

Yankee Steve's Column  
for the Week of March 31, 2011

written 3/26/11

**Where Is a Venerable Mark Twain?**

In my desire to expose Barack Obama for what he is doing in Libya, I must confess that I feel utterly helpless. The sword is proving mightier than the pen. He is determined to assist the French and the English in their quest for new markets and additional territories. Nothing seemingly will deter him.

I do not mean to suggest that President "OBomber" would ever think of reading my column, or that the sycophants that surround him would proffer any one of my ideas to the president, but I know that I am not alone and that many outspoken people think as I do. The helplessness sets in when I think that Obama doesn't listen to anyone.

They tell us that there is something called the Obama doctrine. That is laughable.

Everyone knows that Obama flies by the seat of his pants and that flying alongside him is President Nicolas Sarkozy of the French Republic and Prime Minister David Cameron of United Kingdom. They are the Three Mousekateers who would not be bombing if they did not know that the Gaddafi cat had already been declawed when he ended Libya's nuclear program.

If Mark Twain spoke up would things be different? Would Obama listen to him? From my reading, I can say Twain [Samuel L. Clemens 1835-1910] would cause most to rethink the subject of war. He knew that many times governments prosecute wars for personal gain or to do their friends a favor.

Some people are arguing about Twain's use of the "n" word in the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. They should be more concerned with his eagle eye. If he was here now, he would swoop down on the flock of "yes" men in the Pentagon who have said little or nothing about the way our country has attacked Libya. If U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates were half a man he would resign. Obama has entered us on a course of aggression.

Mark Twain would know what and how to say it. Obama's supporters in the Pentagon and Congress would rather face Libyan tank than the incoming fire from the "Show Me" state's greatest writer whose scorching pen corrected the Imperialist Teddy Roosevelt.

Let's not forget the liberal media. They voted for Obama and got another "W." When discussing Libya they have to resort to words like "ambivalence" or "confusion." The policies of Obama even befuddle them.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was asked what determines whether we help one set of rebels in the Middle East as opposed to another. Her answer turned out to be a non-answer. I wanted to do an Elvis and shoot my television.

## Spin, Spin, and More Spin

Among American writers Twain remains to this day the most pungent critic of the one thing that all people of conscience should oppose - the art of war.

You know that it is an art; but not just for the fact that it needs extensive planning and preparation. The real art is seen when any government, bent on war and destruction, has to persuade the public that its intentions are noble through the art of rhetoric.

People of conscience should be wary of the evils of war but they also have to be aware of the wiles of war, as when a government tries to justify loss of life and the expenditure of billions with very little in return, as for example in Iraq.

Listen to the man from Hannibal, Missouri -

*“Statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.”*

**Obama is trying to explain why peasants and patriots in Libya are by the hour killed with bombs that say “Made in the USA!”** Along with that he will have to explain why our debt-ridden nation has in one 24-hour period spent the staggering sum of \$20 million on missiles to bring about a regime change in a far-away country that is no threat to America.

Obama will try to convince America that what he has done in Libya has saved civilian lives. Maybe he has never seen what a cruise missile can do to a neighborhood.

Colonialists have always tried to justify their actions. The people of England and France may now as in the past call on God while they, along with the backing of America punish Libya, but their trinity is not to be found in the Bible, the one that all warmongers worship - bright gold, shiny silver, and in this case, crude oil.

Now lest you think that I a Christian owe my disdain for war exclusively to an overt skeptic like Mark Twain I will now quote a devout and scholarly Christian whose influence on me has been just as profound when it comes to determining why nations go to war.

*“For gold men, rich and poor alike, will do anything...the sin of the world is not the sin of unbelief, the sin of the world is the sin of Judas, men do not disbelieve, they **sell** Christ.”*  
Frederic Farrar, Dean of Canterbury [1831-1903]

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

oldlineconservative.com