



VETERANS FOR PEACE  
HUMBOLDT BAY  
CHAPTER 56

# THE FOGHORN

JULY/AUGUST  
2014

*“Cutting Through the Fog of War”*

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## *The Imbalanced Slaughter in Gaza* *July 24, 2014*

***Much of the world is horrified at Israel’s latest slaughter of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip but the continued power of the Israeli Lobby over Official Washington has silenced any protests against the imbalanced infliction of death.***

***By Paul R. Pillar***

The score, as of July 24th, in the contest being waged in the Gaza Strip and Israel was 630-37, with the side in the lead continuing to run up the score. This is not some nightmare of a Brazilian soccer fan, but instead the deaths of men, women and children, more than three-quarters of them civilians, according to the United Nations humanitarian affairs office. All of the 630 are Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The term asymmetric warfare is commonly used, of course, but to refer to different techniques for inflicting violence for political purposes. What is going on now in Gaza is highly asymmetric in terms of the amount of death, injury, destruction and overall misery being inflicted by one side on the other.

The Gaza Strip is a tightly cordoned-off area of only 139 square miles where some 1.6 million Palestinians are essentially trapped.

Perhaps the usual use of the term asymmetric warfare has contributed to warping our ability to evaluate what has been going on in this conflict. There is a tendency to think of death inflicted overtly by an F-16, at least if it is operated by someone labeled an ally, as somehow more legitimate than whatever a clandestinely deployed rocket can inflict.

We have curious habits in how we regard symmetry and asymmetry in armed conflicts and especially the unending series of conflagrations between Israel and Palestinians. In contrast to the assumed asymmetry about the legitimacy of different ways of inflicting violence, in other respects we speak as if there is perfect symmetry. It has become de rigueur to criticize excesses on both sides, which of course there have been, and to appeal for reasonableness on both sides, which of course there should be.

In major, glaring respects, however, this conflict is highly asymmetric, and not only in one side’s physical ability to inflict far greater destruction on the other side. The larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one in which the far more powerful actor is occupying (in the case of the West Bank) or strangling (in the case of the Gaza Strip) the other side.

It is also a conflict in which for many years now, one side and its Arab backers have repeatedly indicated their willingness to make a complete peace as long as this side can have its own state on the small part of Palestine left after Israel’s war of independence, while the other side, through its actions on the ground as well as statements of its leaders, indicates its intention to hold on to all the land it has captured through force of arms, save perhaps for some carefully controlled bantustans.

Speaking in symmetrical terms carries a sense, even if a false sense, of fairness and equanimity, and of getting beyond squabbles and trying to achieve peace and stability. Parents exhibit this tendency when they tell squabbling children that they don’t care who started the argument and instead just want both kids to behave. One can sympathize with Secretary of State John Kerry and other diplomats who have tried to do something about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, if they feel the same way as parents.

But who started a fight does matter in how we should judge it and react to it, especially if it is a fight in which scores of innocent people are getting killed. Any careful and objective review of events leading up to the current conflagration (the timeline compiled by John Judis is one of the best) leads to the inescapable conclusion that this war is being fought because the government of Benjamin Netanyahu chose to launch it, capitalizing on grief over the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers to strike another blow against Hamas and even more so against

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its most recent unity agreement with Fatah, as well as providing another excuse for occupying the West Bank indefinitely.

The conclusion is supported not only by the sequence of events but also by Netanyahu's immediate blaming of Hamas for the crime without — still — providing any evidence; all indications are that the perpetrators of the kidnapping were rogue actors who may have had their own reasons to try to subvert the unity deal.

The conclusion also is supported by the Israeli government's extraordinary tactic of not informing the Israeli public or even the families of the victims when it knew the teenagers were dead — all the better to try to justify the government's wholesale actions in the West Bank in which several Palestinians were killed and, in what amounts to a renegeing on a previous prisoner exchange deal reached with Hamas, hundreds more have been incarcerated.

By contrast, before all this started Hamas was giving no indication that it was looking for an armed conflict. Besides reaching the unity deal under which it would support Mahmoud Abbas's negotiating approach toward resolving the conflict with Israel, Hamas was observing a cease-fire. Until the Israeli government's forceful moves after the kidnapping/murders last month, Hamas had not fired any rockets into Israel since that cease-fire was reached in November 2012, despite several earlier Israeli provocations that Hamas considered to be violations of the cease-fire. Hamas even tried to restrain other groups from firing rockets after Israel had begun its wholesale incarcerations in the West Bank.

This is not, of course, the version of events that one hears from the Israeli government, and thus from most American politicians, and that is thus heard by most of the American public. According to this other version, the Israeli onslaught followed, and is only a response to, Palestinian rocket fire. This discrepancy between beliefs and facts gets to other major asymmetries, which involve the role the Israeli government plays, and no Palestinian entity does, in American politics.

American habits in perceiving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict dull not only American policy judgment but also Americans' moral sense. The Netanyahu government's wreaking of death and destruction today in the Gaza Strip is condemnable. It is wrong, in multiple senses of the word, for the U.S. House of Representatives to endorse that infliction of death and destruction, as it did on Friday.

Pretending to be fair by treating something as symmetrical when it is not impairs the ability to distinguish right from wrong, of which there is plenty of both in the world.

June has been very busy around the boat yard and in our shop, much has been accomplished I just hope I can remember it all. So, zip up your PFD's and hang on as we run down the list.

The Butterfly hatch that sets in the middle and on top of the main cabin is 95% finished. Mike has turned African Mahogany, Brass, Stainless steel and Plexiglas into a work of art. Simply beautiful to look at and as usual finished perfectly. Locking latches and some epoxy are all that remain to be done.

Breckin (The Dutchman) has installed the sliding hatch rails and frame work for the companion way hatch using the same African Mahogany with the same finish as Mike's hatch. The hatch cover will slide on Stainless steel tracks. We've removed the rudder so that Breckin could finish the bottom paint around and on the transom as well as the rudder itself. Once the last coat of paint is on we'll replace the rudder.

Richard Betournay who painted the name on the transom has redone the Epaulets in white and gold with blue trim. When the Epaulets are attached to the bow the screw holes will be filled with ceramic mushroom plugs that Richard is painting now.

Up in the foreward compartment I've built a V berth for crew members. The berths are narrow but at an angle their nearly seven feet long. There's storage space under each berth for personal gear with access from the side or down through the top. There is also a compartment at the bottom of the V for the jib sail to be stored just forward of the main mast step and just aft of the chain locker. I'm also finishing the lockers in the main cabin with an access door on the aft face.

Steve Ninehaus and Nate Lomba are busy creating a wiring schematic that will show where every wire is and where it goes, this is what Engineer Lomba does best. Steve, meanwhile has pulled some wire and installed a dome light in the main cabin, organized all the electronics and as soon as I'm finished we'll start on the navigation center.

Tomorrow, the 6th. of July, Luke, Dennis, Mike and I will fire up the forge again and melt and pour 40 more bronze belaying pins, a bell for dennis's boat and some paper weights for Luke. Hopefully the belaying pins will generate some income for us.

There's actually more but I'll save it for next month. Respectfully submitted by Chuck DeWitt, Restoration Coordinator for The Golden Rule Project.

## Golden Rue Update

By Chuck DeWitt



## Recruiting Lies vs Military Reality What You Should Know Before Joining the Military

By John McCarthy

### ARE YOU CONSIDERING ENLISTMENT?

You've probably heard the ads and the recruiter's sales pitch. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? All advertising does. But if military life doesn't live up to the advertising, you can't bring your enlistment agreement back to the recruiter for a refund, and you are obligated to the military for a total of eight years, including possible reserve duty.

You wouldn't buy a car without looking under the hood. Don't enlist before you check out the reality of military life that lies behind the glamorous television ads and slick brochures. Check it out carefully!

### MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Do you enjoy being bossed around? Do you want someone constantly telling you what to do and how to do it? If your answer is "no," you may have a hard time adapting to military life. Federal law states that the military places "numerous restrictions on personal behavior that would not be acceptable in civilian society." Military members are subject to military law 24 hours a day--even if they are off duty and off base--from beginning to end of their term (10 U.S.C. Sec.654). Disobedience in the military can result in court-martial, prison, or even the lifetime problem of a bad discharge.

Furthermore, the enlistment agreement says that your status, pay, benefits and responsibilities in the military can change without warning and regardless of any promises in your agreement!

Not surprisingly, a lot of people express unhappiness after joining the military. For example, in 1997 almost half the enlisted people questioned by the Army said they were either "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with the overall quality of Army life (Sample Survey of Military Personnel, Army Research Institute).

### THE MILITARY JOB TRAINING MYTH

Many people join the military expecting to receive job training. But remember, military training is designed for military jobs, not to help you get a civilian job later. Even in the technically-oriented Air Force, most jobs require particular military skills that won't do you much good in the civilian world.

If you get the training you were promised for a particular military occupation, you still might not get any experience in the job because the military doesn't have to use you in the field you requested. In the Army survey, 67.2% of enlisted people said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with their opportunity to select a job, training or duty station of their choice; 71.1% were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with their basic pay.

As stated by former-Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, "The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program.

### THE EASY MONEY FOR COLLEGE MYTH

Recruiters might promise you tens of thousands of free dollars for college, but it's not free--you must work for it. And it's not automatic. Unless you qualify for special jobs or sign up for an extra-long term, you'll never see the higher amounts of money. To qualify for any aid at all, you have to pay a \$1200 non-refundable deposit to the military. If you receive a less-than-honorable discharge (as about one in four people do), leave the military early (as one in three do), or later decide not to go to college, the military will keep your deposit and give you nothing.

According to the Veterans Administration, less than half of eligible veterans are using their educational benefits, which means the military takes in a lot of money that will not be paid back. In other words, it's really the military that profits, not veterans.

Colleges can help you find aid if you need it, and it pays to investigate these options before agreeing to give away years of your life to the military. Once you complete school, you can start earning the higher wages of a college graduate right away.

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Next VFP56 meeting will be held  
on Thursday, August 7th at  
7:00 PM.  
Meeting will be held in the  
Commons Room at 550 Union  
Street in Arcata.  
Veterans and non-veterans are  
more than welcome to come and  
help us dialogue about what we to-  
gether can do to bring about peace  
in this complex world.



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## RACISM

In 1991, the head of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights received hundreds of complaints of racism in the military. He issued a report saying discrimination haunts African-Americans, Latinos and women in the military. In 1998, 36% of the enlisted personnel were people of color, but only 15.9% of the officers were. Latinos in the Marine Corps, for example, made up 12.1% of the enlisted ranks, but only 4.4% of the officers. When the Los Angeles Times investigated the Ft. Leavenworth military prison in 1994, it found that 50% of all the inmates, and 83% of those under a military death sentence, were people of color.

## WHAT WOMEN EXPERIENCE

Women often join the military to gain job training and break out of traditional roles. However, women are still limited in the jobs they actually perform in the military. Even when women and men share the same job title, women are often made to do the filing and typing, while men get more "exciting" work.

Sexual harassment and rape are a real threat to women in the military. In 1990 and 1995, the armed forces surveyed female members and found that 64% reported sexual harassment. This was twice the rate of harassment reported by women in civilian jobs in a 1990 Harris Poll. And in 1993, when women veterans under the age of 50 were questioned at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, 90% of them reported that they had been sexually harassed while in the military!

## HOMOPHOBIA

Discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals is not only intense within the military, it is official policy. Witch hunts to kick lesbian and gay personnel out of the military continue. Since the so-called "Don't ask, don't tell" policy was introduced, the pace of forced discharges has actually increased. Violence and threats against those suspected of being gay are routine.

## YOU WILL LOSE BASIC RIGHTS

If you leave your work without permission, you can be arrested.

Any disobedience can result in criminal punishment.

You can be punished without the right to see a lawyer or have a trial.

Your right to say what you think when and how you want will be restricted.

Individual expression through the way you dress and wear your

hair won't be tolerated.

You will be subject to routine urine tests for drugs.

## WAR -- YOU THINK IT WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU?

Many of the U.S. soldiers who fought in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf, never expected they would be the ones to see combat. Many of the Reserve soldiers who fought in the Gulf had been told that this would never happen to them. But the main purpose of the military is to fight wars, and if you enlist you will have no choice if you are ordered to fight for something you don't believe in--like protecting a foreign dictator or oil profits. After enlisting, if you discover that your religious, moral or ethical beliefs won't allow you to kill, it will be hard for you to get a discharge as a conscientious objector (hundreds of U.S. soldiers were imprisoned when they objected to the Persian Gulf War).

Before enlisting, it's important to talk to a veteran or someone who has fled a war-torn country to learn about the horrors of war.

## DEP: THE DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM

Once you have signed up for the DEP, many recruiters will tell you that you can't get out of it. This is not true. There are a variety of reasons for DEP discharges, like enrolling in college, finding a long-term job, family hardship, etc. However, you will need to take steps to get discharged. The military will not automatically do it for you. Contact one of the groups listed on the back for free counseling and help.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF BEFORE ENLISTING:

Are you prepared to fight in any war, any place, anytime that the government orders you to?

Have you really considered and checked out all the job training and placement possibilities in your community?

Is joining the military something you want to do, or are you being pressured into it by other people?

Is this a spur of the moment decision you may regret later?

Have you talked to any of the many veterans who didn't like the military? Why didn't they make the military a career?

If you become unhappy after you enlist, do you know how hard it will be to get out?

If you get a less-than-honorable discharge, do you know how hard it will be to get it changed?



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## 9 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU TALK TO A RECRUITER

Recruiters are interested in you in order to make a sale. If they fail to meet their quota of recruits, they can be forced to work overtime. An award winning recruiter told *The Boston Globe*, "You have to convince these little punks to do something ... I figure if I can sell this, I can sell anything." Another veteran recruiter told a reporter for the *Albany Times Union*, "I've been recruiting for years and I don't know one recruiter who wasn't dishonest about it. I did it myself."

Take along a parent or friend as a witness if you go see a recruiter. That way you'll have somebody to back up your side of the story if there is a dispute over whether you got what you were promised.

If you have a police record or medical condition, don't hide it—even if the recruiter tells you it doesn't matter. You'll be the one in trouble later on, not the recruiter.

DON'T sign any papers until you have taken them home and read them over carefully. If you ask for a copy of the enlistment agreement, they must give it to you. If they refuse, don't sign the agreement. REMEMBER, you're not in the military yet; they can't order you around.

Talk the enlistment agreement over with your parents and friends, and with a trained civilian counselor. Ask about the parts of the agreement that you don't understand.

GET ALL PROMISES IN WRITING and have them signed by the recruitment representative! Spoken promises are worthless.

Get copies of everything you sign. Keep the copies in a safe place.

If you want one of the military's enlistment options, be sure to ask the recruiter the following questions:

For how long do I have to enlist to get this option?

Are there any extra requirements (schooling, physical standards, security clearances, etc.) that I have to meet to qualify for this option? What happens if I don't meet them, but I've already enlisted?

For options that include assignment to a particular base or area: am I guaranteed this assignment for the entire time I'm in?

REMEMBER: If you don't like your new job, they don't have to let you switch, and you can't quit! Early discharges that don't also punish you can be hard to get.

## FINDING A NON-MILITARY JOB

Looking for a job is hard work, and the better prepared you are,

the greater your chance to find, get and keep the job you want. Following are some jobhunting tips:

**KNOW YOURSELF.** Think about all of the job experience you have. Don't forget to include volunteer work, baby-sitting, home carpentry, or painting. Put together a resume that outlines your skills, abilities and interests. If you don't know how to put together a resume, check with the library or career center at your school. Think about what you want to do in your life. Talk to people who have the type of job you are interested in. Ask them how they got their first job.

**REFERENCES.** Employers want to know who you are and if you are trustworthy and reliable. Before you go for a job interview, get the names, addresses and phone numbers of three people who can tell your employer what kind of person you are. They should have known you for at least a year and not be relatives. Be sure to warn them so they are prepared to answer questions about you, if asked.

**INTERVIEWS.** Go dressed neatly and appropriately. Go by yourself. Be on time. Before the interview, try to find out something about the company. You can get this information from someone who works there or by researching it at the library or Employment Development Office. Be friendly during the interview. The only way for them to find out about your skills, interests and abilities is for you to tell them.

**APPLICATIONS.** Be sure to bring a pen. To make a good impression, follow the directions carefully and fill out the application neatly and completely.

For free counseling and more information about what recruiters might not be telling you, contact:

*Military Law Task Force*  
1168 Union St, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) W3-1701  
Pre-enlistment, military & draft counseling;

*Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors*  
630 20th Street, #302, Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 465-1617, <http://www.objector.org>  
and 1515 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 563-8787

**Or you might like to have a copy of the *Anti Recruitment Guide, Advice From Veterans*, published locally by *Veterans For Peace, Chapter 56*. To obtain a copy please contact Rob Hepburn 707 826-7124 with your mailing address or email address., or download it on line at [www.vfp56.org/VEOP.html](http://www.vfp56.org/VEOP.html)**



## JOURNEY TO FOREVER

By John Mulloy  
Episode VII

### M). GUMSHOES, SPIES, and PROVOCATEURS

No viewing of the Vietnam War era is complete without some description of the capacity of the government to monitor, infiltrate, and manipulate the political forces of the progressives. The 'gumshoes' were the easiest to deal with. These were J. Edgar Hoover's boys; the FBI's out front agents. Always in dark suits and shoes, they were akin to door-to-door salesmen, serving as overt monitors of radical activities and participants. They would pop up anytime, usually at the front door.

In June, 1970, at a time when the heat was on me as a suspected member of the Weather Underground, the FBI had lost my trail, because I was floating free across America on The BUS. When I surfaced at my mom's house in Sacramento, California, they were right on it, knocking at the front door. I've always suspected that my right-wing, gun nut uncle fingered me; my mom would always tell him everything. My then 83 year old grandmother opened the door to, "We're with the FBI..." It was a shock, but she was able to take it in stride, telling them that I wasn't there (I was sleeping) and to come back later, which they did. My poor mother was super fearful. The revolution comes to Middle America.

I had a dozen face-to-face occasions with the FeeBees (FBI). I always dealt with them calmly, with no rancor. Their methodology was based on 'who, what, where' questions, looking for '1-2-3' facts. Political and cultural nuance was not their forté, having been reared on mainstream criminal investigations, such as bank robbery and interstate money crimes. They were often bamboozled, because radical politics and the counterculture were unknowable to them. Often, their questions would reveal what they did know or were speculating. There were however, two other layers of governmental interference that were active threats, the 'spies' and 'provocateurs'.

During most of the anti-war struggle of these years, the multitude of activist groups were wide open to infiltration by government operatives (FBI, military intelligence, CIA, localized political thugs such as Chicago's Red Squad). This was primarily due to the youthful naiveté that was dominant during this period. Also in the mix was the democratic nature of young radicals. In their idealistic quest to make a better world, the progressive-left threw its arms open to ALL, attempting to involve the citizenry in the political process. The government operatives stepped right in, blending as best they could.

Most government infiltrators were 'spies', their role one of taking basic notes (name, phone, address) about participants, along with

information about each person's involvement and organizational plans and activities. These misguided souls would ferret out as much 'insider' knowledge as possible. This gave their overseers the direction to pursue phone taps, mail openings, etc. I saw all of this from within and had to deal with it up close and personal. As the years went by, we all got better at digging out the spies from our midst. Most of them could not fully play the role of radical, emotionally or intellectually. They had no nuance, much like their cohorts in the dark suits. I participated in several 'outings' of the agents. I was always as careful as could be that no innocents were hurt. We were cognizant that we should act only when the evidence was overwhelming.

Phone taps, mail openings, and other more bizarre incidents became part of our lives. I remember receiving a fruitcake from my grandmother for Christmas, 1969, something she did for me every year. The box was obviously tampered with and the cake was sliced in half (to see what might be hidden). I knew that grandma sent them whole, so I checked with her to confirm. Incidents such as this were very revealing and let us know that we were not paranoid. Our paranoia levels remained in check. There was no one to complain to, we had no 'proof', and besides, you make a Revolution and you pay the price. "Walk tall or don't walk at all". (Bruce Springsteen)

Alas, we come to the ultimate level of governmental manipulation of activist planning and dreams, the use of 'provocateurs'. By 1969/70, the progressive-left was saturated with these twisted characters. The Black Panthers, Weather Underground, and the myriad organizations of the more revolutionary side of the activist spectrum, were targeted by these operatives from within. I saw a great deal of this from my close connectedness with these groups. I witnessed much with my senses and interpretive intellect. These 'deep cover' agents were working in conjunction with 'black bag' agents on the outside. The provocateurs would do something as simple as using their influence to change plans for a demonstration, to benefit government interests. That was the more benign end of things. They would work to see that organizers lost employment, that marriages were destroyed, that hopes and ideas for societal change were crushed.

Then, of course, there were the bombings. The Weather Underground, by defining themselves as the 'Vanguard of the Revolution', and disconnecting from most activist groups, left themselves open to manipulation and isolation; to be the 'fall guy'. The government would point at them as the 'boogiemán', the group that the citizens should blame for loss of safety and societal orderliness. A fair number of these so-called 'terrorist' bombings were either put together by the 'black bag' boys or committed by young radicals at the urging of provocateurs. Either way, activist organizations were hurt, blamed for events they probably would not have created of their own volition. Proving all this would have been extremely hard forty years ago; now, it is impossible, for the past events are lost in murkiness. The citizenry must look into it for themselves and find 'truth tellers' to trust. Did the FBI's 'black bag' operatives

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blow things up? Did the provocateurs incite activists to perform acts they would not have created on their own? The answer to both is an emphatic YES!!

Herein, I'll set down for posterity the story of a situation in which I was an intimate participant. In October of 1970, I was a member of a militant collective in D.C. We were strong demonstration agitators and created lots of political education. Yes, we had unlimited revolutionary fantasies, but we kept them in check. I took a week long trip to Boston and New York to rouse support for a coming demonstration in the nation's capitol. On the journey, a young woman tried to attach herself to me. I didn't feel right about it and shucked her off. When I came home to the collective, I found that a key member, my good friend and trusted associate Hank, had taken on a new girlfriend and brought her into the group.

One thing led to another, and I became the recipient of hard information that she was an FBI 'provocateur'; that she had been part of Chicago's Red Squad thugs during the 1968 Democratic Convention. Later, I would cross check the accusation. It would prove absolutely correct, but I had to act NOW. I knew that she was in a bedroom with my friend, trying to convince him into moving our group toward doing a series of bombings. I headed right into the bedroom and told Hank that I had to speak with him about an urgent matter. The look on her face told the story. I had 'outed' her and she knew it. My friend was crushed when I took him out of the house and told him the truth. By the time we got back to the bedroom, she was gone, never to be seen again.

What causes someone to do what she did? How could you fake love and lure good people into doing something that could have sent many of us to prison, for years? We will probably never know the answer. Perhaps it is unknowable.

\* \* \* \*

N). SAIGON FALLS

By the spring of 1975, almost ten years had passed since my signature had greased the way for involvement in the living nightmare known simply as VIETNAM!! I was a temporary resident of Sausalito, California, a marina and hillside town on San Francisco Bay. Ensnconced on a funky old houseboat., I was fully aware that the North Vietnam Army and the Viet Cong were closing in on their victory.

On a beautiful sunny day, May 1, I was truckin' down the main street of town. Just two weeks before, Cambodia's U.S. backed regime had fallen to the Khmer Rouge. Massive change was evolving in South East Asia. I spied a San Francisco Chronicle newspaper box. In big black letters crossing the entire front page I read, 'SAIGON FALLS'. I stood in front of it, my attention riveted. Time stood still. The U.S. puppets had collapsed; the peoples' forces were victorious.

The tears began to flow. I couldn't stop them; I didn't want to. I stood unmoving, pouring forth the liquid of psychic release. The

pain and tension of the past decade flowed outward, for I knew what the headline meant. A chapter in the annals of societal and personal lifetimes was coming to an ending. Millions of South East Asians dead; millions more physically and/or psychologically devastated. Several countries bombed into near oblivion by the U.S. war machine. Sixty thousand dead Americans; millions affected forever by this senseless war. U.S. society and culture torn asunder. We would be dealing with the aftermath, in mind, body and soul, for many decades to come.

The horror of war and pain would not end neatly. It could not be put away and forgotten. Remembrances and reverberations would go on and on, but the chapter's 'Action' in the 'Now' would halt and bring an ending of a sort. Pages would be turned. We would go onward in some fashion, marked forever in the SELF and in the 'social contract'. Looking at that simple headline, I knew how complicated it all was. New chapters in life would be written, but this one would rear its head often. It would heavily influence how we developed within our souls and as a society.

After awhile, I patted down my wet cheeks, breathed deeply, and moved on.

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### *Afghanistan Coalition Military Fatalities By Year*

<i>Year</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
2001	12	0	0	12
2002	49	3	18	70
2003	48	0	10	58
2004	52	1	7	60
2005	99	1	31	131
2006	98	39	54	191
2007	117	42	73	232
2008	155	51	89	295
2009	317	108	96	521
2010	499	103	109	711
2011	418	46	102	566
2012	310	44	48	402
2013	127	9	24	160
2014	34	6	10	50
<i>Total</i>	<i>2335</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>671</i>	<i>3459</i>

*Total estimated Afghanistan civilians killed 20,000*





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# LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to [turtldncer@aol.com](mailto:turtldncer@aol.com), in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

*Arundhati Roy*

## *Public Power in the Age of Empire*

*“Colorful demonstrations and weekend marches are vital but alone are not powerful enough to stop wars. Wars will be stopped only when soldiers refuse to fight, when workers refuse to load weapons onto ships and aircraft, when people boycott the economic outposts of Empire that are strung across the globe.”*

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