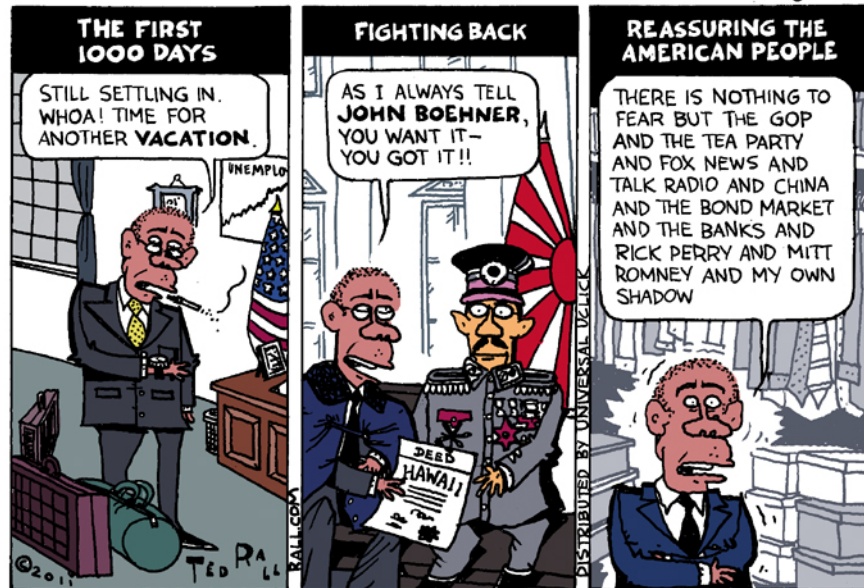


Military Resistance 914

Franklin D. Obama: Highlights of His Presidency



“Minutes After The American General Left, The Afghan Soldier— Who Hadn’t Been Fed By The Hospital In Weeks— Threw Out His Medal”

**“Maggots Fed Off Patients’
Open Wounds”**

**“Several Patients Died Of Simple
Infections Because Their
Bandages Would Go Unchanged
For Weeks”**

**“Doctors And Nurses Demanded
Bribes For Food And The Most Basic
Of Care”**

**U.S. Commanders Knew Of Graft And
Deadly Neglect: “Most Salaries And
Supplies Are Paid For By American
Taxpayers”**



Dawood National Military Hospital. Wall Street Journal



A wounded soldier starving to death at Dawood National Military Hospital. Photo: U.S. Military Officials

SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 By MARIA ABI-HABIB, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

KABUL—American officers deployed as mentors in Afghanistan’s main military hospital discovered a shocking secret last year: Injured soldiers were routinely dying of simple infections and even starving to death as some corrupt doctors and nurses demanded bribes for food and the most basic of care.

The discovery, which hasn’t previously been reported, added new details to longstanding evidence of gross mismanagement at Dawood National Military Hospital, where most salaries and supplies are paid for by American taxpayers.

Yet the patient neglect continued for months after U.S. officials discovered it, as Afghan officials rebuffed American pressure to take action, multiple documents and testimonies viewed by The Wall Street Journal show.

The way senior Afghan officials tolerated such deadly graft shows just how deeply rooted corruption has become in President Hamid Karzai’s administration, as well as the limits of Washington’s ability to rein it in.

Afghan policeman Ali Noor Hazrat had been admitted to Dawood hospital after being injured in a Taliban rocket attack on a police convoy last fall.

Initially patched up by American doctors, he spent his last days starving there while his brother Sher sold off what little land the poor farming family had in order to bribe nurses and doctors for care and food, the brother said in an interview.

In photos, Ali’s flesh hangs off his frail, boney frame, his eyes heavy with pain.

He died on Dec. 27, Afghan government documents show.

“Malnourished/starvation,” said an internal coalition slide showing Mr. Hazrat, dated Nov. 5, prepared by American mentors at the hospital to document abuse cases.

“Willful neglect,” another bullet point said.

Sher Hazrat is determined that none of his relatives in the eastern Nangarhar province will consider joining Afghan security forces after what happened at Dawood.

“If there’s no service for us,” he says, “why should we serve our country?”

Dawood is the premier hospital of the Afghan security forces, akin to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the U.S.

As early as 2006, American officers noted evidence of severe dysfunction at the hospital, including patients who appeared to be malnourished, a U.S. military mentor who served there at the time says.

He adds that the findings were reported to the Afghan Ministry of Defense, but no action was taken to improve conditions.

In 2008, doctors complained to hospital administrators that patients were being given defective morphine, according to internal documents produced by the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, or NTM-A.

Later testing revealed the presence of counterfeit morphine, suggesting that U.S.-procured medicine had been diverted.

The NTM-A command, headed since November 2009 by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, is spending \$11.6 billion this year alone, more than 90% of it funded by U.S. taxpayers, on building up the Afghan army and police.

The biggest problem, American officials dealing with the hospital concluded by the middle of last year, was the Afghan army’s politically connected surgeon general, Gen. Ahmed Zia Yaftali.

As early as May 2010, U.S. officials say they confronted Gen. Yaftali about missing pharmaceuticals at the hospital and asked him to investigate.

They ultimately came to suspect that he himself was profiting from graft, according to mentors and senior NTM-A commanders.

In an email to Gen. Caldwell dated August 25, 2010, U.S. Army Col. Gerald Carozza, a senior legal mentor at the Afghan defense ministry, complained that corruption was “deep and wide” within the senior leadership of the Afghan defense ministry and army and urged him to pressure the defense minister to allow various internal investigations to proceed.

He said in the email that the Afghan army chief of staff's legal team was developing a case against Gen. Yaftali involving "a \$20 million (US) theft from (the defense ministry) and pilfering \$153 million (US) worth of medical supplies."

In his reply to Col. Carozza, Gen. Caldwell argued that the Afghan government needed to take responsibility for combatting corruption in the military. "We're not going to be able to solve this for them. Keep encouraging them to do the right thing," he wrote.

"The Afghan Soldier—Who Hadn't Been Fed By The Hospital In Weeks—Threw Out His Medal"

In a Sept. 14 visit to the hospital to show America's appreciation to wounded Afghan soldiers, Gen. Caldwell was accompanied by the Afghan army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Sher Mohammed Karimi. There, the two stopped by the bed of an emaciated Afghan soldier. Gen. Caldwell thanked him for his service and let Gen. Karimi pin a U.S. Army achievement medal to the Afghan soldier's bedsheets.

Gen. Caldwell said he was emotionally moved when he saw the patient's condition, but wasn't yet aware that neglect at the hospital was systemic.

Minutes after the American general left, the Afghan soldier—who hadn't been fed by the hospital in weeks—threw out his medal, people present in the hospital say.

A beefed-up group of at least two dozen U.S. military mentors had arrived at the hospital in August 2010 as part of the "surge" of American forces in Afghanistan. They began to deploy throughout the wards, replacing an earlier group that had less direct contact with patients.

By the following month, the new mentors began to document what they describe as horrific conditions.

Maggots fed off patients' open wounds. Nurses and doctors refused to help amputees to the bathroom, and they soiled their beds for days.

Several patients died of simple infections because their bandages would go unchanged for weeks, while at least four died of complications related to malnourishment, according to mentors and internal documents.

In late September, Gen. Karimi was invited to attend an Afghan shura, a traditional meeting, at the hospital with Canadian Brigadier Gen. David Neasmith, the assistant commander for army development at the NTM-A. NATO officials pressed Gen. Karimi to address the problem of staff absenteeism and missing medicine, a U.S. mentor who was present says.

But Afghan hospital and army officials who attended the meeting steered the conversation away from such issues and asked for raises and promotions, the mentor says.

“Emaciated Patients And Bedsores A Foot Long And So Deep That Bones Protruded From Them”

As weeks passed without progress, the mentors say they assembled more evidence of neglect, including detailed medical charts and photos showing emaciated patients and bedsores a foot long and so deep that bones protruded from them.

In an Oct. 4 document emailed by the mentors to Gen. Neasmith, they complained about the hospital’s intensive-care unit, among other issues: “The most dynamic and ill affected is the ICU, whereby favoritism, ambivalence, incompetence coupled with understaffing lead to the untimely deaths of patients daily, occasionally several times per day.”

That month, Gen. Caldwell visited the Afghan defense minister, Gen. Abdulrahim Wardak, and persuaded him to launch a new investigation into Gen. Yaftali, according to two U.S. officers.

Gen. Wardak and the Afghan defense ministry spokesman didn’t reply to repeated requests for comment for this article except to say that Gen. Yaftali is still under investigation.

Gen. Wardak warned that prosecuting Gen. Yaftali would be difficult, saying the surgeon general was too politically connected, according to U.S. officials involved in the issue.

Gen. Yaftali fought against the Taliban in the 1990s alongside other ethnic Tajiks who have since become prominent government figures.

“Soldiers Were Going To The Operating Table Without Morphine Or Even Sedatives. When One Patient Demanded Medicine, An Orderly Punched Him In The Face”

In late October, with the Afghan investigation going nowhere and Gen. Yaftali keeping his job, Col. Carozza, NTM-A Inspector General Army Col. Mark Fassel and U.S. Air Force Col. Schuyler Geller, the chief mentor to the hospital, filed a request that the U.S. Defense Department inspector general assist in investigating the hospital.

The coalition declined to make Col. Geller available for an in-person interview. The Canadian military declined to make available Gen. Neasmith, who has since returned to Canada.

According to a November 2010 NTM-A memo titled “Leadership Failure,” prepared to assist with the Defense Department investigation, soldiers were going to the operating table without morphine or even sedatives.

When one patient demanded medicine, an orderly punched him in the face.

“In addition,” the memo went on, “there have been incidents of nurses and orderlies demanding payment for patient treatment and care,” including one in which “a patient was left unattended after soiling his bed because the patient or his family could not pay to have the bed cleaned.”

A separate presentation, prepared the same month, documented a “loss of 50 pounds” for a policeman named Tajudin after 40 days in the hospital, accompanied by photos showing the patient’s wasted frame.

That month, the mentors prepared a patient bill of rights to enforce medical standards at the hospital, informing patients that all medical care should be free and ordering the staff to perform routine checkups.

Within days of the bill’s being printed and pasted on hospital walls in December, the Afghan staff tore the posters down, according to U.S. officials.

Gen. Caldwell visited the hospital again in December.

When he inquired about the soldier to whom he’d awarded a medal, he was shown a healthier-looking patient, according to a person present.

On his way out, a tearful American captain told the general that this was an impostor. The real Afghan war hero had died.

By mid-December, Gen. Yaftali, the Afghan army’s surgeon-general, was moved out of his job without explanation — after the coalition’s commander at the time, Gen. David Petraeus, personally raised the problems at the hospital during a meeting with President Karzai, people familiar with the matter said.

There is no public word about where the investigation into Gen. Yaftali stands, and one U.S. official said record-keeping at the hospital was so poor it may be difficult to sort out how much was actually stolen.

Gen. Yaftali, who still receives a monthly army salary heavily subsidized by U.S. taxpayers, said in an interview he expects to be promoted to three-star general.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Andrew Harvell - “Heart of a Lion”

Aug 11, 2011 By Kim Baldonado, NBCLosAngeles

Flag after flag after flag waves from front lawns and houses along Kildee Street in Long Beach.

It is where 26 year old Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Harvell grew up.

Harvell was one of thirty service members killed last weekend when a U.S. Military helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon confirmed that 30 service members were killed, including 17 Navy Seals, 5 Naval Special Warfare personnel, three Air Force Special Operations personnel and 5 members of the Army helicopter crew.

Harvell's neighbors wanted to show their respects. One neighbor sent a letter to the others stating, "This is just a small gesture of kindness for such a painful grieving period."

Harvell graduated from Miliken High School in Long Beach where the news of his death shocked his former football coach, Kirk Diego. Diego coached Harvell during his senior year and admired his tenacity.

"The terrier type he brought every single day - and he had to because he was too small, too slow, but not when you took into account his heart," Diego said.

Diego said Harvell had the heart of a lion. A quality he believes suited him well in the 24th Special Tactics Squadron. Diego was not surprised at Harvell's decision to join the military. "He was always a guy who gave every ounce of whatever he had," said Diego.

Harvell is the 2nd member of his football team to make the ultimate sacrifice. Joshua Whitaker - #51 - went on to become part of the elite special forces unit known as the Green Berets and was killed in Afghanistan in 2007.

Harvell had moved to North Carolina, where his unit was based. He lived there with his wife, and two small children.

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

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

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

WELCOME TO THE LONELY SIDE OF HELL: ALL HOME NOW!



River Darya, the Kunar valley and the town of Assadabad are seen from a Canadian Molson contractor helicopter in eastern Afghanistan province of Kunar August 20, 2011. REUTERS/Nikola Solic



The sun sets as a U.S. soldier with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company of the 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, pulls guard duty atop Observation Point Coleman Sept. 2, 2011, in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...

LIBYA WAR REPORTS

**The Despicable Qaddafi-CIA-Bush Torture Partnership:
“The Central Intelligence Agency
And Libyan Intelligence Services
Developed Such A Tight
Relationship During The George
W. Bush Administration That The
U.S. Shipped Terror Suspects To
Libya For Interrogation”
“We Are Eager To Work With You In
The Questioning Of The Terrorist We
Recently Rendered To Your Country”
“Thank You Very Much For Your Speedy
Assistance”**

Comment: T

So much for the trash churned out lately portraying the Qaddafi regime as anything less than a vile, bloody dictatorship run by a pack of greedy, corrupt scum cheerfully carrying out the wishes of the CIA.

It appears that some dimwits believe that to oppose an attack on an independent nation by an Imperial power or powers, it is necessary to show the government of that nation is good.

Wrong. And self-defeating.

Every nation has the right to self-determination, independence and armed resistance to Imperial attack. That includes Libya.

Opposition to Imperial attack goes across the board, regardless of the nature of the regime, and that includes Libya.

Leaving aside the question of self-determination, it is more difficult for the population of a nation to overthrow the double tyranny of a local government backed by a foreign army of occupation, than it is to overthrow their own ruling class standing alone.

And every defeat of an Imperial attack on an independent country is a victory for those all over the world who gain nothing but misery and death from Imperial war, above all the working classes of every nation.

Those who seek to portray the bloody tyrant of Libya as some kind of progressive hero to be defended merely give aid and comfort to Imperial governments everywhere by their disgusting apology for local ruling class oppression and tyranny.

Other political tendencies have brought honor to us all by their steadfast unconditional opposition to the U.S., British and French governments' Imperial war on Libya, while at the same time supporting movements from below inside Libya to put the hideous Qaddafi regime to death.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 By SIOBHAN GORMAN in Washington and CHARLES LEVINSON and MARGARET COKER in Tripoli, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The Central Intelligence Agency and Libyan intelligence services developed such a tight relationship during the George W. Bush administration that the U.S. shipped terror suspects to Libya for interrogation and suggested the questions they should be asked, according to documents found in Libya's External Security agency headquarters.

The relationship was close enough that the CIA moved to establish "a permanent presence" in Libya in 2004, according to a note from Stephen Kappes, at the time the No. 2 in the CIA's clandestine service, to Libya's then-intelligence chief, Moussa Koussa.

The files provide an extraordinary window into the highly secretive and controversial practice of rendition, whereby the agency would send detainees to other countries for interrogation, including ones known for harsh treatment of detainees.

The program was ramped up for terror detainees after the Sept. 11 attacks.

When taking over the CIA at the outset of the Obama administration, then-director Leon Panetta said the agency would continue to use rendition, but would seek assurances that the detainee wouldn't be tortured—which has been the standing U.S. policy.

“We are eager to work with you in the questioning of the terrorist we recently rendered to your country,” Mr. Kappes wrote in the memo, adding that he would like to send two more officers to Libya to question a suspect directly.

The documents show the logistical hurdles the rendition program experienced, such as Hong Kong’s refusal to allow a Libyan aircraft to land, the requirements to show valid insurance documents, and certifications of airworthiness.

In some of the documents, the CIA provided Libyan intelligence with a long list of questions it wanted to have posed to one suspect in Tripoli’s custody, a Libyan-Canadian who Western intelligence agencies accused of being a leader of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a now-defunct group the U.S. suspected of links to al Qaeda.

The Americans wanted to know, among other things, whether the man had relationships with named individuals in Cincinnati, Seattle and Los Angeles or with companies across the U.S. from a Colorado auto-sales firm to a global shipping company in California.

Many of the questions U.S. intelligence officials wanted posed to the suspect were about other alleged members of the organization.

In one memo with the subject line “ALLEGED TERRORIST CELL WITHIN LIBYA PLANNING FOR ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS,” the CIA asked for help tracking down a suspected “operational cell” in Libya suspected of being in contact with al Qaeda operatives in Iraq.

“Thank you very much for your speedy assistance,” the memo concluded.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

As Foreign Occupation Troops Kill A Malaysian Reporter, U.S.-Backed Government Soldiers Busy Killing Each Other: “Soldiers At The Checkpoints Which They Were Taking Illegal Money From Civilian Buses”

Sept. 3rd, 2011 Mogadishu Mareeg

The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia has sent heartfelt condolences to the brotherly Government and People of Malaysia regarding the shocking news of the death of the Malaysian news cameraman in an accidental shooting.

The incident which resulted in the death of Mr. Moramfaizul Bin Mohamed, who was a member of a group of reporters covering the humanitarian work of Putera 1 Malaysian Club engaged in helping the displaced victims of the drought, in a part of Mogadishu.

This tragedy took place when the convoy of cars carrying the Malaysian aid workers met a convoy from the Ugandan contingent of AMISOM [the U.S. government backed foreign occupation troops] which then opened fire.

Prime Minister on the phone and sent condolences to the family of the deceased and to all the Malaysian people. "We are also praying for the speedy recovery of the injured journalist Mr. Aji Saregar Mazlan" The body of the deceased has been flown back to Malaysia today for burial.

At least 6 people were killed and 10 others wounded after Somali national forces who wanted to remove checkpoints clashed with soldiers against the removal of roadblocks in the capital Mogadishu this morning, reports said.

The clash occurred in Wadajir district in the capital Mogadishu between forces from national security agency and other government soldiers at the checkpoints which they were taking illegal money from civilian buses working in the city killing 6 and injuring 10 others, reports said.

National security forces wanted to remove checkpoints lying in Bula-hubey, El-kalow and Danwadagta villages in Wadajir district of the capital Mogadishu, armed militias among T.F.G forces resisted them with fires.

The operation was carried out successfully as though AU forces also interfered the situation and Wadajir district commissioner also accused of the operation done by Somali national security forces calling them to robbers.

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MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jesse D. Pittman arrives at Rosecrans National Cemetery Aug. 30, 2011, in San Diego. Pittman was assigned to the Navy SEAL team whose Chinook helicopter was shot down Aug. 6 by a rocket-propelled grenade in what has become the deadliest single loss for U.S. forces in the decade-long war in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

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

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

CORRECTIONS: EMAIL FAILURE:

**THE FOLLOWING TWO ARTICLES
WERE FROM A PREVIOUS ISSUE
THAT MANY READERS MISSED
BECAUSE OF EMAIL SERVICE
FAILURE:**

[#1]

**The U.K. Riots And The Coming
Global Class War:**

Americas Leading Pro-Capitalist Journal Warns That “Class Rage Isn’t Unique To England; In Fact, It Represents Part Of A Growing Global Class Chasm That Threatens To Undermine Capitalism Itself” “It’s Hard To See How Class Resentment In This Country Can Do Anything But Grow”

Chinese working and middle classes confront a hegemonic ruling class consisting of public officials and wealthy capitalists.

That this takes place under the aegis of a supposedly “Marxist-Leninist regime” is both ironic and obscene.

8/15/2011 By Joel Kotkin, Contributor, Forbes [Excerpts]

The riots that hit London and other English cities last week have the potential to spread beyond the British Isles.

Class rage isn’t unique to England; in fact, it represents part of a growing global class chasm that threatens to undermine capitalism itself.

The hardening of class divisions has been building for a generation, first in the West but increasingly in fast-developing countries such as China.

The growing chasm between the classes has its roots in globalization, which has taken jobs from blue-collar and now even white-collar employees; technology, which has allowed the fleetest and richest companies and individuals to shift operations at rapid speed to any locale; and the secularization of society, which has undermined the traditional values about work and family that have underpinned grassroots capitalism from its very origins.

All these factors can be seen in the British riots.

Race and police relations played a role, but the rioters included far more than minorities or gangsters.

As British historian James Heartfield has suggested, the rioters reflected a broader breakdown in “the British social system,” particularly in “the system of work and reward.”

In the earlier decades of the 20th century working class youths could look forward to jobs in Britain’s vibrant industrial economy and, later, in the growing public sector largely financed by both the earnings of the City of London and credit.

Today the industrial sector has shrunk beyond recognition. The global financial crisis has undermined credit and the government’s ability to pay for the welfare state.

With meaningful and worthwhile work harder to come by — particularly in the private sector — the prospects for success among Britain working classes have been reduced to largely fantastical careers in entertainment, sport or all too often crime.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister David Cameron’s supporters in the City of London may have benefited from financial bailouts arranged by the Bank of England, but opportunities for even modest social uplift for most other people have faded.

What’s the lesson to be drawn? The ideologues don’t seem to have the answers.

A crackdown on criminals — the favored response of the British right — is necessary but does not address the fundamental problems of joblessness and devalued work.

There are now at least 1 million unemployed young people in the U.K., more than at any time in a generation, while child poverty in inner London, even during the regime of former Mayor “red Ken” Livingstone last decade, stood at 50% and may well be worse now.

This fundamental class issue is not only present in Britain.

There have been numerous outbreaks of street violence across Europe, including in France and Greece.

One can expect more in countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal, which will now have to impose the same sort of austerity measures applied by the Cameron government in London.

And how about the United States?

Many of the same forces are at play here.

Teen unemployment currently exceeds 20%; in the nation’s capital it stands at over 50%.

Particularly vulnerable are expensive cities such as Los Angeles and New York, which have become increasingly bifurcated between rich and poor. Cutbacks in social programs, however necessary, could make things worse, both for the middle class minorities who run such efforts as well as their poor charges.

Still, with over 14 million unemployed nationwide, prospects are not necessarily great for white working- and middle-class Americans.

This pain is broadly felt, particularly by younger workers. According to a Pew Research survey, almost 2 in 5 Americans aged 18 to 19 are unemployed or out the workforce, the highest percentage in three decades.

Diminished prospects — what many pundits praise as the “new normal” — now confront a vast proportion of the population.

One indication: The expectation of earning more money next year has fallen to the lowest level in 25 years. Wages have been falling not only for non-college graduates but for those with four-year degree as well. Over 43% of non-college-educated whites complain they are downwardly mobile.

Given this, it's hard to see how class resentment in this country can do anything but grow in the years.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke claimed as early as 2007 that he was worried about growing inequality in this country, but his Wall Street and corporate-friendly policies have failed to improve the grassroots economy.

The prospects for a widening class conflict are clear even in China, where social inequality is now among the world's worst .

Not surprisingly, one survey conducted the Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences found that 96% of respondents “resent the rich.”

Chinese working and middle classes confront a hegemonic ruling class consisting of public officials and wealthy capitalists.

That this takes place under the aegis of a supposedly “Marxist-Leninist regime” is both ironic and obscene.

This expanding class war creates more intense political conflicts.

On the right the Tea Party — as well as rising grassroots European protest parties in such unlikely locales as Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands — grows in large part out of the conviction that the power structure, corporate and government, work together to screw the broad middle class.

Left-wing militancy also has a class twist, with progressives increasingly alienated by the gentry politics of the Obama Administration.

Many conservatives here, as well as abroad, reject the huge role of class.

To them, wealth and poverty still reflect levels of virtue — and societal barriers to upward mobility, just a mild inhibitor.

But modern society cannot run according to the individualist credo of Ayn Rand; economic systems, to be credible and socially sustainable, must deliver results to the vast majority of citizens.

If capitalism cannot do that expect more outbreaks of violence and greater levels of political alienation — not only in Britain but across most of the world’s leading countries, including the U.S.

[#2]
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.

GOT AN OPINION?

Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 5, 1917:* *The Palmer Raids Begin* **16,000 ARRESTED IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST RADICALS AND LEFT- WING ORGANIZATIONS*



Arrested for “obstructing World War I: “Big Bill” Haywood

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

In 48 coordinated raids across the country, later known as the Palmer Raids, federal agents seized records, destroyed equipment and books, and arrested hundreds of activists involved with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known fondly as the Wobblies.

Among the arrested was William D. “Big Bill” Haywood, a leader of the IWW, for the “crimes of labor” and “obstructing World War I.”

Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

In 1919 Woodrow Wilson appointed A. Mitchell Palmer as his attorney general.

Worried by the revolution that had taken place in Russia, Palmer became convinced that Communist agents were planning to overthrow the American government. His view was reinforced by the discovery of thirty-eight bombs sent to leading politicians and the Italian anarchist who blew himself up outside Palmer’s Washington home.

Palmer recruited John Edgar Hoover as his special assistant and together they used the Espionage Act (1917) and the Sedition Act (1918) to launch a campaign against radicals and left-wing organizations.

A. Mitchell Palmer claimed that Communist agents from Russia were planning to overthrow the American government.

On 7th November, 1919, the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested.

Palmer and Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects were held without trial for a long time.

The vast majority were eventually released but Emma Goldman and 247 other people, were deported to Russia.

On 2nd January, 1920, another 6,000 were arrested and held without trial.

These raids took place in several cities and became known as the Palmer Raids.

A. Mitchell Palmer and John Edgar Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects, many of them members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), continued to be held without trial.

When Palmer announced that the communist revolution was likely to take place on 1st May, mass panic took place. In New York, five elected Socialists were expelled from the legislature.

When the May revolution failed to materialize, attitudes towards Palmer began to change and he was criticised for disregarding people’s basic civil liberties.

Some of his opponents claimed that Palmer had devised this Red Scare to help him become the Democratic presidential candidate in 1920.

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CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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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 and all other forms of injustice inside the armed forces.

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

We hope that you'll build a network of active duty organizers.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



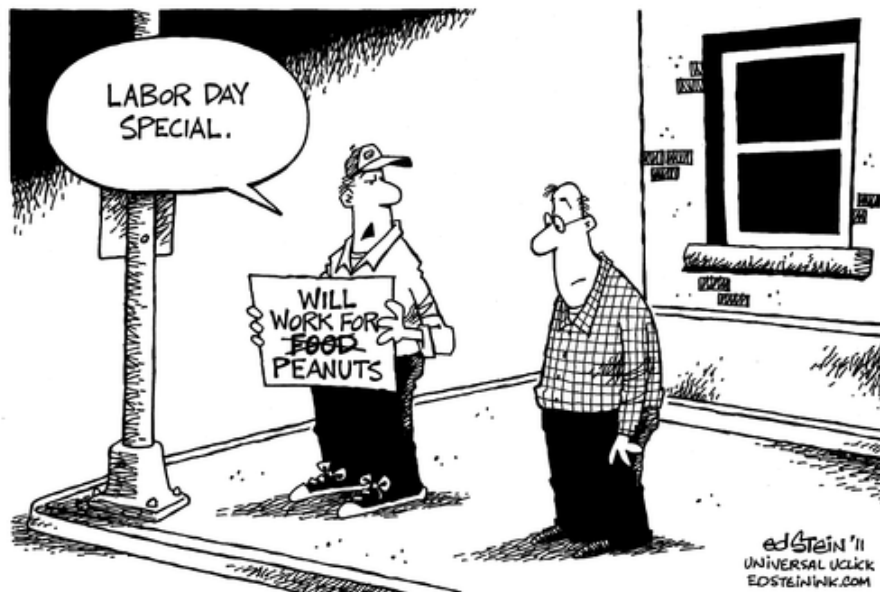
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