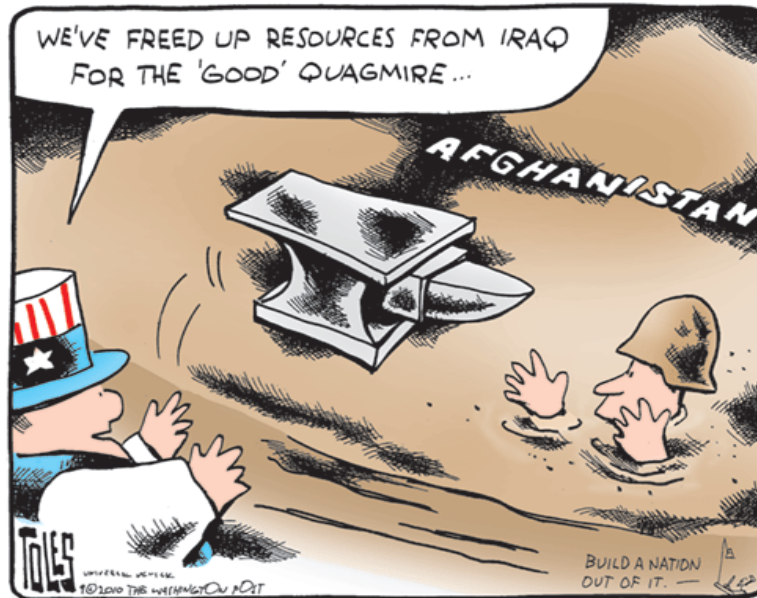


Military Resistance 816



**Here They Are:
Up Close And Personal:
The Thieves Pretending To Be A
Government That U.S. Troops Are
Dying To Protect;
“In Kabul, Politics Is All About Money,”
He Said. “It’s The Same Thing”**

September 7, 2010 By ADAM B. ELLICK and DEXTER FILKINS, The New York Times

[Recommended by Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization]

KABUL, Afghanistan — In early 2009, as President Hamid Karzai scanned the landscape for potential partners to run in his re-election bid, he was approached from an unusual corner: a bank.

The president's brother, Mahmoud, and another Afghan businessman, Haseen Fahim, were shareholders in Kabul Bank, one of the freewheeling financial institutions that had sprung up over the past decade since the Taliban's fall.

According to Afghan officials and businessmen in Kabul, Mahmoud Karzai and Mr. Fahim recommended Mr. Fahim's brother, Gen. Muhammad Qasim Fahim, to become the president's running mate.

President Karzai agreed, and in a stroke co-opted his ethnic Tajik opposition and placated an old political foe with a checkered record on human rights and corruption.

After the deal, Kabul Bank poured millions into Mr. Karzai's re-election campaign, Afghan officials said.

Mahmoud Karzai and Haseen Fahim, drawing on Kabul Bank's resources, were able to enrich their families aided by tens of millions of dollars in loans.

Now, Kabul Bank sits at the center of a financial crisis that has exposed the shadowy workings of the country's business and political elite, and how such connections shielded the bank from scrutiny.

The panic surrounding Kabul Bank is threatening to pull down the Afghan banking system and has drawn in the United States.

And it is driving a wedge between the Fahims and the Karzais, the two Afghan political families that benefited most. Now, the financial-familial arrangement is teetering on the edge of collapse.

"The brothers orchestrated the political deal to serve their business interests," said a prominent Afghan businessman in Kabul who, like virtually everyone interviewed for this article, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

"Fahim became vice president, and the bank financed Karzai's re-election.

"In Kabul, politics is all about money," he said. "It's the same thing."

In an interview, Mahmoud Karzai confirmed that he and Haseen Fahim tried to persuade President Karzai and General Fahim to reunite as running mates, but that there were many other Afghans who did as well.

Mahmoud Karzai said his backing of General Fahim had nothing to do with the fact that he and the future vice president's brother were business partners.

"Yes, I recommended him," Mr. Karzai said of General Fahim. "He is a sober man, and he is very brave."

Haseen Fahim, reached by telephone in Germany, where General Fahim is undergoing medical treatment, declined to comment for this article. **[He's recovering from blisters on his fingers produced by counting his millions. Besides, Germany is so much safer than Kabul, and when you got your loot, why hang around a sketchy nationhood? Let the U.S. troops do the dying. T]**

A spokesman for President Karzai did not answer requests for comment.

The troubles surrounding Kabul Bank, which Afghan and American officials have been struggling to contain, threaten to strain the Karzai-Fahim alliance. As President Karzai considers measures to support Kabul Bank, and possibly use public funds to bail it out, he must consider the possibility that doing so will open him to accusations of political favoritism.

“There is pressure on Vice President Fahim to bail out the bank because he does not want to lose his brother’s investments,” said an Afghan political leader in Kabul who opposes President Karzai. “If the president does this, it’s proof that his government is corrupt.”

Muhammad Qasim Fahim — also known as Marshal Fahim — was an unlikely candidate to become President Karzai’s running mate in 2009.

He was best known as one of the senior military commanders of Ahmed Shah Massoud, the legendary anti-Taliban commander who was killed by assassins ... in 2001.

With Mr. Massoud’s death, General Fahim stepped to the fore.

As the Taliban were being routed from Kabul in 2001, General Fahim was chosen by a gathering of Afghan leaders in Bonn, Germany, to be President Karzai’s vice president and defense minister. But the relationship was tense at best, Afghan political leaders in Kabul say, because the two men were so different. President Karzai, an educated ethnic Pashtun, had virtually no military experience. General Fahim was a Tajik warlord with little formal schooling.

The two men also had a past. In the early 1990s, during the tumultuous years of the Afghan civil war, Hamid Karzai was arrested and detained by the Afghan intelligence service — then being run by General Fahim. Mr. Karzai was released, but only after a rocket struck the jail where he was being held.

General Fahim is also suspected of involvement in serious human rights violations during the 1990s, according to several advocacy groups. In particular, he was a key commander during the Ashfar massacre in 1992 in Kabul, when an estimated 800 ethnic Hazaras were killed and raped.

In 2004, as Hamid Karzai prepared to run for president, he dropped General Fahim from his ticket, at the urging of Western allies troubled by his past. General Fahim was devastated by the move, Afghan political figures say.

Over the next several years, during President Karzai’s first term, Kabul Bank emerged as one of the country’s principal private financial institutions, with Haseen Fahim as a major shareholder.

Initially, Mahmoud Karzai, the president’s brother, had no stake in the bank.

That changed at least three years ago, when the bank's leaders, including Haseen Fahim, decided to lend Mahmoud Karzai at least \$5 million in order to enable him to take an ownership stake in the bank.

In the interview, Mr. Karzai said he thought there was nothing unusual about being lent such a large sum of money by a bank to buy shares in that bank.

He said it had nothing to do with the fact that his brother was the president.

"This is the case for everyone who is a partner in the bank," he said.

Mr. Karzai said that his 500 shares of bank stock — equaling about 7 percent of all the company shares — had paid no dividends to date. All of the bank's profits have stayed in the bank, he said.

Another Afghan political figure, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bank's directors gave Mahmoud Karzai shares in Kabul Bank to gain the protection of the president.

"In Afghanistan, you cannot become a successful business if you are not linked to the political caste," said the Afghan political leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The only way to get contracts and protection is to have support in the political system, and that is the reason why these two guys were able to get shares in Kabul Bank. They gave Mahmoud a loan of \$5 million. That was political survivalism. They knew they needed a Karzai."

Mahmoud Karzai has profited directly from his relationship with Kabul Bank. He and Haseen Fahim were part of a group of investors who borrowed \$14 million from Kabul Bank to start Afghan Cement.

In the interview, Mr. Karzai confirmed this transaction.

In 2007, Mr. Karzai took out a loan from the bank to buy a villa on the exclusive island resort of Palm Jumeira in the United Arab Emirates for \$1.9 million, according to a report in *The National*, a leading newspaper there. Eight months later, he sold the villa for \$2.7 million, for a profit of \$800,000.

In an interview, Mr. Karzai said he repaid the loan in full.

For his part, Haseen Fahim has taken out \$92 million in loans for various projects, Afghan banking officials say. The officials say those loans have not been repaid.

In the interview, Mr. Karzai said that neither he nor Mr. Fahim had any say in where Kabul Bank invested. Those decisions, he said, were made exclusively by the bank's two largest shareholders, Sherkhan Farnood and Khalilullah Frozi. According to Afghan bank regulators and American officials, the bank made risky investments, including ones in the Dubai real estate market that collapsed in 2008, as well as questionable loans that skirted collateral and deposit requirements. These troubles helped precipitate the recent collapse.

"We were silent partners," Mr. Karzai said.

Mr. Farnood declined to comment, and Mr. Frozi could not be reached for comment.

A former Afghan official, who knows both Mahmoud Karzai and Haseen Fahim, said the two men began pushing General Fahim as a vice-presidential choice in meetings with the president.

"Mahmoud brought the message from Karzai to Fahim, and a couple of meetings took place," the former Afghan official said. "In every meeting, Karzai said, 'It was a big mistake, and I want to make it up to you.' And these meetings were facilitated by the brothers."

The former Afghan official said both men regarded it as important for the bank to secure a political ally in the presidential palace.

"The issue is how to protect the business," the former Afghan official said. "And the two brothers cannot only have protection for their businesses, but they can flourish and they did flourish afterwards."

According to Afghan officials, Kabul Bank's dealings went astray sometime after that.

The bank recently posted losses of at least \$300 million, prompting officials at the Central Bank to remove Mr. Farnood and Mr. Frozi as its top executives. The assets of the bank's major shareholders, including Mahmoud Karzai's, have been frozen.

"From one side, Kabul Bank looked like a success story," the former Afghan official said. "But you see deep flaws in it that were covered because of the political allies at the top."

MORE:

Afghan Police Attack Customers Trying To Get Their Money Out Of Kabul Bank

08 September 2010 VOA News

Afghan security forces beat back crowds of anxious customers Wednesday as they attempted to withdraw their salaries from a branch of scandal-ridden Kabul Bank.

Armed police from the National Directorate of Security struggled to maintain control as hundreds of depositors tried to take out money from the only branch that remained open in the capital. **[The other 27 branches in Kabul are obviously out of money. "Bank is having 28 branches in Kabul and other 40 branches are in provinces.": (From Bank Of Kabul website)]**

Angry customers said they needed to withdraw money ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which concludes the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

MORE:

Hey, No Problems At Kabul Bank: [No, This Priceless Jewel Of A Letter Isn't From The Onion. It's Wildly Better Than The Onion!]

Comment: T

The page won't copy, but Mr. Fitrat at "Da Afghanistan Bank" in Kabul sends out an official notice, from the "Financial Supervision Department," rubber stamped with an official seal in purple, so the whole world will know that there are no problems at Kabul Bank.

"The media exaggerated the matter," Mr. Fitrat says, in his official capacity as "Governor Of Da Afghanistan Bank."

Find Mr. Fitrat and a scanned PDF of his letter at:

<http://www.kabulbank.af/html/LettertoCorrespondentBanks.pdf>

[Note: The date in the upper right on the scanned copy of the letter, 02.09.2010 is European style dating: it means Sept. 2, 2010.]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation "Servicemember" Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced

Sept. 8 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Marine Sgt. Floyd Holley Of Casselberry Dies In Afghanistan

August 30, 2010 By Susan Jacobson, Orlando Sentinel

Gunnery Sgt. Floyd Holley did one of the most dangerous jobs in the military.

A specialist in roadside explosives, Holley grew up in Casselberry and was planning to come home to the U.S. from Afghanistan for the birth of his first child — a daughter — in November.

On Sunday, however, Holley was killed during his third tour of duty in the Middle East, the Department of Defense announced this evening.

Holley, 36, died in Helmand province when he was hit by a blast from an improvised explosive device, the military said.

Holley was a linebacker for the Lyman High School football team in the early 1990s and also wrestled, said his childhood friend Shawn Whitaker.

Finnish And Swedish Forces Come Under Attack

09/08/10 YLE

Finnish and Swedish forces have come under attack in Afghanistan. The incident occurred Tuesday evening in the Sar-e Pul province, in the city of Sayadi. No one was injured.

The Finnish and Swedish troops became targets after intervening in a gun battle at a local police station. The troops were not hurt in the fighting.

Finnish troops previously came under fire on Monday this week.

Resistance Action

9.7.10 By KIMBERLY DOZIER, Associated Press Writer & 9.8.2010 By DUSAN STOJANOVIC Associated Press Writer & Xinhua

Tuesday, authorities confirmed the ambush killing of a district chief by suspected insurgents in the northern province of Baghlan on Monday afternoon. Nahrin district chief Rahmad Srór Joshan Pool was on his way home after a memorial service for slain anti-Soviet guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Massoud when rocket-propelled grenades hit his vehicle, setting it on fire, said provincial spokesman Mahmood Haqmal. Pool's bodyguard was also killed in the attack, and one militant died and two were wounded in the ensuing fire fight with police, Haqmal said.

According to initial reports, an Afghan Public Protection Program commander was captured by insurgents in the Maidan Shahr district of Wardak province yesterday. Afghan and coalition forces continue to search for the commander.

An assassination attempt Wednesday on the head of Zhari district in turbulent Kandahar province killed one of his bodyguards and wounded several others. Kareem Jan said Taliban insurgents ambushed his convoy as he was returning to Kandahar city, adding that it was the third attempt on his life since he assumed office in June.

A bomber strapped explosives in his body and blew himself up in Band Shahabuddin areas outside provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri, killing two local policemen and injuring two others," Ahmad Jawid Basharat told Xinhua. In the meantime, Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in talks with media via cell phone from undisclosed location claimed responsibility, saying three commanders of the local police force were killed in the blast.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

Soldiers Supposedly Allied To Karzai Regime "Hate Karzai" "They Sang A Song Celebrating The Taliban"

Sep 8 by Kyoko Hasegawa, AFP [Excerpts]

A Japanese freelance journalist freed after a five-month hostage ordeal in Afghanistan says he used Twitter to announce he was still alive under the noses of his captors, who did not understand English.

Kosuke Tsuneoka, 41, who had been missing in northern Afghanistan since April, was speaking in Tokyo following his hand-over Saturday to the Japanese embassy in Kabul.

Addressing the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on Tuesday, he said he was held hostage by a military faction called Hizb-i-Islami (Islamic Party), which is allied with the government of President Hamid Karzai.

Even though the area of his captivity in the Kunduz and Takhar provinces is meant to be controlled by government-allied forces, his captors and local residents "hated the commander and hated President Karzai," he said.

"The Taliban was extremely popular. Each of the soldiers had a mobile phone, but the compressed videos they kept in their handsets were all about the Taliban, and they sang a song celebrating the Taliban."

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



US soldiers of the 82nd Airborne wait for a helicopter to fly back home from Kandahar's province of Arghandab Valley on August 15. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)



A U.S. Marine waits for a shuttle bus at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck in Helmand, Afghanistan September 4, 2010. REUTERS/Erik de Castro



A U.S. marine near packages sent to marines from the United States at U.S. military Combat Outpost Taghaz in Helmand, Afghanistan September 6, 2010. REUTERS/Erik de Castro

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Claim Gains North Of Mogadishu

Sep 8, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 15 people have been killed, 30 others injured after fighting between Al-shabaab and Somali government backed by AU/AMINOM [U.S.-funded foreign occupation troops] erupted in Somali capital of Mogadishu on Monday Night, Radio Garowe Reports.

Al-shabaab spokesman Abdiaziz Ab-Muscab claimed the victory over the clashes and he told the Media that his group killed 10 government soldiers and seized the government bases North of Mogadishu.

“Last night we seized government/AMISOM bases, now we are willing to take over Shangaani region were government forces are controlling now,” Ab-Muscab said.

However, the spokesman of the ministry of the information of the Somali government denies the statement adding that the government troops are still controlling the bases.

Somali insurgent group, Al-Shabaab now control large swaths of the country over which the weak, Western-backed central government has limited control.

MILITARY NEWS

THE UXO COLLECTIVE & IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR PRESENT

THE SHOW



FREE CONCERT

ANTI-FLAG
STATE RADIO

FLOBOTS

TIM BARRY

OUTERNATIONAL

REBEL INC.

HIGH RISK

SUPPORT GI RESISTANCE!
THE WARS END ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH
11 AM, FREEDOM PLAZA, DC

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Army Spc. Matthew Hennigan, of Las Vegas, Friday July 2, 2010, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Hennigan died of wounds suffered in Tangi Valley, Afghanistan, when his unit was attacked with machine gun fire. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Legal Drug Use By Soldiers Skyrockets:

**“Cocktails Of Psychiatric Drugs Can,
In Some Cases, Cause Patients To
Get Worse, Doctors Say”**

**“Paxil And Zoloft, The Only Two
Approved For PTSD Come With
Warnings About The Potential For
Increased Risk For Suicide”**

Sep 7, 2010 By Andrew Tilghman and Brendan McGarry - Staff writers; Army Times
[Excerpts]

Use of psychiatric drugs among people ages 18 to 34 — mostly active-duty troops and their spouses — is rising at a significantly higher rate than other age groups in the military health care system, according to data newly released to Military Times.

Overall, the number of prescriptions filled for psychiatric medications rose 42 percent from 2005 to 2009 among Tricare beneficiaries in that age group, according to data provided by Tricare Management Activity in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

That compares to an increase of 24 percent among Tricare beneficiaries ages 45 to 64, mostly retirees.

For children 17 and younger, the increase was 18 percent.

Anti-depressants like Zoloft, Wellbutrin and Celexa account for slightly more than half of the prescriptions in this age group. But increasingly, young adults in the military and their spouses are turning to other types of psych drugs to treat their mental health problems.

Prescriptions for stimulants, including amphetamines and drugs to treat attention-deficit disorders, more than doubled. And claims for anti-psychotics like Seroquel and Abilify nearly doubled from 2005 to 2009 among beneficiaries ages 18 to 34, the Tricare data show. Seroquel is often used to treat nightmares and sleeping problems related to post-traumatic stress disorder.

The rise — and potential dangers — of psychiatric drug use is a growing concern for many military officials and doctors.

Navy Capt. Paul Hammer, director of the Naval Center for Combat and Operational Stress, raised concerns about prescription drugs when speaking to military doctors at a recent conference on treating traumatic brain injury.

“A lot of neurotransmitters” are involved when troops suffer from complex combinations of mild traumatic brain injury, PTSD, depression, anxiety and substance abuse issues, he said.

Cocktails of psychiatric drugs can, in some cases, cause patients to get worse, doctors say.

Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli on July 29 issued a report about the Army’s spike in suicides, noting that some psychiatric drugs — including Paxil and Zoloft, the only two approved for PTSD — come with warnings about the potential for increased risk for suicide.

Military death records obtained by Military Times show that at least 68 accidental drug deaths in 2009, up from 24 in 2001. In total, at least 430 troops have died from drug use — or, in a small number of cases, alcohol use — in the past decade.

Other trends from 2005 through 2009 revealed in the Tricare prescription data:

Drugs such as Klonopin and Xanax climbed 72 percent among beneficiaries 18 to 34. **[A previous Army Times article noted that both are “Rx For Death” when combined with prescribed opiates for pain. T]**

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.

-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

**“Resistance – The Instinct To Fight
Back – Never Dies”
“Class Conflict Is Inescapable,
Especially Since, Nowadays, It’s Pushed
Forward By Employers And Financiers –
And Obama’s The-Rich-Come-First
Financial Advisers”**

5 September 2010 By Clancy Sigal, Guardian News and Media

*Don't scab for the bosses
Don't listen to their lies
Poor folks ain't got a chance
Unless they organise.*

– Which Side Are You On?

By Florence Reece

If you're a Chicago native as I am, "class warfare" is a homegrown idea.

For decades in the late 19th and well into our last century, Chicago was for militant labour what Paris was for artists, a cool place to be. Unions were the city's backbone. "Hog Butcher for the World, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat... Stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders," in Carl Sandburg's famous description.

Other cities have icons like Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and Boston's Paul Revere statue, but Chicago has monuments to labour martyrs like the hanged Haymarket Riot frameup victims, the Irish socialist James Connolly, and the A Philip Randolph (African American) Pullman Porter museum.

(The police-sponsored statue honouring the slain cops at Haymarket Square had its head blown off so often by local anarchists that it's currently hidden inside police headquarters.)

Labor Day parades and picnics, once Chicago's most boisterous holiday, probably outnumbered the massive ethnic processions in a city created by its foreign-born, non-English speaking immigrants, the Poles, Germans and Balts, to name only a few.

Blood and muscle, riots and strikes against cruel employers – class struggle – are as natural to Chicago as the wind coming off Lake Michigan. For example, the posh, condo-filled lakefront boulevard of Sheridan Drive originally was designed so that federal strikebreaking troops could move swiftly into the city to shoot down Harvester tractor workers.

Class conflict was open and nakedly brutal.

That was then. Before the eight-hour day, New Deal labour laws, post-second world war social mobility, the end of child labour and the birth of the White House habit of banqueting union chiefs – "piccards", to the rank and file. So today, class warfare is a stale, unhip, fusty way to describe our American world. Right?

Certainly, Labor Day parades and picnics are almost a thing of the past, and union membership from a postwar high of almost 40% is now whittled to 12%. And even within this shrunken movement, jurisdictional fights, labour's civil wars, further reduce its strength. Union buttons, once ubiquitous, I hardly see any more.

But Labor Day may be a useful time to drag out of the attic a few old-time radical (even Marxist!) notions that, until fairly recently in our history, were common currency. Such as, Marx's "reserve army of the unemployed", as well as his ostensibly outdated "increasing immiseration of the proletariat" due to economic recession because workers cannot afford to buy the products of their labour.

Sound familiar?

If you're the son of union organisers, as I am – and actually born on a Labor Day – then it's perfectly clear that, especially since the 2007 meltdown, but dating back to President Reagan's 1981 breaking of the air traffic controllers' strike, the

capitalist class has, with government connivance, declared war on the working and middle classes.

This is not news to the (declining number of) blue collar workers on the production line, or to huge numbers of allegedly better-educated middle classes being systematically wiped out of existence.

These people feel the truth of class warfare in their guts but don't yet like the idea, which sounds so, well, foreign – but is as American as cherry pie since the first Philadelphia shoemakers struck in 1804 and were indicted (in a prosecution paid for by the bosses) as “irresponsible and dangerous”.

This Labor Day, when kids are getting ready for school and private end-of-summer backyard barbecues have replaced communal solidarity, long-term unemployment is at an 80-year high, not seen since the worst of the 1930s Great Depression.

At least 30 million Americans are jobless, or have been forced into part-time work or have given up looking for work altogether.

At the same time, there's an almost-Marxist downward pressure on employed workers' wages due to freezes and wage cuts even at companies with healthy profits.

Standard & Poor's 500 index has surged 34% compared to last year, and companies are sitting on \$1.8tn in cash. CEOs have figured out that, with improved productivity and fewer workers, they can post big profits while firing people, which spreads fear and panic among the rest of us too scared to squawk.

But resistance – the instinct to fight back – never dies.

The big confrontations are mostly in countries where our businesses have moved, like China and Latin America. Here in America, class warfare takes on new forms. The whole fight over illegal immigration is really about class conflict in the same way that Sacco and Vanzetti and 1930s sitdown strikers were demonised.

Class conflict is inescapable, especially since, nowadays, it's pushed forward by employers and financiers – and Obama's the-rich-come-first financial advisers.

A fact: after the second world war, there were thousands of strikes, large and small, lawful and wildcat, that just happened to coincide with rising wages and earnings. In 2008, there were 15 big strikes. This decline in militancy has coincided with a decline in the earning power of the American worker and middle class. Cause and effect? At least it's (barbecued) food for thought on this crazy-shopping Labor Day.

Comment On The Above: T

Last month major media reported use of worldwide manufacturing capacity is at about 55%, meaning about 45% sits idle, producing nothing.

Therefore, there is a crisis of overproduction, meaning that people are not able to buy more than what can be produced with 55% of existing worldwide productive capacity in operation.

Therefore, capital accumulates in huge hordes in banks and corporate treasuries, having no useful purpose, and finds speculative employment.

Why invest in production and hire those now unemployed in order to take a larger loss and throw more commodities onto a market that cannot purchase them?

There is no solution within the operation of capitalism, which is the production of commodities for sale, and conversion thereby into money-profit, to be used for yet more investment and ever-expanded production.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans wish to address the fundamental problem, instead merely blathering silly political nonsense that is irrelevant to the crisis.

One party wishes to provide more capital at low cost, calling it “stimulus,” when nobody wants to use it to build more productive capacity, for the reasons described above.

The other party merely wishes to load down their wealthy friends with even more wealth, stupidly raving that doing so will increase business investment, when, as noted, there is no demand for it.

Capitalism, once a vital, revolutionary force for human liberation and wellbeing, as against the old feudal rule of Kings and Nobles, no longer offers progress, only more misery and more crises. It has ceased to serve any useful purpose.

It’s time for the overwhelming majority of the human race who are not capitalists to organize in order to establish our own form of government, taking possession of the earth’s resources and productive capacity, so that production may be directed to human needs, at 100% of capacity.

Anything less is really silly, stupid, and futile.

MORE:

“Then Begins The Epoch Of Social Revolution”

“At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come in conflict with the existing relations of production, or – what is but a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within which they have been at work hitherto.

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

“Then begins an epoch of social revolution.”

-- K. Marx and F. Engels, Selected Works, Vol. I

MORE:

“Requirements To Become The Liberating Class Par Excellence”

“No class in civil society can play this part unless it calls forth a phase of enthusiasm in its own ranks and those of the masses: a phase when it fraternizes and intermingles with society in general, is identified with society, is felt and recognized to be the universal representative of society, and when its own demands and rights are really the demands and rights of society itself, and it is in truth the social head and the social heart.

“Only in the name of society and its rights in general can a particular class vindicate its general domination.

“The position of liberator cannot be taken by storm, simply through revolutionary energy and intellectual self-confidence.

“If the emancipation of a particular class is to be identified with the revolution of a people, if one social class is to be treated as the whole social order, then, on the other hand, all the deficiencies of society must be concentrated in another class; a definite class must be the universal stumbling-block, the embodiment of universal fetters ...

“If one class is to be the liberating class par excellence, then another class must contrariwise be the obvious subjugator.

“The general negative significance of the French aristocracy and clergy determined the general positive significance of the bourgeoisie, the class immediately confronting and opposing them.”

-- Karl Marx; Contribution to the Critique of the Hegelian Philosophy of Right (Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher, 1844).

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

September 9, 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.

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



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**1.2 Million Go On Strike In France
Against Raising The Retirement
Age:
“Work Is A Long, Slow Road To
Death”**

“Schools, Banks And Factories Closed And All Public Transport Ground To A Standstill”



A French worker reminds French rulers of their fate in the revolution of 1789 during a strikers' march in Paris

September 8, 2010 By Paola Totaro in Paris, Fairfax Media [Excerpts]

French trade unions have claimed the biggest national demonstration in a decade after more than a million people took to the streets in protest against President Nicolas Sarkozy's plans to raise the retirement age to 62.

Police estimated that close to 1.2 million people attended rallies across the nation while unions claimed that close to three million joined in the protests.

A police spokesman in Paris said that 250 busloads of workers arrived in the capital alone, joining more than 700,000 who marched from Place de La Republique throughout the afternoon.

Teachers and nurses, airline staff, bus drivers, factory workers and bank clerks united in fury against Nicolas Sarkozy's administration, nicknamed "bling bling" for its perceived bias towards the moneyed elite.

"You won't see lawyers or bankers or politicians marching," said David, a 30-year-old taxi driver.

Schools, banks and factories closed and all public transport ground to a standstill with more than half the scheduled flights in and out of Paris grounded for 24 hours until 8pm last night.

Bernard Thibault, leader of France's biggest umbrella labour organisation, the CGT, said that if the Government did not listen to the workers' voices, "no form of action would be excluded in future".

The unions' strategically timed show of muscle was designed to coincide with the introduction of the controversial pensions bill to the French National Assembly or lower house.

Thousands lined the streets, chanting and singing in what to the outsider looked more like a giant party than a political rally. Enormous balloons attached to trucks heralded marchers and their unions and professions while music and loudspeakers demanded that reforms be abandoned.

President Sarkozy's face – in cartoon, rubber blow ups and defaced posters – decorated placards as workers demanded liberty, equality and retirement before 62.

"Work is a long, slow road to death," said one placard.

The demonstrations come as President Sarkozy battles falling approval ratings and the minister charged with pensions reform, Eric Woerth, faces continuing scrutiny over his and his financial adviser wife's links with the financial affairs of the L'Oreal heiress, Lilliane Bettancourt.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

Massive Street Fighting Wins One For Our Side: Frightened Government Of Mozambique Forced To Cancel Food, Water And Electricity Price Increases For Working Class And Poor; Some Prices Cut, And Pay Freeze For Government Leaders Also Announced



Maputo residents street fighting against increases in the price of bread

September 7, 2010 Links.org.au

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings mailing list

Price rises which triggered the riots last week have been reversed, the government announced September 7 after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Wheat will be subsidised to bring bread prices back to what they were before the demonstration that began on September 1.

Prices had gone up by 18% to 33%. Small loaves rose from 4.5 to 5.5 meticaís (12 US cents to 15¢) and rolls from 1.5 to 2 meticaís (4¢ to 6¢).

The government also reversed the electricity and water prices rises on “social tariffs” for small consumers.

Electricity consumers who use less than 100 kilowatt-hours a month will not pay more.

For those who use between 100 and 300 kilowatt-hours a month, the price increase is reduced from 13.4% to 7%. Richer consumers, who used more than 300 kilowatt-hours a month, will pay the full increase.

Households that use less than five cubic metres of water a month will continue to pay 150 meticaïs a month.

Prices for urban electricity and water connections have also been cut.

The price of low grade rice will be cut by 7.5% by removing an import duty.

The surtax on imported sugar will be also temporarily removed.

Subsidies for urban passenger transport will be “maintained and guaranteed”.

The government also announced austerity measures, including a freeze on wages and allowances of all senior state figures (who include members of the government itself) and all members of the boards of public companies and companies where the state is the major shareholder.

These wages must be paid in meticaïs, and not in foreign currency.

The government also promises to rationalise its own expenditure on air travel (particularly in business class), fuel, lubricants and communications.



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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