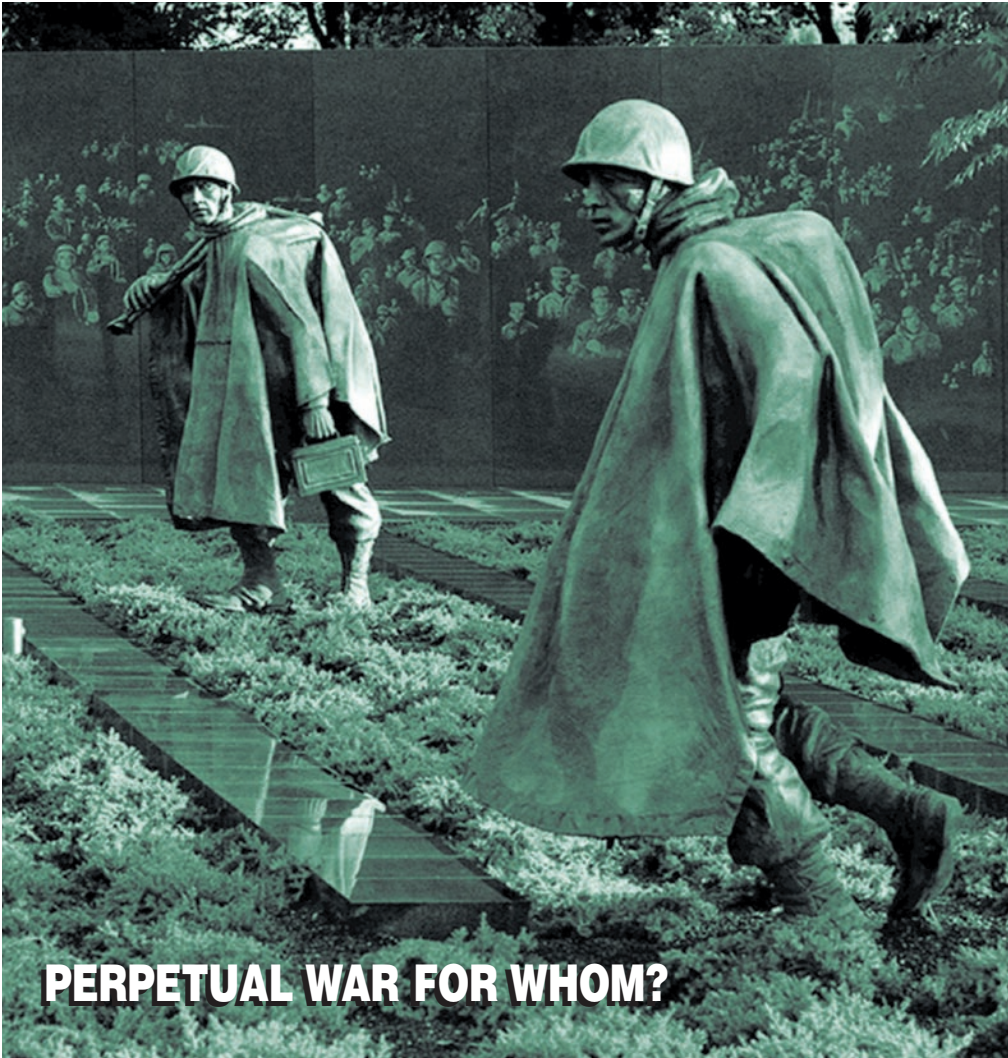


DEFEND AMERICA FIRST!

EXPOSING THE 'PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE' RACKET



PERPETUAL WAR FOR WHOM?

Is it possible that every American war since the War of 1812 could have been avoided? The Mexican-American War, many experts believe, was more about grabbing Texas and the rest of the Southwest from Mexico than the Alamo. In the U.S. Civil War, powerful French and English banking interests made promises to Southern firebrands of money and troops hoping to cash in on a massive non-European war. These promises were never kept, but the bloodiest war in U.S. history occurred nonetheless. About 30 years after the Civil War, warhawks used the canard that Spanish terrorists had blown up the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor. Although not true, America took Spain's possessions anyway, and forced a surrender. World War I was just about over without American intervention when Germany made peace overtures. (No enemy troops had even set foot on German soil at the time.) Behind-the-scenes dealings ended up with America volunteering the blood of her soldiers in exchange for a Jewish homeland. World War II? Almost every serious scholar now admits that FDR and Churchill both knew the attack on Pearl Harbor was coming and let it happen. After suffering 586,000 casualties, America took Europe from Hitler and handed it over to the butcher Josef Stalin. At the same time, America made little effort to save China from Mao. The Korean War (portion of the memorial shown above) was merely the inevitable extension of those blunders. The Vietnam War was not instigated by the North Vietnamese at the Gulf of Tonkin. Quite the opposite, in fact. It was Lyndon Johnson who provoked that war which ended up in America's defeat after suffering 59,000 casualties. And most recently (ignoring Iraq War I), American boys and girls have been sent to die in a faraway desert based on what all of even low intelligence now admit was a pre-fabricated lie: weapons of mass destruction. The real beneficiaries of the above wars were not the American people, but the bankers, arms manufacturers, politicians and war speculators who always profit from perpetual war. Wake up America.

U.S. Servicemen Caught In the Middle Between Patriotism & Profiteers

American Free Press is a nationalist, not a pacifist, newspaper. We believe in a strong national defense and that it is vital to **Defend America First**. We respect our men and women in uniform and support them wholeheartedly.

However, we do have serious questions about the political, religious and ideological motivations of armchair civilian war-hawks who are dictating the policies of our government today. Our philosophy echoes that of the original America First Committee—chaired by General Robert Wood—which described its philosophy as follows:

“DEFEND with all the might, skill, means and resources that make America the greatest nation on earth. With sanity and unselfish efficiency and concentration on our own preparedness now, we can smash any nation which is foolish enough to think it can launch a 3,000 mile blitzkrieg.

“AMERICA is the one hope and our first allegiance. Our fathers built it and it is up to us to see that it is not dragged back into the ancient hate and strife which they left Europe to escape.

“FIRST we must make ourselves strong. America needs every ship and every plane it can make. As long as we are unprepared it is suicide to talk of giving what little we have to another nation.

“After we have built a two-fisted defense for America, then and only then can we afford to put sympathy beside patriotism.”

In that spirit, *American Free Press* opposes U.S. meddling abroad—reckless imperial intervention that only makes America enemies, brings vast profits to international banking houses and arms manufacturers, and racks up vast national debt that enchains America's consumers, taxpayers and voters.

We endorse the view, put forth by Major General Smedley Darlington Butler (1881-1940) the highly decorated U.S. Marine Corps hero (and winner of two Congressional Medals of Honor) who said, forthrightly, that “War is a Racket.” (See page B-3.)

In the spirit of unabashed American patriotism, *American Free Press* is proud to put forth this special Memorial Day tribute to those who died in foreign wars and a plea that, in the future, the only wars that American men and women must fight will be those that are fought to **DEFEND AMERICA FIRST**. ★

Who's Pushing for Perpetual War?

Some 50 years ago an American seer saw the inevitable consequences of global imperialism by the United States and the dangers of futile wars in the name of "democracy." Lawrence Dennis made an appeal to reason that has even more relevance to the future survival of mankind today than it did then.

By Lawrence Dennis

The day of profitable exploitation by the white man of Africa or Asia is now over. From here on profitable cooperation only is a rational and practical objective. The American people were sold two world wars on a general theory that a war to end war and the world rule of law could enforce peace with justice. As we have so often repeated, the craziest phrase or idea of the 20th Century was that of a war to end war.

The big U.S. idea [is that] the world must be unified by force: ours or theirs. This idea is factually and logically all wrong. But is now accepted as a 100% American idea. If you want to be a conformist and not a non-conformist, a dissenter, a subversive or a security risk, you must subscribe to this wrong idea.

We are prepared to join with fellow Americans in the defense of this country against any invasion by foreigners in search of living space.

But we are indisposed to fight or have Americans fight to protect any other area of people from similar wars or attacks. For such wars, our advice is that we should keep out of them, try to keep them localized and limited, try to avert or to end them by the use of good offices and negotiation with both sides.

We want no part of wars to liberate other peoples. Let them liberate themselves. We want no part of wars to defend the status quo in other areas. The dynamics of hate and fear have run the West in two "world" wars.

Whipping up mass hate and fear is the easiest and surest way for a political leader in the western world to come to power and to wield power. It is now the approved way to get a country into a war or to keep it in a state of permanent war such as we are in right now.

No political leader in Africa or Asia can have a better asset than to be disliked or denounced by Americans.

The dynamics of hate and fear can, in the long run, only prove fatal for the minority. The white West, or the haves, are the minority.

Permanent Mideast crisis has great headline news value for policy. How could our power elite in Washington get from \$40 billion to \$50 billion a year for spending on foreign aid if they did not have war-crisis headlines from the Mideast and other areas in our news-



LAWRENCE DENNIS
Disturbed by use of war for major profit.

papers most of the time? It is wonderful having a "colored world Hitler" who is nowhere near so dangerous or powerful as was Adolf.

The end result is certain. Time, numbers and space are with the colored world. They are with the Muslim nationalists and against the Israeli nationalists. What the colored world has lacked has been unity and dynamism for war on the whites.

Well, Israel, like America's big soap operas in the Pacific, is contributing to the unification and activation of the colored world for war against the colonial and other outsiders. The white colonial powers and the Israelis, certainly, can never achieve ultimate and decisive force superiority over the colored world and the vast areas it populates.

The western or white world, however, if it were guided by operational rationalism and calculation instead of mystical legalism, moralism and traditionalism, could easily formulate and work out propositions or deals with the colored world that are mutually advantageous to both or to all concerned. This is our "constructive" word.

Only a return to neutrality, as counseled in Washington's Farewell Address, could really insure against our government starting and fighting a third world war against overwhelming numerical odds.

The American people, of course, will not be told that American troops must be sent to the Mideast to protect

the oil stakes. They will be told American intervention in that area is necessary to defend America.

The more natives the American or foreign troops kill, the better for the long run interests of native nationalisms now on the warpath against outsiders.

Hollywood couldn't have picked a more fitting war stage than Palestine. In this century we have gone forward to nuclear war and backward to holy war. This is the century of religious wars. For the opening of the third great religious war of one lifetime, no area could be more appropriate than the Holy Land. The staging and casting are superb and logical.

It is the chosen land of the chosen people. It is under the special personal care of God, or rather, Yahweh, the God of Israel.

Now Uncle Sam has taken over. Of course, Allah, the God of the Muslims, is in the other camp, that of the Arabs. Yahweh helped the children of Israel take over the Promised Land more than once in the past 4,000 years. But he never stopped their several expulsions and dispersions. This is what Uncle Sam must do in the future.

For reasons which we, like the theologians, are unable to give, Yahweh allowed the Chosen People to be driven out of the Chosen Land more than once. But Uncle Sam cannot permit anything like that to happen to the new Israel. Uncle Sam is no defeatist. He does not put up with war, sin or aggression. He fights wars to end war. He is a perfectionist.

The believers in the great religions with a Messianic Promise used to wait and pray for the coming of the Messiah and the dawn of the Millennium. Americans, however, today must not just wait and pray for the Millennium; they must fare forth and fight for it—all over the planet . . . This is the new internationalism.

God never stopped war or evil in all history as Uncle Sam now must do. We do know that Uncle Sam is committed to not allowing war or aggression to happen without getting in to stop war. He cannot allow the Chosen People to be driven out of Israel as they were, more than once, in the past. How fitting to have World War III start in the Holy Land.

What will be the nature, the extent, the duration and the end results of America's third war in one lifetime to end war and to stop evil? Well, it is going to be interesting to watch the American casualties pile up in the Mideast as Uncle Sam tries to stop what Yahweh did not stop in the distant past. And it is going to be even more interesting to follow American mass reactions to the killed and wounded from the Crusade in the Holy Land.

Now that Uncle Sam has taken over and is trying to do a job Yahweh never did, Uncle Sam can never admit any imputation of sin or evil against one of his allies or protégés. One has to get security clearance. The other has to be branded as subversive. It won't be long now until Judaism and Mohammedanism will be up for security rating in the permanent war.

There is just one devil—that against Uncle Sam or

not with him.

Well, if man's know-how cannot end war or sin, it can now end the human race. We now have an infinite potential for annihilation. How long can our idealists hold in check their impulse to do good by pulling the global annihilation trigger?

The new religious war rationalization is to call it law enforcement. Attempts at an unattainable world rule of one law insure permanent religious war, inflation and socialism.

About the only subject of general agreement among the shapers of American opinion and policy today, so far as war and power politics—inter or intra national—are concerned, is that there must be no return to neutralism.

The biggest crime of the 20th Century may turn out to be the eventual extinction of the human race by nuclear radiation in a war fought with the weapons which we peace-loving, good Americans are now having our scientists perfect.

We are developing these weapons to end war, communism and sin on this planet and thereby usher in the Millennium. ★

Related Reading by Thinker Lawrence Dennis

The Dynamics of War and Revolution, by Lawrence Dennis—First published in 1941 when America hovered on the brink of war and Europe was already in flames, represented a milestone in American political-philosophical outlook. A great patriot with unusual prophetic vision. #24, softcover, 257 pages, \$19 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.

The Coming American Fascism, by Lawrence Dennis. The author condemns, among other financial evils, the national debt system. First published in 1936, in the middle of the Roosevelt revolution and five years before the war he predicted, this book was Dennis's second attempt to explain the nature of capitalism, and warn of the consequences of it. Dennis was indicted in the infamous sedition trial. Preface by W.A. Carto. #23, softcover, 320 pages, \$19 minus 10% for TBR subscribers.

From THE BARNES REVIEW...

The Mass Sedition Trial, by the staff of THE BARNES REVIEW (TBR). The November/December 1999 of TBR tells the little-known story of Franklin Roosevelt's infamous Mass Sedition Trial. Roosevelt slapped some 40 outspoken patriots, including Lawrence Dennis, in jail and indicted them for sedition because they opposed his unpopular war plans. These were no small names in the anti-war movement. They included some very prominent publishers, writers and activists, including Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling. A few copies of this amazing issue are still available. While they last, this 72-page issue (which includes articles on the Mothers of the America First movement and Montana's major role in the Non-intervention Movement, among other topics) is just \$8 each.

Send payment for any items in this box to: TBR, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003 or call toll free at 1-877-773-9077 and charge your purchase to Visa or MasterCard. Please include: \$5 S&H on orders up to \$50; \$10 S&H on orders from \$50.01 to \$100; \$15 S&H on orders over \$100. Outside the U.S. please call 202-547-5586 for international S&H rates.

Why Gen. Butler Thought War Is a Racket

Here's what Marine Gen. Smedley Butler had to say in 1933 about his own war-time experiences. It is worth pondering as America ventures abroad in search of enemies near and far:

“War is just a racket—something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses. I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers.

“There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

“There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its ‘finger men’ to point out enemies, its ‘muscle men’ to destroy enemies, its ‘brain men’ to plan war preparations, and a ‘Big Boss’: super-nationalistic-capitalism.

“It may seem odd for me, a military man, to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to.

“I spent 33 years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile mili-



Above, *The Capture of Fort Riviere, Haiti, 1915*, by D. J. Neary (USMC art collection), in which Butler participated. Left, a colorized photo of Gen. Butler in Marine uniform.

Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

“I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long.

“I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long.

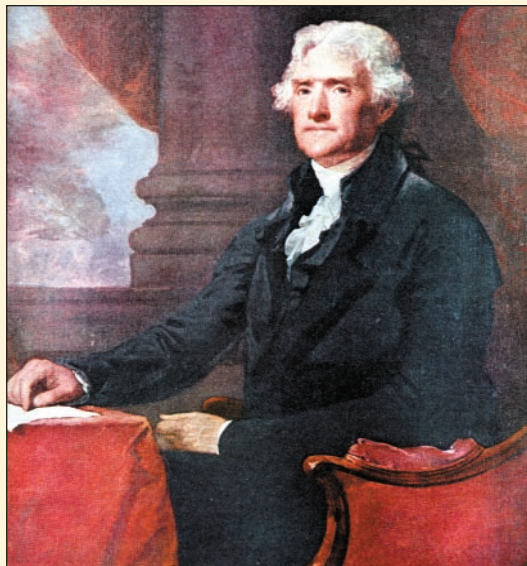
“I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

“During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.” ★

tary force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle-man for Big Business, for Wall

AFP EDITORIAL

Is There Anybody Paying Attention?



Large Standing Army Invites Certain Plutocratic Abuse

As it appears more likely that the United States is slowly but deliberately being reshaped into an aggressive imperial power, the argument once again arises as to the necessity of maintaining a standing army. Some of America's Founding Fathers were aware of the consequences of keeping a massive armed force and its potential for abuse at the hands of the worst element of the population—the plutocracy. The following is an excerpt from President Thomas Jefferson's "First Annual Message," delivered to the Senate and House of Representatives on Dec. 8, 1801, where the Virginia gentleman proposed arming a militia to defend against attacks on America over permanently retaining large garrisons of professional soldiers:

A statement has been formed by the secretary of war, on mature consideration, of all the posts and stations where garrisons will be expedient, and of the number of men requisite for each garrison. The whole amount is considerably short of the present military establishment. For the surplus no particular use can be pointed out. For defense against invasion, their number is as nothing; nor is it conceived needful or safe that a standing army should be kept up in time of peace for that purpose.

Uncertain as we must ever be of the particular point in our circumference where an enemy may choose to invade us, the only force which can be ready at every point and competent to oppose them, is the body of neighboring citizens as formed into a militia. On these, collected from the parts most convenient, in numbers proportioned to the invading foe, it is best to rely, not only to meet the first attack, but if it threatens to be permanent, to maintain the defense until regulars may be engaged to relieve them.

These considerations render it important that we should at every session continue to amend the defects which from time to time show themselves in the laws for regulating the militia, until they are sufficiently perfect. Nor should we now or at any time separate, until we can say we have done everything for the militia which we could do were an enemy at our door. ★

Is anybody out there paying any attention to what *American Free Press* has been telling them about U.S. involvement in the Middle East or U.S. meddling anywhere in the world for that matter? What about America's unconstitutional, aggressive war against Iraq? This war is another masterpiece of media promotion with an appeal to the patriotism that all loyal Americans express.

Since 9-11 our government, especially the president, has played the patriotism card to rally the people around the notion that the United States should embark on a global crusade to eradicate terrorism once and for all.

Lots of Americans are so uncritical of government that they believe all that the plutocrat owned and operated media can put on their plate. The public's faith in their elected representatives and senators in Congress is skeptical at best but they think that matters could be worse.

It's not too long now that our president without blinking announced before a joint session of Congress that America's first task would be to rid the world of the evil axis of terror, comprised of Iraq, Iran and North Korea. The author of this speech was none other than one David Frum, a leading member of the neo-conservative coalition that constantly promotes using the U.S. military as a tool for Zionist and imperialist causes—at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer.

So the United States proceeded to take on Iraq—for the second time in a dozen years. Our first invasion of Iraq in 1991 resulted in our killing a half million Iraqi children and devastating untold thousands of buildings with a greater tonnage of bombs dropped on Iraq than America dropped during WWII. But it was very profitable for the military-industrial complex.

As enunciated by Iraq's foes, within and without our government, Iraq had accumulated a vast stockpile of weapons of mass destruction with which she could wipe out her Middle East neighbors and attack Americans.

In fact, the greatest nuclear threat to that part of the world is not Iraq but Israel which has a huge cache of weapons of mass destruction—a fact which is a well known secret. The United States supplies Israel with state-of-the-art war materiel at a cost of no less than \$10 billion per year. *The Christian Science Monitor* says we have given Israel \$1.6 trillion.

Now, Israel wants to increase her take from the U.S. by an immediate payment of \$14 billion in direct aid and loans guarantees—which will never be paid back—to pay for its costly occupation of Palestine.

The Palestinians, who receive hardly anything from us and have to endure the Israeli confiscation and destruction of their land, homes and businesses, are blamed for the trouble fomented and created by Israel.

Incidentally, Israel, a major nuclear power, refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Meanwhile, the United States taxpayers continue to finance global adventurism. Secretary of State Colin Powell tours the Middle East allegedly trying to bring peace to that area but not succeeding. Back home in the United States the unemployment rate reaches another high and millions of Americans can't find work. The president talks of our victory over Iraq and promises more triumphs to come.

On Oct. 21, 2002, AFP editorialized about the aggressive war against Iraq. We wrote that "no one knows for sure whether Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein possesses so-called weapons of

mass destruction. Still, we think there is another reason for Bush's dogged crusade to oust Saddam—and it isn't because he cares a stitch about ridding the world of despots and thugs."

His "call to target Iraq for 'regime change' is a crude attempt to distract the American public from the problems at home . . . topping that list is the federal government's catastrophic failure to get to the bottom of the worst case of domestic terrorism—the Sept. 11 attacks."

In the double issue of March 3 & 10, 2003, this newspaper editorialized that "no good can come from this war." Since the war would be fought for the benefit of another nation (Israel), the United States would be left with the wreckage. The cost to taxpayers would be a trillion dollars, more terrorism here at home, fewer freedoms to enjoy and the working middle class stuck with the bill.

On March 31 another editorial said, "[A]musing how the Bush administration attempts to mask its evil design with promises of humanitarian aid to Iraqi survivors."

On May 12, AFP editorialized that "the situation [in Iraq] is looking more like Palestine, where an occupying army continues to savage a population with acts of violence." And continued, "This was not a noble war. In fact, it was—and continues to be—detrimental to America's interests."

"How Washington elites could coolly tell Americans that we should expect our troops to be welcomed and celebrated after Iraqis have suffered 12 years of genocidal sanctions bringing starvation and hunger and then four weeks of bombing is evidence of their depravity. . . ."

"And, while Americans have been told repeatedly that we will be better off if we oust or kill Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, we have seen no such thing. In fact, this country is increasingly becoming a police state as officials move ahead with programs to monitor, detain and deport political dissidents."

"The rub is that our sacrifices are not being made in the interests of our great country. War and occupation have been prosecuted for the benefit of Big Oil, the military-industrial complex and Israel."

The future holds our presence to be in Iraq and in other global outposts for an undefined duration. Remember, the United States has been occupying the German nation since 1945—the "end" of the Second World War.

There has not only been no peace treaty with Germany but it has no constitution and is legally operating under the London Decree of Aug. 8, 1945 imposed by the armies of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union.* Germany's government is clearly *de facto* but not *de jure*.

George Washington and our Founding Fathers warned about entangling alliances and the perils of maintaining a well-financed standing army. We have not heeded that sage advice. And because we have not done so, the future of America looks very bleak for all except the exploiters, profiteers and their allies.

This Memorial Day, remember the brave men and women—average Americans, like you and me—who paid the supreme sacrifice by answering the call to serve their country at the behest of the internationalists. Pray that not all of them died in vain. ★

* *The Brainwashing of the German Nation* (softcover, 64 pages, #110, \$12 ppd.), by German Revisionist historian Udo Walendy, is available from the TBR BOOK CLUB, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call 1-877-773-9077 to charge to Visa or MasterCard.

War Mentality 'Embedded' in Our Psyches

By Charley Reese

It's interesting how much of our language is taken from war. Politicians in particular like to wage "war" on such things as cancer, drugs and terrorism (all of them lost so far). Aspiring politicians who probably haven't had a real fight since second grade always promise "to fight" for whatever they happen to be promising.

"Lock, stock and barrel" refers to the parts of a rifle, and the expression "shot his wad" refers to the fact that in a battle involving muskets, soldiers would sometimes forget to put the musket balls in and thus shoot only their wadding—the piece of cloth that was packed down on top of the bullet.

"Straight shooter" obviously refers to proficiency with a firearm, as does "hit the bull's eye." "High caliber" is a reference to ammunition. "Barrage" and "sortie" are military terms referring to artillery fire and to an infantry attack. "Hired gun," often used to describe political hacks, is another phrase from our violent past.

I'm sure you can think of even more. The connection is obvious when you look at American history. Despite periodic politically correct attempts to rewrite it, we have been a very warlike nation.

Our ancestors fought in the French and Indian War,

then turned on the British and fought the Revolution, and after that the War of 1812. In the meantime, a 300-year-long war against Indians was being waged more or less in the background. We had a tiff with the Barbary pirates and then invaded Mexico in the Mexican War.

Having temporarily run out of foreigners to fight, we fought each other in what is usually misnamed the Civil War. "The War of Northern Aggression" is a more accurate appellation.

This remains the bloodiest of all our wars, with the fatalities on both sides numbering about 600,000. That war, at least, taught us that it is better to fight foreigners somewhere else than each other on our home turf. We didn't wait long.

The Spanish-American War came along, then the Philippine Insurrection and numerous incursions into the Caribbean and Central America. In 1914, we had a big one and piled on the European Civil War, which is better known as World War I. As soon as it was over (about 10 million dead altogether), diplomats guaranteed the next war, which started in 1939. About 400,000 Americans died in that one, but it was hardly over before the Korean War occurred and then Vietnam, all in the context of the "Cold War."

Since Vietnam, we have specialized in bullying little countries—Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, Serbia,

Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan. The latter two are in the context of the "War on Terrorism," which our enlightened leaders assure us will last several generations. It will, too, if they have anything to do with it. God knows the fall of communism scared them witless. The thought of having no enemy at the gate and thus no way to frighten the American people was almost more than they could stand. They no doubt look on the war on terrorism as a gift from God.

As you can see, we Americans have never been all that successful in "burying the hatchet," except in somebody's skull. To make sure our children don't get infected with this peace business, corporate America bombards them with violence in the movies, on television and in computer games. What indeed would The History Channel do without WWII and the Nazis?

Well, partner, keep your powder dry and your six-gun handy. As they said in the old West, God created men, but Samuel Colt made them equal. The future will likely be exciting, which, as any Chinese fortuneteller will tell you, is bad news. ★

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Charley Reese is a nationally syndicated columnist whose no-holds-barred style has won him a host of devoted followers. Long associated with *The Orlando Sentinel*, you may write Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, Fla. 32802.

Perpetual Wars Wearing Down U.S. National Guard

Depletion of men, money, materiel has left state governors wondering if America's National Guard still has the ability to cope with future disasters—natural or manmade.

By Richard Walker

The Iraq war has so seriously depleted the National Guard's supplies and monopolized its personnel that it won't be able to cope with several natural disasters at one time, let alone a major terrorist attack involving chemical, nuclear or biological weapons.

That is the message coming loud and clear from senior Guard officers and politicians in the wake of the tornado that obliterated a Kansas farming town. As Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D) surveyed the damage and contemplated the massive clean-up that must follow, she lamented the fact that the recovery operation will be hampered by a depleted National Guard.

The governor specifically noted that the federal response to the disaster has been negatively impacted by the National Guard's Middle East deployments.

"If you are missing trucks, Humvees and helicopters

the response is going to be slower," she said, adding that the real victims of a slower recovery pace will be all those who lost their homes or their loved ones.

"Here in Kansas, about 50% of our trucks are gone," she said. "We're missing Humvees. We're missing all kinds of equipment to respond" [to emergencies].

A spokesman for the Kansas National Guard confirmed that more than 20% of its Humvees and as many as 19 helicopters were in Iraq.

The concerns expressed by Gov. Sebelius pointed to a much bigger issue, namely the Guard's level of unpreparedness at home. For several years, senior military figures and members of both sides of the House have tried to impress on the Bush administration the fact that continued Guard deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq have slowly weakened the Guard, leaving it short of personnel and equipment to respond to national disasters or emergencies on U.S. soil.

The Guard has approximately \$3 billion worth of equipment in Iraq and much of that will not be coming home soon because it is needed for the president's "surge" strategy. Some analysts reckon much of it will be left in Iraq when our forces withdraw because it will be needed by the Iraqi army or it will be too worn out.

The real problem lies in the fact that the Guard comprises over 20% of our combat troops in the Mideast.

In March 2007, Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, spokesman for the Guard in Louisiana, told a Washington newspaper that he was concerned he would not have the kind of equipment needed to deal with a Katrina type aftermath. He believed "the Guard could cope with a Category 1 tropical storm that did not create massive flooding or the need for a massive rescue operation."

Back in January this year, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that admitted the wars overseas had "reduced equipment needed for state-led domestic missions" at a time when the nation was facing an expanded array of threats at home.

The National Guard Bureau chief, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, has publicly voiced the view that governors are right to be concerned. In his view the National Guard "has never been less ready" because of its depleted stores of equipment.

It is all having a negative impact on National Guard recruitment because seasoned soldiers are finding it hard to cope with extended periods away from jobs and families, and families are discouraging their kids from signing up with the Guard. ★

Richard Walker is the *nom de plume* of a former mainstream news producer who now writes for AFP so he can expose the kinds of subjects that he was forbidden to cover in the controlled press.

Families of Veterans Languish While Fat Cats Rake in Huge War Bucks

Life is difficult for the average American military family. But the economic outlook is rosy for the next several decades if you happen to be a war profiteer.

By John Tiffany

While the war profiteers are rolling in clover, the families of the men who fight and die in George W. Bush's imperialistic wars are not so fortunate. For starters, many military families must survive on food stamps and live in low-rent housing.

Whenever the question of a pay raise for the military comes up, they usually get next to nothing. If you are a surviving family member of an American soldier killed in action, the first check you get is a \$6,000 "direct death benefit." Of this, the first \$3,000 is taxable. If you are a surviving spouse, you get \$833 a month. Also there is a payment of \$211 per month for each child under 18. When you remarry, or when a child reaches 18, these payments stop.

But if you are a weapons manufacturer, this post-9-11 era is a great time to be in the war "biz."

This is the same "military-industrial complex" which President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned against in his 1960 farewell address.

Northrop Grumman, for example, manufactures planes and bombers, including the B-2 bomber and the F-14 fighter. The company also makes the much-praised unmanned Global Hawk. The \$10 million per copy

Global Hawk was deployed to Afghanistan despite the fact that it had not completed its testing requirements.

When Wall Street reopened on Sept. 17, 2001, Northrop Grumman's stock had risen 16 percent to \$94 a share in anticipation of the coming conflagration. Two days after bombing in Afghanistan began, Northrop Grumman's stock reached a three-year high of \$107.60 a share on the New York Stock Exchange.

Another munitions company, Raytheon, is best known for its Tomahawk cruise missile. About 100 of these million-dollar missiles were lobbed at Afghanistan

5,000-pound bomb) and missiles like the TOW, Maverick and Javelin, all used in Gulf War II.

In addition to missiles, Raytheon also builds sensors and radar used on unmanned and manned reconnaissance airplanes.

After taking a severe beating a year and a half before 9-11, Raytheon is now the biggest stock percentage gainer since the Bush wars—which are anticipated to last for some 40 years—began. On Sept. 10, 2001 the company's stock stood at \$26.85; now it is holding at about \$32.80.

Similar stories can be told of Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

Boeing recently dispatched an army of lobbyists to Washington looking for Congress's help in the form of approval for a set of proposals that make sense if the goal is profits for Boeing, but which make no military sense:

- Air Force purchase of 60 Boeing C-17 cargo aircraft under a special "commercial" provision that removes financial oversight;
- Air Force leasing of 100 Boeing 767 planes to be converted into surveillance planes and mobile command centers for the military;
- Protection from billions in potential liability claims stemming from the 9-11 attacks;
- Measures to encourage Lockheed Martin to share its Joint Strike Fighter contract.

High-level officials and advisors in the Bush administration, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have proclaimed the need to revise our armed forces from a Cold War mentality to a modern one.

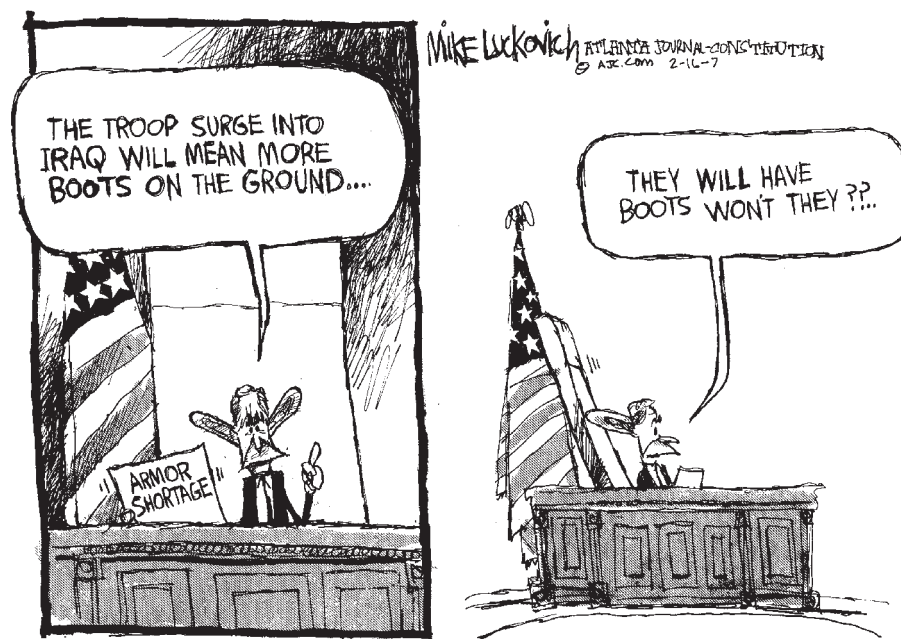
But the programs earmarked for this additional spending belie such statements. Instead of the funds being dedicated to weapons systems and training that would enable our troops to more effectively fight on the modern battlefields of urban centers, inhospitable mountain terrain and against enemies who operate in the shadows, the money is to go into such things as the F-22 fighter and a National Missile Defense shield—programs virtually useless in a "War on Terrorism."

In addition, various war profiteers have been awarded \$680 million in corporate welfare to rebuild Iraq's roads, schools, hospitals and sewer systems—a bonanza for Bechtel, known jokingly in business circles as Bushtel.

Meanwhile Kellogg Brown and Root, a Halliburton subsidiary, stands to make a profit of some \$490 million rebuilding Iraq's oil wells with taxpayer money if it holds out—if it doesn't, by increasing the national debt.

It is currently expected that Iraq will be under U.S. military rule for at least the next five years. How many extra billions this will cost is unknown.

United States defense companies pay their chief executives 50 percent more than other big companies. The typical American CEO earned \$3.7 million in 2002, while the typical defense industry top exec raked in \$5.4 million.



from U.S. Navy ships—50 in the opening salvo alone.

Orders for Tomahawk missiles have come in from allies such as Britain, which signed a contract for 48 Tomahawk missiles in an \$87 million deal. Raytheon is confident that significant Pentagon orders will follow.

Raytheon also makes the "bunker buster" GBU-28 (a

Unforgettable Stories of Wartime Service . . .

Forever a Soldier

MOST AMERICAN SOLDIERS CAN PINPOINT a specific time when life stood still, when they thought, "I'm going to remember this moment forever." It's times like these that have the power to change the future. *Forever a Soldier*—drawn from the massive national collection of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project—illustrates how American soldiers have answered the call to duty with a singular spirit of patriotism, and how military service has transformed their lives. Some of the remarkable stories include a nurse stationed in Vietnam who remembers a dying patient, his miraculous recovery, and her reward years later; the survivor of a famed World War II shipwreck who flashes back to four harrowing days in the shark-infested waters of the Pacific Ocean; the carnage on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion; and many more. Culled from letters, diaries, and oral histories by soldiers, sailors, Marines, and supporting citizens, these fifty stories constitute an astonishing historical record. *Forever a Soldier: Unforgettable Stories of Wartime Service* (softcover, 6.5" x 9" format, 330 pages, #1576, \$17) is available from FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #100, Washington, D.C. 20003. No charge for S&H inside the U.S. Send payment using the form on page 8 of this report or call 1-888-699-6397 toll free to charge to Visa or MC.



In War, Truth Is the Rarest Commodity

By Charley Reese

IT'S BEEN SAID OFTEN THAT WHILE everyone is entitled to his own opinion, no one is entitled to his own facts. Today, we hear misstatements all the time. Some of them are deliberate lies. Some of them are just mistakes.

A House committee has exposed the terrible fact that Army officials fabricated a story about the death of Pat Tillman and lied through their teeth. The Army knew from day one that Tillman died from so-called friendly fire, but it was five weeks before Army officials got around to telling the family. In the meantime, the Army falsified a citation to give him a Silver Star at his memorial service, which was turned into a media event—conveniently timed, his family now believes, to distract attention from the scandal of Abu Ghraib prison.

Tillman did not die fighting the enemy. He died of American bullets.

The girl from West Virginia, Jessica Lynch, hailed as a female Rambo, in fact was knocked unconscious in a vehicle wreck before she ever had a chance to fire a shot. She woke up in an Iraqi hospital. To her credit, as soon as she recovered from her serious injuries, she always told the truth. The story had been spread by a “government source” that she had fought

heroically until the last bullet.

Lies and faulty memories (Attorney General Alberto Gonzales testified under oath 71 times that he could not recall or recollect) should not be tolerated even by this pathologically tolerant society. Mistakes can be forgiven, but deliberate lies are hostile acts. The liar is trying to subvert your mind and manipulate you into a position favorable to him. Calling a man a liar was once an act that would prompt a duel, but today people seem to shrug it off.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) recently misstated some information about Saddam Hussein in his attempt to defend the president's position. He said, for example, that Saddam fired “at our planes every day in defiance of UN resolutions.” Not true. The no-fly zones were never authorized or approved by the Security Council. They were imposed by George H.W. Bush.

After the end of Gulf War I, the CIA grossly miscalculated the damage done to Saddam's army. Consequently, the CIA urged the Shiites and the Kurds to rise up in rebellion and finish off Saddam's government. When Saddam's army began to slaughter both the Shiites and the Kurds, an embarrassed United States hurriedly imposed the no-fly zones.

Graham said Hussein sent checks to the families of suicide bombers in Palestine. This is a partial

truth. Saddam had been sending checks to the families of all Palestinians killed in the struggle for independence before the suicide-bombing tactic was taken up. He was not subsidizing terror. He was subsidizing the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation.

The members of the House and Senate have great resources available to them. Not only do they have large staffs, but there are also the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the great Library of Congress and the Congressional Budget Office. It seems they should have no excuse for not getting their facts straight.

The problem is that most of them, most of the time, concentrate on getting re-elected. In the 18th and 19th century, a contemptuous description of such people was “officeholders.” Seems mild, but it was meant to separate the statesmen from the politicians with no agenda but their own political welfare.

It's impossible to have a legitimate debate about anything if the participants lie, don't know the basic facts of the issue or deliberately distort their opponents' position.

Self-government is the most difficult of all the forms of government, and it requires honesty on everyone's part to function. ★

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Former Veteran/Brother of Pat Tillman Speaks Out

The following commentary was written by Kevin Tillman, who served in the Army with his brother Pat, a former pro football star, in Iraq and Afghanistan. On April 22, 2004, Pat was killed in Afghanistan as a result of “friendly fire.” In 2005, Kevin was discharged. Now that he is out of the military, he has written this poignant statement on the war in Iraq—and the folly of war.

It is Pat's birthday on Nov. 6, and elections are the day after. It gets me thinking about a conversation I had with Pat before we joined the military. He spoke about the risks with signing the papers. How once we committed, we were at the mercy of the American leadership and the American people. How we could be thrown in a direction not of our volition. How fighting as a soldier would leave us without a voice . . . until we got out.

Much has happened since we handed over our voice.

Somehow we were sent to invade a nation because it was a direct threat to the American people, or to the world, or harbored terrorists, or was involved in the September 11 attacks, or received weapons-grade uranium from Niger, or had mobile weapons labs, or WMD (weapons of mass destruction), or had a need to be liberated, or we needed to establish a democracy, or stop an insurgency, or stop a civil war we created that can't be called a civil war even though it is.

Somehow America has become a country that projects everything that it is not and condemns everything that it is.

Somehow our elected leaders were subverting international law and humanity by setting up secret prisons around

the world, secretly kidnapping people, secretly holding them indefinitely, secretly not charging them with anything, secretly torturing them. Somehow that overt policy of torture became the fault of a few “bad apples” in the military.

Somehow back at home, support for the soldiers meant having a five-year-old kindergartner scribble a picture with crayons and send it overseas, or slapping stickers on cars, or lobbying Congress for an extra pad in a helmet. It's interesting that a soldier on his third or fourth tour should care about a drawing from a five-year-old; or a faded sticker on a car as his friends die around him; or an extra pad in a helmet, as if it will protect him when an IED throws his vehicle 50 feet into the air as his body comes apart and his skin melts.

Somehow the more soldiers that die, the more legitimate the illegal invasion becomes. Somehow American leadership, whose only credit is lying to its people and illegally invading a nation, has been allowed to steal the courage, virtue and honor of its soldiers on the ground. Somehow those afraid to fight an illegal invasion decades ago are allowed to send soldiers to die for an illegal invasion they started. Somehow faking character, virtue and strength is tol-

erated. Somehow profiting from tragedy and horror is tolerated. Somehow the death of tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people is tolerated. Somehow subversion of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution is tolerated. Somehow suspension of habeas corpus is supposed to keep this country safe. Somehow torture is tolerated. Somehow lying is tolerated. Somehow reason is being discarded for faith and dogma. Somehow U.S. leadership managed to create a more dangerous world. . . . Somehow the most reasonable, trusted and respected country in the world has become one of the most irrational, belligerent, feared, and distrusted countries. Somehow being politically informed, diligent, and skeptical has been replaced by apathy through active ignorance. Somehow the same incompetent, narcissistic, virtueless, vacuous, malicious criminals are still in charge of this country. Somehow this is tolerated. Nobody is accountable.

In a democracy, the policy of the leaders is the policy of the people. So don't be shocked when our grandkids bury much of this generation as traitors to the nation, to the world and to humanity. Most likely, they will come to know that “somehow” was nurtured by fear, insecurity and indifference, leaving the country vulnerable to unchecked, unchallenged parasites.

Luckily this country is still a democracy. People still have a voice. People still can take action. Do it the next time you are at the ballot box. ★

America's Own Weapons Poisoning U.S. Servicemen

Awful health toll paid by soldiers, civilians exposed to DU rounds; genetic maladies plague offspring

By James P. Tucker Jr.

Soldiers and scientists are assailing the Pentagon for continuing to cover up the effects of depleted uranium (DU) on soldiers and civilians in the Persian Gulf.

“Thirteen years ago in Iraq, as an Abrams tank crewman, I handled depleted uranium munitions and pulled the crew away from a burning American tank which contained burning uranium rounds,” said Charles Sheehan-Miles, head of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute.

“Then, as now, the Pentagon reassured the troops by saying: ‘Don’t worry. It’s not dangerous. It’s depleted.’ Unfortunately, I’ve since learned that the Pentagon doesn’t even refer to its own research when they say this,” he added, during a meeting in Washington April 14.

He cited a 1995 study by the Army Environmental Policy Institute that concluded: “If DU enters the body, it has the potential to generate significant medical consequences. The risks associated with DU in the body are both chemical and radiological.”

A 1993 study by the General Accounting Office found that “inhaled insoluble oxides stay in the lungs longer and pose a potential cancer risk due to radiation. Ingested DU dust can also pose both a radioactive and toxicity risk.”

Despite this research, the *Final Report: Presidential Advisory Committee of Gulf War Veterans Illnesses*, released in 1996, stated: “It is unlikely that health effects reported by Gulf War veterans today are the result of exposure from depleted uranium in the Gulf War.”

Appearing with Sheehan-Miles were several physicians and other scientists who supported his view that

Pentagon research shows DU is indeed potentially dangerous.

“Despite military protests that DU is perfectly safe to use—a hot topic due to the recent discovery that some troops returning from Iraq may have been contaminated—the science is much more unclear. It is clear from the latest science—including those studies done by the Pentagon—that DU can have long-term health effects under some conditions,” declared Sheehan-Miles.

Scientists at the meeting agreed that many thousands of soldiers and civilians are victims of DU.

The symptoms are many, and victims often suffer from several. They include coughing, shortness of breath, headaches, blurred vision, numbness, weakness, short-term memory loss, cognitive dysfunction, fatigue, malaise, fever, sleep disturbances, chronic widespread pain, cancer, infertility and even birth disorders. ★



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