

I spent thirty-three years and four months in active service in the country's most agile military force, the Marines. I served in all ranks from second lieutenant to major general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

***“When they ask why we died, tell them because our Fathers lied.”***

-- Rudyard Kipling

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

Thus I helped make Mexico, and especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenue in. I helped in the raping of half-a-dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street.

The record of racketeering is long. I helped

purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers and Co. in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals, and promotion.

Looking back on it, I feel that I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate a racket in three city districts. The Marines operated on three continents.

***“You believe you are dying for the fatherland - you die for some industrialists.”*** Anatoly France

*General Smedley Darling Butler is one of the most highly decorated military men from the pre-World War II era. He served from 1898 to 1931 and saw action all over the world. Butler became a prominent political figure and was one of America's important leaders of the liberal movement of the 1930s. Butler advocated military isolationism and was against American involvement in World War II. His views developed from 33 years of serving as what he called “a gangster for capitalism.”*

Read butler's full remarks at [www.questionwar.com/war\\_is\\_a\\_racket.html](http://www.questionwar.com/war_is_a_racket.html)

**War is terrible for some and profitable for a few others. The latter are the largest part of the problem. Eisenhower had it right. "Beware of the military, industrial complex." -- Otto Schiff**

**"They wrote in the old days that it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country. But in modern war there is nothing sweet or fitting in your dying. You will die like a dog for no good reason."**

-- Ernest Hemingway...

## ACTIONS

### 1. Support soldiers who resist war

In the past few years, tens of thousands of military persons have resisted illegal war and occupation in a number of different ways—by going AWOL, seeking conscientious objector status and/or a discharge, asserting the right to speak out against injustice from within the military, and for a relative few, publicly refusing to fight.

Visit their website to learn more and support their courageous stand.

<http://www.couragetoresist.org/x/>

2. For a few minutes or more, join our weekly silent, peace vigil: Tuesday, 8-9 AM, Chicago Federal building, Jackson and Dearborn. We have conducted this vigil since September 2001 and have distributed over 250,000 informational leaflets.

3. Use our peace leaflets in your own vigils, classrooms, etc. All of our leaflets may be found at [www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html) Space is included for adding your own contact information.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice

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205 W. Monroe St.  
Chicago IL 60606

312-641-5151 [8thday@gmail.com](mailto:8thday@gmail.com)

[www.8thdaycenter.org](http://www.8thdaycenter.org)

Become an Associate of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice by making a donation at [www.8thdaycenter.org/joinus/donation.html](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/joinus/donation.html) Or you may send a check.

By your critical support for our justice work, you will receive *Centerings* -- our quarterly magazine, regular email bulletins on timely issues, our environmental online magazine and the use of our extensive libraries. When you provide monetary support for the 8th Day Center for Justice, the full amount of your gift is income tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Local contact:

# War is a racket.



*General Smedley Butler, 1935*

**It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious.**