

WEAPONS - Russell Warren Howe
The International Game of Arms, Money and Diplomacy

The arms race is a game of profits, graft and prestige, as the great powers, regardless of rhetoric, realize that major war is unwinnable. (Soviet and U. S. doctors agree that, first strike or no, about half the people in each country would die, unattended, in a nuclear war, and that neither country nor the world would be livable.) It is immaterial whether one can destroy the other 20 to 40 times over, as now, or more. Lesser powers threaten each other, but they are given or denied help by major powers, so as to maintain the status quo. Arms nevertheless build up, worldwide, even as some primitive tribesmen collect larger herds of cattle than needed. South Africa spends almost half its income on arms, mainly to suppress its blacks. (Latin America also buys - or we furnish arms mainly to suppress its Indians, whom they - and especially we viciously exploit. Exploited people everywhere welcome help from anyone.)

Center for Defense Information (CDI), 1978, said that 70 % of U. S. defense was for allies - whose actual danger was doubtful. Half of the world's physicists and engineers are devoted to defense R and D. Interlocking military and economic forces limit wars. No country is self sufficient in materials needed for its economy or its armaments; many not in food. In World War I Germany imported vegetable oils and oil cake from the British Far East, through Denmark; American copper through Scandinavia and Switzerland; French and American nickel. Germany sent France iron and steel through Switzerland; and received bauxite, for U-boats, and chemicals for explosives. Vickers imported Zeiss lenses from Krupp, through Holland, for artillery sights, Zeiss craftsmen going to Vickers, to adapt them. (Krupp royalties estimated at 60 ¢ for each German soldier killed on the British front) Germans were stopped before Fort Douaumont, in the Verdun battle, by their own barbed wire. "German official war memoirs agreed: If the Allies had penetrated 12 kilometers into Lorraine at the onset of war, Germany 'would have been defeated in six months.'" The French captured Thionville, across the border, but Zaharoff, part owner of a factory there, influenced a retreat of 22 kilometers, out of range, permitting the Germans also to occupy the vital Briey iron basin, which the French didn't bomb, to save Dombasle, their chief source of iron, from being bombed. Russia had Krupp and Skoda cannons, Bulgaria French "75s." Germany largely armed Belgian and Italian armies. The British furnished Maxims to the Central Powers, and built Austro-Hungary's torpedo plant at Fiume. "The Nobel Dynamite Trust was Anglo-German." Almost no arms plants were bombed. (nor were military headquarters) Many experts predicted a short war. Zaharoff predicted four years, for armament profits.

Almost anyone can obtain almost any arms, directly or indirectly, or a copy or modification, regardless of use stipulated when sold. In 1974 there were 523,000 U. S. troops in over 30 countries; 320,000 Russians, mostly close to home. There were 2,227 U. S. military advisors (not in Vietnam). In Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America we trained over 7,500 foreign officers. "CIA agents or officers were infiltrated with the returnees." We also trained over 100,000 federal and state policemen in Brazil (to suppress dissent against local and foreign exploitation, and serve as our base for policing all Latin America). All programs were phased out except those at the International Police Academy in Washington, which were reduced. We still train "antidrug" police in Mexico and elsewhere, with highly lethal weaponry. Commercial, replacing government weapon sales in foreign police forces, were estimated at \$ 200 million a year in 1977. This weapons diplomacy is military, not "police." AID, CIA, NASA, FAA, ABC, SBA, GAO and USDA helped to sell weapons. DOD has a network of schools, a PR machine, a diplomatic corps, and its PX is the "'world's largest distribution operator.'"

Howe gives a general outline of the history of warfare, with an enormous amount of esoteric information on recent conflicts, the tangled web of international relationships, their state of flux, and the labyrinthian amorality of arms production and sales. Any country could produce and deliver toxic gases and chemicals to another. Environmental modification techniques (EMT) could enhance monsoons, cause snow in mountains, fog, hail, electric storms, hurricanes, destroy agriculture, cause cancer from increased ultraviolet rays, mountain slides, tidal waves, earth-

quakes, ruin thought processes. We have "given away or sold about 19,000 missiles, ships or aircraft capable of launching a nuclear warhead." Almost every nation can develop or obtain nuclear weapons to go with them. (We approach insanity, yet can't even afford to waste our limited natural resources, in large or small wars, peacetime arms buildup, nor present commercial practices. We must quickly recycle all materials, retain present overkill capacity, and continue to cooperate with Russia in balancing forces of smaller powers in conflicts; but should not obstruct the overthrow of an oppressor - even a client of ours.

80 to 90 % of men handling sophisticated nuclear weaponry failed competency tests; one-third being functionally illiterate. - Jack Anderson. Incompetence also exists in nuclear plant construction, operation, security, nuclear and chemical waste disposal, deterioration of soil, pollution and poisoning of food, air, water, earth and people. The cannon fodder of yesterday are the radiation, chemical, pollution, poisoning, medical, educational and monopoly fodder of today, but now include world populations, in peace and war. Armaments are limited only by ability to pay. A new boondoggle: a proposal to re-equip, at great expense, from our mothball fleet, two large battleships and an old-fashioned aircraft carrier. - Tribune, 3-15-81. Our expansion program probably requires restoration of the draft - adding denial of normal life, and regimentation to our pork barrels. "It would be incorrect to say that the United States is a police state, but not to say that it is in danger of becoming one." - Henry Steele Commager. Even guarding all stages of nuclear plant and arms production, storage, waste disposal, and a forest of radiation-saturated abandoned plants may require a police state.

We vote more arms, in part, because Russia presumably menaces the Third World, while we own 85 % of Latin American resources, driving the entire area into despair, many into the U. S.; threaten world ecology with acid rains and rain forest destruction; and also milk Indonesia and others of their resources. President Reagan's inaugural address emulated Churchill's statement, that he would not preside over the dissolution of the empire. Simple justice will solve our problems: assess, worldwide, for public services, the full ground rent, arising from nature, population and community development, forcing land into its best use, and reducing sale price - capitalization of now unassessed portion - to a nominal figure; ending hoarding and speculative pricing, and making sites available to all at their true rental, or superiority value; paid as rent or assessment. The equalization of this now most discriminatory factor of production would assure surplus jobs - the best Social Security - the ability to obtain the equivalent of one's production, in safe, ethical work, in individual or cooperative business - on subsistence farms, if desired - make impossible either domestic or foreign exploitation. One could obtain satisfactory residence, marry when biologically ready, insulate home and work place, re-use industrial waste energy, develop clean energy, purchase organically grown foods, and give up thievery, prostitution, shoddy business practices, dissipation, arson, violence, rape and vandalism. Unassessed ground rent is the chief of numerous unwarranted ENTITLEMENTS.

Activist ombudsmen should check all aspects of government, recommend political and economic boycotts, and serve as references on work and residential safety, nutrition, ecology and other problems; free land enabling public selection largely to replace regulation. We should end ALL tax exemptions, including religious and government (THE RELIGIOUS EMPIRE), except for the poor - soon to become prosperous; replace depletion allowances on MORE THAN 100 INDUSTRIES with normal depreciation (AMERICA, INC., p. 189), end personal property taxes - multiple taxation, ad infinitum - and cancel the national debt; bonds should have been tax receipts. Anyone must be able to practice any profession or trade, receive any treatment, accept any pay mutually agreeable, in a society with surplus work. We need voluntary schooling, at enormous saving in time and money, learning only what is needed or wanted, by best methods; government to provide vouchers through college level. Representative mediation and monetary restitution to replace capricious, discriminatory, unphilosophic, expensive law, and asinine, purposeless, inhuman, dangerous detention, mainly for victims of criminal legislation, creating monopolies and destitution. Effects: 5 % innocent; sentencing vindictive or for profitable slave labor; torture, sodomy by the millions, occasional murders. Accept truth tests for innocence, or abuse, requiring government restitution; inducing preventive measures, especially in conditions.)

\$50 billion/yr. unaccounted; other billions strewn in final hrs.

World arms cost = income of poorest billion

30-40 million/yr. slave

No will for comprehensive justice