

OMNI NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7 ON THE US EMPIRE, THE US NATIONAL SECURITY STATE, NATIONALISM, MILITARISM.

January 16, 2012, Compiled by Dick Bennett Building a Culture of Peace.

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DANA KELLY, PEACE ADVOCATE IN ADG

Astonishingly, an extraordinary peace advocate speaks from the belly of Arkansas' imperial beast--the *Ark. Democrat -Gazette*. Mr. Dana D. Kelley, freelancer from Jonesboro and regular columnist in *ADG*, on Jan. 13, 2012, p. 5B, wrote a woven argument opposing some major past and present actions and myths of US. foreign policy, titled "Infamy Is Now Policy."

What caused **Pearl Harbor**? US colonial imperialism, vicious racism, bellicose belligerence, and "savage" propaganda against the Japanese helped to cause Pearl Harbor (the Japanese were our mirror image). He has somehow become informed of the facts leading up to PH, which is all it takes to kiss off the old myths forever. See my 3 newsletters on Pearl Harbor Day/Colonial War in the Pacific WWII, another in our National Days Project.

We should **attack Iran**? Kelley opposes preemptive strike against Iran (which we called "infamy" when perpetrated by the Japanese) because preemptive strikes violate major ethical standards,

international laws, inspire intense resentment worldwide, and Iranian possession of the bomb "would not threaten the U.S. at all."

And we should threaten and isolate **North Korea**? North Korea is less a threat than a dozen or more other countries.

If Mr. Kelley's arguments were to become public belief, the US drums of war would be half-silenced at least and the Pentagon-corporate-congressional complex (Ike's military-industrial complex) would begin imploding..

Let us watch to see what the *ADG* says and if Kelley continues as a columnist.

***The Short American Century A Postmortem* Andrew J. Bacevich, Jeffrey A. Frieden, Akira Iriye, Emily S. Rosenberg, Nikhil Pal Singh, Walter LaFeber, T. J. Jackson Lears, Eugene McCarragher, David M. Kennedy**

Posted on [December 9, 2011](#)

Publisher: Harvard University Press (March 19, 2012)

In February 1941, Henry Luce announced the arrival of "The American Century." But that century—extending from World War II to the recent economic collapse—has now ended, victim of strategic miscalculation, military misadventures, and economic decline . Here some of America's most distinguished historians place the century in historical perspective.

Find Bacevich's essay in *Harper's Magazine* (Feb. 2012), "The Elusive American Century."

Monday, Nov 14, 2011 9:30 Salon

The "American Century" has ended

The Great Recession, the Arab Spring and the euro crisis show how global relations are fundamentally shifting By [Andrew Bacevich](#)

Topics: [Globalization](#), [Foreign policy](#), [U.S. Economy](#)

This originally appeared on [TomDispatch](#).

[I have excised portions; for the full essay click on the title. Dick].

. . .All that said, the present moment is arguably one in which the international order is, in fact, undergoing a fundamental transformation. The "postwar world" brought into existence as a consequence of World War II is coming to an end. A major redistribution of global power is underway. Arrangements that once conferred immense prerogatives upon the United States,

hugely benefiting the American people, are coming undone.

In Washington, meanwhile, a hidebound governing class pretends that none of this is happening, stubbornly insisting that it's still 1945 with the so-called American Century destined to continue for several centuries more (reflecting, of course, God's express intentions).

Here lies the most disturbing aspect of contemporary American politics, worse even than rampant dysfunction borne of petty partisanship or corruption expressed in the buying and selling of influence. Confronted with evidence of a radically changing environment, those holding (or aspiring to) positions of influence simply turn a blind eye, refusing even to begin to adjust to a new reality.

Big Change Happening Now

The Big Change happening before our very eyes is political, economic and military. At least four converging vectors are involved.

First, the Collapse of the Freedom Agenda: In the wake of 9/11, the administration of George W. Bush set out to remake the Greater Middle East. This was the ultimate strategic objective of Bush's "global war on terror."

Intent on accomplishing across the Islamic world what he believed the United States had accomplished in Europe and the Pacific between 1941 and 1945, Bush sought to erect a new order conducive to U.S. interests — one that would permit unhindered access to oil and other resources, dry up the sources of violent Islamic radicalism, and (not incidentally) allow Israel a free hand in the region. Key to the success of this effort would be the U.S. military, which President Bush (and many ordinary Americans) believed to be unstoppable and invincible — able to beat anyone anywhere under any conditions.

Alas, once implemented, the Freedom Agenda almost immediately foundered in Iraq. . . .

Second, the Great Recession: In the history of the American political economy, the bursting of speculative bubbles forms a recurring theme. Wall Street shenanigans that leave the plain folk footing the bill are an oft-told tale. Recessions of one size or another occur at least once a decade.

Yet the economic downturn that began in 2008 stands apart, distinguished by its severity,

duration and resistance to even the most vigorous (or extravagant) remedial action. In this sense, rather than resembling any of the garden-variety economic slumps or panics of the past half-century, the Great Recession of our own day recalls the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Instead of being a transitory phenomenon, it seemingly signifies something transformational.

Third, the Arab Spring: As with the floundering American economy, so with Middle Eastern politics: predicting the future is a proposition fraught with risk. Yet without pretending to forecast outcomes — Will Tunisia, Egypt and Libya embrace democracy? Can Islamic movements coexist with secularized modernity? — this much can be safely said: the ongoing Arab upheaval is sweeping from that region of the world the last vestiges of Western imperialism. . . .

Fourth, Beleaguered Europe's Quest for a Lifeline: . . .

That was then. Today, Europe has once again screwed up, although fortunately this time there is no need for foreign armies to sort out the mess. The crisis of the moment is an economic one, due entirely to European recklessness and irresponsibility (not qualitatively different from the behavior underlying the American economic crisis).

Will Uncle Sam once again ride to the rescue? Not a chance. Beset with the problems that come with old age, Uncle Sam can't even mount up. To whom, then, can Europe turn for assistance? Recent headlines tell the story:

- “Cash-Strapped Europe Looks to China For Help”
- “Europe Begg China for Bailout”
- “EU takes begging bowl to Beijing”
- “Is China the Bailout Saviour in the European Debt Crisis?”

The crucial issue here isn't whether Beijing will actually pull Europe's bacon out of the fire. Rather it's the shifting expectations underlying the moment. After all, hasn't the role of European savior already been assigned? Isn't it supposed to be Washington's in perpetuity? Apparently not.

Back to the Future

In the words of the old Buffalo Springfield song: “Something's happening here. What it is ain't exactly clear.”

American politicians stubbornly beg to differ, of course, content to recite vapid but reassuring clichés about American global leadership, American exceptionalism and that never-ending American Century. Everything, they would have us believe, will remain just as it has been — providing the electorate installs the right person in the Oval Office.

“To those nations who continue to resist the unstoppable march of human, political and economic freedom,” declares Republican presidential candidate Jon Huntsman, “we will make clear that they are on the wrong side of history, by ensuring that America’s light shines bright in every corner of the globe, representing a beacon of hope and inspiration.”

“This is America’s moment,” insists Mitt Romney. “We should embrace the challenge, not shrink from it, not crawl into an isolationist shell, not wave the white flag of surrender, nor give in to those who assert America’s time has passed.... I will not surrender America’s role in the world.” With an unsurprising absence of originality, the title of Romney’s campaign “white paper” on national security is “An American Century.”

Governor Rick Perry’s campaign web site offers this important insight: “Rick Perry believes in American exceptionalism, and rejects the notion our president should apologize for our country but instead believes allies and adversaries alike must know that America seeks peace from a position of strength.”

For his part, Newt Gingrich wants it known that “America is still the last, best hope of mankind on earth.”

The other Republican candidates (Ron Paul always excepted) draw from the same shallow and stagnant pool of ideas. To judge by what we might call the C. Wright Mills standard of leadership — “men without lively imagination are needed to execute policies without imagination devised by an elite without imagination” — all are eminently qualified for the presidency. Nothing is wrong with America or the world, they would have us believe, that can’t be fixed by ousting Barack Obama from office, thereby restoring the rightful order of things.

“Is America Over?” That question adorns the cover of the latest issue of *Foreign Affairs*, premier organ of the foreign policy establishment. As is typically the case with that establishment, *Foreign Affairs* is posing the wrong question, one designed chiefly to elicit a misleading, if broadly reassuring answer.

Proclaim it from the rooftops: No, America is not “over.” Yet a growing accumulation of evidence suggests that America today is not the America of 1945. Nor does the international order of the present moment bear more than a passing resemblance to that which existed in the heyday of American power. Everyone else on the planet understands this. Perhaps it’s finally time for Americans — starting with American politicians — to do so as well. Should they refuse, a painful comeuppance awaits.

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Andrew J. Bacevich is professor of history and international relations at Boston University. His latest book is "[Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War](#)".
[More Andrew Bacevich](#)

MILITARISM

Why I’m Suing Barack Obama

Posted on Jan 16, 2012 By [Chris Hedges](#), TruthDig

Attorneys Carl J. Mayer and Bruce I. Afran filed a complaint Friday in the Southern U.S. District Court in New York City on my behalf as a plaintiff against Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to challenge the legality of the Authorization for Use of Military Force as embedded in the latest version of the National Defense Authorization Act, signed by the president Dec. 31. The act authorizes the military in Title X, Subtitle D, entitled “Counter-Terrorism,” for the first time in more than 200 years, to carry out domestic policing. With this bill, which will take effect March 3, the military can indefinitely detain without trial any U.S. citizen deemed to be a terrorist or an accessory to terrorism. And suspects can be shipped by the military to our offshore penal colony in Guantanamo Bay and kept there until “the end of hostilities.” It is a catastrophic blow to civil liberties.

Noam Chomsky, “A Global Program of World Militarization”

Noam Chomsky, Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, RSN, Dec. 16, 2011

Intro: "This is a transcript of a conversation between members of the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers and Noam Chomsky, which took place on September 21, 2011. Each question was asked in Dari and translated by Hakim."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/72-72/9264-a-global-program-of-world-militarization>

WARRIOR CASTE FOR US WARS OF CHOICE

Fighting 1% Wars

William Astore, Op-Ed, NationofChange, Dec. 8, 2012: Their [America's wars] remoteness, which breeds detachment if not complacency at home, is no accident. Indeed, it's a product of the fact that Afghanistan and Iraq were wars of choice, not wars of necessity. It's a product of the fact that we've chosen to create a "warrior" or "war fighter" caste in this country, which we send with few concerns and fewer qualms to prosecute Washington's foreign wars of choice. READ | DISCUSS | SHARE <http://www.nationofchange.org/fighting-1-wars-1323362089>

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The Face of Imperialism

Paradigm Publishers, 2011 "A searing indictment of the ruthless nature of imperial capitalism. Eloquent, deeply researched, and beautifully argued, *The Face of Imperialism* is a truly wonderful book that is essential for understanding the world we live in. Parenti's passionate voice is a much-needed corrective to the lies we are routinely fed." —**Gregory Elich**, author of *Strange Liberators: Militarism, Mayhem, and the Pursuit of Profit*

"Michael Parenti's study of imperialism provides a timely and incisive framework for understanding the upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East. His analysis of the links between autocrats and Washington is essential to comprehend the powerful tide of hostility that informs the popular revolutions." —**James Petras**, Bartle Professor Emeritus, Binghamton University

"Parenti's new book, *The Face of Imperialism*, is by far the best and boldest of all his formidable work. It meticulously exposes the disastrous consequences of the greed of multinational (mostly U.S.) corporations, and it documents how and why they control our government, which claims to foster democracy but systematically supports the dictatorships that cater to the profit motives of those corporations." —**John Gerassi**, Queens College and the Graduate Center of CUNY and author of *Great Fear in Latin America and Talking with Sartre: Conversations and Debates*

In the last half-century we have witnessed a dramatic expansion of American corporate power into every corner of the world, accompanied by an equally awesome growth in U.S. military power. These phenomena are often treated as independent developments. Here, Michael Parenti brings them together in a sharp critique aimed as much at errant liberals and certain Marxists as at the dominant political actors who have

perpetrated the imperial lie.

Parenti adds shocking new evidence to the litany of injustices visited upon victims of U.S. imperialism: expropriation of their communal wealth and natural resources, complete privatization and deregulation of their economies, loss of local markets, deterioration of their living standards, a growing debt burden, and the bloodstained suppression of their democratic movements.

Just as compelling is Parenti's convincing case that the empire feeds off the republic. He shows how the richly financed corporate-military complex is matched at home by increasing poverty, the defunding of state and local governments, drastic cutbacks in human services, decaying infrastructure, and impending ecological disaster.

In this brilliant new book, Michael Parenti redefines empire and imperialism to connect the current crisis in America to its own bad behavior worldwide.

The Face of Imperialism makes clear that:

- The purpose of the U.S. global empire is not the pursuit of power for power's sake but power to fashion the world into a corporate dominated global free-market. There is a politico-economic content behind the pursuit of imperial power.
- U.S. foreign policy is neither inept nor misguided. Rather, it is largely successful in serving the interests of transnational corporate America. This process of global expropriation by the superrich — often involving the use of force and violence— is what is known as imperialism.
- Third World poverty is not a product of "underdevelopment" but of overexploitation and maldevelopment.
- The drastic development of climate change is not a thing of the next generation or end of the century. Catastrophic changes are happening now. For us to survive we must roll back the empire, develop sustainable energy, and rid ourselves of the profit pathology.

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Map: The Nuclear Bombs in Your Backyard

Look up where in the United States the Pentagon keeps its atomic weaponry.

—By Adam Weinstein and Tasneem Raja

| Wed Nov. 9, 2011 3:00 AM PST

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Also see: An investigation into our expensive, expanding nuclear weapons complex and a look at [some of the wackiest \(and worst\) ideas for using atomic weapons.](#)

The United States currently has 5,113 atomic warheads deployed in silos, bombers, and submarines, mostly in the continental US. That doesn't include thousands of "zombies" being kept in reserve and a backlog of more than 3,000 warheads awaiting dismantlement. Meanwhile, we're telling the world that we're on the path to disarmament, even as we're spending more on the nuclear weapons complex than we did during the Cold War.

Zoom in on the map below to find the warheads near you as well as the nuclear labs that maintain the stockpile and develop the next generation of atomic weaponry. (For reference, we've also included the locations of the nation's civilian nuclear power plants.*)

Note: This map was made with 100% unclassified, public information. Even the military doesn't hide where it keeps its missiles and bombers. See links to sourcing below.

View full screen map

[View Mother Jones: Nuke Facilities in the US](#) in a full screen map

Sources: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and Federation of American Scientists (PDF), Office of the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, Nuclear Energy Institute

Correction: An earlier version of this map misplaced some nuclear power plants. We have updated the map.

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Will Your Block Survive the Nuclear

Apocalypse?

A new Google Maps mashup takes our nuclear weapons data to a whole new cold-sweat-inducing level.

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Memo to budget supercommittee: If you're looking for billions in savings, check out the the bloated nuclear weapons complex.

▪
for Nuclear Weapons

Bomb-powered spaceships, mininukes, atomic excavation, and other bizarre uses for our nuclear arsenal.

▪
Nuclear Arms Race

Russia and China are modernizing their arsenals—in part because of "dangerous and destabilising" new capabilities developed by the US. *Adam Weinstein is Mother Jones' national security reporter. For more of his stories, click here or follow him on Twitter. Get Adam Weinstein's RSS feed.*

We're Spending More on Nukes Than

8 of the Wackiest (or Worst) Ideas

Report: World May Face New

E. SAN JUAN JR. ON FILIPINO RESISTANCE TO US

<http://philcsc.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/war-memories-in-filipino-writing-in-the-united-states/>

WAR MEMORIES IN FILIPINO WRITING IN THE UNITED STATES

by [philcsc](#)

WAR IN THE FILIPINO IMAGINATION:

FILIPINO WRITERS IN THE UNITED STATES WRESTLING WITH THE MINOTAUR

by E. SAN JUAN, Jr.

.....

Civil war in its anti-imperialist mode was the trauma that fertilized Bulosan's imagination, making it a catalyzing agent for producing meaning and order out of the disintegrated and chaotic world known as Filipino "tutelage" under U.S. occupation. This war is continuing in the U.S. neocolony.

Unlike EuroAmerican citizens, Filipinos could not insulate themselves from worldwide emergencies. The Spanish Civil War generated a poignant resonance in the Philippines because of its Spanish inheritance: the Falangists of Generalissimo Franco operated through the feudal landlords and bureaucrat-capitalist oligarchs in the Commonwealth government. Bulosan was influenced by the anti-fascist stand of the Philippine Writers League some of whose officials attended the third American Writers Congress in June 1939 (Folsom 241). That Congress was initiated by Theodore Dreiser, Lincoln Steffens, James Farrell and Erskine Caldwell. Among the participants were John Dos Passos, Langston Hughes and Kenneth Burke whose paper, "Revolutionary Symbolism in America," would provide the rationale for Bulosan's united-front outlook evinced at the end of AIH and in his poems and public pronouncements.

Given the fragmentation, anomie, and alienation fostered by predatory capitalism, Bulosan's conscientization (to use Paulo Freire's term) could only lead to a populist—not sectarian workerist—mobilization that would transcend ethnic, racial, and class boundaries. As Michael

Denning perspicuously argued in *The Cultural Front*, Bulosan's "sentimental education" was not so much a celebration of populist Americanism as an attempt to resolve certain contradictions inherited from his kin-centered feudal-capitalist background into a transitional stage of awareness found in solidarity among multiethnic workers engaged in strikes and political agitation. Ultimately it was an attempt "to transcend a United States of violence," to endow violence and blind rebellion with (in Bulosan's words) a "broad social meaning" (Denning 274-75).

Strategy of the Popular Front<http://philcsc.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/war-memories-in-filipino-writing-in-the-united-states/>

BARNEY FRANK: CUT US MILITARY SPENDING

- **“The Emperor has Too Many Clothes: Adjusting America's Military Spending to Reality”**

Speaker: Barney Frank, U.S. Representative, Fourth Congressional District of Massachusetts; Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee

Presider: Gordon M. Adams, Professor of International Relations, American University School of International Service

- November 14, 2011, New York
Council on Foreign Relations

FOR THE SPEECH GO TO: <http://www.cfr.org/us-strategy-and-politics/emperor-has-too-many-clothes-adjusting-americas-military-spending-reality/p26505>

Movie Review

Amigo (2010)

Chris Cooper in "Amigo."

Mary Cybulski/Variance Films and Anarchists' Convention

The Cause Is Familiar, but the War Is Less So

By A. O. SCOTT Published: August 18, 2011

○

Although [John Sayles](#)'s new film, "[Amigo](#)," is set in what seems to be a remote time and place — a hamlet called San Isidro, in the Philippines, around 1900 — it bridges the gap in a hurry. This is not the kind of movie, and Mr. Sayles is not the type of director, to linger in the picturesque past, savoring antique details and restaging bygone conflicts.

More About This Movie

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Mary Cybulski/Variance Films and Anarchists' Convention

Joel Torre in "Amigo."

History for him turns on recurrent themes of power, greed, exploitation and principled, often Quixotic, resistance to those forces. Local circumstances may vary, but the basic dialectic is reassuringly, maddeningly and sometimes inspiringly the same. Though he has worked on an intimate scale — in the wonderful "[Passion Fish](#)," for example — [Mr. Sayles](#) gravitates, as a writer (of novels and screenplays) and a director (of 17 features since 1979), toward populous pageants that illustrate his historical ideas. He sometimes resembles a left-wing, baby-boom John Ford, spinning fables of the American character out of the threads of myth, memory and ideology.

Through the fronds of jungle vegetation, the subtitled Tagalog and the affectionately noted Filipino customs, "Amigo" invites you to contemplate other, more recently contested landscapes of counterinsurgency. With precision that sometimes tips over into didacticism, Mr. Sayles outlines connections between the war the United States waged in the Philippines and later interventions in Vietnam, Central America, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the Philippines American forces arrived as liberators (driving out the Spanish) and quickly became an army of occupation. It was neither the first nor the last time that democratic ideals came into conflict with, or perhaps provided cover for, imperial ambitions.

"We're here to win hearts and minds," says Colonel Hardacre ([Chris Cooper](#)) as he rides into San

Isidro. His use of a phrase made notorious [during Vietnam](#) (and revived, often without irony, in more recent wars) may sound a bit anachronistic and overly pointed, but it also reinforces a disconcerting parallel. Long before the word quagmire was applied to Vietnam, [Mark Twain used it](#) to describe America's Philippines entanglement, which he vigorously opposed. An early statement of American policy declared that "only through American occupation" was "the idea of a free, self-governing and united Filipino commonwealth at all conceivable." It is hard to imagine a clearer statement of the contradictions of nation building.

Mr. Sayles dramatizes those contradictions with wit and concision, and with determined fair-mindedness as well as outrage. His moral universe certainly has room for obvious heroes and villains, but in his best films he undermines his Manichean soapbox tendencies by attending to gray areas and focusing on characters whose essential decency is challenged and complicated by circumstances.

In this regard, Rafael — played with sly, hangdog brilliance by the well-known Filipino actor Joel Torre — is an exemplary John Sayles protagonist. The hereditary head man of San Isidro, he is a doting father, a loving husband and a figure of reasonable if sometimes exasperated authority. He is also quick to perceive that the arrival of the American soldiers is going to bring him and his subjects a host of new headaches.

His brother Simón (Ronnie Lazaro) is a leader of the rebel army loyal to Emilio Aguinaldo, whose insurrection the Americans are determined to crush. They turn San Isidro into a garrison commanded by Lieutenant Compton (Garret Dillahunt) and patrolled by a gaggle of platoon-movie archetypes, among them a brainy signal corpsman ([DJ Qualls](#)), a jovial drunkard (Stephen Taylor), a cynical veteran (James Parks) and a naïve, sweet-faced young recruit (Dane DeHaan).

Some of these men signed up hoping for action in Cuba. Others are seasoned fighters of American Indians, and nearly all of them speak in a casually racist idiom that serves less to demonize them than to pin them to their historical context. The young recruit, who develops a crush on a village girl, tells her that she's very pretty "for, well, for one of you." He and his comrades, whether noble, boorish or craven, share an unexamined assumption that the races of the world are stacked in a hierarchy, with whites on top.

But "Amigo" is not a simplistic parable of diabolical colonialists and their innocent victims. The Americans commit atrocities, including water torture and the deliberate destruction of rice paddies and livestock, and so do the rebels, who cut the throats of Chinese laborers stringing up telegraph lines. The murderous, hard-line proclamations of both sides echo each other, but so do the principles for which they claim to fight. And Lieutenant Compton, with his starchy sense of decorum and his sincere desire to do some good, represents an advance over the old colonial order, whose last vestige is an imperious, nasty priest played, rather too stagily, by Yul Vázquez.

Though Mr. Sayles's eye is on the present, his storytelling methods are sturdy and old-fashioned. "Amigo" is a well-carpeted narrative, fast-moving and emphatic, stepping nimbly from gravity to good humor. The narrative blueprint is frequently visible, but the movie is no more schematic than "The Help" or "Rise of the Planet of the Apes." It has points to make, but Mr. Sayles frequently allows his ideas about how the world works to be overridden (or undermined) by his curiosity about how people behave, and he invites his actors to find their own ways of wearing the tight garments he has designed.

All in all, he is a pretty good history teacher, the kind who knows how to make even difficult lessons entertaining and relevant.

AMIGO

Opens on Friday in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Written, directed and edited by [John Sayles](#); director of photography, Lee Briones-Meily; music by Mason Daring; production design by Rodell Cruz; costumes by Gino Gonzales; produced by Maggie Renzi; released by Variance Films. In English, Tagalog and Spanish, with English subtitles. In Manhattan at the AMC Empire 25, 234 West 42nd Street. Running time: 2 hours 4 minutes. This film is not rated.

WITH: Joel Torre (Rafael), Garret Dillahunt (Lieutenant Compton), [Chris Cooper](#) (Colonel Hardacre), [DJ Qualls](#) (Zeke Whatley), Rio Locsin (Corazón), Ronnie Lazaro (Simón), Bembol Roco (Policarpio), Yul Vázquez (Padre Hidalgo), Dane DeHaan (Gil), Stephen Taylor (Private Bates), James Parks (Sergeant Runnels), Art Acuña (Locsin) and Pen Medina (Albay).

A version of this review appeared in print on August 19, 2011, on page C6 of the New York edition with the headline: The Cause Is Familiar, But the War Is Less So.

COLD WAR CONTINUING

An article in the Dem/Gaz, 24 Nov 11, says Russia wants the US to sign an agreement that the anti-ballistic-missile (ABM) system we are installing in Poland and Czech Rep won't target Russian missiles. The US has refused this request, although we constantly say that our ABMs will be no threat to them. In my opinion, they are a threat to Russia and any competent Russian military officer would consider them to be a threat, regardless of what we say our intentions are. I've always thought that this is an important issue that should get more attention, and that in this instance we are throwing our military muscle around irresponsibly. Here's an article that's similar to the Dem/Gaz article, in case you haven't seen it:

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/1163/russia-threatens-us-missile-shield-in-europe>

And here are two columns I wrote in 2008 about this issue:

<http://physics.uark.edu/hobson/NWAT/08.08.30.html>

<http://physics.uark.edu/hobson/NWAT/08.10.11.html>

This and our policies in nations like Georgia and Ukraine add up to a policy of containment toward Russia, very similar to our policy toward the old USSR. Our policy toward China also seems to add up to containment. This is prime evidence of US militarism. The US military is too big and our foreign policy too aggressive. Of course, you know all this better than I do, but these containment policies seem especially important, and unnecessary, to me.

Cheers (and hope for the best) – Art

FROM IRAQ TO AUSTRALIA, US LAKE, CHINA DISCOVERING NEW FEARS, ASSIGNING NEW ENEMIES, SHIFTING THE TROOPS

(Dick) Pres. Obama announced “the biggest enhancement in military ties with Australia since the 1980s. . . .Increasing military training and U.S. access to Australian bases will be part of an agreement the nations have been working on for more than a year.” Alleged necessity? “...help safeguard sea lanes that host more than \$5 trillion of trade,” not, said the Australian PM “aimed at one particular country.” ADG (11-16-11), “Australian: Military Ties on Obama List.”

The United States of Fear By [Tom Engelhardt](#)

- [Globalization & Imperialism](#)

In 2008, when the US National Intelligence Council issued its latest report meant for the administration of newly elected President Barack Obama, it predicted that the planet's "sole superpower" would suffer a modest decline and a soft landing fifteen years hence. In his new book *The United States of Fear*, Tom Engelhardt makes clear that Americans should don their crash helmets and buckle their seat belts, because the United States is on the path to a major decline at a startling speed. Engelhardt offers a savage anatomy of how successive administrations in Washington took the "Soviet path"—pouring American treasure into the military, war, and national security—and so helped drive their country off the nearest cliff.

This is the startling tale of how fear was profitably shot into the national bloodstream, how the country—gripped by terror fantasies—was locked down, and how a brain-dead Washington elite fiddled (and profited) while America quietly burned.

Think of it as the story of how the Cold War really ended, with the triumphalist "sole superpower" of 1991 heading slowly for the same exit through which the Soviet Union left the stage twenty years earlier.

About the author

Tom Engelhardt created and runs TomDispatch.com, a project of The Nation Institute, where he is a fellow. He is the author of *The American Way of War*, *The End of Victory Culture*, and of a novel, *The Last Days of Publishing*, as well as a collection of his TomDispatch interviews, *Mission Unaccomplished*.

Reviews

Praise for Tom Engelhardt's *The American Way of War*

“Tom Engelhardt’s biting look at United States militarism.. [is] pithy... [and] alarming.... He takes on our war-possessed world with clear-eyed, penetrating precision.”

—Mother Jones Online

from Joanie Connors via Dwayne Knox
Thursday, December 1, 2011

VETERANS UNPLUGGED: A HOOSIER ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST CONNECTS RETURNING VETERANS TO THE 99%

Harry Targ

“I grew up in Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Working-class family, father was a Union Ironworker...mother was a stay at home Mom.” Vince Emanuele joined the Marines after graduating from high school. “I came out of boot camp a hard charging’ Devil Dog.” He served in the Marines from 2003 until 2005 stationed in California, Kuwait, and Iraq. His eight month deployment in Iraq involved him in street patrols, looking for snipers and land mines “...along with shooting at innocent civilians, destroying their property and beating up prisoners....”

While in Iraq the fascination with war that he had acquired as a kid playing video games dissipated. His father sent him reading material--Noam Chomsky, Gore Vidal, Hunter Thompson, the Nation--and he and friends began to reflect on what they were doing in Iraq. He came to the view that the war was “illegal, immoral, unjustified, and unneeded.” He was not spreading “democracy” or “peace” and the U.S. war effort was not winning the “hearts and minds” of the Iraqi people.

After returning to the U.S., Emanuele joined Iraq Veterans Against the War, has been organizing vets in Indiana and Illinois, created a weekly radio show called “Veterans Unplugged” which is available

on-line, and has become a prominent activist for social, economic, and political justice in the heartland of America while finishing an undergraduate political science degree.

Emanuele recently spoke on a panel organized by the Lafayette Area Peace Coalition. He elaborated on the current plight of veterans, particularly veterans who served in the two longest wars in U.S. history, Afghanistan and Iraq. While acknowledging that the current military force has chosen to enlist in regular army or reserve units, the 21st century enticement to serve is really an “economic draft.” With declining incomes, wages, job opportunities, and rising educational costs, more and more men and women, he said, have seen military service as the only escape from lives of economic marginalization.

He spoke of the culture of militarization to which every new recruit was exposed: a process of dehumanization; the spread of racism, particularly targeting stereotypes of Muslims; sexism; and homophobia. In reality the military experience of young people, Emanuele said, involves placing raw, uneducated, teenagers in a war zone, with weapons and a license to kill. The victims of the actions of these raw recruits, schooled in video games and super-patriotism, were the millions of Iraqi and Afghan citizens who most fervently wanted the young foreigners off their land.

Emanuele presented some figures on the impacts of military service on returning veterans. (According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2010 there were 20.2 million men and 1.8 million women who had served in the military). In 2011, Emanuele reported;

-Rates of unemployment of returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq are higher than in the non-veteran population, both men and women

-African-American vets experience double the unemployment rate of white vets

-80,000 returning veterans are currently homeless (56 % of homeless vets are African American or Latinos)

-20% to 50% of 21st century returning veterans suffer some form of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (an estimated 350,000 to 1 million vets)

-1,000 returning vets attempt suicide each month

Emanuele, connected the plight of returning veterans to the military/industrial/complex and imperial wars. As a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, he highlighted the long tradition of soldiers resisting participation in unjust wars. He referred to patterns of resistance to war running throughout U.S. history:

-In 1781 the Pennsylvania militia mutinied against war profiteers and for food

-Between the 1870s and the 1890s, National Guard soldiers often refused to fire on striking workers

-In 1919 unknown numbers of U.S. soldiers refused orders to go fight against the Bolsheviks who had come to power in Russia

-Thousands of World War I veterans, known as the Bonus Army, assembled in Washington D.C. in 1932 to demand back pay due them from their active duty experience.

--From 1964-75 a massive GI anti-Vietnam war resistance movement emerged with over 300 GI anti-war newspapers produced, 10 % of all Vietnam era soldiers going AWOL or deserting, and a broad array of other forms of anti-war resistance, and opposition to military recruiting.

Emanuele stressed the commonality of experience and vision that is shared by most veterans with the Occupy Movement. He suggested that peace and justice activists must understand that returning veterans are a vital part of the 99% movement committed to radically restructure American society. He argued that the 99%, including vets, must see the vital connections between the global capitalist system, the military/industrial complex and the pain and suffering that have generated war and economic insecurity in the twenty-first century.

Emanuele ended his talk with reference to the frank admission of General Smedley Butler who oversaw the effort to crush the army of Augusto Sandino in Nicaragua in the early 1930s. Butler admitted that he, as a Marine General, had served as an instrumentality of Wall Street, putting down popular rebellions in the service of profit.

To learn more about Vince Emanuele and his weekly radio show check out <http://www.veteransunplugged.com/>

To learn more about Iraq Veterans Against the War see <http://ivaw.org/>

See my blog at <http://www.heartlandradical.blogspot.com/>

The PJSA is a non-profit organization that was formed in 2001 as a result of a merger of the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED) and the Peace Studies Association (PSA). Both organizations provided leadership in the broadly defined fields of peace, conflict and justice studies.

We are dedicated to bringing together academics, K-12 teachers and

grassroots activists to explore alternatives to violence, and share visions and strategies for social justice and social change. PJSA also serves as a professional association for scholars in the fields of peace and conflict resolution studies.

For more information please visit our website at:

<http://www.peacejusticestudies.org>.

The following articles came from HAW Historians Against War
"Iran and Historical Forgetting"

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/01/03/iran-and-historical-forgetting>

By John Grant, CounterPunch.org, posted January 3

"Debate: How Two Wars in the Greater Middle East Revealed the Weakness of the Global Superpower"

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175484>

By Tom Engelhardt, TomDispatch.com, posted January 3

"Will His New Sanctions on Iran Cost Obama the Presidency?"

<http://www.juancole.com/2012/01/will-his-new-sanctions-on-iran-cost-obama-the-presidency.html>

By Juan Cole, Informed Comment blog, posted January 3

The author teaches history at the University of Michigan

"Iraq: Remembering Those Responsible"

<http://www.truth-out.org/iraq-remember-those-responsible/1325433300>

By Stephen Zunes, TruthOut.org, posted January 1

"The United States as a Global Power: New World Disorder"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/dec/28/us-global-power-new-world-disorder>

Editorial in *The Guardian*, posted December 29

"Korea and the US Policy of Perpetual War"

<http://theragblog.blogspot.com/2011/12/harry-targ-korea-and-us-policy-of.html>

By Harry Targ, *The Rag Blog Digest*, posted December 29

"Prospects for Peace on Earth"

<http://warisacrime.org/content/prospects-peace-earth>

By David Swanson, War Is a Crime.org, posted December 22

"David Montgomery, Grand Master Workman"

<http://www.thenation.com/article/165235/david-montgomery-grand-master-workman?rel=emailNation>

By Dana Frank, *The Nation*, posted December 19

The author teaches history at the University of California, Santa Cruz

"Iraq: No Comfort in Being Right"

<http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2011/12/12/iraq-no-comfort-in-being-right/>

By Kelly B. Vlahos, antiwar.com, posted December 12
Retrospective analysis of the Iraq occupation

"Q&A: Have Human Rights Been Left Behind in Egypt? On Condition of Anonymity, Representatives of Human Rights Organisations Talk about the Current Situation in Egypt"
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2011/12/20111213115244470203.html>

By Mark LeVine, *Aljazeera*, posted December 29
The author teaches history at the University of California, Irvine

"Prospects for Peace on Earth"

<http://warisacrime.org/content/prospects-peace-earth>

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END OF EMPIRE NEWSLETTER #7