

Military Resistance 13K6



[Veterans Day #1] The Meaning Of Life

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: November 08, 2013
Subject: The Meaning Of Life

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

The Meaning Of Life

**The middle aged Jewish man throws
bodies on a cart & then throws them
into a ditch in Auschwitz
He now believes there is no God
because God would not allow this.
In Paris only a few go to Notre Dame
because the others do not believe
there is a God anymore
Americans searching for**

the meaning of life
but the pews are sparse & Catholic
Churches are being closed as
the Tea Party religious Cult
like Jim Baker orders the members
to drink the poison
of No Social Security No Medicare
No Food Stamps No VA Disability
just knock them down to their knees
They fear the Atheists
who believe the Big Bang theory
as the Christians ask what became
before that &
they can Not understand
Nothingness &
the Belief of Nothingness
& Where we came from
& Where we are going
Instead building big Churches
or Egyptian After Life Pyramids,
Sun worship and
Ancestry worship where flags
fly on Veteran's Day
The Veteran gets one card that says
Thank You & your work for Peace
while he gets another Thank You
in a package with a framed
autographed picture of Country Joe
on the day the Wall was first opened
Another Vietnam Veteran says
he thought he was an Atheist
until his first fire fight
as blood drips down
the purple blue red stained glass
So there is some kind of Begging
& they think some kind of Heaven,
think some kind of Religion
to Die for in War
They think there is a reward
that is Promised for Sacrificing
their human life that just
goes to Nonexistence &
with no meaning to life
& Warriors die for nothing
except to defend their selves
as dirt & graves grow up to weeds
& sand that covers over graves
where Death is the Meaning of War
& Constant striving for Empire
by rich little men
as an Old Soldier asks just what the Hell

are we doing Here
what is the Purpose of
Man's Inhumanity toward man
Human Animals since day one
Incisor Teeth to rip flesh
inventions of the first War Tools
a Rock & then a Club
No different from an Atom Bomb
or Drone Warfare
Animal kind Humankind can't
seem to pass the Kindergarten Class
of War & Move on to a better place
where Veteran's Days are gone
& a New Human Condition
is Born & Living & Loving Life
is the Meaning of Life.

Written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

MORE:

**[Veterans Day #2]
Kitty Wells & Roy Acuff**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdpx20RRyU>

MORE:

**[Veterans Day #3]
Subject: Sgt. King Jeremy**

[From GI Special, 11.11.2007]

[NOTE: Information that would identify the writer is removed to protect members of the armed forces and their family members. T]

From: [xxxxxx; Ft. XXXXX]
To: GI Special
Sent: November 05, 2007
Subject: Sgt. King Jeremy

I am a soon to be wife of a soldier, NCO, that served in Iraq with King.

He is held in the hearts of many and did more than most in his life time.

I found your story while doing research. I am an artist being asked to come up with ideas, and many a tattoo is wanted in honor of King out of 8-10 CAV.

It was just as hard to read your account of that day as it is to hear the words of that day being retold from the man I love more than anyone.

I remember talking on the phone with my fiancé the day it happened, he was close to King.

I pray for Kings wife and daughter.

As I sit here while my love sleeps, and I read this, I thank god I can crawl in bed with him, kiss him, letting him know how much I love him.

I can't help but feel guilty, and very lucky at the same time.

Not everyone understands, I think you know what I mean by that.

**Thanks again
[XXXXX]
Ft.[XXXXX]**

REPLY From GI Special: Excerpts]

On reading your letter, I was reminded of another from a long time ago, written by Major Sullivan Ballou of the Second Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers.

It's reprinted below, following the article on Sgt. King.

Your letter, and the one below written 140+ years ago, have in common a clarity and directness of expression, and a fundamental honesty and goodness, that confirms the view expressed from time to time that those who serve in the armed forces, and those close to them, are the finest people in America today.

Your letter gives good reason to publish again the article in memory of Sgt. King by Iraq veteran Justin C. Cliburn, 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG, which you found in GI Special, along with your letter.

What you wrote is the finest letter of this war, so far, bar none. There are many troops and loved ones who will find their hearts lifted by your words.

Everyone who has served, or been close to someone who has served, will understand, and thank you.

Limitless respect,
T

**“Remember Jeremy King”
“A Soldier’s Death Isn’t Anything Like The
Movies. There Was No Patriotic Music;**

There Was No Feeling Of Purpose. It's Just . . . Death."



[From GI Special 5H29, August 24, 2007]

07/25/2007 by Justin C. Cliburn
[Iraq Veterans Against The War] [www.ivaw.org/]
Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)
Unit: 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG
Rank: SPC
Home: Lawton, Oklahoma
Served in: LSA Anaconda: MSR Patrol, one month. Camp Liberty, Baghdad: PSD/IP Training, ten and a half months.

When I was in Mrs. Riner's junior English class at MacArthur high school, we were required to read a short story titled "The Radio."

The premise was simple.

A couple in the 1930s were given a special radio that allowed them to hear all their neighbors' conversations.

At first they were elated, but, ultimately, they were haunted by the miracle of their ability.

They could hear all the horrors of society that usually go unnoticed or are covered up and sterilized . . . and they couldn't turn it off.

They couldn't change the channel.

It took seven years, but I eventually went back to that story in my head and felt their horror.

August 24th, 2006 was a routine day for my squad in Baghdad.

We had gone to Traffic Headquarters and I had gotten to visit with Ali.

Business taken care of, we started to make the familiar trek back to Camp Liberty.

It was a hot day, over 120 degrees, and I stood up just a little higher than usual with my sleeves unbuttoned to let the air circulate inside my body armor and clothing. It had been a good day.

Back on Route Irish, we were on the home stretch when the call came out over the radio:

“Eagle Dustoff, Eagle Dustoff, this is Red Knight 7* over”

“This is Eagle Dustoff, over”

“Eagle Dustoff, I need MEDEVAC; my gunner has been shot by a sniper.”

The voice went on to recite the nine line MEDEVAC report and I marveled at how cool, calm, and collected he sounded.

My squad leader plotted the grid coordinates and found that this had occurred only a couple blocks away from one of our two main destinations on Market Road.

“Cliburn, go ahead and get down; someone might be aiming at your melon right now”, CPT Ray said.

Sergeant Bruesch concurred and I sat down, listening intently to the radio transmissions that I couldn't turn off if I wanted to.

Five minutes in, the voice on the radio was losing his cool.

“Have they left yet?! He's losing a lot of blood; we need that chopper now!”

In the background, you could hear other soldiers yelling, screaming, trying to find any way to save their friend's life. At one point, I swear I heard the man gurgle.

Ten minutes in, the voice on the radio was furious.

“Where's that fucking chopper!? We're losing him! He's not fucking breathing! Where the fuck are you!?”

Every minute to minute and a half the voice was back on the radio demanding to know what the hold up was.

Every minute to minute and a half the other voice on the radio, a young woman's voice, tried to reassure him that the chopper was the way from Taji.

She was beginning to tire herself; I could hear it in her voice. She was just as frustrated as he was.

All the while, there I sat.

Sitting in the gunners hatch, listening life's little horrors with no way to turn the channel.

No one in the truck was speaking.

The music was on, but no one heard it. There was just an eerie silence.

All I heard was the radio transmissions; I watched as the landscape passed me by in slow motion.

I didn't hear wind noise or car horns or gunfire or my own thoughts. I was only accompanied by the silence of the world passing me by, interrupted only by the screams of the voice on the radio.

At this point, I was as frustrated as I had been all year. Where the fuck was that goddamn chopper and why was it taking so long?! What if it were me?

Would I be waiting that long? Would this pathetic exchange be included in the newscast if the guy dies?

I was angry, upset, frustrated, and anticipating the next transmission in this macabre play by play account. Forget about TNT, HBO, and Law and Order: THIS was drama. This was heart wrenching.

Seconds seemed like hours; minutes seemed like days.

Finally, after several more non-productive transmissions where Eagle Dustoff attempted to reassure the voice, after twenty minutes and a few more frantic, screaming transmissions by the voice, the man's voice was calm again.

"Eagle Dustoff, cancel the chopper. He's dead."

. . . and that was that. The voice had gone from being the model for the consummate soldier (cool, calm, collected, professional) to the more human screams and frantic pleading for help to solemn resignation.

Now, the voice was quiet.

"Eagle Dustoff: requesting recovery team. We can't drive this vehicle back; we need someone to come get the vehicle and body. Over."

"Do you have casualty's information?"

"Yes. SGT King, over."

I sat in that gunners sling in a fit of rage that I couldn't let out.

I had to be a soldier; I had to keep my cool.

We all did.

I was so angry, I still am, about being an unwilling voyeur, forced to listen to the gruesome play by play of another soldier's life and death.

We had been told that the insurgency was in its last throes, that they were just a bunch of dead enders. No, not this day.

Today, SGT King was in his last throes, and I was there to listen to the whole thing, whether I liked it or not.

A soldier's death isn't anything like the movies. There was no patriotic music; there was no feeling of purpose. It's just . . . death.

I wasn't there physically; I didn't see him, but I was there.

Any sane person would have wanted to turn the channel. No one wants to hear the screams of a man losing his friend, but I couldn't turn it off. We were required to monitor that channel.

Either way, it didn't take long to become emotionally invested in it; was he going to make it? I hung on every word until I got the final, sobering news.

My truck was the only one in the convoy monitoring that net. When we got back to base, no else had heard it, and SSG Bruesch, CPT Ray, and I didn't discuss it. I don't think we ever did.

A few days later, I felt like I had to find out more about his soldier. I felt like I had lost a friend, yet I didn't know anything but his name and rank.

Looking back on it, I should have just let it go, but I didn't. Using the miracle of the Internet, I found out all I needed to know about the young man.

SGT Jeremy E. King was 23 years old. He was from Idaho, where he played high school football. He had joined the army to get out of Idaho and see the world.

He was one year younger than I was, and he was dead. He sounded like any of a number of teammates I played high school football with.

I've replayed that scene in my head more times than I'd ever want since that day.

I don't believe in fate or karma or any type of pre-destined events, but I often wonder what made that sniper hole up on North Market Road instead of South Market Road, where I often found myself.

I was fortunate enough in my time there to never have to call in MEDEVAC.

I didn't bury any of my comrades, but I will always remember what it was like listening to the miracle of modern communications, the radio, and for the first time in my life being terrified, much like the couple in the story over eighty long years ago.

This August 24th, remember Jeremy King:

Sgt. Jeremy E. King, 23, Of Meridian Died Thursday In Baghdad.



Jeremy King

Wednesday, August 30 2006 @ 04:20 AM EDT

Contributed by: River97

Views: 621

Star Telegram -- KILLEEN, Texas - A Fort Hood soldier from Idaho has died in Iraq of injuries sustained when troops came under fire during combat, the Department of Defense said Friday.

Sgt. Jeremy E. King, 23, of Meridian died Thursday in Baghdad.

He was assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood.

MORE:

[Veterans Day #4] From Major Sullivan Ballou, Second Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers, To His Wife, Sarah:

Major Sullivan Ballou of the Second Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers, wrote the letter July 14, while awaiting orders that would take him to Manassas, where he and twenty-seven of his men would die one week later at the Battle of Bull Run.

July the 14th, 1861
Washington DC

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write you again, I feel impelled to write lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

Our movement may be one of a few days duration and full of pleasure - and it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. Not my will, but thine O God, be done.

If it is necessary that I should fall on the battlefield for my country, I am ready. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter.

I know how strongly American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution.

And I am willing - perfectly willing - to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt.

But, my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows - when, after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as their only sustenance to my dear little children - is it weak or dishonorable, while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, that my unbounded love for you, my darling wife and children, should struggle in fierce, though useless, contest with my love of country?

I cannot describe to you my feelings on this calm summer night, when two thousand men are sleeping around me, many of them enjoying the last, perhaps, before that of death -- and I, suspicious that Death is creeping behind me with his fatal dart, am communing with God, my country, and thee.

I have sought most closely and diligently, and often in my breast, for a wrong motive in thus hazarding the happiness of those I loved and I could not find one. A pure love of my country and of the principles have often advocated before the people and "the name of honor that I love more than I fear death" have called upon me, and I have obeyed.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us.

I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me - perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar -- that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed.

If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have oftentimes been!

How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness, and struggle with all the misfortune of this world, to shield you and my children from harm.

But I cannot. I must watch you from the spirit land and hover near you, while you buffet the storms with your precious little freight, and wait with sad patience till we meet to part no more.

But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the garish day and in the darkest night -- amidst your happiest scenes and gloomiest hours - always, always; and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath; or the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again.

As for my little boys, they will grow as I have done, and never know a father's love and care.

Little Willie is too young to remember me long, and my blue eyed Edgar will keep my frolics with him among the dimmest memories of his childhood.

Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them.

O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children.

Sullivan Ballou

MORE:

[Veterans Day #5]



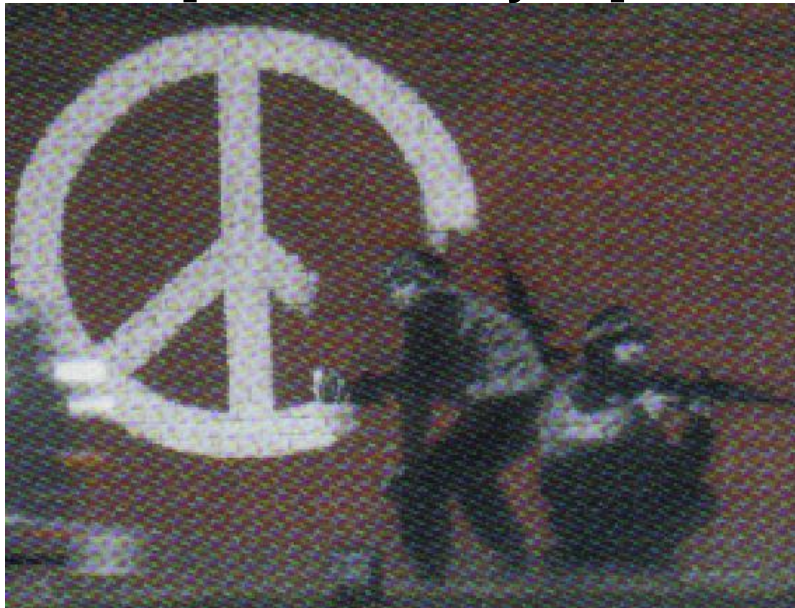
MORE:

**[Veterans Day #6]
Martha Spencer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqEltkvVNUk>

MORE:

[Veterans Day #7]



Tactical Painting:
From Soldier X to this Newsletter, from Iraq 4.25.05

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Hang 8 Militants For Beheading Women And Child In Zabul

Nov 09 2015 By KHAAMA PRESS

The Taliban militants have reportedly hanged eight of the group's fighters for beheading seven hostages in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan.

According to the local government officials in Zabul province, the militants were hanged by fighters belonging to Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansoor.

The district administrative chief for Arghandab, Mohammad Hasratyar, said the militants originally belonged to the Islamic State terror group but had recently joined the Taliban ranks.

He said the group was led by the Taliban commander Akram and were instantly hanged after they were convicted of beheading the civilians.

The seven civilians were kidnapped from Gilan District of southeastern Ghazni province and their dead bodies were recovered from Khak-e-Afghan District of southern Zabul province on Sunday.

According to the officials, the victims belonged to the Hazara community which included four men, two women and a child.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**San Diego Officer Won't Be Charged For Executing Afghan Refugee:
"I Swear I Thought He Was Going To Stab Me"
Man Had A Pen, Not A Knife;**

“Officer Browder Had Not Switched On His Body Camera When He Shot And Killed 42-Year-Old”

November 9, 2015 Tony Perry, Contact Reporter; Los Angeles Times

The San Diego district attorney Monday declined to file charges against a San Diego police officer involved in a fatal shooting that led the police chief to tighten rules about officers wearing body cameras.

Dist. Atty. Bonnie Dumanis made the announcement after what she called an exhaustive investigation that began the night of the shooting and involved interviews with officers at the scene and civilians who were close by.

Officer Neal B. Browder, a 27-year veteran of the department, had not switched on his body camera when he shot and killed 42-year-old Fridoon Zalberg Rawshannehad, an Afghan immigrant.

Browder had reason to fear for his life and that of civilians when he confronted Rawshannehad, who had a history of mental illness and drug use, shortly after midnight on April 30 in an alley behind an adult bookstore in the city's Midway neighborhood, Dumanis said.

Browder had responded to a call that a man with a knife was threatening people inside and outside the bookstore.

Browder confronted Rawshannehad in the alley and gave him “verbal commands ... but he continued to advance on the officer,” according to Lt. Mike Hastings. Browder fired at least once.

A knife sheath and a metallic object, but no knife, were found near the body. The metallic object proved to be a pen.

Dumanis quoted Browder telling investigators, “I swear I thought he was going to stab me.”

He estimated that Rawshannehad was 10 to 15 feet away from him; a recreation of the scene put the distance at approximately 17 feet, Dumanis said. The incident was the first time that Browder had fired his weapon in the line of duty, Dumanis said. The incident fits a common pattern, Dumanis said, of an officer responding to a call of a mentally ill person acting in a menacing way toward others and forced to make an instant decision on whether to use force.

The incident was recorded on a surveillance camera outside the store. But Browder had not switched on his body camera.

The American Civil Liberties Union was immediately critical of Browder's failure to turn on his camera and also of the Police Department's refusal to release the tape from the surveillance camera.

Two weeks after the shooting, Chief Shelley Zimmerman announced that she had revised the body camera policy so that "officers will now be trained to start recording prior to their arrival on radio calls that are likely to result in an enforcement contact."

Department policy previously required officers to turn on the small cameras when an enforcement action was imminent.

Minutes after Dumanis' decision was announced Zimmerman issued a statement that, "The tragic circumstances surrounding this case highlight the need for us to continue to collaborate on solutions towards the mental health crisis facing our nation and our city."

Rawshannehad's family filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the Police Department, asserting that the private surveillance camera shows that he was further away than the officer asserted.

The city went to court to ask the judge to keep the surveillance tape under wraps until the lawsuit is finished. The judge agreed, to the dismay of the ACLU and news organizations.

"The department has said it is deploying body cameras in part to build community trust," said Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, criminal justice and drug policy director for the ACLU of California. "Releasing the surveillance video would show the community the department is committed to that promise."

Zimmerman and Mayor Kevin Faulconer are supporters of the use of body cameras by police officers and have taken pride in the fact that the San Diego department is among the largest in the nation to require them.

According to documents filed with the city as part of a family claim, Rawshannehad suffered with post-traumatic stress disorder and was diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

He came to the U.S. in 2003 after being in the Afghan army and captured by insurgents, the claim said. At a news conference, Dumanis said Rawshannehad had a long history of mental illness and being violent with his mother and sister.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression.

It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need.

The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

**The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.
-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23**

The Excerpts Below May Be Useful In Understanding Current Events And Where Those Events Are Tending

Comment: T

The excerpts below may be useful in understanding current events and where those events are tending.

That said, one dimension not covered below may be worth considering.

Before people, especially classes, frame a clear program to fight for, it is human history that first the negation of things-as-they-are unfolds and reaches white-hot mass rage.

People tend to first puke up what they don't want before they formulate a program and plan of action to get what they do want.

On a massive scale, world-wide, huge numbers of very angry people are expressing with crystal clarity what they do not want.

They do not want the economic system, capitalism-as-it-is.

Most do yet understand that it is what it is, and cannot be anything other than what it is now: society organized to benefit and politically governed by the 1%.

That understanding will come; is coming now, more every day.

Episodic movements from below, now in one place, now another, all over the world, are what comes first, the negation of things-as-they-are that has preceded every great mass movement forward in human history.

That is happening now.

Negation in mass consciousness of the cruelty, stupidity, and incompetence of 2015 capitalism is at the same time the birth of a defiant, new, worldwide, urban, working class movement from below.

The worldwide tectonic earthshaking that began in Tunisia in 2011 has sometimes paused, and paused again, but in general continues moving forward, everywhere.

Nothing on this world-wide scale of working class resistance from below has been seen before.

“The Expropriators Are Expropriated” [The Negation Of Negation]

Excerpts from: Capital; K. Marx; based on the 4th edition. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Co., 1906; Frederick Engels, Ernest Untermann, eds.; Samuel Moore, Edward Aveling, trans. 1867

HISTORICAL TENDENCY OF CAPITALIST ACCUMULATION:

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.1

What does the primitive accumulation of capital, i.e., its historical genesis, resolve itself into?

In so far as it is not immediate transformation of slaves and serfs into wage-labourers, and therefore a mere change of form, it only means the expropriation of the immediate producers, i.e., the dissolution of private property based on the labour of its owner.

Private property, as the antithesis to social, collective property, exists only where the means of labour and the external conditions of labour belong to private individuals. But according as these private individuals are labourers or not labourers, private property has a different character.

The numberless shades, that it at first sight presents, correspond to the intermediate stages lying between these two extremes.

The private property of the laborer in his means of production is the foundation of petty industry, whether agricultural, manufacturing or both; petty industry, again, is an essential condition for the development of social production and of the free individuality of the laborer himself.

Of course, this petty mode of production exists also under slavery, serfdom, and other states of dependence.

But it flourishes, it lets loose its whole energy, it attains its adequate classical form, only where the laborer is the private owner of his own means of labour set in action by himself: the peasant of the land which he cultivates, the artisan of the tool which he handles as a virtuoso.

This mode of production pre-supposes parceling of the soil, and scattering of the other means of production.

As it excludes the concentration of these means of production, so also it excludes co-operation, division of labour within each separate process of production, the control over, and the productive application of the forces of Nature by society, and the free development of the social productive powers.

It is compatible only with a system of production, and a society, moving within narrow and more or less primitive bounds.

To perpetuate it would be, as Pecqueur rightly says, “to decree universal mediocrity.”

At a certain stage of development it brings forth the material agencies for its own dissolution.

“This Fearful And Painful Expropriation Of The Mass Of The People Forms The Prelude To The History Of Capital”

From that moment new forces and new passions spring up in the bosom of society; but the old social organization fetters them and keeps them down.

It must be annihilated; it is annihilated.

Its annihilation, the transformation of the individualized and scattered means of production into socially concentrated ones, of the pigmy property of the many into the huge property of the few, the expropriation of the great mass of the people from the soil, from the means of subsistence, and from the means of labour, this fearful and painful expropriation of the mass of the people forms the prelude to the history of capital.

The expropriation of the immediate producers was accomplished with merciless Vandalism, and under the stimulus of passions the most infamous, the most sordid, the pettiest, the most meanly odious.

Self-earned private property, that is based, so to say, on the fusing together of the isolated, independent laboring-individual with the conditions of his labour, is supplanted by capitalistic private property, which rests on exploitation of the nominally free labour of others, i.e., on wages-labour.

[FOOTNOTE TO THE ABOVE: CLASS BASIS OF THE TEA PARTY]

The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association.

The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet, the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products.

What the bourgeoisie therefore, produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers.

Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable....

Of all the classes, that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie to-day, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.

The other classes perish and disappear in the face of Modern Industry, the proletariat is its special and essential product....

The lower middle-classes, the small manufacturers, the shop keepers, the artisan, the peasant, all these fight against the bourgeoisie, to save from extinction their existence as fractions of the middle-class...they are reactionary, for they try to roll back the wheel of history.

-- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei," London, 1847, pp. 911.

"The Expropriators Are Expropriated"

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.2

As soon as this process of transformation has sufficiently decomposed the old society from top to bottom, as soon as the labourers are turned into proletarians, their means of labour into capital, as soon as the capitalist mode of production stands on its own feet, then the further socialization of labour and further transformation of the land and other means of production into socially exploited and, therefore, common means of production, as well as the further expropriation of private proprietors, takes a new form.

That which is now to be expropriated is no longer the laborer working for himself, but the capitalist exploiting many labourers.

This expropriation is accomplished by the action of the immanent laws of capitalistic production itself, by the centralization of capital.

One capitalist always kills many.

Hand in hand with this centralization, or this expropriation of many capitalists by few, develop, on an ever extending scale, the co-operative form of the labour-process, the conscious technical application of science, the methodical cultivation of the soil, the transformation of the instruments of labour into instruments of labour only usable in common, the economizing of all means of production by their use as the means of production of combined, socialized labour, the entanglement of all peoples in the net of the world-market, and this, the international character of the capitalistic régime.

Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organised by the very mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself.

The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it.

Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labour at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument.

This integument is burst asunder.

The knell of capitalist private property sounds.

The expropriators are expropriated.

“The Negation Of Negation”

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.3

The capitalist mode of appropriation, the result of the capitalist mode of production, produces capitalist private property.

This is the first negation of individual private property, as founded on the labour of the proprietor.

But capitalist production begets, with the inexorability of a law of Nature, its own negation.

It is the negation of negation.

This does not re-establish private property for the producer, but gives him individual property based on the acquisitions of the capitalist era: i.e., on co-operation and the possession in common of the land and of the means of production.

Part VIII, Chapter XXXII.4

The transformation of scattered private property, arising from individual labour, into capitalist private property is, naturally, a process, incomparably more protracted, violent, and difficult, than the transformation of capitalistic private property, already practically resting on socialized production, into socialized property.

In the former case, we had the expropriation of the mass of the people by a few usurpers; in the latter, we have the expropriation of a few usurpers by the mass of the people.

Summing Up:

[P]roletarian revolutions, like those of the nineteenth century, constantly criticize themselves, constantly interrupt themselves in their own course, return to the apparently accomplished, in order to begin anew; they deride with cruel thoroughness the half-measures, weaknesses, and paltriness of their first attempts, seem to throw down their opponents only so the latter may draw new strength from the earth and rise before them again more gigantic than ever, recoil

constantly from the indefinite colossalness of their own goals – until a situation is created which makes all turning back impossible ...

-- The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. Karl Marx 1852

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Cooks And Janitors At US Capitol Strike Against Foreign Company Paid To Serve Senators:

“Low Wages And Retaliatory Actions Employer Has Taken Against Workers Who Want To Unionize”

“Contracts Make A Handful Of Corporate Executives Wealthy But Leave Far Larger Numbers Of Frontline Workers Destitute”

“Compass Group Reported Profits Of Roughly \$1.3 Billion In 2014”

10 November 15 By Alan Pyke, ThinkProgress

Workers who serve food at the United States Capitol went on strike Tuesday morning to protest their low wages and call attention to retaliatory actions they say their employer has taken against workers who want to unionize.

That company, Restaurant Associates, holds the federal contract to operate the cafeterias in the Capitol Visitors Center and in the Senate itself.

The government contracts out janitorial and food service work at many public buildings, paying taxpayer money to private companies rather than employing service workers directly.

These contracts make a handful of corporate executives wealthy but leave far larger numbers of frontline workers destitute.

One federal contract employee is picking up shifts at a strip club to make ends meet for her family because her day job pays so little.

Another is homeless.

Others have described the personal toll of feeding and cleaning up after some of the most powerful people in the country while earning too little money to ensure their own dignity and security when off the clock.

While President Obama has issued an executive order mandating that future federal contracts will ensure workers get paid at least \$10.10 per hour, existing contracts without such a clause remain in effect — and workers are targeting a \$15 hourly wage anyhow.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) plans to join the strikers outside a Senate office building for a press conference around mid-morning. It will be the third time in recent weeks that a sitting senator has expressed direct, in-person support for the workers' efforts, which date back over two years now. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) recently joined an informal boycott of the Senate cafeteria organized by Senate aides, as did Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

Workers are planning acts of civil disobedience to follow the rally with Sanders, a press release from the organizers of Tuesday's strike notes. The scope of that resistance remains to be seen, but the avowed willingness to risk arrest as part of their push for higher wages and union rights echoes the gradual escalation of the nationwide "Fight for \$15" campaign.

Members of that low-wage worker organizing effort voted over a year ago to begin incorporating such acts of peaceful resistance into their strikes and marches.

Restaurant Associates is a multi-billion-dollar company. It is owned by a British firm called the Compass Group, which reported profits of roughly \$1.3 billion in 2014 on about \$25.7 billion in revenue.

The conglomerate's contract with the Capitol buildings is set to expire on December 1, though negotiations to renew it have reportedly been going on for months.

Greece:

**“SYRIZA (The Party) Is Calling On
The Workers To Stop The
Austerity Policies, Which Its Own
Government Imposes”**

**“Their Slogan Would Be: ‘With
SYRIZA To Topple SYRIZA’s
Government’”**

**“Or Briefly, In A Marxian Spirit, ‘Down
With Ourselves’”**

From: ioannis aposperites [Greece] via Marxism
Subject: Down with ourselves
Date: Nov 11, 2015

Tomorrow we are on general strike in Greece.

SYRIZA (the party) is calling on the workers to stop the austerity policies, which its own government imposes, to preserve the insurance and retirement system, which its own government dismantles, to refute the EU/Memoranda prerequisites, which its own government is voting for on a regular basis, and so on.

Their slogan would be: “with SYRIZA to topple SYRIZA’s government” or briefly, in a Marxian (bros) spirit, “down with ourselves”

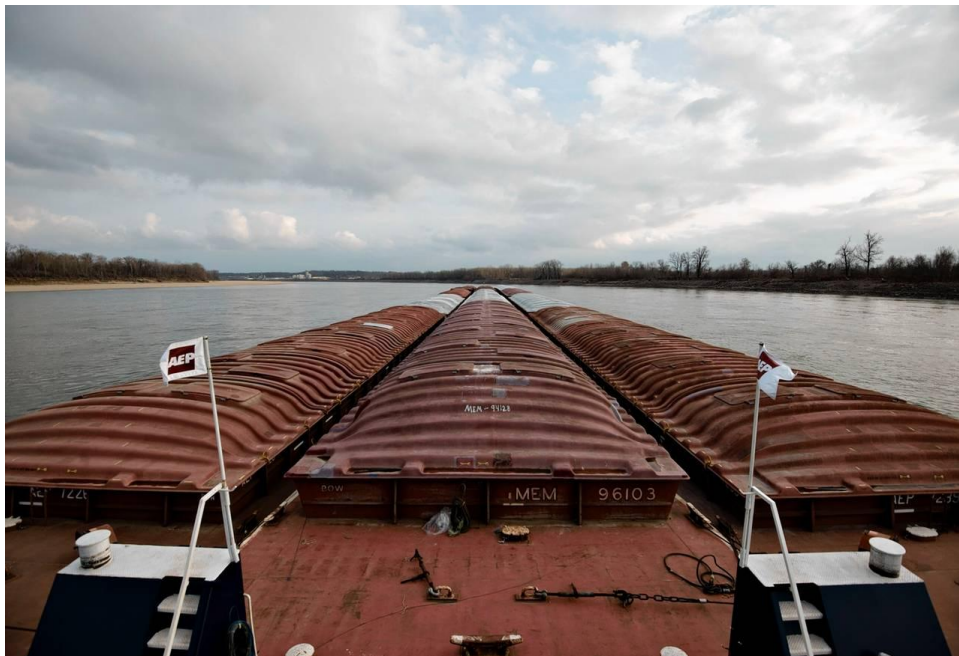
DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

**“Banks Struggling To Sell
Billions Of Dollars Of Loans
They Made To Finance
Corporate Buyout Boom”**

**“Banks Must Sell The Loans By
Year’s End To Minimize Holdings
Of Risky Assets But Buyers Have
Lost Their Taste For Riskier
Loans”**

**“This Is The Longest Sustained
Downturn We’ve Seen In The Markets
In A While”**

**“Prices Of Such Debt Dropped Sharply In
September And October, Saddling
Investors With Losses”**



Grain barges operated by AEP River Operations LLC on the Mississippi River in 2012. Bank of America Merrill Lynch made a \$1.2 billion loan to fund a buyout of the company, but has had trouble attracting buyers. The lender cut the price of the loan last week. Photo: Daniel Acker/Bloomberg News

Comment: T

The point here is that for weeks the Wall Street Journal has been running articles very carefully and very quietly screaming alarm about the possible collapse of bond markets, and with that, economic nightmares unimaginable. For example, massive defaults on trillion dollars of debt, worldwide.

Below is merely the latest moment of quiet panic, carefully larded with much happy talk: not *everything* has turned to shit.

Those banks unfortunate enough to hold masses of the lame, increasingly depreciating corporate bonds described in this article are already bleeding red ink.

Nov. 8, 2015 by Matt Wirz And Liz Hoffman, Wall Street Journal. Vipal Monga contributed to this article.

Wall Street banks are struggling to sell billions of dollars of loans they made to finance the corporate buyout boom, a sign that investor appetite for riskier debt remains muted despite a robust autumn rally in other financial markets.

The slowdown threatens to cool the surge in mergers-and-acquisitions that has sent takeover volume in 2015 to record levels, thanks in part to easy credit.

Bank of America Corp. , Credit Suisse Group AG and Morgan Stanley are among the banks wrestling to sell loans they made to back purchases by firms including Lannett Co. and Apollo Global Management LLC, according to investors.

“This is the longest sustained downturn we’ve seen in the markets in a while,” said Michael Kaplan, a deal-financing partner at law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

For now, loan investors have lost their appetite only for the riskiest deals while relatively high junk credit ratings still attract buyers.

Investment banks are growing reluctant to back new deals with heavier debt loads or in troubled industries like energy and pharmaceuticals. That in turn makes it harder for potential acquirers to capture takeover targets. The stresses contrast to a boom in sales of debt considered less risky, or investment grade.

The banks must sell the loans by year’s end to minimize holdings of risky assets that require capital charges under new regulations.

But buyers have lost their taste for riskier loans because prices of such debt dropped sharply in September and October, saddling investors with losses.

Now bankers are being forced to heavily discount the new loans to clear their balance sheets, investors and bankers say.

Banks must make up much of the difference when loans they make are sold at discounts by giving up their fees or taking losses, an unwelcome prospect at a time when M&A deal-making has emerged as one of their strongest businesses.

Morgan Stanley is laboring to sell a \$1.2 billion loan it made with other banks backing generic-drug maker Lannett's purchase of Kremers Urban Pharmaceuticals Inc. Investor interest dried up last week after Kremers disclosed the loss of a major customer.

Loan fund managers are increasingly leery of the drug sector because of turmoil at Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., investors and bankers say.

Credit Suisse Group AG has been trying since early October to distribute \$525 million in loans it made with other banks for private-equity firm Apollo's buyout of OM Group.

The bank has been unable to find buyers so far, and it is in the process of cutting the price of the debt, investors say.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch last week reduced the price of a \$1.2 billion loan to barge operator American Commercial Lines for its purchase of AEP River Operations LLC in an attempt to attract loan fund managers, according to S&P Capital IQ LCD.

Banks chase acquisition financings because they pay higher fees than standard corporate loans, but the deals come with a catch:

Because M&A transactions can take months to complete, banks that commit to the loans run the risk of having to sell them in choppy markets when the acquisitions eventually close.

In past decades, banks sometimes held the loans until markets stabilized, but such warehousing became prohibitively expensive because of high capital charges required under the Dodd-Frank law that was passed in response to the 2008 financial crisis.

Investment banks have always tried to sell leveraged loans, which have credit ratings below investment grade, as quickly as possible to reduce balance-sheet risk, spokespeople for several banks said.

While the riskiest deals, like those for Lannett, OM Group and American Commercial Lines, go wanting, companies with relatively high junk credit ratings of double-B "are still in very strong demand," says George Goudelias, a loan portfolio manager at Seix Investment Advisors, which owns about \$10 billion of leveraged loans.

Credit Suisse and a group of banks received \$7 billion in orders from loan investors for a \$2.7 billion loan the lenders sold last week for double-B rated NXP Semiconductor's purchase of Freescale Semiconductor, according to a person familiar with the matter. Fund managers also are eager to buy a \$7.5 billion loan Bank of America is marketing for chip maker Avago Technologies Ltd. 's purchase of Broadcom Corp. , investors said.

Bankers need demand for higher-rated deals to remain strong to help them sell loans for even larger transactions in the pipeline.

Early next year, Dell Inc. is expected to try to raise more than \$40 billion of debt for its purchase of EMC Corp. “There is absolutely capital available on attractive terms to companies doing strategic financings,” said A.J. Murphy, head of global leveraged finance at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

But she said a handful of larger, high-profile deals could squeeze some smaller deals out of the marketplace, adding that “investors have a lot to choose from.”

All leveraged loans returned 1.27% this year through Nov. 5, including price changes and periodic payments, according to S&P Capital IQ LCD. But the riskiest loans with credit ratings of triple-C or below have lost 2.85%, on average.

By comparison, the S&P 500 stock index delivered a 1.96% total return over the same period.

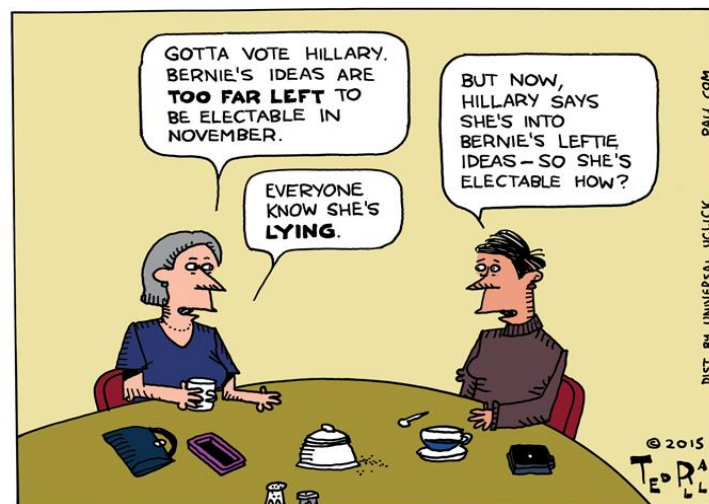
Selling low-rated loans became more difficult after stock and debt prices tumbled in August amid concern about the outlook for global growth.

Large stock price swings also have made M&A buyers reluctant to use their shares as a currency, prompting more to pay cash, often prompting more borrowing.

Since the start of October, 91% of global public-company takeovers have included cash as a portion of the consideration, the highest since the current M&A boom began two years ago, according to FactSet.

Cash, including sums borrowed from banks and raised in debt markets, accounts for 71 cents of every dollar committed to takeovers in the fourth quarter to date, up from 53 cents in the fourth quarter of last year.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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