

ference in other lands. Our strength is greatest in our moral fervor. It must never be forgotten that the example of the American Revolution led the way for revolutions in Europe and the Americas. The revolutionaries in other lands saw the tremendous liberty and wealth in America, and, most importantly, that we practiced what we preached. America's strength was its dedication to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We did not let our actions conflict with our principled goals.

The War-Lords of Washington are eager to register men and women for a new draft. This is a blatant denial of our fundamental right to life, to self-ownership (i.e. sovereignty). It was the great nineteenth-century English libertarian, Auberon Herbert, who wrote, "What is a self-owner? He is a man who retains the power of consenting, as regards the disposal of himself and of his property. The man who is not a self-owner has lost this power of consenting. Consent is the distinguishing mark of the self-owner."³

This is the bottom line, the moral issue. This is where we see who is on which side of the barricades. If we do not have the right to our own lives, no other rights are possible. If I do not have the moral jurisdiction over my own body, then I do not have any rights. The right to life is sacred, is unalienable (to use the term from the Declaration of Independence). There is no difference between the draft and any other form of slavery. Involuntary servitude is involuntary servitude, whether one calls it slavery, draft, or kidnapping. "The power of *consenting*" cannot be taken away without destroying all rights of the individual.

The American Republic was founded upon the principles of what is called republicanism. The basic principle underlying republicanism is the idea that government is instituted by the consent of the governed. No other person, or group of people (including those who make up the government) can say what you may do with your life without your consent. If you wish to travel to Iran or Afghanistan, to fight for the freedom of those people, you have that right. But if someone tries to turn you into cannon-fodder for David Rockefeller, Exxon, or the Carter administration, through a coercive registration and draft pogrom, your rights are being violated

and stomped on in the worst possible manner. Garett once said that "We have crossed the boundary that lies between Republic and Empire."⁴ It is time to learn how to cross that boundary toward the Republic. The first step is to resist a foreign policy of global militarism and war. We do not have a draft and there is no war - yet. There is still time to fight these measures. Let us take the first step and stop the registration drive!

**STOP THE WAR!
STOP THE DRAFT!
STOP THE REGISTRATION!**

**NO MORE
REGISTRATION,
NO MORE
DRAFT,
AND NO MORE
GODDAM WAR!**

by Kenneth R. Gregg, Jr.

¹Macaulay, *The Varieties of History*, edited by Fritz Stern, p. 74.

²Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*, edited by Henry Collins, p. 99.

³Auberon Herbert, *The Free Life*, April 1897 P. 29.

⁴Garett, *The People's Pottage*, p. 93.

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THE LIBERTAS STATEMENT

We, as libertarians, affirm:

That full individual liberty is impossible in any society other than a voluntary one that aggresses upon no one;

That men and women require the full and independent use of their own judgement in order to survive at an optimum level, and therefore have a natural right to do their own thing, providing that they do not physically harm or coercively restrict another individual's life, liberty or property;

That everyone is exclusively sovereign, and is a slave to no one;

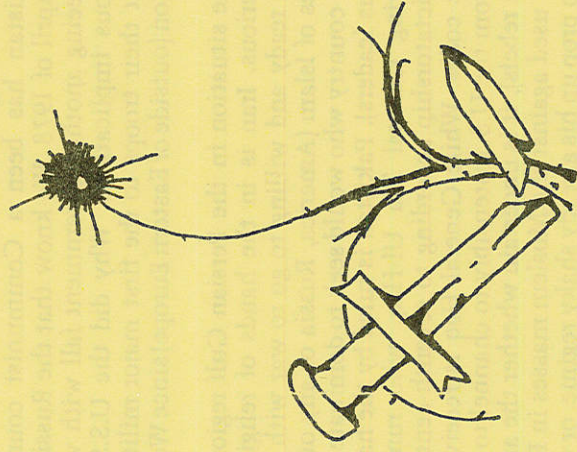
That the individual is best served by society when he or she is free from the forcefully imposed controls of others, acting alone or in concert (as a government);

That all forms of coercion, aggression and fraud are always immoral;

That the only system consistent with personal freedoms in the economic arena is one that does not interfere with free trade between consenting individuals;

THEREFORE, we, as libertarians, resolve to oppose all forms of aggression by any State, Government, self-appointed savior, individual, or association of individuals. We further resolve to oppose taxation, conscription, eminent domain, laws which create victimless "crimes," and all programs forced onto individuals without their consent. It is time that the chains of authoritarianism in economics and morality be broken. Individual rights and coercion cannot co-exist. Liberty cannot be compromised, and we will settle for no less than freedom in our time.

(adopted on May 5, 1973)



By Kenneth R. Gregg, Jr.

The British historian, Macaulay, once spoke of the writings of Herodotus, the man who Cicero called the father of history, that his "fictions are so much like the facts, and the facts so much like the fictions, that, with respect to many most interesting particulars, our belief is neither given or withheld, but remains in an uneasy and interminable state of abeyance. We know that there is truth, but we cannot exactly decide where it lies."¹

This is a good description of the current uproar over Afghanistan. One source claims that the Russians were invited into Afghanistan (As the Americans were invited into Vietnam?) during the last stages of collapse of one of the recent regimes in that country; another, that the Russian troops recklessly invaded Afghanistan in a cruel attempt to take over and consolidate their power. Which is the truth and which is the fiction? We can only concur with Macaulay: "We know that there is truth, but we cannot exactly decide where it lies."

What do we know about the region, then? We do know that Afghanistan has been a client-state of the U.S.S.R. for the past two and one-half decades, with the Soviet Union supplying money, advisors, arms, roads, hospitals, etc. to the Afghan rulers. We know that the Russian government has watched four pro-Soviet governments in Afghanistan fall since 1974, and that Afghanistan has been a Communist country since April of 1978. We know that the Russians were seeing another government fall with very dangerous implications. Why did the U.S.S.R. commit their troops to the first major military excursion (outside of Eastern Europe) since World War II?

The situation in the Persian Gulf region is very serious. Iran is in the hands of religious zealots ready and willing to go to war with the enemies of Islam (America, Russia or any other foreign country who would seek to dominate the religious leaders). Pakistan is ruled by the hated right-wing General Zia Ul-Haq, who runs a tight dictatorship according to seventh-century Islamic codes. While General Haq is receiving arms from the U.S. (ostensibly to channel to the Afghan rebels), it is uncertain whether the arms will be used against the Moslem masses in Pakistan to prop up his already shaky regime, or will actually be used to aid the Afghan insurgents.

to the Vietnam war regarded as unpatriotic, traitorous? During a time of increasing unemployment, increasing taxes, increasing inflation, when the new laws, regulations, controls and government interventions failed to maintain the standards of living, what else could the government do but pull the joker out of the deck? How else can an unpopular government (or government leader) legitimize its actions, when all else has failed? Paine's statement cannot be repeated often enough: "war...is the art of *conquering at home*." It is an important maxim of political life.

Many segments of the American government have been losing their legitimacy in the eyes of the American people. The military suffered a serious blow in the Vietnam fiasco from which it has never recovered. The Carter Administration has become an unpopular one. With soaring inflation, gasoline shortages, high taxes and a labyrinth of regulations, Carter's popularity (and legitimacy) has sunk to an all-time low. With an election year coming up, Carter must improve his standing in the polls, or lose the Presidency. There is an increasing effort to cut back on the power of the regulatory commissions. The CAB will soon be abolished and the public looks askance at the other commissions (only a few years ago it was impossible even to abolish a federal board of tea-tasters). The CIA has had many of its nefarious activities opened to public scrutiny, and has lost many former friends and much federal largesse. How can these and other tarnished segments of the government regain their reputation, funding, and positions of power? When all else has failed, it is time to pull out the wild card and play it.

There is a logical sequence of events in the current crisis. First, the call for hatred and fear against the Foreign Enemy (it matters little who it is, so long as they are different. Germans, North Koreans, Chinese, North Vietnamese, Russians, Cubans; anyone who looks differently, speaks differently, acts differently will do). Then the demand for increased military expenditures and registration for a draft. The draft would never be used, except, of course, in a dire emergency. Then, there is, of course, the inevitable dire emergency: a new Gulf of Tonkin, Bay of Pigs, political assassination, invasion of a foreign country by the Foreign Enemy. What the

incident is, is unimportant; but it must look scary and intimidating to the populace. The call is made to "rally 'round the flag." More taxes are raised for more military excursions. Controls are tightened over the economy and civil liberties are encroached upon. The inflation rate rises as the wage and price controls fail to stabilize the economy. Controls increase over the business community to insure against bankruptcies and of course, the power of the regulatory commissions is increased to insure a "fair" profit to business (read: big business involved in government contracts). And on and on, until the logical end of the sequence of events: a totalitarian state or a nuclear holocaust.

The chain of events is a logical one, but it is not inevitable. We can halt it here and now. If there is no registration, there can be no inexorable next step to the draft. If there is no draft, there can be no cannon-fodder dancing to the beat of the war-drums. **Stop the War! Stop the Draft! Stop the Registration!**

Will Carter and his administration be successful this time in his intimidating actions regarding Afghanistan? Or will he fail as he did when he "discovered" Russian troops in Cuba (where they had been stationed for 17 years!)? Have we not come to the point where we can see how the present mercantilist policies of the American Imperium have created crises overseas?

The American policy is following in the footsteps of the Roman Empire, where the government claimed certain foreign lands as its own, warning that to invade those foreign countries was an invasion of the homeland. Today, the American government is looking for new military escapades no differently than Russia is, or Rome was. The War-Lords of Washington have become indistinguishable from the War-Lords of Moscow.

The opportunity is before us to influence the current state of affairs. We have the opportunity to bring the most important issue of our times to the forefront: *Morality*. We must take a stand for the fundamental principles of justice and freedom for all. These principles must be treated as more than merely words that we mouthed as school children.

We must discover the strength of our American traditions of liberty at home and non-inter-