

the British Empire and ruled the globe—until exhausted by constant warfare. Its last “victory” devastated the mother country and disintegrated its Empire.

As long as a State remains, War will remain. The fundamental choice is between a State, servitude, and mass murder on the one hand, and Anarchy, freedom and peace on the other.

What Can You Do About It?

On the individual level, you can do a lot to deal with War and the State, without awaiting the emergence of mass movements, changes of heart in politicians, or a full-scale revolution. The Movement of the Libertarian Left will be glad to provide you with information on expanding your participation in such Counter-Economics which weaken or counteract the war machine and war propaganda as these:

- Tax Rebellion (not just “avoidance”)
- Draft Resistance
- Smuggling (increase Free Trade!)
- Wage & Price Control Breaking
- Censorship Evasion
- Networking with like-minded freedom fighters and peace activists
- Dissemination of the revelations of Revisionist History—exposing the dirty little manipulations of statists to drag us into war after war
- Loosing lips and sinking ships.

And for those who wish to participate in the activism itself, consider a membership in the Movement of the Libertarian Left (MLL). Break free of the false dichotomy of Socialist Slavery “peace” or Capitalist War “freedom.” Enter the *agora* (true, open free market) via Counter-Economics. Educate yourself and your friends about the anarchist alternative to statism. And join the MLL to take efficient, effective action.

Other issue brochure pamphlets of the **MLL**:
Tax Is Theft! • *Inflation and Depression*
The Nuclear Question • *Our Enemy, The Party* • *War or Liberty: The Real Choice* •
Smash The Schools! • **MLL Resources List**

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- ✓ **New Libertarian Manifesto** fundamental book of agorism.
- ✓ **Strategy of the New Libertarian Alliance** theoretical journal
- ✓ Samples of all issue pamphlets as they are written!
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MOVEMENT OF THE LIBERTARIAN LEFT

War or Liberty:

THE REAL CHOICE



Whether you oppose the War or still support your country, you have been given a false alternative. For many who struggle against the War, you have been told that only some form of social control will end war and prevent it in the future. For many who feel their country is threatened and needs their support, you have been told that you must now accept "temporary war-time restrictions" such as censorship, rationing and conscription to the eventual end of peace and liberty.

Reality dictates otherwise. History is replete with examples that show those with more Liberty defend themselves with zest and fervor. If they are to lose by overwhelming odds, no amount of self-imposed slavery would save them.

Nor has any form of social control—such as State socialism—prevented war. History is rapidly filling up with examples of intra-socialist wars—not just between Social Democrat and Communist states but between Communist states, between Social Democratic States, and between other variants and between all the above.

We all know you must fight for your freedom or lose it. But most (though not all) of the Socialist Left and Conservative Right believe the *same thing*: "The State must fight for your freedom or you will lose it." They simply make opposite choices seemingly allowed them.

War And Slavery

History is unkind to the perpetuation of the "War or Slavery" myth. Countries such as the United States whose territory was untouched by "enemy" states experienced intense repression. That is, Americans were conquered and enslaved by *their own state*. Remember the suspension of *habeas corpus* by Lincoln in 1861; the mass censorship of 1917 and the Palmer Raids of 1919; Roosevelt's wage and price controls and *nisei* concentration camps in 1942–45; Truman's Emergency Powers Act in 1950 which "allowed" the Intelligence Community to run amok throughout the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s; the Chicago Conspiracy trials and Kent State shootings during Johnson & Nixon's Viet Nam war; and now?

The hunting of draft registration resisters such as libertarian Benjamin Sasway and the harassment of those providing asylum for Central American refugees in North American churches are but the opening shots of the U.S. State on its people.

Randolph Bourne said it so well so long ago: "War is the health of the State."

The best way to lose your freedom is to enslave yourself. Can anyone reasonably dispute that? Yet for whom will, say, an American "suspend his liberties" for the duration: a bureaucrat speaking Russian or 100% American English? And which will the Russian more likely obey?

Foreign conquest is difficult and expensive. Studies of European colonialism of pre-World-War Africa show total balance books of enormous economic loss made up by the *European* taxpayers. German occupation tied down several divisions of the *Wehrmacht* for years in countries which fell in days when their states "defended" them. Only where the conquered accepted their own state as still legitimate (Vichy France, Quisling Norway) were few Germans present or needed to maintain wartime allegiance.

Today the Soviet Union supports puppet regimes unacceptable to Poland and Afghanistan and thus has divisions of troops either tied down in occupation or tied down to maintain a threat of imminent invasion. Yet Armenia and Georgia, rife with "capitalist corruption" (a thriving, nearly open, Counter-Economy) and a historic racial enemy nearby they fear more than the Russians (though the Poles have Germany and the Afghans have India), require no threats or occupying force. The more freedom, the greater the loyalty and dependency.

Should Russian troops overwhelm the American Army, can anyone imagine the Russian bureaucracy administering the American Economy? Consider the tens of millions of tax evaders, dope dealers, CB speed-limit evaders, sex saleswomen (and men), alien workers, midwives, smugglers, and couriers who thrive under the present U.S. State. How would a *Russian* occupying force even *understand* what was going

on around them (computer theft? old girls' networks? off-the-books and expense accounts?), let alone control it? Note that the Soviets cannot even control *their own* Counter-Economy, the black-market, "left-hand" *nalevo!*

And it should be added in fair balance, U.S. attempts to occupy Russia in 1920 were no more successful, nor would they be today.

The Causes of War

Threats of foreign domination, ideological and religious differences, and loss of international "face" and prestige are *justifications* for War; they are useful to swing popular support behind the State's Higher Circles (or power elite or ruling class)'s decision to fight a War—or rather to have someone else, volunteers or conscripts, fight a War for them. There has always been one major reason for war—plunder. And that is what *taxation* is (see our pamphlet #1, "Tax Is Theft!"). The mechanism for institutionalized plunder is The State, whether at home or abroad. Hence, the true enemy of War is necessarily the Enemy of the State.

There are partial solutions that were derived over a period of time by worthy and honorable proto-libertarian radicals. Since war causes are so economic, Free Trade is a great deterrent to war while "protectionism"—tariffs and import restrictions—contribute to war. As one such thinker put it, "if goods and services cannot cross borders, armies will."

A restrained or limited State should be less likely to engage in war (and taxation) than a more powerful (*i.e.*, more sanctioned by its subjects) one. In foreign policy, a limited State is known as *Isolationist*; a relatively unlimited one is *Imperialist*. Thus Isolationism and Free Trade are the classical liberal answers to prevent war. (Note how often these complementary positions are put in false opposition!) Switzerland has pursued both these policies for several centuries—several centuries of Peace and Prosperity.

But Isolationist America became Imperialist America over time; Free Trade England became