

Military Resistance 11H1



GIVING UP ALL YOUR PRIVACY FOR A TINY SMIDGE OF SAFETY

“The U.S. Army Has Refused To Bar 43 Individuals Or Companies From Getting U.S. Contracts In Afghanistan Despite Information That They Support The Taliban Or Other Enemies Of U.S. Forces”

““They May Be Enemies Of The United States, But That Is Not Enough To Keep Them From Getting Government Contracts,’ The Quarterly Report Said”
“The U.S. Military Can Pursue, Attack And Even Kill Terrorists And Their Supporters, But Some In The U.S. Government Believe We Cannot Prevent These Same People From Receiving A Government Contract”
“Millions Of Contracting Dollars Were Still At Risk Of Being Diverted To Forces That Want To Harm The U.S. Personnel In Afghanistan”

Jul 30, 2013 by Susan Cornwell, Reuters. Additional reporting by David Alexander; Editing by Philip Barbara. [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Army has refused to bar 43 individuals or companies from getting U.S. contracts in Afghanistan despite information that they support the Taliban or other enemies of U.S. forces, a government watchdog said on Tuesday.

John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR), said he was concerned by the Army's refusal to follow his office's recommendations to prevent alleged supporters of the Taliban, the Haqqani network and al Qaeda from getting or keeping U.S. government contracts.

“I am deeply troubled that the U.S. military can pursue, attack and even kill terrorists and their supporters, but that some in the U.S. government believe we cannot prevent these same people from receiving a government contract,” Sopko wrote in an introduction to his office's quarterly report on the U.S. reconstruction effort in Afghanistan.

The Haqqani Network is an Islamist insurgent group that operates on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The report said SIGAR referred 43 contractors' cases - most of them Afghans - to the U.S. Army for suspension or debarment, but all were rejected, “despite detailed supporting information demonstrating that these individuals and entities are providing material support to the insurgency in Afghanistan.”

“In other words, they may be enemies of the United States, but that is not enough to keep them from getting government contracts,” the quarterly report said.

“The Army Procurement Fraud Branch did receive and review the 43 recommendations late last year, but the report did not include enough supporting evidence to initiate suspension and debarment under Federal Acquisition Regulations,” said Matthew Bourke, an Army spokesman.

None of the contractors recommended for suspension or debarment were identified in the SIGAR report, nor did it provide details of their contractor work. SIGAR officials said that in excess of \$150 million was involved, and that more than 80 percent of the contractors were Afghan entities; the rest were from the region.

SIGAR routinely refers individuals and companies for suspension or debarment from U.S. contracts based on evidence of misconduct such as theft from U.S. forces or acceptance of bribes. Such referrals have resulted in a total of 59 suspensions and 68 final debarments since 2008, the quarterly report said.

U.S. reconstruction aid to Afghanistan is approaching \$100 billion after more than a decade of war. Federal agencies have asked Congress to approve more than \$10.7 billion for Afghanistan reconstruction programs in the fiscal year that starts October 1.

A federal law aims to prevent militants from getting U.S. contract money from the Defense Department. But SIGAR said in an April report that weaknesses in the way it was being administered meant millions of contracting dollars were still at risk of being diverted to forces that want to harm the U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, Congress may want to consider extending the law to include contracts with the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, SIGAR said in a separate report this week.

Sopko, who has held his position for a year, has been a skeptic of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan. He said in February that Washington should reconsider whether to spend more on reconstruction aid there, citing Afghanistan's corruption and inability to manage projects as U.S. troops withdraw.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: “A U.S. Helicopter Called In To Support Afghan Police At A Highway Checkpoint Opened Fire And Mistakenly Killed Five Afghan Officers”

August 1 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. helicopter called in to support Afghan police at a highway checkpoint opened fire and mistakenly killed five Afghan officers, authorities said Thursday, as international troops prepare to withdraw from the country.

The killings happened Wednesday night in eastern Nangarhar province's Bati Kot district, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the capital, Kabul. Police officers manning a checkpoint on a highway near the border with Pakistan came under fire and called in for air support from foreign troops, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

It's unclear what happened next, but the helicopter opened fire on the Afghan troops, killing five soldiers, said Capt. Malloy Ebony, a spokeswoman for the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force.

Ebony said U.S. troops were responding to a call from helped from combined Afghan and foreign troops.

Lt. Col. Will Griffin, another ISAF spokesman, said that the operation in the area involved a combined force of international and Afghan troops, but gave no further details.

That contradicted information initially provided by Afghan authorities about the incident. The different accounts could not be immediately reconciled Thursday.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

August 1 The Associated Press

In southern Uruzgan province, spokesman Farid Ayel said the Taliban ambushed local education official Hadi Khan, killing him, his two sons and a bodyguard on Wednesday afternoon.

In northwestern Faryab province, Gov. Ahmadullha Batash said a roadside mine exploded on Thursday, killing two policemen and a prosecutor, and wounding seven people in Bilchiragh district.

**“Nangarhar University Is A
Symbol Of American Largess: U.S.
Taxpayers Foot The Bill For
Dormitories, Classrooms And
Computer Labs”**

**“‘The Taliban Are The People Who
Are Defending This Country,’ Said
Hamad, A Leader Of The Self-
Appointed Nangarhar University
Student Council That Organizes
Regular Demonstrations Against The
U.S.”**

“The Foreign Troops Are Invaders”

July 30, 2013 By NATHAN HODGE and HABIB KHAN TOTAKHIL, Wall Street Journal
[Excerpts]

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—Nangarhar University is a symbol of American largess: U.S. taxpayers foot the bill for dormitories, classrooms and computer labs.

Increasingly dominating the campus of Afghanistan's second largest university, however, are Islamist activists who openly sympathize with the Taliban.

“The Taliban are the people who are defending this country,” said Hamad, a leader of the self-appointed Nangarhar University student council that organizes regular demonstrations against the U.S. and President Hamid Karzai's government. “The foreign troops are invaders.”

The council is described by other students as a well-organized group that can muster hundreds of protesters on a moment's notice.

Afghan and U.S. officials are taking note: Nangarhar University student demonstrations, which routinely block the main highway connecting Kabul to Jalalabad and the Pakistani border, feature the white flag of the Taliban and the green flag of Hezb-e Islami, the movement of anti-U.S. warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.



University students step on a U.S. flag. Associated Press

The students sometimes also fly the black banner used by al Qaeda. Afghanistan's national flag, explains Hamad, a 24-year-old Islamic-studies student from the northern province of Baghlan who didn't want to have his full name used, “has not maintained its integrity.”

This rise of extremism among Afghan students—some of the biggest direct beneficiaries of U.S. assistance—underscores the lack of goodwill that more than a decade of American taxpayer money has bought here.

It also harks back to a potent precedent in recent Afghan history. Many of Afghanistan's mujahedeen warlords who combated the Soviets, each other and the U.S. over the past three decades, including Mr. Hekmatyar, started out in politics as student activists in the 1970s.

U.S. and Western officials often cite the boom in school and college enrollments as a key sign of progress in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime's downfall in 2001. A decade ago, Afghanistan had a dozen poorly funded colleges that were under the sway of local warlords; today it has 32 public universities and at least 76 private higher education institutions.

The international community's investment in the Afghan university system is part of a larger development portfolio: Since 2002, the U.S. Agency for International Development has spent a combined \$934.4 million on education here.

But gratitude is in short supply at Nangarhar University, even among ordinary students who aren't involved in student politics.

“The Americans have done reconstruction, but they've insulted Afghan culture,” said one of them, Sajjed Bahar, a literature student from Khost province. “They support our university, but in the meantime, they kill students.”

Students in Nangarhar said they were particularly incensed by the killing earlier this year of a fellow student in Wardak province.

The student was abducted and later found with his throat cut, an incident for which the Afghan government blamed secret militias working for the U.S. special-operations forces. While the U.S.-led coalition said the allegations of illegal detention, torture and killings in Wardak were untrue, Mr. Karzai ordered U.S. special-operations units out of the province's Nerkh district after the incidents.

Abdul Azim Noorbakhsh, spokesman for Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education, added that campus activism was part of the development of a robust political debate. “This is civil society and democracy,” he said.

Situated just northwest of Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan's largest city, Nangarhar University was founded in 1962, its campus originally built with Soviet assistance. Today, it has nearly 10,000 students, many of whom are crowded into spartan, three-story dormitories.

Naeem Jan Sarwary, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the university depended heavily on USAID as well as the local Provincial Reconstruction Team, a U.S. military-led development team, to provide Internet servers, computer laboratories, sports equipment and scholarship money. International donors helped provide housing for the school's 500 female students.

The activists at Nangarhar University, students say, are drawn largely from the school's Shariah faculty, which produces preachers and Islamic judges. Their student council—also known informally as the “mosque committee”—is organized out of the university's on-campus mosque, where they often announce their protests.

These activists described their opinions on a recent visit by two Wall Street Journal reporters to the university's campus — after first probing the reporters about their own religious beliefs and their views on Islam.

“The invaders have often killed innocents intentionally,” said Sadaqat, a senior activist who didn't want to give his full name. “And they've continued their oppression of the innocent people of Afghanistan.”

Describing how the protests are organized, Mr. Sadaqat said the members of the mosque committee usually consult with the rest of the student body.

“Whenever there is an issue, we present the issue when the students come for prayers in the mosque. Then we hold a jirga (assembly) and talk about it. All students who stay in the dorms are involved in the decision-making,” he said.

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.

Have Some Reality:

“Nearly All U.S. Diplomats Are Confined To Kabul Because Of The Shrinking Footprint Of The American Military”

“‘We Joked That The Embassy Would Prefer That We Never See Afghans,’ Said One U.S. Official”

“But The Embassy’s Mentality Is: ‘It’s The End. Wrap It Up. Get Out’ ”

July 29 By Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

KABUL — Since its troops swept into Afghanistan 12 years ago, the United States has dispatched hundreds of State Department employees to keep track of the massive American investment in developing the country.

The days of such oversight are now ending.

Nearly all U.S. diplomats are confined to Kabul because of the shrinking footprint of the American military, which once protected and transported civilian officials. That leaves diplomats here with a predicament: How do they oversee billions of dollars in projects, most of which are far from the capital, when they can't leave Kabul?

In both Afghanistan and Iraq, State Department employees have relied heavily on the U.S. military for security.

Civilian officials often have lived at Army or Marine bases, meeting regularly with local power brokers and inspecting the way aid dollars were being spent. When diplomats have taken day trips from Kabul, they typically have traveled on military aircraft, another dwindling resource here.

Unforeseen security problems have hastened the civilian drawdown, officials said.

Last August, a USAID officer, Ragaei Abdelfattah, was killed in an attack in eastern Konar province. In April, a U.S. diplomat, Anne Smedinghoff, was slain in the capital of southeastern Zabul province. Last year's deadly attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, also led to more risk-averse security policies for American civilian employees overseas.

After April's attack in Zabul, the State Department temporarily barred its employees stationed at bases outside Kabul from leaving them. Worried about "insider attacks," it also ordered that diplomats could not travel in convoys that included Afghan soldiers.

"We joked that the embassy would prefer that we never see Afghans," said one U.S. official.

The military's consolidation has been lightning fast, forcing the State Department to remove employees from districts where they were once deemed critical. Some former U.S. officials in Afghanistan argue that they were withdrawn during an important stage of their missions.

"There are still local tribal conflicts that go all the way to the president's office. . . . The police in some districts are still literally raping and pillaging," said a third U.S. official, who was formerly based in southern Afghanistan.

"But the embassy's mentality is: 'It's the end. Wrap it up. Get out.'"

The Great Afghan Aid Fiasco Rolls On:

“U.S. Foreign Aid Agency Spent Nearly One-Quarter Of Its \$203 Million Budget For Promoting Stability In Afghanistan Without Issuing A Single Community Grant As The Program Was Designed To Do”

“\$50 Million Of Its Stability In Key Areas (SIKA) Funding On Workshops And Training Sessions Instead Of Projects That Would Directly Address Instability In The Region”

July 29 by Josh Hicks, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

The U.S. foreign aid agency spent nearly one-quarter of its \$203 million budget for promoting stability in Afghanistan without issuing a single community grant as the program was designed to do, according to a watchdog report released on Monday.

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John F. Sopko found that the U.S. Agency for International Development spent almost \$50 million of its Stability in Key Areas (SIKA) funding on workshops and training sessions instead of projects that would directly address instability in the region.

“It’s troubling that after 16 months, this program has not issued its first community grant,” Sopko said in a statement on Monday. “This looks like bad value for U.S. taxpayers and the Afghan people.”

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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MILITARY NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



An Army carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of Spc. Rob L. Nichols on July 25 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. According to the Defense Department, Nichols, 24, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died July 23 when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device. Steve Ruark / AP

“About 2,000 Soldiers In A Combat Brigade Based At Fort Drum” Off To Obama’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

Jul. 17, 2013 The Associated Press

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — About 2,000 soldiers in a combat brigade based at Fort Drum in northern New York will be heading to Afghanistan in the fall.

The Pentagon has announced that about half of the 10th Mountain Division’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team has received orders to deploy overseas along with aviation units based in Texas and Kansas.

The Watertown Daily Times reports that the Fort Drum contingent will train and assist Afghan security forces in the southern part of the nation for nine months.

The division's 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams and its 10th Combat Aviation Brigade are currently deployed in Afghanistan, along with elements of the 4th Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Polk in Louisiana.

The division has about 6,500 soldiers deployed, including 5,000 from Fort Drum.

Odious Odierno Wants Less Pay For Troops



Odierno The Odious

Jul. 29, 2013 By Lance M. Bacon, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno on Monday said he favors the president's recommended 1 percent pay raise for troops over Congress' 1.8 percent recommendation.

"That sounds like a little difference but it is a huge difference throughout the years," Odierno said. "It's billions of dollars ... three, four, five years from now. So we think what we can do is manage the pay raises at a bit lower level for a few years."

GOT A COMMENT?

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.

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

Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War
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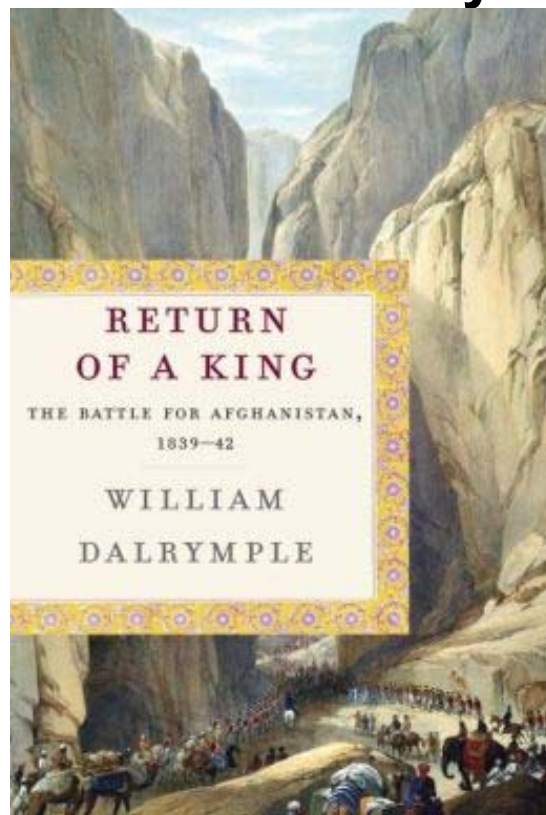
The British War On Afghanistan 1842:

**“Not One Benefit, Political Or
Military, Has Been Acquired
With This War”**

**“A War Carried On With A Strange
Mixture Of Rashness And Timidity;
Brought To A Close After
Suffering And Disaster”**

**“Our Eventual Evacuation Of The
Country Resembled The Retreat Of
An Army Defeated”**

**“The Closer I Looked, The More The
West’s First Disastrous Entanglement In
Afghanistan Seemed To Contain Distinct
Echoes Of The Neocolonial Adventures
Of Our Own Day”**



The parallels between the two invasions I came to realise were not just anecdotal, they were substantive.

The same tribal rivalries and the same battles were continuing to be fought out in the same places 170 years later under the guise of new flags, new ideologies and new political puppeteers. The same cities were garrisoned by foreign troops speaking the same languages, and were being attacked from the same rings of hills and the same high passes.

**More excerpts from a magnificent book;
RETURN of a KING
The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839—42**

**By William Dalrymple,
ALFRED A. KNOPF;
NEW YORK 2013**

In 1843, shortly after his return from the slaughterhouse of the First Anglo-Afghan War, the army chaplain in Jalalabad, the Rev. G. R. Gleig, wrote a memoir about the disastrous expedition of which he was one of the lucky survivors.

It was, he wrote, “a war begun for no wise purpose, carried on with a strange mixture of rashness and timidity; brought to a close after suffering and disaster, without much glory attached either to the government which directed, or the great body of troops which waged it. Not one benefit, political or military, has been acquired with this war. Our eventual evacuation of the country resembled the retreat of an army defeated.”

William Barnes Wollen’s celebrated painting of the Last Stand of the 44th Foot—a group of ragged but doggedly determined soldiers on the hilltop of Gandamak standing encircled behind a thin line of bayonets, as the Pashtun tribesmen close in — became one of the era’s most famous images, along with Remnants of an Army, Lady Butler’s oil of the alleged last survivor, Dr. Brydon, arriving before the walls of Jalalabad on his collapsing nag.

It was just as the latest western invasion of Afghanistan was beginning to turn sour in the winter of 2006 that I had the idea of writing a new history of Britain’s first failed attempt at controlling Afghanistan.

After an easy conquest and the successful installation of a pro- western puppet ruler, the regime was facing increasingly widespread resistance.

History was beginning to repeat itself.

In the course of the initial research I visited many of the places associated with the war.



The Last Stand of the 44th Regiment at Gundamuck, 1842. William Barnes Wollen

On my first day in Afghanistan I drove through the Shomali Plain to see the remains of Eldred Pottinger's barracks at Charikar, which now lie a short distance from the U.S. Air Force base at Bagram.

In Herat I paid my respects at the grave of Dost Mohammad Khan, at the Sufi shrine of Gazur Gah. In Jalalabad I sat by the Kabul River and ate the same delicious shir mahesh river fish, grilled on charcoal, which 170 years earlier had sustained the British troops besieged there and which had been particularly popular with "Fighting Bob" Sale.

On my arrival in Kandahar, the car sent to pick me up from the airport received a sniper shot through its back window as it neared the perimeter; later I stood at one of Henry Rawlinson's favourite spots, the shrine of Baba Wali on the edge of town, and saw an IED blow up a U.S. patrol as it crossed the Arghandab River, then as now the frontier between the occupied zone and the area controlled by the Afghan resistance.

In Kabul I managed to get permission to visit the Bala Hisar, once Shah Shuja's citadel, now the headquarters of the Afghan Army's intelligence corps, where reports from the front line are evaluated amid a litter of spiked British cannon from 1842 and upturned Soviet T-72 tanks from the 1980s.

"The Same Tribal Rivalries And The Same Battles Were Continuing To Be Fought Out In The Same Places 170 Years Later Under The Guise Of New Flags, New Ideologies And New Political Puppeteers"

The closer I looked, the more the west's first disastrous entanglement in Afghanistan seemed to contain distinct echoes of the neocolonial adventures of our own day.

For the war of 1839 was waged on the basis of doctored intelligence about a virtually non-existent threat: information about a single Russian envoy to Kabul was exaggerated

and manipulated by a group of ambitious and ideologically driven hawks to create a scare—in this case, about a phantom Russian invasion.

As John MacNeill, the Russophobic British ambassador, wrote from Teheran in 1838: “we should declare that he who is not with us is against us . . . We must secure Afghanistan.” Thus was brought about an unnecessary, expensive and entirely avoidable war.



The Remnants of an Army. Elizabeth Lady Butler

The parallels between the two invasions I came to realise were not just anecdotal, they were substantive.

The same tribal rivalries and the same battles were continuing to be fought out in the same places 170 years later under the guise of new flags, new ideologies and new political puppeteers.

The same cities were garrisoned by foreign troops speaking the same languages, and were being attacked from the same rings of hills and the same high passes.

In both cases, the invaders thought they could walk in, perform regime change, and be out in a couple of years.

In both cases they were unable to prevent themselves getting sucked into a much wider conflict.

Just as the British inability to cope with the rising of 1841 was a product not just of the leadership failures within the British camp, but also of the breakdown of the strategic relationship between Macnaughton and Shah Shuja, so the uneasy relationship of the ISAF leadership with President Karzai has been a crucial factor in the failure of the latest imbroglio.

Here the U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke to some extent played the role of Macnaughton.

When I visited Kabul in 2010, the then British Special Representative, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, described Holbrooke as “a bull who brought his own china shop wherever he went”— a description that would have served perfectly to sum up Macnaughton’s style 174 years previously.

Sherard’s analysis of the failure of the current occupation in his memoirs, *Cables from Kabul*, reads astonishingly like an analysis of that of Auckland and Macnaghten: “Getting in without having any real idea of how to get out; almost *wilful misdiagnosis of the nature of the challenges; continually changing objectives, and no coherent or consistent plan; mission creep on a heroic scale; disunity of political and military command, also on a heroic scale; diversion of attention and resources (to Iraq in the current case, to the Opium Wars then) at a critical stage of the adventure; poor choice of local allies; weak political leadership.”

Then as now, the poverty of Afghanistan has meant that it has been impossible to tax the Afghans into financing their own occupation.

Instead, the cost of policing such inaccessible territory has exhausted the occupier’s resources.

Today the U.S. is spending more than \$100 billion a year in Afghanistan: it costs more to keep Marine battalions in two districts of Helmand than the U.S. is providing to the entire nation of Egypt in military and development assistance.

In both cases the decision to withdraw troops has turned on factors with little relevance to Afghanistan, namely the state of the economy and the vagaries of politics back home.

As I pursued my research, it was fascinating to see how the same moral issues that are chewed over in the editorial columns today were discussed at equal length in the correspondence of the First Afghan War: what are the ethical responsibilities of an occupying power?

Should you try to “promote the interests of humanity,” as one British official put it in 1840, and champion social and gender reform, banning traditions like the stoning to death of adulterous women; or should you just concentrate on ruling the country without rocking the boat?

Do you intervene if your allies start boiling or roasting their enemies alive?

Do you attempt to introduce western political systems?

As the spymaster Sir Claude Wade warned on the eve of the 1839 invasion, “There is nothing more to be dreaded or guarded against, I think, than the overweening confidence with which we are too often accustomed to regard the excellence of our own institutions, and the anxiety that we display to introduce them in new and untried soils. Such interference will always lead to acrimonious disputes, if not to a violent reaction.”

For the westerners in Afghanistan today, the disaster of the First Afghan War provides an uneasy precedent: it is no accident that the favourite watering hole of foreign correspondents in Kabul is called the Gandamak Lodge, or that one of the principal British bases in southern Afghanistan is named Camp Souter after the only survivor of the last stand of the 44th Foot.

For the Afghans themselves, in contrast, the British defeat of 1842 has become a symbol of liberation from foreign invasion, and of the determination of Afghans to refuse to be ruled ever again by any foreign power.

The diplomatic quarter of Kabul is after all still named after Wazir Akbar Khan, who in nationalist Barakzai propoganda is now remembered as the leading Afghan freedom fighter of 1841—2.

“We In The West May Have Forgotten The Details Of This History That Did So Much To Mould The Afghans’ Hatred Of Foreign Rule, But The Afghans Have Not”

We in the west may have forgotten the details of this history that did so much to mould the Afghans’ hatred of foreign rule, but the Afghans have not.

In particular Shah Shuja remains a symbol of quisling treachery in Afghanistan: in 2001 the Taliban asked their young men, “Do you want to be remembered as a son of Shah Shuja or as a son of Dost Mohammad?”

As he rose to power, Mullah Omar deliberately modelled himself on Dost Mohammad, and like him removed the Holy Cloak of the Prophet Mohammad from its shrine in Kandahar and wrapped himself in it, declaring himself like his model Amir al-Muminin, the Leader of the Faithful, a deliberate and direct re-enactment of the events of the First Afghan War, whose resonance was immediately understood by all Afghans.

History never repeats itself exactly, and it is true that there are some important differences between what is taking place in Afghanistan today and what took place during the 1840s.

There is no unifying figure at the centre of the resistance, recognised by all Afghans as a symbol of legitimacy and justice: Mullah Omar is no Dost Mohammad or Wazir Akbar Khan, and the tribes have not united behind him as they did in 1842.

Nevertheless, due to the continuities of the region’s topography, economy, religious aspirations and social fabric, the failures of 170 years ago do still hold important warnings for us today.

As George Lawrence wrote to the London Times just before Britain blundered into the Second Anglo-Afghan War thirty years later, “a new generation has arisen which, instead of profiting from the solemn lessons of the past, is willing and eager to embroil us in the affairs of that turbulent and unhappy country. . . Although military disasters may

be avoided, an advance now, however successful in a military point of view, would not fail to turn out to be as politically useless. . .

“The disaster of the Retreat from Kabul should stand forever as a warning to the Statesmen of the future not to repeat the policies that bore such bitter fruit in 1839—42.”

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 injustices, 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

August 3, 1913: Horrible Anniversary The Wheatland Massacre

Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

Four died in the Wheatland riots when police fired into a crowd of California Hop pickers trying to organize (with the help of the IWW, or Industrial Workers of the World) at the Durst Ranch in Wheatland, California.

Hundreds of workers — whites, Mexicans, and Filipinos — lay down their tools because of terrible working conditions, low wages, and an almost complete lack of sanitation and decent housing.

August 4, 1964: Lying Lyndon Johnson Fakes The USA Into Escalation In Vietnam

Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

A second attack on U.S. naval ships in Vietnam's Gulf of Tonkin was reported by the Pentagon.

But there was no such activity reported by the task force commander in the Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick.

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, later held as a POW by the North Vietnamese for more than seven years, and Ross Perot's vice presidential candidate in 1992.

"I had the best seat in the house to watch that event," recalled Stockdale, "and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets — there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American firepower."

Nearly three decades later, during the Gulf War, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Sydney Schanberg warned journalists not to forget "our unquestioning chorus of agreeability when Lyndon Johnson bamboozled us with his fabrication of the Gulf of Tonkin incident

GOT A COMMENT?

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Thousands Of Fast Food Workers Strike In Cities Across The US”
“I Haven't Got Medical, No Nothing On The Job. That's Not Right”
“Earlier This Month, New York City Workers Walked Out Of A McDonald's After They Were Forced To Work In Record-High Temperatures Without Air Conditioning”

July 30, 2013 By Adam Gabbatt, The Guardian

Thousands of fast food workers went on strike in cities across the US on Monday as part of a campaign for better wages.

Employees of selected branches of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC and Wendy's walked off their shifts at various points throughout the day.

In New York City more than a hundred workers marched to a McDonald's in Union Square, chanting for the restaurant to "supersize" their wages.

The Fast Food Forward campaign is calling for workers to receive a minimum of \$15 per hour, more than double the federal minimum wage.

"A lot of the workers are living in poverty, you know, not being able to afford to put food on the table or take the train to work," Jonathan Westin, director of Fast Food Forward, told New York's 1010 WINS radio station.

"The workers are striking over the fact that they can't continue to maintain their families on the wages they're being paid in the fast food industry."

Fast Food Forward began as a New York-specific campaign, but has spread across the country as workers campaign for better pay.

Walkouts were to be held in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, St Louis, Kansas City, and Flint, Michigan, as well as New York City. Earlier this month, New York City workers walked out of a McDonald's after they were forced to work in record-high temperatures without air conditioning.

More than a hundred fast food workers – employed at companies including McDonalds, KFC, Burger King and Wendy's – gathered at Union Square in Manhattan at 2:30pm. "Hold the burgers, hold the fries, make our wages supersize," the mostly black and Latino crowd chanted. Many carried red signs – handed out by Fast Food Forward – which read: "Strike for higher pay, for a stronger New York."

Derrick Langley, 27, who earns \$7.25 an hour working at a KFC in midtown Manhattan, said the strike was "for respect".

"And for the kids that's coming up too. Everybody that's striking doesn't want them to have to go through the same troubles we went through."

Living on minimum wage in one of the world's most expensive cities was "kind of rough", Langley said. "I'm just here hoping, and praying, and fighting for this change that's going to happen."

Jose Marin, 35, said he had worked at Burger King for seven years. He earns \$7.65 an hour.

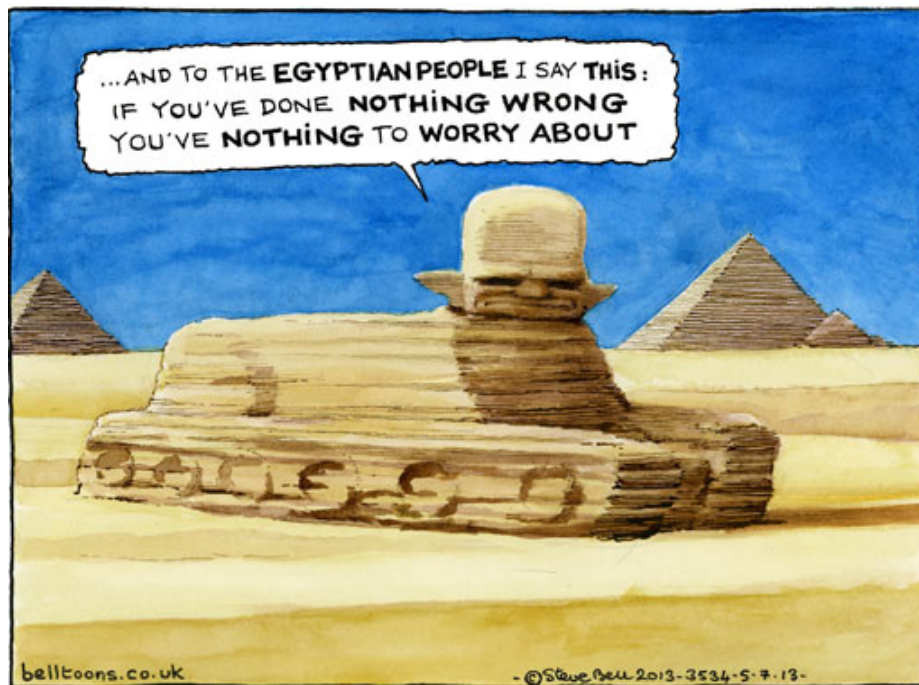
"I've been busting my ass for seven years for nothing," he said. "I haven't got medical, no nothing on the job. That's not right."

The workers marched 200m or so from Union Square to a McDonald's, where they were met by two private security officers and police. They heard from a series of local politicians keen to get in on the campaigning.

Fast Food Forward says people working in restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King are usually paid the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

More than 120,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the restaurants to double this, in a move campaigners says will benefit workers and strengthen the economy.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Enemy Combatants At It Again:
Deputies Shoot Man In His Front
Yard:
He Was Getting Cigarette Out Of His
Mother's Car**



Roy Middleton was shot Saturday morning by deputies while trying to get a cigarette out of his mother's car. / Kevin Robinson/krobinson4@pnj.com

Jul. 29, 2013 by Kevin Robinson, PNJ.com

Lying in a hospital bed the night after he was shot by Escambia County sheriff's deputies in his own front yard, Roy Middleton only had one question: Why?

Middleton, 60, of the 200 block of Shadow Lawn Lane in Warrington, was shot in the leg about 2:42 a.m. Saturday while trying to retrieve a cigarette from his mother's car in the driveway of their home.

A neighbor saw someone reaching into the car and called 911. While he was looking into the vehicle, deputies arrived in response to the burglary call.

Middleton said he was bent over in the car searching the interior for a loose cigarette when he heard a voice order him to, "Get your hands where I can see them."

He said he initially thought it was a neighbor joking with him, but when he turned his head he saw deputies standing halfway down his driveway.

He said he backed out of the vehicle with his hands raised, but when he turned to face the deputies, they immediately opened fire.

"It was like a firing squad," he said. "Bullets were flying everywhere."

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office declined to comment on the incident Saturday.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating, as is standard in deputy-involved shootings. The deputies, who have not been publicly identified, have been placed on paid administrative leave.

In Baptist Hospital and groggy on Saturday, Middleton said he would be in recovery for several weeks. His wounds are not life-threatening.

"I'm just glad they didn't hit me here or here," he said, pointing toward his head and chest.

"My mother's car is full of bullet holes though. My wife had to go and get a rental."

The neighborhood where Middleton lives was quiet Saturday afternoon, and there was no evidence the shooting had even occurred. However, neighbors said only a few hours earlier the area had been congested with law enforcement vehicles and yellow crime scene tape.

Several neighbors said they heard the commotion, but weren't entirely sure why events unfolded the way they did.

A teenage girl who said she witnessed a portion of the incident said she never saw Middleton provoke the deputies.

"He wasn't belligerent or anything," she said.

Middleton, too, said he doesn't understand how or why the incident escalated so quickly. He also said deputies never offered him an explanation or an apology.

"Even if they thought the car was stolen, all they had to do was run the license plate," he said. "They would have seen that that car belonged there."



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