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SEEK THE TRUTH AND SERVE HUMANITY



## Doing nothing should never be an option!

EDITORIAL

Unitarians have a strong commitment to social justice, but we live in a system that denies this right. This means that across our country many people are penalised and denied the democratic rights that should necessarily be part of a genuine democracy.

One such group currently under savage attack are the Victorian nurses who are currently fighting for wage and conditions' justice against a government whose priorities don't include democratic rights and the health needs of our community, but instead kowtows to the almighty dollar.

While the current government's policies extended to a massive increase in the salaries of the police force and doctors, they have refused the same salary justice to other public servants, such as teachers and nurses.

What did the Baillieu government promise nurses prior to its election?

They said ...

We are committed to:

- maintaining nurse patient ratios in their current form and as supported in current agreements
- working constructively with the ANF in negotiating the next EBA due in 2011.

The government has reneged on that commitment.

And because nurses care about the health needs of their patients, they refuse to trade away patient safety by lowering minimum mandated nurse/midwife ratios.

While this is a work condition for nurses, it is more about health safety for hospital patients, and that is our business.

What do the people of Victoria want? Do we want our money spent on events such as the Grand Prix, opposed by the majority and running at a loss, or do we want our taxes spent ensuring that our nurses receive wage justice and that patient/nurse ratios are protected? These ratios mean the difference between skilled and compassionate treatment for ourselves and our families when we become ill, and lesser, poorer treatment if they go.

Sometimes we need to say enough is enough and we demand of government that it spends our taxes on what we think is important.

You may ask, 'What can we do?' You can write a letter to the premier and copy to the ANF. You can contact your local MP and demand that the Government keeps its promise made prior to its election and negotiate in good faith with the ANF and refrain from threatening this valuable workforce.

In every area of community need: housing, healthcare, education, social services and employment, we are witnessing an attack on basic human rights.

We are a wealthy community ... there is no justification for poverty or unemployment and its attendant problems.

Melbourne Unitarians have made a commitment to 'SEEK THE TRUTH AND SERVE HUMANITY' and we also consider that we look rationally at issues and draw thoughtful conclusions.

Examine the facts around the nurses' struggle and determine what you believe is right, and then take whatever action you can to support that view. Doing nothing should never be an option.

# SERVETUS

by Elizabeth Collins

*Towards no crimes  
have men shown  
themselves so cold-  
bloodedly cruel as in  
punishing differences  
of belief.*

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

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**O**n 27 October 1553, Michael Servetus, one of the Church's most eminent victims, was burnt alive as a result of Calvinist intolerance towards a man who questioned certain points of doctrine including that of the Trinity. A black day in the murky history of Christianity, and the same intolerance remains with us today.

Miguel, son of Hernando Villanueva, was born at Tudela in Spanish Navarre in a year uncertain but it is thought to be 1511. He studied law at Toulouse and while there, in 1528, his interest was aroused in theological discussion and he received his first introduction to the Bible. He published some early writings under the name Michael Serveto but later changed to the Latinised version Servetus by which he is generally known. At Toulouse he found a patron in Juan de Quintana who in 1530 was appointed confessor to the Emperor Charles V, and as a member of Quintana's suite Servetus attended the double coronation of Charles at Bologna in 1530. There the spectacle of excessive homage accorded to the Pope aroused in Servetus intense anti-papal feeling and he soon afterwards left Quintana – probably on that account.

He then travelled through Basle, Geneva, Lyons, and on to Strasbourg where he met Bucer and other Reformers. He adopted some of their ideas but was critical of others and suggested certain further reforms. While studying the New Testament, Servetus found the prevailing doctrine of the Trinity so unsatisfactory that he wrote his famous critical essay *De Trinitatus Erroribus* and published it. His assertion that there was no scriptural authority for this doctrine provoked so much hostility and antagonism towards him that he found it prudent to revert to his former surname of Villanovanus and to conceal his identity as far as possible. The essay was an earnest and original work, product of a wide range of study and printed by John Setzer at Hagenau. It was followed by a much-expanded version of the work in dialogue form in 1532.

He is next heard of, still using the Villanovanus name, editing scientific books at Lyons, and while there became attached to Doctor Symphorien Champier through whose influence he went to Paris to study medicine under Johann Günther. There, in 1536, he met Calvin who tried to correct him on certain theological points, but evidently without success. That may have been the fatal turning point in the relationship between the two men, giving rise to smouldering antagonism and desire for revenge on the part of the narrow-minded Calvin.

In Paris, Servetus soon became assistant to Günther who thought highly both of his general culture and his dissecting skill, rating him second in medical knowledge to Galen. After graduating he published lectures on medical syrups and the pulmonary circulation of the blood, also on geometry and astrology as related to medicine. Following Günther's death Servetus went to Louvain to study Hebrew and theology and then to practise medicine at Avignon until September 1540 when he entered the famous medical school at Montpellier. Archbishop Paulnier of Vienna, who had heard Servetus lecture in Paris, then invited him to become his personal physician, which post Servetus accepted and held for twelve years. During this time he continued the editorial work for his Lyons publishers and made a considerable amount of money.

Servetus was ostensibly a practising Catholic – it was dangerous to be anything else where he was – but secretly he pursued his own private reformist ideas and theological speculations. In 1545, however, he made the fatal blunder of writing to Calvin, sending him manuscript copies of his revised tracts and expressing a wish to visit him in Geneva. Calvin's reply has disappeared (was it incriminating?) and was evidently not encouraging. Servetus was warned that it would be dangerous for him to go to Geneva, and in 1547 complained to a friend of Calvin's failure to return his manuscript so that he was obliged to re-write it. The two Basle publishers to whom he sent it refused to print it (it is thought at Calvin's instigation). However, Servetus persisted and an edition of 1,000 copies of *Christianismi Restitutio* was secretly printed in Vienna by Baltasar Arnollet in January 1553 and privately sent to Lyons and Frankfurt for the Easter market.

On 26 February a page from this work naming Servetus as the author was sent from Geneva to a citizen of Lyons and passed to the Inquisitor-General of that town. Calvin can hardly escape the charge of complicity in this dubious affair, especially as he supplied examples of Servetus's handwriting to the examining authority. Servetus was arrested on 4 April and examined for two days, then through the secret agency of some friend he escaped from imprisonment. How and where he spent the following four months is not known, but on 6 August he was in Louyset, a village on the French side of Geneva. On the next day, Sunday, he unwisely walked into Geneva itself and went to the Rose Inn enquiring for a boat to take him across the Lake en route for Zurich. No boat being available until the next day, Servetus

rashly went to evensong where he was recognised and promptly arrested.

The nominal prosecutor in the case was Nicholas de la Fontaine and the trial lasted from 14 August 14 to 26 October when Servetus was sentenced to be burnt alive. The condemnatory clauses prefacing the sentence accused him of heresy and of blasphemy against the foundation of the Christian religion. On 27 October the sentence was carried out at Champal. Servetus may have counted on the legal application of the law in Switzerland which would have meant exile only, there being no current law for inflicting the capital punishment in that country. The old laws of Justinian had been abolished in 1535 and the only penalty according to the new Edicts of 1543, which could have been enacted against Servetus, was banishment. It appears that at the trial the Procurator-General drew attention to the extinct law of Justinian, and the suspicion remains that this law was revived solely to consign Servetus to the flames. When the outcry arose after his death it was no mitigation of Calvin's criminal intolerance to say he had

rather the man had been beheaded. He had achieved his result by no creditable means, and today it is Calvin who stands guilty before the bar of history.

Statues have been erected in memory of Servetus in Madrid (1876), in Paris, Aramnese and an expiatory block at Champal where he was burnt. There is an extensive literature relating to him both in Paris and Vienna, and an almost perfect copy of *Christianismi Resitutio* in Edinburgh University Library. His was an enquiring mind challenging traditional Christianity for which he paid with his life.

Four hundred years ago it was the stake and the faggots, today it is petrol bombs and paving stones. And still, in spite of all the ecumenical talk, divisive credal differences and hatreds, of whatever brand, remain unresolved.

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*Elizabeth was a member of the executive committee of the National Secular Society, England.*



**NEW INTERNATIONALIST**  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

## **ANALYSIS HAITI**

*Will Haiti ever be free of  
unwanted invaders?  
asks Eduardo Galeano*

**L**ook it up in any encyclopaedia: what was the first free country in the Americas? The answer is always the same: the United States. But the United States declared its independence when it was a nation with 650,000 slaves that remained slaves for another century, and their constitution originally held that a black slave counted as only three-fifths of a citizen.

And if you consult any encyclopaedia to find out what was the first country to abolish slavery, the response will always be the same: England. Not true: the first country to abolish slavery was not England but Haiti, which is still paying penance for that sin.

The black slaves of Haiti defeated the glorious army of Napoleon Bonaparte, and Europe never forgave it for this humiliation. Haiti was forced to pay France a gigantic indemnity over a century and a half for the crime of its liberation, but not even this was enough. That black insolence continues to rile the white masters of the world.



## We know little or nothing of all this.

Haiti is an invisible country.

The first time the world media paid attention was when the earthquake of 2010 killed over 200,000 Haitians. Tragedy catapulted the country briefly into the media limelight.

And so today Haiti is known not for its historic achievements in the war against slavery and colonial oppression or for the unique talent of its artists, magicians of scrap who can transform refuse into things of beauty.

It is worth repeating again so that even the deaf will hear: Haiti was the first independent country of the Americas and the first in the world to defeat slavery. It deserves far more than the notoriety that blooms on disaster.

At present, the armies of many countries, including my own, continue to occupy Haiti. How was this military invasion justified? By claiming that Haiti was a danger to international security. Nothing new there.

Throughout the 19th century, the example of Haiti was seen as a threat to the security of all countries that continued to practise slavery. Thomas Jefferson said it: Haiti was the source of the plague of rebellion. In South

Carolina, for example, it was legal to imprison any black sailor while his boat was in port because of the risk that he might infect others with the anti-slavery contagion. In Brazil, this plague was actually called Haitianism.

In the 20th century, Haiti was invaded by the Marines for being an unsafe country for its foreign creditors. The invaders started by taking over customs operations, seizing the National Bank of Haiti and turning it over to City Bank of New York. And since they were there already, they decided to stay another 19 years.

The border crossing between the Dominican Republic and Haiti is called Malpaso, the bad step.

Perhaps the name is a sort of warning that you are entering the black world of black magic and witchcraft.

Voodoo, the religion that the slaves took with them from Africa and nationalised in Haiti, does not deserve to be called a religion. From the point of view of the owners of civilization, voodoo is just a black thing, the product of ignorance, backwardness and pure superstition. The Catholic Church, which has no shortage of believers ready to sell the fingernails of saints and feathers of Archangel

Gabriel, worked to get this superstition officially prohibited in 1845, 1860, 1896, 1915 and 1942, but the people just didn't get the message.

But for a number of years now, Christian evangelical groups have taken up the war against superstition in Haiti. They come from the United States, where buildings do not have 13th floors, airplanes have no row 13, and a significant percentage of the people believe that God made the earth in seven days.

In the US, evangelical preacher Pat Robertson explained the 2010 earthquake with the revelation that Haitians' victory over France was the result of voodoo, because they sought the help of Satan deep in the heart of the Haitian woods. The devil helped them out but then caused the earthquake to even the score.

How many years will foreign soldiers stay in Haiti? They came to stabilise the situation and provide assistance but they have spent seven years destabilising and hampering aid efforts in a country that doesn't want them there.

The military occupation of Haiti is costing the United Nations more than \$800 million a year.

If the UN directed these funds towards technical cooperation and social solidarity, it might provide Haiti with a real push to develop its own creative energies and so save the people from their armed saviours, who have a tendency to rape, kill and spread fatal illnesses.

The last thing Haiti needs is people to multiply its disasters. Nor does it need anyone's charity. As an old African proverb put it, the hand that gives is always above the hand that receives.

But Haiti does need solidarity, doctors, schools, hospitals, and real collaboration that will make it possible to regain its ability to feed itself, which was destroyed by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other philanthropic organisations.

We Latin Americans owe Haiti this solidarity: it would be the best way to thank this great small nation that

in 1804 threw open the doors of liberty for us with its contagious example.

***This article is dedicated to Guillermo Chifflet, forced to leave the Chamber of Deputies for having voted against sending Uruguayan soldiers to Haiti. Eduardo Gaieano is a Uruguayan writer and journalist and author of The Open Veins of Latin America, Memories of Fire and Mirrors/An Almost Universal History.***

NEWS

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## PAYPAL ACCOUNT

The church has now opened a PayPal account. If you have access to PayPal – all you need do is log on and the church's PayPal address is **Unitarian@bigpond.com** You will be able to pay your subscription and make donations. The service will be available from our website in due course.

13 December 2011

## 'Information Clearing House'



This map tells the whole story. Each star represents a US military base. In the middle, in blue, is Iran. Iran has no military bases outside its borders. Just north of Iran is Georgia that has essentially become a US/ NATO base. Turkey belongs to NATO. Iran has been checkmated. North of Georgia is Russia. Can there be any wonder why Russia is so alarmed about an attack on Iran?

# Remembering History— **IRAN ATTACK NEXT?**

By *Bruce K Gagnon*

Imagine if we saw a map of the US with Russian or Chinese military bases throughout Canada and Mexico along with their warships just off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The American people would be going ballistic. But when we do it to others, no one even blinks an eye.

Following the recent spy drone fiasco over Iran the US has been working hard to justify these flights. In an Associated Press story yesterday it was reported that the covert operations in play are 'much bigger than people appreciate', said Stephen Hadley, former national security adviser under George W Bush. 'But the US needs to be using everything it can'. Hadley said that if Iran continues to defy UN resolutions and doesn't curb its nuclear ambitions, the quiet conflict 'will only get nastier'.

Hadley's statement, 'But the US needs to be using everything it can', has the sound of imminent danger, of desperation. But after looking at this map, where does the danger really lie? Iran is actually no danger to anyone. The real danger is that the US/NATO/Israel have their itchy fingers on the war trigger and could attack at any time.

One last thing is Mr Hadley himself. Unknown to the public at large, Stephen Hadley carried on a quiet career in the shadow of Brent Scowcroft and Condoleeza Rice. A business lawyer convicted of fraud, he became the counsellor for the largest arms manufacturer in the world, Lockheed Martin. He advised the candidate

George W Bush, helped write the US's new aggressive nuclear doctrine, helped create the Department of Homeland Security, supervised new entries into NATO, and helped sell the invasion of Iraq. Ever faithful, he protected Bush the father from the Irangate scandal and Bush the son from the lies of the Iraq war. He found himself rewarded by becoming George W Bush's National Security Advisor.

At the beginning of the 1980s, Mr Steven Hadley ran an insurance fraud of close to \$1.1 million. He was discovered, found guilty by a court in Iowa, and forced to reimburse the money. To erase any trace to his crime, he changed his name to Stephen John Hadley.

When Ronald Reagan took the White House, Mr Hadley stayed in the private sector. However, in 1986, the Irangate scandal broke. President Reagan appointed a commission of three wise men to 'investigate'. It was composed of the Texan Senator John Tower, Edmund Muskie, and Brent Scowcroft who called Stephen J Hadley to his side. In spite of the evidence, the commission concluded that President Reagan and Vice-President Bush were innocent. They found that the financing of the Contras in Nicaragua through the trafficking of drugs and illegal weapons sales to Iran was a secret initiative of over-zealous members of the National Security Council, put into place without the knowledge of their superiors. No big heads rolled.

As lawyer for Lockheed Martin, Hadley worked with the directors of the firm, including Lyne Cheney (wife of

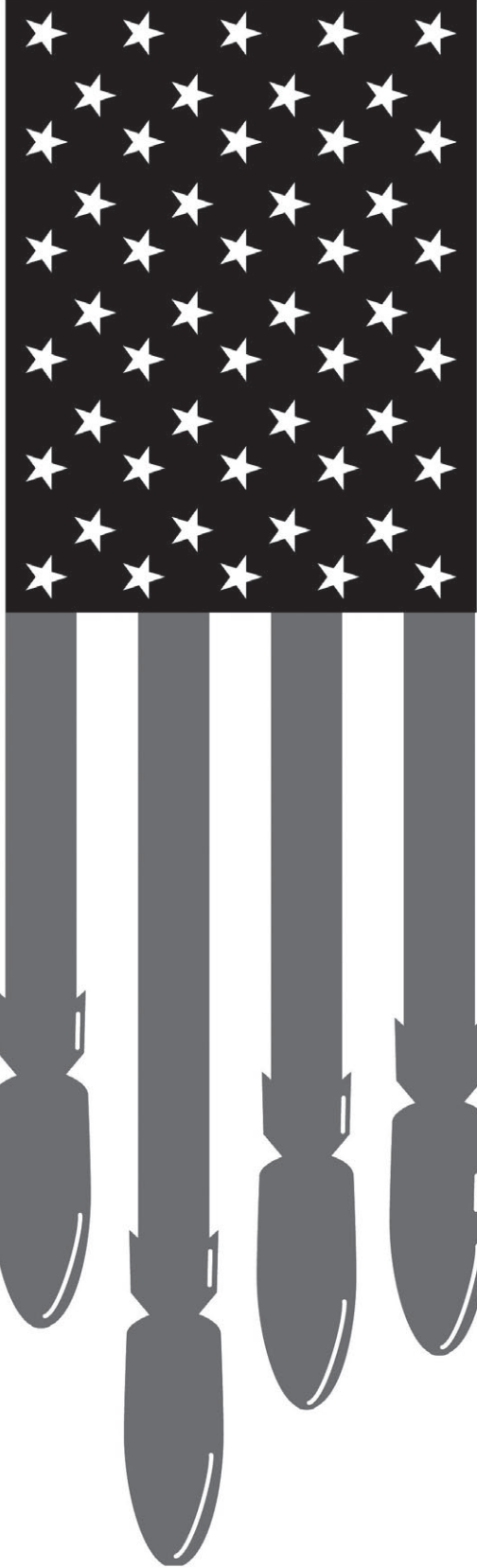
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# THE WORLD WAR ON DEMOCRACY

By *John Pilger*

20 January 2012

**'Information Clearing House'**



**L**isette Talate died the other day. I remember a wiry, fiercely intelligent woman who masked her grief with a determination that was a presence. She was the embodiment of people's resistance to the war on democracy. I first glimpsed her in a 1950s Colonial Office film about the Chagos islanders, a tiny creole nation living midway between Africa and Asia in the Indian Ocean. The camera panned across thriving villages, a church, a school, a hospital, set in a phenomenon of natural beauty and peace. Lisette remembers the producer saying to her and her teenage friends, 'Keep smiling girls!'

Sitting in her kitchen in Mauritius many years later she said, 'I didn't have to be told to smile. I was a happy child, because my roots were deep in the islands, my paradise. My great-grandmother was born there; I made six children there. That's why they couldn't legally throw us out of our own homes; they had to terrify us into leaving or force us out. At first, they tried to starve us. The food ships stopped arriving [then] they spread rumours we would be bombed, then they turned on our dogs'.

In the early 1960s, the Labor government of Harold Wilson secretly agreed to a demand from Washington that the Chagos archipelago, a British colony, be 'swept' and 'sanitised' of its 2,500 inhabitants so that a military base could be built on the principal island, Diego Garcia. 'They knew we were inseparable from our pets', said Lisette. 'When the American soldiers arrived to build the base, they backed their big trucks against the brick shed where we prepared the coconuts; hundreds of our dogs had been rounded up and imprisoned there. Then they gassed them through tubes from the trucks' exhausts. You could hear them crying'.

Lisette and her family and hundreds of islanders were forced on to a rusting steamer bound for Mauritius, a distance of 2,500 miles. They were made to sleep in the hold on a cargo of fertiliser: bird shit. The weather was rough; everyone was ill; two women miscarried. Dumped on the docks at Port Louis, Lisette's youngest children, Jollice and Regis, died within a week of each

other. 'They died of sadness', she said. 'They had heard all the talk and seen the horror of what had happened to the dogs. They knew they were leaving their home forever. The doctor in Mauritius said he could not treat sadness'.

This act of mass kidnapping was carried out in high secrecy. In one official file, under the heading, 'Maintaining the fiction', the Foreign Office legal adviser exhorts his colleagues to cover their actions by 're-classifying' the population as 'floating' and to 'make up the rules as we go along'. Article 7 of the statute of the International Criminal Court says the 'deportation or forcible transfer of population' is a crime against humanity. That Britain had committed such a crime – in exchange for a \$14 million discount off an American Polaris nuclear submarine – was not on the agenda of a group of British 'defence' correspondents flown to the Chagos by the Ministry of Defence when the US base was completed. 'There is nothing in our files', said a ministry official, 'about inhabitants or an evacuation'.

Today, Diego Garcia is crucial to America's and Britain's war on democracy. The heaviest bombing of Iraq and Afghanistan was launched from its vast airstrips, beyond which the islanders' abandoned cemetery and church stand like archaeological ruins. The terraced garden where Lisette laughed for the camera is now a fortress housing the 'bunker-busting' bombs carried by bat-shaped B-2 aircraft to targets in two continents; an attack on Iran will start here. As if to complete the emblem of rampant, criminal power, the CIA added a Guantánamo-style prison for its 'rendition' victims and called it Camp Justice.

What was done to Lisette's paradise has an urgent and universal meaning, for it represents the violent, ruthless nature of a whole system behind its democratic façade, and the scale of our own indoctrination to its messianic assumptions, described by Harold Pinter as a 'brilliant, even witty, highly successful act of hypnosis'. Longer and bloodier than any war since 1945, waged with demonic weapons and a gangsterism dressed as economic policy and sometimes known as globalisation, the war on democracy is unmentionable in Western elite circles. As Pinter wrote, 'it never happened even while it was happening'. Last July, American historian William Blum published his 'updated summary of the record of US foreign policy'. Since the Second World War, the US has:

- 1. attempted to overthrow more than 50 governments, most of them democratically elected**
- 2. attempted to suppress a populist or national movement in 20 countries**
- 3. grossly interfered in democratic elections in at least 30 countries**
- 4. dropped bombs on the people of more than 30 countries**
- 5. attempted to assassinate more than 50 foreign leaders.**

In total, the United States has carried out one or more of these actions in 69 countries. In almost all cases, Britain has been a collaborator. The 'enemy' changes in name – from communism to Islamism – but mostly it is the rise of democracy independent of Western power or a society occupying strategically useful territory, deemed expendable, like the Chagos Islands.

“

*Hallelujah.*

*Praise the Lord for all good things ...*

*We blew their balls into shards of dust, Into shards of fucking dust ...*

The sheer scale of suffering, let alone criminality, is little known in the West, despite the presence of the world's most advanced communications, nominally freest journalism, and most admired academy. That the most numerous victims of terrorism – Western terrorism – are Muslims is unsayable, if it is known. That half a million Iraqi infants died in the 1990s as a result of the embargo imposed by Britain and America is of no interest. That extreme jihadism, which led to 9/11, was nurtured as a weapon of Western policy ('Operation Cyclone') is known to specialists but otherwise suppressed.

While popular culture in Britain and America immerses the Second World War in an ethical bath for the victors, the holocausts arising from Anglo-American dominance of resource-rich regions are consigned to oblivion. Under the Indonesian tyrant Suharto, anointed 'our man' by Thatcher, more than a million people were slaughtered. Described by the CIA as 'the worst mass murder of the second half of the 20th century', the estimate does not include a third of the population of East Timor who were starved or murdered with Western connivance, British fighter-bombers, and machine guns.

These true stories are told in declassified files in the Public Record Office, yet represent an entire dimension of politics and the exercise of power excluded from public consideration. This has been achieved by a regime of un-coercive information control, from the evangelical mantra of consumer advertising to sound bites on BBC news and now the ephemera of social media.

It is as if writers as watchdogs are extinct, or in thrall to a sociopathic zeitgeist, convinced they are too clever to be duped. Witness the stampede of sycophants eager to deify Christopher Hitchens, a war lover who longed to be allowed to justify the crimes of rapacious power. 'For almost the first time in two centuries', wrote Terry Eagleton, 'there is no eminent British poet, playwright, or novelist prepared to question the foundations of the Western way of life'. No Orwell warns that we do not need to live in a totalitarian society to be corrupted by totalitarianism. No Shelley speaks for the poor, no Blake proffers a vision, no Wilde reminds us that 'disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man's original virtue'. And grievously no



Pinter rages at the war machine, as in *American Football*:

*Hallelujah.*

*Praise the Lord for all good things ...*

*We blew their balls into shards of dust,*

*Into shards of fucking dust ...*

Into shards of fucking dust go all the lives blown there by Barack Obama, the Hopey Changey of Western violence. Whenever one of Obama's drones wipes out an entire family in a faraway tribal region of Pakistan, or Somalia, or Yemen, the American controllers in front of their computer-game screens type in 'Bugsplat'. Obama likes drones and has joked about them with journalists. One of his first actions as president was to order a wave of Predator drone attacks on Pakistan that killed 74 people. He has since killed thousands, mostly civilians; drones fire Hellfire missiles that suck the air out of the lungs of children and leave body parts festooned across scrubland.

Remember the tear-stained headlines when Brand Obama was elected: 'momentous, spine-tingling': the *Guardian*. 'The American future', wrote Simon Schama, 'is all vision, numinous, unformed, light-headed ...' The *San Francisco Chronicle's* columnist saw a spiritual 'light worker [who can] usher in a new way of being on the planet'. Beyond the drivel, as the great whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg had predicted, a military coup was taking place in Washington, and Obama was their man. Having seduced the antiwar movement into virtual silence, he has given America's corrupt military officer class unprecedented powers of state and engagement. These include the prospect of wars in Africa and opportunities for provocations against China, America's largest creditor and new 'enemy' in Asia. Under Obama, the old source of official paranoia, Russia, has been encircled with ballistic missiles and the Russian opposition infiltrated. Military and CIA assassination teams have been assigned to 120 countries; long-planned attacks on Syria and Iran beckon a world war. Israel, the exemplar of US violence and lawlessness by proxy, has just received its annual pocket money of \$3bn together with Obama's permission to steal more Palestinian land.

Obama's most 'historic' achievement is to bring the war on democracy home to America. On New Year's Eve, he signed the 2012 National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA), a law that grants the Pentagon the legal right to kidnap both foreigners and US citizens and indefinitely detain, interrogate and torture, or even kill them. They need only 'associate' with those 'belligerent' to the United States. There will be no protection of law, no trial, no legal representation. This is the first explicit legislation to abolish *habeas corpus* (the right to due process of law) and effectively repeal the Bill of Rights of 1789.

On 5 January, in an extraordinary speech at the Pentagon, Obama said the military would not only be ready to 'secure territory and populations' overseas but to fight in the 'homeland' and provide 'support to the civil authorities'. In other words, US troops will be deployed on the streets of American cities when the inevitable civil unrest takes hold.

America is now a land of epidemic poverty and barbaric prisons: the consequence of a 'market' extremism that, under Obama, has prompted the transfer of \$14 trillion

**“ America is now a land of epidemic poverty and barbaric prisons: the consequence of a 'market' extremism that, under Obama, has prompted the transfer of \$14 trillion in public money to criminal enterprises in Wall Street.**

in public money to criminal enterprises in Wall Street. The victims are mostly young jobless, homeless, incarcerated African-Americans, betrayed by the first black president. The historic corollary of a perpetual war state, this is not fascism, not yet, but neither is it democracy in any recognisable form, regardless of the placebo politics that will consume the news until November. The presidential campaign, says the *Washington Post* will 'feature a clash of philosophies rooted in distinctly different views of the economy'. This is patently false. The circumscribed task of journalism on both sides of the Atlantic is to create the pretence of political choice where there is none.

The same shadow is across Britain and much of Europe where social democracy, an article of faith two generations ago, has fallen to the central bank dictators. In David Cameron's 'big society', the theft of 84bn pounds in jobs and services even exceeds the amount of tax 'legally' avoided by piratical corporations. Blame rests not with the far right, but a cowardly liberal political culture that has allowed this to happen, and which, wrote Hywel Williams in the wake of the attacks on 9/11, 'can itself be a form of self-righteous fanaticism'. Tony Blair is one such fanatic. In its managerial indifference to the freedoms that it claims to hold dear, bourgeois Blairite Britain has created a surveillance state with 3,000 new criminal offences and laws: more than for the whole of the previous century. The police clearly believe they have impunity to kill. At the demand of the CIA, cases like that of Binyam Mohamed, an innocent British resident tortured and then held for five years in Guantanamo Bay, will be dealt with in secret courts in Britain 'in order to protect the intelligence agencies' – the torturers.

This invisible state allowed the Blair government to fight the Chagos islanders as they rose from their despair in exile and demanded justice in the streets of Port Louis and London. 'Only when you take direct action, face to face, even break laws, are you ever noticed', said Lisette. 'And the smaller you are, the greater your example to others'. Such an eloquent answer to those who still ask, 'What can I do?'

I last saw Lisette's tiny figure standing in driving rain alongside her comrades outside the Houses of Parliament. What struck me was the enduring courage of their resistance. It is this refusal to give up that rotten power fears, above all, knowing it is the seed beneath the snow.

[www.johnpilger.com](http://www.johnpilger.com)



## Remembering History – Iran Attack Next?

Dick). He became close with Bruce P Jackson, the vice-president of the firm in charge of creating new markets. Together they initiated the US Committee to Expand NATO into which they brought Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz. The Committee engineered the entry of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland into NATO in 1999. Then that of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Each time, the leaders of the new member states were solicited to bring their armies up to the scale (interoperability) with NATO, in other words, to purchase new military hardware from Lockheed Martin.

Global Network board member Karl Grossman **reported 10 years** ago that Hadley was also instrumental in helping Donald Rumsfeld write his report calling for US control and domination of space. 'Space is going to be important. It has a great future in the military', Hadley told the Air Force Association Convention in a 2001 speech. Introduced as an 'adviser to Governor George W Bush', Hadley said that Bush's 'concern has been that the [Clinton] Administration ... doesn't

reflect a real commitment to missile defense'. In 1998 Rumsfeld's commission reversed a 1995 finding by the nation's intelligence agencies that the country was not in imminent danger from ballistic missiles acquired by new powers, declaring that 'rogue states' did pose such a threat. The answer? Missile defense.

It is obvious that Hadley has been at this game a very long time. His connections to Lockheed Martin, and even the Bush administration, have been long forgotten. So when he is quoted in a current news story few see the irony of him defending CIA spy drone flights over Iran. It is good that we take a moment though and remember the real 'his-story' otherwise we are likely to repeat the terror and carnage of past US snake oil invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

***Bruce Gagnon is the Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space***  
***This article was first posted at opednews.com***

***Source: Australian Peace Committee Newsletter (SA Branch) Spring Issue 2011***

# WAR IS A RACKET by *Media Roots*

**L**ast week we uncovered how many billions of dollars the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are costing the American taxpayers. We all know that war costs a lot of money. What we don't know is that the same people who profit off the wars we create have a direct influence in shaping the foreign policy that keeps America at war while putting millions of dollars in their own pockets.

Here is the way our government system is supposed to work: foreign policy is supposed to be drafted between the President and Congress, and the Secretary of State. In the present administration, this is Hillary Clinton. She is supposed to serve as the President's main foreign policy advisor. What is foreign policy? Foreign policy is a set of goals outlining how a country will interact with other countries economically, politically, socially and militarily. These days, many of our elected representatives have become merely the messengers of foreign policy prescriptions that were created by councils and think tanks comprised of CEOs and executives from the biggest corporations in the world. On these councils sit executives from every major industry from food to media and, most shockingly, national defence.

Is there a conflict of interest when CEOs of the largest defence corporations are advising our lawmakers on foreign policy? Before you decide, ask yourself this: if you were the CEO of Lockheed Martin, the largest defence corporation in America, and 95% of your company's \$35 billion dollar annual profit came directly from government contracts that employ you to supply war materials, would you want the war to end? Especially if you personally enjoyed a \$21 million

increase in compensation from 2005 to 2008 as a result of the War on Terror? Between 2001 and 2005, defence corporations' annual profits climbed 189%, and the CEOs of these corporations that benefited the most from this profit increase sit on councils together with our politicians to 'recommend', 'suggest' and 'prescribe' foreign policy.

In this episode of YOURTRUTH, we are going to take a look at how much influence the CEOs of the top defence corporations have on the shaping of our foreign policy, specifically the foreign policy that has kept us at war. Let's start with Robert Stevens, who we mentioned earlier is the CEO and President of Lockheed Martin, the number one defence corporation in the nation. Stevens is the presiding director of Monsanto, the largest manufacturer and distributor of genetically modified seeds, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the Advisory Board to the Atlantic Council. So what are these councils?

The Council on Foreign Relations is a powerful think tank comprised of the world's biggest CEOs and executives in banking, oil, media, mining, food, real estate investment, and politics. A few of the most recognisable political members include David Rockefeller, John McCain, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, and Madeleine Albright. President of the CFR, Richard Hass, was the former director of policy planning for the Department of State. CFR board member Richard Holbrooke is Obama's Special Advisor on Afghanistan and Pakistan. According to their website, one of their functions is to sponsor 'independent task forces that produce policy prescriptions on the most important foreign policy topics'. Let's not forget that corporate CEOs don't take an oath to serve the best

interest of the American people: their primary obligation is to maximise company profits.

I know we all want to believe that our politicians are incorruptible and won't take corporate dollars that might sway their decision-making. But would millions of dollars sway you? According to recent reports from OpenSecrets.org, 151 members of Congress in 2006 had up to \$195.5 million of their personal assets invested in defence corporations. What does this mean? When members of our Congress vote to keep us in war, are they really doing it for the safety of the American people, or are they doing it because their stocks will increase, giving them a bigger payout?

Major defence corporations were seriously involved in the 2008 elections as well. Lockheed Martin gave \$2,612,219 in total political campaign donations, with 49% to Democrats (\$1,285,493) and 51% to Republicans (\$1,325,159). Boeing gave \$2,225,947 in 2008 with 58% going to Democrats and General Dynamics provided \$1,682,595 to both parties. Northrop Grumman spent over \$20 million in 2008, hiring lobbyists to influence Congress, and Raytheon spent \$6 million on lobbyists in the same period. Wow. That is a lot of money ... I wonder what these corporations expect in return for their campaign handouts?

Well, all we have to do is look at the policy prescriptions they help draft and provide to our politicians. For example, let's take a look at the Atlantic Council's most recent proposal, outlining US policy objectives with Pakistan. Senator John Kerry, who personally has over \$30 million invested in defence companies, and Atlantic Council chairman Chuck Hagel just recently proposed the plan to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for review.

So what is the Atlantic Council? Well, according to their website, they focus on 'drafting roadmaps for US policy towards the Balkans, Cuba, Iraq, Iran and Libya'. Other than Robert Stevens, CEO of Lockheed Martin, who else belongs to this council? Corporate membership includes all four of the top four defence corporations in the country: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon. Another interesting fact is that General Jim Jones left as chairman of the Atlantic Council to work as Obama's National Security Advisor, and four other prominent officials from Obama's administration are also members: Susan Rice, Richard Holbrooke, General Eric Shinseki, and Anne-Marie Slaughter.

In both the Council on Foreign Relations and the Atlantic Council we see corporate CEOs and politicians working together to draft and implement foreign policy that will financially benefit those who have invested in the defence industry. Whose interest does this serve: the American people who are paying their hard-earned tax dollars for these wars, the CEOs of defence corporations who are profiting from these wars, or the politicians who have personally invested in continuing these wars? Need more proof of the revolving door relationship between corporations and government? According to Project Censored, President Obama recently nominated Raytheon's Senior VP for government operations and strategy, William Lynn, for the number two position at the Pentagon.

One of the other top defence corporations is Boeing. Current CEO of Boeing, James McNerney, Jr is a sitting member of the Business Roundtable. What is the Business Roundtable? CEOs of the top 160 corporations present government officials with 'reasoned alternatives and positive policy suggestions'. Also, it is not unusual for Business Roundtable members to meet with the President and his staff in private.

Northrop Grumman, the 4th largest defence corporation in the world, saw net sales of \$7.6 billion in 2000 skyrocket to nearly \$34 billion by 2008. According to Corpwatch, at least seven former officials, consultants or shareholders of Northrop Grumman held positions in the George W Bush administration. It is also noteworthy that, in the last ten years, Northrop Grumman shelled out \$8.5 million in campaign contributions to both parties.

To spell it out, defence corporations are making millions by the wars we create. Our politicians are also financially benefiting from the wars we create. The cosy relationship that many in our government have with the most powerful leaders in the defence industry should be a significant cause for concern for any taxpaying American. If our foreign policy decisions are intertwined with the business interests of major corporations, the voices and opinions of American voters will be sidelined and ignored. The time is now to stop the corruption and end this war. Tune in next week to find out what people are doing all over the world to end this war and restore peace. It is time for a change, and this change starts with you.

**Media Roots at [www.mediaroots.org](http://www.mediaroots.org)**

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# from our readers

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## **Dear Editor**

Thank you very much for the extremely newsworthy magazine of which I thoroughly enjoy.

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$40: \$20 being subscription for this year and \$20 as a donation for your church.

Sincerely

**A Jarman, Qld**

## **Dear Beacon**

Enclosed is my subscription/donation for 2012.

Congratulations on the latest issue of the *Beacon*, highlighting the struggles ahead for our independent, free-trade free, more humanitarian Australia and a nuclear free and more peaceful world.

Best wishes to you all and may peace and real freedom prosper in 2012.

Yours sincerely

**H Williams, Qld**

## **Dear Donna**

Thank you for sending me the CD (Marion Harper); it is very much appreciated. Also my subs are due (overdue). Please find a cheque enclosed for \$40 to cover my costs.

Your *Beacon* is my keel!

Most sincerely

**S Morey, Vic**

PS: Thank you again

## **Dear Editor**

Please find here renewed subscription for 2 copies of *Beacon*: one for me to keep and the other one to leave at the Laundromat or café in town. That one disappears very quickly. Hope you get a sub from it.

Thanks for a wonderful magazine.

**T Chandler, NSW**

## **Hi Donna**

Your February editorial was very good.

Probably Syria, with the US jumping up in down in disgust, was too late for your deadline.

It really seems that the warmongers are quite mad or really evil; perhaps it's a bit of both.

Smedley summed it all up very succinctly.

Kind regards

**Paul Murchison, Vic**

## **The Beacon**

I apologise for the delay in paying my subscription. I enclose a cheque for \$60 to cover subscription, assoc. membership and donation.

Keep up the good work. I always enjoy reading the *Beacon*.

Kind regards

**H Land, Vic**

## **Dear Editor**

Please find attached subscription.

Apologise for delay, due to circumstances beyond my control.

All power to the *Beacon*.

Yours sincerely

**P Barrack, Vic**

## **Dear friends**

Apologies for non-attendance to subscription!

Cheque enclosed for 2011 and 2012.

Interesting to note that Malcolm Fraser is now acknowledging the need to eliminate nuclear weapons. Where was he back in 1960s and 1970s?

**F Whitewood, Vic**

## **Dear Ms Harper**

I am so pleased that you reminded me of the state of my back payment – August 2010!

I did know about my lack of payment, but I have been in and out of hospital the last 18 months. My last fall left me with a broken hip.

I am now quite disabled and have a carer on and off through the week.

I am enclosing a cheque for \$259.00. This will bring me up to date to 2012. Please accept all remainder as a donation.

I would miss the *Beacon* so much. Thank you so much for keeping on sending the *Beacon*.

Yours sincerely

**W Dietsch, NSW**

## **Dear Editor**

Thank you for your service and a wonderful journal to read every month. Please find enclosed cheque, sorry my subscription is overdue.

**M Forsyth, Vic**



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Marion Harper

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