

*Memorial Day's Source:
The Will to Kill
Other People's Children*

—Emmanuel Charles McCarthy



War is the creation of individuals not of nations.

CHURCHILL, HITLER AND THE UNNECESSARY WAR (2008)

From King David, or from one of his “best and brightest” chickenhawks, or from one of his jingoistic songwriters, we hear:

*Fair Babylon, you destroyer,
happy those who pay you back
the evil you have done us.
Happy those who seize your children
and smash them against a rock.*

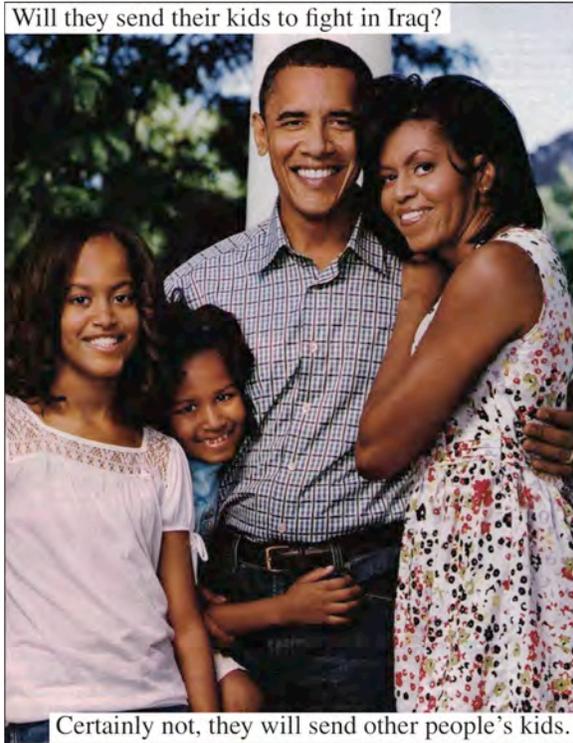
—PSALM 137:8-9

Embedded in the spirit and act of revenge articulated by this 2500-year-old psalm is the recognition, by its author and by those who pray it, that children represent the future generations of a people and so must be destroyed if the enemy is truly to be conquered. Or, as it is prayed a few psalms earlier (Ps 109), *May his [the enemy's] children be wandering beggars; may they be driven from their ruined homes...May his posterity be destroyed, his name cease in the next generation.* How contemporary!

At the time of King David, neither the power politicians nor the economic elites behind the throne, nor the garishly bemedalled military big shots who are their surrogate fists, hesitated to willfully employ the kill-power they controlled to destroy or maim children in their own country

or abroad when it was in their interest to do so. Nor do they hesitate for an instant to do so today.

Herod—he of the infamous massacre of the Holy Innocents (Mt 2:13-18)—is not the aberration in politics. He is the normal. Everyone knows this, but no one wants to face it, to admit it of their



own Herod or of the Herods of their allies. This is one of the reasons that the Gospel is both Revelation and Good News. It reveals to humanity the artificial light—the tinsel-glorious of political and military machismo sparkling with the blood of the innocent—that serves as a temporal glow over what is, in fact, the way to eternal darkness. The Light of the Gospel, incarnated in Jesus, directs people where to go and where not to go to be good as their Heavenly Father/Mother is good and as their Creator created them to be good. The willingness to be a macho man politico or macho woman politico and to kill (or rather, to order someone else's child to kill) another person's beloved child is the *sine qua non* for being permitted to be a top-gun politician. Just look around today and you cannot miss the contemporary hedonists of power—Bush, Obama, Albright, Rice, Clinton, Blair, Brown, Cheney, Emanuel, Pelosi, Palin, Kerry, Rumsfeld, Gates, Petraeus,

Weigel, Perle, Wolfowitz, Feith, etc., who will do whatever it takes, including killing children by the box-car-load, to accomplish what it is they want to accomplish for those on behalf of whose interests they act. Or look back five, 10, 25, 50, 300, 3,000 years, and look north, south, east, and west. The body politic is infested with Herods from head to toe.

Today, because of the power elite's premeditated, intentional, pathological seeding of the minds, emotions, and wills of children by way of their being brought up in a humanly created toxic atmosphere where expected and expedient "justified killing" is glorified, and called honorable and righteous, a young adult can sit in an air-conditioned room in Virginia and dispatch death-dealing drones into the homes and families of other human beings 7,500 miles away and feel like a patriotic hero of old, a noble warrior for God and country.



"Hey, hey, LBJ: How many babies did you kill today?" may have been a crude expression that did not serve the cause of peace very well. But it was not a statement of untruth, in 1968, nor

was it in Herod's time, nor is it now. Hundreds of thousands of children, in the womb and outside the womb, were murdered by American military personnel on orders from the moral equivalents of Herod in Vietnam, in the era of LBJ and Nixon, just as hundreds of thousands have been in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the era of Bush and Obama. After returning from Vietnam during the war, Daniel Berrigan, SJ, called Vietnam "*the land of the burning children*" because, by that time, napalm laced with "Willie Peter" (white phosphorus), had become a major U.S. anti-personnel weapon, used for the purpose of murdering, torturing, and terrorizing children by the millions, as it made their skin bubble and melt to the bone at temperatures that reached 1,000 degrees centigrade. How contemporary!

Macho politicians, their economic overlords, and their military enforcers will continue to kill and maim the beloved child of any and every mother and father when it suits them and their needs, until that day when all mothers and fathers protect all other mothers' and fathers' children from power craving political sociopaths—left, right and middle, Democrat, Republican, Socialist, Communist, etc. It is not reasonable for mothers and fathers to look to their churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, pagodas, etc., to protect their children from those who would



smash them against a rock. Institutional religions have had their chances, for thousands of years, and done nothing—*except* brainwash mothers and fathers and their children into believing that it is a "Holy" thing that their child is doing when he or she kills and is killed on behalf of the local Grand-Pooh-Bah-of-the-moment, with whom religious leaders *du jour* are forever trying to curry favor.

I have written "mothers and fathers" above, for it is surely the responsibility of both parents to protect their children from those possessed by the lust for power. However, it appears that only mothers at this time have taken up the truly holy task of saving one another's children from those who would "*seize your children and smash them against a rock.*" There are mothers' organizations already in place doing this work, e.g., Mothers Against War. Tragically, a Google search revealed no such organization as Fathers Against War, although there were numerous organizations such as Fathers Against Abortion, Fathers Against Weeds and War Against Fathers.



To mothers then: How many millions or billions of *Pietas* are needed before mothers will universally, as one, say, "*No*" to the Herods of their place and their day? Before they will say, to egomaniacal political and economic powerbrokers, "*You cannot have my infinitely precious child as a tool to destroy—as if he or she were junk—another mother's and father's infinitely precious child.*"

On *60 Minutes*, Lesley Stahl asked William Clinton's Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, the following question regarding U.S. sanctions against Iraq:

Stahl: "We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?"

Albright: "We think the price is worth it."

A Mother's Pledge to Every Other Mother

I will not raise my precious child to kill your precious child. And if it is within my power I will not hand over my beloved child to others to kill your beloved child or to learn how to kill the one you cherish.

Codicil—*Pieta*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzXgKcs6-lQ>



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