

Military Resistance 15B2

“One Captivating Image From Chicago Stands Out As A Reminder Of Solidarity In The Face Of Anti-Immigration Policies”



(Nuccio DiNuzzo/Chicago Tribune/TNS via Getty Images)

February 01, 2017 BY Anne Quito, qz.com

There were many moving pictures from the protests at US airports this week.

But one captivating image from Chicago stands out as a reminder of solidarity in the face of anti-immigration policies that the Trump administration is working hard to institutionalize.

On Jan. 30, Chicago Tribune photographer Nuccio DiNuzzo captured a brief encounter between Meryem, a 7-year old Muslim girl wearing a hijab and Adin, a 9-year-old Jewish

boy in a kippah. Both kids were hoisted on their fathers' shoulders for a better view, holding cardboard signs of support for those stranded by the new US president's surprise ban on travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries.

Meryem's sign said "Love, Love" while Adin's echoed, "Hate Has No Home Here."

"I knew that this was an important picture to make," said DiNuzzo to the Chicago Tribune.

Adin's father, Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell, told the Tribune that he drove his son to Chicago's O'Hare airport to teach him a lesson in standing up for what he believes in.

Adin's maternal grandparents are Holocaust survivors.

Meryam's father Fatih Yildirim had brought his family to the same airport to deliver homemade chocolate chip cookies for lawyers assisting detained travelers.

As they waited for travelers to emerge from the arrival gates, the two fathers struck a quick friendship, exchanging foodie tips about kosher steakhouses.

Says Bendat-Appell to the Huffington Post, "What was wonderful was that it was a very human interaction—not a Jew and Muslim, but two human beings who look enough alike to be brothers—standing up for what is right," he said.

"We are happy if this photograph can bring a bit more love and light into this world."

Bendat-Appell says their families have made plans to meet for Shabbat dinner. "I'm making steak, he is bringing baklava."

MORE:

[In Case You've Been Hibernating] Judge In Seattle Halts Trump's Immigration Order Nationwide

February 3, 2017

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/federal-judge-in-seattle-halts-trumps-immigration-order/>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**U.S. Watchdog That Monitors
Billions Of Dollars In Aid To
Afghanistan Issues Bleak
Report:**

**“The Afghan Government Controls
Barely Half The Country, Its
Security Forces Numbers Are On
The Decline And Drug Production
Is On The Rise, While Eradication
Is Down”**

**“Afghan National Security Force
Numbers Are Down And Insurgents
Control Or Influence More Area Than
Ever Before”**

**“Insurgents Launched 19,000 Attacks In
The Last 10 Months Compared To About
700 Counter-Insurgency Operations
Carried Out By Afghan Security Forces”**

February 1, 2017 By: Kathy Gannon, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — In his first report to the new Trump administration, a U.S. watchdog that monitors billions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan issued a bleak progress report, saying the Afghan government controls barely half the country, its security forces numbers are on the decline and drug production is on the rise, while eradication is down.

In his 269-page report released Wednesday, John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR), noted that this latest quarterly report is the first since President Donald Trump took office Jan. 20.

He said it was a good opportunity for the new administration to reflect on the \$117 billion Washington has invested in Afghanistan since 2002.

In just the last three months, Sopko's office conducted an investigation that resulted in a \$99 million single-source contract being canceled, it flagged a large hotel/apartment construction project that had been abandoned after receiving \$85 million in loans from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a U.S. government institution, and revealed that Afghan contractors working on U.S.-funded projects were not being paid.

SIGAR was set up in 2008 following widespread reports that hundreds of millions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars was being lost to waste, corruption and mismanagement by both Afghan and U.S. contractors.

After 15 years and billions of dollars "reconstruction remains tenuous and incomplete," Sopko said in his report.

Afghanistan is the largest and longest operation in NATO's 68-year history, yet 15 years on the SIGAR report said the Afghan National Security Force numbers are down and insurgents control or influence more area than ever before.

Citing an Asia Foundation survey, the report also says most Afghans say their country is moving in the wrong direction. According to the United Nations, more than half a million people fled their homes because of conflict last year, the highest number since record keeping began in 2008.

Last week, Afghanistan's Defense Ministry spokesman said insurgents launched 19,000 attacks in the last 10 months compared to about 700 counter-insurgency operations carried out by Afghan Security Forces in the same time.

At the time Dawlat Waziri, the Defense Ministry spokesman, said attacks against security forces were up significantly, although he didn't have comparative figures.

But on Sunday, Waziri rejected SIGAR's claim that only 57.2 per cent of Afghanistan's 407 districts were under government control or influence as of Nov. 15, 2016.

Citing U.S. Forces Afghanistan, SIGAR said that figure represents a loss of territory for the government that previously controlled 63.4 percent of its country.

Meanwhile, drug production, which soared after the collapse of the Taliban, who had banned it during the last years of their rule, has continued to proliferate, according to the report.

Afghan opium production rose 43 percent in 2016 over 2015 levels, the report found. It's estimated that in 2016 Afghan farmers produced about 4,800 tons of opium from the poppy plant.

Opium is used to make heroin.

The increase comes as the United Nations reports a drastic 91 percent drop in poppy eradication last year over 2015. The report said only 355 hectares (877 acres) of poppies were destroyed last year, the lowest in 10 years.

MORE:

Taliban Assault District Center In Afghanistan's Helmand Province: "Spokesman Said Insurgents Overran More Than 25 Outposts And Bases Around Sangin"

"The Government Fully Controls Only The Provincial Capital, Lashkar Gah, And A Few Surrounding District Centers"



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

January 30, 2017 by Ayaz Gul, VOA News

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN —

Heavy clashes have erupted in southern Afghanistan, after Taliban rebels staged a coordinated assault on a district center.

Afghan officials and insurgents have made conflicting claims about Monday's fighting in the Sangin district of Helmand, the largest of the 34 Afghan provinces.

Provincial government spokesman Omar Zwak told VOA insurgents assaulted multiple security outposts, but Afghan forces repulsed the Taliban. He claimed many assailants were killed and wounded, but would not say whether government forces also suffered casualties.

A Taliban spokesman said insurgents overran more than 25 outposts and bases around Sangin, saying intense fighting continued in the area.

He said a Taliban bomber struck a military compound before insurgents stormed the area and killed or wounded more than 100 Afghan forces.

The Taliban dug a tunnel near a military compound taking advantage of surrounding civilian houses and packed it with explosives before detonating it to begin the assault, Afghan regional corps commander, General Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai told VOA.

Most of Helmand is under the control of the Taliban.

The government fully controls only the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah, and a few surrounding district centers.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Jailers Raped Her, Refused Medicine And Left Her Catatonic:

**“The Woman Says She Was Raped
By Three Corrections Officers”**

**“She Was Only Able To Identify And
Name One, After Drawing A Sketch
While In Treatment At A Rape Crisis
Center After Leaving The Jail”**

**“The Sketch Closely Resembled The
Named Corrections Officer, Who In An
Earlier Lawsuit, Raised ‘Consent’ As A
Defense”**

January 31 By Samantha Schmidt, Washington Post

The inmate was so desperate for help that she attempted to write the words on her jail cell wall, in her own blood: “God, please help me.”

On her final day in the jail, she was found naked in her cell, crying and mumbling, asking for her mother to hold her, according to a lawsuit she brought Friday.

The inmate, a 38-year-old Cincinnati woman, said that during her 11 days in the Warren County Jail, at least two corrections officers raped her. On one occasion, they assaulted her with so much force that they “shattered” her shoulder bones.

In the lawsuit filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati, the woman sued two corrections officers — one by name, one as a John Doe — along with seven nurses, including the jail’s health services administrator.

The woman was held at the jail in May 2013, after turning herself in on a four-year-old warrant for deception to obtain drugs. The lawsuit alleges the jail’s nurses refused to give the woman her prescribed medicine for her epilepsy, causing her to experience seizures and withdrawal, leaving her debilitated in her jail cell. Incapacitated and unable to defend herself, her jailers allegedly Tased her, took away her clothing, turned off her running water and forced her to drink out of the toilet.

“She was left naked, covered in her blood and feces,” the lawsuit states.

In a statement, Warren County Sheriff’s Office Chief Deputy Barry Riley said the office does not comment on pending legal matters. and believes in pursuing legal matters through the courts, not the media.

“However, none of the citizens of Warren County should take our silence about the lawsuit filed by one of our former inmates as an indication that there is any truth to her allegations,” Riley said. “We look forward to defending this case to a conclusion.”

The Washington Post is withholding the name of the female inmate because she is the victim of an alleged sexual assault.

When the woman was admitted to the jail on May 3, 2013, she was screened for medical conditions, and informed medical staff of her epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder, battered woman syndrome and depression.

The suit, filed by attorney Jennifer L. Branch, lists the names of seven nurses who allegedly failed to provide the woman with any anti-seizure medications, even lying to the head of the jail and the woman’s attorney when they said they were giving the woman her medications.

Her withdrawal and untreated epilepsy led her to experience increased frequency of seizures, anxiety and depression, the suit says.

After four days in the jail, she became too ill to call her family or attend a bond hearing. When the jail’s doctor ordered that she be given medications — including an

anticonvulsant to treat her seizures — the nurses did not carry out the doctor's orders, according to the suit.

During a visit from her lawyer's paralegal, the woman was rigid, staring blankly ahead, unblinking and unable to walk. On May 9, the lawsuit says, she was found naked in the shower room, staring completely unresponsive, unable to communicate, pupils dilated, mouth open, eyes rolled back in her head.

After seven days of deteriorating in the jail, the woman was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Tests taken at the hospital showed there was sperm in her urine — an indication that she must have had sexual intercourse while at the jail.

Despite obtaining the lab results, none of the jail's nurses alerted security to the findings, or took any actions to protect the woman from further sexual assault, according to the woman's suit. Days later, she had unexplained blood on her clothing, but a rape exam could not be performed because she was "psychologically unable to be evaluated," according to the lawsuit.

The woman says she was raped by three corrections officers, although she was only able to identify and name one, after drawing a sketch of her perpetrator while in treatment at a rape crisis center after leaving the jail.

The sketch closely resembled the named corrections officer, who in an earlier lawsuit, raised "consent" as a defense, according to court records.

The corrections officers held the woman facedown as they assaulted her, the woman says. On one occasion, as she lay on her bunk on her stomach, naked, she says at least two corrections officers climbed on her and raped her.

During one assault, she experienced a seizure and bit her tongue. Her orthopedic surgeon said bone shattered on her shoulder was caused by blunt-force trauma consistent with sexual assault and would later have to be surgically treated, the suit says.

"In her cell she's put on her stomach. Three different officers in uniform are present," the woman's lawyer, Branch, told WCPO on Monday. "She can see parts of them and can hear their voices and she knows what they did to her."

They covered her cell window with black garbage bags in an attempt to hide their actions, since the woman was on suicide-watch and was housed in an area where she could be observed every 10 minutes.

"Her incoherence, lack of consciousness, and inability to communicate due to her untreated medical conditions left her vulnerable and unable to defend herself from rape or sexual assault," her lawyer wrote in the lawsuit.

In her final days in the jail, the woman had become catatonic, psychotic and suicidal. She would cry uncontrollably, the lawsuit stated.

The woman is suing not only to seek “fair compensation” but also to make sure “no one else is tortured at the Warren County Jail,” her lawyer wrote.

Once the sexual assault was reported, Warren County Sheriff’s Office investigated, but did not collect forensic evidence from her clothing, bed or cell, according to the suit.

The jail disposed of her plastic mattress, which would have contained DNA and other forensic evidence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the alleged assault, but has been unable to gather sufficient forensic evidence to file any criminal charges, the lawsuit states.

On the morning of May 14, after 11 days incarcerated, the jail placed the woman in shackles, handcuffs and a belly chain and transferred her to a Cincinnati psychiatric facility for evaluation, where she was diagnosed with psychosis related to the trauma of the sexual assault she endured at the Warren County Jail, according to the lawsuit.

She was treated and found stable enough to be released two months later, on July 11, 2013.

MILITARY NEWS

OOPS: Video Proof Of Yemen Raid Success Turns Out To Be Golden Oldie

February 3, 2017 By: Jeff Schogol, Military Times

U.S. Central Command ate crow on Friday after releasing al-Qaida video from a raid in Yemen, only to abruptly pull the video down after learning it was older than it expected.

“We are aware that it is older video,” Defense Department spokesman Eric Pahon told Military Times. “We can’t verify what year it’s from. It’s been on the internet for a little while.”

Although the video has been online for years, it was part of a “big treasure trove of intel” that was recovered from the Jan. 29 raid by special operations forces in Yemen, Pahon said.

The video showed a masked militant lecture on how to create explosives. CENTCOM made the decisions to first publish and then take the video down, Pahon said.

The Jan. 29 raid has become a black mark for the special operations community.

One Navy SEAL was killed: Chief Special Warfare Operator William “Ryan” Owens. Six other troops were injured. An MV-22B Osprey crashed and had to be destroyed.

**“Lawmakers — 15 Republicans
And One Democrat” In House
Plead For Refugee Exception To
Trump’s Ban On Muslims:
“Frustration On Capitol Hill With
Trump's Order, Which He Issued Last
Week Without Consulting Republican
Leaders”
“A Senior Iraqi General Who Has Led
The Fight Against The Islamic State Has
Been Blocked From Coming To The U.S.
To Meet With His American
Counterparts”**

February 3, 2017 By: Richard Lardner, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A group of House lawmakers who are military veterans are pleading with President Trump to grant exceptions to his refugee and immigration ban for people who risked their lives to aid U.S. forces in the terror fight.

The lawmakers — 15 Republicans and one Democrat — also sought special consideration for children from war-torn regions in need of life-saving surgery, according to a letter sent to the president earlier this week and released Friday.

Trump's executive order barred entry of refugees for four months and citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries — Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen — for three months and Syrians indefinitely.

The lawmakers argued the order is too broad and shuts out Iraqi interpreters who served along with U.S. troops in combat, individuals who have provided information, and political and business leaders removed from their positions.

They said America's enemies see these "risk takers" as enemies, but that they should be counted as friends.

"For such individuals, time is not an ally," the group wrote. "There is no place to which they may return for a normal life even after stability and reconstruction in their devastated lands."

The lawmakers include conservative members of Congress from Oklahoma, Louisiana and Utah.

They said they are motivated after walking "among these valiant and courageous souls who have helped the U.S. armed forces" and concerned for suffering children.

The letter illustrates lingering frustration on Capitol Hill with Trump's order, which he issued last week without consulting Republican leaders. The House lawmakers steer clear of picking a fight with the president — they don't dispute the "improvements" to the U.S. immigration system the new policy is aiming to make.

But they make clear the net has been cast too wide and could have a chilling effect in future conflicts as people may shy away from aiding American troops in combat zones.

"We must make it clear that Americans can be trusted to stand with those who have stood with us," the lawmakers wrote. [In your dreams. T]

Former CIA Director David Petraeus, testifying Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee, said a senior Iraqi general who has led the fight against the Islamic State has been blocked from coming to the U.S. to meet with his American counterparts because of the order.

Among the lawmakers to sign the letter are Reps. Steve Russell, R-Okla., Seth Moulton, D-Mass., Martha McSally, R-Ariz., Mike Coffman, R-Colo., Chris Stewart, R-Utah, and Ralph Abraham, R-La.

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.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.
-- Karl Marx quoted by V. Lenin in State And Revolution; 1917**

“I Am Getting Notes And Articles Forwarded From Numerous

People That Are Full Of Paranoid Speculation About Coups, False Flag Operations, And Military Mobilizations”

“Trump Is As Much Of A Shitty Manager As A Master Manipulator”

“The Exercise Of Power Thus Far Is Muscular But Also Chaotic, Banal, And Largely Symbolic”

January 30, 2017 By Arun Gupta, The Anarres Project

I am getting notes and articles forwarded from numerous people, smart people, that are full of paranoid speculation about coups, false flag operations, and military mobilizations.

STOP IT.

This is exactly what the Trumpkins want. They want you to be paranoid, to be consumed by fear and irrationality. The last thing they want you to be is thoughtful, careful, rational. They want you to overreact and succumb to lurid fantasies.

Their exercise of power thus far is muscular but also chaotic, banal, and largely symbolic.

Take the Muslim ban. It is possible the botched order was a trial balloon by Bannon to see how various forces would react — the media, protesters, the judiciary, civil society. But it spurred an incredible resistance.

Yes, many people will suffer but they really shot themselves in the foot with this one.

The Trumpkins have phenomenal contempt for everything from bourgeois political norms to the idea of democracy to the left and progressives. But stop thinking this is Year Zero, as many pundits are calling the Trump regime.

Their power grabs fit into a history of power grabs by presidents of both parties, going back to FDR. There are moments where some limits are placed, such as after Watergate, but then a new president undermines most controls and expands powers further.

That is true, in different ways, of Reagan, Clinton, Bush, and Obama.

If you really want to know the impact of what Trump is doing, start following the commodities and equities markets closely. Trump probably pulled back so quickly on the green card ban because of the protests and the furor from Silicon Valley. Trump and his league of doom may hate the tech industry, but they can't ignore the biggest companies in the world.

Look at the flurry of orders and proposals in his first week that directly impact the economy. This is what I mean by banality.

The Trumpkins are well aware if they don't deliver on jobs and economic growth they will be a one-term administration. Even gerrymandering and voter suppression won't save them.

So they proposed and dropped a 20% tariff on goods from Mexico, which would have been severely disruptive to U.S. businesses and consumers.

This was incredibly inept and exposes that Trump is as much of a shitty manager as a master manipulator. They ban and unban green card holders because of its deleterious impact on the tech industry.

Trump's order trying to revive the KXL and DAPL pipelines probably face years of legal challenges. His order about using U.S.-made pipelines is meaningless because most pipeline is already made here. This is what I mean by symbolic.

I've said this before and will say it again. Be scientific. demand specific, credible and verifiable evidence and primary sourcing.

Be skeptical and cautious about drawing conclusions.

Don't speculate endlessly on motives and psychology, especially when they are unknowable.

Power operates in a far more banal fashion than a fantastical one.

This is a long game. Keep your wits about you and we will get through this together.

Documents Reveal WWII Mutiny By 600 African American U.S. Troops In North Queensland “Sparked By Racial Taunts And Violence”

“The Soldiers Took To The Machine Guns And Anti-Aircraft Weapons And Fired Into Tents To Attack Their White Officers”

“One Of The Biggest Uprisings Within The U.S. Military”

February 10, 2012 By Josh Bavas, ABC.NET.AU

An Australian historian has uncovered hidden documents which reveal that African American troops used machine guns to attack their white officers in a siege on a US base in north Queensland in 1942.

Information about the Townsville mutiny has never been released to the public.

But the story began to come to light when James Cook University's Ray Holyoak first began researching why US congressman Lyndon B Johnson visited Townsville for three days back in 1942.

What he discovered was evidence detailing one of the biggest uprisings within the US military.

“For 70 years there's been a rumour in Townsville that there was a mutiny among African-American servicemen. In the last year and a half I've found the primary documentation evidence that that did occur in 1942,” Mr Holyoak told AM.

During World War II, Townsville was a crucial base for campaigns into the Pacific, including the Battle of the Coral Sea.

About 600 African-American troops were brought to the city to help build airfields.

Mr Holyoak says these troops, from the 96th Battalion, US Army Corps of Engineers, were stationed at a base on the city's western outskirts known as Kelso.

This was the site for a large-scale siege lasting eight hours, which was sparked by racial taunts and violence.

“After some serial abuse by two white US officers, there was several ringleaders and they decided to machine gun the tents of the white officers,” Mr Holyoak said.

He has uncovered several documents hidden in the archives of the Queensland Police and Townsville Brigade detailing what happened that night.

According to the findings, the soldiers took to the machine guns and anti-aircraft weapons and fired into tents where their white counterparts were drinking.

More than 700 rounds were fired.

At least one person was killed and dozens severely injured, and Australian troops were called in to roadblock the rioters.

Mr Holyoak also discovered a report written by Robert Sherrod, a US journalist who was embedded with the troops.

It never made it to the press, but was handed to Lyndon B Johnson at a Townsville hotel and eventually filed away into the National Archives and Records Administration.

“I think at the time, it was certainly suppressed. Both the Australian and the US government would not have wanted the details of this coming out. The racial policies at the time really discluded people of colour,” Mr Holyoak says.

Both the Australian Defence Department and the Australian War Memorial say it could take months to research the incident, and say they have no details readily available for public release. But Townsville historian Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde says the findings validate 70-year-old rumours.

“Anytime it was raised, people usually sort of said, ‘Oh you know, no that can’t be true. Nobody’s heard about that’, and in fact it must have been kept pretty quiet from the rest of the town,” she said.

Mr Holyoak will spend the next two years researching the sentences handed out to both the officers and the mutineers involved, and why the information has been kept secret for so long.

**“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.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

Moving In The Right Direction

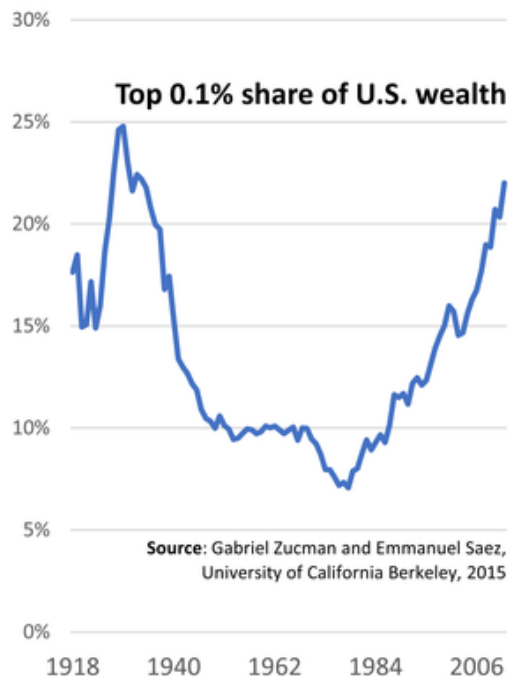
31 January 2017 Lauren Gambino, Sabrina Siddiqui and David Smith in Washington, The Guardian

A Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Tuesday found that 49% either “strongly” or “somewhat” agreed with the executive order, with 41% “strongly” or “somewhat” against.

However, 41% felt the US was setting a bad example in how to combat terrorism, versus 38% who said the opposite.

And 56% disagreed that the country should “welcome Christian refugees, but not Muslim ones”.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



Trump Meets With Wall Street Oligarchs, Gives Them Everything They Want:

“The President Thanked Larry Fink, Chief Executive Of Blackrock, The World’s Largest Asset Management Firm, For Doing A ‘Great Job For Me. He Managed A Lot Of My Money”
“Republicans And Many In The Financial Industry Cheered Mr. Trump’s Moves”
“The Financial Industry’s Influence In Washington Has Blossomed As Mr. Trump Moved To Hire Top Wall Street Executives As Senior Officials”

Feb. 3, 2017 By RYAN TRACY AND MICHAEL C. BENDER, Wall Street Journal
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump ushered in a friendlier era for Wall Street’s relationship with Washington, calling for an end to eight years of rising regulations and publicly embracing some of the industry’s top leaders.

At a White House meeting, Mr. Trump promised Friday to undo a bevy of restrictions on financial firms put in place after the 2008 financial crisis, while praising the CEOs of BlackRock Inc. and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

The president thanked Larry Fink, chief executive of BlackRock, the world’s largest asset management firm, for doing a “great job for me.”

“He managed a lot of my money,” Mr. Trump said.

The president then pointed to James Dimon, chief executive of J.P. Morgan, the largest U.S. bank by assets, as he discussed making changes to the Dodd-Frank law.

“There is nobody better to tell me about Dodd-Frank than Jamie,” the president said.

Mr. Trump’s moves sent shares of banks with large brokerage units up sharply Friday, helping push the Dow Jones Industrial Average to its biggest one-day gain in nearly two months.

Morgan Stanley jumped 5.5%, while Goldman Sachs gained 4.6%. Retail brokerage Charles Schwab rose 2.6%.

Republicans and many in the financial industry cheered Mr. Trump’s moves, saying they gave momentum to their long-sought goal of dismantling the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial overhaul and reducing regulatory costs for financial firms.

Many Democrats panned the move as a shortsighted attempt to undo regulations that were a necessary response to the 2008 financial crisis.

The developments seemed improbable only months ago, when then-President Barack Obama’s administration was putting the finishing touches on a broad regulatory crackdown on the industry and populist, anti-Wall Street rhetoric from both Mr. Trump, a Republican, and Hillary Clinton, his Democratic rival, played a role in the 2016 presidential campaign.

The financial industry’s influence in Washington has blossomed as Mr. Trump moved to hire top Wall Street executives as senior officials.

White House National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, whose tenure as a senior executive at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ended less than 40 days ago, engineered the administration’s deregulatory plan.

Mr. Trump reiterated on Friday his promises to dismantle the Dodd-Frank law.

“I have so many people, friends of mine, that had nice businesses. They can’t borrow money. They just can’t get any money because the banks just won’t let them borrow it because of the rules and regulations in Dodd-Frank.”

Data show bank lending is growing, although some believe banks would be lending more without the new rules.

Many data suggest it has been a lack of demand, not supply, that is tamping down borrowing by U.S. companies.

Democrats swiftly criticized Mr. Trump’s actions, previewing what is likely to be a drawn-out political battle.

“Donald Trump talked a big game about Wall Street during his campaign—but as president, we’re finding out whose side he’s really on,” said Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a prominent Wall Street critic who helped craft parts of Dodd-Frank.

She said his actions “will put two former Goldman Sachs executives in charge of gutting the rules that protect you from financial fraud and another economic

meltdown,” referring to Mr. Cohn, who was until recently Goldman’s president, and Steven Mnuchin, a former Goldman banker who is Mr. Trump’s choice for Treasury secretary.

“These latest actions from the Trump administration should show the American public that Trump and his cabinet of billionaires is putting the interests of Wall Street above the needs of the rest of us,” said Rep Maxine Waters (D., Calif.), the top Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee.

“The biggest bang for your buck is changing the referees, not the rules,” said Dan Ryan, the financial-services advisory leader at the consultancy PwC. He pointed specifically to two costly regulatory requirements for big banks that are subject to regulators’ discretion: “stress tests” of lending portfolios and “living wills” that examine banks’ preparations for bankruptcy.

MORE:

**How Trump Gave Washington
DC To A Bank:
“No Less Than Six Trump
Administration Appointments
Already Hail From That Single
Banking Outfit”
“A New Definition Of, In Trumpian
Terms, Giving The Government Back
To ‘The People’”
“Perhaps What Our New President Meant
Was ‘The People At Goldman Sachs’”**

January 30, 2017 by Nomi Prins, TomDispatch [Excerpts] Nomi Prins, a former investment banker at Goldman Sachs, Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, is a senior fellow at the public policy organization Demos. Her most recent book is *All the Presidents’ Bankers: The Hidden Alliances That Drive American Power* (Nation Books). Her earlier book is *Other People’s Money: The Corporate Mugging of America*.

Irony isn't a concept with which President Donald J. Trump is familiar.

In his Inaugural Address, having nominated the wealthiest cabinet in American history, he proclaimed, "For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished -- but the people did not share in its wealth."

Under Trump, an even smaller group will flourish -- in particular, a cadre of former Goldman Sachs executives. To put the matter bluntly, two of them (along with the Federal Reserve) are likely to control our economy and financial system in the years to come.

Infusing Washington with Goldman alums isn't exactly an original idea. Three of the last four presidents, including The Donald, have handed the wheel of the U.S. economy to ex-Goldmanites.

But in true Trumpian style, after attacking Hillary Clinton for her Goldman ties, he wasn't satisfied to do just that. He had to do it bigger and better. Unlike Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, just a sole Goldman figure lording it over economic policy wasn't enough for him. Only two would do.

Whether you voted for or against Donald Trump, whether you're gearing up for the revolution or waiting for his next tweet to drop, rest assured that, in the years to come, the ideology that matters most won't be that of the "forgotten" Americans of his Inaugural Address. It will be that of Goldman Sachs and it will dominate the domestic economy and, by extension, the global one.

There have been hundreds of articles written about the "world's most powerful investment bank," or as journalist Matt Taibbi famously called it back in 2010, the "great vampire squid." That squid is now about to wrap its tentacles around our world in a way previously not imagined by Bill Clinton or George W. Bush.



Zero Hedge

No less than six Trump administration appointments already hail from that single banking outfit.

Of those, two will impact your life strikingly: former Goldman partner and soon-to-be Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and incoming top economic adviser and National Economic Council Chair Gary Cohn, former president and “number two” at Goldman. (The Council he will head has been responsible for “policy-making for domestic and international economic issues.”)

“Running For Office As An Outsider Is One Thing. Instantly Inviting Wall Street Into That Office Once You Arrive Is Another”

Running for office as an outsider is one thing. Instantly inviting Wall Street into that office once you arrive is another.

Now, it seems that Donald Trump is bringing us the newest chapter in the long-running White House-Goldman Sachs saga. And count on Steven Mnuchin and Gary Cohn to offer a few fresh wrinkles on that old alliance.

Cohn was one of the partners who ran the Fixed Income, Currency and Commodity (FICC) division of Goldman. It was the one that benefited the most from leverage, trading, and the complexity of Wall Street’s financial concoctions like collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) stuffed with derivatives attached to subprime mortgages. You could say, it was leverage that helped propel Cohn up the Goldman food chain.

Steven Mnuchin has proven particularly adept at understanding such concoctions. He left Goldman in 2002. In 2004, with two other ex-Goldman partners, he formed the hedge fund Dune Capital Management. In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, Dune went shopping, as Wall Street likes to do, for cheap buys it could convert into big profits. Mnuchin and his pals found the perfect prey in a Pasadena-based bank, IndyMac, that had failed in July 2008 before the financial crisis kicked into high gear, and had been seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). They would pick up its assets on the cheap.

At his confirmation hearings, Mnuchin downplayed his role in throwing homeowners (including members of the military) out of their heavily mortgaged homes as a result of that purchase.

He cast himself instead as a genuine hero, the guy who convened a cadre of financial sharks to help, not harm, the bank’s customers who, without their benevolence, would have fared so much worse. He looked deeply earnest as he spoke of his role as the savior of the common -- or perhaps in the age of Trump “forgotten” -- man and woman. Maybe he even believed it.

But the philosophy of swooping in, attacking an IndyMac-like target of opportunity and converting it into a fortune for himself (and problems for everyone else), has been a hallmark of his career.

To transfer this version of over-amped 1% opportunism to the halls of political power is certainly a new definition of, in Trumpian terms, giving the government back to “the people.”

Perhaps what our new president meant was “the people at Goldman Sachs.”

Think of it, in any case, as the supercharging of a vulture mentality in a designer suit, the very attitude that once fueled the rise to power of Goldman Sachs.

Mnuchin repeatedly blamed the FDIC and other government agencies for not helping him help homeowners. “In the press it has been said that I ran a ‘foreclosure machine,’” he said, “On the contrary, I was committed to loan modifications intended to stop foreclosures. I ran a ‘Loan Modification Machine.’ Whenever we could do loan modifications we did them, but many times, the FDIC, FNMA, FHLMC, and bank trustees imposed strict rules governing the processing of these loans.”

Nothing, that is, was or ever is his fault -- reflecting his inability to take the slightest responsibility for his undeniable role in kicking people out of their homes when they could have remained. It’s undoubtedly the perfect trait for a Treasury secretary in a government of the 1% of the 1%.

Mnuchin also blamed the Federal Reserve for suggesting that the Volcker Rule -- part of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 designed to limit risky trading activities -- was harming bank liquidity and could be a problem. The way he did that was typically slick. He claimed to support the Volcker Rule, even as he underscored the Fed’s concern with it. In this way, he managed both to make himself look squeaky clean and very publicly open the door to a possible Trumpian “revision” of that rule that would be aimed at weakening its intent and once again deregulating bank trading activities.

Similarly, at those confirmation hearings he said (as Trump had previously) that we needed to help community banks compete against the bigger ones through less onerous regulations. Even though this may indeed be true, it is also guaranteed to be another bait-and-switch move likely to lead to the deregulation of the big banks, too, ultimately rendering them even bigger and more dangerous not just to those community banks but to all of us.

Indeed, any proposition to reduce the size of big banks was sidestepped. Although Mnuchin did say that four monster banks shouldn’t run the country, he didn’t say that they should be broken up.

He won’t.

Nor will Cohn. In response to a question from Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell, he added, “No, I don’t support going back to Glass-Steagall as is. What we’ve talked about with the president-elect is that perhaps we need a twenty-first-century Glass-Steagall. But, no I don’t support taking a very old law and saying we should adhere to it as is.”

So, although the reinstatement of Glass-Steagall was part of the 2016 Republican election platform, it’s likely to prove just another of Trump’s many tactics to gain votes -- in this case, from Bernie Sanders supporters and libertarians who see too-big-to-fail institutions and a big-bank bailout policy as wrong and dangerous.

Rest assured, though, Mnuchin and his Goldman Sachs pals will allow the largest Wall Street players to remain as virulent and parasitic as they are now, if not more so.

Goldman itself just announced that it was the world's top merger and acquisitions adviser for the sixth consecutive year. In other words, the real deal-maker isn't the former ruler of The Celebrity Apprentice, but Goldman Sachs.

The government might change, but Goldman stays the same. And the traffic pile up of Goldman personalities in Trump's corner made their fortunes doing deals -- and not the kind that benefited the public either.

A former Goldman colleague recently asked me whether it was just possible that Mnuchin was a good person.

I can't answer that. It's something only he knows for sure. But no matter how earnest or sympathetic to the little guy he tried to be before that Senate confirmation committee, I do know one thing: he's also a shark.

And sharks do what they're best at and what's best for them. They smell blood in the water and go in for the kill.

Think of it as the Goldman Sachs effect. In the waters of the Trump-Goldman era, don't doubt for a second that the blood will be our own.

MORE:

“Trump Is Handing The U.S. Economy ‘Back Over To Wall Street’” “The Wall Street Bankers Against Whom Trump Ran Are Making Policy Now”

February 03, 2017 by Deirdre Fulton, staff writer; Common Dreams [Excerpts]

President Donald Trump is handing the U.S. economy “back over to Wall Street” on Friday, with a regulatory rollback that critics say could put consumers and the financial system at risk.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Trump signed executive orders Friday “establish(ing) a framework for scaling back the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial-overhaul law” and rolling back an Obama-era regulation requiring advisers on retirement accounts to work in the best interests of their clients. That rule was set to go into effect in April.

Trump signed the orders after meeting with bank CEOs.

“The Wall Street bankers against whom Trump ran are making policy now,” said Robert Weissman, president of watchdog group Public Citizen.

Furthermore, White House National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, who formerly served as president of Goldman Sachs, told the Journal that Friday's memoranda were merely "a table setter for a bunch of stuff that is coming."

Bloomberg described the orders as "the most aggressive steps yet by Trump to loosen regulations in the financial services industry and come after he has sought to stock his administration with veterans of the industry in key positions."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Occupation Soldiers Shoot An Unarmed Palestinian Teen, As Usual

February 3, 2017 IMEMC News

Israeli soldiers shot, Friday, a Palestinian teen with live fire, during clashes that took place between many youngsters and the soldiers, stationed across the border fence, in central Gaza.

Dr. Ashraf Al-Qedra, spokesperson of the Health Ministry in Gaza, said the soldiers shot a 16-year-old with a live round in the abdomen, before local medics moved him to the Al-Aqsa Hospital.

He added that the incident took place in Palestinian lands, in Um Hosniyya Hill area, close to the border fence, east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in central Gaza.

Eyewitnesses said the soldiers were heavily deployed across the border fence in the area, and fired many live rounds, rubber-coated steel bullets and gas bombs, at many protesters who marched in the area.

Heroic Zionists Attack Shepherds And Chase Them Out Of Palestinian Grazing Lands In Occupied Northern Plains:

**"The Colonists Have Frequently Chased
The Palestinian Shepherds, And**

Assaulted Many Of Them, To Gain Control Over The Area”

February 4, 2017 IMEMC News

On Saturday evening, several extremist Israeli colonists, living in outposts illegally established on Palestinian lands in the West Bank’s Northern Plains, attacked Palestinian Shepherds, and forced them out of grazing lands.

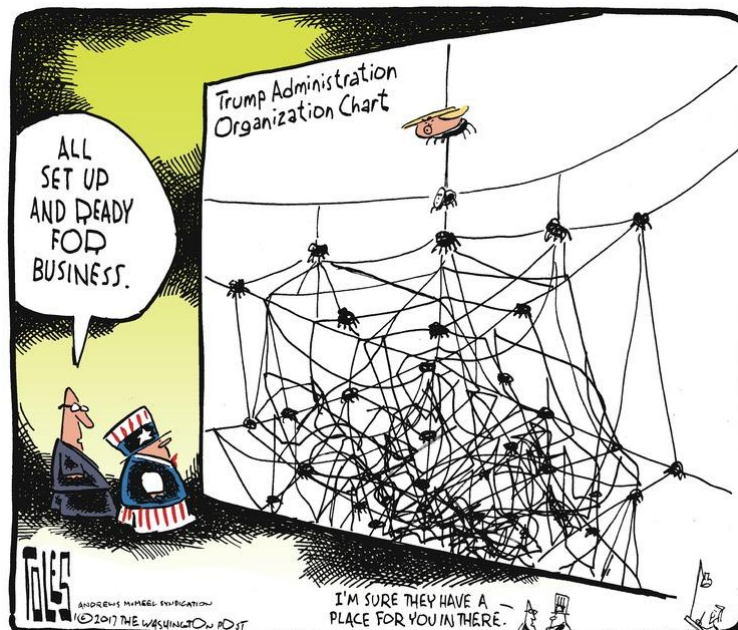
The WAFA Palestinian News Agency quoted Aref Daraghma, an expert in Israeli settlements’ file and violations, stating that the colonists attacked many shepherds, and chased them out of Palestinian grazing lands.

Daraghma added that the attack was part of repeated violations that escalated, several months ago, after the colonists installed tents, creating illegal colonist outposts, in Khirbit Mzoqah and Khallet Ahmad areas.

He stated that the colonists have since then frequently chased the Palestinian shepherd, and assaulted many of them, to gain control over the area.

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.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Stupid Anarchist Filth At Anti-Extreme Right Demonstration Attack And Beat A Syrian Muslim, Calling Him A Nazi
“I Saw Someone Wearing All Black Walk Up To A Student Wearing A Suit And Say, ‘You Look Like A Nazi’”

“The Black-Clad Person Pepper-Sprayed Him And Hit Him On The Back With A Rod”

“I Ran After The Student Who Was Attacked To Get His Name And More Information. He Told Me That He Is A Syrian Muslim”

FEB. 2, 2017 by Malini Ramaiyer, New York Times [Excerpt

BERKELEY, Calif. — What do you do as a reporter when a protest begins? You cover it.

But what about when the man being protested is known for rhetoric that makes you nauseated? Or when you see a student get beaten up because he looked “like a Nazi”?

How do you remain objective?

Those were the questions that faced me when, as a reporter for the student newspaper at the University of California, Berkeley, I covered the protest on Wednesday night at the college that turned violent, drawing national attention.

The protesters were demonstrating against a scheduled speech on campus by Milo Yiannopoulos, a Breitbart editor and right-wing provocateur, who had been invited by the Berkeley College Republicans.

This was always going to be a controversial event. Mr. Yiannopoulos has been giving inflammatory speeches on a college tour meant to push back against what he sees as the stifling politically correct left. But his language has veered decidedly toward hate speech. At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for example, he singled out a transgender student for ridicule by name.

Because of actions like that, many Berkeley students and more than 100 faculty members petitioned the university to block the event, but the chancellor, Nicholas Dirks, declined to do so, citing free speech.

Wednesday night, I saw many creative posters urging people to fight Islamophobia, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, sexism and racism. One group of protesters wore red ribbons emblazoned "Resist," while another led a "resistance dance party" near the venue.

Until Wednesday, I never felt in danger during a protest.

Around 7 p.m. I saw a huddle of people yelling at one another. As more people surrounded them, a burning red trucker's hat was held up on a stick. There were reports that another student wearing what appeared to be a "Make America Great Again" hat was severely injured.

Then I saw someone wearing all black walk up to a student wearing a suit and say, "You look like a Nazi." The student was confused, but before he could reply, the black-clad person pepper-sprayed him and hit him on the back with a rod.

I ran after the student who was attacked to get his name and more information. He told me that he is a Syrian Muslim.

Before I could find out more, he fled, fearing another attack.



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