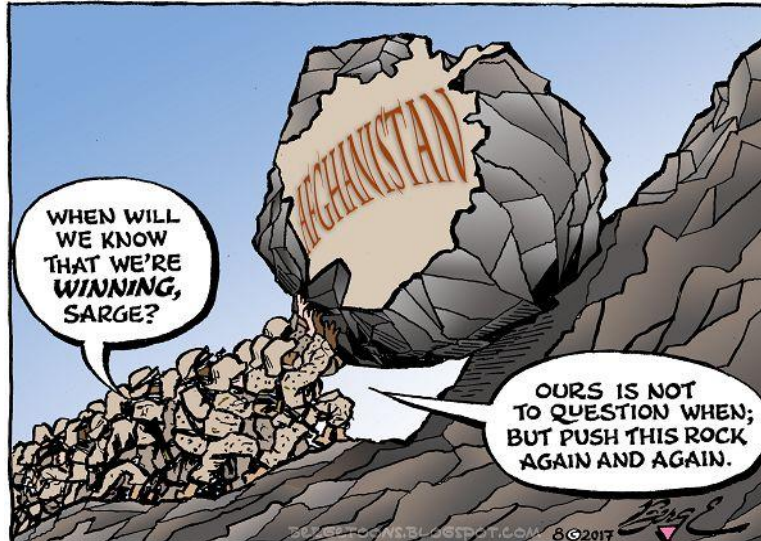


## **Military Resistance 1511**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Sisyphus was a wuss in comparison."]

## **Trump Plans To Force Taliban To Negotiating Table By January 2025**



Photo Credit: Army Sgt. Amber Smith

8.22.2017 by Paul Sharpe, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON —

Saying that he has unleashed the United States military and “taken the gloves off,” President Donald Trump reiterated today that he would crush the Taliban insurgency and force them to the negotiating table by January 2025, sources confirmed.

Though he stressed that he was implementing a new Afghan war strategy not impeded by artificial time tables for troop withdrawals, Trump insisted that victory would be at hand sometime in the next eight years or so.

“We’re about to turn the corner in this fight,” Trump told reporters in a press conference after he outlined a new strategy on Monday.

In what he called a “fresh start,” Trump said that the US military would stamp out rampant corruption in the Afghan government, subdue Pakistani support for the Taliban, and achieve a flourishing democracy in the region by continuing to train Afghan security forces that have been sitting through PowerPoint presentations given by US troops for the past 16 years.

Trump’s bold new plan would also pare back overly-restrictive rules of engagement that have held back soldiers on the ground from effectively targeting Taliban forces by killing innocent civilians.

In a break from his predecessors, the president also outlined measurable objectives for success in Afghanistan, such as “win,” and “kill lots of terrorists.”

“You will not win a battlefield victory,” Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Tuesday in a warning to the Taliban, the militant group currently winning in Afghanistan.

“We may not win one but neither will you,” he added, mistakenly disclosing the Pentagon’s highly-classified Kick Can Down The Road operations plan.

The Pentagon plans to use a system for Afghanistan similar to the Bush administration’s color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System, which would soon allow Americans to track the level of winning in Afghanistan on a monthly basis.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **CIA Deaths Rise In Secret Afghan War:**

**“The Number Of C.I.A. Deaths In Afghanistan Rivals Those Killed In The**

# **Southeast Asia Conflicts Of Nearly A Half-Century Ago”**

07 September 17 By Adam Goldman and Matthew Rosenberg, The New York Times

On a sweltering day earlier this summer, operatives with the Central Intelligence Agency gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to bury two of their own.

Brian Ray Hoke and Nathaniel Patrick Delemarre, elite gunslingers who worked for the C.I.A.’s paramilitary force, were laid to rest after a firefight with Islamic State militants near Jalalabad in Afghanistan, close to the border with Pakistan.

There had been scant mention of Mr. Hoke’s death in local news reports in Leesburg, Va., his home, and nothing at all about Mr. Delemarre in news accounts in the Florida Panhandle, where his family lives. Their deaths this past October were never acknowledged by the C.I.A., beyond two memorial stars chiseled in a marble wall at the agency’s headquarters in Langley, Va.

Today there are at least 18 stars on that wall representing the number of C.I.A. personnel killed in Afghanistan — a tally that has not been previously reported, and one that rivals the number of C.I.A. operatives killed in the wars in Vietnam and Laos nearly a half century ago.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **Taliban Overruns 2 Districts In Afghan East:**

**“The Taliban Continues To Demonstrate  
That It Can Conduct Concurrent  
Operations Across The Country, While  
Afghan Forces Largely Remain On The  
Defensive”**

August 25th, 2017 By Bill Roggio & Alexandra Gutowski, Long War Journal

The Afghan Taliban overran two district centers in the east while Afghan forces regained control of another which has changed hands several times over the past year.

Afghan officials confirmed that the district of Zana Khan in Ghazni was overrun, while the Taliban claimed to have seized Gomal in Paktika province. Afghan officials then said that security forces regained control of Jani Khel in Paktia, however the Taliban has denied that claim.

A member of Ghazni's provincial council said that the Taliban killed four policeman and confiscated two "tanks" (likely up-armored HUMVEEs) and several Ranger pickup trucks after storming the Zana Khan district center. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that a Taliban force inflicted "multiple enemy casualties" and "lots of weapons/equipment seized" during the operation.

The Taliban claimed it "took over the center of the district of Gomal and its checkpoints in Paktika province during an intense fighting following an offensive last night."

While the Afghan press hasn't reported on the status of Gomal, similar Taliban claims have proven highly accurate in the past.

In the neighboring province of Paktia, the Afghan military claimed it ousted the Taliban from the district of Jani Khel, which has alternated between government and Taliban control multiple times over the past year. The Taliban last overran the district two weeks ago and flaunted a large cache of weapons and ammunition taken from Afghan forces.

However, Taliban spokesman Mujahid claimed that Jani Khel is "under Mujahidin control" and the "enemy attack (was) repulsed."

Over the past month, the Taliban has taken overrun eight districts centers.

In addition to the three mentioned above, the Taliban has seized Khamab in Jawzjan, Ghormach and Kohistan (or Lolash) in Faryab, Taiwara in Ghor and Guzargah in Baghlan. Afghan forces have since retaken Kohistan and Taiwara, however these districts remain contested.

The Taliban continues to demonstrate that it can conduct concurrent operations across the country, while Afghan forces largely remain on the defensive.

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## **Taliban Retakes District In Northern Afghanistan**

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

The Taliban claimed it overran the district center and surrounding security outposts in the remote northern district of Khamab in Jawzjan province. The district has gone back and forth between Taliban and government control over the past several years.

The Taliban claim of control was made on Voice of Jihad, its official website:

“Al-Emarah News says district of Kham Aab along with its posts have slipped from the government’s control and fallen to the Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate.

“Today, the Mujahideen combatants took over Khamab district in the northern province of Jowzjan after hours of fighting.

“Similarly, Mujahideen chased the enemy out of a large swathe of land, clearing the enemy of 17 huge villages in the mentioned district.

“Furthermore, Mujahideen seized from the enemy various kinds of arms ammunition and military equipment.”

The Afghan military and police have had difficulty with retaining control of Khamab since late 2014, when it first fell under Taliban control.

Khamab is the second district to fall to the Taliban in the past week. On Aug. 14, the Taliban overran Ghormach in Faryab province.

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## **Car Bomb Targeting Security Forces Kills 7 In Southern Afghanistan**

23.08.2017 By Shadi Khan Saif, Anadolu Agency

KABUL, Afghanistan

A car bombing targeting security forces in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand province claimed at least seven lives, officials said Wednesday.

Umar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, told Anadolu Agency the incident took place when militants rammed an explosive-laden car into a security forces’ vehicle near the police headquarters and the Rehmani Mosque in the provincial capital Lashkargah city.

More than 30 people were also injured in the bombing.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. In a statement, Qari Yosuf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the Taliban, asserted ‘scores’ of soldiers have been killed in the attack.

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# **Bomber Kills Five At Bank In Afghan Capital**

AUGUST 29, 2017 Mirwais Harooni, Reuters

KABUL - A bomber blew himself up at a bank close to the heavily protected U.S. embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding eight, the interior ministry said.

**The bomber hit the entrance to a Kabul Bank branch in the well-off area of Kabul, close to the main diplomatic quarter, ministry spokesman Najib Danish said.**

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had targeted soldiers and police withdrawing their salaries.

Attacks on banks where soldiers and police withdraw their salaries have become a regular tactic of the Taliban and the movement's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said several members of the security forces had been killed.

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

### **Civilian Review Board Substantiates Charges Against Policeman In Eric Garner Case: “Pantaleo Did In Fact Use A Chokehold, And Also Ruled That Pantaleo Restricted Garner's Breathing”**

08 September 17 By Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone

New York's Civilian Complaint Review Board has substantiated two complaints against Daniel Pantaleo, the New York City policeman caught on tape in the infamous Eric Garner case.

Rolling Stone has learned the board ruled that Pantaleo did in fact use a chokehold, and also ruled that Pantaleo restricted Garner's breathing.

The CCRB recommended departmental charges – the strongest possible reprimand – in the case.

This is the first real step toward discipline of officer Pantaleo in the three years since Garner's killing. While the ruling does not necessarily mean he actually will be disciplined by the NYPD, it does at least mean a group of city investigators has finally conceded that Pantaleo used a banned procedure and improper force.

Pantaleo's name has been infamous since July 17th, 2014, when he was captured on video putting an arm around the neck of the 43-year-old Garner. The arrest was allegedly about the sale of untaxed cigarettes, although the city has never demonstrated that Garner was actually doing anything illegal at the time.

Garner called out, "I can't breathe" 11 times in a desperate struggle, but officer Pantaleo kept Garner in a chokehold, a banned procedure according to the NYPD manual. A medical examiner later ruled his death a homicide. Pantaleo avoided trial after a Staten Island grand jury no-billed his indictment.

While researching an upcoming book on the case, *I Can't Breathe*, I learned a consistent theme of such cases is the extreme slowness of the justice bureaucracy when it comes to brutality allegations. Whether it involves criminal charges, or civil lawsuits, or even internal police discipline like this CCRB process, high-profile cases often get dragged out for extended periods of time, exhausting families and stalling public outrage.

The slow pace to rule on the chokehold question in Pantaleo's case is doubly infuriating because the city's own police commissioner, Bill Bratton, said just days after Garner's death that "this would appear to have been a chokehold."

Citing state civil rights laws, the CCRB declined to comment on the case. Pantaleo's lawyer, Stuart London, also declined comment.

Reached this week, the man who ran the CCRB in the wake of Garner's death, noted civil rights lawyer Richard Emery, laments the slow pace of the case. Emery, who left the agency in April of last year, says the CCRB process was delayed in part because of an agreement to hold back on disciplining Pantaleo until state and federal criminal proceedings had concluded.

"If this is true, it's good to see the CCRB finally take action," Emery says. "This case has taken far too long, because of the system of the CCRB deferring to prosecutors."

The Department of Justice is still considering federal civil rights charges in the Garner case, and a grand jury has been convened to consider the matter. The final resolution of Pantaleo's internal police discipline will likely not come until after the federal case has been resolved one way or the other.

The CCRB does not prosecute criminal charges. It merely investigates abuse allegations against police and issues recommendations for or against internal police discipline. CCRB findings are forwarded to the police commissioner and to the city's Department Advocate's Office, who ultimately issue disciplinary rulings.

The CCRB, after it completes its investigations, issues one of six recommendations. A "substantiated" finding means the investigators concluded that the officer both committed the act in question and was not justified in doing so.

The CCRB in the extant case involving Pantaleo issued two "substantiated" rulings. It ruled "PO Daniel Pantaleo used a chokehold against Eric Garner," and also that "PO Daniel Pantaleo restricted Eric Garner's breathing."

**Pantaleo has a not-inconsiderable history with the CCRB.**

**Earlier this year, Pantaleo's CCRB records were leaked to ThinkProgress. They showed Pantaleo had faced 14 allegations of misconduct prior to the Garner case, with four of those having been substantiated. The worst punishment he received was two docked vacation days.**

The CCRB leaker, incidentally, was fired after that incident.

Pantaleo is still on the NYPD payroll. In the first two years after the incident, he reportedly even earned as much as \$40,000 in overtime.

There's no guarantee he will ever be disciplined for either of the new substantiated complaints. The strongest penalty Pantaleo could face via this internal review process is termination. But the police commissioner has the power to disregard any recommendations for discipline, and the department's history with police officers who use chokeholds is not encouraging.

In a study conducted by NYPD Inspector General Phillip Eure in the wake of the Garner case, it was found officers seldom, if ever, received serious discipline for using the dangerous procedure.

In nine of ten cases Eure looked at, the CCRB recommended the strongest possible discipline – i.e., departmental charges against the officer.

In each of those nine cases, the department ultimately opted for a lesser punishment, ranging from no punishment at all to the loss of five vacation days. Eric Garner's birthday would have been next week. He would have been 47 years old.

**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](mailto: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**

**Ask for work. If they do not give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.”**

**– Emma Goldman**

# Veterans After Vietnam

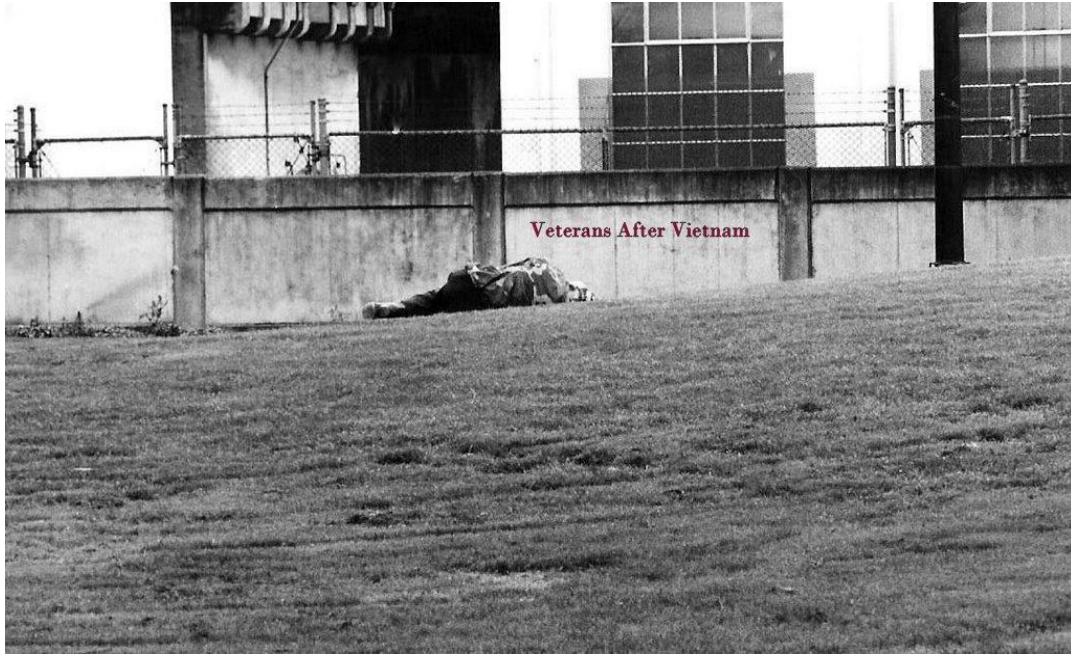


Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: August 24, 2017  
Subject: Veterans After Vietnam

**It's too bad the actor, James Woods, who supports Donald Trump, didn't have the chance of going into a Vietnamese village with an automatic weapon and experience the horror of irreversible knowledge. All the pundits and cheerleaders, where do they all come from?**

**Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam**

**Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net))**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

# **“On The Defeat Of One’s Own Government”**

## **“A Revolutionary Class In A Reactionary War Cannot But Wish For The Defeat Of Its Government”**

**July 26, 1915:** On The Defeat of One’s Own Government in the Imperialist War, By Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov: Sotsial-Demokrat No. 43 [Excerpts]

A revolutionary class in a reactionary war cannot but “wish for the defeat of its government.”

This is an axiom. It is disputed only by the conscious partisans or the helpless satellites of the social-chauvinists.

[T]o the latter belong Trotsky and Bukvoyed; in Germany, Kautsky. To wish Russia’s defeat, Trotsky says, is “an uncalled-for and unjustifiable political concession to the methodology of social-patriotism which substitutes for the revolutionary struggle against the war and the conditions that cause war, an orientation along the lines of the lesser evil, an orientation which, under given conditions, is perfectly arbitrary” (Nashe Slovo, No. 105.) This is an example of the inflated phraseology with which Trotsky always justifies opportunism.

“A revolutionary struggle against the war” is an empty and meaningless exclamation, the like of which the heroes of the Second International are past masters in making, unless it means revolutionary actions against one’s own government in times of war.

A little reasoning suffices to make this clear.

When we say revolutionary actions in war time against one’s own government, we indisputably mean not only the wish for its defeat, but practical actions leading towards such defeat.

In using phrases to avoid the issue, Trotsky has lost his way amidst very simple surroundings. It seems to him that to wish Russia’s defeat means to wish Germany’s victory. (Bukvoyed and Semkovsky express more directly this “thought,” or rather, thoughtlessness, which they have in common with Trotsky.) In this Trotsky also repeats the “methodology of social-patriotism”!

**To help people that do not know how to think, the Berne resolution (Sotsial-Demokrat, No. 40) made it clear that in all imperialist countries the proletariat must now wish the defeat of its government.**

Revolution in war time is civil war.

**Transformation of war between governments into civil war is, on the one hand, facilitated by military reverses (“defeats”) of the governments; on the other hand, it is impossible to strive in practice towards such a transformation without at the same time working towards military defeat.**

**The “slogan” of defeat is so vehemently repudiated by the chauvinists for the very reason that this slogan alone means a consistent appeal to revolutionary action against one’s own government in war time.**

**Without such action, millions of the most revolutionary phrases concerning “war against war and conditions, etc.” are not worth a penny.**

The tsarist government was perfectly right when it asserted that the propaganda of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Fraction was the only example in the International of not only parliamentary opposition but of real revolutionary propaganda in the masses against their government, that this propaganda weakened the military power of Russia and aided its defeat.

This is a fact. It is not clever to hide from it.

The opponents of the defeat slogan are simply afraid of themselves when they do not wish to realize the most obvious fact of the inseparable connection between revolutionary propaganda against the government and actions leading to its defeat.

An understanding concerning revolutionary actions within even one single country, not to speak of a number of countries, can be realized only by the force of the example of earnest revolutionary actions, by their being launched, by their development.

It is impossible, however, to launch them without wishing the government defeat, and without contributing to such a defeat.

**The change from imperialist war to civil war cannot be “made,” as it is impossible to “make” a revolution - it grows out of the multiplicity of diverse phenomena, phases, traits, characteristics, consequences of the imperialist war.**

**Such growth is impossible without a series of military reverses and defeats of those governments which receive blows from their own oppressed classes.**

The only policy of a real, not verbal, breaking of “civil peace,” of accepting the class struggle, is for the proletariat to take advantage of the difficulties of the government and its bourgeoisie with the aim of overthrowing them.

This, however, cannot be achieved, it cannot be striven at, without wishing the defeat of one’s own government, without contributing to such a defeat.

When, before the war, the Italian Social-Democrats raised the question of a mass strike, the bourgeoisie replied, undoubtedly correctly from its standpoint, that this would be high treason, and that they would be dealt with as traitors.

**This is true, and it is also true that fraternization in the trenches is high treason.**

A proletarian cannot help deal his government a class blow; he cannot reach out (in practice) a hand to his brother, the proletarian of the “foreign” country which is at war with us, without committing “high treason,” without contributing to the defeat, the dismemberment of “his” imperialist “great” power.

Let us look at the question from one more angle.

The war cannot but call forth among the masses the most stormy feelings which destroy the usual sluggishness of mass psychology. Without adjustment to these new stormy feelings, revolutionary tactics are impossible.

What are the main currents of these stormy feelings?

(1) Horror and despair. Hence the growth of religious feelings. Once more the churches are full, the reactionaries rejoice. “Wherever there are sufferings, there is religion,” says the arch-reactionary, Barres.

He is right, too.

(2) Hatred for the “enemy,” a feeling carefully fanned by the bourgeoisie (more than by the priests) and of economic and political value only to the bourgeoisie.

(3) Hatred for one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie - a feeling of all class-conscious workers who understand, on the one hand, that war is “a continuation of politics” on the part of imperialism, which they meet by “continuing” their hatred for their class enemy; on the other hand, that “war against war” is a silly phrase if it does not mean revolution against their own government.

It is impossible to arouse hatred against one’s own government and one’s bourgeoisie without wishing their defeat, and it is impossible to be non-hypocritical opponent of “civil” (class) “peace” without arousing hatred towards one’s own government and bourgeoisie!!!

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**“Of All Persons, Therefore, The  
Productive Worker Has Least Command  
Over The Services Of Unproductive  
Workers, Although He Has Most To Pay  
For The Involuntary Services (The State  
And Taxes)”**

**“The Artisan Or Peasant Who Produces With  
His Own Means Of Production Will Either**

# **Gradually Be Transformed Into A Small Capitalist Who Also Exploits The Labour Of Others, Or He Will Suffer The Loss Of His Means Of Production And Be Transformed Into A Wage Worker”**

**“It Can Therefore Be Assumed That The Whole World Of Commodities, All Spheres Of Material Production — The Production Of Material Wealth — Are Subordinated To The Capitalist Mode Of Production”**

From Karl Marx, Theories Of Surplus Value; International Publishers; New York, 1952

The performance of certain services, or the use values resulting from certain activities or labours, are embodied in commodities; others on the contrary leave no tangible results separate from the persons themselves; or, their result is not a vendible commodity.

For example, the service rendered to me by a singer satisfies my aesthetic need; but what I enjoy exists only in an action inseparable from the singer himself; and as soon as his labour, the singing, comes to an end my enjoyment is also over; I enjoy the activity itself — its reverberation on my ear.

These services themselves, like the commodities which I buy, may be necessary or may only seem necessary — for example the service of a soldier, a doctor or a lawyer; or they may be services which only yield enjoyment.

But this makes no difference to their economic character.

If I am in good health and do not need a doctor, or have the good luck not to be involved in a lawsuit, I avoid paying out money for medical or legal services as I do the plague.

The services may also be forced on me: the services of officials, etc.

If I buy the service of a teacher not to develop my faculties but to acquire skills with which I can earn money — or when others buy this teacher for me — and if I really learn something, which in itself is quite independent of the payment for the service — these costs of education, like the costs of my maintenance, belong to the costs of production of my labour power.

But the special usefulness of this service does not alter the economic relation; it is not a relation in which I transform money into capital, or whereby the supplier of the service, the teacher, transforms me into his capitalist, his master.

Consequently it also does not affect the economic character of this relation whether the doctor cures me or the teacher makes a success of teaching me or the lawyer wins my lawsuit.

What is paid for is the performance of the service as such, and by its very nature the result cannot be guaranteed by those who render the service.

A great part of services belongs to the costs of consumption of commodities, such as those of a cook, maid, etc.

It is characteristic of all unproductive labours that they are at my disposal — as is the case in the purchase of all other commodities for consumption — in the same proportion as that in which I exploit productive workers.

**Of all persons, therefore, the productive worker has least command over the services of unproductive workers, although he has most to pay for the involuntary services (the State and taxes).**

*Vice versa*, however, my power to employ productive workers does not at all increase in proportion to the extent that I employ unproductive workers, but on the contrary falls in the same proportion.

Productive workers may, in relation to me, be unproductive workers.

For example, if I have my house re-papered, and the paper-hangers are wage workers of an employer who sells me the job, it is just the same for me as if I had bought a house already papered: I would have expended money for a commodity for my consumption; but for the employer who gets these workers to hang the paper they are productive workers, for they produce surplus value for him.

What then is the position of independent handicraftsmen or peasants who employ no workers and therefore do not produce as capitalists?

Either, as always in the case of the peasant (but not for example of a gardener whom I get to come to my house), they are commodity producers and I buy the commodity from them — in which case it makes no difference for example that the handicraftsman supplies it to order or the peasant brings to market what he can.

In this relationship they meet me as sellers of commodities, not as sellers of labour, and this relation has therefore nothing at all to do with the exchange of capital, and therefore also nothing to do with the distinction between productive and unproductive labour, which is based purely on whether the labour is exchanged with money as money or with money as capital.

They therefore belong neither to the category of productive nor to that of unproductive workers, although they are producers of commodities. But their production does not fall under the capitalist mode of production.

It is possible that these producers working with their own means of production not only reproduce their labour power but create surplus value, since their position makes it

possible for them to appropriate their own surplus labour or a part of it (as one part is taken from them in the form of taxes, etc.).

And here we come up against a peculiarity that is characteristic of a society in which one definite mode of production predominates, although all productive relations have not yet been subordinated to it.

In feudal society, for example, as we can best observe in England because here the system of feudalism was introduced ready made from Normandy and its form was impressed on what was in many respects a different social foundation — even productive relations which were far removed from the nature of feudalism were given a feudal form; for example, simple money relations in which there was no trace of mutual personal service as between suzerain and vassal, for instance the fiction that the small peasant held his property as a fief.

In just the same way in the capitalist mode of production the independent peasant or handicraftsman is sundered into two persons.

As owner of the means of production he is capitalist, as worker he is his own wage worker.

As capitalist, he therefore pays himself his wages and draws his profit from his capital; that is to say, he exploits himself as wage worker and pays himself with the surplus value, the tribute that labour owes to capital.

Perhaps he also pays himself a third part as landowner (rent), in the same way, as we shall see later, that the industrial capitalist who works with his own capital pays himself interest and regards this as something which he owes to himself not as an industrial capitalist, but *qua* capitalist pure and simple.

The social character of the means of production in capitalist production — the fact that they express a definite productive relation — has so grown together with, and in the mode of thought of bourgeois society is so inseparable from, the material existence of these means of production as means of production, that the same definition (definite category) is applied even where the relation is the very opposite.

The means of production become capital only in so far as they have become an independent power confronting labour.

In the case mentioned the producer — the worker — is the possessor, owner, of his means of production.

They are therefore not capital, any more than in relation to them he is a wage worker.

Nevertheless they are thought of as capital, and he himself is split in two, so that as capitalist he employs himself as wage worker

In fact this way of presenting it, however irrational it may seem at first sight, is nevertheless correct in so far as the producer in such a case actually creates his own surplus value (assuming that he sells his commodity at its value), or the whole product materialises only his own labour.



That he is able to appropriate to himself the whole product of his own labour, and that the excess of the value of his product over the average price of his day's labour is not appropriated by someone else, he owes however not to his labour — which does not distinguish him from other workers — but to his ownership of the means of production.

It is therefore only through his ownership of these that he takes possession of his own surplus labour, and thus arises his relation, as his own capitalist, to himself as wage worker.

The separation between the two is the normal relation in this society.

Where therefore it does not in fact exist, it is presumed, and, as shown above, up to a point with justice; for (as distinct for example from conditions in Ancient Rome or Norway or in the North-West of the United States) in this society the unity appears as accidental, the separation as normal, and consequently the separation is maintained as the relation, even when one person unites the different functions.

Here emerges in a very striking way the fact that the capitalist as such is only a function of capital, the worker a function of labour power.

**For it is also a law that economic development divides out functions among different persons, and the artisan or peasant who produces with his own means of production will either gradually be transformed into a small capitalist who also exploits the labour of others, or he will suffer the loss of his means of production (this may happen to begin with although he remains their nominal owner, as in a mortgage) and be transformed into a wage worker.**

This is the tendency in the form of society in which the capitalist mode of production predominates.

**In examining the essential relations of capitalist production it can therefore be assumed that the whole world of commodities, all spheres of material production — the production of material wealth — are subordinated (formally or really) to the capitalist mode of production (since this is being continuously approximated to, is in principle the goal of capitalist production, and only if this is realised will the productive power of labour be developed to its highest point).**

On this premise, which expresses the goal (limit), and which therefore is constantly coming closer to exact truth, all workers engaged in the production of commodities are wage workers, and the means of production in all these spheres confront them as capital.

It can then be said to be a characteristic of productive workers, that is, of capital-producing workers, that their labour is realised in commodities, in material wealth.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

# **August 29, 1970: In Memoriam: The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam**

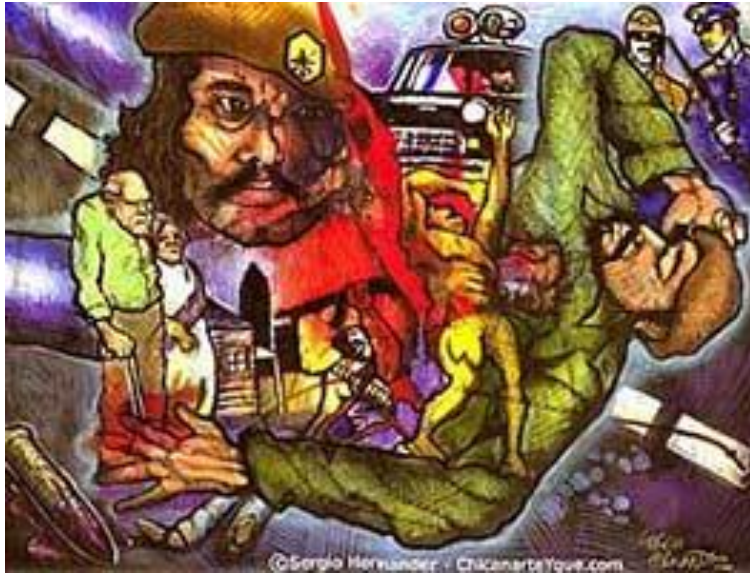


Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

**Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.**

**It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.**

**Three died when the anti-war march turned violent. The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).**



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**September 3, 1838**  
**Frederick Douglass Made His Escape**  
**From Slavery:**  
**“It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But Fire”**



Frederick Douglass

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, they served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

**Frederick Douglass:**

**“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”**

**“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”**

**“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”**

**“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”**

**“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”**

**“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.”**

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## **Liberation Anniversary: September 5, 1970: Operation Raw**



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10

**September 4, 1970**

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).

Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

MORE:

# ***Operation Raw*** **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

**By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968**

Letters To The Editor

Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

**It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.**

**It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.**

**Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:**

**“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”**

**“If you had been Vietnamese:**

**—We might have burned your house.**

**—We might have shot your dog.**

**—We might have shot you.**

—We might have raped the women.

—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.

—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.

—We might have shot things up a bit.

—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.

**“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”**

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

**This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.**

**By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.**

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

**“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).**

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of realism in the air as America's safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

**Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.**

**In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several "incidents" they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.**

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called "round-eyed gooks," offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this "forced raid into America." The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through. At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

**This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)**

**The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous "Winter Soldier" hearings — to "place the blame where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war."**

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: “the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on.”

**By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.**

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal.

For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

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## **September 9-12, 1971: Heroic Anniversary; The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt**



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

**The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.**

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.



**29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.**

**The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.**

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PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

**Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.**

**Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.**

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty .... and the removal of the prison’s superintendent.

**In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the**

**“ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”**

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.



He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

**On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”**

The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.

**“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”**

**But Rockefeller wouldn’t budge.**

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

**It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.**

**Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.**

**The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.**

**Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.**

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

**Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.**

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

**The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”**

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

**Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”**

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller’s hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the “tremendous need that existed” at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners' revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.

The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.

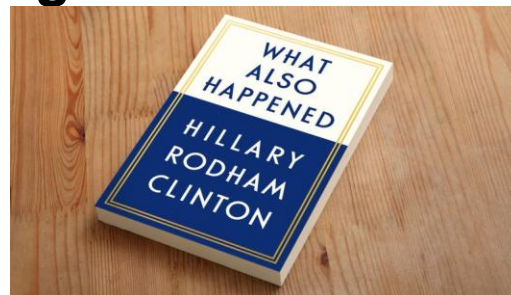
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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## Clinton Already Working On Follow-Up Book Casting Blame For Failures Of First



9.7.17 The Onion

CHAPPAQUA, NY—Saying it would provide a candid account of her experiences writing an unsuccessful tell-all, sources confirmed Thursday that Hillary Clinton is already working on a follow-up book casting blame for the failures of her previous memoir *What Happened*.

“From my agent negotiating that underwhelming deal with Simon & Schuster, to the graphic designer’s lackluster cover art, to my so-called supporters who couldn’t be bothered to drop \$17.99 for the hardcover copy—everyone had a hand in undermining my last book’s success,” reads a passage from the introduction to Clinton’s *What Also Happened*, which repeatedly decries her prior book’s “indecipherable” font and dedicates an entire chapter to lashing out at her copy editor for making her look like “an idiot third-grader.”

“I’ll never forget how Amazon buried me and how Barnes & Noble completely sabotaged me by displaying my book way in the back in that no man’s land by the CDs. Frankly, it’s obvious I got screwed on all sides.”

Accusing them of stealing her spotlight, the book reportedly concludes with a long list of every other celebrity who published a memoir in the past year.



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