



PEACEWORKS

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As buildings burn, trainers, mobile phones and plasma tvs are redistributed and the police rush around, David Cameron has rushed back from holiday; perhaps still slightly jetlagged he has adjusted his former view of a broken society to mere '...pockets of our society that are not only broken, but frankly sick'. It's not clear whether this is better or worse but surely water canons and rubber bullets are not the best medicine for sickness if that is what the problem is. One can have a great deal of fun with 'politician speak'; just change the context of a sentence or even speech and the meaning changes dramatically. It's one reason why we should put little weight on what politicians say but note what they do.

Despite preaching financial restraint the expenditure on bombing of Libya seems to have no limit; its cost has already exceeded the £100 million cuts in youth services which may have helped to keep a few young people from slipping into that disenfranchised zone. Much has also been said about the lack of values of the rampaging masses but what values do these moral, upstanding politicians and pundits mean? One and all they call violence unacceptable but they are rather picky about whose violence they have in mind. They call for better role models but where are these to be found? Surely not amongst the supporters of mega death and promoters war that pack parliament?

With role models who choose weapons of unimaginable destruction as some kind of fantasy insurance in preference to providing adequate health care, decent education or simply helping more people out of poverty there is little hope. Why be surprised when others smash and rob, they are just copying their 'betters'. Simple cause and effect may be hard to identify but a society which almost universally preaches the values of violence (pick your circumstance) should not be surprised when people use violence and criminality in circumstances

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Editor: Jan Melichar

www.ppu.org.uk/peaceworks/

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BBC's Evan Davis positively drooled over BAE Systems 'machine that mankind had only been able to dream about' in the 'Made in Britain' series on BBC 2 - and the machine - the 'Mantis' the world's first autonomous aircraft. No prizes for guessing who has their beady eyes on this technological wonder. BAE Systems, the world's second largest arms manufacturer, is presented here as the epitome of British industrial success.

"They rise as an unavoidable consequence, out of the ill construction of all old governments in Europe, England included with the rest. It is by distortedly exalting some men, that others are distortedly debased, until the whole is out of nature." Tom Paine on mobs



? Blessing The Stone

? Bletchley Park

Another boring war memorial unveiled by the Queen in June to add to the other memorials at this 'unique Milton Keynes venue for conferences, weddings and banqueting'



others may not agree with.

A recent report by a cross-party group of MPs notes that spending cuts will prevent the armed forces from carrying out military operations and lead to a decline in Britain's influence and role in the world. May this be a harbinger of good news? What's more the British army will be reduced to its smallest size since the Boer war according to Liam Fox. Now how about scrapping taxpayer support for cadet forces, for nuclear weapons, for....?

£6 million vanity project

To the roar of a World War Two bomber in the sky overhead a small group of worthies stood around a large block of white stone on a sunny May day in London. The occasion was the blessing, by god's representative, Ray Pentland, RAF's Chaplain-in-Chief, of the foundation stone for the biggest memorial to be built in London for over 200 years.

Bomber Command, whose 'heroes' this memorial is to commemorate has had an image problem for a long time as have some of the memorials sponsors – Richard Desmond - for example. Former bombers feel not entirely unreasonably aggrieved that having been asked to bomb the hell out of German cities and consequently kill a large number of people they have subsequently been shunned by Churchill and many others down the years. Quite possibly they may now feel that a monstrous erection on the edge of Green Park with quotations from Churchill will be suitable revenge.

Bomber Command has been slowly establishing its presence in the heroic heritage memorials fraternity. After the controversial erection of a statue of Harris a memorial plaque was unveiled in Lincoln Cathedral and plaques and memorials of all sorts are popping up at and around former Bomber Command airfields.

There are many reasons for this late blossoming of war memorials – many sentimental, private and harmless. But the other interests at work should not be forgotten. Whatever else the Bomber Command memorial is about it is fundamentally about justifying killing people in the name of some good or other.

By late October the PPU expects to have a new section on its website focusing on the ideological development of bombing from total interdiction of bombing civilians to today's drone attacks.■

"Can anything be more ridiculous than that a man should have the right to kill me because he lives on the other side of the water and because his ruler has a quarrel with mine, though I have none with him?" Baise Pascal

why I became a pacifist?

PPU Council members and PRET Trustees are jointly working on some material related to the Citizenship curriculum. One aspect we would like to write about is the reason why people become pacifists. We hope to draw on your experiences and reasons to make modern-day pacifism/war resistance seem a perfectly normal path to choose in life! We would like to make it obvious that pacifists exist throughout society, and for many reasons – religious, political, moral etc. We know too that many members pursue their pacifism in different ways in their life and work, whether as teachers, social workers, prison reformers, charity workers, non-violent activists, members of peace groups etc. It would be good to know about your involvement in peace work or putting pacifism into practice in your daily lives too.

If you feel able to write about your reasons for being a pacifist for possible publication as part of our citizenship project – just 100 – 200 words would be ideal – please email your brief reasons to jan@ppu.org.uk, marking your email topic Citizenship project.

We can't guarantee to use everything we receive but will read them all with interest and it will help to inform our work. ■

One of a Hundred Appeal

Recently I asked if at least 100 PPU members could help build up the PPU's low reserves by contributing £100 (or whatever they could afford) to help us raise £10,000. The PPU has cut costs where possible but urgently needs extra support to help carry out its work.

A magnificent response has brought in just over £5000. (Our associated charity PRET has also received generous donations totalling £4000) We are now opening up our appeal to other PPU supporters to get direct donations to the PPU itself. If you want to help the PPU have more security for its work for the next few years, please do send whatever you can afford. Another 50 supporters giving £100 (or 100 giving £50) would help us reach the magic £10,000 (and more).

Thank you so much for whatever you can contribute. We appreciate all the support we receive. ?

Lucy Beck

“Mere praise of peace is easy, but ineffective. What is needed is active participation in the fight against war and everything that leads to it.” Albert Einstein



? As some Berliners reflect on the 50th anniversary of the erection of the separation wall, children playing on this swing are unlikely to know that the bare grass and playing field below were until 12 years ago part of the infamous 'death strip' that surrounded West Berlin.



? Participants at PPU's Peace Memorials Walk at the Conscientious Objectors commemorative stone in London.

If you missed the PPU's Peace Memorials Walk you can take a self guided walk using our London Peace memorials tour leaflet ppu.org.uk/memorials

military babble trash

You and I know it as bombing Libya but the US call it Operation Odyssey Dawn, British military call it Operation ELLAMY, the Canadian's name for it is Operation Mobile, the French call it Opération Harmattan. NATO's military activity is Operation Unified Protector.

Why riots or social disturbance arises in some circumstance and not others has no simple answer but a clue to the why can be gleaned from the where. Many bemoan the mindless violence and criminality of the 'rioters' but in a society whose elites are riven with criminality and attached to violence why be surprised.

Once underway riots like wars, create a permissive environment in which acts otherwise unthought of are performed. Crowds are irrational and don't have motives. Crowd behaviour is dynamic and unpredictable; reason and motive disappear and behaviour become increasingly unpredictable.



? Rioting as theatre. Notice the audience across the road

European Court of Human Rights

affirms the right to conscientious objection to military service

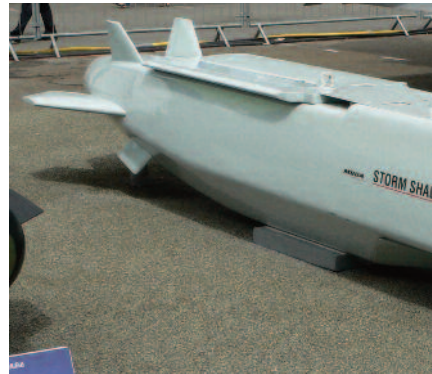
The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, in a groundbreaking judgment has ruled that states have a duty to respect individuals' right to conscientious objection to military service as part of their obligation to respect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion set out in Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the light of this judgment, we call on Turkey and Azerbaijan, the only two parties to the Convention who do not yet provide for conscientious objection to military service, to take immediate steps to do so. Moreover, Armenia should amend its Alternative Service Act to ensure that it provides a genuine alternative service of a clearly civilian nature, which should be neither deterrent nor punitive in character, in line with European and international standards.

This is the first time that the right of conscientious objection to military service has been explicitly recognised under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The judgment brings European Court of Human Rights in line with the long-standing interpretation of the equivalent provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the UN Human Rights Committee, the body set up

under that treaty to monitor states parties' compliance with its provisions.

The case concerned Vahan Bayatyan a Jehovah's Witness who was sentenced to two and a half years in prison following his refusal of military service on the grounds of conscientious objection. Amnesty International, Conscience & Peace Tax International, International Commission of Jurists, Quaker UN Office and War Resisters' International submitted a joint third party intervention to the Grand Chamber which highlighted the UN Human Rights Committee's long-standing position that conscientious objection to military service is protected under the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The organizations also highlighted recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly and Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and provided the Court with information about the recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military service in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. **more** <http://tiny.cc/psm8n> ■



BAE System's Storm Shadow displayed at an arms fair Price £800,000 approx each plus tens of thousands pounds to 'deliver'

"We live in a great and free country only because our forefathers were willing to wage war rather than accept the peace that spells destruction"

Theodore Roosevelt US President.Plus ça change.

Low-visibility warfare

In a recent interview in the New York Times David Petraeus, now CIA director, had some gloomy answers.

A decade of fighting has slashed the U.S. appetite for war. It eats cash, costs lives and these days there's never a victory parade. "Any future defense secretary who advises the president to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should 'have his head examined,' as General MacArthur so delicately put it."

These statements by Petraeus suggest that the U.S. combat phase of the Long War is over, ending in strategic defeat. Drone attacks, secret Special Forces raids, and training of mercenary armies is sure to continue, a return

to low-visibility warfare. While the US peace movement will be challenged to effectively oppose secret military interventions with few if any American casualties, the greater difficulty is for the US to succeed in imposing unpopular and repressive regimes on hostile populations.

While looting of shops is widely deprecated the close to **£50 billion** whipped from our pocket to fund war making is surely a more serious matter. At best a total waste at worse deadly. American combat role is being phased out. Petraeus, the CIA and the Pentagon are in retreat – or better, redeployment – to their secret sanctuaries. ■

current land wars are far from over, though the American combat role is being phased out. Petraeus, the CIA and the Pentagon are in retreat – or better, redeployment – to their secret sanctuaries. ■

don't forget the white poppies

Packing of white poppies has already started at the PPU office and thousands have already been sent to Canadian supporters. If you are planning to lay a wreath of

white poppies this year do let us know well in advance so we can let others, who might want to join you, know about your event.



"Everyone's a pacifist between wars. It's like being a vegetarian between meals." Colman McCarthy

Nonviolence for a Change.

a training programme for working with others offered by Turning the Tide in collaboration with Huddersfield Quakers September 2011 to June 2012 Themes include: Nonviolence, a dangerous idea; Understanding the system; Campaigners do it together! How we make change; The living revolution: building the alternative and more Details and booking www.turning-the-tide.org

Drones Week of Action

1st – 8th October
dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk

Burke + Norfolk: Photographs From The War In Afghanistan was a recent exhibition at Tate Modern of a series of new photographs in Afghanistan, which took its cue from the work of nineteenth-century Irish photographer John Burke.

You will not get to see the image below of the entrance to the **British Embassy** in Kabul in all the stories of dearing and do and the magnificent progress of our brave troops in Afghanistan.



Simon Norfolk 2010

"Anarchism is a political philosophy which considers the state undesirable, unnecessary, and harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society, or anarchy. Any information relating to anarchists should be reported to your local police."

extract from recent police leaflet, now withdrawn after protest.

Historically, anarchists were perhaps the first to figure out that terrorism doesn't work, having abandoned bombs and assassinations in the 1910s and '20s, after realising that—even if directed only at heads of state or Wall Street magnates—such tactics ultimately only served to give the state an excuse for even more repressive behavior. Since then, they have been at the forefront of encouraging just the sort of mass strategies of direct action that have been so effective in the Middle East. This is what genuinely terrifies those in charge of this increasingly bankrupt political order. Terrorists they know how to deal with (they are mostly kindred spirits, after all).

Non-violent mass mobilisation, particular militant forms of non-violence that may not be afraid to damage property but which take the moral high ground by refusing to use lethal force against humans, terrifies them—because they know how powerful and effective it can be. Non-violent mass mobilisation in a way that challenges not just the legitimacy of this government, but of any government, is their worst nightmare. If they are suddenly seized by uncontrollable impulses to urge loyal citizens to turn in their local Free School organiser, or Food Not Bombs volunteer, this is the reason. Because they know direct action works.

David Graeber
opendemocracy.net

Awakening and Famine in Global Context

The Arab Awakening stutters on, with progress in some countries and repression in others. Meanwhile, severe food shortages in East Africa, due partly to a sustained drought, lead to some parts of Somalia being designated famine areas, echoing problems back in the 1980s and even the 1970s. Many factors are contributing to the plethora of problems across the Middle East and North and East Africa, but economic and environmental trends continue, with the risk that the present-day issues may eventually be seen as markers for even more serious problems in the coming decades.

Just two countries set in motion the Arab Awakening and in only one of them has there been significant further progress. This is Tunisia, the originator of mass public protest right at the start of the year. After the rapid overthrow of the Ben Ali regime, there were frequent forced resignations of successor politicians as thousands of Tunisians took to the streets once more, seeing too many of them as tainted by connections with the old regime. Four months later, some degree of calm has been restored under the temporary leadership of a veteran politician, Beji Caid Sebti. Serious economic problems remain that would have had to be faced by any new government, with youth unemployment exceeding 20% and over 150,000 graduates out of work, but there is a sufficiently wide recognition that political reform is beginning and that, in time, a more just economic settlement may be possible.

In Egypt, though, the reformers are less optimistic, largely because the armed forces have retained almost all their economic power and are functioning as a state within a state. This is a circumstance common in many countries, the most notable example being Pakistan, and in Egypt it coincides with a widespread view that the military leadership is reluctant to speed the political transformation to a more participatory democracy. This suspicion has been confirmed in the minds of many by a two-month delay in the elections originally due for September.

Some thousands of protestors have been arrested in the past six months, with many of them tried and sentenced by military courts. The actions of the current leadership - the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces - have prompted further mass public demonstrations that serve as a reminder that there is a level of resilience in Egyptian civil society that is most certainly outlasting the huge demonstrations of January and February. Much will depend on whether the military leadership recognises the extent of changed attitudes in Egypt. If it does, then prospects for political and economic emancipation are still reasonable but Egypt has certainly not matched the changes in the structures of power that appear to be under way in Tunisia. In any case, even if positive change is forthcoming, Egypt's economic divisions remain even deeper than those of Tunisia.

After some initial demonstrations, Oman remains calm, with the ruling elite speeding up modest reforms, and the Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Algeria remain largely insulated from events elsewhere in the region. The House of Saud is hugely concerned at the threats to previously stable autocracies and has responded by a combination of over \$100 billion in increased domestic spending with more intensive security controls at home, combined with sup-



"In proportion as the antagonism between the classes vanishes, the hostility of one nation to another will come to an end" Marx/Engels

port for regional monarchies abroad. The monarchies in Jordan and Morocco are both engaging in reforms, but there is substantial public anger in Jordan at the levels of maladministration and corruption, with frequent demonstrations that remain largely unreported in the West. In Morocco, by contrast, the strong pressure for reform has led to a response from King Muhammad VI in the form of a new constitution that embraces greater parliamentary influence. Whether this is sufficient will depend in part on developments elsewhere in the region.

In Syria, Yemen and Bahrain, the ruling powers are all endeavouring to maintain control, but only in Bahrain is the repression effective, having been aided by the presence of 1,500 troops and police from Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Frequent public demonstrations in Syria have been suppressed with persistent brutality yet are undiminished in extent. They have not yet spread in a sustained manner to the major cities of Damascus and Aleppo, but the extent of the demonstrations elsewhere every Friday does indicate that the regime may have either to engage in immediate and far-reaching reforms or else be forced from office. The situation in Yemen is far more complicated, with public expressions of anti-government anger in Sana'a adding to clan opposition in the north, secessionist actions in the south, and radical Islamists gaining support. The disparate Islamist groups may have only loose connections with the al-Qaida movement, but they are seen as a sufficient threat in Washington for the CIA to have expanded its operations, including the more persistent use of armed drones.

In Libya, the NATO operations are clearly aimed at regime termination, whatever the public pronouncements may claim, but the war is now heading towards six months of air operations and there are few signs of the Gaddafi regime capitulating. It is slowly losing territory and may ultimately collapse, but the timescale is uncertain, as is the organisational structure that might replace the regime. Meanwhile, disagreement within NATO is camouflaged by bland statements, but Italy is due to withdraw its aircraft carrier from operations shortly and Norway's flight of F-16 Falcon strike aircraft will cease offensive operations by 1 August.

Across the entire region, therefore, one can point only to modest progress in Tunisia, some potential for change in Egypt and limited reforms in Morocco. This certainly represents a positive change from the region-wide autocracies of the end of 2010, but it is still the case that the Arab Awakening, as and when it makes further progress, will be hindered by the underlying problems of economic stagnation and marginalisation ■

Paul Rogers

failure on top of failure

The amount of international aid disbursed since 2001 – \$57 billion against \$90 billion pledged – is a fraction of what has been spent on the war effort – some \$500 billion. More importantly, it has largely failed to fulfil the international community's pledges to rebuild Afghanistan. Poor planning and oversight have affected projects' effectiveness and sustainability, with local authorities lacking the means to keep projects running, layers of subcontractors reducing the amounts that reach the ground and aid delivery further undermined by corruption in Kabul and bribes paid to insurgent groups to ensure security for development projects.



Read the full article at <http://tiny.cc/nt1rq>

"When I feed the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist." Dom Helder Camara

recording casualties

For many years from the mid 80's the PPU regularly published much appreciated information about casualties of war at a time when such information was scarce and access difficult. From the late 90s until a few years ago we continued to publish such figures together with short but comprehensive details about ongoing conflict, the latter in particular were appreciated by students and teachers.

General casualty figures now more widely available though not always wholly reliable but we regret not to be able to offer the 'simple' but comprehensive information about ongoing conflicts which are so important to understanding what is going on in the world.

Casualties of armed conflicts are now being viewed from narrower and legal perspectives. The Oxford Research Group's Recording of Casualties of Armed Conflict Programme aims to raise public awareness and build political will towards establishing a global and systematic mechanism of recording the details of every individual killed as a consequence of armed conflict. This second part of the research applies the identified international legal obligation to record civilian casualties of armed conflict to the specific situation of the Central Intelligence Agency drone campaign in Pakistan and Yemen. More at <http://tiny.cc/ty7u3>

image is all

Military charities care so much for their customers that they prefer to beg for money from the impoverished public rather than take an easy £3 million on offer from the News of the World. "I had to beg", said Paul McNamara, News of the World defence correspondent. "All the charities said something along the lines of: 'Paul, we're grateful for everything you have helped us with over the past two years, but we can't.

There are family members of dead servicemen on our board, and they will not accept News of the World money,"



**Planning meeting to discuss activities in advance of Remembrance time.
15 SEPTEMBER PPU OFFICES 7.00. CONTACT [ADMIN@PPU.ORG.UK](mailto:admin@ppu.org.uk)**

Support our work for peace

and help us ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence is taught in schools.

The Peace Research and Education Trust helps to fund teaching and study resources for pupils and teachers on a variety of peace oriented subjects. You can donate by phone, post or online at www.pret.org.uk. PRET 1 Peace Passage London N7 0BT

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