tell you how wonderful, fitting, and just it would be were Michael to be honored by a Bradley Prize.