

## Military Resistance 11B15



**“100 Million Indians, Angry About Rising Prices, Low Pay And Poor Working Condition, Walked Off Their Jobs On Wednesday”**

**“The First Day Of A Two-Day Strike Organised By Eleven Major Trade Unions”**

**“Workers Are Being Totally Ignored And This Is Reflected In The Government's Anti-Labour Policies”**



Indian workers participate in a rally on the first day of a two day strike in Hyderabad, India, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013. Mahesh Kumar A.

20 Feb 2013 AlJazeera

A strike by millions of low-skilled workers in India has seen banks close and public transport disrupted, amid reports of two deaths in the north.

An estimated 100 million Indians, angry about rising prices, low pay and poor working condition, walked off their jobs on Wednesday, on the first day of a two-day strike organised by eleven major trade unions.

The strikers are demanding a legal minimum wage, fairer contracts and improved working conditions.

**“Workers are being totally ignored and this is reflected in the government's anti-labour policies,” said Tapan Sen, general secretary of the umbrella Centre of Indian Trade Unions.**

**Earlier this week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is facing the worst economic slowdown in a decade, had asked for the strike to be called off.**

However, the strike went ahead after the government refused to bow to union demands to reverse recent changes aimed at opening sectors, including retail and airlines, to greater participation by foreign investors.

“We want the government to take note of this,” said Akhtar Hussain, vice-president of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, or Indian Workers' Union.

In many areas public transport was not running, banks were closed and most shops and offices kept their shutters down.

Mumbai was largely unaffected but banks and insurance companies were closed there too.

In Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha state in the east, protesters set fire to effigies of Singh and ruling Congress party leader Sonia Gandhi.

Several trains were stranded at stations as protesters blocked railway tracks.

In the western state of Gujarat, close to 8,000 state-owned buses were off the roads, officials said.

One labour leader was reportedly killed in the northern city of Ambala.

He was squatting along with a group of workers near the local bus depot as part of the strike when he was hit by a bus in his bid to stop it from leaving the terminal, the Times of India reported.

“The incident took place around 4 am this morning when Narender Singh, a bus driver by profession, tried to stop the vehicle which was being taken out from the Ambala Depot despite the strike,” said Inder Singh Bhadana, the district president of the Haryana Roadways Workers Union.

Another person is reported to have died in Noida, a city where workers earlier clashed with factory owners.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry estimated losses from the strike at more than \$3.7bn.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **AFGHANISTAN THEATER: U.S. Foreign Fighters Suffered 30 Combat Casualties In The Week Ending Feb 20**

Feb 20, 2013 michaelmunk.com/ [Excerpts]

US foreign fighters in Afghanistan under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 30 casualties in the week ending Feb 20, but the official casualty total for the Iraq and AfPak wars rose to 120,232.

The sharp increase is due to new “non hostile” casualty figures from the Congressional Research Service at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RS22452.pdf>

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US foreign fighters suffered 30 combat casualties in the week ending Feb 20, but the total jumped to 38,916 because of the new CRS report referenced above.

The total includes 20,003 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and 18,913 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec. 3, 2012) from what it calls “non-hostile” causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,656: 4,488 in Iraq, 2,168 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (50,506: 32,221 in Iraq; 18,285 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq, 18463 in AfPak (as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,656 total dead include 1,411 (961 in Iraq, 450 in Afghanistan) who died from those same “non hostile” causes, of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013) and at least 18 in Iraq from faulty KBR electrical work.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

**The Pentagon Plans To Buy  
2,457 F-35-Jets For \$400 Billion,  
Making It The Costliest  
Weapons Program In Human  
History:  
“The Aircraft Is Not Operational”**

# **“The Military Has Spent \$373 Million To Fix Planes Already Bought; The Ultimate Repair Bill For Imperfect Planes Has Been Estimated At Close To \$8 Billion”**

## **“Only One Of Three F-35s Flown By The U.S. Military, He Added, Was Ready To Fly Between March And October”**

[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

Feb. 25, 2013 By MARK THOMPSON, TIME [Excerpts]

**Marine Major Aric “Walleye” Liberman was uncharacteristically modest for a Navy SEAL turned fighter pilot.**

**He had just landed an F-35--one of the jets the Pentagon plans to buy for \$400 billion, making it the costliest weapons program in human history--at its initial operational base late last year.**

Amid celebratory hoopla, he declined photographers' requests to give a thumbs-up for the cameras that sunny day in Yuma, Ariz. “No, no, no,” he demurred with a smile.

**Liberman's reticence was understandable. For while the Marines hailed his arrival as a sign that their initial F-35 squadron is now operational, there's one sticking point.**

**“It's an operational squadron,” a Marine spokesman said. “The aircraft is not operational.”**

The F-35, designed as the U.S. military's lethal hunter for 21st century skies, has become the hunted, a poster child for Pentagon profligacy in a new era of tightening budgets.

Instead of the stars and stripes of the U.S. Air Force emblazoned on its fuselage, it might as well have a bull's-eye.

**Its pilots' helmets are plagued with problems, it hasn't yet dropped or fired weapons, and the software it requires to go to war remains on the drawing board.**

That's why when Liberman landed his F-35 before an appreciative crowd, including home-state Senator John McCain, he didn't demonstrate its most amazing capability: landing like a helicopter using its precision-cast titanium thrust-vectoring nozzle.

That trick remains reserved for test pilots, not operational plane drivers like him.

The price tag, meanwhile, has nearly doubled since 2001, to \$396 billion.

The sad irony is that cutting the F-35 at this point won't save much money in the near term, because the Pentagon recently pushed nearly \$5 billion in F-35 contracts out the door.

Yet sequester-mandated cuts will push both the purchase of additional planes and their required testing into the future with an inevitable result: the cost of each plane will rise even higher.

The military has already spent \$373 million to fix planes already bought; the ultimate repair bill for imperfect planes has been estimated at close to \$8 billion.

Back in 2002, Edward Aldridge, then the Pentagon's top weapons buyer, said the F-35 was "setting new standards for technological advances" and "rewriting the books on acquisition and business practices."

His successor voiced a different opinion last year. "This will make a headline if I say it, but I'm going to say it anyway," Frank Kendall said. "Putting the F-35 into production years before the first test flight was acquisition malpractice. It should not have been done."

The Pentagon and its allies say the need for the F-35 was so dire that the plane had to be built as it was being designed.

**(More than a decade into its development, blueprints are changing about 10 times a day, seven days a week.)**

The resulting bastard child was a compromise, not optimum for any one service but good enough for all three.

Neither the Air Force nor the Navy liked its stubby design. The F-35C's squat fuselage puts its tailhook close to its landing gear (7 ft., compared with 18 on the F-18 it is replacing), making it tough to grab the arresting cable on an aircraft carrier.

**Its short range means aircraft carriers ferrying it into battle will have to sail close to enemy shores if the F-35C is to play a role.**

**It can fly without lumbering aerial tankers only by adding external fuel tanks, which erases the stealthiness that is its prime war-fighting asset.**

Cramming the three services into the program reduced management flexibility and put the taxpayer in a fiscal headlock. Each service had the leverage generated by threatening to back out of the program, which forced cost into the backseat, behind performance.

“The Air Force potentially could have adopted the Navy variant, getting significantly more range and structural durability,” says John Young Jr., a top Navy and Pentagon civilian official from 2001 to 2009. “But the Air Force leadership refused to consider such options.”

Yet if the Navy, and Young, were upset with the Air Force, the Air Force was upset with the Marines.

“This is a jobs program for Marine aviation,” says retired general Merrill McPeak, Air Force chief of staff from 1990 to 1994. “The idea that we could produce a committee design that is good for everybody is fundamentally wrong.”

He scoffs at the Marine demand for a plane that can land vertically, saying, “The idea of landing on a beach and supporting your troops close up from some improvised airfield, à la Guadalcanal, is not going to happen.”

Focused on waging two post-9/11 wars, the Pentagon let the F-35 program drift as costs ballooned and schedules slipped for a decade.

The Marines' F-35 was supposed to be capable of waging war in April 2010, the Air Force's in June 2011 and the Navy's in April 2012. In a break with Pentagon custom, there now is no such “initial operating capability” date for any of them; each is likely to be delayed several years.

Regardless of the plane's merit, the lawmakers pushing for it are hardly disinterested observers.

**The then 48 members of the Joint Strike Fighter Caucus, many of whom sit on key Pentagon-overseeing panels, pocketed twice as much as nonmembers in campaign contributions from the F-35's top contractors in the 2012 election cycle.**

Those lawmakers' constituents, in turn, hold many of the F-35 program's 133,000 jobs spread across 45 states. (F-35 builder Lockheed Martin says jobs will double once the plane enters full production.)

**But military technology has been moving away from manned fighters for years.**

Drones, standoff weapons and GPS-guided bombs have cut the utility of, and need for, such short-leg piloted planes.

Their limits become even more pronounced amid the Pentagon's pivot to the Pacific, where the tyranny of distance makes the F-35's short combat radius (469 miles for the Marines, 584 for the Air Force, 615 for the Navy) a bigger challenge.

Computers are key to flying the plane.

**But instead of taking advantage of simplicity, the F-35 is heading in the other direction: its complexity can be gleaned from its 24 million lines of computer code, including 9.5 million on board the plane.**

**That's more than six times as much as the Navy F-18 has. The F-35 computer code, government auditors say, is "as complicated as anything on earth."**

**Weight-saving efforts have made the plane 25% more vulnerable to fire.**

Only one of three F-35s flown by the U.S. military, he added, was ready to fly between March and October.

Such problems inevitably lead to delays, which relentlessly drive up the price. "Lockheed Martin and the F-35 program have not shown any kind of sensitivity to costs," says Richard Aboulafia, who tracks military aviation for the Teal Group, which analyzes the defense business. "That makes for a vulnerable program."

The F-35 is a so-called fifth-generation fighter, which means it is built from the ground up to elude enemy radar that could be used to track and destroy it. Stealth was all the rage in military circles when the Pentagon conceived the F-35.

**But that was well before the drone explosion, which makes the idea of flying a human through flak and missiles seem quaint.**

**"The Air Force," Aboulafia says, "eagerly drank gallons of the fifth-generation purple liquid."**

Improved sensors and computing are eroding stealth's value every day, says Admiral Jonathan Greenert, the chief of naval operations. Eventually, he warns, they will give potential foes "actionable target information" on stealth platforms.

If sequestration happens March 1, F-35 officials have made it clear they will be forced to slow production and delay flight tests. Both steps will make each plane that is ultimately bought more expensive.

**But thanks to \$4.8 billion in Pentagon contracts for 31 planes pushed out the door barely 100 hours before the original Jan. 2 sequestration deadline, much of the program will continue on autopilot.**

"The F-35 program has built up a good buffer by getting the most recent lot of aircraft awarded in time," says Todd Harrison, a defense-budget expert at the independent Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

**"That means Lockheed and all the subcontractors have a backlog of work that won't be affected by sequestration, so they can continue working as planned for the time being."**

**Apparently the F-35 may end up being pretty stealthy after all.**

**Military Resistance In PDF Format?**

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## 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**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.  
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“Conditions Of Prolonged And  
Unsuccessful War Could Only**

# **Hasten And Sharpen The Process Of Revolutionary Disintegration Of The Army”**

**“That Miserable And Criminal  
Offensive Of The Democrats Did The  
Rest”**

**“The Soldiers Were Now Saying, To The  
Last Man ‘Enough Of Bloodshed!’”**

## **Comment: T**

In February 1917, Russian workers and soldiers rose in revolution to overthrow a feudal government that had dragged them into an Imperial War, World War I, where Russians died, at home and in the Army, for the glory and greed of the Czar, Emperor of Russia.

**Having gotten rid of him, they thought the new government, led by the liberal Prime Minister Kerensky, would stop the war.**

**Instead, his government kept Russia in the war.**

But the soldiers, who had hoped for such much from the new government, increasingly felt abused and betrayed.

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[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution, By Leon Trotsky, Chapter 19, The Offensive.

**The soldiers did not want to fight.**

**The rear troops, to whom the weakened units turned for replacements after occupying the enemy trenches, answered: “What did you advance for anyway? Who told you to?”**

**“It’s time to end the war, not attack.”**

The commander of the 1st Siberian Corps, considered one of the best commanders, reported how at nightfall the soldiers began to abandon the unattacked first line in crowds and whole companies. “I understood that we, the officers, were powerless to alter the elemental psychology of the soldier masses, and I sobbed bitterly and long.”

One of the companies refused even to toss a leaflet to the enemy announcing the capture of Galich, until a soldier could be found who could translate the German text into Russian.

In that it expressed the utter lack of confidence of the soldier mass in its ruling staff, both the old one and the new February one.

A century of taunts and violence had burst to the surface like a volcano.

The soldiers felt themselves again deceived.

The offensive had not led to peace but war.

The soldiers did not want war. And they were right.

**Patriots hiding in the rear were branding the soldiers as slackers and baiting them.**

**But the soldiers were right.**

**They were guided by a true national instinct, refracted through the consciousness of men oppressed, deceived, tortured, raised up by a revolutionary hope and again thrown back into the bloody mash.**

The soldiers were right.

A prolongation of the war could give the Russian people nothing but new victims, humiliation, disasters – nothing but an increase of domestic and foreign slavery.

The patriotic press of 1917 – not only the Kadet but also the socialist press – was tireless in contrasting the Russian soldiers, cowards and deserters, with the heroic battalions of the great French revolution.

This testifies not only to a failure to understand the dialectic of a revolutionary process, but also to a crude ignorance of history.

The remarkable warriors of the French revolution and empire frequently began their careers as breakers of discipline, disorganisers – ...

The future Marshal Davout spent many months of 1789-90 as Lieutenant d'Avout destroying the "normal" discipline in the garrison of Hesdin, driving out the commanding staff. Throughout France up to the middle of 1790 a complete disintegration of the whole army was taking place.

The soldiers of the Vincennes regiment compelled their officers to eat with them.

The fleet drove out their officers.

Twenty regiments did various deeds of violence upon their officers. At Nancy three regiments locked their highest officers in prison.

Beginning with 1790 the leaders of the French revolution never tire of repeating on the subject of soldier excesses: "The executive power is, guilty, because it has not removed officers hostile to the revolution."

It is remarkable that both Mirabeau and Robespierre spoke in favour of dismissing the entire old corps of officers. The former was trying the more quickly to establish a firm discipline, the latter wanted to disarm the counter-revolution. But both understood that the old army could not survive.

To be sure, the Russian revolution, in contrast with the French, took place in a time of war. But you cannot infer from this an exception ....

**On the contrary, conditions of prolonged and unsuccessful war could only hasten and sharpen the process of revolutionary disintegration of the army. That miserable and criminal offensive of the democrats did the rest.**

The soldiers were now saying, to the last man "Enough of bloodshed! What good are land and freedom if we are not here?"

When enlightened pacifists try to abolish war by rationalistic arguments they are merely ridiculous, but when the armed masses themselves bring weapons of reason into action against a war, that means that the war is about over.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

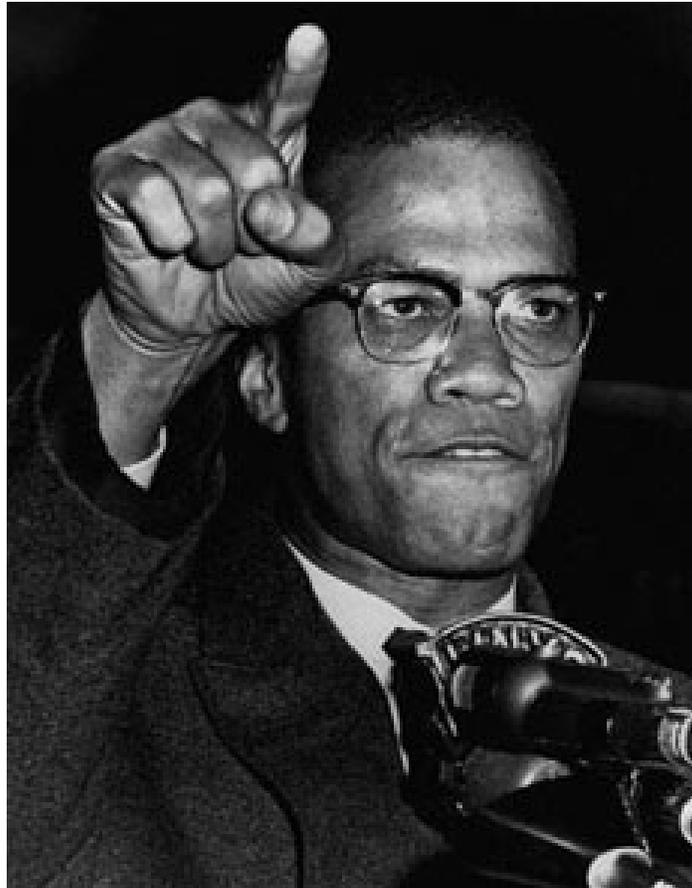


U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**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.**

## ANNIVERSARIES

### **February 21, 1965: A Brilliant And Courageous Soldier For The Cause Killed In Action**



Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

Malcolm X was shot and killed by rival Black Muslims in New York City, as he was about to address his Organization of Afro-American Unity at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City's Washington Heights. He was 39. **[He was killed not long after announcing his new politics: that working class whites and African-Americans can join together to fight those who own and control the society for their own wealth and privilege. T]**

**MORE:**

# **The House Negro And The Field Negro:**

**“The Slavemaster Took Tom And Dressed Him Well, And Fed Him Well -- Gave Him A Long Coat And A Top Hat And Made All The Other Slaves Look Up To Him”**

**“Then He Used Tom To Control Them”**

**“The Same Strategy That Was Used In Those Days Is Used Today, By The Same White Man”**

**Malcolm X, Message To The Grassroots, 10 Nov, 1963 in Detroit, MI:**

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/malcolmxgrassroots.htm>

[Excerpts]

First, what is a revolution?

Sometimes I'm inclined to believe that many of our people are using this word "revolution" loosely, without taking careful consideration what this word actually means, and what its historic characteristics are.

When you study the historic nature of revolutions, the motive of a revolution, the objective of a revolution, and the result of a revolution, and the methods used in a revolution, you may change words. You may devise another program. You may change your goal and you may change your mind.

A revolution is bloody. Revolution is hostile. Revolution knows no compromise. Revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way. And you, sitting around here like a knot on the wall, saying, "I'm going to love these folks no matter how much they hate me."

No, you need a revolution.

Whoever heard of a revolution where they lock arms, as Reverend Cleage was pointing out beautifully, singing "We Shall Overcome"?

Just tell me.

You don't do that in a revolution.

You don't do any singing; you're too busy swinging.

To understand this, you have to go back to what young brother here referred to as the house Negro and the field Negro -- back during slavery.

There was two kinds of slaves.

There was the house Negro and the field Negro.

The house Negroes - they lived in the house with master, they dressed pretty good, they ate good 'cause they ate his food -- what he left.

They lived in the attic or the basement, but still they lived near the master; and they loved their master more than the master loved himself.

They would give their life to save the master's house quicker than the master would.

The house Negro, if the master said, "We got a good house here," the house Negro would say, "Yeah, we got a good house here."

Whenever the master said "we," he said "we."

That's how you can tell a house Negro.

If the master's house caught on fire, the house Negro would fight harder to put the blaze out than the master would.

If the master got sick, the house Negro would say, "What's the matter, boss, we sick?" We sick! He identified himself with his master more than his master identified with himself.

And if you came to the house Negro and said, "Let's run away, let's escape, let's separate," the house Negro would look at you and say, "Man, you crazy. What you mean, separate? Where is there a better house than this? Where can I wear better clothes than this? Where can I eat better food than this?"

That was that house Negro. In those days he was called a "house nigger."

And that's what we call him today, because we've still got some house niggers running around here.

This modern house Negro loves his master.

On that same plantation, there was the field Negro.

The field Negro -- those were the masses. There were always more Negroes in the field than there was Negroes in the house. The Negro in the field caught hell.

He ate leftovers.

In the house they ate high up on the hog. The Negro in the field didn't get nothing but what was left of the insides of the hog. They call 'em "chitt'lin'" nowadays. In those days they called them what they were: guts. That's what you were -- a gut-eater. And some of you all still gut-eaters.

The field Negro was beaten from morning to night. He lived in a shack, in a hut; He wore old, castoff clothes.

He hated his master. I say he hated his master. He was intelligent.

That house Negro loved his master. But that field Negro -- remember, they were in the majority, and they hated the master.

When the house caught on fire, he didn't try and put it out; that field Negro prayed for a wind, for a breeze.

When the master got sick, the field Negro prayed that he'd die. If someone come to the field Negro and said, "Let's separate, let's run," he didn't say "Where we going?" He'd say, "Any place is better than here."

You've got field Negroes in America today. I'm a field Negro. The masses are the field Negroes.

When they see this man's house on fire, you don't hear these little Negroes talking about "our government is in trouble."

They say, "The government is in trouble." Imagine a Negro: "Our government"!

Just as the slavemaster of that day used Tom, the house Negro, to keep the field Negroes in check, the same old slavemaster today has Negroes who are nothing but modern Uncle Toms, 20th century Uncle Toms, to keep you and me in check, keep us under control, keep us passive and peaceful and nonviolent.

That's Tom making you nonviolent.

It's like when you go to the dentist, and the man's going to take your tooth. You're going to fight him when he starts pulling.

So he squirts some stuff in your jaw called novocaine, to make you think they're not doing anything to you. So you sit there and 'cause you've got all of that novocaine in your jaw, you suffer peacefully. Blood running all down your jaw, and you don't know what's happening.

'Cause someone has taught you to suffer -- peacefully.

There's nothing in our book, the Quran -- you call it "Ko-ran" -- that teaches us to suffer peacefully.

Our religion teaches us to be intelligent.

Be peaceful, be courteous, obey the law, respect everyone; but if someone puts his hand on you, send him to the cemetery.

That's a good religion. In fact, that's that old-time religion.

That's the one that Ma and Pa used to talk about: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, and a head for a head, and a life for a life: That's a good religion.

And doesn't nobody resent that kind of religion being taught but a wolf, who intends to make you his meal.

**The slavemaster took Tom and dressed him well, and fed him well, and even gave him a little education -- a little education; gave him a long coat and a top hat and made all the other slaves look up to him.**

**Then he used Tom to control them.**

**The same strategy that was used in those days is used today, by the same white man.**

**He takes a Negro, a so-called Negro, and make him prominent, build him up, publicize him, make him a celebrity.**



washingtonpost.com

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# February 21, 1848: World-Shaking Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace history February 18-24

“The Communist Manifesto,” written by 29-year-old Karl Marx with the assistance of Friedrich Engels, was published in London (in German) by a group of German-born revolutionary socialists known as the Communist League.

The political pamphlet — arguably one of the most influential in history — proclaimed that “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles,” and that the inevitable victory of the proletariat, or working class, would put an end to class society forever.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## **“The Largest Climate Rally In History”**



February 17, 2013. Photo: Brooklyn For Peace

February 18, 2013 by Amy Goodman Democracy Now [Excerpt]

Tens of thousands of people gathered on Washington’s National Mall, Sunday, to urge President Obama to reject the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

Organizers of the Forward on Climate event described it as the largest climate rally in history.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**“Tens Of Thousands Of Bulgarians  
Took To The Streets Across The  
Country To Protest”**

**“Some Yelled ‘Mafia!’”**

**“Others Burned Their Utility Bills”**



Protesters are beaten by riot police during a protest against high electricity prices in Sofia, on late Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. Bulgaria's prime minister announced on Tuesday that the license held by a Czech company for power distribution in parts of the Balkan country will be revoked following protests against high electricity prices. (AP Photo/Valentina Petrova)



People push a police van during a protest against high electricity bills in Sofia February 17, 2013. REUTERS/Tsvetelina Belutova

February 20, 2013 By Matthew Brunwasser and Dan Bilefsky, Wall Street Journal & By Matthew Brunwasser and Dan Bilefsky, New York Times [Excerpts]

SOFIA, Bulgaria—Bulgaria moved to cut electricity prices and sanction the country's largest foreign-controlled power supplier, in the latest move by European politicians to appease restive voters angry with austerity measures and flagging economies.

Protesters and police faced off at a demonstration in Sofia on Sunday.

Tens of thousands of Bulgarians took to the streets across the country to protest. Some yelled “Mafia!” Others burned their utility bills.

After weeks of large-scale demonstrations in cities across the European Union's poorest member state, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said the local unit of Czech utility which provides power to the capital and much of southwestern Bulgaria, would lose its permit to operate.

As Europeans, especially citizens of the Continent's less-affluent countries, endure a lean winter made harsher by reduced social-welfare spending, pressure is mounting on politicians. Energy prices and energy companies have become popular targets.

Earlier this year, Hungary mandated a 10% reduction in prices for electricity, natural gas and home heating. And Albania in January took away CEZ's operating license after a long-running feud over power prices and unpaid bills.

Protesters in Bulgaria have called on the state to take over the country's electric companies, which are controlled by foreign investors. But Mr. Borisov ruled that out, saying: “I won't be the one who will go for nationalization of anything in Bulgaria.” But he called for an 8% cut in electricity rates effective in March.

But the government's moves haven't appeared to satisfy protesters, who braved temperatures below freezing to take to the streets again Tuesday night. Some protesters in Sofia waved Bulgarian flags. Others carried candles.

**“People are losing their patience,” said Ivo Krastev, a hotel manager in Sofia. “What annoys me is we have no system to go after the big companies extorting us, but we have very effective ways to punish poor people who don't pay their bills.”**

“They are cutting our subsidies and putting up taxes for universities,” said Margarita Stoyanova, a 20-year old protesting outside Sofia University. “We will protest every day until the government falls.”

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**“Tens Of Thousands Of Greeks Took To The Streets Of Athens On Wednesday During A Nationwide Strike Against Wage Cuts And High Taxes”**

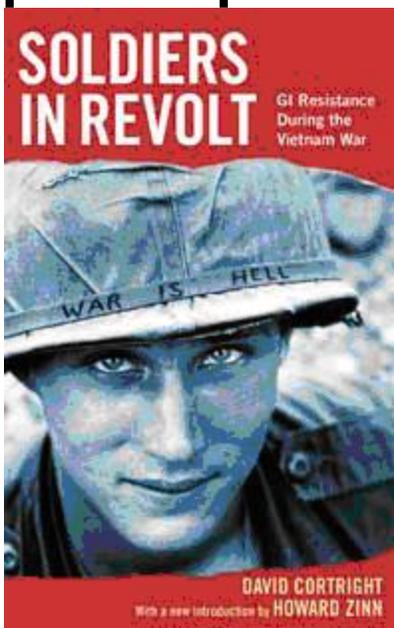


Protesters march during an anti-austerity rally in central Athens February 20, 2013. Tens of thousands of Greeks took to the streets of Athens on Wednesday during a nationwide strike against wage cuts and high taxes that kept ferries stuck in ports, schools shut and hospitals with only emergency staff. REUTERS/John Kolesidis

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**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:  
A Vietnam Veteran Describes The  
Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To  
Stop An Imperial War**



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