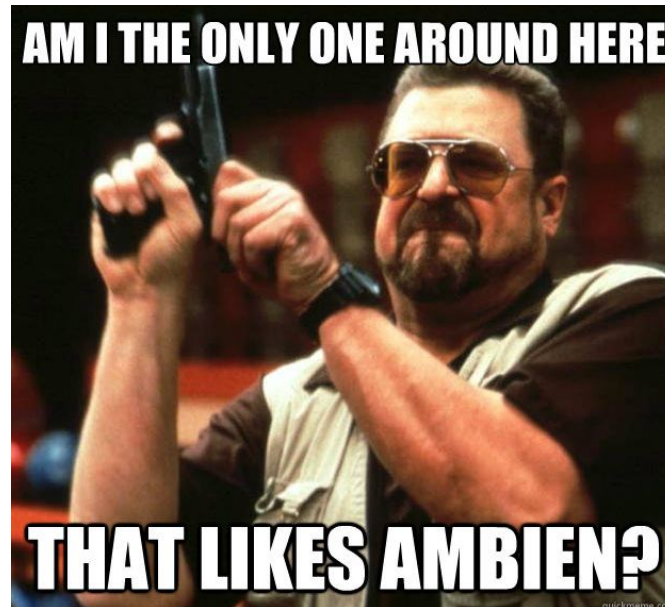


Military Resistance 12D3



**Drugged Soldiers Kills Three,
Wounds 16 At Fort Hood:
“A U.S. Soldier Who Shot Dead Three
Comrades And Wounded 16 Others
Before Killing Himself Was On A
Cocktail Of Prescription Drugs”
“Lopez, 34, Who Had Been Prescribed
Drugs Including Antidepressants And
Ambien”**

Comment: T

**Information on what other dangerous drugs the soldier was being given is
not yet available.**

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent information on the presence of Ambien in this case.]

April 3, 2014 Nick Allen, The Telegraph [Excerpt]

FORT HOOD, Texas — A U.S. soldier who shot dead three comrades and wounded 16 others before killing himself was on a cocktail of prescription drugs and angry with the army for initially refusing to let him attend his mother’s funeral, according to friends.

Specialist Ivan Lopez, 34, who had been prescribed drugs including antidepressants and Ambien for insomnia, smuggled a semi-automatic handgun past security at Fort Hood, Texas, and went on a rampage on Wednesday.

MORE:

**“March 29, 2009, Robert Stewart, 45,
Stormed Into A Nursing Home In
Carthage, North Carolina And
Opened Fire, Killing Eight People
And Wounding Two”
“Stewart’s Defense Team Successfully
Argued That Since He Was Under The
Influence Of Ambien”**

January 15, 2014 By Allison McCabe, AlterNet [Excerpts]

On March 29, 2009, Robert Stewart, 45, stormed into the Pinelake Health and Rehab nursing home in Carthage, North Carolina and opened fire, killing eight people and wounding two. Stewart’s apparent target was his estranged wife, who worked as a nurse in the home. She hid in a bathroom and was unharmed.

Stewart was charged with eight counts of first-degree murder; if convicted, he could face the death penalty. Even though there was evidence that Stewart’s actions were premeditated (he allegedly had a target), Stewart’s defense team successfully argued that since he was under the influence of Ambien, a sleep aid, at the time of the shooting, he was not in control of his actions. Instead of the charges sought by the prosecutors, Stewart was convicted on eight counts of second-degree murder. He received 142 – 179 years in prison.

The Ambien defense was also used in the case of Julie Ann Bronson, a 45-year-old flight attendant from Texas.

In April of 2009, Bronson took a couple of Ambien to help her sleep. She had been drinking wine earlier in the day, and went to bed early. She awoke the following morning in jail, still in her pajamas, barefoot and terrified.

When she was told that she had run over three people, including an 18-month-old girl who suffered severe brain damage as a result of the wreck, she was horrified.

“It was surreal. It was like a bad dream.”

In May of 2012, Bronson pleaded guilty to the felonies of intoxication assault and failure to stop and render aid. “I did the crime but I never intended to do it,” she testified. “I wouldn’t hurt a flea. And if I would have hit somebody, I would have stopped and helped. We’re trained in CPR.”

Bronson faced ten years, but because of the Ambien defense, she will serve six months in prison and have ten years of probation.

Ironically, you are more likely to be successful using the Ambien defense if you injure or kill someone than if you just crash into a parked car or a tree.

DWI laws usually just require the prosecution to prove that the defendant was loaded and got into a car to drive. There’s no requirement to show intention. When someone is harmed, however, it is up to the prosecutor to prove that the defendant was aware enough to be guilty of the crime.

If people on Ambien are acting in an automatic, or unconscious state, it’s hard to claim that they have knowledge of their actions.

That’s why people like Lindsey Schweigert get suspended licenses while Donna Neely, who was sleep-driving on Ambien and killed a mother of 11, was acquitted of vehicular manslaughter.

MORE:

“On April 27, 2010, 26-Year-Old Air Force Veteran Stansberry Boarded Delta Flight 273. He Had Served In Afghanistan And Iraq From 2005 To 2009 And Was Honorably Discharged”

**“He Wrote He Had Brought
Dynamite Aboard In His Boots And
Laptop”**

**“He Believed That The Passengers
Were Talking About Him And That
He Was Being Followed”**

**“He Also Told The Agents That He
Had Taken Ambien”**

I once evaluated a defendant who took Ambien and behaved in a bizarre and unexpected way. While no one was injured by Mr. Stansberry's apparently Ambien-induced psychotic episode, the defendant I evaluated had, in fact, acted violently.

May 24, 2010 by Cheryl Paradis, Psy.D. in The Measure of Madness; Psychology Today [Excerpts]

On April 27, 2010, 26-year-old Air Force veteran Derek Stansberry boarded Delta Flight 273 from Paris to Atlanta. According to press reports, he passed a note to flight attendants that said, "Forgive me, I fucked up, I am sorry... My passports and identity are fake... Please let my family know the truth."

He wrote he had brought dynamite aboard in his boots and laptop (CNN.com, 4/28/10).

Mr. Stansberry was overpowered by air marshals and the plane was diverted to the Bangor International Airport in Maine. No explosives were found on the plane. Mr. Stansberry was arrested and charged with knowingly giving false information and interfering with a flight crew.

Mr. Stansberry had no history of violence or mental illness and his behavior that day was apparently out of character.

He had served in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2005 to 2009 as a senior airman and an intelligence specialist and was honorably discharged. At the time of this strange incident he was working for a contractor in Africa.

Newspaper reports indicate that Mr. Stansberry was acutely psychotic when he was taken into custody. He told FBI agents that he believed that the passengers were talking about him and that he was being followed. He also told the agents that he had taken Ambien.

These events sounded almost too far-fetched to believe.

But as a forensic psychologist, I never doubted that the press reports were genuine.

MORE:

Ambien: Deadly Roll Call

10/25/2009 By Kirk Mitchell, The Denver Post

When Andrew McClay asked a sheriff's deputy if his "friend" was OK, the question was so odd given the circumstances that the deputy had to ask "Who?"

"Nicole Burns," McClay replied.

Burns' body was lying on the floor of McClay's apartment, where the deputy had just arrested him. She was in rigor mortis, her battered head lying next to a hammer in a pool of blood.

McClay's confusion about Burns' death was no act; he was under the influence of a cocktail of Ambien sleeping pills and other drugs and whiskey, his attorney says.

The case is one of a growing number of so-called "Ambien-defense" cases around the country in which defendants claim that under the influence of the drug they were not responsible for murders, sexual assaults and fatal car crashes.

McClay, 22, has been charged with first-degree murder for allegedly bludgeoning Burns to death on the night of April 23 or the morning of April 24. Bail was set at \$1 million.

McClay claims he doesn't recall what happened to his "soul mate" inside his apartment at 11435 W. Bowles Place in Littleton.

"The circumstances of what happened that night are puzzling, and I don't know if those questions will ever be answered," said McClay's attorney, Karen Sue Steinhauser.

Ambien, a sedative hypnotic taken for insomnia, can cause amnesia, sleep walking and driving, abnormal behavior, hallucinations and agitation, according to a report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Only one Ambien is to be taken in a 24-hour period and it is not to be taken with alcohol, FDA spokeswoman Karen Riley said. Five Ambien pills, the number McClay says he took, is "well above the dosage."

McClay also said he took 15 Aleve pills.

Prince Adams, 29, of Memphis, Tenn., claimed he stabbed his girlfriend, Ohrdra "Nikki" Flowers, 27 times with a pocketknife on April 17, 2006, after taking Ambien and dreaming she was cheating on him.

Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy crashed his car near the U.S. Capitol early in the morning of May 4, 2006, after taking Ambien and another prescription drug.

Andover, Mass., attorney Ki Yong O, then 36, claimed he was "sleep driving" after taking an Ambien when he slammed into 43-year-old Anthony Raucci while he was fixing his car beside Interstate 93. Raucci was killed.

Judge Kenneth Fishman acquitted O in December 2007 of voluntary motor vehicle homicide, ruling that O's actions were not voluntary because he did not know the effects of Ambien, a North Andover news report says.

Adams' attorney Brett Stein said his client was found guilty of first-degree murder, but he is appealing.

"Our position was that the Ambien affected his mind, clouding his ability to form the proper intent," Stein said. "It's a pretty common type of defense. It's definitely valid. Usually it happens when someone is drinking."

MORE:

Confirmed!
**“Only One Treatment Method —
Exposure Therapy — Has Been
Proven To Help PTSD In Studies
By Objective Researchers”
Previous Research Finding
Confirmed By Atlanta V.A. Test
Program;
[And It’s Not Drugs]**

“81% Showing ‘Clinically Significant Improvement,’ Which Was Still At 81 % Six Months Later”

From GI SPECIAL 6G17: 7.29.08

July 28, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times

Three new studies looking at combat stress have found group exposure therapy seems to work, that troops with traumatic brain injuries are more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder, and that stress debriefings held after traumatic events don't appear to prevent PTSD.

The research comes as the Department of Veterans Affairs works to find the best treatment methods for combat veterans.

It follows a report by Rand Corp. that showed only one treatment method — exposure therapy — has been proven to help PTSD in studies by objective researchers.

The first study looked at a program that had been in place for four years at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. The center's Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team began researching group-based exposure treatment.

Past studies have shown group therapy to be ineffective on veterans with PTSD, but authors of this study, published in the April issue of the Journal of Traumatic Stress, said the amount of exposure therapy — 60 hours — in this group may be the key to why it works.

First, nine to 11 people get to know each other and talk about their experiences before they joined the military. Then, they spend several weeks talking about their wartime experiences.

A total of 93 Vietnam veterans, four Gulf War veterans, one Korean War veteran and two Iraq war veterans took part in the study, with 81 percent showing “clinically significant improvement,” which was still at 81 percent six months later.

And the study found something else: VA clinicians indicated to researchers that they do not use exposure therapy out of concern for possible increases in suicide ideation, hospitalizations and dropout rates, but “we found the opposite to be true,” the study's authors said.

Many patients said hearing others' traumatic experiences evoked painful recall of what had happened to them, but “none reported any negative lasting effects, and many indicated that this process helped them put their own experience into better perspective,” the study said.

For example, one-third of the group members said they had frozen under fire. “Learning how common this was helped reduce the shame and guilt that many patients had felt for decades,” researchers said.

MORE: From GI SPECIAL 6E15: 5.24.08:

This Information Could Save Your Sanity, Or Your Life: If Somebody Tries To Drug You Or A Buddy Or Family Member, The Fact The Information Below Appeared In Army Times Can Be A Powerful Weapon Of Self-Defense

Comment: T

Because of the extreme importance of this information to every member of the armed forces, for or against the war, it is being reprinted again from a previous GI Special.

This news report below makes clear that there is now new evidence based research about what works and what doesn't work for troops experiencing PTSD.

The credibility and importance of this research -- initiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs -- is underlined by publication of the findings in Army Times, rather than appearing on some obscure web site or other as somebody or other's opinion.

The V.A. has long practiced drugging troops with all kinds of very dangerous pills as a “treatment” for PTSD. As this article documents, that's useless. And dangerous: overdoses can kill. Benzodiazepines [Valium & Librium are well known examples] are viscerously addictive and potentially deadly drugs handed out to troops like bags of popcorn.

As the article below reports, the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is “exposure therapy; reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it.”

A lot of quacks, including at V.A. facilities as well as privately, are hustling other bullshit phony treatments, ranging from moving your eyeballs around to eating herbs and weeds.

Excuse a personal note, but I've been working professionally with traumatic stress survivors for over 30 years, both military and civilian, both at VA and private facilities, and can testify that the research finding reported in this article is 100% right: the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is "reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it."

But you don't have to believe that.

Here's the report, from Army Times.

Assuming you give a shit about whether troops live or die, send it around, word for word, and be sure to mention it comes from Army Times in case some idiot thinks you sucked it out of your thumb.

Most important, if somebody in command or at the V.A. tries to drug you or a buddy or family member, the fact this information appeared in Army Times can be a powerful weapon of self-defense:

“Research Has Not Shown Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors, Such As Prozac, Zoloft Or Celexa, To Be Effective In Treating PTSD”

“Exposure Therapy -- Reliving A Traumatic Experience By Writing Or Talking About It -- Is The Only Therapy Proved Effective By Independent Research”

April 14, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

“Problems related to getting troops adequate mental health treatment cannot be resolved unless two issues — stigma and access — are addressed,” Todd Bowers, director of government affairs for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told the House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on health on April 1.

Almost 59,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Army post-deployment health assessments have found that 20 percent of active-duty and 40 percent of reserve-component troops had symptoms of PTSD, and some experts say the real numbers could be much higher.

But because PTSD hasn't been addressed until fairly recently — the first scientific paper about the disorder in veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War didn't come out until five years after that war ended — VA and Pentagon officials say much needs to be done to determine good screening techniques and therapies.

“This is the first war where DoD and VA recognized the psychological impact going in,” said Army Col. Charles Hoge, chief of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Walter Reed Institute of Research.

Combat vets are not sleeping, experience startle reactions and are hyper-alert.

“All of these things that we label as symptoms are things they need in combat,” Hoge said. “No sooner are they transitioned back home than they’re right back in rotation.”

At the House hearing, Hoge said an Army assessment last summer showed that the numbers of soldiers with PTSD is going up with each deployment.

“There’s a direct connection between mental health and multiple deployments,” he said, adding that troops also need more time between deployments.

David Matcher, of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, said a recent study found that research has not shown serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, such as Prozac, Zoloft or Celexa, to be effective in treating PTSD.

Exposure therapy — reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it — is the only therapy proved effective by independent research, he said.

Other treatments exist, but they have been tested mainly by the same people who developed them.

That’s an important point because the Defense Department and VA use several such methods, including group and drug therapy, to treat combat veterans.

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

The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

**“What Made Conflict Actual In
Ukraine Were The
Overdetermining Inter-
Imperialist Rivalries Involving
The US, EU And Russia”**

**“But Acknowledging This Is No
Reason To Apologise For Our Own
Rulers’ Rivals”**

**“In New York, London And Moscow
The Main Enemy Is At Home”**

“Imperialism Is A Hydra-Headed Beast. It Needs To Be Killed, Not Merely One Of Its Manifestations”

Comment: T

Long, but an intelligent, thorough review of events in the Ukraine through the lens of past and current history

31 March 14 by Alex Callinicos, International Socialism

Once upon a time, after the end of the Cold War, a fairy tale came to prevail, especially in Europe: economic globalisation was washing away national antagonisms and drawing states into a benign system of “global governance” under which the peoples of the world would share freedom and prosperity.

Peter Hain, when he was a Blairite Foreign Office minister at the turn of the millennium, even predicted “the end of foreign policy” as governments increasingly pursued “the new global imperative” of cooperating to address issues such as HIV/Aids and “terrorism”. ¹

The crisis in Ukraine, demonstrating as it does persisting geopolitical conflicts among the Great Powers, should deliver the coup de grace to this ideology.

Ideologies, however fantastic, can still have real effects.

One important function of this one has been to provide the European Union with its self-image as a “normative power” uniquely embodying the virtues of globalisation and free of the militaristic bullying that disfigures the global policy of the United States. ² There was always much bad faith here: as the neoconservative Robert Kagan pointed out just before the Iraq War, the EU was only able to specialise in the soft power of diplomacy and trade because it could rely on American hard military power to keep the world safe for Western liberal capitalism. ³

But the EU’s vainglorious conception of itself has survived even the eurozone debacle.

It informed the casual arrogance with which Brussels offered the cash-strapped Ukrainian government of Viktor Yanukovych participation in its “Eastern Partnership” on a take it or leave it basis, merely promising to refer Kiev to the tender mercies of the International Monetary Fund.

This gave Vladimir Putin the option he seized last November of offering hard cash to draw Ukraine into his own projected “Eurasian Union”. But when Yanukovych took the bait, this sparked off a popular movement which took the EU’s promise of prosperity and human rights at face value. As Marx pointed out, “theory also becomes a material force once it has gripped the masses”. ⁴

Why have the ensuing revolt and Yanukovich's eviction from the presidency precipitated perhaps the most serious confrontation between Washington and Moscow in Europe since the 1961 Berlin crisis during one of the hottest phases of the Cold War?

The answer lies in Ukraine's strategic importance to Russia.

As Tim Garton Ash put it, "with Ukraine, Russia is still an empire". 5

Wrested by the Romanovs from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th century and expanded by later conquests, eastern Ukraine provided successive regimes with strategic depth, grain and raw materials.

Crimea, casually attached to Ukraine by the Communist Party first secretary Nikita Khrushchev in 1954, has, since Catherine the Great destroyed the Crimean Tatar Khanate in 1783, allowed Moscow to project naval power across the Black Sea and into the Mediterranean.

Ukrainian independence with the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 was therefore a blow to the power of the rump Russian Federation, mitigated only by the agreements that have allowed its Black Sea Fleet still to use the base at Sevastopol.

But the project of expanding the EU and NATO through Eastern and Central Europe and into the former USSR, pursued relentlessly by Bill Clinton and George W Bush, posed an even more serious threat.

As George Friedman puts it:

"Ukraine is about 300 miles from Moscow at its closest point. Were Belarus and Ukraine both admitted to NATO, the city of Smolensk, which had been deep inside the Soviet Union, would have become a border town. Russia has historically protected itself with its depth. It moved its borders as far west as possible, and that depth deterred adventurers—or, as it did with Hitler and Napoleon, destroyed them.

"The loss of Ukraine as a buffer to the West leaves Russia without that depth and hostage to the intentions and capabilities of Europe and the United States." 6

For subscribers to the ideology of globalisation, such fears are archaic.

But Putin is not one of them.

In this he is typical of the ruling classes of the major "emerging market" economies with which Russia is often grouped, for example through the BRICS.

The Russian model of capitalism over which Putin has presided is often described as "authoritarian". This doesn't mean it refuses integration into the world market. On the contrary, Russia has a niche as a major supplier of oil and gas, which account for 75 percent of all exports, while 45 percent of consumer goods are imported. 7

Notoriously, Russian billionaires love London, as much for the access to financial markets and wealth management services offered by the City as for their Mayfair mansions.

But—like the rulers of China, India and Brazil—Putin wants globalisation on his terms, ones that allow a greater assertion of national power and a weakening of US hegemony. He has worked hard to rebuild Russian imperial power in its ex-Soviet “near abroad”.

And he is determined to keep NATO away from Russia’s borders. He fought a brief war with Georgia in August 2008 to make the point.

Putin skilfully exploited the Syrian war to increase Moscow’s global leverage and denounce US global ambitions. In words that have an ironic ring now, he used the New York Times as a pulpit from which to oppose Barack Obama’s abortive threat last autumn to attack Bashar al-Assad’s regime with cruise missiles: “We must stop using the language of force and return to the path of civilised diplomatic and political settlement”.

8

So it was inevitable that if Ukraine tilted westwards, Russia would react, as Putin did, first by trying to block the partnership deal with the EU, and then, after Yanukovych’s fall, by seizing Crimea.

“The Second World War Ushered In A New Chapter Of Horrors”

But this is a continuation of a much longer history. Ukraine since independence has been fractured by the inter-imperialist rivalries that traverse it. These fractures, however, go further into the past. Ukraine in the first half of the 20th century was like a microcosm of what Eric Hobsbawm called the “Age of Extremes”.

It began the century scattered among different states, above all Tsarist Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Russian Revolution unleashed a vicious struggle between revolutionaries (above all the Bolsheviks based among the miners of the Donbass in the east), Ukrainian and Polish nationalists, and Red and White armies. The outcome left Ukraine partitioned, the east a Soviet republic, while the west (Galicia and western Volhynia) was incorporated into Poland. Soviet Ukraine was one of the chief victims of the Stalinist collectivisation of agriculture, suffering in 1932-3 a terrible famine that Ukrainian nationalists controversially claim was a deliberately engineered act of genocide. 9

The Second World War ushered in a new chapter of horrors.

The Hitler-Stalin pact of August 1939 carved up Poland.

Moscow seized western Ukraine, but lost it along with the rest of the country when Germany invaded the USSR in June 1941.

Ukraine became a charnel house. The Nazis murdered 4 million people there, while the nationalist UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) led by Stepan Bandera allied itself with them in the hope of winning independence.

As the Red Army advanced westwards in 1944-5 this hope died, but Soviet forces waged a counter-insurgency war against the UPA in western Ukraine till the early 1950s.

Meanwhile, once Crimea had been recaptured in 1944, Stalin ordered the deportation of the Crimean Tatars to central Asia for alleged collaboration with the Germans. These deportations and subsequent immigration created an ethnic Russian majority in Crimea, which gives the lie to Putin's claim that "Crimea has always been an inseparable part of Russia". 10

Selective readings of this panorama of suffering and atrocity were reactivated with the collapse of Stalinism in 1989-91. Notoriously, western Ukraine, Uniate Catholic and Ukrainian speaking, orients culturally, politically and economically towards the EU, the south and the east, Orthodox and Russian-speaking, towards Russia. In the west Bandera (assassinated by the KGB in 1959) is a hero, in the east a fascist.

The Tatars who returned to Crimea after 1989 form an economically marginalised Muslim Turkic minority fiercely opposed to the peninsula's reincorporation into Russia.

Ukraine's past created merely the potential for conflict: history isn't destiny. Anatol Lieven argues that the elements of a common Ukrainian national identity were forged in the Soviet period, when Ukraine was for the first time unified: "Russians in Ukraine can best be understood as people left behind by the Soviet Union, very unsure of their own identity, but more closely linked to their Ukrainian home than to their Russian homeland".

11

"What Made Conflict Actual In Ukraine Were The Overdetermining Inter-Imperialist Rivalries Involving The US, EU And Russia"

What made conflict actual in Ukraine were the overdetermining inter-imperialist rivalries involving the US, EU and Russia, and the country's disastrous transition from state to market capitalism.

As in Russia, Ukraine's productive resources were sold off cheap to politically connected business oligarchs who made themselves billionaires by looting the economy.

In both countries this led to a phase of gang warfare, in which a weak and corrupt state allowed rival "businessmen" to settle accounts violently.

But in Russia in the 2000s Putin reimposed political order on this economic anarchy, for example, taking back the bulk of the energy industry into state control.

In Ukraine, however, the gangsters run the country. In the early 2000s President Leonid Kuchma was accused of complicity in the beheading of a campaigning journalist. 12

In December 2012 a judge and three members of his family were found beheaded in Kharkiv. 13

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian economy suffered an ever more severe collapse than Russia's during the era of neoliberal "shock therapy" in the 1990s, and did not experience a recovery comparable to that under Putin.

Nominal per capita income in 2012 was \$3,877, lower than that of Jamaica, Tunisia, or Paraguay (Russia's is \$14,302). 14

Cheap credit and high commodity prices during the 2000s masked the underlying problems, but the global economic and financial crisis cut exports, slashed output by 15 percent in 2009, and pushed the hryvnia down in the currency markets.

Foreign exchange reserves fell from \$40 billion in 2011 to \$12 billion today. According to the Economist, "Ukraine needs to find about \$25 billion this year to finance its large current-account deficit and to meet foreign creditors". 15 Yanukovich's vacillations between the EU and Russia and the ensuing upheaval were among the political effects of the global crisis.

Political power has seesawed between two rival gangs of oligarchs, each with their own regional bases. The 2004-5 "Orange Revolution" marked a victory for the western gang, headed by Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko. Yanukovich, the loser in that contest, beat Tymoshenko in the 2010 presidential election, only to provoke the occupation of Independence Square in Kiev ("Euromaidan") in November 2013 in protest against his rejection of the EU partnership deal.

The protest movement seems to have been motivated by a mixture of opposition to Yanukovich, illusions in "Europe", hatred of all the oligarchs and their political cronies, and the Western version of Ukrainian nationalism, which gave an important opening to the extreme right. 16

"The Influence Of The Far-Right, And Their Presence In The New Government, Dangerous Though It Is, Does Not Mean Yanokovich Was The Victim Of A 'Fascist Coup'"

The influence of the far-right, and their presence in the new government, dangerous though it is, does not mean Yanokovich was the victim of a "fascist coup", as not simply Russian nationalists but many on the Western left claim.

He fell because oligarchs—notably Rinat Akhmetov and Dmitry Firtash—who had been key backers of his Party of the Regions reacted to the popular mobilisation by withdrawing their support and instructing the deputies they controlled to vote for his removal by the Ukrainian parliament. 17

Some oligarchs have been rewarded by the new government by being appointed governors of eastern provinces.

So, despite "Euromaidan", this last "colour revolution" was merely the latest twist in Ukraine's corrupt game of Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

But it was a twist too far for Putin.

Probably his preferred solution would be to keep Ukraine whole but weak and fractured, thereby providing a buffer against NATO. Annexing Crimea in some ways undermines this objective by removing a bloc of pro-Russian voters from Ukrainian politics.

After the 16 March Crimean referendum, Russia proposed keeping the peninsula in a federalised Ukraine and Ukraine out of NATO, but this was dismissed out of hand by the West.

Even now Putin has annexed Crimea and Sevastopol separately, perhaps with future negotiations in mind (a first tentative move towards serious talks came in a meeting between the US and Russian foreign ministers in Paris at the end of March).

His move in any case puts the squeeze on, not just Ukraine, but all the ex-Soviet republics—including the EU member states on the Baltic—that have Russian minorities (pro-Moscow enclaves already exist in Moldova and Georgia).

The Western response has been limited.

Everyone sane ruled out military action. This is, in a sense, a continuation of the Cold War policy that tolerated the use of Soviet military power to maintain the satellite status of Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

But Putin would be the first to point out that the boundaries of Moscow's sphere of influence have moved a long way eastwards.

And the clamour by the pro-Western wing of the Ukrainian oligarchy for NATO membership continues, even though two ex-US national security advisers, Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, have called for Ukraine to be "Finlandised"—ie economically integrated into the West, but kept geopolitically neutral. Both men have plenty of blood on their hands, but they recognise that incorporating Ukraine into NATO would commit the US to going to war to defend it.

So far Putin's punishment is taking the form of targeted sanctions against his cronies and threats of more severe measures.

The problem is that globalisation cuts both ways. Russia's integration into the world market means that its capitalists will be hurt by sanctions, but so will the European capitalists who do a lot of business with them.

Germany, the swing state in the EU, relies on Russia for 38 percent of its energy imports and did \$80 billion worth of trade with Russia in 2012 (compared to a mere \$19 billion for the US).¹⁸ These links explain why German chancellor Angela Merkel was instrumental in blocking sanctions against Russia after the 2008 Georgian war.

But the centrality of the US to the global financial system can be used to hurt Russian economic interests. "The US banks are a phone call away from the White House and the Senate," one prominent Western banker told the Financial Times. ¹⁹

A Russian official has predicted capital outflows of \$65 to 70 billion in the first three months of 2014. ²⁰ With much less at stake economically and preoccupied with China, the Obama administration can up the ante rhetorically, and leave the EU to pick up the bill for sanctions and take most of the flak if they fail. But if it were not to respond to further Russian moves—say, in eastern Ukraine, or against the Baltic republics—then it will face the perennial problem of American hegemony: how to prevent its "credibility" draining away among allies and clients.

Meanwhile the EU must confront secretary of state Colin Powell's warning to George Bush over invading Iraq: "If you break it, you own it."

Ukraine's tilt westwards creates expectations of a European economic rescue. But the imposition of austerity on the eurozone "periphery" makes it politically impossible for Brussels to be generous to Ukraine. The IMF is fast-tracking a loan whose main conditions—devaluation of the hryvnia and sharp increases in consumer energy prices, rejected by Yanukovich—were accepted with puppy-like alacrity by interim prime minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Domestic gas prices will rise by more than 50 percent on 1 May.

"The Reaction Of The Western Left To This Enormous Crisis Has Been, To Put It Mildly, Confused. Where Do They Stand On The Long-Standing Chechen Struggle For Independence From Russia, Brutally Crushed By Putin?"

The reaction of the Western left to this enormous crisis has been, to put it mildly, confused. Far too many (including some who should know better) have been willing to cast a blind eye at or find excuses for Russia's military intervention.

The reasons for this attitude are, in ascending order of respectability, Stalinist nostalgia, exaggeration of the role of the extreme right in the anti-Yanukovich movement, and the search for some counterweight to American power.

The net result is a revival of what used to be called campism in the days of the Cold War—seeing states in conflict with the US and its allies (then the USSR, now usually Russia and China) as in some sense progressive allies of the left.

None of this has much to do with the revolutionary Marxist tradition. The fate of Ukraine preoccupied Trotsky during the last year of his life in 1939-40, as Europe rolled into the Second World War. Distilling the results of prolonged debates among Russian Marxists (which continued after October 1917) in which Lenin consistently insisted on the necessity of defending the right to self-determination of oppressed nations, Trotsky defended "the independence of a United Ukraine" (ie incorporating Polish Galicia and Volhynia) even if that meant "the separation of Soviet Ukraine from the USSR"—and this, remember, at a time when he was vehemently arguing that the Soviet Union was still a "degenerated workers' state" that revolutionaries should defend against Western imperialism. 21

Quoting Trotsky can be a religious exercise, but his views are worth bearing in mind when considering supposed Marxists who dismiss the idea of Russian imperialism as an "abstraction" or even advocate the partition of Ukraine.

Putin's apologists on the Western left must explain how their stance squares with the right to national self-determination.

If they defend Crimea's (extremely dubious) claim to separate from Ukraine, where do they stand on the long-standing Chechen struggle for independence from Russia, brutally crushed by Putin?

And what will they say if Russian forces move into eastern Ukraine and become mired in crushing the nationalist insurgency that this would almost certainly provoke?

Of course, the US remains the dominant imperialist power on a world scale.

And of course, it is thoroughly hypocritical for Obama and his secretary of state John Kerry to denounce Putin's seizure of Crimea, forgetting Washington's interventions in its own backyard such as the October 1962 naval blockade of Cuba or the December 1989 invasion of Panama (a state, incidentally, carved out of Colombia at Teddy Roosevelt's behest at the beginning of the 20th century).

But from a Marxist perspective, imperialism is about more than American power.

The classical theory of imperialism is, more than anything else, a theory of intra-capitalist competition.

Imperialism is a system, the form taken by capitalism when the concentration and centralisation of capital bring about the fusion of economic competition among capitals and geopolitical competition among states. 22

Putin's actions express exactly this imperialist logic, combining geopolitical preoccupations (above all, blocking NATO expansion) with economic motivations (fear that Russian firms will be squeezed out of the Ukrainian market by European rivals).

The confused left response to the Ukrainian crisis is in part the result of an optical illusion created by the so called "unipolar moment" of apparent US global dominance after the end of the Cold War.

Particularly in the light of Afghanistan and Iraq, American power has seemed so overwhelming and so malign that everything must be subordinated to resisting it.

But this was always precisely an illusion.

US hegemony has always been contested, reflecting the fact that imperialism involves a hierarchical distribution of power among competing capitalist states. This fact is becoming more important now.

The relative decline of US power that has become evident since Iraq and the crash is opening up a period of more fluid competition, in which the weaker imperialist states begin to assert themselves.

Putin's strategy has reflected this for some time.

Potentially a much more important conflict is developing in Asia, as China's economic rise encourages its ruling class to flex their muscles geopolitically, in particular by building up the military capabilities to exclude the US Navy from the "Near Seas" along their coasts.

The clashes between China and Japan over the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku islands are harbingers of more to come. 23

In this era of growing inter-imperialist rivalries political clarity among revolutionary Marxists is vital. 24

In New York, London and Moscow the main enemy is at home (a slogan Karl Liebknecht coined in response to a great inter-imperialist war whose centenary we will soon be remembering).

But acknowledging this is no reason to apologise for our own rulers' rivals.

Imperialism is a hydra-headed beast. It needs to be killed, not merely one of its manifestations.

Notes

1: Hain, 2001, p7.

2: See Anderson, 2007, for a devastating dissection of the EU's narcissism.

3: Kagan, 2003.

4: Marx, 1975, p250.

5: Ash, 2014.

6: Friedman, 2014.

7: Economist, 2014a.

8: Putin, 2013.

9: For different perspectives on the famine, see Conquest, 1986, and Getty, 1987.

10: <http://eng.kremlin.ru/news/6889>. On Crimea, see the brilliant historical portrait in Ascherson, 1996, pp12-33.

11: Lieven, 1999, p49.

12: Koshiw, 2002.

13: Wrenn, 2012.

14: 15: Economist, 2014b.

16: See the interesting interview with a Ukrainian revolutionary syndicalist, <http://avtonomia.net/2014/02/20/maidan-contradictions-interview-ukrainian-revolutionary-syndicalist/>

17: , 2014.

18: McGregor and Wagstyl, 2014.

[19:](#) Farchy, Hille and Weaver, 2014.

[20:](#) Hille and McGregor, 2014.

[21:](#) Trotsky, 1974, p305.

[22:](#) Callinicos, 2009.

[23:](#) See Kim, 2013, and Dyer, 2014.

[24:](#) For an expression of this clarity at the height of the second Cold War, see Harman, 1981 (thanks to Rob Ferguson for excavating this).

References

Anderson, Perry, 2007, "Depicting Europe", *London Review of Books* (20 September), www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n18/perry-anderson/depicting-europe

Ascherson, Neal, 1996, *Black Sea: The Birthplace of Civilisation and Barbarism* (Vintage).

Ash, Tim Garton, 2014, "At Stake in Ukraine's Drama is the Future of Putin, Russia and Europe", *Guardian* (21 February), www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/21/ukraine-putin-russia-europe-independence-disintegration

Callinicos, Alex, 2009, *Imperialism and Global Political Economy* (Polity).

Conquest, Robert, 1986, *The Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivisation and the Terror Famine* (Hutchinson).

Dyer, Geoff, 2014, *Contest of the Century: The New Era of Competition with China* (Penguin).
Economist, 2014a, "Sochi or Bust" (1 February), <http://tinyurl.com/qcbtrsn>
Economist, 2014b, "Why is Ukraine's Economy in Such a Mess?" (5 March), www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2014/03/ukraine-and-russia

Farchy, Jack, Kathrin Hille, and Courtney Weaver, 2014, "Russian Executives Quake as US Sanctions Rattle Markets", *Financial Times* (21 March), www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3f35068a-b119-11e3-9548-00144feab7de.html#axzz2whiPRQnz

Friedman, George, 2014, "Russia Examines its Options for Responding to Ukraine", *Stratfor Geopolitical Weekly* (18 March), www.stratfor.com/weekly/russia-examines-its-options-responding-ukraine

Getty, J Arch, 1987, "Starving the Ukraine", *London Review of Books* (22 January), www.lrb.co.uk/v09/n02/j-arch-getty/starving-the-ukraine

Hain, Peter, 2001, *The End of Foreign Policy?* (Fabian Society, Green Alliance and Royal Institute of International Affairs).

Harman, Chris, 1981, "Brezhnev's Headache", *Socialist Review* (January/February), www.marxists.org/archive/harman/1981/01/poland.htm

Hille, Kathrin, and Richard McGregor, 2014, "Russia Braced for \$70bn in Outflows", *Financial Times* (24 March), www.ft.com/cms/s/0/19b9ad88-b37c-11e3-bc21-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2wpGdcFqO

Kagan, Robert, 2003, *Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order* (Atlantic Books).

Kim, Ha-young, 2013, "Imperialism and Instability in East Asia Today", *International Socialism* 138 (spring), www.isj.org.uk/?id=882

Koshiw, Jarko, 2002, *Beheaded: The Killing of a Journalist* (Artemia Press).

Lieven, Anatol, 1999, *Ukraine and Russia: A Fraternal Rivalry* (United States Institute of Peace Press).

McGregor, Richard, and Stefan Wagstyl, 2014, "White House Relies on Merkel to Maintain Sanctions", *Financial Times* (17 March), www.ft.com/cms/s/0/xbf9046c-aded-11e3-9ddc-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=uk#axzz2wJzX9ryv

Marx, Karl, 1975, *Early Writings* (Penguin).

Neef, Christian, 2014, "Yanukovych's Fall: The Power of Ukraine's Billionaires", Spiegel International Online (25 February). www.spiegel.de/international/europe/how-oligarchs-in-ukraine-prepared-for-the-fall-of-yanukovych-a-955328.html

Putin, Vladimir, 2013, "A Plea for Caution from Russia", *New York Times* (11 September), www.nytimes.com/2013/09/12/opinion/putin-plea-for-caution-from-russia-on-syria.html?_r=0

Trotsky, Leon, 1974, "The Ukrainian Question", in *Writings of Leon Trotsky* (1938-39) (Pathfinder), www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1939/04/ukraine.html

Wrenn, Eddie, 2012, "Judge and His Family Beheaded 'With Machete' in Mediaeval Ukrainian Massacre", Mail Online (17 December), <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2249317/Judge-Vladimir-Trofimov-family-beheaded-Ukraine-groesome-massacre.html>

Copenhagen Zoo Kills Four Healthy Staff Members To Make Space for New Employees



Mar 28th, 2014 The Global Edition

COPENHAGEN – The Copenhagen Zoo has killed several of its staff members early this morning in order to create four new job openings, the Zoo public relations sector reported.

Officials of the Zoo say that the four members of the staff were humanely executed after being put to sleep with a lethal injection, and then skinned and chopped up while visitors crowded around and the meat was fed to the lion population.

“Based on the recommendation of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP), we have decided to make space for new work positions, because the Zoo needs new workers, and we found that killing old staff members was the cheapest and the most efficient way to do it,” said Zoo spokesman Tobias Stenbaek Bro

“Four of the oldest staff members, among them one female, were put to sleep with a lethal injection and then fed to the giraffes. However, the giraffes didn’t show interest in their meat, so they were fed to the lions,” explained the Zoo spokesman.

“Being that the oldest staff members could no longer keep track with the new Zoo technologies, and could not manage themselves in the fast and ever-changing job environment, we feel that the criticism coming from some of their family members is completely unfounded,” the Zoo spokesman was quoted as saying.

“Zoos do not own the staff, but they are in charge of their employment, and in that regard have the full right to do with them whatever is considered necessary when they are on the Zoo territory”, said Tobias Stenbeak Bro.

“It was the only humane way to dispose of them, you know. We couldn’t just leave them without jobs in this economy, as some heartless observers suggested”.

The Zoo spokesman concluded that “considering that the Zoo animals were fed with the meat of the former employees, the food chain was virtually completed, which is totally in respect of the law of nature”.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email:
contact@militaryproject.org

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israeli Soldiers Shoot, Critically Injure Palestinian Teen

16/03/2014 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli soldiers shot and critically injured a Palestinian teenager during a protest in Beit Ummar north of Hebron on Friday, medics said.

Medical sources in al-Ahli hospital in Hebron told Ma'an that Mohammad Abu Ayyash, 16, was shot with a live bullet near his ear which penetrated his head.

He is said to be in a critical condition, medics added.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said "approximately 70 Palestinians hurled rocks at security forces, who responded with riot dispersal means. A main instigator hurled an explosive device at the soldiers, and they fired at his lower extremities."

She added that the teenager was "lightly injured" and reports of him being shot in the head were "wrong," but was not aware of which hospital he was being treated in.

Beit Ummar has been a site of tension in recent weeks due to Israeli forces' closure and erection of barriers along the town's main road, preventing locals' abilities to travel.

On Monday, Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank shot dead at least two Palestinians.

Saji Darwish, 18, was killed after being shot near Ramallah, while Raed Alaa Addin Zieter, 38, was shot dead at the Allenby Bridge crossing with Jordan.

Another Palestinian was killed during a car accident in disputed circumstances near Tulkarem on Monday, with Palestinian security sources saying that Israelis opened fire on the car prior to the crash, a claim the Israeli military denied.

Israeli military forces routinely use "unnecessary, arbitrary and brutal force" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, with some killings amounting to war crimes, Amnesty International said in February.

Palestinian Child Threatened With Broomstick Rape By Zionist Occupiers:

“You Want Me To Shove This Stick Up Your Ass So You’ll Feel Pain And Tell Me The Truth?”



Othman S

21 Mar 2014 by Patrick O. Strickland, DCI – Palestine. Patrick O. Strickland is a freelance contributor to Defense for Children International Palestine

Ramallah, March 21, 2014—A boy from East Jerusalem who signed a confession after Israeli interrogators threatened him with sodomy spent over two months under house arrest.

Othman S, 14, was summoned for interrogation by Israeli intelligence in the early hours of November 25, 2013 and accused of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails near the Israeli Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem.

In a sworn affidavit given to DCI-Palestine, Othman says he was forced to stand face to the wall with his hands tied for about two hours and strip-searched before being interrogated.

During the interrogation, an intelligence officer accused him of throwing a stone and then a Molotov cocktail at a police car and, when Othman would not confess, the officer threatened to sodomize him.

“(The interrogator) then brought a broomstick, about 1.5 meters (6 feet) long, from one of the corners and threatened to shove it up my bottom,” Othman said, adding that the interrogator said to him:

“You want me to shove this stick up your ass so you’ll feel pain and tell me the truth?”

The interrogator also insulted Othman’s mother and sister and warned him that he would “demolish my home if I did not talk,” he said.

Scared and alone, Othman confessed under duress.

“I was crying. I said everything against my will. I was scared of them. I was scared they might beat me and demolish our house,” Othman told DCI-Palestine.

There were at least 31 cases of child detention in East Jerusalem in 2012.

Of those, 97 percent experienced physical abuse and 90 percent were subjected to intimidation and humiliation, according to DCI-Palestine statistics.

After about half an hour, the interrogator printed out five papers in Hebrew and ordered Othman to sign them.

Othman did so without reading what was written on them.

“Even if I had read (the confession papers), I would not understand anything because they were (written) in Hebrew,” he said.

In more than one in five of the cases DCI-Palestine documented in 2013, confessions were written in Hebrew.

Following his confession, Othman was held at the Al-Mascobiyya interrogation center in Jerusalem for a month.

On December 22, 2013, he was sentenced in an Israeli magistrates court to two-and-a-half months under house arrest.

Rifat Kassis, DCI-Palestine’s Executive Director said: "In principle, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child encourages alternatives to institutional care to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being, and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

“In practice, house arrest, as used by Israeli authorities, constitutes a harsh alternative which affects the enjoyment of Palestinian children in East Jerusalem to their other rights such as their right to education.”

While under house arrest, Othman was forbidden from leaving home, including attending school.

He was isolated as his friends’ families did not want them to come and visit him.

Othman’s lawyer, Fawwaz Shludi, warned that Othman’s sentence could be renewed.

“What scares me now is the possibility that I have to repeat my class and people will think that I am stupid,” Othman told DCI-Palestine.

Settlers Vandalise Monastery In Occupied Jerusalem



'Price Tag' attacks on Palestinian mosques and churches is an increasing phenomenon. Pictured above is an incident from 2011, where the word "Jesus in a monkey" along with the names of two Israeli settlements were graffitied on to the walls of the Abbey of Latrun

01 April 2014 The Middle East Monitor

A Latin Patriarchate Monastery in the outskirts of occupied Jerusalem was vandalised by Israeli Jewish settlers this morning, witnesses said.

The name of the Price Tag group was painted on to the monastery; the movement of settlers is against Israeli reconciliation with Arabs and the peace negotiations with Palestinians.

They insulted the Christian faith by writings insults against the Virgin Mary.

The settlers also damaged tyres of four Palestinian cars and a van that were parking near the monastery.

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

<http://www.maannews.net/enq/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

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

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



[THEY STOPPED AN IMPERIAL WAR]

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to South Vietnam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-La.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking Vietnam supporter in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he returned from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Ferrygoes ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government honchos are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 3,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you were over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in 1965, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for OPs and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, soon they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the coconut palm, the gum and the coconut cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was— I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of oranges, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapdish which she had made out of a cation tin. She had poked it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little handle on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stank about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The accident when I almost got into the VC was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village, that in Ben Son, he was one of

the stores. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher when he would tell his men to dismantle their personal-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in at a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got our rice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull". "Pull" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the latter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

Checks, money orders payable to: The Military Project

Orders to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657

All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces organizing to resist today's Imperial wars.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:
news@uruknet.info; <http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>.

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.