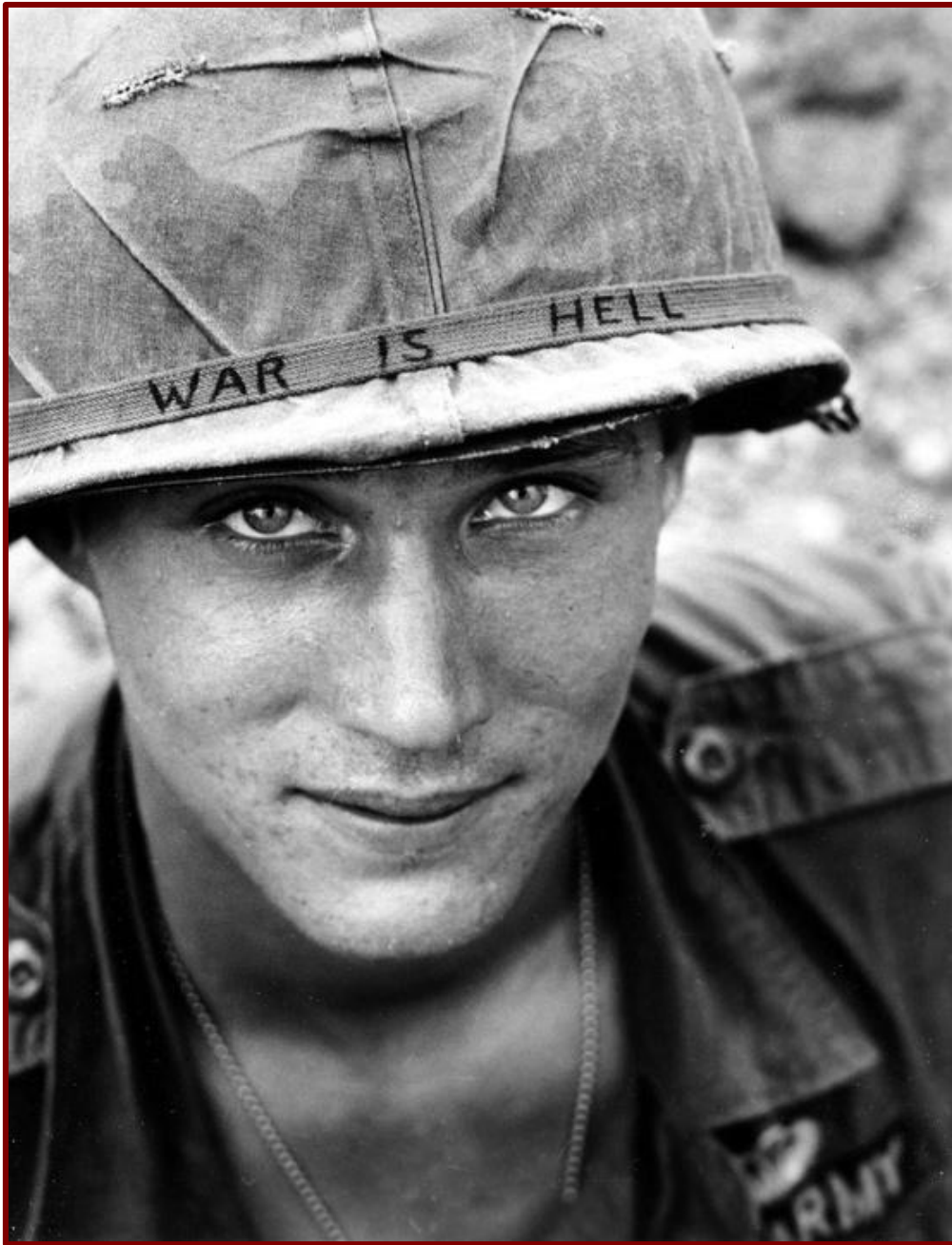


The War on WAR



... a collection of images & brief commentaries on why war began, why wars continue, and how humanity can finally realize the ultimate solution thereto

via *Scaughdt*
an (i)am publication



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“We need to decide together that we will no longer go to war -- and this no matter what ‘sensible reason’ is conjured up by our politicians or the media -- because war in our time is always and ever will be raw and indiscriminate; always is a war against innocent; ever will be a war against children.” ~ via Howard Zinn



“All wars are sacred to those who have to fight them. After all, if the people who started wars didn’t make them sacred, who would be foolish enough to fight? But, no matter what rallying cries the politicians give to the idiots who fight, no matter what faux-noble purposes they assign to wars, there is never but one real reason for a war, and that reason is money. All wars are in reality either money grabs or money squabbles, and yet so few people ever realize it. I guess it’s because their ears are too full of bugles and drums and their hearts have been clouded by fine-tuned words from stay-at-home orators.”

~ via Margaret Mitchell

An Introduction to what Follows...

War has been the second-vilest stain on humanity's robes since the dawn of time (with the subjugation, oppression, and torturous use & abuse of non-human animals being the most vile). And while it is true that war has indeed been on the steady decline since WWII, it is just as true that war remains a nasty plague in need of a cure -- a festering pox on our species that, unless one day remedied, will have us ever-spiraling towards our own (some would say well-deserved) extinction.

The contents of this tome provide a collection of memes, images, quips, and quotations that identify why war began, why wars begin, and why war still persists to this day – along with a few solid hints towards a practical, and still quite attainable, solution to the same.

As far as the survival of our species goes, it's either war or us – one of the two (war) has got to go, and either that one goes or we all will.

Here's to praying that Humanity wakes up in time to leave its barbaric adolescence behind, at least in time to become the Caring Stewards of each other and our planet that we were born to be ...

Amen ... Let it be so.

Scaughdt
(April 2018)



*“Be a light unto the world, and harm it not. Seek to build, not destroy ... Seek only Godliness. Speak only in truthfulness. Act only in Love ... Give everything and require nothing ... Make every moment of your life an outpouring of love ... Bring peace to the Earth by bringing peace to all those whose lives you touch. **BE PEACE.** Feel and express in every moment your Divine Connection with the All, and with every person, place, and thing ... Embrace every circumstance, own every fault, share every joy, contemplate every mystery, walk in every man’s shoes, forgive every offense, honor every person’s truth, protect every person’s rights, preserve every person’s dignity, presume every person’s holiness, and produce every person’s blessing ... Be a living, breathing example of the Highest Truth that resides within you ... Be a gift to everyone who enters your life, and to everyone whose life you enter. Be careful not to enter another’s life if you cannot be a gift. When someone enters your life unexpectedly, look for the gift that person has come to receive from you. For remember: **I have sent you nothing but angels.**” ~ GOD (unknown)*

The never-ending Democracy ...
(09/01/2017)

*The United States has been at war
for 225 out of the 241 years since 1776 ...*



*Lesson learned: It doesn't matter who you vote for
and it doesn't matter who gets elected ...
... the BOMBING never ends.*

"Naturally, the common people don't want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood quite well. But, after all, it is the leaders of any country who determine policy, and it really is always a simple matter to drag the people along ... Voice or no voice, the common folk can always be brought to the bidding of their leaders. It's all too easy. All they have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and then denounce any pacifists for lack of patriotism ... It works the same way in any country." ~ via Hermann Goering

In dire need of Fools ...
(09/02/2017)

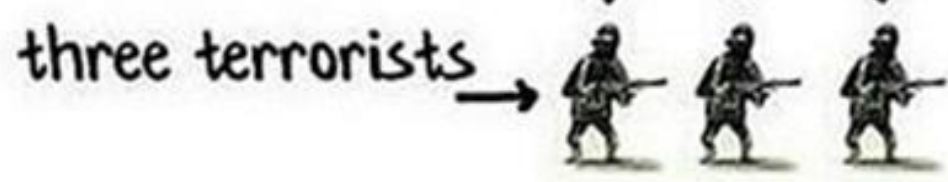
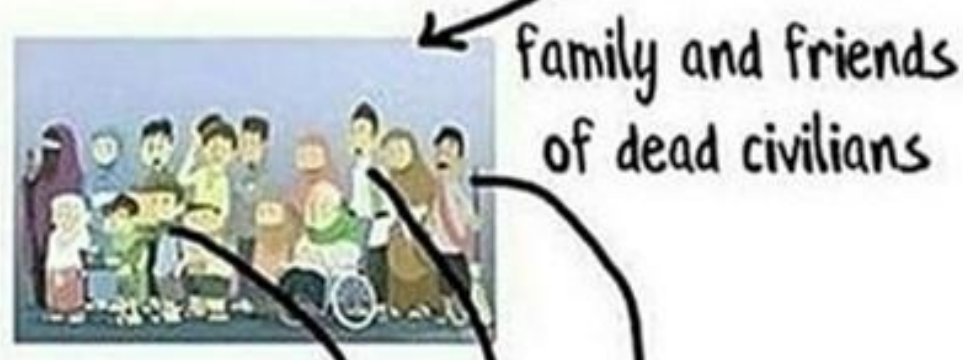
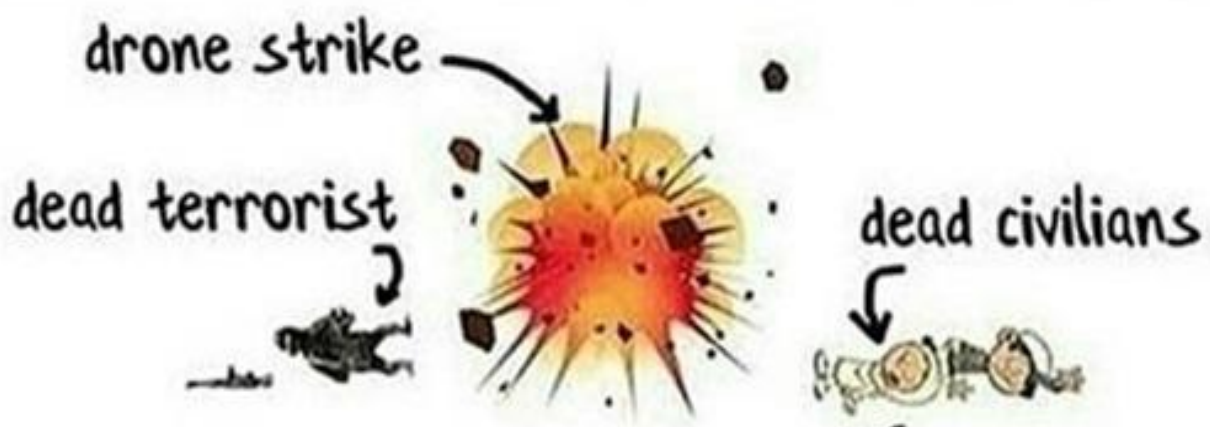
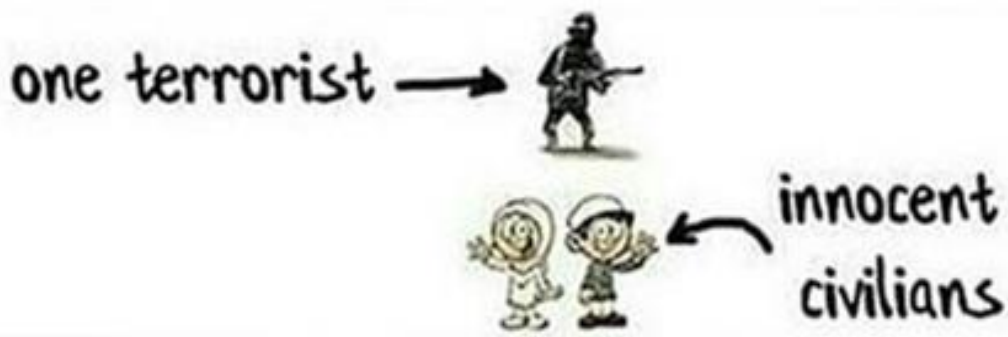


“In a world filled with clever politicians, smart bombs, and military intelligence, we are in dire need of more fools.” ~ via Shane Claiborne

An assembly line of Rage & Fear ...
(09/04/2017)



Can you believe that Obama went to Harvard, and yet was somehow dumb enough to fail to comprehend this one simple concept for 8 straight years? Me neither



The Chicken AND the Egg ...
(09/05/2017)



"If you don't know your past, then you will not have a future. If you don't know where your people have been, then you won't know where your people are headed." ~ via Forrest Carter

BOMB SCIENCE 101

APPARENTLY THE ONLY THING THAT'S HARDER
TO UNDERSTAND THAN ROCKET SCIENCE



"Oh how much more grievous and tragic are the consequences of anger than the mere causes of it." ~ via Marcus Aurelius

Solving the Empire's Problem ...
(09/06/2017)

*How to **unmake** a terrorist ...*



01: The unsuspecting targets ...



02: The dirty attack ...



03: The courageous response ...



04: The end result ...

Teatime for the Enemy ...
(09/07/2017)



“Here. Drink this... it’ll calm your nerves.”

“Does it work?”

“Well, you ruined my country and I’m
serving you tea, so you tell me.”

"The behemoth U.S. military , so much like ancient Rome's, is a cancer on the national body politic. It has led to massive financial ruin at home and just as massive political instability abroad. It has made us less safe from enemies in other lands, while directly contributing to the erosion of the viability of all that could have made us great – compassion, constitutional democracy, freedom, and dignity. Instead, we have become a violent people; addicted to judgment and hooked on war ... America is currently witnessing the deservedly grave implications of the economic, political, and even spiritual influence of its own military-industrial complex. While America's schools crumble and the ignorance of its citizens skyrockets, a single F-35 fighter jet costs more than the entire budget of an average city's school system. And yet the American government continues to build thousands of these war machines – despite knowing full well that every single enemy they might happen to one day kill will create three more to take his or her place." ~ inspired by Pat Elder

Despite it All ...
(09/08/2017)

This is how Banksy felt about the events of 9/11 ...



Freddi the pug had a very different response ...



*Despite all well-intended interpretation,
war is always bloody & war is always cruel,
and despite all ruse or good intention,
war can never be refined.*

The America that IS ...
(09/10/17)

America



What Japan thinks I do



What Korea thinks I do



What Vietnam
thinks I do



What Iraq thinks I do



What I think I do



What Yugoslavia
thinks I do



What Afghanistan
thinks I do



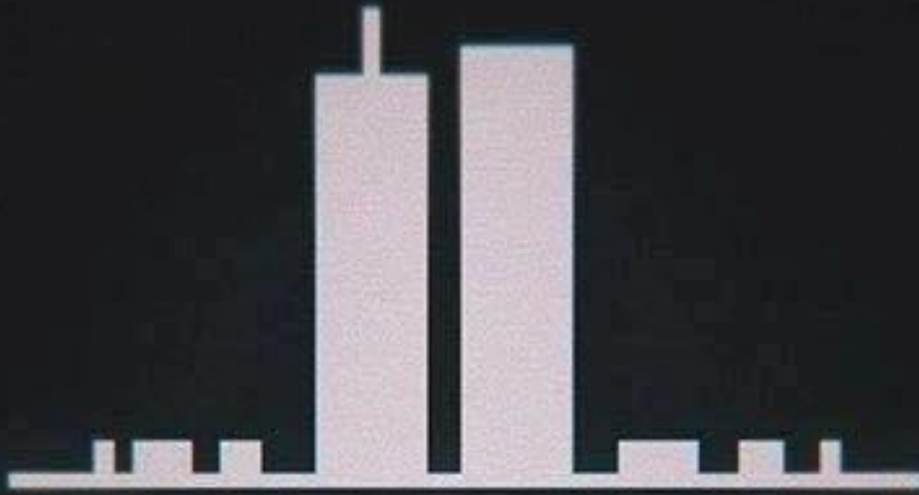
What Pakistan
thinks I do



What I actually do

"War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it." ~ G. Orwell

A Tribute to ALL ...
(09/11/2017)



R.I.P. to the 2,996 Americans who lost their lives on 9/11 in a nefarious attack they could never have foreseen ...

... *and* R.I.P. to the more than 1,455,590 innocent Iraqis who were killed during the subsequent U.S. invasion of their country -- a nation which had **nothing** to do with the tragic events of 9/11 ...

... *and* R.I.P. to the dozens of U.S. servicemen & women who have committed suicide *every day* during & since, solely because their own government ordered them to do its dirty work, and then completely ignored their physical injuries &/or mental anguish thereafter.

"How can you have a War on Terror when war itself is terrorism? ~ H. Zinn

Honing with Hammers ...
(09/12/2017)

America: essentially **creates ISIS** by repeatedly bombing the Middle East ...



... and yet somehow thinks that continuing to bomb the Middle East will solve the problem.

Getting back to Source ...
(09/13/2017)



Most of the weapons used by terrorist organizations like ISIS come from the United States, which means that a simple weapons embargo would be a powerful step in the direction of defeating terrorism ... And yet it's pretty difficult to make obscene amounts of money from a weapons embargo, isn't it?

“Congress predictably revs up the old war-machine every year or two – a machine that skillfully turns taxpayer dollars into Lockheed Martin, KBR, and Halliburton money. In fact, our military industrial complex is actually the largest money laundering scheme in human history.” ~ via Lee Camp

On cherishing Freedom ...
(09/15/2017)



**They told us we were attacked
because they hate our freedom**

I GUESS THEY WON

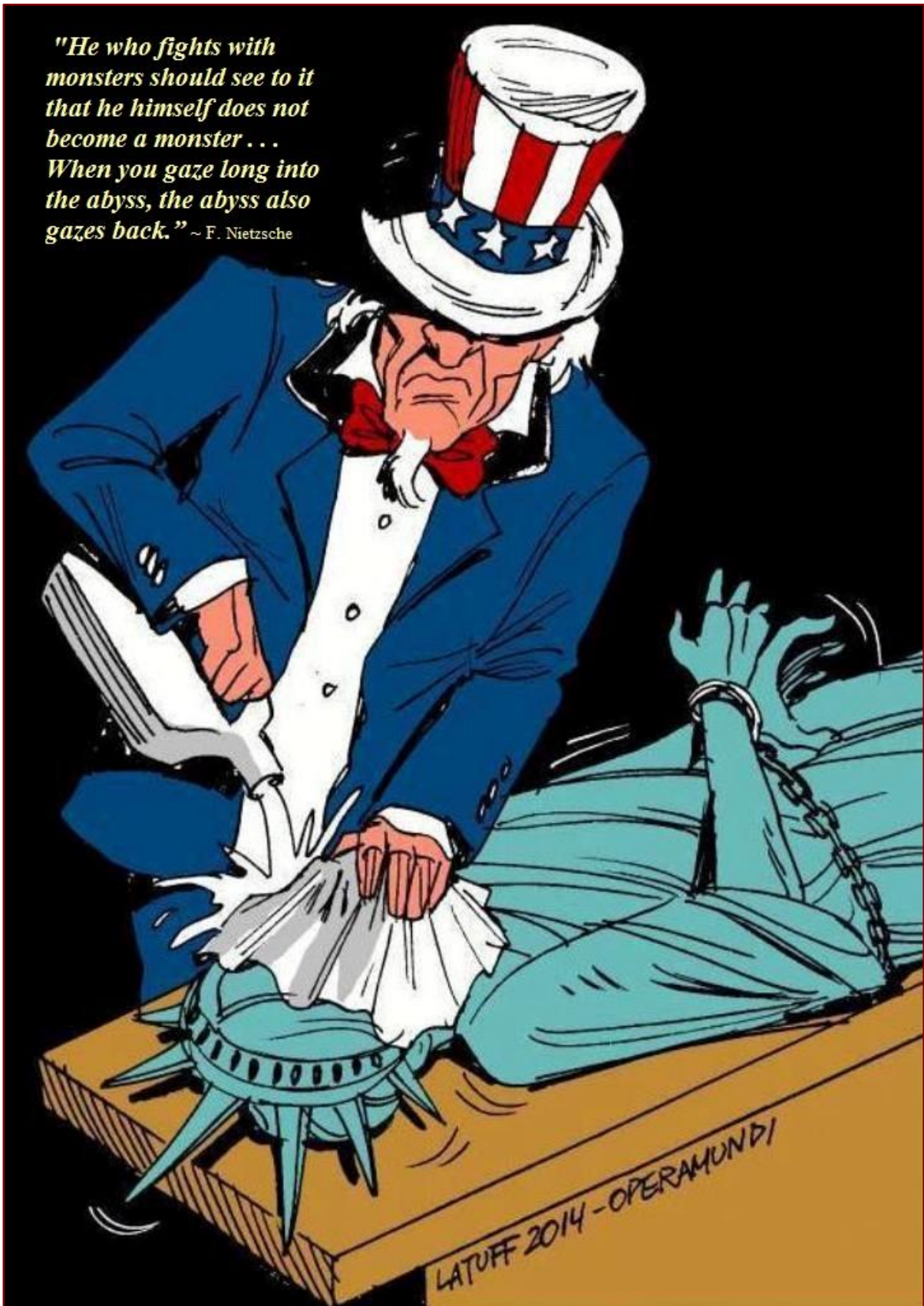
1. PATRIOT ACT
2. NDAA
3. TSA
4. POLICE STATE
5. GOVERNMENT SPYING

www.facebook.com/MentallyEmancipated

"When a stingray killed popular naturalist Steven Irwin, 6 people responded by stabbing stingrays to death ... Frankly, I don't know how stupid you have to be to murder an animal to honor the memory of an animal conservationist. That would be like honoring the people we lost on 9/11 by giving up Freedom ... Wait a minute ... That's a bad example." ~ via Steve Hofstetter

Becoming the Monsters ...
(09/16/2017)

*"He who fights with
monsters should see to it
that he himself does not
become a monster . . .
When you gaze long into
the abyss, the abyss also
gazes back." ~ F. Nietzsche*



The deadliest Bed ...
(09/17/2017)



Americans are as likely to be killed by their own furniture as by terrorism.

"If they can keep you asking the wrong questions, they won't ever have to worry about giving you honest answers. And if they can keep you looking in the wrong direction, they can do whatever they please while your head remains turned." ~ inspired by T. Pynchon

Number of Americans killed annually by:	
Islamic jihadist immigrants ¹ :	2
Far right-wing terrorists ¹ :	5
All Islamic jihadist terrorists (including US citizens) ¹ :	9
Armed toddlers ² :	21
Lightning ³ :	31
Lawnmowers ⁴ :	69
Being hit by a bus ⁴ :	264
Falling out of bed ⁴ :	737
Being shot by another American ⁵ :	11,737

¹10-year average of terrorist attacks "Deadly Attacks Since 9/11," New America, <http://securitydata.newamerica.net/extremists/deadly-attacks.html>
²www.snopes.com/toddlers-killed-americans-terrorists/
³10-year average of deaths by lightning, NOAA, www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats/resources/weather_fatalities.pdf
⁴10-year average, Underlying Cause of Death 2014, CDC, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>
⁵10-year average 2005-2014, CDC, Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS™) www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html

The Birthplace of Hate ...
(09/18/2017)



The U.S. government has been directly or partially (mostly directly) responsible for the deaths of over 3 *million* Muslims over the last two decades ... And yet you somehow still believe that they hate you for your freedoms?!?

“The vanquished know war. They see through the empty jingoism of those who use the abstract words of glory, honor, and patriotism to mask the cries of the wounded, to cloak the senseless killing, to sugarcoat the war-profiteering, and to ignore the chest-pounding grief.” ~ via Chris Hedges

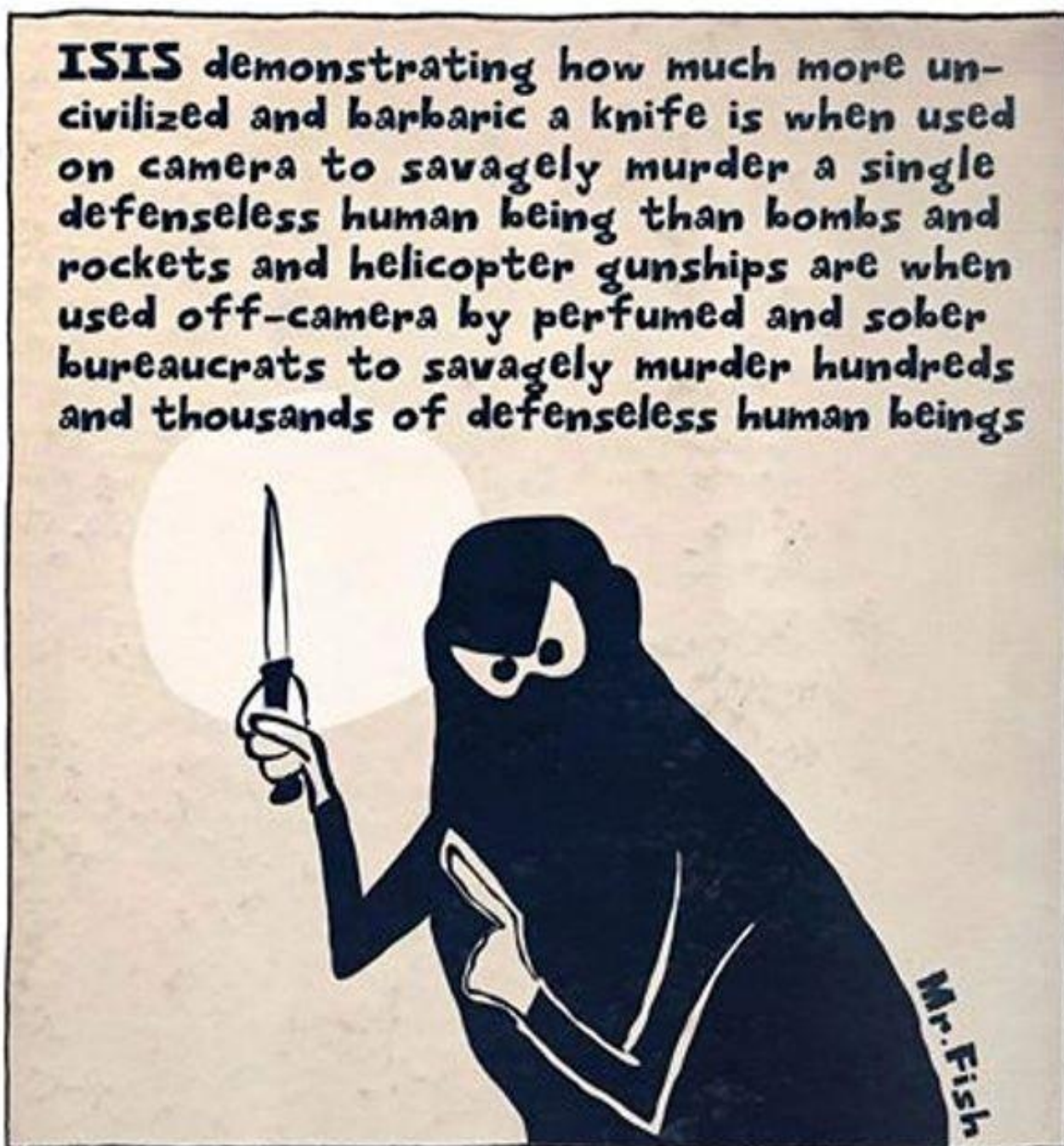
Come, you Masters of War ...
(09/19/2017)



"Come, all you masters of war -- you, who build the guns and send the death planes; you who drop the bombs and harvest the fear; you who hide behind thick walls in great houses or behind large desks of mahoganyed importance ... Let me ask you one question while you are dealing in pain and loss: Is your money that good? Will it buy you the cool solace of forgiveness or the smooth peace of atonement? No, it will not. Indeed you will very soon find, when your own death finally comes and takes its toll, that all the money you made and all the power you hoarded can never even begin to buy back your Soul." ~ inspired by Bob Dylan

The art of Civilized Murder ...

(09/20/2017)



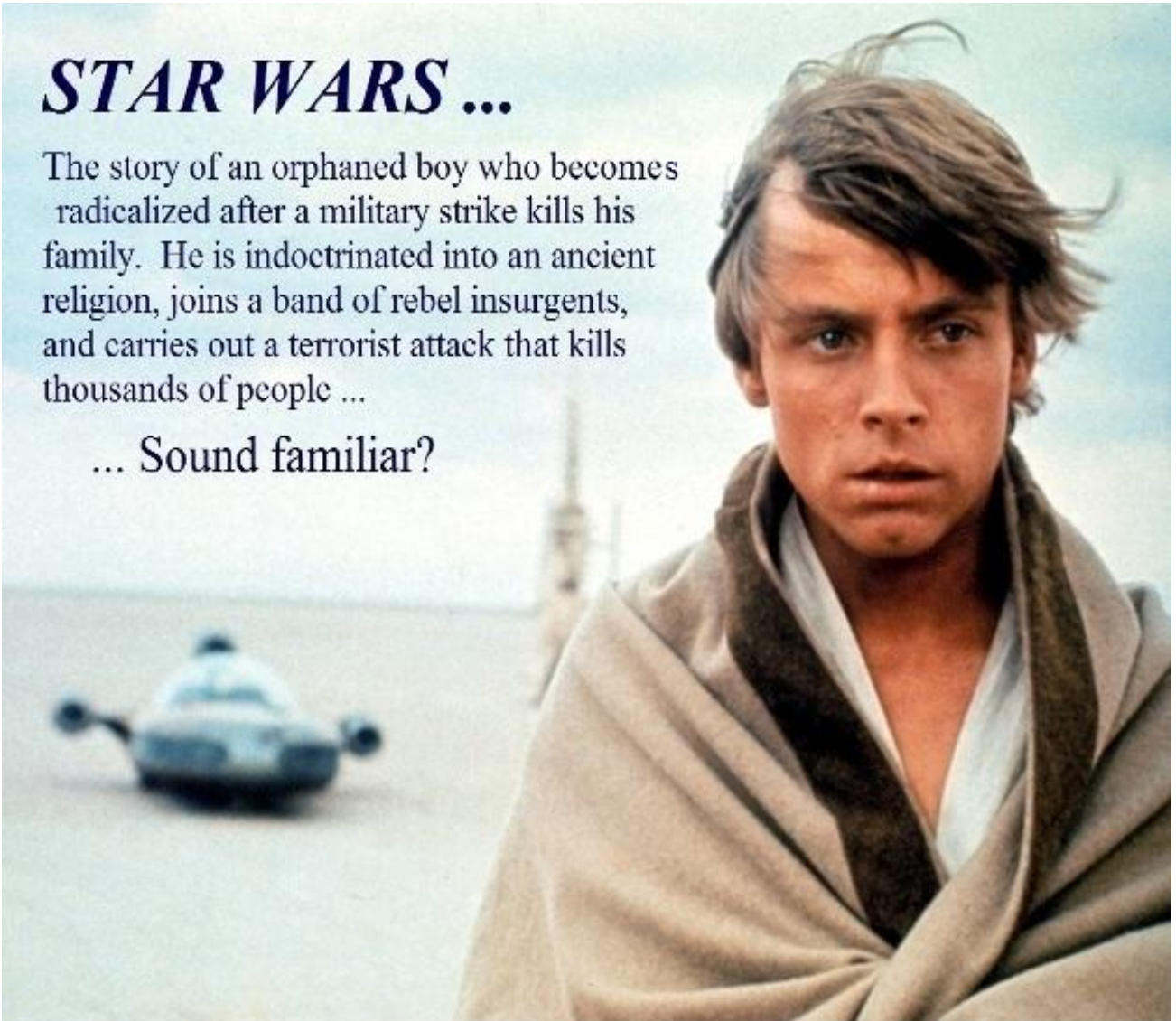
“Maybe we should always show pictures -- pictures of Bin Laden, pictures of our wounded service people, pictures of maimed innocent civilians. We can only make decisions about war if we see what war actually is -- not as a video game where bodies quickly disappear leaving behind shiny gold coins.” ~ via Jon Stewart

Sounding familiar ...
(09/21/2017)

STAR WARS ...

The story of an orphaned boy who becomes radicalized after a military strike kills his family. He is indoctrinated into an ancient religion, joins a band of rebel insurgents, and carries out a terrorist attack that kills thousands of people ...

... Sound familiar?

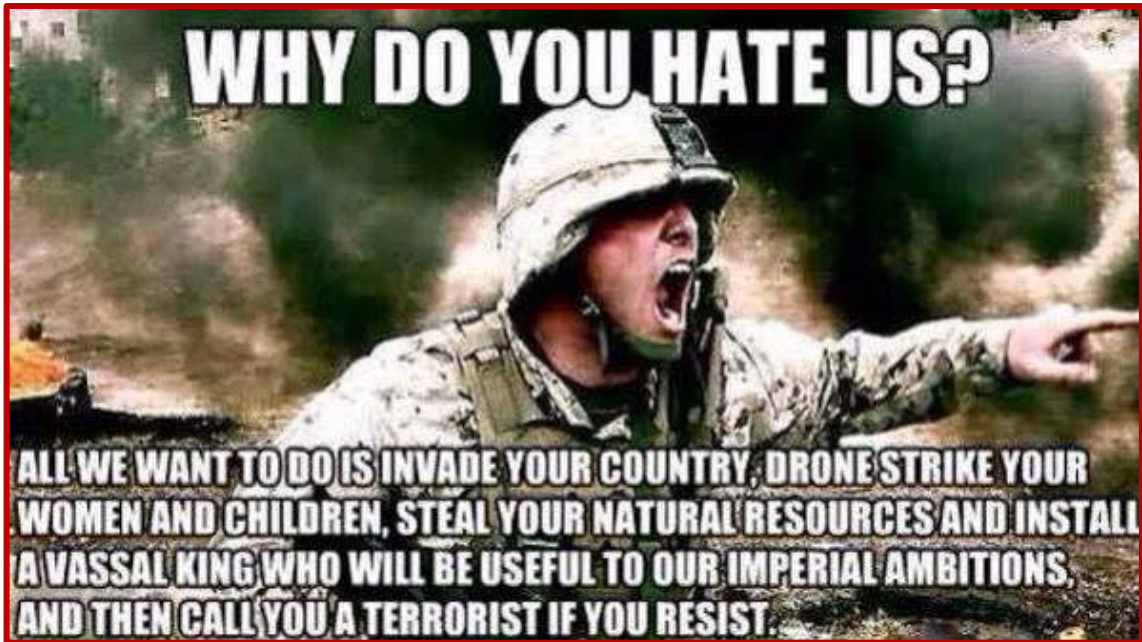


“The common man or woman, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian, Protestant or Catholic or Iraqi or American, the common man just wants to live in peace and justice in a clean environment. When we look around the world and see that this is not the case for most, we know the will of the majority is not being listened to – and we realize in that moment that our system is broken.” ~ via Woody Harrelson

The real Face of Terrorism ...
(09/22/2017)



This is **the real face of terrorism**. This is where terrorism actually begins -- not in some aggressive predisposition at birth (ever a mythical lie) and not via conversion into any violence-prone dogma. No, terrorism -- as is the case with the young man pictured above, who had just lost his brother to a drone strike -- is almost exclusively born from the tragic mix of injustice and trauma, a mix that almost always leads to the understandable (though never justifiable) desire of all those witnessing the same to exact revenge upon those who caused that insufferable pain ... And this has been the modus operandi for U.S. foreign policy for the last several decades -- repeatedly murder innocent civilians with errant drone strikes, and then condemn as "terrorists" all surviving family members who wish to obtain retribution for their loss.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 • VOL. CCLII NO. 76

Last week: DOW ▲ 11243.11 ▼ 245.31 -2.2% NASDAQ 2583.34 ▼ 4.0% NYSE ▲ 11870.14 ▼ 0.2% DJ STOXX 50 2720.87 ▼ 3.1% 10-YR TREASURY ▼ 15/32, yield 3.827% OIL \$106.29 ▲ \$4.34 EURO \$1.4011 YEN 104.15

WHY DO THEY HATE US?

New poll reveals it's because we're bombing them.

The Bush administration and Congress agreed on a tentative deal to authorize the biggest banking rescue in U.S. history. The \$700 billion program, co-which Congress votes beginning Monday, would effectively nationalize an array of mortgages, other loans and securities backed by such loans. A1, A8

Wachovia was in advanced talks to sell itself to Wells Fargo, although terms of a proposed deal weren't clear. Discussions also continued with Citigroup. A1, C1

The consequences of the government's decision two weeks ago not to step in to prop up Lehman Brothers Holdings but instead let it collapse look more dire than almost anyone imagined. A1

The bailout plan is likely to speed plans to change the way the Fed manages interest-rate policy. A3

Forts will receive a \$16.77 billion injection from

McCain and Obama retold messages, back bailout plan. With the financial crisis domi-

"We had no idea!" -Pentagon Spokesman

over the bill and the threat of a recession appeared to be playing to Obama's advantage. A16

Wachovia Corp., which collapsed to the top of the U.S. bank-er rivals, was sold Sunday to Wells Fargo's people family.

Wachovia was also holding talks with Citigroup Inc., but by late evening Wells Fargo ap-



Opinion Poll



Doesn't like being bombed

Source: Reuters poll dated September 30, 2012.

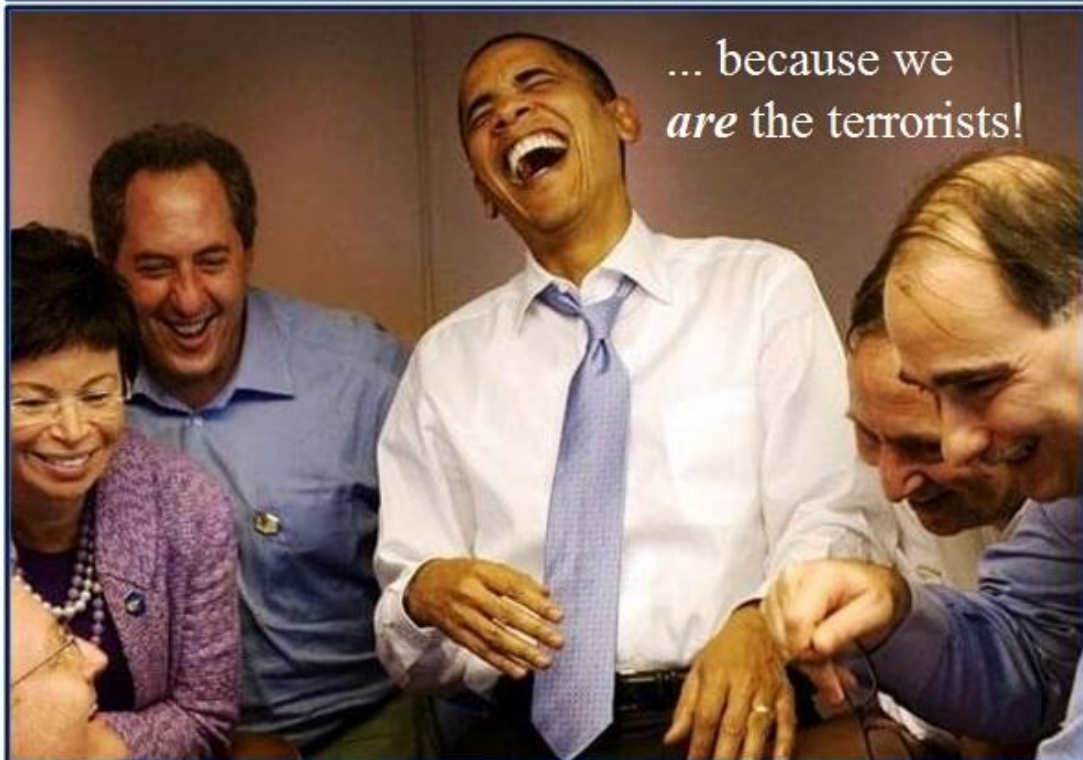
Worst Public Relations Agent Ever?

Earlier this month, though, Wells Fargo Chairman Richard Kovachvich said that the bank also had expressed interest in Wachovia, but that scenario now appears less likely, people with knowledge of the situation.

CRACKET.com



The Man behind The Mask ...
(09/23/2017)



"There's a really easy way to stop terrorism ...
Stop supporting its supporters." ~ via Noam Chomsky

TERRORISM

(according to the U.S. government and its media)

9/11 ATTACKS



TERRORISM!

drone strikes on
Pakistan and Yemen



not terrorism

bombing of Afghanistan



not terrorism

bombing of Iraq



not terrorism

bombing of Libya



not terrorism

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING



TERRORISM!

The Cycle of Violence ...
(09/24/2017)

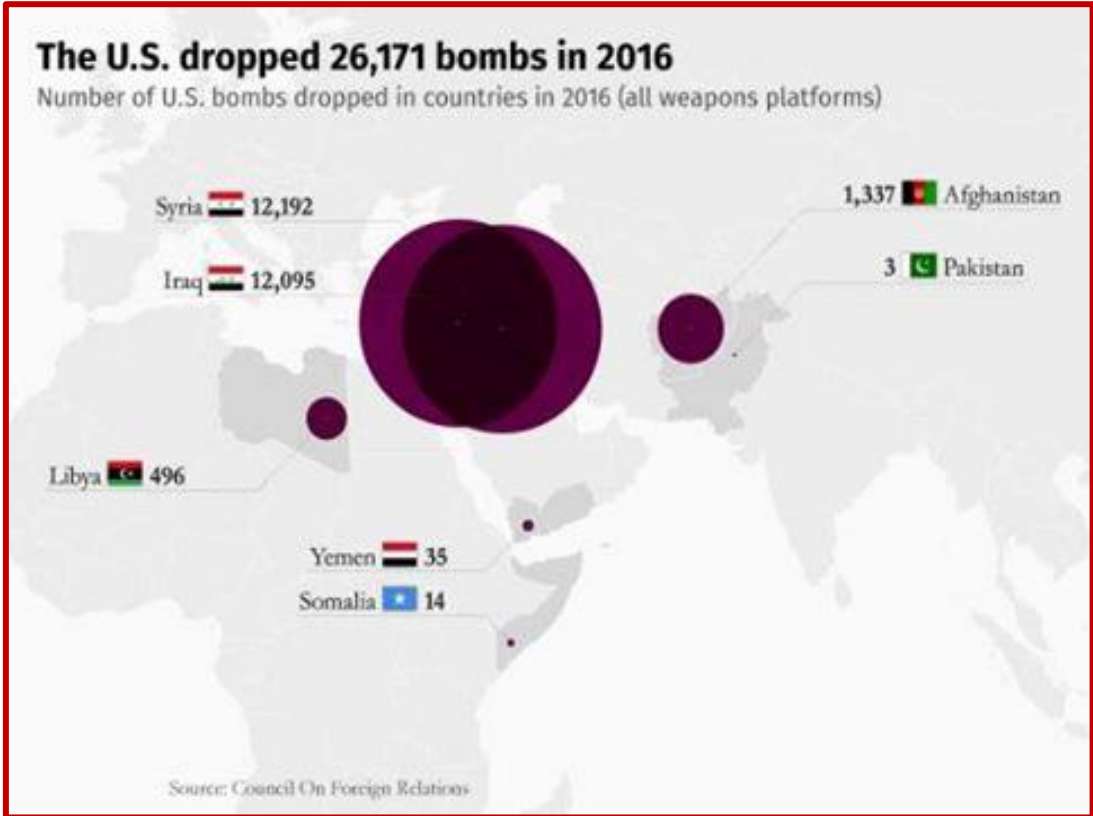


"The cycle of violence is always the same: They hit us, so we hit them back – but harder. Naturally, they eventually hit us back harder still, which only provokes us to hit them all over again. And then before either can even realize what is happening, both sides are locked in a never-ending cycle of increasing hatred and retaliation ... Given enough time, some people on either side might not even understand why they're fighting, other than their deep-seeded fear and hatred of the other. In this way – slowly but surely – an eye for an eye eventually becomes an eye for a life, and then a life for a neighborhood, and ultimately a neighborhood for a nation. It is a cycle where all participants lose regardless of which side one considers innocent or guilty, and regardless of which side once considers to be stronger or weaker." ~ via B. Corey

A most unglorious History ...
(09/25/2017)

A partial list of U.S. Military Interventions (1947-2018)

1945: **China** -- 50,000 U.S. Marines sent to North China
1945-1949: partial occupation of **Germany**
1945-1955: partial occupation of **Austria**
1945-1952: occupation of **Japan**
1944-1946: reoccupation of the **Philippines**
1945-1949: occupation of South **Korea**
1947-1949: interventions for far-right in **Greece**
1950-1953: the **Korean War**
1953: CIA overthrows **Iranian** democracy; installs Shah
1954: CIA overthrows democratic government in **Guatemala**
1955-1975: the **Vietnam War**
1961-1962: **Cuba** -- incl the Bay of Pigs Invasion & the Cuban Missile Crisis
1962-1975: the bombing of **Laos**
1965: **Indonesia** – one million+ killed in CIA-assisted coup
1965: invasion of the **Dominican Republic**
1969-1975: bombing of **Cambodia**
1973: **Chile** – CIA-backed coup ousts government; inserts dictator Allende
1976-1992: **Angola** – CIA aids South-African backed rebels
1979-1989: **Afghanistan** – CIA supports mujahedeen against Soviets
1981-1982: **El Salvador**
1981-1990: **Nicaragua** – CIA assists the Contra rebels
1982-1984: **Lebanon**
1983-1984: the invasion of **Grenada**
1983-1989: **Honduras**
1986: **Libya** – air strikes help topple government
1987-1988: **Persian Gulf** – US attacks Iranian oil platforms & protects Iraqi oil tankers from Iran
1989: **Panama** – US troops oust nationalist government
1989-present: Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru – the **War on Drugs**
1991-2003: **Iraq** – 1st Gulf War (incl. Operation Desert Storm, Desert Sabre & no-fly zones)
1993-1996: **Bosnia** – no-fly zone (bombed Serbs)
1994-1995: enforced **Haitian** embargo
1998: cruise missile attacks against **Afghanistan & Sudan**
1999-2001: **East Timor**
1999: the bombing of **Serbia**
2001-2014: the **War in Afghanistan**
2002-present: **Yemen** – assisted/ing Saudi Arabia in genocidal destruction of Yemeni people
2003-2011: the **War in Iraq**
2004: **Haiti** – US troops reinstall ousted Pres. Aristide
2004-present: the **War on Terror** (Georgia, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Eritrea)
2004-present: drone strikes in **Pakistan**
2007-present: **Somalia**
2011: **Libya** – overthrow of Kaddafi
2011-present: **Uganda**
2014-present: the bombing of **Iraq**
2014-present: the bombing of **Syria**
2015-present: **Cameroon**

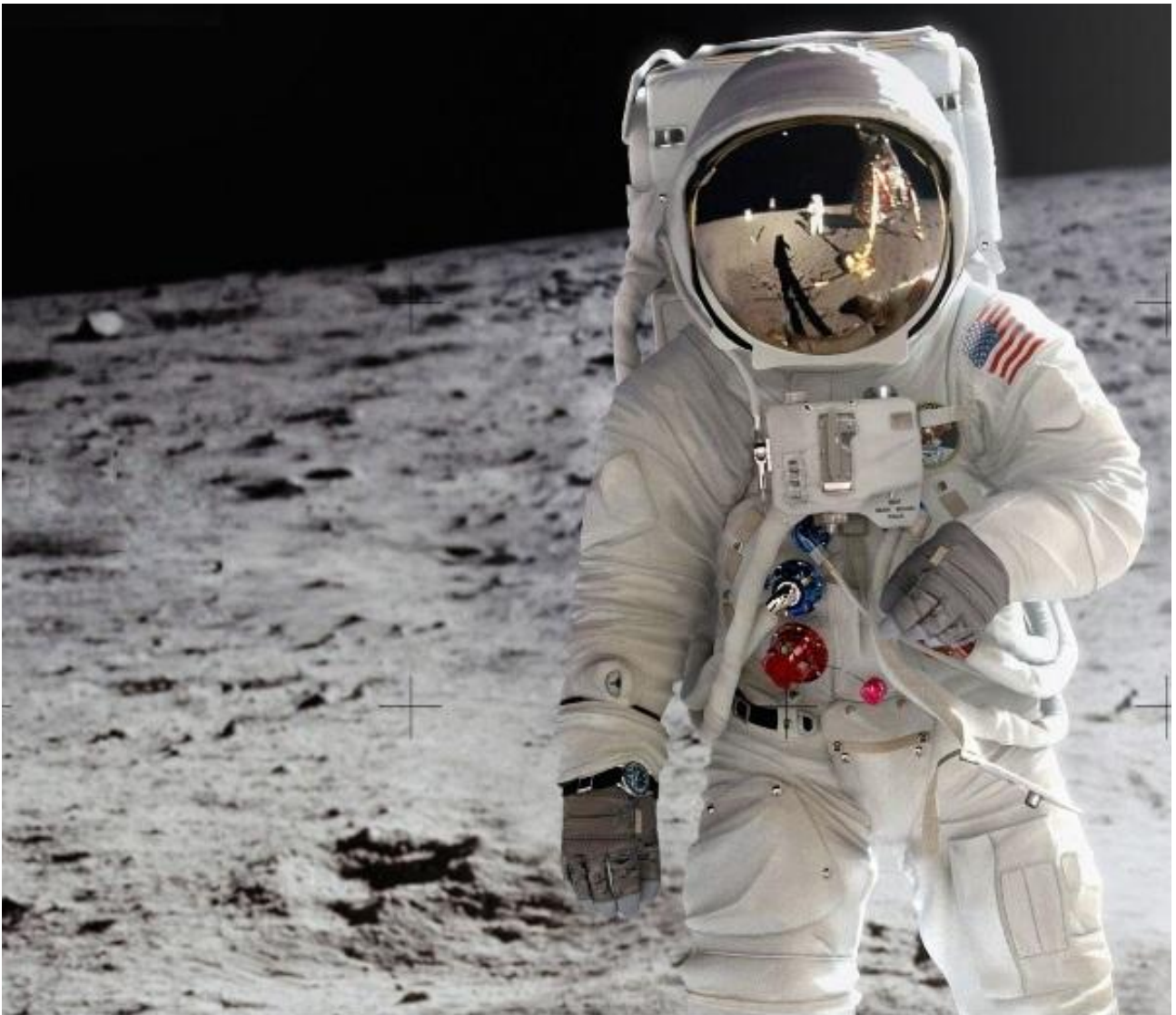


The Eye of the Beholder ...
(09/26/2017)

Iraq is a terrorist state.
Iran is a terrorist state.
Syria is a terrorist state.
Libya is a terrorist state.
China is a warring state.
Russia is a warring state.
Palestine is a terrorist state.
North Korea is a terrorist state.



An insidiously iconic Irony ...
(09/27/2017)

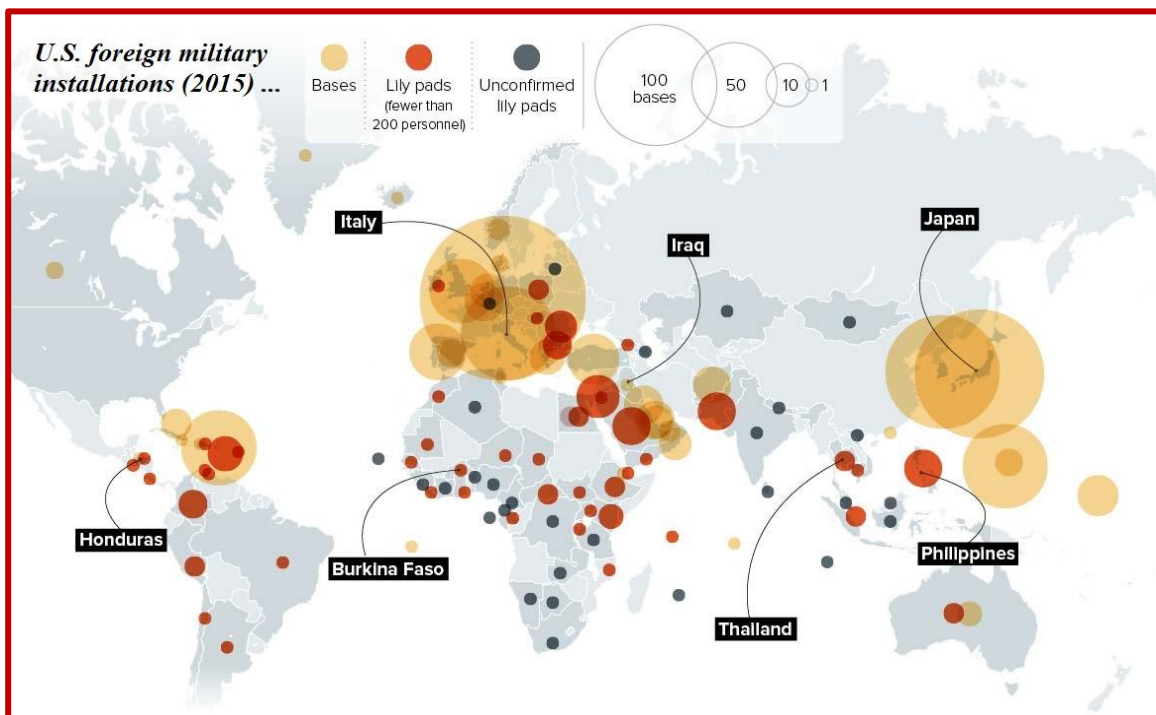


"For me, the most ironic token of that moment in history is the plaque signed by President Nixon that Apollo 11 took to the moon. For it reads: '***We come in peace for all mankind.***' And the irony? That just as the United States happened to be dropping 7.5 megatons of explosives on small nations in Southeast Asia, we congratulated ourselves on our humanity -- by proclaiming that we wouldn't harm anyone on a lifeless rock." ~ via Carl Sagan

A not-so-nice Niceness ...
(09/28/2017)



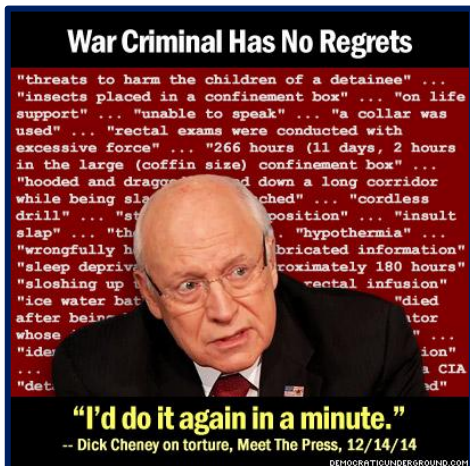
"Decades of perpetual warfare, massive military overspending ruining the economy, nearly 50 thousand homeless veterans, and over 22 vets a day committing suicide ... but I have over 800 military bases in at least 130 countries going for me, so that's nice." ~ U.S. government impersonating Bill Murray



The smirk of the Hidden Leader ...
(09/29/2017)



"Together we killed well over a *million* innocent people, wasted &/or stole over 6 *trillion* dollars, and committed *hundreds* of documented war crimes (for which Dick back there still has absolutely no regrets, right Dick?) ... But no worries -- Everything turned out just **GREAT!** We both live in mansions, we both are both still collecting our pensions, all our friends got filthy rich (Dick alone raked in over \$39 billion through Halliburton, isn't that right Dick?), and instead of rising up to make any substantive change in the political system that encouraged all of this to happen, you people just got a bit red in the face and then voted in that black fella to do lots more of the same for 8 more years." ~ George W. Bush



Redefining Terrorism ...
(09/30/2017)



Terrorism (noun) ...

The unlawful use of violence
&/or threats to intimidate &/or
coerce; especially against
civilians, and especially in the
pursuit of political objectives

Keeping it simple; keeping it Real ...
(10/01/2017)

It's not Rocket Science...

This:



*always leads
to this:*



*which always
leads to this:*



*which always
leads to this:*

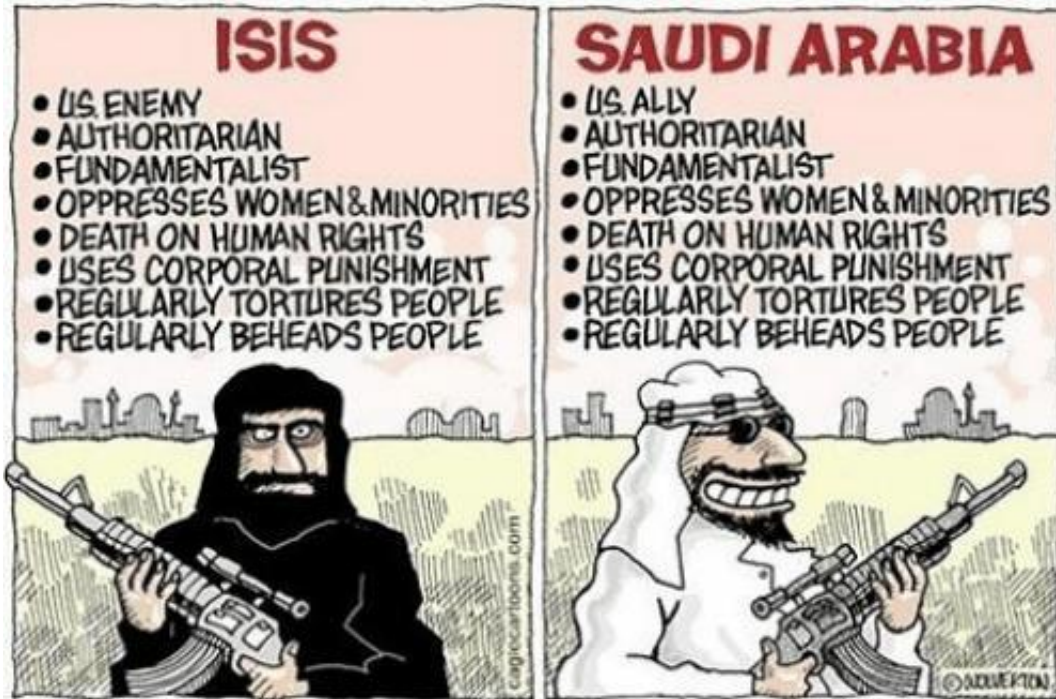


Another silent slaughter ...
(10/02/2017)



"Escalating famine in a nation that already suffers from famine is apparently a key weapon in the United States-backed Saudi War against Yemen. Well over 100 *billion* U.S. tax dollars have gone into bombing not only 'military' targets in Yemen, but civilian sites as well (including the nation's food production centers) ... Since the conflict began in earnest (March 2015) well over 15,000 Yemeni citizens had been killed -- most of them civilians and many of them children. Currently, over 20 million Yemenis (about 70% of the country's population) needs some form of assistance, with over 10 million of those living in acute need of food, shelter, medical assistance, &/or drinking water. And yet despite the obvious severity of this crisis, not one word was spoken about Yemen during the 2016 U.S. election cycle; proving once again that the American government is nothing more than a monster feeding other monsters; other monsters who serve other monsters -- the monsters who run the military industrial complex and control the oil industry." ~ inspired by Anthony Damiano

Oh those evil Allies ...
(10/03/2017)



***“Politics is the
entertainment division
of the military
industrial complex.”***

Trump: Hey Obama, can I copy your homework?

(Frank Zappa)

Obama: Sure, just change it up a bit so it's not obvious

Wed Sep 7, 2016 | 3:20 PM EDT

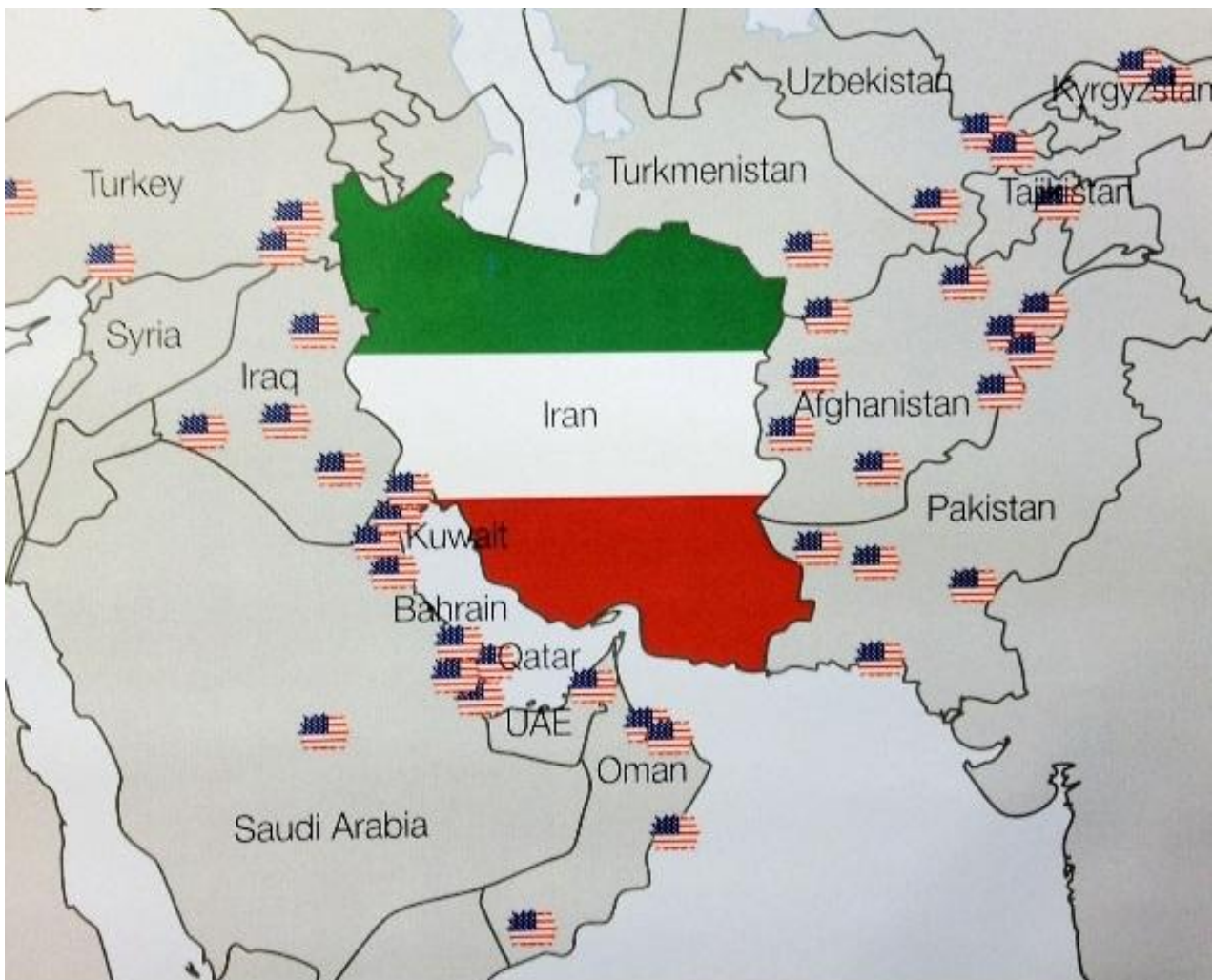
Obama administration
arms sales offers to Saudi
top \$115 billion: report

1 May 12, 2017 | 9:20 PM EDT

U.S. nears \$100 billion
arms deal for Saudi Arabia:
White House official



Control -- the Ultimate Goal ...
(10/04/2017)



In case you were wondering about the reason behind all the America-instigated (and patently unjustifiable) military conflicts & interventions in the Middle East consider this map showing a few of the U.S. military bases that have sprung up all around Iran.

Who wants War ...
(10/05/2017)



Only governments want war ...

"The world is not divided between East and West. You are American, I am Iranian, we don't know each other, but we can talk together and we can understand each other perfectly. The difference between you and your government is much bigger than the difference between you and me. And the difference between me and my government is much bigger than the difference between me and you. And our governments, they are very much the same." ~ via Marjane Satrapi

Blessed, the Peacemakers ...
(10/06/2017)

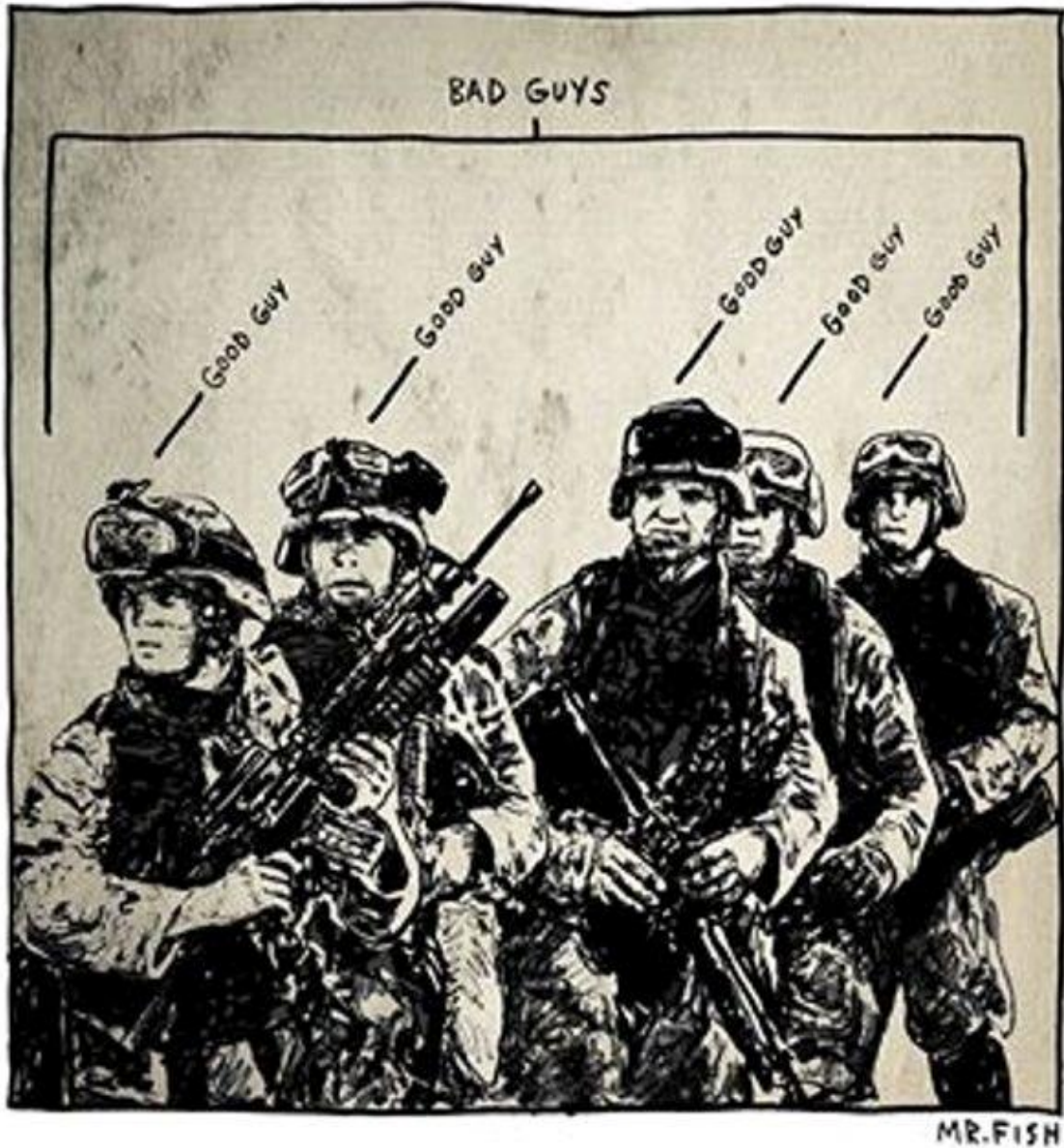


BLESSED

are the Peacemakers, for they will be called Children of GOD. ~ Matthew 5:9

"Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and afraid. And yet don't open the door to the world and begin fighting. Have the courage to play an instrument instead, and bring others Peace thereby ... We must each let the beauty we Love become what we Do. After all, there thousands of ways to kneel and kiss the ground, and fighting isn't one of them." ~ inspired by Rumi

By far the greatest Crimes ...
(10/07/2017)



"The greatest crimes in the world are not committed by people breaking the rules, but rather by people following the rules. After all, it's the people following the rules who drop bombs, invade other countries, and massacre villages." ~ via Banksy

Every
great
atrocitiy
is the
result
of people
just
following
orders.



Plan of Action: (Outlines actions that the subordinate will do after the counseling session to reach the agreed upon goal(s). The actions must be specific enough to modify or maintain the subordinate's behavior and include a specified time line for implementation and assessment (Part IV below).)

Continue to follow through with all deployment activities (i.e. SRP, qualification ranges, WTT training, field exercises, MOS training)

Session Closing: (The leader summarizes the key points of the session and checks if the subordinate understands the plan of action. The subordinate agrees/disagrees and provides remarks if appropriate.)

Individual counseled: I agree disagree with the information above.

Individual counseled remarks:

There is no way I will deploy to Afghanistan. The occupation is immoral and unjust. It does not make the American people any safer. It has the opposite effect.

Signature of Individual Counseled: 

Date: 1 MAY 09

Leader Responsibilities: (Leader's responsibilities in implementing the plan of action).
Will continue to monitor for follow through with plan of action.

Signature of Counselor: 

Date: 1 May 09

"If only more of today's military personnel would realize that they are being used by the owning elites as a publicly subsidized goon squad." ~ Major General Smedley Butler

Session Closing: (The leader summarizes the key points of the session and checks if the subordinate understands the plan of action. The subordinate agrees/disagrees and provides remarks if appropriate.)

Individual counseled: I agree disagree with the information above.

Individual counseled remarks:

I will not obey any orders I deem to be immoral or illegal.

Signature of Individual Counseled: 

Date: 18 MAY 09

Leader Responsibilities: (Leader's responsibilities in implementing the plan of action).

That priceless Moment ...
(10/08/2017)

THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU REALIZE



that you were never really fighting terrorists at all;
that you were actually only fighting for **G.O.D.** ...



"A racket is best described as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people; something where only a small "inside" group knows what it is actually about. A racket is also conducted for the benefit of those very few, often at the expense of the very many. And it remains a fact to this day that out of war a very few people make huge fortunes." ~ via Major General Smedley Butler

THE BANKERS WANT WAR



SO THEY CAN LEND \$\$ AT INTEREST TO GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH SIDES.

'DEFENSE' CONTRACTORS WANT WAR



SO THEY CAN SELL THEIR MILITARY PRODUCTS TO GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH SIDES.

GOVERNMENTS WANT WAR



SO THE BANKERS AND CORPORATIONS KEEP THEM EMPLOYED AND IN POWER.

WARS ARE BIG BUSINESS.

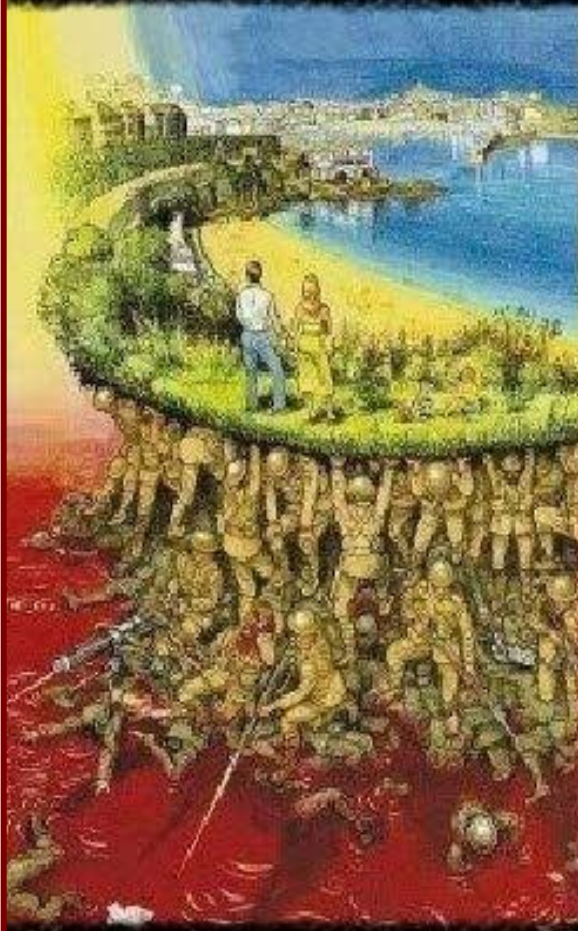


THEY ARE MANUFACTURED BY THE ELITES, NOT BY ENEMY RIVALS

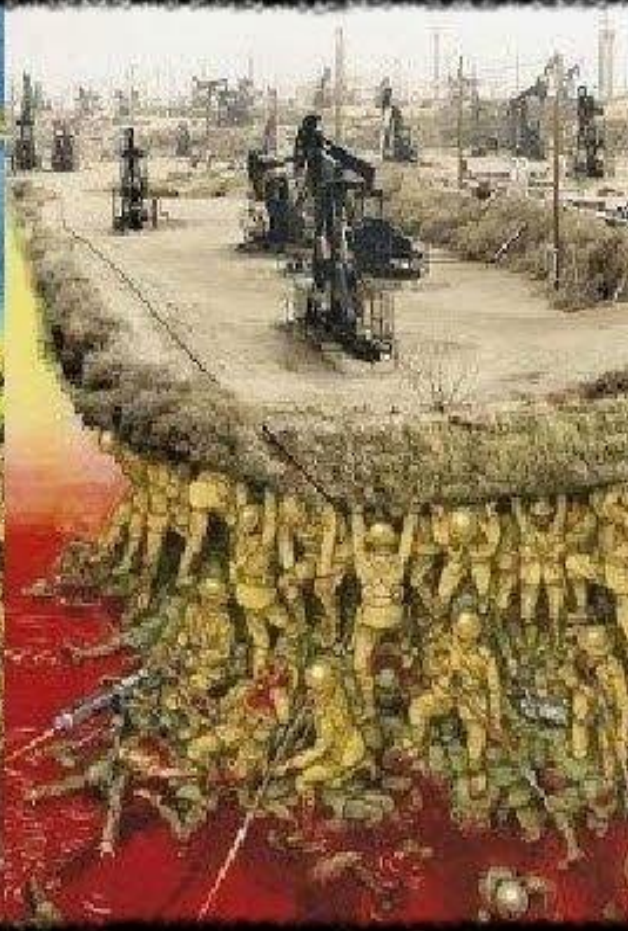
The Free Thought Project.com

Sacrificing their Sacrificing ...
(10/09/2017)

What U.S. soldiers *think*
they are sacrificing for ...



What U.S. soldiers are
actually sacrificing for ...



"Beautiful ideals are painted for our soldiers who are sent out to kill brutally &/or die brutal deaths. They are told that their war is "the war to end all wars" or that they are "making the world safe for democracy" or that their sacrifice "makes America safer" or "preserves our freedoms." No one tells them THE TRUTH: that oil and power and dollars are the real reasons they are fighting; that their going and their dying will mean huge war profits and great political influence for the very few who are very wealthy. No one tells these American men and women that they might be shot down by bullets and missiles made by their own brothers at home, or that their ships and planes might be torpedoed or shot down by war machines sold by the United States and built with U.S. patents. They are just told it is their 'duty' to go and fight, and that it is going to be a victorious and glorious 'adventure' ... They are lied to from beginning to end. ~ inspired by Smedley Butler



Not for What -- for Whom ...
(10/10/2017)



"I'm completely fed up with mewly old men dreaming up useless wars for young men to futilely die in." ~ via G. McGovern



War itself is the real Enemy ...
(10/11/2017)

U.S. military members killed in action since 2000: 5776+



U.S. military/veteran suicides since 2000: 131,400+

"Veterans are committing suicide in droves after being inflicted with PTSD from being ordered to commit gross atrocities during their deployment. It has been estimated that over 20 military veterans commit suicide every single day in the U.S. -- a total loss easily surpassing the number of troops killed in combat in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan *combined*." ~ anonymous

To truly SUPPORT the Troops ...
(10/12/2017)



Politicians say "*Support the troops*" and actually mean "Support our wars." Conservatives say "*Support the troops*" and actually mean "Support soldiers who are fighting in my place -- unless they are gay, come home and need veterans assistance, or conscientiously object to unjust conflicts."

Of course, what both these factions fail to realize is that there is only one real way to "*Support the troops*" -- and that is to do whatever is necessary to ***BRING THEM HOME!!!***

(**Pictured:** Ken Kozakiewicz mourning the loss of his friend Andy Alaniz to friendly fire in 1991 during the Gulf War)

Reforming Recruitment ...
(10/13/2017)

We wouldn't allow alcohol or tobacco companies to market and sell to our kids through their schools. Why do we allow the military to sell them war?



Stop Recruiting Kids

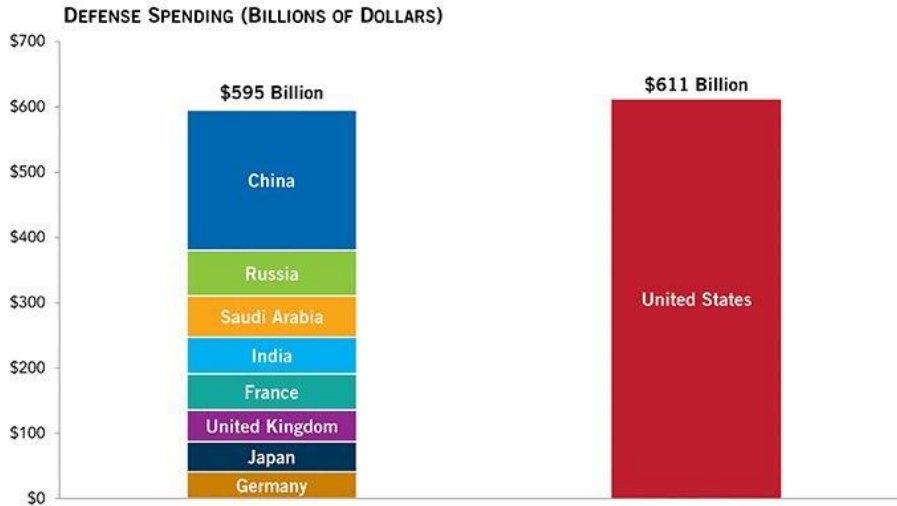
SRKcampaign.org

“99% of us are good-hearted people who respect others and want peace ... The other 1% rule the world and tell us we are at war.” ~ Lee Camp



Welcome to America ...
(10/14/2017)

The **United States** spends more on military "defense"
... than the next 8 countries *combined*.



SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2017. Data are for 2016. Compiled by PGPF.
NOTE: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates.

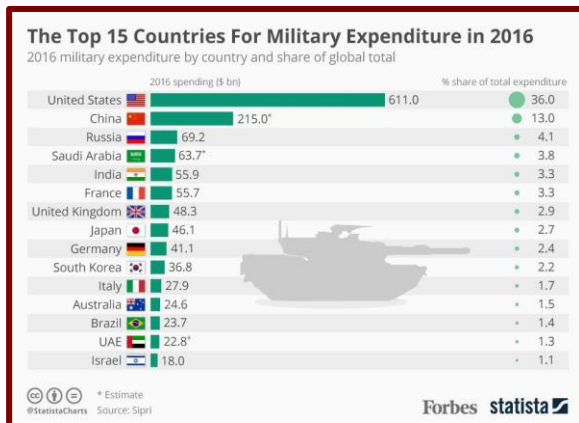
© 2017 Peter G. Peterson Foundation

PGPF.ORG

Welcome to America -- where military expenditures dwarf the rest of the world, but the roads & bridges are crumbling, the public schools are a mess, and 1 in 5 children go hungry every night.



"We can't be both the world's leading champion of peace and the world's leading supplier of arms."
~ Jimmy Carter

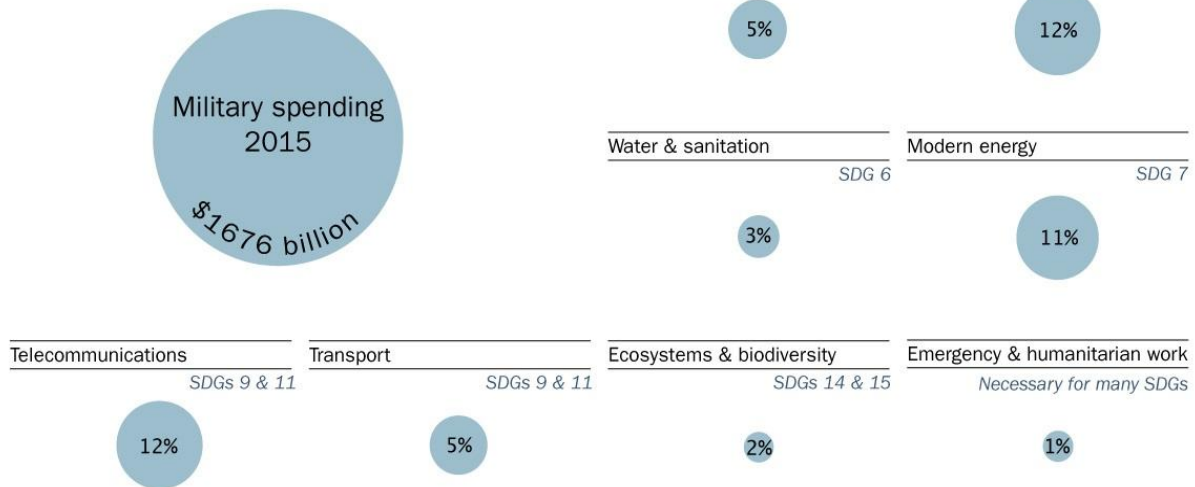


"Americans should be far more concerned with their country's export of terrorism, than they currently are with its import of it." ~ via D. Piertle

What all that money could DO ...
(10/15/2017)

What could the reallocation of global military spending achieve?

The annual cost of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a share of total global military expenditure in 2015.



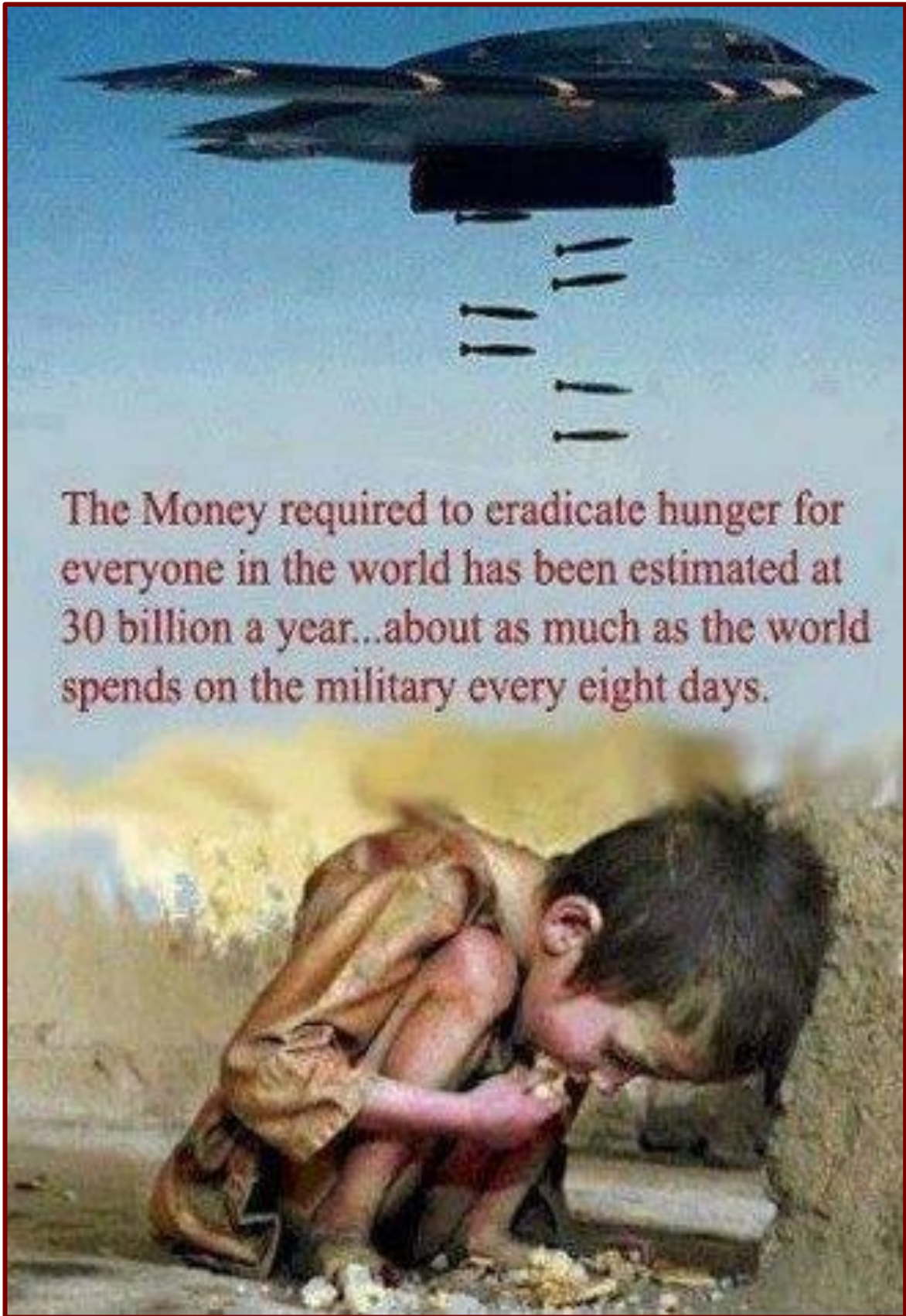
Sources: SIPRI, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and UN Food and Agriculture Organization

www.sipri.org
© 2016 SIPRI



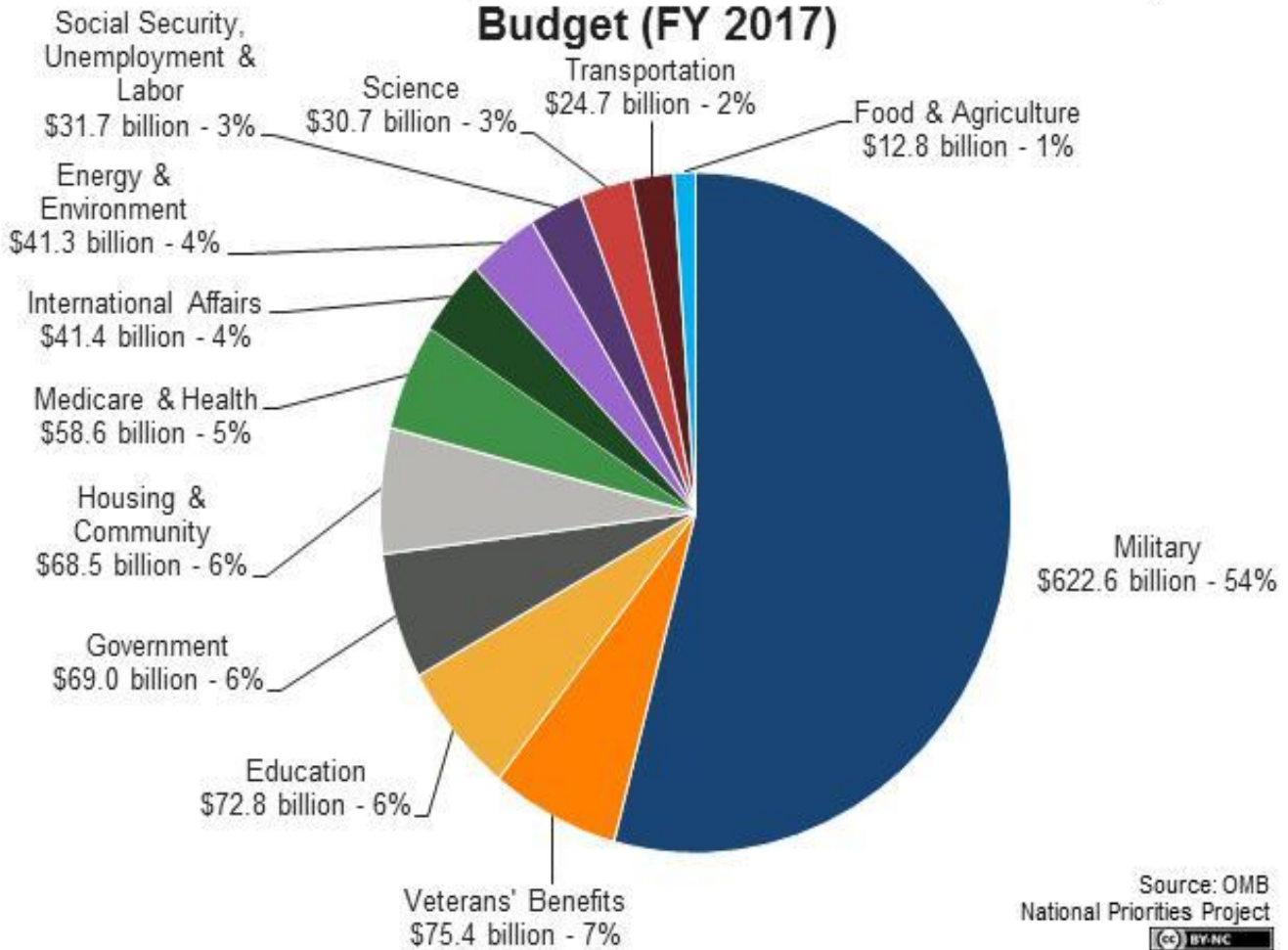
We are such an odd, trembling species -- to think that alone the monies we invest in our militaries, institutions that themselves cause so much suffering, could essentially alleviate almost all of our other human pains & torments, essentially with one fell swoop ...

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a sound way of life in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron" ~ Dwight D. Esienhower

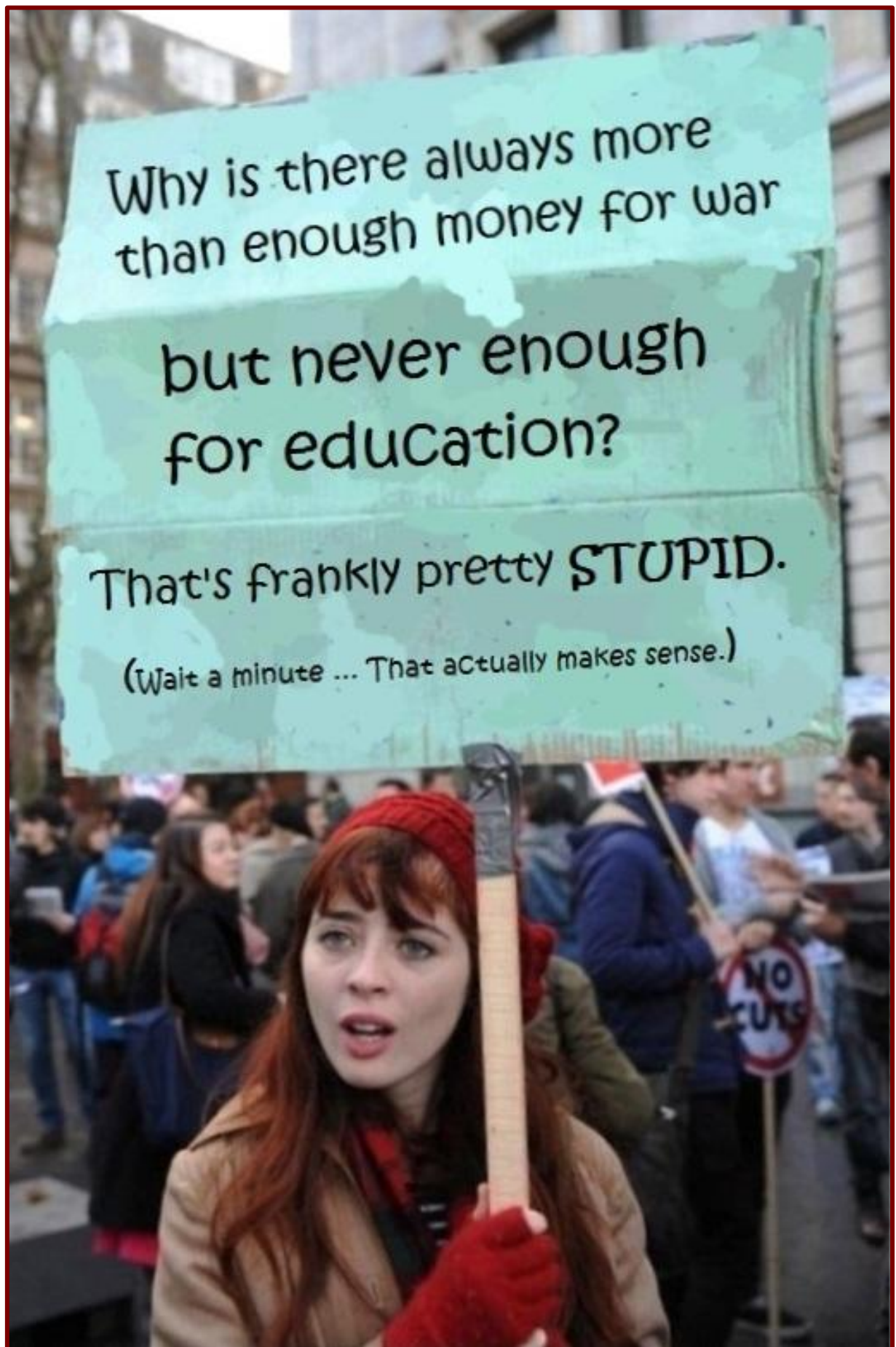


A non-budgeted Budget ...
(10/16/2017)

President's Proposed \$1.15 Trillion Discretionary Budget (FY 2017)



“Choosing to spend our tax money on rebuilding the nation and helping the poor instead of feeding endless wars is not magical thinking. Magical thinking is somehow believing that bombing strangers makes us safer.” ~ via B. Sanders



Freeing UP Freedom ...
(10/17/2017)



The next time an American conservative asks you "How in the world could we ever pay for our young people to have free college tuition?" just remind them that the F-35 fighter plane (which *still* doesn't function properly, by the way) alone costs **1.45 trillion dollars** -- which is alone more than enough money to pay for free college tuition for every American for the next 23 years ... Just sayin'

"Just days before its international debut at an air show in the United Kingdom, the entire fleet of the Pentagon's next generation fighter plane — known as the F-35 II Lightning, or the Joint Strike Fighter — was grounded, highlighting just what a boondoggle the project has been. With the vast amounts spent so far on the aircraft, the United States could have worked wonders -- including providing every homeless person in the U.S. a \$600,000 home; quadrupling the funding for all the U.S. aid currently given to various humanitarian crises around the world -- including those in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and Haiti; &/or rebuilding every single one of America's 63,000+ 'structurally deficient' bridges." ~ via Hayes Brown

Again upon a Time ...
(10/19/2017)



*"Once upon a time weapons were
manufactured to fight wars ...
Now wars are manufactured to
sell weapons." ~ Arundhati Roy*

Racking up the Racket ...
(10/20/2017)

George W. Bush in office ...

Barack Obama in office ...

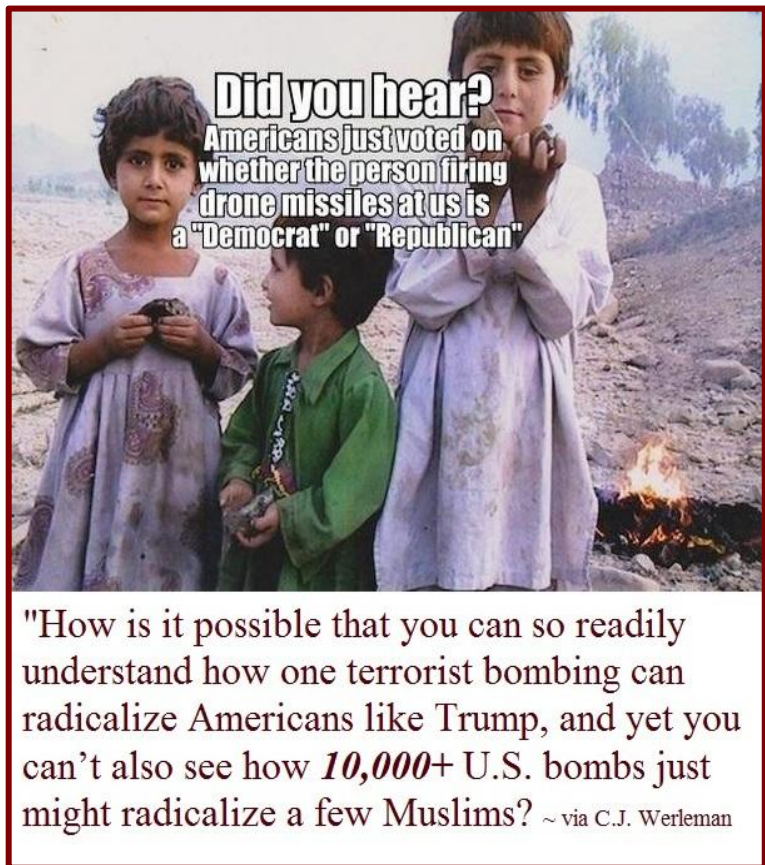
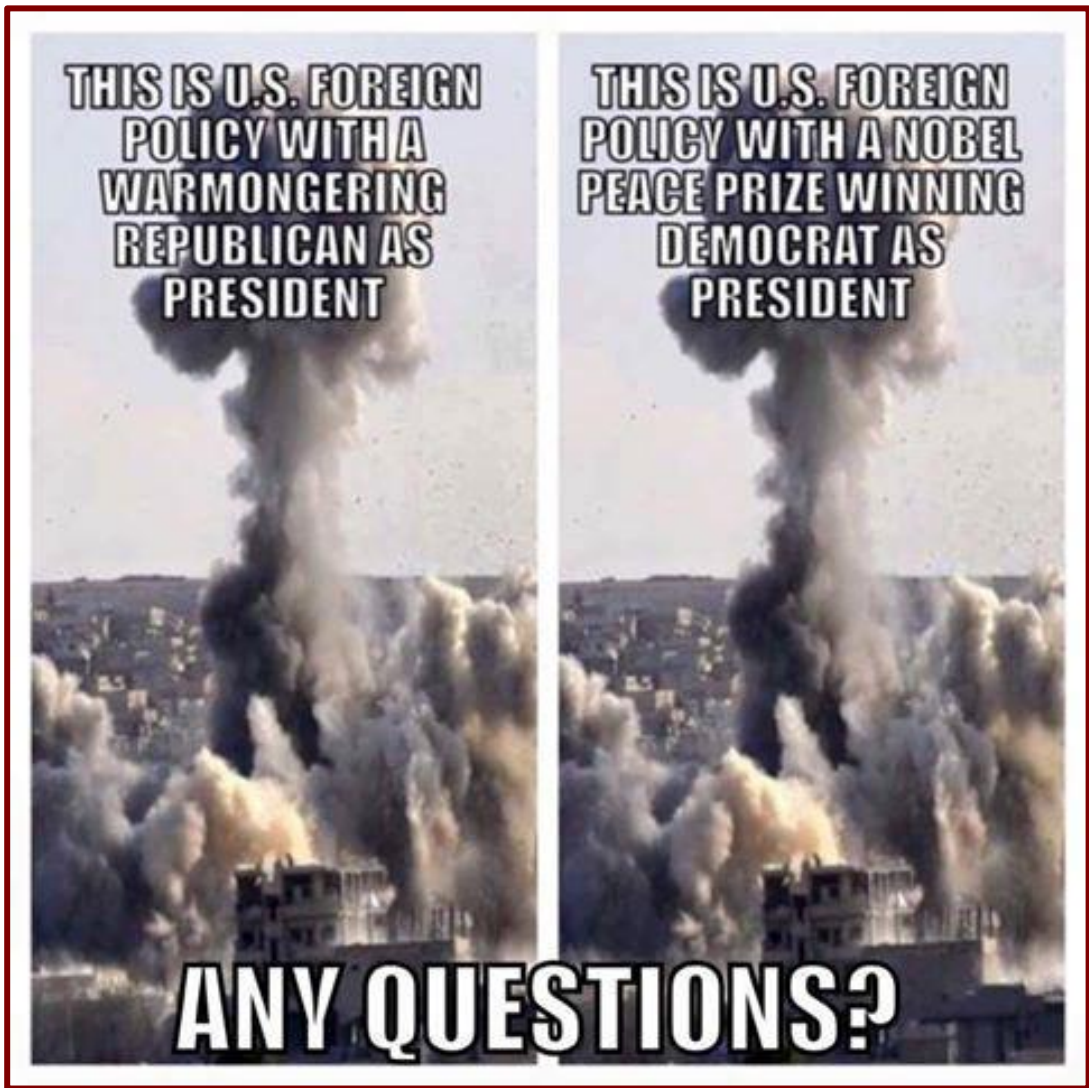


Donald Trump in office ...

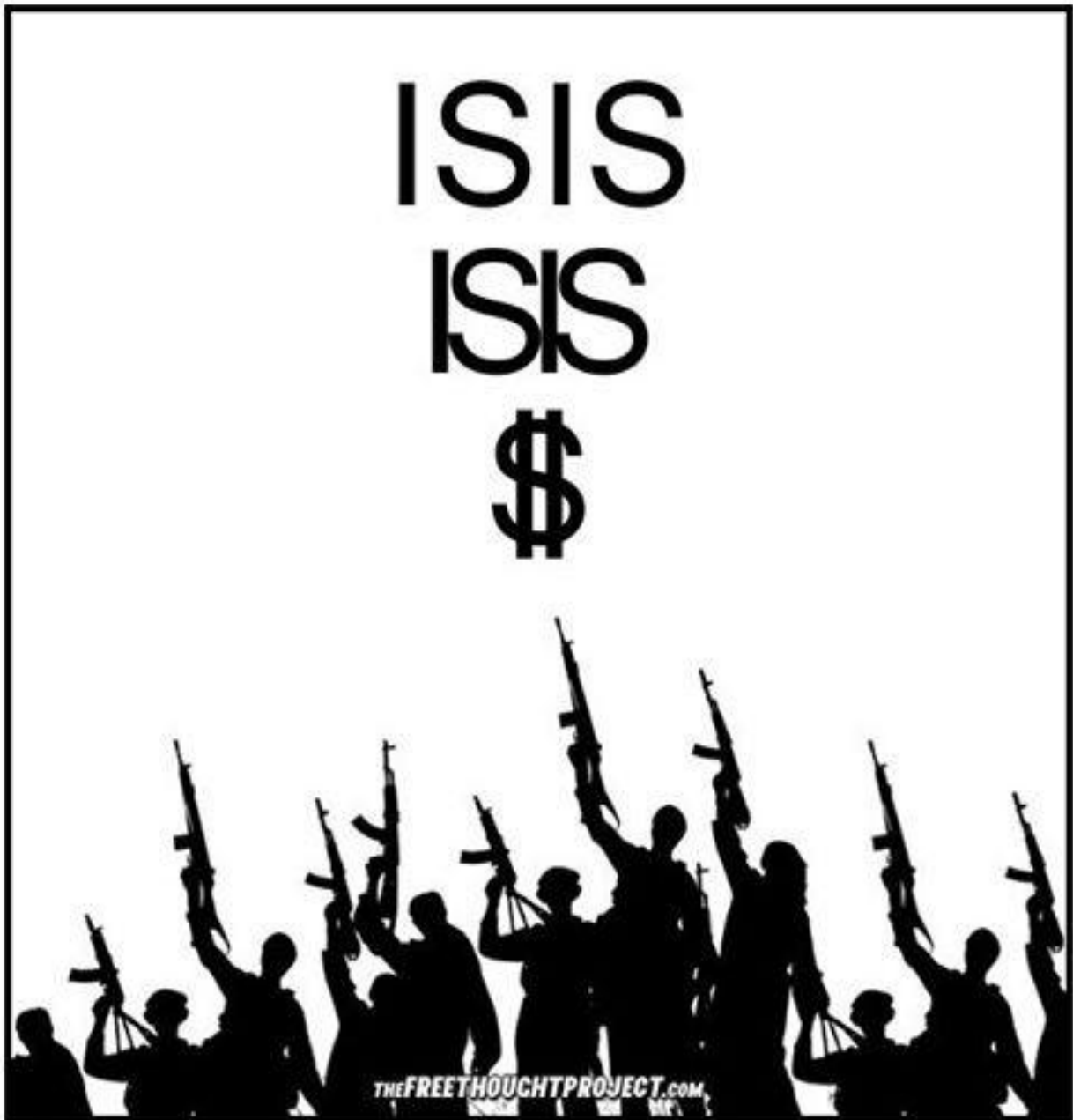
The next President in office ...

Any more questions?

“War is a racket, and it always has been. It is possibly the oldest racket, it is easily the most profitable, and it is surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope, and it is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.” ~ Major General Smedley Butler



The Function of War ...
(10/21/2017)



"It is the function of the CIA to keep the world unstable and to propagandize; to teach the American people to hate -- all so we will let the Establishment spend as much as it wants on arms."

(via John Stockwell -- former CIA official)

What they truly Are ...
(10/23/2017)



Hypocrite (noun) ... a person who pretends to have virtues, principles, morals, or beliefs that he or she does not actually possess; especially a person whose actions openly contradict the same



"Their feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, and desolation and destruction are in their highways. The Way of Peace they do not know, and there is no Justice in their paths. Their roads they have themselves made crooked, and no one who walks them knows Peace." ~ Isaiah 59:7-8

No flag large enough ...
(10/24/2017)



"The frequency with which 'targeted killing' operations hit unnamed bystanders is among the more striking takeaways from the Haymaker slides. The documents show that during a five-month stretch of the campaign, nearly nine out of 10 people who died in U.S. airstrikes were not the Americans' direct targets." ~ Ryan Devereaux

“We often think of peace as the absence of war, that if powerful countries would reduce their weapon arsenals, we could have peace. But if we look deeply into the weapons, we see our own minds- our own prejudices, fears and ignorance. Even if we transport all the bombs to the moon, the roots of war and the roots of bombs are still there, in our hearts and minds, and sooner or later we will make new bombs. To work for peace is to uproot war from ourselves and from the hearts of men and women. To prepare for war, to give millions of men and women the opportunity to practice killing day and night in their hearts, is to plant millions of seeds of violence, anger, frustration, and fear that will be passed on for generations to come.” ~ Thich Nhat Hanh



A most unjust Just Kidding ...
(10/25/2017)

FRANK WUTERICH

**ADMITTED TO LEADING
MARINES INTO TO CIVILIAN
HOMES IN HADITHA, IRAQ
AND MASSACRING MEN,
WOMEN AND CHILDERN.**



**CHARGED WITH
INVOLUTARY MANSLAUGHTER
AND GIVEN A PAY CUT.**

BRADLEY (CHELSEA) MANNING

**EXPOSED CRIMES COMMITTED
BY THE U.S. MILITARY INCLUDING
THE TARGETING AND KILLING OF
CIVILIANS.**



**SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS IN PRISON
AND DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED
FROM THE ARMY.**



Built on Dualism ...
(10/26/2017)

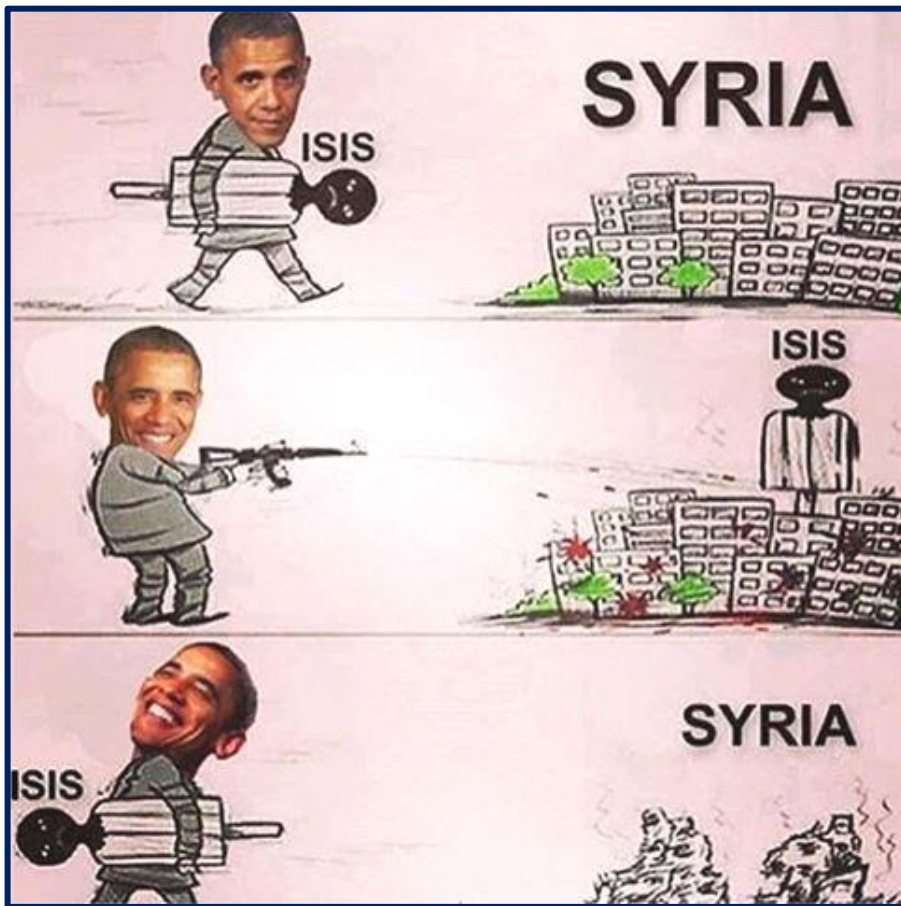


"A civilization built on dualism and war within and between persons, one that puts its most creative minds and its best engineers to the sadistic work of building more and more destructive weapons -- and many of its fittest youth to the wicked task of using them, is no civilization at all. Such a society needs a radical transformation from the heart outwards. It needs to outgrow and outlaw war, just as in the last century it outlawed slavery." ~ Matthew Fox

Where ISIS all began ...
(10/27/2017)



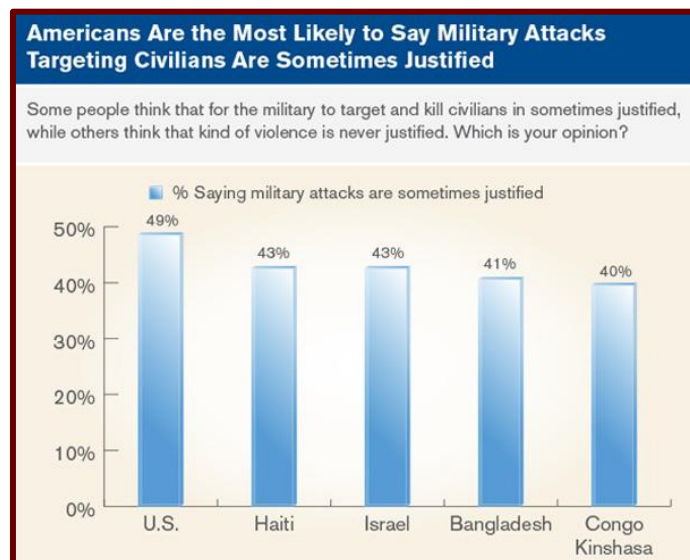
"**ISIS** only came onto the world scene after Iraq's GMC Revolutionaries -- mainly former Saddam loyalists -- began to retake their nation in the absence of U.S. troops. These soldiers were men dead-set against allowing the American occupation of their country (via the shadow puppet-regime Obama had established there before leaving) to continue. And in spite of all the advanced weapons and high-tech intelligence services we gave Maliki to use to keep the Iraqi people from rising up against him, those GMC troops were winning big -- so Obama (who had already bragged about fulfilling one of his campaign promises by getting out of Iraq) had to figure out a way to justify sending U.S. soldiers back into Iraq again, but he couldn't do so against an active popular uprising that was fighting the same puppet-regime that he himself had installed. And so it was that **ISIS** was born, and since that day **ISIS** has somehow popped up all over the globe, quite conveniently wherever Obama needed a justification for overt military intervention ... *Consider*: Obama wanted to step up actions in Syria to secure the development of a major oil-pipeline there and to assist the CIA's regime-change efforts in that country, so **ISIS** was suddenly there. Obama also wanted to help a still-freshly-installed puppet regime in Libya when they lost a popular election and looked like they were losing control of their country, so **ISIS** suddenly showed up there too. Then Obama wanted to justify helping Saudi Arabia genocidally bomb & starve the people of Yemen after a revolution in that country kicked out a long-time U.S. friendly dictator (and threatened the profits of Hunt Oil corporation), so **ISIS** suddenly appeared there as well. And then Obama's puppet dictator in Egypt was having a hard time quelling the legitimate people's uprising in the Sinai, so he simply said the uprisers were **ISIS** insurgents -- and the drones started buzzing over those skies as well." ~ via Doug Ross



Washing with Dirty Water ...
(10/28/2017)



"Heroism at command, how violently I hate it; how despicable and ignoble war is! Indeed, I would rather be torn to shreds than play any part in so base a choice. For it is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder." ~ via Albert Einstein



Off to free the Tyrants ...
(10/29/2017)



"In Syria alone, the American criminal colonial war has already caused well over 500,000 deaths. On top of that, the American scheme of war contributes to the theft of over half the country's tax money -- insidiously under the guise of satisfying the 'defense budget' ... And all these enormous crimes of murder, theft, and fraud committed against innocent people at home and abroad are brazenly perpetrated in the name of *democracy, freedom, and justice* -- all while the U.S. prison system houses millions of non-violent (and often completely innocent) offenders, and all while a significant portion of America's children go hungry." ~ via Hiroyuki Hamada

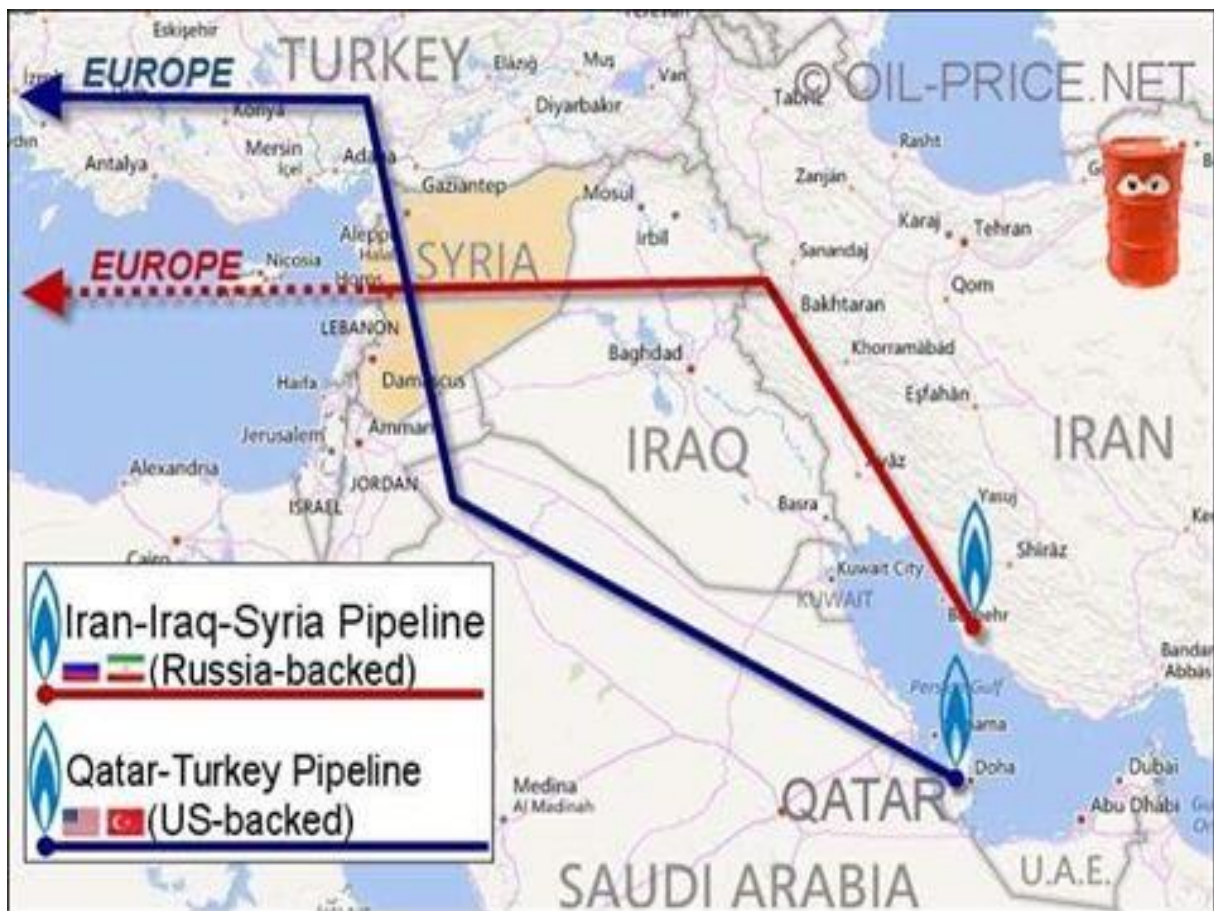
The real WHY of Iraq ...
(10/30/2017)

According to Wikileaks, Hillary Clinton's emails show the following...

- 1) Qatar Approached the Clintons about the Qatar-Turkey pipeline (also made donation to CGI & Bill's \$1 million birthday gift).
- 2) The only country the pipeline has to cross through not currently "friendly" with the Clinton cartel is Syria.
- 3) ISIS was formed and used to topple the other oil competitors in the region (Assad, Gaddafi, etc.) in order to create a Clinton/Qatar/Saudi/Turkey/ISIS oil empire monopoly.
- 4) Obama's job was to keep Erdogan in control of Turkey in order for the deal to move forward.
- 5) Hillary wants NATO/UN to sanction (block) the flow of Russian oil to Europe, so her cartel would control all of the oil being sold to Europe.
- 6) Russia accused Turkey of buying oil from ISIS, namely Erdogan's son-in-law. Russia's economy is directly controlled by their oil production. That's why they are fighting in Syria. If they allow the Clinton cartel's plan to go through, Russia's economy will crash over-night. But Hillary must force Russia out of Syria for her plan to work.

So in case you were wondering why in the world the **United States** was (and still is) showing so much interest in attacking *Syria*, this is the *actual* reason.





Question: How do you best transport Saudi oil&gas to Europe by land, in order to replace Russian supply and create a bonanza for U.S. corporations?

Answer: You build and maintain control over a pipeline through the Syria.

The thick shroud of Moral Complicity ...
(10/31/2017)




“Where was the outrage at the U.S. bombing in Mosul, the continued slaughter in Yemen, or the fact that 60% of Palestinians in Gaza are still sleeping in the rubble of their homes? Are we really supposed to believe that **Trump** cares about the lives of Syrians? For all of you who are lining up with the U.S. and calling for more blood to be shed in Syria, we will remind you of your moral complicity. If you really want the carnage to end in Syria, then stop supporting criminal bloodshed and start pushing for a real peace process.” ~ Ajamu Baraka

Honing in on Hypocrisy ...
(11/01/2017)



Hypocrisy (noun) ... a state of behavior where the devoutly espoused virtues, principles, morals, or beliefs of a person, group, or government are blatantly contradicted by the actions of the same

Playing the Sham-alamma-dingdongs ...
(11/02/2017)




Can anyone explain to me how so many otherwise intelligent people keep falling for this sort of shameless **American sham** again & again & again?

Yo Bashar, we've basically ended the war, almost destroyed Isis and the Western puppets.. What's next? Any orders?



How about we gas hundreds of civilians for no reason other than to turn the public against us and legitimize the west attacking us?



Sure thing boss.

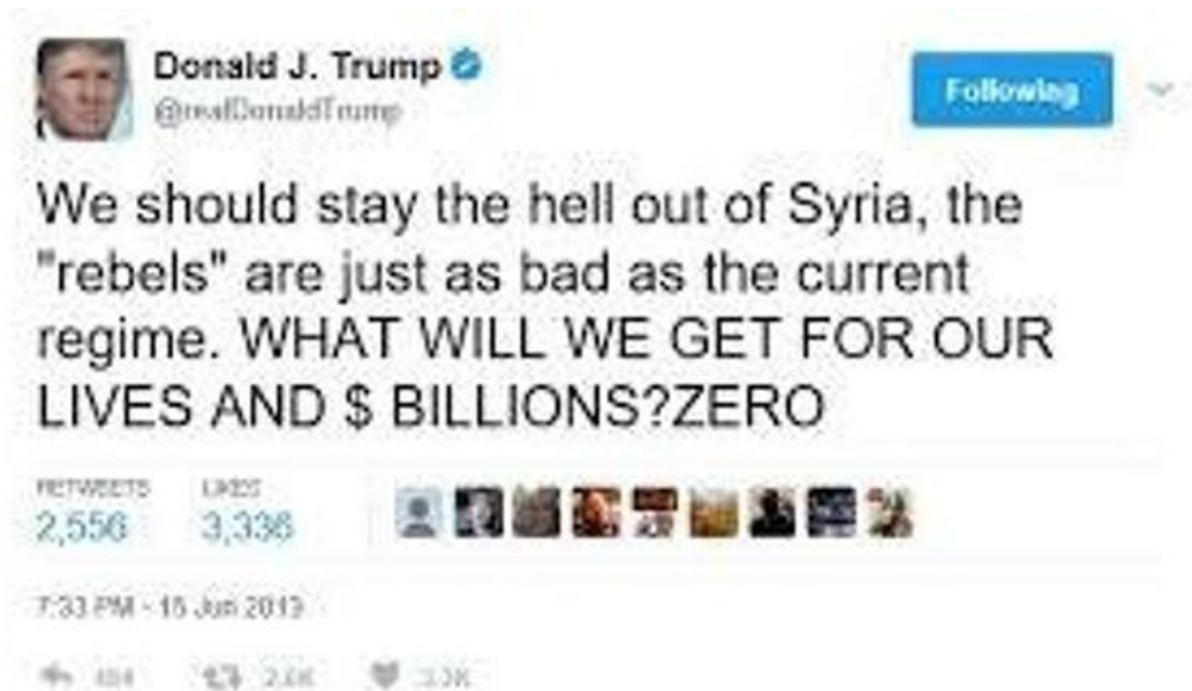
Freedom sure is slippery ...
(11/03/2017)



"The best place to dig a very deep pit in which to catch a Heffalump is somewhere where a Heffalump already is -- but only about a foot further on." ~ Winnie the Pooh



What we always get for our Lives ...
(11/04/2017)



“Once again, despite clear opposition from the majority of the American people, the President of the United States has made it clear where he stands on war. He's made it clear that the American public's voice doesn't matter, and as such he's made it clear that we do not live under a true democracy any longer. I am truly ashamed of what our government has become, and you all should be as well. We've been force-fed lie after lie after lie for so many years, all while the American government has repeatedly stepped all over the God-given rights of Americans and Iraqis and Somalis & Yemenis & Afghanis and Syrians alike ... Many have obviously forgotten what it means to be a thinking, courageously moral human being. Well I, for one, have not. You cannot end violence with more violence, and there can be no War on Terror when war *is* terror ... The future of this planet is hanging in the balance, and I will be damned if I believe one more U.S. lie, just as I will be damned if I sit back and allow the injustices of this government to continue. Everyone's purpose on this planet is to spread Love and Kindness and Justice and Compassion – everyone's purpose is, in effect, to ensure **Peace**. And yet most Americans blithely allow their government to instill fear into their hearts and stuff hateful ignorance into their minds. Well, whether I die or am incarcerated for standing up for Truth, I will no longer fuel this wicked war-system under which we live. I stand for common decency and the Love of all Humanity, and I will take action for those noble aims.” ~ via Jason Rocco

Identifying the Bad Guys ...
(11/05/2017)

Since World War II, a list of nations attacked via bombing, invasion, or attempted overthrow by ...

SYRIA

Israel 1967
Israel 1973
Lebanon 1976+

USA

China 1945-1946
SYRIA 1949
Korea 1950-1953
Iran 1953
Guatemala 1954
Tibet 1955-70's
Indonesia 1958
Cuba 1959
Congo 1960-1965
Iraq 1960-1963
Dom. Repub. 1961
Vietnam 1961-1975
Brazil 1964
Belgian Congo 1964
Guatemala 1964
Laos 1964-1975
Dom. Repub. 1965
Peru 1965
Greece 1967
Guatemala 1967-69
Cambodia 1969-70
Chile 1970-1973
Argentina 1976
Turkey 1980
Poland 1980-1981
Nicaragua 1981-90
Cambodia 1980-95
Angola 1980
Lebanon 1982-84
Grenada 1983-84
Philippines 1986
Libya 1986
Iran 1987-1988
Libya 1989
Panama 1989-90
Iraq 1991
Kuwait 1991
Somalia 1992-94
Iraq 1992-1996
Bosnia 1995
Iran 1988
Sudan 1998
Afghanistan 1998
Yugoslavia 1999
Serbia 1999
Afghanistan 2001+
Iraq 2002+
Yemen 2002+
Somalia 2005+
Iran 2005+
Uganda 2011+
Libya 2011+
SYRIA 2014+

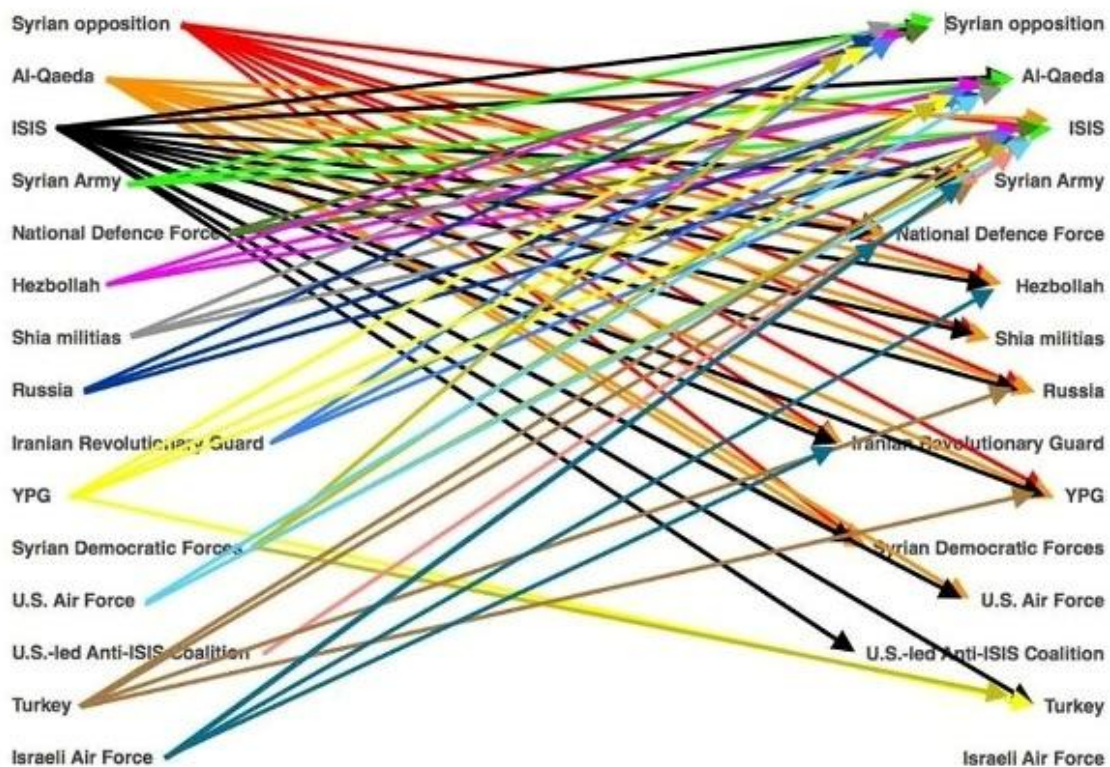
The straight TRUTH, straight from the Front ...
(11/06/2017)



“There are so many news sources and developments in communication technology today – and yet there is also so much misinformation being purveyed by the same. In fact, this is part of the reason why I felt compelled to live in Syria and go as far as venturing myself into war zones there – *to get to know the Truth* firsthand ... Despite existing in the midst of so many NATO nations often conspiring against it, the Syria I experienced as a child was one of the safest nations on Earth. Years later the U.S. and its Zionist allies launched their well developed initiative planned to eradicate the Syrian Arab Republic -- a land that had no place in their dreams for a “New Middle East.” The resistance to these overthrow overtures proved to be strong and long-lasting ... In the past, whenever I was watching Syrian developments from the States, I would often notice how the enemies of Syria cited the presence of Russia and ‘Shia militias’ in their reports, and yet the other day when I walked myself into Jobar and sneaked all the way to the front lines I only saw Syrians and Palestinians defending Damascus. They stopped me and were intrigued by my life-threatening pursuit to know what is actually happening there, inviting me to drink mate as they laughed casually despite Death lurking just around the corner. Most of these heroes have lost their closest friends fighting for a revolutionary future free from American/Israeli dominance and oppression – a thought which then had me wondering: Why should an nation like Syria be forced to give up its national identity, but not America – a nation which was founded on the genocide of Native Americans and a nation which is to this day maintained via the mass incarceration of minorities and the poor; a nation which to this day continues to reject people escaping the violence of its own imperialist actions?” ~ inspired by & via Sinan Shaibani

Explaining it nice & simple ...
(11/07/2017)

So you want to know what is *actually* going on in Syria? No problem -- This chart explains it simply enough:



“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can; as one who has seen firsthand its raw brutality, its utter futility, its fundamental immorality, its sheer stupidity.” ~ via Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Are you confused by what is going on in the Middle East? Well, let me explain ... The United States still supports the Iraqi government against ISIS. They don't like ISIS, though ISIS is still directly supported by Saudi Arabia, who the U.S. likes quite a lot ... In addition, the United States doesn't like President Assad in Syria, and directly supports the rebels fighting against him – but not ISIS, who are also fighting against him. The U.S. also doesn't like Iran, but Iran supports the Iraqi government against ISIS too ... So what it all boils down to is that some of America's friends support America's enemies, and some of America's enemies are their friends, and some of America's enemies are fighting against their other enemies – who they want to lose, though they don't want their enemies who are fighting those enemies to win. Because of the people they want to defeat are defeated, they might be replaced by people they like even less ... And all this was essentially started by the U.S. invading a country to drive out terrorists who weren't even there until after they went in to drive them out ... Now do you understand?” ~ via Aubrey Bailey

Taking back the TRUTH ...
(11/08/2017)



None of America's decent, kind, & caring citizens want a war with Russia or Syria or Afghanistan or Iran or North Korea -- so they need to stop allowing their corporate media to say otherwise.

“We can bomb the world to pieces, but we can’t bomb it to Peace.” ~ Michael Franti



To pray for The Day ...
(11/09/2017)



I for one pray for the day when the children of Syria and the children of Afghanistan and the children of Palestine and the children of Yemen wake up to the sound of birds instead of the sound of bombs.

"To stop the cycle of violence, there are only two alternatives: either one side must kill everyone on the other side leaving not even the children breathing (lest they one day avenge the death of their parents), or one side must choose to stop hitting back. Those are the only options." ~ via Benjamin Corey

To LOOK again at our Brothers ...
(11/10/2017)



“When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother, when you teach that he is somehow lesser because of his color or his beliefs or the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies - to be met not with cooperation but with conquest ... We learn to look at our brothers as aliens, men with whom we share a city, but not a community, men bound to us in common dwelling, but not in common cause. We learn to share only a common fear - only a common desire to retreat from each other - only a common impulse to meet disagreement with force. For all this there are no final answers. Yet we know what we must do. It is to achieve true justice among our fellow citizens, and bring a sense of respect and compassion to the fore ... We must admit the vanity of our false distinctions among men and learn to find our own advancement in the search for the advancement of all. We must admit in ourselves that our own children's future cannot be built on the misfortunes of others. We must recognize that this short life can neither be ennobled or enriched by violence or hatred or revenge.” ~ inspired by Robert F. Kennedy

To Know your Heroes ...
(11/11/2017)

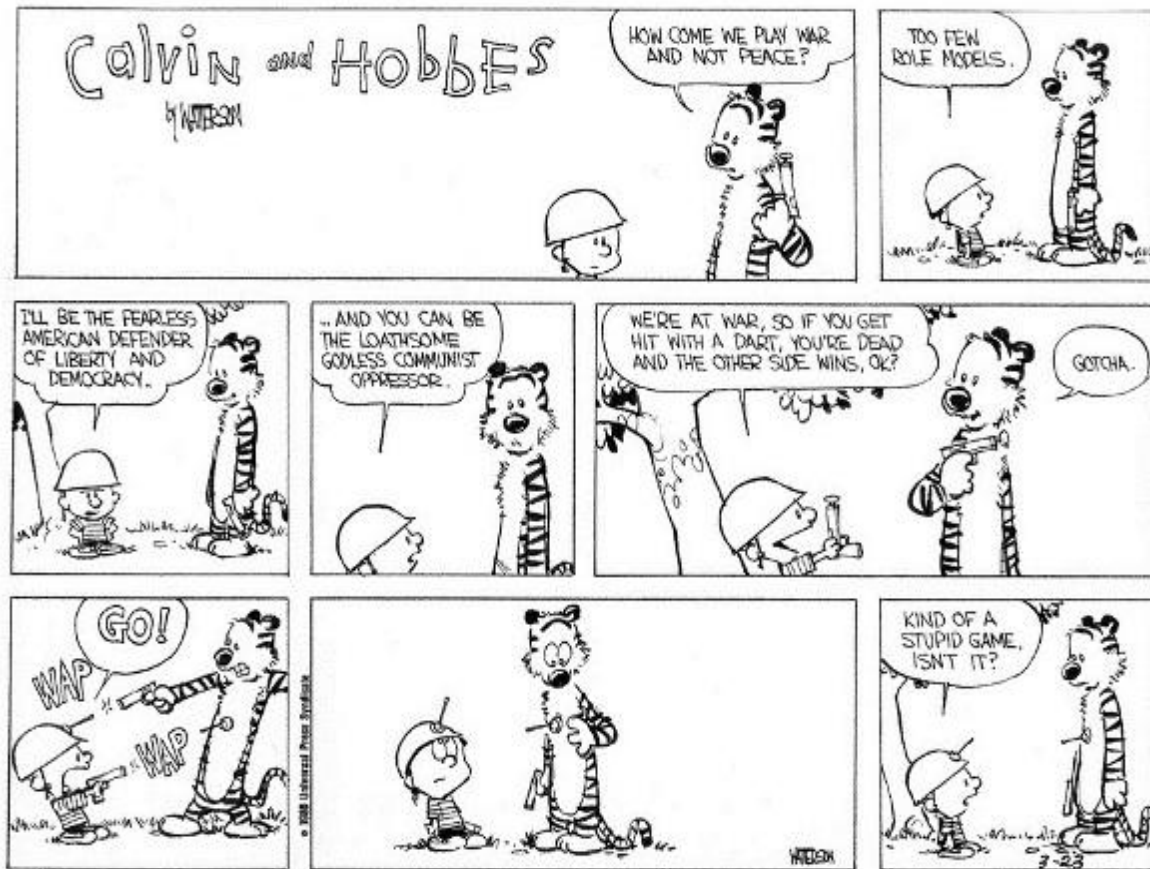
Take a close look at these two pictures and tell me who are the heroes and who are the victims:



WRONG ... They are *all* victims.

“Most of us have been conditioned to regard military combat as exciting and glamorous - an opportunity for men to prove their competence and courage. Since armies are legal, we feel that war is acceptable, with few feeling that war is criminal or that the one accepting has a criminal attitude. The truth is quite different. The truth is that we have been brainwashed. War is neither glamorous nor attractive. It is monstrous. Its very nature -- without exception -- is one of tragedy and suffering.” ~ via Dalai Lama

What the Great Nation knows ...
(11/12/2017)



“The test of a truly Great Nation is not how many wars it can win, but rather how many conflicts -- both at home and abroad -- it can resolve in a just and peaceful manner.” ~ anonymous

Trillions of taxpayer dollars wasted, thousands of innocent men, women, and children killed, thousands of soldiers dead and many thousands more psychologically scarred for life, and a once-viable country left in shambles ...



All this suffering and so much more, and all for what? Obviously, to see to it that there are more Taliban fighting in Afghanistan today than ever before.

The real Terrorists ...
(11/13/2017)



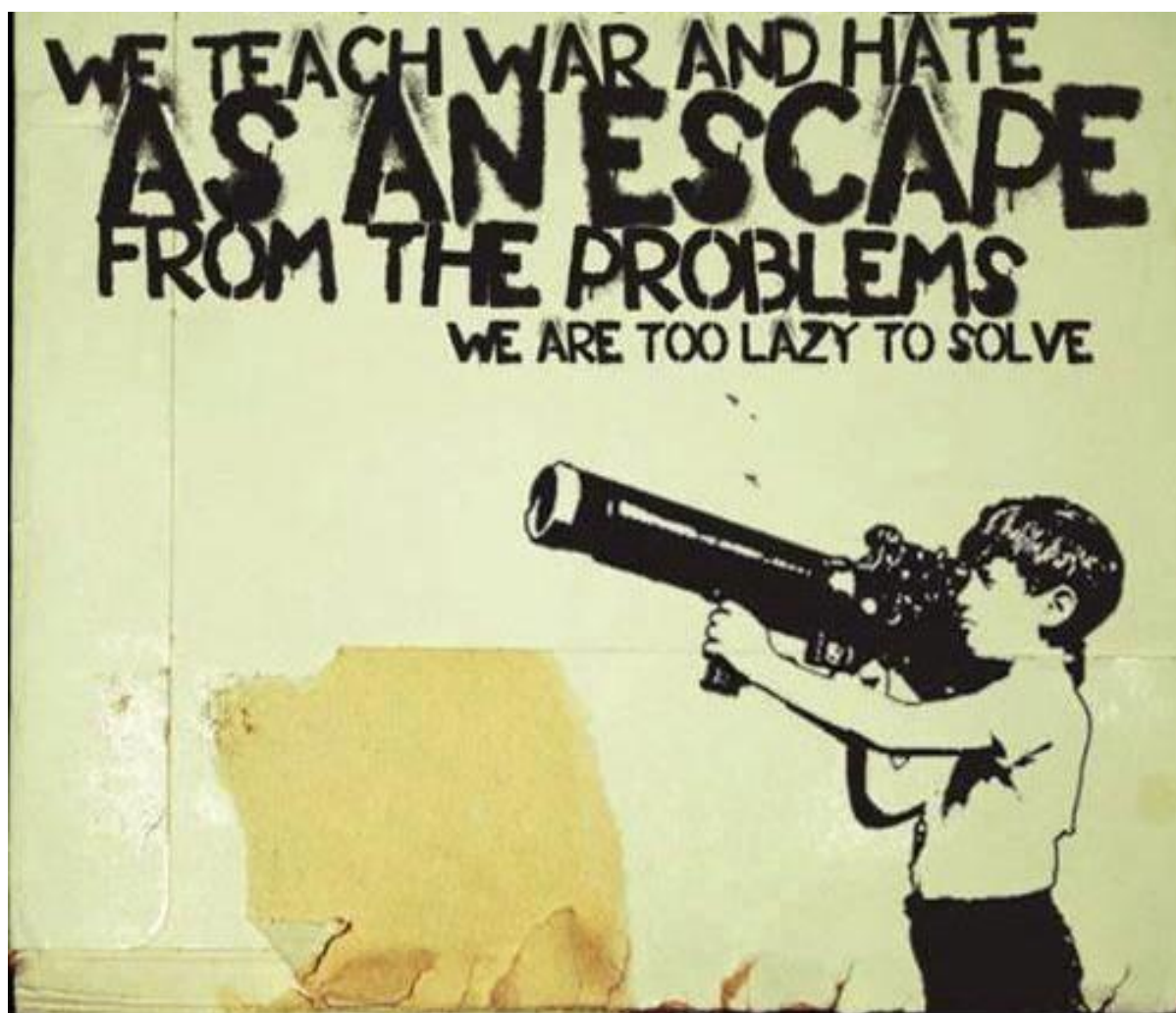
“The most formidable military machine always depends ultimately on the obedience of its soldiers, just as the most powerful corporation becomes helpless when its workers stop working or when its customers refuse to buy its products. The strike, the boycott, the refusal to serve -- the ability to paralyze the functioning of a complex social structure by refusing to support or enable it, these remain potent weapons against even the most fearsome corporate and military powers.” ~ via Howard Zinn

What soldiers actually DO ...
(11/14/2017)



NEWSFLASH: If you invade another country, you are *not* defending freedom or your friends & family or your country ... What you are actually doing is attacking people who are defending *their* freedom and *their* friends & family and *their* country from YOU!

The Force of LOVE ...
(11/15/2017)



“We need force only when we want to do something selfish or harmful to others. Otherwise, *Love is always enough* to get everything done -- and indeed get it done better.” ~ via Charlie Chaplin

What Jesus meant ...
(11/16/2017)



“I think it's safe to say that when Jesus told us to ‘Love your enemies,’ he at the very least meant don't kill them.”

~ via Linda Williams

Who truly wants War ...
(11/17/2017)

RUSSIA WANTS WAR

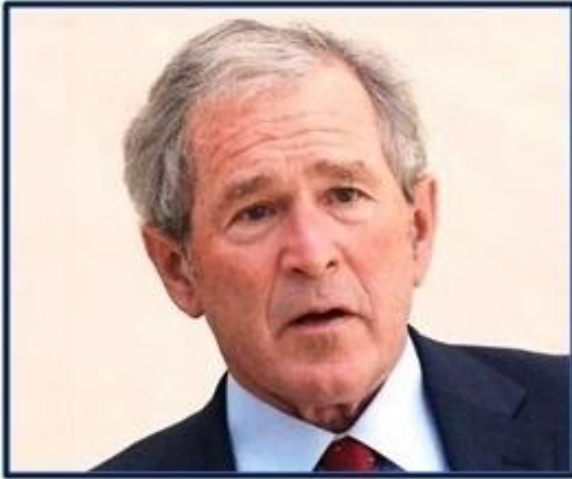


(Look how close they put their country to America's military bases.)

"You can sway over a thousand men by appealing to prejudice or emotion far quicker than you can convince even one man using reason or truth." ~ via Robert Heinlein



Lots more of the Same ...
(11/18/2017)



"OMG, Saddam Hussein has killed 50,000 Iraqis. We have to invade and stop the killings now." ~ George W. Bush

Invades Iraq and ends up killing over 500,000 Iraqis.



"OMG, ISIS is threatening our freedom. We have to stop them now." ~ Barack Obama

Signs the NDAA (thereby significantly dismantling Freedom for all Americans), and drone bombs ISIS -- creating three times as many new terrorists as he kills.



"OMG, I'm actually President, and the foreign policy of those last two guys was so fantastic, I think I'll just do lots more of the same." ~ Donald Trump

Does lots more of the same.

Praying for Peace ...
(11/19/2017)



"Great GOD of mercy and compassion; dearest GOD of grace and reconciliation -- please pour your sweet Power upon *all* your children in the Middle East: upon all Jews, all Muslims, all Christians, and all atheists; upon all Palestinians, all Israelis, all Syrians, and all Afghanis ... Pour your perfect LOVE upon them, dear LORD. Let their hatred be turned into feelings of Humility, their fears into acts of Kindness, their despair into deeds of Courage, and their ignorance into expressions of Caring. From oppression to Freedom, from occupation to Liberation, from distrust to Solidarity, from strife to Peace -- let all violent encounters be replaced by gentle embraces; that Harmony and Justice might one day soon be known by all ... *Amen* -- Let it be so." ~ inspired by Said Ailabouni

To have seen War ...
(11/20/2017)



"If you're anti-war it doesn't mean you are 'pro' one side or the other in a particular conflict. However, it *does* make you **Pro** many things. It makes you **Pro-Peace**, it makes you **Pro-Humanity**, it makes you **Pro-Diplomacy**, it makes you **Pro-Integrity**, it makes you **Pro-Compassion**, and it makes you **Pro-Love**." ~ via Eddie Vedder

Needing the Great Leap ...
(11/21/2017)



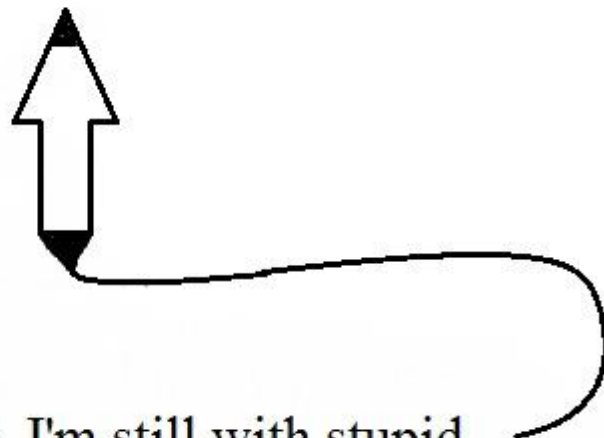
"We have come to a critical impasse in our species' history; an impasse that now forces us to either Love our enemies or perish. The chain reaction of evil -- hatred begetting more hatred, aggression begetting more aggression, violence begetting more violence, wars producing more wars -- must be broken, or else we shall soon be plunged into the deservedly dark abyss of mutual annihilation." ~ via Martin Luther King Jr.

Agents in idiocy or agency of Evil? ...
(11/22/2017)



“I wonder if Snowden was bullshitting when he talked about the NSA’s omnipotent global surveillance. I mean, if the NSA is spying on the world so closely, its agents have to have read what **Vanessa Beeley, Eva Bartlett, Tim Anderson, Sarah Abed** and others have said and are still saying about Syria. And if they have done so – if they have actually read those reports, they have to have realized by now that the United States government is full of shit; and that they themselves are nothing more than propaganda artists of the American pro-war Establishment. I mean, the more they look into the truth of what is actually happening in Syria (as well as why it is actually happening), the more they must clearly understand that there just aren't any credible sources refuting the reports coming out of those aforementioned truth-tellers. And this then begs the question: Are America’s NSA agents just chicken shit cowards who don’t have the guts and moral fortitude required to stand up to the war criminals and human rights abusers they are serving, or are they simply dumbass ding dongs who can't analyze the facts? Or – far worse still -- are they all actually evil enough at their core to believe that it's OK to help instigate an illegitimate, oil-based colonial war against Syria that has already killed 500,000 people and displaced half the population?” ~ inspired by Hiroyuki Hamada

Still with stupid ...
(11/23/2017)



Unfortunately, I'm still with stupid ...

Choose PEACE
Say NO to WAR!

“It is worth noting that the United States Defense Department spent over \$757 billion from 2003 to 2010 conducting the war in Iraq, while the United Nations noted that just 5% of those monies could have provided clean water, adequate food, sanitation services, and basic education to every single person on the planet.” ~ via John Perkins

With regards to War ...
(11/24/2017)



With regards to **guns**, I would simply note that guns are for **killing** ... when what we need is *Life*.

With regards to **bombs**, I would simply note that bombs are for **destroying** ... when what we need is *rebuilding*.

With regards to **war**, I would note that war is for **coercion** & **greed** ... when what we need is *sharing & gentleness*.

With regards to "**patriotism**", I would note that "**patriotism**" is for **separating** from others ... when what we desperately need is *the Peace of Oneness*.

The Wrongness of Not RIGHT ...
(11/25/2017)



War does not make a nation strong. War exposes a nation's deepest weakness ... Invasion does not show a nation's bravery. Invasion -- be it by land, air, or sea; be it for purposes blatantly colonial or thinly diguised under the insincere veil of "fighting terrorism" -- exposes a nation's deepest insecurities and fundamental lack of integrity ... It is **NOT RIGHT** to murder children in the name of freedom ... It is **NOT RIGHT** to kill innocent civilians in the name of democracy ... It is **NOT RIGHT** to make war against the poor for the wealth & comfort of the rich ... And to say otherwise is to do nothing less than show oneself to be either embarssingly ignorant, repugnantly dishonest, morally bereft, or cowardly to the core.

"The stern mask of American justice is being stripped away; and behind it we now see its angry snarl." ~ via Nati Hamik

A most tragic Irony ...
(11/26/2017)



“History will almost certainly record the tragically ironic fact that men have gone to war and killed each other because they could not agree on what was to become of them after they were killed, and history will also almost certainly record the fact that the men who sent those men to war cared neither one way nor the other.” ~ inspired by Walter Stacy

What war determines ...
(11/27/2017)

War never determines who's Right ...



War only determines who's left.

A still latent Bravery ...
(11/28/2017)



"Where is the genuine bravery of humanity? I promise you its not hiding in camouflage waiting to harm another ... The protection of life isn't ever achieved by taking life. It's achieved by giving to the living. War is never a plan of the brave. Indeed, when it comes to violence of any sort, real courage is ever choosing the words, '**No More.**'" ~ via Vanessa Curley

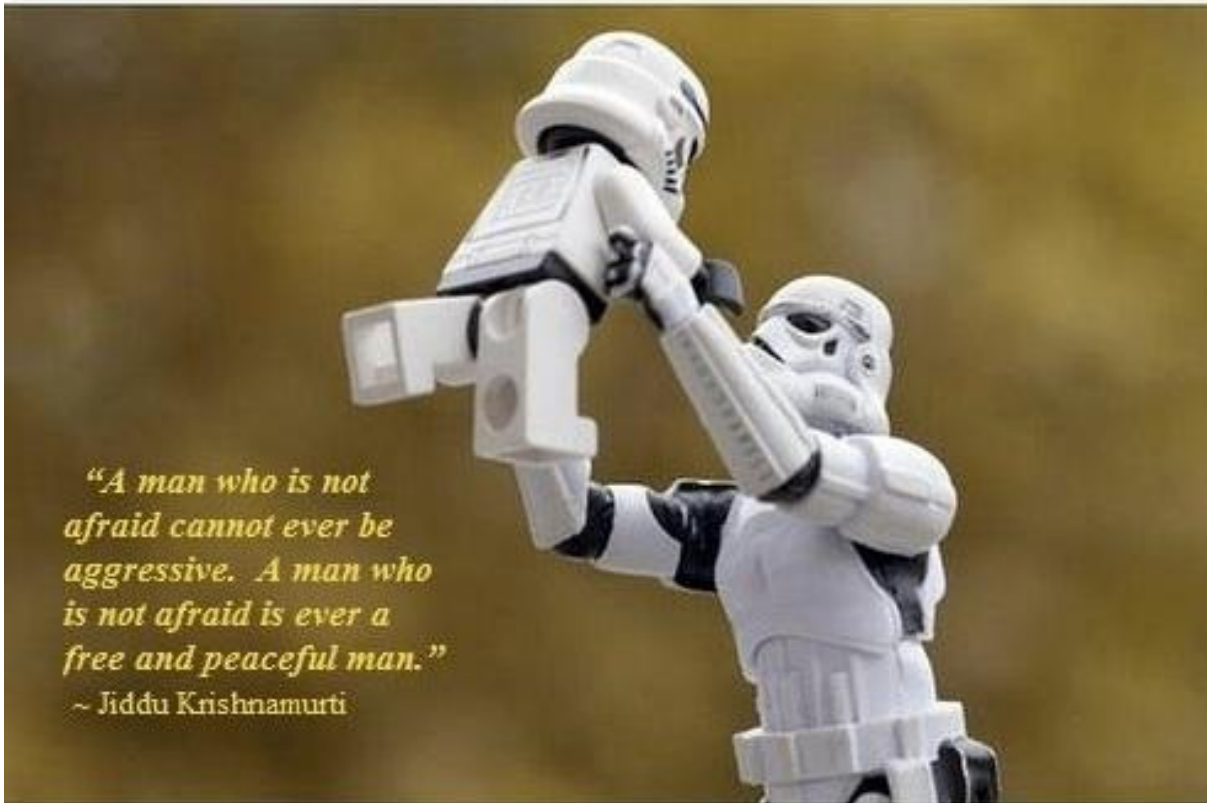
To meet us There ...
(11/29/2017)



***"Out beyond all ideas of wrongdoing
and rightdoing -- beyond all ideas of enemy
and ally, there is a field of Peace ...
Gather your friends and meet me there." ~ via Rumi***

ALL are people too ...
(11/30/2017)

Newsflash: Your enemies are people too.



Where WAR belongs ...
(11/30/2017)



“Whenever I despair, I remember that all throughout human history the ways of Truth & Love have always won. Yes, there have been horrible tyrants and vile oligarchies, and at times they have seemed invincible in their evil. And yet in the end, they always fall ... Think of it -- always.” ~ via Mahatma Gandhi

What NOT to do ...
(12/01/2017)

**DON'T JOIN THE ARMY.
DON'T BE A CORPORATE TOOL.
DON'T CARRY OUT TERRORISM.
DON'T SUPPORT GENOCIDE.
DON'T RISK YOUR SANITY.
DON'T END UP SUICIDAL.**

ARMY
BE THE WORST

The Military Industrial Complex is made up of radical death-squads, and the 'war on terror' is a farce. Don't be part of it.

If you choose to serve meek-hearted masters, spurring others into battle chanting "**Eye for an Eye,**" it is *you* who will die before your death; living solely in the shrouded shadows of a blackly blinded Soul.

The Stay-at-Home Soldier ...
(12/04/2017)



Newsflash: It is not necessary to deploy to foreign lands to save children or defend freedom or perform any other acts of heroism. Indeed, the real & true *Soldier* never leaves home and never carries a weapon. Instead, he does what he can wherever he already is. He enters his community with courage, he searches for the downtrodden with persistence, and he cares for whomever he finds with integrity & passion.



Recognizing the real Enemies ...
(12/08/2017)

My dear Friends, you do **not** need to worry about terrorists (be they von ISIS or Al Qaeda or the Taliban or any other group or cell). Nor do you need to feel in any way threatened by Russia or Syria or North Korea or Libya or China or Afghanistan or any other country ...



Who you **do** need to be very concerned about (and who you most certainly *are* being threateend by) are your sociopathic, war-mongering, corporate-oligarchy-pandering "leaders" -- men & women who care only about themselves and their own comforts; men & women who will continue to sacrifice many thousands of those deemed "smaller" or "lesser than" so that they might bask in wealth & power.

Identify them ... Expose them ... Resist them at every turn!

How to WIN at War ...
(12/09/2017)



"Colorful demonstrations and weekend marches are not nearly powerful enough to stop war. No, wars will only be stopped only when soldiers refuse to fight; when workers refuse to load weapons onto ships and aircraft; when people begin to fully boycott the Empire's economic outposts that are strung across the globe." ~ via Arundhati Roy

Who always Does it ...
(12/17/2017)



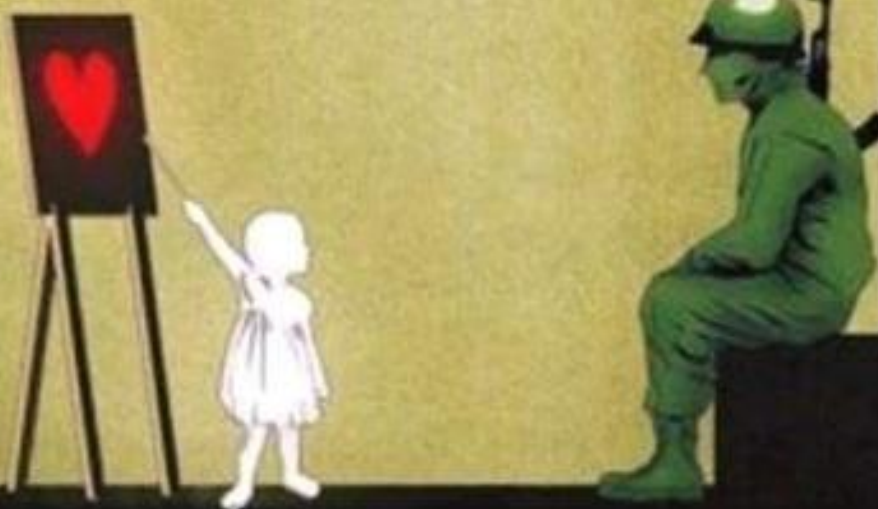
I kept asking: "Who did it, mother? Was it Israel? Was it Palestine? Was it the Russians? the Ukraine? North Korea? Saudi Arabia?"

Then my mother answered ... "Humans, my son. It was humans killing other humans."

To Teach them all Well ...
(12/20/2017)

Teach your children
there is no glory or
heros in war.

That the glory comes
from the actions that
prevent war, and the
heros are the ones who
implement those actions.



*When a wealth of LOVE overcomes the love of
wealth, then & only then will Humanity know Peace.*



While it is true that bombs can kill terrorists, only bold acts of Forgiveness &/or Kindness &/or Caring can ever hope to kill terrorism.

Peace from the Peace-full ...
(12/21/2017)



PEACE cannot ever be either made or maintained by acts of force or violence. Indeed, a real and lasting **PEACE** can only be propagated & preserved in an atmosphere that is filled with humble acts of heartfelt Respect & Kindness.

*"Whenever you are confronted by an enemy or opponent, remember always to conquer him or her with **LOVE**."* ~ via M. Gandhi



If you are a decent human being, then you want the killing to stop, and if you want the killing to stop then you are going to have to have the courage & the humility to take a hard look at the FACTS -- the FACT that U.S. soldiers do *not* die for *freedom* or *democracy*; the FACT that it is *not* unpatriotic to tell the Truth about the evils of the American military; the FACT that the United States is *not* a just or a moral international player -- that it has actually been completely hijacked by its own military-industrial complex; the FACT that American politicians on both sides of the aisle are *not* serving you -- that they lie repeatedly in order to provoke you into supporting their wicked wars for profit; the FACT that it is *not* in any way ethical to (essentially) send boys to kill boys for banks; and the FACT that the only way you can "support the troops" is to **BRING THEM ALL HOME!**

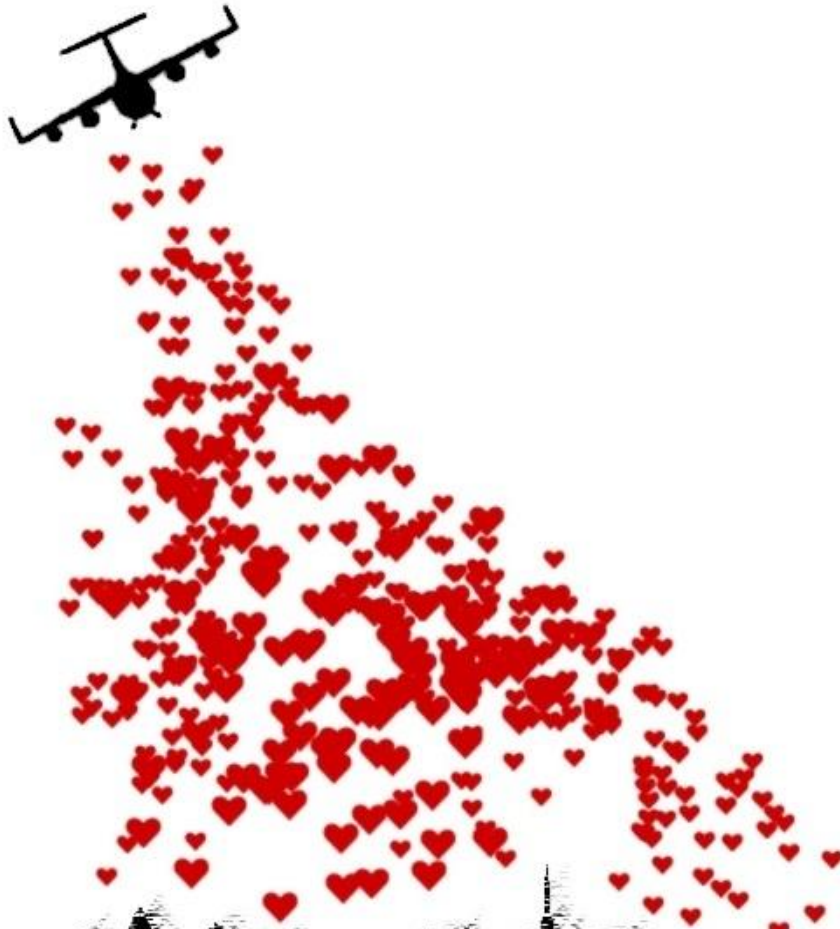
The Victory of the Valiant ...
(12/22/2017)



Just as it is in any interpersonal fight or conflict, the international solution to war is ultimately a simple one -- in the former struggles, it is "Be the Bigger Wo/Man;" in the latter, it is "Be the Bigger Land." When an interpersonal enemy attacks with vitriol & vileness, the truly Great Wo/Man answers with Caring & Compassion. Similarly, when the international enemy attacks with bombs & bullets, the truly Great Nation responds with flowers and food ... Yes, in the latter case it is true that the more radical attackers (the "extremists") would probably not be swayed much by such acts of empathic Enlightenment. And yet every other person who witnessed such deeds of forgiving Kindness would be deeply moved and forever altered. At their very deepest level every neighbor and every friend and every family member of every terrorist would have no choice but to admire & embrace such phenomenally humble & innately moral gestures. And every single one of them would be radically reminded thereby that we are *not* two different nations at all -- that we are *not* two different and competing "herds", but rather share one single, potentially **Loving Family** instead ... And the truly Great Nation would continue to drop sustenance & solace on these people. And no matter how many times the few among them would answer with violence, the food & the flowers & the forgiveness would continue to rain down upon them and their loved ones. And inevitably, they too would stop "biting the hand that feeds"; they too would realize that in killing us, they are actually killing themselves and their own loved ones. They would awaken to the simple fact that -- despite all doubts and delusions -- we truly are one Great Family ... And it is in that sacred moment -- finally -- that Peace will in-deed reign on Earth.

Amen -- Let it soon be so.

Spread Love.



"May *peace* rule the Universe; may *peace* rule in kingdoms and empires; may *peace* rule in states and in the lands of the people; may *peace* rule in the houses of all friends -- and may *peace* also rule in the houses of all enemies." ~ via Virchand Gandhi

The War on Christmas ...
(12/25/2017)



***“The real War on Christmas
is actual war” ~ Lynette Cowper***

What PEACE is ...
(12/26/2017)



"Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is a warm alliance between nations ... Peace is more than the absence of enmity. Peace is a deep-seated, heartfelt, and active Harmony between peoples ... Peace is more than the absence of violence. Peace is turning all our machine guns into memorials and all our tanks into tributes -- Peace is not only vowing to refrain from war; Peace is the humble art of living Peace-fully." ~ inspired by Peace Pilgrim

A harmonious Imagining ...
(12/27/2017)



"Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do.
Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too.
Imagine all the people living life in **Peace** ...

You may say that I'm a dreamer,
but I'm not the only one ...
I hope someday that you'll join us,
and the world will be as **ONE**."

(John Lennon)

Where the only Peace begins ...
(12/28/2017)

PEACE BEGINS ON YOUR PLATE



GO VEGAN!

“As long as Man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of supposedly 'lower' living beings, he will know neither health nor peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot ever hope to reap Joy or Love.” ~ Pythagoras



When you are a Child ...
(12/29/2017)



“When you are a child, there is Joy. When you are child, there is Wonderment. When you are child, there is Faith ... And most of all, when you are a child, there is an inevitable return to **Grace** – an inevitable return to **Grace** in dealing with accepting everyday happenstance, and an inevitable return to **Grace** in dealing with our interactions with others. Of course, as we become adults, we steadily forget this greatest of human attributes, becoming steeped in greed and suspicion and fear and hatred instead ... If children were to run the world, there would be regular conflicts and regular frustrations, no doubt. And yet those dust ups would never linger very long, and they certainly wouldn’t escalate into war or longer-term enmities ... And yet children do not run the world – adults do; adults who lack the Humility to make amends; adults who lack the Courage to reach out to opponents and strangers; adults who lack the **Grace** to forgive and make amends. Adults rule the world, and as a result violence & enmity & destruction reign supreme ... And yet within every adult still remains the Noble Child they once were. Within every adult, no matter how angry or jaded or fearful they might have become, remains a younger, truer Self – a Self that still knows **Grace**, and a Self that still knows that **Grace**, not war, is The Way to properly Live and deeply Be.” ~ inspired by Peter David

To law siege on the Empire ...
(12/30/2017)

*If war can
happen in an
instant, Peace
can happen in a
heartbeat.*



“Our strategy should be not merely to complain about Empire or even to actively protest against it. Our strategy must be to lay it to full siege – to attack it on multiple fronts; some loud & flagrant, others soft & subtle. Our aim must be not merely to carve out hollow “victories” for ourselves and those we hold most dear, but rather to directly contribute to the **complete dismantling** of its entire framework -- to deprive it of oxygen -- to repel it; to defy it; to mock it; to transcend it. It matters not how we do so – via art, or music, or literature, or protest, or self-sufficiency, or any other form of our open & sheer relentlessness makes little difference. It simply matters that we **DO SO** ... We must each become active agents of defiance against the Corporate Establishment. We must refuse to buy what they are selling – their ideas, their version of history, their wars, their taxes, their ‘morals,’ their fear, their me-first ideology, their poisoned foodstuffs, their notion of healthcare, their brutal treatment of other cultures and other species judges to be weaker &/or less than, and especially their notion of their inevitable control over our lives ... Remember this: We are many and they are few. They need us very much to survive, while we need them not at all to do so -- and do so quite well. Another world is not only possible, my Friends, She is truly already here. On quiet days, I can hear Her soothing laughter, and on brave ones, I can see Her rising anew.” ~ inspired by Arundhati Roy

The Evolution of Peace ...
(12/31/2017)



“The law of evolution is believed to be ‘the strongest survives,’ and yet what many fail to comprehend is the far more subtle Truth that the truly strongest, at least within the ranks of any social species, are those who are the most **social** – the most **interconnected** – the most **ethical** – or in human terms, the most **compassionate** ... Harming others, for whatever reason, is always a manifestation of – and ultimately a perpetuation of – weakness. As such, real **Strength** comes solely from the attainment of Peace with others – a Peace that cannot come from mere thought or wish or prayer. For real & lasting Peace is always something we *make* – something we *do* – something we *give* to others – and as such something we *become*.” ~ inspired by Ursula K. Le Guin & Robert Fulghum

To let PEACE come to BE ...

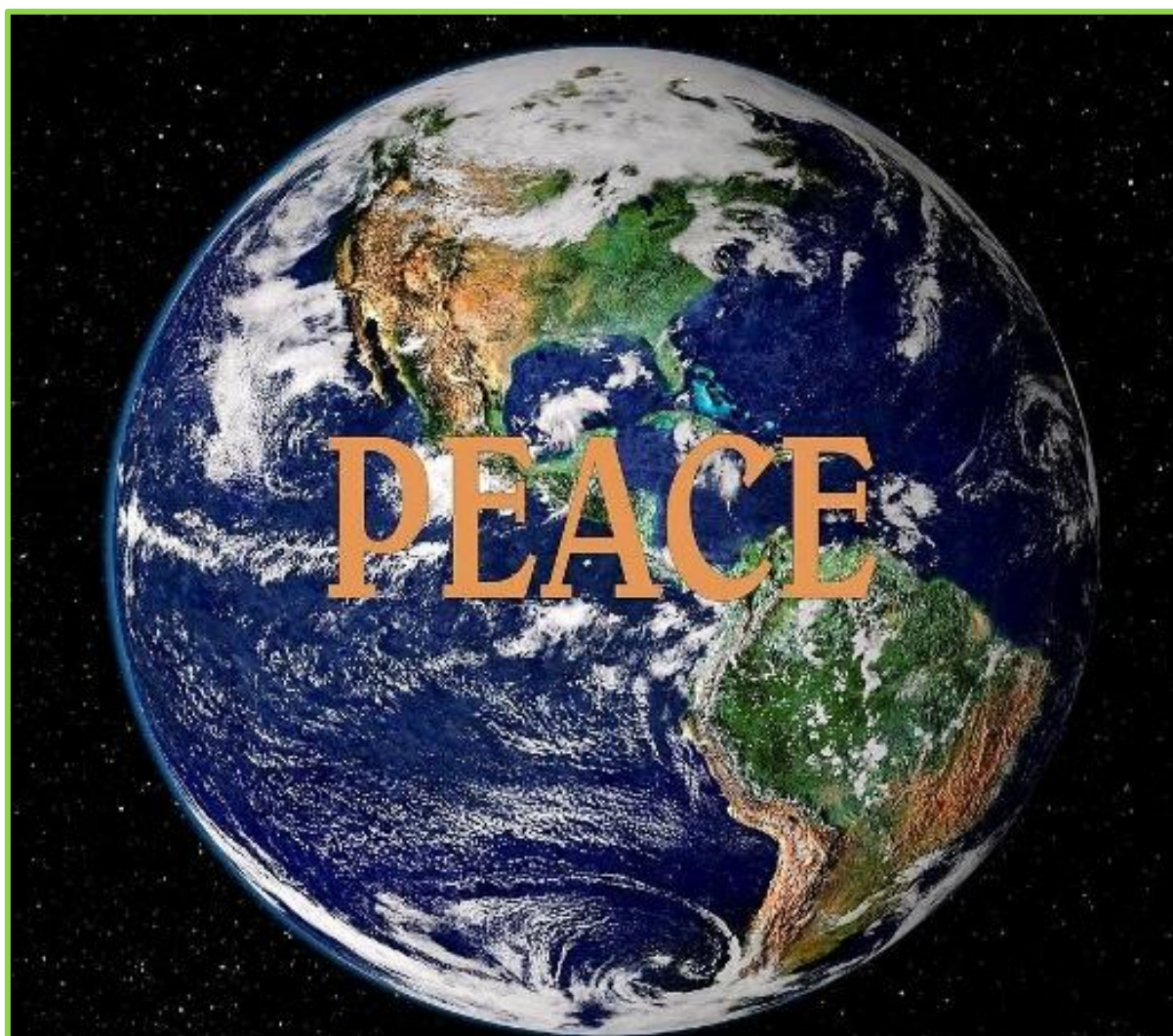
(01/01/2018)



PEACE will either fully become a verb, or it will never truly be.

"It is of immense importance that first and foremost people identify themselves as human beings, rather than as a member of any particular or as a believer in any particular spiritual dogma. There is such a preoccupation these days with which flag we all live under &/or with where a person will go after he or she dies, that people keep on forgetting we are all here right now — on this planet! Okay, so you are certain that your country is the best and that you are on your way to Heaven after you die, and that many others from other nations who do not believe as you do are on their way to Hell. But even if you were correct (and I doubt that you are), those beliefs are not yet facts. The *fact* that we do have, though, is the *fact* that we are all here right now, with each other, on this Earth, living this life, breathing this air. And it's about time we identify ourselves with that reality -- the reality right in front of us -- the reality that we are *all* human beings; that we *all* cry, laugh, love and hurt; and that we must *all* learn to respect and cherish each other accordingly." ~ via C. Joybell C.

*“We cannot embrace others
fully with clenched fists.”* ~ via M. Gandhi



“**Peace** is always present right here and now, within ourselves and soaked into everything we do and see. Every breath we take, every step we take, every choice we make, can be filled with **Peace** and Serenity. And the question is not whether or not we are ‘in touch’ with that **Peace** or whether or not we can deeply ‘go within’ to find it. The question is whether or not we have the Courage required to bring that **Peace** into our lives – to let it shine from every smile and radiate from every Caring deed. Merely ‘being awake’ is never enough to be truly ‘alive in the present moment’ ... To know true **Peace**, we must feel **Peace**, to feel **Peace**, we must choose to be **Peace**-full; and to be **Peace**-full, we must choose to become **Peace** for others.

Amen -- Let it be so.” - inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Epilogue: *MAKING PEACE REAL*

As anyone who has studied the historical record already knows, the war-mongering exploits of nation-states (especially the nation-state known as the United States of America) have -- almost without exception -- nothing at all to do with “enhancing security” or “preventing terrorism” or “protecting democracy” or “preserving freedom.” Indeed, it has been proven time & time & time again that overthrowing democratically elected governments never leads to increased stability or protected liberties, that attacking enemies never fully defeats them (and actually ultimately strengthens them), that killing terrorists actually intensifies terrorism, and that bombing enemy outposts only inspires more powerful strongholds to quietly take their place. In essence, violence always begets violence and war always begets war – it always has, and it always will.

So with this Truth in mind, we must then ask ourselves the question: what the Hell are our political leaders doing? Why are they continuing to pursue war as a political option when they know damn well that war never accomplishes any of its stated objectives? After all, most of them (with a few noted exceptions) are clearly not idiots, and as such must know that their saber-rattling words of aggression and saber-swathing attacks of violence have only made matters worse in the past, and thus that similar tactics will only make matters even more horrifying in the future ... Of course, after asking this question myself, it dawned on me (just as it must now be dawning on many of you) that our leaders aren’t stupid or incompetent at all. It dawned on me that war is what they are creating and war is what they are perpetuating because *war is exactly what they want*. In truth, politicians are paid handsomely to make war by the corporations that shamelessly profit from the spoils thereof. International oligarchies have seized control of global politics, my Friends, and war is the way international oligarchies survive and thrive. War is what those oligarchies and their minions want, and thus war is what they will indeed get – and there is very little any of us can do to stop them.

That having all been said, matters are not completely hopeless and we are anything but completely helpless. For even though oligarchies and their political puppets pay heed to their own objectives and the profits that are won thereby, *we can each still do our part* to combat their vile ways and at least partially hinder their evil intentions. Individually we can do little to thwart their wickedness, it is true, and yet every action taken for Peace *does* make the world that much more Peace-full – and thereby *does* weaken the powers of darkness to a similar degree. Together, many of us can do much for Peace, and yet even if we are alone in the wilderness of war, we must each stand forth and do what we each can to combat the powers of violence and oppression.

For example ...

***01) WE CAN Protest Peace-fully ...** There is no need to scream & shout while we do so; just making a pro-Peace, anti-murder placard and standing stoically on a street corner is enough to do the trick ... Witnesses thereto will be moved by your courage, and folks will be at least briefly awakened by your sense of forthrightness and compassion.



***02) WE CAN forgive our leaders ...** Send a letter to your Congressman, Congresswoman &/or Senator and FORGIVE THEM for any support they have given to Obama's vile & unjust military actions in the past, FORGIVE THEM for any support they are currently giving to Trump's call to military action today, and FORGIVE THEM for any support they give to criminally hypocritical & ineffective military actions in the future ... We humans are herd animals. This means that we stay the course when attacked, and this also means that we instinctively try and amend our ways to harmonize with fellow members of our "herd" -- i.e. with those being openly kind to us. So make your letters & emails exceptionally uplifting, reminding your "leaders" that -- even though they have obviously forgotten their more Noble Selves while in office up to this point -- you still believe in their ability to show some integrity. Yes, most of them will probably laugh and continue with their war-mongering ways (after all, that's where the money is that keeps them re-elected), and yet you are allowed to persist in your efforts for Peace, and you are allowed to have faith that a few just might repent and return to the Way of Justice and Kindness.

***03) WE CAN encourage our troops to stay Home ...** If you are an active serviceman or servicewoman, know that you are an American, and as such have every right -- indeed a moral duty -- to refuse to fight in corrupt or unjust wars, and the ranks of the courageous conscientious objectors who came before you will be honored to accept you into their hallowed halls. Any coward can fulfill an evil order to kill civilians disguised as "terrorists". And yet it takes a man or woman of real Courage & sound Virtue to face those immense pressures and refuse to do so ... And what about the rest of us? What can we do to make it easier for soldiers of conscience to say "No" to the wicked war machine? Well, we can offer them our affirmation ... and we can offer them our praise ... and we can offer them our money ... and we can even offer them jobs &/or a place in our own homes. We can loudly let them know that if they choose to boldly stand up for the values under which all moral beings live -- if they have the courage to say "No" to the current call to illegitimately kill and unjustly oppress, then we will be there for them while and after they do so.

***04) WE CAN in-Courage the troops to disobey all unlawful &/or immoral orders ...** If the soldiers you personally know (or any soldiers reading this post) decide to go ahead and participate in ongoing &/or upcoming conflicts, be sure to encourage them -- nay, in-Courage them -- to be a force for Peace while they do so. Remind them that they are never required to commit any act of evil; that there is always the alternative of saying "No" to any order that is

malignant or malicious or in any way unethical. Remind them that there will be thousands upon thousands of victims in this conflict -- thousands of people who will be suffering mightily; thousands who will be in dire need of a hug or a helping hand; a smile or kind word. Remind them that these victims will be fellow soldiers & enemy combatants, yes, and yet that they will also be civilian men & civilian women & innocent children. Remind them to be ready to be a Peace-full **beacon of calm light** in the upcoming time of chaos and blackness.



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***05) WE CAN walk the Peace-full Talk** in our communities ... You can best combat the war-machine by being forces for Goodness & Peace in your neighborhoods; by openly forgiving those who have trespassed against you; by openly sharing what you have with those who have not; by openly caring for your neighbors (especially those we least care for); by openly respecting all sentient beings in how you speak & dress & work & eat.

***06) WE CAN become self-sustainable** ... Oligarchies only grow in one direction -- towards their own inevitable self-destruction. Indeed, the rampant chaos and social decay we are seeing today in the United States is actually the beginning phases of that nation's death-throes. Yes, America is currently eating itself alive, my Friends, and it will not be long (maybe in 100 years; maybe in 10) before she crumbles to the dust. And when she does, it is going to be very important to have large numbers of small, compassion-founded, giving-based, self-sustainable communities in place to act as havens of Peace in which we can all come together to rebuild a better nation(s).

In conclusion, regardless of what you choose to do (or not do) regarding your country's involvement in international conflicts, one truth remains viable – there is no middle ground when it comes to war; either you are actively working to stop it from happening, or your silence counts as supporting the same. In short, you only have two options: either support war (either by actively championing it or by passively complaining about it) or actively do something -- anything -- to encourage its end. In this day and age, when



war dominates our headlines and when fear taints our Moments, there is a need to re-member some Good News: namely, that we are all still Power-full - that we are all still Potent - that we are all still able, even in the midst of our deepest traumas, to make Peace a Reality ... So take this Moment and vow to go boldly forth today ... Where we previously dropped bombs and fired guns, let us send flowers and food ... Where we previously complained about war, let us now stand courageously as public champions of Peace ... Where we previously condemned immoral politics, let us now visualize the innate potential of all leaders to behave with Nobility ... Where we previously condemned our “enemies”, let us now reach out to them with Compassion ... Where we previously criticized those behaving “improperly”, let us now show them with our unconditional Caring how to Be differently -- how to act courageously like Human Beings (with Compassion), as opposed to reacting fearfully like mere savages (via anger) ... My Friends, it is now the time to transcend our primitive past and re-build a Noble Present, and it all begins with this Moment and this Moment's choice ... Will you continue to focus on yourself at the expense of others, or will you - at least for this one instant - set aside your fears and desires and choose instead to Serve the greater Good of Peace? What you do does not matter ... It matters only that you **Do something for Peace** ... The time has come to stop worshipping our heroes - and to start emulating them. The time has come to go boldly forth and Be the change we wish to See in the world!!!

Amen ... Let it be so”

“The greatest crimes in the world are not committed by people breaking the rules, but rather by people following them. It's people who follow orders who drop bombs & massacre villages ... Young men go to war. Sometimes because they have to, sometimes because they want to. Always, they feel they are supposed to. This comes from the sad, layered stories of life, which over the centuries have seen courage confused with picking up arms, and cowardice confused with laying them down.” ~ via Banksy & Mitch Albom



*“And I will take one from a thousand
and two from ten thousand,
and they shall Become a single One.”
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)*