

Military Resistance 15B3



**E Tenebris Tantis Tam
Clarum Extollere Lumen:
The Resistance To Trump From
Below Is Massive, Diverse,
Fierce And Gathers Momentum
With Unprecedented Speed;
A Republican Points Out “If All This
Was Spontaneous, The Left Is
Strong Indeed. If It Was A Matter**

Of Superior Organization, That's Impressive Too" And "You Should Never Let Your Enemy Know Its Own Strength" "They Discovered It In The Women's March, Know It More Deeply Now"

January 31 By Katrina vanden Heuvel, Washington Post [Excerpts]

We saw more of that passion and energy on display over the weekend, as demonstrations against Trump's de facto Muslim ban spontaneously erupted on Saturday at airports across the country.

And the protests continued into Sunday, with tens of thousands attending rallies in more than 30 cities nationwide.

Feb. 2, 2017 By PEGGY NOONAN, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Last week's executive order on immigration continues to reverberate.

The handling of the order allowed the organized left to show its might, igniting big demonstrations throughout major cities.

And not only downtown—they had to make it out to the airport to give the media the pictures, and they did.

In Washington I witnessed a demonstration of many thousands of people carrying individualized, hand-lettered signs.

If all this was spontaneous, the left is strong indeed. If it was a matter of superior organization, that's impressive too.

You should never let your enemy know its own strength.

They discovered it in the Women's March, know it more deeply now, and demonstrated it to Democrats on the Hill. It was after the demonstrations that Democratic senators started boycotting the confirmation hearings.

Jan. 30 2017 by Farhad Manjoo, NY Times [Excerpts]

The presidency of Donald J. Trump has been noteworthy for its speed. In his first week in office, as the president's aides won't tire of reminding us, Mr. Trump has already put in motion plans to do much of what he promised to do while campaigning.

But it's not just the politician who is moving fast. It's the population, too.

In a matter of hours on Saturday, thousands rushed to the nation's airports, beckoned by tweets.

**From below
In motion, our class beginning to come on stage
In opposition
Into the streets, where all questions of power are decided
Feeling our way forward;
Forming connections, nerve endings merging into a whole
Seeing and knowing one another
Developing a sense of ourselves
And our strength
And what that could mean
Women's March then
Shockingly suddenly rising, coming out by the tens of thousands to defend
immigrants
Mass boycotts of corporations friendly to the regime
All this new confused politically uncertain
White hot brushfires breaking out,
Burning here and there, unexpectedly
Dying down, breaking out again
Scorching a regime two weeks old
All this new not seen before in our lifetimes
Dress rehearsals for clarifying unifying class war to come
Not as soon as we might wish
But sooner than most anyone now believes**

T

**"They treasured up wrath for the time to come."
-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, writing in 1702, on the growing discontent emerging
from below that led to the revolutionary overthrow of the incompetent English
feudal oligarchy and beheading of Charles I, King of England.**

**"All revolutions are surprises, and we cannot predict future struggles."
-- Ian Birchall; British left historian**

MORE

More Companies Back Away From Donald Trump Under Pressure From Customers: “An Employee Revolt From Within Uber Was Another Major Factor” “The People Who Voted Against Donald Trump May Have Lost At The Ballot Box, But They Can Win At The Cash Register”

February 3 By James Hohmann, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Companies are caught between a rock and a hard place, with President Trump on one side and their customers on the other.

Uber CEO Travis Kalanick quit President Trump’s 15-member council of business leaders yesterday, and Disney CEO Bob Iger let it be known that he won’t attend a meeting at the White House today because of a scheduling conflict.

Nordstrom announced last night that it will stop selling Ivanka Trump’s name-branded line of clothing and shoes after an extended boycott by an anti-Trump activist group called “Grab Your Wallet.”

The retailer said the first daughter’s products are being dropped because of poor sales. In early December, Nordstrom had 71 Ivanka items for sale on its web site. Right now, just four are left. And they’re all being sold at a clearance discount.

We’ve obviously written a lot about companies bending to pressure from Trump, especially defense contractors like United Technologies, Boeing and Lockheed. But firms that depend on retail sales will perhaps care more about pressure from their customers than from White House heavies.

Customers complained so loudly after Kawasaki USA – a distributor of motorcycle, ATVs and personal watercraft – sponsored an episode of “The Celebrity Apprentice” that the company said it will not sponsor the show again, so long as the president is credited as an executive producer.

The “Grab Your Wallet” campaign has targeted more than 60 companies, including Trump’s golf courses and hotels, those that sell Trump-branded goods and other businesses whose leaders endorsed Trump or donated to his campaign.

“The people who voted against Donald Trump may have lost at the ballot box, but they can win at the cash register,” Shannon Coulter, who helps lead the effort, told David Fahrenthold and Sarah Halzack.

“Grab Your Wallet” has taken five companies off its boycott list since November, after they stopped selling Ivanka merchandise: Shoes.com, Bellacor, Wayfair, Zulily and RueLaLa.

Another retailer that distanced itself from Trump is L.L. Bean.

The maker of outdoor apparel and footwear became a boycott target last month after news reports that heiress Linda Bean gave \$55,000 more than legally allowed to a PAC set up to help the president win Maine. In response, Trump urged his Twitter followers to shop there.

That prompted the executive chairman of the company to put out a statement distancing L.L. Bean from Mrs. Bean and insisting that the business was totally apolitical. “We fully acknowledge and respect that some may disagree with the political views of a single member of our 10-person board of directors,” Shawn Gorman wrote.

Grassroots pressure has proven effective at several other moments since Trump became president two weeks ago today.

The two Republican senators who came out against Betsy DeVos, Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, cited constituent phone calls as a key factor in their decision. The administration watered down (aka “clarified”) its refugee ban to exempt green-card holders after the massive protests at airports.

Uber was particularly susceptible to a customer boycott because it is most popular in urban areas, where Democrats are strongest.

Kalanick, the CEO, claimed yesterday that he made his decision to drop out of Trump’s business council after hearing the stories of Uber drivers, specifically refugees from Egypt and Vietnam.

But it probably had more to do with 200,000-plus customers deleting their accounts in response to a campaign called #deleteUber.

Lyft rode a wave of frustration with its arch-rival to become the most downloaded program on Apple’s AppStore over the past few days.

Lyft announced that it will also no longer allow ads for its service to run on Breitbart, formerly run by White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, and announced it will donate \$1 million to the ACLU, which is fighting the Trump refugee ban in court.

Earlier in the week Uber said it would put up \$3 million to help its drivers with immigration legal costs, but that did almost nothing to squelch the blowback.

“The implicit assumption that Uber (or I) was somehow endorsing the Administration’s agenda has created a perception-reality gap between who people think we are, and who we actually are,” Kalanick said yesterday.

The ride-sharing service has faced multiple protests in front of its San Francisco headquarters:

“An Employee Revolt From Within Uber Was Another Major Factor Driving Kalanick’s Decision”

An employee revolt from within Uber was another major factor driving Kalanick’s decision.

The CEO faced an onslaught of questions from upset staff earlier this week.

“According to nearly a dozen current and former Uber engineers and product managers who attended or were briefed on the Tuesday all-hands meeting, employees said they were concerned that Mr. Kalanick’s willingness to work with Mr. Trump after the immigration order would color Uber as a soulless company that cared only about its bottom line,” Mike Isaac reports on the front page of today’s New York Times.

“Some told Mr. Kalanick that they had suffered a personal cost — a stigma, they said — of working at Uber. One staff member asked him to present the benefits of working at Uber that could outweigh that personal cost. ... Outside of the internal pressure, Uber faced other fallout from Mr. Kalanick’s stance.”

The saga surrounding the president’s decision not to visit the Harley-Davidson plant in Wisconsin yesterday offers another case study of how pressure from customers and employees may change corporate behavior in the Trump era.

Danielle Paquette has a great read about how the motorcycle manufacturer, the Secret Service and administration officials were actively preparing for the president to travel Thursday afternoon until liberals in the Milwaukee area began to organize what might have become a massive protest.

The trip got called off, and Harley executives came to see Trump at the White House yesterday instead. (Sean Spicer claims that the trip plan was never finalized, but there are a lot of details that cast doubt upon the credibility of his denial.)

“On Monday afternoon, a second-shift worker at Harley-Davidson’s powertrain factory ... learned that Trump was slated to visit ... Feeling sick to his stomach, he wrote a private Facebook message to a local protest group,” Danielle reports.

“The demonstrators ... contacted Harley-Davidson through Facebook, telling the company that they would gather outside the factory to protest the president’s immigration policies.

The group organized a call-in campaign, urging activists to flood Harley-Davidson and chief executive Matt Levatich with messages, emails and phone calls condemning Trump's appearance.”

Consider the example of Taylor Gourmet, a popular D.C. sandwich chain. Co-founder Casey Patten received an invitation to attend a Monday ceremony on small business at the White House. At the meeting, he says he told Trump that his immigrant employees are “nervous.”

After he appeared at the meeting, food bloggers and activists began attacking him online.

Patten wound up visiting all of his stories this week to calm his frustrated employees. He even started crying in his car as he drove between locations. Distraught, he decided to call The Post’s Tim Carman to tell his side of the story. “My political views don’t lean to one side or another,” he said.

The New Yorker just canceled the posh party that it holds at the W Hotel before the White House Correspondents Dinner, and Vanity Fair is pulling out of co-sponsoring the dinner’s most exclusive after-party (at the French ambassador’s residence).

Graydon Carter, the editor of Vanity Fair, told the New York Times that he will spend the weekend fishing in Connecticut instead. And comedian Samantha Bee plans to hold an alternative event on the night of the April 29 dinner.

MORE

Uber C.E.O. Forced off Trump Advisory Council After Fierce Criticism:

**“More Than 200,000 Customers Had
Deleted Their Accounts”**

**“Mr. Kalanick Was, Until Thursday, One
Of The Most Vocal Proponents Among
Tech Chiefs Of Engaging With The
President”**

Feb. 2, 2107 By MIKE ISAAC, New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Travis Kalanick needed everyone to take a deep breath.

The chief executive of Uber was holding a regularly scheduled all-hands meeting on Tuesday at the ride-hailing company's San Francisco headquarters when he faced an onslaught of questions from upset employees.

Uber was under attack — unfairly, many staff members believed — after people accused the company of seeking to profit from giving rides to airport customers in New York during weekend protests against President Trump's immigration order.

But there was another matter disturbing the employees: Mr. Kalanick himself.

He had joined Mr. Trump's economic advisory council in December. After the immigration order against refugees and seven Muslim-majority countries, many staff members wondered why Mr. Kalanick was still willing to advise the president.

"What would it take for you to quit the economic council?" at least two employees asked at the Tuesday meeting.

On Thursday, Mr. Kalanick gave his answer, stepping down from Mr. Trump's economic advisory council.

"There are many ways we will continue to advocate for just change on immigration, but staying on the council was going to get in the way of that," Mr. Kalanick wrote in an email to employees obtained by The New York Times.

Mr. Kalanick's exit from the advisory council underscores the tricky calculus facing many Silicon Valley corporate chieftains who try to work with the new administration. On one hand, many tech executives have openly tried to engage with the president, a path that is typically good for business.

Yet Mr. Trump's immigration order has been so unpopular with so many tech workers — many of whom are immigrants themselves and who advocate globalization — that they are now exerting pressure on their chief executives to push back forcefully against the administration.

Thirty miles south of Uber's headquarters, for example, Facebook employees have voiced frustration that Peter Thiel, the billionaire tech investor and adviser to Mr. Trump, still has a seat on the social network's board.

At Google, employees have staged protests against the immigration order.

At Twitter's headquarters, some employees have said they are uneasy about the president's heavy reliance on their service to send divisive messages.

The tension over continuing to work with Mr. Trump reached a breaking point at Uber because Mr. Kalanick was, until Thursday, one of the most vocal proponents among tech chiefs of engaging with the president.

As recently as Saturday, Mr. Kalanick had publicly said in a blog post that the best route forward was to have "a seat at the table."

He had added, “We partner around the world optimistically in the belief that by speaking up and engaging we can make a difference.”

“Uber Faced Other Fallout From Mr. Kalanick’s Stance. More Than 200,000 Customers Had Deleted Their Accounts”

Outside of the internal pressure, Uber faced other fallout from Mr. Kalanick’s stance. More than 200,000 customers had deleted their accounts.

In addition, Uber rivals had seized the moment to attack the company and bolster their own businesses. The New York Taxi Workers Alliance sent emails to the news media calling attention to Uber’s ties to Mr. Trump, and organized a protest at Uber’s New York office for Thursday.

Lyft, another ride-hailing service, pledged to donate \$1 million to the American Civil Liberties Union and has seen its app shoot toward the top of the download charts.

Uber drivers, many of them immigrants who work for the ride-hailing company on a freelance basis, were also upset.

“There would be no Uber without immigrants,” said Jim Conigliaro Jr., founder of the Independent Drivers Guild, an organization that represents and advocates protections for nearly 50,000 Uber drivers serving New York City. “As a company whose success is built on a foundation of hard work by immigrant workers, Uber can and should do better to stand up for immigrants and their workers.”

Uber has set aside \$3 million for a legal-defense fund to support drivers, offering help with translation services and round-the-clock telephone access to legal aid.

For Mr. Kalanick, the moment was especially fraught.

Other corporate chiefs, including Elon Musk of Tesla and SpaceX, and Mary Barra of General Motors, are also on the president’s economic advisory team. Mr. Musk said on Twitter this week that the group of economic advisers planned to come to some sort of “consensus” on immigration, and to influence Mr. Trump by engaging directly with him rather than cutting off ties completely.

“Travis and the other C.E.O.s are on that (presidential) board for one simple reason: To advance their business interests,” said Dan O’Sullivan, a writer from the Chicago area who helped to spread the #DeleteUber campaign on social media.

Internally, Uber staff members also began piling on the pressure.

According to nearly a dozen current and former Uber engineers and product managers who attended or were briefed on the Tuesday all-hands meeting, employees said they were concerned that Mr. Kalanick’s willingness to work with Mr. Trump after the immigration order would color Uber as a soulless company that cared only about its bottom line.

Some told Mr. Kalanick that they had suffered a personal cost — a stigma, they said — of working at Uber.

One staff member asked him to present the benefits of working at Uber that could outweigh that personal cost.

Mr. Kalanick replied that he believed that change could be best effected through engagement, and through the work they did every single day.

Many employees were not satisfied with his answer.

On Wednesday, Uber staff members followed up by circulating a 25-page Google document titled “Letters to Travis” to tell the chief executive how and why his willingness to engage with the administration had affected them.

By Thursday morning, Mr. Kalanick had reversed his position on engaging with Mr. Trump.

His participation in the economic advisory council had created what he called a “perception-reality gap between who people think we are, and who we actually are.”

In his email to employees, he said his participation was being interpreted as a sign that he had endorsed the president and the administration’s agenda. In fact, Mr. Kalanick said, the immigration order was hurting many people across America.

“Immigration and openness to refugees is an important part of our country’s success and quite honestly to Uber’s,” he wrote.

Mr. Kalanick said he had spoken briefly with Mr. Trump to let him know he was withdrawing from the advisory council.

“Please know, your questions and stories on Tuesday, along with what I heard from drivers, have kept me resilient and reminded me of one of our most essential cultural values, Be Yourself,” Mr. Kalanick wrote.

MORE

Where To Begin Organizing The Resistance To Trump? At Work! “From Solidarity Strikes To Slowdowns And Sit-Ins, Workplace

Revolt Is A Key Strategy In Overthrowing The Regime” “It Will Require Sustained And Strategic Organizing”

January 31 By Moshe Marvit and Leo Gertner, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Moshe Marvit is a labor and employment lawyer and a fellow at the Century Foundation. He is the co-author of “Why Labor Organizing Should be a Civil Right.”

Leo Gertner is a labor lawyer in Washington, D.C. who previously worked as a grievance representative for janitors in Boston.

As thousands of protesters descended on John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York Saturday to protest Friday’s executive order blocking citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, the AFL-CIO affiliated, 19,000-member Taxi Workers Alliance called for a solidarity strike.

In response, Uber, the controversial “ride-sharing” service whose chief executive sits on Trump’s business advisory board, suspended its surge pricing and continued operation, effectively attempting to break the strike.

Reaction was swift: #deleteuber quickly became a trending topic on Twitter as users posted screenshots deleting their accounts.

There has been an explosion of direct political action and protest since the election.

Though often overlooked in America, the workplace can be as much a focal point of resistance and protest as the streets, the ballot box or the halls of Congress. But since jobs and trade were the policy centerpieces of his campaign, Trump has brought the fight to the workplace, and workers need to respond in kind.

Workplace resistance can take many forms.

Writing for Politico about Trump’s attack on federal employees, Nancy Cook and Andrew Restuccia explained that “disgruntled employees can leak information to Capitol Hill and the press, and prod inspectors general to probe political appointees.

They can also use the tools of bureaucracy to slow or sandbag policy proposals — moves that can overtly, or passive aggressively, unravel a White House’s best-laid plans.”

But members of the federal bureaucracy aren’t the only employees with the tools to resist

Trump from their workplaces. Workers of all kinds can use these slowdown strategies to great effect.

In an article for the Nation titled “Throw Sand in the Gears of Everything,” Frances Fox Piven called for strategies of disruption and described how the “repercussions of such mass refusals can be far-reaching, simply because social life depends on systems of intricate cooperation. So does our system of governance.”

Slowdowns and “work-to-rule” campaigns can sap the productivity of employers pushing anti-worker (and anti-social) policies. In the 1970s, two years after a strike that won female workers’ wage parity, the workers in the Ford plant in Dagenham, England, introduced a successful slowdown in response to management repeatedly speeding up production.

Plant occupations and sit-down strikes have also helped workers fight back against major financial institutions. In 2008, 200 workers at Republic Windows and Doors in Chicago engaged in a sit-down strike that brought the Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase to the table and kept the plant open.

Unorganized workers, too, can reclaim the workplace as a site of political resistance by starting discussions with co-workers on the effect of Trump’s actions on their employment conditions or communities

And workers should be especially vigilant when it comes to Trump’s administration.

Trump has promised to roll back regulations and block new ones, many of which provide essential health and safety protections for workers.

Trump’s assault on workers just makes the act of workplace resistance that much more appropriate, and that much more vital.

Such actions pressuring the Trump administration will be crucial to holding it accountable by keeping its empty promises to workers in the news. They will also provide the collective action needed to oppose the implementation of some of Trump’s most dangerous plans.

And yet ultimately, effective resistance will require more than sporadic actions. It will require the kind of sustained, repeated and strategic type of organizing that the labor movement has specialized in for decades.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

The Road To Ruin:

“The Revolt That Would Explode At The End Of 1842 And Destroy An Entire British Army”

“A History Of The First Anglo-Afghan War Describes The Consequences Of Political Ignorance And Military Folly – And The West’s Failure To Learn From Past Mistakes”



Anglo-Afghan war. The Last Stand at Gandamak. British invasion army is wiped out.

February 1, 2013 By Anatol Lieven, The Financial Times Limited.

Anatol Lieven is a professor in the war studies department of King’s College London and author of ‘Pakistan: A Hard Country’ (Penguin)

Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, by William Dalrymple, Bloomsbury, RRP£25, 608 pages

One of the most astonishing things about the western involvement in Afghanistan of the past decade, and the British shambles in particular, has been the failure to learn from or, indeed, to read accounts of previous failed interventions – even those by the officers of British regiments whose later incarnations are fighting in the country today.

Ignorance of Afghan history has not stopped a procession of contemporary “experts” from throwing about the cliché that we are in the grip of a new “Great Game”.

Aside from its lack of imagination, this parallel misses the most important point about the original: that, far from being a vital issue in 19th-century geopolitics, it was in fact something between a sideshow and an illusion. Within a few years of Rudyard Kipling’s coining the term, the British and Russian empires wound up their rivalry in the region when faced with the real common threat of Wilhelmine Germany.

This belated recognition of the pointlessness of the entire affair did not, of course, bring back to life the countless people who had died in the course of these imperial adventures over the previous 70 years.

In his brilliant new book on the first Anglo-Afghan war of 1839-42, *Return of a King*, the British historian and travel writer William Dalrymple describes the tragic beginnings of the Great Game in Afghanistan, and how unnecessary it all was.

The invasion to dethrone and replace the Afghan ruler Dost Mohammed Khan was prompted by fears of a Russian takeover of the country that were the merest paranoia.

The Russians had no plans whatsoever at that time to invade India through Afghanistan; nor could they have done so, since their frontier was still hundreds of miles to the north, across the deserts of central Asia. The whole “threat” consisted of one semi-official emissary, Ivan Vitkevich (or rather Jan Witkiewicz, since he was Polish by birth), who was later disowned by the Russian government.

The report of Vitkevich’s arrival in Afghanistan was, however, enough to send the Governor-General of India, Lord Auckland, and an increasingly Russophobic political class and media in London, into a state of hysteria.

Exploiting the bitter rivalry between two branches of the royal clan, the British sent in an army to depose Dost Mohammed and replace him with his rival Shah Shuja, who had been living in exile in India.

As Dalrymple writes: “Shah Shuja remains a symbol of quisling treachery in Afghanistan: in 2001, the Taliban asked their young men, ‘Do you want to be remembered as a son of Shah Shuja or of Dost Mohammed?’”

Dalrymple notes – as do the Taliban – that Hamid Karzai, the present western-installed ruler of Afghanistan, is from the same sub-clan of the old royal tribe as Shah Shuja.

Initially, the conquest seemed to go well.

Dost Mohammed’s army was quite easily defeated, and with the help of generous British bribes, large numbers of Afghan chiefs and their followers swore allegiance to Shah Shuja.

The British were convinced that Afghanistan was now secure and stable under their client ruler.

But the British had not understood the fury that the presence of a large Christian (and Indian Hindu) army in their country would cause among conservative Muslim Afghans, especially when British officers started sleeping with Afghan women.

More importantly, they had not realised that most Afghan chiefs had not sworn permanent or unconditional loyalty to Shah Shuja, but only to accept his overlordship as long as it was to their advantage.

When the British pushed Shah Shuja to raise taxes to pay for a modern administration, and cut their own subsidies to the tribes, the chiefs lit the fuse to the revolt that would explode at the end of 1842 and destroy an entire British army.

Some of Dalrymple's ancestors played a prominent role in the British conquest and administration of India. His great-great uncle, Captain Colin Mackenzie, was one of the few British officers to emerge from the Afghan debacle of 1842 with any credit.

However, this is far from being yet another account of a colonial war seen through the eyes of the colonialists. As with Dalrymple's other books on British Indian history, *White Mughals* (2002) and *The Last Mughal* (2006), the greatest new contribution and the single greatest strength of this book is its employment of Afghan and Indian sources to examine the war from the point of view both of the Afghans themselves and the Indian soldiers who made up the majority of the "British" force.

The other thing that has marked out Dalrymple's historical works is his unflinching look at British imperial atrocities.

Others have touched on the sequel to the annihilation of the British Kabul garrison, when the British "Army of Retribution" fought its way to the Afghan capital and deliberately destroyed most of the city. Yet previous British accounts have tended to omit the most horrific details, even though they were amply recorded in memoirs of the time.

These included the massacre of much of Kabul's Hindu minority, who had taken no part in the war, and an attempt to do the same to the Qizilbash Shia, who had been British allies.

Having made their point, the British then withdrew with such haste that they failed to ransom many of their own Indian soldiers who had been captured during the retreat, and who for their service were left in Afghan slavery – despite appeals by British officers of the regiments concerned.

Dalrymple describes how the British withdrawal was accompanied by a wretched mass of Afghan refugees and crippled British Indian soldiers – “a whole variety of groups whose lives had been uprooted and ruined by Auckland's failed adventure”.

Even 170 years later, the events described in *Return of a King* still have the power to shock – and so they should.

It is to be hoped that any future British leader contemplating intervention in Afghanistan, or any other part of the Muslim world, will read Dalrymple's book.

For while it is first and foremost a valuable contribution to the history of Afghanistan and the British Raj, it is also intended to draw parallels and convey lessons about the latest western involvement in the region – lessons, it is worth noting, that were not lost on the more intelligent British officials of the time.

The first is a warning against civilisational hubris.

Before the British invasion of 1839, a British intelligence chief warned: “There is nothing more to be dreaded ... than the overweening confidence with which we are too often accustomed to regard the excellence of our own institutions, and the anxiety that we display to introduce them in new and untried soils.

“Such interference will always lead to acrimonious disputes, if not to a violent reaction.”

If he had still been around, Sir Claude Wade could have said exactly the same (and with as little effect) to the Soviets in the late 1970s and the Americans and their auxiliaries in 2001.

The second lesson concerns money.

Every intervention in Afghanistan has turned out to be far more expensive than was foreseen by its planners.

Yet attempting to economise invites disaster.

As Dalrymple describes, there were multiple reasons for the Afghan revolt against the British occupation; but the destruction of the British forces began when local British officials, under pressure from London to make cuts, radically reduced the money being paid to the tribes along the route from Kabul to India – at which point they rebelled and cut the passes.

The British had assumed that the tribes’ professions of loyalty to the British client ruler in Kabul, Shah Shuja, somehow meant that it was no longer necessary to pay for that loyalty.

If US officials in future try to cut their financial support to the bloated Afghan national security forces that they have created, they will discover that they have made the same mistake.

The final lesson concerns the need to understand Afghanistan on its own terms, and not fit it into simplistic international frameworks – least of all those understood in terms of good versus evil and “you are either with us or against us” (a phrase used by President George W. Bush and previously by a Russophobic British official in the 1830s).

This in turn means not demonising the Afghan enemy of the moment.

Not only in 1842 but after another Anglo-Afghan war in 1878-80, the British ended by helping on to the throne one of their former enemies (in 1842, Dost Mohammed, against

whom they had launched the whole mess) in order to put the country back together again.

American officials in the 1980s were full of moral fury against the Soviet-backed communist regime in Afghanistan. After 2001, they recruited former communist officers to help fight against descendants of the Pashtun Mujahedin whom America had helped little more than a decade earlier.

In view of this past record, it would not surprise me in the slightest if in the years to come the west finds itself relying on the Taliban to create order in large parts of Afghanistan. Certainly, the British survivors of 1842 would have found nothing unexpected in such an outcome.

But then, one of the most depressing aspects of Dalrymple's account is that most British officials only really tried to learn about Afghanistan when they were on the verge of abandoning the place.

YEMEN WAR REPORTS

Navy SEAL From Peoria Killed In Yemen Recalled For His Drive, Humor



William "Ryan" Owens

February 1, 2017 Ted Gregory, Chicago Tribune

In many ways, William "Ryan" Owens was a typical kid at Illinois Valley Central High School: fun-loving, solid student-athlete and respectful to adults.

One element of his personality distinguished him from many others in his class, however. From freshman year, the kid known as "O-Dog" talked often about becoming a Navy SEAL, a member of the elite, rugged combat unit.

On Saturday, Owens, 36, originally from Peoria, was killed in Yemen during a raid against al-Qaida.

"People might have thought it was just a kid talking," high school friend Cody Jackson recalled Tuesday. "But he meant every word of it. He always talked about the greatest thing he could do was serve his country."

Jackson spoke of the friend who used to walk into Jackson's family home and go directly for the refrigerator. Owens also was the friend who obtained the Navy SEAL training program and worked out early in the morning while Jackson slept.

He played baseball and football and competed on those teams for Illinois Valley Central's Gray Ghosts. Owens also enjoyed fishing and deer hunting around Chillicothe, the Illinois River town about 140 miles southwest of Chicago.

Jackson said Owens lived in Chillicothe during high school. He graduated from IVC in May 1998, school officials said, and enlisted in the Navy in August that year.

"Sometimes you needed to refocus him a little," said Owens' former high school history teacher and baseball coach Steve Garrison, "but he was always a very nice, polite young man. You could get on him and then give him a hug five minutes later."

Like Jackson, Garrison recalled that Owens "was always good for a laugh," and well-liked. "He wasn't a star" on the sophomore baseball team that Garrison coached, "but he was a good, steady player who did everything you wanted him to do," the former coach said. Owens played catcher, Garrison recalled.

He returned to the area a couple of times, Garrison and Jackson said; once a couple years after graduation and right before SEAL training and a second time for a 10-year-high school class reunion. His family also had moved from the Peoria area years ago.

In a statement, Rear Admiral Tim Szymanski, commander of all SEALs, called Owens "an exceptional SEAL — an experienced warrior and a highly respected teammate who served silently, nobly and bravely through several combat deployments. Ryan's legacy strengthens our own resolve and commitment to this crucial fight. We hope his family can find comfort in the love and support of Family, Friends and Teammates."

A chief special warfare operator, Owens had earned three Bronze Stars.

His family, through a Navy spokesman, called Owens "a devoted father, a true professional and a wonderful husband." The Navy spokesman also said the family has declined media interview requests.

Owens became the first U.S. military combat casualty since President Donald Trump took office Jan. 20.

On Tuesday afternoon, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump had a "somber and lengthy" conversation with Owens' relatives, adding that Owens was on his 12th deployment. When Owens' death became known, Trump said, "My deepest thoughts and humblest prayers are with the family of this fallen service member."

Three other service members were wounded during the firefight with militants from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula of Yemen. A fourth U.S. service member was injured when a military aircraft assisting in the mission nearby had a "hard landing." The raid left 30 others dead, including an estimated 14 militants.

Formal memorial plans are not set and will likely not be made public, a Navy spokesman said. Jackson said former classmates and friends hope to organize a celebration of Owens' life "in a matter of time."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

There is something in human history like retribution; and it is a rule of historical retribution that its instrument be forged not by the offended, but by the offender himself.

-- Karl Marx;

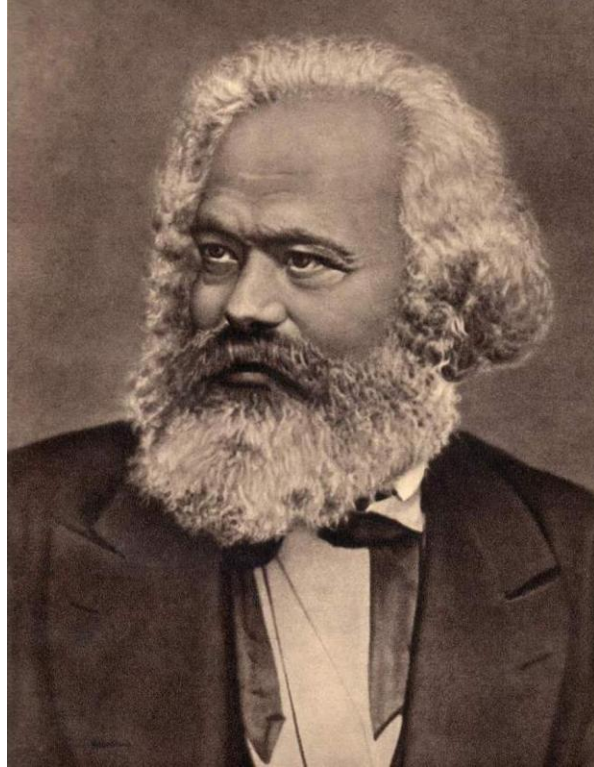
Dispatches For The New York Tribune, September 16, 1857

WHERE WE ARE 2017:

**“At A Certain Stage Of Their
Development, The Material
Productive Forces Of Society
Come Into Conflict With The
Property Relations Within The
Framework Of Which They Have
Hitherto Operated”**

**“From Forms Of Development Of The
Productive Forces These Relations
Turn Into Their Fetters”**

**“At That Point An Era Of Social
Revolution Begins”**



Preface To A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, Karl Marx, 1859 [Excerpt]

In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite, necessary relations, which are independent of their will, namely relations of production corresponding to a determinate stage of the development of their material forces of production.

The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which there arises a legal and political superstructure and to which there correspond definite forms of social consciousness.

The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life-process in general.

It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary it is their social being that determines their consciousness.

At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production or – what is merely a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within the framework of which they have hitherto operated.

From forms of development of the productive forces these relations turn into their fetters.

At that point an era of social revolution begins.

With the change in the economic foundation, the whole immense superstructure is more slowly or more rapidly transformed.

In considering such transformations it is always necessary to distinguish between the material transformation of the economic conditions of production, which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, artistic or philosophic – in short, ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.

Just as one does not judge an individual by what he thinks about himself, so one cannot judge such a period of transformation by its consciousness, but, on the contrary, this consciousness must be explained from the contradictions of material life, from the conflict existing between the social forces of production and the relations of production.

A social order never perishes before all the productive forces for which it is broadly sufficient have been developed, and new superior relations of production never replace older ones before the material conditions for their existence have matured within the womb of the old society.

Mankind thus inevitably sets itself only such tasks as can solve, since closer examination will always show that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution are already present or at least in the process of formation.

Love Gone Wrong

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 29, 2014
Subject: Love Gone Wrong

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

Love Gone Wrong

So tired of the drifting cold
like the war in Afghanistan
that keeps going on & on
with Soldiers
in love with themselves
coming home
to a hero's welcome
who could expect them
to not fight
in their war
so tired of the drifting snow
that keeps going on & on
Soldiers coming home
flag draped
parents saying how much
he loved the Army
& himself
who said losing both legs
was so bad
modern medicine
would have them
walking again
who said that losing an arm
was so wrong
when the Soldier
loves himself
so tired of the wind chill
on the ground
like the war in Afghanistan
that keeps going on & on
brain damaged by
the leaders of the government
who play on the Soldier
who loves himself
one more tour & it will
be over

don't worry says the Soldier
this is all I want to be
as the snow blows over
as a Country says
it does not know how
to end the war
in Afghanistan or so
they say by their actions
over & over
too much money to be made
on a love gone wrong

Letter From A Former Slave To His Old Master

[Thanks to Scot Peden for posting.]

From: THE FREEDMEN'S BOOK, By L. MARIA CHILD; BOSTON: TICKNOR AND FIELDS; 1865.

Dayton, Ohio, August 7, 1865.

To my old Master, Colonel P. H. Anderson, Big Spring, Tennessee.

Sir: I got your letter, and was glad to find that you had not forgotten Jourdon, and that you wanted me to come back and live with you again, promising to do better for me than anybody else can.

I have often felt uneasy about you. I thought the Yankees would have hung you long before this, for harboring Rebs they found at your house.

I suppose they never heard about your going to Colonel Martin's to kill the Union soldier that was left by his company in their stable.

Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living.

It would do me good to go back to the dear old home again, and see Miss Mary and Miss Martha and Allen, Esther, Green, and Lee. Give my love to them all, and tell them I hope we will meet in the better world, if not in this. I would have gone back to see you all when I was working in the Nashville Hospital, but one of the neighbors told me that Henry intended to shoot me if he ever got a chance.

I want to know particularly what the good chance is you propose to give me.

I am doing tolerably well here. I get twenty-five dollars a month, with victuals and clothing; have a comfortable home for Mandy,—the folks call her Mrs. Anderson,—and the children—Milly, Jane, and Grundy—go to school and are learning well.

The teacher says Grundy has a head for a preacher. They go to Sunday school, and Mandy and me attend church regularly. We are kindly treated. Sometimes we overhear others saying, "Them colored people were slaves" down in Tennessee. The children feel hurt when they hear such remarks; but I tell them it was no disgrace in Tennessee to belong to Colonel Anderson. Many darkeys would have been proud, as I used to be, to call you master.

Now if you will write and say what wages you will give me, I will be better able to decide whether it would be to my advantage to move back again.

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1864 from the Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of Nashville.

Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you were disposed to treat us justly and kindly; and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you.

This will make us forget and forgive old scores, and rely on your justice and friendship in the future.

I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years. At twenty-five dollars a month for me, and two dollars a week for Mandy, our earnings would amount to eleven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars.

Add to this the interest for the time our wages have been kept back, and deduct what you paid for our clothing, and three doctor's visits to me, and pulling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show what we are in justice entitled to.

Please send the money by Adams's Express, in care of V. Winters, Esq., Dayton, Ohio.

If you fail to pay us for faithful labors in the past, we can have little faith in your promises in the future.

We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in making us toil for you for generations without recompense.

Here I draw my wages every Saturday night; but in Tennessee there was never any pay-day for the negroes any more than for the horses and cows.

Surely there will be a day of reckoning for those who defraud the laborer of his hire.

In answering this letter, please state if there would be any safety for my Milly and Jane, who are now grown up, and both good-looking girls. You know how it was with poor Matilda and Catherine.

I would rather stay here and starve — and die, if it come to that — than have my girls brought to shame by the violence and wickedness of their young masters.

You will also please state if there has been any schools opened for the colored children in your neighborhood. The great desire of my life now is to give my children an education, and have them form virtuous habits.

Say howdy to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting at me.

From your old servant,
Jourdon Anderson.

Trump's Executive Order Forgets To Issue Travel Ban On Islamic State:

**“White House Chief Of Staff
Condemned Media For Claiming That
The ISIS Fighters Were Able To ‘Just
Stroll Through Customs’”**

**“Passed By Immigration Officials Busy
Shoving Several Elderly Syrian Women
And A Special Needs Iraqi Child Into A
Van”**



Jan 31, 2017 By G-Had, Duffel Blog. Duffel Blog investigative reporter Paul Sharpe also contributed to this report.

WASHINGTON — Top U.S. officials sheepishly admitted today that their comprehensive ban on more than seven Muslim-majority nations from traveling to America had inexplicably failed to include residents of the Islamic State.

The ban, which was issued on Friday, covers all citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, the Nation of Islam, and the International House of Pancakes.

However, it does not include the Islamic State, the world's premier capital of terrorism and jihad, which holds territory in most of eastern Syria and western Iraq.

Just hours after the ban took effect, a planeload of 120 ISIS fighters disembarked at Dulles International Airport and passed by a phalanx of immigration officials who were busy shoving several elderly Syrian women and a special needs Iraqi child into a van.

The ISIS fighters said they were in America to help institute Shariah law in Oklahoma, create several new execution videos, and perhaps, crash their plane into the first building to attract their fancy.

Officials from the Department of Homeland Security criticized the media for taking the event out of context, and said that any complaints that the ban was not effective were "simply not true."

They highlighted that just in the first hour of the ban, officials at JFK International Airport in New York had detained an Iranian mathematician with a briefcase full of Arabic numerals.

White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus condemned media outlets for claiming that the ISIS fighters were able to "just stroll through customs."

Priebus said the group was forced to wait a full hour to enter the U.S. after one of their members filled out on his customs declaration that he was bringing fruits and vegetables into the country.

He added that the ISIS fighters should have technically been traveling on their Syrian or Iraqi passports, since the Islamic State is not actually recognized by anyone aside from the Taliban and the University of California, Berkeley.

Still, Priebus grew agitated when he learned the fighters had instead all whipped out their Saudi, Egyptian, and Pakistani passports.

In response to U.S. plans to add the Islamic State to future travel bans, ISIS officials vowed to immediately retaliate by likewise prohibiting any U.S. citizens from entering or staying in the Islamic State.

ISIS leaders have said that all U.S. visitors, including more than half of the Joint Special Operations Command, had 24 hours to stop carrying out drone strikes and night raids, and exit the country.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Romania:
“Around 170,000 People In Bucharest
And 320,000 Across The Country Are
Protesting, Demanding The Government
Resign”**



Demonstrators attend a protest in Bucharest on February 4. Photo by Darko Bandic/AP/Beta

2.4.2017 by Ana Maria Touma, BIRN

Sorin Grindeanu, Romania's Prime Minister, announced on Saturday that the cabinet would hold an emergency meeting on Sunday to annul a decree decriminalizing some graft offences.

After a day of negotiations between the ruling Social Democrat Party, PSD, leadership and its junior ally, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats, Grindeanu said that PSD would rescind the decree but propose the same changes in a bill which will be sent to parliament for debate.

Despite the announcement, protesters have gathered for a fifth night in a row outside the government building. Currently, around 170,000 people in Bucharest and 320,000 across the country are protesting demanding the government resign.

Adopted on January 31, the decree which is seen as the biggest step backward since the country joined the European Union in 2007, would decriminalize abuse-of-office offences involving sums below 200,000 lei (45,000 euro).

The move has triggered the country's largest protests since the fall of communism.

Grindeanu announcement came just hours after Liviu Dragnea, PSD chief, hinted that he might ask the Prime Minister to repeal the decree in order to avoid a political crisis and clashes between PSD supporters, who have threatened counter protests.

The decree has also sparked turmoil within the PSD, with several state officials – including the minister of business environment, a state secretary and a member of European Parliament resigning.

A vice-president of the party also said the decree should be withdrawn.

Dragnea chose Grideanu to head the cabinet because he couldn't become PM himself due to a two-year suspended jail sentence for rigging a referendum in 2012.

The PSD chief is also under prosecution in a graft case for using his political influence to secure state salaries for two people working at his party headquarters between 2006 and 2013.

If the decree is enforced next week, the anti-graft prosecutors will be forced to drop charges against Dragnea.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

Email contact@militaryproject.org

**Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.
Same address to unsubscribe.**

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