



Liberty Tree

Vol. 19, No. 5 — May 2017

By Dick Greb

WAR!

What is it good for?

**War, it ain't nothing but a heartbreaker,
friend only to the undertaker.
War means tears to thousands of mothers' eyes
When their sons go out to fight
and their daughters lose their lives in ...
War. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!
"War" – Edwin Starr**

For those who believed that President Donald Trump would be moving America towards a more Jeffersonian foreign policy — peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none — recent events may have been eye-opening. Last month, President

Trump attacked a Syrian air base with 59 Tomahawk missiles, an act of war by pretty much any standard. And just because his attack was rationalized as a retaliation for the use of sarin gas by government forces under Syrian President Bashar al-

(Continued on page 2)

May 8, 2017

To all Members of Save-A-Patriot Fellowship and Liberty Works Radio Network:

We are writing to inform you that your Fellowship is in *critical* condition. For those members who have been faithfully sending donations and pledges, THANK YOU. Without your help, the Fellowship likely would have already shut the doors. But *we need to hear from more of you* if the Fellowship is to continue its mission to educate the public about our Christian heritage and the legacy of a Constitutionally limited government, left to us by the founders of this nation.

The simple truth is that if we do not receive immediate financial help the Fellowship may not be able to continue the work we have begun with Liberty Works Radio Network. It would truly be a shame

EXTREME URGENCY
Please Read NOW!

if all of the considerable time, energy and money already spent in making this *Patriot-controlled* media a reality came to

naught because Patriots failed to provide the funds to keep the Fellowship up and running.

We are asking each one of you to prayerfully search your hearts and decide: Am I going to step up and do everything I can to see that Liberty Works continues, or am I going to sit back and squander this God-given opportunity? If each member sends 10 or 20 FRNs a month, we can continue to fight to bring people an alternative to the media monopoly that keeps them in the dark about the steady march towards global fascism, slavery and tyranny.

We pray that you are willing to help.



SAVE-A-PATRIOT FELLOWSHIP
POST OFFICE BOX 91
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND 21158

Together We Stand—Or—Separately You Will Be Stood On!



(Continued from page 1)

Assad against anti-government rebel forces, it does not change that fact one iota. According to Bouvier's Law Dictionary (1856):

WAR. A contention by force; or the art of paralysing the forces of an enemy. ... War is offensive on the part of that government which commits the first act of violence; ... To legalize a war it must be declared by that branch of the government entrusted by the constitution with this power.

So, according to *this* definition at least, no matter how much you may wish it otherwise, Trump's missile attack constitutes an act of illegal offensive war against Syria.

This civil war into which America is now intervening is between the duly elected government of a sovereign country, and those who are trying to violently overthrow it. And since the U.S. government is entering the fray **against** that government, it is therefore aiding and abetting the rebel forces. In other words, we — as a country — are helping to overthrow the government of a foreign country. Of course, this is really nothing new. Our government has quite a history of doing exactly that, although it is often accomplished through more covert means, under cover of the Central Intelligence Agency, for example.

Rut who are these rebels that the United States is supporting by means of bombing their enemy? Why, none other than *Al Qaeda's* Syrian affiliate — the Al Nusra Front — and the *Islamic State* (IS, or ISIS, or ISIL, or whatever the name of the month might be). You read that right, folks! Our illustrious leaders are helping Al Qaeda and ISIS, the very same groups that we claim we're fighting *against* in the Global War On Terror. Unfortunately, this is also not really something new. Yesterday's CIA-supported rebel groups regularly become tomorrow's terrorist enemies — and as is now apparent, *vice versa*.

Now, this is not to say that Trump is just a war-monger, looking to start fights wherever he can. But he is surrounded by advisors of all sorts, and like all of us, is subjected to propaganda designed to influence his thoughts and actions. Fears and

other emotional triggers are often emphasized, and common sense and rational reflection are pushed aside. How horrible that Assad gassed these scores (that is, *twenties*) of rebels with a banned chemical!¹ But, if he had just killed them with bullets, would it have elicited the same outrage? It's a sure bet that to the dead people, there's absolutely no difference. Meanwhile, the Syrian government claims that it didn't use any chemical weapons against the rebels, but that the rebels possess such weapons themselves. Yet, without any real investigation into the incident, the United States acted unilaterally and bombed a Syrian airbase.²

And how much did this missile attack cost us, the American taxpayers? According to an article published on the website for Market Watch, Inc.:

The missiles used on Thursday likely cost the U.S. military around \$1 million [each], but the latest versions of the missile that would replace those could be more costly. ... Tomahawks have been part of the U.S. military's arsenal for three decades, and were first used during the 1991 Gulf War. ... According to Raytheon's website, ***the cruise missile has been employed in combat more than 2,000 times*** since it was introduced. ... ***Shares of Raytheon rallied in early Friday trading*** but their gains moderated as the session went on. ***The stock has gained more than 7% so far this year...*** (Emphasis added)³

So, the replacement cost for the missiles alone will run about \$90 million (the newest version costing around \$1.5M), plus the logistical expenses of firing the things along with all the other associated costs. And notice that these million-dollar missiles have been used *2,000 times* since they were first introduced in 1991. That's about \$2 billion dollars worth of bombs! And that \$2B has gone to Raytheon, just one member of the military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned us about. No wonder Raytheon stock rallied the following day.

Soon after the Syrian attack discussed above,

(Continued on page 3)

1. We should remember that scores of people (including 17 children) also died in Waco, Texas in April 1993, after being exposed to massive amounts of CS gas, injected via specially-equipped tanks by government forces. Our government *claims* that the Branch Davidians started the fire that ultimately killed them, but *admittedly lied* about other aspects of the operation.

2. It is all quite reminiscent of the story told in 1990 by Nayirah, the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the U.S. Coached by Hill and Knowlton, a "global" PR firm, she testified to Congress that Iraqi soldiers had removed babies from incubators in a hospital in Kuwait. That story, subsequently shown as false, aided and abetted Congress in approving the attacks on Iraq in the Gulf War. See Arthur, John. "Remember Nayirah, Witness for Kuwait?" *The New York Times* (January 6, 1992).

3. Assis, Claudia. "Here's how much it costs to replace the 59 Tomahawk missiles Trump fired on Syria." (April 15, 2017).



Guernica, by Picasso, is one of the most famous anti-war paintings in history, depicting the suffering and ravages of war. The mural was in response to Nazi Germany and Italy's bombing and machine-gun strafing of the inhabitants of a Basque village on market day. They murdered the people for (later Dictator) Franco during the Spanish Civil War, which lasted from 1936 to 1939.

(Continued from page 2)

our military finally got the chance to use one of its score of GBU-43/Bs,⁴ which it has been sitting on for some 14 years, since its initial deployment in 2003. Perhaps it was meant to mitigate our assistance to acknowledged terrorist groups in Syria, because this huge conventional bomb was used against ... drum roll, please ... *IS forces* in Afghanistan. According to deagel.com, the MOAB is designed to obliterate an area about a quarter-mile in diameter, "to achieve a terrifying psychological impact." And what's the price tag for this weapon of terror? Just \$16 million apiece, at least when you buy them in bulk. We might expect that the Air Force will find justification to be dropping a bunch more of these Mothers in the near future. After all, what use is a bomb that never gets dropped? If you let these things go past their "use by" date, then the suckers who're footing the bill (that is, us) might think twice about buying another round. And the masters of war can't afford to let that happen.

**Come you masters of war,
 You that build the big guns,
 You that build the death planes,
 You that build all the bombs,
 You that hide behind walls,
 You that hide behind desks ...
 You fasten all the triggers,
 For the others to fire
 Then you set back and watch,
 While the death count gets higher
 You hide in your mansion,
 While the young people's blood
 Flows out of their bodies,
 And is buried in the mud.**

"Masters of war" – Bob Dylan

Not only don't they want you thinking twice, they don't even want you thinking once. They want you to simply believe every lie they tell, and rally behind them with patriotic zeal every time they invade some other people's homeland, killing them 'over there, so we don't have to kill them over here.' "USA! USA! USA!" Forget the fact the government lies to you about just about everything, including its justifications for embroiling us in pretty much every military action that has occurred over most of our lives. This time you can be **sure** that they're telling us the whole truth. When they say Assad gassed his people, then that's what happened. End of discussion. And of course, that's one of the things that war is good for — ending debate. After all, in times of peril, we can't allow doubters, dissenters and nay-sayers to distract us from the job at hand; that job being to spend ridiculous sums of money killing people in other countries, so that their surviving friends and families will become terrorists, who will, in turn, need to be killed later. A never-ending cycle of war. The gift that keeps on giving — to the military-industrial complex.

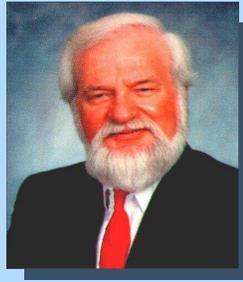
Naturally, the MIC spreads some of their good fortune around. After all, high-priced weapons don't buy themselves. Politicians must *authorize* such purchases. And who can know just how much financial convincing some of our vaunted representatives might require? I mean, not everyone has the good fortune of, say, Dick Cheney, who was able to land a lucrative gig with powerhouse Halliburton after his short stint as Vice President. Some of

(Continued on page 4)

4. Also known as Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) or Mother Of All Bombs.

From John Kotmair:

On February 23rd, I suffered my fourth heart attack, and this has been by far the longest of my recoveries. For the present, my health practitioner advised me to refrain from activity such as posting on Facebook and sending out emails.



I am well on my way to recovery, gaining in strength daily. I want to thank all those who have been praying for me, and for all the get-well cards. And to everyone who helped with the finances for the lift chair which is extremely helpful at this time: thank you all very much!

I am writing because I felt the need to explain why I could not take your calls or return them. Please keep me in your prayers; I will let you know when I am back in the saddle. Until then, please help keep the torch of Liberty burning.

God Bless You, and Thank You.

Semper Fidelis ad Libertas, Veritas que Justitia,

John B. Kotmair Jr.

(Continued from page 3)

those poor elected officials are forced to feather their nests while in office, lest they be forced to subsist solely on their government pensions for the rest of their lives.

**Politicians hide themselves away,
They only started the war.
Why should they go out to fight?
They leave that role to the poor.
Time will tell on their power minds,
Making war just for fun.
Treating people just like pawns in chess.
Wait 'till their judgment day comes, yeah!
"War Pigs" – Black Sabbath**

As happens with the "too big to fail" banks and financial corporations, the profits of war are privatized, while the costs are socialized. That is, the profits made from war go to the corporations (and ultimately, the individuals) who manufacture the weapons and keep the war machinery humming along, as well as those who rebuild what gets destroyed. But the costs — not only the money paid

for such materials, but more importantly, the cost in lives lost and ruined — are passed on to the citizenry. It doesn't matter whether it is the will of the people to become involved in any particular war, because our so-called representatives no longer concern themselves with what the people want (if indeed they ever did). They serve the interests of the government, and insofar as they might differ, their own personal interests, including their interest in remaining in office forever.

And that brings us to another thing war is good for: it provides justification for tighter control of the population. That control might be exercised through rationing, restrictions on travel, speech, and indeed, on all of our rights, exorbitant tax rates,⁵ conscription, confiscation, and any number of other intrusions into our lives (including fondling us and our loved ones at airports). And of course, somebody has to be in charge of all that oppression, and somebody has to pay for it too. Which category do you think you'll be in?

As Lt. Gen. Smedley Butler rightly proclaimed, war is a racket. It's a racket that enriches the few, but impoverishes — or outright kills — the many. And unfortunately for us, it is the few who are in positions that enable them to impose their wills on the many. It's no wonder then, that there is so much war, and so little peace. Unhappily, it doesn't appear that our newest President is going to change that equation for the better.



**The spirit was freedom and justice,
And it's keepers seem generous and kind
It's leaders were supposed to serve the country,
But now they won't pay it no mind.
'Cause the people grew fat and got lazy,
And now their vote is a meaningless joke. ...
The cities have turned into jungles,
And corruption is stranglin' the land.
The police force is watching the people,
And the people just can't understand.
We don't know how to mind our own business,
'Cause the whole world's got to be just like us
Now we are fighting a war over there,
No matter who's the winner,
We can't pay the cost.**

"Suicide" – Steppenwolf

5. The highest tax bracket under the Individual Income Tax Act of 1944 was 91% (58 Stat. 231, § 4(a); P.L. 315)