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The Most Dangerous Candidate

By Robert Gore, *Financial Editor*



Soviet Union. The goal was to draw the Soviet Union into a protracted and debilitating quagmire.

The strategy worked, but not without unfortunate consequences. Allies can turn into enemies. The leader of the mujahideen, Osama bin Laden, became the US's implacable foe after the US set up permanent military bases in Saudi Arabia, home of sacred Islamic shrines Medina and Mecca, during the first invasion of Iraq in 1990. His anger was reportedly the impetus behind 9/11. The Afghanistan success also taught US policymakers a "lesson" they would have been better off not learning: supporting local groups in armed conflict could produce low-cost, desirable outcomes.

Clinton supported the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. She claims it was a mistake now, but the invasion was, in light of later events, fully consistent with her stance on US interventionism. In subsequent situations, she has repeated her Iraq "mistake." Afghanistan and Iraq were the first neoconservative forays into regime change and replacement with US-compliant governments, securing oil supplies, and nation building on the way to an efflorescence of democracy and increased regional toleration of Israel.

That's not the way things have worked out. After a financial tally in the trillions of dollars, thousands of military casualties, and a civilian death toll in the millions, Afghanistan and Iraq are sectarian hell holes, beset by ISIS; US military forces are still present in both nations (Afghanistan counts as the longest war in US history); US intervention has been a major spur for Islamic extremism and blowback terrorism, and Afghans and Iraqis are part of the refugee flood overwhelming Europe.

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Cornerstones Of Oppression: The Upper Middle Class

By Paul Rosenberg



How Their Role Formed

The current ruling structure in the West derives from the industrial society that thrived from roughly 1910 through 1980. That system was designed to reap the production of industrial workers; everything from withholding taxes to government schools was put in place to maximize the take. Whether purposely or by trial and error, the Western world was structured to keep industrial workers moving in a single direction and to reap from them as they went.

Between 1979 and 1981, however, things turned, and the industrial workforce steadily declined. But the elite class (we'll define them some other time) was in no position to rebuild the structure. So, they adapted as best they could. Among other things, stock and bond markets, which had previously been for "rich people," became the destination for everyone's retirement money. IRAs and 401(k)s were enacted and popularized at just this time. Exporting dollars for foreign goods became policy at this time too.

Details aside, the upper middle class (UMC) – generally the most agile of the non-elite classes – adapted to the new environment. After all, their commercial positions allowed them to gather bits and pieces of inside information. With a few associates in high places, they could make out what was happening and how to take advantage of it.

And so they did. Haphazardly, of course, but far better than the poor, who had no chance, or the lower middle class, who gathered bits and pieces of information from the upper middle class, just as the UMC did from their higher-level associates.

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U.S. Conducts Airstrikes Against ISIS in Libya reads *The New York Times*'

August 1 headline, capturing virtually everything wrong with US foreign interventionism. Tracing the strands emanating from that headline regrettably requires a deep dive into an ideological and moral cesspool, on which Hillary Clinton luxuriates in a floating lounge chair, sunning herself and sipping a piña colada, evidently not put off by the stench.

What's ISIS doing in Libya? It's an offshoot of ISIS in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, which is an offshoot of al Qaeda in Iraq. That group was formed from an embittered core of Sunnis dispossessed of positions and property and jailed by the US government-installed majority Shiite government after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Al Qaeda's family tree starts with the mujahideen in Afghanistan, who were backed by Presidents Carter and Reagan in their war against the

Serfs With Guns

By T. L. Davis



This nation is the result of politicians being tolerated by the populace. It is the result of economics being delegated to the bankers. It is the result of bureaucrats (apparatchiks) running wild with regulations that amount to laws enforced at the point of a gun or the threat of prison. It is the result of thinking that a fifteen minute investment (to vote) once every couple of years is enough to keep a handle on all of the children in government. It is the equivalent of thinking one might raise a child with a weekend every couple of years. Logically, we all know that won't work, but when it comes to government, we accept it, believe in it, consider it the most important thing we do and it means exactly nothing.

In truth, we, the governed, are tolerated by the politicians. In any other system, they would have just rounded up the trouble-makers and lined them up along a pit. Don't think they wouldn't like to do just that, but they are biding their time. A republic is too unwieldy, with serfs believing they are princes and princes believing they are kings. To really have control, the politicians need a different system.

The new system is in the works. That's what public education has been about since the 60's; it is what Black Lives Matter is all about and why the politicians support it. It is what judicial activism is all about. It is what political correctness is all about. Political correctness is the language of genocide, it is the way to separate "good" people from "bad" people and to reduce humans to categories. From there, the pits can be dug and the defectives identified.

I have lately been promoting the idea of Patcons to help make the necessary links, to encourage the development of Community Defense Teams. Some groups are ahead of others, but everyone I have contacted understands the need to coalesce, not just for survival, but like the group out in Wet Mountain Valley, CO, to push outward with the message of liberty. The Appalachian Redoubt is on a par with Wet Mountain, but there are a lot of empty spaces.

This push for Patcons and Community Defense Teams is in direct response to the insane politics of the day. Barack Obama comes out and criticizes the Republicans for Donald Trump with all of the irony only a backer of Hillary Clinton could muster.

I spoke with a person the other day about the nation as it stands, someone who was vested in the political system and he asked my position. I told him that I simply didn't consider it relevant. "We die fast, or we die slow." There is no option that offers salvation. No election in my lifetime has so accurately defined the state of the nation as Trump v Clinton.

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The Most Dangerous Candidate

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Muammar Gaddafi was more grisly than Saddam Hussein's comparatively dignified hanging. She was the prime proponent within the Obama administration of the Libyan fiasco, remembering everything but learning nothing from Iraq. Donald Trump's campaign would be well advised to show Clinton's infamous, "We came, we saw, he died...cackle" video over and over, juxtaposed with scenes of the chaos that has engulfed Libya, where three rival "governments" contest for control of the country. **And let's not forget Benghazi.**

Clinton, her neoconservative cohorts, and the US's Sunni allies in the Middle East—Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and Turkey—have their hearts set on yet another regime change in Syria. (Many of these allies have made large donations to the Clinton foundation.) One shudders to think of the death they have envisioned for Shiite Bashar Assad if they're successful. Clinton fully supports the US's muddled policy of getting rid of Assad by using Islamic extremists pursuing the same goal. The US has quietly succored ISIS and affiliated jihadists while appearing to fight them, and has done nothing to stop its allies from doing the same.

However, they have been stymied by the Russia-Iranian-Hezbollah alliance, which has proven far more effective against ISIS and its affiliates than the US alliance. Clinton's proposed response? Institute a no-fly zone over northern Syria, potentially risking a confrontation with the Russian air force and stifling its ability to fight ISIS.

Clinton continues to embrace neoconservative goals, presumably expecting different results than the chaos, instability, inability of the US to disengage, blowback terrorism, and refugee flows which mark their strategy as an abysmal failure. Per Einstein's famous dictum, that's insanity. Failed as it has in second-tier countries throughout the Middle East and northern Africa, the idea of directing it towards Russia, the world's second strongest military power, is beyond insanity. Yet, there has been no more vociferous supporter of the US effort to stigmatize and replace Vladimir Putin, and isolate and provoke Russia, than Clinton.

Accept as gospel US government and media propaganda concerning Ukraine since 2014 and policy there still amounts to deranged. Even if the revolution in 2014 was spontaneous and had no US sponsorship, even if the duly elected and deposed president, Viktor Yanukovich, was corrupt, authoritarian, and a Russian pawn, even if the annexation of Crimea by Russia contravened international law, even if the rebellion in eastern Ukraine has been supported by Russia, so what? By what rational calculation does the US have an interest in Ukraine?

It's been part of Russia for most of its history and was the doorway for Napoleon's and Hitler's invasions. The administration of Petro Poroshenko is stocked with neo-Nazis and is no less corrupt, incompetent, or repressive than the one it replaced. The country is bankrupt, dependent on IMF bailouts that break its own rules. Russia's only port on the Black Sea, Sevastopol, is in Crimea and a substantial majority of its populace would rather align with Russia than hapless Ukraine. Belying US rhetoric about Russia's "invasion" of Ukraine, Putin has not moved to take it over, although his forces could do so in a week or two.

If they did, it would take—judging from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria—at least a century for the US to "liberate" it, absent the resort to nuclear weaponry. Ukraine is as vital an interest to Russia as Canada and Mexico are to the US. Any Russian attempt to insert itself into Canadian or Mexican affairs to the same extent as the US has inserted itself into Ukraine's would rightly be regarded as provocative, demanding a response that could escalate into war.

So far Russia has demonstrated restraint, although the government and media have tried to portray Russia military exercises within Russia as aggressive. Russia appears intent on securing its sphere of influence. The US has insisted on securing its sphere of influence since the promulgation of the Monroe doctrine in 1823. The Crimean annexation and aiding eastern Ukraine's rebels fit Russian aims, but there is no evidence to support the endlessly repeated claim that Russia and Putin are bent on reconstituting the old USSR and eventual world domination. Attempting to dominate the world is a much more accurate description of US policy. The only purposes of US aggression towards Russia in Ukraine and eastern Europe has been to try to diminish Putin in Russia (which has failed) and to goad his government into a military response, which would provide cover for a US military response. Maybe Putin should make a large donation to the Clinton Foundation.

Fortunately the US effort, fully supported by Clinton but questioned by Donald Trump, has to date not worked. Both countries can inflict global nuclear devastation. Putting Russia's safety in doubt, backing it into a corner from which it has no other choice but to fight, would be suicidal, beyond insane.

Yet that is the policy Clinton has pushed. Victoria Nuland, wife of neoconservative doyen Robert Kagan and a staunch neoconservative in her own right, stands accused of stage managing Ukraine's 2014 "revolution" and is an ardent hardliner against Russia. She is a contender for Clinton's Secretary of State. Clinton has likened Putin to Hitler and accused Russia of hacking DNC emails, a charge for which only the flimsiest of proof has been offered.

The Democrats, the mainstream media, and various "important people" within the intelligence community have spun tales of undue influence and a "bromance" between Trump and Vladimir Putin. For argument's sake accept that as true. Wouldn't a measure of amity between the Russian and US heads of state be vastly preferable to escalating tension? Negotiation or nuclear holocaust? Which is the most dangerous policy, and who is the most dangerous candidate?

There is no darker stain on Clinton's record than Libya.

The brutal regime change that led to chaos in Iraq was repeated in Libya, except the death by sodomy of

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Serfs With Guns *(Continued from page 1)*

So, if this is where we are, what can possibly be next? Bernie Sanders illuminated the otherwise darkened corner of the die-hard communists, who have receded into the shadows since the demise of the Soviet Union, but they were always there. Black Lives Matter has illuminated the racist hatred of the collectivists in the black community. Trump has put the lie to the Republican Party and exposed it as the slightly less collectivist party.

That leaves many of us as just serfs with guns, the one constituency no one really wants to take head-on. So, they will come through the courts and through definitions, put the "bad" person tag on all of us. The headline over at Western Rifle Shooters puts it perfectly: You Will Be Considered and Treated As A Felon: Act Accordingly.

It is a fight, now. When they finally destroy everything valuable in this nation, the finger pointing will start. You have already seen how that plays out, they are responsible for nothing; we are responsible for everything. They will hunt us down and kill us to hear the cheering rise from the throats of their sycophants.

"A liberal's paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive healthcare, free education, free food, free housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. And believe it or not, such a place does indeed already exist: It's called Prison".

- Sheriff Joe Arpaio

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 20—NRA Basic Rifle Class, Murphy, NC. 8 am - 5 pm. This 8 hr. course teaches the basic knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for the safe use of a rifle in target shooting. Instruction will be taught by a Certified NRA Instructor and includes both classroom and range time. \$98. Instructor: Rick Klopp, Personal Defense Strategies. Class time to be held at 43 Tennessee St., Murphy. Contact David DeGerolamo, David@ncrenegade.com for more.

Sept 5—The Well Armed Woman, Georgia Mountain Chapter, Hayesville, NC. 5:30 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping and empowering women gun owners. Meeting at United Community Bank meeting room, 95 Highway 64W, Hayesville, NC. For more information please contact Carrie Brekke at practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com.

Sept 8—The Well Armed Woman, Murphy Chapter, Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Ave, downtown Murphy. Contact Tasa Johnson at 828-835-8678 or Deborra Forehand at 828-342-9510 for information.

Sept 16-18—Prepper Camp, Saluda NC. Prepper Camp is a national event held in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and located in a campground venue that allows you to experience preparedness information, survival skills, and camp-craft activities. Learn what you need to survive, meet speakers and vendors that have preparedness items that you need, all in an environment where you can swim, camp, fish, boat, hike, and cook-out. \$75.00/ages 16 and up includes all classes/admission for the entire 3 day weekend. Ticket sales end August 31. See www.preppercamp.com/ for more.

Oct 15—Appalachian Homesteaders' Network Prepper Fair, Bryson City, NC. 11:00 am - 6 pm. Come meet and greet like-minded people. There will be vendors and free BBQ (while it lasts). Event will be held rain or shine; if rain it will be held at the Alarka fire house next door. From US 74 at Bryson City take Exit 64, turn East onto Alarka Road, go approx. 3 miles. Location will be on the left at 3301 Alarka Road.

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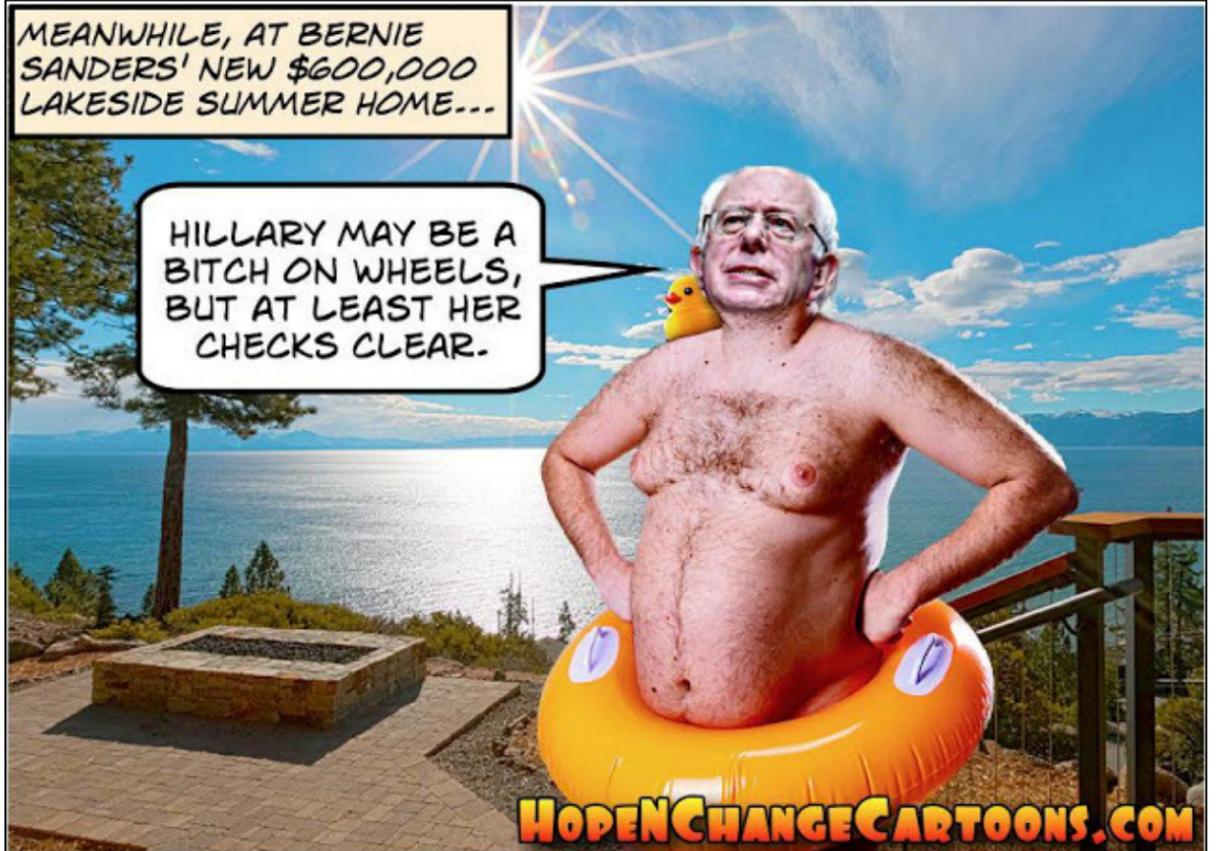
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Q: What do these people have in common? Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Susan B. Anthony?
A: People Against Abortion.

**Cornerstones Of Oppression:
 The Upper Middle Class** (Continued from page 1)

And so, from roughly 1980 until 2007, the financialization of the US and Western economies proceeded apace, as if it would be permanent. Then came the crash and the doubling down of the elite: Their institutions (big banks) were protected, and the lower classes ("Main Street") were allowed to suffer, although they were provided with government handouts.

The Current Role

As I write this in 2016, the role of the upper middle class is clear. In brief, the work assigned to them is:

Pay lots of taxes: US government tax receipts are at record highs, and as Mitt Romney infamously but correctly noted, the poor pay very little, while the upper classes pay almost everything. The upper middle class, in fact, is carefully kept in a position to play this role. The Fed is very reliably keeping the stock market up, protecting this class's wealth. And because they're in the highest tax brackets, a large percentage of everything they earn goes right back to the state. So, as long as the UMC has the Fed protecting them, the tax man remains well fed.

Keep Wall Street strong: The lords of Wall Street pay even more taxes than the upper middle class, and they also pay oceans of money to politicians, keeping their games going as well. And Wall Street needs reliable clients like the UMC, who are carefully given no alternative. Interest on savings is roughly at zero – in some places below – and endless regulations give people nowhere else to go. And so, all the UMC's mobile assets stay in Wall Street's pot and under the ultimate control of the US government.

Buy luxury goods: I recently saw a gift registry for an upper middle class wedding where the bride and groom requested olive spoons. Yes, olive spoons! Such purchases are simply status tokens, the UMC's part of "keeping the economy going." More than that, these people simply don't know what to do with their money – most of them have no real purpose in their lives beyond "success." And so, they default to status tokens that will sell for pennies on the dollar at their eventual estate sales.

Providing inertia: The upper middle class is crucial to keeping the system going, even though the industrial class it was designed to reap is gone. These people must legitimize the regime. "Things are fine," "we just need the right people in office," and a dozen other trite phrases serve this purpose. They can support either the Blues or the Reds, so long as they support "the process" and an idolatrous belief in "democracy." The illusions of permanence and inevitability must be maintained above all, and these people are in a position to do it. This is the most essential part of their role.

"Is That All There Is?"

This is the question I'd like upper middle class people to ask themselves. Is getting and displaying stuff the sum total of life? Is servicing a system a fitting role to a conscious, intelligent being?

As I said at the outset, the upper middle class is composed mainly of literate, competent people. If they wish to, they are able to see past slogans and frauds. And they are familiar with morality, even if they tend to ignore it in public.

There is more to life than playing a role in a game, even a pampered role. If we sell our souls to status, we are fools, and upper middle class people are able to be more than fools.

We who are able must choose to understand, not just to gather stuff. We must choose the future over the present, morality over mere expediency.

We who are able must do the things that matter.