Fear Breeds Fear: Foreign Policy

Except for when Trump visits Mideast oligarchs, as he recently did in Saudi Arabia, Trump has been vitriolic in his accusations of Muslim people and associating terrorist activity with people of the Islamic faith. It is a connection that is easy to understand, as the USA is a nation that has been dominated by Judeo-Christian traditions. In spite of one of our most sacred monuments (the Statue of Liberty) the USA (along with most of the world has a history of suspicion of people who appear to be different (along with the morbid scars left by slavery), most immigrant groups (Irish, Italian, Jews, Polish, etc.) have had to endured several generations of bigotry. Such bigotry is not unique to the USA, as the rise of patriotic political movements that mask a similar bigotry can be found in most nations.

The manifestations of such fears are disguised as anti-trade and isolation. The Brexit vote in the United Kingdom reflects similar fears. The last 30 plus years have witnessed the proliferation of “free trade deals”. While the EU started its integration process almost 70 years ago, it has greatly expanded it reach since the Soviet Union became history in the early 1990s. While globalization has been around since the stronger European nations began colonizing the world, recent advances in communications and transportation technology have allowed the development of multinational corporations. These multinationals have become larger economic entities than many nations and exploit-working people more than the colonial powers. The trade deals have been written for the benefit of the transnational companies with little attention paid to human rights or environmental protection.

For corporate leaders, human have become farm animals. Their goal is to breed the humans so that they reproduce more workers, provide only enough health care to keep them productive. Work is a carrot to keep the humans working, divide and conquer them so that working people fail to recognize their mutual interest of ending exploitation.

Trump, the ultimate corporatist, willingly stirs up fears of Mexicans and other people from south of the USA. He also stirs up fear of Muslims/Arabs or any people who are different. This allows him (and other fear-generators) to obtain political power and building up an outlandish military-industrial complex. Military spending creates a more frightening world, as we have to worry about the sanity and carefulness of world leaders.

Nuclear power, especially the amount that the USA and Russia possess, can destroy the habitability of the world in a matter of minutes. It is hard to think that America is great again because we have a president who often seems unbalanced and willing to recklessly retaliate. Then there are other leaders like North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, who seem equally unstable or a nation like Pakistan that has growing nuclear artillery and tenuous relationships to many of its neighbors. We need to work to create more alliances, both globally and regionally.

As the above chart shows, fear is wasteful. While our politicians fear a rising deficit and complain about high taxes, the USA spends more on the military than combined spending of the next 7 nations. The spending intimidates other people and acts as an incubator for terrorist activity, arguably our number one threat to Americans’ safety.

Spending on diplomacy and solving problems at their root rather than resorting to simplistic, bigoted fear tactics would be so much more effective!  

DS

Words for thought

“But inaction is a luxury we can’t afford, because things are getting worse. And they’re going to get better only if we organize.” Mark Bittman

“You can kill the dreamer. But no, absolutely, you cannot kill the dream!” Dr. Samuel Kyles
**Socialist Vanguard**

**Fear Breeds Fear: Domestic Policy**

The biggest threat to our nation’s and to human existence are nuclear weapons (and related problems to nuclear energy) and environmental ones, most immediately climate change and related pollution to our land, water and air. The Trump administration along with a GOP dominated Congress wants to shift $54 billion from domestic spending to military spending. Trump promises more security and more jobs. Both are the typical lies fostered by the military-industrial elites. What could we do with $54 billion? The Friends Committee on National Legislation (also known as the Quakers, has suggested the following:

- Send 1.6 MILLION STUDENTS to college for a four-year degree.
- Resettle 2.7 MILLION REFUGEES in the U.S.
- Fund the entire Environmental Protection Agency for 6.6 years.
- Cover 12 MILLION PEOPLE under the Affordable Care Act.

While one may disagree on the specifics, one must admit that such spending will help more people. Trump just visited Wisconsin and made a case that there is a serious shortage of skilled workers and we need better technical training. Trump with Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker highlighted the problem at Waukesha County Technical College. His presence made one feel that Wisconsin’s technical colleges provided the solution to the problem, but Walker, while providing more funds for the Technical Colleges in his recent budget, began his reign of terror by cutting state assistance for the Tech Colleges by 30%. Trump is expected to offer tax subsidies or other incentives for companies to provide training for their workers, rather than giving money to the technical colleges. Trump’s proposed budget would reduce the nation’s spending on post-secondary education.

Meanwhile Trump will tear apart the families of many immigrants as he deports many adults, while leaving their children, who are USA citizens either behind without any resources or sends them back to impoverished and often unsafe living conditions.

Trumps rhetoric bringing out hatred and fear increase the divisions in our society. Part of Trump’s tough guy talk calls for arming the citizenry, just as sales of military weaponry further arms and adds to the dangers of the world (often the arms fall into the hands of terrorist organizations). With more guns and loathing in our society, our homes and institutions are becoming less safe. So much for safety, but it is good for Smith and Wesson or Colt Industries.

As this is published, the GOP is traumatized by a Democrat with poor aim, poor judgment and a military assault weapon. The Democrat opened fire on the GOP congressmen, who were practicing baseball. Various reports said 50 shots were fired, (others 100). With all that shooting, only 5 were injured and the shooter, a 66-year-old man, died in the hospital. One of the legislators is in a leadership position and had federal protectors, who quickly opened fire on the shooter. There is an investigation that will try to determine the dead perpetrator’s motivation, but one cannot ignore the violent culture that infuses the nation brought about by fear and bigotry. Will the GOP legislators break from the grip of the NRA and question why do we allow the sale of military assault weapons, what can be done to return to intelligent debate over differences instead of name calling? Or will the NRA continue its ownership of legislators and push for more gun ownership, especially those whose main purpose if to kill people? DS

**Visit Our New Website**

Bruce Andrews has set up a new website (http://www.socialistpartyofwisconsin.org). Please take a look and let us know what you think. On it are some of our brochures explaining our positions on different issues, as well as one that provides a brief history of the 3 democratic socialist mayors in 20th Century Milwaukee!

**A Constitutional Convention**

The Wisconsin legislature, dominated by the GOP seems poised to pass legislation calling for writing a new US Constitution. Many constitutional experts can argue that the Constitution drawn up in 1787 is outdated and leads to many problems we suffer today. There are also constitutional scholars who argue that the Constitution is a living document that has adapted to the times.

Conservative forces push the current proposal, and many on the left are scared. Instead of being afraid, these forces should begin drafting their own revised document and organizing around it. First of all the conservatives may back off. Secondly, rather than being negative, be proactive and organize around a progressive document! Be Prepared, if a Constitutional Convention is called! DS

**SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting:** Saturday, August 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee

See you at the annual picnic. Saturday, June 24 at Area #10 in Washington Park in Milwaukee. Social Justice activist Bill Douglas will speak about WWI and the evils of war! Noon till 4:00 pm. SEE ENCLOSED FLYER!