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**Kill Anything That Moves**

Posted on Mar 12, 2013

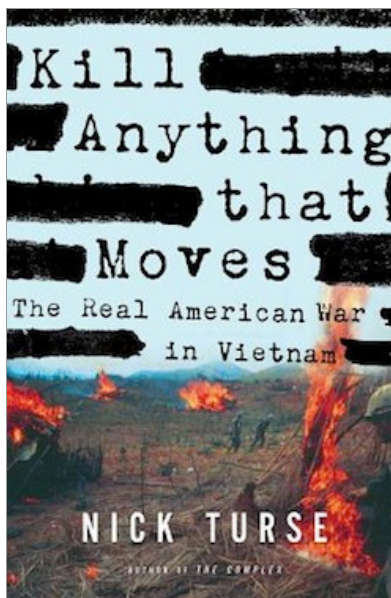
By **Chris Hedges**

**"Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam"**  
A book by Nick Turse

Nick Turse's "Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam" is not only one of the most important books ever written about the Vietnam conflict but provides readers with an unflinching account of the nature of modern industrial warfare. It captures, as few books on war do, the utter depravity of industrial violence—what the sociologist James William Gibson calls "technowar." It exposes the sickness of the hyper-masculine military culture, the intoxicating rush and addiction of violence, and the massive government spin machine that lies daily to a gullible public and uses tactics of intimidation, threats and smear campaigns to silence dissenters. Turse, finally, grasps that the trauma that plagues most combat veterans is a result not only of what they witnessed or endured, but what they did. This trauma, shame, guilt and self-revulsion push many combat veterans—whether from Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan—to escape into narcotic and alcoholic fogs or commit suicide. By the end of Turse's book, you understand why.

This is not the book Turse set out to write. He was, when his research began in June 2001, a graduate student looking at post-traumatic stress disorder among Vietnam veterans. An archivist at the U.S. National Archives asked Turse whether he thought witnessing war crimes could cause PTSD. He steered Turse to yellowing reports amassed by the **Vietnam War Crimes Working Group**. The group, set up in the wake of the My Lai massacre, was designed to investigate the hundreds of reports of torture, rape, kidnapping, forced displacement, beatings, arson, mutilation, executions and massacres carried out by U.S. troops. But the object of the group was not to discipline or to halt the abuses. It was, as Turse writes, "to ensure that the army would never again be caught off-guard by a major war crimes scandal." War crimes, for army investigators, were "an image management" problem. Those charged with war crimes were rarely punished. The numerous reports of atrocities collected by the Vietnam War Crimes Working Group were kept secret, and the eyewitnesses who reported war crimes were usually ignored, discredited or cowed into silence.


Turse used the secret Pentagon reports and documents to track down more than 100




[Kill Anything That Moves](#)  
Nick Turse  
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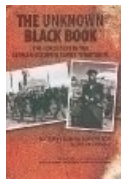
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veterans—including those who had reported witnessing atrocities to their superiors and others charged with carrying out atrocities—and traveled to Vietnam to interview survivors. A decade later he produced a masterpiece. Case after case in his book makes it painfully clear that soldiers and Marines deliberately maimed, abused, beat, tortured, raped, wounded or killed hundreds of thousands of unarmed civilians, including children, with impunity. Troops engaged in routine acts of sadistic violence usually associated with demented Nazi concentration camp guards. And what Turse describes is a woefully incomplete portrait, since he found that “an astonishing number of marine court-martial records of the era have apparently been destroyed or gone missing,” and “most air force and navy criminal investigation files that may have existed seem to have met the same fate.”

The few incidents of wanton killing in Vietnam—and this is also true for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—that did become public, such as My Lai, were dismissed as an aberration, the result of a few soldiers or Marines gone bad. But, as Turse makes clear, such massacres were and are, in our current imperial adventures, commonplace. The slaughters “were the inevitable outcome of deliberate policies, dictated at the highest levels of the military,” he writes. They were carried out because the dominant tactic of the war, as conceived by our politicians and generals, was centered on the concept of “overkill.” And when troops on the ground could not kill fast enough, the gunships, helicopters, fighter jets and bombers came to their assistance. The U.S. Air Force contributed to the demented quest for “overkill”—eradicating so many of the enemy that recuperation was theoretically impossible—by dropping the equivalent of 640 Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs on Vietnam, most actually falling on the south where our purported Vietnamese allies resided. And planes didn’t just drop bombs. They unloaded more than 70 million tons of herbicidal agents, 3 million white phosphorus rockets—white phosphorous will burn its way entirely through a body—and an estimated 400,000 tons of jellied incendiary napalm. “Thirty-five percent of the victims,” Turse writes, “died within fifteen to twenty minutes.” Death from the skies, like death on the ground, was often unleashed capriciously. “It was not out of the ordinary for U.S. troops in Vietnam to blast a whole village or bombard a wide area in an effort to kill a single sniper,” Turse writes.

Murder is an integral part of war. And the most disturbing form of murder, because it is so intimate, is carried out by infantry troops. The god-like power that comes with the ability to destroy anything,

including other human beings, along with the intoxicating firepower of industrial weapons, rapidly turns those who wield these weapons into beasts. Human beings are reduced to objects, toys to satiate a perverse desire to dominate, humiliate, control and kill. Corpses are trophies. Many of the Vietnamese who were murdered, Turse relates, were first subjected to degrading forms of public abuse, gang rape, torture and savage beatings. They were, Turse writes, when first detained “confined to tiny barbed wire ‘cow cages’ and sometimes jabbed with sharpened bamboo sticks while inside them.” Other detainees “were placed in large drums filled with water; the containers were then struck with great force, which caused internal injuries but left no scars.” Some were “suspended by ropes for hours on end or hung upside down and beaten, a practice called ‘the plane ride.’” Or they “were chained with their hands over their heads, arms fully extended, so their feet could barely touch the ground—a version of an age-old torture called the strappado. Untold numbers were subjected to electric shocks from crank-operated field telephones, battery-powered devices, or even cattle prods.” Soles of feet were beaten. Fingernails were ripped out. Fingers were dismembered. Detainees were slashed with knives, “suffocated, burned by cigarettes, or beaten with truncheons, clubs, sticks, bamboo flails, baseball bats, and other objects. Many were threatened with death or even subjected to mock executions.” Turse found that “detained civilians and captured guerrillas were often used as human mine detectors and regularly died in the process.” And while soldiers and Marines were engaged in daily acts of brutality and murder, the Central Intelligence Agency “organized, coordinated, and paid for” a clandestine program of targeted assassinations “of specific individuals without any attempt to capture them alive or any thought of a legal trial.”

To see long excerpts from “Kill Anything That Moves” at Google Books, [click here](#).



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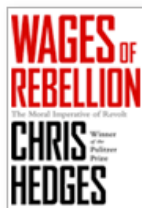
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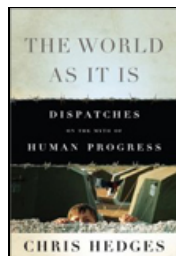
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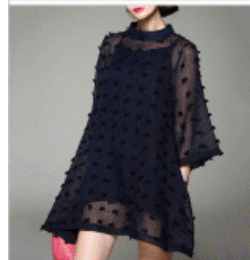
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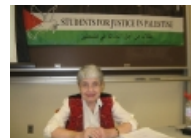
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**Evelyn Blake** · 2 months ago

When I thought that the US military and its agencies could not get any more sociopathic, I am hit with a wrecking ball of atrocities it has committed that proves otherwise. " Kill Anything That Moves," once again reaffirms that I was in a coma bubble all of my life .I am so outraged that while reading, I am rooting for the Viet Cong and wishing for an ISIS attack that fulfills what 9/11 did not accomplish. I came away wit a vicarious PTSD

The Nazi's, Atiilla the Hun, Vlad the Impaler, Ivan the Terrible, The Crusades,The Vikings could not be any more barbaric and ruthless and caused no more torture, death and destruction than our F\*\*king Freedom Fighters. Viet Nam was a genocide of 2 million Vietnamese civilians, not including the injured and maimed and our soldiers were weapons of mass destruction to the nth degree, programmed to hate and dehumanize ALL Vietnamese, even though South Vietnamese were our allies. The entire war policy was to kill anything that moves, including children, babies, animals, flora and the ecological environment..But it did not stop at killing- torture, maiming, rape, beheading was all part of standard procedure. Furthermore, killing

see more

^ | v · Reply · Share



**Ryan Reyes** · a year ago

Oh lord how about this how did all those villagers run into the woods and never fall prey to the VC's trap? How can a woman ID bodies that have been burnt by napalm the stuff burns at 2200 degrees Fahrenheit. Same as a crematorium. Turse refuses to consider the possibility that the villagers are indeed sheltering the VC and that American soldiers have a good reason to be wary of them and treat them as combatants.

It feels deeply dishonest. No doubt war is hell and no doubt some soldiers crossed the line when it came to the treatment of civilians and McNamara's insane devotion to quantifying the war and emphasizing body count didn't help, but Turse is going one step further: he is claiming that virtually all American soldiers were evil. They shed the blood of the Vietnamese for shits and giggles. That offends me deeply. Turse is an early social justice warrior, I think. His world exists in black and white and when it comes time to take a side, he is the one that heat

write and when it comes time to take a side, he joins the one that best represents "the victim".

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Ernst** · a year ago

Wildly adopted casualty figures of deceased Vietnamese civilians and soldiers has been some 2-4 million. But there is one problem: none of these studies have serious scientific prove backing claims. Actually there is only one study based on demographics of Vietnamese population with interviews and samples.

This interesting good study made by Samuel Preston, Charles Hirschman and Vu Manh Loi is debunking claims of 2-4 million war deaths. Actually this study gave result of 886 000-1 050 000 deceased Vietnamese people, average estimate being about 968 000. Some 80 000-90 000 were children under 15, 140 - 150 000 females. Study never suggested civilian casualties but it looks like to have been about 350 000- 400 000. Hardly one fifth of high claims mostly used in media.

It may be that Vietnam War was not near as bloody hell as high estimates used by "experts". Other side of this mythbraking study is debunking is of course much lower Vietnamese military deaths. Hardly more than 400 000 NVA/NLF soldiers have deceased and not near all in combats. Majority of them against Saigon government forces. Americans killed less enemy soldiers and civilians than former believed.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Roger** · 2 years ago

Oh well he interviewed 100 veterans out of Millions...it Must be the norm. People educate themselves about what they set out to see and nothing more....and just for the record there were far more atrocities in ww2 than Vietnam...not to mention civilian deaths (By the US and their Allies)...where's the outrage? Pop culture turned into fact based on surface understanding. Most of you need to learn how to say "Toi Khong Hieu" when discussing Vietnam.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**zlatapraha** · 2 years ago

Why do you people persist the belief that you have the best army in the world, rather than an indisciplined rabble?

I was in theory in favour against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, but in practice was against them because of your policy of "Force Protection" ("Kill Anything That Moves" by another name).

God Bless America? He obviously hates the place.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**George Kalergis** · 3 years ago

This letter regards the Nick Turse article on the death of Vietnamese General Giap and his book "Kill Anything That Moves". <http://nyti.ms/1cxfsbF>

I was a Forward Observer for the First Cavalry Division in 1967. We operated for months in the An Lao Valley "Free Fire Zone". His comments on free fire zones are right on target and I can verify from personal experience that what he writes about is factual and correct in that regard.

Some of his other allegations are overstated. In particular the raping of women and children as a routine occurrence and the number of My Lai "style" incidents

does not coincide with my personal experience. I suspect he is taking isolated incidents and reporting them as if they were almost daily occurrences which is substantially misleading.

He also fails to mention the significant number of incidents where women or children killed American soldiers because we were too cautious about injuring civilians. The young American soldiers were put in an impossible situation and I believe his book should have described that on balance.

Another contributing factor was the inexperience of the American leaders and the soldiers with combat. We were fighting an enemy that had decades of experience. Our leaders had six months tours in command.

I am certain the same challenges are occurring in the ill advised conflicts of today.

Too soon old, too late smart.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**keepyourheaddown** · 3 years ago

USA = LARGEST TERROIST ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD!!!

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**wildthang** · 3 years ago

The Civil War has some similarity in it's scorched earth and a general saying any woman in New Orlean who disrespects a solder is to be treated as a prostitute. They probably found lots of them.

There were lots of rapes in occupation Germany too and not all of them were by Russians but at least Russia had been invaded by them.

Pearl Harbor was left as sitting ducks so we could demonize the Japanese on the lives of our defenseless sailors.

Our wars are as immoral as the rest! To say that exonerates us only says we are just like those we sentenced at Nuremberg and we look the other way and worship war as good.

Who was helping arm and finance Germany, no one had much problem with the Spanish Civil War. Germany was meant to take out Russia so we could then save them but went off the reservation.

Yes war is a rape of one country by another and just what had Vienam done to us or Iraq or Libya?

We are beginning a militay police state that glorifies wars and has a Homeland Security that has more domestic use than that against non existent terrorist or kids we have entrapped.

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**John M. Baxter** · 3 years ago

It is certainly unfortunate that Mr.Turse apparently did nothing but look for scandal and trouble when he wrote this book, as if it was still 1966. The Allies firebombed Dresden without strategic purpose in World War II. Does that make World War II a mistake? Mr. Turse apparently does not mention that the NVA created a far worse atrocity than My Lai, yet they were not even fighting guerillas. Mr. Turse needs to consider that atrocities happen in all wars-- especially guerilla ones. Regrettable as they are, they don't change what a war can do to stop an evil movement or change a country for the better. I was at Lt. Calley's base camp only months afer My Lai and heard a Vietnamese woman exclaim that she was glad the Americans were in Vietnam. There is now a

...that one was glad the Americans were in Vietnam. There is now a Radisson in DaNang. Mr. Turse should write another book and take a look at the other side of the story!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Weismonger** · 3 years ago

In Vietnam, if a child could walk or crawl toward you, it could be carrying live grenade and kill you. The Vietnamese felt nothing but hate as they strapped bombs and grenades on their children and used them to kill American servicemen and women. After the US left Vietnam, the Communists murdered another 3 million people. Who caused this? Who is at fault? The likes of John Kerry, the Democrats, and the American and International Socialists who wanted Vietnam to become a communist police state. The US Congress were idiots, who sold out the free people of Vietnam who remain slaves of communism today.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Lenore** → **Weismonger** · 2 years ago

this is just demented. Nixon--conservative hero--took the US out of Vietnam. And if the Vietnamese hated the US, it was probably because the US killed hundreds of thousands of civilians during the war. this was this whole story behind this book that was being reviewed here. you should read it and educate yourself instead having pride in your vast ignorance.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**wildthang** → **Weismonger** · 3 years ago

and those slaves are still having agent orange birth defects being born even now and in Iraq the number of depleted uranium birth defects is mounting too. War is a false profit. And we are even considering putting forces back at Cam Ranh Bay to defend those communists from China, maybe they should read this book so the next generation sees what we did.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**StarGazer** · 3 years ago

Thank you, Chris Hedges, for another powerful article. Terrible as it is, I prefer to know the truth.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**capt rick** · 3 years ago

so what do we do with all this info?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**RobertMStahl** · 3 years ago

SWAT is owned by the cells that it is designed to go after. The reasoning is something a smart second grade student could, not only, understand, but program. Where is Indira Singh? What would it be if the Old Guard became something in touch with ecology?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Guest** · 3 years ago

thanks, Chris.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**lexalexander** · 3 years ago



This is not a new, or newly understood, problem:

<http://blogontherun.wordpress...>

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**elkojohn** · 3 years ago

I was in Vietnam for two tours as a helicopter gunship pilot.

What I saw, did and experienced brought me home to "the world" hating war, myself and my government.

After researching the Pentagon Papers, and the assassination of JFK, my hatred for my government became total, all consuming rage.

Your book review took my breath away,  
. . . and took me back to the scene of the crime.

Currently, when I go to the VA medical center,  
I overhear the conversations of my fellow VN vets  
-- most of whom would like to turn back the clock,  
return to Vietnam, and "win" the war.

Most have no regrets about the war and what we did.

(For God and Country, Might Makes Right,  
My Country Right or Wrong, etc., etc.)

I keep my mouth shut.

[see more](#)

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Silo** · 3 years ago

The next uprising must take a higher road than them. No death gulags like those for the millions of Russians caught practicing Christianity, no poisoning drinking water and killing with white phosphorus explosives, like the slaughter policy for thousands of Muslim and Christian Palestinians, Iraqis, and Afghans, no executing thousands of their upper classes like they did to thousands of Polish officers in one day, and on and on. We will reclaim peace, dismantle their Federal Reserve funding all of these hells and show them respect. Most of them will realize that there really is no such thing as goyim. We're all in this together.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Carol Murry** · 3 years ago

Chris,

Because I admire your work, I would suggest that our actions in relation to supporting Israel by funding weaponry and supporting the genocide and apartheid that they are carrying out, should be included in those areas where we are continuing our pattern of wholesale slaughter and atrocities.

Carol Murry

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**John Crandell** · 3 years ago

I by no means am intent on negating either Hedges or Turse, but this is simply NOTHING NEW.... The Vietnam Veterans Against the War thoroughly delved into this with their events of Dewey Canyon I & II in the very early 70s. Vidal was so apt: 'The United States of Amnesia.'

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jeseppi Trade Wildfeather** · 3 years ago





Since Vietnam I have come to highly esteem the honorable and manly courage of the 18th Century British soldier who would face the enemy quietly, stand tall, take aim, turn his head away, and then fire. Mayhem and butchery dishonored us and our entire nation then and now.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Shiva Shankar · 3 years ago

We, in the third world, have known all this, and more, all along. And anyone who cared to know could have simply read the proceedings of the War Crimes Tribunal set up by B.Russel and J-P Satre - the Stockholm and Copenhagen Tribunal. Nick Turse just found out, and he is a hero?!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Harriet · 3 years ago

Literary narratives about travel today don't come any better than *LOVES KERBSIDES AND GOODBYES* by David McNamara. It's a firsthand account of travel through much of Asia, the subcontinent, South America by the author and a changing collection of friends as they sample all types of out-of-the-way destinations. Full of incident and adventure and highly humorous in parts as well as being very informative. But it's not just about travel, it's also about self-exploration and human relationships and their development and decline. Well worth a read.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



modgudur · 3 years ago

Chris, YOU get paid for writing this dribble? Any intelligent person already knows this. "Been there, heard that" Bottom line, it does not make any difference. Ask any Viet veteran. Many returned hating this country because of rec'd treatment from the population AND gov't. Did he ask John McCain about his treatment? I could tear every single line apart but I am not being paid so why bother? As for trophies, look at the pictures by the 1930s FBI and old west. The enemy is the enemy, during conflicts they do not want to be our friends. Reading previous comments, naïveté abounds.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



strack → modgudur · 2 years ago

It's "drivel", so don't pretend that you're "intelligent". Also, it's a "book review". Do you know what that is? If you want to complain that this was all common knowledge, call the books author. But you can forget that because this was NOT common knowledge. No one realized the extent to the which the American military murdered and terrorized the non-combatants of Vietnam. And what the hell does "the enemy is the enemy" even mean? Were women and children the "enemy"? Moronic ramblings from a defender of mass murder of innocents. You whine about the treatment of returning veterans and McCain. Boo fucking hoo. They're still alive. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed by the US military in Vietnam, indiscriminately or purposely. Take that in: Hundreds of Thousands. American genocide. I'll bet you feel proud. Those people can't complain--they're dead. You would've done well over there--I'm certain would've Turse would've had a chapter just on you.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Alan MacDonald** · 3 years ago

America was a violent Empire then (Vietnam era), and it is a better disguised central part of the broader 21st century disguised violent/Vichy Global Empire today (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen era) ---- with wars of the Empire now expanding all over the world, and tyranny, spying, inequality, poverty, and deceit in the 'Homeland' of the Empire.

Alan

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**M. Blaisdale** · 3 years ago

I think it has to do with the sick marriage of Rome to Christianity. The combination of a totalitarian religion with a highly bureaucratized and militarized empire that successive European, Ottoman and American states have kept alive is like a mind virus. What do Hitler and the Founding Fathers have in common? They both consciously sought to revive Rome. Carrol Quigley and Philip K Dick have a lot to say about this.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



philip · 3 years ago

I hope that the militant, radical revolutionaries of the world read this book. There is no salvation to be gained through violence or war; those who are killed are dead, and those who survive are psychologically destroyed. No one ever wins.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Joe r · 3 years ago

Makes one understand why Iran and North Korea want the bomb. Makes people want their guns too. How long will the rest of the world put up with our shit?

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Alan MacDonald** → Joe r · 3 years ago

Joe, If your country is treating you like shit, and bombing abroad, look carefully --- it may not be your country, but a Global Empire only posing as your former country.

Best to you and yours in confronting and surviving this hidden cancer of the Global Empire lodged in our 'body politic',

Alan

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Edward Kerr** · 3 years ago

It's not often that I get to relate a story that is pertinent to the issue. In 1963 I graduated from HS and tried to join the Air Force because I had an uncle who had been an Air force pilot and retired on a good pension. I was rejected because I was married and had a child. Anyway, a friend of mine joined the Marines in '65 and went to Vietnam. After he came home in '69 I was visiting and asked about his experience in the war. He recounted a story where he had been involved in "torching" a village and in the process he saw a man run away and enter a hidden tunnel. He then said that he went and tossed a phosphorus grenade down the hole and when they finally checked out the hole there were 37 women and children and 2 old men in there all dead. I asked how that made him feel and he said that he didn't "give a shit". Asking why he said that he

hated those "gooks" and was OK with it. I asked him why he hated them and he said that they (the Vietnamese) had killed his best friend. He's is gone now but he never had any remorse. Back home he got involved with the local criminal group and is reported to have murdered 6 people. I was always saddened as in HS he had been a mild mannered kid who avoided conflict. How the military manages to create such people never ceased to amaze me. When will the insanity ever end?

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Edward Kerr · 3 years ago

Sorry about your friend, Edward Kerr. It sounds as if the war changed your friend beyond recognition, if one gets the drift. Unfortunately, that's often what happens when kids get sent off to war. The ones who survive often do have personality changes. Sad indeed.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Edward Kerr → Guest · 3 years ago

No one returns home from any war "unharmed". The barbaric nature of war damages all who are unfortunate enough to have been directly involved. It also hurts us all in the end. We all have a common mother and we have come to this! sad sad sad indeed.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Daniel Shea · 3 years ago

When

asking why Clay Hunt, an otherwise strong and attractive 26-year-old Iraq/Afghan Marine veteran who shot himself. Especially when he was on a path doing good work...

Nick Turse book "Kill Anything that Moves" is the smoking gun for charges to be brought against those in high ranking positions who ordered or covered up war crimes, one massacre after another, including the spraying of Agent Orange and other toxins. Yet, I have not heard but my own voice calling for war crimes tribunals based on the now exposed current evidence.

One does not have to wander far to see a repeat of these crimes in the current wars, occupations and proposed continuation by presidential fiat of Drone Wars.

Our economy has been turned over to the Master Thieves to do what they will at

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



cclauson · 3 years ago

Occasionally when I read things in news, editorials (or watch news on Youtube) I get puzzled when energy is taken to refute beliefs that I'm not sure anyone actually holds. Here's a couple in this article that I had this reaction to:

"Turse's book obliterates the image we have of ourselves as a good and virtuous nation."

I think Americans had this image of the US in the 1960's. Nowadays I don't

think people actually believe this.

"It mocks the popular belief that we have a right to impose our "virtues" on others by force."

Again, not sure if this actually reflects people's opinion, this sounds like the justification in the 1960's, but I wonder if this is current.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Anarcissie** → cclauson · 3 years ago

You can see from the comments here how much people enjoy being told what they already know, and being exhorted to have faith in what they already believe. Chris Hedges has never lacked for a highly vocal amen corner here. Just so, thousands of people attend lectures by Noam Chomsky and listen to him expose, for the hundredth time, the malefactors of great wealth and power. Then, I guess, they go home and wait for the next edition of the ritual to come around.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**traynorjf** → Anarcissie · 3 years ago

Depressing, isn't it?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Anarcissie** → traynorjf · 3 years ago

Well, some of them might do something one of these days. I do find the attraction to well-worn material kind of odd. Shouldn't progies be discussing what to do about the world, instead of repetitiously deploring it?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**.V.** → Anarcissie · 3 years ago

Most humans are followers. At least this particular herd of sheeple is following the right leaders. When they find themselves not only robbed of their freedoms but also hungry and without a roof over their heads...THEN it's revolution time. My feeling is it wont be long! .V.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**RalphJ\_Kramden** · 3 years ago

Me grew up watching all those silly Hollywood movies where the Nazis were sooo evil and we the USA, were soo good. Of course, Hollywood had an ax to grind. The minute the Israelis started to use Nazi tactics, the old propaganda changed. I once held the belief that we didn't torture, assassinate, rape, threw prisoners from helicopters, massacred whole villages for the sport, slit the throats of old men (as Bob Kerry did), published torture manuals, had concentration camps. Only the Nazis did that.

At the end of the WWII we allowed the x-Nazis to run our space program, the Nazis doctors shared their gruesome torture methods with us, in exchange for amnesty. I'm no longer so naive as to believe the USA never tortured. Ask the Pilipinos, or the natives of the USA. But still, we did feel embarrassed by aping the Nazis. Even that clown McCain, he complains about how the Vietnamese tortured him, it was nothing compared to what we did to Vietnamese prisoners. And they were fighting for their homes, what was frigging McCain doing 8,000 miles from home?

So what is so different between the USG and the Third Reich? For a while I thought the only difference was the gas chambers. But no, I was wrong, we

had all the all the gas chambers we needed, they were open-air gas chambers

[see more](#)

10  |  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**BuckLaughlin57** → [RalphJ\\_Kramden](#) · 3 years ago

"Only the Nazis did that."

-----Nah, the Japanese did that too....

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**Alan MacDonald** → [RalphJ\\_Kramden](#) · 3 years ago

Ralph, I fully agree with you, but would suggest that the most effective (and acceptable) way of tagging these international crimes is to talk of America's involvement today as being a part of the current disguised Global Empire --- rather than risking shutting peoples minds by overtly comparing America itself to the Nazis, or calling it fascist.

Admittedly, America was essentially acting as an Empire itself, from well before Vietnam to about the mid 1990s, but since then the country called America has basically been 'captured' and "Occupied" by a new form of "truly Global Empire" [Milne, Hardt, Negri, Perkins et al], and at least I find it more absorbable and less of a 'conversation ender' to describe this more accurate, and less 'anti-American-sounding', narrative.

Yes, the central and seminal cause of most of our 'symptom problems' like; expanding wars, Wall Steet looting, vast inequality, torture, domestic spying, increasing tyranny, etc. etc. is an Empire --- just as the Nazi regime was an Empire --- but taking a bit of the edge off America

[see more](#)

2  |  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**HNO3** · 3 years ago

Thank you Mr. Turse, Mr. Hedges, for your fearless honesty. "Kill Anything That Moves" is a must-read. This hits it all home. The surveillance, secrets, assassinations and indefinite detention, the Military-Industrial complex, and the bankers, oilmen and capitalists who profit from it all. Mr. Manning is warning us young people. If we don't act, they will turn their guns and bombs on us as the empire runs out of steam. I'm not afraid. I'm angry.

"You can't be neutral on a moving train."

4  |  · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Clarence44** · 3 years ago

Ahh, what would we USians do without the Nazis to point our fingers at? They engaged in a war of conquest! They exterminated (or tried to) whole groups of people whom they blamed for their troubles!

You don't even need to read Zinn or Turse to get a clearer picture of what a poor competitor the Nazis were to the USian model. Read a grade school history book. Or biographies of the "Founding Fathers" they all made names for themselves as Indian fighters. They weren't fighting defensive wars, they were fighting to empty the land of Indians so Europeans could take it over.

Look at Indian "Reservations". They're concentration camps. They still have the highest rates of novertv in the US. Highest rates of heart disease and diabetes.

highest rates of poverty in the US, highest rates of heart disease and diabetes.  
Any time the terms of a treaty becomes inconvenient, we simply break it.

Look at what we're doing in the Middle East, in Africa and fixin' to do in the Far East.

13 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Alan MacDonald** → Clarence44 · 3 years ago

Clarence, I don't know that the "Power System" [Chomsky] managing things for this disguised Global Empire controlling our former country, has many things left they can "point fingers at".

Unlike Obama, at least Hitler did not employ V1's to assassinate German citizens right in the Homeland ---  
oops, I mean "Fatherland".

I often get confused keeping terminology straight between the Nazi Empire and this far better disguised Global Empire, posing as America --  
- regarding;

which one called it the "Fatherland" and which the "Homeland", which one employed a single-party Vichy facade in "occupied" France and which one used a bipartisan dual-party 'Vichy' (Rel 2.0) right in the Homeland, which one used terrorizing new technology V1 'Vengeance' missiles from the sky in a 'declared war' and which one employed stealthy and unique technology 'Predator' drones and 'Hell Fire' missiles from the heavens in an

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **BuckLaughlin57** → Alan MacDonald · 3 years ago

"Unlike Obama, at least Hitler did not employ V1's to assassinate German citizens right in the Homeland ---"

----This is funny....you don't think Hitler would have used drones against his enemies in Germany had they been available? Sorry I didn't complete your post after reading that nonsensical logic. BTW, when has BHO used drones against political enemies in the US?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Alan MacDonald** → BuckLaughlin57 · 3 years ago

lowandlazy57, read the rest of my post on the disguised Global Empire --- it will make your thinking less 'low and lazy'

Best to you and yours in confronting and surviving this Empire which has taken over our former country and is the single greatest danger to you, your children, and the world,

Alan

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **BuckLaughlin57** → Alan MacDonald · 3 years ago

Alan, "low and lazy" is a partial greeting among men, I'm not surprised you don't know it. As I said, I tend to disregard as a waste of time the musings of those that believe BHO is worse than Adolf Hitler. I sincerelv hope

you and yours enjoy your bunkers.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**ICFubar** · 3 years ago

What is it that makes war such a viable option? The money and resources consumed by war and violence could eliminate the basis for war and violence in the first place. However, this would entail a universal culture of sharing as opposed to the western culture of greed, accumulation, and false scarcities. What makes and why are humans so easily **drawn.to** the prospect of doing violence and war? Is it a failure of the mind to understand what the nature of destruction is and does not only to others but also to our own psychs? Can we not bleed off this primitive propensity of certain ages and people somehow? Is this a residual emotive from our days of being hunter/gathers we can't use our brains to control? Are we not foremost caring in attitude as a sentient species? We have certainly not reached the civilized state we think as long as nations retain militaries. How could it be otherwise?

Is war a pattern that simply has not been broken because of the pattern of people and the dominant political, economic philosophy ruling humanity? Are these rulers/administrators by their nature to always be the rulers of humanity? Are these rulers/administrators throw backs to the rulers in times of scarcity and violence? I'm in a continual perplexed state of mind and understanding of

see more

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