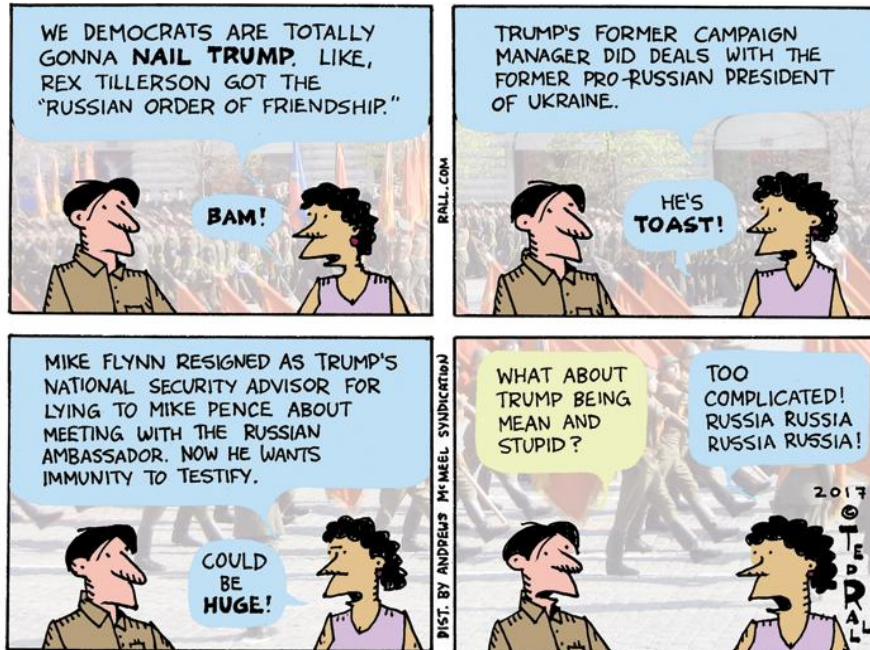


Military Resistance 15E5



**Far From Havana (Indeed!)
“The Wall Street Journal's Sunday
Supplement Of May, 2017
Displaying Peaceful Cuban
Countryside On Its Cover?”
“Nothing About Fidel, Raul Or May
Day?”
“Instead, It Appears, Something Else
Entirely”**

Sent: May 16, 2017
Subject: Far From Havana (Indeed!)

Far From Havana (Indeed!)

What's this?

The Wall Street Journal's Sunday supplement of May, 2017 displaying peaceful Cuban countryside on its cover? Nothing about Fidel, Raul or May Day? Instead, it appears, something else entirely.

Why?

Well, let's turn pages to even more bucolic and serene photos of Cuban life and stability (immaculately rundown) and we find places any of us would visit: peaceful, tended by "typical" folks ambling through life, minding their own business.

No Committee for the Defense of the Revolution commotion here, hence disapproval of Yanqui oppression, nor traces of the dreaded Cuban Embargo now in place over 50 years.

What gives?

As stated there's no Havana to be seen. No photos of rubble left from building collapse(s) since there's no revenue to keep them standing - thereby no evidence at all of ruin that might inhibit external attention - financial or otherwise.

But we do have several pages of tidy, rubble-less streets and exteriors lined up photographically as though it was an up-to-date art display in a hip museum corner (properly lighted of course) begging for inspection if not conversation.

After all, the WSJ received permission to come in the first place.

If one didn't know better one might think this a proposed investment portfolio dedicated to upscale, gentrified eloquence the WSJ perpetually dedicates itself to by tradition.

But in Cuba???

Anyone with means might be tempted to buy into Cuban futures via this display but that might be premature – for the moment at least. Patience, naturally, would be advisable.

Amid the supplement's pages of luxury, precious few WSJ readers can afford not to mention the goodies sunken eyed models offer and perks reserved for worldly buyers, stands this island long known as that 90-miles-away-pain-in-the-ass to upscale America that has more than irked old homburg wearing Wall Streeters and their political fronts for decades.

That's right, it's the same Soviet-aided troublespot that assumed strategic position in the 1962 missile crisis which nearly ended the world that the WSJ has been evaluating all

along for an economic-political system Cubans have ostensibly been opposed to since its revolution began nationalizing U.S property (licit and otherwise) 58 years ago.

Also, more recently, ex-President Obama's reconciliation visit witnessed by untold cameras and newsreels may now be, seemingly, reversed by successor administration's world view.

What price good will? Maybe the WSJ is, again, leading the way by finding out. Investment progress may have been halted, temporarily, but back channels may exist and who better than this world renowned chronicler of Capitalism to shine its well oiled flashlight on them.

The tone of the text accommodates as well.

It implies Cuba as a convenient and still untrammelled (and manageable?) hideaway one might be able to tell only one's best friends about while percolating thoughts about Cuban futures. Anything can happen these days, right? The glossy pages of the supplement do not indicate outlandishness at all – only something desirable and new – all within reality's limits and all one needs to do is bend time a little.

There's even a shot of the interior of the city of Trinidad's municipal archives.

How orderly and dustless, shelf-stacked and bundled the records are (the old, old fashioned way – no computer harshness detracting from the quaint and almost Rembrandt-like scene, the demure lighting perfectly highlighting appeal). A lone electric fan standing room center is reminder of this step back in time prepared for two (or three!) steps ahead into lucrative future underlines inviting simplicity.

It begs only the most sophisticated type intrusion, lifting this cover of innocence to reveal the opportunities just beneath. What a score indeed. Certainly those affiliated with this publication can afford a dream or two – it's only a matter of time before things change (profitably) really.

There's even tips and info on Cuban cooking – traditional and contemporary, both, of course, under wraps and known only to informed travelers – as the island undergoes transformation increasingly bent to tourist interest. Investment hope springs eternal although no visible market has emerged – yet.

Nevertheless, and through it all, the infamous Embargo still presides and, as ever, an act of Congress is needed to lower it. No sign yet from the present administration as to which way it will go although newly anointed Secretary of State Tillingham will advise President Trump to veto any legislation Congress might issue in way of doing away with the hated strangulation collar so many have suffered under for decades. But, one can dream, can't one.

Although Raul has often repeated “Capitalism never” there are those who have other ideas and those who place themselves in the know are ahead of the pack.

Ask any WSJ reader about that if there's no one else around.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Launch Rocket Attack and Kill at Least 20 Afghan Police Officers

MAY 21, 2017 By MUJIB MASHAL, New York Times [Excerpt]

KABUL, Afghanistan — In a two-pronged attack in a southern Afghan province, the Taliban shelled the provincial capital city with rockets and then raided police outposts in a neighboring district, killing at least 20 officers and wounding six others, officials said on Sunday.

The provincial governor of Zabul, Bismillah Afghanmal, said that as many as 1,000 Taliban fighters stormed the police outposts in the Shajoy district, along the highway to the regional hub of Kandahar, in an early morning attack.

As the assault in Shajoy was unfolding, the neighboring provincial capital city of Qalat was shelled with a barrage of rockets. Some landed on the governor's guesthouse and the police headquarters nearby.

"Luckily, there is no human losses, but damage has been done to the properties of local people and governmental buildings," Mr. Afghanmal said of the attack in Qalat.

Baz Mohammed, a headmaster at a school in Shajoy, said the Taliban had been attacking police posts in the Chino area for two nights in a row.

"Last night, the fighting continued and became severe, and the Taliban overran four security check posts," Mr. Mohammed said. "The fighting is ongoing; there is exchange of firing, and we cannot move out of our homes."

Mr. Afghanmal said that six of the province's 11 districts were threatened by the Taliban, and that the Afghan police were struggling to repel the threat, which has intensified since the insurgents began their new fighting season last month. Other officials said another district, Khak e Afghan, was completely under Taliban control.

Assadullah Kakar, a member of the provincial council, said the central government in Kabul had been informed that urgent action was needed because the provincial authorities were unable to deal with the threat.

"The Taliban are conducting simultaneous attacks, and it is hard for security forces to engage with them," Mr. Kakar said.

The Taliban Launched An Attack On Ghazni City And Destroyed The Governor's Compound

May 22, 2017 By Bill Roggio, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal.

The Taliban launched an attack on Ghazni City and destroyed the governor's compound over the weekend. Additionally, the Taliban claimed it took control of Waghaz district and is threatening to overrun Dih Yak.

"This morning Ghazni's Waghaz district was conquered. Numerous enemy fatalities, 2 APCs destroyed, 2 APCs plus weaponry captured,"

Taliban spokesman Zahibullah Mujahid said on his official Twitter feed on May 20. "Dih Yak centre and provincial centers [Ghazni City] under attack," he noted in a separate tweet.

The fighting in Ghazni was confirmed by Afghan officials, who claimed that 25 Taliban fighters and two security personnel were killed during clashes in Ghazni City. Police officials told India Express that the Taliban "blew up the district governor's compound with explosives" during the fighting.

Afghan officials would not confirm the Taliban's claim that it overran Waghaz. The Taliban captured an unknown number of policemen and wounded the chief of police for the district, India Express reported. However, press reports indicate that the Taliban remains entrenched in Waghaz.

The next day, the Afghan Ministry of Defence claimed that 48 additional Taliban fighters were killed and 28 more were wounded during artillery strikes against "the hideouts of the Taliban insurgents in Waghaz district of Ghazni," Khaama Press reported.

The Ministry of Defence did not indicate how it determined the number of Taliban casualties.

Both the Taliban and the Afghan military are known to inflate the number of casualties incurred during their operations.

The Taliban now claims it controls five of Ghazni's 18 districts (Nawa, Khogyani, Rasheedan, Waghaz, and Zana Khan), and controls 60 percent or more of nine other districts. Only three districts (Nawar, Ajiristan, and Malistan) are fully under government control.

FDD's Long War Journal has assessed the Taliban's claim of territorial control to be credible.

Ghazni is not the first province capital to come under Taliban threat. Taliban forces entered Kunduz City earlier this month and took control of Qala-i-Zal district, but were

pushed back by Afghan forces. Kunduz City has fallen under Taliban control twice for short periods of time since the fall of 2015.

The Taliban has also threatened Pul-i-Khurmi in Baghlan, Farah City in Farah, Lashkar Gah in Helmand, Tarin Kot in Uruzgan, and Maimana in Faryab over the past year.

Afghan forces have ceded control of some rural districts to the Taliban, claiming the districts are not strategically important. The Taliban has used these districts as bases to attack Afghan forces in more populous districts.

The US military estimates that the Taliban now controls or contests 40 percent of Afghanistan's districts, while the Taliban claims the number is closer to 50 percent.

20 Regime Forces Killed In Coordinated Attacks

5.21.17 By RAHIM FAIEZ, AP

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Militants launched attacks on several check points in southern Afghanistan killing at least 20 security forces, according to a provincial official.

Gul Islam Seyal, spokesman for the provincial governor in Zabul province, said Sunday the battles began late Saturday when dozens of Taliban fighters launched coordinated attacks on security posts in the Shah Joy district. At least 10 other security forces, including national and local policemen, were wounded, he said.

Seyal said the Taliban also fired several rounds of mortars on Qalat, the provincial capital.

The Taliban did not immediately claim responsibility but they have stepped up attacks in Afghanistan since announcing their spring offensive last month.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**Unarmed 18-Year-Old Shot Dead
By Officer Who Killed Before:
"Rankin Claimed He Shot Because
Denyakin, Who Was Drunk, Charged**

At Him While Reaching Into The Waistband Of His Jeans” “No Weapon Was Found”

COMMENT: T

There has been a notable decrease in media in coverage of police violence and other abuses against citizens since the start of this year. The articles below include earlier reports that are reminders of what reality is.

01 June 15 By Jon Swaine, Guardian UK

An unarmed black 18-year-old accused of shoplifting was killed by a police officer in Virginia who had been barred from patrolling city streets for almost three years after fatally shooting another unarmed man.

William Chapman was shot dead by Stephen Rankin, a white Portsmouth police officer, during a struggle in a Walmart parking lot. Rankin, 35, a US navy veteran trained in martial arts, was once disciplined for posting violent remarks and Nazi images online.

Chapman's family likened his death to that of Michael Brown, another unarmed black 18-year-old who was suspected of a theft and shot dead following a struggle with a white officer. Brown's death last year in Ferguson unleashed nationwide protests.

But they noted with disappointment that Chapman's killing in April barely registered among activists and the media. "I feel alone," said Chapman's mother, Sallie. "Because my son is gone and because nobody is trying to help me understand why."

The Virginia chief medical examiner's office said in a statement only that the cause of Chapman's death was "gunshot wounds of face and chest". Chapman's mother said his hands were also wounded in the encounter, a claim supported by photographs of his body reviewed by the Guardian.

Chiefs only allowed Rankin to return to frontline policing in March last year, almost three years after he killed an unarmed 26-year-old Kazakh immigrant in February 2011. Rankin was later found to have insulted the man and his family in other online postings.

A sergeant in the department at the time told the Guardian that senior commanders were formally warned by one of Rankin's supervisors weeks before his first fatal shooting that he was "dangerous" and likely to cause someone harm.

Asked twice during a telephone interview why Rankin had been allowed to continue policing the public, Portsmouth's police chief, Edward Hargis, repeated: "That's a

personnel matter and I can't comment." He added: "I'm not going to comment on what people may say, allegation-wise."

Police refused to say whether Chapman was actually found to have stolen anything. They will still not confirm it was Rankin who shot him. However, the head of Rankin's professional association confirmed to the Guardian he was indeed the officer involved.

Rankin fired twice after Chapman resisted an arrest at the edge of the superstore parking lot on the morning of 22 April and a struggle ensued, according to witnesses.

The officer was responding to a complaint by store staff of a "suspected shoplifting".

A funeral service was held for Chapman last month but his body has not yet been buried because his family is unable to afford the \$3,600 fee, relatives said.

His shooting is being investigated by the Virginia state police, which is also carrying out an inquiry into the fatal shooting by another Portsmouth officer a month earlier of Walter Brown, a 29-year-old black man who fled a stop by drugs police.

Sergeant Michelle Anaya, a state police spokeswoman, declined to discuss any details of what happened in Chapman's shooting. "That investigation is currently ongoing and that information is not available at this time for release," she said in an email.

Chapman's death was publicly overshadowed by that of 25-year-old Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Maryland, three days earlier. He is one of three unarmed black teenagers killed by law enforcement in the US so far this year, according to an ongoing count by the Guardian.

Brandon Jones, also 18, was killed by a police officer in Cleveland, Ohio, in March after a struggle when he was caught robbing a grocery store, according to authorities. Earlier that month, Tony Robinson, 19, was shot dead by an officer looking into a disturbance in Madison, Wisconsin. Last month state prosecutors ruled the shooting was justified.

Chapman's cousin, Earl Lewis, welcomed The Counted, the Guardian's project to monitor all killings by police and law enforcement. He said increased transparency could reduce unnecessary or unjustified fatalities. "Better data would put a check on how some cities and their officers do business," said Lewis.

Construction workers who saw the confrontation between Chapman and Rankin told local television reporters that the 18-year-old appeared to break free from an attempt by the officer to handcuff him against a parked car.

One, Leroy Woodman, told reporters at the scene Chapman was shot because he "took a couple steps towards the cop like he was ready to fight". A colleague of Woodman's, Paul Akey, said Chapman "came at" Rankin after the Taser was knocked from Rankin's hand and the officer stepped back. Akey said he believed Rankin's actions were justified.

"I know my son," said Sallie Chapman. "He would have been saying 'Why are doing this? I didn't do anything.' I know what his words would have been."

Woodman and Akey, who have since been interviewed by police investigators, declined or ignored several requests for comment when reached by telephone and online messages.

Police have not given any explanation to Chapman's mother, she said, and Walmart management called the police to help remove her when she travelled to the store demanding information about what he may have stolen and what happened.

"My son is gone, and I just want to know why," said Chapman. "Why can't I see the Walmart surveillance video? I'm his mother."

The police did not actively inform Chapman that her son had died. After being unable to reach him on 22 April, and hearing media reports of an 18-year-old killed at their local Walmart, she called 911. When she gave William's name, she was placed on hold and eventually told a detective would visit her home. The detective told her William was dead.

Recordings of live news bulletins from the scene on the day of the incident show that Chapman's body was still on the ground of the parking lot five hours after he was killed. "It hurt," said Lewis. "It was as if a dog had been hit in the street, and eventually, later on, someone found the owner and told them to come pick it up."

Portsmouth and state police have declined to confirm that Rankin was the officer responsible for the shooting. Sean McGowan, the executive director of the Virginia division of the Police Benevolent Association (PBA), told the Guardian Rankin was the officer involved and the group had helped him obtain legal representation.

"Any other questions you have, I would need to refer you to his attorney," said McGowan, who then declined to identify Rankin's attorney. The officer's legal team did not respond to requests for comment that McGowan said he had conveyed to them.

State police investigators are expected to pass their completed inquiry on the shooting to Stephanie Morales, Virginia's commonwealth attorney, who will then decide whether or not to put the case to a grand jury for a possible criminal prosecution.

The deaths of Chapman and Brown were the Portsmouth department's first fatalities since Rankin's April 2011 shooting of Kirill Denyakin, a Kazakh cook. Denyakin was shot 11 times by Rankin, who was responding to a 911 call about the 26-year-old aggressively banging at the door of a building where he was staying.

Rankin claimed he shot because Denyakin, who was drunk, charged at him while reaching into the waistband of his jeans. The officer said he feared Denyakin would pull out a weapon. No weapon was found.

A grand jury declined to indict Rankin on criminal charges and a jury in a \$22m civil lawsuit brought by Denyakin's family found in Rankin's favour. Among 250 posts defending himself on a local newspaper website, Rankin wrote "22 mil wont buy your boy back", adding that most Americans could not hope to earn that in an entire career, "let alone a habitual drunk working as a hotel cook".

It also emerged Rankin had in Facebook posts referred to his firearms case as “Rankin’s box of vengeance” and said he would rather be dirtying his guns than cleaning them. His Facebook avatar was once a print of a photograph depicting a Serb left hanging from a lamppost by invading Nazi forces in 1943.

When he returned to work two months after the shooting, Rankin was restricted to administrative duties for more than two and a half years. He was finally allowed back on patrols on 1 March 2014. “I never thought seeing Steve get ready for work would make me so nervous,” his girlfriend wrote in a post to Facebook.

MORE:

**There Is A Bizarre Urge Among
Young, Unarmed Black Men To
Provoke Their Own Murder By
‘Reaching For Their Waistbands’
“If Police Accounts Are To Be Believed,
This Compulsion Only Exists Among
Young Black Men”**

November 28-30, 2014 by JOHN ESKOW, CounterPunch

If police accounts are to be believed, there is a bizarre urge among young, unarmed black men to provoke their own murder by “reaching for their waistbands” when cops are aiming service revolvers at them.

Just this week we heard Officer Darren Wilson claim that one of the reasons he killed Michael Brown was that the young man “reached for his waistband,” and – in what I guess was just an incredibly weird coincidence – we heard Cleveland police claim they killed a 12-year-old kid with a toy gun because he also “reached for his waistband.”

But this odd compulsion is not a new one.

In 2011, fully half of all the young black men shot by LA cops were cut down because—again, if police accounts are to be believed – they too were “reaching for their waistbands.”

The epidemic also spread to Houston, where multiple police accounts cite the same excuse.

Oscar Grant, the young man killed by Oakland cops on a subway platform – and the subject of the movie “Fruitvale Station”—was shot for the exact same reason.

If police accounts are to be believed, this compulsion only exists among young black men.

I have been approached by angry or frustrated cops several times in my life – twice as an angry young protestor, eager to defy them – and have never felt even the slightest urge to reach for my waistband.

Maybe white skin contains a protein that protects against this terrible compulsion?

And exactly what is it that these dead young men were hoping to find in those waistbands?

Given the Cosby-condemned fashion of wearing saggy jeans, these kids have to reach pretty far down to reach their waistbands--a posture which would leave them completely defenseless against an armed cop.

What a powerful compulsion this must be!

I've spent a good amount of time on police ridearounds in New Orleans. If you want to see young black men, New Orleans at 3 AM is a good place to do so.

I remember one night as my cop hosts were rolling up slowly on a kid they suspected of a robbery: no shirt, Saints cap, saggy jeans exposing his boxer shorts. The kid sauntered on with an exaggerated cool: he knew the cops were watching him, and the cops knew that he knew. One of the cops poked my elbow, chuckled, and said: "Watch this. That kid's gonna break." "When?" I asked. "The second he reaches down to hitch up his drawers." As I watched, another cop counted down: "Three seconds to drawa--hitchin'. Two...one..."

At just that second, the kid reached down, hitched up his drawas, and "broke"--took off sprinting down an alley. They pursued him for a while, then lost interest.

It was the only time I ever saw any gesture that was even vaguely waistband-related, and the kid only did it so that he could run without being tripped by his low-slung Levis.

Two weeks later, one of the cops in that squad car – a funny guy, a seemingly decent guy, you would've liked him – was briefly suspended, pending the investigation of an "incident" in which he shot and killed a young black man in the black man's own back yard.

The kid had reached for his waistband, if police accounts are to be believed.

My old squad-car host was cleared in a few days and returned to duty.

This has gone on far too long.

I am going to take my own mixed-race son to a neurologist today, if not sooner, to have him checked for traces of this horrible Waistband-Reaching Syndrome. I'm concerned that, one day, it could get him killed...

...if police accounts are to be believed.

MILITARY NEWS

United Airlines Charges Soldier Coming Home From Afghanistan \$200 For Overweight Bag

May 18, 2017 By: Rachael Kalinyak; Military Times

After serving 21 months in Afghanistan, a National Guard soldier says United Airlines charged him \$200 for an overweight bag that was full of his military gear, according to told Fox 7 Austin.

"I was told point blank that I'd have to pay \$200 for the overage or find another bag to siphon stuff off with," 1st Lt. John Rader told the station after flying to his home in Kyle, Texas, just south of Austin. "Well, I didn't have another bag so I was caught in a bind, do I go home without my stuff or without it?" The heavy items in his bag included his Kevlar vest, boots and two helmets.

United Airlines has a policy for active military members, but the policy states that the passenger can only have five bags checked for free if all bags are under 70 pounds. After checking other airlines, Fox 7 Austin found that others allow for the bags to be up to 100 pounds.

Rader paid the fee, but said "there was no empathy to the situation."

"I'm not looking for sympathy, but some form of empathy in the situation. There was none of that. It was just cold. I had to either pay or leave the bag." he told Fox 7 Austin.

United Airlines has offered to refund the fee, but Rader said he wants to try to change the policy. "I just want to make sure soldiers are cared for going forward."

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, 459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024 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

Therefore, in order for the proletariat’s political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905

Where We Are Now:

**“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.

Forfeit Day

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 25, 2013
Subject: Forfeit Day

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

Forfeit Day

**Memories like mouse turds
sweep away
by mega-mall memorial sales
americans camping eating
hotdogs made from dead soldiers guts
all ground up & sent
as plastic american flags
an eyeball here an asshole there**

ground up soldiers devoured
by bright pinky cheeky american
kids who may have a future
of war when they grow older so others
can eat their ground up bodies guts
& welcome checks to parents
that only spend the money
on themselves & salute
the rathole war profiteers
dug in the ground of graves to eat
like worms the meat of dead soldiers
leaving only bloody bones
like a scene from a horror movie
where puffed up gargoyles
sinks their teeth into the fresh
stomachs of the dead soldier fools
who suffered & died from the stress
& rapid fire holes in bodies where
only the heartless ignorant
public of war crash beers
against their teeth & drunkenly
fall down near but not in like fireflies
near hell & only black funeral
volunteers fill up the carcasses
of stomachs eaten out
& faces blown & wrapped against a tree
& american flags
with maggots for their brains
they seek & hide within
the shoulders of the war
where only other soldiers
rip the worm filled flags
of deceit from the anchors
of non-retreat like books
with only blank pages &
movies for the blind
who can not ever preach
the swollen names upon
the cheap government headstones
spelling all the names backwards
like a puzzle never to be
found among the tall grass
& sunken skulls of manmade
treacherous guns firing into the air
dismissing all the gods except pagan
where taps flow through the air.

writing by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

“Especially After The 1968 Tet Offensive, Antiwar Sentiment Spread Widely Among The Combat Troops In Vietnam”

“The Main Activities Of Antiwar U.S. Servicepeople In Vietnam Were Not Peaceful Demonstrations”

“A 1975 Survey Revealed That 75% Of Vietnam Veterans Were Opposed To The War”

“There Is No Contemporaneous Evidence Of Any Antiwar Activists Spitting On Veterans”

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

The most serious occurred on April 14 at the base of Dau Tieng (east of Tay Ninh, north of Cu Chi), when a unit of the Third Brigade of the Fourth Infantry Division defied orders to proceed on a search-and-destroy mission near where another unit had been badly cut up.

The commanding officer ordered other soldiers to fire on the rebels, who returned the fire. One report indicated dozens of men killed or wounded and three helicopters destroyed.

As the Vietnam veteran and sociologist Jerry Lembcke has demonstrated in his invaluable 1998 book *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam*, the vast majority of returning veterans characterized their reception as friendly.

There is no contemporaneous evidence of any antiwar activists spitting on veterans.

The first allegations of such behavior did not appear until the late 1970s. The spat-upon veteran then became a mythic figure used to build support for military fervor and, later on, the Gulf War, but the myth has become so powerful that many veterans have now come to believe, despite all evidence to the contrary, that it actually happened to them personally.

Of course it is possible that isolated instances may have occurred. But if antiwar activists were frequently spitting on veterans or otherwise abusing them, why has nobody ever produced even the tiniest scrap of contemporaneous evidence? According to the myth, spitting on veterans was a regular custom as they arrived from Vietnam at the San Francisco and Los Angeles airports.

We are supposed to believe that these men just back from combat then meekly walked away without attacking or even reporting their persecutors, and that nobody else, including airport security officers, ever noticed what was going on.

For there is not one press report, airport security report, police report, court record, diary entry, video shot, or photograph of a single incident at these airports or anywhere else.

How then to explain the belief now held by many veterans that they were indeed spat upon as they arrived from Vietnam at the San Francisco and Los Angeles airports?

The answer lies in the transformative power of collective national myth over individual memory.

The myth is so strong that it has even determined their memory of where they arrived, for they were flown back not to these civilian airports but to military bases closed to outsiders.

And a 1975 survey revealed that 75 percent of Vietnam veterans were opposed to the war.

Especially after the 1968 Tet offensive, antiwar sentiment spread widely among the combat troops in Vietnam, where peace symbols and antiwar salutes became commonplace.

Some units even organized their own antiwar demonstrations to link up with the movement at home.

For example, to join the November 1969 antiwar Mobilization, a unit stationed at Pleiku fasted against the war and boycotted the Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Of the 141 soldiers classified below the rank of specialist fifth class, only eight showed up for the traditional meal; this "John Turkey Movement" spread to units all over Vietnam.

When Bob Hope introduced General Creighton Abrams, commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam, to the 30,000 troops assembled for a Christmas show at the sprawling Long

Binh base, the entire throng leaped to their feet and held their hands high in the “V” salute of the peace movement.

“The Main Activities Of Antiwar U.S. Servicepeople In Vietnam Were Not Peaceful Demonstrations”.

But the main activities of antiwar U.S. servicepeople in Vietnam were not peaceful demonstrations.

An ongoing dilemma for the antiwar movement back home was the difficulty of finding ways to move beyond verbal protest and symbolic acts to deeds that would actually interfere with the conduct of the war.

The soldiers in Vietnam had no such problem.

Individual acts of rebellion, ranging from desertion and sabotage to injuring and even killing officers who ordered hazardous search-and-destroy missions, merged into mutinies and large-scale resistance.

As early as the spring of 1967, sporadic small-scale mutinies were being reported in the French press but not in the U.S. media — except for the movement’s own press.

The most serious occurred on April 14 at the base of Dau Tieng (east of Tay Ninh, north of Cu Chi), when a unit of the Third Brigade of the Fourth Infantry Division defied orders to proceed on a search-and-destroy mission near where another unit had been badly cut up.

The commanding officer ordered other soldiers to fire on the rebels, who returned the fire.

One report indicated dozens of men killed or wounded and three helicopters destroyed.

The base was sealed off and no outside personnel were admitted for three days.

Combat refusal and outright mutinies spread rapidly after the Tet offensive in 1968.

But news about this form of growing GI resistance was kept rather efficiently from most of the American public until August 1969, when correspondents reported firsthand on the unanimous battlefield refusal of a badly mauled infantry company to go back into combat.

During the next two years, the press published numerous reports of entire units refusing direct combat orders, and the public actually got to see two incidents of rebellion on network television.

“A Common And Less Conspicuous Method Of Killing Unpopular Officers: Rifle Fire Often In The Midst Of Combat”

Resistance took another form so widespread that it brought a new word into the English language: “fragging.”

Originally taking its name from fragmentation grenades but soon applied to any means of killing commissioned or noncommissioned officers, fragging developed its own generally understood customs, usages, and ethos.

Officers who aggressively risked or otherwise offended their men were customarily warned once or twice by a nonlethal grenade before being attacked with a booby-trapped or hurled grenade.

By mid-1972, the Pentagon was officially acknowledging 551 incidents of fragging with explosive devices, which had left 86 dead and more than 700 wounded. These figures were no doubt understated, and they did not include a common and less conspicuous method of killing unpopular officers: rifle fire often in the midst of combat.

ANNIVERSARIES

Evil Anniversary: May 24, 1934: Germany: “It Is The Aim Of The State Police To Support Zionism And Its Emigration Policy As Fully As Possible”

From: Human Smoke; The Beginnings of World War II, By Nicholson Baker, Simon & Schuster; New York 2008

Reinhard Heydrich, head of the intelligence branch of the German secret police, read a position paper prepared for him concerning Jewish policy. It was May 24, 1934.

“The aim of Jewish policy must be the emigration of all Jews,” the paper said. Jewish “assimilationists”—those who wanted to live their lives as Germans within Germany—should be discouraged; while Zionists—those who wanted to emigrate to Palestine—should be encouraged, according to the memo.

“It is the aim of the State Police to support Zionism and its emigration policy as fully as possible:

“Every authority concerned should, in particular, concentrate their efforts in recognizing the Zionist organizations and in supporting their training and emigration endeavors; at the same time the activities of German-Jewish groups should be restricted in order to force them to abandon the idea of remaining in Germany.”

In this way, Germany would eventually become a country “without a future for the Jews.”

Heydrich, a blond man with a high forehead and long, spidery fingers, began helping Zionist organizations set up agricultural training centers, so that Jews would know how to farm when they reached Palestine.

May 26, 1838: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History May 21-27

U.S. General Winfield Scott ordered the forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from the east to the “Indian Nation” (what is now Oklahoma).

Approximately one quarter of the 10,000 died on this march called “The Trail of Tears.”

May 27, 1963: “Masters Of War Released”

The record album, “The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan,” with the song “Masters Of War,” was released.

Masters of War
By Bob Dylan

Come you masters of war
You that build all the guns
You that build the death planes

You that build the big bombs
You that hide behind walls
You that hide behind desks
I just want you to know
I can see through your masks

You that never done nothin'
But build to destroy
You play with my world
Like it's your little toy
You put a gun in my hand
And you hide from my eyes
And you turn and run farther
When the fast bullets fly

Like Judas of old
You lie and deceive
A world war can be won
You want me to believe
But I see through your eyes
And I see through your brain
Like I see through the water
That runs down my drain

You fasten the triggers
For the others to fire
Then you set back and watch
When the death count gets higher
You hide in your mansion
As young people's blood
Flows out of their bodies
And is buried in the mud

You've thrown the worst fear
That can ever be hurled
Fear to bring children
Into the world
For threatening my baby
Unborn and unnamed
You ain't worth the blood
That runs in your veins

How much do I know
To talk out of turn
You might say that I'm young
You might say I'm unlearned
But there's one thing I know
Though I'm younger than you
Even Jesus would never
Forgive what you do

Let me ask you one question
Is your money that good
Will it buy you forgiveness
Do you think that it could
I think you will find
When your death takes its toll
All the money you made
Will never buy back your soul

**And I hope that you die
And your death'll come soon
I will follow your casket
In the pale afternoon
And I'll watch while you're lowered
Down to your deathbed
And I'll stand o'er your grave
'Til I'm sure that you're dead**



CLASS WAR REPORTS

**More Than A Million Brazilians In At
Least 254 Cities Participated In A
Day-Long General Strike:**

“Opposition To Plan That Would Weaken Labor Laws And Raise The Retirement Age By A Decade”



Brazilian cities went into partial shutdown on Friday as the country observed its first general strike in more than two decades. Voice of Nigeria

May 3, 2017 By Lucas Iberico Lozada, Dissent

As darkness fell in Rio de Janeiro’s historic center on Friday evening, the smell of tear gas hung heavy.

It had been a day of mass mobilization across the country: more than a million Brazilians in at least 254 cities participated in a day-long general strike on Friday, according to organizers; more are taking to the streets today for May Day, a national holiday here.

The strike, said to be the biggest in decades, was meant to rally opposition to an aggressive pension reform plan that would weaken labor laws and raise the retirement age by a decade—the centerpiece of an array of austerity measures put forth by President Michel Temer, whose approval rating sits at a dismal 4 percent.

The strike, organized by Brazil’s biggest unions, had perhaps the greatest impact in industrial capital São Paulo, where protesters were able to march through the city for hours; buses and services were shut down in Brazil’s other major metropolises.

The hashtag #BrazilEmGreve (Brazil On Strike) had a wider reach on social media than the massive protests that led to Rousseff’s impeachment.

Brazilians have good reason to be angry.

The country is in the grip of a years-long recession that has cast millions of people out of work; meanwhile, a long-running corruption investigation has revealed that every major

political party received bribes from most of the country's largest businesses in exchange for lucrative government contracts.

The unelected, right-wing government of Michel Temer, who nominally came to power on the wings of an anti-corruption movement against the Workers' Party (PT)—which governed from 2003 until last July—is revealing itself to be at least as corrupt as its predecessor. One-third of Temer's cabinet ministers, and nearly every congressional leader, are currently under investigation on corruption charges; Temer himself has been accused of soliciting a \$40 million bribe, though presidential immunity shields him from sanction for now.

At the center of Temer's plan to reassure investors is a far-reaching austerity package. Temer is hardly alone among Brazil's elites in hoping that drastic public-sector cuts will turn on the spigot of foreign capital, which has largely fled Brazil following a worldwide slump in commodities prices. When she was still in power, the PT's Dilma Rousseff herself cast pension reform as a necessary, if painful, measure to fixing Brazil's economic woes. But Temer has been far more aggressive, much to the markets' approval: since Temer and his allies ousted Rousseff in a parliamentary coup last year, the Brazilian stock market has surged to pre-recession levels.

The government's tired austerity formula conveniently downplays other possible areas for reform, like Brazil's notoriously complex tax system, which imposes a regressive burden on working-class and middle-class Brazilians through a combination of high consumption taxes and low capital-gains and wealth taxes.

Worse, Temer's unpopularity and unelectability (he is barred from running for office in 2018) has inspired a particularly cynical line of thinking in technocratic circles and his own government. If anyone is going to force a broadly unpopular measure through a corrupt, self-enriching congress, the thinking goes, it might as well be an unpopular leader who has no chance of ever being elected anyway.

Indeed, Temer's government is making little effort to sugarcoat the reforms. Instead, it targeted Friday's strike with heavy police repression. On Friday evening in Rio, Jandira Feghali, an opposition congresswoman, was minutes into a speech denouncing Temer's reform package when tear gas grenades started falling onto the crowd. "It was madness," said Thiago Tadeu, a journalist who watched the ensuing mayhem unfold from the stage where Feghali was speaking. "They fired on all sides, surrounded the crowd."

Luciana Zanatte, an unemployed teacher, gathered with a few friends in the entrance of a nearby metro station, hoping to join the protests as they continued into the night. But rounds of tear-gas canisters and percussion grenades had already broken up the nascent march.

Zanatte's friends passed around cell-phone photos of burning buses a few blocks away—at least nine were torched by protesters in the confrontations—and rubbed milk of magnesia on their eyes as they bitterly denounced Temer's government. A crowd gathered nearby had scattered after police rode through on motorcycles, firing tear gas grenades and waving long batons. But Zanatte said they remained defiant.

“People watching TV tonight will hear that these protests are being organized as a campaign strategy for the PT, but that’s crazy,” Zanatte said. “This isn’t the movement of a political party. We’re here because we disagree with the government.”

Nationwide Greek Worker’s Union Strike



Yorgos Karahalios/Bloomberg Via Getty Images

May 17, 2017 Yahoo News Photos

Greek workers walked off the job across the country Wednesday for an anti-austerity general strike that was disrupting public and private sector services across the country.

Workers’ unions called the strike to protest new belt-tightening measures that to be imposed beyond the end of Greece’s third bailout next year.

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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



“The Crisis In Venezuela Is Not A Crisis Of Socialism” “A Crisis Of The Strategy Of Working Within The Confines Of Capitalism And Making Concessions To Powerful Sectors Of The Capitalist Class, Rather Than Confronting Them”

May 17, 2017 by Anderson Bean, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

Despite the important gains achieved by and for working people during the Chávez era, Venezuela remains a capitalist country.

The overwhelming majority of the means of production are privately controlled. Despite its progressive language on participatory democracy and human rights, the 1999 Chavista constitution gives significant protection to private property in Article 15.

In fact, between 1999 and 2011, the private sector's share of economic activity actually increased from 65 to 71 percent. The critical oil sector is dominated by a state-owned company, but other important industries, like food imports and processing operations, pharmaceuticals and auto parts, are still controlled by the private sector.

The crisis taking place in Venezuela, therefore, is not a crisis of socialism--the collective and democratic control of the means of production--or of attempts to achieve socialism, but rather a crisis of the strategy of working within the confines of capitalism and making concessions to powerful sectors of the capitalist class, rather than confronting them.

The Venezuelan oligarchy has used its control of the economy to contribute to the crisis, particularly through hoarding and capital speculation.

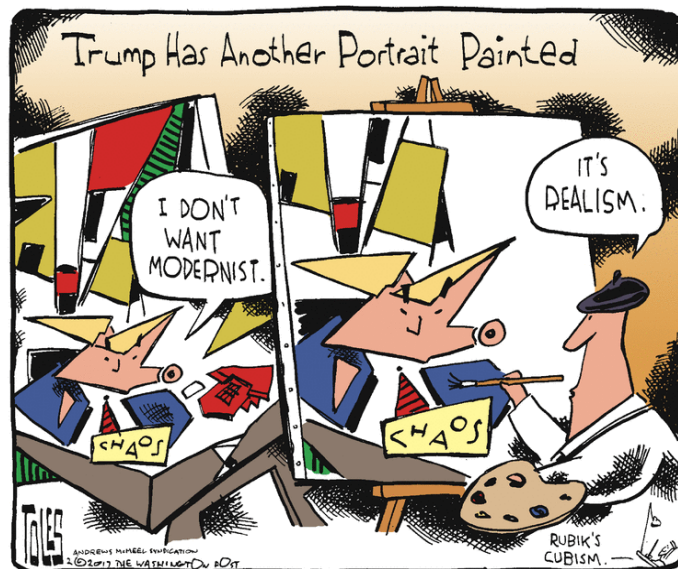
The government subsidizes basic goods to ensure that products which were unaffordable under previous administrations are affordable for the majority of Venezuelans. But access to them has been affected by the hoarding of the business class.

This has manifested itself in two ways. First, food and regulated goods are hoarded and then sold for exorbitant prices--often a 100 percent markup or more--on the black market or across the border in Colombia.

A second strategy of Venezuelan elites has been to not resell goods but simply hold on to them to create shortages--with the aim of destabilizing the economy and giving the impression that the shortages are the result of mismanagement by an incompetent government.

Government officials have, on various occasions, found warehouses full of basic goods, lying there rotting, while supermarkets and hospitals have shortages and people wait in lines for hours for these same products.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Voters Describe Trump As 'Idiot' And 'Liar' In Disastrous New Poll

May 10, 2017 By Adam K. Raymond, New York Magazine

Over the last week, Quinnipiac University asked Americans for the first word that comes to mind when they think of President Trump. The answer given more times than any other was "idiot," followed by "incompetent" and "liar."

idiot	39
incompetent	31
liar	30
leader	25
unqualified	25
president	22
strong	21
businessman	18
ignorant	16
egotistical	15
asshole	13
stupid	13
arrogant	12
trying	12
bully	11
business	11
narcissist	11
successful	11
disgusting	10
great	10
clown	9
dishonest	9
racist	9
American	8
bigot	8
good	8

Given the above sentiment, there's little surprise that Trump is down to a 36 percent approval rating in the university's latest national poll. The mark sits just one percentage point above the 35 percent approval rating he got on April 4, his lowest since taking office.

It's not just the approval rating.

Every number in this poll is bad.

The majority of Americans say Trump is "not honest," lacks leadership skills, doesn't care about average Americans, is not "level-headed," and does not share their values. On the economy, immigration, foreign policy, and terrorism, more Americans disapprove than approve of the job he's doing.

Perhaps the most revelatory number in this poll, which shows that Trump is floundering even in the eyes of his fans, is his support among white men. Approval among this bedrock group for Trump dropped below 50 percent in the past week, with only 48 percent of white men saying the president is doing a good job. Forty-six percent disagreed.

And that's not even the poll result that would most enrage Trump. This is: When it comes to who Americans trust to tell them the truth, 57 percent say the media wins out over Trump.



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