

George Orwell and Martin Luther King: April 4th, 1984 and April 4th, 1968

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*The famous date “April 4th, 1984” appeared in one of the early pages of **George Orwell’s** most important novel (although “Animal Farm” was in the same league as the novel “1984”). The novel 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 Oceania, once a thriving democracy which had been economically, structurally and morally torn apart by an atomic war that had become a perpetual 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 forty years after the war had devastated the world, leaving it in a state with perpetual police state rule whose cruel and privileged elite (representing less than 1% of the population) ruled with an iron fist.

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.

And Orwell may 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 devised a plan 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 well the symbiotic relationships between Big Business and the Military-Industrial/Police State Complex (ie, fascism, whether its orchestrators are friendly or frowning) whether it is happening in Europe, Japan, Israel, South Africa, South America, Egypt Saudi Arabia or in the United States. These relationships are alive and well and are currently in play in the early 21st century 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 on:

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087803/plotsummary?ref_=tt_stry_pl.

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



When Martin Luther King took on the Vietnam War, he burned bridges with powerful Washington politicians, including LBJ. It might have been what got him killed. He understood the connection between the war overseas and the war at home. He warned against the "superficial patriotism" of the warmongers. We look at the antiwar MLK in today's MLK Day Liberty Report: Antiwar And Anti-Violence: The Revolutionary MLK
<https://youtu.be/8rsQ2rVr6Fw>

Today, April 4, 2017, is the 49th 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. 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 at <https://ratical.org/ratville/JFK/WFP020403.pdf>. And a video of one of Pepper's many speeches on the topic is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24-ALnvr4kM>.)

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, to their eternal shame. The speech was titled ***Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence***. It can be read in its entirety at <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/058.html>.

MLK's deservedly-famous anti-war speech is regarded as the final nail in King's coffin because it was so 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 the many Deep State functionaries.

The patsy and easily despised petty criminal and perceived “white trash” James Earl Ray was falsely accused and falsely blamed for the act. Ray, under pressure and in solitary confinement, initially – and unwisely – accepted a plea bargain that was offered by a cunning Deep State-affiliated lawyer. It was a bargain that Ray saw through and soon recanted of.

The documentation of this information is extensive, but in Deep State/Pentagon/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 the Deep State has been and currently is doing to those of us in the lower 99%. (Google “Mike Lofgren and the Deep State” or click on <http://billmoyers.com/story/the-deep-state-2-0/> for more.)

Read the following words of wisdom from MLK and, rather than weeping, open your eyes to see what is happening to your fellow human beings and all the other sentient beings that are suffering and struggling to survive on our increasingly poisoned planet. And then, in some way that matches with your abilities, join the nonviolent anti-fascist resistance movement as aggressively as you are able. 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.”

I hope that truism will 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, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria 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 bombed or otherwise annihilated innocent civilians – and then experienced no remorse, guilt or international war crimes indictments for doing so. (Note: it usually only much later, after the combat mission

is over, that remorse and guilt from the killing fields will strike the individual soldier [remorse and guilt may never affect the combatants who turned into sociopaths during the war] 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.”- **Martin Luther King Jr.**

“Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. 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. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that America will be are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land.”

“Beyond the calling of race or nation or creed is this vocation of...brotherhood, and because I believe that God is deeply concerned especially for the suffering, helpless and outcast children, I come tonight to speak for them.

“This I believe to be the privilege and the burden of all of us who deem ourselves bound by allegiances and loyalties which are broader and deeper than nationalism and which go beyond our nation’s self-defined goals and positions. 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.

“And 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. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long.”

“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 the peasants think as we ally ourselves with the landlords and as we refuse to put any action into our many words concerning land reform? 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? Where are the roots of the independent Vietnam we claim to be building? Is it among these voiceless ones?”

“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.’ The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. Could we blame them for such thoughts? We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.”

***Dr Kohls** is a retired physician from Duluth, MN, USA. He writes a weekly column for the Duluth Reader, the area’s alternative newsweekly magazine. His columns deal with the dangers of American fascism, corporatism, militarism, racism, malnutrition, Big Pharma’s psychiatric drugging and over-vaccination regimens, and other movements that threaten the environment, prosperity, democracy, civility and the health and longevity of the populace. Many of his columns are archived [here](#) or [here](#).*

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