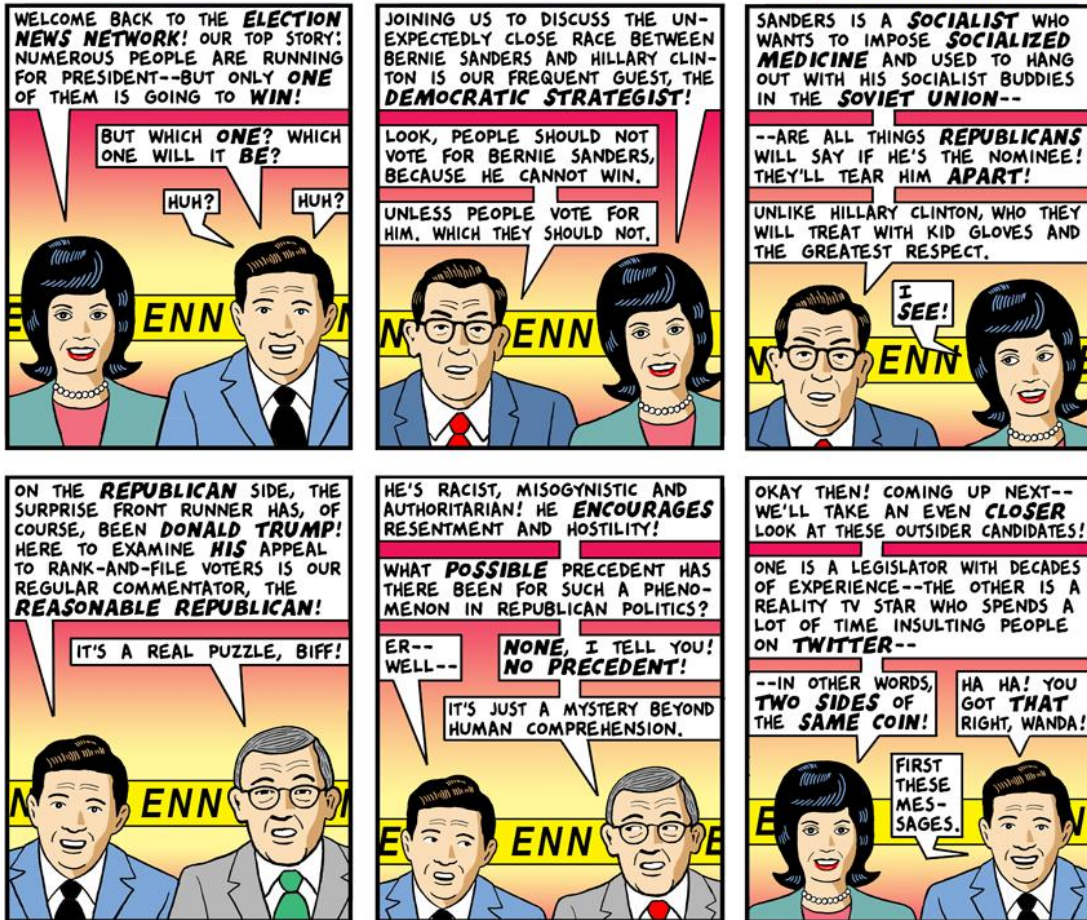


Military Resistance 14B4

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



“Tunisia Is Bursting Up In Flames Again”

“The Slogans Of Five Years Ago Returned With Force: Work, Freedom, Dignity”

“Protests To Yet Another Injustice Spread Across The Whole Country: Gafsa, Jendouba, Tozeur, Gabes, Medenine And Tunis”



January 23, 2016 Giuliana Sgrena, Il Manifesto

Protests expanded across the country this week in reminiscence of the Arab Spring. Unemployment is high, and citizens are unhappy with the pace and direction of reform.

Five years after the Arab Spring that shook the Middle East and North Africa, Tunisia is bursting up in flames again.

The images that arrived from the city of Sfax, where a young merchant set himself on fire Wednesday after his goods were confiscated by the authorities, is reminiscent of the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, whose act kicked off the Tunisian Revolution on Dec. 17, 2010.

This time, the protest started from Kasserine, in central Tunisia not far from Sidi Bouzid, after a 24 year old young man, Ridha Yahyaoui, who was threatening to kill himself because his name had been deleted from a list of hirings, got struck and died when climbing an electricity pole.

Protests to yet another injustice spread across the whole country: Gafsa, Jendouba, Tozeur, Gabes, Medenine and Tunis.

Police are repressing the demonstrations, but also a policeman was killed in recent clashes.

The slogans of five years ago returned with force: work, freedom, dignity.

Although the transition is still in progress, citizens believe it's going too slow and in the wrong direction.

After five years, there is very strong disappointment, especially among young people. "It is time to act. Or nothing will prevent the outbreak of a second revolution," said president Beji Caid Essebsi on Dec. 17, the anniversary of the beginning of the revolution.

Is this the start of a second revolution?

The protesters occupy the same spaces as in 2011, especially the central Bourguiba Avenue, in front of the Interior Ministry building, a symbol of repression in the days of Ben Ali.

Now the situation is different, and the demands express the great social unrest.

The main demand concerns work — there are 800,000 unemployed people, 36 percent of whom have secondary and post-secondary education — and "we refuse to emigrate or end up in the terrorist or smuggling networks," said a representative of the Union of Unemployed Graduates (UCD), quoted by the Tunisian daily La Presse. That's not idle talk; Tunisians make up the largest contingent — 5,500, according to the U.N. — of foreign fighters in Syria.

Wednesday's demonstration in Tunis was organized by the UCD and the General Union of Students, which blames the government: "Prime Minister Habib Essid has two choices. Either he finds an urgent and effective solution to the unemployment problem or he goes away."

So far the demonstrations have not been endorsed by the parties, and participants prefer to keep politicians away, even though they fear the infiltration of Islamic militants.

The demands directly implicate the government.

Although Essid is at the Davos conference, Wednesday evening the ministers met with representatives of Kasserine to enact some emergency measures that were announced yesterday by the spokesman Khaled Chouket. "In regards to unemployment: We decided to hire 5,000 unemployed through new recruitment mechanisms. Another 1,400 will be hired through existing mechanisms and 500 with small projects funded by the National Solidarity Bank with 6,000,000 dinars (€3 million)."

Chouket also announced the formation of a national committee that will investigate corruption cases, taking the necessary steps to fight it. State lands will be privatized. The government spokesman acknowledged that many infrastructure projects are blocked and announced nine other projects for the reconstruction of bridges and roads. The government plans to allocate 135 million dinars for the construction of housing in the region of Kasserine.

Clearly, the protests have shaken the government.

If these promises are kept and work, it will be a beginning.

However, Kasserine is not the only city suffering from the lack of development and crisis.

The economy is stagnant. Growth in 2015 was 0.5 percent. The president had proposed an “economic reconciliation” bill that would suspend all embezzlement proceedings against members of the Ben Ali regime, to encourage investment.

for many Tunisians this law draft, still to be voted in Congress, is a sort of corruption recycling, not to mention that the networks of the former single party RCD have not been dismantled but rather were re-formed in the Nidaa Tounes party, which won the 2014 elections. Even Islamists who occupied seats in the institutions have remained in place.

Nidaa Tounes, the party founded in 2012 by Essebsi, is going through a serious crisis, which Essebsi worsened in the recent party congress by appointing his son, Hafed, as the new party leader.

Evidently, the authoritarian methods have not changed.

Nidaa Tounes, a centrist secular party, had won the elections because it was a bulwark against the Islamists of Ennahda, and instead now they govern together. Not only that. It had won 86 seats against 69 of the Islamists, but after 20 dissident representatives — who consider the agreement a betrayal of the voters — left the party, Ennahda is now the top party.

It's keeping a low profile, however, trying to accredit a more moderate stance, putting religion in the back burner. The impression is that Nidaa Tounes is bleeding and is preparing its revenge. But as they say, revenge is a dish best served cold.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Helmand Province District ‘On Verge’ Of Being Overrun By Afghan Taliban

February 07, 2016 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

An Afghan army commander says a key district in the southern province of Helmand is on the verge of being overrun by the Taliban.

The unidentified commander told the BBC that most of Sangin district had been captured by the militants.

He said the government still controls a few key locations in the district's main city, Sangin, but warned that those areas are under imminent threat.

The commander said repeated Taliban attacks on government positions had killed a number of soldiers in recent days.

He also claimed there had been no reinforcements for days and rations are low.

Last month, Helmand's police chief, Abdul Rahman Sarjang, said the Kabul government had sent reinforcements to the districts of Gereshk, Marjeh, and Sangin amid reports that the Taliban were threatening to capture them.

Five Regime Judges Blown Up By Logar Landmine

Feb 07 2016 By Khaama Press

A policeman has embraced martyrdom in a landmine explosion in Pul-i-Alam, capital of central Logar province.

Governor's spokesperson said the blast targeted vehicle of Haqiq-ur-Rahmand Haqmal, head of the appeal court around 9 am this morning.

Saleem Salih added that a policeman who was with judges for their security died and six others sustained injuries.

Those wounded include Haqmal, head of the city court Abdul Basit and four senior judges.

Taliban have claimed responsibility for the blast.

Located some 60 km south of Kabul, Logar is comparatively a restive province of Afghanistan where armed militants are operating in a number of its districts.

They often carry out attacks in the provincial capital as well.

Besides Taliban, insurgents loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami and Daesh also operate in Logar but most of the attacks in this province are carried out by Taliban.

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POLICE WAR REPORTS



Chicago Officer Sues Estate Of Teen He Shot, Claiming Trauma: “Intended To Intimidate Legrier’s Family”

“Foutris Also Questions Why The Teen Would Attack The Officer Since He Was The One Who Called 911”

“That’s A New Low Even For The Chicago Police Department. First You Shoot Them, Then You Sue Them”

07 February 16 By Michael Tarm and Jason Keyser, Associated Press

A white Chicago police officer who fatally shot a black 19-year-old college student and accidentally killed a neighbor has filed a lawsuit against the teenager’s estate, arguing the shooting left him traumatized.

The highly unusual suit was filed Friday in the middle of the city's effort to grapple with serious questions about the future of its police force. Those questions include the adequacy of its system for investigating police shootings and how to win back public trust after several cases of alleged misconduct. The U.S. Justice Department is conducting a wide-ranging civil rights investigation, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel has promised a major overhaul of the Police Department and steps to heal its fraught relationship with black residents.

The timing and unusual nature of the suit by officer Robert Rialmo, who is seeking \$10 million in damages, could complicate the department's efforts to demonstrate more sensitivity toward the community in how police shootings are handled. His attorney, Joel Brodsky, said it was important in the charged atmosphere to send a message that police are "not targets for assaults" and "suffer damage like anybody else."

The teen's father, Antonio LeGrier, filed a wrongful death lawsuit days after the Dec. 26 shooting, saying his son, Quintonio, was not armed with a weapon and was not a threat. His attorney, Basileios Foutris, was incredulous at what he called the officer's "temerity" in suing the grieving family of the person he shot.

"That's a new low even for the Chicago Police Department," he said. "First you shoot them, then you sue them."

The lawsuit provides the officer's first public account of how he says the shooting happened, offering details that differ with the family's version. It says Rialmo, who was responding to a domestic disturbance call with another officer, opened fire after Quintonio LeGrier swung a bat at the officer's head at close range. A downstairs neighbor, 55-year-old Bettie Jones, was standing nearby and was shot and killed by accident. She was not part of the domestic dispute.

"The fact that LeGrier's actions had forced Officer Rialmo to end LeGrier's life and to accidentally take the innocent life of Bettie Jones has caused, and will continue to cause, Officer Rialmo to suffer extreme emotional trauma," the filing says.

When arriving at the scene around 4:30 a.m. on Dec. 26, Rialmo rang the doorbell of the two-story apartment building. Jones answered and directed them to the upstairs apartment. As Rialmo stepped through the doorway, he heard someone "charging down the stairway," the suit says.

It describes the teen coming down the stairs with a baseball bat in hand and says LeGrier "cocked" the bat "and took a full swing at Officer Rialmo's head, missing it by inches" when the two were around 4 feet apart.

The officer then backed away with his weapon still holstered, according to the suit, while repeatedly shouting at LeGrier to drop the bat.

But the suit says LeGrier kept advancing and swung the bat again. Only when LeGrier cocked the bat again from 3 or 4 feet away, did the officer pull out his 9 mm handgun and open fire, the filing says.

As he began firing, Rialmo did not see or hear Jones behind LeGrier, the suit says. It says one of the bullets went through LeGrier's body and struck Jones, killing her.

An autopsy determined that LeGrier suffered six bullet wounds.

Lawyers for Antonio LeGrier and for Jones have provided accounts that differ from Rialmo's. They say the evidence indicates the officer was 20 or 30 feet away when he fired, calling into question Rialmo's contention that he feared for his life.

Foutris also questions why the teen would attack the officer since he was the one who called 911.

The father of the Northern Illinois University student also made a 911 call.

"If you're calling multiple times for help are you going to charge a police officer and try to hit him with a bat? That's ridiculous," Foutris said.

County prosecutors have asked the FBI to investigate the shooting.

A Police Department spokesman refused to comment on the officer's lawsuit.

Such a lawsuit by an officer is extraordinarily unusual, said Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor and current defense attorney who is not connected to the case.

He questioned whether a judge would give it any merit and said it appeared intended to intimidate LeGrier's family. He said he had never heard of an officer blaming his shooting victim for causing trauma.

"That is a known part of the job," Turner said of policing's emotional toll.

South Carolina Man Shot By Police After Calling 911 To Report Armed Burglary: "They Claim He 'Refused To Drop His Gun'" "Witnesses Say There Was No Time For Him To React Between The

Yelling Of This Order And The Discharging Of Police Weapons” “He Didn’t Know The Police Were Even There Until They Shot Him In The Neck”

May 11, 2015 By Reagan Ali, Counter Current News

A South Carolina man called the police when he was being burglarized, moments later, that man was shot. But it wasn't the burglary suspect who opened fire on him, it was the cops.

The officer in question is a caucasian South Carolina sheriff. His victim – the man who called 911 for help – was shot and critically wounded when he was doing nothing other than defending his own property.

Two men had broken into his house when Bryant Heyward called 911. He called the cops, hoping that they would arrive and help. But when the sheriff's deputies arrived to the mobile home in Hollywood, South Carolina on Thursday morning, they saw the armed home owner and opened fire.

Now the sheriff says there is an internal investigation to determine what happened. But few members of the community believe there will be any sort of justice for the victim – who was twice victimized: once by the home invaders and another time by the responding officers.

The deputies reported seeing a man standing in the doorway of his own home. They claim he “refused to drop his gun,” but witnesses say there was no time between the yelling of this order and the discharging of police weapons for him to react.

On the way to the hospital, Heyward told police that he was simply trying to protect himself and his home from home invaders and he didn't know the police were even there until they had shot him in the neck.

One of the two men who is accused of trying to burglarize Heyward's home is Thomas Zachary Brown, 22, who is currently in custody.

Heyward told the 911 operator that he was hidden in his own laundry room because “Someone was trying to break into my house.”

He urged police to “please come.”

He explained that “It's an emergency and they have guns.”

Sheriff's Maj. Eric Watson attempted to rationalize the shooting, saying “as we were approaching, the back door swung open.”

Then he heard Deputy Tyner shout verbal commands, thereafter he “next heard gunfire as Deputy Tyner fired to suppress the threat.”

This, they explained, made Heyward “look like” he was one of the burglars.

But the reality was he was only a home owner defending his home from armed invaders. Had he waited for police he would have been killed, as the home invaders appear to have escalated things upon finding the hidden home owner.

The would-be burglars had just taken off moments before exchanging gun fire.

What was Heyward to do? Should he have laid down and died waiting for the police?

After exchanging gunfire with the suspects, his ears would have been ringing, making it impossible for him to hear police commands that were apparently issued with no delay.

At no time did he raise his weapon towards the officers. What should he have done differently?

Chicago Police Officers Sabotaged Dashcams: “Officers Stashed Microphones In Their Squad Car Glove Boxes” “They Pulled Out Batteries. Microphone Antennas Got Busted Or Went Missing”

28 January 16 By Mark Konkol and Paul Biasco, DNAinfo.com Chicago

Why are so many police dashcam videos silent?

Chicago Police Department officers stashed microphones in their squad car glove boxes. They pulled out batteries. Microphone antennas got busted or went missing. And sometimes, dashcam systems didn't have any microphones at all, DNAinfo Chicago has learned.

Police officials last month blamed the absence of audio in 80 percent of dashcam videos on officer error and “intentional destruction.”

A DNAinfo Chicago review of more than 1,800 police maintenance logs sheds light on the no-sound syndrome plaguing Police Department videos — including its most notorious dashcam case.

Maintenance records of the squad car used by Jason Van Dyke, who shot and killed Laquan McDonald, and his partner, Joseph Walsh, show monthslong delays for two dashcam repairs, including a long wait to fix “intentional damage.”

On June 17, 2014, police technicians reported fixing a dashcam wiring issue in police vehicle No. 6412, the squad shared by Van Dyke and Walsh, about three months after it was reported broken, records show.

A day later, the same vehicle’s dashcam system was reported busted again. It took until Oct. 8, 2014, to complete repairs of what technicians deemed “intentional damage,” according to reports.

Just 12 days later, on Oct. 20, 2014, dashcam video recorded from squad car No. 6412 on the night Van Dyke shot and killed McDonald did not record audio.

The video that went viral showing Van Dyke killing Laquan was taken from a different squad car, but it, too, had no audio.

And on Nov. 21, 2014, a review of 10 videos downloaded from Van Dyke’s squad car dashcam determined it was “apparent ... that personnel have failed to sync the MICs police records show.

Van Dyke has been charged with first-degree murder in Laquan’s shooting.

And Walsh, who filed reports backing up Van Dyke’s version of events that didn’t jibe with the video of the shooting, has been placed on desk duty as criminal and disciplinary investigations continue.

Four other police vehicles at Laquan’s shooting scene that had dashcam systems also failed to record audio. Only two of the five vehicles had dashcams that actually captured video.

The dashcam in police vehicle No. 8489, shared by officers Thomas Gaffney and Joseph McElligott the night of Laquan’s shooting, recorded 37 “event videos” in October 2014, and had an operational dashcam the night of the shooting.

But “due to disk error” no video was recorded at the shooting scene, according to police reports.

Police maintenance records show a request to repair the dashcam in that squad car was made Oct. 15, 2014 — five days before Laquan’s shooting. Yet, on Oct. 31, 2014, technicians found “no problems” with the equipment.

A week later, the dashcam system was reported broken again. Repairs to a “hardware failure” were completed more than four months later, police records show.

Police vehicle No. 8756 had a working dashcam that recorded 124 “event videos” in October 2014 without a single request for maintenance that month.

But on the night of Laquan's shooting, the vehicle assigned to Arturo Bacerra and Leticia Valez reportedly had a "power issue" and the dashcam was "not engaged."

It wasn't until Nov. 23 that a repair request was issued for that squad car's dashcam. Less than two weeks later, technicians reported, "no problems found," police records show.

Between Sept. 1, 2014, and July 16, 2015, maintenance technicians assigned to troubleshoot and repair dashcam systems reported 90 incidents where no microphones were found in squad cars, according to police logs.

Another 13 inspections during that period turned up only one microphone in squad cars that were supposed to be equipped with two audio recording devices, according to the logs.

On 30 occasions, technicians who downloaded dashcam videos found evidence that audio recording systems either had not been activated or were "intentionally defeated" by police personnel, the records show.

It wasn't until the absence of sound on the videos from Laquan's shooting that problems with dashcam systems came to light.

Police officials quickly placed the blame on officers and shift supervisors responsible for making sure dashcam systems work properly before officers go on patrol.

In December, interim Police Supt. John Escalante warned the rank and file that they would be disciplined for failing to follow proper dashcam protocol. Weeks later, he followed through by hitting some officers and supervisors with formal reprimands and up-to-three-day suspensions.

"To boil this down, the Police Department will not tolerate officers maliciously destructing equipment," police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said.

"Supt. Escalante sent a very clear message and has held people accountable. And since we took that corrective action, we have seen a more than 70 percent increase in the amount of (video) uploads at the end of each tour ... and that is being audited weekly with reports sent to the superintendent."

Fraternal Order of Police President Dean Angelo has called Escalante's punishment of the rank and file over dashcam video disrepair an attempt to deflect blame away from the Police Department and City Hall.

"How they determine that it's purposely caused damages, I'd like to know," Angelo said last month. "How they can figure out what is mechanical or what is human error, I'd like to know."

MILITARY NEWS

There Is Nowhere I'd Rather Be On Super Bowl Sunday Than Maintaining An F/A-18 For A Pointless 8-Second Flight



Duffel Blog photo

February 7, 2016, The Duffel Blog

An Op-Ed By Staff Sgt. William Tecumseh Charmen, Blue Angel No. 4 Crew Chief

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — America and football go together like burger and cheese, which is why I am pleased to spend my Super Bowl Sunday working on Blue Angel No. 4 instead of attending a Super Bowl party with my family, drinking beer and enjoying the commercials.

And unlike the shitbag Guardsmen who will present the colors at the game, my service will be pure, because it doesn't come with a sideline seat in Levi's Stadium.

There's nothing quite so awesome as knowing that you are a part of literally burning more than \$24,000 per plane just so fatties with more money than sense and no rooting interest in the game can get a Lee-Greenwoody in their pants for a minute, before going right back to forgetting about the little people like me who do all the work.

Yes, sir, an extra six hours of maintenance is what I crave doing on my usual day off, all so my hot shot pilot —excuse me, "aviator" — can take my airplane and put it on national TV for eight beautiful seconds, for a reason that I am sure makes sense to someone up the chain of command. They haven't told us, because we are just small cogs in the giant machine, but I'm pretty sure the reason is 'Murica.

And, as not only just a small cog but also a taxpayer, I am pleased that we will blow through roughly \$145,000 for today's flyby, which doesn't even count the training hours this week, or the awesome flyover for some reason at yesterday's Celebrity Flag Football game, which meant I got to use up my Saturday, too!

I'm sure all those Santa Clara University students will be rushing to the recruiter's office before their boners fall.

I am also truly grateful to my pilot, er, "aviator," whom I affectionately call Lt. Pucker because of his skill at eating coal and shitting diamonds, who after finishing his flyover, will be at the O-Club well before the end of the first quarter, while I'm still out here taking care of the plane.

He and the other pilots have promised to chip in for some Applebees takeout for us, which will be cold by the time we get to eat it, because we can't touch food near the aircraft, or before we have washed all the carcinogens off our fingers.

It's always Applebee's, because they get a discount, and the Navy Hot Shot bonus pay doesn't go as far as it used to.

There are few things I love more than the smell of hydraulic fluid on my skin — smells like victory! I hope you enjoy the victory of your favorite team, America.

Just know that I'll be having a more awesome Super Bowl party than you, or even those members of ISIS who will no doubt get to see more of the game than I do.

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

Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

-- Micah 2: King James Version

**The Road To Ruin:
“The Revolt That Would Explode At
The End Of 1842 And Destroy An
Entire British Army”
“A History Of The First Anglo-Afghan
War Describes The Consequences Of
Political Ignorance And Military Folly –
And The West’s Failure To Learn From
Past Mistakes”**

February 1, 2013 By Anatol Lieven, The Financial Times Limited.

Anatol Lieven is a professor in the war studies department of King’s College London and author of ‘Pakistan: A Hard Country’ (Penguin)



Anglo-Afghan war. The Last Stand at Gandamak. British invasion army is wiped out.

Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, by William Dalrymple, Bloomsbury, RRP£25, 608 pages

One of the most astonishing things about the western involvement in Afghanistan of the past decade, and the British shambles in particular, has been the failure to learn from or, indeed, to read accounts of previous failed interventions – even those by the officers of British regiments whose later incarnations are fighting in the country today.

Ignorance of Afghan history has not stopped a procession of contemporary “experts” from throwing about the cliché that we are in the grip of a new “Great Game”.

Aside from its lack of imagination, this parallel misses the most important point about the original: that, far from being a vital issue in 19th-century geopolitics, it was in fact something between a sideshow and an illusion. Within a few years of Rudyard Kipling’s coining the term, the British and Russian empires wound up their rivalry in the region when faced with the real common threat of Wilhelmine Germany.

This belated recognition of the pointlessness of the entire affair did not, of course, bring back to life the countless people who had died in the course of these imperial adventures over the previous 70 years.

In his brilliant new book on the first Anglo-Afghan war of 1839-42, *Return of a King*, the British historian and travel writer William Dalrymple describes the tragic beginnings of the Great Game in Afghanistan, and how unnecessary it all was.

The invasion to dethrone and replace the Afghan ruler Dost Mohammed Khan was prompted by fears of a Russian takeover of the country that were the merest paranoia.

The Russians had no plans whatsoever at that time to invade India through Afghanistan; nor could they have done so, since their frontier was still hundreds of miles to the north, across the deserts of central Asia. The whole “threat” consisted of one semi-official

emissary, Ivan Vitkevich (or rather Jan Witkiewicz, since he was Polish by birth), who was later disowned by the Russian government.

The report of Vitkevich's arrival in Afghanistan was, however, enough to send the Governor-General of India, Lord Auckland, and an increasingly Russophobic political class and media in London, into a state of hysteria.

Exploiting the bitter rivalry between two branches of the royal clan, the British sent in an army to depose Dost Mohammed and replace him with his rival Shah Shuja, who had been living in exile in India.

As Dalrymple writes: "Shah Shuja remains a symbol of quisling treachery in Afghanistan: in 2001, the Taliban asked their young men, 'Do you want to be remembered as a son of Shah Shuja or of Dost Mohammed?'"

Dalrymple notes – as do the Taliban – that Hamid Karzai, the present western-installed ruler of Afghanistan, is from the same sub-clan of the old royal tribe as Shah Shuja.

Initially, the conquest seemed to go well.

Dost Mohammed's army was quite easily defeated, and with the help of generous British bribes, large numbers of Afghan chiefs and their followers swore allegiance to Shah Shuja.

The British were convinced that Afghanistan was now secure and stable under their client ruler.

But the British had not understood the fury that the presence of a large Christian (and Indian Hindu) army in their country would cause among conservative Muslim Afghans, especially when British officers started sleeping with Afghan women.

More importantly, they had not realised that most Afghan chiefs had not sworn permanent or unconditional loyalty to Shah Shuja, but only to accept his overlordship as long as it was to their advantage.

When the British pushed Shah Shuja to raise taxes to pay for a modern administration, and cut their own subsidies to the tribes, the chiefs lit the fuse to the revolt that would explode at the end of 1842 and destroy an entire British army.

Some of Dalrymple's ancestors played a prominent role in the British conquest and administration of India. His great-great uncle, Captain Colin Mackenzie, was one of the few British officers to emerge from the Afghan debacle of 1842 with any credit.

However, this is far from being yet another account of a colonial war seen through the eyes of the colonialists. As with Dalrymple's other books on British Indian history, *White Mughals* (2002) and *The Last Mughal* (2006), the greatest new contribution and the single greatest strength of this book is its employment of Afghan and Indian sources to examine the war from the point of view both of the Afghans themselves and the Indian soldiers who made up the majority of the "British" force.

The other thing that has marked out Dalrymple's historical works is his unflinching look at British imperial atrocities.

Others have touched on the sequel to the annihilation of the British Kabul garrison, when the British "Army of Retribution" fought its way to the Afghan capital and deliberately destroyed most of the city. Yet previous British accounts have tended to omit the most horrific details, even though they were amply recorded in memoirs of the time.

These included the massacre of much of Kabul's Hindu minority, who had taken no part in the war, and an attempt to do the same to the Qizilbash Shia, who had been British allies.

Having made their point, the British then withdrew with such haste that they failed to ransom many of their own Indian soldiers who had been captured during the retreat, and who for their service were left in Afghan slavery – despite appeals by British officers of the regiments concerned.

Dalrymple describes how the British withdrawal was accompanied by a wretched mass of Afghan refugees and crippled British Indian soldiers – "a whole variety of groups whose lives had been uprooted and ruined by Auckland's failed adventure".

Even 170 years later, the events described in Return of a King still have the power to shock – and so they should.

It is to be hoped that any future British leader contemplating intervention in Afghanistan, or any other part of the Muslim world, will read Dalrymple's book.

For while it is first and foremost a valuable contribution to the history of Afghanistan and the British Raj, it is also intended to draw parallels and convey lessons about the latest western involvement in the region – lessons, it is worth noting, that were not lost on the more intelligent British officials of the time.

The first is a warning against civilisational hubris.

Before the British invasion of 1839, a British intelligence chief warned: "There is nothing more to be dreaded ... than the overweening confidence with which we are too often accustomed to regard the excellence of our own institutions, and the anxiety that we display to introduce them in new and untried soils.

"Such interference will always lead to acrimonious disputes, if not to a violent reaction."

If he had still been around, Sir Claude Wade could have said exactly the same (and with as little effect) to the Soviets in the late 1970s and the Americans and their auxiliaries in 2001.

The second lesson concerns money.

Every intervention in Afghanistan has turned out to be far more expensive than was foreseen by its planners.

Yet attempting to economise invites disaster.

As Dalrymple describes, there were multiple reasons for the Afghan revolt against the British occupation; but the destruction of the British forces began when local British officials, under pressure from London to make cuts, radically reduced the money being paid to the tribes along the route from Kabul to India – at which point they rebelled and cut the passes.

The British had assumed that the tribes' professions of loyalty to the British client ruler in Kabul, Shah Shuja, somehow meant that it was no longer necessary to pay for that loyalty.

If US officials in future try to cut their financial support to the bloated Afghan national security forces that they have created, they will discover that they have made the same mistake.

The final lesson concerns the need to understand Afghanistan on its own terms, and not fit it into simplistic international frameworks – least of all those understood in terms of good versus evil and “you are either with us or against us” (a phrase used by President George W. Bush and previously by a Russophobe British official in the 1830s).

This in turn means not demonising the Afghan enemy of the moment.

Not only in 1842 but after another Anglo-Afghan war in 1878-80, the British ended by helping on to the throne one of their former enemies (in 1842, Dost Mohammed, against whom they had launched the whole mess) in order to put the country back together again.

American officials in the 1980s were full of moral fury against the Soviet-backed communist regime in Afghanistan. After 2001, they recruited former communist officers to help fight against descendants of the Pashtun Mujahedin whom America had helped little more than a decade earlier.

In view of this past record, it would not surprise me in the slightest if in the years to come the west finds itself relying on the Taliban to create order in large parts of Afghanistan. Certainly, the British survivors of 1842 would have found nothing unexpected in such an outcome.

But then, one of the most depressing aspects of Dalrymple's account is that most British officials only really tried to learn about Afghanistan when they were on the verge of abandoning the place.

“How Will Members Of The Armed Forces Know That The Revolutionary Movement Is So Determined To Win

That It Makes Sense To Refuse Orders To Attack It And Instead To Defend It?"

**“The More The Soldiers Are Convinced
That The Rebels Are Really Rebelling,
The More Willing They Are To Turn Aside
Their Bayonets, Or Go Over With Them
To The People”**

[Excerpt from: The History of the Russian Revolution By Leon Trotsky, Volume One: The Overthrow of Tzarism: February 23-27, 1917]

**“THE LEADERS OF THE WORKERS FUMED, LOOKED FOR
FIREARMS, DEMANDED THEM FROM THE PARTY.
“AND THE ANSWER WAS: THE SOLDIERS HAVE THE
FIREARMS, GO GET THEM”**

The Vyborg section [revolutionaries] staged a meeting near the barracks of the Moscow regiment. The enterprise proved a failure.

Is it difficult for some officer or sergeant major to work the handle of a machine gun? The workers were scattered by cruel fire.

A similar attempt was made at the barracks of Reserve regiment. And there too: officers with machine gun interfered between the workers and soldiers.

The leaders of the workers fumed, looked for firearms, demanded them from the party.

And the answer was: “The soldiers have the firearms, go get them.”

Either the machine gun will wipe out the insurrection, or the insurrection will capture the machine gun.

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the

more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

In other words, the revolutionaries can create a break in the soldiers' mood only if they themselves are actually ready to seize the victory at any price whatever, even the price of blood.

And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.

Love Gone Wrong

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 29, 2014
Subject: Love Gone Wrong

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Love Gone Wrong

So tired of the drifting cold
like the war in Afghanistan
that keeps going on & on
with Soldiers
in love with themselves
coming home
to a hero's welcome
who could expect them
to not fight
in their war
so tired of the drifting snow
that keeps going on & on
Soldiers coming home
flag draped
parents saying how much
he loved the Army
& himself
who said losing both legs
was so bad
modern medicine
would have them
walking again
who said that losing an arm
was so wrong
when the Soldier

loves himself
so tired of the wind chill
on the ground
like the war in Afghanistan
that keeps going on & on
brain damaged by
the leaders of the government
who play on the Soldier
who loves himself
one more tour & it will
be over
don't worry says the Soldier
this is all I want to be
as the snow blows over
as a Country says
it does not know how
to end the war
in Afghanistan or so
they say by their actions
over & over
too much money to be made
on a love gone wrong

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“Hundreds Of Thousands” Of Greeks
Strike Against The Tsipras Regime:
“General Strike Called By Unions Joined
By Greeks From A Wide Range Of
Occupations, Including Framers,
Lawyers, Doctors And Others”**

04 Feb 16 BIRN

Public transport in Greece on Thursday ground to a halt, ministries and schools were closed and hundreds of thousands took the streets in the largest strike in years.

There were no reports of injury or damage but footage from central Athens showed some protesters throwing Molotov-cocktails at the police and security forces fighting

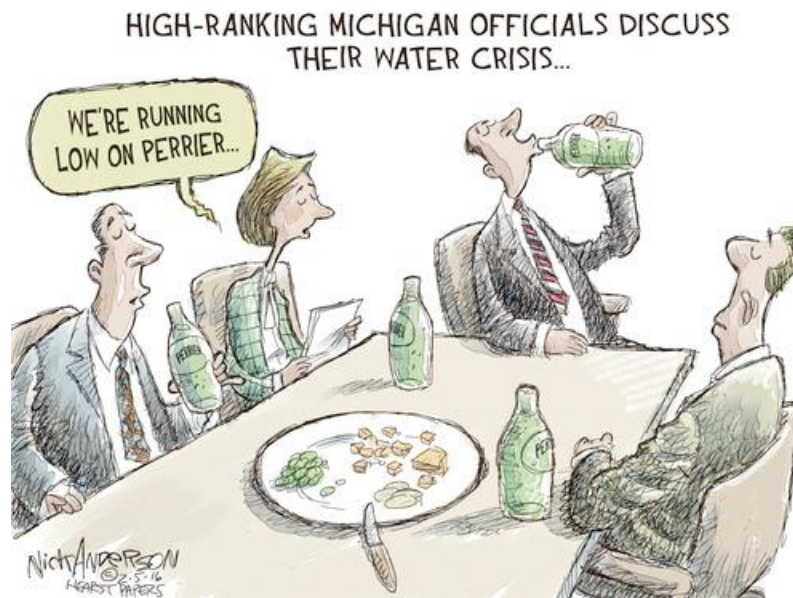
back with tear gas. The daily newspaper Kathimerini blamed the violent incidents on anarchists who attacked police and protesters alike in several places in Athens.

Greek police estimate that hundreds of thousands of people took part in protests in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Heraklion and Volos. The general strike called by unions has been joined by Greeks from a wide range of occupations, including framers, lawyers, doctors and others.

International creditors demanded a series of reforms as a part of the bailout package which saved Greece from bankruptcy, including 15 per cent cuts for new pensioners.

Strikers oppose the austerity measures put forward by the government under Alexis Tsipras, especially pension reforms required under the terms of an international bailout. The government has only a slim majority in parliament, raising fresh fears for Greece's stability.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Is this the America we're fighting for?"]

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Forces Kill 14-Year-Old Palestinian Allegedly Throwing Molotov Cocktail

Feb. 5, 2016 Ma'an

HEBRON -- Israeli soldiers killed a 14-year-old Palestinian and detained another young boy in the occupied West Bank town of Halhul north of Hebron, after the two allegedly tried to throw Molotov cocktails at passing vehicles.

"During routine activity to secure Route 60," Israeli forces "spotted two suspects attempting to throw Molotov cocktails at vehicles" on the highway, an Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an.

The forces then opened fire on the teenagers, killing one and detaining another, the spokesperson said.

Witnesses told Ma'an that they saw a child lying on the ground after hearing gunshots where Israeli forces were deployed in the al-Hawawer area of Halhul city. One witness told Ma'an that they saw Israeli soldiers putting the child into a black bag.

Another child was seen handcuffed and blindfolded.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said Israeli soldiers prevented paramedics from reaching the scene and treating those potentially injured.

The child killed was identified as 14-year-old Haitham Ismail al-Baw. His cousin, Wajdi Yusif al-Baw, 12, was reportedly injured during the incident.

The army spokesperson said that vehicles driving on Route 60 have frequently been targeted by Molotov cocktails in recent months.

The route runs north-south through the occupied West Bank, connecting to several illegal Israeli settlements and is the site of a number of military-guarded junctions.

Al-Baw is one of nearly 170 Palestinians to be killed by Israeli forces or settlers since October, many of whom were killed while carrying out individual attacks on Israeli military and settlers, while others died during clashes or unconfirmed circumstances.

The Hebron district in particular grew as a flashpoint in November and December, and the Israeli military shut down movement in large portions of the district. Many restrictions have since been lifted but sporadic closures continue.

At least three Palestinians were killed in November in the town of Halhul where 14-year-old al-Baw was shot dead on Friday.

One of those killed was Hassan Jihad al-Baw, 23, who was shot in the heart during clashes with Israeli military forces.

Palestinian Armed Resistance Fights Occupation Soldiers In Besieged Qabatiya

6-2-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

JENIN

Armed clashes took place between Palestinians and Israeli occupation soldiers on Friday evening in Qabatiya town, which has been under tight military siege for three days.

According to Israel's channel 10, Israeli soldiers traded fire with Palestinians following the funeral of three slain young men.

The channel pointed out that a homemade explosive device was thrown at Israeli military vehicles, without stating if the attack caused casualties among the soldiers.

According to Quds Press, the public relations department in Jenin affirmed that an exchange of fire happened between intifada young men and soldiers west of Qabatiya town.

A massive funeral procession was held for three martyrs in the town after the Israeli side handed over their bodies on the same day.

The Israeli occupation army has been imposing a blockade on Qabatiya since last Wednesday and carrying out widespread arrests and raids on homes in the town after three local young men killed a police officer and injured others in east Jerusalem before being shot dead.

In a separate incident, a settler's car was exposed on the same day to gunfire near Ariel settlement, north of Salfit, according Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper.

Zionist Soldiers Open Fire On Non- Violent Palestinian Weekly Protest In Kufur Qaddoum: Two Shot

February 05, 2016 by IMEMC News

Palestinian medical sources have reported that Israeli soldiers invaded, Friday, Kufur Qaddoum town, near the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia, and attacked the weekly protest, wounding two with live rounds.



Photo By Kufur Qaddoum Solidarity

Media spokesperson of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Colonies in the town Morad Eshteiyw, said the army invaded the town, and tried to prevent the Palestinians from holding their weekly protest.

He added that two Palestinians, identified as Rezeq Eshteiyw, 29, and Mohammad Rayyan, 24, were shot with live rounds in their thighs, and suffered moderate wounds.

Eshteiyw added that several army sharpshooters were deployed in the town, preventing the protesters from marching further, and fired live rounds targeting a home belonging to resident Abdul-Razeq Amer, causing damage to its window.

The Palestinians in Kufur Qaddoum have been protesting for more than 13 years, demanding Israel to reopen the main road of the village, after the army closed it to allow the illegal Israeli settlers a faster and easier access to Kedumim colony, built on the villagers' lands.

Also on Friday, the soldiers attacked the weekly protest in Bil'in village, near Ramallah, causing several injuries.

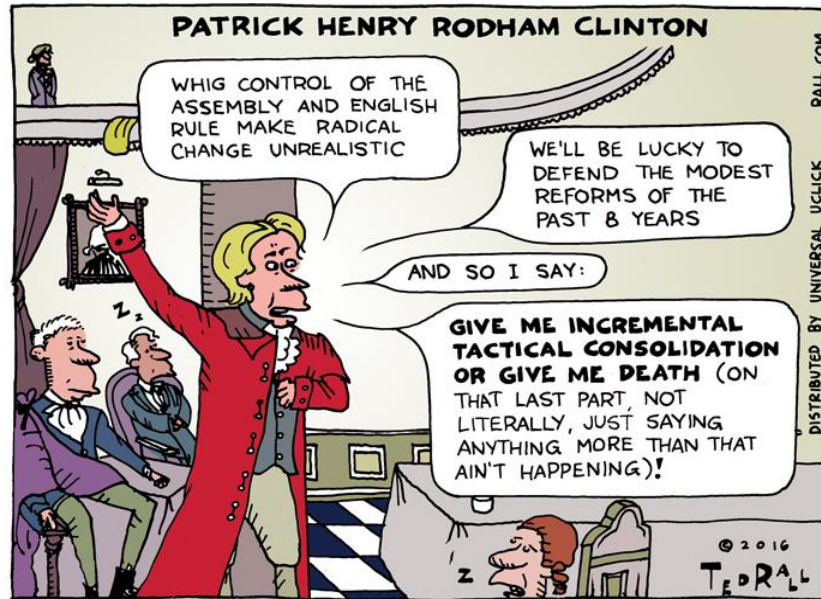
To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

**<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>**

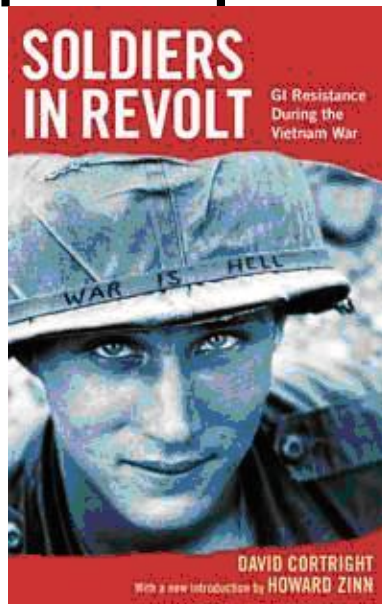
The occupied nation is Palestine.

The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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