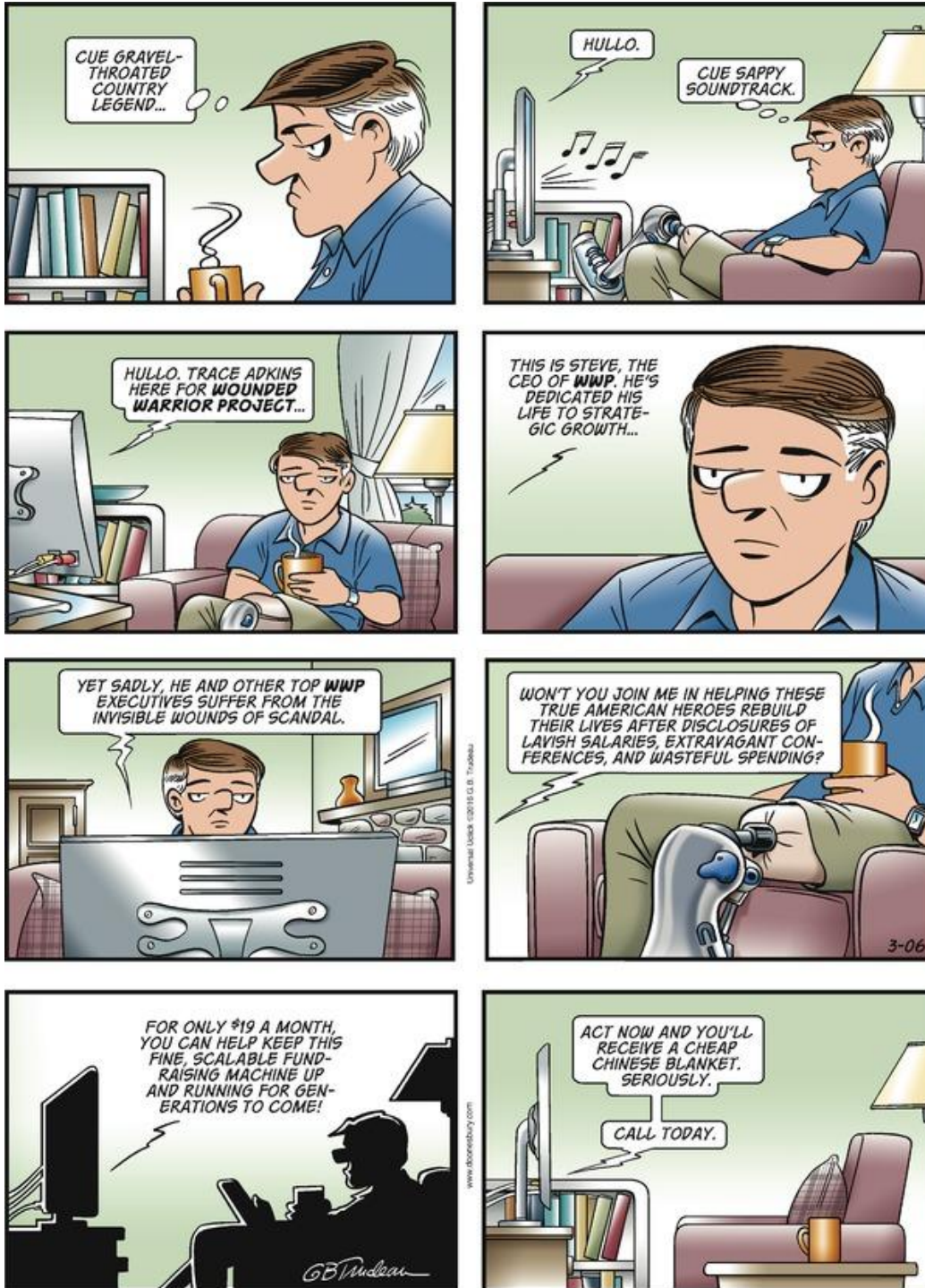


Military Resistance 14C1



Thanks to Phil Gasper, who sent this in.]

**How America's Cops Get Away
With Murder:
"State-Sanctioned Killers Who
Know If Called Upon To Answer
For Their Crimes They'll Likely Be
Protected By Prosecutors And
Judges"
"Police And Prosecutors Played An
Obscene Game Called 'Niggers By
The Pound'"
(Book Review)**

In conclusion, Spence states that in authoring this book, "I realized I'd never represented a person charged with a crime in either a state or federal court in which the police, including the FBI, hadn't themselves violated the law – and on more than one occasion, even committed the crime of murder."

Feb. 2, 2016 Book review by Bill Trine, Prison Legal News February, 2016, page 28.
<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/>

Police State: How America's Cops Get Away with Murder, by Gerry Spence. (St. Martin's Press, 2015). 338 pages, hard cover. \$19.40

In recent years, the American public has witnessed shocking videos, taken by cell phones with video cameras, of citizens brutalized and killed by the police.

Are these recently-publicized incidents of police brutality something new, or has this abuse of power pre-existed the widespread use of video-enabled phones?

The answer to that question becomes clear in Gerry Spence's new book, *Police State: How America's Cops Get Away with Murder*. By using the stories of some of his most famous jury trials dating back to the 1970s, Spence demonstrates that the flaws in our criminal justice system are longstanding and in desperate need of correction.

However, the content of the book is much broader than its title suggests.

Spence does not limit his criticisms in Police State to law enforcement, including the FBI, but extends them to prosecutors who sometimes join the police in abuses of power that trample on the constitutional rights of citizens.

In short, he is critical of a criminal justice system that protects those police, prosecutors and sometimes judges who abuse their power without fear of redress. Spence states, "Too many of America's police are potentially state-sanctioned killers who know if they are called upon to answer for their crimes they'll likely be protected by prosecutors and judges."

He then supports his criticisms with eight of his legendary cases.

Spence is a magnificent story teller and relates each case in a spellbinding fashion, starting with the now-famous Randy Weaver case involving the government's atrocities at Ruby Ridge, Idaho in 1992. His description of the FBI agents' siege and all-out war against the Weaver family, involving the killing of a boy's dog, then the boy, then shooting the mother in the face as she held a new-born baby, is heartbreaking. The army of agents also shot and seriously wounded the men in the household, including Randy Weaver, who was successfully defended by Spence in the longest trial in the state's history.

The story of this trial alone is worth the price of the book. Despite the unjustified murders committed by law enforcement, Spence notes, "Not a single cop spent a night in jail."

He then tells the stories of seven additional cases that support his contention that too many cops get away with murder, and that the abuse of power so often seen in the criminal justice system can also result in the prosecution of innocent victims.

Those innocent victims include Dennis Williams, one of the four young black men in Chicago who became known as the "Ford Heights Four," who were charged with the rape and murder of a white woman and the murder of her boyfriend. Williams was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury in 1978, then exonerated 18 years later when all four were pardoned by the governor of Illinois because they were innocent.

Spence then successfully brought a civil lawsuit on behalf of Williams, and tells the story of the outrageous conduct and racial profiling by the police and prosecutors who played an obscene game called "Niggers by the Pound."

In telling the story of some of his most celebrated cases, as only a living legend can do, Gerry Spence captures your attention at the outset and pulls you into the story, which is told so vividly that you become captivated as you picture and feel the emotions involved. His stories demonstrate the compassion and feelings he has for each client, and how that – combined with police and prosecutorial misconduct – inspires him to seek justice.

In his illustrious career he has never lost a criminal case.

Spence also tells the story of Fouad Kaady, a young man who borrowed his parent's car, filled a gas can and was returning to his own car that had run out of

gas, when an explosion occurred trapping him in the car and causing it to collide with other vehicles.

When he was able to escape the inferno he ran into the woods in a panic, on fire and now naked.

When a dozen or more cops responded to calls that reported the accident, he was found sitting on the edge of a nearby road in critical condition covered with blood, catatonic and unresponsive. He appeared to be burned from the waist up. When ordered to lie down on his stomach to be handcuffed, he didn't comply and was literally tasered to death. The cops involved were not disciplined or punished.

The stories of the rest of the cases described by Spence all involve some form of police or prosecutorial misconduct, or both.

He argues that all of the cases evidence an abuse of power.

They include the murder of John Singer, who was shot in the back in 1979 by police who were chasing him in snowmobiles because he ignored a court order to place his children in school.

They include other cases that resulted in national publicity, such as those of Brandon Mayfield, the Seattle lawyer charged with the deaths of 191 people killed in a terrorist bombing in Spain, based on an erroneous FBI fingerprint match; the Geoffrey Fieger political trial; the Imelda Marcos trial and others.

In conclusion, Spence states that in authoring this book, “I realized I’d never represented a person charged with a crime in either a state or federal court in which the police, including the FBI, hadn’t themselves violated the law – and on more than one occasion, even committed the crime of murder.”

But, he adds, “I don’t mean to suggest that every cop is a bully, a criminal, or a killer. I do mean too many bullies and criminals and killers are cops.”

Spence then asks, “What can we do?” And in the epilogue he sets forth twelve steps that must be taken to implement the corrections he deems necessary “to prevent the long-standing practice of wrongful killings and their cover-ups by our police and prosecutors.”

This book demonstrates the heart, compassion and kindness of a legal warrior who has devoted his life to seeking justice for those who desperately need it the most. It is perhaps his finest work.

Police State: How America’s Cops Get Away with Murder is available on Amazon.com and from St. Martin’s Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010; www.stmartins.com.

ACTION REPORTS

A Reluctant Sergeant

[Outreach To New York National Guard 2/29/16]

From: Alan S
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard 2/29/16
Date: Mar 1, 2016 6:14 AM

Many National Guard soldiers patrolling New York City's commuter terminals refuse anything but Military Resistance intro cards when approached by me. They claim they're not permitted to accept anything larger than that. Today's outreach was a bit more out of the ordinary.

A sergeant, knowing me from a previous outreach, turned down an offer of a Military Resistance Newsletter, saying there were those possibly watching him and his patrol mate, a private. He looked around while we spoke.

A bit uncomfortable he indicated previous material was worthwhile but wouldn't go beyond that. I told him the newsletters I carried were more recent than the ones he read. He looked around as I folded said newsletter in 4 squares (I do this frequently) so he might shove it into one of his oversized trouser pockets. I then told him I carried a copy of "Soldiers in Revolt" [see below] too which seemed to pique his curiosity as I indicated the other trouser pocket being just the right size for the book. Furtively, he accepted it as I stood in front of him blocking as much of the transfer as possible.

The private, having stood a few feet away, took a card and folded up newsletter but wanted neither of the DVDs: "Sir! No Sir!" or "Authority and Expectations" [see below] claiming he was "already in trouble." "How so?" I asked. He wouldn't elaborate but let on soldiers are searched before they begin patrol but not after. I said there'd be no problem then but he felt he "didn't want to take chances."

Two other troops a distance from the mentioned two were very young and perhaps not warned about acceptance. Each took a card and newsletter but declined DVDs as well.

Another terminal found me approaching 7 more soldiers, two taking cards but nothing more and three others, seemingly oblivious to acceptance regulations, taking cards, newsletters and both DVDs without ceremony.

One of a last pair accepted a newsletter (my last) and cards. The other had taken material from me a while ago but "hadn't had time to read or listen to it." More than one soldier has told me just that.

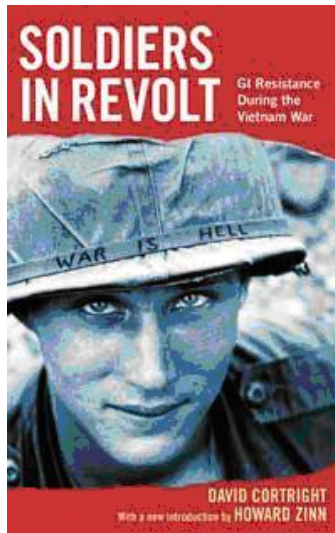
Authority & Expectations: An Iraq Veteran Against The War condemns the war and their government:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyfkLubnyBw>

Sir No Sir: Military Resistance Vietnam Days

http://www.sirnosir.com/the_film/storefront.htm

Soldiers In Revolt: A Vietnam veteran describes the strategy and tactics used by troops to stop an imperial war.



Free to active duty. Civilians: \$16 including postage.
Buy one for a friend/relative in the service.

Requests from active duty or orders from civilians to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576
Broadway. New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Initiative

Organizing Committee Mission Statement:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.

This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.

The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to

attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.

Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.

The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.

3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.

This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.

4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.

That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.

Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.

7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

Membership Requirements:

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

MORE

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Initiative: MILITARY INITIATIVE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____
(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

Military Initiative

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Taliban Insider Attack Kills 4
Afghan Police:
“Ten More Police Missing Along
With Their Weapons”
“Kandahar Police Spokesman Said
The Attacked Checkpoint Belongs To
Uruzgan Police”
“Uruzgan Provincial Police Chief
Rebuffed The Claim, Saying The Affected
Police Checkpoint Belonged To
Kandahar Police”**

2016-03-01 Xinhua

KABUL -- A police personnel obviously loyal to Taliban outfit opened fire and killed four colleagues in Taliban former stronghold the southern Kandahar province on Tuesday and fled the scene, a local security official said.

"A police personnel, apparently affiliated with Taliban militants opened fire on his colleague in a checkpoint in Tarogh area on Kandahar-Uruzgan highway early Tuesday and after killing four police on the spot made his good escape," the official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Ten more police personnel of the checkpoint went missing along with their weapons, the official added.

However, the official didn't identify the exact location of the bloody incident.

Meanwhile, Kandahar police spokesman, Zia Durani in talks with Xinhua confirmed the incident but said the attacked checkpoint belongs to Uruzgan police.

However, Uruzgan provincial police chief, Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Liwanai rebuffed the claim, saying the affected police checkpoint belonged to Kandahar police.

Meanwhile, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit told media that a Taliban loyalist who had worked as police opened fire on police personnel in a police checkpoint in Shah Walikot district of Kandahar province early Tuesday killing four police personnel on the spot and joined the Taliban rank.

Backing the claim, Taliban outfit in an online statement said Tuesday that a Taliban man disguised himself as police after killing four police personnel at a police checkpoint in Shah Walikot of Kandahar had enabled Taliban fighters to capture the checkpoint and seize several weapons including six AK-47 rifles and a rocket propelled grenade.

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

Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few

-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

“Diminish The Cost Of Subsistence Of Men, By Diminishing The Natural Price Of The Food And Clothing, By Which Life Is Sustained, And Wages Will Ultimately Fall”

From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

The monetary expression, i.e. the price of the commodity labor-power, is called the wage.

With every other commodity, the price rises when demand grows more quickly than supply, and conversely falls when the supply of the commodity is greater than demand.

The same also holds for the commodity labor-power: with rising demand for workers, wages show a general tendency to rise, and if the demand falls or the labor-market is overfilled with fresh commodity, wages show a tendency to fall.

Finally, as with every other commodity, the value of labor-power, and along with it ultimately its price as well, is higher if a greater amount of labor is required for its production: in this case, if the worker's means of subsistence require more labor for their production.

And conversely, every saving on the labor required to produce the worker's means of subsistence leads to reduction in the value of labor-power, and thus also in its price, i.e. in wages.

As David Ricardo wrote in 1817:

“Diminish the cost of production of hats, and their price will ultimately fall to their new natural price, although the demand should be doubled, trebled, or quadrupled.

“Diminish the cost of subsistence of men, by diminishing the natural price of the food and clothing, by which life is sustained, and wages will ultimately fall, notwithstanding that the demand for laborers may vary greatly increase.”

**Brain Damage? Old News:
[A Comment On Football From
1583]**

**PLAYING AT FOOTBALL UPON THE
SABBOTH AND OTHER DAYES IN
ENGLAND**

**“But Who So Ever Scapeth Away, The
Best Goeth Not Scotfree, But Is Either
Sore Crushed And Bruised, So As He
Dyeth Of It, Or Els Scapeth Very Hardly”**

From: The Anatomie Of Abuses, by Philip Stubbes
London, 1583

Spud. Is the playing at Footeball, reading of merry bookes, and such like delectations a violation or prophanation of the sabboth day?

Philo. Any exercise which withdraweth us from godlinesse, eyther upon the Sabboth day, or any other day els, is wicked and to be forbidden.

Now, who is so grosly blinde that seeth not that these aforesaid exercises not only withdraw us from godlines and vertue, but also hale and allure us to wickednes and sin, for as concerning Footeball playing, I protest unto you, it may rather bee called a friendly kind of fight then a play or recreation. A bloody and murthering practise then a fellowly sport or passtime

For doth not everyone ly in wayt for his adversary, seeking to overthrow him and to picke him on his nose, though it be upon hard stones, in ditch or dale, in valley or hole, or what place soever it be he careth not, so hee may have him downe.

And hee that can serve the most of this fashion he is counted the only fellow, and who but he?

So that by this means sometimes their necks are broken, sometimes their legs, sometime their armes, sometime one part thrust out of joint, sometime another, sometimes their noses gush out with blood, sometimes their eyes start out of their heads, and sometimes hurt in once place, sometimes in another.

But who so ever scapeth away, the best goeth not scotfree, but is either sore crushed and bruised, so as he dyeth of it, or els scapeth very hardly.

As no marvel, for they have sleights to meet one betwixt two, to dash him against the heart with their elbowes, to hit him under the short ribbes with their griped fists, and with their knees to catch him upon the hip and picke him on his necke, with an hundred such murdering devises, and hereof groweth envy, malice, rancour, chollour, hatred, displeasur, enmity, and what not else?

And sometimes fighting, brawling, contention, quarrel picking, murther, homicide, and great effusion of bloud, as experience daily teacheth.

Is this murthering play now an exercise for the Sabboth day? Is this a Christain dealing for one brother to maime and hurt another, and that upon prepensed malice, or set purpose? Is this to doe to another as we would wish another to doe to us. God make us more carefull over the bodies of our brethren.

ANNIVERSARIES

March 7, 1932 -- Bloody Work: Five Ford Workers Killed And Nineteen Wounded By Police And Company “Security” Armed With Pistols, Rifles And A Machine Gun



The Ford Hunger March began on Detroit's East Side and proceeded 10 miles seeking relief during the Great Depression.

Facing hunger and evictions, workers had formed neighborhood Unemployed Councils. Along the route, the marchers were given good wishes from Detroit Mayor Frank Murphy as well as two motorcycle escorts, and thousands joined the marchers along the route.

At the Detroit city limit, the marchers were met by Dearborn police and doused by fire hoses.

Despite the cold weather, they continued to the Employment Office of the Ford River Rouge plant, from which there had been massive layoffs.

Five workers were killed and nineteen wounded by police and company "security" armed with pistols, rifles and a machine gun.

According to Dave Moore, one of the marchers, "That blood was black blood and white blood.

One of the photos that was published in the Detroit Times, but never seen since, shows a black woman, Mattie Woodson, wiping the blood off the head of Joe DiBlasio, a white man who lay there dying . . . It's been 75 years, but when you drive down Miller Road today, your car tires will be moistened with the blood that those five shed."

Grave markers with the words "His Life for the Union" pay tribute to them in Woodmere Cemetery on Detroit's West Side.

March 7, 1965: Noble Anniversary: The First March From Selma: A Day That That Shook The World



Alabama police attack Selma-to-Montgomery marchers

Carl Bunin Peace History; Americaslibrary.gov [Excerpts]

March 7, 1965

When 525 people started a planned march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday March 7, 1965, it was called a demonstration. When state troopers met the demonstrators at the edge of the city by the Edmund Pettus Bridge, that day became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

In Selma, African Americans made up almost half the population, but only two percent were registered voters. Discrimination and intimidation tactics aimed at blacks kept them from registering and voting. The demonstrators marched to demand fairness in voter registration.

The sheriff warned the people that they had two minutes to break up the march, but the deputies attacked sooner. The demonstrators were tear-gassed, clubbed, spat on, whipped, trampled by horses, and jeered by others for demanding the right to register to vote.

Television and newspapers carried pictures of the event that became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

The images sickened, outraged, and electrified people throughout the country.

Within 48 hours, demonstrations in support of the marchers were held in 80 cities. Many of the nation’s religious and lay leaders, including Martin Luther King, flew to Selma. After one more failed attempt, King led a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery. Congress responded to these events by enacting the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



**March 8, 1965;
Unhappy Murderous Imperial Stupidity
Anniversary**



Carl Bunin Peace History

About 3,500 U. S. Marines became the first American combat troops in Vietnam, landing near the coastal city of Da Nang. The USS Henrico, Union, and Vancouver, carrying the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under Brig. Gen. Frederick J. Karch, took up stations 4,000 yards off Red Beach Two, north of Da Nang.

Two Magnificent Anniversaries In The Fight For Human Liberation:

#1:

March 8, 1908:

**New York City Women Strike For
Higher Wages, A Shorter Workday
And An End To Child Labor**



Carl Bunin Peace History; un.org [Excerpts

March 8, 1908

Thousands of workers in the New York needle trades (primarily women) demonstrated and began a strike for higher wages, a shorter workday and an end to child labor.

This event became the basis for International Women's Day celebrated all over the world since March 8, 1945.

#2: March 8, 1917 With 2 Million Russian Soldiers Dead In The War, Women Ignore The "Political Leaders" And Lead A Revolution To Overthrow The Imperial Tyrant Czar Of Russia



*Two old women lament
Old days of sorrow,
When prayers went unheard
And the grave was relief.*

*But no more does the stick
Fall upon women's shoulders.
Free and equal they march,
Comrades of men!*

March 8, 1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for “bread and peace”.

Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway.

The rest is history:

Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.

That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

28,000 March On Japan Parliament To Protest US Base Relocation In Okinawa:

**“Justice And Righteousness Are On
Our Side”**

**“We Can Never Tolerate A Government
That Ignores Democracy And Local
Autonomy”**

21 Feb, 2016 TV-Novosti

Thousands of people encircled Japan`s parliament to protest against the relocation of a US military base on Okinawa island.

At the same time more students marched through the streets objecting the government`s plan to allow Japanese military to fight overseas.

The protesters, holding signs reading “No” or “Protect Henoko” and chanting “Don’t build the base” staged a rally against the Japan’s government intention to relocate the functioning US marine base Futenma, stationed in a densely populated area of Ginowan, to a facility in Henoko, also on Okinawa.

Over 28,000 people joined the rally, according to Kyodo news agency. Opposition rallies were also held in the cities of Toyama, Okayama, Sapporo, Nagoya and Osaka.

The Japanese and American governments proposed moving Futenma from the crowded Ginowan to the less-populated Henoko coastal area of Nago already as early as 1996. This was an attempt to subdue tensions among locals after a schoolgirl was raped by a US serviceman.

However, authorities had to face strong opposition from the locals, who wanted to get rid of the base once and for all. A lot of residents complain that stationing of a US base in Okinawa will result only in negative consequences such as an increase in crime and noise as well as contributing to pollution.

“The central government is trying to force through landfill work to move the base to Henoko, but justice and righteousness are on our side,” Nago Mayor Susume Inamine said at the rally in Tokyo, according to The Japan Times.

“We can never tolerate a government that ignores democracy and local autonomy,” he added.

Okinawa was the only site of Japanese ground troop battles in WWII, following which the US military occupied the island for 27 years returning it to Japan only in 1972. Many people denounce the fact that it now hosts about 75 percent of US military facilities in the country.

Japan's PM Shinzo Abe reiterated last month that relocation of the base is the only option available despite the growing dissent among locals and Okinawa authorities, who seek to cancel the approval of the project back in 2013.

"The government says we are to blame that the issue has stalled for 19 years and they tell us to find an alternative place. That is outrageous," mayor Inamine said as cited by International Business Times.

The same day, the protests against another militarist measure – the enabling of Japanese military engagement abroad – propelled by Abe government, were organized by a group of teenage students. They held banners reading “

Teens against war law” and “War is over” appealing to the Article 9 of the constitution which “forever renounces war as a sovereign right of the nation.”

Various estimates put the number of protesters at 100-5,000 with similar rallies reported in 14 other prefectures across the country.

MORE:

Japan Government Suspends Work On U.S. Base On Okinawa: “Abe Said That His Government Is Accepting A Court Proposal Not To Force The Reclamation Work Over Okinawa’s Objections”

March 4, 2016 by Mari Yamaguchi, Associated Press

TOKYO - Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday he has decided to temporarily suspend preliminary work on moving a U.S. Marine Corps base on Okinawa and will resume talks on the contentious relocation plan.

The central government and Okinawa's prefectural government have been locked in a legal battle over relocating the base, with both sides suing the other.

Abe said that his government is accepting a court proposal not to force the reclamation work over Okinawa's objections.

The court in February made the proposal as an interim step allowing talks. Details of the proposal were not made public.

The sudden reversal of his policy to continue with the reclamation work is seen as a vote-buying attempt ahead of this summer's parliamentary elections.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga last year issued an order to suspend permission for the reclamation work. Then the central government sued to reverse the order, to which Okinawa counter-sued, seeking a court injunction.

The work involves filling in part of a bay to create off-coast runways for Futenma air station, which is now in a more densely populated area on the island.

Onaga later flew in to Tokyo and held talks with Abe at his office, both confirming to follow the court proposal and abide by any subsequent court decisions related to their legal dispute. Onaga welcomed Friday's decision by both sides as "very significant."

Abe said the plan to eventually move the base to the town of Henoko is unchanged. The relocation is based on a 20-year-old bilateral agreement to reduce the burden of the U.S. military presence on Okinawa.

Opponents want the base moved off Okinawa entirely, and a prospect for a compromise is still unclear, though Okinawa is expected to drop the lawsuit.

Abe said he wants to avoid leaving the situation deadlocked “for years to come, a development that nobody wants to see.”

America’s top military official in the Pacific said last month that the relocation plan has been pushed back by two years until 2025 from the current target, because of delays from the disputes.

The U.S. has agreed to shift 8,000 to 10,000 Marines off Okinawa in the 2020s, mainly to Guam and Hawaii, but Adm. Harry Harris, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, said that would happen after Futenma’s relocation.

The southern island prefecture is home to about half of about 50,000 American troops stationed in Japan under the bilateral security treaty. Many Okinawans complain about crime and noise linked to the U.S. military bases.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

“Cracks In The Market For The Low-Rated Debt That Has Been A Key Driver Of The Takeover Boom”

“First Annual Decline Since 2008, Reflecting Broad Retrenchment In The Lowest Reaches Of The Market”

“A Wave Of Debt From The Last Buyout Boom Is Coming Due, Raising The Specter Of Defaults”

“There Are Signs That Investor Wariness Is Extending To Higher-Rated Borrowers”

Feb. 26, 2016 By Sam Goldfarb and Liz Hoffman, Wall Street Journal

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is struggling to sell \$2 billion in bonds backing the buyout of software firm Solera Holdings Inc., another sign of cracks in the market for the low-rated debt that has been a key driver of the takeover boom.

Solera's sale to Vista Equity Partners was one of the biggest leveraged buyouts of last year, at \$6.5 billion including debt, and has been widely viewed as a test of the credit market.

The bond sale comes at a time when U.S. junk-bond issuance has dropped more than 70% from a year ago and borrowing costs have increased, as risk-averse investors back away from riskier securities or demand sweeter terms.

The pullback threatens a mergers-and-acquisitions boom that has been driven partly by cheap and available credit.

It also comes as a wave of debt from the last buyout boom is coming due, raising the specter of defaults or, at the very least, the prospect that borrowers could be forced to refinance on less-hospitable terms.

Solera's bonds carry a Caa1 rating from Moody's Investors Service, which is where some of the worst market carnage has taken place in recent months as investors dial back their risk taking. U.S. junk bonds last year posted their first annual decline since 2008, reflecting a broad retrenchment in the lowest reaches of the market.

Demand for the lowest-rated debt “is really nonexistent now,” said Matthew Duch, a portfolio manager at Calvert Investments.

Defaults are expected to rise in 2016 after spending much of the postcrisis period below historical averages, according to Moody's.

U.S. companies have \$1.3 trillion in junk debt maturing between now and 2020, according to S&P Ratings Services. An important test case is Toys “R” Us, which has \$1.6 billion in debt coming due through 2020, much of it left over from its 2005 buyout.

Goldman originally expected to sell the Solera bonds at an annual yield of about 10%, investors said. But by midday Thursday, it had found buyers for only about half the bonds, and pricing expectations had moved above 11%.

The sale, which had been expected to close Thursday, may be pushed to Friday or into next week, investors said.

The bond sale has proved a tougher task than Solera's \$1.9 billion offering of leveraged loans backing the deal.

Painful for buyers, the pullback promises to be equally uncomfortable for banks, which earn big fees from lending commitments.

In good times, the deals are safe because the debt is easily sold to other investors. But in a crunch, banks can be forced to keep it on their balance sheets and hold capital reserves against it, which hurts profitability.

LeasePlan International NV last week shelved a €1.55 billion (\$1.71 billion) bond sale after failing to attract enough investor interest. Banks were forced to fund Endurance International Group Holdings Inc.'s acquisition of email-marketing firm Constant Contact Inc. after failing to find buyers for \$1.1 billion of buyout debt.

There are signs that investor wariness is extending to higher-rated borrowers.

Insurer CNA Financial Corp., whose debt is rated investment grade, last week trimmed the size of a bond offering and raised the interest rate after investors balked at the initial terms.

Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen, in congressional testimony this month, listed higher borrowing costs for riskier firms among factors that could weigh on economic growth in coming months.

Solera negotiated its sale in September, just as problems were starting to emerge in the market for risky debt.

The company fast-tracked its auction process to stay ahead of volatility in the financing market, and at least one interested party declined to bid because it was concerned it couldn't raise the needed debt, according to a regulatory filing and a person familiar with the matter.

The deal risked running afoul of regulators, who frown on transactions carrying debt higher than six times earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, a measure of cash flow. Solera was predicting about \$493 million in 2016 adjusted Ebitda.

To ease concerns, affiliates of Goldman Sachs and Koch Industries Inc. agreed to buy up to \$800 million in preferred shares to fund the deal. Such investments, while they pay a fixed debt-like return, are treated as equity and would help keep Solera's debt ratio in check.

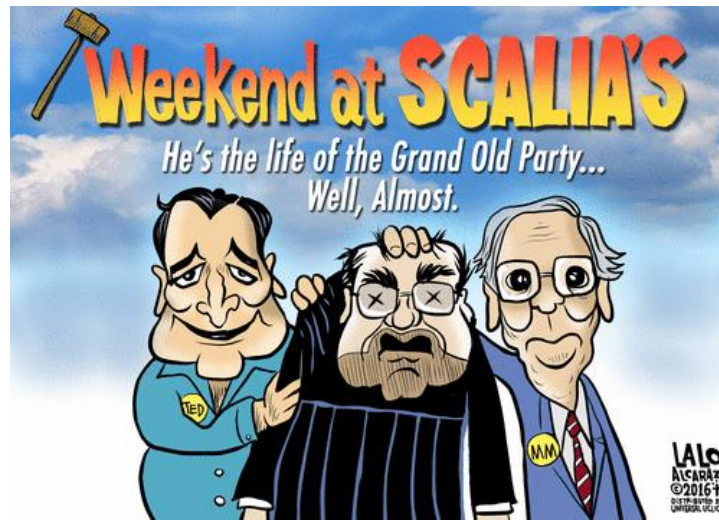
Apollo Management Group LLC's pending \$6.9 billion buyout of ADT Corp., announced earlier this month, also hinges on an investment from Koch.

Issuing preferred shares is expensive, and is often a sign that more traditional debt sources are tapped out.

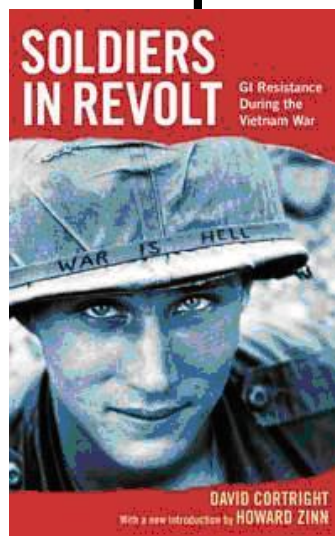
The biggest leveraged acquisition of last year, Carlyle Group LP's carve-out of Symantec Corp.'s data-storage business, also has hit a debt snag this year. Carlyle

lowered its purchase price last month amid financing pressures, people familiar with the matter said.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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