OMNI ANTI-WAR, ANTI-IMPERIALISM, ANTI-CANT

Dick Bennett
My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

See: Chemical War, “Collateral Damage” (Language of War), Consequences of War, Costs of War, Genocide, Imperialism, Individual Wars, Militarism, Military-Industrial Complex, Nuclear Weapons and War, Pentagon (the War Department), Profits of War, PTSD, Suicide, Torture, War as a Racket, War Crimes, Wastes of War, and many more topics.

Anti-cant: Cant is a word with many meanings, including insincere or hypocritical statements, esp. pious platitudes. Merely verbal opposition to war and praise of world peace are very often cant. So be cautious about saying you hate war and are for peace, if you are not prepared to act against war, because people will measure you by the discrepancy between word and deed.

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Willson, Vietnam War Protester
Amy Goodman
Hochschild on WWI
Hedges, Myth of War

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Dear HAW colleagues,

The dust has settled at last on the 2012 elections, and all of us focused on stopping war and making peace are back where we started. The “War on Terror” justifying grossly illegal actions by our government. The U.S. military’s

December 4, 2012

Van Gosse

12:51 PM
Peace Movement Directory: North American Organizations, Programs, Museums and Memorials

James Richard Bennett

978-0-7864-1006-4
978-0-7864-5006-0


147 photos, bibliography, index

softcover (7 x 10) 2001

Price: $49.95

Available for immediate shipment

About the Book

The year 2000 was proclaimed by the United Nations as the Year of Peace, and the ten years to follow, the Decade of Peace. The UN has issued a Manifesto for a Culture of Peace outlining the goals of the envisioned future. The world may have taken on a hopeful attitude for peace in the new millennium, and this work serves as a reference book to organizations, programs, museums, and memorials located in North America that are dedicated to peace. Each entry is numbered and each one includes the following (where applicable): name of organization, college, museum, memorial or journal; year founded or dedicated; address, phone number, e-mail address and website address; and text that provides historical information.
Dear HAW colleagues,

The dust has settled at last on the 2012 elections, and all of us focused on stopping war and making peace are back where we started. The “War on Terror” justifying grossly illegal actions by our government. The U.S. military’s umbrella spreading further over the world. Unqualified support to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and killing of Palestinian people.

HAW was founded almost ten years ago to oppose the looming invasion of Iraq, but our purview has always been larger – the “two, three, many Iraqs” looming in the future. We’re still here because we need to be.

Our next project, which we hope you will support, is **HAW’s Third National Conference**, to be held April 5-7, 2013, at Towson State University. Its theme is self-explanatory, **THE NEW FACES OF WAR**, exploring **the vast range of contemporary militarism** – so much of it “below the radar,” unmanned and silent, unlike during the Bush-Cheney years, when everyone knew who and what to oppose. This conference will not only provide cutting edge analysis of **U.S. wars in the twentieth century**, it will also offer ideas about **what we can do to oppose them**.

Although months off, the conference is already coming together very strongly. Featured speakers include Rashid Khalidi (Columbia), Alfred McCoy (U. of Wisconsin), Ann Wright (Code Pink), and Marilyn Young (NYU).

Roundtables and panels already accepted address topics such as “Imperial War from Counterinsurgency to Drones,” “The Asia-Pacific Pivot,” “The New Conscientious Objectors,” “Law and the New Faces of War,” and “Teaching the War on Terror.” (Proposals for panels, workshops, and individual papers...
are still being accepted at conf@historiansagainstwar.org up to December 15.)

It costs real money to put a conference like this—for facilities, printed materials, travel, all the nitty-gritty. We again need your financial support. Anything from $25 to $100, or anything above or below those figures, would be much appreciated. You can use the PayPal link on our website (at http://www.historiansagainstwar.org/donations.html or else mail a check to me as HAW Treasurer at the Department of History, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster PA 17604-3003.

Thank you, and hope to see you in April,

Van Gosse

For the HAW Steering Committee

**VETERANS FOR PEACE**

August 10, 2012

Dear Dick ,

The voice of veterans speaking and working for peace is essential to create the change we need to move our nation from addiction to war to the use of diplomacy and the pursuit of peace.

“Exposing the true costs of war and militarism” is indeed what we’ve been doing for over 25 years. Currently, some of the ways we do that are:

- Speaking everywhere we are invited and inviting ourselves when needed
- Establishing temporary “Arlington” Memorials that dramatically demonstrate the cost in U.S. lives to maintain a global empire
- Increasing awareness of the more than 700 U.S. bases occupying every corner of the globe and what that costs
- Showing what military spending costs taxpayers and how changing where we invest our public wealth will provide a better life and a more sustainable planet
- Creating working links with organizations and individuals committed to creating that better life.

Your commitment is invaluable to VFP and to this work. Right now we are focusing on the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, but our mission is to abolish war. That requires not only stopping current conflicts but creating a culture of peace with justice.

**MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRAQ AND AFGHAN WARS**
An organization of people opposed to war in Iraq and who have relatives or loved ones in the military. Gives rejoinder to knee-jerk attacks that anyone opposing ...
Jun 29, 2011 – 3-days was all it took for the U.S. military to change my son from the “new ... Division U.S. Soldier & Member of Military Families Speak Out ...

7. Military Families Speak Out | Take Action
www.militaryfamiliespeakout.com/join-mfso/Cached
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Military Families Speak Out Support our troops, bring them home now, and take care of them when they get here. Join MFSO · Join Gold Star Families Speak Out ...

8. MFSO-OC - Military Families Speak Out - Orange County
www.mfsooc.org/Cached - Similar
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Jan 11, 2012 – Military Families Speak Out – Orange County Chapter is an organization of people who are opposed to war in Iraq and who have or had ...

Citizen Soldier, Alternatives to Militarism, Inc.
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Citizen Soldier Director Tod Ensign Speaks Out about How the Military Failed Catalino and Others Like Him · sex abuse scandal ...
Programs

- Tear Gas Campaign
- War Tax Resistance
- GI Rights/Resistance
- Speakers/Training
- WIN Magazine

Search this site:
Brandywine Peace Community, a long-time WRL affiliate, has been throwing their support behind the Occupy movement with “Welcome, Occupy Philly” signs and banners that made the connection between the corporate control of U.S. democracy and the corporate militarism of such war profiteers as Lockheed Martin, the world’s #1 war profiteer and Pentagon weapons producer.

IN MEMORIUM

Karl Bissinger, 1914-2008

Ralph DiGia: 1914-2008

Bill Sutherland, 1918-2010

Mary Datolivo
Where's the 2013 WRL Peace Calendar??!!?!

Well, sadly, there isn't one. As many of you have heard by now, we have had to cease publication of our annual peace calendar. After 58 years, publication and shipping costs for the annual Peace Calendars became too high for us to continue producing our calendar. We plan a Perpetual Calendar for 2014. Until then, we have a number of other options, all available from our online store. And be sure to check out other holiday gift options on the store, including mugs, t-shirts and hats, buttons and pins and books!

A Way of Life: Celebrating Sustained Activism

1991 WRL Peace Calendar

Can't get through 2013 without a WRL Peace Calendar? Luckily, the days and dates on this 1991 WRL Peace Calendar mirror the days & dates for 2013. We just have a few dozen left, so order soon!

$5.00 Buy online now!

Occupy the Future:

The 2013 Syracuse Cultural Workers Peace Calendar

Wall Calendar

"Occupy" art from Montreal anchors the Syracuse Cultural Workers inspiring 2013 cover, an invitation to celebrate the many hands and hearts working to change the status quo.

$14.95 Buy online now!

Syracuse Cultural Workers Women Artists Calendar 2013

$15.95 Buy online now!
WRL Honors Suez Port Worker and Labor Leader Asma Mohammed

2012 Peace Award: WRL Honors Suez Port Worker and Labor Leader Asma Mohammed

U.S.-made tear gas has continued to rain down on protesters in Egypt calling for Morsi to reverse his decision as well as on those who filled Mohamed Mahmoud Street to call for justice and accountability for those who were gassed, beaten and murdered there exactly one year ago. Much of the tear gas --- then and now --- was made in Jamestown, Pa., by Combined Systems Incorporated, the same manufacturer whose seven-ton shipment, approved by U.S. government, was refused on November 27, 2011 by Asma Mohammed and her fellow customs workers at the Port of Adabiya in Suez.

The War Resisters League has awarded Asma Mohammed its 2012 Peace Award, given in the past to activists including Bayard Rustin, Bob Moses and Jeanette Rankin. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the first WRL Peace Award event in 1958.
Facing Tear Gas is a story-telling project of War Resisters League by and for people that have experienced tear gas all over the world. By making the links between these stories we hope to bring those that profit off of tear gas further into the public consciousness and, along with that, the inspiring movements the gas is used to squelch. This is part of a broader campaign to end the US's role in the business of tear gas in solidarity with global nonviolent uprisings and those facing US-backed repression everywhere, including within the US.

Check out our new Tumblr: facingteargas.tumblr.com/
Resisters League, the book also examines the strategic and tactic possibilities of radical transformation through revolutionary nonviolence.

Introduction by Cornel West  
Afterwords/poems by Alice Walker & Sonia Sanchez

$19.95  
Buy a copy now on the WRL Online Store

WRL PIE CHART FLYERS - Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes

The War Resisters League's famous "pie chart" flyer analyzes the Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Budget (released in February 2012).

BUY NOW!

Slideshow from the WRL Archives: On the Centennial of the Life of Bayard Rustin

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of civil rights icon Bayard Rustin, and many groups—from the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee and inter-faith Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) to the labor federation AFL-CIO and countless educational institutions — are celebrating this man of humble beginnings.

This slideshow was put together by WRL, for whom Rustin served as Executive Secretary from 1953 to 1965 — including the period when he was chief architect of the historic 1963 March on Washington. The slideshow focuses on this radical bridge-building aspect of Rustin's life.

View the slide show on Slideshare
Howard Zinn (1922–2010) lived through and participated in two of the most important social movements of the 20th century: the Civil Rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War movement. Born into poverty, Zinn was thrown into radicalism by his reading and his surroundings. The Communist Party emerged in the 1930s as a major force in New York City, and it was through its cultural world that Zinn came to appreciate the political...
addresses to the left of liberalism. In 1939, he went to a demonstration against fascist Spain, saw the mounted police beat the protesters (including himself), and decided, “I was no longer a liberal, a believer in the self-correcting character of American democracy. I was a radical, believing that something fundamental was wrong in this country, something rotten at the root.”

Teaching at Spelman College (1956–1963) came as Atlanta, Georgia, emerged as one of the focal points of the Civil Rights movement. Zinn threw himself into the movement, notably as one of the leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Moving to Boston University (1964–1988), Zinn became a fixture in the anti-Vietnam War scene and on the national stage as a result of those Boston connections (it was to Zinn that Daniel Ellsberg would surrender his Pentagon Papers, and it was with Noam Chomsky that Zinn would form his closest intellectual link).

Martin Duberman’s biography, *Howard Zinn: A Life on the Left*, divides Zinn’s life into two: the early years of the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, and then, after 1980, the years of *A People’s History of the United States*. The first phase has Zinn directly involved in organizational matters, helping build up SNCC and the antiwar movement, at the frontlines of the sit-ins in Georgia and at the frontlines of the mass demonstrations in Boston. Zinn’s days were taken up with meetings and with protests, with conversations to build confidence and public speeches to lay out a vision, and of course with writing. It was in these years that the most vibrant work came out of his pen, including the two summary texts, one for each of these movements: *SNCC: The New Abolitionists* (1964) and *Vietnam: The Logic of Withdrawal* (1967). The SNCC book was based on interviews Zinn had done in the trenches of the struggles, meeting young organizers and radicals who had emerged to break down U.S. apartheid with their own bodies. They were not deterred by Jim Crow’s defenders in the provincial police stations or by the FBI agents’ studied reticence to act. Zinn captured their bravery and their intelligence, writing one of the most electric accounts of the southern wing of the Civil Rights movement. The Vietnam book was more forensic, spurred on, as Duberman points out, by President Johnson’s fabulous statements about the aggression from North Vietnam. No such thing, wrote Zinn, who showed that it was indeed the U.S. invasion of South Vietnam that egged on the North to act rather than the other way around. None of the material in the book should have come as a surprise to the Pentagon. Indeed, Zinn based his analysis on public information. It was the Pentagon’s mendacity and its conclusions that he countered.

**SNCC AND VIETNAM**

Both SNCC and Vietnam put Zinn ahead of the curve of white radicals. Little that was in SNCC would have surprised the young black activists who drove that organization, and little in Vietnam would have surprised either the War Resisters League (WRL) or SNCC. In July 1964, WRL called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Vietnam, a few months after SNCC’s Bob Moses and Fannie Lou Hamer had declared their solidarity with the Vietnamese, pointing out that the United States treated people of color in Vietnam or in the Deep South in much the same way. It is noteworthy that SNCC denounced the draft a full year before Students for a Democratic Society. As Duberman notes, “SNCC was far ahead of the general population in criticizing American policy in Southeast Asia, pointing to the hypocrisy of sending troops to ‘fight for democracy’ abroad while refusing to send marshals to secure black voting rights in the Deep South.” Zinn’s views of civil rights and the Vietnam war were honed in his close interactions.
SNCC, and of course his own experience of war as a bombardier in World War II.

When the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Zinn, then only 53, found himself adrift. His "unchanging focus" in his writings, Duberman notes, meant that Zinn had "little left to add by way of commentary that was fresh." Zinn's framework had been set by the categories of class and race, and the new social movements did not immediately make sense to him. Feminism and gay rights — identity politics — did not earn his disfavor, but he could not grasp their significance. There is considerable material in Duberman's account to show that Zinn's personal life (his relationship with his wife, in particular) had been shaped by his era and that the critique of social relations in the family (one of the parts of second-wave feminism) had little impact on the Zinn household. If Zinn had taken in hand the vibrancy of these new movements, he might have been less disposed to despondency as Reaganism unfolded. Conservatism seemed to be on the ascendency, but the critiques of family and social relations laid on the dining table of American homes would earn dividends in the decades to come. It was unfathomable that feminism and gay rights would not shift the intolerable suffocation of American life and challenge the bedrock assumptions not only of conservatism but also of liberalism. This is not to say that either feminism or gay rights are inherently progressive, but that the critique of the bourgeois family would certainly enable a richer understanding of social life—one that would perhaps nudge aside the overwhelmingly private character of leisure and home and revive ideas of community and belonging.

Searching for a project, Zinn chanced upon something that had first bothered him when he got to graduate school. Why was the story of workers' struggle erased from U.S. history books? His master's thesis was on the Ludlow Massacre of 1914. He would now recall that seam, and on his Royal manual typewriter, he banged out 600 pages in six months, tearing through U.S. history from the arrival of Columbus to Reagan. It was a remarkable feat, and despite all its limitations remains a tour de force. "Arawak men and women, naked, tawny, and full of wonder, emerged from their villages....," begins the book. The language is crisp and racy. It leads you through a kind of Pilgrim's Progress of Radicalism, with the Colonialists and Capitalists on one side, and the Workers and Slaves on the other. This is a morality play, a great revival of the lost world of radicalism. Denied to its youth, these stories are drawn out by Zinn — whose purpose is less to answer any great questions than to simply put on notice the fact that it was working people who built this country, it was native people who lost their land, and it was working people and social minorities who fought for its democracy. The limitations of the United States are the result of those in power, and yet, because of the ceaselessness of struggle, the human nature of struggle, the fights will continue until, he writes in the last sentence of the book, "our grandchildren, or our great grandchildren, might possibly see a different and marvelous world."

*People's History* revived Zinn. It was the perfect tonic for the world of Reaganism. A mass audience emerged, and Zinn became a reliable speaker to point out deceit and to encourage struggle. Nothing daunted him. He was optimistic to a fault. After 9/11, Zinn came out strongly against the War on Terror, and against the mechanisms of endless war that it implied. From his perch at *The Progressive*, Zinn punctured the hypocrisy of the war-makers and suggested always that there were alternatives that had been deliberately sidelined. When he was 87, Zinn was asked how he wanted to be remembered. He answered, as "somebody who gave people..."
feeling of hope and power that they didn’t have before.”

Castles for the Laborers and Ballgames on the Radio
For Howard Zinn (1922-2010)

We stood together at the top of his icy steps, without a word for once,
squinting at the hill below and the tumble we were about to take,
heads bumping on every step till our bodies rolled into the street.
He was older than the bread lines of the Great Depression. Before the War
he labored at the Brooklyn navy Yard, even organized apprentices, but now
there was ice. i outweighed him by a hundred pounds; when my feet began
to skid, i would land on him and hear the crunch of his surgically repaired spine.
The books i held for him would fly away like doves disobeying an amateur magician.

Let’s go back in the house, i said.
Show me the baseball Sandy Koufax signed to you: “from one lefty to another.”
Instead, he picked up a blue plastic bucket of sand,
the kind of pail good for building castles at Coney island, tossed a fist of sand
down onto the sun-frozen concrete and took the first step, delicately. Again
and again, he would throw a handful of sand in the air like bread for pigeons,
then probe with the tip of his shoe for the sandy place on the next step:
sand, then step; sand, then step. every time he took a step i took a step,
an apprentice shadow studying the movements of his teacher the body.
This is how i came to dance a soft-shoe in size fourteen boots, grinding
my toes into the gritty spots he left behind on the ice. i was there:

I saw him turn the tundra into the beach with a wave of his hand,
Coney island of castles for the laborers and ballgames on the radio,
showing the way across the ice and down the hill into the street,
where he spoke to me the last words of the last lesson: You drive.

— Martin Espada

Originally published in and commissioned by the Progressive.

Vijay Prashad’s The Darker Nations: A People’s History of the Third World bore the imprimatur of Zinn’s series and contained a foreword by him. His most recent books are Arab Spring, Libyan Winter (AK Press, 2012) and Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today (New Press, 2012).

The Catonsville Nine: A Story of Faith and Resistance in the Vietnam Era
“The Burning of Paper Instead of Children”
By Rosalie Riegle

The Catonsville Nine:
A Story of Faith and Resistance in the Vietnam Era
by Shawn Francis Peters

Oxford University Press.
416pp, $34.95

Even as a kid, Shawn Peters was fascinated by the story of the Catonsville Nine, the first group of resisters to burn draft files during the Vietnam War. Growing up in Catonsville and schooled by conservative nuns who denounced the group, he learned how they awaited arrest for their action and used their trial to put the war itself on the stand. He revered in their audacity, their creativity, and their courage as they faced trial, appeals, and imprisonment. Years and much detailed research later, he has given us an intriguing story, replete with lessons for resisters of today.

What's best about this book is that it's about all of the Nine, not just about the Berrigan brothers who received, and still receive, the lion's share (cliché intended) of print and visual attention. For lions they were — big, craggy then-Father Phil, with his commanding personality and stalwart insistence that something could be done to make the war powers listen; Jesuit Father Dan, with his ebullient personality, poetic giftedness, and a charisma that continues to this day, even when he can no longer jump onto a stage or disappear into a puppet as he did when he was "on the lam" after sentencing for the draft board action. Phil Berrigan left the formal priesthood and went on to found Jonah House. There, with his wife Liz McAlister, he parented three children and the Plowshares antinuclear movement. Even in retirement, Fr. Dan still shepherds the peace movement. His play, The Trial of the Catonsville Nine, contains his line from the trial, "Our apologies, good friends, for the fracture of good order, the burning of paper instead of children."

While these two are rightly remembered, Peters gives us clear pictures of each of the participants and successfully situates them in the political context of the times as he painstakingly details their lives and actions in the months surrounding the trial. We meet the gentle yet determined artist Tom Lewis, the unassuming Tom Melville, and the mercurial Brother David Darst, tragically killed in a car accident before reporting for prison. Darst had publicly explained his rationale to WIN: "Something [had to] be done to stop the storm, to shake up this system of ours so that it has the chance to radically rearrange its values."

TENACITY AND NEGLECT

We hear of the tenacity of George Mische as he recruited others to the movement. And how Tom and Marjorie Melville and John Hogan used the trial to publicize U.S. imperialism in Guatemala where they had worked with its victims. We learn of the complex Moylan, a woman neglected by history, by the movement, and even, it seems, by the FBI.

Like the Melvilles and John Hogan, Moylan saw the imperialistic connections, in her case between the expensive war, the poor in Uganda where she had missioned, and the even more disenfranchised African-Americans in the DC neighborhood where she lived with the Misches after returning to the States. Friends remember her as lively and engaged during those times, with an obstinance that refused to back down. So it rends one's heart to read of the changes wrought in her life after the trial and sentencing.

Like Phil and Dan Berrigan, Moylan also decided not to submit to imprisonment. She had become increasingly involved as a feminist since returning and wanted to show the world that women could also take this additional risk. Further, she resolved to seek support only from women, in solidarity with other women activists, not necessarily nonviolent. In her decision, she distanced herself from the Catholic Church and from the Catonsville group.

To avoid detection, she also dyed her beautiful red hair a murky black. Eluding a not-very-vigilant FBI, she lived hither and yon and sometimes awkwardly with her sisters in resistance. Finally in 1979, she turned herself in. After serving her time in Alderson Federal Prison, she went back to her nursing, but became increasingly reclusive and disturbed, finally dying in 1995, "'poor, alone, and forgotten,' according to Rosemary Reuther." Her neglected story points out the sexism of U.S. culture as a whole, a sexism mirrored in the resistance. Finally in 1979, she turned herself in. After serving her time in Alderson Federal Prison, she went back to her nursing, but became increasingly reclusive and disturbed, finally dying in 1995, "'poor, alone, and forgotten,' according to Rosemary Reuther." Her neglected story points out the sexism of U.S. culture as a whole, a sexism mirrored in the resistance.

What of the lessons for activists from the Catonsville Nine and from this book in particular? What contrasts can we see between resistance then and resistance now? First the commonalities: A committed, skillful, and coordinated support community is just as important now as it was when the Catonsville Nine Defense Committee was writing press releases and Willa Bickham and Brendan Walsh of Viva House Catholic Worker were feeding hundreds of supporters every evening. The support group existed hand-to-mouth but was able to raise the money to publish several nationwide ads urging people to "come to Agnew Country," proving that checkbook activism works. Support communities enthusiastically planned and attended rallies and vigils and trial-related protests in Maryland and throughout the country. They also provided as much support as was possible in the heavily guarded courtroom itself.

MUZZLED

These tactics still work in publicizing resistance trials, but defendants today are usually muzzled by judges forbidding defendants from using the prosecutor's pre-trial list of forbidden terms—terms such as "first strike," "Geneva Convention," even the word "children." In the Catonsville trial, the defendants were relatively more free and were fairly successful in discussing their motives and in putting the war itself on trial.

Thirdly, resistance breeds resistance. If people hear about it. People new to activism, with their cell phones and instant access to email and the internet may find it hard to understand how communicating only by phone and post worked. But it did. The late Sixties were a time when thousands of young people were on the move around the country, grouping and regrouping in amorphous configurations. The trial of the Catonsville Nine and the recruiting done by the group took advantage of this movement and served as an impetus to similar actions. It is estimated that upwards of 100 draft board raids followed on the Nine, culminating in the large Camden 58 action in 1972, with its dramatic trial and rare acquittal.

What is strikingly different about the Catonsville Nine and later resistance work is the lack of mainstream media attention. Civil disobedience today just doesn't make news unless it's violent. The media seems bored with trespass, petulant about property destruction, prosaic about prison terms. The rise of social media and alternative internet news sites means that news of resistance actions reaches mainly like-minded people, with correspondingly few avenues to increase their numbers. What non-violent actions can speak to the public as Catonsville did? I wish I knew.

Rosalie Riegle is an oral historian and retired professor of English. A resident of Evanston, Illinois, she serves on the National Committee of WRL.
The long shadows of war follow all that have participated in the horrors that come with militarism, but some of those involved have taken those shadows on a path towards peace.

The men and women of the Madison, Wisconsin area Clarence Kailin Chapter of Veterans for Peace group, along with editor David Giffey have brought together nineteen interviews that share the stories of veterans and their paths to peace going back as far as the Spanish Civil War, with an interview with Clarence Kailin up to Patrick Wilcox, an Iraqi war veteran.

Howard Zinn writes in the forward,

These are veterans with a point of view whose trajectories of belief had many different starting points, took many different paths, but in every case led to an abhorrence of war.

From these experiences many vets have learned
that as Sid Podell states in his interview, "Warfare, no matter what the nature of the state or its declared purposes, solves no problems."

Each interview is a unique and very real perspective of war. Howard Zinn's forward begins:

There is an immense literature of war, so any new entry into that formidable body of narratives...needs to be looked at carefully to see if it adds something significant to our knowledge of war and those drawn into it. I believe that this book meets the test and informs us, in ways that we will not easily forget.

Check the table of contents and visit us again for updates, local events, and more details.
Iowa War Protestors Vow More Action

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - Facing trial for a sit-in at the Cedar Rapids office of U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, 11 peace activists vowed at a press conference on Tuesday to step up their efforts to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq. "I was against this war six months before it started ... Iraq was not a threat to us, not a threat at all," UI student-protester David Goodner said. "You hear all of this pride and patriotism and hoo-hah after 9/11, and then you realize it's all a ruse."

The protesters include a former Catholic priest, two UI students who served in Iraq, Goodner, five additional UI students, a UI employee, and an Iowa City resident. They were arrested Feb. 26 following a planned event at the Republican senator's Federal Building office in Cedar Rapids; the group pledged not to leave until Grassley, who in days prior had voted to cut off Senate debate on a potential troop pullout, communicated with them by phone.

Grassley, who was traveling most of that day, never called. The activists, charged with simple-misdemeanor criminal trespass, will be tried simultaneously today starting at 9 a.m. in the Linn County Courthouse. The defendants will enter joint not-guilty pleas.

Their attorney, Iowa City-based lawyer Mary Wolfe, said in an interview Tuesday that her clients' case rests on the fact that the Iowa trespassing law they are charged with violating can be defended affirmatively, meaning the protesters can admit to trespass and still be acquitted if they can prove the act was justified. They face an uphill battle, though.

"They were part of the broader occupation project and felt they needed to get our representatives to listen to them in hopes that they decide the war is wrong," Wolfe said. "Our hope is the judge will feel they were justified in doing what they had to do."

Contacted Tuesday afternoon, Grassley spokeswoman Beth Pellett Levine did not provide a statement regarding the trial.
Tuesday's press conference, held at the PEACE center in Old Brick, was headlined by Kathy Kelly, the co-creator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. A two-time Noble Peace Prize nominee, Kelly was fined $200,000 in U.S. trade-sanction penalties for aiding Iraqis during the Gulf War. She said she hasn't paid a dime.

And neither, likely, will Goodner nor fellow protester and UI student Andrew Alemao, should they be convicted of criminal trespass. Both said they probably could not, with a clear conscious, submit to a fine or community service "when I didn't do anything wrong," as Goodner put it.

"And it's inexcusable that Grassley voted for not discussing the war," Alemao said. "If he's going to kill free speech in the Senate, we're going to let him know how we feel."

"We were justified in trying to make him responsive to the antiwar movement," said Ryan Merz, one of the UI students arrested. "He's been unresponsive for the last four years."

One of the protesters, former Catholic priest Frank Cordaro, is no stranger to nonviolent resistance. He has been arrested numerous times for protesting at military bases in Nebraska and elsewhere, resulting in several federal-prison sentences.

Also arrested Feb. 16 was UI graduate student and playwright Joshua Casteel, a former Army interrogator whose recently debuted play Returns details the horrors of Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Opposing Grassley's Iraq Policies  The 11 protesters who will stand trial: - Andrew Alemao, UI student - Joshua Casteel, UI graduate student; *Returns* author; member, Iraq Veterans Against the War - Frank Cordaro, Des Moines Catholic Worker, former priest - Megan Felt, UI student - Timothy Gauger, UI employee - David Goodner, UI student - John Paul Hornbeck, UI graduate student; member, Iraq Veterans Against the War - Ryan Merz, UI student - Conor Murphy, UI student - Rosemary Persaud, Iowa City resident - Justin Riley, UI student

HISTORY

**American Insurgents: A Brief History of American Anti-Imperialism**


All empires spin self-serving myths, and in the United States the most potent of these is that America is a force for democracy around the world. Yet there is a tradition of American anti-imperialism that gives the lie to this mythology. Seymour examines this complex relationship from the American Revolution to the present-day.

Richard Seymour is a socialist writer and columnist and runs the blog Lenin's Tomb. He is the author of *The Liberal Defense of Murder* (Verso, 2008), and *The Meaning of David Cameron* (Zero Books, 2010). He has contributed to *Christopher Hitchens and His Critics: Terror, Iraq and the Left*, (NYU Press, 2008) and *The Ashgate Research Companion to Political Violence* (Ashgate, forthcoming). His articles have appeared in *The Guardian, The New Statesman, Radical Philosophy and Historical Materialism*. Originally from Northern Ireland, he now resides in London, where he is studying for a PhD at the London School of Economics.
Praise for *American Insurgents*

“American Insurgents presents an indispensable history of anti-imperialist movements in the United States, beginning with the resistance to slavery and moving forward through the various seasons of U.S. imperialism. Seymour shatters a whole host of standard misconceptions about resistance to overseas adventures, refuting the common portrait of a US public apathetic to the crimes of its government in foreign lands, documenting the many times that large movements have challenged the bipartisan support of empire-building, and highlighting the internationalist nature and diverse membership of these movements. He demonstrates that anti-imperialist efforts have been most effective when they have forged links of solidarity with the victims of US policies, when they have emphasized the connections between domestic oppression and overseas imperialism, and when they have maintained independence from the two major parties. The book is illuminated by the courageous and inspiring voices of US anti-imperialists, from Frederick Douglass to Muhammad Ali to current opponents of recent US wars in the Middle East.”
—Michael Schwartz, author, War Without End

“In the tradition of Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States and Joe Allen’s Vietnam, Richard Seymour shows that, from Manifest Destiny and the ‘White Man’s Burden’ to ‘Humanitarian Intervention and the ‘War on Terror,’ U.S. imperialism has generated significant domestic opposition rooted in grassroots movements for racial, economic and social justice. Stressing the trap of Democratic Party co-optation, he offers important lessons about how today’s movements of the 99 percent can most effectively oppose wars of the 1 percent.”
—Michael Letwin, founding member, New York City Labor Against the War and Labor for Palestine

Praise for *Liberal Defense of Murder*

“Richard Seymour’s obsessively researched, impressive first book holds its place as the most authoritative historical analysis of its kind”
—Resurgence

“[T]ruly impressive breadth and depth ... [providing] ... a new European perspective – and a warning – on the left’s pragmatic and ultimately shortsighted support for imperialist adventures”
—Journal of American Studies

“[A] powerful counter-blast against the monstrous regiment of ‘useful idiots’” who have “contributed in recent decades to the murderous mess of modern times”
—Times of London

“[A]n excellent antidote to the propagandists of the crisis of our times”
—Independent on Sunday

“[T]imely, provocative and thought-provoking”
—Independent
“Among those who share responsibility for the carnage and chaos in the Gulf are the useful idiots who gave the war intellectual cover and attempted to lend it a liberal imprimatur. The more belligerent they sounded the more bankrupt they became; the more strident their voice the more craven their position … Richard Seymour expertly traces their descent from humanitarian intervention to blatant Islamophobia.”
—Gary Younge

“Indispensable … Seymour brilliantly uncovers the pre-history and modern reality of the so-called ‘pro-war Left.”
—China Miéville

“[E]ssential reading”
—New Statesman

News Blast - NBC War-o-Tainment Show Under Pressure, Premieres Tonight

Inboxx

Veterans For Peace via uark.edu
3:24 PM (1 hour ago)

to jbennet

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News from Veterans For Peace 216 S. Meramec Avenue St. Louis, MO 63105 (314) 725-6005 www.veteransforpeace.org

**NBC War-o-Tainment Show Under Pressure, Premieres Tonight**

**August 13, 2012**

RootsAction.org, Just Foreign Policy, Veterans For Peace, and Military Families Speak Out have launched a campaign at [http://StarsEarnStripes.org](http://StarsEarnStripes.org) targeting NBC's new program, "Stars Earn Stripes," which the network heavily advertised during its Olympics telecast. The show will debut today August 13th.
A protest will be held at 5 p.m. today outside NBC headquarters, on the North side of West 49th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues in New York City. Participating will be Military Families Speak Out, Veterans For Peace, the Granny Peace Brigade, Peace Action, and other peace groups. Participants will deliver a petition and the names of thousands who have signed it at http://StarsEarnStripes.org.

Contact: Joan Wile, 917-441-0651.

"This is particularly offensive given that six soldiers were killed in Afghanistan last week," said Joan Wile, leader of Grandmothers Against the War. "To feature the hazards of war as a game completely glosses over the reality of its horrors and is a slap in the face of our armed forces being killed and maimed on a regular basis in real wars." Contact: Joan Wile, 917-441-0651.

Veterans For Peace President Leah Bolger said, "Retired General Wesley Clark should be ashamed of himself for his role in promoting this 'reality' show. He knows better than most that war is not a game played by contestants. In a promotion for the show, he tries to impress us with its realism '...live ammo, real explosions and real danger....' How ironic that PFC Bradley Manning has been in jail for more than two years for letting the public see the real truth of war, while NBC makes a profit out of making it into entertainment." Leah Bolger leahbolger@comcast.net 541-207-7761.

Military Families Speak Out Board Member Sarah Fuhro said, "Having my son return from two REAL wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the cost of war carried in his body and heart, I find this deeply offensive. Having met wounded children and refugees from these and other wars, I find this disgusting. I hope NBC will reconsider this form of entertainment."

Sarah Fuhro sarahbeagl@aol.com 508-652-9880, cell 508-740-7039.

Military Families Speak Out Member Anna Berlinrut said, "As the mother of a Marine about to deploy to Afghanistan for his 6th mission in harm's way, I find trivializing war to be horrendous and profit making from war to be a crime."

Contact via Sarah Fuhro sarahbeagl@aol.com 508-652-9880, cell 508-740-7039.

Just Foreign Policy's Robert Naiman said, "It's breathtakingly bizarre that NBC is promoting a 'reality TV series' glamorizing war at a time when 87,000 American soldiers are fighting in a real war in Afghanistan that lost the support of the majority of Americans a long time ago. If NBC wants to show Americans what war is really like, they should take their TV cameras to a military hospital, and ask the people they meet there what they think about keeping tens of thousands of American soldiers in Afghanistan indefinitely, or what they think of the plans of some people in Washington to start a new war with Iran."

Robert Naiman naiman@justforeignpolicy.org 217-979-2857.

RootsAction's Campaign Coordinator David Swanson said, "'Stars Earn Stripes' is a reality show cohosted by retired U.S. General Wesley Clark, co-starring Todd Palin, and with no apparent role for reality. The ads brag about the use of real bullets, but depict war as a harmless sport. Celebrities paired
up with soldiers competing at 'long-range weapons fire' is not a continuation of the Olympics. It's a normalization of war that erases the death and suffering.” David Swanson david@davidswanson.org 202-329-7847.

StarsEarnStripes.org is asking NBC to stop treating war as a sport, and to air an in-depth segment showing the reality of civilian victims of recent U.S. wars, on any program, any time in the coming months. RootsAction has provided some resources to help NBC research and show the reality of war, at http://StarsEarnStripes.org

The words "War Is Fun!" were added by the campaign into a promotional photo sent out by NBC.

RootsAction is an online initiative dedicated to galvanizing Americans who are committed to economic fairness, equal rights, civil liberties, environmental protection -- and defunding endless wars. http://rootsaction.org

Forward to a Friend
Veterans For Peace, 216 S. Meramec, St. Louis, MO 63105, 314-725-6005
www.veteransforpeace.org

END ANTI-WAR NEWSLETTER #2

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Dick Bennett
My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
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Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
National/International Days
See Newsletters
Peace, Justice, Ecology Birthdays
See INMOtion
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703