

Military Resistance 915



I Am The Rouge [Labor Day 2011]

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, & United Auto Workers GM Retiree, who sent this in.]

Working People's Poetry Competition: WINNER 2011

Gregg Shotwell is a retired United Auto Workers union activist and co-founder of the website "Soldiers Of Solidarity" (<http://www.soldiersofsolidarity.com>.) He worked at General Motors for thirty years. He is the editor of the newsletter Live Bait & Ammo.

By Gregg Shotwell

The Rouge is a Ford factory built between 1915 and 1927 on the Rouge River in Dearborn, Michigan.

It was the first manufacturing site that included everything needed to build a car: a steel mill, a glass plant, a power plant, auto parts, and an assembly line. Over 100,000 workers were employed at the Rouge in the 1930's

Long hours in the factory
have transformed me.
I have become the assembly line
crawling like a centipede
through the concatenation
of time clock rhythms
and pneumatic sighs.
I whisper and hiss,
clang and grate,
squeak and groan.
I am the song of tired bones and
worn out shoes on concrete floors.
I am the dream of youth forsaken.
I am the sprocket of fear
I can't escape.
I am the teeth in the gear.
I am the cog, the shaft, the wheel
of the conveyor.
I am the block and tackle,
pulley and cable.
I am the hourly drone
of monotonous doom.
I bow to the Madonna of Machinery
whose nipples are like grease fittings,
whose crankcase is a womb.
I am the fire in the foundry.
I am the pit.
I twist nuts, shoot screws,
and spit rivets like slang.
My fingers are pliers,
my wrists are wrenches,
my fist is a stubborn
ball peen hammer.
I am the numb brain
and the long drive home.
I am the lone neon sign
blinking in the dark rain
-- LAST CHANCE -- LAST CHANCE -- LAST CHANCE --
My eyes are tail lights fading in the distance.
I am the strain in the torsion bar.
I am the harness.
My arms bear the scars of my labor
like randomly tattooed emblems of honor.
I have become the soul of production,
the powertrain of perpetual motion,
the chassis of suspended mobility.
I am the thunder in the die,
the blue flame of the weld,
the fume in the lung of the painter.
I am a centerless grinder,

a lathe, a drill.
I am tinnitus, carpal tunnel,
the copper coil of repetitive trauma.
I am the key in the ignition,
the spark plug,
the throttle.
My blood is thicker than oil.
My saliva more toxic
than cutting fluid.
I am the heart of the engine,
the phallic piston,
the cam of accelerating continuity.
I am the hub
of mechanical wisdom
and spiritual ingenuity.
I am steel toed, hard headed,
and hydraulic.
I lift and crank and twist
and laugh at pain.
I am the still point of torque.
I am the fender, the axle, the bolt
in the tie rod.
I am the strut and swagger
of the driver
as he pops the clutch and
pushes the pedal to the floor.
I am the grumble of the muffler.
I am the Rouge.
I was here, Mr. Ford,
before you were born.
I will be here, Mr. Ford,
when you
are long time gone.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP,
GO HOME:
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME**



U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment in an operation in Istaqlal, north of Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 8, 2011. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)...

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Danish Soldier Killed In Gereshk; Four Wounded

September 04, 2011 By AFP

A Danish soldier was killed and four wounded in an explosion in the southern Afghan province of Helmand Saturday the Danish military said.

“It is with great sorrow that I have received word that one of our soldiers has been killed in Afghanistan and that four other soldiers have been slightly wounded,” head of the military high command, general major Agnar Rokos said in a statement.

The soldiers, all members of the second division of Denmark's Bravo company, "had been patrolling on foot between Patrol Baseline and Gereshk when an improvised explosive device, a so-called IED, went off," the statement explained, adding all the troops had received first aid before being flown to the field hospital at Camp Bastion.

"Unfortunately, one of the soldier's lives could not be saved. He was declared dead on arrival at the field hospital," the military said.

There are some 750 Danish troops in NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), most of them in Helmand province under British command.

Denmark has said the number will decrease in coming months, and that by the second half of 2012, the force will be reduced to about 650 soldiers.

Sunday's death brought to 36 the number of Danish soldiers killed in combat in Afghanistan since the deployment began, a military spokesman told AFP, adding that six others had died outside of combat, due to illness, accidents and one by suicide.

Family Mourns Watauga Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

August 28, 2011 By Selena Hernandez, CBS 11 News

WATAUGA (CBSDFW.COM) – A son, a brother and a soldier: Spc. Michael Roberts of Watauga died Saturday in Afghanistan.

"He wasn't just another soldier who died, he loved and touched everyone," brother Patrick Roberts said.

A call to serve was perhaps in the 23-year-old's destiny, his family says. The soldier from North Texas was the youngest of three brothers – all of whom enlisted in the Army. Eldest brother, Patrick Roberts, set the example his brother would follow.

"I see my little brother go from waiting tables at a local restaurant, to serving in the same Army I did," Patrick Roberts said.

From a young age, Roberts demonstrated a dedication to contribute. He carried that spirit of service and eagerness to learn throughout this four-year military career, which was laced with earned accolades that include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

"He wanted to serve his country – contribute, make a big contribution to society and he felt by going into the army, he could do that," mother Kathy Roberts said.

Roberts was serving in the Kandahar Province, assigned to the 561st Military Police Company when he died. He was struck by an improvised explosive device, an IED. Roberts was deployed to Afghanistan last month.

That was the last time his parents saw him.

“He was quite the man and he’ll be sorely missed,” father David Roberts said.

The fun-loving soldier with a genuine heart and affinity for cooking is remembered as a humble leader; one whose legacy will live on in the lives he touched and leaves behind, they say.

“I’m going to continue to serve in honor of him,” middle brother Brian Roberts said. “I’m going to try to go as strong as he did. That’s the only way I know how to honor him.”

Roberts graduated from Richland High School in 2006. He was a part of the wrestling team and he played the tuba.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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

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

Local Police Commander, His Son Killed In Kapisa

5 September, 2011 by Bakhtar Safi, Pajhwok Afghan News

MAHMOOD RAQI A local police commander and his son were killed and one of his bodyguards wounded in a roadside bombing in the Tagab district of central Kapisa province on Monday, an official said.

The explosion occurred in the Shinkai area, hitting the vehicle commander Syed Ahmad was travelling in along with his son and bodyguards, the Tagab district chief, Abdul Hakim Akhundzada, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

The commander and his son were killed and a bodyguard injured in the attack, he said.

“The blast took place at around 11:30am,” said a tribal elder of the Mira Khel area, Malak Amrullah. He said it was the second such incident after the holy month of Ramadan that marked the end of a truce between the Taliban and Afghan security forces in the district.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident, but a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed the fighters had killed a foreign soldier and wounded a number of others in a clash in the district.

Taliban In Control Of Six Districts In Nuristan, Says New Governor: “The Taliban Can Openly Go To Each Part Of The Province, Even Their Shadow Governor Lived In Chatrash And Kusht Areas On The Outskirts Of The Provincial Capital For A Few Months”

4 September, 2011 by Abdul Moeed Hashmi, Pajhwok Afghan News

JALALABAD: The Taliban insurgents are in control of six districts of eastern Nuristan province, where work on 800 reconstruction projects has been suspended over the past two years, the newly appointed governor said on Sunday.

The six districts where the Taliban still hold sway are Bargimatal, Kamdesh, Waigal, Mandol, Duab and some parts of Noorgram districts, Tamim Nuristani told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Work on only six of the 800 projects approved two years back had been completed, he said, adding the rest of projects could not be completed due to security problems.

“The Taliban can openly go to each part of the province, even their shadow governor lived in Chatrash and Kusht areas on the outskirts of the provincial capital for a few months,” Tamim said.

The governor also rejected the accusation that he had provided the Taliban with weapons belonging to police.

He said the gap between the government in Nuristan and the people had widened and that he would try his best to reduce it. He said he would try to open the Kunar-Nuristan highway with the help of Kunar officials and tribal councils in a peaceful way.

The governor was optimistic about the resolution of security related problems without fighting or clashes. He said the Taliban-controlled districts would be retaken with the help of people.

About 90 percent of schools in Nuristan lacked proper buildings and 40 percent of schools had been closed due to insecurity, he said.

Fighters associated with the Taliban, Hizb-i-Islami, Al Qaeda, Jash-i-Mohammad and Lashkar-i-Taiba of Pakistan have been active in Nuristan, the governor said. He also vowed to eliminate corruption from government departments.

However, former governor, Jamaluddin Badr, rejected Tamim's claims that work on hundreds of projects had been stopped; saying work on a road connecting western, eastern and central Nuristan was stopped before his appointment due to funds embezzlement.

"Security can only be maintained in Nuristan by Afghan soldiers," he said. The anti-government fighters wanted to make Nuristan a permanent base for their attacks in northern and southern provinces," he said.

"The governor before my appointment was unable to maintain the security situation in Kamdesh district with the help of foreigners, but I did it with the help of police and tribal elders," he said. He also rejected schools remained closed during his time as governor of Nuristan.

Taliban Predict Victory: "The Message Was A Rousing, Nationalistic Call To Arms" "Blind-Bombardment, Night Raids, Brutality, Torture And Tyranny' Of Foreign Troops Will Only Spark More Jihads"

August 29, 2011 By Aimal Yaqubi and Mark Magnier, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan, and New Delhi— A message allegedly written by the leader of the Afghan Taliban predicts imminent victory as more foreign troops die and Taliban fighters better understand NATO tactics, acquire more weaponry, shoot down more aircraft and kill more senior officials.

"All these give us good news of an imminent victory and a bright future," the message says.

Monday's statement, if written by Omar, would be among his most comprehensive messages to date, analysts said, with less rhetoric in order to better appeal to Afghan moderates.

“Its central aim was to characterize the struggle as a defense against outside invasion and to suggest that the Taliban could be a just and moderate political force,” said Daniel Markey, a Washington-based senior fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations.

“Otherwise, the message was a rousing, nationalistic call to arms.”

Among the exhortations to fighters were: Enjoy sports, read appropriate books, remain God-fearing and avoid resorting to extortion, kidnapping or imposing random bans without authorization.

Among the major points outlined: A limited withdrawal of foreign troops will solve nothing; the “blind-bombardment, night raids, brutality, torture and tyranny” of foreign troops will only spark more jihads; and Afghans won’t accept permanent U.S. bases or other “colonialist games.”

If outsiders leave, however, and an independent Islamic regime results, Afghan leaders will establish friendly relations with countries around the world, the statement says.

“The Police And Afghan Troops Trained To Date ‘Have Thus Far Proved Unable To Enforce The Law, Counter The Insurgency Or Even Secure The Seven Regions’ Recently Handed Over To Them”
“Billions Spent On Afghan Police But Brutality, Corruption Prevail”
“Police Are Also Suspected Of Carrying Out Gang Rapes, But Arresting The Offenders Falls To Their Colleagues, Who Often Just Ignore The Cases, Or Intimidate Those Seeking Justice”

Aug 24, 2011 By Mirwais Harooni, Reuters [Excerpts]

An Afghan policeman shot dead taxi driver Mohammad Jawid Amiri six months ago, for no apparent reason.

According to a Kabul police official, the shooting was an accident, and the offending policeman is now behind bars.

That's news to the family of 27-year-old Amiri.

They say the only contact with the policeman they had since the shooting was when his family offered a sheep and three bags each of rice and flour as compensation, but only if the Amiris signed papers saying their son died a traffic accident, and not from gunshot wounds.

"My father tore up the papers and said he will never forget him," said Sahida, the victim's older sister.

"We don't even know why he shot my brother."

Amiri's death is part of an expanding dossier of unresolved police violence and corruption cases that have alienated Afghans, and which calls into question the billions of dollars spent to build up civic institutions in the war-torn nation.

About \$29 billion has been spent on the Afghan police since the Taliban were ousted in late 2001, with more to come as the U.S. and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force steps up training.

The Afghan police force now stands at around 142,000, although desertion rates are high.

But ordinary Afghans are intimidated by the force, which has high levels of drug abuse and desertion, especially when officers are posted to areas away from their home villages or find themselves unexpectedly on the frontline of the battle against Taliban insurgents.

According to the International Crisis Group (ICG), the police and Afghan troops trained to date "have thus far proved unable to enforce the law, counter the insurgency or even secure the seven regions" recently handed over to them.

Police earn 10,000-13,500 Afghanis (\$212-287) a month.

That's better than most in Afghanistan which has an annual per capita income of about \$600 and where the 30 million people have an average life expectancy of 44 years.

Afghans do not hold the police in high regard.

Three in five see the police as corrupt, more than a quarter have personally seen a policeman use narcotics, and more than half think filing a complaint about police misdeeds would have no effect on the situation or make it worse, according to a U.N. survey from late last year.

Resentment also runs high against police seeking bribes to pad their salary.

Ahmad Zeya Durani, 26, and his three younger brothers sell video games, mobile phone accessories, CDs and DVDs on the sidewalk at Nader Pashton market in Kabul, barely making a living.

They pay police 30 Afghanis a day for the privilege.

"If you have a good income you have to pay up to 80 or 100 Afghanis each day," Durani said. "There were hundreds of peddlers in this street who all pay the police."

And it's not just corruption.

Nearly 200 policemen were accused of murder and just over 4,600 were involved of crimes in 3,026 separate cases sent to the attorney general in Kabul in year that began March 2010, said Lieutenant General Mohammad Rahim Hanifi, head of the top prosecutor's Statistics and Analysis department.

Police are also suspected of carrying out gang rapes, but arresting the offenders falls to their colleagues, who often just ignore the cases, or intimidate those seeking justice, Hanifi said.

"We have some suspects who don't come to us for investigation and we don't have the power to bring them here. It is the police who must arrest them and bring them to us," he said.

"I usually tell my friends and family not to deal with police and I had told Jawid too, because they never feel responsible for the public," said Mohammad Sharif Amiri, an older brother of dead taxi driver Jawid.

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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 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.

MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Spc. Douglas J. Green at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Aug. 30, 2011. Green, of Sterling, Va., was killed Sunday in Afghanistan when his unit came under attack. (AP Photo/Ann Heisenfelt)...

**Obama Regime Fighting Court
Ruling That Would Allow Veterans'
Groups To Go To Court To Speed
Health Care To Veterans:**

**Judge Stephen Said “Congress And
The VA ‘Have So Completely And
Chronically Failed To Respect The
People’s Constitutional Rights That
The Courts Must Be Willing To
Enforce Them’”
“Instead Of Actually Serving Veterans
The VA And The Obama Administration
Have Callously Decided To Prolong The
Proceedings”**

August 24, 2011 Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The Obama administration is challenging a court ruling that would open the door to changes in a veterans’ health care system beset by long delays and a high suicide rate.

The ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco would allow veterans’ groups to go to court to seek an overhaul of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ procedures and timetables to speed health care to veterans.

The appellate judges “ignored basic limits on judicial authority,” Justice Department lawyers said in a new appeal to the court.

They said the ruling violated Congress’ decision “to prevent the courts from second-guessing the VA’s performance of these critical functions.”

The administration requested a new hearing before a larger appellate panel.

The court’s 2-1 ruling in May followed a 2008 trial in San Francisco that revealed a health care system plagued by delays and gaps in care, particularly for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe mental trauma.

The average waiting time for health benefit claims was 4.4 years, and more than 1,400 veterans who had been denied coverage died in one six-month period while their appeals were pending, the court said.

Internal VA documents also revealed that, at the time of trial, 18 veterans were committing suicide every day, far higher than the rate among the general population.

Those under the department's care took their own lives at a rate of four to five per day, and attempted suicide 1,000 times a month, the reports said.

After the trial, U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti found that the department had failed to implement a suicide-prevention plan or take steps to make mental health care more available for veterans, but he ruled that only Congress could order changes.

The appeals court panel disagreed, saying, "The VA's unchecked incompetence has gone on long enough."

Congress and the VA "have so completely and chronically failed to respect the people's constitutional rights that the courts must be willing to enforce them," said Judge Stephen

Reinhardt in the majority opinion. He said Conti could order the VA to set priorities for the most seriously ill veterans and follow fixed timetables for benefits.

In a filing with the full appeals court last month, Obama administration lawyers said the court had "wrested control of the VA from the politically accountable branches of government that are best-positioned to identify the needs of veterans and allocate scarce resources."

In response, lawyers for the plaintiffs, Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans United for Truth, told the court Congress could not have intended to deny a judicial remedy to veterans whose rights are violated.

One of the lawyers, Sidney Wolinsky of Disability Rights Advocates, said Tuesday the government has refused to negotiate and is simply stonewalling.

"Instead of actually serving veterans," he said, "the VA and the Obama administration have callously decided to prolong the proceedings."

**Dishonorable Arlington:
"Somers' Sister, Says 'They Told
Us My Brother's Paperwork Was In
Order (And) He Was Where He
Was Supposed To Be,' She Says"
"But He Wasn't"**

“Because When They Dug Up His Gravesite, It Was The Wife Of A Colonel”

August 29, 2011 by Allison Keyes. NPR [Excerpts]

For years, Arlington National Cemetery has been defined by honor. Presidents are buried there. The crew of the space shuttle Challenger. And thousands of men and women who served in the military.

But Barbara Tye doesn't have the same sense of honor she once had. After her family had her little brother, Army Staff Sgt. Michael Somers, disinterred she found out he had been buried in the wrong place.

The cemetery faces a joint criminal probe by the Army and the FBI. Congress has also ordered an accounting by the end of the year.

Cemetery officials recently unveiled changes they have made so far — ones they hope will help regain some of the trust they lost. But two families who questioned the burial of their loved ones say they aren't sure that's possible.

Somers' family hadn't spoken out until now, so as not to disgrace the Army he loved.

“They dug one grave to the left of him and that was an empty gravesite,” says Tye, his sister.

“Because when they dug up his gravesite, it was the wife of a colonel. So then they dug one grave to the right of him and discovered his casket and the body of another wife of an unknown service

Tye says she'll never look at the graves at Arlington the same way.

NPR asked repeatedly how the cemetery can be sure the original paperwork isn't wrong.

Somers' sister, says “They told us my brother's paperwork was in order (and) he was where he was supposed to be,” she says.

“But he wasn't.”

Oops: Humvee Stolen From Fort Gordon Motor Pool

Aug 30, 2011 The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Authorities are seeking tips from the public in their search for a \$62,000 Humvee that's missing from Fort Gordon.

Richmond County sheriff's investigator Kendall Brown tells the Augusta Chronicle that it appears someone scaled the fence of the 67th Battalion motor pool on the post to get to the vehicle.

Brown said it looks like whoever took the Humvee then used it to ram the gate of the motor pool and drive off Friday.

Authorities say The 15-year-old vehicle has two seats and is covered with a brown and green woodland camouflage pattern.

“Troops, Young And Old Alike, Still Agree That The Traditional Letter To A Soldier Still Carries The Most Weight”

Aug. 30, 2011 By John Wendle, Arghandab, Afghanistan; Time Magazine [Excerpt]

There are almost as many laptops as there are rifles scattered around the 2nd Squad's sleeping quarters in the old school at Combat Outpost (COP) Kowall.

Mixed in with dust, sand, helmets and 40-mm grenades are Dells and MacBooks. The men who started out in 2001 as Generation Kill have transformed into Generation iPod. As technology has become miniaturized and more portable, U.S. soldiers have increasingly taken laptops, terabytes of movies and video-game systems into war zones to kill downtime.

Private First Class Andrew Napoli, 21, took a BlackBerry, a MacBook, an iPad, a PlayStation Portable video-game system, a terabyte external hard drive and a cell phone to Kandahar province's Arghandab River Valley when he was deployed in August 2010 with the 3rd Platoon of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division.

Napoli says he spends a majority of his time on guard duty or foot patrol. Now there is less fighting, he says, he sometimes watches two or three movies a day.

Yet, even with all of the changes that have taken place in the past decade — the vast increase in interconnectedness, communications options and social-networking sites — troops, young and old alike, still agree that the traditional letter to a soldier still carries the most weight.

“To me, a letter goes a long way. Nowadays it'll mean a lot more because somebody actually took the time out of their day to sit down and write,” says Lopez, who has an ammo can full of saved letters.

“A letter takes more time out of your day. E-mails and messages on Facebook, or anything like that, you do it on your phone. You know, you’re sitting there while you’re driving and you can send a text or whatever. But a letter, you have to write it, you have to wait for it.”

“Insurance Agents Used Prohibited Sales Practices Both On And Off U.S. Military Bases To Persuade Personnel To Buy Insurance They May Not Need Or Be Able To Afford”

“Responsible Installation Personnel Failed To Comply With Solicitation Policies”

“Marine Told Inspector General Investigators He Was Not Allowed To Leave Formation Before Agreeing To Provide Contact Information To Insurance Salesmen”

August 23, 2011 By Charley Keyes, CNN Senior National Security Producer [Excerpts]

Five years after a law to protect U.S. military personnel from salespeople selling life insurance, a new Pentagon report finds problems continue.

The Inspector General found that insurance agents used prohibited sales practices both on and off U.S. military bases to persuade personnel to buy insurance they may not need or be able to afford.

And the report also found that military personnel failed to enforce existing policies that limit solicitation of military personnel. In addition, the report said, companies used misleading marketing techniques and misused the Defense Department myPAY internal payment system.

All military personnel are automatically enrolled in a life insurance policy administered by the Veterans Administration from their first day of training or active duty.

The report found that as an example of improper actions by private insurance agents, Marines based in Okinawa were introduced to an insurance agent during a financial class taught by a Defense Department civilian and were later told by a noncommissioned officer to attend a sales solicitation event.

Another Marine told Inspector General investigators he was not allowed to leave formation before agreeing to provide contact information to insurance salesmen.

“Insurance agents used prohibited sales practices on bases, and responsible installation personnel failed to comply with solicitation policies,” the report said. “Insurance agents and DoD responsible officials must be held accountable for not complying with established controls to mitigate risks associated with the financial welfare of military personnel and their families.”

The report said insurance companies also used a letter signed by retired generals and admirals to encourage personnel to buy their policies.

Any Comment Could Be Viewed By Readers From Farm States As Inappropriately Inferential



REUTERS NEWS SERVICE September 4, 2011: “U.S. soldiers from Task Force Bronco, 325th Brigade Support Battalion play a game of “cornhole” at Forward Operating Base Fenty in Jalalabad, September 4, 2011.” Photo:Erik de Castro

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

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

Soldiers In Revolt: 1917

“‘Our Staff Printing Plant,’ Says The Soldier, Pereiko, ‘Performed A Great Service For The Revolution’”

“The Bourgeois Press, Although’ Supplied To The Front Free Of Cost In Millions Of Copies, Hardly Found A Reader”

Trotsky, Leon; The History of the Russian Revolution; Volume Two

How was it that with this weak apparatus and this negligible circulation of the party press, the ideas and slogans of Bolshevism were able to take possession of the people?

The explanation is very simple: those slogans which correspond to the keen demands of a class and an epoch create thousands of channels for themselves.

A red-hot revolutionary medium is a high conductor of ideas.

The Bolshevik papers were read aloud, were read all to pieces. The most important articles were learned by heart, recited, copied, and wherever possible reprinted.

“Our staff printing plant,” says the soldier, Pereiko, “performed a great service for the revolution.

“How many individual articles from Pravda were reprinted by us, and how many small brochures, very close and comprehensible to the soldiers! And all these were swiftly distributed along the front with the help of air mails, bicycles and motorcycles ...”

At the same time the bourgeois press, although’ supplied to the front free of cost in millions of copies, hardly found a reader.

The heavy bales remained unopened.

This boycott of the “patriotic” press at times assumed a demonstrative form.

Representatives of the 18th Siberian division passed a resolution asking the bourgeois parties to stop sending literature, inasmuch as it was “fruitlessly used to boil the hot water for tea.”

The Bolshevik press was very differently employed.

Hence the coefficient of its useful – or if you prefer, harmful – effectiveness was incomparably higher.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

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 “leave” and “permission” of this or that supernatural being.

No doubt George W. Bush and B. Obama will agree that ten years slaughter of Iraqis and Afghans is done with the “leave” and “permission” of God. In fact, Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.

This demonstrates once again that 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 “permission” 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 and respect a supreme being. That is one among many democratic rights.

It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “permission” of God argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, 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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Win One For Our Side! Appeals Court Sides With Man Who Sued Cops: Liberty-Hating Scum Had Arrested Him For Videotaping Them Arresting Somebody Else

August 30, 2011 By Nathan Koppel, Wall St. Journal

The First Circuit on Friday issued an interesting opinion we thought worth mentioning.

The court ruled that the Constitution protects the right to videotape police officers making an arrest.

At issue in the case was a 2007 arrest. As he walked past the Boston Common one night, Simon Glik noticed three officers arresting a young man. Glik was concerned that the officers might be using excessive force, according to the First Circuit opinion.

Glik whipped out his cell phone and started videotaping the arrest. An officer asked Glik if he was recording audio. When Glik said that he was, the officer arrested him for allegedly violating the state's wiretap law, the opinion notes.

After the charge was dropped, Glik filed a lawsuit, claiming his free speech rights had been violated. The officers claimed they were immune from the suit because they were acting in their official capacity.

A federal trial court sided with Glik, and so did the First Circuit.

“Gathering information about government officials in a form that can readily be disseminated to others serves a cardinal First Amendment interest,” the First Circuit held.

Glik’s lawyer, David Milton, applauded the ruling. “Cell phone cameras are a vital means of ensuring that police officers are held accountable for their actions,” he told the Law Blog. “We hope that courts around the country will follow the lead of the First Circuit in this important area of the law.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Cincinnati Man Who Couldn’t Afford Antibiotics Dies From Toothache Infection

9/3/11 Laura Hibbard, The Huffington Post

Kyle Willis, a 24-year-old man from Ohio, died on Wednesday from a tooth infection, Cincinnati’s WLWT reported.

According to the station, Willis’ wisdom tooth began hurting two weeks ago, and dentists said it needed to be removed.

Willis, however, was a single father without health insurance, and couldn’t afford the procedure.

After developing severe headaches and facial swelling, he went to the emergency room.

Although doctors recommended antibiotics and pain medication, Willis could only afford one.

Patti Collins, Willis’s aunt, told WLWT what happened next.

“The (doctors) gave him antibiotic and pain medication.

“Doctors told Willis’ family that while the pain had stopped, the infection kept spreading -- eventually attacking his brain and causing it to swell.”

Willis leaves behind a 6-year-old daughter, and family members are hoping to create a fund for her future college education.

Dr. Irvin Silverstein, a dentist at the University of California told ABC news that Willis' story isn't uncommon.

"People don't realize that dental disease can cause serious illness. The problems are not just cosmetic. Many people die from dental disease. When people are unemployed or don't have insurance, where do they go? What do they do?" Silverstein said.

"People end up dying, and these are the most treatable, preventable diseases in the world."

Four years ago, 12-year-old Demonte Drived died after his mother, Alyce, couldn't find a dentist who took Medicaid and bacteria from a tooth abscess spread to his brain.

A Kaiser Family Foundation report found that between 2007 and 2008, the number of uninsured adults rose by 1.5 million.

ABC news added that in April the same foundation also found that 33% of people skipped dental care because they could not afford it.

Yemen: “Army Units Which Defected To The Protest Movement ‘On Alert To Defend The Protesters’”

September 4, 2011 By Hammoud Mounassar, AFP [Excerpts]

SANAA — Hundreds of thousands of protesters demanding President Ali Abdullah Saleh's ouster marched on Sunday in the Yemeni capital, raising tensions as troops deployed to try to prevent mass protests.

Security forces closed off all access routes to the capital from Saturday afternoon while armed civilians loyal to the veteran president also took to Sanaa's streets, an AFP correspondent said.

"The people want to march on the (presidential) palace," demonstrators chanted.

But in an apparent bid to avoid a confrontation with Saleh loyalists, demonstrators marched in a part of northern Sanaa that is guarded by an armoured division led by a general who has defected to the opposition.

The marchers started off from University Square -- now dubbed Change Square by protesters -- sticking to nearby streets and within the area controlled by the general's troops.

But a small group of demonstrators clashed with Saleh loyalists after they split off from the main procession and headed to Asser Roundabout close to government departments.

Four protesters were wounded, including two by gunfire, organisers said.

Sanaa has been left without electricity since Saturday afternoon, and most petrol stations in the capital have turned off the taps, semi-paralysing the capital.

The massive deployment by troops loyal to Saleh followed an opposition call to step up protests against his rule with the political process deadlocked in the face of the president's three-month-long absence abroad.

Demonstrations were also staged in Taz, Yemen's second largest city and a flashpoint in anti-Saleh protests which have swept the impoverished state since late January.

Saleh has been receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia for wounds sustained in a June 3 bomb attack on his Sanaa palace compound.

"We have called for intensifying the challenge in order to move towards a peaceful solution," said Huria Mashhur, spokeswoman of the opposition National Council, an umbrella group of anti-Saleh forces.

"The political process has reached an impasse because of Saleh's refusal to sign the Gulf plan," she said, adding that protests should be kept up "until the fall of the regime."

Saleh vowed last month to return soon.

"We hope that forces loyal to Saleh do not use weapons to disperse the peaceful marches of young people," Mashhur said, adding that army units which defected to the protest movement were "on alert to defend the protesters."

"We hope there is no challenge... to avoid an armed confrontation with dangerous consequences," she said, urging Gulf countries, the United States and European Union "to increase pressure on the regime" to avoid a civil war.

In southern Yemen and Taz, armed tribesmen clashed with Saleh loyalists in the elite Republican Guards at dawn on Sunday, according to local residents, but there was no immediate report of casualties.

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.

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