

Military Resistance 14L14



The Present As History: 2017

Excerpts from *Introduction To Ferdinand Lassalle's Speech To The Jury* by Leon Trotsky (July 1905)

Imposing its own type of economy and its own relations on all countries, capitalism has transformed the entire world into a single economic and political organism.

And just as modern credit binds thousands of enterprises together by an invisible thread and imparts astounding mobility to capital, eliminating numerous small and partial crises while at the same time making general economic crises incomparably more serious, so the entire economic and political functioning of capitalism, with its world trade, its system of monstrous state debts and international political alliances, which are drawing all the reactionary forces into a single worldwide joint-stock company, has not only resisted all partial political crises but has also prepared the conditions for a social crisis of unprecedented dimensions.

Internalizing all the pathological processes, circumventing all the difficulties, brushing aside all the profound questions of domestic and international politics, and hiding all the contradictions, the bourgeoisie has postponed the denouement while simultaneously preparing a radical, worldwide liquidation of its supremacy.

This small planet on which we live will only complete this task once.

How fortunate is the generation that will shoulder this responsibility.

Washington DC: 2017

The Biblical prophet Isaiah had this to say to the traitors who ran the government of his day:

“Ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor,

“Ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

“Thy princes loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards, they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

“How is the faithful city become a harlot,

“It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it,

“But now murderers.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

The Stalled Offensive To Retake Mosul:

**“Devastating Counterattacks By
Islamic State That Have Raised
Questions About The Battle Plan”**

**“The Prime Minister Initially
Predicted Victory By The End Of
2016”**

“On Tuesday, He Said Three More Months, An Assessment Commanders And Analysts Said Is Still Unrealistic Given The Size Of Mosul And The Intensity Of The Fight”

Dec. 29, 2016 By TAMER EL-GHOBASHY and ALI. A. NABHAN, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

BARTELLA, Iraq—Iraqi security forces began a dramatic shift in tactics Thursday in their stalled offensive to retake Mosul, Islamic State’s last major stronghold, advancing on new fronts and bringing federal police into the battle after counterattacks inflicted heavy casualties.

In the past week, Iraq’s military has begun using heavy artillery in the crowded city, in spite of the risk to civilians, and has moved forces from Baghdad and other areas to support the Counter Terrorism Forces. Some 4,000 federal police have been shifted from the capital and south of Mosul to support the fight in the east.

The changes follow a series of devastating counterattacks by Islamic State that have raised questions about the battle plan and even the military’s capacity to secure other urban centers, including the capital Baghdad.

“The current Mosul fight has turned into a war of attrition,” said Iskandar Witwit, a lawmaker on the security and defense committee and a former army general. “This will negatively affect security in Iraq for sure.”

For more than two weeks, Iraqi troops have largely stood pat to re-supply, repair vehicles and rotate forces. They have also tried to secure the areas they have retaken while defending against militant attacks.

Much of the tactical reassessment has revolved around the Counter Terrorism Forces. The elite U.S-trained forces are spearheading the drive to reclaim the eastern half of the city and have led nearly every successful effort to win back territory from Islamic State.

The units—about one-fifth the total involved in the offensive—have taken unusually heavy losses in Mosul.

Lt. Gen. Abdel Ghani al-Assadi, the commander of the forces, said this week his units have begun using artillery in eastern Mosul for the first time after the government dropped its initial objections when the offensive bogged down.

Iraq’s military and government don’t release casualty figures. But medical workers, Iraqi politicians and American officials have said the death toll among security forces has far

exceeded previous battles against Islamic State, largely due to the size of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, and the number of Islamic State fighters concentrated there.

"I know they're taking a lot of casualties; it's been tough on them," a U.S. official said.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi initially said the redeployments are part of an evolving battle plan, but some military commanders and politicians say he was overconfident of a swift victory.

The prime minister initially predicted victory by the end of 2016. On Tuesday, he said evicting Islamic State from all of Iraq would take three more months, an assessment commanders and analysts said is still unrealistic given the size of Mosul and the intensity of the fight.

"Daesh fighters now are fighting to death," said a senior commander with the Emergency Response Division, a police SWAT force, referring to Islamic State by another name. The force had made rapid advances on Mosul from the south but has been shifted to the east because of its expertise in the type of tactical fighting executed by the Counter Terrorism Forces.

The Iraqi special forces are trying to compensate for lumbering armored military units.

On Dec. 7, Iraq's 9th Armored Division made an incursion into the city, sending dozens of armored vehicles and tanks to claim the massive Al-Salam Hospital complex in southeastern Mosul. The division said the militants had been using the hospital as a headquarters.

Come nightfall, the tide turned. Dozens of militants emerged from a network of tunnels while mortars rained down and snipers fired at the trapped soldiers.

Gen. Assadi sent in two of his regiments—a total of 30 vehicles and 150 fighters—to rescue the soldiers and beat back the militants while two regiments and one brigade from the 9th Division retreated.

The fight took some seven hours and cost at least 13 lives and destroyed dozens of vehicles, he said.

The U.S. coalition said warplanes had struck a building in the hospital compound in response to an Iraqi military request in the face of a sustained militant attack.

"That incident forced us to recalculate," Gen. Assadi said. "Having an armored division do a street to street fight isn't wise. A tank rolling in is like walking in blindfolded."

Military Resistance In PDF Format?
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POLICE WAR REPORTS

Police Say A Black Man Was Shot After Pulling A Blade On Officers: “There Was No Blade In Collie’s Hand, And That He Was Never A Threat To Officers” “Nate, I Was Trying To Comply And They Shot Me In The Back”

December 28 By Cleve R. Wootson Jr., Washington Post

Since July, when David Collie was shot and paralyzed in a Fort Worth apartment complex, the police narrative went this way: An officer shot Collie after he threatened officers with a box cutter.

But Collie’s attorney released video from a police vehicle dashboard camera this week that he says backs up the paralyzed man’s assertions: That there was no blade in Collie’s hand, and that he was never a threat to officers.

The video is nearly 10 minutes long, but the encounter that left Collie paralyzed happens in the first 30 seconds.

A Fort Worth police officer and a Tarrant County Sheriff’s deputy came across Collie as they worked off-duty at an apartment complex, according to the Associated Press.

They suspected Collie had been involved in a nearby gas station robbery that ended when two shirtless black men sprinted away from the scene.

The law enforcement officers encountered a shirtless Collie a few minutes later at the apartment complex, which is a half-mile away from the gas station.

According to the video, he walked away from the approaching officers. They are seen getting out of their vehicle to engage him. One has a flashlight. The other unholsters a pistol.

At some point Collie points — his attorney says he’s pointing toward his girlfriend’s apartment, where he was headed — and the officer fires one shot.

Collie collapses in a heap.

Collie is now paralyzed from the abdomen down, his attorney said. The 33-year-old will likely require medical care for the rest of his life.

“His assertion is [he] was only trying to comply,” Nate Washington, Collie’s attorney, told The Washington Post. “These officers pulled up, they’re moving kind of quickly, one of them has a gun drawn.

“He told me ‘I was scared. I wasn’t exactly sure what to do.’ When I met him in the hospital, he told me, ‘Nate, I was trying to comply and they shot me in the back.’”

Collie was charged with aggravated assault on a public servant but a grand jury declined to indict him.

He wants to see the officer who shot him fired from the force and charged with a crime.

A police spokesman told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that “until the internal case is closed, we are unable to release more details.” The case against the officer has not yet been presented to a grand jury, the spokesman said.

The police department is already reeling from a viral video this month that showed a white officer scolding a mom who had called 911 to report an assault on her son — then arresting the mother and her teenage daughters.

Texas officials and many in the public were outraged at the video, which shows the officer pointing his stun gun at the teenagers. Many called for the officer to be fired.

The Fort Worth Police Department didn’t release a statement directly addressing Collie’s shooting video or the other incident. But the department posted a tweet shortly after Washington released the video:

“We saw what you saw. We heard what you heard. We have received your phone calls, your emails, your messages, your tweets, your reviews, your absolute concern over what occurred and your demand for answers and action,” the tweet says. “WE DO HEAR YOU!”

Collie’s shooting happened as police across the United States and the communities they serve are mired in a debate about whether officers are too quick to use deadly force against minorities. According to The Washington Post’s police shooting database, 951 people have been shot and killed by officers in 2016. Of those, 228 were black, nearly one out of every four.

Washington said he believes racial bias was at play in Collie’s case.

“It is the sort of racial bias and the sort of racial prejudice that says you should be afraid of the African American man,” Washington said. “You watch that video, you have an officer that sees Mr. Collie and within 10 seconds puts a bullet in his back.

“That doesn’t happen to other folks. That happens to African Americans.”

MORE: SAME EVENT:

**Texas Police Shoot Black Man In
The Back, Then Cover It Up:
“The Entire Police Account Is
Fictitious And Collie Never Had A
Box Cutter And Never Pointed
Anything At Police Or Threatened
Them In Any Way Whatsoever”
“The Gunshot Wound To His Spine Left
Him Paralyzed From The Waist Down”**



David Collie was paralyzed following the July shooting. (photo: NBC)

28 December 16 By Shaun King, New York Daily News

This past July, on a hot summer night in Fort Worth, Tx., something truly terrible happened. We are just now learning the details.

David Collie, a young black man with his shirt off, was walking near his apartment when police officers working security in the area suddenly pulled up in a squad car, got out, and began approaching him.

Collie did not run, but was shot in the back within seconds of seeing the officers. The officers were about 30 feet away and had just announced themselves.

Collie spent the next 61 days in the hospital — handcuffed to the bed — recovering from the gunshot wound to his spine, which left him paralyzed from the waist down, his attorney, Nate Washington, said Tuesday.

At the time of the shooting, police claimed that Collie fit the description of a man who had just robbed someone at gunpoint at a completely different location. That man was black with his shirt off.

Understand, though, that about 150,000 black folk live in a densely populated area of Fort Worth. Being black with your shirt off on a hot night is not reason enough to get shot.

Police claimed that when they approached Collie that he turned toward them and threatened them with a silver object they believed to be the gun used in the robbery.

This case, though, is ground zero for why so many police officers hate body cameras and dash cameras.

What the police described back in July and what is seen in the newly-released dash camera footage appear to be two totally different scenes.

First off, David Collie did not have a gun.

Secondly, the video doesn't appear to show him turning and threatening or pointing anything at police.

Collie was initially charged with aggravated assault on a public servant, which was why he was then kept handcuffed to a bed while he recovered from his injury.

Except a grand jury, seeing the same video that we are now seeing, dismissed all charges against Collie. Police later claimed that they found a box cutter at least 10 feet away from his body after the shooting, but no such object is ever seen in Collie's hands in the video.

No charges were ever filed against Collie in the armed robbery from earlier that night either.

Washington said in Tuesday's press conference that the entire police account is fictitious and that Collie never had a box cutter and never pointed anything at police or threatened them in any way whatsoever.

"I wasn't there that night. I do know what I saw. I know I never saw this man with a weapon. I never saw this man advance toward the officers. I know I saw him get shot in his back," Washington said.

Many other questions remain.

It turns out that the two officers involved were both off duty the night of the shooting. Not only that, but they weren't even from the same departments. One was from the Fort Worth Police Department and the other was from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. What does "off-duty" even mean if they are going to approach and shoot a man like this?

The dash camera footage was recorded from a distance and doesn't have audio.

Whatever the case, David Collie was left paralyzed because of this encounter with police. His life will never be the same again.

He deserves justice and the public deserves answers. It's been five months. Police have had plenty of time to provide them, but have said and done next to nothing on this case. Viewed in light of the recent police brutality case against the Fort Worth Police Department, this doesn't look good.

In Louisiana Parish, Secret Arrests Rest On Cop 'Hunches'

"Officers There Have Routinely Arrested Hundreds Of Citizens Annually Without Probable Cause, Strip-Searching Them And Denying Them Contact With Their Family And Lawyers For Days"

28 December 16 By The New York Times Editorial Board

For a shocking glimpse of what's been happening in the name of criminal justice in America, look no further than a Justice Department report last week on police behavior in Louisiana.

Officers there have routinely arrested hundreds of citizens annually without probable cause, strip-searching them and denying them contact with their family and lawyers for days — all in an unconstitutional attempt to force cooperation with detectives who finally admitted they were operating on a mere "hunch" or "feeling."

This wholesale violation of the Constitution's protection against unlawful search and seizure by the police in Evangeline Parish, including in its largest city, Ville Platte, was standard procedure for putting pressure on citizens who the police thought might have information about crimes, according to the findings of a 20-month federal investigation.

The report described as "staggering" the number of people who were "commonly detained for 72 hours or more" with no opportunity to contest their arrest, in what the police euphemistically termed "investigative holds."

The sheriff's office in Evangeline, with a population of 33,578, initiated over 200 such arrest-and-grilling sessions between 2012 and 2014. In Ville Platte, which has 7,303 residents, the local police department used the practice more than 700 times during the same years.

The residents faced demands for information, the report said, “under threat of continued wrongful incarceration,” resulting in what may have been false confessions and improper convictions.

While the nation has been exposed in recent years to police abuses involving the fatal shooting of citizens, particularly black Americans, the new report presents something no less insidious: dragnet interrogations routinely conducted below the radar as a supposed tool of criminal justice.

The practice, which finally prompted local complaints to the federal government, was found to be habitual in the parish for as long as anyone could remember.

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

There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.
-- Rosa Luxemburg

**“The Objective Meaning Of
Revolution Is The Struggle For
State Power For The Purpose Of
Reconstructing Antiquated Social
Relations”**

**The State Is “The Greatest Means Of
Organising, Disorganizing, And Re-
Organizing Social Relations”**

**“Democracy, As The Party Of The
Proletariat, Naturally Seeks The
Political Supremacy Of The Working
Class”**

Excerpts from *Foreword to Karl Marx, Parizhskaya Kommuna* by Leon Trotsky
(December 1905)

The State And The Struggle For Power

A revolution is an open contest of social forces in the struggle for power.

The popular masses rise up, driven by vital elementary motives and interests, and frequently have no awareness of the movement's goals or the paths it will take: one party inscribes 'right and justice' on its banner, another 'order'; the 'heroes' of the revolution are either impelled by a sense of 'duty' or carried away by ambition; the army's behaviour is determined by unquestioning discipline, by a fear that consumes discipline, or else by revolutionary insight that overcomes both discipline and fear.

Enthusiasm, self-interest, habit, bold flights of thought, superstition and self-sacrifice — thousands of different feelings, ideas, attitudes, talents, and passions are swept into and swallowed up by a mighty whirlpool in which they either perish or rise to new heights.

But the objective meaning of revolution is the struggle for state power for the purpose of reconstructing antiquated social relations.

The state is no end in itself.

It is only a working machine in the hands of the ruling social forces.

Like any machine, the state has its motive power, its mechanisms of transmission, and its working parts.

The motive power is class interest; its mechanisms are agitation, the press, the propaganda of churches and schools, parties, street meetings, petitions and uprisings.

Finally, the executive mechanism is the administration together with the police, courts and prisons, and the army.

The state is no end in itself.

It is, however, the greatest means of organising, disorganizing, and re-organizing social relations.

Depending upon whose hands control it, it can be either a lever for profound transformation or an instrument of organised stagnation.

Democracy, as the party of the proletariat, naturally seeks the political supremacy of the working class.

The proletariat grows and becomes strong together with the growth of capitalism.

In this sense, growth of capitalism is also the development of the proletariat in the direction of its own dictatorship.

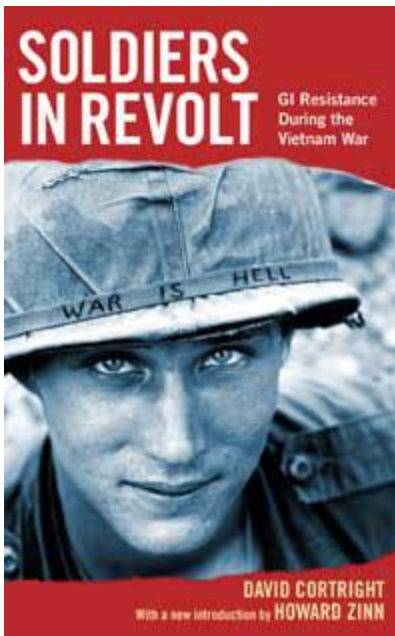
However, the day and the hour when power will pass into the hands of the working class do not directly depend upon the level of the productive forces, but rather upon the relations of class struggle, the international situation, and finally, upon a number of subjective factors that include tradition, initiative, and readiness for the fight.

“To Avoid An Embarrassing Public Confrontation, The General Was

Forced To Sneak In The Back Entrance Of His Hotel”

“Nearly One Hundred GIs Boldly Gathered Across From The Reviewing Stand Behind A Huge Banner Reading ‘GIs For Peace’”

“The Response From Soldiers Forced To March In The Parade Proved Embarrassing To The Assembled Commanders: Hundreds Raised Clenched Fists In Solidarity With The Demonstrators”



[A quantity of stupid drivel has appeared in the past few years asserting that it was the civilian opposition to the Vietnam war that led the movement in the armed forces. As you will see below, the sweeping upsurge against the war revealed by troops in 1969-1970 gave heart and leadership to the anti-war movement among civilians, whose public demonstrations were growing every smaller. T]

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community. The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

On October 11 [1969] nearly one hundred Fort Bragg soldiers, mostly Vietnam veterans, marched in a Moratorium demonstration in Fayetteville. On October 15, protests occurred in San Antonio and Colorado Springs.

At Fort Sam Houston, approximately 150 soldiers signed a petition sponsored by the new paper Your Military Left, requesting facilities for a meeting on post. Their plea was rejected, though, and the Moratorium gathering was held instead in downtown San Antonio.

At Fort Carson, Vietnam veterans Tom Roberts and Curtis Stocker, editors of Aboveground, encountered a series of command restrictions aimed at preventing them from attending an evening demonstration in Colorado Springs. Despite the obstruction, later documented in an official Fort Carson memorandum leaked to the New York Times, the two managed to elude their would-be captors and joined seventy-five fellow soldiers for the anti-war observance in Acacia Park.

A few days later, on October 20, the ASU [American Servicemen's Union] chapter at Fort Lewis called a meeting at an on-post service club to discuss the war and the need for GI organizing; the gathering was broken up by MPs, however, resulting in the arrest of thirty-five GIs and three civilians.

As the country prepared for the second wave of Moratorium actions, in November, an extraordinary full-page ad appeared in the New York Times Sunday edition of November 9.

A statement calling for an end to the war and support for the planned November 15 mobilization in Washington, D.C., was signed by 1,366 active-duty servicemen. Included among the signees were 189 soldiers in Vietnam, 141 GIs at Fort Bliss, and people on over eighty additional bases and ships throughout the world.

The statement had a dramatic impact within the peace movement and was at least partly responsible for the success of the events on the following weekend.

The huge November 15 peace rally in Washington (attended by some 250,000 people) was led by a contingent of over two hundred GIs, many of them associated with the local GI paper, Open Sight.

The next day, fifty of the servicemen joined in a picket line at the Court of Military Appeals Building to protest the injustices of military law.

A simultaneous rally in Los Angeles on the fifteenth also was headed by active-duty servicemen, including fifty Marines from Camp Pendleton.

The November Moratorium also witnessed a series of important actions by one of the most dynamic new groups of the GI movement, Fort Bliss "GIs for Peace."

The organization was formally launched on August 17, 1969, when several hundred soldiers, many of them assigned to the Defense Language Institute (DLI), gathered in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon to proclaim the following purposes: to promote peace, secure constitutional rights for servicemen, combat racism, improve enlisted living conditions, and provide aid to the local chicano community.

Through Gigline, an unusually well-written and articulate GI paper, the activists quickly attracted widespread local support -- and as a result, encountered serious repression. Paul Nevins, a drafted Ph.D. student and the group's first chairman, was shipped out to Germany; Gigline's first editor received abrupt orders to Vietnam; and three other leading organizers were suddenly transferred to different bases, just hours before a scheduled Moratorium protest. In all, ten soldiers received transfer orders in the organization's first five months of existence.

New members always rose to fill the vacuum, though, and the group's activities proved remarkably successful.

One of their first actions involved an anti-war protest at the traditional Veterans Day parade in El Paso.

As weapons and marching units filed by in the November 11 pageant, nearly one hundred GIs boldly gathered across from the reviewing stand behind a huge banner reading "GIs for Peace."

The response from soldiers forced to march in the parade proved embarrassing to the assembled commanders: hundreds flashed the "V" for peace sign or raised clenched fists in solidarity with the demonstrators.

On Moratorium day, the group urged students at DLI to boycott the noon meal and gather for a period meditation at a nearby chapel. Nearly a dozen plain-clothes men and officers showed up at the church to intimidate the protesters, but sixty soldiers braved the threats and carried out the prayer meeting as planned.

The neighboring enlisted mess hall, meanwhile, was three fourths empty - despite the rare attendance of a huge contingent of officers.

The anti-war upsurge culminated the following Saturday, when several hundred Fort Bliss soldiers marched at the head of a peace rally in downtown El Paso.

The third series of Moratorium protests, scheduled for December, produced two additional GI demonstrations, including one of the largest and most militant gatherings in the history of the GI movement.

At Fort Bragg, a growing GIs United Against the War sponsored another rally in Fayetteville, this time attended by two hundred soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The more significant action, however, came on December 14 in Oceanside, California.

In the largest Moratorium demonstration in the country on that day, an estimated one thousand servicepeople joined a crowd of four thousand in a march and rally near Camp Pendleton.

The event united black, white, and chicano GIs behind a strongly anti-imperialist and anti-racist program and marked the founding of an important new GI organization, Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM).

Operating out of the "Green Machine" coffeehouse in Vista, Camp Pendleton Marines launched the paper Attitude Check and established MDM as an openly revolutionary organization.

Their program called for the right to collective bargaining, constitutional rights for all servicepeople, abolition of the court-martial system and its replacement with a jury and court of peers, the end of officer privileges, the elimination of racism, freedom for all political prisoners, and an immediate pullout from Vietnam.

During a visit to the area in February 1970, Marine Commandant General Leonard Chapman labeled MDM "a serious threat to the defense of this country."

Because of internal disputes, however, Pendleton MDM faltered, and by the summer of 1970 split into factions, with a new paper, All Ready on the Left, replacing Attitude Check.

Despite these difficulties at Camp Pendleton, the idea of MDM proved attractive to other radical servicemen. During the first half of 1970, the group's program and name were adopted at six other locations: San Diego, Long Beach Naval Station, El Taro MCAS, Fort Ord, Fort Carson, and Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

As GI organizing flourished, the factionalism that hindered MDM became evident at other bases, with several separate organizations often existing on one post at the same time.

No such divisiveness hindered soldier organizing at Fort Bliss.

By adopting a broad, non-partisan approach, GIs for Peace successfully united a large number of servicemen and, despite a lack of civilian aid, carried on an extensive program of anti-war activity.

One particularly effective demonstration occurred during a January 1970 visit to El Paso by Army Chief of Staff William Westmoreland. When the former Vietnam commander arrived in the city on the fifteenth to deliver an address, he was greeted by a picket line of eighty local soldiers.

To avoid an embarrassing public confrontation, the general was forced to sneak in the back entrance of his hotel.

The largest GIs for Peace gathering, indeed one of the largest in the history of the GI movement, was a March 15 rally in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon. Approximately two thousand people, including more than eight hundred servicemen, came together for a festival of political speeches and rock music, in a massive display of local anti-war sentiment.

At Fort Devens, about twenty GIs join several hundred civilians for the first rally ever attempted at this base. The paper Morning Report appears for the first time.

Seventy-five soldiers and five hundred civilians gather for an anti-war march and rally outside Fort Meade.

The first anti-war demonstration in the history of Anniston, Alabama, draws fifty Fort McClellan service people and two hundred civilians.

At Fort Benning, one hundred GIs and some three hundred civilians attend a "people's tribunal" on American war crimes."

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, Rennie Davis, Jane Fonda, and Mark Lane address a crowd of 750 Fort Bragg soldiers and three thousand civilians in the largest Armed Forces Day rally in the country.

At Fort Hood, over seven hundred soldiers march through the streets of Killeen and rally in a nearby park.

At Fort Bliss, GIs' for Peace and local students, demonstrate against the war at the local University of Texas campus.

The first anti-Vietnam protest in Manhattan, Kansas, attracts over one thousand people, including four hundred soldiers from Fort Riley.

An MDM-sponsored rally in Colorado Springs draws thirty Fort Carson GIs and several hundred civilians.

Tom Hayden raps to approximately two hundred Marines and several thousand civilians in a rally near Camp Pendleton.

Fort Ord MDM sponsors a march and rally of more than three thousand people. Extra work assignments and riot duty mobilizations limit the GI contingent to only one hundred.

A festival and series of workshops near Fort Lewis draw sixty soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The events of Armed Forces Day not only demonstrated widespread anti-war sentiment within the ranks but sparked continuing political activity at many bases.

Several groups made their initial appearance during the time, and a number of others experienced an increase in active-duty involvement.

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community.

The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

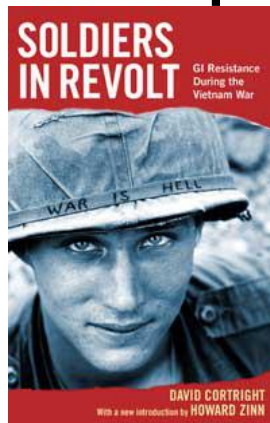
As Abbie Hoffman quipped to the crowd at Fort Meade: "Behind every GI haircut lies a Samson."

GIs United [military band] members participated in various peace demonstrations in the New York area. One of the group's most unusual and daring activities occurred at a civilian-sponsored demonstration on October 31.

Led by Sp/4 Verne Windham, ten Fort Hamilton GIs marched up the streets of New York at the head of thousands of demonstrators -- undoubtedly the movement's first anti-war Army band.

MORE:

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The History Of How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
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CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

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ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1948; Honor To The 60,000

Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin

Sixty thousand Puerto Rican men refused to register for the draft. Eight were prosecuted.

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1970 The Day The Liars Were Repudiated

Peace History Dec 31 - Jan 6 By Carl Bunin

The U.S. Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which in 1964 authorized a dramatic increase in U.S. military involvement in Vietnam in response to an attack on U.S. forces that was later revealed to be fictitious.

How The Tonkin Gulf Lie Launched Vietnam War

July 27, 1994 By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, Media Beat

Thirty years ago, it all seemed very clear. "American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression", announced a Washington Post headline on Aug. 5, 1964.

That same day, the front page of the New York Times reported: "President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam' after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin."

But there was no “second attack” by North Vietnam -- no “renewed attacks against American destroyers.”

By reporting official claims as absolute truths, American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War. A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media...leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties.

The official story was that North Vietnamese torpedo boats launched an “unprovoked attack” against a U.S. destroyer on “routine patrol” in the Tonkin Gulf on Aug. 2 -- and that North Vietnamese PT boats followed up with a “deliberate attack” on a pair of U.S. ships two days later.

The truth was very different.

Rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers -- in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force. “The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place,” writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. Those assaults were “part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964.”

On the night of Aug. 4, the Pentagon proclaimed that a second attack by North Vietnamese PT boats had occurred earlier that day in the Tonkin Gulf -- a report cited by President Johnson as he went on national TV that evening to announce a momentous escalation in the war: air strikes against North Vietnam.

But Johnson ordered U.S. bombers to “retaliate” for a North Vietnamese torpedo attack that never happened.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes, top officials in Washington had reason to doubt that any Aug. 4 attack by North Vietnam had occurred. Cables from the U.S. task force commander in the Tonkin Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick, referred to “freak weather effects,” “almost total darkness” and an “overeager sonarman” who “was hearing ship’s own propeller beat.”

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, who gained fame later as a POW and then Ross Perot’s vice presidential candidate. “I had the best seat in the house to watch that event,” recalled Stockdale a few years ago, “and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets -- there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power.”

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: “For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there.” But Johnson’s deceitful speech of Aug. 4, 1964, won accolades from editorial writers. The president, proclaimed the New York Times, “went to the American people last night with the somber facts.” The Los Angeles Times urged Americans to “face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities.”

An exhaustive new book, *The War Within: America's Battle Over Vietnam*, begins with a dramatic account of the Tonkin Gulf incidents. In an interview, author Tom Wells told us that American media "described the air strikes that Johnson launched in response as merely 'tit for tat' -- when in reality they reflected plans the administration had already drawn up for gradually increasing its overt military pressure against the North."

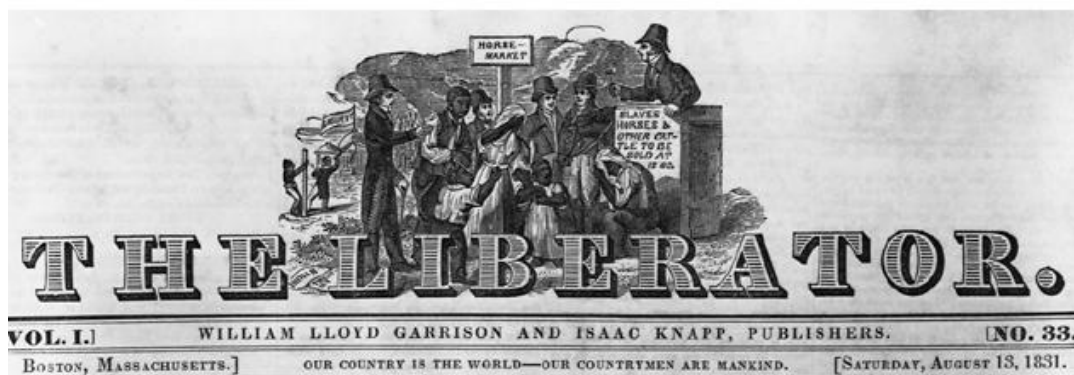
Daniel Hallin's classic book *The 'Uncensored War'* observes that journalists had "a great deal of information available which contradicted the official account; it simply wasn't used. The day before the first incident, Hanoi had protested the attacks on its territory by Laotian aircraft and South Vietnamese gunboats."

What's more, "It was generally known...that 'covert' operations against North Vietnam, carried out by South Vietnamese forces with U.S. support and direction, had been going on for some time."

In the absence of independent journalism, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution -- the closest thing there ever was to a declaration of war against North Vietnam -- sailed through Congress on Aug. 7. (Two courageous senators, Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, provided the only "no" votes.) The resolution authorized the president "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

The rest is tragic history.

January 1, 1831: Magnificent Anniversary



The masthead of William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*, denounces slavery. [Wwnorton.com/]

January 1831:

William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist, announces his anti-slavery newspaper, *The Liberator*.

"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language, but is there not cause for severity? I will be harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice.

“On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation.

“No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to sound a moderate alarm...but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present...

“I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch--AND I WILL BE HEARD.”

January 1, 1781: Anniversary Of A Betrayal; “General George Washington Tricked The Troops Into Disarming” “He Then Had Their Leaders Shot By A Firing Squad”

1.1.11 By Dave Blalock, GI Café Kaiserslautern, Facebook, Open Group

**PAST NEW YEARS DAY IN THE GI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
FIRST RECORDED FRAGGING & MUTINY!!!**

Vietnam wasn't the first war in which disgruntled US troops murdered their own officers. This tradition goes back to the American Revolution.

The first incident of “fragging” was recorded in the Revolutionary War diary of a 9th Pennsylvania troop officer named Captain Joseph McClellan, who wrote that drunken troops turned on their superiors on January 1, 1781.

These soldiers were disgruntled because they felt they should have been discharged after serving for three years. In describing the casualties of this fragging he wrote that, “Captain Biting was shot through the body and soon died,” and that “Captain Tolbert was badly wounded.”

Later in the month the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops of the Army wage a mutiny.

In order to crush their rebellion General George Washington tricked the troops into disarming. He then had their leaders shot by a firing squad made up of some of their fellow mutineers.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

Christmas Tree

From: Richard M. Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 24, 2016
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 14L10: Soldiers Hanging From The Christmas Tree

Dennis Serdel's poem, "Christmas Tree," [below] is very powerful. It so reminds me of what George Orwell once wrote: "The war is not meant to be won it is meant to be continuous."

All the dead ornaments, where do they all come from?

After Christmas, you bury the tree, so it is out of sight and out of mind, and then you grow another tree for next Christmas, with the same body parts hanging for profit.

It's a cycle, like Christmas being continuous year after year.

Dennis Serdel's poem deserves an encore next Christmas, as the beat goes on...

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 22, 2010
Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Christmas Tree

**Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,
a cross on top blinks red white and blue
blood dripping from the pine needles
like a junkie government who can't get enough.
Obama dressed as Old St. Sick throws
more coffins as presents under the tree
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war
they just hang shiny purple hearts made
of gold all over the tree and decorations
of black hearses end to end that go around
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are
missing arms and missing legs and hanging**

like garland are gold and silver bars that
the war profiteers steal in the early morning
so all the children find is a funeral procession
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed
into coffins and witness the carnage under
the tree and when they look up, all they
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from
the tree and all they know is Christmas
isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on
the Workers is like the War overseas
where the rich take everything and
give back nothing, using a
lying banner that says Peace On Earth,
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says
nothing except follow your government
and the priests and pastors and the leaders
of the churches preach, let us not forget our
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day
and the Soldiers overseas, so we can
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,
but the children rise up in a choir of truth
sing to their elders can't you see the dead
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree
can't you see the rich stealing the silver
and gold like every day is Christmas
for them as they keep the money
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree
and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job
all of this is so wrong
makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

Become Unduped.

From: Sandy Kelson [Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Re: An intro to a book that exposes America: its gvmt and its economic system,
its criminal, hegemonic and corrupt effort to control the world on behalf of the elites (hint
you and I are not elites, we are among its victims).
Date: Dec 27, 2016

Become unduped.

Read Doug Valentine's new book which is broader than the title suggests: *The CIA as Organized Crime – How Illegal Operations Corrupt America and the World.*

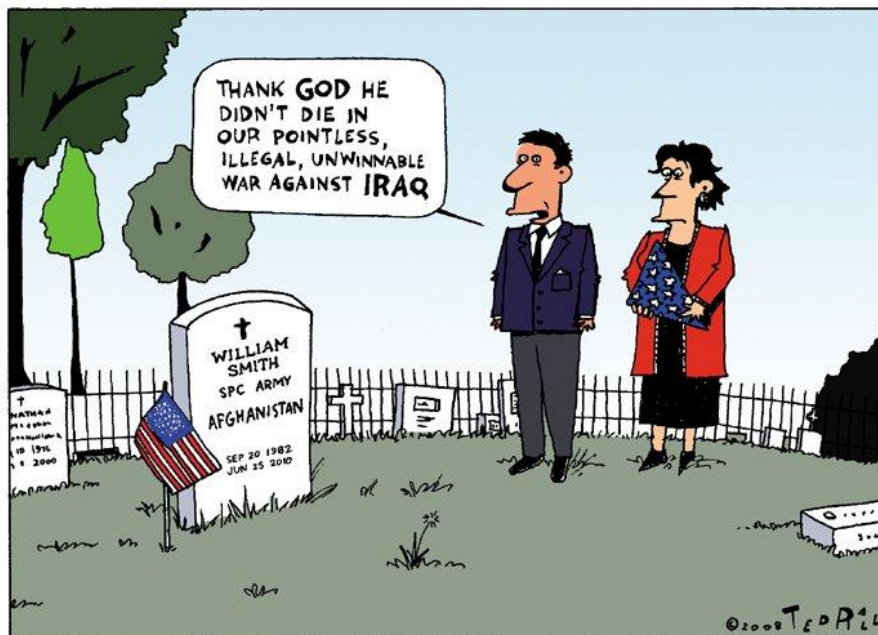
It is possibly the most revealing book on the reality of what is going on today. If 10% of working people read this book, America could no longer exist in the way it does and we would be able to leave our children a different, better world.

If you read it and find it to have merit, please pass the below link along to others, remember 10%. Get un-indoctrinated. Yes, all of us have been and suffer from indoctrination. If you do not believe this you are 100% indoctrinated. It is a tough disease to cure. It takes lots of work. But freedom is worth it.

Sandy

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/12/23/how-i-came-to-understand-the-cia/>

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes.

Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025.

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



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