

Military Resistance 14H7



Rebellion In Milwaukee: The Worst City In The Country To Be A Black Man; “They Treat The Whole Community As Thugs And As Terrorists, And That’s How They Justify Waging This Police Reign Of Terror Against The Community”

08/16/2016 Black Agenda Report executive Glen Ford on The Real News Network
[Excerpts]

KIM BROWN: The streets of Milwaukee, Wisconsin are attempting to regain order today after a weekend of protest and disturbances after the shooting death by Milwaukee police of Sylville Smith. He was a gentleman who was being pursued by Milwaukee police. He was shot and killed.

And today we are joined on the line from Plainfield, New Jersey. We are joined with Glen Ford. Glen is the co-founder and executive editor of the Black Agenda Report. He's also author of the book titled The Big Lie: An Analysis of U.S. Media Coverage of the Grenada Invasion. Glen, good day. Thank you for joining us.

Tell us what you know about what happened to the gentleman who was killed by police on Saturday.

FORD: Well, I know about the same things that you know, as reports from the scene come in.

But what we really need to understand is what kind of place Milwaukee is. What was the scenario that these events took place in.

It's very, very difficult to find a good place to be a black person in the United States, but by any measurement Milwaukee, Wisconsin is a very bad place to be black.

And we need to keep that in mind as we examine these two nights of rebellion in this 40 percent black city.

Milwaukee is the worst city in the country to be a black male when it comes to the prospect of going to prison. Its black male incarceration rate is the highest in the country. It's twice the national average.

Wisconsin is even worse than Oklahoma, which is the second-worst state, in terms of black mass incarceration.

In Wisconsin, 13 percent of black males are in prison at any given time.

Milwaukee is also the worst city in the country to be a black high school student, if you're talking about graduating high school without getting kicked out.

Milwaukee suspends or expels more black high school students than any other city in the country, twice as high as the national average.

It's also a rigidly segregated city. Three out of every four black students goes to a school that is at least 90 percent non-white. And you can't even find a movie theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that is accessible to most black neighborhoods. And of course, unemployment, the unemployment rate is astronomical.

But it is really the state's reaction to the very presence of black people in Milwaukee that is at the heart of the confrontation that occurred this weekend. That reaction is and has been for many, many decades mass incarceration.

And mass incarceration actually means mass criminalization of the community. And that's why you hear the Milwaukee police union blaming the rebellion this weekend on what he calls 'thugs' and 'terrorists' who have to be held accountable.

They treat the whole community as thugs and as terrorists, and that's how they justify waging this police reign of terror against the community.

That's how they justified killing that young black man, Sylville Smith, who was not threatening them, who was, in fact, running away from them after a traffic stop.

The cops are calling Smith a career criminal, but when you look at his record, it turns out that almost all of the citations against him came from traffic stops.

Things like not having your seatbelt fastened, or something being wrong with your driver's license. And in the ghetto, and especially in a place like Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that kind of history is very good reason to run when the cops stop the car you're in for no good reason except that they are suspicious.

“The Veneer Of The Legitimacy Of Police Actions Have Now Been Shattered”

The cops say that Smith had a gun. He may have had a gun. He may not have.

But he did not point a gun at anybody.

And possession of a gun is not a capital crime in the United States, unless, of course, you're black.

And especially in Milwaukee, Wisconsin it's a logical response for the young folks of Milwaukee to react as they did.

A logical response, that is, to a mass black incarceration regime. And that should be the subject on everybody's minds.

BROWN: Absolutely.

Every single time one of these instances happens, where a person is killed under dubious circumstances and the police seem to be less than forthcoming about the truth and the actual details that actually happened to this individual, the communities seem to be reactive in a more hasty fashion, as opposed to relying on the police giving their account.

Are we seeing people come out right away instead of waiting for the police statements?

FORD: In the two years of the experience with what goes under the heading of the Black Lives Matter movement, the legitimacy of the police mass incarceration regime has been seriously damaged.

That is, folks have seen these killings by the thousands, and over decades in tens of thousands.

But the veneer of the legitimacy of police actions have now been shattered. And so people now are not so hesitant to express themselves in the only way that they can.

And that is a real victory of the movement, to destroy the legitimacy of this totally illegitimate system.

You were speaking of the eerie resemblance between the killing of Mr. Smith and other incidents. Well, they are reminiscent of each other because the police are uniformly trained across the United States to behave in exactly this fashion.

They are reminiscent because mass black incarceration begins with hypersurveillance, and hypersurveillance means stopping every walking person or driving person who is black on some subjective suspicions. And that's all that happened over the weekend in Milwaukee. It of course led to death. There was a logic to that.

But this system has been in place for 40 years, and it's not a system of faulty training or bad training in Milwaukee, as if there's some better training somewhere else.

This system was imposed, in fact, by the federal government after our civil rights and black power movements of the '60s. The federal government directs and finances these police training academies.

The federal government makes available their riot gear and their tanks, and in fact, President Obama has done more to militarize the police than any of his predecessors. So this is not a Milwaukee problem. I

It's a Milwaukee expression of a national aggression against black people.

BROWN: Very well said. That's Glen Ford. Glen is the co-founder and executive editor of the Black Agenda Report; also the author of The Big Lie: An Analysis of the U.S. Media Coverage of the Grenada Invasion.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"

Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 #16



Anonymous photograph by an employee at the orphanage.

From: Mike Hastie

To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 13, 2016
Subject: Agent Orange Children Vietnam 2016 #16

Full Disclosure

I was about to leave this orphanage, when I decided there was one more picture that had to be taken. There was a young Vietnamese woman student who was working at this orphanage in Hue, and she gladly took the picture of me and this Vietnamese boy. The previous pictures were taken at an orphanage outside of Hanoi. I often wear a long sleeve shirt with the word W A R on it, which stands for: "Wealthy Are Richer." If one does not follow the money trail when it comes to W A R, they like so many millions of people in the United States, will be duped by this conniving moralistic charade of madness. It is one of the greatest nationalistic propaganda shams of all time. When politicians and the rich in America start sending their kids to war, I'll start believing in noble causes. If the U.S. had a military draft, there would be antiwar marches in every major city in this country.

There is nothing worse than being at a funeral and realizing that it was all for profit. American corporations made a killing in Vietnam, and Dow Chemical, who manufactured Agent Orange, is just one of them. One seventh the land mass of what was then South Vietnam, was saturated with this deadly herbicide. Dixon is one of the most toxic chemicals ever used in war.

The Vietnamese people have suffered beyond human comprehension, and that suffering will go on for many more generations. The U.S. Government gives monetary compensation to Vietnam veterans who have medical problems related to Agent Orange exposure. I have several friends who are suffering from Agent Orange illnesses. Three of my friends have died from cancer as a result of this awful illness, one of them was my brother-in-law. I have met very few Vietnam veterans who did not have at least one friend who died from Agent Orange exposure. VA hospitals across the United States have treated countless Vietnam veterans for Agent Orange exposure.

As of 2016, the United States Government has done nothing to compensate Agent Orange victims in Vietnam, because our government has said there is no absolute conclusive evidence that Agent Orange is responsible for genetic abnormalities or cancer. So, the W A R goes on in Vietnam, and I saw it when I went to three orphanages while I was recently there. I also saw many people on the streets who were affected with birth abnormalities. For the vast majority of Agent Orange victims in Vietnam, they are being cared for at home with minimal medical help. A deadly herbicide is the legacy of Vietnam, Depleted Uranium will be the deadly legacy of Iraq and Afghanistan. Be all you can be...

Mike Hastie

Army Medic Vietnam
May 13, 2016

If God's on our side,
He'll stop the next war.
Bob Dylan

By Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact hastiemike@earthlink.net)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**The Perfect G.O.P. Nominee:
“They Can’t Go With Donald Trump.
He’s Too Volatile And Unhinged”
“As Republican Strategist Steve Schmidt
Noted, ‘The Candidate In The Race Most
Like George W. Bush And Dick Cheney
From A Foreign Policy Perspective Is In
Fact Hillary Clinton, Not The Republican
Nominee’”**

AUG. 13, 2016 by Maureen Dowd, New York Times

WASHINGTON —

Speaking of crazy.

All these weebegone Republicans whining that they can't rally behind their flawed candidate is crazy. The G.O.P. angst, the gnashing and wailing and searching for last-minute substitutes and exit strategies, is getting old.

They already have a 1-percenter who will be totally fine in the Oval Office, someone they can trust to help Wall Street, boost the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, cuddle with hedge funds, secure the trade deals beloved by corporate America, seek guidance from Henry Kissinger and hawk it up — unleashing hell on Syria and heaven knows where else.

The Republicans have their candidate: It's Hillary.

They can't go with Donald Trump. He's too volatile and unhinged.

The erstwhile Goldwater Girl and Goldman Sachs busker can be counted on to do the normal political things, not the abnormal haywire things.

Trump's propounding could drag us into war, plunge us into a recession and shatter Washington into a thousand tiny bits.

Hillary will keep the establishment safe. Who is more of an establishment figure, after all? Her husband was president, and he repealed Glass-Steagall, signed the Defense of Marriage Act and got rid of those pesky welfare queens.

Pushing her Midwestern Methodist roots, taking advantage of primogeniture, Hillary often seems more Republican than the Gotham bling king, who used to be a Democrat and donor to Democratic candidates before he jumped the turnstile.

Hillary is a reliable creature of Wall Street.

Her tax return showed the Clintons made \$10.6 million last year, and like other superrich families, they incorporated with the Clinton Executive Services Corporation (which was billed for the infamous server). Trump has started holding up goofy charts at rallies showing Hillary has gotten \$48,500,000 in contributions from hedge funders, compared to his \$19,000.

Unlike Trump, she hasn't been trashing leading Republicans. You know that her pals John McCain and Lindsey Graham are secretly rooting for her. There is a cascade of prominent Republicans endorsing Hillary, donating to Hillary, appearing in Hillary ads, talking up Hillary's charms.

Robert Kagan, a former Reagan State Department aide, adviser to the McCain and Mitt Romney campaigns and Iraq war booster, headlined a Hillary fund-raiser this summer. Another neocon, James Kirchick, keened in *The Daily Beast*, "Hillary Clinton is the one person standing between America and the abyss."

She has finally stirred up some emotion in women, even if it is just moderate suburban Republican women palpitating to leave their own nominee, who has the retro air of a guy who just left the dim recesses of a Playboy bunny club.

The Democratic nominee put out an ad featuring Trump-bashing Michael Hayden, an N.S.A. and C.I.A. chief under W. who was deemed "incongruent" by the Senate when he testified about torture methods.

And she earned an endorsement from John Negroponte, a Reagan hand linked to American-trained death squads in Latin America.

Politico reports that the Clinton team sent out feelers to see if Kissinger, the Voldemort of Vietnam, and Condi Rice, the conjurer of Saddam's apocalyptic mushroom cloud, would back Hillary.

Hillary has written that Kissinger is an "idealistic" friend whose counsel she valued as secretary of state, drawing a rebuke from Bernie Sanders during the primaries: "I'm proud to say Henry Kissinger is not my friend."

The Hillary team seems giddy over its windfall of Republicans and neocons running from the Trump sharknado. But as David Weigel wrote in The Washington Post, the specter of Kissinger, the man who advised Nixon to prolong the Vietnam War to help with his reelection, fed a perception that "the Democratic nominee has returned to her old, hawkish ways and is again taking progressives for granted."

And Isaac Chotiner wrote in Slate, "The prospect of Kissinger having influence in a Clinton White House is downright scary."

Hillary is a safer bet in many ways for conservatives. Trump likes to say he is flexible. What if he returns to his liberal New York positions on gun control and abortion rights?

Trump is far too incendiary in his manner of speaking, throwing around dangerous and self-destructive taunts about "Second Amendment people" taking out Hillary, or President Obama and Hillary being the founders of ISIS. And he still blindly follows his ego, failing to understand the fundamentals of a campaign. "I don't know that we need to get out the vote," he told Fox News Thursday. "I think people that really wanna vote are gonna get out and they're gonna vote for Trump."

Hillary, on the other hand, understands her way around political language and Washington rituals. Of course you do favors for wealthy donors. And if you want to do something incredibly damaging to the country, like enabling George W. Bush to make the worst foreign policy blunder in U.S. history, don't shout inflammatory and fabricated taunts from a microphone.

You must walk up to the microphone calmly, as Hillary did on the Senate floor the day of the Iraq war vote, and accuse Saddam of giving "aid, comfort and sanctuary to terrorists, including Al Qaeda," repeating the Bush administration's phony case for war.

If you want to carry the G.O.P. banner, your fabrications have to be more sneaky.

As Republican strategist Steve Schmidt noted on MSNBC, "the candidate in the race most like George W. Bush and Dick Cheney from a foreign policy perspective is in fact Hillary Clinton, not the Republican nominee."

And that's how Republicans prefer their crazy — not like Trump, but like Cheney.

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**Against Imperial War:
[1915]
“Imperialism Is The Progressing
Oppression Of The Nations Of The
World By A Handful Of Great
Powers”
“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It
Already Exists, Exposing Its
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self- determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of "freedom of nations," "right of nations to self-determination," and "defence of the fatherland" justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world's nations by the great powers.

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the "right of nations to self-determination," which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.

This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of “justice to Ireland,” but for the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a “terrible” thing? Yes.

But it is a terribly profitable thing.

ANNIVERSARIES

August 21, 1831:

Honorable Anniversary: Nat Turner's Rebellion



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 21-27

August 21, 1831

Nat Turner, a 30-year-old man legally owned by a child, and six other slaves began a violent insurrection in Southampton County, Virginia.

They began by killing the child's stepfather, Joseph Travis, and their family. Within the next 24 hours, Turner and ultimately about 40 followers killed the families of adjacent slaveholding properties, nearly 60 whites, while freeing and inciting other slaves to join them.

Militia and federal troops were called, and the uprising was suppressed with 55 African Americans including Turner executed by hanging, and hundreds more killed by white mobs and vigilantes in revenge.

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The Radio

“This August 24th, Remember Jeremy King”



[From: GI SPECIAL 5H19: 8.24.07]

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 one 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:

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.



Jeremy King

Noble Anniversary: August 25, 1969
The Rebellion Of Company A;
“One Of Hundreds Of Mutinies Among
Troops During The War”



Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 20-26

Company A of the 3rd Battalion the 196th Light Brigade refused to advance further into the Songchang Valley of Vietnam after five days of heavy casualties; their number had been reduced from 150 to 60.

This was one of hundreds of mutinies among troops during the war.

“He (President Nixon) is also carrying on the battle in the belief, or pretense, that the South Vietnamese will really be able to defend their country and our democratic objectives (sic) when we withdraw, and even his own generals don’t believe the South Vietnamese will do it.”

James Reston in the New York Times

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“Whether They Are Forgotten,
Dismissed, Or Demonized, The
‘White Working Class’ Has Been
Discovered This Election Season”**

**“Media Elites, Pundits, And
Politicians Do Not Want To Talk
About The Latent Rebelliousness Of
The White Working Class”**

**“The Future Lies In The Hands Of Those
Who Reject Divisive, Elite-Fashioned
Stereotypes And Unite To Face Their
Common Enemy”**

August 4, 2016 By Zoltan Zigedy, ML Today

The Wall Street Journal calls them the “forgotten Americans.”

Others see them as racist and xenophobic.

Then aspiring-President Obama characterized them in 2008 in the following way: "And it's not surprising then that they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to

people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

Whether they are forgotten, dismissed, or demonized, the "white working class" has been discovered this election season.

As with any new species, researchers are scrambling to probe, dissect, and analyze white workers; pundits are spinning theories about their habits and dispositions; and politicians are searching for keys to unlock their votes.

Arguably, no social segment has been under the sociological microscope this intensely since US elites and their intellectual courtiers "discovered" African Americans some sixty years ago. Class, like race, must force itself on to the stage before notice is taken.

In the case of the "white working class," the surprising success of Bernie Sanders on the left flank and Donald Trump on the right flank -- successes that, in part, are believed to owe something to white workers -- sparked the new interest.

Even a decade ago, it was widely believed that there was no working class in the US -- only a vast middle class and the poor. Fostered by social scientists, mainstream politicians, and union functionaries, the fiction prevailed that, apart from the very rich, everyone was either middle class or poor.



Of course this illusion began to shatter in the wake of the 2008 crash and the ensuing economic stagnation.

Likewise, the rebellion against corporate, cookie-cutter candidates in the 2016 primary fights exposed a class division that poorly fit the harmonious picture of one big class with insignificant extremes at the margin.

Whatever else the 2016 electoral campaigns have revealed, they surely have shattered the illusion that the US is largely a classless society.

But US elites and their opinion-making toadies struggle to find the "white working class."

Some accounts refer to them as “white males without a college degree,” still others, “middle-aged white males.” The Brookings Institute takes a small, but confused step closer to insight, by adding “the additional qualification of being paid by the hour or by the job rather than receiving a salary.”

Vulgar, crude characterizations reach heights of stereotypicality and ignorant simplicity: “Moreover, the political stuff they like – bombastic attacks on Mexicans, Muslims, and Megyn Kelly – can turn off minorities and college-educated whites, particularly women.”

“Media Elites, Pundits, And Politicians Do Not Want To Talk About The Latent Rebelliousness Of The White Working Class”

Just as the mass media has fostered caricatures of African-Americans, the media and cultural/entertainment corporations craft an unflattering image of white, working class citizens.

Where Black people are saddled with imagery of violence, idleness, promiscuity, and criminality, white workers are portrayed as bigoted, socially, culturally and intellectually backward, superstitious, and conservative.

One would never know from “hood” movies, talk radio hysteria, and the crime-obsessed news readers, that most African Americans are a significant part of the working class, maintain stable households, and work diligently for a better life.

Similarly, most white workers are neither gun fanatics nor Bible-thumpers. Most white workers do not attack gays, abuse their spouses and children, raze mosques or lynch Black People.

Nonetheless, both caricatures are part of the baggage borne by elites, including liberal elites.

The common perception dished by the mass media is that white workers constitute the electoral base for Donald Trump, when the truth is that the median household income for Trump’s primary voters was \$72,000.

In truth, the nativist, anti-immigrant sentiments associated with Trump are more typical of the white petty-bourgeoisie than the white working class.

Certainly media elites, pundits, and politicians do not want to talk about the latent rebelliousness of the white working class-- a large majority of white workers believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction, an opinion that should not surprise anyone given the fact that the median household income in the US has declined by 7% since 2000.

Unfortunately, the current crisis of political credibility shows that they, like most of the rest of the population, have yet to find a way out.

Social scientists have begun to acknowledge the toll that corporate pillage has taken on the working class, very dramatically of recent in the case of the white working class.

Death rates, especially from alcoholism, drug use, and suicide have risen sharply among white workers.

The institutions that formerly traded a measure of privilege to white workers for their compliance and docility have now abandoned them. The Democratic Party, for example, is so thoroughly corrupted by corporate money that there is little more than gestures for the causes of workers of every ethnicity.

Yes, there is an element of lost privilege that fuels white working class anger and despair. At the same time, the economic advantages that separated white from Black workers in the past are diminishing in many sectors and afford a rare opportunity to unite workers against their common foe. Until the left and workers' organizations undertake that task, working class rebellion may well succumb to false friends and bombastic demagogues.

Nothing reveals the distance of the upper classes from the realities of working class life like the current media fascination with the book *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Writing as one of their own, J.D. Vance -- a principal at an investment firm-- relates his unhappy working class childhood to book club liberals and country club conservatives.

Feeding the stereotypes, Vance exposes a dysfunctional childhood spared from ruin by an enlistment in the Marine Corps, a stint at Ohio State University, and a climb to the summit, Yale Law School. Looking down from the rarified air of Yale, he feels qualified to speak of "the anger and frustration of the white working class" and the hunger to "have someone tell their story."

The thirty-one-year-old investment executive's rags-to-riches tale urges "people to hold themselves responsible for their own conduct and choices. 'Those of us who weren't given every advantage can make better choices, and those choices do have the power to affect our lives...'"

There are echoes in Vance's biography of the many "hood" oracles that depict Black life as, without exception, dysfunctional and unbearably ugly. But in this case, it is white, working class life that is soaked in alcoholism and threatened by senseless violence.

This profile, like the book title's derogation of white workers as "hillbillies," is deeply offensive to anyone growing up in a working class family or community. Vance's addicted mother and sometimes absent father are neither exceptional nor common in white working class families anymore than they are unique to or absent from families of different ethnicities or socio-economic classes.

To believe otherwise is to feed the ugly monsters of racism and class arrogance, the twin beasts nurtured by every ruling class.

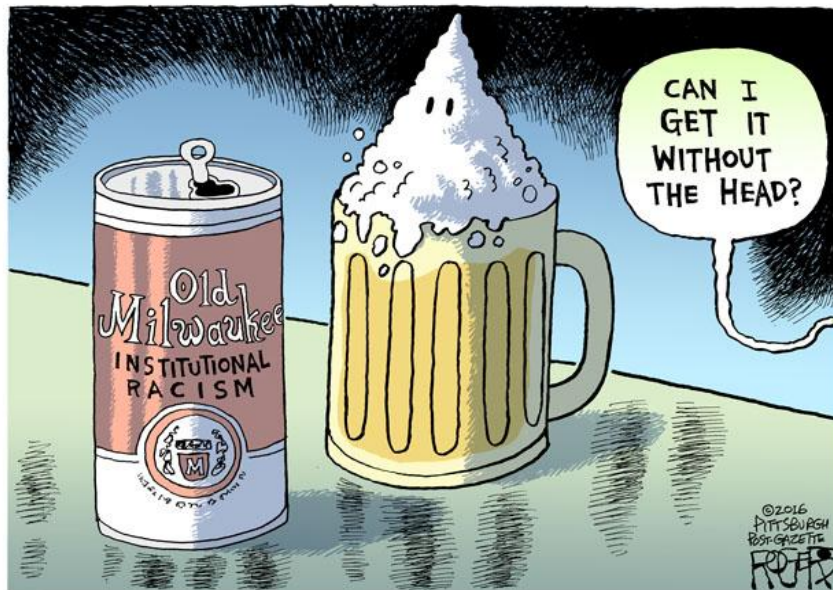
Growing up in working class communities, we see the ravages of exploitation, the divisiveness of racism, and the despair of joblessness and poverty. Of course, these occasion harmful, counterproductive behavior. They wreck the lives of many. But they are not remedied by self-help bromides the likes of which Vance advances.

Capitalism produces and reproduces wholesale misery that may no longer fall as unevenly as it has in the past.

While African American workers are continually and relentlessly victimized by racist practices and denied access by exclusionary craft unions, capital today offers white workers little reward for supporting or tolerating racist policies. The twenty-first century global economic turmoil has devastated workers' standards of living regardless of race or "choices."

The future lies in the hands of those who reject divisive, elite-fashioned stereotypes and unite to face their common enemy.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Authorities Force Palestinian Man To Demolish

Own Barn On His Farm Near Nablus:

“Forces Threatened The Night Before To Demolish It With Military Bulldozers And Charge A Fee If He Failed To Do So Himself”

“Jamal Had Filed A Suit In Israeli Courts, Which Had Yet To Make A Ruling On His Appeal”

“Jamal Built The Barn In Order To Raise Cattle And Sheep, His Main Source Of Income”

Aug. 8, 2016 Ma'an

Nablus -- Israeli authorities forced a Palestinian man to demolish a barn on his farm Monday in the area of Sabastiya west of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank, after forces threatened the night before to demolish it with military bulldozers and charge a fee if he failed to do so himself.

Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian official who monitors settler activity in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that Israeli forces previously gave a demolition notice to Abdullah Jamal for his 400-square-meter barn and cattle farm in the western part of the village.

Daghlas added that Israeli forces enforced the demolition without a court order, highlighting the fact that Jamal had filed a suit in Israeli courts, which had yet to make a ruling on his appeal.

Jamal built the barn in order to raise cattle and sheep, his main source of income.

He was forced to demolish it himself to keep his livestock, and to avoid paying a demolition fee to Israeli authorities, as he was already set to lose tens of thousands of shekels with the loss of the barn.

A spokesperson for Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), which is responsible for implementing the Israeli government's policy in the

occupied Palestinian territory, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the incident.

The village of Sabastiya, located some 12 kilometers outside the city of Nablus, is the site of ancient ruins dating back 3,000 years, and was listed in the Oslo Accords among the archaeological sites of importance to Israel and designated a “national park.”

Thus, the park and much of the village’s land -- nearly 42 percent -- were designated as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and civil administration, while the rest was designated as Area B, where the Palestinian Authority (PA) officially has control over civil matters, but Israeli forces continues to have overriding responsibility for security

In Area C, Palestinian building and land management are prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israel only granted 33 building permits out of 2,020 applications submitted by Palestinians between 2010 and 2014.

The refusal to grant permits by Israeli authorities has forced many Palestinians to build without permission, at the risk of seeing their homes or structures demolished.

Israeli authorities have demolished more Palestinian homes in the West Bank in the first six months of 2016 as they did in all of 2015, Israeli human rights group B’Tselem revealed in a report released recently, in a worrying confirmation of Israel’s ongoing crackdown on Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank.

A total of 168 homes were destroyed during the first half of 2016 for lacking hard to obtain Israeli-issued building permits, leaving 740 Palestinians homeless, compared to all of 2015, when 125 homes were demolished, leaving 496 Palestinians without a home.

Beyond homes, B’Tselem highlighted the fact that Israeli authorities also demolished structures Palestinians depended on for their livelihoods, such as livestock pens, sheds, and bathroom facilities, and confiscated solar panels, and water tanks.

“In doing so, the Civil Administration not only leaves these residents homeless but also severely lacking basic services and the ability to earn a living,” the report read.

Dov Khenin, a member of Israel’s parliament, the Knesset, denounced the demolitions as a deliberate move by the Israeli government to annex parts of Area C, which represents more than 60 percent of the West Bank.

“Demolishing houses, water tanks, and solar panels does not happen by coincidence or by mistake,” he said during a Knesset conference at the end of July.

“It is an organized policy that aims to change the current political condition, force Palestinians to leave the area and annex parts of Area C to prevent the two-state solution. Therefore, it is no longer a human rights case but a first-degree political case.”

Occupation Bulldozers Destroy 500 Olive Trees In Salfit, Palestine: “The Majority Of Areas In Iskaka Confiscated By Israel Were Agricultural Lands” “75% Of The Village’s Economy Is Dependent On Agriculture”

14 August 16 By Ma’an News Agency

Israeli settler bulldozers under the protection of Israeli army and intelligence forces uprooted hundreds of olive trees from Palestinian lands in the village of Iskaka in eastern Salfit on Wednesday morning.

Local activist Khalid Maali told Ma’an that two bulldozers belonging to settlers from the illegal Israeli outpost of Nefih Hanania and the nearby Rachelim settlement razed 35 dunams (8.6 acres) of agricultural land planted with some 500 olive trees in the eastern al-Bayyada area of the village, near the outpost and settlement.

Head of the Iskaka village council Abd al-Qader Abu Hakmeh told Ma’an that villagers were taken by surprise when the convoy stormed the village and uprooted the olive trees without giving prior notice, under the pretext that they were located on state lands confiscated by Israel.

A spokesperson for Israel’s Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), which is responsible for implementing the Israeli government’s policy in the occupied Palestinian territory, said that "enforcements were made against a Palestinian resident, who illegally overtook land that he did not own," adding that approximately 400 trees were removed.

The COGAT spokesperson added that an appeal committee reportedly gave the Palestinian resident an opportunity to prove ownership of the land, which they claimed he failed to do.

Maali said that land leveling had escalated recently in the occupied West Bank, especially around Salfit for the expansion of the 24 illegal Israeli settlements surrounding the district.

Iskaka has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations over the years for the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts, bypass roads, and Israel's separation wall.

According to the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), the majority of areas in Iskaka confiscated by Israel were agricultural lands, while 75 percent of the village's economy is dependent on agriculture.

Some 5 percent of Iskaka was confiscated to establish the Ariel settlement which lies beyond the wall west of the village -- the second largest settlement in the occupied West Bank in terms of area.

Iskaka's lands were also forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to establish the illegal outpost southeast of the village on the road leading to Rachelim.

The settlement of Rachelim, established in 1991, was retroactively legalized by the Israeli government in 2012. Israel's Civil Administration approved scores of new housing for the settlement in January.

Mounting international pressure on Israel, including demands to freeze new construction in settlements, has influenced the Israeli government to adopt an overt policy of approving settlement outposts -- which are considered illegal even under Israel's own laws -- and existing illegal construction in settlements, according to ARIJ.

Unarmed Palestinian Teen Dies After Being Shot In Heart By Israeli Forces Dies In Al-Fawwar: “Israeli Police Had Unveiled New Regulations Which Permit Israeli Officers To Open Fire With Live Ammunition On Palestinian Demonstrators Before A Non-Lethal Option Is Used”

Aug. 16, 2016 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- A Palestinian teenager died on Tuesday afternoon after being shot by Israeli forces with live ammunition earlier in the day during clashes in the al-Fawwar

refugee camp in the southern occupied West Bank district of Hebron, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said.

The ministry identified the slain youth as 17-year-old Muhammad Abu Hashhash.

Palestinian Red Crescent spokeswoman Errab Foqoha told Ma'an that Abu Hashhash succumbed to wounds sustained when he was "shot with live ammunition in the heart" by Israeli forces during clashes in al-Fawwar in which at least 32 other Palestinians were injured.

Israeli forces stormed al-Fawwar at dawn on Tuesday, ransacking homes and interrogating residents. Clashes then broke out between local youth and Israeli soldiers who fired live gunshots, tear gas, and rubber-coated steel bullets at the youth, injuring at least 33, including Abu Hashhash.

Earlier in the day, witnesses said Israeli soldiers stopped an ambulance belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent which was trying to evacuate a young man who was seriously injured with live fire, and prevented the ambulance from leaving the camp for an hour.

Foqoha said she could not confirm whether the ambulance which was held up was carrying Abu Hashhash.



A photo shared on social media shows Muhammad Abu Hashhash, 17, who was killed on Aug. 16, 2016 in the al-Fawwar refugee camp.

The teenager is one of 218 Palestinians to have been killed by Israelis since the beginning of a wave of unrest across the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel in October.

According to Ma'an documentation, at least 54 Palestinians were killed in clashes during this time period. While the majority of deadly clashes have occurred in refugee camps in the occupied Palestinian territory, this is the first reported death of an al-Fawwar resident since October.

The Hebron area in particular grew as the epicenter of upheaval, with Israeli authorities severely restricting the movement of Palestinians by sealing off towns and revoking work permits. At least 64 Palestinians from the Hebron district have been killed since October.

Some 32 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians during the same time period.

Due to the typically aggressive nature of the raids, clashes often erupt between local Palestinian youth who throw stones and are met in response with live fire and tear gas, often resulting in serious, sometimes fatal injuries.

Israeli police and soldiers have come under heavy criticism over the past year for what rights groups have referred to as “extrajudicial executions” of Palestinians who did not pose an immediate threat or who could have been detained through non-lethal means.

Israeli rights group Adalah revealed in July that Israeli police had unveiled new regulations which permit Israeli officers to open fire with live ammunition on Palestinian demonstrators before a non-lethal option is used.

An Israeli army spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding the military’s protocol on the use of live fire during clashes and demonstrations in the occupied West Bank.

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.”



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