

U.S. MILITARY DIPLOMACY

FROM WOUNDED KNEE TO AFGHANISTAN

BY LARRY KERSCHNER

1890 Wounded Knee, South Dakota, Lakota/Sioux massacred by U.S. Army
 a blue-coated motorcycle gang
 armed with rifles and pistols
 rolled into this peaceful
 residential neighborhood at dawn today
 community leaders were herded
 together and shot down
 unarmed men, women and children were
 pulled from their homes
 commenting on reports that
 those trying to flee were run down and
 shot in the back
 one biker is quoted as saying
 It was great sport
 like fish in a barrel
 reports of the number killed
 range from 150 to 370

1890 Buenos Aires, Argentina — U.S. troops intervene to protect U.S. business interests
 1891 U.S. troops battle with nationalists in Chile
 walking backward
 my hidden face
 does not go before me
 I cannot see
 the dogs of war
 I hear
 salt
 blood and tears
 dripping down
 I hear
 children become gravediggers
 howling
 boy soldiers flung into the dark
 I hear
 the knife
 tearing cartilage between
 the ribs
 I hear
 two lovers
 one is walking backward

1891 U.S. Navy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to protect American commerce
 1892 U.S. Army kills 12 railroad workers on strike in Chicago
 1893 U.S. Marines help overthrow the Kingdom of Hawaii
 1894 U.S. Army occupies Bluefield in Nicaragua
 1894-95 U.S. Marines land in China during the Sino/Japanese War
 1894-96 U.S. Marines land in the Colombian Province which is now Panama
 1896 U.S. Marines show the colors in Corinto, Nicaragua during political unrest
 1897 U.S. troops suppress a silver miners strike in Idaho

Fathers. Sons.
 dig the earth
 stand up
 we are men
 1200 imprisoned
 we are men
 shot down
 we are men

1898-1901 U.S. Navy and Army seized Philippines from Spain killing 600,000 Filipinos
 1898 U.S. Navy and Army seized Cuba from Spain; we still have base at Guantanamo Bay
 1898 U.S. Navy and Army seized Puerto Rico from Spain; our occupation continues
 1898 U.S. Army and Navy seized Guam from Spain; we still have bases there
 1898 U.S. Marines land at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua
 1899 U.S. Army battle Chippewa Indians at Leech Lake, Minnesota
 1900 U.S. troops fight to help put down Boxer Rebellion in China
 1900 U.S. Marines and Army again at Bluefield, Nicaragua

bluefield
 eastern Nicaragua
 tropical homeland
 of Miskito, Rama, and Sumu
 Spanish seeking gold and souls for God
 British with their slavish ways
 Afro-Caribbean music
 Palo de Mayo fertility dance
 American commercial interests
 afraid the people's revolution
 will inhibit
 their Manifest Destiny
 on this Caribbean shore

1900 U.S. Army occupies Coeur d'Alene, Idaho silver mining region
 1901 U.S. Army fights Creek Indians in Oklahoma
 1902 U.S. Army and Navy support the province (now Panama) seceding from Colombia
 1903 U.S. Marines intervene in revolution Honduras
 1903 U.S. Marines land in Abyssinia
 1903-04 U.S. Army intrudes in the Dominican Republic to protect U.S. business interests
 1904 U.S. Marines land in Morocco
 1904-05 U.S. Marines land in Korea during the Russo/Japanese War
 1906 U.S. Marines move into Cuba during their elections



PETER O. ZIERLEIN

my enemies eat children
 my enemies want mine
 my enemies double park
 my enemies don't speak American
 my enemies cheat on their wives
 my enemies are less
 my enemies don't appreciate art
 my enemies wear plaids with stripes
 my enemies want to kill me

I must kill my enemies first

1907 U.S. Army sets up a protective in Nicaragua
 1908 U.S. Marines land in Honduras during war with Nicaragua
 1909 U.S. Marines intervene in elections in Panama
 1910 U.S. Marines land again in Bluefield and Corinto, Nicaragua
 1911 U.S. Army goes into Honduras during a civil war to protect U.S. business interests
 1911-41 30 year continuous occupation of China by U.S. Navy and Army

min-tsu
 nationalism is a government of the people
 min-chuan
 democracy is a government by the people
 min-sheng
 socialism is a government for the people
 these three principles
 of the people
 are not approved
 in America

1912 U.S. Army in Havana, Cuba to protect U.S. business interests
 1912 U.S. Marines land in Honduras to protect U.S. economic interests
 1912-33 U.S. Army 20 year occupation and war with guerrillas in Nicaragua
 1913 U.S. Navy intervenes to evacuate Americans from Mexico during revolution
 1913 U.S. Marines land during election in Panama
 1914 U.S. Navy fights with rebels over Santo Domingo in Dominican Republic

after we are the ones to survive
 after the chill
 after the heat
 after we have killed but
 before we have loved
 we sing a manly song
 martial and stirring
 not low and blue
 we sing
 when and because
 we are distanced from the front
 a reminder to remember
 to forget what we want forgotten
 we sing our loud song of silence
 we sing again
 and again
 until it is done
 until it is done



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