

Military Resistance 1415



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

**A Publication Controlled
By Putin Regime
Explains Why Assad's
Army Can't Win In Syria:
"The Syrian Armed Forces Have
Not Conducted A Single
Successful Offensive During
The Past Year"**

“The Main Military Actions Assad’s Army Engages In Is Extorting Tribute From The Locals”

**“Materiel And Food Supplies Are
Inadequate. There Are No Benefits
For Soldiers Or Their Families”**

**“It Is Impossible To Win The War With
Such An Ally As Assad’s Army”**

09.09.2016 Original article in Russian by Mikhail Khodarenok; reprinted with introduction by citeam.org

Mikhail Khodarenok is Gazeta.ru’s military observer, a retired colonel.

Graduated from Minsk’s Higher Engineer Air Defense College in 1976, from the Air Defense Command Academy in 1986.

Commanded an anti-air missile battalion of S-75s in 1980-1983.

Was deputy commander of an anti-air missile regiment in 1986-1992.

Was a senior officer in the Air Defense HQ in 1988-1992.

Served in the Main Operative Directorate of the General Staff in 1992-2000.

Graduated from the General Staff Military Academy in 1998.

Worked as an observer in Nezavisimaya Gazeta in 2000-2003 and as editor-in-chief of "Military-Industrial Courier" in 2010-2015.

The following is a translation of a scathing article on the state of the Syrian Arab Army that appeared in an online outlet Gazeta.ru, which is Kremlin-controlled but sometimes critical of the Russian authorities online.

The author is a retired Russian officer with 8 years of experience working in the General Staff and 5 years as an editor of an established military magazine.

The article, originally titled "It would be easier to disband the Syrian army and recruit a new one", mirrors the emerging Syria fatigue sentiments in the Russian military circles and reportedly was confirmed by a serving Russian colonel, who added "Everything is like it's written but worse".

The expert notably omits mentioning regime war crimes even when describing the use of barrel bombs.

Throughout the text, he calls Syrian rebels "militants," "terrorists," and "illegal armed groups" — terms widely used by Russian military and media to describe Chechen fighters during the wars.

This anti-rebel stance perhaps lends even more credibility to the author's assessment of their capabilities versus those of the SAA.

While militias, Iranian volunteers, Hezbollah and PMCs fight in lieu of the Syrian army, Bashar Assad's soldier busy themselves with collecting bribes at checkpoints.

This view becomes more and more widespread among military experts aware of the actual situation in Syria.

The country's air force is worn down and uses home-made bombs, the soldiers dig moats to protect from terrorists' tunnels, while the militants enjoy tactical and moral superiority, says Mikhail Khodarenok, Gazeta.ru's military observer:

Mikhail Khodarenok:

The pro-government forces are likely to capture the city of Aleppo soon. However, it remains doubtful if this will bring the end of the Syrian war closer. In Middle Eastern wars, there is no single building to plant a flag on that would make the enemy surrender unconditionally.

Indeed, it is quite hard to say which side is currently winning the military conflict. Bashar al-Assad, the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, still does not control about half the country's territory and a majority of towns and villages.

The results of the fighting in Syria so far have been disastrous. The total number of Syrians killed has grown to 250-300 thousand (giving a more precise number is impossible), while about a million people have been wounded. Syrians of all ethnic and religious denominations have grown weary of the civil war that has dragged on for over five years.

The actual fighting against opposition groups is mostly done by Syrian militias, the Lebanese Hezbollah Shia units, Iranian and Iraqi volunteers and Private Military Companies (PMCs).

The main military actions Assad's army engages in is extorting a tribute from the locals. The Syrian armed forces have not conducted a single successful offensive during the past year.

Apparently Syria's General Staff has no coherent short-term or mid-term strategic plans.

Assad's generals do not believe their troops can bring the country to order without military aid from foreign states. They do not plan large-scale operations, giving the reasoning of ostensibly high combat capabilities of the illegal armed groups, lack of ammunition and modern equipment, a fear of heavy losses and a negative outcome of the fighting.

The Syrian army's junior officers, NCOs and privates have little enthusiasm to charge and fight for their motherland.

The general morale deterioration is exacerbated by the fact that the history of the modern Syrian army has known no military victories. Assad's army bears the brand of constant defeats and humiliations since the first Arab-Israeli wars of 1947-1948.

The Syrian army fighters see no close end to the crisis.

There are no set dates of ending military service. The achievements of soldiers and officers are not encouraged or awarded. The materiel and food supplies are inadequate. There are no benefits for soldiers or their families.

Most importantly, even if the Syrian leadership wished to solve these problems, they couldn't raise the funds to do so.

Assad's government currently has no stable income sources. Years of fighting have severely disrupted the country's economy. Industrial production has fallen by 70%, agriculture — by 60%, oil production — by 95% and natural production — by 70%.

The Syrian treasury has no money even for immediate defense expenditures.

This situation is further exacerbated by the Syrian army being severely understaffed and underequipped.

Currently, the staffing and equipment levels stand a bit over 50% of the required figures.

The yearly draft does not satisfy even the minimal needs of the army.

Due to this, since 2011 sergeants and privates who have served their terms have not been discharged.

The draft fails due to a number of reasons.

Some potential conscripts support the anti-government forces and actively dodge the draft. Others have joined the illegal armed groups. Still others have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, preferring not to fight for any of the sides. Many potential recruits have become refugees outside Syria, some of them in Europe.

A large part of the population lives on territories outside the government troops' control. Finally, recruits and their families fear reprisals from the militants.

The majority of Syrian army units are based at fortified checkpoints. There are in total about 2 thousand such checkpoints throughout Syria. Thus, over a half of the army operates with no connection to their units.

Sitting inside those fortified checkpoints, the Syrian regulars are mostly doing defensive duties and extorting money from the locals.

They do not conduct any major operations to liberate population or administration centers.

Such pillars of any military as "A superior's order is the law for his subordinate" and "An order is to be performed at all costs, precisely, timely and with no objections", are at best limitedly enforced in the Syrian army.

“It Is Hard To Find Anything Worthy Of Studying Or Imitation From The Syrian Army’s Military Practice. The Only Worthy Examples Are Of The ‘How Not To Wage War’ Variety”

It is hard to find anything worthy of studying or imitation from the Syrian army’s military practice.

The only worthy examples are of the "How not to wage war" variety.

The Air Force deserves a special mention. The Syrian Arab Air Force conducts a significant number of sorties daily (reaching 100 in certain days in 2015), over 85% of which are bombing runs. The Air Force’s contribution to the overall fire damage is about 70%. The airstrikes are conducted by several dozen fighter/bomber jets and around 40 army aviation helicopters.

The SyAAF’s main modus operandi is solitary sorties. Flights in pairs and larger units are not done in order to save resources. In order to decrease losses, the bombing runs are done at heights of 3 thousand meters and above. In extreme cases, dive bombing is used.

Due to the lack of air ordnance, the Syrian army has until recently used even sea mines, torpedoes and depth charges for ground attacks. The so-called "barrel bombs" are also widely used. Over 10,000 of the latter have been dropped on the enemy.

A "barrel bomb" is a type of home-made air ordnance weighting 200 to 1000 kg. It is a section of a wide oil pipeline welded shut with metal plates from both sides and stuffed with a high amount of explosives. A "barrel bomb" is highly explosive and is used to destroy buildings and attack large gatherings of the militants.

There is no pilot training to replenish the combat losses (training in Russia has been discontinued). The aircraft are not being repaired (the only aircraft repair plant is inside the Aleppo warzone).

Various estimates put the air force’s losses since the start of the conflict (April 2011) at about 200 planes and over 150 pilots.

Tunnel and anti-tunnel tactics have seen widespread use during the Syria war. Tunnels are used to blow up multi-story buildings used as command posts or ammunition and materiel depots. Drilling machines can dig tunnels at a speed of 3-4m/day while improvised machinery can do 1-2m/day.

Underground tunnels and passages have been done in Syria since the times of the Roman Empire and the founding of the first cities, such as Palmyra (Tadmor), Damascus, Raqqa and Homs. The local soil encourages this. Being rather soft and clayey, the soil does not slough, which is why both sides of the conflict toil endlessly to dig underground passages of all kinds and purposes.

Militants dig tunnels or use a wide network of old ones to achieve surprise during attacks on military facilities and government troops.

Despite a severe underground threat, the Syrian army has a rather negligent attitude to this. There is almost no information on caves or underground communications in towns or militant-controlled territories adjacent to them.

However, various anti-tunnel techniques are used to protect government troops and important facilities, such as using georadars (anomaly detectors), building counter-tunnels, digging shafts and building anti-tunnel moats.

The main technique government troops employ against enemy tunnels is drilling shafts.

Using dedicated drilling vehicles, holes up to 15 m deep are dug around important facilities at a distance up to 15 m. Then plastic tubes are inserted into the shafts and filled with sand. The fighters of the unit defending the facility monitor sand level in the tubes. Sagging sand indicates ongoing digging.

Another technique to counter enemy "diggers" is anti-tunnel mines — using excavators to extract soil up to 12 meters deep around military positions and important facilities. The time required to build a moat like that depends on the specifications of excavators involved and the heaviness of soil.

“The Morale And Combat Capabilities Of The Militants Are Highly Above Those Of The SAA Soldiers”

Militants’ morale and tactical advantage

Among the leadership of terrorists and armed Syrian opposition groups there are many former Iraqi officers who used to serve under Saddam Hussein.

They have amassed huge experience during the Iran-Iraq war and the two Gulf wars. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) higher officers are former General Staff leaders, brigade and division generals and colonels, while the rebel units are mostly staffed with deserters from Assad’s army.

The militants are highly mobile and capable of rapidly creating assault groups at critical points of the frontline. They have good knowledge of the area (70% of the illegal armed groups’ fighters are Syrian nationals) and command significant financial and human resources.

In the absence of a precise front line, the armed opposition groups engage in active focal fighting. Most of their efforts are applied to holding commanding heights and towns

prepared for a perimeter defense. This enables fire control of government troops' movement lines.

The high survivability of the militants during stationary fighting in fortified areas is ensured by using shelters prepared in advance. Those shelters often hide their actual location, numbers and composition.

The militants place observation points close to the contact line for advance detection of the government troops' assault groupings. A post is manned by 2-3 people with means of observation, communication and transportation. The militants strive to maintain control over areas by conducting local counterattacks, sabotage in the rear (including suicide attacks), constantly work to seize initiative from the government troops.

As a rule, counterattacks are performed by small groups of 10-15 militants in 3-4 cars with mounted heavy machine guns and 82mm mortars, supported by multi-launching rocket systems. One to five such groups may take part in an attack.

The purpose of the counterattacks is regaining initiative with the aim to reestablish control over the lost position and the territory in general.

When under attack from Russian forces, the armed groups leave their positions and towns, maintaining small groups of observers.

The militants' units that have sustained significant damage are redeployed to Turkey or to areas under active ceasefire to restore capabilities, reinforce and resupply.

The morale and combat capabilities of the militants are highly above those of the SAA soldiers.

The illegal armed groups have integrated guerrilla and terrorist techniques into their tactics, combining them with conventional warfare methods utilized by regular troops. Their tactics continue to adapt based on the enemy's behavior.

The command system the illegal armed groups have created enables prompt and rather efficient reactive measures towards changing conditions. The militants' success is made easier by the openness of Syria's borders (the government only controls the Syria-Lebanon border and a 50 km stretch of the Syria-Jordan border).

“It Is Impossible To Win The War With Such An Ally As Assad's Army”

At the start of the civil war, the government troops enjoyed a quantitative advantage in everything, especially aviation, tanks and artillery. Assad could reasonably hope for a swift success in fighting irregular armed groups of the rebels.

However, the Syrian Civil War and the fight against islamists have once again confirmed that a numeric and technical advantage is not enough to achieve victory.

Even good theoretical knowledge of the leadership does not play a decisive role.

In order to win a military conflict, just like in old times, one needs a strong spirit, an unyielding will for victory, trust in oneself and one's troops, decisiveness, bravery, inventiveness, flexibility and an ability to lead others.

All this lacks severely in Assad's army.

It is unclear what should be done to the half-rotten structure of the Syrian army.

No amount of repressions, be it shootings, penal battalions or retreat-blocking detachments, can't make it fight. There are no examples of this in military history.

Strict disciplinary measures may establish order in shaky units and detachments which fell under a spell of panic on the battlefield.

Arms could be used to neutralize the panic and flight instigators, shoot deserters, self-injurers, traitors and defeatists.

But no war has ever been won with military tribunals and death sentences.

If the soldiers have no higher goal to protect their motherland, aren't ready to sacrifice themselves, defend every position to the last drop of blood and look into the face of death while rushing in an attack, no amount of penal companies or retreat-blocking detachments can save such an army.

On the one hand, it would seem easy to completely demobilize (in other words, completely disband) the Syrian army and recruit a new one.

In other words, restart the process of building up the country's military.

On the other hand, the main problem is that new men are nowhere to be found in modern Syria.

Any newly created army will naturally inherit all the malaises of the old SAA.

There also is no definitive answer to a substantial question: who's gonna pay for that?

It is impossible to win the war with such an ally as Assad's army.

The militias can't be fully relied on either. Hezbollah and the Iranians have their own interests.

This is why apparently the Russian military and political leadership shall have to take a drastic decision: end the Syria campaign before the end of 2016, withdrawing all troops and leaving only the military bases.

It is impossible to restore the constitutional order to Syria by solely military means without serious diplomatic, political, economic and propaganda efforts, as well as significant support of the ruined country by foreign states.

MILITARY NEWS

26 Okinawa Mayors Demand U.S. Base Reductions Amid Increased Tensions: “Strong Local Opposition And Amid Violence On The Part Of Police Toward Anti-Base Protesters”

SEP 7, 2016 BY ERIC JOHNSTON, The Japan Times Online

OSAKA – The mayors of 26 towns and villages hosting U.S. bases in Okinawa plan to formally present new demands Thursday calling for Tokyo to reduce the prefecture’s burden in supporting American military personnel and fundamentally revise the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

The move comes as Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine is in Hawaii, attending the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s World Conservation Congress.

At a news conference in Honolulu on Sunday, Inamine said the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from Ginowan to Nago’s Henoko district, which all 26 mayors are against, is going forward despite strong local opposition and amid violence on the part of police toward anti-base protesters.

The demands and Inamine’s Hawaii visit coincide with a planned trip this weekend to Okinawa by Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, her first since being appointed to the post.

They also come just before a key ruling by the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court on a lawsuit involving Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who also opposes the Henoko move, and the central government.

Tokyo claims Onaga acted illegally when he revoked permission for a Henoko-related landfill project that had been granted by his predecessor. The verdict is expected to be handed down Sept. 16.

The formal demands by the Okinawa mayors calling for the base burden reduction is an annual event.

This year, though, tensions are high following increased confrontations between police and anti-base protesters in the Henoko area and the murder of 20-year-old Rina Shimabukuro, allegedly by American military contractor Kenneth Franklin Shinzato.

Earlier this month, in an attempt to address Okinawan concerns, Tokyo and Washington agreed to conduct training exercises involving the controversial MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft on Guam and Tinian Island as opposed to the island prefecture where they are based.

The training exercises are expected to begin in mid-September and last around three weeks.

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

<p>All revolutions are surprises, and we cannot predict future struggles. -- Ian Birchall; Grim And Dim</p>
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**Video Of The Year, So Far!
Dakota Access Pipeline Co.
Attacks Native Americans with
Dogs & Pepper Spray
SEPTEMBER 06, 2016
Democracy Now**

http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/6/full_exclusive_report_dakota_access_pipeline

[When open, click on white arrow in circle.]

MORE:

**Six People Had Been Bitten By
Corporation Security Dogs, Including A
Young Child, At North Dakota Native
American Protest**

Sep 3, 2016 By JAMES MACPHERSON, ASSOCIATED PRESS [Excerpts]

A protest of a four-state, \$3.8 billion oil pipeline turned violent Saturday after tribal officials say construction crews destroyed American Indian burial and cultural sites on private land in southern North Dakota.

Tribe spokesman Steve Sitting Bear said protesters reported that six people had been bitten by security dogs, including a young child. At least 30 people were pepper-sprayed, he said.

The crowd disbursed when officers arrived and no one was arrested, she said.

The incident occurred within half a mile of an encampment where hundreds of people have gathered to join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest of the oil pipeline that is slated to cross the Missouri River nearby.

The tribe is challenging the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access pipeline, which crosses the Dakotas and Iowa to Illinois, including near the reservation in southern North Dakota. A federal judge will rule before Sept. 9 whether construction can be halted on the Dakota Access pipeline.

Energy Transfer Partners did not return phone calls and emails from The Associated Press on Saturday seeking comment.

The tribe fears it's a project they fear will disturb sacred sites and impact drinking water for thousands of tribal members on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and millions further downstream.

The protest Saturday came one day after the tribe filed court papers saying it found several sites of "significant cultural and historic value" along the path of the proposed pipeline.

Tribal preservation officer Tim Mentz said in court documents that the tribe was only recently allowed to survey private land north of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. Mentz said researchers found burials rock piles called cairns and other sites of historic significance to Native Americans.

Standing Rock Sioux chairman David Archambault II said in a statement that construction crews removed topsoil across an area about 150 feet wide stretching for 2 miles.

"This demolition is devastating," Archambault said. "These grounds are the resting places of our ancestors. The ancient cairns and stone prayer rings there cannot be replaced. In one day, our sacred land has been turned into hollow ground."

Preskey said the company filmed the confrontation by helicopter and turned the video over to authorities. Protesters also have posted some of the confrontation on social media.

MORE:

**“I Want To Win Someday”
Native Americans Make Stand
Against Pipeline:
“The Protests Have Drawn Thousands
Here To The Plains, Stirring A New
Environmental Movement For Dozens Of**

Native American Tribes Across The Country”



Anishinabek Nation members sang as they entered the Standing Rock camp this week. The group traveled from Mount Pleasant, Mich., to join protests. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times



Verna Bailey, right, with Theresa Pleets, walked away from the water covering the land where her childhood home once stood. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

SEPT. 8, 2016 By JACK HEALY, New York Times [Excerpts]

NEAR CANNON BALL, N.D. — Verna Bailey stared into the silvery ripples of a man-made lake, looking for the spot where she had been born.

“Out there,” she said, pointing to the water. “I lived down there with my grandmother and grandfather. We had a community there. Now it’s all gone.”

Fifty years ago, hers was one of hundreds of Native American families whose homes and land were inundated by rising waters after the Army Corps of Engineers built the Oahe Dam along the Missouri River, part of a huge midcentury public-works project approved by Congress to provide electricity and tame the river’s floods.

To Ms. Bailey, 76, and thousands of other tribal members who lived along the river’s length, the project was a cultural catastrophe, residents and historians say.

It displaced families, uprooted cemeteries and swamped lands where tribes grazed cattle, drove wagons and gathered wild grapes and medicinal tea.

That past has now become a poignant backdrop to protests over a \$3.7 billion oil pipeline project that would cross a rancher’s land just north of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s reservation and plunge under a dammed section of the Missouri River. The company building the Dakota Access pipeline across four states and 1,170 miles says it will transport oil safely and reliably.

Opponents say a spill or break could poison the river.

The protests have drawn thousands here to the Plains, stirring a new environmental movement for dozens of Native American tribes across the country who are supporting the Standing Rock Sioux’s efforts here to block the pipeline.

History, like a river, runs deep here. And residents like Ms. Bailey say the pipeline battle has dredged up old memories and feelings about lost lands and broken treaties with the United States government, as well as their worries about the future of land and water they hold sacred.

“The trauma we deal with today is a residual effect of 1958, when the floods came,” said David Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The federal government has paid millions in compensation over the years to tribes affected by the dam project, including more than \$90 million held for the Standing Rock Sioux. But people here say they are still haunted by the memories of being told to leave their homes and seeing families drift apart.

The tribe has spent more than 20 years trying to gain control of 19,000 acres of waterfront land that was taken through eminent domain during dam construction.

“Even though it’s been more than half a century, they still feel this loss,” said Michael L. Lawson, the author of “Dammed Indians,” a history of the government’s dam projects along the Missouri.

He said about 56,000 acres of Standing Rock Sioux land had been condemned for the dams and 190 families relocated. There was one of 23 reservations affected by the project.

“Just about every part of their economy and living situation was impacted,” Mr. Lawson said. “They lost their most important resources in the bottom lands.”

For years, the legacy of the dam was perhaps the headline struggle for the Standing Rock Sioux. Now the pipeline has brought widespread attention, intense news media coverage and thousands of environmental pilgrims to this serene stretch of North Dakota.

The Standing Rock Sioux have sued the Army Corps of Engineers, which approved an important permit for the pipeline, saying that building the pipeline would destroy sacred cultural and burial sites and raising concerns that a leak or spill would poison their water supply.

The Corps says it reached out extensively to tribes before it gave approval for the Dakota Access pipeline to cross bodies of water, including the Missouri. The Standing Rock Sioux, it says, canceled a meeting to visit the pipeline’s proposed crossing across Lake Oahe.

The tribe says it was not properly consulted.

In legal filings, the Corps said the Standing Rock Sioux also could not point to specific sites that would be harmed by the pipeline. A tribal history expert later walked the route of the pipeline, and said he had found stone cairns and rocks arrayed in circles, spirals and other patterns that he said probably marked burial sites.

Last weekend, protesters upset that pipeline work crews were bulldozing what the tribe calls sacred ceremonial sites broke down a wire fence and surged onto a construction site. Tribal officials say that the demonstrators were provoked, and that six were bitten by guard dogs brought in by the pipeline company’s security guards.

On Thursday, Gov. Jack Dalrymple announced that he was sending about a dozen National Guard troops to help state troopers at a traffic checkpoint about 30 miles up the road from the protest, and that he was putting others on standby. Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier of Morton County said his officers would increase their patrols and their visibility around the demonstration itself.

“The worst fear is that this gets escalated in some way and someone gets hurt,” Sheriff Kirchmeier said in an interview this week.

“At some point, there has to be an end game. This can’t be going on for long periods of time.” **[In your dreams. T]**

A total of 37 people have been arrested on trespassing and other charges, but no one has been charged in connection with the clashes on Saturday.

The protests have attracted activists, actors and politicians. This week, Jill Stein, the Green Party’s presidential nominee, camped out with protesters and was seen on videos

spray-painting a bulldozer that sat at a pipeline construction site. On Wednesday, Morton County officials said they had filed misdemeanor charges of criminal mischief and trespassing against Ms. Stein and her vice-presidential running mate, Ajamu Baraka.

The Texas company behind the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners, said that it was operating entirely within the law and its agreements with landowners, and that it had all the necessary state and federal permits to build the pipeline. The company sued the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux and other tribal members, accusing them of illegally disrupting the pipeline's construction.

Theresa Pleets, 81, said she had a deep personal stake in coming out to the protest camp, a field speckled with teepees, campers, tents and fire rings.

She grew up in a two-room log house along the Missouri River, where her parents would fill barrels with drinking water. After the river was dammed, she said, her parents were relocated to a small, government-built house.

"I want to beat the Corps," she said. "I want to win someday."

The house where Ms. Bailey was born had just one room, she said. She arrived during a January blizzard in 1940, and her grandfather, Albert No Heart Sr., took a horse-drawn sleigh eight miles south to the town of Fort Yates to fetch a midwife, she said.

She went away to boarding school, and worked for decades in tribal administrative offices.

Now, she said, she tells stories of gathering firewood and wild berries in land that is covered by water.

"My kids don't believe it," she said, "when I tell them how things were."

**“When A Great Social Revolution Shall
Have Mastered The Results Of The
Bourgeois Epoch, Then Only Will Human
Progress Cease To Resemble That
Hideous, Pagan Idol, Who Would Not
Drink The Nectar But From The Skulls Of
The Slain”**

Excerpt from:
Karl Marx:

The Future Results of British Rule in India
Published August 8, 1853
Selected Journalism of Karl Marx;
Dispatches For The New York Tribune
Penguin Books, 2007

The centralization of capital is essential to the existence of capital as an independent power.

The destructive influence of that centralization upon the markets of the world does but reveal, in the most gigantic dimensions, the inherent organic laws of political economy now at work in every civilized town.

The bourgeois period of history has to create the material basis of the new world — on the one hand universal intercourse founded upon the mutual dependency of mankind, and the means of that intercourse: on the other hand the development of the productive powers of man and the transformation of material production into a scientific domination of natural agencies.

Bourgeois industry and commerce create these material conditions of a new world in the same way as geological revolutions have created the surface of the earth.

When a great social revolution shall have mastered the results of the bourgeois epoch, the market of the world and the modern powers of production, and subjected them to the common control of the most advanced peoples, then only will human progress cease to resemble that hideous, pagan idol, who would not drink the nectar but from the skulls of the slain.

Ernesto Che Guevara: “Selfless Heroism” “Irremediably Undemocratic” [Book Review]



wikimedia

September 4, 2016 by Mike Gonzalez, rs21 [Excerpts]

Gonzalez reviews Samuel Farber's book, *The Politics Of Che Guevara; Theory and Practice*, published by Haymarket Books 2016

For two generations of activists, Ernesto Che Guevara has symbolized a kind of selfless heroism.

His relative youth at his death in 1967 (he was 38) conserved his air of rebelliousness and the image of a man interested only in the struggle, rather than in power. Yet Sam Farber who acknowledges these qualities, describes him early in his new book, *The Politics of Che Guevara*, as "irremediably undemocratic".

The contradiction is striking and central to Farber's critical analysis of Che's life as a revolutionary.

Farber's starting point is the understanding of socialism as the self-emancipation of the working classes, with the emphasis on self.

In other words, revolution is, as Marx says (in his Theses on Feuerbach) the "coincidence of the changing of self and the changing of circumstances". It is in acting collectively in the world that the majority come to recognize their own power and become subjects of history rather than merely its objects.

Yet Che Guevara's politics and his practice were based on a very different idea – that it is revolutionaries who make the revolution. And they do so irrespective of the circumstances in which they operate, because it is the will of the revolutionary vanguard that is the key.

Farber explains that Edward Bellamy's 19th century utopian novel *Looking Backward* was one of Guevara's inspirations. Interestingly the future state that Bellamy imagines was modeled on an army.

Farber reminds us that revolutions do not automatically lead either to dictatorship or democracy; their outcome will depend on the "leading politics" of the movement. In the case of Cuba after 1959, the state was shaped around the command model – a pyramid of orders delivered from above and accepted without question – in which democracy appeared as a risk to the authority of leadership.

It seems curious at first that someone with Guevara's background should have come not just to accept, but to vigorously advocate that inescapably Stalinist project – to dismiss the right to strike and the independent organization of workers as mere obstacles on the road to revolution and to scorn the "false prophets of mass democracy".

Born in Argentina to left wing parents influenced by the especially Stalinist Argentine communist party, Guevara grew up as a radical Bohemian, a life-style rebel who spurned what he saw as bourgeois habits, from cleanliness to ostentatious consumption. His protest against that culture took the form of a kind of a puritanical asceticism. The politics would come later, though he was a visceral anti-imperialist from early on. And by the time he reached Mexico, where he met the Cuban rebels for the first time, he had

begun to steep himself in Marxism. But it was Marxism in the abstract, not linked to activism of any kind.

The members of the 26th July Movement with whom Che landed in Cuba in December 1956 to launch the guerrilla campaign were, as Farber describes them, rightly in my view, “déclassé” – political rebels from mainly middle class backgrounds with few roots in the mass movement. Guevara shared that dislocation. With the victory of the revolution in January 1959, Che joined the Castro brothers in its leadership.

It may surprise many readers that Che was – and Farber marshals a powerful body of evidence to prove his case – together with Raúl, the architect of the new state, though ultimately the political skills of Fidel carried him to the top of the pyramid. It was not a search for personal power that made Che the unconditional supporter of a one-party state – unlike Fidel, for whom it was his driving impulse. But it reflected an admiration for the Stalinist state in its most sectarian and undemocratic manifestations – the state as the exclusive vanguard. That model drove Che’s critically important interventions in the economy in the early years, based on rapid industrialisation, but taking no account of the realities of the Cuban economy.

By 1962, Che acknowledged how mistaken those economic policies were, but by then it was too late to turn the clock back.

What this “economic voluntarism”, as Farber calls it, illustrated was not just the single-minded dedication to the immediate creation of a communist state along Stalinist lines, but also a central feature of Guevara’s politics that Farber calls his “political tone-deafness” or his “schematism”. It was already implicit in his early (1960) manual on Guerrilla Warfare, and definitive especially in his later activities in the Congo and Bolivia.

For Guevara, political strategy was not shaped by the specific circumstances in which it unfolded.

So in a Bolivia with an extraordinary tradition of working-class militancy, and which was in the throes of a bitter strike wave when he arrived in 1966, he was insistent on creating a rural guerrilla force and paid no attention to the working-class movement except to call on its militants to join the guerrillas (which no more than a handful did).

A year later Che was dead, together with most of his comrades. In the Congo the failure of the movement there was attributed by Guevara to the lack of a vanguard leadership.

And in his arguments with the French agronomist Rene Dumont over the right to strike, Guevara angrily rejected Dumont’s insistence that it was fundamental to a socialist democracy, just as he did in his famous essay *Socialism and man in Cuba*, insisting that “a mass party was only possible when the masses have attained vanguard consciousness”.

By the mid-sixties Che was increasingly critical of the Soviet economy’s drift towards capitalism, but at no point did that lead him to a criticism of the bureaucratic state.

How could it, after all, when he had been an architect of the one-party state in Cuba?

What impresses in Farber's book is the way in which he interweaves a critical assessment of Guevara's politics with general arguments about the meaning of socialism.

And at its heart, that socialism is democracy of the most radical and profound kind. The one-party state that Che forged with Raúl Castro continues in Cuba today, overseeing the restoration of a capitalist economy.

The lack of resistance to its inevitable effects are a product of a one-party regime that denied the diversity of working-class politics and imposed a system in which the majority had no freedom to act, criticize or generate alternative socialist projects.

So what should we do with this flawed revolutionary icon?

Recognise that his high moral standards, his resolute internationalism, and his egalitarianism were qualities to cherish.

But the one-party state he favoured and its repression of democracy consigned the subjects of revolution to a position in which self-emancipation became impossible, as the self-proclaimed vanguard usurped their role, at first in the name of revolution but soon, and in the absence of any possibility of control from below, in their own self-interest.

Searching For A Soldier's Grave Martha Spencer

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

Syrian Deal Could Be Breakthrough: “Many Details Of The Plan Are Still Secret, For Reasons For Which The Two Parties Are Still Seeking Justifications”

September 11, 2016 News From Somewhere

DAMASCUS (Reuters agency) – In what is being seen as a possible breakthrough for international peace, the Syrian government and the rebel Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which are fighting to overthrow it, today agreed to jointly implement measures to reduce dangerous tensions between the United States and Russia.

Many details of the plan are still secret, for reasons for which the two parties are still seeking justifications.

However, it was announced that the agreement requires Russia to cease assisting rebels in the eastern Ukraine (something which Moscow denies it is doing) and requires the US to stop sending naval armadas into the Black Sea (something which Washington insists it will continue doing as long as Russia “aggressively maintains a shoreline” on that sea).

The Syrian government-SDF deal may also call for tension-reducing measures in the Mediterranean, where Russia has recently stepped up its naval presence.

This has been considered threatening by the US, which has a long history there. As was pointed out recently by the US Navy Secretary Ray “Gun” Moebius, “We’ve been in the Mediterranean continuously for 70 years now, since World War Two, and we might as well stick around for the third one.”

STUCK ON STUPID

Trump Supporters Aren’t The Only Racist Scum Running Around Loose: Danziger Shills For Clinton

THE MAN SAID THIS WOULD GET ME
A GREAT JOB, AND MAKE ME FEEL
REAL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF...



CLASS WAR REPORTS

L.I. University-Brooklyn Locks Out Union Professors Amid Contract Dispute: “Salaries And Health Benefits Terminated” “A Sizable Group Of Blue-Collar Workers (Electricians, Carpenters, Custodians) Also Are Working Without A Contract” “Management Hired A Couple Hundred Advanced Degree Scabs”

Sep 7, 2016 Glenn K via Marxism

I joined 30 or so PSC people today at the rally to support more than 400 Brooklyn LIU faculty members who have been locked out of their classrooms, with both their salaries and health benefits terminated.

Hundreds of faculty and students rallied and picketed outside the campus, along with a sizable group of blue-collar workers (electricians, carpenters, custodians) who also are working without a contract.

The huge inflatable rat was present, the speeches were militant, and there was a multi-racial group of about 30 students with signs supporting the faculty.

Management hired a couple hundred advanced degree scabs.

One of the prominent issues is management's demand that salaries for adjuncts be lowered.

A number of speakers made the point that LIU has a long history of racism, and that the Brooklyn LIU campus is far more integrated than the LI campus and faculty at the Brooklyn campus have lower salaries.

The enthusiasm of people at the rally and picket line was inspiring.

The AFT has established a Solidarity Fund for the LIUFF — but hasn't called for thousands of UFT and AFT members in NYC to come to LIU, which it has the power to do:

LIU Lockout Solidarity Fund - Donation Center: Show Your Support

On Labor Day weekend, faculty at the Brooklyn campus of LIU were informed, with less than a day's notice, that they were locked-out of their campus. Their health insurance is cut off and they will no longer be paid for their work.

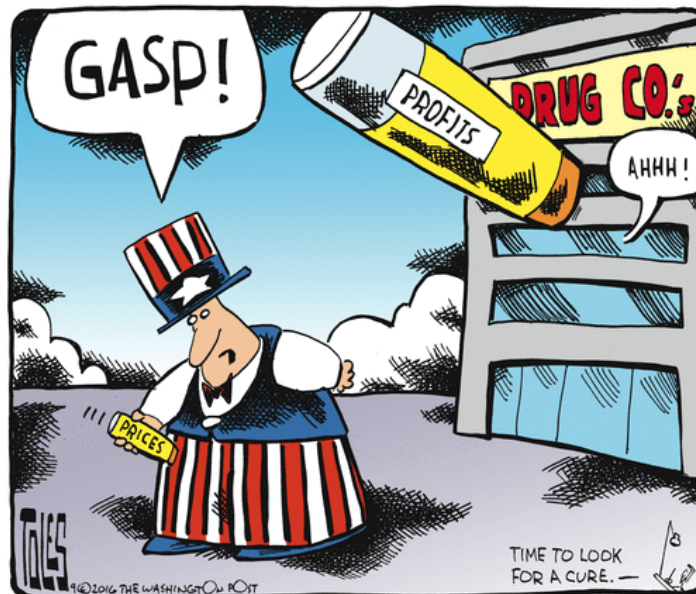
The lock-out is the administration's way of refusing to reach an agreement that would address the disparity in investment between LIU's urban and suburban campuses. Instead, LIU plans to redeploy administrators and has hired temps to teach students when classes begin this week.

LIU Brooklyn students, and the community served by LIU Brooklyn, must not be short-changed.

Please support LIU Brooklyn faculty in their fight for fairness and equity here:

<https://www.aft.org/liu-solidarity>

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Injured By Zionist Dogs: “Tawfiq Khaled, 66, Picking Figs On His Land In Deir Istiya, When He Was Attacked”

August 31, 2016 IMEMC News & Agencies

An elderly Palestinian man sustained serious to moderate injuries Tuesday after an Israeli settler unleashed his dogs on him, according to a Palestinian official.

Rizeq Abu Nasir, coordinator of the popular committee against the apartheid wall, told Wafa correspondence that Tawfiq Khaled, aged 66, was picking figs on his land in Deir Istiya, a village in the north of the West Bank, when he was attacked by the settler's dogs.

He said that the settler stood by watching as the dogs attacked Khaled, but restrained them only after Palestinian shepherds, who happened to be in the area, intervened to help him.

Khaled was transferred to a hospital for medical treatment.

Israeli settlers frequently attack Palestinian civilians in the West Bank prompting officials and international organizations to condemn such acts.

Saeb Erekat, secretary of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee, had also called on the international community to provide protection to the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories stressing that it is an international responsibility.

Amnesty International had said that “Israelis living in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank frequently attacked Palestinian civilians and their property, sometimes in the presence of Israeli soldiers and police who failed to intervene.”

A report published by the Israeli human rights organization, Yesh Din, in May 2015 stated that Israeli settlers enjoy widespread impunity for their attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli Forces Using Rifles And Batons Attack 11 For Walking

While Palestinian In Occupied Jerusalem: “Six Palestinian Youths While They Were Walking In The Bab Al-Hitta Neighborhood” “Five Palestinian Football Players Wednesday Morning As They Were Still Dressed In Their Football Uniforms”

Sept. 1, 2016 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM –

Israeli forces reportedly assaulted 11 Palestinians in two separate incidents in the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, according to Palestinian sources.

Israeli forces reportedly assaulted six Palestinian youths while they were walking in the Bab al-Hitta neighborhood of the Old City on Tuesday night, according to medical sources.

Israeli forces were stationed near the area when they assaulted a group of Palestinian youths who were walking by, using their rifles and batons. The Palestinians reportedly suffered from bruising and were taken to the Makassed hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Executive Manager of the Burj Al-Luqluq Social Center Society Muntaser Dkaidek said that Israeli forces assaulted five Palestinian football players with their rifles Wednesday morning. The players, who practice at the center in the Old City, were identified as Awni Saida, Ahmad al-Halawani, Muhammad Waleed, Ahmad al-Salayma, Yahya Farah, and Ihab Teiba from the neighborhood of Wadi al-Joz, north of the Old City of Jerusalem.

According to Dkaidek, Israeli forces assaulted the players when they were leaving the center on the street leading to Herod's Gate as they were still dressed in their football uniforms.

Saida, Farah and al-Halawani were taken to the hospital to receive medical care, Dkaidek said.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told Ma'an that he was not aware of either event, and rejected the description of the incidents as 'attacks,' telling Ma'an that "Israeli police don't attack Palestinians."

In spite of Rosenfeld's assertions, Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem have reported numerous cases of Israeli forces physically assaulting Palestinians in the city, including security guards at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem routinely report mistreatment by Israeli forces, with Israeli authorities cracking down on Palestinian youths in recent years, while Palestinians have often accused Israeli forces of detaining Palestinian youths without any evidence of wrongdoing, and assaulting them in the process.

Zionist Ghouls Refuse To Return Dead Body Of Son To Palestinian Family For 325

Days:

**“It Was Difficult To Identify Him;
Except That I Am His Father And I
Know Him Well”**

**Bodies Returned To Palestinian
Families Only “On Condition That
They No Longer Have Funerals In
Their Neighborhoods Or Villages, But
Would Instead Be Buried In**

Cemeteries Chosen By The Police”

**“Bodies Kept In Poor And Inhumane
Conditions, ‘Stacked On Top Of Each
Other””**



Muhammad Elayyan makes the victory sign after the body of his slain son Bahaa Elayyan is released by Israeli authorities after being withheld for ten months, on Sept. 1, 2016.

Sept. 2, 2016 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Israeli authorities returned the body of Palestinian Bahaa Elayyan on Thursday at dawn, allowing his family -- which has been leading the movement advocating for Israel to release slain Palestinians' bodies -- to bury him 325 days after his death.

Elayyan, a 22-year-old resident of the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabbir, was killed alongside another Palestinian after they attacked an Israeli bus on Oct. 13, killing three Israelis with knives and a gun.

His body was buried at the al-Mujahidin cemetery near the Old City of Jerusalem, in accordance with stipulations from Israeli police, which has allowed the release of bodies of slain Palestinians from East Jerusalem accused of "terrorism" on the condition that they no longer have funerals in their neighborhoods or villages, but would instead be buried in cemeteries chosen by the police.

The stipulation comes amid a wider set of preconditions for the release, as only 25 people were allowed to attend Elayyan's funeral, and his family was made to pay a 20,000 shekel (\$5,292) "insurance fee" to make sure they abided by the rules.

Israeli forces were heavily deployed in the area ahead of the funeral, as attendees were searched three times at checkpoints and saw their phones confiscated during the burial. Israeli forces also reportedly prevented people who were not on the submitted list from entering the cemetery.

Israeli police also reportedly photographed people inside the cemetery.

“One of the most difficult moments in life is for parents to bury their children,” Muhammad Elayyan, Elayyan’s father, told reporters.

“Israel holds the bodies of martyrs as a policy to punish parents and pressure them.”

A lawyer and activist, Muhammad Elayyan has spearheaded a movement by the families of slain Palestinians demanding that Israeli authorities return the bodies, said that his son’s body was severely altered by the long period of time it had spent frozen in Israeli morgues.

“Since the body was held in freezers for ten months, substantial changes occurred to Bahaa’s features and color,” Muhammad Elayyan said.

“His eyes sunk inside his skull as if he did not have any, muscles atrophied and his skin peeled off easily.”

“It was difficult to identify him; except that I am his father and I know him well,” he added.

Muhammad Elayyan said that there were three bullet marks on Bahaa’s body, including one in the chest, near the heart.

The United Nations released a report in May stating that Israeli authorities have prohibited autopsies from being conducted on Palestinian corpses, and that the bodies were kept in poor and inhumane conditions, “stacked on top of each other.”

“The bodies returned to the families are often disfigured, sometimes beyond recognition, denying the families the right to accord, with dignity, final religious rites,” the report read.

Nonetheless, Muhammad Elayyan said that he and Elayyan’s mother were able to say their last goodbyes to their son before the burial.

“We had loving moments with Bahaa and words would ruin these moments,” he said.

Mourners remembered Elayyan as a socially involved young man who was invested in cultural activities in East Jerusalem.

He was described as a scout leader, the founder of an initiative called “Town’s Youth,” and one of the organizers of a “reading chain” around the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem in 2014.

Israeli authorities continue to hold the bodies of 12 slain Palestinians accused of committing attacks against Israelis, including three women and two residents of occupied East Jerusalem, among them Abd al-Muhsen Hassuneh, 21, and Muhammad Abu Khalaf, 20.

The families of the slain Palestinians have appealed the Israeli Supreme Court for months, with the court ruling in May that all of the bodies of Palestinians held by

Israel be released to their families before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in June.

However, after releasing the body of Alaa Abu Jamal, Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan ordered that Israeli police suspend the return of the bodies just a few weeks after the ruling, claiming that the funeral encouraged "incitement" against the state of Israel.

The families have since had to return to court to negotiate the release of their slain family members.

In early August, Israeli internal intelligence service Shin Bet announced that Elayyan's body would be released imminently, only to backtrack on its decision the very same day.

In mid-August, Issa Qaraqe, the head of the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs, made a statement saying that Israeli authorities had approved the "gradual release" of slain Palestinian bodies.

Elayyan's burial comes two days after Israeli authorities released the body of fellow Jerusalemite Thaer Abu Ghazaleh for burial after withholding it for ten months.

Israeli authorities have dramatically escalated their policy of withholding slain Palestinian bodies since a wave of unrest swept across the Palestinian territory and Israel in October, during which time 220 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and 32 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians.

Human rights organizations have widely condemned the policy, with prisoners' rights group Addameer calling it a form of "collective punishment" against Palestinians who had not been accused of any wrongdoing, also noting that it "adds to the severe grief and trauma of families of the deceased."

Muhammad Elayyan has been an outspoken advocate speaking up against the series of punitive measures carried out against the families of slain Palestinians suspected of carrying out attacks against Israelis.

The Elayyan family home was demolished in January.

In June, Muhammad Elayyan was detained by Israeli forces for several days for participating in protests calling for the release of bodies.

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>**

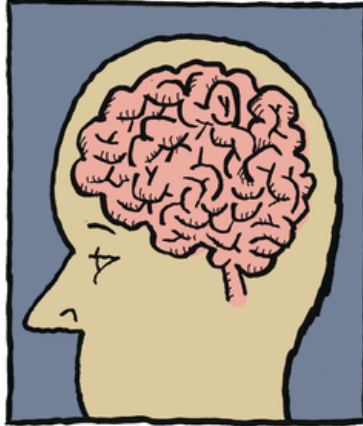
The occupied nation is Palestine.

The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

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NORMAL BRAIN



SENATOR'S BRAIN THAT IS BLOCKING THE ZIKA VIRUS RESEARCH.



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