

# Facts That Our War-Happy Leaders Would Like To Keep Hushed Up



by Paul Buchheit | [Common Dreams](#)

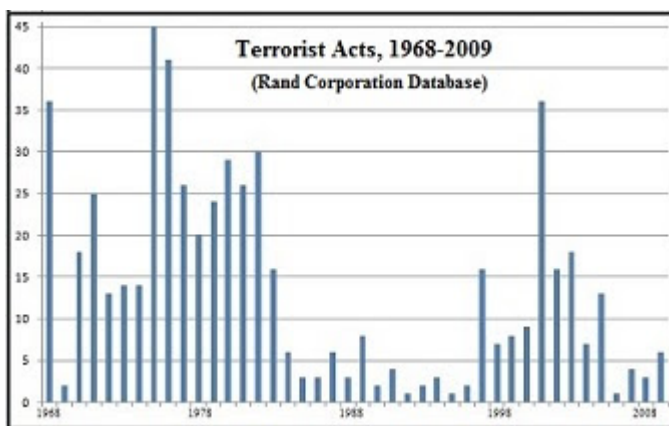
[Donald Trump](#) said, “I’m going to make our military so big, so powerful, so strong, that nobody – absolutely nobody – is gonna mess with us.”

Simple-minded but deadly thinking at the top derives from influential [groups](#) and individuals who think we have to KILL to keep the rest of the world in line. The compliant mainstream media scares us into accepting wars and drone killings overseas, military-style defenses on our own streets, surveillance of our private lives. For the war-happy leadership of America, certain realities are better left unsaid, or at most reported quickly and quietly.

## 1. Terrorist Acts in the U.S. Were More Common 40 Years Ago

Terrorist acts are deadly, but the panicky reports of mainstream news sources scare us more than they should, as when a FOX reporter [called ISIS](#) “the single biggest threat in [America’s] 200-year history.”

This graphic derived from the Rand Corporation’s terrorism [database](#) shows that the frequency of terrorist acts was greatest in the 1970s and 1980s. CNN [notes](#) that “There were literally hundreds of terrorist bombings, shootings and hijackings in States during the 1970s.”



## 2. Violent Crime Is Down – Except Where Young Men are Left to Languish and Die

The rate of violent crime has been consistently [dropping](#) since 1993. Except in places like [Chicago](#), where nearly half of young black men are neither working nor in school.

The *New York Times* [summarizes](#) the effects of constant media scares: “Americans are primed, when they hear a loud bang or screams, or see a crowd break into a run, to think in terms of mass killings and active shooters. Yet crime statistics show that over all, violence in the United States is as low as it has ever been, and experts say the fear far exceeds the risk.”

The solution is JOBS – but Congress has a long record of [stifling](#) job creation proposals. They’d rather pull out a gun.

## 3. The Military Believes it’s OK to Kill Civilians

The Joint Chiefs of Staff [instruct](#): “Otherwise lawful targets involuntarily shielded with protected civilians may be attacked, and the protected civilians may be considered as collateral damage, provided that the collateral damage is not excessive...”

This helps to explain why only about [12 percent](#) of named drone victims in Pakistan were identified as al Qaeda militant targets.

#### **4. Suicide Kills More American Soldiers Than Terrorism**

In [2014](#), [55](#) U.S. soldiers lost their lives in foreign occupations, but [269](#) active service members committed suicide. Almost five times as many.

It gets much worse. In that same year of 2014 over [7,400](#) veterans took their own lives, accounting for an incredible 18 percent of all suicides even though vets make up less than 9 percent of the U.S. population. About [75 percent](#) of the suicides were committed by veterans without VA care.

#### **5. Whistleblowing was Part of the Founding of America**

John McCain and Paul Ryan and numerous other super-patriots [condemned](#) President Obama’s pardon of Chelsea Manning.

In 1778 the Continental Congress [ruled](#) that “it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds, or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states.” Other [pro-whistleblower](#) legislation has been passed in [recent](#) years.

Our nationalist leaders don’t care about any of this. They just want to make sure no one’s “gonna mess with us.” But as

more of our misdeeds go unreported, more and more of the world is learning to hate us.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License



[Paul Buchheit](#) is a college teacher, an active member of US Uncut Chicago. His latest book is, [\*Disposable Americans: Extreme Capitalism and the Case for a Guaranteed Income\*](#). He is also founder and developer of social justice and educational websites (UsAgainstGreed.org, PayUpNow.org, RappingHistory.org), and the editor and main author of "[\*American Wars: Illusions and Realities\*](#)" (Clarity Press). He can be reached at paul [at] UsAgainstGreed [dot] org.

[Read more great articles at Common Dreams.](#)

