



July 2007

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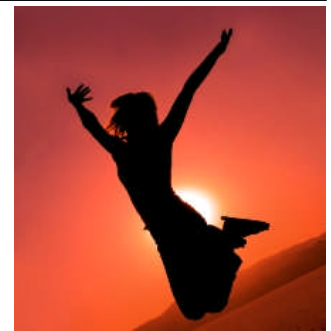
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## Special points of interest:

- Helene Cooper and David Sanger revealed on June 15th in the New York Times that the White House is debating whether to launch a military attack on Iran.
- On June 16th, Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno said 60% of Baghdad is out of control.
- Professor Laurence Kotlikoff for the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis has determined the US is heading for bankruptcy. He observed that overspending is a time bomb for our children.
- On June 21, CIA “skeleton” or “family jewel” files were made available by the National Security Archive. The declassified documents reveal the CIA violated its charter for 25 years with illegal wiretapping, surveillance, assassination plots, and human experimentation.

## FUNDING NUKED

Thank you to call upon Congress to stop the "Reliable Replacement Warhead" funding. The Bush and Department of Energy plans to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons were dealt a serious blow when the House Appropriations Committee eliminated all funds for this program. We will call upon members with our "Take Action" program if this great threat to humanity returns.



## HIGH COST OF LOW PRICES

Our limited knowledge of life outside our borders is one reason why many people see great bargains as only good things and do not think about the starvation wages that lie behind those bargains. A more peaceful world is possible when we wake up to the injustices present in the world economy.

To illustrate this point, consider the question: What country in Africa has 85% unemployment and was a source of funds to help Michael Milken and the infamous Drexel Burnham Lambert launch hostile takeovers of American businesses?<sup>1</sup> Maybe you can guess if you know that this is a country where diamond smuggling for al-Qaida and Hezbollah was reported after 9/11.<sup>2</sup> Does it help to know that there is evidence that the CIA, as part of a destabilization campaign, orchestrated a recent war that killed approximately 300,000 people?<sup>3</sup>

I am guessing that for most readers the above clues did not help very much. The country is Liberia, a place where the majority of the population lives in mud, wood, and scrap-metal shanties without running water or electricity.<sup>4</sup>

I was in Liberia when the UN peacekeepers arrived in 2003, when combatants were disarmed in 2004, and when the first female president in the history of the continent was elected in 2005.<sup>5</sup> I've also read a CIA Field Intelligence Report that will not be verified by the CIA until it is declassified but nonetheless accurately described how Liberia would be destabilized for complete external control.<sup>6</sup> History has repeatedly shown us that the CIA's secret interference in faraway places like Liberia is anti-democratic and ultimately leads to death and destruction.

During the 2003-2005 postwar transitional government, a 37-year land lease extension was granted for Firestone Corporation. Liberia has the largest rubber plantations in the world and Firestone is the country's largest employer. Rubber from Liberia is used for tires and over 40,000 products around the world. Modest improvements at Firestone have occurred since the company was accused in 2005 of practicing slavery.<sup>7</sup>

Liberia has a long history of being exploited. During the Cold War, US news and

### Special points of interest:

- The wars of the future may be fought just to be able to run the machines that fight them. Michael Klare reports that the Department of Defense is the world's leading consumer of petroleum at approximately 14 million gallons per day.
- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, said Vice President Cheney was not complying with laws to protect national security information generated by the government. Waxman said, "To my knowledge, this was the first time in the nearly 30-year history of the Information Security Oversight Office that a request for access to conduct a security inspection was denied by a White House office."
- This month the top US general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace, was told by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to step down.
- In a sign that war with Iran is still on the table, Gates recommended General James Cartwright as the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Cartwright is known for his support of preemptively using nuclear bombs.
- Source articles for the "Special points of interest" are available at [www.teachpeace.com](http://www.teachpeace.com).

## HIGH COST OF LOW PRICES (CONT.)

propaganda flowed across Africa from the Voice of America in Liberia. The Omega Navigation Tower in Liberia helped the US track the movement of ships in the Atlantic Ocean. Liberia's "flag of convenience" registry service was run by the US as part of the global intelligence collection effort.<sup>8</sup> For decades, the US Embassy in Liberia has been the main base for the CIA in Africa.

This year, we saw how US debt relief totaling \$391 million was used to bring about the Liberian government's agreement to serve as the home for the new US Africa Command.<sup>9</sup> US taxpayers are also paying \$200 million for weapons and a new 2,000-strong Armed Forces of Liberia. To put this in perspective, the UN just finished destroying thousands of military weapons as part of the effort to bring peace to Liberia. To further highlight the insanity of bringing weapons into the country, the \$200 million now being spent on equipping Liberia's military is enough to permanently provide clean drinking water for the entire country. As accurately predicted by the CIA Field report, the Class-3 destabilization campaign called *Operation Green Sand* has rendered Liberia primed for complete external control.<sup>10</sup> I am convinced that if Congress authorized an investigation of the CIA's involvement in Liberia's civil war, the findings would shock the American people.

China is another international force positioning itself to be a major player in Africa. In February President Hu Jintao came to Liberia to open a center for malaria research, prevention and treatment. Imagine for a moment who will make more friends in Liberia, the US by establishing a major command with military bases or China by opening a life-saving malaria center?

My criticism of the expanding US military empire and of foreign policies that hurt people can better be understood by knowing I work with Liberians who are still struggling to recover from 14 years of war. Working with war orphans is a powerful experience. I am the first white person whom some of the children have ever met. When I first met Handful, he did not even own clothes. I remember having to borrow clothes from another child so that I could take this picture of him.



In summary, Liberia is a beautiful place where elephants still roam with many of the exotic animals we see on television. The people are extremely friendly and handle adversity with tremendous grace. Workers in Liberia and many other countries around the world are exploited by multi-national corporations. This exploitation is managed by secret armies and intelligence operations. Teach Peace is helping people wake up so that we learn to export schools, hospitals, and friendship instead of military bases, weapons, and war.

Dave Dionisi, Teach Peace National Awareness

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The first Teach Peace class in Liberia was given to war orphans and poor children on May 26, 2007. Detailed footnotes for the above article are at [www.teachpeace.com/learnmore1.htm](http://www.teachpeace.com/learnmore1.htm). If you read the footnotes you will likely know more about what happened in Liberia than 99% of the Liberian people.

### Special points of concern:

- The U.S. was ranked 96th in a Global Peace Index study produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit and an international team of peace experts.
- *First in Weapons Sales:* The Pentagon broke its own record in 2006 with \$21 billion in arms sales.
- *First in Nuclear Weapon Expenditures:* The U.S. has spent over \$5 trillion developing more than 70,000 nuclear weapons since 1945.
- *First in External Debt:* The United States owes over \$10 trillion, which is about one quarter of the total global debt.
- *First in Military Expenditures:* The White House will allocate \$647 billion on 2008 military spending. When you add long-term costs, Columbia University economist Joseph Stiglitz puts the price tag at \$1 trillion to \$2.2 trillion.
- *First in Oil Consumption:* The United States burns up 20.7 million barrels per day.
- *First in Carbon Dioxide Emissions:* The U.S. produces 5.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) each year. The combined world polluters pump 24.1 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the environment.

## WHO CONTROLS THE MEDIA

Do you wonder why the information in the Teach Peace newsletter is so different from what the mass media disseminates? For instance, the previous article on Liberia revealed a \$200 million US taxpayer expenditure to equip its military. Did anyone see this in a newspaper or on a television broadcast? The answer for most of us, maybe even all of us reading this newsletter, is no.



Americans will continue to be in the dark until more people realize that a handful of corporations control the US mass media. I list just a few of the companies that each controls.

1. News Corporation (Fox, New York Post, DirecTV).
2. Time Warner (AOL, CNN, TIME).
3. Disney (ABC, Disney Channels, ESPN).
4. National Amusements (CBS Corporation, Viacom, MTV, Nickelodeon).
5. General Electric (NBC, CNBC, MSNBC).
6. Bertelsmann (Random House plus approximately 80 magazines).
7. Clear Channel Communications (1,200 radio stations, 36 TV stations).

Together, the above corporations control most of what you hear on the radio and see on television. We are led to believe the mainstream media is for the benefit of average Americans. In reality they don't publish news for our benefit but act as instruments of propaganda for big business and government. In the book *Media Interlocks With Corporate America*, Professor Peter Phillips discusses the analysis that his research team did on media corporation boards of directors. In the top ten media giants, there are 118 directors. The reach of the 118 people is vast as they are members on boards of 288 national or international corporations.

Professor Phillips points out that we can no longer call major media corporations the mainstream media. They are the corporate media serving corporate America. For the US democracy to survive, citizens need to find alternative sources of information like the incredibly valuable articles available at [www.teachpeace.com/articles.htm](http://www.teachpeace.com/articles.htm). There are also many books on the concentration of media ownership. Two worth reading are Norman Solomon's *War Made Easy* and Eric Alterman's *What Liberal Media*.

Hank Joerger, Teach Peace Founding Member

## SOME LIES ARE TOO BIG TO DISBELIEVE

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.

Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels

Save the October 21, 2007 date and 6-9:00 p.m. time for an Evening of Peace

**Teach Peace Meetings:**

- The June 8th *Take Back America* event was very successful. We received feedback from many of the 175 attendees that they would attend future Teach Peace events. From a financial perspective, the event was also successful in that ticket sales enabled us to cover the expenses associated with bringing Dr. Bowman to Sacramento.
- See the Teach Peace site for a full listing of presentations and events. Movies shown at 7 p.m. in the Davis Library Blanchard Room at 314 E 14th Street include:
  - > *American Blackout* on 7/9.
  - > *The Great Conspiracy* on 7/19.
- Monthly conference calls are on the first Saturday of every month from 1 - 3 p.m (PST). To participate on July 7th, call 218-486-1300 and enter the bridge code 720663.
- We now have the option of automatic regular donations directly from bank accounts and credit cards.



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## HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS

We define success not only as a single accomplishment but as the journey of teaching peace.



There will always be a need for peacemakers to help protect our planet and prevent wars. This is why we are raising money to build a foundation that will continue to serve current and future generations.

Our plan is SMART. SMART is the acronym for “specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic, and time bound objectives.” SMART objectives are positive steps toward safeguarding life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Teach Peace educational programs wake people up with the knowledge they need to bring about a more peaceful world.

To maximize the effectiveness of our efforts, we adopt and promote best practices from both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds. One example is how we improve communication within our organization by publishing meeting notes online (see [www.teachpeace.com/meetings&events.htm](http://www.teachpeace.com/meetings&events.htm)). This means when you miss a Teach Peace meeting, there is a very convenient way to stay current. We also offer a call-in number so members can participate in meetings from anywhere and in a way that is not only better for the environment but extremely convenient.

Our operations are transparent and the level of detail you can obtain online is amazing. For example, the Success Plan is 60 pages of information on what we are doing to teach peace. The Success Plan also offers insights into how we can greatly magnify our efforts with additional funding. To further highlight the openness of Teach Peace, the About section of the [www.teachpeace.com](http://www.teachpeace.com) site is where you can access our 501(c)(3) information, bylaws, tax returns, methodology, and much more.

Teaching peace is energizing because our teachers constantly experience success. To obtain a sense for this, visit our endorsements at [www.teachpeace.com/endorsements.htm](http://www.teachpeace.com/endorsements.htm).

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Is it time for a career change or adding new excitement to your life? You can do it by setting aside one day a month or twelve days a year to Teach Peace.

We have scheduled “train the trainer” sessions on September 1st from 3:30 to 6 pm. If you don’t have the time to be a peace teacher, donations of any amount are appreciated. Help accelerate the peace victory by contributing today.

To sign up for the “train the trainer” instruction or make a donation, just call 530-554-7061.

