

## **Military Resistance 12B16**

**A Revolutionary Anthem For  
Revolutionary Times  
[Soldiers For The Cause]  
The First Of Arkansas Volunteer Infantry  
Regiment (African Descent) Marching  
Song 1864:  
All Honor To Their Memory**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwSZgLLqPy8>**

## **The Sliming Of The Ukrainian Revolution**

Comment: T

Some apologists for murderous tyrant Yanukovych or Czar Putin, or both, are screeching about a conspiratorial U.S.-created Imperial “coup” in the Ukraine.

The use of the term “coup” is used to deny the reality of a successful mass revolutionary movement from below

Wikipedia: “A coup d’état, also known as a coup, a putsch, or an overthrow, is the sudden deposition of a government, usually by a small group of the existing state establishment—typically the military—to depose the extant government and replace it with another body, civil or military.”

The revolutionary events in the Ukraine were neither “sudden,” nor carried out by “a small group of the existing state establishment—typically the military.”

So much for “coup.”

As for the argument that the Ukrainian revolutionary mass movement from below was a conspiracy created by the U.S. Imperial government?

The same kind of elitist trash has often surfaced in defense of tyranny of one kind or another.

The Vietnamese couldn't possibly be fighting the U.S. occupation because they wanted national independence. It must be a Communist conspiracy.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 couldn't possibly be because Hungarians wished liberation from Stalinist tyranny. It must be a CIA plot.

African Americans couldn't possibly be backing Martin Luther King and other warriors for justice because they hate segregation. It must be a plot by Northern agitators that's stirring up our good happy Suthron colored folks.

Iraqis couldn't possibly be fighting the U.S. invasion because they wanted no foreign occupation of their nation. In 2003, Bush's Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld said Iraqi armed resistance was the product of a conspiracy by a few "Saddam Hussein dead enders."

Syrians couldn't possibly be fighting the Assad regime because they have had enough of being slaughtered by a mass murdering regime of crony capitalists. It must be a plot organized from outside by the Obama regime.

Ukrainians couldn't possibly hate and rise up against a corrupt government loyal to billionaire oligarchs headed by a cold killer. It must be the work of the American agents. Or EU agents. Or both.

**Common to these lies is an elitist theme: people are stupid sheep who can't rise up against oppressive, corrupt governments on their own. Some outside force must trick and be controlling the stupid sheep.**

**Thus ever has been the pathetic whining of those who defend tyranny or support one Empire in conflict with another Empire.**

**Those who advance these arguments are nothing but reactionaries who hate human movements for liberation and feel so weak and ineffectual themselves that they need some tyrant, Empire or dictatorship to identify with and worship. They betray their own hatred and fear of mass movements from below.**

**MORE:**

**“We Need New People Who Can Say No To The Oligarchs, Not Just The Old Faces”**

# **“The Sight Of Luxury Cars Dropping Off Members Of Parliament Has Stirred Dismay And Anger”**

**“Again We See Mercedes And BMWs Bringing Deputies Who Are Supposed To Represent The People”**

**“Peppered With Angry Demands That The Parliament Raise Pensions, Reopen Closed Hospitals And Find Work For The Jobless, Mr. Lytvyn Struggled To Respond”**

FEB. 24, 2014 By ANDREW HIGGINS FEB, New York Times [Excerpts]

**KIEV — As Ukraine’s parliament moved to fill a power vacuum left by the ouster of President Viktor F. Yanukovich, Irina Nikanchuk, a 25-year-old economist, stood outside the legislature building on Monday to give voice to a widespread feeling here: Throw the bums out.**

**Waving a banner calling for early elections to a new Parliament, she cursed members of Parliament and opposition politicians like Yulia V. Tymoshenko who have so far become the principal beneficiaries of a revolution driven by passions on the street and bubbled with disgust at Ukraine’s entire political elite.**

Parliament has moved swiftly since Mr. Yanukovich’s flight on Saturday to restore a semblance of normal government, endorsing interim ministers and giving expanded powers to its new speaker, Oleksandr V. Turchynov, an ally of Ms. Tymoshenko, empowering him to carry out the duties of the president until a new presidential election is held in May.

But the prospect of a new order dominated by established opposition parties, almost as discredited in the eyes of many Ukrainians as Mr. Yanukovich’s Party of Regions, has left a bitter feeling that what comes next could end up disappointing as much as the government that followed the 2004 Orange Revolution.

“We need new people who can say no to the oligarchs, not just the old faces,” said Ms. Nikanchuk, referring to the wealthy billionaires who control blocks of votes in the Parliament but who, with a few exceptions, hedged their bets until the end about which side to support in a violent struggle that left more than 80 protesters dead between Mr. Yanukovych and his opponents.

**“Tymoshenko is just Putin in a skirt,” she added, comparing the former prime minister and, until Saturday, jailed opposition leader with the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin.**

“The problem is that the old forces are trying to come back to take their old chairs,” said Vasily Kuak, a shipping broker who stood outside parliament waving a sign that read: “Revolution, Not a Court Coup!”

All the same, the sight of luxury cars dropping off members of Parliament at the colonnaded legislature building, is now guarded by “self-defense” units that previously battled government forces, has stirred dismay and anger.

“Again we see Mercedes and BMWs bringing deputies who are supposed to represent the people,” said Mr. Kuak. “We don’t want to see these people again. We want to see people from the square, from the revolution.”

The center of Kiev is now scattered with shrines to those who died, each one piled with flowers left by grateful residents.

**“We need people from Maidan, not people like you,” screamed an angry woman as Volodymyr Lytvyn, a former speaker of the Parliament known for shifting with the wind, left the legislature building.**

As he tried to answer questions from the crowd, protected by two bodyguards and a solid wrought iron fence, a cry went up clamoring for “lustration of everybody,” a term usually associated with the purge of officials and politicians suspected of serving Communist regimes before the revolutions of 1989 across Eastern and Central Europe.

**Peppered with angry demands that the Parliament raise pensions, reopen closed hospitals and find work for the jobless, Mr. Lytvyn struggled to respond but basically called for patience, a virtue that is likely to be in short supply if the interim government does not manage to convince people it is working to improve their lives, not line its own pockets.**

“He knows parliamentary routines but he does not have the support of the people,” said Nikita Kornavalov, a teacher, 29, who left a job in Norway to support what he hopes will be a new era free of the corruption and brutality that have marred the country since its independence in 1991.

**MORE:**

**“I Didn’t Know This Handsome,  
Humble Man I Saw On  
Television On A Daily Basis  
Was A Czar”**

**Ukrainians Peek Into Opulent  
Home “Estimated To Be Worth  
Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars  
And Built On Property Taken By  
Yanukovich From The State”**

**“We Need To Stop Relying On  
Leaders; We Need To Completely  
Change The Existing System”**

**“We Need To Put All In Power Under  
Real Control Of The People, The Old  
Political Establishment Completely  
Dismantled”**

**“These young people have made a real revolution and they will not that easily allow their victory to be snatched by the seasoned political professionals like Tymoshenko and Yatsenyuk and even Klitschko,”**

February 23, 2014 By Sergei L. Loiko, LA Times [Excerpts]

The roadways were clogged with cars, drivers madly honking, edging their way forward and then parking anywhere they could, leaving people to continue on foot.

They weren’t in flight from the capital but on an unlikely pilgrimage.

On this gray and overcast afternoon, they had come to see the opulent home President Viktor Yanukovich had left behind, even as many of them wrestled with the question of who would take his place.

Their destination was a 330-acre country estate here in Mezhgorye, about 10 miles out of the capital.

They were drawn by reports of luxury. They didn't see the rumored golden toilets. But they did find exotic trees and birds.

Marble staircases and a steam bath as large as a house.

A frigate that houses a dining room and bar overlooking the marvelous expanse of the Dnieper River.

A golf course and tennis courts and swimming pool. Streams and lakes adorned with granite, limestone and classical sculptures styled after ancient Greek and Roman works.

On Sunday, parliament reportedly turned over presidential powers to its new speaker, Oleksander Turchinov.

It also nationalized Yanukovich's country estate, estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars and allegedly built on property taken by Yanukovich from the state through the use of front companies.

**"I didn't know this handsome, humble man I saw on television on a daily basis was a czar," said Alla Petrenko, a 59-year-old pensioner, as she stared Sunday through a French window of Yanukovich's three-story home at a gilded, winding staircase with marble steps inside.**

**"Our country lives like a beggar, always with an outstretched hand, like myself on a pension of \$136 a month, and all this time (Yanukovich) lived here like a padishah."**

Ivan Dovganyuk, a 26-year-old musician and photographer from the western town of Kolomyia, looked in amazement at the expansive golf course where hundreds of people were strolling, and he shook his head.

"Dozens of young people from my home western regions and the rest of Ukraine died last week to stop all this corruption, among other things," he said.

"But I am afraid the fruits of their heroic sacrifice will once again be snatched by these old Soviet-school people like Tymoshenko, who is also guilty of the bloody crisis our country ended up in.

"We need to stop relying on leaders; we need to completely change the existing system," he said. "We need to put all in power under real control of the people, the young people like those who sacrificed themselves."

“These young people have made a real revolution and they will not that easily allow their victory to be snatched by the seasoned political professionals like Tymoshenko and Yatsenyuk and even Klitschko,”

“Tymoshenko is already trying to win their hearts and use them against all of her would-be election opponents, but they don’t trust her and will not follow her. For them, she is part of the old political establishment that must be completely dismantled.”

**At Yanukovich’s former estate, dozens of people were peering through the windows of the frigate along the Dnieper. In the vast dining hall glittering with gold, they could see dozens of bottles of cognac and vodka on a sprawling redwood table and windowsills. Some bottles featured Yanukovich’s portraits on their labels.**

“I am not voting for anybody in this new election,” said Oxana Kolyada, 35, a nursery school instructor from Kiev among the crowd.

“I like Klitschko. He is a nice man and a good sportsman, but that is not enough. Our big problem now is that we don’t have a leader we can trust.”

**MORE:**

**Ukraine, Revolution Or Coup?  
“Free Trade Unions Began To Form  
Detachments Of Workers Militia  
Which Patrol Streets Of Kiev,  
Kirovograd And Other Cities  
Together With Fighters Of Maidan  
Self-Defence”**

**“The Ukrainian Demonstrators Like  
‘Occupy’ And The Indignados, Also  
Reject The Corrupt, Entrenched,  
Oligarch-Financed Political Parties Who  
Are Trying To Patch Together A New  
Government”**

February 26, 2014 By Richard Greeman, zcomm.org/ [Excerpts]

The Ukraine is no longer 'in flames.'

With the hurried flight of the detested Yanukovich, peace and order have descended on Kiev (except for some fistfights in the Parliament!) There is no looting. Self-organized popular militias protect the luxurious Presidential Palace (privatized by Yanukovich) as crowds of citizen file through to gape at his collections of antique and modern automobiles.

These orderly crowds have lived through the experience of months of revolutionary activity in support of the constantly renewed Kiev occupations. They are conscious and disciplined.

All through the cold winter they have organized a continuous mass occupation, including the provision of food, hygiene, safety, and self-defense under the discipline of units of one hundred ('Hundreds'). They have improvised nation-wide network of smaller occupations and support groups providing the Kiev occupiers with food, medical assistance, rotating re-enforcements, and recently the weapons ('liberated' from the Army in Lviv) which, although never fired, turned the tide in favor of the revolution.

These military firearms were only 'liberated' and brought to Kiev in response to Yanukovich, who clumsily raised the level of violence by ordering his elite snipers to use live ammunition on the occupiers, who had been defending themselves for the most part with shields and clubs. [2]

**The symbolic arming to the masses, re-established the balance of opposing forces, opening the way for the negotiations between the leaders of the "100s" on the one hand and the Army and Police on the other.**

**Many among the latter had relatives among the occupiers, none was ready to kill or be killed to save Yanukovich's ass. The blood of the 84 fighters who fell to sniper bullets in defence of the occupation was not shed in vain.**

Today, no longer confined behind barricades, Ukraine's citizen activists have jubilantly taken over the city. For the moment, they are the only power, and they have the right to chant, echoing the slogan of Occupy Wall St : 'This is what democracy looks like.'

**The Ukrainian demonstrators Like 'Occupy' and the Indignados, also reject the corrupt, entrenched, oligarch-financed political parties who are trying to patch together a new government in a Parliament (whose doors are carefully guarded by citizen defense forces).**

They have no more use for the leaders of what the media call the 'opposition' then they did for Yanukovich.

Their contempt echoes the Argentinian masses whose street protests unseated a series of governments in the early 2000s: ¡Qué se vayan todos! ("Throw ALL the bums out!"). [3]



They have in their memory the lived experience of 2004, when their mass occupations precipitated a previous democratic revolution, rapidly hijacked by corrupt politicians and billionaire oligarchs. They are not prepared to be bilked a second time, and they have so far had the good sense to remain armed, organized and vigilant.

## **Nationalism And Internationalism**

The crowds who have accomplished this victory for 'peoples' power' unite people of all classes and all ethnicities, including not just native speakers of Russian and Ukrainian, but also Moslems, Jews, and various nationalities of the Caucuses.[4]

A recent interview with a marvelously lucid and well-informed Ukrainian revolutionary syndicalist named Vlatislav, who has been in the thick of things, confirms the spontaneous, self-organized, multi-class and multi-ethnic composition of the revolutionary crowds. He dismisses the idea that the people are 'pro-Europe' as anachronistic, dating from the early days of the occupation, when it was largely symbolic.

As for the divide between the Russian-speaking East and the Ukrainian-speaking West, Vlatislav thinks it is "often exaggerated to the point where the existence of a single Ukrainian nation is even denied. I think Ukraine is still a more unified nation-state than Belgium, for example."

This is confirmed by polls that show fewer than 9% of Ukrainians in both geographical areas want to see Ukraine divided. Indeed, Vlatislav explains how this linguistic division has actually been favorable to the Ukrainian working people, for "it was the main reason why in Ukraine the ruling class failed to establish an authoritarian regime in the mould of Russia or Belarus: it ensured that no politician has ever had support from the majority of the population. Therefore, they had to balance and make concessions to the weak working class: bourgeois democracy was retained, and welfare state elements are much more generous than in Russia."

No wonder the US and Europe are calling for a strong central government capable of imposing IMF-style austerity!

No wonder the NY Times laments that no such unity emerged from the 'Orange Revolution' of 2004.

**One hopes that a more democratic Ukraine will be able to continue playing off Russia and the West against each other to keep its independence.**

**Otherwise the choice is grim: on the one hand return to neo-Stalinist semi-dictatorship under a Putin clone, on the other IMF-imposed austerity and eternal debt servitude to the German banks.**

## **Neo-Liberalism Eastern And Western-Style**

**In any case, once in power Yanukovich introduced anti-worker austerity and neo-liberal reforms, privatizing everything in sight, often (like the Presidential Palace) to his family's enormous profit, which explains why he was universally hated.**

**As Vlatislav testifies: "The natural gas tariffs were growing; the government launched medical reform which will eventually lead to closure of many medical institutions and to introducing the universal medical insurance instead of the unconditional coverage; they pushed through extremely unpopular pension reform (raising pension age for women) against the will of more than 90% of population; there was an attempt at passing the new Labor Code which would seriously affect workers' rights; the railway is being corporatized; finally, they passed a new Tax Code which hit small business." Vlatislav's interview is worth reading in full. [5]**

Another observer who stresses the autonomous character of the Ukrainian revolution is Adrian Ivakhiv, who blogs at Ukrainian Temporary Autonomous Zone and discusses "The 'Threat' of Direct Democracy in Ukraine."

Ivakhiv makes a useful distinction between three types of democracy: authoritarian (à la Putin), liberal (the EU), and direct, exemplified by people power in Ukraine.

**He also deals with the question of nationalist and right-wing influences in the revolution, pointing out although the neo-fascists, who love to fight, were well-represented on the barricades, the percentage of voters identified with far-right parties in the Ukraine is lower than that in France and Austria.**

And 'nationalism,' which is near-universal in this land that has been dominated and fought over by Russians, Poles, Austro-Hungarians, Swedes, Rumanians and Germans for centuries, has a different resonance in Ukraine than elsewhere. His piece is also well worth reading. [6]

### **Media Propaganda Right And Left**

In contrast to these creditable on-the-ground reports, what we find in the media is mostly sheer propaganda.

The Times and the networks portray this revolution as a defeat for Russia and a victory for Western neo-liberal capitalism. Period.

On the other hand, part of the Left sees it more or less through the Cold War lens as a 'right-wing coup' engineered by US imperialism.

**Pacifica Radio's 'War and Peace Report' headlined 'Ukraine: a coup or a revolution?' and described (three times) Yanukovich as the 'democratically elected president' as if the Ukraine were Chile in 1973 or Honduras two years ago.[7]**

A previous show featured an interview with pro-Russian professor Stephen Cohen under the headline "A New Cold War? Ukraine Violence Escalates, Leaked Tape Suggests U.S. Was Plotting Coup." Cohen stressed U.S. aggression (real enough) against Putin's

Russia, the omnipresence in Kiev of right-wing fascists and nationalists, concluding on the danger of a Ukrainian Civil War between East and West which would lead to a new violent confrontation between Russia and the West.[8]

Prof. Cohen is someone whose scholarship (his biography of Bukharin) I admire, who has been critical of both Stalin and Putin, but who has retained his pro-Russian 'patriotism' from the Cold War days.

His theoretical frame, like many other left-liberals, does not recognize Russian imperialism along with other imperialisms (from Chinese to German and US) in what is increasingly a multi-polar world, similar to the world of 1914 on the eve of WWI with its complex and shifting alliances.

**Throughout the Cold War, many still defended the Soviet Union as the 'underdog' and more 'progressive' than the US, but this attitude is sheer nonsense today when Russia is ruled by oligarchs and mafia under a neo-Stalinist police state; today when there is an active, autonomous democratic, revolutionary labor movement with which we can identify.**

### What Next?

To conclude: the first phase, democratic of the Ukraine's ongoing revolution is now complete. The tyrant, abandoned even by his own party, has fled.

The repressive apparatus has been neutralized, and the former Defense Minister responsible for the sniper shootings of dozens of demonstrators is on trial. The Constitution of 2004 has been restored in satisfaction of a major popular demand. Today's Ukrainians remember their so-called Orange Revolution, which soon mired in corruption.

The masses, although peaceful for the moment, remain armed and mobilized. The question is, What will happen in the next, in the social phase of this revolution?

Chris Kinder, on the Eco-Rev list serve, has raised some very serious problems, impossible to dismiss as propaganda, about the history of fascism and right-wing nationalism in Ukraine and the many threats to a possible democracy there which need to be taken into consideration.[9]

As Victor Serge observed during the failed German Revolution of 1923, the rise of fascism depends on two factors: 1) despair among the active, youthful, combative elements of society of a liberal or communist solution to capitalism's problems, and 2) the backing of big capital and the military.[10]

To me, the ultimate outcome largely depends popular struggles and solidarity on the international scene.

The potential tragedy of the Ukrainian revolution (and indeed mutatis mutandi of all the 'successful' popular uprisings since 2011 from Egypt on) is that confined to the national context the political leadership gets taken over or overtaken by a rival section of the local ruling class (military, religious, nationalist), normally backed by a rival imperialism.

We have seen this happen twice in Egypt, just as we have seen Syria's original citizen uprising for human and democratic rights turned into a reactionary military holocaust with the interference of at least five imperialisms, secular and religious, world-wide and regional.

The one thing all these conflicting bourgeois interests have in common is the will to defeat and destroy the popular, democratic uprisings which, if allowed to come to power, would inevitably, being majoritarian, demand more social equality and thus threaten the interests of the rich and power elites.

Such a successful revolution would set a very 'bad' example for the planet's billions. As Victor Serge reminds us, in 1917-18 during the First World War, fourteen imperialist nations put aside their deadly conflicts in order to crush the Russian Revolution, while in the Ukraine (whose name means 'Borderland') White Russias, Germans, Rumanians, French and Poles intervened militarily and financed local parties.[11] Today we have the same actors interfering Ukraine, plus the U.S. (not always aligned with the 'fucking' European Union...)

### **To Survive, Revolutions Must Spread, Or Retreat....**

**Given this tragic situation, should we consider the participants in the Ukrainian mass democratic movement (and for that matter their counterparts in Egypt, Tunisia Turkey, Russia, Brazil, Spain, Greece etc) naive and mistaken whenever they rise up in indignation to demand human rights?**

Do we not, at the least, owe them a duty of international solidarity?

Must we not follow the example of Egyptian Teachers' Union showing support to the teachers occupying the Wisconsin State House in 2011? Of our worldwide support for the Zapatistas' unlikely uprising a decade earlier?

Did not our own organization, Praxis, present in Kiev and the Crimea since 2004, grow out of such a network in the 90s? Such networks of support and exchange are the seeds from which international solidarity can grow, indeed, that revolutions can spread, as they must if they are to survive.

**Like Serge, indeed like every socialist from the First International on up, I have always believed that revolutionary movements can only succeed when they become international, and today, with capitalist globalization, that means planetary.**

Indeed, only a planetary uprising against capitalism can save the planet from industrialized ecocide in the very near future.

Our only chance is to rise up together in one long 'rolling revolution;' and today we can actually create such solidarity in real time thanks to the World Wide Web, social media, alternate media and machine translation.

Planetary revolution? One chance in a hundred! Maybe, but what if there is no other survival solution for the planet's inhabitants? (for more, please see my "Ecotopia: A Bet You Can't Refuse" <http://www.stateofnature.org/?p=5852> )

Best wishes to all, Richard Greeman

PS

This just in (Feb. 25) from Praxis Center, Moscow:

**1) In Ukraine – free trade unions began to form detachments of Workers Militia which patrol streets of Kiev, Kirovograd and other cities together with fighters of Maidan Self-Defence (MSD), and there are attempts to establish workers control: union activists from the Kiev Zoo, supported by MSD, took over private Zoo and farm in the former Yanukovitch palace.**

2) In Russia – total number of activists arrested in Moscow in 2 days for protesting against political trial of last May's anti-Putin demonstrators from Bolotnaya Square rose to about 1000. (Popular joke: Putin's only "Olympic record")

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[1] Secretary, Victor Serge Foundation (Montpellier, France); founding member of the Praxis Research and Education Center (Moscow) [www.praxiscenter.ru](http://www.praxiscenter.ru) which co-sponsored the first International Congress of Independent Labor Unions last November in Kiev.

[2] Some of the demonstrators did, at one point, fire pistols and shotguns.

[3] 'Ukrainian Protesters See Too Many Familiar Faces in Parliament after Revolution'  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/25/world/europe/ukraine-parliament.html?action=click&contentCollection=Europe&module=RelatedCoverage&region=Marginalia&pgtype=article>

[4] According Timothy Snyder, professor of history at Yale University, author of Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin, who is studying the composition of these crowds.  
[http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/24/a\\_coup\\_or\\_a\\_revolution\\_ukraine](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/24/a_coup_or_a_revolution_ukraine)

[5] <http://avtonomia.net/2014/02/20/maidan-contradictions-interview-ukrainian-revolutionary-syndicalist/> Thanks to Loren Goldner for bringing it to my attention.

[6] <http://www.social-ecology.org/2014/02/direct-democracy-ukraine/> Thanks to Brain Tokar.

[7] [http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/24/a\\_coup\\_or\\_a\\_revolution\\_ukraine](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/24/a_coup_or_a_revolution_ukraine)

[8] [http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/20/a\\_new\\_cold\\_war\\_ukraine\\_violence](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/20/a_new_cold_war_ukraine_violence)

[9]  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#search/ecorev%40yahogroups.com/14458cfccfcf081e>

[10] "Fascists and Communists," Sept. 29, 1923 in Serge, Eyewitness to the German Revolution, Ian Birchall, TR. Haymarket Books.

[11] Victor Serge, Year One of the Russian Revolution.

## **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 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.**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

February 28, 2014 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died as a result of an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

## **POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED**

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

## **“Hundreds Of People On Sunday Staged A Protest Against Afghan Security Forces, Foreign Troops And The Mayor”**

### **“Protestors Accused Combined Forces Of Killing Innocent Civilians”**

Feb 23, 2014 Pajhwok

HERAT CITY:

Hundreds of people on Sunday staged a protest against Afghan security forces, foreign troops and the mayor of western Herat province, an official said.

Shindand district residents and doctors' union members took part in the protest, chanting slogans against local security forces and foreign troops. The protestors accused combined forces of killing innocent civilians during an operation some days back.

**Tor Mohammad Zarifi, who represents Shindand in the provincial council, said Afghan and foreign troops had killed three civilians on Thursday. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the dead included a child, a student of Kabul Medical University and another civilian.**

He demanded the government to put the killers on trial.

He warned of boycotting the April presidential and provincial elections and closing all polling stations in the district if their demand was not met.

Meanwhile, members of the doctors' union protested against the Herat mayor, alleging that his guards had abducted a male nurse. Dr. Nisar Ahmad Musadiq, head of the

union, said the mayor's sons and guards had beaten the male nurse before setting him free. He asked the government to sack the mayor.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgent Bomber Attacks Mogadishu Cafe “Blowing The Place To Bits” “At Least 12 People Died At The Tea Shop, Which Is Popular With Security Personnel” “Attacks On Government Institutions Proliferating At An Alarming Rate”**



The scene of a car bomb attack at a tea shop in the suburbs of capital Mogadishu February 27, 2014. Islamist group al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the car bombing on Thursday that police said killed at least 10 people in the Somali capital Mogadishu.



Feb 27, 2014 By Abdi Sheikh and Feisal Omar, Reuters & GAROWE ONLINE.  
Additional reporting by Abdirahman Hussein, Reuters. [Excerpts]

An Islamist militant bomber drove a car into a Mogadishu cafe frequented by members of the security forces on Thursday, blowing the place to bits.

The busy restaurant was near a security checkpoint at the entrance to Habar-khadijo intelligence base in Mogadishu's Shibis district. Police said at least 12 people died at the tea shop, which is popular with security personnel as it is near their compound.

Al Shabaab group has claimed responsibility for the deadly blast, saying further attacks will be organized very soon. "Today's blast was part of our operations in Mogadishu and we shall continue," said Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's military operations spokesman.

He said the attack had targeted security personnel who were sitting in the tea shop, killed 11 of them and wounded 15 others.

The attack followed an assault by its fighters on the president's palace in the Somali capital last week.

"A bomber swerved his car bomb into a tea shop where national security men were sitting and blew up," Police Colonel Abdikadir Hussein told Reuters. "The tea shop was completely destroyed."

**The militant group heightened rampage in Mogadishu as military style ambushes and attacks on government institutions have been proliferating at an alarming rate.**

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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**

**“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” -- Thomas Paine**

# **USA Today Writer Says “America’s Ruling Class Has Been Experiencing More Pushback Than Usual Lately” “It Just Might Be A Harbinger Of Things To Come” [And So Is Using The Term “Ruling Class” In Major Media]**

February 23, 2014 by Glenn Harlan Reynolds, USA TODAY

America’s ruling class has been experiencing more pushback than usual lately.

It just might be a harbinger of things to come.

**First, in response to widespread protests last week, the Department of Homeland Security canceled plans to build a nationwide license plate database.**

Many local police departments already use license-plate readers that track every car as it passes traffic signals or pole-mounted cameras. Specially equipped police cars even track cars parked on the street or even in driveways.

**The DHS put out a bid request for a system that would have gone national, letting the federal government track millions of people's comings and goings just as it tracks data about every phone call we make.**

**But the proposal was suddenly withdrawn last week, with the unconvincing explanation that it was all a mistake.**

I'm inclined to agree with TechDirt's Tim Cushing, who wrote: "The most plausible explanation is that someone up top at the DHS or ICE suddenly realized that publicly calling for bids on a nationwide surveillance system while nationwide surveillance systems are being hotly debated was ... a horrible idea."

**On Friday, after more public outrage, the Federal Communications Commission withdrew a plan to "monitor" news coverage at not only broadcast stations, but also at print publications that the FCC has no authority to regulate.**

**The "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs," or CIN (pronounced "sin") involved the FCC sending people to question reporters and editors about why they chose to run particular stories.**

Many folks in and out of the media found it Orwellian.

How this program appeared was, like the DHS program, a bit of a mystery: FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai said: "This has never been put to an FCC vote; it was just announced."

But the blowback was sufficient to stop it for now.

**Meanwhile, in Connecticut a massive new gun-registration scheme is also facing civil disobedience.**

As J.D. Tuccille reports: "Three years ago, the Connecticut legislature estimated there were 372,000 rifles in the state of the sort that might be classified as 'assault weapons,' and 2 million plus high-capacity magazines. ... But by the close of registration at the end of 2013, state officials received around 50,000 applications for 'assault weapon' registrations, and 38,000 applications for magazines."

This is more "Irish Democracy," passive resistance to government overreach.

The Hartford (Conn.) Courant is demanding that the state use background-check records to prosecute those who haven't registered, but the state doesn't have the resources and it's doubtful juries would convict ordinary, law-abiding people for failure to file some paperwork.

Though people have taken to the streets from Egypt, to Ukraine, to Venezuela to Thailand, many have wondered whether Americans would ever resist the increasing encroachments on their freedom.

I think they've begun.

**YOU'RE 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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**“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.

They decided to take their lives back into their own hands, and out of the hands of their enemies.

\*\*\*\*\*

[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.

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**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Zionist Master Race Gives Bedouins 10 Days To Get Out Of Town; Their Town, That Is: “The Bedouin Families In Al-Baba Mountain Have Been Living There Since 1967”**



The area of the neighbourhood is approximately 1,000 dunams and contains dozens of small houses for about 350 Bedouin residents, as well as a kindergarten.

February 24, 2014 Middle East Monitor

Israeli occupation authorities distributed on Sunday evacuation orders to the Palestinian residents of Al-Baba Mountain neighbourhood near village to the east of occupied Jerusalem.

A spokesperson of the Popular Resistance Committees, Hani Halabiya, said that the occupation authorities distributed the evacuation orders ahead of demolishing all the houses owned by the Bedouin families in Al-Baba Mountain, who have been living there since 1967.

Halabiya noted that the ultimatum given to the families is to evacuate their homes in less than ten days.

Furthermore, the order also includes evacuating barns full of hundreds of domesticated animals that help to sustain the livelihood of the Bedouin families.

The area of the neighbourhood is approximately 1,000 dunams and contains dozens of small houses for about 350 Bedouin residents, as well as a kindergarten.

**All the residents will become homeless.**

The 40 Bedouin families of this neighbourhood belong to Al-Jahalin tribe, which was evicted from the Negev by Israeli forces in the 1950s, and displaced again after the 1967 war to finally settle in the Al-Baba Mountain region.

The Israeli occupation aims to demolish the neighbourhood ahead of land confiscation plans, in preparation for the expansion of the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim and to extend the separation wall, according to Turkey's Anadolu Agency.

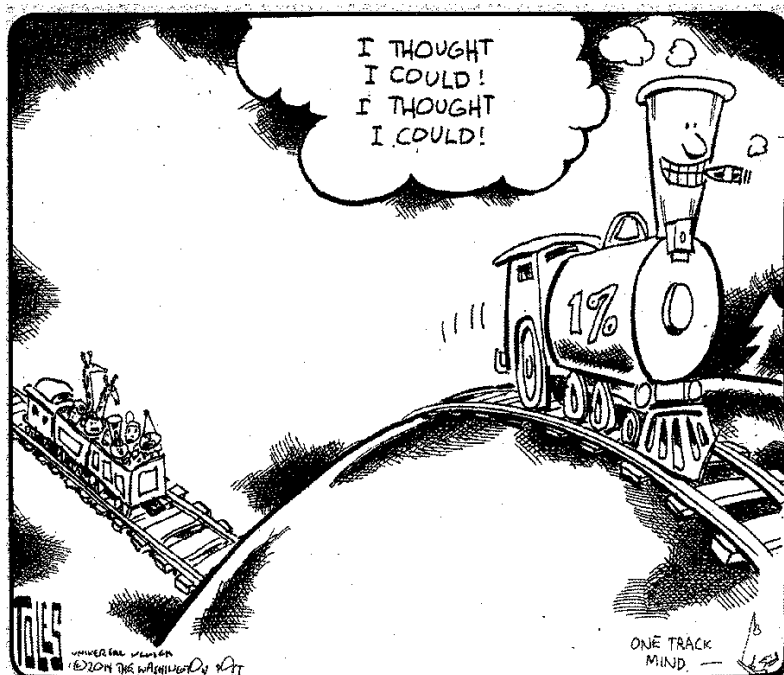
**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:**

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# Venezuela:



**“In Caracas The Majority Of The Petitions Are Political, Freedom For The Detainees And The Resignation Of The President”**

**“In Other Cities Social Demands Are Incorporated, Such As Inflation, Scarcity Of Elementary Consumer Supplies, And Lack Of Proper Public Services”**

**Government “Belligerence Seems Not To Be Shared By All The Chavista Movement, Because A Lot Of The Populist Base Are Waiting To See What Happens Next, Without Any Expressions Of Support.”**

**But while the international left wing continues to give its back to the protests, and support without any criticism the government’s version of “the coup”, it leaves thousands of protesters to the mercy of the most conservative of the opposition’s political parties, without any information distributed by anti-capitalists, revolutionaries about true social change that could influence them.**

Feb 22 2014 libcom.org

A translation of a Spanish article from El Libertario summarising the development of the protests in Venezuela during February 2014, and addressing the relationship of those protests to conditions in Venezuela and the Venezuelan right. [Excerpts]

\*\*\*\*\*

On February 4th, 2014, students from the Universidad Nacional Experimental del Tachira (Experimental University of Táchira), located on an inland state of the country, protested due to the sexual assault of a fellow female classmate in lieu of the current insecurity situation of the city.

The protest was repressed, and several students were detained.

The next day, other universities around the country had their own protests requesting the release of these detainees, being at the same time repressed and some of them incarcerated.

Two opposing politicians, Leopoldo Lopez, and Maria Corina Machado, tried to capitalize on the wave of discontent rallying for new protests under the slogan "The Way Out" and try to pressure for the resignation of president Maduro.

When the government suppressed the protests, it made them grow bigger and wider all over the country.

On February 12th, 2014, people from 18 cities protested for the release of all of the detainees and in rejection of the government.

**In some cities, inland, particularly punished by scarcity of basic consumer goods necessary to live and lack of proper public services, the protests were massive.**

In Caracas, three people were murdered during the protests.

**The government blamed the protesters, but the biggest circulating newspaper in the country, Ultimas Noticias (Latest News), who receives the biggest advertising budget from the government, revealed through photographs, that the murderers were police officers.**

**As a response to this, Nicolas Maduro stated on National television and radio broadcast that police enforcement had been "infiltrated by the right wing".**

The Venezuelan government actually controls all of the TV stations, and has threatened with sanctions, radio stations and newspapers that transmit information about protests.

Because of this, the privileged space for the distribution of information has been the social media networks, specially twitter.

In his speeches, Nicolas Maduro, attacks the protesters that are against him with ever more radical and violent words.

**Without any criminalist investigation, he stated that each deceased person has been murdered by the protesters, whom he condemns without reservation and with all possible insulting adjectives.**

**However, this belligerence seems not to be shared by all the Chavista movement, because a lot of the populist base are waiting to see what happens next, without any expressions of support.**

**Maduro has only managed to rally public employees to his street protests.**

The state apparatus reiterates repeatedly that it is facing a "coup"; that what happened in Venezuela April 2002 will repeat itself.

This version has managed to neutralize the international left wing, which hasn't even expressed its concern about the abuses and deaths in the protests.

In the case of Caracas the protests are especially by middle class sectors and college students.

On the other hand, in other states, other popular sectors have joined the protests.

In Caracas the majority of the petitions are political, freedom for the detainees and the resignation of the president, while in other cities social demands are incorporated, such as inflation, scarcity of elementary consumer supplies, and lack of proper public services.

**The Revolutionary Independent Venezuelan Left (anarchists, sectors that follow Trotsky, Marx, Lenin and Guevara) don't have any intervention in this situation and we are simple spectators.**

**Some are simply actively denouncing state repression and helping the victims of human rights violations.**

**But while the international left wing continues to give its back to the protests, and support without any criticism the government's version of "the coup", it leaves thousands of protesters to the mercy of the most conservative of the opposition's political parties, without any information distributed by anti-capitalists, revolutionaries about true social change that could influence them.**

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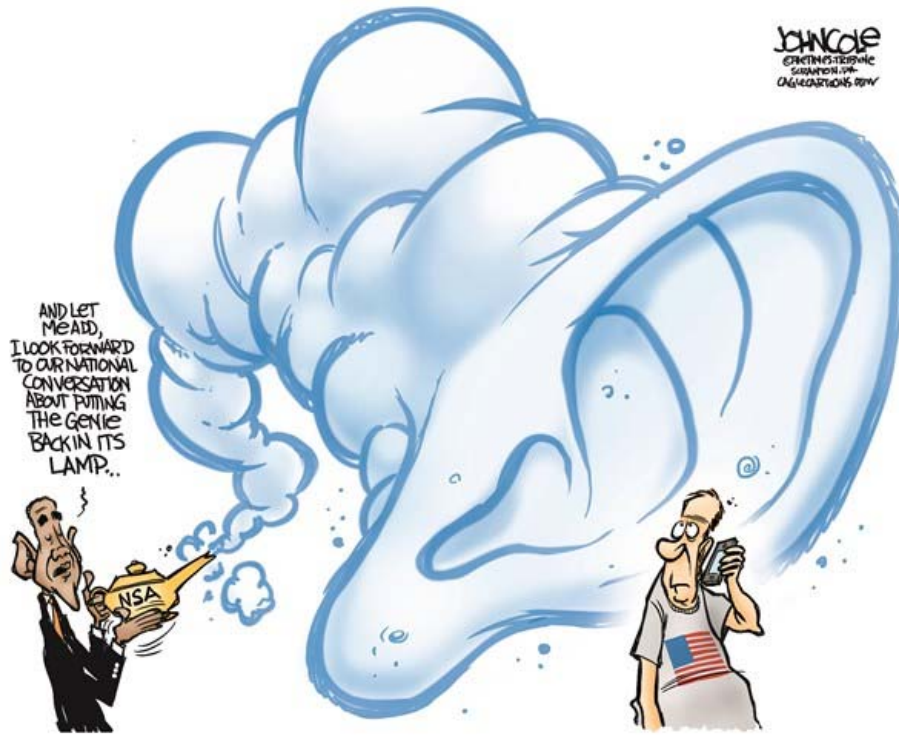
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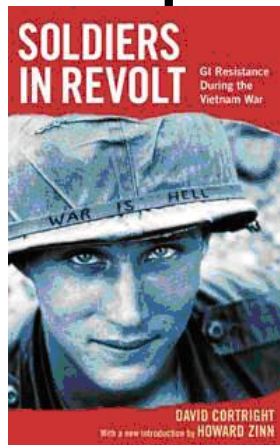
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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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



**SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT**

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