

# April 4th, 1984 and April 4th, 1968: The Legacies of George Orwell and Martin Luther King

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*I recently went to a theater production of **George Orwell's** "1984" and also recently viewed the Ken Burns 10 episode documentary "The Vietnam War" on PBS. Although the Burns documentary was flawed in many respects, it was still well worth watching. I highly recommend that everybody watch it. It happens to be still running on PBS (one episode each Tuesday night in my Duluth, MN area).*

*Given the fact that the storylines of both the documentary and the play have relevance in our increasingly proto-fascist, increasingly militarized nation, I have decided to re-publish a slightly revised version of my April 4, 2017 Duty to Warn column about Orwell's work of art and King's critique of the Vietnam War.*

The famous date "April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984" appeared in one of the early pages of George Orwell's most important novel (although the antifascist novel "Animal Farm" was in the same league as the antifascist novel "1984"). "1984" was published in 1949, and was a warning to readers about the continued threats to the world of a future totalitarian, corporatized, militarized police state - despite the defeat of Nazism in 1945. The novel was set in the fictional Oceania, once a thriving democracy which had been economically, structurally and morally torn apart by an atomic war that had started a perpetual world war. The date "April 4, 1984" was the first entry in the diary of Orwell's main character, Winston Smith.

The previously free nation that he wrote about represented Great Britain and its allies forty years after the war had devastated the world, leaving it in a state with perpetual mind control and police state repression and torture and whose cruel and tyrannical elite (representing less than 1% of the population) ruled with an iron fist. The political system of Orwell's Oceania was abbreviated INGSOC (short for English Socialism, which was obviously patterned after Hitler's Nazi Party (short for National Socialism)). The regime's famous "doublethink" slogan was "**War is Peace; Freedom is Slavery; Ignorance is Strength.**" (to which I admit I once added: "**Bush is President**").

Orwell was an avowed anti-fascist, for he had experienced true peace and yet had witnessed a world war and the rise of militarism, corporatism and fascism in post-World War I Italy, Germany and Spain.

He was particularly aware of powerful fascist movements in his homeland that involved **Oswald Mosley** and his 1930s nationalist political party: the British Union of Fascists and

National Socialists. Orwell saw the efforts of Vidkun Quisling's fascist political party in nearby Norway, the National Unity Party.



A scene from George Orwell's 1984 film

And Orwell may well have been aware of the foiled fascist coup d'etat attempt in 1933 that had been planned by America's powerful, right-wing plutocrats that were afraid of **Franklin Delano Roosevelt's** plan to correct America's obscene wealth disparity following the stock market crash of 1929. These wealthy, greedy, anti-patriotic and anti-democratic (and therefore traitorous) elites had conspired to overthrow the liberal Roosevelt administration by military force shortly after Roosevelt's inauguration (google "The Business Plot to Overthrow Roosevelt" to find out who the elite traitors were).

### **Fascism is Alive and Well Despite Orwell's and MLK's Warnings**

So Orwell understood the symbiotic relationships between Big Business and the Military/Industrial/Police State Complex (ie, fascism, whose orchestrators may be either friendly or frowning), whether it was occurring in Germany, Japan, Israel, South Africa, South America, Egypt, Saudi Arabia or in the United States. These relationships are currently alive and well and are in play in many 21<sup>st</sup> century nations all around the world.

In 1936, knowing that he had to do something, Orwell joined the heroic anti-fascist Lincoln Brigade, along with many American idealists, and fought on the side of the pro-democracy forces in the civil war against the Spanish military dictator Francisco Franco. Interestingly, the Catholic Church supported the Catholic dictator and his brutal regime in the fight against the "godless" pro-democracy leftists (the same reason that the official Catholic Church in Germany supported the capitalist Hitler against the German Communist Party). In Spain's killing fields, Orwell experienced the cruelty, carnage and futility of war up close and personal.

Witnessing the military devastation of future generations, the planet, the children and other living things during the war, he began writing **1984** right after Germany surrendered. The book was published in 1949. Tragically, Orwell died in 1950 before he could possibly

appreciate how influential the book was.

## **Big Brother in 1984 is the Same as the Deep State in 2017**

The protagonist of Orwell's 1949 novel, **Winston Smith**, wrote the date "April 4, 1984" on the first page of his clandestine diary, fully realizing that the surveillance state he suffered under (called "Big Brother" in the novel) and in which he "lived" and worked would likely punish him, imprison him or even execute him if his act of defiance (writing a diary) was ever found out. To read some plot summaries of the novel, click [here](#).

## **Some Pertinent Words of Wisdom from George Orwell**

*"War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it."*

*"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."*

*"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it."*

*"All that was required of them (i.e. the brain-washed masses) was a primitive patriotism which could be appealed to whenever it was necessary to make them accept longer working hours or shorter rations. And even when they became discontented, as they sometimes did, their discontent led nowhere, because, being without general ideas, they could only focus it on petty specific grievances. The larger evils invariably escaped their notice." — 1984*

## **April 4, 1968**

April 4, 2017, was the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of **Martin Luther King, Jr.** The assassination was orchestrated by un-identified – and therefore un-prosecuted – American Deep State assassins within (or hired by) the US government. The details of the plot to kill King have been documented in a number of books which have been successfully censored out of America's consciousness and omitted from every officially-sanctioned history textbook.

For the real story of MLK's murder, I recommend reading the book about the trial that the New York Times, the Washington Post and every other major media outlet in the US (!) black-balled – to their eternal shame. That jury trial posthumously exonerated James Earl Ray and identified some of the plotters. The book I am referring to is titled ***An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King, Jr.***

***An Act of State*** was written by **William Pepper**, the attorney that prosecuted the case. During the trial, Pepper obtained a confession from one of the accomplices that was intimately involved in the murder. (An extended interview with the author is [here](#). And a video of one of Pepper's many speeches on the topic is [here](#).)

## **April 4, 1967**

Exactly one year before his assassination on April 4, 1968, King delivered a powerful speech to members of Clergy and Laity Concerned (condemning the war in Vietnam) at the Riverside Church in New York City. In that speech, King outlined many of the reasons that people of conscience like him – especially people of the Christian faith – needed to speak out

against the atrocity-producing war in Vietnam.

That 1967 speech, much like the jury trial that proved that the United States government had framed **James Earl Ray** for the murder (thus proving complicity in the crime), was black-balled by the mainstream press. The speech was titled ***Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence***. It can be read in its entirety [here](#).

MLK's deservedly-famous anti-war speech was intolerable to the United States Deep State, which included the US military-industrial complex, the assorted corporate war profiteers, (especially the weapons industries), the CIA and even the FBI (**J. Edgar Hoover** hated King and everything he stood for). Most observers of the civil rights and anti-war movements realized in retrospect that the speech represented the signing of King's own death warrant.

The assassination - as was also true of the executions of **Robert Kennedy** two months later and the execution of **Jack Kennedy** five years earlier was secretly planned behind the many closed doors of Deep State functionaries. (The patsies in those two assassinations were **Sirhan Sirhan** and **Lee Harvey Oswald**, respectively.)

The patsy and perceived "white trash" James Earl Ray was falsely accused of the murder. Ray, under pressure and in solitary confinement was coerced to accept a plea bargain that was offered by a cunning Deep State-affiliated lawyer. It was a bargain that Ray eventually saw through and recanted of.

The documentation of this information is extensive, but in Deep State/Pentagon/NSA/CIA/FBI circles, and with corporate Big Media, Big Business, Big Banks and Big Weapons in control of almost everything, most of us are insufficiently aware of what they have been doing and are currently doing to those of us in the lower 99%. (Google "Mike Lofgren and the Deep State" or click [this](#) for more.)

Read the following words of wisdom from MLK and open your eyes to see what is happening to all those who are suffering and struggling to survive on our increasingly poisoned planet.

And then, in some way that matches with your abilities, please join the nonviolent anti-fascist resistance movement as aggressively as you are able - before we are faced with what George Orwell and Martin Luther King saw coming and what Winston Smith experienced.

Recall that Martin Luther King often said,

**"It may well be that the greatest tragedy of this period of social change is not the glaring noisiness of the so-called bad people, but the silence of the so-called good people."**

That truism should inspire every person of conscience to speak out.



Below are some extended excerpts from King's April 4, 1967 Riverside Church speech. Whenever you read the word "Vietnam", mentally insert Wounded Knee, Dresden, Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Korea, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, East Timor, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Niger, or any of the other scores of "targets" where US military forces (including Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine or their special commando units) have cavalierly drone-bombed or otherwise annihilated innocent civilians - and then the guilty parties experienced no remorse, guilt or war crimes indictments for doing so. (Note: it is usually only much later, after the combat mission is over, that remorse and guilt of those in the killing fields will strike the individual soldier who may only have been obeying the orders to kill from his or her equally guilty superiors.)

### **Some Pertinent Words of Wisdom from Martin Luther King**

*"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."*

*"If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read: Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over."*

*"We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation and for those it calls 'enemy', for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers."*

*"As I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries."*

*"They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1945, after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before*

the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its re-conquest of her former colony”.

“Now they languish under our bombs and consider us, not their fellow Vietnamese, the real enemy. They move sadly and apathetically as we herd them off the land of their fathers into concentration camps where minimal social needs are rarely met. They know they must move on or be destroyed by our bombs.”

“So they go, primarily women and children and the aged. They watch as we poison their water, as we kill a million acres of their crops. They must weep as the bulldozers roar through their areas preparing to destroy the precious trees. They wander into the hospitals with at least twenty casualties from American firepower for one Vietcong-inflicted injury. So far we may have killed a million of them, mostly children. They wander into the towns and see thousands of the children, homeless, without clothes, running in packs on the streets like animals. They see the children degraded by our soldiers as they beg for food. They see the children selling their sisters to our soldiers, soliciting for their mothers.”

“What do they think as we test out our latest weapons on them, just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe?

“We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. We have cooperated in the crushing of the nation’s only noncommunist revolutionary political force, the unified Buddhist Church. We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. We have corrupted their women and children and killed their men.

“Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call ‘fortified hamlets.’”

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