

**Blase Bonpane on WORLD FOCUS,
Blase's Commentary on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mali
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Hello, this is Blase Bonpane with World Focus coming to you from KPFK/ Los Angeles. We are podcast and available 24/7 on kpfk.org where we're heard internationally.

Well, we think of Dr. Martin Luther King today and we remember him. Bear with me if I remember a few things that might be on his mind if he were here to celebrate his 84th birthday. I think he would be reading the New York Times and seeing on the very front page,

On Thursday, the United States became more deeply involved in the war, working with the French to determine how to best deploy American C-5 cargo planes to ferry French troops and equipment into Mali, according to an American military official.

Well, I think Dr. King would have a little flashback there. He might remind us of the French in Vietnam and how they were in a state of terrible defeat at Dien Dan Pho in 1954, where they, of course, had been helping them to retain their colony but now they were at the end of their rope. And this, of course, is after WWII and after the war in Korea and the beginning, of course, of perpetual war. So we began our folly in Vietnam in 1954. Just a little assistance, some advice, a little training, and behold, for 21 years we engaged in a futile attempt to defeat Vietnam and its neighbors in one of the world's great holocausts, at least 3 million Vietnamese were killed, to say nothing of the adjoining countries, mostly civilians. So you might want to read the book, "Kill Anything that Moves" by Nick Turse, the latest book on Vietnam. And I think Dr. King would remember that and how we drove Cambodia into the hands of fanatics

and then supported the fanatics. We massacred the people of Laos, and oh yes, we were defeated.

And now, friends, we're back to help the French again. Their former colony is under attack by people who aided us in Libya and received a great deal of money and arms in the process. Well, what would King have to say? Well, we know what he'd have to say because this is the nature of the work of a prophet. Usually, you can read the prophet's words, anytime and anywhere, after she or he has spoken, and they still stand up, and that's the situation with Dr. King as he states:

As I went through this period one night I picked up an article entitled "The Children of Vietnam," and I read it. And after reading that article, I said to myself, "Never again will I be silent on an issue that is destroying the soul of our nation and destroying thousands and thousands of little children in Vietnam." I came to the conclusion that there is an existential moment in your life when you must decide to speak for yourself; nobody else can speak for you.

Thousands of little children in Vietnam; and we are horrified, of course, by the death of children in Connecticut. Thousands of little children in Vietnam... All of these quotes, of course, are from King's greatest speech, April 4th, 1967, a year to the day before he was massacred, probably because of this speech.

I saw an orderly buildup of evil, an accumulation of inhumanities, each of which alone is sufficient to make men hide in shame. What was woeful, but true, was that my country was only talking peace but was bent on military victory. Inside the glove of peace was the clenched fist of war. I now stood naked with shame and guilt, as indeed every German should have when his government was using its military power to overwhelm other nations.

I think King would be very much in touch with what's going on today and the government of Mali is currently supporting the French. The government of Mali seems to have forgotten, however, that its people of Timbuktu are starving to death. That is not an exaggeration; that is what is taking place in Timbuktu today. Is that the concern of the US military? Is that the concern of the French? What are they doing about the people dying in Timbuktu, coming in, their animals dying, and then following their animals as well. There's no mention of this because we really don't care. I think Dr. King would have reminded us of this fact. He said that we're becoming a "thing" society; we're dealing with things and minerals so the battle for Africa is on.

He was saying that:

I had to go from the pulpits and platforms. I had to return to the streets to mobilize men to assemble and petition, in the spirit of our own revolutionary history, for the immediate end of this bloody, immoral, obscene slaughter—for a cause which cries out for a solution before mankind itself is doomed. I could do no less for the salvation of my soul.

And that's King saying why he has to be in the streets to protest Vietnam. He states that the great tragedy was that our government declared a war against poverty and yet, it only financed a skirmish against poverty and this led to great despair. "Every city in our country was sitting on a potential powder keg." Yes, this is King. This is the prophet. This is the man who we celebrate with a national holiday. He said he's doing what he had to do. And so many people, then, as now,

"Why are you speaking about the war, Dr. King? Why are you joining the voices of dissent?" "Peace and civil rights don't mix," they say. And when I hear them, though I often understand the source of their concern, I nevertheless am greatly saddened that

such questions mean that the inquirers have not really known me, my commitment, or my calling. They seem to forget that before I was a civil rights leader, I answered a call, and when God speaks, who can but prophesy. I answered a call which left the spirit of the Lord upon me and anointed me to preach the gospel. And during the early days of my ministry, I read the Apostle Paul saying, "Be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of minds." I decided then that I was going to tell the truth as God revealed it to me. No matter how many people disagreed with me, I decided that I was going to tell the truth.

I believe that the path from Dexter Avenue Baptist Church-the church in Montgomery, Alabama, where I began my pastorate-leads clearly to this sanctuary tonight.

There is . . . a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I and others have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor-both black and white-through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam, and I watched this program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war. And I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

And so it is today as we hear the same weasel words about how we're going to help the French; we're going to give them some advice. Well, there's so much to be read into this. The battle for Africa is on. We have to protect French lives and property. We have to protect American lives and property. Of course, this was the reason for every intervention we made in Latin America for the past 200 years, establishing one dictatorship after another. And Latin America is now having its renaissance after 200 years of suffering. So reluctantly, we will help the

French a little more and a little more. Oh, and we just happen to have some bases in the area. As you know, Chalmers Johnson said we are “an empire of bases.” We have 1,000 of them around the world.

And we have Time Magazine writing, “The Crisis in Mali - Will French Intervention stop the Islamist advance?” The “war on terror” narrative is in place again. “Will these Islamist terrorists invade all of Africa and Europe, as well, and the US.” But wait a minute. These Islamists are the same Islamists that the French supported during NATO’s attack on Libya, right? These Islamists are the same Islamists that received weapons training, special forces, and aircraft, to help these Islamists overthrow Libya’s government, just like we helped the Islamists get rid of the Russians in Afghanistan.

So, as Libya becomes a western-sponsored sanctuary for the very people we have been fighting, we hear the phrase, “Al-Qaeda and its affiliates” again. Well, how do you become an affiliate? Maybe someone wrote a letter to someone ten years ago and that indicates that you’re an affiliate. What we’re sure of now is that the leaders of the so-called “Islamists” are saying that they have been the beneficiaries of the revolutions in the Arab world and now Algeria and on and on.

The terrorists are everywhere in the whole world and we’re going to get them just like we got the Communists in Vietnam and China and Central America and South America. We’ve got a new word. One word every 50 years. For over 50 years, the word was “communist” and now going into our half-century of the word “terrorist” as we deteriorate into a policy of paranoia.

We have to understand that the United States has some 35 bases in Africa. 3,500 troops are on their way from Fort Riley, Kansas to Mali but these troops more and more are going to conduct military exercises in 35 countries which have no Al-Qaeda or “Al-Qaeda affiliate” presence at all. So, Dr. King warned us of this over-reach and he told us we’d be fighting in these places all those years ago if we didn’t change. And we haven’t changed. Now here we are supporting the

government of Mali against the rebels in that area. Well, there are other areas as well. The world's worst war has been in the Congo, one of the bloodiest conflicts since WWII with more than 5 million dead. Now it seems incomprehensible that the biggest country in sub-Saharan Africa, and on paper, one of the richest, teeming with copper, diamonds, and gold, mass farmlands, spectacular fertility, and enough hydropower to light up the continent, is now one of the poorest and most helpless nations on Earth. So we look to our expert, people who really understand this – we certainly can't look to Washington. Let's look to Maurice Carney, the Executive Director of the Friends of the Congo.

It is past time that the United States cease its support of strongmen in Africa, particularly Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda whose repeated invasions and support of proxy rebel militia inside Congo over the past 16 years has resulted in the death of millions of Congolese.

This expert is reminding us that we're supporting the government in Rwanda and the government in Uganda in their support of the rebels coming into the Congo on behalf of diamonds and gold, hydropower. Then we can look to David Wiley, Professor of Sociology at Michigan State University, Chairperson of the Militarization Task Force for the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars. He states:

- Support a Security Council resolution requiring Rwanda and Uganda to immediately withdraw any support to the M23 armed group.
- Press the Congolese government to stop violations being committed by the Congolese army as well as entering into alliances with armed groups, and fully implement the Public Law 109-456: The DRC Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006 (Obama Law).

So, we're aiding corporate rebels in the Congo as we oppose so-called "Islamic rebels" in Mali and we're trying to imply that these are all Al-Qaeda. Well, I don't think we're able to do that because there are more alphabet soup names in the area than you can shake a stick at.

King goes on, speaking prophetically,

The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality, we will find ourselves organizing "clergy and laymen concerned" committees for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy. So such thoughts take us beyond Vietnam, but not beyond our calling as sons of the living God.

Yes friends, this was the same speech where he made the prophetic statement,

They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today my own government...

That has become ever more true each year since King made that prophetic statement.

For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent...

...Now it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read "Vietnam." It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those

of us who are yet determined that "America will be" are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land.

He would of course include Iraq and Afghanistan and Mali and Yemen and Pakistan and on and on and on. He's with us today in his words. We're in Africa because of things. He states,

We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

...One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth with righteous indignation. It will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say, "This is not just."

Well, this is King, speaking to us today and we have some very positive thoughts because, as we try to take over Africa and, of course, that will fail, we can see in the midst of our Middle East raging, Latin America has liberated itself and we're so happy to see that happen. And we're going to talk about that as well.

In the movement, we have constant references to religion and non-religion and it's really been in a very good spirit. I saw David Swanson's writing this week saying,

Maybe someone will have an answer to a question that's always baffled me. If someone actually believed in heaven, why would he or she oppose war? Aren't the victims better off? I mean, if you actually, honestly, believed that heaven existed, wouldn't you want to die? I'm sure there's something missing. Many of our best peace activists are religious peace activists so if somebody wouldn't mind pointing it out, I'd be grateful.

Well, I responded to David, again in the good spirit of this movement,

David, you know very well that religious people have been among the most radical voices for justice and peace. I could certainly include Dr. King, Sister Megan Rice and her companions, all the way back to the Berrigans and before. So, we must say, if someone believed in David Swanson's idea of heaven, that person would believe it better to die and let the victims die so that we could go to heaven.

But David, we don't believe in your idea of heaven and that's the key to the problem.

So, I couldn't help but recommend my book, "Imagine No Religion," which is not promoting religion. It's promoting an understanding of values. We see a lot of pop atheism these days. Sometimes it sounds to me like a form of fundamentalism. "There is no God. There is no God because I said so." Well, I respect people who feel that way. I don't agree with them.

So, I just concluded by saying to David,

I'll venture here to say what spiritually-minded people might consider. This very brief experience of human life is something of a boot camp for the future. Our time is our wealth and how we use it is important. If we use it in search of justice, peace, joy, love, courage, endurance, compassion, our hope is that this will be the beginning of an ongoing existence which transcends our short 1-100 years in the body. As the Latin

preface says “at death life is changed and not taken away” so we believe in that change. We don’t know anything about the details.

Be that as it may, I think David Swanson has made a great contribution to justice and peace and we want to look at some of his statements later in this program. Was it Marley who said, “Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die?”

Anyway, those are exchanges that go on within a movement where people have great respect for one another.

Short music interlude

Hi friends, this is the continuation of World Focus; we’re celebrating the 84th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King and one quote here that brings us to another area, aside from Africa and aside from Mali. We just reviewed the fact that King knew that we began to move into Vietnam in 1954 and we were engaged there until 1975 at the expense of 3 million people, primarily civilians, and the near destruction of the United States. And that perpetual war has continued and that night at Riverside Church, King said the following:

...these are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression, and out of the wounds of a frail world, new systems of justice and equality are being born. The shirtless and barefoot people of the land are rising up as never before. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light...We in the West must support these revolutions.

That’s Dr. King. Well friends, what has happened is that Latin America is undergoing a total renaissance. Here we have an indigenous President of Bolivia giving the Manifesto of the Island of the Sun.

This island is where time began and history began with the sons of the Sun. But then darkness fell with the arrival of foreign invaders. Today from this island, the birthplace of the 'Tahuantinsuyo' (Inca Empire), we proclaim the end of that age of darkness and 'non-time' and the beginning of the age of light, the 'Pachakuti' (Andean legend of renaissance, new age, and regeneration of cosmic harmony. OJ). Once again it is time for the peoples of the world, social movements, and all those who have been marginalized, discriminated against or humiliated to unite, organize, mobilize, become aware and rise up as in the times of the 'Pachakuti'. The world has been plunged into a global crisis. This age of capitalism and unbridled consumerism, this age where man thinks himself superior to Mother Earth and makes her the object of his ruthless domination and predation has come to an end.

This is the President of Bolivia today. I think Dr. King would be delighted. Evo Morales says,

On the other there are fewer and fewer social rights, less public health, less free and public education, less protection of human rights. Today, the companies and the people of developed countries are living through this dramatic crisis of capitalism, which has been generated by market forces. Their capitalist governments believe that saving the banks is more important than saving the people. In this capitalist system, banks have privileged economic rights and are treated as first class citizens, so that the banks have become more important than life itself. In this savage jungle, men and women and peoples are not brothers and sisters, are not citizens. They are only bad debtors, those living on benefits, tenants, customers.

Well, Evo outlines now, ten ways to confront capitalism and start building a culture of life. Apparently, capitalism thrives on death or we would not be in a perpetual war. That, apparently, is what keeps us going so he's trying to say, "Friends, we'll get out of this mess, but we'll do it in the following ways,"

- Rebuild democracy and politics, transferring power to the poor and putting it at the service of the people
- More social and human rights, not the commodification of human needs
- Decolonize our peoples and cultures to build a "socialisme communautaire du buen vivir" (communitarian socialism of well-living)
- A real environmental policy to stand against the 'environmental colonialism of the green economy'
- Sovereignty over natural resources as a prerequisite for the emancipation from neocolonial domination and a movement towards integral development of peoples
- Food sovereignty and the human right to food
- The alliance of the peoples of the south against interventionism, neo-liberalism and colonialism
- The development of knowledge and technology for all
- The construction of a global institutional union of peoples
- Economic development should not have as its goal capital accumulation and profit, nor market income, but must be 'holistic', and seek people's happiness and harmony with Mother Earth.

Friends, this is not some unconscious dreamer. This is the President of Bolivia, who is so in touch with his Inca past that he sees this as a time of light. Probably one of the most upbeat statements made in recent times because he can see the dawn of a new age. And it's coming from Latin America. And we do hope Africa can see what's going on because what is taking place – we can see it in the leadership of Latin America.

President Obama has made such serious mistakes attacking President Chavez of Venezuela. He has no idea that Chavez is one of the most popular Presidents in the history of Latin America, from the time of Columbus. Yes, one of the most popular. He has conducted a war on poverty and the people love him. And, according to Jimmy Carter,

Venezuela has certainly one of the finest electoral systems on the globe which has elected and re-elected this ailing President.

But we look around the rest of Latin America. Hugo Chavez is not alone. Far from it. He's part of a group. Thanks to the New York Times for covering the President of Uruguay, Jose Mujica. Now he was a former guerrilla.

Some world leaders live in palaces or mansions. But Mr. Mujica [lives in a run-down house on Montevideo's outskirts](#) with no servants at all. His security detail: two plainclothes officers parked on a dirt road...

His net worth upon taking office in 2010 amounted to about \$1,800 — the value of the 1987 Volkswagen Beetle parked in his garage. He never wears a tie and donates about 90 percent of his salary, largely to a program for expanding housing for the poor.

This is the kind of leadership we're seeing in Latin America today and this is a renaissance. It's really very exciting.

Mr. Mujica, known to his many detractors and supporters alike as Pepe, is someone few thought could ever rise to be president. Before Mr. Mujica became a gardener of chrysanthemums, he was a leader of the Tupamaros, the urban guerrilla group that drew inspiration from the Cuban revolution...

And you may remember the great film "State of Siege" done by the great filmmaker Costa Gavras who made this movie in 1972 and it was about the rebels abducting Daniel Mitrione, an American advisor to Uruguay's Security forces. Well, those forces were overthrown by Mr. Mujica and his friends.

The police captured Mr. Mujica in 1972. He spent 14 years in prison, including more than a decade in solitary confinement, often in a hole in the ground. During that time, he would go more than a year without bathing, and his companions, he said, were a tiny frog and rats with whom he shared crumbs of bread.

So many of our great patriots have spent time in prison.

His donations leave him with roughly \$800 a month of his salary. He said he and his wife, Lucía Topolansky, a former guerrilla who was also imprisoned and is now a senator, do not need much to live on. In a new declaration in 2012, Mr. Mujica said he was sharing ownership of assets previously in his wife's name, including their home and farm equipment, which lifted his net worth.

He pointed out that his Broad Front predecessor as president, Tabaré Vázquez, also stayed in his own home (though Mr. Vázquez, an oncologist, lives in the well-heeled district of El Prado), and that José Batlle y Ordóñez, a president in the early 20th century who created Uruguay's welfare state, helped forge a tradition in which there is "no distance between the president and any neighbor."

So, we're proud of these people and this has all taken place while we have spent all of our legacy in the Middle East and now will spend more of it in Africa and we'll deteriorate more and more. So, in Uruguay we see Presidents who have been guerrillas. In Brazil, we see a President who has been a guerrilla. In Venezuela, we see a President who has been a rebel in the rebel military of Venezuela. In Bolivia, we see a pure, indigenous leader who just told us about the Manifesto of the Island of the Sun.

Friends, this movement is not reversible. I know we have SouthCom down there in Florida, so eager to destroy every one of these new developments in Latin America. Well, the fact is they simply cannot do it, and they should not, and they must not. We can learn from Latin America.

Africa can learn from Latin America as we watch this horror of our now arriving to help the French once again, as we helped them so much in Vietnam that only 3 million people were killed. And as we go now through the question of gun violence, we have to look at it internationally and it is so clear as we see in the writings of Tom Engelhardt, some very good reflections on this.

Flooding the World With the Most Advanced Weaponry Money Can Buy

As a start, it's worth noting that no one ever mentions the domestic gun control debate in the same breath with the dominant role the U.S. plays in what's called the global arms trade. And yet, the link between the two should be obvious enough.

In the U.S., the National Rifle Association (NRA), an ultra-powerful lobbying group closely allied with weapons-making companies, has a strong grip on Congress -- it gives 288 members of that body its top "A-rating" -- and is in a combative relationship with the White House. Abroad, it's so much simpler and less contested. Beyond U.S. borders, the reality is: the Pentagon, with the White House in tow, is the functional equivalent of the NRA, and like that organization, it has been working tirelessly in recent years in close alliance with major weapons-makers to ensure that there are ever less controls on the ever more powerful weaponry it wants to see sold abroad.

... the U.S. remains by far the leading purveyor of the "right to bear arms" globally. Year in, year out, in countries around the world, they do their best to pave the way (as the NRA does domestically) for the almost unfettered sales of ever more lethal weapons. In fact, the U.S. now has something remarkably close to a monopoly on what's politely called the "transfer" of weaponry on a global scale. In 1990, as the Cold War was ending, the U.S. had cornered an impressive 37% of the global weapons trade. By 2011, the last year for which we have figures, that percentage had reached a near-

monopolistic 78% (\$66.3 billion in weapons sales), with the Russians coming in a distant second at 5.6% (\$4.8 billion).

Admittedly, that figure was improbably inflated, thanks to the Saudis who decided to spend a pile of their oil money as if there were no tomorrow.

I might just add here that we seem to be concerned with claiming that some of the rebels coming in to Mali might be cutting off hands. Well, our dear friends, the Saudi Arabians, are very good at cutting off heads. What are we doing about that? And what are we doing about our own nonsensical, immoral, sadistic, evil death penalty? Well, I want to continue with this about weapons.

In doing so, they created a bonanza year abroad for the major weapons-makers. They sealed deals on \$33.4 billion in U.S. arms in 2011, including 84 of Boeing's F-15 fighter jets and dozens of that company's Apache attack helicopters as well as Sikorsky Blackhawk helicopters -- and those were just the highest-end items in a striking set of purchases.

This with the Saudi Arabians -- those who cut off the heads. We have done a great deal to support human rights in Saudi Arabia, haven't we? Well we have a history of over 200 years of supporting dictators in Latin America and that period is over. We even overthrew the most popular president in history -- Jean-Bertrand Aristide, 90% of the vote. Fortunately, he's back in Haiti but we don't want him to become President because he might do the will of the people, rather than the will of the banks.

Continuing with Tom Engelhardt,

But if 2011 was a year of break-the-bank arms-deals with the Saudis, 2012 doesn't look bad either. As it ended, the Pentagon announced that they hadn't turned off the oil spigot. They agreed to ante up another \$4 billion to Boeing for upgrades on their

armada of jet fighters and were planning to spend up to \$6.7 billion for 20 Lockheed 25 C-130J transport and refueling planes. Some of this weaponry could, of course, be used in any Saudi conflict with Iran (or any other Middle Eastern state), but some could simply ensure future Newtown-like carnage in restive areas of that autocratic, fundamentalist regime's land or in policing actions in neighboring small states like Bahrain.

Let's think about the children. I think that Martin Luther King was thinking about the children long before Newtown.

And don't think the Saudis were alone in the region. When it came to U.S. weapons-makers flooding the Middle East with firepower, they were in good company. Among states purchasing (or simply getting) infusions of U.S. arms in recent years were Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen. As Nick Turse has written, "When it comes to the Middle East, the Pentagon acts not as a buyer, but as a broker and shill, clearing the way for its Middle Eastern partners to buy some of the world's most advanced weaponry."

So we have to look at the US as the International National Rifle Association.

Typically, for instance, on Christmas Day in 2011, the U.S. signed a deal with the UAE in which, for \$3.5 billion, it would receive Lockheed Martin's Theater High Altitude Area Defense, an advanced antimissile interception system, part of what Reuters termed "an accelerating military buildup of its friends and allies near Iran." Of course, selling to Arab allies without offering Israel something even better would be out of the question, so in mid-2012 it was announced that Israel would purchase 20 of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, America's most advanced jet (and weapons boondoggle), still in development, for \$2.7 billion.

So you see friends, we are the National Rifle Association to the world. All of this results in growing opportunities for our industry to help equip our friends. We're talking advanced jet fighters, missile systems, similar major weapons programs, Patriot missile batteries, and these range from countries like South Korea all the way across the globe to India.

This is why we're inclined to call Wall Street War Street. They are the 1/10th of 1% who are really getting the profit from the "International Rifle Association," directed by the United States.

So these words are given to us by Tom Engelhardt. What we're trying to get across in this is that the Pentagon is the largest federally licensed weapons dealer on the planet. And its goal is one that the NRA might envy. "To create a world in which the rights of those deemed our allies bear our armaments and they shall not be infringed."

Well, these are a few thoughts today. We want to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and all of the great work that he did and how his prophetic words continue so clearly in the years after his death.