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Essential Elements of Community Security

By Sam Culper, *Intelligence Editor*



security conditions found throughout Latin America, it's very important to understand their security picture and then draw conclusions and lessons learned from their challenges. Poor economic conditions and poverty already lead some individuals towards criminality and gang activity. When economic conditions in the U.S. deteriorate and become sustained, there's a greater likelihood that communities deal with increased criminality and gang activity.

The report identifies six dimensions of what they call "community violence." They are:

- Lethality;
- Location;
- Involvement (number of individuals involved);
- Spontaneity;
- Activity Type (crimes of passion versus organized crime); and
- Frequency

Being able to describe the qualities of community violence along these six dimensions is an important part of our ability to understand and define the community security problem. As the saying goes, "A problem defined is a problem half-solved." From an intelligence perspective, it's necessary for us to accurately understand the security situation before we attempt to provide intelligence support to operations.

Using the image spectrum shown in Figure 1, we can describe local conflicts during a SHTF scenario to help us better understand our security problem. After we define the problem, we can begin actively working towards a solution.

(Continued on page 2)

Modernity Has Not Been Kind to the Celt (Part 1 in a Series)

By Apollon Zamp

the heart and soul of this area until I moved out into the country two years later. Nevertheless, it became clear to me, as I hit the Bedford County line that summer afternoon and saw the Blue Ridge rising up in front of me, that I was entering a different world. As it would turn out, the deep, dark hills of western Virginia are different from the plains and coastline in many ways.

Like many in this part of the world, I'm a big fan of the TV show "Justified." Not only is it well-written and well-acted (and unlike so many television serials, well-ended), but it evokes rural Appalachia in a way that few forms of media are able to do these days. To quote a song from a different time, "Justified" captures the suffering, the sorrow, the glory, and the shame of the mountain culture that has been sadly degraded by its communion with the larger society around it. Truth be told, though, if you're a native of the mountainous parts of the rural Southeast, your exit from the physical plane probably won't be at the hands of a career criminal like Boyd Crowder or some violent Oxycontin addict. It's much more likely that your departure from this mortal coil will be due to the adipose tissue surrounding one or more of your vital organs.

Throughout history, the denizens of rural Appalachia have been at a high risk of death from gunshot wounds, stabbings, and blunt force trauma. This is the seeming end result of piling too many Scots-Irishmen together and expecting them to co-exist peacefully (cf. a certain six counties of Ulster). Those causes of death have been replaced by the much less mediopathic,^[1] but no less lethal, trio of diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.^[2] Fast forward a couple of centuries and the main threat facing a mountaineer is the face he looks at in the mirror every morning. In the immortal words of the comic strip Pogo, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

The singular question any intelligent and curious observer is left with is: Why?

Or, in other words: What happened to the Appalachia of yesterday? Who's responsible for its decline? How did it come to this?

The best answers I can provide are, respectively: it's dead; the Federal government; and the inevitable progress of the welfare state.

Part One: How the Scots-Irish Built America

This isn't an original idea on my part. Do a quick Google search and you'll find numerous quotes pertaining to the idea that the Scots-Irish migrations laid the foundation for America. A Hessian officer serving under the British wrote that the American Revolution was "nothing more nor less than a Scots-Irish... revolution." King George III famously ranted about a "Presbyterian war" in the Colonies. Washington himself supposedly declared, "If defeated everywhere else, I will make my last stand for liberty among the Scotch-Irish of my native Virginia."

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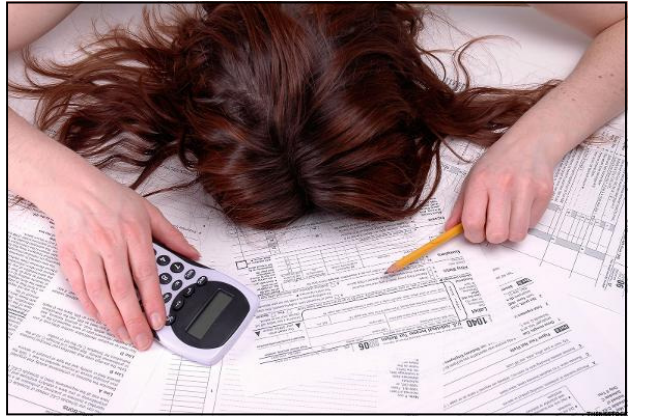
A report produced last month for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) examines the rampant criminality across Latin America and determines some best practices for implementing community security. "What Works in Reducing Community Violence", (readfomag.com/2016/04/essential-elements-of-community-security/) points out that Latin America consists of nine percent (9%) of the world's population but accounts for a third (33%) of all homicides globally.

Because regions of the U.S. may undergo changes that result in a close resemblance to the economic and

security conditions found throughout Latin America, it's very important to understand their security picture and then draw conclusions and lessons learned from their challenges. Poor economic conditions and poverty already lead some individuals towards criminality and gang activity. When economic conditions in the U.S. deteriorate and become sustained, there's a greater likelihood that communities deal with increased criminality and gang activity.

Panama is Small Change

By Robert Gore, *Financial Editor*



There is a conspiracy engaging in theft, counterfeiting, fraud, extortion, blackmail, bribery, influence peddling, drugs, terrorism, and war that makes the Panama Papers' exposures look like a small-town police blotter account of juvenile shoplifting. This criminal enterprise launders trillions, not billions, of dollars; it involves major political, business, financial, academic, and media figures in the US and around the globe, and it has perpetrated its crimes far longer than Mossack Fonseca's clients' have hid their money and illicit activities.

The dark conspiracy is the US Government. It takes over \$3 trillion a year in taxes. Anyone who refuses to pay is sent to jail. Stealing one dollar out of every six the US economy produces is insufficient for its purposes, so it borrows anywhere from \$500 billion to over \$1 trillion a year. Future interest payments and principle repayment add to the involuntary obligations imposed on the productive...and their children and grandchildren.

The law forces its populace to accept pieces of paper and computer entries—irredeemable for anything more valuable than identical pieces of paper and computer entries—as "legal tender." The government creates said paper and entries at will. Their value, such as is, rests on compulsion and unenforceable promises by the government not to create too many of them. Such promises have invariably been broken, and a dollar has about 4 percent of the purchasing power it had in 1913 when the central bank was established. That 96 percent depreciation counts as more theft; the government is the primary beneficiary from currency depreciation.

Every conspiracy needs accomplices. With stolen and counterfeit funds, the government bribes millions. Their acquiescence makes them complicit: money for votes. Nothing is as nauseating as thieves demonstrating their "virtue" by using stolen funds to maintain themselves in power. Of course they keep a generous portion of what they steal; the Washington metropolitan area is the richest in the country. The capital is doing to the rest of the country what the Mafia did to Sicily: draining it of all vitality and life.

Redistribution is only one of many rackets run by the government. In this "increasingly dangerous world" the US is supposedly beset by threats at every turn, the justification for perpetual war. The government accounts for about a third of the entire world's military and intelligence spending and maintains over 700 military outposts around the globe. It has been at war for decades in countries that have posed no threat to the US populace. Why? "Threats to interests" has replaced threats to the populace as the rationale for war. What are "threat to interests"? Anything that threatens the government's and its corporate allies' confederated global empire. The American people are given a false choice: their money or their lives. Their money funds Orwellian oxymorons designed to enslave: wars for peace, eliminating liberty to save it.

(Continued on page 3)

Modernity Has Not Been Kind to the Celt
(Continued from page 1)

(Years later, during the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington would make a stand for Federalism against the Scots-Irish. It's the thought that counts, though.)

My purpose here isn't a complete re-examination of the American Revolution — dammit, Jim, I'm a doctor, not a historian — but rather a re-examination of the role of the Scots-Irishman in colonial America as a whole. For decades the Protestant dissenters had been pushed into the hills by the Anglican establishment that inhabited the flatter, more easily-farmed areas of the Eastern Seaboard. The gentry's aim was twofold. First, it drove a famously lawless and quarrelsome folk (to wit, the predominantly Celtic Protestant immigrant population) into an area where they could fight amongst themselves without causing untold property damage. Secondly, it pushed what had been a strategic buffer for the British Empire — that is, the Scottish Border peoples — up against the Indians.

The average Ulsterman arrived in America with “an almost pathological thirst for their own land”^[3] (to say nothing of whiskey), a fierce sense of individualism, and a well-placed distrust for lawful authority. The promise of his own land made him seek a remote mountain home. His ability to hold that land against all comers strengthened his desire to hold his ground. His tenacity in doing so made him a worthy adversary against any Indian tribes that might try to force his hand.

To put it another way, the Anglican upper class of early America managed to kill three birds, rather than two, with one stone. They shunted aside a rather troublesome thorn in their sides; ensured that said troublesome population would stay put for once; and turned them into a weapon against what they considered to be an even more quarrelsome and violent native enemy.

Unfortunately for them, this had roughly the same result as James I's meddling did in Northern Ireland. Just a few decades later, the Appalachian Overmountain Men would prove to be the undoing of Cornwallis' forces and the end of the American Colonial era. In both Ulster and America, the temperamental and contentious Celt was never really able to stay out of Anglo-Saxon hair.

As I said before, this isn't meant to be simply a history lesson. Suffice it to say that from the arrival of the Scots-Irish on America's shores is the history of not just Appalachia, but the entire nation, writ large. Their frontier outposts and forts along the Blue Ridge plateau were a line of defense during the French and Indian War. In one particular incident that took place in the summer of 1755, Shawnee Indians from what is now northern Kentucky raided a settlement called Draper's Meadow, which occupied a part of the modern-day Virginia Tech campus. During their assault, they captured a woman named Mary Draper Ingles, the daughter of immigrants from Donegal. She managed to escape and travel — by foot — five hundred miles through the frontier wilderness back to her home and family.

I refer to this incident not just because it happened close to me, on the very grounds of a school I attended, but because it demonstrates the character of the Scots-Irish settlers. They were a rugged and resilient race, inured to hardship, accustomed to lack. They were a people of blood and iron. What we think of as the “pioneer spirit” is truly the spirit of the Scots-Irish, the settlers of the Appalachian Mountain range from western Pennsylvania to northern Alabama.

What went wrong?

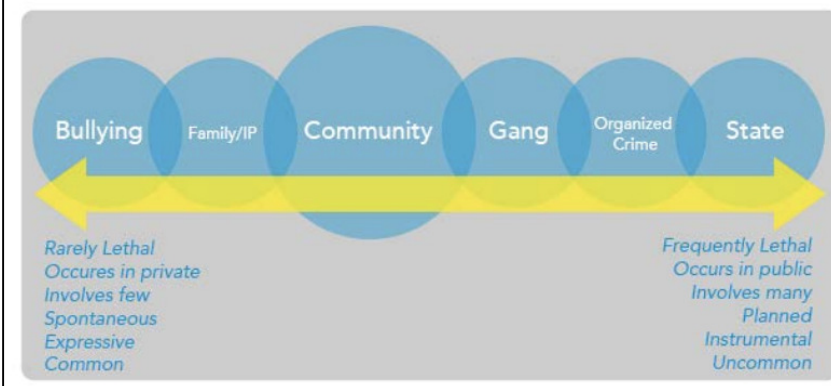
(To be continued. Please see next week's edition for Part II of this series).

From the Article: <http://gatesofvienna.net/2016/04/modernity-has-not-been-kind-to-the-celt/>. Reprinted with permission.

NOTES:
1. Stephenson, Neal, Zodiac (New York; Bantam Spectra, 1995). The neologism occurs as an approximate antonym to “telegenic.”
2. “Highest Rates of Obesity, Diabetes in the South, Appalachia, and Some Tribal Lands.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention press release. 19 November 2009. Web. 21 March 2016. www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2009/r091119c.htm
3. Dabney, Joseph Earl, Mountain Spirits: A Chronicle of Corn Whiskey & the South Appalachian Moonshine Tradition (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1974) p.

Essential Elements of Community Security (Continued from page 1)

Figure 1: Continuum of Violence



Below are four community security strategies from the report, which are appropriate for SHTF security efforts. (AC: Judged impact is based on empirical data, such as police reporting and crime statistics.) Keep in mind that while these are largely methods used by law enforcement, they're potential avenues for maintaining or bringing security to our communities in a SHTF scenario. During an emergency or the outbreak of violence in our communities, we're going to have to step in and provide security.

The point of this effort is not to replace the authoritarian structure losing control in the SHTF situation, but to protect members of our communities and ensure the opportunity to live a life of Liberty, free from the encumbrances of criminality.

And also consider that SHTF community security is likely to be shaped around the irregular threat — criminals, looters, mobs, or organized gangs. Effectively, you might be facing a low-intensity insurgency in your area that attempts to undermine the poor security situation or poor governance. This already happens in many large cities where gangs operate outside the established rule of law, and instead operate under their own street laws.

Strong Impact

Focused deterrence was found to have a had a strong impact on community violence, and according to the report had the greatest impact of all methods. In focused deterrence, security teams should focus on a problem, like a specific gang or type of crime, and use every means available to deter that crime or activity when encountered. It often involves direct communication with perpetrators. For instance, Boston-area law enforcement began a focused deterrence strategy in the 1990s to solve the city's youth homicide problem. During Operation Ceasefire, area law enforcement clearly communicated to gangs and other offenders that there was a zero tolerance policy for gang violence, and that when gang violence was encountered, the city would pursue the most severe means of dealing with the gang activity. In response, the homicide rates among youths (ages 24 and under) decreased by 63%.

Modest Impact

Hot Spot Policing was found to have had a modest impact on community violence, and refers to policing a small geographic area where criminals or crime is concentrated. For instance, if a gang is active in a specific area, then increased patrolling of that area would be an example of hot spot policing. The criminal activity may decrease as a result or it may disperse to other areas. In Iraq and Afghanistan, hot spot policing was practiced, as the goal was to bring security and support to that area long enough to empower the populace or local organizations to provide more of their own security.

Broken Windows Policing was found to have a had a modest impact on community violence. The theory behind broken windows policing is that disorder in the community leads to more serious crimes. For instance, city police might crack down on loitering in order to prevent property crimes, which might have lead to the formation of gangs or more serious crimes.

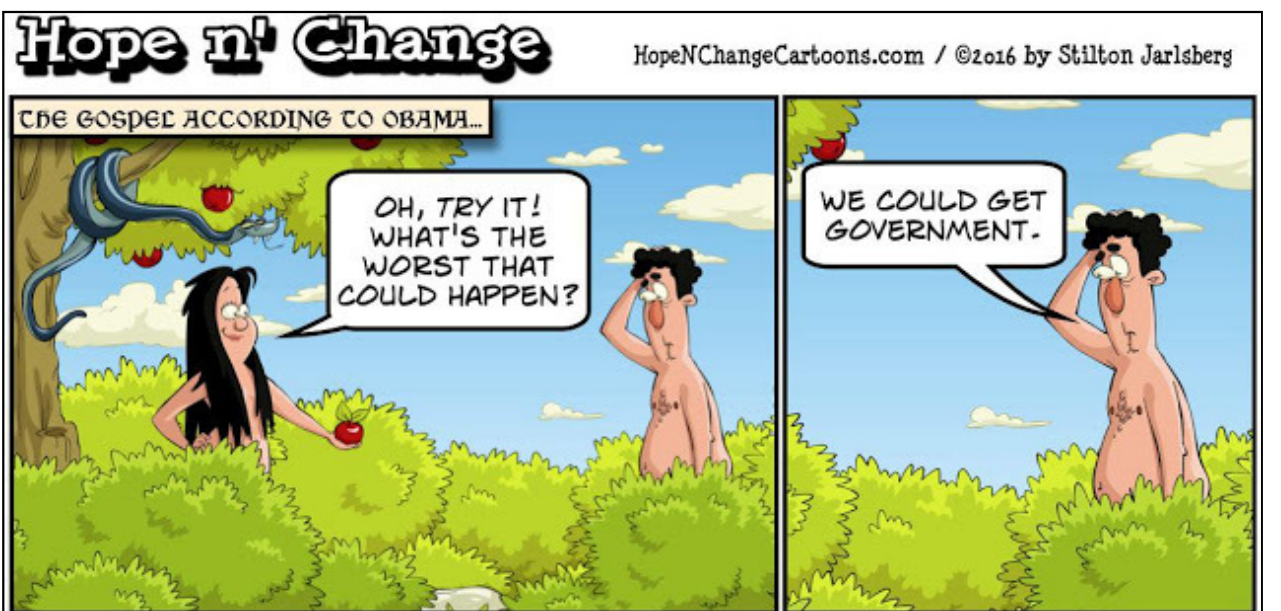
Neighborhood Watch programs were found to have a had a modest impact on community violence. Neighborhood Watch programs are absolutely necessary, especially where intelligence is concerned. In the Army, we stressed the importance of collecting valuable information by saying that Every Soldier Is a Sensor. In other words, every set of eyes and ears is collecting intelligence information that might be very valuable to an intelligence analyst focused on providing the commander insights into threats in the battlespace. Similarly, every resident in your community is also a sensor, and ultimately the question is what do they do with the information they collect? If members of the community aren't funneling timely information to the Community Protection Team, then we're missing out on potentially actionable intelligence information.

In conclusion, I want to stress that community security starts now. We have to be standing up our Community Protection Teams and identifying problems that our community could face in the future. The more problems we can solve today are problems that don't grow out of control tomorrow.

If you'd like more information on intelligence support to community security, be sure to check out “SHTF Intelligence: An Intelligence Analyst's Guide to Community Security” (readfomag.com/product/community-intelligence-program-print-e-book-combo/) and subscribe with Forward Observer to receive their Open Source Intelligence reports.

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Panama is Small Change (Continued from page 1)

What can be more criminal than promoting death and destruction for economic gain? The war complex—the money, jobs, and influence merry-go-round of the armed forces, Congress, bureaucracies, defense and intelligence contractors, media, and think tanks—have stumped for every war since Korea. Outcome is now irrelevant, the perpetuation of war and the trillions of dollars that flow from it are all that matter. If winning was important the US might win once in awhile; on paper it always has the military advantage.

The costs have been enormous: the drain on the economy of producing unproductive weaponry and supplies; the taxes extracted and debt incurred to pay for it; soldiers wasting what should be the most productive years of their life waging war, and the millions killed, wounded or displaced, either by war or its inevitable blowback. Syria may be the apotheosis: the government both fights and aids opposing sides, depending on shifting political calculations, cannot explain what its doing to the satisfaction of any rational person, and throws away immense sums of money. Filthy lucre has become the true object of warfare, because such wars sap rather than augment US military, financial, diplomatic, and moral power and strength.

Redistribution and warfare are among the biggest government rackets, but banking should not go unmentioned, simply because the bankers have achieved every criminal's dream: they garner the gains from ostensibly legal activities while taxpayers bear the losses. The Federal Reserve provides unlimited funds at concessionary terms when bank liquidity runs dry and markets seize up. It suppresses short term interest rates, enabling banks' risky carry trades and yield curve arbitrages. The Fed has developed a close identity of interest with the banks it regulates (also known as regulatory capture), promoting concentration within the industry and effectively turning it into a cartel. When generalized crises arise, which such a morally hazardous set up guarantees, the federal government assumes a good chunk of the bank's deposit liabilities, and money will be stolen or borrowed to ensure that the biggest banks don't go under.

With the growth of the surveillance state, those who might object know they're being monitored and information about them—innocuous, embarrassing, or incriminating—is kept on massive data bases. A gangster offers a merchant "protection" from every gang but the gangster's; the government spies on us to "protect" us. Only fools think the "protector" in either case is less dangerous than the threats against which it supposedly protects. The government doesn't usually have to make threats; it has our secrets.

Occasional and generally underreported and under-investigated disclosures like the Panama Papers fuel suspicion that what's disclosed is the tip of an iceberg. That suspicion is not unfounded. Undoubtedly smuggling and trading in drugs, weapons, and humans, and laundering of the proceeds, is extensive and mostly hidden. Such trading and laundering require bribery of the government officials and politicians who are supposed to stop them.

The dog that doesn't bark here is the scarcity of convictions, or even investigations, of officials and politicians for aiding these illegal activities. The dog that does bark here has been the vitriol and hostility unleashed at anyone who suggests that the costs of wholesale legalization of one of those activities—the drug trade—would be far less than the costs have been of keeping it illegal. The suspicion is inescapable that the howls of outrage have far more to do with a very profitable ox being gored than with the oft-cited "immorality" or harmful effects of drugs.

However, what goes on legally in broad daylight is far more worrisome, and wrong, than what transpires in the shadows and sub rosa byways of criminality. Taxes, redistribution, war, banking, and the many other government rackets retain a veneer of respectability that keeps most people from seeing them as the criminal endeavors they've become. Governments are the largest criminal enterprises in history, with those who control them writing the laws that exempt their own criminality. Any nation that legitimizes the wrong and criminalizes the right cannot endure. After long acquiescence current political ructions may mark a dawning comprehension of the distinction between what's legal and what's right. It's a realization that will receive sustenance as the present system collapses, but it will take time and a huge educational effort by those who comprehend before it can blossom into something truly worthwhile. **Resisting criminals is a basic human right.**

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- Fill the bottom of your plant pots with foam packing peanuts to improve drainage and make large pots lighter.
- Grind your eggshells into a powder and sprinkle into your garden to boost calcium.
- To discourage pets from using your flower bed as a litter box, stick disposable plastic forks, tines side up, into your bed.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 16—Introduction to Tactical Weapons, Murphy, NC. This answers the question: "what is the best weapon for personal defense?" Students will supply their personal concealed handgun and ammo. First part of the class is an introduction to the AR, AK and Tactical Shotgun (supplied) which will include a live fire exercise with each. Second part of the class, participants will use each weapon in a scenario to learn the benefits and limitation of each. Ammunition supplied for the rifles & tactical shotgun. \$75 (fee includes approximately \$25 of ammunition). Limited to 6 participants. To register call 706-896-6075 or e-mail practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com.

Apr 26—Women's Pistol Shooting Clinic, Murphy, NC, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. From the Women of the NRA. For women who would like to learn how to safely handle and shoot a pistol with other women in a friendly environment. \$40 fee includes instruction, range fee, targets and lunch. Bring your pistol, ammo, eye/ear protection and folding chair. To register contact Deborra Forehand, NRA Instructor, 828-342-9510 or email dmforehand@icloud.com.

Apr 29-30—Blue Ridge Trout Fest, Blue Ridge, GA. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The event begins on Friday evening, April 29th with the Blue Ridge Trout Train and Auction. The Blue Ridge Trout Fest will gather fly-fisherman, river sports enthusiasts, allied outdoor recreation fans and their families to Blue Ridge for fun, education, food, entertainment and services. Entrance \$5, 12 & under free. Proceeds will benefit the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. To be held in Downtown Blue Ridge City Park. See www.blueridgetroutfest.com or call 706-374-2390 for more info.

Apr 29 - May 1—Heritage Life Skills, Waynesville, NC. This 5th Annual Life Skills event features classes & demonstrations featuring bee keeping, and more. Featuring speakers Dr. William Forstchen, Rick Austin and Survivor Jane, Dr. Bones & Nurse Amy and Charley Hogwood. For information call 828-456-5310 and visit www.carolinareadiness.com.

Apr 30—Glock Armorer Course, Blairsville, GA. 8:00 am - noon. This four-hour course covers the basic information to keep your Glock handgun in fighting condition. At the conclusion of this course, you will be more knowledgeable at disassembly, reassembly, cleaning, lubrication and identification of worn or damaged parts. After-market parts and modifications are discussed, with an emphasis on which products work and which products have inherent issues. \$49, please contact Rick Klopp, 706-781-4526.

May 21-22—High Risk Vehicle Gunfighting, Murphy, NC. Although normally reserved for those in the operator community, the average American spends 15+ hours a week in their vehicle. This class will teach you to become more dynamic in/around your vehicle - don't be left helpless in this situation. \$350. Contact Rick Klopp, Suarez International, 706-781-4526.