

Military Resistance 10G18

Dark Knight Of The Soul



Photo by Mike Hastie. County fair in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho 1999.

Military recruiter putting camouflage on young boys.

The flip chart just happened to be in the background, I added the opinion.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012
Subject: Dark Knight Of The Soul

Dark Knight Of The Soul

The theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado is a morbid reflection of what is quickly happening in America. It is no longer an aberration in our society. It is not only a diagnosis of what is happening in America, but a terrifying prognosis of what is going to get much worse. I am going to make a very blunt statement that totally dismantled my belief system as a result of me being an Army medic in Vietnam.

You reach a point, where the words just come out like they are the most important words in your life.

A few days ago I was coming back from a trip to Spokane, Washington, headed to Portland, Oregon, where I have lived for the past 36 years.

This drive back to Portland occurred on July 18th, two days prior to the theater massacre on July 20, 2012.

I was traveling through the Columbia Gorge in the middle of the night, a stretch of road that runs parallel to the Columbia River, which separates the state of Washington from Oregon. I was driving on the Washington side.

I was obsessively going over in my mind the recent events that were happening in the Middle East, and all of the human suffering the United States has caused over the past 20 years.

I found myself driving at a high rate of speed, at times going over 90 miles per hour.

For some strange reason, I pulled my car over to the side of the road, stopped, and got out of the car.

I was one of very few cars on the highway, it was 2:30AM, and the only light source was my head lights.

I did something I hadn't done since I was on a psychiatric ward in 1994 for severe PTSD. I simply looked up into the black starry night sky and yelled these words:

THIS COUNTRY COMMITS MASS MURDER!!!

But, here are the brutally honest words I was thinking prior to me getting out of my car:

There was not a day that went by during the Vietnam War, that the U.S. government did not commit an atrocity against the Vietnamese people.

This is the great truth that has great silence.

And the reason I had those thoughts was because there is not greater ethical responsibility than being a moral watchdog over your government.

The will to bear witness is a profound moral sense of duty among so many people I know.

The American Empire purposefully has no memory, and that is why history always repeats itself.

The American people just can't understand why a U.S. citizen would walk into a movie theater with high powered automatic weapons and murder people.

The American people are drenched in the lies of their own history.

And the reason that happens is because the truth would

expose national shame.

The Vietnam War was immoral.

The war in Laos was immoral.

The war in Cambodia was immoral.

The U.S. occupations in the Middle East are immoral.

If the churches across America knew what their government was doing behind closed doors, they would have panic attacks.

When violent entertainment becomes violent reality, we have entered the Roman Coliseum.

That Is Empire!

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam

July 21, 2012

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

December 13, 2004

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; ‘The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy’**

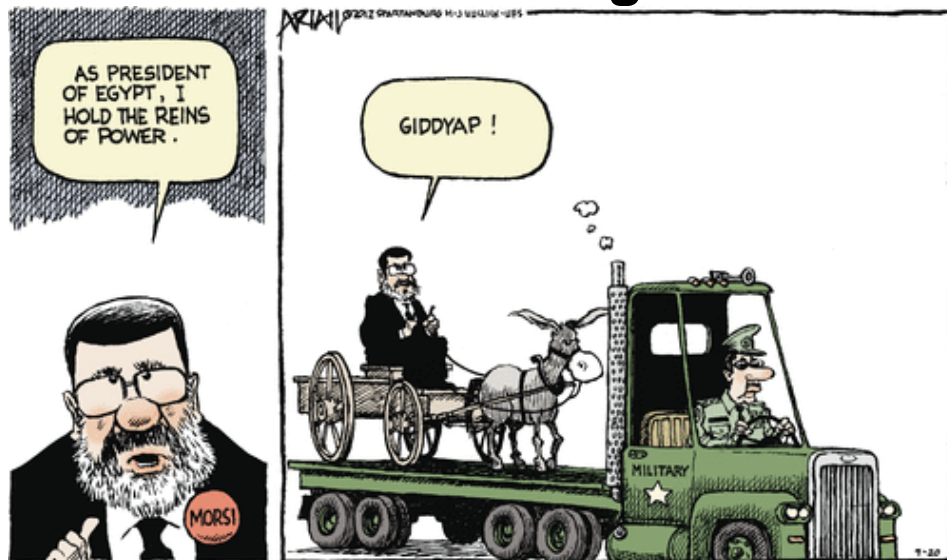
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

The Revolution Enters A New Phase: [Statement: The Revolutionary Socialists Of Egypt] “We Now Have A President Who Is Not Only Comfortable With The Military Council, But Is Adopting A Presidential Program Which Does Not Differ In Its Social Content From The Program Of The Former Regime”



July 8, 2012 Statement: the Revolutionary Socialists of Egypt; Socialist Worker

Egypt's parliament met last week in defiance of a court decision upholding an order of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) dissolving the lower house after the regime's top court ruled that parliamentary elections were invalid.

The meeting of the parliament represented a showdown between the military council and the Muslim Brotherhood, which won a majority in the body. Parliament had been disbanded amid a high-stakes presidential election won by the Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi over the regime's preferred candidate Ahmed Shafiq, the last prime minister under toppled dictator Hosni Mubarak. A few days later, hours after the polls closed in the

runoff election between Morsi and Shafiq, the SCAF issued an “addendum” to the constitution that curbed the powers of the presidency and added to its own powers.

However, the meeting of parliament lasted only 15 minutes--and President Morsi later declared that the Brotherhood would respect the decisions of Egyptian courts regarding the parliament.

Meanwhile, since Morsi was declared the official winner of the runoff, the Brotherhood has stopped calling on its supporters to mobilize for public demonstrations--in spite of the importance of mass demonstrations following the runoff in confronting the military’s power grab.

Here, the Revolutionary Socialists of Egypt analyze the current situation in a statement issued on July 8.

The political scene since the inauguration of Mohamed Morsi has been characterized by extreme fluidity.

The defeat of Ahmed Shafiq in the presidential elections was without a doubt an important victory over the plans of the counter-revolution.

However, it has not brought in a president who represents the revolution, but rather a president who represents political forces which cannot and do not want to complete the revolution, and which wish above all to make a deal with the remnants of the old regime to share power.

We have seen Mohamed Morsi’s tacit acceptance of the Supplementary Constitutional Declaration and an open understanding between him and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and big businessmen.

We have also seen the decision of the Muslim Brotherhood to break up their sit-in in Tahrir Square and continuing procrastination over the issue of the detainees.

We now have a president who is not only comfortable with the Military Council, but is adopting a presidential program which does not differ in its social content from the program of the former regime.

Perhaps the symbolism of his trip to Saudi Arabia is the greatest proof of this. For the Saudi regime is the center of counter-revolution in our region, and with it stands Tel Aviv and Washington and the remnants of the old regime.

However, because the victory of Morsi was only achieved through the mass pressure from the streets across Egypt, this has created a wave of expectations across wide sections of the Egyptian masses about the continuation of the revolution and the opportunities to implement the social and political demand of the masses.

This glaring contradiction, between a presidency denuded of its powers and unwilling and unable to realize in any of the demands of the revolution, and the hopes and

aspirations of the masses which have been created by the temporary defeat of the counter-revolutionary forces, is a major determinant of the current situation.

So Morsi's accommodation to the Military Council--which is not the first or the last--does not mean the end of the conflict between the two parties or that there is no possibility of the renewal of confrontation with a new wave of mobilization by the Brotherhood in the streets.

Likewise, the honeymoon between sections of the masses and the new president will not last long, as the masses will discover Morsi's limitations, just as they discovered the nature of the Brotherhood in parliament.

The promises Morsi made in Tahrir Square and the promises he made to the military at Cairo University and at Haikstep are a contradiction which can only explode in his face.

As expected, the capitalist liberals in the "Third Alternative Front" are afraid of the Brotherhood, and as usual, they are being tailed by a section of the left. This will continue as long as they are blinded by their fear of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is the root of their historic inability to take an independent stance. For them, the conflict of the elites over the question of a civil or religious state is a top priority, rather than the actual conflict between the workers and poor of Egypt and their exploiters.

By contrast, we do not distinguish between Naguib Sawiris and Khairat al-Shater, or between exploitation in an Islamic form and exploitation in a civil or secular guise.

Our project is the completion of the revolution and the realization of its demands at the social, democratic and national levels.

We will challenge and expose Mohamed Morsi and his brothers in their compromises and accommodation with the military and the remnants of the old regime.

We will challenge and expose their economic and social program which is hostile to the interests of the masses, and their dependence on the kings and princes of the Gulf and their masters in America and Tel Aviv.

We will participate in building a revolutionary front that is independent of the Muslim Brotherhood and the liberals, and that is implacably hostile to the military and the remnants of the old regime, and to anyone who wants to stop or end the revolution.

Despite the temporary retreat of the movement in the streets, there is a new wave of strikes and social protests, which will launch the coming phase of the Egyptian revolution.

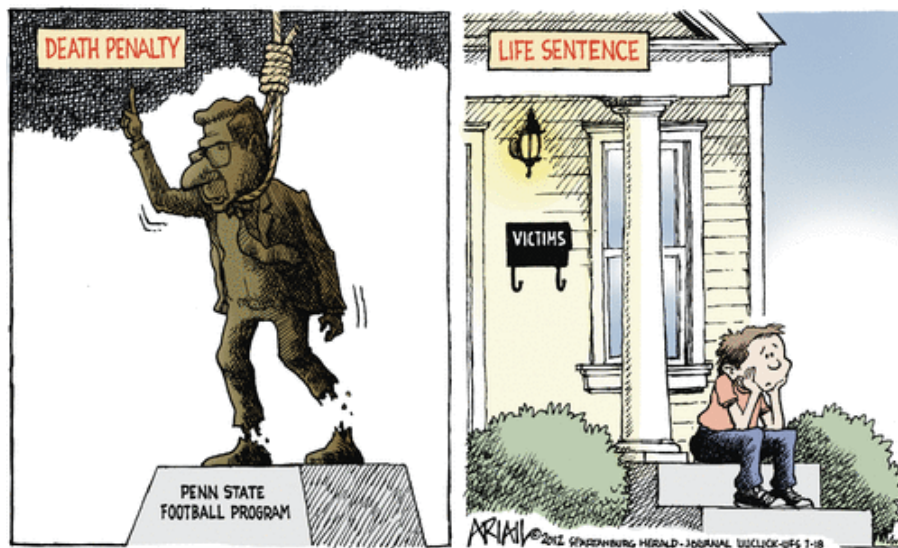
We will be in the heart of these struggles and in their frontline, as we have seen how the Muslim Brotherhood and the liberals together opposed this new wave.

So we will struggle to organize, deepen and politicize the movement of the masses until it can become a genuine leadership for the Egyptian revolution in the new wave which is inevitably coming.

Victory to the revolution, glory to the martyrs, power and wealth to the people!

The Revolutionary Socialists
July 8, 2012

**“It Is Very Simple: Joe Paterno
Was A Criminal”
“The Governor Is Far From An
Innocent Bystander”
“Corbett Assigned No One From His
Office To Follow Up On The Charges:
Just One State Trooper, A State Trooper
‘Not Authorized To Bring Charges
Against Sandusky’”**



July 12, 2012 By Dave Zirin, The Nation

“It is very simple: Joe Paterno was a criminal.” —Jeff Passan, Yahoo Sports

After seven months, 400 interviews and the review of more than 3.5 million documents, Louis Freeh has completed his report on the dark underside of Penn State University, and it will stun even the most cynical among us.

The former FBI director was given, we were told, “free rein” to investigate the institutional failures that compelled school President Graham Spanier, Athletic Director Tim Curley, director of campus police Gary Schultz and legendary football coach Joe Paterno, to cover up allegations that revered former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was a serial child predator.

In the immediate wake of Sandusky’s conviction on forty-five counts of various acts of child abuse, Freeh’s 267-page report is shocking for what it reveals and shocking, frankly, for what it doesn’t reveal.

The report constitutes nothing less than a death blow to the school’s reputation. Its conclusions, that those in positions of power at Penn State showed a “total disregard” for the safety of vulnerable children, will echo for years. We can reasonably expect this school with a \$4.6 billion budget, a \$1.8 billion endowment and 96,000 students to be inalterably crippled for the foreseeable future. Civil lawsuits, criminal lawsuits and hot pressure on the NCAA to shut down the lucrative football program will all result from this report.

It also, as suspected, constitutes a death blow to what was left of the reputation of the most successful, respected coach in the history of college football, Joe Paterno. There were many cynical about the report before its release, saying, “We’ll learn that Joe Paterno covered up Sandusky’s child abuse to protect the football program. We already knew this.”

But there is so much in the report we didn’t know. We didn’t know, as Freeh writes on page 39, that “several staff members and football coaches regularly observed Sandusky showering with young boys” before May 1998.

We didn’t know that there was evidence Joe Paterno knew about formal allegations against Sandusky as far back as 1998, four years before his assistant Mike McQueary walked in on Sandusky raping an 11-year-old boy in the Penn State showers, and then reported it to the coach. A supposedly shocked Paterno told Washington Post reporter Sally Jenkins shortly before his death that he didn’t know what to do upon hearing McQueary’s story because he’d “never heard of rape and a man.”

We didn’t know that when Sandusky was forced into retirement in 1999, he received in Freeh’s words, “an unusual lump sum payment of \$168,000” as well as full use of team facilities.

We didn’t know that Paterno, well aware of every sick allegation, wanted Sandusky in 1999 to stay as “Volunteer Position Director–Positive Action for Youth.”

We didn’t know that Sandusky had the gall to ask the school to open, in his name, a football camp for middle school boys.

And most criminally, we didn’t know, according to Freeh, that in 2001 Schultz and Curley agreed to go to authorities but changed their mind after Curley discussed their plan with Paterno. At one point, Spanier said that if Sandusky quietly sought help, they’d turn a blind eye.

As Freeh commented, “Our most saddening and sobering finding is the total disregard for the safety and welfare of Sandusky’s child victims. The most powerful men at Penn State failed to take any steps for 14 years to protect the children who Sandusky victimized.”

He also accuses Spanier, Curley, Schultz and Paterno of “opting out” of complying with the Cleary Act, the federal law that mandates colleges report crime. That criminal accusation in plain black and white will become a staple of lawsuits for years if not decades. One Penn State alum tweeted this morning, “If you want to take a picture with a Joe Paterno statue, you had better do it now.”

But the report is also striking for what it doesn’t discuss, mainly the role of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett.

Louis Freeh is someone who has always been a proud lieutenant of institutional power, and with this report he doesn’t disappoint.

As I wrote after the Sandusky verdict,

“The Governor is far from an innocent bystander. As the state’s attorney general in 2009, Corbett headed a state investigation into accusations against the revered former coach. Although his office denies it, there are multiple confirmations that Corbett assigned no one from his office to follow up on the charges: just one state trooper, a state trooper “not authorized to bring charges against Sandusky.”

“In addition, when Corbett was sworn in as governor in 2011, he still had not informed The Second Mile Foundation that their founder was under investigation. Instead, as a candidate for governor, he took \$650,000 in donations from members of the Second Mile’s unknowing board, even allowing their chairman to hold a fundraiser for his campaign. Upon being elected, Corbett then moved deftly from doing nothing to immediately try to deflect the entire weight of the scandal onto Joe Paterno and Penn State itself, using his recently appointed position as a member of the school’s Board of Trustees (an automatic appointment for all Pennsylvania Governors) to do so.”

As bracing as the Freeh report is, it confirms what we long suspected and Penn State will pay the price.

But it’s also bracing that the dead and the indicted get the blame, while the sitting governor gets to have press conferences and praise Freeh for his efforts.

I hope that Sandusky’s victims leave room in their deserved litigious appetites for Governor Corbett.

We should all hope he has to answer for the banality of his own evil.

If that’s difficult for Corbett to handle, maybe he should take the advice he gave to women upset about his support for mandatory vaginal ultrasounds and he can just lie back and “close his eyes.”

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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ANNIVERSARIES

July 22, 1877:

**American Workers Exploded With
Rage — And The Rulers Of The
Nation Feared The Fury Of The
“Terror” From Within:**

**“Pittsburgh Was ‘In The Hands Of Men
Dominated By The Devilish Spirit Of
Communism’”**

THE GREAT STRIKE OF 1877



REMEMBERING A WORKER REBELLION



A contemporary artist's rendering of the clash in Baltimore between workers and the Maryland Sixth Regiment during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. The governor had called out the troops on behalf of the railroad company.

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

United Electrical Workers News - 06/02 [Excerpts]

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers of the nation feared the fury of the “terror” from within.

A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists' anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

After three years, the nation still suffered through a major economic depression.

A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities.

The foreign born were widely blamed for the unprecedented, collective expression of rage against economic hardship and injustice.

The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway.

The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

When the fires turned to cold ash and working-class families buried their dead, no one — neither labor nor capital — would be the same again.

If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike.

It was an explosion of “firsts.”

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America’s industrial revolution.

It was the first national strike, stretching from Atlantic to Pacific.

In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation’s first general strikes.

This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military.

Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.

BORN OF DEPRESSION

The Great Strike was a creature of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history.

A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. “Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased,” wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor’s Untold Story*. The winter of 1873-74, especially in large cities, was one of great suffering for the tens of thousands of unemployed workers and their families who were starving or on the brink of starvation.

As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. But the depression itself became a powerful weapon in smashing unions.

Millions suffered through months upon months of mounting misery. “By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed (roughly 27 percent of the working population),” according to Boyer and Morais. “Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than six to seven months a year and less than one-fifth was regularly working.

“And the wages of those employed had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day.” Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

FIXED ELECTION

Political crisis seemed to mirror the economic mess.

Many Americans in 1877 believed their new president had reached the White House through fraud.

Certainly Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots the previous year. Democrat Samuel Tilden overcame the Ohio governor in the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida and other states threw the election into House of Representatives.

Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes.

As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans. Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden, handing the election to Hayes.

President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of political equality for former slaves. The troops would soon have other uses.

PAY CUTS

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10 percent when it cut wages by another 10 percent in June 1877. The following month that railroad company, the nation's largest, announced that the size of all eastbound trains from Pittsburgh would be doubled, without any increase in the size of crews.

Angry railroad workers took control of switches and blocked the movement of trains.

Meanwhile, on July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day, also by 10 percent. The company also reduced the workweek to only two or three days, a further pay cut.

On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work.

The company tried to bring on replacements — many experienced men were unemployed because of the depression — but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction.

The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, W. Va., where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them.

The railroad company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia.

Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains.

The strike swiftly followed the rails to Wheeling and Parkersburg.

As Harper's Weekly reported the following month, "Governor Matthews evoked the aid of the national government. President Hayes responded promptly."

Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived in Martinsburg on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars bottled up in Martinsburg.

STRIKE SPREADS

But the strike was far from over. “Indeed, it was barely begun,” reported Harper’s Weekly.

“As fast as the strike was broken in one place it appeared in another,” wrote Boyer and Morais. The revolt against the powerful railroad companies spread into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping the eastbound trains from Martinsburg, Maryland’s governor ordered out the state militia.

Thousands of the jobless and underpaid in Baltimore clearly saw whose interests the governor’s proclamation served.

Within a half hour of the call, “a crowd numbering at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the (Maryland Sixth Regiment) armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers,” according to Harper’s Weekly. The crowd added bricks and stones to the curses hurled against the armory. The police were powerless.

Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, shots were fired — and shots were exchanged.

The militia killed at least 10 and wounded many others, among them curious onlookers. The Fifth Regiment was also attacked, although no shots were fired.

BATTLE IN PITTSBURGH

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh.

Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against Tom Scott’s Pennsylvania Railroad “had the support even of businessmen, angry at the company because of extortionate freight rates.” The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so the authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia.

When the militiamen arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with the cries of an angry crowd — and, according to Harper’s, “a shower of stones.”

They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29.

“The sight presented after the soldiers ceased firing was sickening,” reported the New York Herald; the area “was actually dotted with the dead and dying.”

A newspaper headline read: "Shot in Cold Blood by the Roughts of Philadelphia. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents."

As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene.

Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms. Wrote Boyer and Morais, "Miners and steel workers came pouring in from the outskirts of the city and as night fell the immense crowd proved so menacing to the soldiers that they retreated into the roundhouse."

By midnight, Harper's said, some 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed.

Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building.

'A NIGHT OF TERROR'

A Civil War veteran among the besieged troops told a New York Herald reporter that he had seen some "wild fighting" in that conflict, but "a night of terror such as last night I never experienced before and hope to God I never will again."

The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town.

Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers.

The angry crowd then torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars.

The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was "in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism."

Meanwhile, on July 21, President Hayes had issued a proclamation warning strikers and their sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. The next day, Pennsylvania's governor had ordered every regiment in the state to report for duty. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS

The strike continued to spread. Reported Harper's, "On the morning of the 25th the strike had reached its height, when hardly a road was running, from the Hudson to the Mississippi, and from Canada to Virginia."

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more.

The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike.

The Workingmen's Party had several thousand members.

At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'"

Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, flour mills, foundries and other shops stopped operating as well.

As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages.

Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses.

Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day.

'SHOT BACK TO WORK'

Business leaders became better organized, rallying their political allies, who mobilized the might of the military. Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad had recommended giving strikers "a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread;" in the end, the government's ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again.

As one worker put it, "We were shot back to work." By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

It had been an unforgettable event, and many railroad workers seemed to have been justifiably proud.

"Without any organization they had fought with bravery and skill and the country had been behind them," wrote Boyer and Morais. "The strike had been as solid as it was spontaneous. There had been few desertions and few scabs."

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed workers in numerous cities had joined the strikers in protests against intolerable conditions. Farmers, who hated the railroad companies and their extortionate practices, fed the strikers.

More than half the freight on the nation's 75,000 miles of track stopped moving.

More than 100 had died and 1,000 had been jailed, although those imprisoned were not the ones directly responsible for the deaths.

The results of the Great Strike were mixed.

Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never again allow workers the upper hand.

“The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their ‘Coal and Iron Police,’” writes van Ophem. “In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns.”

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government. America’s Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



U.S. And Israeli Governments Fear “Chaos” When Assad Falls:

**“Security Officials In Israel Fear
Their Northern Neighbor Could
Become A Haven For Terrorists”**

**“There Are A Lot Of Parts Of The
Country The Regime Can’t Hold”**

**“Revolutionary Councils In Rebel-Held
Areas Have Begun Supplying Cooking
Gas And Other Supplies”**

Security officials in Israel fear their northern neighbor could become a haven for terrorists, as have other broken states.

That could transform Israel’s long, quiet border with Syria into another battleground.

July 20, 2012 By JAY SOLOMON, JULIAN E. BARNES and FARNAZ FASSIHI, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The U.S. and its Middle East allies are bracing for the potential that a catastrophic fracture of Syria along sectarian lines could spread chaos into neighboring countries.

Such a breakdown inside Syria is now seen as a likely outcome if rebel fighters succeed in quickly overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad’s regime, American, Israeli and Arab officials said.

Under such a scenario, Mr. Assad’s ethnic Alawite clan, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, is expected to retreat to its stronghold in the country’s western coastal regions, where it would consolidate its forces and battle its foes.

“We are already heading to a partition of the country,” said a U.S. official who is closely tracking Syria.

“There are a lot of parts of the country the regime can’t hold.”

In Jordan, officials fear that the rise of fundamentalist groups in Syria, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, could threaten King Abdullah's monarchy.

In recent weeks, U.S. and Arab officials and Syrian opposition groups said they have seen an increasing dissolution of the Assad regime's control over the country. This dynamic is most pronounced in tribal regions in the south and areas near the Turkish border.

The Free Syrian Army, which oversees the country's myriad rebel groups, has become so confident that it is considering declaring Syria's Idlib province a liberated zone, according to members of the group.

The FSA and Syrian opposition groups are providing social services and governance to local populations, opposition officials and analysts say. Revolutionary councils in rebel-held areas have begun supplying cooking gas and other supplies.

U.S. and Arab officials, however, said they have seen growing signs of the Assad regime trying to carve out an ethnic enclave inside Syria.

Recent regime campaigns in cities such as Hama and Homs have focused on driving out Sunni communities, the officials said. Some of the Syrian Alawite leaders have begun to move family members back to the coastal city of Latakia and to secured mountain areas in the western region, they said.

"The Alawites would essentially fall back and create a ministate, giving up Damascus," a U.S. official said. "The ethnic cleansing, the sectarian cleansing of that area would be consistent with that."

Security officials in Israel fear their northern neighbor could become a haven for terrorists, as have other broken states.

That could transform Israel's long, quiet border with Syria into another battleground.

The potential that rogue actors could launch rockets at Israel from Syrian territory, as Hezbollah and Hamas have done in the past, is a deep concern.

The U.S. and its allies also worry Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons could wind up in the hands of Islamist militants. U.S. officials have acknowledged contingency plans to send American forces to secure weapons sites if necessary, but say they would prefer to see allies, chiefly Jordan and Turkey, take the lead.

However, the likelihood of an orderly political transition in Syria, in which international peacekeepers could provide for calm, appears less and less realistic.

"The fall of the Assad regime doesn't mean it is the end," said Jihad Zein, editorial writer for Lebanon's largest daily newspaper, An Nahar. "We will have a chaotic Syria and some kind of Islamist party dominating the street for a long time."



Demonstrators hold Kurdish and opposition flags during a protest against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Kubani, near Aleppo July 20, 2012. Picture taken July 20, 2012. REUTERS/Sham News Network/Handout



A burnt tank belonging to government forces is seen in Azzaz, Aleppo province July 19, 2012. REUTERS/Sham News Network/Handout

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Workers Burn India Auto Plant And Kill Manager: Fighting “Injured Nine Policemen As Well As Nearly 100 Managers”



Maruti Suzuki plant closed after workers' set fire and attacked managers. Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

July 19, 2012 By NIKHIL GULATI And SANTANU CHOUDHURY, & July 20, 2012 Staff; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

NEW DELHI—India's largest auto maker, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., was hit by violence as workers at one of its auto factories attacked supervisors and started a fire that killed a company official and injured nine policemen as well as nearly 100 managers, including two Japanese expatriates.

Wednesday's riot left parts of the assembly plant charred and strewn with glass from smashed windows and guarded by about 1,200 police called in to prevent any recurrence of the violence.

The unrest began Wednesday after the workers' union demanded the reinstatement of a worker who had been suspended for fighting with a supervisor after the supervisor insulted him.

“The workers grabbed whatever they could, split up in small groups and attacked us,” a Maruti executive said. He suffered a broken elbow and injuries to his head, ribs, and legs.

The plant employs 3,200 assembly workers, about half permanent and half contract workers.

Intermittent strikes at the local unit of Japan’s Suzuki Motor Corp. have highlighted the tense relationship between the company’s management and the workers. The latest incidents follow a string of protests that hit the same factory in Manesar, in the northern state of Haryana, for much of last year.

L. Sachdev, national secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress, said in a conference call with analysts that Maruti’s contract workers are paid about one-third of that of regular workers. He declined to elaborate.

“The discontent among regular and contract workers has been going on. Unfortunately, the management hasn’t been able to resolve the issue,” he said.

The Haryana police have taken control of the Manesar plant and have set up a special team to investigate the violent incidents, Maheshwar Dayal, deputy commissioner of police in charge of crime, told reporters.

Mr. Dayal said 88 workers have been arrested so far.

“The Syrian Regime Holds The Cities. But It Doesn’t Control Rural Areas. And At Night Its Control Over The Cities Is Very Iffy”

“The Government’s Control Over Large Parts Of The Country Continued To Unravel”

“The Regime Appears Increasingly Vulnerable To Guerilla Raids”



21 July 12 By Luke Harding and Ian Black, Guardian UK [Excerpts]

President Bashar al-Assad's forces were fighting to regain control of key suburbs of Damascus after Syrian rebels seized border crossings and refugees streamed into neighbouring countries to escape the escalating crisis.

There were bodies on the streets of the capital amid signs the army had succeeded in subduing the central district of Midan – for now at least. Opposition sources described aircraft and helicopters attacking targets on the ground.

The Free Syrian Army confirmed it had withdrawn from the area under heavy bombardment. But rebel commanders said their forces remained active, with opposition fighters setting fire to a barracks used by the regime's Shabiha militia.

With the situation changing by the hour, the government's control over large parts of the country continued to unravel.

The FSA said it had captured two border crossings between Syria and Turkey as well as one in Iraq. The regime still holds key cities, at least during the day, but it appears increasingly vulnerable to guerilla raids.

Assad, said to be still in Damascus, did not attend the state funeral of three of Wednesday's victims including his brother-in-law Asef Shawkat.

State TV announced that a fourth general had died of his injuries.

The UN refugee agency said record numbers were now trying to escape the country with some 30,000 Syrians said to have fled into neighbouring Lebanon over the past 48 hours.

Residents have reported that some banks were running out of cash, with queues for bread and other foodstuffs seen as Ramadan gets underway.

Yesterday rebels said they had recaptured the Bab al-Hawa border on the frontier with Turkey – which they seized on Thursday, only to surrender it again to government forces. They also said they held another border point at Jarablus.

In a further sign of regime erosion a Syrian general was reported to have fled to Turkey, bringing the number of fugitive generals there to 22.

The rebels also now control a key Kamal/Qaim border crossing with Iraq, after slaughtering the 22 government soldiers tasked with guarding it.

The capture of Syria's borders by the opposition was an important moment, analysts said, and showed Syria's 16-month conflict was now a fast-moving guerilla war.

Fawwaz Traboulsi, a Beirut-based historian and columnist, said the tactics and strategy of the Free Syrian Army had improved, in contrast to the early days of the uprising.

"It's conducting a war that is very close to a guerrilla war. The FSA can move very easily. It can withdraw. It is taking whole regions and holding them," he said.

Michael Young, a columnist with Beirut's Daily Star newspaper, agreed that the regime was disintegrating around the edges.

"If you lose the borders you are allowing the creation of safe zones for weapons to come through. The Syrian regime holds the cities. But it doesn't control rural areas. And at night its control over the cities is very iffy. This is a new phenomenon," he observed.

MORE

Syrian Revolutionaries Hijack Assad Regimes Official TV Station And Substitute Their Own Content: "It Is Possible That The Syrian National TV Is Taken Off Air Any Moment And Replaced By The Fake Channel"

Jul 21, 2012 Press TV [Excerpts]

The Syrian Information Ministry has cautioned the nation against a “fake” satellite channel which carries the logo of the country’s national TV but has actually been set up to broadcast anti-government reports.

At the moment a fake channel is broadcasting Syrian national songs as well as its national anthem to lay the ground for broadcasting the programs that their nature is clear, the ministry said in a statement.

It issued the warning after Mohammed Saeed, a broadcaster of the Syrian television, was [captured by insurgents] in Jdeidet Artouz area of the capital Damascus.

The ministry also warned that it is possible that the Syrian national TV is taken off air any moment and replaced by the fake channel.

MORE:

**Storming The Bastille In Syria:
“The Regime, Using The Patently
False Pretext Of ‘Fighting Foreign-
Sponsored Terrorists’ Is
Committing One Atrocity After
Another, In Cities And Towns And
Villages All Over The Country”
“The Syrian Regime Under Hafez
Assad Did Imperialism’s Dirty Work
Against The Palestinian Cause, At
The Most Critical Moments”
“The Oppressed Workers And Farmers
Of Syria Need Solidarity And Deserve
Solidarity”**

Jul 21, 2012 PmPress

On July 14th, the anniversary of the glorious French Revolution, Syria is undergoing a popular revolution characterized by mass action and facing ferocious murderous repression by the Assad regime.

The popular struggle in Syria is widespread.

Demonstrations, large and small, are taking place in all parts of Syria.

The regime, using the patently false pretext of “fighting foreign-sponsored terrorists” is committing one atrocity after another, in cities and towns and villages all over the country.

At the same time, there are clear signs that the Assad regime is beginning to disintegrate, with defections of rank and file soldiers right up to pilots, military commanders, and diplomats.

At the grassroots level, there are reports of merchants’ strikes. Workers strikes cannot be far off.

Unfortunately, the organized Syrian workers movement lacks independence from the regime. The self-styled Syrian “Communist” Party (both factions) is allied with the regime against the Syrian workers.

In order for the Syrian workers to influence the insurgency, they will need to coordinate their efforts outside the official channels. Alongside the “Local Coordinating Committees”, workers coordinating committees will need to be formed.

Of course, the NATO powers, and the Gulf kings and emirs, and the Zionist occupiers of Palestine are intervening as best as they can, covertly, in the hope of protecting their selfish interests.

Russia and China are doing exactly the same.

The “intervention” that is lacking is the power of the international working class and the Arab revolution, that also have “interests” in Syria: the interests of democracy, freedom, and people’s power.

The Syrian state is one of the products of the post-World War I colonialist partition of the Ottoman Empire.

Sykes-Picot and the League of Nations Mandate system gave rise to the artificial states of the Arab East, whose main role was to prevent the unification of the Arab East on a democratic basis.

The main beneficiary of this partition was the Zionist colonization of Palestine. But the “regional” (“qutri”) Arab regimes, even those proclaiming “Arab nationalism,” have prevented the unification of the Arabs, and the other Middle Eastern peoples, in the struggle for democracy and modernization.

These “qutri” regimes have acted as the direct oppressors of their own peoples and the guarantors of Zionist domination of Palestine.

The PLO policy of “non-intervention in the internal affairs of the Arab states” has always hurt the interests of the Palestine refugees and the struggle for a free Palestine.

The Syrian regime under Hafez Assad did imperialism’s dirty work against the Palestinian cause, at the most critical moments, in Lebanon.

The Bashar Assad regime played a role in imperialism’s so-called “war on terror”.

The Arab revolutions that began in Tunisia, and spread to Egypt and Yemen and Libya and Bahrain, promise to shake up the oppressive status quo in the Arab East and North Africa.

In every country, the social problems and political problems present themselves in different forms. But, in every country the masses of the people confront substantially common problems: lack of a democratic political regime; subservience to imperialism; economic under-development; women’s oppression; ethnic-nationalist and Islamist oppression of non-Arab and non-Muslim populations.

The people of Palestine suffer from these and also the problems of settler-colonial domination and ethnic cleansing.

The need for international solidarity with the Arab revolutions was felt most desperately in Libya. Much of the international “solidarity” movement boycotted the Libyan insurgents with phony “anti-imperialist” pretensions.

The “left” ended up supporting the discredited Gaddafi regime politically, and abandoned the field of “solidarity” to the US and its NATO allies.

Now, our impotent “anti-imperialists” are complaining that Libya did not turn out so well. The lesson they seem to be learning from their Libya policy is: “Let’s do the same in Syria. Let’s boycott the Syrian revolution. Then, we can blame the imperialists.”

In the absence of working class leadership, the democratic revolution in Syria risks being derailed and led to oblivion by Islamists and ethnic-nationalists.

The oppressed workers and farmers of Syria need solidarity and deserve solidarity.

All efforts must be made to reach out to the grassroots organizations of the insurgents. All efforts must be made to support and strengthen the hand of the pro-democracy and working class currents in the Syrian revolution.

All efforts must be made that when revolutionary victory comes – and it will come— a democratic regime is established. The only real guarantor of democracy for the masses of the people will be a workers and farmers government.

So, on July 14th, let us take a stand and proclaim loud and clear:

Forward to liberty, equality, and solidarity!

Victory to the Syrian revolution! Solidarity with the workers and farmers!

MORE



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