

Military Resistance 14A7



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Pogo Redoux."]

**Native Americans Demand Oregon
Militia Get Off Their Land:
"We Have No Sympathy For Those
Who Are Trying To Take The Land
From Its Rightful Owners"
"It Belongs To The Native People Who
Live Here"**

[Thanks to: Romi Elnagar, Moderator, AmeriConscience Discussion Group, for posting.]

January 6, 2016 Time.com [Excerpt]

Burns, OREGON

The protesters have no right to this land. It belongs to the native people who live here,” Charlotte Rodrique told reporters at the tribe’s cultural center.

A leader of the Oregon Indian tribe whose ancestral property is being occupied by an armed group opposed to federal land policy said Wednesday that the group is not welcome and needs to leave.

Rodrique, who is tribal chair for the Burns Paiute, said the tribe is concerned cultural artifacts could be damaged and accused the group of “desecrating one of our sacred sites.”

“Armed protesters don’t belong here,” she said.

The group seized buildings at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon’s high desert country on Saturday. Authorities had not yet moved to remove the group of roughly 20 people.

Rodrique said the area was a wintering ground for the Paiute people prior to the coming of settlers, ranchers and trappers.

She said the tribe signed a treaty in 1868 with the federal government, and though the U.S. Senate never approved it, she expected the government to honor the agreement to protect their interests.

The group occupying a remote national wildlife preserve in Oregon has said repeatedly that local people should control federal lands.

Leader Ammon Bundy told reporters Tuesday that the group would leave when there was a plan in place to turn over federal lands to locals — a common refrain in a decades-long fight over public lands in the West.

“It is our goal to get the logger back to logging, the rancher back to ranching,” said the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a high-profile 2014 standoff with the government over grazing rights.

Rodrique said she “had to laugh” at that statement, because she knew Bundy wasn’t talking about giving the land back to the tribe.

“We have no sympathy for those who are trying to take the land from its rightful owners,” she said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Cheltenham High School
Graduate Among Soldiers Killed
In Afghanistan Suicide
Bombing:
“Military Families Across The
Country Do Not Have It Easy”
“They’re Underpaid, They’re
Overworked”
“Their Families Are Left Too Vulnerable
To The Challenges That Life Brings”**

December 23, 2015 By Linda Finarelli, Montgomery News

CHELTENHAM -- A graduate of Cheltenham High School has been identified as one of six members of the American military killed in the Dec. 21 attack by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense identified Air Force Staff Sgt. Peter W. Taub, 30, of Philadelphia, Pa., as one of the six killed in the attack in a Dec. 22 press release. Taub was assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 816, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Taub, who grew up in Wyncote, was identified by classmates as a 2004 graduate of Cheltenham High School, according to an NBC10 news report posted online. Taub’s father, Joel Taub, and stepmother, Donna Taub, spoke with NBC10 Tuesday.

Joel Taub said his son was the father of a 3-year-old girl, with another child expected in June.

“He loved his family, he loved his daughter — the apple of his eye. He was good-natured, had a good soul,” Taub said in the interview.

His son told his family he was in Saudi Arabia because he didn’t want to worry them, Taub said.

The family found out he was in Afghanistan when the soldiers arrived at the door Monday.

An 8-year member of the Air Force, he had recently re-enlisted, according to news reports.

A GoFundMe campaign has been established by Jeff Gallo, a longtime friend of Peter Taub's, to raise money for Taub's widow and children.

By noon Wednesday, 501 people had donated to the fund, raising \$27,060 toward a \$100,000 goal.

"Pete is a childhood friend. We have been close friends since the seventh grade and his daughter is my goddaughter," Gallo wrote in an email Wednesday.

"When I heard the news that Pete had passed, I couldn't stop thinking about the challenges that his family will face. Gofundme seemed to be the fastest, and easiest way to try and raise money for his family. In these dark times, it is encouraging to see so many people willing to give support."

"This Christmas, Pete's family and friends are mourning the life of the kindest, most warm-hearted soul that God could take from us," Gallo wrote on the GoFundMe page.

"Pete's Family — his lovely wife, Christina, and his beautiful daughter, and my goddaughter, Penelope, are going to need our help. His family is strong, and I know they will pull through, but far past the immediate shock and sadness of losing Pete, his family will have to move on without their daddy and husband. The emotional toll alone is hard to bear, but the financial obligations will make this challenge that much harder.

"We all understand that money will not bring back Pete, but we have an opportunity to change the course of how this story plays out for this family.

"Military families across the country do not have it easy. They're underpaid, they're overworked, and their families are left too vulnerable to the challenges that life brings."

"Staff Sgt. Taub was a truly dedicated soldier and public servant," U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle, D-13, said in a statement released Wednesday. "We are grateful to him for giving the ultimate sacrifice in service of our nation. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, daughter, family and fellow service members at this most difficult time."

"Cheltenham collectively mourns this tragic news and grieves for each one of the military personnel whose lives were cut short on December 21," Cheltenham School District spokeswoman Susan O'Grady wrote in a statement issued the afternoon of Dec. 23. "Peter Taub's service to our country is a point of pride for Cheltenham School District and the surrounding community.

"The District will pay tribute to his life and career contributions as an active serviceman on January 12, 2016 as part of our monthly School Board Meeting. In the meantime, we keep Staff Sergeant Taub's family and friends in our hearts and minds as they mourn their loss and begin the process of healing."

In addition to Taub, five others in a convoy of U.S. NATO and Afghan forces died when the suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into the patrol in a village

near the airfield, NBC10 reported. Two other Americans and an interpreter also were wounded, U.S. officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

Explosion Rocks High-Security Area In Kabul: “Panic In The Diplomatic District”

Jan 05, 2016 By Pajhwok Report

KABUL: An explosion, the third in two days, was heard in the high-security diplomatic enclave in Kabul on Tuesday evening, officials and witnesses said.

The blast occurred in the 10th street of Wazir Akbar Khan area, where diplomatic missions of the US, the UK, Indonesia, India, Pakistan and Germany are located.

A day earlier, two suicide bombers struck near the Hamid Karzai International Airport, killing at least one person and wound 30 others.

The latest explosion resulted from a magnetic bomb attached to a car, one security official told a local TV channel. The blast caused no casualties.

A resident of the locality, Shamim Barakzai, said the explosion triggered panic in the diplomatic district. He claimed seeing smoke and dust rising from the site.

On December 15, eight people and dozens wounded in a suicide car bombing in Wazir Akbar Khan. The residence of former vice president Ahmad Zia Massoud was damaged in that attack.

500 More U.S. Soldiers Off To Obama’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

Jan 09 2016 By Khaama Press

The U.S. Army will deploy about 500 soldiers to Afghanistan for an assignment of up to nine months who will also serve as advisors to Afghan national security forces.

According to information released by the Army on Friday, the soldiers will be deployed later this winter to join the 10th Mountain Division at Bagram Airfield after completing a mission rehearsal exercise this month at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

“Our nation’s Army continues to call upon Mountain soldiers to serve around the world in places like Afghanistan due to their proven record of high standards, mission success and selfless service,” said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Bannister, commander of the 10th Mountain Division, in a statement.

**Obama’s Stupid Lies To The
Contrary Not Withstanding:
U.S. Forces Increasingly Back In
Afghanistan Combat;
“In October, President Obama
Insisted America’s Combat Mission
Was Over”
“Throughout The Country, The Taliban
Are Gaining Ground”**

January 8, 2016 by Tom Bowman, NPR [Excerpts]

Staff Sgt. Matthew McClintock died in Afghanistan this week. He was 30 and leaves a wife and infant son.

McClintock was part of a training and advising mission. But he died fighting the Taliban along with Afghan troops.

American forces are increasingly being drawn back into the fight, even though President Obama declared an end to the combat mission last fall.

Last year, 22 American military personnel were killed in Afghanistan, half of the deaths classified as “hostile.”

In the gun battle that killed McClintock on Tuesday, two other Americans were wounded, along with three Afghan troops.

But administration officials choose their words carefully when they talk about it.

That's because in October, President Obama insisted America's combat mission was over and Afghan troops were now in the lead.

And that makes things more difficult for officials like Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook. When asked if the combat mission continues for American troops, he said they were in harm's way.

Two days later, he was asked again.

"This was clearly a combat situation," he said, "as we have seen painfully in this particular instance."

A "combat situation" — not a mission.

"By the early morning hours of Oct. 3, U.S. (special operations forces) at the compound had been engaged in heavy fighting for five consecutive days and nights," he said.

Heavy fighting for five days and nights is not unusual.

Throughout the country, the Taliban are gaining ground.

Casualties are increasing by double digits among Afghan forces.



***Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.
-- Gloucester, "Henry VI"-Shakespeare***

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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

**Common Statement Of
Revolutionary Socialists From
Russia And Turkey:
“It Is More Important Than Ever To
Raise Our Voices And Rise Up
Against War And Nationalist And
Militarist Dominance”
“No To The Aggressive Policies, Military
Attacks, Interventions Or Ambitions Of
Our Governments”**



6 January 2016 LeftEast.
Source: InternationalViewpoint.Org

**This statement was made by OpenLeft Collective-Russia and Sosyalist Demokrasi
İçin Yenyol-Turkey in December 2015.**

After the aircraft SU-24 Russian fighter was shot down by a Turkish Armed Forces missile on November 24, on account to the fact that it violated Turkey’s air space, it can be certainly said that the relations between the two countries took a new dimension.

This event, in fact, is the expected result of the clash of two opposite strategies in terms of the civil war in Syria.

Putin's military interventionism towards protecting Assad dictatorship was undoubtedly unacceptable for Erdogan, who does not hesitate to openly collaborate with jihadist gangs to overthrow the regime in Damascus.

However, the tension had been postponed as far as possible and had not turned into an open confrontation due to the dependence of Turkey on Russia in terms of energy and Turkish Stream, the natural gas pipe line project. Yet, it was not really likely to keep the ties unbroken considering the chaotic geopolitical game of which Syria lies in the center. By shooting down the Russian aircraft, Turkey intended to intimidate Putin in a way that he might get in conflict with not only Turkey, but also NATO. Putin, in return, responded with a showdown which would prove that he might run the risk of anything.

It is important to mention that whatever there was that brought Putin and Erdogan closer to each other in terms of their styles of politics, became the determining factor in the occurrence of this conflict. T

his is a combination of a megalomaniac perception about the historical role of themselves, a nationalist rhetoric and imperial ambitions in the foreign policy.

It is interesting enough that the argument Turkey raises about the "Turkmen brothers" in the northern Syria highly overlaps Putin's demagoguery in which Ukraine is a part of an ethnic and cultural "Russian world" which goes beyond the Russian borders.

Under these regional tensions and circumstances, we, as revolutionary Marxists from Russia and Turkey, say no to the aggressive policies, military attacks, interventions or ambitions of our governments, whether in Syria, or in Kurdistan, Ukraine or in any other part of the world.

It is more important than ever to raise our voices and rise up against war and nationalist and militarist dominance.

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.

**“We Must Make Every Possible
Use Of The One Slogan That
Can Unite The Army With The**

Revolutionary People: ‘Down With The War!’”

“We Must Do This So That The Officers, On The Decisive Day, Will Not Be Able To Trust The Soldiers, And The Soldiers Will Have The Same Distrust Of Their Officers”

“The Result Is That Nothing Remains But Mechanical Discipline; There Is No Longer Any Faith That Things Must, Or Even Can, Continue In The Old Way”

“Everything Else Depends On The Street, Where The Last Remnants Of The Hypnosis Induced By The Barracks Will Dissolve In The Revolutionary Enthusiasm Of The People”

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.

The war has killed that faith everywhere.

Soldiers and sailors were sent to the East without any hope of victory.

And when an army loses faith in its own invincibility, it is already halfway to losing faith in the invincibility of the social order it serves.

The one leads to the other.

In the current war, tsarism has shown itself for what it really is.

War is an event that focuses not just the public interest, but also the professional interest of the army. Our ships are slower; our guns have a more limited range; our soldiers are illiterate; our non-commissioned officers have neither compass nor map; our troops are barefooted, naked and hungry; our Red Cross steals; the commissariats steal — and the news and rumours of all this naturally penetrate the army and find eager listeners.

Every such rumor acts like an acid that eats away at the corrosion of moral drill.

Years of propaganda work during peacetime could never accomplish what is achieved by a single day of warfare.

The result is that nothing remains but mechanical discipline; there is no longer any faith that things must, or even can, continue in the old way.

The less faith there is in autocracy, the greater is the likelihood of faith in the enemies of autocracy.

We must make the most of this state of mind.

We must explain to the soldiers the meaning of the mass working-class action being prepared by the Party.

We must fix this knowledge in their consciousness with a continuous stream of pamphlets.

We must make every possible use of the one slogan that can unite the army with the revolutionary people: 'Down with the war!'

We must do this so that the officers, on the decisive day, will not be able to trust the soldiers, and the soldiers will have the same distrust of their officers.

Everything else depends on the street, where the last remnants of the hypnosis induced by the barracks will dissolve in the revolutionary enthusiasm of the people.

Of course, it is easier to fire over people's heads than to refuse to fire altogether or to hand over one's rifle to the insurgent masses. That is a fact.

But the difference is not so great as it may first appear to be.

The same soldier who yesterday fired into the air will tomorrow hand over his rifle to a worker, provided he is confident that the people are not just being 'rebellious' but are able and determined to hold the bridges until they win recognition of their rights.

That confidence can and will be instilled in the soldiers by the numbers and the enthusiasm of the crowds in the street, supported by the entire people, and by the news of simultaneous action throughout every region of Russia.

Therefore, in order for the proletariat's political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

Army Replacing Enlistment Bonuses With Welfare Checks



A recruiter explaining in excruciating-but-not-unethical detail how to double a prospect's government assistance. (Photo Credit: US Army).

January 8, 2016 by Jack S. McQuack, Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — After barely making their 2015 recruiting goal, The United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) is eliminating enlistment bonuses in their 2016 recruiting plan in order to heavily target a nearly unending source of manpower: Americans on government assistance.

According to USA Today, it was that demographic — unemployed adults around 35 – 40, with multiple kids, no healthcare, and the need to earn below 185% of the poverty line to maintain their welfare — who miraculously pushed the US Army over their goal earlier this September. Highlighting insanely low enlisted soldiers' pay and free healthcare, according to government manpower experts, is the next logical step.

Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) director Teresa A. McKay weighed in on the campaign's success, explaining how DFAS works cross-functionally with all of the armed forces to ensure that soldiers make “just enough” in case money becomes tight.

“Like any good business we always create ‘back-doors’ and ‘levers’ that we can pull in case funds become strained or unavailable,” said McKay.

“By purposely keeping lower enlisted pay rates below U.S. poverty guidelines, we can direct them to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) or state run programs in order to redirect monies to more important programs like the ‘lightning gun,’ next-generation cold weather gear no one is allowed to wear, and the F-35.”

Col. Patrick R. Michaelis, Commander of the Army's 2nd Recruiting Brigade, championed the "welfare initiative" after learning food stamp usage was on the rise in the military.

He says that the strategy is the perfect solution to Millennials who want to send troops overseas but don't want to do any of the actual fighting.

"The tried-and-true demographic of adults 17 – 24 has been exhausted, literally," said Michaelis. "From what, I have no idea, but we're finding Gen X'ers who now take care of their Baby Boomer parents and are more than happy and financially destitute enough to join the military."

Former president Bill Clinton, who signed historic welfare reform legislation in 1995, commended the Army for solving their recruiting problem, but lamented to reporters that "this may really be the end of welfare as we know it."

"No, really," said Clinton, "the entire US military signed up for government assistance and simultaneously bankrupted programs in all 50 states."

How Not To Be Shot In The USA

January 7, 2016 News From Somewhere

WASHINGTON (Reuters agency) –

The government today began issuing guidelines on how US citizens (and tourists if there are any non-Muslims who make it through) can avoid being shot down, justifiably, by their local public defenders.

The initial guidelines, which will be supplemented later, are as follows:

1. If you are carrying a cellphone, don't use it in public. To some people, it looks like a gun. You are much better off carrying a gun instead, and then if people who are alarmed by your (perceived or real) gun take aim at you, you have a chance to shoot them first.
2. If you are male, don't wear a belt.

According to a study that has already been suppressed, a large majority of people shot in the back while fleeing police were trying to hold up their trousers, an action which the police marksmen mistook for an attempt to launch a tactical nuclear weapon. If you are worried about your trousers falling down, wear suspenders.

3. Don't have relatives. The United States Department of Hellfire and Surveillance (DHS) has commissioned several academic surveys which have found that every terrorist everywhere anytime has had relatives. This makes nearly everyone suspect, and so it should. If you are related to someone who is suspected of having once said something

possibly sympathetic to terrorism – well, even if it turns out to be a mistake, you hardly have grounds to complain if the DHS has you gunned down, now do you?

4. Don't have a washing machine. Unless, of course, you live completely alone. But if you live with one or more other people, a washing machine is something you could quarrel about and then one of you will get frustrated by the inability of the others to understand your perfectly reasonable position, so you will try to restore things to their normal situation by letting off 30 or 40 rounds.

The problem is that your local public defenders are trained to respond to sounds of gunfire that they haven't been paid to ignore, and after you have given the mis-user of the washing machine their just deserts, the public defenders might just level the whole neighborhood, including you. This could be a problem, especially if some of those leveled in this way have unpaid student debts.

(The danger of washing machines was only recently discovered. It seems not excluded that similar dangers might arise from other appliances, such as refrigerators or stoves or electric lights, or even machine guns.)

Could You Be President?

January 5, 2016 News From Somewhere

WASHINGTON (Reuters agency) – So you want to be President? Well, why not?!

It has often been said that in the United States, anyone can grow up to be President, and the current campaign makes it clear that growing up is not really a prerequisite.

But there are requirements, both legal obligations and political realities. So if you're thinking about throwing your hat into the ring, this quiz will help you decide whether you have what it takes.

1. Citizenship. I was born:

- a. in God's country
- b. in the United States
- c. in a log cabin
- d. in a manger
- e. all of the above

2. Experience. I have the following experience:

- a. eating with a silver spoon since the day I was born

- b. heading businesses or governments in which I fired people
- c. heading businesses or governments in which I executed people
- d. appearing in so many film/TV productions that I forget what reality looks like
- e. all of the above

3. Foreign policy. Other countries should be:

- a. not allowed
- b. friendly and subservient
- c. looted
- d. bombed
- e. all of the above

4. Social policy. Poor people:

- a. you have always with you
- b. should be ashamed
- c. should not be
- d. should be slaves
- e. all of the above

5. Taxation. Except for taxes on common consumption items, taxes are:

- a. too high
- b. much too high
- c. much, much too high
- d. the work of the Devil
- e. all of the above

6. Economic policy. Wages are:

- a. too high
- b. much too high
- c. unnecessary
- d. the work of the Devil
- e. all of the above

7. Law and order. Unarmed people shot by police should:

- a. be ashamed
- b. be buried quietly
- c. have their heads placed on a pike in a public place as a warning to others
- d. This is a silly question because it never happens
- e. all of the above

8. Historical knowledge. The Constitution was written by:

- a. God
- b. Moses
- c. Jesus
- d. George Washington
- e. all of the above

9. Constitutional issues. If there is a conflict between the Bible and the Constitution:

- a. The Bible should prevail.
- b. The Constitution should be amended to remove the conflict.
- c. Let's kill all the lawyers.
- d. Aren't they the same document?
- e. All of the above.

10. Overall political outlook. My views are generally:

- a. antediluvian
- b. mid-Devonian
- c. changeable if the reward is right
- d. What does “antediluvian” mean?
- e. All of the above

If you answered “e” to all questions, please send us your name, because we want to bet on you.

ANNIVERSARIES

January 10, 1776: Magnificent Anniversary: “We Have It In Our Power To Begin The World Over Again”



Thomas Paine

Carl Bunin Peace History January 7-13

January 10 1776: Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, “Common Sense.”

In it Paine questioned the fundamental legitimacy of the rule of kings, and advocated the doctrine of independence for Americans, and the rights of mankind.

Quotations:

“He who is the author of a war lets loose the whole contagion of hell and opens a vein that bleeds a nation to death.”

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.”

STUCK ON STUPID

“8 Signs You Are Living Under A Fascist Regime”

<http://www.countercurrents.org/kelly090116.htm>



Well, one of the signs you are living under a fascist regime is that you're not sitting around posting absurd articles to the Internet entitled “8 Signs You Are Living Under A Fascist Regime.”

You're either in a concentration camp or dead in a ditch somewhere with a bullet in your head.

Duh.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

**Even Insured Can Face
Crushing Medical Debt:
“Insurance Often Fails As A Safety
Net”**

**“Health Plans Often Require
Hundreds Or Thousands Of Dollars In
Out-Of-Pocket Payments”**

“The Major Impact Is Actually A Pocketbook Or Economic Impact: Their Ability To Pay The Rent Or The Mortgage Or Buy Food”

We found that medical bills don't just keep people from filling prescriptions and scheduling doctors' visits. They can also prompt deep financial and personal sacrifices, affecting their housing, employment, credit and daily lives.

JAN. 5, 2016 by Margot Sanger-Katz, New York Times

The number of uninsured Americans has fallen by an estimated 15 million since 2013, thanks largely to the Affordable Care Act. But a new survey, the first detailed study of Americans struggling with medical bills, shows that insurance often fails as a safety net.

Health plans often require hundreds or thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket payments — sums that can create a cascade of financial troubles for the many households living paycheck to paycheck.

Carrie Cota learned the hard way that health insurance does not guarantee financial security.

Ms. Cota, a 56-year-old travel agent from Rosamond, Calif., learned she had the autoimmune disease lupus in 2007. She ran up thousands of dollars in medical and dental bills and ended up losing her job, and eventually her house.

“I had to move in temporarily with my ex-husband,” she said in a recent interview. “I’m staying with him until I can figure out what to do.”

In the new poll, conducted by The New York Times and the Kaiser Family Foundation, roughly 20 percent of people under age 65 with health insurance nonetheless reported having problems paying their medical bills over the last year. By comparison, 53 percent of people without insurance said the same.

These financial vulnerabilities reflect the high costs of health care in the United States, the most expensive place in the world to get sick.

They also highlight a substantial shift in the nature of health insurance.

Since the late 1990s, insurance plans have begun asking their customers to pay an increasingly greater share of their bills out of pocket though rising deductibles and co-payments.

The Affordable Care Act, signed by President Obama in 2010, protected many Americans from very high health costs by requiring insurance plans to be more

comprehensive, but at the same time it allowed or even encouraged increases in deductibles.

“We’re at a point where there’s been slow growth in health care costs and huge improvements in the numbers of people who have health insurance,” said Sara Collins, a vice president at the Commonwealth Fund, a health research group. “But there is this underlying trend towards higher cost sharing that could put increasing numbers of people at risk for being underinsured.”

Among those who reported having problems paying their bills despite having insurance, 63 percent said they used up all or most of their savings; 42 percent took on an extra job or more work hours; 14 percent moved or took in roommates; and 11 percent turned to charity.

Randy Farris, 58, a factory worker from Conger, Minn., needed a knee replacement three years ago. His insurance covered 80 percent of the bill, but he needed to cash in an I.R.A. to pay his \$4,000 share.

“I haven’t been to the doctor since because I don’t want any more doctor bills,” he said. His wife’s retirement savings had been wiped out years before, he said, when he used them to pay her hospital bills after she died of cancer.

The health law has led to a decline in the number of Americans suffering financial stress from health problems, thanks to the new options for receiving coverage, especially for the poor. But the problem is still widespread, touching roughly a quarter of Americans under 65, when the insured and uninsured are looked at together. Americans older than 65 are covered by Medicare, which more frequently protects people from major financial trouble.

Unlike other polls, which have focused on the ways that insurance affects health care, the new Times-Kaiser survey explored the effects of medical bills on people’s daily lives well beyond the medical system.

We found that medical bills don’t just keep people from filling prescriptions and scheduling doctors’ visits. They can also prompt deep financial and personal sacrifices, affecting their housing, employment, credit and daily lives.

Kaiser has released a report today, detailing the survey’s main findings about this population.

“The major impact is actually a pocketbook or economic impact: their ability to pay the rent or the mortgage or buy food,” said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

People without health insurance, of course, are more vulnerable to medical bills than those with health coverage. The study found that the people most likely to report bill problems were uninsured, poor or disabled.

But the majority of people struggling with bills are insured.

Of the people in the survey reporting difficulty with their medical bills, 34 percent lacked health insurance, 39 percent had insurance through work, 14 percent were covered through public programs and 7 percent had purchased their own health plans.

One reason, many experts said, is a gradual shift in the norms about the generosity of health insurance. In recent years, health plans have come with growing deductibles and narrowing networks of providers, provisions devised to lower the cost of premiums. Those features have made health insurance accessible to a larger share of the population, but may also be leaving more insured Americans vulnerable.

Ten years ago, David Dranove, a professor of health management at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, conducted research on people experiencing medical bankruptcies. The study he co-authored found that bankruptcy was largely a problem of the uninsured. "But with more people buying less generous health insurance, I think the old evidence might no longer be relevant," he said.

Insured people with financial problems often have plans with higher deductibles. But many said that the smaller co-payments piled up to make their care unaffordable.

Many also received big bills that were not covered by their insurance.

Among the 32 percent of insured patients stuck with an out-of-network bill, more than two-thirds of patients said they didn't know the provider wasn't covered. More than 25 percent of the insured respondents said a medical claim had been denied.

Medical bill problems rarely occur in a vacuum, the survey found. Most of the people surveyed said their finances were tight even before there was an illness in their family.

This pattern held true even for families higher on the income scale. The rates at which people with medical bill problems sought charity or borrowed money from friends was similar among people earning less than \$25,000 and those earning more than \$100,000.

Research on medical bankruptcies has been controversial because it can be hard to untangle how medical bills fit into a family's overall pattern of financial troubles. Twenty-nine percent of the people with medical bill problems said a family member had been forced to stop working or cut back on hours. (On the other side, about 41 percent of people said they'd taken on extra work to help pay bills.)

"Is that a job problem or a medical bill problem?" said David Himmelstein, a professor of public health at the City University of New York's Hunter College School of Public Health who has studied medical bankruptcies. "It's both of those things."

The survey included a random sample of 1,204 adults under 65 who reported problems paying household medical bills in the past 12 months. Interviews were conducted online and by telephone between Aug. 28 and Sept. 28, and some respondents gave follow-up interviews in December. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

**Most Americans Are One
Paycheck Away From The
Street:
Some 63% Of People Can't Deal
With A \$500 Emergency;
“The Share Of Income Held By
Middle-Income Families Has Plunged
To 43% Of Households In 2015
Versus 62% In 1970”
“57% Said They'd Used Up Some Or All
Of Their Savings In The Great Recession
And Its Aftermath”**

[Thanks to Steven L. Robinson for posting.]

January 6, 2016 By Quentin Fottrell, MarketWatch

Some 63% of people can't deal with a \$500 emergency

Americans are starting 2016 with more job security, but most are still theoretically only one paycheck away from the street.

Approximately 63% of Americans have no emergency savings for things such as a \$1,000 emergency room visit or a \$500 car repair, according to a survey released Wednesday of 1,000 adults by personal finance website Bankrate.com, up slightly from 62% last year.

Faced with an emergency, they say they would raise the money by reducing spending elsewhere (23%), borrowing from family and/or friends (15%) or using credit cards to bridge the gap (15%).

This lack of emergency savings could be a problem for millions of Americans.

More than four in 10 Americans either experienced a major unexpected expense over the past 12 months or had an immediate family member who had an unexpected expense, Bankrate found.

(The survey didn't specify the impact of that expense.)

"Without emergency savings, you may not have money to cover needed home repairs," says Signe-Mary McKernan, senior fellow and economist at the Urban Institute, a nonprofit organization that focuses on social and economic policy. "Similarly, without emergency savings, people could raid their retirement account."

The findings are strikingly similar to two other reports, one by the U.S. Federal Reserve survey of more than 4,000 adults released in 2014.

"Savings are depleted for many households after the recession," it found.

Among those who had savings prior to 2008, 57% said they'd used up some or all of their savings in the Great Recession and its aftermath.

And another survey of 1,000 adults released last year by personal finance website GOBankingRates.com found that most Americans (62%) have less than \$1,000 in their savings account (although that doesn't include retirement or other investment accounts).

Why aren't people saving?

Millions of Americans are struggling with student loans, medical bills and other debts, says Andrew Meadows, a San Francisco-based producer of "Broken Eggs," a documentary about retirement.

Central bankers hiked their short-term interest rate target last month to a range of 0.25% to 0.50% from near-zero, but that's still a small return for savings left in bank accounts.

Indeed, personal savings rates as a percentage of disposable income dropped from 11% in December 2012 to 4.6% in August 2015, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and now hover at 5.5%.

More money and education can help. The latest Bankrate survey found that savings increased with income and education: Just 46% of the highest-income households (\$75,000-plus per year) and 52% of college graduates lack enough savings to cover a \$500 car repair or \$1,000 emergency room visit. And while those figures could still be lower, Americans are willing to cut back on at least some expenses when money is tight: 58% say they're "very/somewhat" likely to cut back on eating out, are likely to decrease their cable bill and 41% are likely to spend less on coffee at places like Starbucks, while 39% will seek out lower-cost cellphone bills.

But while unemployment is falling (5% in November 2015 versus 5.8% in November 2014) and the Affordable Care Act has given an estimated 16.4 million people access to medical care, the amount of wealth held by the middle class is shrinking.

The share of income held by middle-income families has plunged to 43% of households in 2015 versus 62% in 1970, according to a report released last month by the nonprofit think tank Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C.

Egyptian Court Refuses Second Appeal Of Three Revolutionary Socialists Imprisoned By Sisi Dictatorship: Youssef “Is Suffering From The Hepatitis C And Has No Access To Medical Treatment”

[Thanks to Steven L. Robinson for posting.]

January 5, 2016, by Judith Orr, Socialist Worker (UK)

Egypt's military-backed president Abdel Fatah el Sisi is trying to build a facade of democracy around his dictatorship with the opening of parliament due on 10 January. But his repression of all opposition continues.

An Egyptian court refused a second appeal against the 15 month jail sentences of three Revolutionary Socialists in Alexandria last on 27 December.

Lawyer Mahienour El-Massry, journalist Youssef Shaaban, and poet Loay Al-Kahwagi were accused of breaking into and damaging Al-Raml police station in Alexandria in 2013.

They had joined a sit in outside the police station in solidarity with lawyers attacked there by police when trying to represent their clients.

Human Rights organisations in Egypt and internationally denounced the jailing of the three prominent activists. Youssef was refused release on health grounds last year even though he is suffering from the Hepatitis C virus and has no access to medical treatment.

Mahienour was awarded the Ludovic-Trarieux award in 2014 for her work fighting for human rights.

Her sister reported from her last visit to Mahienour's prison that prisoners have limited access to water and no ventilation.

Mahienour reported that they are so crushed—28 women to a cell measuring five by six metres—that they have to sleep in shifts.

Activists in Egypt are calling for international solidarity to call for the release of all Egypt's political prisoners.

Go to egyptsolidarityinitiative.org for information on what you can do.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israeli Reporter Stabbed While Demonstrating Stab-Proof Vest

6 January 2016 Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

An Israeli reporter has been accidentally stabbed on the job while demonstrating a protective vest.

Linda Bar, a spokeswoman for Israel's state broadcaster, said Reporter Eitam Lachover was asked to try on the vest and demonstrate a thwarted stabbing. But the knife penetrated the vest, lightly wounding him in the upper back.

Yaniv Montakyo, a vice-president at the company that makes the vest, told Israeli Channel 2 TV he stabbed Lachover in an area of the vest where there was no protective material. He says an earlier take was successful and did not harm the reporter.

Bar said that despite the mishap, the news item would be broadcast on Wednesday.

Lachover said on Twitter he was given stitches and was discharged from the hospital.

Palestinian Fishing Boat Destroyed Off Gaza By Heroic Occupation Forces: As Usual: "Boat Burst Into Flames In The Attack"

"No Information About The Fate Of The Fishermen Who Were Aboard"

6-1-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

GAZA -- The Israeli occupation navy on Tuesday evening fired shells at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Gaza City and destroyed one of them.

Local sources said that Israeli gunboats fired shells at fishing boats sailing within the permitted fishing zone off the shore of al-Sudaniya area, northwest of Gaza City.

They added that at least one boat burst into flames in the attack.

There is still no information about the fate of the fishermen who were aboard the boat.

In another incident yesterday, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) opened machinegun fire at Palestinian homes east of al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

Luckily, no one was injured in the attack.

The Israeli occupation army attacks Gaza fishermen as well as farmers and homes in border areas almost on a daily basis as part of the inhumane blockade imposed on the impoverished population.

Zionist forces demolish Bedouin mosque in Negev
their attempt to empty the land of Arabs and to displace them,”

Jan. 7, 2016 Ma'an

NEGEV -- Israeli forces on Wednesday demolished a mosque in the unrecognized Palestinian Bedouin village of Rakhama in the Negev in southern Israel, Talal Abu Arar, a Palestinian member of the Israeli Knesset, or parliament, told Ma'an.

Abu Arar said he attempted to prevent the demolition, but had been unable to convince the Israeli authorities. “(They) do not spare any effort in exerting pressure on the Arab population of the Negev in their attempt to empty the land of Arabs and to displace them,” he said.

“The demolition of the mosque today, and mosque demolitions in the Negev in general, is a declaration of war on Islam, in line with the religious war Israel has been igniting in the region,” Abu Arar said.

The Palestinian MK slammed Israel for not providing “any services to Palestinians in unrecognized villages.”

Despite collecting taxes from Palestinians, he said that “Israeli authorities demolish their homes and close the doors of livelihoods in their faces.”

Rakhama is one of around 40 Bedouin villages in the Negev that Israel refuses to recognize -- together holding nearly 90,000 people.

Israeli authorities last month demolished structures in the Bedouin village of al-Araqib, also in the Negev, for the 92nd time.

Israeli policy regarding Palestinian Bedouins -- who live under the constant threat of displacement -- has been slammed by Human Rights Watch in the past as completely disregarding international law, which forbids discriminatory evictions.

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

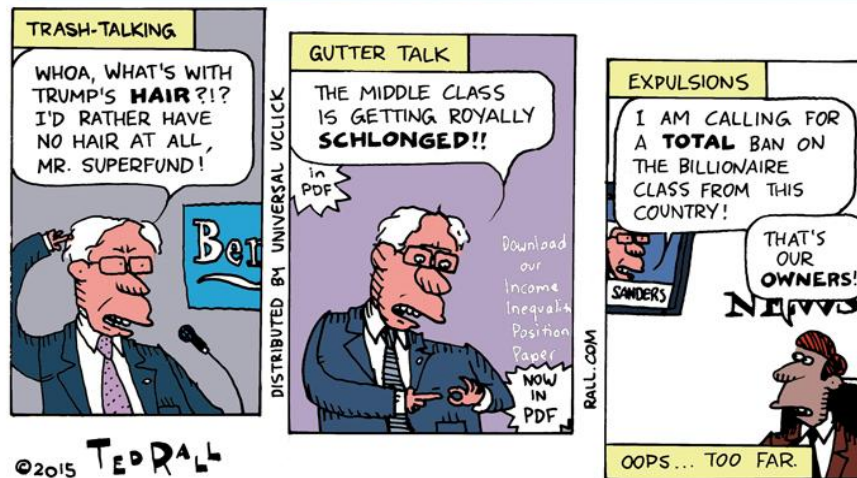
<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

NETWORK TV NEWS HAS GIVEN DONALD TRUMP 23 TIMES AS MUCH COVERAGE AS BERNIE SANDERS NEWS EXECS SAY THAT'S CUZ TRUMP MAKES MORE NEWSWORTHY/OUTRAGEOUS REMARKS. HERE'S HOW THE WANKISH SANDERS COULD GET THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA:



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