OMNI

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, JANUARY 19, 2015.

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2015/01/martin-luther-king-jr-day-2015.html

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice
(Revised January 22)

OMNI's newsletters offer all a free storehouse of information and arguments for discussions, talks, and writings—letters to newspapers, columns, magazine articles.

What’s at stake: Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

The Incomplete Legacy: An introduction to this newsletter

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., stood before Lincoln's statue in Washington, D.C. to say to the tens of millions of people watching there and on television, “I have a dream,” and to call upon the citizens of the United States to heed its ideals of freedom, equality, and brotherhood. He did not challenge the existing social order of the nation; rather his crusade was against an aberrant order, the “Jim Crow” system of discrimination of the old South.

By 1968 King's vision was darker. He had taken up the anti-war cause, decrying his country's war in Vietnam as approaching genocide, and condemning U. S. militarism and imperialism. And in 1968 King was preparing an assault on the class structure of the nation in defense of the nation's poor but was murdered before he could begin his most radical campaign.

King's work against war and poverty left undone has been overshadowed by his success as a civil rights leader—his complete vision obscured. The goal of all peace and justice groups should be to uncover the whole legacy of this historic proponent of racial equality,
My blog:  War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
My Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
Visit OMNI’s books and films Libraries.

OMNI’S NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT

NOTICE: If you do not wish to receive OMNI’s newsletters, compiled by Dick Bennett, simply reply UNSUBSCRIBE.

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EVENTS IN FAYETTEVILLE

- Northwest Arkansas MLK Council - News & Events for January 19, 205

www.nwamlk.org/news-events/

Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council

News & Events

Monday, January 19, 2015

MLK Dream Keepers’ Community Service Programs

Youth Prayer Breakfast & Activity

*University of Arkansas Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House*

491 N. Razorback Rd. ~ Fayetteville, AR, 8 a.m.

The purpose of this event is to allow youth to come together in prayer and reflect on how Dr. King's dream has impacted their lives. There will be several youth speakers discussing freedom, equality, and justice for all. The youth will go to the University of Arkansas HPER building at 9:30 a.m. to engage in recreational games such as basketball, volleyball and soccer. Sponsored by the NWA MLK Council, UA Intramural Sports, and Intercollegiate Athletes.

MLK March/City Award Program

*Walton Arts Center Parking Lot ~ Fayetteville, AR, 11:15 a.m.*

*Inclement Weather Location ~ University of Arkansas Union ~ Verizon Ballroom*

The City of Fayetteville will honor a city employee that exhibits the spirit and legacy of Dr. King. The march will begin at the Walton Arts Center parking lot and end at the Arkansas Union at the University of Arkansas. In case of inclement weather, participants will meet at the University of Arkansas Union, Verizon Ballroom. This event is sponsored by the City of Fayetteville and NWA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council.

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
University of Arkansas Union ~ Verizon Ballroom, Noon

"Our lives begin and end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Join us for this candlelight vigil to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. King. The guest speaker will be Eddie Armstrong, Arkansas State Representative, District 37. This event is sponsored by the Associated Student Government of the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reception
Arvest Bank Lobby, Downtown Fayetteville, 2:00 p.m.

The speaker will be Virgil Miller, Sr. Vice President, Group CRA Director, Arvest Bank. Music will be provided by the St. Joseph Angel Choir and the Holcomb Honor Choir. The winners of the Yvonne Richardson Center Essay Contest will also be announced. Refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by Arvest Bank.

19th Annual Recommitment Banquet
Fayetteville Town Center
15 West Mountain ~ Fayetteville, AR, 7:00 p.m.

The Northwest Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Council presents "A Banquet fit for a King". Our keynote address will be brought by Keith Jackson, football color analyst for the Arkansas Razorbacks Sports Network and president of P,A,R,K. Inc. in Little Rock, AR. In addition, the MLK Scholarships will be awarded and the 2015 Salute to Greatness honorees will be recognized for outstanding community service.

The honorees are:
- Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Dr. Eddie W. Jones
- Ernestine White-Gibson Individual Achievement Award recipient is Dr. Stephanie Adams
- Rodney Momon Youth Award recipient is Ayana Gray
- Rev. J.A. Hawkins Posthumous Award recipient is the late Jonathan Nelson
- Corporation of Year Award recipient is Procter & Gamble

The Banquet is now SOLD OUT!
SUBVERSIVE PEACE MAKING

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2014

Honoring Dr. King... Building The World House


Each year around the time of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday I celebrate his life and works by revisiting one of his essays, speeches or sermons. I spend time with the document, trying to come to a deeper understanding of Dr. King's state of heart and mind, and the prophetic message he is sending.

This year I chose The World House [a chapter in Where Do We Go >From Here: Chaos or Community?], having read it before, and finding it the perfect choice for Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's January events honoring Dr. King. After all, here we are so many years since Dr. King wrote this essay, and we have a long way to go in reaching the goals he has set for us. The very walls that hold up our World House are weakening, due in large part to the actions of the U.S. in the world. Carol Bragg, in the introduction to The World House at thinkoutword.org, sums it up best (for me):

In “The World House,” Dr. King calls us to: 1) transcend tribe, race, class, nation, and religion to embrace the vision of a World House; 2) eradicate at home and globally the Triple Evils of racism, poverty, and militarism; 3) curb excessive materialism and shift from a “thing”-oriented society to a “people”-oriented society; and 4) resist social injustice and resolve conflicts in the spirit of love embodied in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. He advocates a Marshall Plan to eradicate global poverty, a living wage, and a guaranteed minimum annual income for every American family. He urges the United Nations to experiment with the use of nonviolent direct action in international conflicts. The final paragraph warns of the “fierce urgency of now” and cautions that this may be the last chance to choose between chaos and community.

I hope you, too, will read The World House as a fitting meditation honoring Dr. King, and that you find something for your journey. May it move you just a little bit out of your comfort zone and may you find new ways to help build The World House.

In Peace,
Leonard [A version of this essay was published in Ground Zero Jan. 2014. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, WA 98370 permanently protests the Trident nuclear
submarine base at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. –Dick]

**The World House**

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: “A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together.” This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great “world house” in which we have to live together—black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.

[Click here to read the rest of *The World House*...]

**RADICAL KING**

*The Radical King*. Written by Martin Luther King, Jr. Edited by Cornel West. Published by: Beacon Press, Jan. 2015.

Pages: 320

ABOUT THE BOOK ABOUT THE BOOK PRAISE EVENTS


A revealing collection that restores Dr. King as being every bit as radical as Malcolm X.

“The radical King was a democratic socialist who sided with poor and working people in the class struggle taking place in capitalist societies. . . . The response of the radical King to our catastrophic moment can be put in one word: revolution—a revolution in our priorities, a
reevaluation of our values, a reinvigoration of our public life, and a fundamental transformation of our way of thinking and living that promotes a transfer of power from oligarchs and plutocrats to everyday people and ordinary citizens. . . Could it be that we know so little of the radical King because such courage defies our market-driven world?” — Cornel West, from the Introduction

Every year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is celebrated as one of the greatest orators in US history, an ambassador for nonviolence who became perhaps the most recognizable leader of the civil rights movement. But after more than forty years, few people appreciate how truly radical he was.

Arranged thematically in four parts, The Radical King includes twenty-three selections, curated and introduced by Dr. Cornel West, that illustrate King's revolutionary vision, underscoring his identification with the poor, his unapologetic opposition to the Vietnam War, and his crusade against global imperialism. As West writes, “Although much of America did not know the radical King—and too few know today—the FBI and US government did. They called him ‘the most dangerous man in America.’ . . . This book unearths a radical King that we can no longer sanitize.”

**Radical Martin Luther King Jr., Google Search, January 19, 2015.**

1. [4 Ways Martin Luther King Was More Radical Than You ...](http://thinkprogress.org/politics/.../martin-luther-king-radicalism...)

ThinkProgress

Jan 20, 2014 - Martin Luther King, Jr. has become a national saint, but his more controversial views have been buried over the years.

2. [The Forgotten, Radical Martin Luther King Jr. - National ...](http://www.nationaljournal.com/.../the-forgotten-radical-marti...)

National Journal

January 20, 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. was not just the safe-for-all-political-stripes civil-rights activist he is often portrayed as today. He was never just the "I ..."

3. [Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Saint | Peter Dreier](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../martin-luther-king-was...)

The Huffington Post

Jan 20, 2013 - He believed that America needed a "radical redistribution of... ... Today Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is viewed as something of an American saint.
4. The radical gospel of Martin Luther King | Al Jazeera America

america.aljazeera.com/.../martin-luther-kingsocialismantiimperi...

Al Jazeera

Jan 20, 2014 - Specifically, there are three pillars of the radical gospel of Martin Luther King Jr. that we should not allow holiday remembrances to whitewash: ...

5. radical Martin Luther King quotes

mlk.newgreyhair.com/

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Why I am Opposed to the War in Vietnam.” Sermon. (1967)

"SPIRITUAL DEATH," says the reverend. I usually don't comment on these ...

6. Cornel West on 'The Radical King' - Chicago Tribune

www.chicagotribune.com/.../ct-pri-martin-luther-king-r...

Chicago Tribune

4 days ago - The writings of Martin Luther King Jr, seen here at a 1967 peace rally in New York, have been collected by Cornel West in "The Radical King," ...

7. Dr. King, Forgotten Radical - The American Prospect

prospect.org/article/dr-king-forgotten-radical

The American Prospect

Apr 4, 2008 - Long before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death, America began to forget his ...

Up until then, King had been eyed as a hasty radical out to push ...

8. Images for Martin Luther King Radical

More images for Martin Luther King Radical

Searches related to Martin Luther King Radical

martin luther king radical quotes

martin luther king speech poverty

martin luther king jr and politics

martin luther king equality quotes

KING’S ECONOMIC BELIEFS

MLK, Jr. And Capitalism, google search, january 12, 2015

1. The uncompromising anti-capitalism of martin luther king jr.
Jan 20, 2014 - in the thousands of speeches and celebrations on the official martin luther king holiday since its inception, there is a crucial fact of his life, ...

2. There is something wrong with capitalism: martin luther ...

Jan 22, 2013 - as we honor martin luther king, jr. It's important that we honor who the man really was and not who he's been mythologized to be. King was a ...

3. 4 ways martin luther king was more radical than you ...

Jan 20, 2014 - martin luther king, jr. Has become a national saint, but his more ...king was a strident critic of capitalism and materialistic society, and urged ...

4. The radical gospel of martin luther king | al jazeera america

Jan 20, 2014 - he made a striking confession: “i am more socialistic in my economic theory than capitalistic.” For king, capitalism was “a system that takes ...

5. Capitalism, inequality, and martin luther king | democracy ...


6. Martin luther king: we are not interested in being ...

Jan 18, 2010 - it's martin luther king day here in the us. ... The martin luther king who'll be. ... Capitalism forgets that life is social, and the kingdom of ...
7. Martin luther king, jr. - wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
En.wikipedia.org/wiki/martin_luther_king,_jr.
Wikipedia
For other uses, see martin luther king (disambiguation) and mlk (disambiguation). .....king believed that capitalism could not adequately provide the basic ...

8. Quote by martin luther king jr.: “communism forgets that ...
Www.goodreads.com/.../706610-communism-forgets-that-life...
Goodreads
Martin luther king jr. — 'communism forgets that life is individual. Capitalism forgets that life is social, and the kingdom of brotherhood is found neit...

9. The greatest mlk speeches you never heard - cnn.com
Www.cnn.com/2014/01/19/us/king-speeches-never-heard/
Cnn
Jan 20, 2014 - (cnn) here's a pop quiz for anyone who calls the rev. Martin Lluther King jr. An American Hero. Can you name any of his great speeches or ...

10. [pdf]will capitalism survive? - martin luther king, jr., research .. MLK-kpp01.stanford.edu/.../14sept...
Martin luther king, jr. Papers project
Karl Marx, the german philosopher, once stated that capitalism carries the seed ... In its limitation he speaks of capitalism as if it is the only social institution that ...

Searches related to martin king and capitalism
Martin luther king jr on capitalism
Martin luther king socialism
Martin luther king democracy
Gandhi capitalism

A Freedom Budget for all Americans:
Recapturing the promise of the civil rights movement in the struggle for economic justice today


Choice outstanding academic title.

also available as an e-book

price: $18.00:

While the civil rights movement is remembered for efforts to end segregation and secure the rights of African Americans, the larger economic vision that animated much of the movement is often overlooked today. That vision sought economic justice for every person in the United States, regardless of race. It favored production for social use instead of profit; social ownership; and democratic control over major economic decisions. The document that best captured this vision was the Freedom Budget for all Americans: budgeting our resources, 1966-1975, to achieve freedom from want published by the A. Philip Randolph Institute and endorsed by a virtual ‘who’s who’ of u.s. left liberalism and radicalism. Now, two of today’s leading socialist thinkers return to the freedom budget and its program for economic justice. paul le blanc and michael d. yates explain the origins of the freedom budget, how it sought to achieve “freedom from want” for all people, and how it might be re-imagined for our current moment. combining historical perspective with clear-sighted economic proposals, the authors make a concrete case for reviving the spirit of the civil rights movement and building the society of economic security and democratic control envisioned by the movement’s leaders—a struggle that continues to this day.

For an in-depth discussion of the history of the freedom budget and the need for a new freedom budget, click here to listen to paul le blanc and michael d. yates on cbs newsradio 1020 kdka with chris moore.

Below is a video of Paul le Blanc (with activist Kali Akuno) discussing the prospects of a new freedom budget on the real news network invaluable for restating the influence of the American left on king’s views and enriching the historical record.

—Library Journal
this remarkable book brings back into view a radical vision for victory within the mainstream … historians of american social movements will find this book hugely useful.

——counterpunch

an engaging history that not only lays out the hopes and promises of the civil rights movement, but also reveals the crucial role of socialists in that struggle.

——international socialist review

a valuable contribution, because it teaches today’s generation how mass civil disobedience won a historic victory—and just as important, how the need for political independence is key to preserving and moving beyond those gains to a socialist conclusion.

——against the current

in this book, paul le blanc and michael d. yates rescue the freedom budget proposed by civil rights leaders in the 1960s from an unjustified historical obscurity. and they rightly see in the freedom budget a model of the kind of program that could unite american progressives and help restore national prosperity and democracy in the age of occupy.

—maurice isserman, professor of history, hamilton college; author, The Other American: the Life of Michael Harrington

KING AGAINST US MILITARISM

MLK on US militarism abroad

IVAW feedback@ivaw.org via uark.edu

to James 1-19-2015

Additional Resources
Dear Dick,

As we all know, today marks the celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Despite the sugarcoating and sanitizing of his legacy, the tenacity of Dr. King’s stances lives on.

A year before his death, Dr. King delivered a speech at the New York City Riverside Church titled “Beyond Vietnam.” If anyone ever wonders what this civil rights leader would have to say about our current wars abroad, they need only look as far as his stance on the war in Vietnam. The same fervor that he brought to issues at home was consistently present in his stance against the war.

Dr. King accurately pinpointed the connection between the war that the US government was waging abroad and the lack of resources being allocated to marginalized American citizens. His commentary, excerpted below, eerily foreshadows what is happening today:

…I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

Perhaps a more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem....

You can read the rest of his speech here. Right now, the US government is involved in multiple military operations on multiple fronts across the world. The people who suffer the consequences of these wars and operations, both at home and abroad, are people who are already marginalized within their communities.

Help us alleviate some of the consequences of these wars by supporting the IVAW community fund.

We hope you will join us in continuing to carry the antimilitarism legacy beyond today and throughout 2015.

Sincerely,
Martin Luther King’s Historic Plea to Break the Silence on Militarism

By Dr. Gary G. Kohls

Global Research, January 15, 2014

“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” — Martin Luther King, in his famous speech at the Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967

King’s Riverside Church speech was titled “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence.” It was delivered exactly one year before his April, 4, 1968 assassination in Memphis.

The people who heard that speech recognized it as one of the most powerful speeches ever given articulating the immorality of the Vietnam War and its destructive impact on social progress in the United States. In explaining his decision to follow his conscience and speak out against US militarism, King said:

“I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.”

But King went farther, diagnosing the broader disease of militarism and violence that was endangering the soul of the United States.

King said,

“I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today — my own government.”

The Poisoning of America’s Soul

King knew very well that the disease of violence was killing off more than social progress in America. Violence was sickening the nation’s soul as well. He added “If America’s soul becomes
totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read ‘Vietnam’.”

King urged his fellow citizens to take up the causes of the world’s oppressed, rather than taking
the side of the oppressors.

He said: “I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a
nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a ‘thing- oriented’ society to a ‘person-oriented’ society.

“When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more
important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of
being conquered.

“We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history
there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us
standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity.

“We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move
past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the
developing world – a world that borders on our doors.

“If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark and shameful corridors of time
reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality and strength
without sight.”

King pointed to an alternate path into the future:

“Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter – but beautiful – struggle for a new world.
This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response.

“Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard?”

**Signing His Own Death Warrant**

By denouncing so forcefully the war crimes that the U.S. military was committing daily in
the killing fields of Vietnam, some of King’s followers understood that he had just signed
his own death warrant.

But King, being a person of conscience, was compelled to express his deep sense of moral
outrage over the horrific maiming, suffering and dying of millions of innocent Vietnamese civilians
in that unjust war that afflicted mostly unarmed women and children and that was going to leave
behind lethal poisons in the soil, water and unborn babies that would last for generations.

He knew that non-combatants are always the major victims of modern warfare, especially wars
that indiscriminately used highly lethal weapons that rained down from the air, especially the U.S.
Air Force’s favorite weapon, napalm — the flaming, jellied gasoline that burned the flesh off of
whatever part of the burning child it splashed onto.

King also connected the racist acts (of American soldiers joyfully killing dispensable non-white
“gooks” and “slants” — often shooting at “anything that moves”) on the battlefields of Southeast
Asia to the oppression, impoverishment, imprisoning and lynching of dispensable, deprived non-
white “niggers” in America.

King saw the connections between the violence of racism and the violence of poverty. He saw that the withholding of economic and educational opportunities came from the fear of “the other” and the perceived need to protect the white culture’s wealth and privilege – with violence if necessary.

King knew, too, that fortunes are made in every war, and the war in Vietnam was no exception. In his speeches, he talked about that unwelcome reality that the ruling class preferred not be discussed. That meant his well-attended Riverside Church speech threatened not only the powerful interests already arrayed against his civil rights struggle but also the interests of the war profiteers and the national security establishment.

**War Profiteers on Wall Street Know That War is Good Business and That Peace Generates no Profits for Them**

The longer the Vietnam War lasted, the more the weapons manufacturers thrived. With their huge profits, there was no incentive for these financial elites to want to stop the carnage. And therefore the Wall Street war profiteers financed, out of their ill-gotten gains, battalions of industry lobbyists and pro-military propagandists, who descended upon Washington, DC and the Pentagon to claim even more tax dollars for weapons research, development and manufacture.

With that funding secured, armies of desperate jobs-seekers were hired to work in thousands of weapons factories that were strategically placed in congressional districts almost everywhere, with weapons research grants likewise being awarded to virtually every university in the nation. Thus, weapons-manufacturing and R & D soon became vitally important for most every legislator’s home district economy as well as for the household budgets of millions of American voters who indirectly benefitted from the US military’s killing, maiming, displacement, starvation and suffering of non-white refugees in war zones that most war workers tried not to think about.

King’s anti-war stance was based on his Christianity and on the ethics and life of Jesus, but it was also based on his standing as a revered international peace and justice icon. Those factors made him a dangerous threat to the military/industrial/congressional/security complex.

The powerful forces that were working hard to discredit King had already infiltrated the civil rights movement. Their efforts, cunningly led by the proto-fascist and racist J. Edgar Hoover and his obedient FBI, accelerated after the Riverside speech. The FBI ramped up the smear campaigns against King and eventually decided to permanently “neutralize” King with a bullet to the head — fired by a paid assassin other that the framed patsy James Earl Ray. (See attorney William F. Pepper’s well researched and documented book, “An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King”, that told the story that absolved Ray and that culminated in the 1999 jury trial that, in a wrongful death suit brought on behalf of the King family, convicted Loyd Jowers and various co-conspirators that included J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI, CIA Director Richard Helms, the CIA, the military, local Memphis police and organized crime figures from New Orleans and Memphis.

The trial was uniformly boycotted by the US media, so most Americans have never heard about it.) For a Pepper interview about the 4 week jury trial, click on: https://archive.org/details/William.Pepper.An.Act.of.State.The.Execution.of.MLK.
King’s Prophetic Vision

Now, almost five decades after his anti-war speech (which was widely kept from the public), it is clear how prophetic King’s observations were. America is indeed losing its soul and violence, racism, militarism and economic oppression are still American epidemics.

Both upper- and middle-class investors of get-rich-quick schemes in America have succumbed to predatory lenders, cannibalistic corporate mergers and acquisitions, psychopathic multinational corporate schemers, corrupt crony capitalists, and the rapist/exploiters of the land and water by extractive industries – all schemes that will eventually tank in the predictable economic bubbles, all of which are destined to burst.

Those busted bubbles regularly wipe out investors (except for the large, deep-pocketed “insiders” who, usually being forewarned, will have sold their holdings just in time, before the publicly revealed “bust”), leaving the taxpayers to bail out the financial messes that were created by the so-called “invisible hand of the market”. (Note: the “invisible hand” myth actually represents cunning operations controlled by conscienceless corporate gamblers whose dirty deals are done in the proverbial “smoke-filled rooms” that guarantee the success of the deal.)

King was trying to warn us not just about the oncoming epidemic of domestic violence victims but also about the tens of millions of people around the world who were and are still being victimized by U.S. military misadventures.

King was also warning us about the multinational corporate war profiteers whose interests are facilitated and protected by the US military – whether they are operating in Asia, Latin America, Africa or the Middle East.

Nearly one trillion US tax dollars are lavishly spent every year on endless wars, which are often illegal and unconstitutional. Hundreds of millions of tax dollars are spent annually paying down never-ending interest payments on past military debt. Hundreds of millions of scarce dollars are also being spent on the totally preventable costs of the physical and mental health costs needed for the palliative care for the permanently maimed and psychologically-traumatized veterans.

All those potentially bankrupting costs represent money that will never be available for programs of social uplift like combating racism, poverty and hunger, or paying for affordable housing/healthcare, universal education or meaningful job creation. Can anyone else hear a demonic laugh reverberating down Wall Street?

King was warning America about its oncoming spiritual death if it didn’t convert itself away from military violence. But most observers of the US see America still worshipping at the altars of the Gods of War and Greed. Our children may be doomed.

The vast majority of American Christian churches (whether fundamentalist, conservative, moderate or liberal, with very few exceptions) have failed King’s vision, despite the lip service they sometimes give to King on MLK Day. Churches whose members were brought up on the Myth of American Exceptionalism (and the myth of being “God’s chosen people”) consistently refuse to take a stand against the satanic nature of war.

Is America Past the Point of No Return?
King’s central warnings about the “triple evils” of militarism, racism and economic oppression must be heeded. The financial and moral hemorrhaging from the unending hot and cold wars that have entangled the United States around the globe must be ended. There must be a retreat from the 130 countries where the U.S. maintains budget-busting military bases. And, if America wants to shed the justified label of “Rogue Nation”, the covert killing operations of our secret black ops mercenary military units all around the world must be stopped, as should the infamous extrajudicial assassinations by America’s un-manned drones.

The Pentagon budget averages well over $700 billion per year which amounts to $2 billion per day with no visible return on investment, except for the military contractors, the oil industries and Wall Street financiers.

If King’s 47-year-old warning continues to be ignored, America’s future is bleak. The future holds the dark seeds of economic chaos, hyperinflation, unendurable poverty, increasing racial/minority hostility, worsening malnutrition, armed rebellion, street fighting, and perhaps, ultimately, institution of a reactionary totalitarian/surveillance police state in order to control citizen protests and quell rebellions.

In 1967, many Americans considered King’s hopeful vision for a better future as irrational idealism. He was told that the task was too great, the obstacles were too imposing and that there was no will for even the churches to reverse their age-old, conservative (pseudo)patriotism and society’s institutional racism. I suspect that many of the churches that called King a communist and therefore ignored him back then wish that they could turn back the clock and give King’s (and Jesus’s) path a try.

King finished his speech with these challenges:

“War is not the answer. We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the developing world – a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality and strength without sight.”

And he had these sobering words for the churches that are immersed in a polytheistic culture (the worship of multiple gods, including the gods of war and mammon) and thus are tempted to quietly ally themselves with those gods rather than the monotheistic God of Love that King was devoted to:

“I have traveled the length and breadth of Alabama, Mississippi and all the other southern states. I have looked at her beautiful churches with their lofty spires pointing heavenward. I have beheld the impressive outlay of her massive religious education buildings. Over and over again I have found myself asking: ‘What kind of people worship here? Who is their God?’”

Today, the task is even tougher, the obstacles much more imposing, but the path that King outlined remains. MLK Day should be a good time to start seriously reconsidering King’s radical message.

*Dr Kohls* is a retired physician who writes about peace, justice, militarism, mental health and religious issues.
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Exclusive: Newly Discovered 1964 MLK Speech on Civil Rights, Segregation & Apartheid South Africa

In a Democracy Now! and Pacifica Radio Archives exclusive, we air a newly discovered recording of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In December 1964, days before he received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, King gave ... Read More ➔
Dear Dick,

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired a movement for racial and economic equality that continues today.

Watch Our Turn to Dream -- a groundbreaking documentary that tells one family's story of impact while fighting for racial justice.

And get ready for another year of calling, writing, and rallying for justice.

It's our turn to dream and do the work that this fight deserves.

Onward,
FILM ABOUT THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

About The Film

‘The March’, is a feature documentary, a celebratory story of the renowned 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - largely remembered for Martin Luther King’s world famous and iconic ‘I Have a Dream’ speech delivered on the steps the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

The speech was delivered to America’s largest multi-racial audience; more than 250,000 people brought together by the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. An event which received unprecedented media coverage, broadcast live to millions of people domestically and around the world.

A watershed moment for the Civil Rights movement, the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom brought together a huge coalition of powerful and revered civil rights organisations, labour unions, and civil rights leaders - which included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the National Urban League and the March’s figurehead A. Phillip Randolph. It was to become the biggest civil protest in American history.

‘The March’ tells the forgotten stories which led to the call for the March and the fierce opposition from the U.S. government - including John F. Kennedy’s administration and the FBI and its leader, J. Edgar Hoover. It tells the eventual acceptance of the March by the state and the heroic endeavors to fundraise, organize and execute the March by hundreds of committed civil rights activists across America. The presence of huge Hollywood actors, directors and writers which helped to add ‘glamour’ to the solemn call for equality. And it charts the unfolding dramas of the behind the scenes events which included the fears of chaos, disturbances and the threat of racial violence.

‘The March’ is the story of the making of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, told by the people who organized and participated in it. It includes interviews with some of the
key actors; members of the inner circles of the core organizational groups; Hollywood supporters and civil rights campaigners; John F. Kennedy administration officials; and the ordinary people who became part of the crowd of thousands, who thronged to Washington D.C. by all and every means: plane, bus and car.

It is a story of massive achievement, the catalyst to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the beginnings of the legacy of freedom for all American citizens.

‘The March’ is the story of discrimination, defiance and victory told by the people who made it happen and whose lives it changed forever.

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON, PBS, GOOGLE SEARCH, JANUARY 22, 2015

- 10 Resources for Teaching the 50th Anniversary of ... - PBS

www.pbs.org/.../8-resources-for-teaching-the-50th-anniversary-of-th...

PBS
Aug 28, 2013 - August 28, 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King's famed “I Have a Dream” speech.

- The March on Washington and its impact – Lesson ... - PBS

www.pbs.org/newshour/.../the-march-on-washington-and-its-impact/

PBS
Aug 21, 2013 - Students will read Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech and explore ... (From the National Office of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.).

- The March on Washington: 50th Anniversary – Martin ... - PBS

www.pbs.org/wnet/.../martin-luther-king-iii-rev-bernice-king/

PBS
Aug 28, 2013 - Martin Luther King III is the eldest son and oldest living child of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. He graduated from his ...

- “I Have a Dream” as a visionary text – Lesson Plan ... - PBS

www.pbs.org/.../the-50th-anniversary-of-the-march-on-washington-I...

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Aug 14, 2013 - mlk. By Tina Yalen, NBCT, Early Adolescence: Social Studies/History ... channel: “Bet You Didn't Know – March on Washington” (2:33) click ...

- Did MLK Improvise in the 'Dream' Speech? | African ... - PBS
When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. read his speech at the March on Washington, one line made him hesitate. He then transformed his speech into a sermon.

- I Have a Dream, 1963. JFK. WGBH American ... - PBS
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s impassioned civil rights speech, delivered during the March on Washington and widely regarded as one of the greatest American ... - PBS
- Who Designed the March on Washington? - PBS
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- 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on ... - PBS LearningMedia

This year marks the 51st anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech dominates ...

WHO KILLED MLKJR?
WILLIAM PEPPER’S AN ACT OF STATE, GOOGLE SEARCH
An Act of State

Review by DOUGLAS VALENTINE  Counterpunch, Feb. 11, 2003

Bill Pepper’s book, *An Act of State: the Execution of Martin Luther King* (Verso, 2003), is a book whose time has come. It is required reading for anyone interested in how they illegitimate Bush regime will wield its ill-gotten power, not against Iraq, but against dissenters here in America.

An Act of State tells the story of how Martin Luther King was killed, not by James Ray, a bumbling patsy, but by a Memphis policeman in league with the Mafia, backed by soldiers — some armed with high-powered rifles, others with cameras to film the event — in a special Military Intelligence unit. The story is broad and deep and implicates high-ranking officers in all the American intelligence and security branches. And it stars Raoul, the assembly line worker now living underground protection. Raoul guided James Ray after his prison escape to a bathroom in a seedy Memphis hotel, above a greasy spoon cafe owned by a sad sack named Loyd Jowers, a creepy old white man having sex with Betty, a 16-year-old black girl. Betty, they say around Memphis, got hooked on drugs and had several illegitimate kids.

Pepper, who resides in Cambridge and spends his time practicing law in United States and the United Kingdom, assembles Jowers and Betty and about 70 other witnesses to make a convincing argument that Jowers and known and unknown members of the U.S. government conspired to kill MLK. Indeed, the argument convinced a jury of exactly that in a civil suit brought by the King family against Jowers and the U.S. government. The trial was held in Memphis in 1999, but the Department of Justice, as Pepper explains, buried the verdict beneath an avalanche of lies and distortions, with a little help from its friends in the media.

Most importantly, Pepper makes it clear that assassinations of this sort could happen on a regular basis in Bush’s war-mongering America, where wiping out his political opposition under the guise of fighting terrorism will, if the Imperial wizard has his way, become de rigueur. Quoting Thomas Jefferson, Pepper asserted on C-Span 2’s book show that only through a revolution can we stop the budding fascist dictatorship that is incrementally affixing its jackboot to our collective neck.

Pepper’s ability to capture this revolutionary spirit, which MLK embodied, is the beauty of the book. Even if Pepper never follows some of the most important leads, like, for example, what was CIA agent Marrell McCollough doing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel while King was lying there dying? McCollough had infiltrated the local black power group, the Invaders, and was part of an Invader-staffed security group that Jesse Jackson allegedly disbursed moments before the assassination. Do we want to know about this? And Pepper doesn’t ask who the other guy was on top of the fire station roof overlooking the Lorraine Motel that fateful day, April 4th 1968? We know Sergeant Greene was there, but who was the guy from the
112th Military Intelligence unit from down in Fort Sam Houston, Texas? Maybe that guy was a CIA assassin!

Even without the answers to these overarching questions, Bill Pepper truly makes a case that it was an Act of State that intentionally silenced Martin Luther King and his message of peace, justice and racial harmony, a message that hasn’t been heard as eloquently for 35 years, and which, only through the voices of modern American revolutionaries will ever be heard again on the airwaves and on network news. Read the book, and be inspired to act against the state.

DOUGLAS VALENTE is the author of The Hotel Tacloban, The Phoenix Program, and TDY. His new book The Strength of the Wolf: the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 1930-1968 will be published by Verso. Valentine was an investigator for Pepper on the King case in 1998-1999. For information about Valentine and his books and articles, please visit his website at www.douglasvalentine.com

He can be reached at: redspruce@at

To ask again: Who is Martin Luther King Jr? Is his legacy fuller, clearer today? And if not, why?

Still today in mainstream media, the generally accepted assessment of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s struggle to change the US begins with his belief in racial equality and struggle against Southern “Jim Crow” apartheid laws, and then either omits entirely his abhorrence of poverty and militarism or marginalizes them. But some have argued cogently that the proper connection is militarism, poverty, and racism, because the enormous expenditures of preparing for and fighting wars since 1940 have impoverished the world, and global poverty is the breeding ground of racism and violence. Thus I have arranged this newsletter in an untypical order.

The question, Who is Martin Luther King, Jr.?, however, continues today.

Time Magazine’s celebratory King cover story concentrated almost exclusively on civil rights. Similarly, the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette’s January 20, 2015, report of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events of the preceding day in Fayetteville, AR, prominently on page one, began with this sentence: “Hundreds marched through downtown to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day with one repeated message: The push for civil rights isn’t over.” King’s anti-war and anti-poverty convictions were relegated to two sentences on page two, and that much apparently only because the reporter interviewed marchers. A second article page four, moving to Atlanta, quoted King’s daughter, Rev. Bernice King, emphasizing nonviolence, but
otherwise concentrated on inequality and police violence (Ferguson, for example). And of course the film Selma is about civil rights, specifically King’s struggle for the Voting Rights Act.

When will there appear a film about King’s struggle against the US economic system which makes a few people luxuriously wealthy, and many painfully poor? Or a film about King’s rejection of the Vietnam War and all the illegitimate, illegal, unnecessary, immoral, wasteful, and impoverishing US aggressions? Perhaps the new book by Cornel West, Radical King, will enable such films, along with the other outpouring from the arts in answer to the question, Who is Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Dick

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END MLKJR DAY NEWSLETTER 2015, JANUARY 20, 2015

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Dick Bennett

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