

## Veterans Day Remembrance: US Marine Corps Speaks Out against Profit Driven Wars

Remembrance Day Special - Alternative Perspectives from Veterans Stan Goff and Joshua Key. Global Research News Hour Episode 159

By [Jonathan Willson](#) and [Stan Goff](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#),  
[Militarization and WMD](#)

*"I spent 33 years and 4 months in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force — the Marine Corps...And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism." – Major General Smedley Darlington Butler (1935) [1]*

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Recognized as Remembrance Day in Canada and the British Commonwealth, and Veterans' Day in the US, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month is an annual occasion to pay tribute to those who have served their countries on the battlefield.

It is taken as axiomatic that soldiers are heroes for participating in violence at the behest of the State. Even where there is a recognition that the war being fought is unjust, such as the Iraq War or the Vietnam War, community members are called on to 'support the troops.'

There has been a decisive shift away from the notion of remembering the horrors and brutality of war to the veneration and valorization of the soldier. There is a ritualistic aspect to society's relationship with the soldier. Even the language of 'paying the ultimate sacrifice' evokes a religious flavour to the dynamics of militarism.

*US military veteran Stan Goff has come to view nationalism as a modern day civil religion, with the Nation as our God and holidays like Veterans Day performing a liturgical function.*

*Stan Goff is a Retired Special Forces Master Sergeant who served in eight conflict areas between 1970 and 1996. He has authored several books including [Hideous Dream: A Soldier's Memoir of the U.S. Invasion of Haiti \(2000\)](#), [Full-Spectrum Disorder: The Military in the New American Century \(2004\)](#), [Sex & War \(2006\)](#), and his most recent: [Borderline – Reflections on War, Sex, and Church \(2015\)](#).*

In this week's special instalment of the Global Research News Hour, hosted by contributor Jonathan Wilson, Goff speaks at length about how Veterans/Remembrance Day has transformed from a celebration of peace to a cultural tool reinforcing the drive toward more war, imperialism, and masculine domination.

*Following the interview, we hear an excerpt of a March 2015 talk by Joshua Key. Speaking from his personal experiences within America's military system, especially in Iraq, this veteran shatters whatever myths the public may have about the goodness and righteousness of America's military engagements in the Middle East and elsewhere.*

*Joshua Key originally from Guthrie, Oklahoma, fled the war in Iraq for reasons of conscience and sought sanctuary in Canada. He is the author, with Lawrence Hill, of the 2007 book, [The Deserter's Tale: The Story of an Ordinary Soldier Who Walked Away from the War in Iraq](#).*

(video from a 2011 talk. Courtesy of videographer [Paul S. Graham](#))

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Notes:

1) Butler, Smedley D. (November 1935). "[America's Armed Forces. 2. "In Time of Peace": The Army](#)". Common Sense ; <https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~furr/Vietnam/butler.pdf>

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