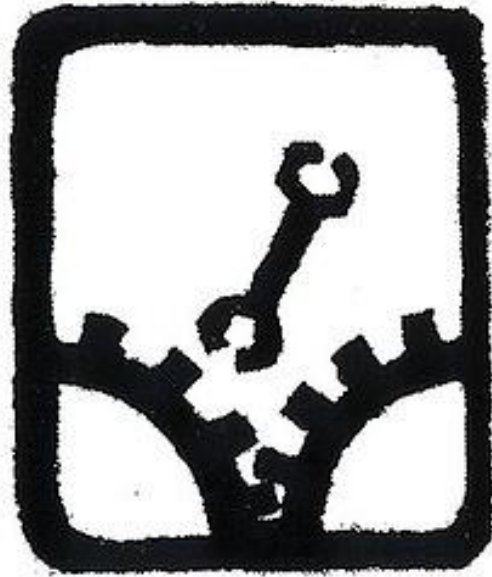


Military Resistance 16C1



Huge Anti-Government Demonstration Rocks Slovakia



People participate in a rally in Slovakia' in Bratislava on March 9 following the killing of a journalist in late February. PHOTO: JAKUB GAVLAK/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

March 14, 2018 By Drew Hinshaw, Wall Stgreet Journal

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico offered to resign in the wake of the Central European country's biggest protests since the fall of communism.

Mr. Fico, prime minister since 2012, on Wednesday told President Andrej Kiska that he was prepared to step down, five days after some 120,000 people protested alleged corruption and the killing of Jan Kuciak, a 27-year-old reporter.

Mr. Kuciak, who worked for a Slovakian news website, was found dead along with his fiancée in their home late last month. He was investigating alleged ties between Mr. Fico's office and an Italian crime network.

The prime minister has called corruption allegations against him an untrue, foreign-backed conspiracy.

Mr. Fico, who has promised a €1 million (\$1.24 million) reward for information that leads to the killers' arrest, stipulated that his Direction-Social Democracy party, which he has led since 1999, retain control in order for him to resign. "Slovakia is in a crisis," he said, "caused by the fact that a murder has been misused for political fights."

It wasn't clear if Mr. Kiska and Mr. Fico's allies in government would accept the offer. If they don't, Slovakia would head for early elections.

"I appreciate the prime minister's decision," said Bela Bugar, the head of junior coalition party Most-Hid, which has called for elections.

Mr. Fico has been a political survivor in a part of Europe increasingly at odds with neighbors to the West over immigration and the European Union's power. The 53-year-old former communist has stayed close to Germany and steered Slovakia into adopting the euro. He has counterbalanced those positions by courting Slovakia's nationalists, and repeatedly proposed a ban on Muslim immigrants.

Corruption allegations have dogged the prime minister, sparking multiple protests in the capital, Bratislava last year.

Mr. Kuciak, whose death sparked nationwide protests, was investigating why Mr. Fico hired Maria Troskova, a 29-year-old ex-Miss Universe contestant with no experience in politics as his primary government adviser in 2016. The slain journalist had reported that Ms. Troskova had once co-owned a business with a man wanted in Italy for transporting goods for the powerful 'Ndrangheta crime organization.

Mr. Fico has declined to say why he hired Ms. Troskova, but has said she has no criminal involvement with the 'Ndrangheta or any role in the reporter's death.

Ms. Troskova stepped down from her post last week, saying she had no connection to Mr. Kuciak's killing.

Police have said the killing appears linked to the journalist's work.

“We have corruption as a normal part of our lives. But the murder of a journalist? It’s too much for everybody,” said Peter Bardy, editor in chief of Aktuality, where Mr. Kuciak worked. “So I can see that police, politicians, all of them are nervous.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Trump Regime Sends More Military Personnel To Afghanistan As Taliban Gains Contuse: “A Deteriorating Security Situation” “The U.S. Military Has Been Assigned A ‘Mission Impossible’ In Afghanistan”

March 10, Robert Burns, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is bolstering its military presence in Afghanistan, more than 16 years after the war started.

Consider this: At a Senate hearing this past week on top U.S. security threats, the word “Afghanistan” was spoken exactly four times, each during introductory remarks. In the ensuing two hours of questions for intelligence agency witnesses, no senator asked about Afghanistan, suggesting little interest in a war with nearly 15,000 U.S. troops supporting combat against the Taliban.

It’s not as if the war’s end is in sight.

Just last month the bulk of an Army training brigade of about 800 soldiers arrived to improve the advising of Afghan forces. Since January, attack planes and other aircraft have been added to U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

But it’s not clear that the war, which began in October 2001, is going as well as the U.S. had hoped seven months after President Donald Trump announced a new, more aggressive strategy.

One of Washington’s closest watchers of the Afghanistan conflict, Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote last month that the administration has made major improvements in military tactics and plans for developing Afghan forces but has “done nothing to deal with civil and political stability.”

The administration “not only faces a deteriorating security situation, it has no clear political, governance, or economic strategy to produce Afghan stability,” Cordesman said. In his view, the U.S. military has been assigned a “mission impossible” in Afghanistan.

When Trump announced in August that he was ordering a new approach to the war, he said he realized “the American people are weary of war without victory.” He said that meant committing more resources to the war, giving commanders in the field more authority and staying in Afghanistan for as long as it takes.

Stephen Biddle, a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, said Americans’ relative lack of interest in the war gives Trump political maneuver room to conduct the war as he wishes, but that dynamic is not necessarily a good one.

“The idea that a democracy is spending billions of dollars a year, killing people and sacrificing American lives waging war, and the elected representatives of the people aren’t paying attention I think is inappropriate,” Biddle said. “But to say it is inappropriate isn’t to say it’s surprising, because this is the way Congress has been behaving toward this war for a long, long time.”

Last November, the U.S. commander in Kabul, Gen. John Nicholson, said the Afghan army, with U.S. support, had “turned the corner” and captured momentum against the Taliban. Since then, the Taliban have conducted a series of high-profile attacks in Kabul and elsewhere that have killed scores of civilians.

Dan Coats, the director of U.S. national intelligence, offered a less optimistic forecast when he testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

“We assess the overall security picture will ... modestly deteriorate in the coming year and Kabul will continue to bear the brunt of the Taliban-led insurgency,” Coats said.

The Defense Department’s special inspector general for Afghanistan said in January that Afghan government control or influence has declined and Taliban control or influence has increase since the U.S. watchdog began reporting this type of data in January 2016.

It said in a follow-up report last month that as of October 2017, about 20.9 million Afghans, or 64 percent of the total population of 32.5 million, lived in areas where the government has control or influence. The rest of the population was in areas under Taliban control or influence, or deemed “contested” by both sides.

Top U.S. General Writes Off Most Of Afghanistan:

Says Defending The Capital From Insurgents Now “Main Effort” “Yes, The Taliban Is In The City”

MARCH 14, 2018 By Dan Lamothe, WASHINGTON POST

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The United States is bolstering its efforts to assist the Afghan government squash a rash of deadly high-profile attacks in its capital city through Special Operations raids, intelligence to map out who lives in the city, and additional military advising, the top US general here said.

Army General John W. Nicholson Jr. said that defending Kabul is the main effort for the US-led military coalition right now.

While the number of bombings in the sprawling city has remained about the same, they have increased in size, he said. Hundreds of people have been killed within the last year, terrorizing civilians and damaging embassies and other buildings.

“Yes, the Taliban is in the city,” Nicholson said. “Yes, there are facilitation networks in the city. These networks need to be identified and destroyed, and then the safe houses or whatever locations they have developed need to be identified and eliminated.”

Afghan Special Forces Hit Hard By Taliban Ambush:

“The Taliban Have Been Flaunting Its Military Strength In Farah”

“Afghan Special Forces Unit Officials Blamed The High Number Of Casualties On A Lack Of Air Support And The Failure Of The Afghan Military And Police To Provide Reinforcements”

March 10, 2018 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.

The Taliban killed at least 10 Afghan commandos and several other security personnel during an ambush in Farah province last night.

Security in Farah has been slipping over the past two years as the Taliban has focused efforts in the western province.

Taliban fighters ambushed the special forces unit that was partnered with local security forces that prepared to launch a raid in the Bala Buluk district of Farah, provincial officials told TOLONews. The number of casualties suffered by the combined Afghan force varies in Afghan press reports.

However, officials from the Afghan Special Forces Unit confirmed that ten of its commandos were killed. Eight policemen were also killed and at least three more were captured by the Taliban during the fighting.

Afghan Special Forces Unit officials blamed the high number of casualties on a lack of air support and the failure of the Afghan military and police to provide reinforcements as the Taliban launched their attack, ATN News reported.

Afghanistan's special forces have been at the tip of the spear in the fight against the Taliban. The loss of the commandos, who are considered to be the most effective and motivated of all of Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces, is a painful blow. Four other commandos were killed in a Taliban attack in Farah earlier this week.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahideed claimed credit for the attack on his official Twitter account.

"Enemy forces that arrived at Tapa Sadat area of Farah Rod #Farah come under attacks, 53 hireling commandos killed/wounded & sizable amount weapons seized, rest trying to flee & Mujahidin in pursuit," he wrote. Mujahidid also posted three photographs of weapons purportedly seized from the Afghan commandos during the ambush.

Given the effectiveness of the operation against Afghanistan's elite forces, it is possible that the Taliban had inside help to carry out the attack. The Taliban has been adept at infiltrating Afghan security forces.

Security in Farah provinces has steadily deteriorated over the past two years. Farah City was one of five provinces that were under direct Taliban threat by the end of 2016. The Taliban remained on the outskirts of the city during 2017 and have continually harassed security forces throughout the province.

By mid-January 2018, Afghan officials have warned that the Taliban was no longer on the outskirts and has entered the city. The province's deputy governor, Mohammad Younus Rasuli, criticized the security forces, which he said are taking heavy casualties.

"Currently security forces have not made any move to target the insurgents and our defensive status is also incorrect. In the last week only, over 50 security force members have been killed," Rasuli, according to TOLONews.

At the end of January, Mohammad Aref Shah Jahan, the governor of Farah, quit, “because of the worsening security situation in Farah.”

He partially blamed this on “interference in my responsibilities from various individuals,” Reuters reported.

Late last month, the Taliban overran a Afghan military base in Bala Buluk and killed upwards of 25 soldiers and captured three more. Just before that attack, the Taliban killed 20 policemen in three separate assaults in the province.

The Taliban have been flaunting its military strength in Farah. In Oct. 2017, the Taliban released a video of its fighters massing for a parade and speech by senior officials in the province, without fear of being targeted by either Afghan or Coalition forces.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Police Officer Is Suspect In Vicious Beating Of Man Jay Walking: “Rush, Whom Officers Had Accused Of Jaywalking, Was Also Shocked With A Stun Gun As He Screamed In Pain”

13 March 18 by Associated Press

Federal agents have opened a criminal investigation into a white North Carolina police officer shown on body camera footage beating a black man accused of jaywalking.

State Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Patty McQuillan said in an email Wednesday that an FBI criminal investigation was launched into the actions of Asheville police officer Christopher Hickman on Aug. 25, 2017. She said the state agency is assisting.

Hickman, who is shown on video subduing and punching 33-year-old Johnnie Jermaine Rush, had a history of treating people rudely, according to a city memo that also seeks to address concerns about why the case unfolded slowly outside of public view.

The August excessive-force case, revealed last week when a newspaper published body-cam video, has roiled leaders in Asheville, a mountain tourist destination with a liberal-leaning, mostly white population. Late Monday, the Asheville City Council voted to release a memo detailing how the case was handled.

The case became public after The Citizen-Times newspaper published footage last week.

Rush, whom officers had accused of jaywalking, was also shocked with a stun gun as he screamed in pain.

The altercation unfolded around midnight Aug. 25 near the city's minor-league baseball stadium and a cluster of breweries that help fuel a booming tourism industry.

City Manager Gary Jackson wrote in the memo Monday that Hickman's use of "excessive and dangerous force" is "a source of great anger and concern within the community." Asheville's population of nearly 90,000 is 82 percent white and 12 percent black. Hickman resigned in January.

Pastor Ronald Gates, who joined other black clergy members in voicing concerns to city leaders last week, said he was appalled not only by "the inhumane act" he saw on the video, but also the length of time it took for details to surface publicly.

However, the leader of Greater Works Church said Tuesday that the memo's release is a step toward restoring trust: "There's a strong stance toward making things right."

According to the memo, an extensive review of body camera footage from all of Hickman's encounters with the public - some 58 hours - revealed four other times in which he "displayed discourteous and rude conduct to members of the public."

It's not clear if those four incidents were previously known to Hickman's superiors; Jackson wrote that they didn't result in complaints. The memo doesn't elaborate on what happened in those cases.

The Asheville newspaper's story sparked recriminations over the handling of the case and the video leak. Under North Carolina law, a judge generally must sign off on any public release of police body camera video.

District Attorney Todd Williams issued a statement last week that the video leak could compromise prosecutions and "may require its own independent investigation." Asheville police Chief Tammy Hooper, who issued an apology to Rush, has also called for an investigation of the leak.

Yet on Monday, Asheville City Attorney Robin Currin requested that a judge allow public release of all video surrounding Rush's arrest, noting "it is critical that the public be provided with a complete picture."

The memo released Monday by the City Council gives the most complete account yet of the case.

Hours after he was arrested, Rush filed an excessive force complaint. The memo says the police chief reviewed footage that day, ordered that Hickman turn in his badge and gun and placed him on administrative duty. A supervisor who responded to the scene was also disciplined over the handling of information in the case.

Charges against Rush, including impeding traffic and resisting arrest, were dropped in September. No working phone listing could be found for Rush, who's heard on video saying he was leaving work when officers accused him of failing to use a crosswalk.

After the administrative investigation finished in December, the department concluded Hickman used excessive force. The memo states Hickman was due to be terminated Jan. 5, but he resigned instead at the start of that meeting.

Separate from the department's administrative review, the district attorney recommended that the State Bureau of Investigation probe the case to determine if criminal charges are warranted.

The police chief made that request in January, but the SBI declined to investigate. On Friday, SBI spokeswoman Patty McQuillan said the delay in seeking the state agency's help would have made it difficult to gather useful witness interviews and other evidence.

Instead, in late January, an Asheville detective was assigned to investigate whether criminal charges are appropriate. According to the memo, the detective's findings should be given to prosecutors within the next week.

MILITARY NEWS

2 Out Of 3 Americans Oppose Increasing US Military Spending

March 13, 2018 by Lawrence Wittner, Beyond Chron [Excerpts]

Americans might want to ponder the fact that, with \$700 billion per year now being pumped into the Pentagon by U.S. taxpayers, military spending consumes 54 percent of the federal discretionary budget.

Early in February, the Republican-controlled Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed new federal budget legislation that increased U.S. military spending by \$165 billion over the next two years.

Remarkably, though, a Gallup public opinion poll, conducted only days before, found that only 33 percent of Americans favored increasing U.S. military spending, while 65 percent opposed it, either backing reductions (34 percent) or maintenance of the status quo (31 percent).

What is even more remarkable for a nation where military spending has grown substantially over the decades, is that, during the past 49 years that Gallup has asked Americans their opinions on U.S. military spending, in only one year (1981) did a majority of Americans (in that case, 51 percent) favor increasing it.

During the other years, clear and sometimes very substantial majorities opposed spending more on the military.

Although the Gallup survey appears to be the only one that has covered American attitudes toward military spending in 2018, reports by other polling agencies for earlier years reveal the same pattern. The Pew Research Center, for example, found that, from 2004 to 2016, the percentage of Americans who favored increasing U.S. military spending only ranged from 13 to 35 percent.

By contrast, the percentage of Americans who favored decreasing U.S. military spending or continuing it at the same level ranged from 64 to 83 percent.

“Marine Wife Whose Daughter Was Sexually Abused By Marine Corps Colonel Told Lawmakers The Military Is Failing Victims”

“Where Was The Military When We Needed Them? What Do The Survivors Who Don’t Have The Resources We Had Do?”

March 9 By: Karen Jowers, Army Times [Excerpts]

A Marine wife whose 6-year-old daughter was sexually abused by a Marine Corps colonel told lawmakers the military is failing victims.

“Had my husband and I stayed silent, our case would never have been brought,” said Adrian Perry, who testified before the Senate Armed Services personnel subcommittee hearing Thursday examining child abuse and intimate partner violence in the military.

Witnesses testified about problems with investigations, cumbersome processes, lack of proper resources for victims, and communication issues between military and civilian authorities.

Adrian Perry said Daniel Hunter Wilson wasn’t detained until five months after the incident involving her daughter, which occurred when the Perry family had visited the colonel’s home.

She cited problems with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service’s investigation of her daughter’s case — noting, for example, that they scoured the Perrys’ personal electronic devices but failed to acquire devices belonging to the accused colonel.

The investigators did not investigate Wilson's past, she said, adding that the Marine Corps didn't follow through to address previous reports of a sexual nature against Wilson.

If they had, she said, "Wilson would never have been able to take our child's innocence from her."

Wilson ultimately was found guilty and sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison.

The family was unable to access mental health counseling resources until their civilian victims legal counsel, working pro bono, "worked tirelessly to find a therapist that would see our entire family," she said.

"Where was the military when we needed them? What do the survivors who don't have the resources we had do?"

There were problems with other resources, too. The Perrys had to drive their daughter two hours to get the needed pediatric forensics exam because there were no such specialists in the area near Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

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

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression.

It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need.

The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23

9-1-1



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: November 19, 2017
Subject: 9-1-1

Photograph by Mike Hastie
Veterans For Peace

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)

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

Much Of The 21st Century Worldwide Tendency Towards Politics Disguised As Religion Expresses Rage Against Capitalism, Which Has Become A Religion Disguised As Economics: “During One Period Of History Hegemony Belongs To Religion, During Another To Politics, And So Forth”

Comment: T

In attempting to defend reactionary social systems, some argue that nothing happens without the “will” or “permission” of this or that supernatural being.

Many politicians will agree that the slaughter of Afghans by the U.S. Empire is done with the “will” or “permission” of God. Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.

When Trump demands God bless America at the close this or that major public pronouncement, he is merely doing his job, as he protects and defends the Empire over which he presides, with the full backing, in that work, of the political layer of the capitalist elite who rule this nation.

Part of that job, as is true for various politicians in many other nations, is invoking the name of this or that supernatural entity said to be blessing the nation, seeking thereby to gain the favor of the reactionary and credulous to prop up the Imperial regime.

Viewing the world as a material reality and having no fear of or belief in assorted supernatural creatures that human have created in their own image would be a recommendation for political leadership, rather than a condemnation.

Religion has been and continues to be used by those in power to justify their greed for Empire, their murderous local dictatorships, and all forms of tyranny and oppression.

There are no world religions that have not been so used by wealthy and powerful oppressors.

If indeed nothing anywhere occurs without the “will” of some God, and if indeed such a being exists, he or she or it is a mass murdering monster.

It is one thing to believe in a supernatural being. That is one among many bedrock democratic rights guaranteed in any decent society.

It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “will of God” argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, the oppression of women as a gender, the torture of Jews and Muslims by the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Imperial butchery loose in the world.

That is a political argument valuable only to tyrants and oppressors.

Excerpt from: The Monist View Of History, By G.V. Plekhanov; 1895; St. Petersburg, Russia

Up to this point our propositions, of necessity, were very abstract.

But we already know that there is no abstract truth, truth is always concrete.

We must give our propositions a more concrete shape.

Those to whom the English aristocrats of the Restoration were “in contradiction” were extreme religious fanatics; in order “to do the opposite” to what they were doing, the reactionaries had to go as far as materialism.

In France of the eighteenth century things were exactly opposite: the defenders of the old order stood for religion, and it was the extreme revolutionaries who arrived at materialism.

The history of human thought is full of such examples, and all of them confirm one and the same thing: in order to understand the “state of minds” of each particular critical epoch, in order to explain why during this epoch precisely these,

and not those, teachings gain the upper hand, we must as a preliminary study the “state of minds” in the preceding epoch, and discover what teachings and tendencies were then dominant.

Without this we shall not understand at all the intellectual condition of the epoch concerned, however well we get to know its economy.

But even this must not be understood in abstract fashion, as the Russian “intelligentsia” is accustomed to understand everything.

The ideologists of one epoch never wage against their predecessors a struggle sur toute la ligne, on all questions of human knowledge and social relations.

The French Utopians of the nineteenth century were completely at one with the Encyclopaedists on a number of anthropological views; the English aristocrats of the Restoration were quite at one with the Puritans, whom they so hated, on a number of questions, such as civil law, etc.

The territory of psychology is sub-divided into provinces, the provinces into counties, the counties into rural districts and communities, and the communities represent unions of individuals (i.e., of individual questions).

When a “contradiction” arises, when struggle blazes up, its passion seizes, as a rule, only upon individual provinces – if not individual counties – and only its reflection falls upon the neighbouring areas.

First of all that province to which hegemony belonged in the preceding epoch is subjected to attack.

It is only gradually that the “miseries of war” spread to its nearest neighbours and most faithful allies of the province which has been attacked.

Therefore we must add that, in ascertaining the character of any particular critical epoch, it is necessary to discover not only the general features of the psychology of the previous organic period, but also the individual peculiarities of that psychology.

During one period of history hegemony belongs to religion, during another to politics, and so forth.

This circumstance inevitably reflects itself in the character of the corresponding critical epochs, each of which, according to circumstances, either continues formally to recognize the old hegemony, introducing a new, opposite content into the dominating conceptions (as, for example, the first English Revolution), or else completely rejects them, and hegemony passes to new provinces of thought (as, for example, the French literature of the Enlightenment).

If we remember that these disputes over the hegemony of individual psychological provinces also extend to their neighbours, and moreover extend to a different degree and in a different direction in each individual case, we shall understand to what an extent here, as everywhere, one cannot confine oneself to abstract proposition.

Let us consider the operation of this law.

When a certain class is the enslaver of all in the eyes of the rest of the population, then the ideas which prevail in the ranks of that class naturally present themselves to the population also as ideas worthy only of slave-owners.

The social consciousness enters into “contradiction” to them: it is attracted by opposite ideas.

But we have already said that this kind of struggle is never carried on all along the line: there always remain a certain number of ideas which are equally recognized both by the revolutionaries and by the defenders of the old order.

The strongest attack, however, is made on the ideas which serve to express the most injurious sides of the dying order at the given time.

It is on those sides of ideology that the revolutionaries experience an irrepressible desire to “contradict” their predecessors.

But in relation to other ideas, even though they did grow up on the basis of old social relations, they often remain quite indifferent, and sometimes by tradition continue to cling to them.

The “state of minds” of any given age can be understood only in connection with the state of the minds of the previous epoch.

Against Imperial War: [1915]

**“Imperialism Is The Progressing
Oppression Of The Nations Of The
World By A Handful Of Great
Powers”**

**“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It
Already Exists, Exposing Its
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name "Lenin" to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self-determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being

educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of “freedom of nations,” “right of nations to self-determination,” and “defence of the fatherland” justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world’s nations by the great powers.

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the “right of nations to self-determination,” which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.

This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even

a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of “justice to Ireland,” but for the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a “terrible” thing? Yes.

But it is a terribly profitable thing.

A Biblical Guide to Marriage Licenses

[Thanks to Eddie Stinson for posting at AmeriConscience]

September 14, 2015 by Valerie Tarico, ValerieTarico.com [Excerpts]

Goats? Zombies? Your mother’s uncle’s wife? Test your knowledge of 19 Iron Age do’s and don’ts.

Some folks believe that America should be subject to biblical law rather than constitutional law, that public servants— like Kentucky clerk Kim Davis—owe their highest allegiance to the Bible, which means they shouldn’t be forced to give out unbiblical marriage licenses—like to gay couples.

The issue, obviously, is contested by a host of liberals, secularists, Satanists and moderate Christians.

But assuming that Bible believers and religious freedom advocates carry the day, public servants will need to know their Good Book.

I have written elsewhere about biblical justice (If the Bible were Law Would You Qualify for the Death Penalty? and Bible vs Quran—Test Your Knowledge of Who Deserves Death in Which Religion), and readers found those lists illuminating.

So, I thought folks might appreciate the following 19 item quiz, which can be used to screen applicants for county clerk positions or as a guide for those already working the job.

If Kentucky issues only biblical marriage licenses, to which of the following couples should a county clerk grant a license?

1. *A man with a consenting woman, but without her father's permission.*

No. Numbers 30:1-16 teaches that a single woman's father has final authority over legal contracts she may enter.

2. *A man, a nonconsenting woman, and her father.*

Yes. According to the Law of Moses a female is male property, as are slaves, livestock, and children. (See Exodus 20:17, Exodus 21:7). Her father can give her in marriage or sell her to a slave master. Female consent in the Bible is not a prerequisite for marriage or sex.

3. *A married man and three other women.*

Yes. The Old Testament endorses polygamy, and the New Testament does not reverse this—except for church elders (1 Timothy 3:2).

4. *A childless widow and her husband's reluctant brother.*

Yes. Genesis 38:8-10 makes it clear that a man has a responsibility to seed children for his deceased brother. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus doesn't alter the tradition but does say it will no longer apply in heaven. (Matthew 22:24-28)

5. *Two men.*

No. Leviticus is clear. Two men having sex is an abomination, just like eating shellfish, getting tattoos, shaving your beard, or wearing blend fabrics. (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, 11:9-12, 19:28, 19:27)

6. *Two women.*

No, not even with their fathers' permission. Paul's epistle to the Romans (1:26) says that this is degrading and unnatural.

7. *A man and a divorced woman.*

No. Unless her husband divorced her because he found out that she wasn't a virgin when they married, anyone who marries a divorced woman is committing adultery. A marriage license in this case would be an adultery license. (Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9)

8. *A woman and a divorced man.*

No. A man who divorces his wife and remarries is committing adultery. (Luke 16:18)

9. *A Christian and a Hindu.*

No. The Apostle Paul calls this being unequally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14). If the applicants balk at your refusal, you might respond gently with Paul's own words: "What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness?"

10. A soldier and a virgin prisoner of war.

Yes, but you should provide written instructions on the purification ritual required before bedding her. The soldier must shave her head and trim her nails and give her a month to mourn her parents before the first sex act. Also, remind him that if she fails to 'delight', he must set her free rather than selling her. (Deuteronomy 21:10-14)

11. A rapist and his victim.

Yes, with qualifiers. The woman's consent is not an issue, but her father should be present as he is owed 50 shekels (approximately \$580) for the damage to his daughter. Also, the contract should have an addendum stating clearly that no divorce will be allowed. The rapist must keep her for life since, obviously, no one else will want the damaged goods. (Deuteronomy 22:28-29)

12. A man and his wife's indentured/undocumented servant.

Yes, although you might remind the man that in this case a marriage license is not a prerequisite to sex, since community property laws apply. However, should God bless this union with babies, any offspring will belong to the man and his wife, not the indentured woman. (Genesis 30:1-22)

13. A man and his mother, sister, half-sister, mother-in-law, grandchild, or uncle's wife.

Probably not. Although God's law is timeless and unchanging, He does seem to shift on this one. In the book of Genesis, God rewards marriages between siblings—for example, the Patriarch Abraham and his half-sister Sarah. But later texts specifically prohibit a variety of incestuous relationships. (e.g. Lev. 18:7-8; Lev. 18:10; Lev. 20:11; Deut. 22:30; Deut. 27:20; Deut. 27:23)

14. A black woman and a white man, or vice versa.

Absolutely not. Scripture is full of verses prohibiting interracial marriage. (Gen. 28:6; Exod. 34:15-16; Num. 25:6-11; Deut. 7:1-3; Josh. 23:12-13; Judges 3:5-8; 1 Kings 11:1-2; Ezra 9:1-2, 12; Ezra 10:2-3, 10-11; Neh. 10:30; Neh. 13:25-27)

15. A gentile and a Jew.

No. If the Jew should appeal to the Anti-Defamation League, remind them of how dangerous such a union could be: "Thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly." (Deuteronomy 7:3-4)

16. A man and a pregnant woman who claims to be a virgin.

Yes. You may feel personal misgivings about a marriage that is based in deception from the get-go, but judge not that ye be not judged. One in 200 American women who give birth say they have never had sex. Rather plaguing this young couple with your corrosive doubt, you can encourage them with the biblical virgin birth story, while taking care to avoid any sex-negative implications that might harm their marriage.

17. *A man and a goat.*

Don't be ridiculous. Can a goat sign a marriage license?

18. *A man and a sex-trafficked teen he bought from a gangster.*

Yes, but not until Kentucky legalizes sex trafficking. Sexual slavery is quite common in the Bible, well regulated (For example, Judges 21), and frequently sanctioned or blessed by God. However, the New Testament teaches that we should pay our taxes and be law abiding, even under a secular/pagan government. (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

19. *Two zombies.*

Only if they are not Christians. Jesus states clearly that there will be no marriage for Christians in the afterlife (Matthew 22:24-28). Otherwise, marriage between the dead or undead is not addressed in the Bible, and you should default to whatever the Supreme Court may have ruled on this matter.

Note: Some liberal Christian license seekers may complain to you or your supervisor that these guidelines come mostly from the Old Testament, which has been replaced by a New Covenant under Jesus.

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5: 17-19).

Stand firm. If the Bible is the perfect Word of the living God, your detractors are up against the Almighty himself.

ANNIVERSARIES

RECEIVED FROM READERS
(Late Publication; Apologies]

“Thirty Years' War”

From: Michael Novick

To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 15L1: Some Of The Best
Date: Dec 10, 2017 10:17 PM

I note that Iraq has declared victory and an end to hostilities with ISIL, and the US commander of the “coalition forces” immediately declared they would remain in Iraq to continue to “assist” the government.

Since the US has basically been at war with Iraq since the George HW Bush admin, through Clinton, Bush II and Obama, and ongoing now under Trump, that's heading towards being a “Thirty Years' War”.

More than 35% of the US population has been born since that war started.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Have Some Reality; Then And Now

%	1918	2011
Capitalists	3.8	2.0
Managers	8.3	14.4
Working class	88.0	83.7
Income ratios (x)		
Cap to wc	11	21.8
Man to wc	3	3.8

Mar 14, 2018 by Michael Roberts, Michael Roberts Blog [Excerpt]

Recent empirical work on the US class division of incomes has been done by Professor Simon Mohun.

Mohun analysed US income tax returns and divided taxpayers into those who could live totally off income from capital (rent, interest and dividends) – the true capitalists, and those who had to work to make a living (wages).

He compared the picture in 1918 with now and found that only 3.8% of taxpayers could be considered capitalists, while 88% were workers in the Marxist definition. In 2011, only 2% were capitalists and near 84% were workers.

The 'managerial' class, ie workers who also had some income from capital (a middle class ?) had grown a little from 8% to 14%, but still not decisive.

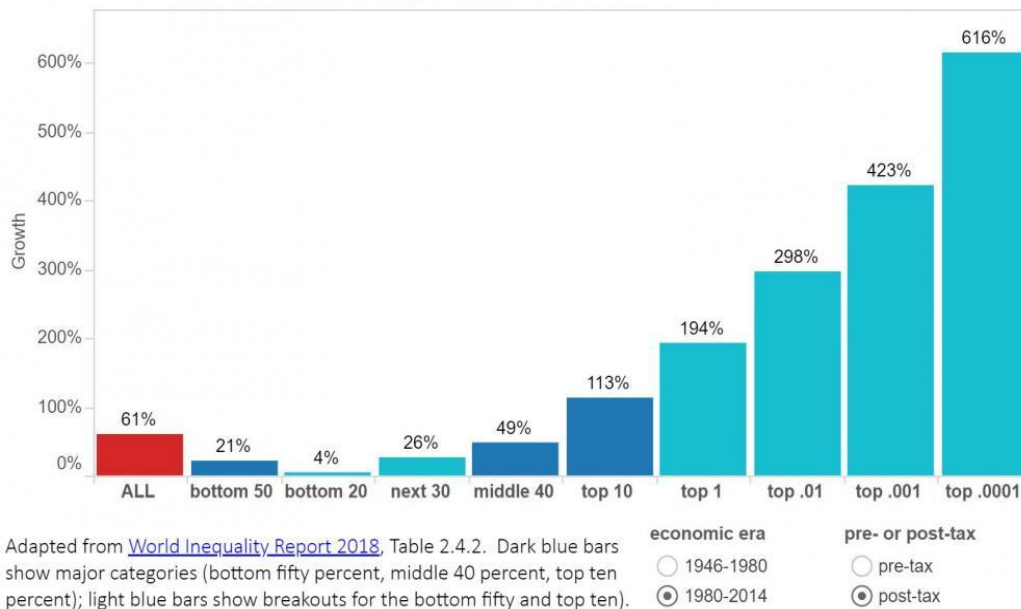
Capitalist incomes were 11 times higher on average than workers in 1918, but now they were 22 times larger.

The old slogan of the 1% and the 99% is almost accurate.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

Growing Apart

Income Growth By Selected Percentiles, 1980-2014



[March 14, 2018 Colin Gordon; Inequality.org: Excerpt]

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Armed Forces Attack Palestinian Cemetery; Destroy Tombstones



MARCH 13, 2018 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Israeli forces destroyed tombstones in a Palestinian cemetery in occupied East Jerusalem early Monday morning, according to local sources.

Husni al-Kilani, supervisor of the al-Mujahideen cemetery, told Ma'an that he received a call at 3 a.m. on Monday informing him that the lock on the main door of the cemetery had been broken, and that the cemetery had been raided.

According to al-Kilani, armed Israeli forces were deployed at the entrance of the cemetery, while what he claimed were officers dressed as civilians, raided the cemetery and destroyed several tombstones using a variety of hand tools.

Al-Kilani told Ma'an that the destroyed tombstones belonged to Muhammad al-Kaluti, Abdullah Abu Kharroub, Thaer Abu Ghazaleh, Bahaa Elayyan, Muhammad Abu Khalaf, Abed al-Muhsen Hassuneh and Muhammad Nimr, who were all killed by Israeli forces during a wave of violence across East Jerusalem and the West Bank that erupted in October 2015.

The tombstones were engraved about a year-and-a-half ago with a verse from the Quran and the sentence "graves of martyrs of the Intifada of Jerusalem," al-Kilani added.

Following the outbreak of violence, which was largely characterized by small-scale stabbing attacks on uniformed Israeli security personnel, many Palestinians referred to the time period as the Jerusalem Intifada.

Al-Kilani told Ma'an that out that Israeli forces had previously demanded that he remove the words "heroic martyr" that were engraved before the name of each of the deceased Palestinians, and threatened to destroy all the tombstones if he did not.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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