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IN THE WIRE

“What, Sir, is the use of a militia? It is to prevent the establishment of a standing army, the bane of liberty... Whenever Governments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the militia, in order to raise an army upon their ruins.” Rep. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, spoken during floor debate over the Second Amendment, I Annals of Congress at 750, August 17, 1789.

MILITIA PERSPECTIVES

The Slippery Slope

“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors”. Psalm 73: 3-18.

Political, economic, hot and cold, take your pick, wars and rumors of wars abound. It is a target rich environment from which a giddy constitutional observer must pick to address.

This issue finds the Mad Hatter of Capitol Hill still on the loose, unfettered by conscience, legislative or constitutional constraints. No cause for celebration in the threat of impeachment. The people who put Bill in his position as “king of the hill” had to be well aware of his incorrigible nature, if not before he was promoted to governor of Arkansas, then certainly prior to their support for his presidency. And not only him, also thriving comfortably out of focus of the public eye is environmental boob Gore and thousands of global fascist groupies which litter the bureaucracy. They’re all still there, and hard at work reducing the country from a republic to a simple cog in the fascist wheel of global government.

But here’s the really scary part. As the rats come out of the sewers to forestall impeachment hearings, we get the distinct impression that Clinton was ushered into his position, not despite being without any moral and ethical foundation, but because of it. So here we sit, the Mad Hatter on the throne, Congress locked in a hand-wringing contest, an emasculated military, and the people buck naked in the briar patch. And the general public doesn’t have a clue as to where we are, let alone how we got here, and doesn’t care. Ahhh, we’ve got them just where we want them...

And the Mad Hatter continues his pattern of instability. America, the once shining example of virtue, now practices international terrorism in Sudan and Afghanistan, recklessly promotes more national debt to bail out insolvent foreign governments and private investment funds, trains a global cadre of stormtroopers, unabashedly promotes scientific myth to gain acceptance of Kyoto “global warning” controls, and focuses national debate on vacuous issues of sex and the legally “correct” definition of truth.

Yes indeed, the political and economic climate is getting warmer. Only it is the warm of manure in the compost pile, not the light of truth on our backs. Truly, we can feel the hate, and it emanates from within the Washington beltway. Some of it comes to us in small doses, like the up-front and close personal experience many citizens are getting in small and large cities around the nation. Where, usually in the middle of the night, they learn that their town has been selected for military exercises, where both American and foreign troops can practice the fine points of firearms search and seizure, encourage children to rat on adults, test crowd control techniques, and otherwise hone their peace-keeping skills at extracting obedience from civilian populations. All of this, we understand, to learn how to combat “urban terrorism” in [chuckle] third world countries.

It looks like we underestimated the potential of “Judge Starr”. Sweeping the murder of Vince Foster under the rug, so to speak, was evidently just the warm-up to the main act. Letting Clinton surrogates get

away with murder was a real piece of art. But that apparently was nothing compared to the political magic of obscuring Presidential treason under the smoke screen of sex. Pretty neat. Knowing something of manipulation, we also seriously doubt polls conducted by the controlled media which allegedly represent mainstream America regarding the state of the presidency. But we have to admire the show, the slight of hand, and the deftness of the “we say so” liberal dupes of the media and political groupies. It remains to be seen whether the T-word surfaces again in the pending congressional impeachment hearings.

Meanwhile, the Presidential “terrors” continue for us all. No doubt many Democratic representatives live in fear of additional exposures of presidential indiscretions (or worse), and our Republican representatives toss restlessly at night at the thought of potential compromising information from a thousand confidential FBI files in the able hands of White House blackmailers. And governments and citizens alike throughout the world wonder when, where, and how the Administration goon squad will strike next. Bill, of course, sleeps soundly, comforted by his loving wife and an army of apologists working overtime to excuse his aberrant mental pathology.

All the while, at the highest levels of Congress, the debate continues whether to sanction “wet teams” to dispense with “terrorists”. The FBI has been called upon to review the authority of the federal government with respect to political assassination. Heads of state we understand are off limits, but the little people, like Afghans and Sudanese, and presumably American dissidents, are apparently fair game. We can’t wait until some political genius points out that not only are foreign aspirin factories potential targets, but so also are libraries and schools everywhere, where potential young “terrorists” can get an education.

But it gets more interesting. Guess how government defines a terrorist.... right, a terrorist is not simply a person or group dedicated to attacking American citizens and property to achieve political influence. Basically, the official definition also includes anyone who opposes unconstitutional corporate government. Yes indeed, under the Timothy McVeigh principles of modern police state jurisprudence (otherwise known as the Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995) the President is the sole and conclusive arbiter for designating terrorists and terrorist groups, a determination exempt from any and all judicial review. Due process has officially been scrapped. Now, the definition includes all groups or individuals that “threaten the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States” or anyone who has afforded “material support to any individual, organization or government which the actor knows or reasonably should know has committed or plans to commit terrorism activity.”

Professor David Cole, Georgetown University Law Center has observed that this language “allows the government to impose up to ten years’ imprisonment on citizens, and deportation of non-citizens, where an individual has done nothing more than support the lawful activities of an organization that the government has labeled “terrorist,” even if it is undisputed that that organization engages in a wide range of lawful activities and that the individual supported only such lawful activities. This is guilt by association in its purest form.” Yo, fellow citizens, you don’t need a road map to see where this is going.

Vague and arbitrary crimes, guilt by association, and thought police; quite a neat tool for dealing with the politically “incorrect” opposition, isn’t it? Good ‘ol Adolph was a piker compared to Herr Clinton. We picked up a similar parallel from history from a WINDS internet article entitled “Statism: The French Revolution A Pattern of Global Disaster.” The WINDS author notes that during the French Revolution (the Reign of Terror), the “Law of Suspects” was similarly used as a tool for achieving “equality and fraternity”. It provided a convenient mechanism to condemn to death “all who by their actions, by their connections, speakings, writings, have shown themselves to be ... enemies of freedom.” The French, the Germans, now us. See? Our legislators DO learn from history!

And, as Congress dithers on, leadership languishes, our national reputation sinks, influence worldwide fails, credibility declines at home, and the economy is doing just great. The latter no doubt because we continue to go further into the black hole of debt, loaning ever more “money” that we don’t have to those who can never borrow enough to get out of debt. Makes sense to us. Desperate people do desperate things. As the political heat rises, it occurs to us that those in power will do literally anything to remain in power. Have we not seen the free use of intimidation, murder/suicide, blackmail and war used as mechanisms to preserve power? Should we not expect more of the same as the heat turns up? But let us remember that the problem lies with the players who have bastardized proper constitutional processes, not the republican form of government itself.

Then, not to be overlooked, we have the looming world financial and Y2K computer system collapse. An evening visit to the internet would have many running around with hair on fire. This is where stocking the pantry, developing skills, confidence in our own capabilities, and a moral and spiritual foundation will help many of us keep from catching Millennium fever. Lack of knowledge is certainly a tremendous pitfall for the unprepared, but given the actual event(s), lacking wisdom and balanced rational consideration of the problem will no doubt ensure many will succumb to irrational panic regardless of the actual impact of Y2K.

While we can’t reliably know *exactly* what perils the future may bring, history is a good indication. Regardless of events, the One-World agenda continues. Knowing where the ship of state is heading, at least as unwilling passengers we can prepare somewhat for the voyage with open eyes.

One thing for sure, a significant portion of the American people, and now most everyone in the world, understand that what our President says isn’t worth a plugged ruble. To simply say this has serious implications is a gross understatement. Amidst the foibles of a crumbling Administration, those pushing for a New World Order are indeed standing on a slippery slope. The future then, for those who look for direction, is obviously downhill.

“What is liberty? ... And what is this liberty, whose very name makes the heart beat faster and shakes the world? Is it not the union of all liberties - liberty of conscience, of education, of association, of the press, of travel, of labor, of trade? In short, is not liberty the freedom of every person to make full use of his facilities, so long as he does not harm other persons while doing so? Is not liberty the destruction of all despotism - including, of course, legal despotism? Finally, is not liberty the restricting of the law only to its rational sphere of organizing the right of the individual to lawful self-defense; of punishing injustice?” Frederic Bastiat, *The Law*

BACK TO BASICS

Confidence Through Preparedness

Sometimes we need to take a step back and revisit the basics for those just getting interested in their position relative to the state of the republic. We have been reminded that many people, only recently aware of the multiple “problems” facing the republic, are just getting started and keenly interested in making basic [survival] preparations.

It is difficult to maintain perspective and balance when considering emergency preparedness. Each reported “crisis” seeks to turn us in a different direction; many remain unfocused, indecisive, and often delay or fail to take essential steps. Sometimes making a list is a good first step toward establishing some

basic preparedness priorities. What follows is one concept of these priorities. It must be evaluated and adjusted by each person to suit their particular situation and concerns. Many of the preparations are basic and common sense oriented. Most can improve on the list with a little thought.

Napoleon Bonaparte once observed that an army travels on its stomach. From a militia perspective, put simply: no resources, no security, no resistance. For the general population, preparedness means security, confidence, opportunity and freedom.

Not to be outdone by the growing influence of the “patriot” movement, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency dedicated to continuity of government, not continuity of the republic) is hot on the preparedness bandwagon. Short term (3-7 days) preparedness is almost becoming a cliché with the agency. Surely any preparedness is a good start. But short term independence leading to long term dependency is equivalent to the proverbial “long walk off a short pier”. Given the direction of the nation, one might wish to give more consideration to preparing for the “long walk” rather than the alternative.

In contemplating preparedness, each person must decide whether there is a need to provide for the “collapse of Western Civilization” or simply a short period of inconvenience. We do not have the answers. What we do know is without contingency planning and preparation, regardless of the nature of an actual crisis, the unprepared are always at the mercy of those who are.

Preparedness then calls for prudence not paranoia; we want to act, not overreact; to act in a measured fashion with attention to our financial capability and ability to improvise. There is almost no one who cannot afford to do something constructive.

Readers might observe that most items are those which prudent persons might take in providing for any natural or man-made disaster. Similarities depart in degree and orientation toward self-defense and time. For the purposes of this discussion, let’s call it a General Purpose, All Around Basic Preparedness List. A summary of priorities might help us squeeze some order out of chaos:

BASIC PREPAREDNESS LIST

1. Spiritual Preparedness

- * A foundation of core belief to cling to when your world goes crazy
Pray for wisdom
- * Take stock of your resources and preparedness needs
- * Build knowledge base, reference materials, conviction and discernment
- * Develop measured and methodical preparedness plan
- * Work, where possible, with like-minded individual(s)

2. Food & Water

(Of all priorities, food & water are the most important)

- * Stock up immediate pantry: 2 week minimum including water
- * Establish water reserves (improvise if necessary)
(Ex. well pump, water filter/purification materials, rain barrel, plastic drink bottles, etc. at one gal./person/day, properly stored)
- * Six months dried food: wheat, rice, beans, etc., and/or canned goods
(Date and rotate supplies)
- * One year+ bulk storage for each person
(Nitrogen/vacuum pack, dry ice, salt, etc. moisture proof containers)

- * Put back some for the “other guy”
 - * Package suitable for travel, and pre-positioned if possible
3. Financial
- * Lower cost of living; economize; barter/search for “free” resources
Budget funds for preparedness
 - * Reduce or eliminate personal debt
 - * Build readily available cash reserves
 - * Consider private purchase of small silver and gold coins; cash only (Shop around)
 - * Reduce or eliminate speculative investments
 - * Be discreet; maintain your privacy
4. Self-Sufficiency: Acquisitions & Perspectives
- * Reduce dependency on stimulants: caffeine, nicotine
 - * Obtain extra clothes; sturdy shoes; blankets, etc.
 - * Purchase additional hygiene products
 - * Alternative means of heating/cooking
 - * Evaluate alternative energy sources; store fuels safely outside of home
 - * Obtain hand tools, especially manual tools of trade
Consider visiting garage or yard sales
 - * Extra medicines, esp. prescription; study natural alternatives
 - * Take stock of potential barter items
 - * Evaluate/prepare for raising food; gardening, animal husbandry
 - * Prepare field/evacuation pack for every family member
5. Self-Defense
(If you won't do it, nobody will; “survival” is much more than personal defense, it is about preparedness and principle)
- * Maintain and improve physical health and conditioning
 - * Develop field skills; hiking/camping, etc.
 - * You have until November 30th to purchase unregistered weapons
(Reference militia recommendations)
 - * Acquire adequate ammunition, parts and cleaning equipment
 - * Develop proficiency, especially in firearms safety
Obtain information on lawful use of self-defense
 - * Consider avoidance alternatives to preclude potential confrontations
6. Communication
- * Acquire a shortwave receiver and/or CB to supplement battery AM/FM radio
(For when you need to know the real news)
 - * Develop alternative sources of information inc. like minded people, newsletters, etc.
 - * Acquire educational & historical books and reference materials
 - * Find your local library; visit it regularly
7. Location
(When the support checks stop and the grocery store shelves run dry where do you think the socially deprived will go to shop?)
- * Find a relatively safe place, preferably with like-minded people
 - * Consider a “country” location with adequate resources

- * Secure your place prior to a crisis event
 - * Consider change in employment to more basic industry or service sector
8. Transportation
- * Acquire local and area maps; learn alternate travel routes
 - * Seek alternate transportation methods, i.e., bicycle
 - * Minimize travel; exercise route security in any mode and location
9. Information
- * The key to survival: "My people perish for lack of knowledge."
 - * Be discreet in your preparation. Sometimes it pays not to advertise.

To our mind, preparedness is not a moral or ethical option. It is something any prudent and rational person practices as a way of life. At issue only is purpose, degree, and emphasis.

Some readers may wonder if personal preparation is illegal. At present, we are not aware of any such restrictions. But under Clinton's new Executive Order (#12919 - June, 1994) resources are likely to be strictly controlled during a declared national emergency. Will you get in "trouble" for making personal preparation? You most certainly will if you don't. On the other hand, family, friends or neighbors may consider you mentally unbalanced for reacting rationally to an irrational world. If you are concerned about what others think, you must be on the wrong [web] page. Otherwise exercise discretion.

Government has been making contingency plans for the privileged as well as the public for a long time. Whether the fix(s) they are preparing are in the public's best interest depends on whether you are a pessimist or a realist. Without preparation, you have no options. Small acquisitions over a long period will not adversely impact the supply system or deprive others of a "fair share" of available resources if all rush to prepare for a pending "emergency". The concept known as "balance of power" can be influenced by the smallest of things that subsequently become of major importance in a crisis. How we as individuals, the citizen militia, and the republic will fare in a "national emergency" may very well depend on our collective degree of preparedness.

"A government cannot more be competent to keep alive and to renew the circulation of opinions and feelings amongst a great people, than to manage all the speculations of productive industry. No sooner does a government attempt to go beyond its political sphere, and to enter upon this new track, than it exercises, even unintentionally, an insupportable tyranny; for a government can only dictate strict rules, the opinions which it favors are rigidly enforced, and it is never easy to discriminate between its advice and its commands." Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy In America

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE Y2K ISSUE

An Engineers View: From Nicholas Vrettos

In less than 500 days, the new millennium will (prematurely) arrive. With it, thousands of mainframe computers world-wide may crash or spit-out corrupted data. The much-touted Millennium Bug, also called Y2K, will have bitten.

I have spend the last four months trying to come to grips with the potential ramifications of Y2K. As an engineer, I have a better appreciation than most people for the dependence our society has on computers.

Having worked at a nuclear power plant, I understand the degree of computerization involved in modern industry. For these two reasons, I take Y2K seriously, and so should you. Unfortunately, 99% of the people I have spoken to about Y2K laugh it off and make jokes about their credit cards not working. Even more unfortunate is the 1% who do not laugh about it, who see the proverbial writing on the wall, yet choose to do nothing to prepare.

The \$100,000 question, the question on everyone's mind is "How bad will it really be?". The answer to that question is very simple: unknown. However, as intelligent people we can guesstimate the potential impact. Obviously, the best case scenario is that nothing will happen. We will be sitting at home, watching Dick Clark's Millennium count down, sing Auld Lang Sine at midnight, go to sleep and wake the next morning with a terrible hangover. Obviously too, the worst-case scenario is that everything will come crashing down at a few seconds after midnight.

However, the most probable scenario (at least in my opinion and based on what I have read), is that breakdowns will occur starting in January of '99. At first, these will be nuisance breakdowns, things like stores running out of certain items, putting new items on 50% sale, credit and ATM cards being rejected more frequently, etc.. As we move into spring, and the first of April, Japan, New York State and Canada all roll into fiscal year 2000. This will be a hallmark date in that it will be the first full scale test of dozens of remediated and unremediated government financial systems and databases. This is when the first big problems and panics will occur. The problems and panics will be invisible to the common citizen, they will be occurring at the government level, behind the scenes, as bureaucrats and administrators suddenly realize their data bases are gone or unreliable. When word gets out that government databases are crashing because of Y2K, 250 million people will get a wake-up kick in the pants. Suddenly what the doomsayers have been preaching has become tangible. No longer will Y2K be an abstract of digital dates and numbers, it will be real—Aunt Eloise will not get her check this month.

In April of '99, count on the stock market taking a beating and the first bank runs starting. As the year progresses, Y2K breakdowns will increase in frequency and severity due to the domino effect (multiple stores not having goods or services b/c the companies that supplied those goods are unable to deliver on time). By the middle of summer I think it will be impossible to read the paper or watch the news without seeing Y2K stories. By the end of summer, Y2K will be the biggest news story on TV. Of course, the mainstream media will down play and poo-poo Y2K in an effort to postpone massive panics. Thus, through most of 1999, the majority of Americans will regard Y2K with anxiety and trepidation. By the end of October, they will regard it with open fear.

It is difficult to say when martial law will be declared---that depends what breakdowns occur and how people will react to them. However, make no mistake about it, martial law is coming. The plans for government reaction to cyberterrorism, which is what Y2K will be like, and the preservation of critical infrastructure are already on paper. I will venture we have a little more than a year left before martial law is declared.

"If ever the free institutions of America are destroyed, that event may be attributed to the omnipotence of the majority, which may at some future time urge the minorities to desperation, and oblige them to have recourse to physical force. Anarchy will then be the result, but it will have been brought about by despotism." Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy In America

MILITIA ORGANIZATION
Leadership Considerations

Some would consider the North Carolina Citizens Militia a failure. The organization has no generals, no colonels (a southern tradition), and no majors. In fact, it lacks all but the rudiment of a central, unified command structure. To some this is a strength, to others a disaster. But... it does have leadership.

The NCCM was “organized” on the basis of decentralized command structure and organization which offered a maximum of security, a high degree of flexibility and adaptiveness, and local autonomy. In the process, recognizing current political realities, we eschewed a central, visible (and vulnerable) formal command structure, recognizing that survival takes priority over the advantages of communication and coordination offered by the traditional military organization.

Therefore, the basic tenet of NCCM is developing leadership on the unit level. Given an uncertain future, the nature of any potential crisis may vary considerably by time and location. Given practical constraints of transportation, dispersed resources, logistics and communication, potential response may be best addressed by those familiar with each area. Focus therefore, must be on quality of small unit preparedness, training and, most of all, leadership, with support and coordination drawn from available resources at the state level.

Sometimes it seems that literally everyone in the militia “movement” is looking for a strong individual to lead the “cause” of freedom. That is, a charismatic person who can assume leadership, marshal resources, coordinate and consolidate state-wide leadership; a person(s) who can provide impeccable qualifications, a public presence; and, in essence, one willing to become a political target.

The organizing units/officers of the NCCM recognize that the nucleus of effective leadership absolutely must reside with the elected (line) officers of each individual unit (of which there are many). Such units, it is believed, will function best if they are capable to grow and function both independently and, where necessary, in concert; and remain united, regardless of local biases, in common cause by the principles of freedom based on natural law and respect for basic constitutional provisions. Somewhat idealistic, of course, but the objective is to provide a working foundation, not to resolve all potential political issues.

Above all else we must not lose our focus of just what constitutes effective leadership. In perspective, the NCCM is likely a transitory vehicle to whatever may mature, merge, evolve or combine in future response to a “national emergency”. Out of chaos it may help to bring, not general order, but a semblance of order and organization at least among the militia. It stands, even if as a symbol, as a source of strength, of unity and organization. The basic building block of the militia is the unity, integrity and autonomy of individual groups to function during crisis, to promote the common cause of freedom, and the preservation of natural (as opposed to civil) rights.

Officers, for better or worse, are elected. Most probably don’t feel part of a new “warrior class” and would prefer to pursue personal goals. However, all recognize the priority of maintaining liberty through the mechanism of republican government. Members of each group depend on elected officers to have enough horse-sense to stay out of unnecessary trouble (remain law abiding), to know when it may be necessary to get into it (and to do so competently), and know how to tell the difference. With this perspective in mind, it may be helpful to discuss some important aspects of effective militia leadership.

Leadership difficulties are compounded in the militia. Officers do not have a “captive” organization, and serve at the pleasure of the group. Membership and participation is inconsistent and groups must always contend with the potential for agents provocateur. The challenge to officers is to lead by example, to facilitate development and achievement of unit objectives, hopefully through consensus. On a broader

scale officers should seek at least minimal contact and coordination with at least one other group and a passing correspondence through the NCCM network.

Each officer (non-com and member) must be as best prepared as possible. That does not mean starched BDU's, fancy insignia, or the best rifle and field gadgets money can buy. It means officers, and particularly those who are not veterans, must develop basic military skills, self-reliance based on field experience, and organizational skills. Beyond tactical proficiency, the militia officer should strive for a thorough understanding of the underlying natural law principles of the republic and the ability to articulate them to others. Having purpose, founded on sound principles, is a strength sorely lacking in the cannibalistic New World Order philosophy.

There is no magic formula for achieving effective leadership. There is no great source of leadership to tap which will relieve unit officers of the need to think for themselves or which will relieve them from responsibility for their actions and those of the unit. Each officer, consistent with their position, has the responsibility to demonstrate character, loyalty, moral strength, self-motivation and perspective, to exercise aggressiveness, decisiveness tempered with a sense of human values, individual dignity and respect for life and personal freedom. Yes, the warrior mentality; but also a clear sense of objective, resolve, and a drive to win.

Militia officers must have the maturity to recognize that fighting tyranny and the corrupt ideas of socialism is not limited to the use of firearms. The better fight is often more effective with words and example. Winning "hearts and minds" is more important than controlling territory. It is not enough to buy some BDU's, a rifle and pack, and sit to wait for the "big one"... Your/our battle is being fought every day. It is in the letters to the editor section of your local newspaper, your county commission meeting, in the supermarket, in the flag on your porch, the talk show you phone, and the mayor and city council and state representative offices where you drop by to chat.

The first fight any officer has is with himself: to stay motivated, to resolve to maintain continuity toward unit objectives. There is a continuing need to create knowledgeable allies with similar convictions in the value of the republic. Many consider it to be late in the game. But it is essential to build bridges to groups and individuals who may be neutral today, but friends tomorrow.

Of course, no officer can do everything, to be everything to everybody. The strength of the organization is in groups that can effectively identify and work within the "niche" where they perceive they are strongest. Officers must work to help each member become properly equipped for their assigned role. Beyond that, each member must be encouraged to work persistently toward improving their own personal knowledge of history, political systems and philosophy, as well as to contribute to and ensure individual and group tactical proficiencies.

The challenge for all elected officers is to acknowledge responsibility, engender commitment by example, to encourage and coordinate the training and preparation of the group, understanding that, at least for the moment, expectations for progress must consider the private lives of the membership. In summary, officers cannot develop an understanding of the opposition from watching reruns of Hogans Hero's. Ultimately, they/you may very well be responsible for the lives of your group. Yours may likely be the decision when to act in self-defense, and when and how to act to ensure unit security, or when to coordinate activities with others. We all trust that such decisions will be made intelligently, with forethought, objectivity, and decisiveness. Competence begets confidence.

“Apart from being physically prepared, the soldiers must embrace a moral cause, must fight out of and for righteousness. Only those properly motivated by Virtue (in addition to the immediate stimulus of rewards and fear of punishments) prove committed and effective in combat.”
Commentary to Chapter II, Military Methods of The Art of War-Sun Pin, by Ralph Sawyer.

INFANTRY WEAPONS FOR BUCK ROGERS by J. Davis Preparing For Tech-Wars

In the next century soldiers that are heading into combat might be carrying a weapon that makes the M-16 seem as primitive as the spears and bows carried by Indians during the last century. Military analysts say that the future holds fewer Desert Storms and more low-intensity operations, such as missions to capture drug kingpins and regional warlords. They expect to fight tomorrow's wars on unmapped streets and third world slums. For several years now arms manufactures have been designing a rifle for the future. The goal was to perfect a rifle capable winning on urban battle areas as well as desert, forest, and jungle terrain. The rifle has been called the “objective individual combat weapon,” or OICW.

The winning entry was manufactured by Alliant Techsystems of Hopkins, Minn. It is a modular, 2 barreled weapon that the Pentagon hopes will turn foot soldiers into devastating, precision firing platforms. The OICW can be a dual or single barreled weapon. The top barrel is removable and makes use of new 20mm high explosive air bursting fragmentation rounds that “burst” over the heads of hidden targets more than a half a mile away. In the bottom half is standard 5.56mm ammunition. A single trigger is linked to both barrels, with a laser guided electronic firing system as sophisticated as what you may find on a tank. Don L. Sticinski says “OICW will leave no place for the enemy to hide”. Don is Vice-president of Alliant. Program Manager Matthew T. Zimmerman says that “the key to OICW's success in urban warfare is its electronic fire-control system, which enables the rifle to determine when its “smart” 20mm ammunition should detonate. Like conventional rounds they will detonate on impact. However, they can also be set to explode after passing through a wall or sheet metal.

The most impressive and useful feature of this rifle is the airburst capability. A laser rangefinder pinpoints the precise distance at which the fragmenting round needs to detonate, killing the enemy even if he is hiding behind trees or walls, or in trenches. The range of the OICW is five times greater than an M-16 with an M-203 grenade launcher. The rifle will shoot 20mm or 5.56 rounds one at a time or in two round bursts. The OICW has a video camera and a video tracker function. A special purpose computer puts electronic brackets around a moving target and automatically determines its range. You might think weight would be a problem, the current M-16 equipped with the M-203 grenade launcher and thermal scope weighs just under 20 pounds. The OICW is 6 pounds lighter. There are many concerns with the electronics and price. What happens when it gets wet? The Army says the rifle is designed to work in a complete submerged situation and actually resists salt water corrosion better than the M-16. 45,000 OICW units will be in use by 2006. They will cost the military \$12,000 each plus \$35.00 for each airburst round.

“Small armies, rudimentary tactics, an almost non-existent logistic - one should not conclude from all this that the Barbarian victory [over western Roman Empire] is inexplicable. Let us look first at the contrast between the military efficiency of the Germanic society at the time of the great incursions and that of late imperial Rome. On the one hand was a society requiring the employment of all adult males from 15 or 16 until their physical strength deserted them, perhaps a fighting force of a quarter or fifth of the total population; on the other, a rich Empire of several

tens of millions of inhabitants, just capable, at a ruinous cost, of raising some 500,000 to 600,000 men, of whom two-thirds, perhaps even three-quarters, were incapable of fighting a campaign - a ratio of combatants to civilian population of the theoretical order of 100:1 and in practice of 400:1. ... the efforts of the Roman state could only succeed if ably supported by willing co-operation in self-defense by the rest of the population. For various reasons, which in any case go beyond strictly military factors, this co-operation was displayed only episodically.” War In The Middle Ages, Philippe Contamine.

PRACTICAL SHOOTING CONSIDERATIONS

Learning From Tactical Experience

Information on the development of shooting skills, whether related to military and police applications, hunting experiences, or personal defense are always of interest to the practical shooter. Precision shooting with great accuracy is fine sport for those who have the time and cash to pursue the hobby, but being able to hit what you are aiming at over iron sights and within the capability of a given cartridge would seem to be the pinnacle of the practical shooting arts.

We recollect that practical shooting is not confined to hunting, or even the confines of our own homes. In a historical sense, we might consider the actions of the colonial militia prior to and on Breeds Hill in 1776. This episode may have been among the first mass application of practical, or tactical, shooting in the history of the young republic. But history aside, one thing we know for sure is that, like fine wine, it takes time to make a good practical shooter, and patience and preparation to make a good shot.

In this regard, author Pat Rogers (Tactical Shooter, Vol. 1, No. 7, August 1998) prepared an excellent article entitled “More On Assault Fire” which provides some interesting observations with regard to practical shooting from a military perspective. In one section of his article he summarizes some findings provided by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman in his book On Killing. Here Rogers provides some interesting information regarding combat. He summarizes from Grossman as follows: “in WWII only 15% - 25% of the infantrymen fired their weapons at the enemy. This figure rose to 50% in the Korean Conflict, and over 90% in the Vietnam War. Interestingly, those armed with automatic or crew-served weapons fired at a much higher rate than those armed with the rifle. Lest one believe that these studies are incorrect, another study indicates that 1% of the USAAC fighter pilots were responsible for 40% of all kills. Generally speaking, man uses violence with great reluctance.”

Rogers also notes that “Studies indicate that the average infantry firefight occurs at around 125 meters. The issue is not just in tagging the bad guy, but in acquiring him. Even in the North African desert, the enemy may not be easy to find, and engage, with infantry rifle fire.”

Having set the stage for considering practical shooting applications, Rogers contrasts competition shooting with tactical techniques for practical shooting. He makes some down-to-earth observations including: you don’t have to be empty before reloading and, leaving magazines littering the landscape may save time but quickly reduces your rifle to club status.

In his article, Rogers, makes a compelling argument in favor of the M16 and 5.56mm cartridge. With respect to effective rifle caliber’s he notes that the key to effectiveness is terminal ballistics at anticipated ranges of contact. Hence, at typical combat ranges of 125 yards or less, he believes the 5.56 mm round is quite adequate. Yet, despite the reduction in terminal ballistics at long ranges he maintains that he is “absolutely convinced that a rifleman needs to practice his skill at ranges of up to 500m or so. This is a tremendous confidence builder, and a force multiplier.”

If mimicry is the highest form of compliment Rocky & Norm Chandler in a companion article (“How To Ruin A Good Gun”, Tactical Shooter, August, 1998) report that the Russian army is replacing all Kalishnikov rifles with the Nikonova AN-94 rifle in 5.45 caliber. This seems to bring a pretty good consensus to the table regarding the suitability of the caliber at “normal” combat ranges.

Speaking about practical shooting, another issue we often neglect is that whatever the rifle, it’s practical accuracy is likely more dependent on the operator than the equipment. More often than not, most of us are more likely to be equipped with what we can afford, not what we might like. Yet what we can afford is usually more than adequate for our accuracy requirements... given sufficient practice.

Understandably, modern infantry riflemen, particularly in urban environments, may indeed be unlikely to effectively engage targets at extended ranges. The current emphasis on MOUT training certainly seems to reflect a very specific type of future combat environment. Then again, perhaps the quality of current recruits influences a decision to rely more on “spray and pray” tactics instead of tactical use of practical shooting skills.

Perhaps fortunately, many veterans in the militia are a product of the “old school” where riflemen were expected shoot to hit an adversary. Perhaps we expect too much of the militia (the whole of the armed citizenry). Yet for its diversity of people and equipment, many practice regularly and have an unusual degree of commitment to proficiency. Then again, the militia is sort of a “come as you are” party. Participants must, out of necessity, be proficient with the tools at hand if called upon to serve, life expectancy being directly related to proficiency.

We also observe that when it comes to practical shooting, there’s a lot more to proficiency than just acquiring the tools of the trade. If I recall correctly, a few years ago Col. Jeff Cooper said something like this: ‘A man armed with a .45 pistol who is proficient in its use is far more dangerous than a baboon in a tank.’ Another interesting perspective is provided by Rock & Norm Chandler in “How To Ruin A Good Gun (Tactical Shooter, August, 1998): “Infantry combat is, of course, hunting at its meanest, and lessons learned against less dangerous game should not be ignored.”

So having discovered the incentive behind the study of practical shooting, most would observe that it is not enough to simply think about these things, you must practice in order to achieve a degree of practical proficiency. Once a year visit to the deer woods does not make you a hunter any more than buying a set of golf clubs makes you a golf pro. You may lose your self-esteem and hard-earned cash playing in the woods or on the golf course; but in the event of national emergency, the omission of practice may cost you your life, liberty and honor. The loss of the latter more important than the first.

Speaking of proficiency, it might be worthwhile to remind new shooters and city folk that they don’t necessarily need to shoot to work on proficiency. What is necessary is to build an intimate familiarity with your rifle? Take it apart, carry it wherever you can legally do so. (Make certain your rifle is unloaded at all times when handling it.) Become accustomed to its weight, balance, cheek weld, and sight picture in a variety of shooting positions. Strive for economy of effort, consistency in performance, and repeatability.

We recall back in the “old days” it was more than a little inconvenient learning to sleep with an M14 and otherwise adapting to its’ inescapable presence. But the exercise certainly did foster a comfortable familiarity and one quickly became accustomed to the other. We leave it to the reader to develop a course of study to satisfy practical shooting goals, but suffice to say that a balance of shooting and

handling skills is essential to achieve field proficiency which is somewhat different than the precision shooting we strive for during typical controlled range shooting.

Yes, there is a place for precision “tack drivers”, if field practical, but clearly the role and equipment are not for everyone. But for each shooter with the heart and mechanics eye for precision there are 10 or more who simply seek maximum potential accuracy consistent with the performance capabilities of their rifle.

The dictum “know thy rifle” may in the future be as relevant as “Know thyself”. A rifle does not shoot itself and practical shooting is more than just simply squeezing the trigger and expecting superior performance.

CHICKEN STORY SURROGATE

Super Perspectives From A Fellow Chicken Fan

“Hmmm”, mused Chicky Olsen, the cub reporter as he scanned through computer files concerning the Washington scandals. “What kinda story could make me famous?.. Think, think.”

With him in the Sunday morning newsroom perched Lois Langshan. She, a tall stately hen, first met Chicky in the barnyard trying to scratch out a living. Chicky was young, quick and alert and impressed her from the first. So, she took him under her wing to give him some guidance and direction. Now here he was, working for the Gazette on the weekend shift. One never knows when a story might come over the Chicken Wire, she thought. A quiet morning is all he might need for his big break.

“Hey, Lois, where do all these polls about the president come from,” he asked. “I’ve never met a Chicken who liked him but every poll shows him to be doing a great job. Am I missing something, or what?”

“No, you didn’t miss anything, Chicky. The news is that nobody seems to care anymore. That’s not much of an answer but that’s all I got right now.”

“But, Lois,” queried Chicky, “There’s got to be more to it than that. What’s the name of that old movie where some guy leans out the window and screams “I’ve had enough, and I’m not going to take it any more.” That’s how I feel. We’ve got this (sic) President that doesn’t know how to act and it’s costing us millions of dollars to keep the rascal on the prowl or in office, whichever you prefer. It seems to me there must be a flock of buzzard lawyers picking each carcass clean after he’s done with it hereby destroying any incriminating evidence; take for instance the Murrah Building in Oklahoma or the Branch Davidian compound, both bulldozed into oblivion covering possible crucial evidence, and my scoop! Another thing, I think these women, interviewed on TV, who shrug off his trysts would tell another story if those same escapades struck closer to home. We’re just throwing good money after bad, when will it all stop”?

“In about two years,” replied Lois shaking her head in agreement, “I see you’ve been reviewing those old stories. Nobody seems to care about character, integrity, or Christian morals anymore do they? Anybody can claim what they want but actions still speak louder than words. What you need to do kid, is find a new angle. Something that will grab the attention of the reading public, pique their interest. It’s not you Chicky, it’s the dumbing down of America that’s finally catching up with us. You just notice and react to it. Look, when you find your first news article the words will seem to drop off your keyboard like water off a duck’s back.”

Lois could hear him clucking to himself again, “Well, there’s gotta be a story here somewhere.” Suddenly, while pecking at his keyboard ever so slowly he yelled, “Hey, Lois, catch this! Aaaa, wait a sec’.” She could hear his little wings racing over the keys. “Here ya go, here ya go, ok,” he stuttered and spelled out loud, “B-Y C-H-I-C-K-Y O-L-S-E-N.”

“This is it Lois, here’s my lead-in in one simple sentence, “A virtuous man is easy to defend.”

“There you go, kid, that’s your story,” clucked Lois proudly. “A simple truth discovered quite innocently and quite by accident makes great front page news. Congratulations!”

FEDS SEEK CONTROL OF NC GROWTH

“Federal Land Managers” Would Have Screening Authority of New Businesses
By Matthew Mittan, The Asheville Tribune

The following story, excerpted from The Asheville Tribune, illustrates the continuing efforts of federal agencies to exercise increasing control over North Carolina and other states. For concerned readers it presents an opportunity to interact with your state representatives. Start article:

“In a packed conference center at UNC-Asheville, environmental activists and government officials provided a parade of speeches hammering out the threat of deforestation, global warming, fish kills, acid saturated drinking water and severe breathing difficulties. The topic of the night had been advertised as a “public meeting” to discuss what has been dubbed “The Smokies Pact.”

The initiative, which became known to the general public here only days ago, is a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOA) between The Department of The Interior and local states. Tennessee has already signed the agreement with the federal government and now wants to convince North Carolina to do the same.

By signing the agreement, the State would allow “Federal Land Managers” the authority to become part of a “permit issuing” bureaucracy that would have screening authority over businesses that want to build within 100km (62.5 miles) of federal lands. That amounts to a circle that stretches from the outskirts of Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Columbia, SC, north of Atlanta and back along the Tennessee/Kentucky line. Another area, Swanquarter, would cover nearly half the eastern NC seaboard, moving inland to the outskirts of Raleigh. (See map on page 13) However, the federal “permitting” would not necessarily be limited to that radius. One official said, “facilities that are within this 100 km, that’s the ones that we really focus on. However, if it’s a large facility outside of that area, that could potentially impact that Class 1 area, then we’ll be looking at that also.”

Some “Class 1” areas in North Carolina are Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Shining Rock, Linville Gorge, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock National Wilderness Area and Swanquarter National Wilderness Area on the central coast. Cape Romain in South Carolina is also listed as a “Class 1” area.

“The effect of signing this permit means that our major new industries coming into North Carolina would have to perform a more sophisticated analysis having to do with their impact on the mountains, on the Class 1 areas, the air quality related values,” according to Allen Clement, a government official. He went on to say that the state basically had three options with this initiative. 1) Sign the Tennessee document. 2) Sign the Tennessee document with modifications. 3) Don’t sign at all and defer to “rule-making by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).”

While most of the dialogue has focused on large “smokestack” industries, the pact itself is more broad in its reach. Copies of the proposed agreement can be obtained by calling the N.C. Division of Air Quality (DAQ) at 828-251-6208 or on the internet at <http://daq.state.nc.us/>. When the Smoky Mountain Park Superintendent was asked a hypothetical question, “if a small printing business wanted to open up in Fairview, would it fall under this permit procedure?” The answer was “Yes, I believe it would.”

Despite the blitzkrieg of media attention on the air quality of Western North Carolina, very little has been discussed or debated regarding the Constitutional and economic impact of the initiative. Yet, even within the environmental arguments, there are major inconsistencies. Car emissions, “probably the biggest problem” one official stated, is shown in National Parks Service charts as contributing only 2% of sulfur dioxide in the Southeast. (See chart.)

Bill Holman, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Protection for NC said, “we are engaged in [this initiative] to protect and restore air quality in the mountains.” Jim Remphroe, a specialist on Air Quality for the National Parks Service, showed a series of slides which ended with a haze filled valley followed by a clear vista of a mountain range saying that the haze was what they wanted to get away from. However, he did say that the signing of this pact, in fact, will not have any effect on visibility or ozone readings within the Smoky Mountains. Literature distributed at the meeting by the National Park Service clearly showed that the heavy airborne pollutants in our mountains come mostly from the Ohio Valley region and the Alabama/Mississippi region.

Several charts were displayed showing an explosion in the number of days this summer that exceeded “safe” levels of ozone compared with previous years. However, 1998 numbers were based on new stricter federal standards while the previous years graphics were based on old standards. No charts were offered showing the actual changes to baseline levels.

One motive for signing the MOA was commented on by Justin Wilson, Environmental Policy Adviser to Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist, when he said, “if we don’t deal with it ourselves there’s a real risk the Federal Government can impose a situation on us that really doesn’t make sense.” He also said that the intention of this agreement was “to move the discussion and debate away from the public arena” and into the conference room and most of all, “away from the courtrooms.” Regarding the sections of the pact addressing conflict resolution between industry and the Dept. of Interior, Wilson stated, “We haven’t been around long enough to know whether it works or not. We believe it will.”

This pact is expected to be signed by North Carolina in three weeks, unless there is public opposition to it. If another state does not sign on with Tennessee by the end of December, the initiative will expire. Tennessee, V.P. Al Gore’s home state, is the only state to have signed the agreement to date.

A “public comment” period of 30 days was announced at the UNCA meeting Oct. 6. Citizens wishing to comment on this plan should contact the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Phone: 919-715-4140 FAX: 919-715-3060 Mail: PO BOX 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687. Email: bill_holman@mail.enr.state.nc.us.

Elected officials contacted by the Asheville Tribune had little or no knowledge of this pact.” End article.

“The principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale.” Thomas Jefferson, 1790

THE CRASH OF 1998

Repeat After Me: A Note Is Not A Dollar

“All of this lends that old joke about asset allocation an eerie new feeling: I’m going to 50 percent stocks and 50 percent canned goods.” Editors Letter, David Granger, Esquire Magazine, October, 1998

We have been observing an interesting, but very predictable phenomena. As information about Y2K permeates the population, many more people are suddenly taking an active interest in preparedness. The potential impact to the pocketbook is proving to be a much more effective incentive toward motivating others to personal protection than the cause of freedom.

Having acknowledged our national priorities, it would seem that the greater, and more tangible threat to our overall national (and personal) security lies with the evolving global debt crisis. Yet, while mention of Y2K generates a faint spark of recognition in the eye of our computer literate associates, similar mention of the pending financial crisis doesn’t merit a disinterested yawn.

But, to those with eyes to see and ears to hear, included here are a few more signposts which point the way to Chaos and Ruin. Let’s take a look at a few:

From the remarkable October issue of Esquire we get a glimpse of the light side of the pending economic debacle, and the dark. “Rule 1: Don’t Panic. Rule 2: Panic First.” is the title of Esquires’ article by Walter Russell Mead.

Mead, engaging somewhat in a verbal hand wringing of frustration, paints a pretty fair picture of our predicament. He speculates that the current crisis is attributable to two factors: the rapid deregulation of the international financial system and export-oriented growth. But the fact that there is a crisis isn’t nearly as depressing as the fact that those who should be able to recognize the root cause don’t really have a clue; the resolution therefore remains elusive.

“It is widely believed that panics, boom-bust cycles, and depressions are caused by unbridled competition between banks; thus the need for government regulation. The truth is just the opposite. These disruptions in the free market are the result of government prevention of competition by the granting of monopolistic power to a central bank.” G. Edward Griffin, *The Creature From Jekyll Island*.

However, Mead accurately pinpoints the origins of the crisis in the failure of the Asian “tiger” economies and the failure of world banking leaders to effectively mitigate the collapse. Assuming the debacle is not a managed crisis, Mead observes:

“Meanwhile, nobody is running the show. The people who should be in charge - the IMF, the U.S. Treasury, the World Bank - have been wrong, wrong, wrong. They didn’t see the crisis coming. Once it started to develop, they were wrong about how far it would spread. As it spread, they were wrong about how bad it would be. And their efforts to fix the problem - by far the largest and most expensive financial bailout in world history - have so far been miserable failures.”

Mead points out the seriousness of the situation by observing that “This isn’t just an economic meltdown in a few emerging markets. It’s a full-fledged crisis of the international economic system, one that could plunge the entire world into a major depression. More than that, it could challenge the strength of the

international political system and test the leadership of the country that widely and imprudently bills itself as ‘the only global superpower.’”

Encouraging words are few and far between in Meads’ article. So we look to a companion article where market strengths, as observed in “Are You Protecting Yourself” suggests possible stability in companies which offer investment opportunities in household products, tobacco and alcohol, electrical utilities, discount retailers and pharmaceuticals. Yet it is instinct, author Kurson speculates (dashing our hopes for safe havens) which is driving many investors to believe the market is “stampeding toward a cliff edge.”

Focus words like leadership, depression, and “stupid” lend emphasis to Mead’s perspectives. His blunt analysis, frankly, gives us the Willie’s. And, we observe, having *two* sets of Willie’s constitutes the economic equivalent of being at the bottom of the ninth, one run down, and a two and three count.

As we begin to squirm in our seats, from BBC [internet] News of 10/21/98 we receive assurances that the recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan of \$18 billion has steadied the Brazilian financial meltdown. Hmmmm. We recall rather recently that Brazil was demanding no less than \$100 billion in loans, maintaining that nothing less would ensure the financial stability of Brazil as well as the remainder of South America. BBC News warns that “there is real concern that a crisis there could be the final straw to tip the United States and Europe into recession.” Pledging to implement a new tough financial austerity plan, Brazil is apparently working hard to allay investor fears. Yet for all the political posturing we read on to learn Brazil’s stock market has “dropped by half and interest rates have been raised to 50%”; not exactly confidence building statistics. We also remember what financial experts told us about the “temporary” nature of the financial crisis in southeast Asian countries.

The October, 1998 issue of Purchasing magazine, representing a generally conservative industry perspective, is hardly more encouraging. From the “Hotline” page we find:

“At least one high-profile economics uttered the “D” Word. “In my opinion,” says Ed Yardeni, chief economist for Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, “the global economy is slipping into a recession. This is confirmed by falling commodity prices. The recession could become a depression, i.e., a recession which does not respond easily to monetary policy.” Culprit is Japan, Yardeni says. “Japan’s depression is likely to push U.S. and Europe into recessions late next year.”

Other almost mundane but significant indicators from Purchasing magazine articles reinforce Yardeni’s analysis and document the first waves of financial turmoil to reach American shores . We find:

- * “Economists are worried about the swelling trade deficit. the dual trend of declining exports and surging imports appears to have become more pronounced in August and early September.”
- * “... the late August collapse in industrial commodity prices to 21-year lows reflected long-term concerns about global oversupply and soft demand.”
- * “If Japan isn’t able to pull out of its nose dive soon, and if the ‘Asian flu’ really spreads to China, there could be a profound impact on the North American economy,” according to Greg Mastel of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington.”

There you have it. We see little here to bolster our confidence that the world-wide financial debt debacle will stop just short of our doorstep. Mr. Greenspan, one more time, just *exactly* how does a nation (or an individual for that matter) borrow it’s way out of debt?

BARNYARD FABLES #31:
The Long Range Patrol

Peck, peck, peck..... peck, peck, peck..... peck, peck, PECK!

“Squaaaawwk!” croaked Ralph with a grumble and a start, “why always on the skull, an’ why always in the middle of the night,?” whispered he to the Sentry through the stars in his eyes.

“Sorry Sir,” clucked the small, black and white Ancona, “but we got Chickens in the wire!”

“Well, Sergeant, why didn’t you just let the patrol in?” clucked Ralph with a note of exasperation.

“We let ‘em in Capt’n, but they ain’t our Birds”, he continued, “We never seen ‘em before, and... , they didn’t have the rite countersign neither....”

“Kill that light, Sergeant”, clucked Ralph suspiciously, “Let’s see what we got.”

“LRRP Patrol reportin’ in,” came a cracked cluck from the dark, “Mission End Run successful ... an’ we’re mighty glad to be home, Sir!” the voice concluded.

“Home?”, whispered Ralph, “An’ just what was your mission??”

The voice in the dark replied, “We wuz to take the long way ‘round, find a safe place for the Flock, and get the measure of the Foxes.”

“Awwwk,” nodded Ralph with a quick nod and sudden understanding. “So far to go,” he thought with a shudder, “so many decisions ... to cross or not to cross; no map, dangerous for any Fowl to contemplate, let alone undertake.... to walk *around* The Road to the very End, without crossing....”

“What did you find?” asked Ralph, feeling very small in the largeness of the dark.

“There’s no place to go, no way to hide,” said the Barred Rock barely above the whisper of the night wind in the upper branches of the dark trees.

“There’s Foxes comin’ out of the woods most everywhere, an’ they’s struttin’ and stirrin’ more an’ more trouble for Birds an’ all the good Folk.”

“We can beat ‘em, Sir,” the voice picked up confidently. “Them Foxes can’t stand up to a barbed tongue and a real wit. An’ they can’t stand against courage, determination and truth; they’s weak in spirit an’ backed by immoral Animals.”

“But the most important thing we found,” continued the voice, “is that there ain’t no shortcuts. The old way is long and pretty hard, but it’s still the best.”

“How long your Squad been out?” asked Ralph, “When did you leave?”

“We left a militia Comp’ny,” came a quiet cluck from the dark, “Shortly after the Big Trouble started; reckon that was ‘bout ‘36.”

“Welcome Home, Soldiers,” said Ralph to the tired Birds, “Yer mission ain’t over yet, an’ the fight’s hardly begun, but we’ll go on from here together.”

END

“... when the evil encroached upon the good, and especially upon the Sage rulers of antiquity, it was painfully discovered that only force could constrain them. Consequently, even such great paragons of Virtue as Yao and Shun were compelled to create weapons and evolve tactics as they proceeded to mount military actions to extirpate the evil. ... As Sun Pin pointedly concludes, Yao and Shun wished to govern with benevolence and righteousness, but Virtue simply proved inadequate to the daunting task of contending with force and brutality.” Commentary to Chapter II, Military Methods of The Art of War-Sun Pin, by Ralph Sawyer.

BRADY BILL PHASE II

Attack On The Second Continues

Born of a 12th hour Senate vote on December 24th, 1993, the legislative “witching hour”, the “Brady” Bill will rank among the most odious in US political history.

Implementation of the Brady II legislation which becomes effective November 30th, will usher in a five-day waiting period and a national registration system in the guise of “background checks” for all gun purchases. While purchase records should be kept by the FBI for only an 18 month period, anyone with a lick of horse sense knows better. The delayed background checks will likely signal the end of gun shows as we have known them.

Our inquiries lead us to believe many smaller gun dealers are leaving the business and others will not find it feasible to continue at “gun” shows. The result, no doubt planned and welcomed by liberal socialists, we estimate will be a reduction in the size of future events by at least 50% and a dramatic change in their appearance from gun oriented events to “Knife and BDU” shows.

While Brady II will not directly curtail the supply of firearms and equipment, it most certainly will affect sales and, most importantly, availability. While our observations are somewhat limited, some types of supplies already appear to be waning at recent gun shows. With the specter of national gun registration looming in the near future, one might do well to complete any planned shopping in an expeditious manner. Act III is pending, do your Christmas shopping early and prudently.

“The old beliefs of ‘76 which had served to destroy an imperial power had somehow to be reconciled with nationalist needs. Yet it was obvious that the ideological origins of the American Revolution had been rooted not merely in a general fear of power but specifically in the belief that liberty could not survive where corruptible men wielded the apparatus of a powerful national state.” The Ideological Origins of The American Revolution, Bernard Bailyn, p. 330.

BOOK REVIEW

The Ideological Origins of The American Revolution [ISBN 0-674-44302-0]

Written by Bernard Bailyn and published in 1992 by The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press the book is not just another about history, it is a book of ideas. That is, it encompasses the broad sweep of political thought, fears, goals, aspirations and political intrigue that shaped the world of the 1700’s. It describes the political environment in which the ideas of liberty and freedom could mature. It affirms the

intelligence, sophistication, and maturity of the citizens of colonial America. Those who came before us understood the issues of government, the value of liberty and the meaning of despotism and tyranny.

The book is absolutely exciting to one who seeks the satisfaction that comes with understanding. It describes not so much what happened but why. It does not dwell on the superficial but explores the interrelationships between the various political elements and the demands of an enlightened and educated citizenry. The reader is not left with a dry recollection of events and opinions, but a sense of detail and perspective. It paints a picture of political life of the time, but it does not focus on people as actors on a historical stage, but as movers and shakers. It describes unique individuals and events, and the ideas which captured the hearts and minds of colonial Americans. It shows how concepts of liberty and freedom, developed earlier by many philosophers, were combined, molded and conceptualized into a workable formula for a new republic

It would be futile to try to describe the key points of the book. The scope of ideas is too broad, and the significance too complex. Perhaps one can best gain a sense of some core concepts from selected quotations:

Early in the text we learn that the intellectual motivations of colonial activists were not confined to some socially upper group. Political, economic and military concepts were shaped and shared by those who wrote to the common man and political powers at the same level. In doing so, they made the former part, even pivotal, in defining where the benefits of liberty should reside.

“The American writers were profoundly reasonable people. Their pamphlets convey scorn, anger, and indignation; but rarely blind hate, rarely panic fear. They sought to convince their opponents, not, like the English pamphleteers of the eighteenth century, to annihilate them. In this rationality, this everyday, businesslike sanity so distant from the imaginative mists where artistic creations struggle into birth, they were products of their situation and of the demands it made in politics. For the primary goal of the American Revolution, which transformed American life and introduced a new era in human history, was not the overthrow or even the alteration of the existing social order but the preservation of political liberty threatened by the apparent corruption of the constitution, and the establishment in principle of the existing conditions of liberty. The pamphlets aim to persuade.”

The colonists were acutely aware of the concept of “power”. Well read on the abuses of historical and contemporary despots and tyrants, and the power of standing armies solely at the beck and call of an absolute monarchical power, they understood the consequences of its misapplication. They believed that liberty was always at the defensive, ephemeral as the whims of those that commanded military power.

“Most commonly the discussion of power centered on its essential characteristic of aggressiveness: its endlessly propulsive tendency to expand itself beyond legitimate boundaries.”

“... what turned power into a malignant force, was not its own nature so much as the nature of man - his susceptibility to corruption and his lust for self-aggrandizement.”

This understanding does much to explain the sensitivity of the colonists to their perceived manipulation by Parliament. Because of this perception, they viewed as essential to liberty the need to have firm controls on power, i.e., the aggressive force in human nature which seeks domination, and to make it continually subject to the state of liberty, the passive component of freedom. The “might is right” authority of the despot, they believed, must be subject to a higher standard ... liberty.

Motivating the cause of liberty were the suspicions of the colonists that there was a “conspiracy” to keep the colonies in subtle bondage to Great Britain. This was borne of years of perceived political and economic manipulation. Yet, there was a sense, even after Lexington and Bunker Hill of the need to reconcile differences with the monarchy and establish a kind of recognition and order, and to ensure to colonists the full rights of Englishmen. Yet again, the tide of events and keen awareness of history forced and acknowledgment that:

“For while everyone knew that when tyranny is abroad “submission is a crime”;

Author Bailyn outlines how the idea of a constitution developed and matured over the years. Efforts to hammer out the provisions of a new government, indeed if one was to be had, must have an acceptable and defined purpose. The idea matured, and the concept of constitutional government was established. From the following description of the constitutional concept we can see the vision of the framers and the debacle of modern constitutional debasement.

“The primary function of a constitution was to mark out the boundaries of governmental powers - hence in England, where there was no constitution, there were no limits (save for the effect of trial by jury) to what the legislature might do. In order to confine the ordinary actions of government, the constitution must be grounded in some fundamental source of authority, some “higher authority than the giving out temporary “laws.” This special authority could be gained if the constitution were created by “an act of all,” and it would acquire permanence if it were embodied “in some written charter.” Thus created and thus secured, the constitution could effectively designate what “part of their liberty” the people are to sacrifice to the necessity of having government, by furnishing answers to “the two following questions: first, what shall the form of government be? And secondly, what shall be its power?” ... Finally, “all the great rights which man never mean, nor ever ought, to lose should be guaranteed, not granted, by the constitution, for at the forming a constitution, we ought to have in mind that whatever is left to be secured by law only may be altered by another law.”

The author goes on to discuss the philosophies of religion, slavery and the affects of the “contagion of liberty” on contemporary political thought. He visits the great public debates of the time bringing the reader a glimpse of issues including, but not limited to, seeking a balance in government and the condemnation of the institution of chattel slavery. Perhaps, more importantly we gain a valuable look into the purpose, strengths and concerns of the “anti-federalists” as they sought to guarantee those essential liberties central to the concept of a constitution. They, he perceives were the only group who:

“kept the faith - the ancient faith so fundamental a part of the ideological origins of the Revolution, from which, they argued, the Constitution departed.”

Of particular interest is the debate of the anti-federalists over the Constitution as it related to their fears concerning public debt and taxation.

“Examination of the Constitution [by the anti-federalists] revealed, they believed, a taxing power in the hands of the proposed national government that would prove to be as unqualified by the restraints of the states as Parliament’s had been by the colonial assemblies. With such limitless taxing power, Patrick Henry declared in one of his vast speeches in the Virginia convention the Senate would live in splendor and a “great and mighty President” would be “supported in extravagant magnificence, so that the whole of our property may be taken by this American

government, by laying what taxes they please, giving themselves what salaries they please, and suspending our laws at their pleasure.”

“The New York antifederalist “Brutus” could see an even greater danger, in the federal government’s power to “borrow money on the credit of the United States.” With this power “the Congress may mortgage any or all the revenues of the union ... [and] may borrow of foreign nations a principal sum, the interest of which will be equal to the annual revenues of the country. By this means, they may create a national debt so large as to exceed the ability of the country ever to sink. I can scarcely contemplate a greater calamity hat could befall this country than to be loaded with a debt exceeding their ability ever to discharge.”

From Bailyn’s excellent description of the debates surrounding the ratification of the Constitution, we understand the fears of the antifederalists. Gleaned from their knowledge of human nature and the thread of history, they understood the predictable consequences of failure to abide by constitutional provisions. We can see the evolution of the inevitable totalitarian state in the future they predicted.

The essential need of “virtue”, generally accepted by all parties, was considered critical to the maintenance of balanced constitutional government. They agreed that “some degree of virtue was necessary for any free and secure government whatever its constitutional form.” The current public argument that virtue is irrelevant to political leadership flies against the core beliefs of the founders and gives one pause to consider the cause and effect of virtue on the future of the nation.

However, Baleen does not pursue this issue. But perhaps he indirectly gives us some clues as to where the remedy for lack of virtue lies. In citing Noah Webster (1785) the author observes:

“... Webster developed his view of liberty and then tuned to the concept of power. “In what,” he asked, “does real power consist?” Not simply military force, and not cultural forces like religion. “The answer is short and plain - in property.” The “inseparable connection between property and dominion” can be seen throughout Roman history and throughout British history.”

A historical perspective on the issue of property contributes to our understanding of the fundamental power inherent in the ownership and control of real property. Hence, one could almost predict the continuing efforts of modern government to tax, seize, and otherwise subject private property to government control.

In summary, this is not a book for the general public, presuming that some might even be able to read it. Most children simply have to be burned before they will understand the meaning of “hot”. For those who can appreciate the lessons of history, this book should be essential reading. The Ideological Origins of The American Revolution is well worth adding to your library, and merits donation to your local school library as well, but only after you read it. In addition to the book, pick up tabs and a highlighter, you’ll want them.

IN THE WIRE:

Military Critics Muzzled

Los Angeles Times staff writer Paul Richter, observes in his article of October 20th that “military authorities are threatening officers and enlisted personnel with punishment if they utter ‘contemptuous words’ about their commander in chief.” The Uniform Code of Military Justice prohibits servicemen from criticizing civilian leaders. However, the significance of character and the abysmal lack of

qualifications of this President, a pathologic liar, contemptuous of the military, to serve as commanding officer of the armed forces apparently has not been lost on many American military personnel. We speculate that the official objection is not so much intended to stifle speech, as much as independent thought.

Military Exercise In Greensboro

From our field correspondents we understand that during the evening hours of Wednesday, October 7th Greensboro was apparently the focus of an unannounced military exercise which disturbed citizens from southern Alamance county to the Adams Farm area in Greensboro. The Greensboro News and Record of October 9th reported that nine helicopters took part in the 2 hour training mission by the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejune. The practice mission, a simulated long range raid, culminated with the landing of 50-60 Marines at the Old Mt. Zion school where they engaged in a brief assault exercise. While police informed local citizens of the pending exercise a few hours before the event, the public was not given any advance notice.

“Urban warfare is the answer to the world elite’s problem with American gun owners and the last vestige of those who even have the slightest clue of what’s happening.” Talk Show Host, Steve Quayle, 10/14/98

National Day of Concern About Young People and Gun Violence

We are all no doubt much appreciative of our national “moral” patriarch taking a position to protect our children from “guns”. Indeed, Proclamation 7134 of October 7, 1998 (Federal Register Vol. 63, No. 196) declares, among other initiatives and platitudes, the Administrations urging for students across America to sign a “Student Pledge Against Gun Violence”. This pledge, states the Proclamation, is a “solemn promise by young people never to bring a gun to school, never use a gun to settle a dispute, and to discourage their friends from using guns.”

The insidious part of this initiative is the suggestion that guns are inherently influential of their own accord, and their [proper] use is also inherently evil. Children should obviously not take guns to school to be certain. But that is one place they could be learning about gun safety. The embedded message, of course, is that guns should be feared and gun violence is never justified, not even in defense of self or one’s freedom.

Weaselspeak

An AP headline news story from Monday, October 9th reports on comments made by former White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, in a speech at the University of Pittsburgh. He reportedly described Clinton as a “richly qualified leader” who was “exasperatingly stupid” in his personal life.

Now you know what an oxymoron is. What we have yet to figure out is how McCurry could be smart enough to quit, yet not have the sense to know someone can’t be just half-stupid.

“When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, “it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less.”

“The question is”, said Alice, “whether you can make words mean so many different things.”

“The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master, that’s all.” from Alice In Wonderland, Through The Looking Glass, Chapter 6, by Lewis Carroll.

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Strategic & Nuclear Programs Update

From the Internet ([//www.cia.gov/cia/public_affa...speeches/walpole_speech_091798](http://www.cia.gov/cia/public_affa...speeches/walpole_speech_091798)) we learn of a speech made to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace by National Intelligence Officer Robert D. Walpole, on September 17, 1998. In it Walpole warns that the ballistic missile threat from foreign governments “to our homeland and interests worldwide” is “real, serious, growing, and dynamic.” More importantly, he admits the intelligence community has, in recent years, consistently underestimated dramatic advances in foreign missile technology and weapons systems. He warns that the ability of our intelligence community is eroding, complicated by more “foreign denial and deception” efforts.

Countries of concern with advanced missile development programs, in addition to Russia and China, include Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. In the near term, he warns not only of our reduced capability to anticipate threats, but postulates that the threat may not be so much from fledgling ICBM systems, but missiles launched from mobile platforms such as ships.

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