

Military Resistance 10H14



[In case you missed it the first time.]

The Election

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 25, 2012
Subject: The Election

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

The Election

Romney has decided to fight in the war,
he is having a computer room built
in Salt Lake City to guide and kill mostly
innocent people in Pakistan

On the side of the drone he has painted Romney the Republican, he also is marrying 2 young girls because his wife is getting old.

Not to be outdone, Obama has a drone room too, but it's built in Chicago, the town that dead people vote in.

On the side of the drone he has painted Obama the Democrat.

Romney sees a wedding party in Pakistan and goes in for the kill

but at the last minute Obama's drone blows up Romney's drone, then Obama goes back to killing the wedding party but they are not there, they must have moved into a house somewhere, so he picks one out of many and kills them Obama is still a mad man that Bin Laden was living for years next to a Pakistan military post.

Both Obama and Romney are convinced that War Is Fun. They didn't have any post stress, the Soldiers coming back from War are just trying to get Free Money from the government. Romney and Obama didn't come back from their War and get drunk all the time, started doing every drug they could get their hands on, carry loaded 45's, keep loaded shotguns in the trunk of their car, crash their cars and trucks, just buying another old beater and moving on, their families not knowing what to do and telling them not to come over anymore. They had scars on their bodies and scars on their minds, some say a personality disorder but they were not like that when they were sent to War, they didn't take amphetamines until the sockets of their eyes were blacken, they didn't take Angel Dust before, couldn't sleep for a week go into bars where everyone had a concealed gun, stay high all the time, found with a gunshot to the head along the side of the road like a dead animal

While these two Political Whores today will do anything to get elected, Romney and the Republican apparatus pick Ryan with snake eyes as they roll the dice.

They are like Bachman's death eyes, glazed over with wickedness and evil inside herself without a soul.

Lying Ryan says he will do whatever Romney
the Fool wants, but way Right.
The Fool Obama so far will keep Biden,
a sin filled heavy man, who like Ryan
has the blood of War on his Catholic hands.
The Election has turned into a graveyard
of endless War

Shock Poetry by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia 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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Texas Sgt. Dies Of August 6 Afghanistan IED Wounds

August 23, 2012 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 702-12

Sgt. Louis R. Torres, 23, of Oberlin, Ohio, died Aug. 22, in San Antonio, Texas, of wounds suffered when he encountered an enemy improvised explosive device, Aug. 6, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Torres was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Friends Remember Marine Killed In Afghanistan



Cpl. Richard Anthony Rivera Jr. Contributed photo

August 12, 2012 By Mercedes Aguilar, Ventura County Star

Oxnard native Richard Anthony Rivera Jr. always wanted to be a Marine and obtained that dream right after graduating from Rio Mesa High School in 2010.

The 20-year-old corporal had just finished his last duty of the day in Afghanistan and decided to exercise with two other Marines when they were fatally ambushed Friday, Rivera's high school sweetheart, Cathy Mortilla, said Sunday.

News reports said three Marines were shot and killed Friday by an Afghan police officer in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

Also on Friday in the province, an Afghan worker on a military base killed three other troops. The U.S. Defense Department had not released Rivera's name as one of those killed in either attack.

Mortilla and two of Rivera's best friends, Amanda Castro and Cortney Arnold, paid tribute to Rivera by setting up a memorial for friends and family members Sunday evening at Oxnard Dunes near the end of Fifth Street, a favorite spot of Rivera.

"I was always so scared," Mortilla said. "But he would just say, 'After all that training, I promise you to come back home safe to you,' and that would put me at ease."

Rivera was deployed to Afghanistan in April and was due back to his base station, Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii, about Aug. 20, Mortilla said.

"In about ten days he would have been back to paradise," Mortilla said. Instead, his mother, Linda Rivera, is headed to Washington, D.C., for a memorial service and to bring him back home.

"It's just does not feel real," Mortilla said. But, she added, "I'm thankful I met him and found my soul mate at a young age." Mortilla and Rivera had dated for six years.

More than 100 relatives and friends gathered at the sand dunes and expressed their condolences on index cards that were dropped into a black chest case to be given to Rivera's parents. Rivera also played football for Rio Mesa, and vigil attendees wore red ribbons with No. 43 on them.

Of the many words friends used to describe Rivera, "funny," "carefree" and "laughable" were said throughout.

In November, Castro and Arnold went to the airport to pick up Rivera from one of his breaks from the Hawaii station. Smiling, he embraced both in his arms, they said.

"Everyone is very blank. No one can believe it still," Castro said. "You never think it's going to happen to your loved one."

One of Rivera's recruiters, Marine Staff Sgt. Jacob Avila, a former station commander at the Ventura recruiting station, brought a bouquet of flowers that he placed by two photos of Rivera. "Richie was a natural leader, really inspired the other recruits," Avila said. "He wanted to stand out from the crowd and be the best."

Avila said he heard of Rivera's death through his Marine counterparts but that he could not give an official statement.

Rivera was able to bring different groups of people together, even after his death, said Vanessa Fox, of Oxnard.

"Just look around — people that don't even know each other, but they are here for him," Fox said.

He even formed a brotherhood with his high school friends by tattooing "Our bond is forever tied by blood, until the day we die we are one," on his arm, Mortilla said. "He saw the Marines as the true definition of heroes, of true men."

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

And The Incomprehensibly Stupid Excuse Prize For The Year, So Far, Goes To Marine Gen. John R. Allen:

"The Summer Heat May Have Prompted More Afghan Soldiers And Police To Turn Their Guns On Their American Partners"

Aug 23, 2012 By Robert Burns - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — American and Afghan officials are expanding the range of explanations for a surge in "insider attacks" on U.S. troops, adding on Wednesday the theory that the burden of fasting during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan combined with the summer heat may have prompted more Afghan soldiers and police to turn their guns on their American partners.

Whatever the underlying reasons, the attacks are taking a toll and raising questions about the risk of American and other coalition troops working side by side with Afghan troops as advisers, mentors and trainers. The close contact is an essential element of the U.S. strategy for putting the Afghans in the lead combat role as the U.S. prepares to pull out its last combat troops at the end of 2014.

The top commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan, Marine Gen. John R. Allen, said Thursday that while the reasons for the killings are not fully understood, the effect of Ramadan fasting is likely among the causes.

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.

Resistance Action

August 24, 2012 By: ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents took three Afghan soldiers and another man from a bus in eastern Afghanistan and killed all four, authorities said today, in another challenge to the government and its security forces.

Militants stopped the bus as it was traveling in Paktia province's Ahmad Khil district and forced the four men off the vehicle Thursday, provincial deputy police chief Mohammad Zaman said. Their bullet-ridden bodies were found lying on a road later in the day. Three of the men were off-duty soldiers who were traveling to see their families, and the fourth victim's identity was unclear, Zaman said.

Taliban Unleash Terrifying New Weapon:

**Deploy Suicide Bomber Who Can
Blow Himself Up Multiple Times:
Bomber Captured After Attacking
Former Governor;**

**“The Suicide Bomber Was Looking To
Carry Out Attacks On Local Tribal Elders
And Governmental Organizations In This
Province”**

Aug 24 By Sajad, Khaama Press

Local authorities in eastern Ghazni province announced the suicide bomber who wanted to assassinate former provincial governor for Ghazni province Faizullah Faizan was from Pakistan.

Deputy provincial governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi speaking during a press conference on Friday said, based on the preliminary investigations the assailant suicide bomber had entered Jalalabad city from Pakistan around 20 days ago and later came to eastern Ghazni city.

Mr. Ahmadi further added the suicide bomber was looking to carry out attacks on local tribal elders and governmental organizations in this province.

The detained suicide bomber carried out an attack on former provincial governor of Ghazni province early Friday morning and was arrested by Afghan security forces.

Faizullah Faizan former provincial governor was taken to coalition forces hospital for treatment purposes.

Provincial NDS chief Syed Amirshah Sadat said the health condition of Faizullah Faizan was satisfactory.

Deputy provincial governor of Ghazni province Mr. Ahmadi said the detained suicide bomber was recognized as Matin Akbar and is a Pakistani national.

He said the Pakistani suicide bomber Matin Akbar was being looked after by Afghan intelligence forces when he came to Jalalabad city from Pakistan around 20 days back.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

MILITARY NEWS

DoD Names 3 Brigades Deploying To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Aug 24, 2012 The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Pentagon has announced that three more Army brigades, including one from Fort Campbell, will deploy to Afghanistan later this winter.

The Department of Defense on Friday identified the units as the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky.; the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas; and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y.

The Pentagon said about 2,800 soldiers from the Fort Campbell unit will be included in the deployment, along with 4,000 soldiers from the Fort Bliss unit and 2,870 from the Fort Drum unit.

Thousands of troops from the Army installation on the Tennessee-Kentucky state line are headed back to Afghanistan, including a combat aviation brigade, an infantry brigade and Afghan advisory teams.

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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

Obedience To War— The “American Dream” Exposed



Arlington West in Santa Monica, California August 19, 2012. Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 24, 2012
Subject: Obedience To War--the American Dream exposed

Obedience To War--the “American Dream” exposed

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

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam**

**The truth was obscure, too profound and too pure,
to live it you have to explode.**

Bob Dylan

Photograph by Mike Hastie
Arlington West in Santa Monica, California
August 19, 2012

Each white cross represents 1 American soldier killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Each red cross represents 10 American soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.
1 active duty American soldier commits suicide every single day. 18 American veterans commit suicide every single day.

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

**“What Pussy Riot Wants Is
Something That Is Equally Terrifying,
Provocative And Threatening To The
Established Order In Both Russia
And The West (And Has Been From
Time Immemorial)”**
**“Freedom From Patriarchy, Capitalism,
Religion, Conventional Morality,
Inequality And The Entire Corporate
State System”**

August 22, 2012 by LOUIS PROYECT, Counterpunch

Given the sharp divide on the left between those who consider the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) governments to be the first line of defense against Western imperialism and those who take the sides of the victims of such governments even when the U.S. State Department takes up their cause as well, it should not come as a surprise that the Pussy Riot trial has become a litmus test. Support for Pussy Riot is a sign that you are catching Christopher Hitchens flu or worse.

As one of the highest-profile defenders of BRIC counter-hegemony, Global Research could be relied upon to take the side of the Russian prosecutors. Tony Cartalucci reminded his readers that stiff prison sentences have been meted out in the West for holocaust denial so why all the fuss?

Of course, a more appropriate response might have been to question all laws against free speech whether in the West or in Russia.

Meanwhile Information Clearing House, a website with a similar orientation, has a piece by "The Saker" that views support for the young punk rocker/anarchists as little more than religious intolerance:

"The sad truth is that the West's support for Pussy Riot is, in reality, nothing more than yet another expression of its rabid hatred for anything Russian or Russian Orthodox. And if that means erecting a small group of sexually dysfunctional women into a banner for freedom, so be it!" (emphasis in the original)

I am not sure where "The Saker" got the idea that they were sexually dysfunctional, a term redolent more of Kinsey than Kissinger, but the idea of rallying around a beleaguered Russian Orthodox Church was a bit hard for me to swallow.

Maybe I am behind the times, but if I took a word association test the first word that would come to mind after "Russian Orthodox Church" would be "Rasputin".

Since the grip of such malevolent figures on Russian society ended in 1917, one has to wonder why the left is in the business of defending the church against blasphemers.

I could not help but be reminded of a quip made to me by a Soviet émigré that I worked with years ago, a fellow who greatly admired Ronald Reagan: "The Communists were very bad but the best thing they ever did was suppress organized religion." He made sure to be clear that this included the synagogues, the faith of his fathers. As someone forced in the 1950s to learn Hebrew (or at least to sound out the words) and to pray to a god one did not believe in, I imagine that I would have envied my 12-year-old Russian contemporaries.

Also of interest is the call to stand up for anything "Russian" or "Russian Orthodox" against its enemies, wedding as it were the Russian flag to the cross of the orthodoxy.

Elements of the Western left, always on the leading edge when it comes to Diderot's injunction that "Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest", somehow makes an exception for traditional family values when they are held by the Russian equivalent of Pat Robertson.

At first blush it might seem puzzling why Pussy Riot would stage an action in an Orthodox Church if their main target were Putin. What has been the role of the church? The American left protests Catholic opposition to gay rights and backs the right of women to control their own body, and increasingly takes a stand against the rabbinical blessings for Israeli brutality but what are the stakes for the Russian left?

It is also necessary to examine Putin's connections to Russian Orthodoxy since the church was at one time seen as a tool of Western interests. Ever the nationalist, wouldn't Putin have kept the church at arm's length? As recently as January 2005 Aleksei II, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, took a stand against Putin's widening powers at a time when protests had been erupting all across Russia similar to those held last year.

Fred Weir, the canny co-author with David Kotz of "Revolution from above: the demise of the Soviet system" and now the Russian correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, told its readers on November 14, 2007 that the ties between church and state ran deep no matter the Patriarch's reprimand:

"The Orthodox Church has been – and remains – closely linked to the Russian state. Even before the Bolsheviks nationalized all its property and took full control over the priesthood, the church acted as the main ideological support for Russian czars. And since the fall of communism, Russian leaders have sometimes turned to the church, which has baptized some 60 percent of Russians, to boost their legitimacy.

Though President Vladimir Putin has frequently stressed that Russia remains a secular state, he and other state leaders prominently take part in Orthodox festivals and he is often seen in company with the patriarch, the head of the Orthodox Church. In a press conference on the reunification earlier this year of the US-based Russian Orthodox Church Abroad with the mother church in Moscow, Putin equated Russia's 'traditional faiths' with its nuclear missile shield as "components that strengthen Russian statehood and create necessary preconditions for internal and external security of the country."

Anticipating the prosecution against Pussy Riot, the church and the state joined hands in April of 2008 to silence Mikhail Zlatkovsky, a satirical cartoonist who had represented Aleksei II in a less than flattering manner.

While one should always refrain—unlike "The Saker"—from characterizing one's political adversaries as sexually dysfunctional, one might smile at another of Zlatkovsky's cartoons: "In one Putin sketch, he is portrayed as a young king on his wedding day, marrying a woman called Federation (the Russian Federation). Egged on by cronies and advisers, he takes Russia into his bedroom but finds himself impotent and does not know what to do with his bride."

In October 2007, Aleksei II attended a conference of church leaders in Strasbourg to put forward a rather novel interpretation of homosexuality. He dubbed it a "distortion of the human personality like kleptomania." With respect to a gay rights parade in Moscow, he condemned it as advertising for immoral behavior and asked: "Why don't we have advertising for kleptomania?"

Despite his affinity for the kind of idiocy heard from Pat Robertson, Aleksei II's interests collided with those of Protestant missions in Russia.

If Yeltsin symbolized unrestrained penetration of the Russian economy by foreign multinationals, the onslaught of Western sects in the immediate post-Soviet period represented the same phenomenon on a spiritual level. In order to consolidate a strong state, Putin had to make the Russian Orthodoxy a state religion. In April 2008, Putin starting to clamp down on the sects in a manner similar to what happened to NGO's around the same time as Clifford Levy reported in the April 24, 2008 N.Y. Times:

"The church's hostility toward Protestant groups, many of which are based in the United States or have large followings there, is tinged with the same anti-Western sentiment often voiced by Mr. Putin and other senior officials.

The government's antipathy also seems to stem in part from the Kremlin's wariness toward independent organizations that are not allied with the government."

Now, of course, if your primary interest is in seeing Russian nationalism flourish, this kind of "anti-Western" campaign might be worth supporting, especially if you are skeptical that any alternative to the current system can exist. Back in the early 1990s, they had a term for this. It was called TINA, meaning "there is no alternative to capitalism". If socialism is a lost cause, why not settle for second-best, which for some apparently is a Russian strongman and a church that likens being gay to kleptomania?

For those of us with a Quixotic bent, there might be an attraction to Pussy Riot that will never be understood by Tony Cartalucci or "The Staker". Like us, the punk rockers will settle for nothing less than the abolition of private property whether the stars-and-stripes or the Russian flag sanctifies it. Despite the groundswell of support for the right of punk rockers to say what they want and where they want to say it, there is at least one Russian sophisticated enough to understand what they truly represent. In an op-ed piece that appeared in the International Herald Tribune, Vadim Nitikin should have made the case for backing Pussy Riot even as he was trying to warn off the kind of people who own the IHT, the N.Y. Times or the Washington Post:

"Anyone who has bothered to see them beyond their relevance as anti-Kremlin proxies will know that these young people are as contemptuous of capitalism as they are of Putinism.

"They are targeting not just Russian authoritarianism, but, in Tolokonnikova's words, the entire 'corporate state system.' And that applies to the West as much as to Russia itself. It includes many of the fawning foreign media conglomerates covering the trial, like Murdoch's News Corp., and even such darlings of the anti-Putin 'liberal opposition' establishment as the businessman and anti-corruption campaigner Aleksei Navalny.

"Pussy Riot's fans in the West need to understand that their heroes' dissent will not stop at Putin; neither will it stop if and when Russia becomes a 'normal' liberal democracy.

Because what Pussy Riot wants is something that is equally terrifying, provocative and threatening to the established order in both Russia and the West (and has been from time immemorial): freedom from patriarchy, capitalism, religion, conventional morality, inequality and the entire corporate state system.

“We should only support these brave women if we, too, are brave enough to go all the way.”

Yes, let us be brave enough to go all the way, just as these three young women have been.

Shift Hoppens

Veterans-For-Change Newsletter
A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 26, 2012 [Excerpt]

As much as we proof read over and over, spell check, grammar check you can look at a word and see what you think it should be not what in fact it really was.

The very first word of the editorial was supposed to have been “As” and when published was “Ass” and for this I do apologize sincerely.

Navy Praises Blue Digital Camo Uniforms After Two Sailors Lost At Sea: “No One Could Spot Them In The Water. This Design Is Fantastic!”

August 13, 2012 by Paul, The Duffle Blog

About The Author: Paul

Paul is a former Marine grunt with eight years of experience -- specializing in snapping necks and cashing checks. He enjoys blowing things up, making people laugh, and hardcore gangster rap music.

San Diego, CA – In an announcement today at Naval Base San Diego, the commander of the US Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) remarked that he was extremely proud of the “versatility and usefulness of the Navy Working Uniform (NWU).”

The uniform, which resembles the Marines’ desert and green colored digital MARPAT design, was introduced in 2008 amid controversy over its necessity for naval personnel.

“What the hell are we going to blend into with a blue camouflage pattern?” asked CT2 Brian Nathan, a sailor aboard the USS Makin Island. “I mean seriously — we’re in the Navy for chrissakes. We’re not pulling ninja moves on al Qaeda in the ocean.”

Despite sailor gripes over the change, the NWU was added to the long list of required clothing items — now estimated between 48 and 64 different uniforms.

“If they add any more fucking uniforms, I may have to sleep on the floor so there’s room in the coffin rack for the 3 seabags I need,” said HN Benjamin Rodriguez, a Corpsman who also has the honor of buying Navy and Marine Corps uniforms, bringing his total closer to 100.

Admiral Cecil D. Haney said that despite a few hiccups, sailors liked the uniform, saying that it was able to withstand more wear and tear as well as cover what some call BOSNIA, or Big Ol’ Standard Navy Issue Ass.

“This is the best working uniform we’ve ever had. There’s no question,” said Haney. “Sailors are able to work in a comfortable and durable uniform — and there’s also the benefit of camouflage protection from enemy observation.”

Haney continued to stress the importance of camouflaging Naval personnel at sea, even after a reporter asked “why that matters when they’re on a huge fucking gray ship.”

“Listen, this isn’t just me talking here. We have real data from our boys deployed right now,” said Haney. “In fact, we had two sailors go overboard just the other day off the USS Bonhomie Richard, and no one could spot them in the water. This design is fantastic!”

When pressed for more information on the two sailors lost at sea, the Admiral shrugged off any criticism.

“I’m sure they’re fine. I mean come on, we’ve got swim qualification!” remarked Haney. “And not only that, these bad boys (the NWU trousers) can be used as a flotation device.”

Tragically, TDB learned that during a rescue attempt, the two sailors were shot after being mistaken as an enemy boarding party by Captain Erik King of the USS Haditha.

STUCK ON STUPID: THE OBOTS

**“Apparently One Should Take Joy
In Winning The Right To Have
Expanded Wars, Bankster**

**Bailouts, All The Things The
Republicans Do, But On Steroids”
“Obama Was Selected And Packaged
As The Opposite Of His Senate
Voting Record, Where He Showed
Absolute Fealty To Corporate Greed
At Any Cost”**

**“When President Obama Took Office,
President Bush And The Republicans
Were Held In Such Low Esteem That
They Couldn’t Have Accomplished Any
Of What Obama Has Done To Undermine
The Public Interest”**

August 23, 2012 By Jack Balkwill, Intrepid Report [Excerpts]

When President Obama took office, President Bush and the Republicans were held in such low esteem that they couldn't have accomplished any of what Obama has done to undermine the public interest. The approval rating poll numbers for Bush screamed "lower than whale poop."

Having realized this, the ruling Forces of Greed (FOG) went looking for a sycophantic body they could pass off as representing the public interest.

Obama was selected and packaged as the opposite of his Senate voting record, where he showed absolute fealty to corporate greed at any cost.

Obama, who had campaigned as a peace candidate, immediately after taking office surged the troops by 30,000 in Afghanistan. **[In fact, he promised to send more troops to Afghanistan during the election. The usual Democratic Party hacks and apologists pretended not to notice. T]**

Obama increased the bloated defense budget of the Bush regime dramatically, and has increased it again every year he's been in office.

Obama attempted several times to convince the government of Iraq to keep American troops in Iraq beyond the agreement of President Bush to pull them out by the end of 2011, and expanded wars in Pakistan, Yemen and Central Africa.

Obama illegally attacked Libya without the consent of the Congress.

This alone would have turned me completely against Obama, but he did so much more for his masters.

Just after taking office Obama bailed out the banksters with hundreds of billions of tax dollars (while behind the scenes the Fed was secretly loaning them trillions more), allowing their victims to lose homes by the millions and lose jobs by the millions.

Senator Obama had voted for the bailout first under the Bush regime, and received more in campaign financing from banksters than any other candidate for office in history.

Obama has prosecuted more whistleblowers under the espionage act than all other presidents combined, creating a government of extreme secrecy, expanding surveillance of citizens.

Obama took the Republican Romneycare, devised by the right-wing Heritage foundation, nationwide, never attempting a public health care program despite having massive Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress his first two years, including a filibuster-proof Senate and a majority of the public in support of such a program. Romneycare ensures that corporate executives get multimillion dollar salaries and transnational investors get billions in profits from what euphemistically passes as "health care."

Obama has authorized funding for nuclear power, while taking loans from those interests who would benefit, for his political campaign. He has opened up offshore oil drilling previously banned, and is pushing "clean coal," all massive environmental problems for the children of tomorrow.

Obama has authorized the murder of American citizens without evidence, charges, or a trial, and refuses to reveal his justification for this, apparently claiming he has the right to kill anyone on the planet on merely his own word.

If President Bush had done any of this, Democrats would be out in the streets screaming bloody murder.

It is hard to watch the Dem faithful eating up his rhetoric, glassy eyed and seemingly unaware of anything he's done in office.

Many of them mumble from their zombie state that "Republicans made him do it," apparently believing this to be a defense.

My friend Jodda calls them Obots.

Obots cannot explain why the Democrats did not stop President Bush from performing his many crimes, if it is so easy for one group to stop the other.

It appears that Bush did whatever he liked without opposition, in fact, the Democrats were only too happy to vote to invade wherever Bush pointed his finger.

There is no doubt in my mind Obama will be reelected.

He will be more useful to the ruling FOG by far than can Romney. Partisan Democrats appear to wake from their deep sleep when Republicans take the White House, with help from the mass media who enjoy playing Democrats against Republican as part of the divide and conquer strategy which keeps an iota of democracy from breaking out in the land.

Obama will be the one to cut Social Security and Medicare, since no Republican can pull it off. Most likely he will do that early in his second term.

He is the same kind of conservative Democrat that was Bill Clinton, who gave us NAFTA and GATT, thereby turning off organized labor and environmentalists so that the Republicans could take over both houses of Congress, pleasing the ruling FOG.

Clinton also got rid of welfare as we knew it, throwing millions of children into the streets, another thing Republicans could never get away with. He deregulated the banking industry, triggering the scams which led to the economic collapse and massive recession experienced by the working classes for the past four years, with no end in sight.

Clinton was handsomely rewarded in return for selling out the American people. Leaving the White House in debt, the ruling FOG gave him \$200,000 per speech, night after night, until Clinton became quite wealthy, setting the example for Obama, who's cloned the scam.

Democrats are far to the right of the Republicans of my youth.

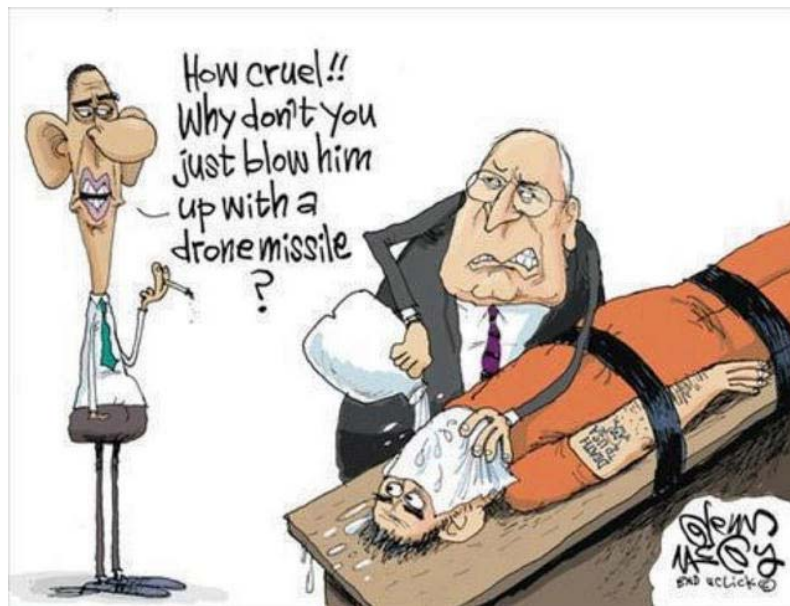
Richard Nixon, who I thought of as a far right-winger when he was president, is to the left of Obama. Nixon gave us the EPA, OSHA, the ABM Treaty, and many other things far more progressive than anything modern Dems even consider doing.

Apparently one should take joy in winning the right to have expanded wars, bankster bailouts, all the things the Republicans do, but on steroids.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Tens Of Thousands March For Social Justice In Montreal



August 23, 2012 By Roger Annis, Rabble

Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets here yesterday for the monthly protest march of Quebec's student movement. The movement has organized monster, monthly marches on the 22nd of each month since March of this year.

The march was an impressive display of militancy and determination just 12 days before a provincial election to take place on September 4. Some members of the radical CLASSE student association said that 100,000 people took part. A "professional counter" employed by the state broadcasting network Radio Canada gave a figure of 12,500. The broadcaster has routinely downplayed or not reported at all the size of past marches.

To this writer's "unprofessional" eye, the march exceeded 50,000. It wound its way through downtown Montreal for two hours.

On any straight stretch of roadway, one quite long, only a fraction of the march length was visible.

The march was called by the radical CLASSE student association and the Coalition Against the Privatization and Tarification of Public Services. It was co-sponsored or supported by the student associations FEUQ and FECQ, political parties, several trade unions, and the pro-student community organizations that have mushroomed in neighbourhoods throughout the city and province in recent months.

Trainloads and busloads of students poured into the city for the action from the city of Sherbrooke (75 km to the east) and from other urban centers around Montreal.

According to CLASSE, some 90,000 junior college (CEGEP) students went on strike for the day in Montreal.

The Montreal daily La Presse reports ten CEGEPs were shut down.

At CEGEP Bois-de-Boulogne, early morning pickets by students and community supporters frustrated the effort of college administrators to keep the institution open for the day.

Striking CEGEP students whose school year was suspended by Bill 78 back in May and was to resume on varying dates this month have voted during the past several weeks to suspend their strike. They are awaiting the outcome of the provincial election on September 4 before deciding if the strike will resume.

Limited election polls in the past week suggest that the governing Liberals are headed to defeat, but it's too early yet to make any definitive predictions. There was a mood of cautious optimism throughout the march that an incoming Parti québécois government will have no choice but to carry through on its promise to repeal Law 12 and postpone any consideration of imposing a lesser tuition fee hike.

Omnipresent on the march were the key issues of the student movement -- no hike in university tuition fees and repeal of the anti-democratic Bill 78 (became Law 12 when passed into law last May).

Banners, placards and red-colored squares in all shapes and sizes voiced these demands.

Some placards addressed the issue of amnesty for the more than 3,000 people who face civil or criminal charges for taking part in student protests since the outset of the strike.

The march also contained many broad, anti-capitalist themes. The lead banner read Mobilisation générale contre les politiques néo-libérales (Broad Mobilization Against Neo-Liberalism).

Speeches at the beginning of the march, in the center of Montreal's business district, voiced strong defense of social programs and opposition to attacks on these by the present Liberal Party government. Speakers included representatives of the Quebec Federation of Nurses and the Federation of Quebec Women. At the end of the march, in the historic district along the city's riverfront, speeches by student activists were stridently anti-capitalist and hailed class struggle as a motor force of progressive social change. The assembled crowd there numbered in the thousands.

Small numbers of union banners were present on the march. They included the nurses federation and several post-secondary education unions affiliated to the CSN federation.

There were few or no union banners from the FTQ federation and its affiliates, nor from the CSQ, the largest teachers federation in the province. Leaders of these and other union federations have said that they won't take part in pro-student marches that risk to be declared "illegal" by the police under Law 12.

Organizers of this one disobeyed Law 12 by refusing to seek police permission to stage it.

One arrest was reported.

Political parties joined the march. By far the largest contingent was that of the left-wing party Québec solidaire. Hundreds of its members, including many of its candidates in the present election, marched together. Scores of placards of the party, sporting its election theme, "Stand up!" were scattered throughout the march.

A contingent of members of the International Socialist Organization from the neighbouring state of Vermont and further afield in the United States joined the march with a banner reading, "Solidarity with Quebec students."

For several months, the group has helped bring representatives of CLASSE to speak to students across the United States. More such speaking tours are planned. Speaking tours of Quebec student leaders in English speaking Canada are planned for the coming months.

The CLASSE association says it is engaged in a long-term battle for free and quality education, health and other vital social services.

It wants a government that has social justice and protection and enhancement of the natural environment as its watchword. As its name states, CLASSE wants to forge unity of students, workers, Indigenous peoples and others in this fight.

CLASSE spokesperson Jeanne Reynolds told assembled media at the beginning of today's march, "Regardless of what happens in the coming weeks, we will continue to mobilize and we must continue to question where we are headed as a society. We must continue to talk of education because even if this present tuition hike is withdrawn, all the threats of the commercialization of education will still be there.

"September 4 (the date of the Quebec election) is less important than September 5. From that date, we will continue to fight as we have done for the past six months until our ultimate victory."

GOT AN OPINION?

Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

“Ho Chi Minh Stock Index” Having A “Bumpy Ride”

**“Vietnamese Police Arrested One Of
The Country’s Best-Known Tycoons,
Triggering A Sharp Stock-Market
Sell-Off And Reviving Fears That Bad
Debts Threaten The Banking System”**

**Banker Nguyen Duc Kien Is “One Of
Vietnam’s Richest Men” And “The
Wealthy Founder Of Asia Commercial
Bank And The Chairman Of Hanoi’s
Professional Soccer Club”**



August 21, 2012 By JAMES HOOKWAY And VU TRONG KHANH, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Vietnamese police arrested one of the country's best-known tycoons, triggering a sharp stock-market sell-off and reviving fears that bad debts threaten the banking system.

State-run television Tuesday reported the Police Ministry as saying that Nguyen Duc Kien, the wealthy founder of Asia Commercial Bank and the chairman of Hanoi's professional soccer club, was detained Monday in connection with alleged wrongdoing at three private investment firms.

A flamboyant figure and one of Vietnam's richest men, Mr. Kien, 48 years old, left ACB's board in 2010; bank officials say his ownership stake is less than 5%.

The Police Ministry and the central bank also said his arrest wasn't related to ACB, which is 15% owned by Standard Chartered PLC and is Vietnam's largest nonstate bank.

Shares in ACB, though, slumped 7% Tuesday, helping pull the Ho Chi Minh Index down around 5% as the drama refocused investors' attention on the country's financial sector.

Vietnam's banks have been hit by slumping property prices and a worsening debt crisis among some of the mammoth state-owned enterprises.

The central bank, the State Bank of Vietnam, said in a statement that where necessary "it is willing to support liquidity and stability to ensure the safety of the (banking) system."

Vietnam, once one of Asia's most favored rising economies, has stumbled after years of high inflation, reckless lending and weak planning.

As a result, the level of bad debt has nearly doubled over the past several months. Central bank governor Nguyen Van Binh told the country's legislature in a previous scheduled session Tuesday that the rise is alarming — though not yet a cause for panic.

“The current ratio of bad debt in the banking system is said to be 8.6% to 10%” of total lending, Mr. Binh told the National Assembly. That’s up from 6% at the end of last year. “We need to take action straight away,” he added.

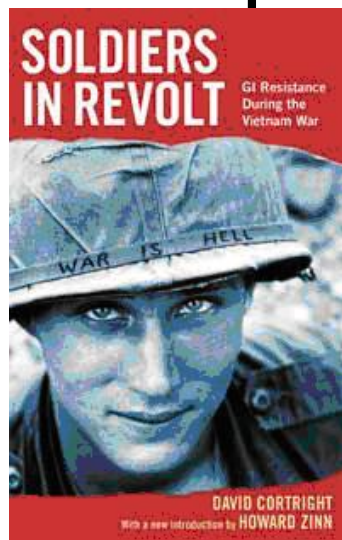
Shares of other publicly traded banks—such as Saigon Thuong Tin Commercial Joint Stock Bank, or Sacombank, and Vietnam Export Import Commercial Joint Stock Bank — also fell Tuesday amid concerns that Vietnam’s efforts to shore up its financial sector are progressing slower than many investors had hoped.

In particular, analysts say the market had been hoping for swifter action to mop up problem debts. The central bank in June proposed a state-backed asset-management company, but the plan has yet to bear fruit, leaving Vietnam with the prospect of a long slog to deal with its draining debt problems.

“Very clearly we are into an extended period of deleveraging, but it is going very slowly because there hasn’t been a concerted effort to separate the wheat from the chaff,” said Jonathan Pincus at Harvard University’s Fulbright Economics Teaching Program in Ho Chi Minh City.

“There’s continuing economic pain, but no concrete action.”

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War



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