Advice From A Vet

Like many, I grew up poor and so my father decided to join the military in order to put food on the table. He told us that there were many benefits to joining the military, hoping to set us on the right path for life. Many recruiters will even try to promise you things like enlistment bonuses, the opportunity to travel and even get a snazzy new car! I didn’t want to be poor, and I didn’t want to go through the arduous path of paying off student loans for years, with no guarantee of finding a good paying job, so I enlisted.

When I entered the Air Force (AF) in 2015, I thought I was joining the progressive branch of the military, but many problems endemic to the military still abound in the AF. Sexual assault, misogyny, homophobia, trans-phobia, casual racism and toxic practices permeated the organization. I wanted to educate myself politically, so I began reading the books I had been told were nothing but non-sense. As I read Marx and Lenin, I finally understood why they did not teach me about them in school. It was because they were correct, and the implications of their theories threatened the power of the US, particularly US hegemony over the world and wars fought for the imperialist plundering of the third world.

Imperialism

Imperialism is the highest stage of Capitalism. Imperialism is the stage of capitalism where industry and banks have merged into monopolies so that they no longer compete. These monopolies move production into other countries where the price of labor and materials is cheaper, to increase their profits. From here, all the worlds richest businesses carve up the world for their own enrichment, while the rest sink into ever deeper poverty. Eventually, they go to war.

WWI and initially WWII were results of imperialism, and the desire to dominate the globe. Now the US is the largest imperialist power. The US launches illegal wars, and overthrows elected officials in other countries in order to ensure that its business interests are never harmed.

Soldiers die, not for our freedoms, but so oil companies can make money, and for the extraction of resources. Now the US is setting its sights on China because they are developing the Middle East and Africa, making it non-reliant on US trade. The news, which is owned and controlled by the wealthy, is lying to convince you it is for human rights, at the same time as they downplay the abuses in our own country.

Consequences of Joining

Three generations of Presidents have refused to end the fighting in the Middle East, and the generals are unable to win. They have agreed to continue throwing soldiers into the area regardless of the results. The US War in Afghanistan alone has resulted in the deaths of 2,300 soldiers, as well as wounding many more of its people. It has also indiscriminately killed civilians and committed human rights abuses and war crimes.

The Real Battlefield

It is an honorable thing to serve our country, but what is our country? A country is not billionaires nor business-people. It is not the president or any politician. Our country is our people, and we can do more for them at home than we can do on the other side of the world.

Americans face many pressing problems: Climate Change, joblessness, food insecurity, economic insecurity, police violence | none of which can be solved by conducting a wars of aggression abroad.

Unfortunately, Government representatives do not represent the American people. In fact, in many ways, it has become part of the problem not the solution. Fight the enemy at home, not the fake one abroad.

From a Veteran and a friend.

Roger Hallisey

Hell No!

We Won't Go!

The Reality of the Military

They Provide Bombs, but not healthcare!

We fought to get out of the military, and when we were finally able to leave, we joined the Party of Communists USA and their Veteran's Commission. The Party of Communists USA actively fights in major social movement struggles to raise the minimum wage and to end environmental destruction; against anti-worker laws and politicians; against needless imperialist wars at the cost of human life.

Join today!

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