

Military Resistance 15A6

It Came To This



Mohja Kahf

[Thanks to Louis Proyect for posting.]

January 7, 2017 By Mohja Kahf, pulsemedia.org

Born in Damascus, Mohja Kahf is a poet, novelist, scholar and activist. She is the author of the poetry volume *E-mails from Scheherazad*, the novel *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*, the critical study *Western Representations of the Muslim Woman: From Termagant to Odalisque*, and the report *Then and Now: The Syrian Revolution to Date*.

She is Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Arkansas, where she teaches courses in Arabic literature, the Quran, medieval Spain, and Muslim feminist thought.

i.

**For Kurdish rights in Syria
For Kurds stripped of citizenship since 1963
stripped of their land their language their names
whipped by the Arab Belt of the Baath
no economic justice no equality no**

**dignity for prisoners of conscience in Syria
families of prisoners assemble on the curb**

outside the Justice Building in Damascus
for Tal Malouhi, 17, imprisoned for a poem
for a word for an essay for a blog
no charge no warrant no
redress and no recourse
for Raghda Hassan, imprisoned for her novel manuscript
her ten-year-old son on the curb beaten at the vigil
no charge no warrant no

accountability of government
its rubber-stamp parliament
its executive all powerful for life
its security branches all powerful
all seventeen of them
its Mr. Ten Percent lining his pockets
the Assad family plundering the country

For human rights in Syria
for the schoolboys of Daraa
imprisoned for a word scribbled on a school wall
beaten purple
Drouth made Daraa dry for a spark
from the haughtiness of Daraa's
police state authorities
draining the countryside stuffing their pockets full
police state corruption
police state terror

For this and much more than this the people poured into the street
It was enough
enough
enough
lift martial law
release the prisoners
give us justice
enough police state bullying
enough police state terrorizing us
give us this day our dignity
this day we take it back
this day we wake it up
inside us

justice

freedom

ii.

the people want
no violence no
sectarianism no
foreign military intervention
one one one the Syrian people are one
Sunni Druze and Alawite
for justice Syrians unite
Christian Muslim hand in hand
Arabs Kurds Assyrians
with one voice we all demand
the people want the fall of the regime

iii.

Live fire on unarmed protesters
and the first three young men fell
unarmed in Daraa town
Hussam Ayyash Mahmoud Jawabra Ayman Hariri
And their funeral marches
become protest marches
And regime troops shoot live fire at mourners
More fallen, more funerals, more marches, more
And tanks surround Daraa town
And machine guns fire on Daraa town
And army troops march on Daraa town
And the alarm sounds all over Syria fez'a, fez'a
An alarm for Daraa – rise, rise, to the aid of Daraa
And the people rose in towns all over Syria
The regime media spun “armed gangs”
but there were no armed gangs
regime media said “foreign agitators”
but there were no foreign agitators
regime media said “caliphate terrorists”
but there were no caliphate terrorists
except the ones the regime slipped from prison just then
And the people clapped their unarmed hands above their heads
and in Banyas they lifted loaves of bread in their hands for Daraa
and from Damascus they set out with milk for Daraa
And the people

want

iv.

vigils
marches
sit-ins
pot-banging
noise protests
silent protests
hunger strikes
work strikes
shops closed
work slow-downs
lights-off protests
water bottles for soldiers sent to fire on protesters
eye contact with soldiers
graffiti
banners
local councils
local elections
self-governance
food caravans between villages of different sects
harvest-sharing
crates of vegetables
bags of clothes
flower protests
bread protests
bread for the hungry in the trunk of my cousin's car for which they arrested her
smuggling solar panels through state checkpoints
electricity-sharing
hiding the wanted activist
documenting atrocities
mourning together
singing the anthem of Syria in protest ours now
organizing without ideologies
underground schools
underground hospitals
underground art
underground love

v.

white-shirt security men
black-shirt security men

water hoses
electrocuting billyclubs
live fire on unarmed protesters
sniper fire on unarmed citizens
checkpoints
home invasions
arrest sweeps
prisons
torture
stripping whipping naked
genital electrocution
fingernail extraction
breaking hands of journalists
breaking teeth
breaking bones
bending the body backward to break the spine
rapes
eye-gougings
hanging on meathooks
binding in rubber tires then beating
torture by doctors in state hospitals
military trials of civilians
torture of children in front of parents
psychological torture
extra-judicial executions
assassinations
prisoner massacres
mass graves
bribe demands
shabiha
state thugs
informants
kidnappings
ambushes
rape farms
torched crops
military
paramilitary
foreign military advisors
foreign military recruits
fueling sect-based hatred
fueling ethnic rivalries
fueling tribal rivalries
killing journalists
targeting hospitals
targeting schools

close-range slaughter with knives by paramilitaries
massacre
after massacre
after massacre

vi.

army defectors from the neighborhood at first
villagers banding together at first brigades and statements
hunting rifles at first, and pocket knives
then weapons warehouses and police stations seized
then arms from the smuggling routes
when those were not enough, they opened the door for more
from foreign weapons suppliers
to protect the neighborhoods the villages
Peace be upon you, protectors of home—
then they manned their own checkpoints
their own arrest sweeps informants
kidnappings hunting down “traitors”
with their own security forces now
their own foreign recruits
ideologues warlords their own Mr. Ten Percents
heroized glamorized entouraged
child soldiers hostages ransom demands
prisoners torture decapitation executions of their own
silencing activists of their own killing journalists of their own
tribalism rivalry fueling sect-based hate
shelling bombing massacring
lessons learned in the master’s house
will not liberate no will not protect no

vii.

and they became armed gangs at last
and they became caliphate terrorists at last
and the foreign agitators came at last
and drew red lines and withdrew red lines
and hooked their hooks into Syrian backs
and jerked and toyed with Syrian lives

viii.

Stop!

**stop the killing stop we
want to build
a country
for all Syrians
Stop**

ix.

**sarin gas
weaponized chlorine
militias
car explosions
rebel suicide bombs
rebel shelling
Jabha shelling
Kurdish shelling
ISIS shelling
Daesh decapitations
starvation sieges
humanitarian aid convoys blocked
two towns besieged by rebels
forty towns besieged by Assad
kneel or starve
one million Syrians starving
half a million Syrians killed
forced conscription by regime
barrel bombs
bunker bombs
apartment-block razing bombs dropped from five kilos in the sky
Syrian army airstrikes
foreign army airstrikes
city blocks in rubble
evacuees shot at checkpoints
displaced Syrians covered in dust
refugees drowning in desperation
my brother with his sister on his back
my sister facing the world with all she owns bundled on her back
unaccompanied minor, 14, behind barbed wire in Greece for what will be
years
thirteen million Syrians gone
more than half the population
country of my birth destroyed
massacre
after massacre
after massacre**

x.

That's how it came to this.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“U.S. Sending 2,300 More Troops To Afghanistan, Bringing The Total U.S. Forces There To Around 9,800”



“The Upsurge In Fighting Is Believed To Be The Main Factor Behind U.S. Military Officials' Recent Announcement”

Insurgents Are Active In Two Key Districts Of Helmand Province

January 05, 2017 VOA News

WASHINGTON

Instead of a slowdown in fighting during Afghanistan's harsh winter, government security forces say they will press their operations against the Taliban and Islamic State group despite heavy snow and bitter cold.

Winter in mountainous Afghanistan, with extremely cold temperatures and deep snow, generally makes military offensives difficult and a reduced level of fighting during the winter is customary. In past years, Taliban fighters often shifted their bases to western areas of Pakistan to wait for spring thaws before returning to fight in Afghanistan.

This year, however, analysts say the Taliban is hoping to capitalize on its gains during 2016, when it opened several fronts across the country, overran government-held districts and threatened to take control of several provincial capitals.

Fighting between Taliban and government forces increased during December in southwestern Helmand province, where insurgents are active in two key districts.

The upsurge in fighting is believed to be the main factor behind U.S. military officials' recent announcement that 2,300 additional American soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan, bringing the total U.S. forces there to around 9,800.

MORE:

“The Pentagon Will Deploy Approximately 300 U.S. Marines To Helmand Province, The First Marines In Helmand Since 2014”

“We’re Viewing This As A High-Risk Mission” “We’re Not In Any Way Viewing This As A

Noncombat Mission Or Anything To Take Lightly” “Weak Leadership And High Casualty Rates Have Caused Morale To Plummet Among Afghan Forces” “The Insurgents Now Control More Territory Than At Any Time Since 2001”

Jan. 6, 2017 By BEN KESLING, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon will deploy approximately 300 U.S. Marines to Helmand province in southern Afghanistan beginning in the spring, the Marines said Friday, a return of those forces to a region where they previously engaged in heated combat.

The troops will be the first Marines in Helmand since 2014.

Marines left Helmand in 2014 when their combat mission ended and they turned over their major base there, Camp Leatherneck, to the Afghans. At least some of the Marines will head back to Leatherneck, the Corps said.

Afghan forces are bearing the brunt of the fighting in the country, with more than 15,000 casualties in the first eight months of 2016, including more than 5,500 deaths.

Weak leadership and high casualty rates have caused morale to plummet among conventional forces, and officials say the insurgents now control more territory than at any time since 2001.

Over the past year, U.S. and Afghan commandos have been forced to step in to prevent as many as half a dozen provinces from falling to the Taliban.

Helmand province is particularly fragile, as the Taliban have advanced around the provincial capital in recent months and fighting routinely breaks out along the city’s outskirts.

Many of the Marines come from the 6th Marine Regiment based in North Carolina, he said, and some of those troops have deployed multiple times to Afghanistan and will build on existing relationships with their Afghan counterparts.

[Brig. Gen. Roger] Turner said the Marines under his command come from a variety of job specialties and will work with the Afghans on intelligence, logistics and operations, among other tasks.

While working with Afghan army elements who aren't typically at the front lines of combat, the Marines will "have the ability to go places where we need to go," Gen. Turner said, suggesting the U.S. forces could leave their bases with Afghan troops.

"We're viewing this as a high-risk mission," Gen. Turner said. "We're not in any way viewing this as a noncombat mission or anything to take lightly."

By 2013 the Marines had shifted from a direct-combat role to one of advising Afghan forces.

They left the country the following year, more than a decade after first arriving.

"Marines being deployed to Afghanistan, or Helmand province is not new," said Lt. Gen. William Beydler on Friday, when announcing the deployment.

"As a Marine Corps we have conducted combat operations against insurgents in Sangin, Marjah, Musa Qala and Now Zad, and the history of this really began in 2001 with our invasion led by about 1,000 Marines who deployed into Helmand."

Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Jan 4 (Bernama)

An official on condition of anonymity, has confirmed that a senior army commander General Abdul Razeq has been injured and three police personnel lost their lives in the war against Taliban in Charkh district over the past three days.

However, Afghan Defence Ministry in a statement released here has confirmed that commander of a brigade in Charkh district of Logar province sustained injuries in bomb blast but his condition is stable.

Jan 2 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan -- An Afghan official says that at least one police officer has been killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Logar province.

Salim Saleh, spokesman for the provincial governor in Logar, said Monday that four other people including a district police commander and three road construction engineers were wounded in the blast.

January 2 AP

Afghan officials say at least one police officer was killed and five others were wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in eastern Logar Province on January 2.

Salim Saleh, a spokesman for the Logar governor, said three road construction engineers were also among the wounded in the blast in the Mohammad Agha district.

District Governor Nasir Ahmad Amin confirmed the incident.

Mohammad Agha is some 35 kilometers from the capital, Kabul, and is one of Logar's most volatile areas.

Meanwhile, local media reported that at least two security officials were captured in western Herat Province late on January 1.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks in Logar and Herat, but the Taliban militant group often targets Afghan security forces and government officials.

Jan 01 2017 By Khaama Press

The Taliban militants have captured two officers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces and Afghan National Police (ANP) forces in western Herat province of Afghanistan.

According to the local government officials, the two officers were captured as they were travelling in a vehicle in Chesht district.

Provincial governor's spokesman Jilani Farhad confirmed that the two officers were travelling in a private vehicle and were stopped by the Taliban insurgents as they were on their way to Herat city.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Occupiers Somali HQ, At Least Three Dead

Jan 2, 2017 Reuters

Bombers attacked a military base in Somalia's capital on Monday, killing at least three Somali security officers, police said.

Islamist al Shabaab militants, who want to topple the Western-backed government, said they carried out the assault near Mogadishu's main airport, an area used by several embassies, aid groups and telecoms companies.

One bomber drove a car into a checkpoint outside the headquarters of the African Union peacekeeping force AMISOM [translation: foreign occupation troops], killing three Somali officers stationed there, police officer Mohamed Ahmed said. Another vehicle then drove through toward the base's main gates but came under fire.

"It exploded about 200 meters from the gate. Civilian buildings were damaged," AMISOM said on its Twitter feed.

The powerful blasts damaged the front of the nearby Hotel Peace, though there were no immediate reports of casualties there. The burned-out shell of one of the wrecked vehicles lay outside.

Al Shabaab's military spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab said the fighters had intended to attack the hotel, as African leaders seeking a solution to Somalia's decades-long turmoil had met there last year.

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

**He is whipped oftenest, who is whipped easiest.
-- Frederick Douglass; My Bondage And My Freedom**

FYI: Military Resistance Website Visits: Top Ten Sources Of Visits Ranked 1-10 December 2016

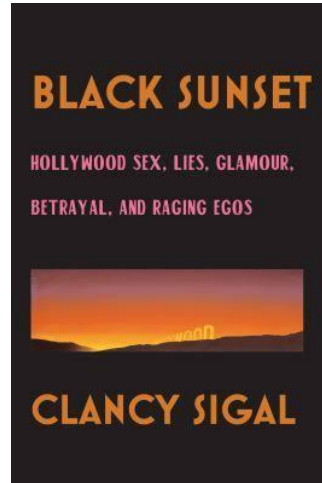
- 1 USA**
- 2 Germany**
- 3 China**
- 4 Ukraine**
- 5 France**
- 6 Great Britain**
- 7 Russian Federation**
- 8 South Korea**
- 9 Canada**
- 10 Romania**

Readers from an additional 112 have also accessed, including Nigeria, Qatar, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Palestinian Territories, Mexico, Syria & Kazakhstan.

Source: AWStats

Hollywood! With The Reddish Tinge: Clancy Sigal’s 1950s

“Clancy Sigal Brings The Innocent And Guilty Back, Once More, At Close Range” [Book Review]



Black Sunset;
Hollywood Sex, Lies, Glamour, Betrayal, and Raging Egos
By Clancy Sigal
Published 12.13.2016
Soft Skull Press
250 Pages
Available From Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_12?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=black+sunset+by+clancy+sigal&prefix=Black+Sunset%2Caps%2C164&crd=246WG1JZQ2OSJ

JANUARY 5, 2017 By Paul Buhle, Los Angeles Review of Books

Novelist Clancy Sigal is a legendary figure for the now-fading New Left generation.

His *Going Away*, an epic road journey of a young radical preparing to abandon the United States in 1956, and en route learning about the Russian invasion of Hungary, became a veritable teaching tool for a cerebral or merely novel-reading cadre of campus activists.

And for good reason: he did not glamorize or demonize the Old Left, whose rank and file come off as disappointed but (except for the career-climbing academics he meets) determined to hold onto the struggles they know best: class struggle and anti-racism. He kept readers going with the sexy parts, but what made his novel different was its close attention to a crisis-ridden generation. Our own was to be crisis-ridden soon enough, in its own ways.

Black Sunset could rightly be considered as a nonfiction Going Away of the earlier 1950s, set before the novel.

This time, Sigal is a young guy hanging out in Hollywood, trying to make a living and doing a little agitprop activity on the side. Clancy was a bright young lefty, engaged in several ways with the Hollywood Left then under heavy assault from the government and assorted red-hunters, all seeking indictments or bribes or both.

Sigal makes himself vulnerable by insisting that he kept in his wallet a short list of men and women who he would testify against, if he felt a need desperate enough.

This sounds like something nobody would make up, although he would not have become who we know as Clancy Sigal if he had Given Names.

He is vulnerable in a raft of other ways, and the self-descriptions of the Benzedrine-popping, boozy days at work or play portray him as emotionally hungry in the extreme. Perhaps it is the absence of a father, a labor organizer who seems to have disappeared before Sigal's teenhood, that throws this story into extreme turns and contrasts, or perhaps it is the proletarian-hipster mother who seems to toy with the idea of seducing her son (who plays along).

But very likely it is also the shadow-play nature of his job, at a talent agency, as the Blacklist settles in. Sigal's sense of humor and timing in these scenes makes us wonder if he might have become a successful screenwriter, had things gone just a bit differently.

The subtitle gives us "Sex" first, but I can't help suspecting this may be a ploy by an agent or the publishers.

Of sex, there is plenty, in the sense that he has a gorgeous girlfriend (shared, intermittently, with his best friend, who turns out to have been tossed out of the Navy for being gay, raising other unresolved questions); older women at the agency more than willing to bed him; and beyond that, the usual run of young beauties in this peculiar one-industry town. Still, these seem a distraction, for the most part, from the main story and its shadow.

The main story is of reactionary forces coming down hard, and although the shadow never quite makes itself evident, Sigal, like so many other intellectuals of the 1950s (and not only in Hollywood), has a deep feeling that he is too late for most of the exciting stuff.

He missed the 1930s and the CIO, he missed the heroic antifascist years when the screenwriting Left wielded great influence in Hollywood along with big salaries for the most successful, and he even missed the catastrophic events like the 1945 studio strike, beaten back by Teamster thugs and private armies.

"The Beauty Of *Black Sunset*, For Most Readers, Will Be Found In The Details, Lovingly Or Painfully Described, Page After Page"

His Hollywood lies in the aftermath, with everyone on the Left running scared, including those who sauntered toward the Committee with hats in hand. He runs into these latter characters regularly, in a barber shop or on the street, without even trying.

The one thing he did not miss was military action.

The Agency highly values vets, and he values his service, too. He may have come in at the end of the war, for reasons of age, but he came in and that memory is inscribed upon his soul. In a way, he could have been the older vet who, blacklisted, is buried in his Army uniform, with due honors (I remember them, in old and sometimes threadbare outfits, at antiwar demonstrations of the 1960s through the 1980s). Men like Sean Penn's father had fought fascism, and not with a typewriter, either.

The experience of war seems to have made Sigal more existentialist than Jack Kerouac — thrown out of the Navy — or assorted Beats who came to a similar consciousness in the same America, in wholly different ways.

The beauty of *Black Sunset*, for most readers, will be found in the details, lovingly or painfully described, page after page.

On one of those pages we meet Marjorie Main, the redoubtable tough-looking character actress best remembered for being Ma Kettle but with a stack of larger and smaller roles behind her.

Or Boris Karloff, one of the first of the militant unionists in American film, badly reduced and desperate for cash by the early 1950s. Or Lou Costello, a former boxer who, with perfect timing, became Bud Abbott's perpetual foil, but in private life vindictively sought to enforce the blacklist against all suspected Reds.

Or Peter Lorre, a true Weimar German intellectual in a philistine America, also fallen upon hard times and also reliant upon self-drugging to drag himself along into degraded roles as movies themselves went down, down, down.

Veteran lefties on the scene insisted that by 1950 or so, the screenwriting talent had been scared off when not actually shut down, driven out of town, or facing subpoenas. The themes of Hollywood films, for a decade or more, would be bland and inoffensive, naturally with marked exceptions.

Italian realism seized the day and some of the more interesting American stars as well, until matters eased. By that time, movies had changed once more and besides, many of the talented left-wing writers and directors had made careers abroad, suffered heart attacks or strokes, or found a place, usually under assumed names, in television work, some of it very good, indeed.

Perhaps, dear reader, this is the point in the review to mention that discovering the real writers of my favorite 1950s television shows — *You Are There* and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* — came as a joyous shock almost 40 years later.

I happened to be interviewing some of them about their life and work. Abe Polonsky, known as "the Last Marxist of Hollywood," worked on the first show, while Ring Lardner Jr. and Robert Lees worked on the second, along with their surviving collaborators and a host of others known directly or by reputation to Clancy in the 1950s. These writers had managed to hang on long enough to tell me and my fellow scholars their stories.

“Clancy Was There, At Close Range, As They Went Down For The Count Or Got Themselves Better, On The Run From Official And Unofficial Blacklisters”

Clancy was there, at close range, as they went down for the count or got themselves better, on the run from official and unofficial blacklisters.

I came across these octogenerians thanks to the initial encouragement of Gerda Lerner, erstwhile Red and the widow of blacklisted film editor Carl Lerner; Gerda had reinvented herself as a creator of the field of women’s history, but kept the past close.

Sigal’s avuncular screenwriter comrade Paul Jarrico, who would produce *Salt of the Earth*, was the geezer I hung with in Santa Monica in 1996, and who died in an off-highway crash returning from his vindication at a Screen Writers Guild ceremony. Himself early on the blacklist, Jarrico had quietly urged Sigal to “name” him so that Sigal could be the front for Jarrico’s screenplays.

That is how strange things were, as recorded in *Black Sunset*. Another example of that strangeness would be mobster Mickey Cohen, who, dying of cancer, asked blacklistee Joan LaCour Scott to be his (nonsexual) companion at dinner for the last months of his mobility.

She and her husband Adrian Scott, blacklisted producer and member of the Hollywood Ten, had met Mickey at a house sale. Los Angeles, 1950s: Go figure.

The Hollywood Left itself was an extended if dysfunctional family, almost. Even the friendly witnesses, like William Alland, who personally drove Orson Welles from New York to Hollywood and served as the facing-away-from-the-camera narrator in *Citizen Kane*, also went on to produce a series of curiously leftist *Creature Feature* films that he described to me over instant coffee, in a broken-down trailer, in 1995.

He had long since gone through all his money and was selling L.A. Times subscriptions over the phone, or trying to, and reminisced to me about his sumptuous life with wives, racehorses, and more, in a happier past. He was not a particularly nice guy, but neither was he so distant from the rest. According to *Black Sunset*, Alland wanted Clancy to give testimony and then join his operation as a sort of junior producer, obviously en route to bigger Hollywood things. Another path not taken.

My conclusion in reading *Black Sunset* is that you Had To Be There. Something remains ineffable, and perhaps should remain ineffable. Clancy does his best, which is plenty good. But that Hollywood, just beyond the Golden Age but full of wildly talented people unsuited for the diminished era that had come upon them, remains beyond our grasp.

We don’t know what they might have done, in better circumstances. A Marxist savant who created the “school” for Left screenwriters in the early 1940s (and soon opposed the Central Committee, back in New York, on every point of insistent didacticism), told me in an interview that Communist-leaning screenwriters were wonderfully talented people who also had almost no idea what Marxism was all about, Abraham Polonsky excepted.

This judgment stands, and vindicates its actors, in a way. They were sincere and sometimes greatly talented innocents who did their best until they ran out of time.

Clancy Sigal brings the innocent and guilty back, once more, at close range, and proves himself the liveliest of literary nonagenarians in the process.

**“Political Economy In Its Classical Period, Like The Bourgeoisie Itself In Its Parvenu Period, Adopted A Severely Critical Attitude To The Machinery Of The State”
State Officials, Military People “Are Regarded By The Industrial Capitalists And The Working Class As Incidental Expenses Of Production, Which Are Therefore To Be Cut Down To The Most Indispensable Minimum And Provided As Cheaply As Possible”**

Theories Of Surplus Value, Karl Marx, 1863 [Excerpt]

The polemics against Adam Smith’s distinction between productive and unproductive labour were for the most part confined to the *dii minorum gentium* [minor gods] (among whom moreover Storch was the most important); they are not to be found in the work of any economist of significance—of anyone of whom it can be said that he made some discovery in political economy.

They are, however, the hobby-horse of the second-rate fellows and especially of the schoolmasterish compilers and writers of compendia, as well as of *dilettanti* with facile pens and vulgarisers in this field.

What particularly aroused these polemics against Adam Smith was the following circumstance.

The great mass of so-called “higher grade” workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a

very great part of the “material” wealth partly through the sale of their “immaterial” commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people — found it not at all pleasant to be relegated *economically* to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production).

This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration.

Political economy in its classical period, like the bourgeoisie itself in its parvenu period, adopted a severely critical attitude to the machinery of the State, etc.

At a later stage it realised and — as was shown too in practice — learnt from experience that the necessity for the inherited social combination of all these classes, which in part were totally unproductive, arose from its own organisation.

In so far as those “unproductive labourers” do not produce entertainment, so that their purchase entirely depends on how the agent of production cares to spend his wages or his profit — in so far on the contrary as they are necessary or make themselves necessary because of physical infirmities (like doctors), or spiritual weakness (like parsons), or because of the conflict between private interests and national interests (like statesmen, all lawyers, police and soldiers) — they are regarded by Adam Smith, as by the industrial capitalists themselves and the working class, as incidental expenses of production, which are therefore to be cut down to the most indispensable minimum and provided as cheaply as possible.

Bourgeois society reproduces in its own form everything against which it had fought in feudal or absolutist form.

In the first place therefore it becomes a principal task for the sycophants of this society, and especially of the upper classes, to restore in theoretical terms even the purely parasitic section of these “unproductive labourers”, or to justify the exaggerated claims of the section which is indispensable.

The *dependence* of the ideological, etc., classes on the *capitalists* was in fact proclaimed.

Secondly, however, a section of the agents of production (of material production itself) were declared by one group of economists or another to be “unproductive”.

For example, the landowner, by those among the economists who represented industrial capital (Ricardo).

Others (for example Carey) declared that the merchant in the true sense of the word was an “unproductive” laborer.

Then even a third group came along who declared that the “capitalists” themselves were unproductive, or who at least sought to reduce their claims to material wealth to “wages”, that is, to the wages of a “productive laborer”.

Many intellectual workers seemed inclined to share the skepticism in regard to the capitalist.

It was therefore time to make a compromise and to recognise the “productivity” of all classes not directly included among the agents of material production.

One good turn deserves another; and, as in the *Fable of the Bees*, it had to be established that even from the “productive”, economic standpoint, the bourgeois world with all its “unproductive labourers” is the best of all worlds.

This was all the more necessary because the “unproductive labourers” on their part were advancing critical observations in regard to the productivity of the classes who in general were “*fruges consumere nati*” [born only to eat]; or in regard to those agents of production, like landowners, who do nothing at all, etc.

Both the *do-nothings* and their *parasites* had to be found a place in this best possible order of things.

Obama Issues ‘Farewell’ Presidential Drone Strikes



Photo Credit: White House

January 5, 2017 The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With less than 20 days left in office, a nostalgic and misty-eyed President Barack Obama today put his signature on his last batch of “farewell” drone strikes.

“When we’ve been told that we don’t have enough intelligence, there will be heavy civilian casualties, we’ll severely destabilize our allies, or we’ll wind up killing Americans without a trial, all I can say, is ‘Yes we did!’ and ‘Yes we can!’” Obama told a small group of CIA employees who were on hand to witness the event.

CIA Director John Brennan joked, “Uncle Sam has his own naughty list, and if you’re on it you get more than a lump of coal in your stocking,” as the President added to uproarious laughter, “Try one hundred pounds of Hellfire and a Happy New Year.”

Brennan has already dubbed the upcoming strike package — set to be carried out in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia — Operation REAPER HARVEST, though CIA employees still in the holiday spirit have nicknamed it “Operation Slay Ride.”

Likely farewell targets include ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, and the entire incoming Trump administration.

Obama has also debated carrying out strikes on former frenemies like Afghan President Hamid Karzai and a few “signature strikes” against individuals displaying suspicious behavior, such as being a military-age male or living in Yemen.

However, the vast majority of targets will be unnamed insurgents, as well as their immediate family, friends, and anyone who happens to be standing within a few meters of their house.

While Obama was outwardly enthusiastic, he was also quite nostalgic.

“It seems like just yesterday I was ordering my very first drone strike,” he told reporters.

“We were so young and naive: we actually stayed up all night debating whether there was a senior Taliban commander present, then after we launched the attack it turned out there were no enemy present and we had just killed nine civilians. Whoops!”

In a fulfillment of his campaign promise, Obama added that the strikes would be perfectly constitutional, for reasons which were immediately classified by the Central Intelligence Agency.

ANNIVERSARIES

January 10, 1776: Magnificent Anniversary:

“We Have It In Our Power To Begin The World Over Again”



Thomas Paine

Carl Bunin Peace History January 7-13

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

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

Quotations:

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

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

RECEIVED FROM READERS

“I Wonder How Such An Effort Would Be Met By The Authorities Today?”

From: Sandy Kelson
[Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee]]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: Sunday, January 08, 2017 9:43 AM
Subject: RE: Military Resistance 15A4: The Once And Future Soldiers

Re MR lead story: [1.8.17]

When we passed out anti-war literature at southern US war bases, we hit the super markets and engaged military spouses, mostly wives, who were enthusiastic to speak with us and take the lit and saying they'd send it to their husbands in Iraq, Afghanistan.

I wonder how such an effort would be met by the authorities today?

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Rebellion Against Huge
Increase In Gasoline Prices
Rocks Mexico:
987 People Arrested And Four
Killed In The Fifth Day Of Violent
Demonstration And Looting Over
A 20% Hike In Gasoline Prices;
“Protesters Tried To Force Their Way
Into The Government Palace,
Smashing Stained Glass Windows
And Setting Off Fireworks And
Pepper Spray”**

“They’re Calling On People To Take Congress On Monday”



A car is overturned outside the Palacio de Gobierno in Monterrey Nuevo Leon on Thursday night after Mexico’s government imposed a 20% rise in the price of gasoline. Photograph: Julio Cesar Aguilar/AFP/Getty Images



Demonstrators hold up placards during a protest at the Macroplaza in Monterrey on Thursday. Photograph: Daniel Becerril/Reuters

6 January 2017 by Duncan Tucker in Guadalajara, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Mexico’s beleaguered president Enrique Peña Nieto has once again become the target of public anger after attempting to defend a 20% hike in gasoline prices that has provoked a wave of violent demonstration and looting across the country this week.

At least 987 people had been arrested after the fifth day of unrest, which has spread to at least 14 of Mexico 32 states, according to the Animal Político news site.

Officials said three people were killed amidst looting in the eastern state of Veracruz on Thursday and a police officer was killed on Wednesday while trying to prevent robberies at a gas station in Mexico City.

In a televised address to the nation on Thursday night, Peña Nieto insisted that there was no alternative to the hike announced on 1 January as part of government deregulation of the energy sector.

“Keeping petrol prices artificially low would mean taking money away from the poorest Mexicans, and giving it to those who have the most.”

Peña Nieto, who took office in 2012, has the lowest approval ratings of any Mexican president in over two decades and has been widely criticised over his handling of corruption scandals, the 2014 disappearance of 43 student teachers, and Mexico’s sluggish economic performance, despite having passed reforms that he promised would bring lower energy prices.

The gasolinazo – as the hike has become known – has made him the target of further sustained public anger. During his speech – in which he also vowed to “build a positive relationship” with the incoming Donald Trump administration – Peña Nieto asked the Mexican public “what would you have done?” in his situation.

The phrase quickly became a trending topic on Twitter as furious members of the public and opposition leaders offered the president their advice.

“I wouldn’t have betrayed Lázaro Cárdenas and his legacy,” said Guadalajara mayor Enrique Alfaro, referring to the former president who nationalised Mexico’s oil industry in 1938. “I wouldn’t have lied to the Mexican people.”

Peña Nieto also announced that high-ranking federal officials would take a 10% pay cut, but that is unlikely to assuage the concerns of the public after the peso hit a record low against the dollar this week.

The petrol hike is also expected to have a knock-on effect on consumer goods, public transport and other services.

Uber announced on Thursday that it was raising its rates by 7.5 to 18.2% across different Mexican cities after analysing the rise in petrol prices.

Protesters have responded to the hikes by blocking highways and petrol stations across the country, while a major public transport strike in Guadalajara on Wednesday led the police and members of the public to pull together by offering lifts to stranded commuters.

Demonstrations in the northern city of Monterrey turned violent on Thursday when protesters tried to force their way into the government palace, reportedly smashing stained glass windows and setting off fireworks and pepper spray.

The sense of chaos and panic has been heightened by legions of bots encouraging looting and spreading disinformation on social media.

Mexico City's cyber-police force said it was investigating the false rumours and had identified over 1,500 accounts responsible for causing incendiary phrases like "ransack a Walmart" to trend on Twitter.

"They're encouraging people to commit violent acts and to loot shops. They're calling on people to take Congress on Monday," [Alberto Escorcia] said.

Escorcia warned that further violence was possible over the coming days and lamented that Peña Nieto's message had done little to reduce the tensions caused by the hike and exacerbated by the bots.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



**“Another Example Of Trump
Betraying His Own Voters By
Turning Over Our Economy To
Giant Corporations And Wall
Street”**

“Wall Street Lawyer Jay Clayton, Who Defended Big Banks Against Regulators During The Financial Crisis To Head The Federal Agency Charged With Policing Wall Street” "A Surprise Coup For Financial Firms Since Trump Won The Presidency In November"



Wall Street lawyer Jay Clayton, Donald Trump's choice to lead the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. (Photo: Screenshot/YouTube)

January 04, 2017 by Deirdre Fulton, staff writer; Common Dreams

Wall Street lawyer Jay Clayton, who defended big banks against regulators during the financial crisis, is President-elect Donald Trump's pick to head the federal agency charged with policing Wall Street.

Clayton, a partner with the New York law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, is Trump's nominee for chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In that role, the Washington Post reports, Clayton "would play a key role in Trump's efforts to usher in a period of deregulation, including undoing parts of 2010's financial reform legislation, known as the Dodd-Frank Act."

He is among several of Trump's cabinet nominees with ties to Goldman Sachs, continuing what Bloomberg described as "a surprise coup for financial firms since Trump won the presidency in November."

He has also worked on major deals involving Barclays, Bear Stearns, and, according to his Sullivan & Cromwell bio, several "large financial institutions" that have settled with the government on toxic mortgage claims.

Marcus Stanley, policy director for Americans for Financial Reform, told the Post that Clayton's was "not the appropriate background for a top position policing Wall Street." The SEC is responsible for protecting investors, regulating financial markets, and "rooting out financial crime," as CNN puts it.

Others agreed, saying Clayton's appointment was yet another example of Trump failing to follow through on campaign promises.

"Jay Clayton has spent his career helping big banks weasel out of accountability for robbing millions of Americans of their life savings and crushing our economy," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "Trump supporters did not vote to let the fox guard the henhouse on Wall Street."

This is yet another example of Trump betraying his own voters by turning over our economy to giant corporations and Wall Street at the expense of American working families."

And Dennis Kelleher, president and CEO of Wall Street reform advocacy group Better Markets, declared: "While Mr. Clayton may be an excellent lawyer representing Goldman Sachs and Wall Street's too-big-to-fail banks, America's families need to know that he will represent them as zealously and as effectively. He must lead without fear or favor and he must not bring the failed mindset that 'what's good for Wall Street is good for America,' which the 2008 financial crash proved catastrophically wrong."

"The SEC is supposed to be the cop on the Wall Street beat," Kelleher continued. "When it fails to do its job, the American people pay the price in lost homes, jobs, savings, and so much more. We saw that when the SEC de-regulated Wall Street before the 2008 financial crash and failed to enforce the law afterwards."

Clayton must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He would replace Mary Jo White, who has said she will step down as chair when President Barack Obama leaves office later this month. White, a former prosecutor whose background was in enforcement, drew criticism last year from Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) for failing to crack down on corporate political donations.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Forces Attack Palestinian Fishing Boats

“The Navy Fired Live Rounds At The Boats, Then Flooded Them With High-Pressure Water Cannons” Gaza Fisherman Missing



January 5, 2017 IMEMC News

Israeli navy ships attacked, on Thursday morning, several Palestinian fishing boats in the Sudaniyya Sea, northwest of Gaza city, causing one boat to capsize while a fisherman went missing in the aftermath of the assault.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza said the fisherman, identified as Mohammad Ahmad al-Hassi, went missing after the navy sank his boat, and that Palestinian search and rescue teams are trying to locate him.

The ministry added that the navy fired live rounds at the boats, then flooded them with high-pressure water cannons.

One of the fishers said several navy ships attacked the Palestinian boats less than four nautical miles from the Gaza shore, causing excessive damage to several boats, including the boat that sank.

The attack is part of repeated Israeli violations against the fishers on Palestinian territorial waters, in the besieged and impoverished coastal region, and have led to many abductions of fishers, and scores of casualties, including several fatalities.

Heroic Occupation Soldiers Destroy 10 Water Wells In Occupied Palestine

January 5, 2017 IMEMC News & Agencies

Israeli authorities, on Wednesday morning, knocked down water wells in Teqou' village, east of Bethlehem.

Mayor of the town, Tayseer Abu Mufreh, said Israeli occupation vehicles demolished ten water wells used by Palestinian farmers, under the pretext of unlicensed construction.

At the same time, according to the PNN, Israeli forces prevented the land owners from reaching the demolition scene. Teqou' Mayor dubbed the demolition illegal and groundless, as no court rule has been issued regarding the affair.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**



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