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6/28/14

"If we do not learn from history,  
we shall be compelled to relive it,  
true - but if we do not change the  
future, we will be compelled to  
endure it, and that could be worse."  
Alfred Toffler

100 yrs ago today, a 19 yr old  
kid fired 2 shots that set in motion  
a chain of events that would reshape  
the world\* - 2 .38 caliber bullets would  
unleash a tsunami of "nationalism and  
hatred," and leave a trail of destruction.  
The lock was popped on Pandora's box  
and the "war to end all wars" would  
simply set the stage for the next one.

NOTE\*  
GAVRILO Principi  
of Serbian  
descent shot  
the AUSTRIAN  
ARCHDUKE

FRANZ FERDINAND  
IN SARAJEVO -  
BOSNIA -  
HERZEGOVINA  
6/28/1914

Dwight D. Eisenhower, who would  
come of age in that first war,  
and play a major role in the  
next, wrote: "Every gun that is made,  
every warship launched, every rocket  
fired, signifies in the final sense,  
a theft from those who hunger  
and are not fed. Those who are cold  
and not clothed. This world in arms  
is not spending money alone. It is  
spending the SWEAT of its laborers,  
the genius of its scientists, the houses

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of its children.

This is not a way of life...  
under the cloud of war, it is  
humanity hanging itself upon a  
cross of iron.

He wrote that in 1953

Several years later, upon leaving  
the presidency in 1961 (Jan.) he said, in  
part, "the greatest threat to  
the United States is not Communism -  
but the Military Industrial Complex."  
(paraphrased)

That may not be a direct quote,  
but the message was clear - Not coming  
from some namby-panby, left wing  
socialist - but from a Republican  
president who had achieved 5 star  
status as supreme allied commander  
during WWII, before becoming commander  
in chief.

I've never stood, like Lord Byron  
in Venice, upon the Bridge of Sighs -  
but I've heard the mothers crying  
when another soldier dies

Grief

After that first world war -  
after 9 million soldiers and 6 million  
citizens had died - after the returning  
soldiers carried influenza back  
to their countries, which would kill

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And just 50 million World wide -  
 President Wilson said on 9/5/1919  
 "Why my fellow AMERICANS, is there  
 any man here, or any woman - let  
 me say, is there any child here -  
 who does not know that the SEED  
 of WAR in the MODERN world is  
 COMMERCIAL and INDUSTRIAL RIVALRY!"

Wow! You mean its all about  
 "Money", and "resources" - "COMMERCIAL  
 and INDUSTRIAL RIVALRY", and NOT  
 PATRIOTISM? (OR, SOME ARE SAYING:  
 Yo MOMMA! :D)

"Military funding for overseas CONTINGENCY  
 OPERATIONS" - (PINK: "Costs of War") is  
 projected to be \$68.5 Billion for 2015  
 It's been as high as \$180 Billion in 2008 -  
 and as low as \$13 Billion in 02 -  
 We've just allocated \$500 million of  
 2015's budget to be spent arming  
 and TRAINING Syrians to fight I.S.I.S.  
 (Whaa?!?) It can be guaranteed  
 that the \$500 million will only fan the  
 flames and fuel the furnace of affliction  
 which is devouring huge chunks of  
 the Middle East.

I'm NOT NAIVE enough to claim  
 I have any ANSWERS... You'll  
 have to ASK the oil drivers and  
 bank executives. :D You'll have to ASK

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Someone who watches snatches of C.N.N., Fox News and "Down Town Abby"; Someone who scans the headlines on the way to the sports pages (or comics, or financial section) Someone who listens to Billy Cunningham, Glen Beck and the Savage Nation - falls asleep during 'Coast to Coast' and sneezes in disgust to N.P.R. Perhaps they'll have the 'Answers'.

Here's what I know - The forces at work today were unleashed 100 years ago today - The current Administration did not start the fires it's been tasked with putting out. Almost 100 yrs ago, an Englishman, Mark Sykes - and a Frenchman Georges Picot "cut some deals" and "drew borders" around what we now know as the 'Countries of the Middle East' - A Nomad named Saud would stake claim to a chunk of desert named Arabia and later, up from the ground would come a bubbling crude - black gold, Texas tea and the current life blood of the industrialized world. Britain would make a declaration, and mustard gas would be used in trench warfare all along the western front.

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I know that the first prayer (as a request) mentioned in scripture was made by Abraham in Genesis 15:2 when he said "... Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless..." in verse 4 the Lord promised him an heir.

If you read the next few chapters of Genesis - you'll see something amazing takes place. - Rather than wait for the promises of God... the answer to his prayer - Abram and his wife Sarai take matters into their own hands -

Sarai sends Abram to the Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar, because she thinks she's too old to conceive. Hagar has a son ISMAEL. Sarai casts her out, and has a son of her own, ISAAC.

From Isaac would come Jacob, later known as "ISRAEL", and his 12 sons would comprise the 12 'tribes' of ISRAEL. But what of ISMAEL? From ISMAEL would descend the "ARAB PEOPLE" as we know them today - BUT WAIT! (as they'd say in a late night infomercial!) THERE'S MORE! From ISAAC would come Jacob, A.K.A. ISRAEL - and from one of those 12 tribes, 'Judah' would come King David  $\Rightarrow$  Jesus  $\Rightarrow$

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And CHRISTIANITY! And guess what?  
From ISRAEL'S DESCENDANTS, IN 570 A.D.  
would be born MUHAMMAD, founder  
of the world's 2nd largest religion, ISLAM!

When Muhammad died in 632 (PEACE  
and blessings be upon him) IT SET IN  
motion another important chain of events.  
85% of the world's Muslims are Sunni, 10 to  
15% Shia - The Sunnis recognized  
Muhammad's UNCLE Abu Bakr (sp?) as  
the Right Al Heir, (A "caliph" = Islamic leader)  
while the Shia (Shiites) thought the  
LEGITIMATE SUCCESSORS should descend  
directly from Muhammad, and that his  
son-in-law, Ali (who was martyred) and  
his sons should succeed as IMAMS.

And all of this is important, why? <sup>or</sup>  
Because today's HEADLINES ARE THE  
FIRST DRAFTS of HISTORY - ISIS.  
The "ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ and AL SHAM"  
~~ARE~~ IS TRYING to REDRAW THE MAP of  
the Middle East based upon a Sunni  
majority - IRAN, IRAQ and SYRIA  
want to CREATE (or MAINTAIN) an  
unbroken line of SHIITE INFLUENCE.  
Into this mix of SECTARIAN, RELIGIOUS  
and TRIBAL mayhem comes AMERICAN  
INTERESTS. (RESOURCES = OIL)

So what's to be done?

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Of course the cab drivers and waitresses could solve all of the world's problems if only given a chance. <sup>too</sup> But the entire Middle Eastern Conception was started by one man's prayer. (Religion or resources?) Hmmm!?

Genesis 15:2 'And Abraham said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus (Syria<sup>us</sup>) 3. And Abraham said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my household will be my heir.' So - before Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the prayer was about the distribution of 'wealth', resources.

I'm just rambling <sup>too</sup> but I do want to say this - let us pray, on this the 100th anniversary of WWI that some leader heads prevail, and we don't march, once again into the brink. Whether the catalyst be Russia and the Ukraine, Mid East peace, or a Sunni/Shiite cataclysm, let us pray that this administration is guided by the hand of God to make wise decisions.

We may not like the "man," the "party," his race, or position - but let us realize that he is in a position to base his decisions on more than just snippets of headlines, 'sound bites' and radio personalities whose

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STOCK IN TRADE' IS DRUMMING UP  
CONTROVERSY AND SPIKING EMOTIONS WITH  
THE SKIN OF THE TRUTH WRAPPED AROUND  
A BODY OF LIES.

LET US PRAY FOR PEACE - BUT LET  
US REALIZE THAT OUR OWN DECISIONS  
MIGHT BE DIFFERENT IF WE WERE  
PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION DAILY FROM  
A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN  
OF THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, HOMELAND  
SECURITY AND STATE DEPT. AS WELL AS  
AN ALPHABET SOUP OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
REPORTS (YES INCLUDING THE NSA'S) LET  
US NOT FORGET THE OPINIONS OF SACHA  
AND MALIA. He might not know  
EVERYTHING, BUT AT LEAST HE DOESN'T  
'KNOW IT LIKE A TWEET' (AS COMPARED  
TO KNOWING IT LIKE AN E-BOOK)

I'm finally getting settled in  
here at South Bay, but I'm waiting  
for a permanent dorm assignment  
before updating my profile page.

Now that I'm here - I'll also  
be notifying the staff at behind the  
bars (our wonderful volunteers) that  
I can begin receiving the "COMMENTS LEFT"  
AGAIN - they will NOT be returned by  
the mail room as "UNAUTHORIZED"

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I look forward to receiving comments (feedback) on my posts. I haven't received any in well over a year - and even then it was sporadically.

By the way - It just dawned upon me, as I bring this train of thought back into the station - I opened this post by commenting on the start of WWI - the shots fired on 6/28/1914 which set that chain of events into motion. I went off into a tangent which led to Abraham and the advent of Judaism, Christianity and Islam - by extension, the current and East discord. Well - today happens to be the start of Ramadan. What a coincidence, eh?

Also, when I mentioned the date of Muhammad's death in 632 and said peace and blessings be upon him - IT WAS AN EXPRESSION of RESPECT customary to the world's 1.4 Billion Muslims, NOT AN INDICATION THAT I've been converted. <sup>oo</sup> L.O.L.

Until next time - Peace and Blessings be upon you ALL!

Grate

P.S. Shavuot (The giving of the Torah) fell on June 3rd this year, my birthday. It is the 2nd of 3 major Jewish Festivals (Passover being the 1st, Sukkot the 3rd) it comes 50 days after the Passover and is known by Christians as Pentecost. (The Christian Church was born on Pentecost - see Acts Chap. 2)