

A Measure of Our Hatred

With the first part compiled by the late, great Howard Zinn.

In World War I, one civilian died for every ten combatants. In World War II, the ratio was one to one. In the Vietnam War, it had risen to seventy percent. In America's twenty-first century wars, it is eighty-five percent, one third of whom are children. All this comes from our advancing skill in killing people at long distance from the air, and strangling their economies. And now we are working on doing it from outer space. Keep in mind that, with the exceptions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, conventional weapons have done the damage.

It's what our government pleases to define as defense of a rules based order, and brings to mind what Russia is doing in Ukraine, which is accurately described as criminal, just as were the effects of Agent Orange and carpet bombing in Vietnam.

Along with all that, there's the \$100,000 a minute the United States spends to research and develop nuclear weapons and nuclear capable delivery vehicles, some planned to be operable for another seventy years. Never mind that the Non-Proliferation Treaty requires that its signatories negotiate seriously towards nuclear disarmament. After all, there are other priorities. In this respect, neither Republicans nor Democrats have clean hands. Russia and China are doing similarly nefarious work, and on a smaller scale, so are the other nuclear weapons states.

In the United States, some thirty colleges and universities are involved. Here is a list of the most well known: Stanford, University of California, UCLA, Cal Tech, University of Arizona, University of Utah, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of New Mexico, University of Nebraska, Kansas State, Texas Tech, Texas A and M, University of Texas at Austin, University of Kansas, University of Missouri, University of Arkansas, University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, Notre Dame, Purdue, University of Tennessee, Georgia Tech, University of Florida, University of Michigan, Carnegie-Mellon, Rochester, Cornell, Georgetown, George Washington, Johns Hopkins, and MIT. So goes higher education.

Have we had enough yet?

Now to lovelier things: this past November, there was a remarkable resurgence of nonviolent resistance in China and Iran. And at the World Cup, the Iranian soccer team defied the clerical dictatorship by refusing to sing their country's national anthem. The courage of those involved has been altogether admirable and inspiring, an example worth imitating.

All this in the teeth of winter, 2023, as Valentine's Day approaches. Maybe it suggests how we should mark the occasion.