

# Police State USA: Battleground America

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*America is more police state than democracy. George Bush institutionalized it. Obama hardened his abusive practices.*

Pervasive at federal, state and local levels. Ferguson, MO symbolizes what's wrong. Obama's solution:

Downplay Michael Brown's murder. Ignore militarized police repression.

Arm state and local departments nationwide with more weapons than already supplied. Types used in war theaters.

Militarized America threatens freedom. Turning city streets into battlegrounds.

Washington provides police nationwide with enormous amounts of combat weapons, related equipment and supplies.

Last June, The [New York Times](#) headlined "War Gear Flows to Police Departments," saying:

"(T)ools of combat (flow freely to) local police departments, often with little public notice." Since 2006:

- 93,763 machine guns;
- 180,718 magazine cartridges;
- hundreds of silencers;
- an unknown number of grenade launchers;
- at least 533 planes and helicopters;
- hundreds of 432 MRAPs (9-foot high, 30-ton mine-resistant/ ambush-protected armored vehicles with gun turrets);
- 5,235 Humvees; and
- 44,900 pieces of night vision equipment.

According to The Times, US police departments "already look and act like military units." Current policy "obscure(s) the lines between soldier and police officer."

In the early 1990s, Congress authorized what's ongoing. Militarizing police. Giving them more firepower than ever. Turning them into combat units. For waging war on city streets. An [ACLU report](#) headlined "War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization of American Police," saying:

"All across the country, heavily armed SWAT teams are raiding people's homes in the middle of the night, often just to search for drugs. It should enrage us that people have needlessly died during these raids, that pets have been shot, and that homes have been ravaged. Our neighborhoods are not war zones, and police officers should not be treating us like wartime enemies. And yet, every year, billions of dollars worth of military equipment flows from the federal government to state and local police departments. Departments use these wartime weapons in everyday policing, especially to fight the wasteful and failed drug war, which has unfairly targeted people of color."

Cops don't serve and protect. They harass, threaten and terrorize ordinary people. Especially America's most disadvantaged. Blacks and Latinos. Muslims. Immigrants. Unfairly targeted. At home or in public.

"It's not uncommon for SWAT teams to brutalize bystanders in their search for a suspect," said the ACLU. "One family in Atlanta was woken up in the middle of the night when officers burst into their home and threw a flashbang grenade into the playpen where a toddler was sleeping."

Things go on commonly seen in ruthlessness dictatorships. Police state America replicates them. For millions of law-abiding people.

"(W)artime weapons and counter-terrorism strategies mark a shift in the very nature of policing strategies," said the ACLU.

"If anecdotal (and hard) evidence is any indication, tanks and counter-terrorism strategies encourage overly aggressive policing. SWAT teams have become a key part of increasingly militarized policing strategies. While only a fraction of SWAT-style raids result in actual charges of any kind, they often provoke fear, hurt individuals and families, and result in damages to personal property."

The ACLU estimates from 70,000 to 80,000 so-called "no-knock" raids annually.

An astonishing 192 - 219 times daily across America. Up from around 50,000 2005 raids. About 3,000 in 1981. Bursting into homes lawlessly. Unaccountably. Unannounced. Often at night. Terrorizing residents. Including women, children, the elderly and infirm. Innocent victims.

The vast majority of US police departments in cities of 50,000 or more have Police Paramilitary Units (PPUs). Around double the mid-1980s figure.

Growth in smaller communities equally dramatic. Up fourfold since the mid-1980s.

Militarizing police has nothing to do with ensuring public safety. Everything to do with targeting public anger.

Preventing justifiable social upheavals. Crushing them when they erupt. Licensing police to kill.

Thirdworldizing America. Maintaining inequality. The world's largest gulag prison system.

Incarcerating thousands unjustly. Protecting America's ruling class from beneficial social change.

Locking down greater Boston after the April 2013 Marathon mass casualty event is an example of harshness to come. Ordinary people went along instead of resisting.

Benjamin Franklin said "(t)hose who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

State-sponsored terrorism defines US policy. Doublespeak duplicity conceals it. Doublethink manipulates public opinion to ignore inconvenient truths.

Martin Luther King called America "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." Now more than ever. Threatening fundamental freedoms. Humanity's survival.

Fear-mongering proliferates. Big Lies are weapons of mass deception. Suppressing hard truths.

People are manipulated to support what harms them. Nonbelievers targeted ruthlessly.

On December 1, Obama appointed Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey and former Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson to co-chair his Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Partnership for Civil Justice executive director Mara Verheyden-Hilliard expressed outrage, saying:

"We were just dumbfounded when we heard they had chosen Chief Ramsey." A thug by any standard. A serial civil rights violator.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a more inappropriate choice," she stressed. Philadelphia's gain is America's loss.

Obama intends instituting his announced policy by executive order. Unilateral diktat authority. "(T)o promote effective crime reduction while building public trust," he claimed.

"(D)irecting relevant agencies to work together and with law enforcement and civil rights and civil liberties organizations to develop specific recommendations within 120 days."

Bypassing Congress. Militarizing America more than ever. Mocking fundamental civil rights.

The 1997 fiscal year National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorized supplying excess military weapons and equipment to state and local police. The so-called 1033 program.

At least 8,000 law enforcement agencies participate. Receiving billions of dollars of military hardware since 1997.

As part of Washington's Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services (DLA) transfer

program.

According to DLA, \$449 million in 2013 alone. Ferguson unrest drew nationwide attention to what little was known publicly before.

Including tanks on Ferguson streets. Heavily armed police threatening residents.

Police brutality. Mass arrests. No-fly zone implementation to block helicopter news coverage. Suspension of First Amendment rights.

MSM malpractice. Misreporting. Censorship. Oversimplifying. Whitewashing the worst of police violence. Misinformation spread through social media.

Obama's announced multi-agency review is farcical. Intending cosmetic changes at most.

Saying "I do not want a militarized police culture in America." While continuing Washington's 1033 program. Militarization writ large.

Turning city streets into battlegrounds. Making America unsafe to live in.

Obama's way of "fortify(ing) the trust that must exist between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve."

Trampling on fundamental civil and human rights. Pretense claiming otherwise. Suppressing police brutality reports.

Obama acknowledged widespread skepticism. Previous discussions and task forces accomplished nothing.

"Why is this time different," he asked? "Because the president of the US is deeply invested," he said.

The same one mocking democratic values. Enforcing police state harshness. The most secretive administration in US history.

Most repressive. Ruthless. Lawless. Waging war on freedom. Whistleblowers exposing government wrongdoing.

Journalists doing their job. Immigrants. People of color. Muslims. America's most disadvantaged. Ordinary people. Terrorizing them.

While waging multiple direct and proxy wars of aggression. Ousting democratically elected governments. Preventing democracy at home and abroad.

Challenging Russia and China irresponsibly. Recklessly. Risking global war. Humanity's survival. Madness defines US policy.

As head of state, Obama bears full responsibility. Big Lies conceal his recklessness.

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