Jane Fonda, treason, and the future.
What do you think?

Nine years after the fall of South Vietnam, the Vietnamese peasant is far worse off than during French colonial rule or that of the Republic of Vietnam. Vietnam today is a communist Gulag of slave labor camps, police-state oppression, and no freedom of speech, press, worship or travel. The communists of North Vietnam have invaded the dominos of Laos and Cambodia, attack otherwise peaceful Thailand, dominate 60 million people in poverty to maintain the 5th largest military in the world, provide Soviet Russia the use of this powerful proxy force and have given her strategic naval and air bases in Southeast Asia.

These regions and people might have been like the remainder of southeast Asia, relatively independent, free, peaceful, and prosperous. Five successive American Presidents with majority votes of freely elected Congresses, committed the United States, its treasury, and 2½ million men to this goal.

While millions of Southeast Asians and these patriotic Americans were risking their lives to uphold this commitment, some were working for communist North Vietnam.

Born in 1937, Jane Fonda enjoyed the advantages of a free and strong United States. Her father had risen from a middle-class Nebraskan childhood to the heights of movie fame, which allowed Jane to grow up with the benefit of money, private boarding schools, travel and influence. Having attended prestigious Vassar college, residing in Parisian luxury and being a mature adult at 30 years old, she began her Vietnam War involvement by discussions with French communists such as Raymond and Elizabeth Vailland, with Viet Cong who were assigned to Paris, and on a 1967 trip to Moscow which left her very impressed.

- From this point as later acknowledged Jane Fonda considered herself a Revolutionary, beginning in 1967 by encouraging deserters from American forces stationed in Europe, by supporting Indians forcibly holding the California island of Alcatraz, and by being chief fundraiser and gadfly for the violence-advocating Black Panthers.
- In spite of her father’s advice, “Every time there’s a parade or peace rally in this country it will make the war last that much longer because it doesn’t escape the attention of Ho Chi Minh”, she used her considerable acting talent to undermine the American Public’s support for the war effort by appearing on television talk shows, college campuses, and as a featured speaker to attract supporters to countless demonstrations. Though not usually this candid, in 1970 appearances at Michigan State and Duke University she said, “If you understood what Communism was, you would hope and pray on your knees, that we would someday become communist.”
- Also at Duke she explained her use of wealth as, “Members of the political left should take every penny you can get from wealthy liberals... as long as the Movement needs money, I will rip off all I can from Hollywood.” And rip it off she has done in movies, books, video-cassettes, health salons and her own line of clothes. During the war she used this money to be a prime financier of leftist activities which went beyond demonstrating against America’s leaders to actually promoting Hanoi’s propaganda line and undermining the morale of America’s soldiers.
- One such scheme was a series of "Coffee Houses" established outside dozens of US military bases at home and overseas. Their purpose was to attract off-duty servicemen to relax, then be taught the Hanoi line, how to resist being shipped to Vietnam, and encouraged that help and jobs would be made available if they would desert. It would be interesting to know how many men who’d gone through these lectures, may have had too slow reactions when later in combat situations, for as Fonda said, “When the time comes for these guys to make a decision... will they kill people in Vietnam?”
- To counter the effect of patriotic entertainers such as Bob Hope, Martha Raye, and according to Fonda “their ilk,” she conceived and funded a travelling show call FTA for F__k The Army.” She and actors such as Donald Sutherland performed outside dozens of US bases in the States and South Pacific with skits and songs which ridiculed and reviled America’s elected leaders and those men who would serve.
- Fonda was also a major conduit of money to support one of the most damaging of the so called “anti-war” groups which called itself Vietnam Veterans Against The War (VVAW). The VVAW, led for a time by Robert Muller, a Vietnam veteran who’d been shot in the spine, claimed and was promoted by Fonda and the media as being representative of veterans of Vietnam. This, even though the group also allowed membership to people who’d never been veterans, and even though its peak membership of 7,000 was a small percentage of the number who’d been indoctrinated in the “Coffee Houses” and a miniscule percent of the 2,500,000 Americans who had actually served in Vietnam (A study finally conducted in 1980 found that, in spite of the eventual outcome of the war, 91% of Vietnam veterans were “glad they served in Vietnam,” and two thirds of veterans said “they would serve again.”)

Fonda’s instinct for theater told her the best way to arouse an audience was to talk about atrocities, (just American atrocities). Accordingly, she not only used this technique in interviews and speeches, but was instrumental in funding and exploiting VVAW members in media events designed to alienate the American public from the soldier. One such example was the “Winter Soldier Investigation” held in Detroit and broadcast nationwide on TV. This was coordinated with North Vietnamese communist officials in Canada, and used VVAW members to relate emotionally before the cameras shocking accounts of their alleged experiences, to include the mutilation and ravaging of Vietnamese women.
- Realizing that her money and audience depended largely upon celebrity status Jane continued to make films, and the Hollywood community awarded her an Oscar in 1972. Amidst all the publicity thereafter, leaders of the Movement, in defiance of the US government and in violation of the stamp on all US passports at the time, arranged through Moscow for Fonda and her entourage to go illegally to Hanoi and be part of a carefully orchestrated tour.
- While on this trip Jane Fonda made daily broadcasts over Radio Hanoi critical of the United States, pleaded that North Vietnam had done no harm, parroted the communist line as if the US was intentionally bombing schools, hospitals and dikes, and encouraged American servicemen in combat and support roles effectively to disobey orders and stop their actions.
- On this trip Fonda clearly approved of whatever she was told or shown by the communists. She occasionally wore Vietnamese clothes and an NVA helmet, and willingly posed for propaganda film showing her smiling from ear to ear, patting communist soldiers encouragingly on their backs, and sitting in an enemy gun emplacement as if poised to shoot down American planes.
• Fonda’s radio broadcasts and propaganda films were shown wherever they would aid the morale of the enemy, and undermine that of the United States and its allies. Her recordings were especially painful and damaging to American POWs in captivity, as communist interrogators added these recordings to the years of beatings and starvation being applied to try and brainwash the American POWs into becoming turncoats.

• Fonda also reported to the world that America’s POWs were not being tortured but were being treated well. And she claimed that they wanted the American public to work for the election of George McGovern for President because he promised immediate American withdrawal if elected. Fonda’s outrageous claims were clearly exposed later when American POWs were finally freed and able to tell the world themselves of the years of their agonizing tortures and inhuman degradation. Her response was not one of apology, but to try and brand the scar-covered men as if they were the “liars and hypocrites.”

After two such weeks in Hanoi, Jane Fonda returned to the United States where she was considered by many to be a traitor and denounced as such in the halls of Congress, in neighborhood bars, and in editorials across the nation. Calls of treason abounded, but due to her growing celebrity status, to other communist sympathizers such as Ramsey Clark quickly following her lead to North Vietnam, and to a strangely forgetful media, charges of treason were not filed at that time.

In late January of 1973, Fonda divorced her previous husband to marry 33 year old Tom Hayden 3 days later. Hayden was not only a principal leader in the anti-United States effort, but had been notable on one of his own pilgrimages to Hanoi for having flipped the bird at an American POW named Doug Hegdahl, and for having been slipped a message for delivery to Doug’s family, yet never delivering the message. Hayden also had founded the revolutionary SDS back in 1962, was a defendant in the conspiracy trial of the “Chicago Seven,” and was a follower of the same gospel as Fonda.

• As a direct result of these types of acts by Hanoi-supporters such as Fonda & Hayden, their dupes, and the coverage by the media, America’s support of its leaders, its commitment, and its soldiers was weakened to a point from which it couldn’t recover. A Congress evolved which was too divided to demand victory, that restricted tactics and weapons, limited where the enemy could be fought, criticized its ally more than its enemy, debated publicly for immediate withdrawal, and which hid behind a sham of “morality” as it sold-out its soldiers, its ally, and its commitment. With America’s soldiers never having lost a battle on the battlefield, the war was being lost at home.

A “Peace Treaty” was signed by the communists and the last American soldier withdrawn from the war April 1, 1973. The Congress of that time then, over the objections of the President steadily reneged on the allowable and promised level of US aid to South Vietnam, while the communist bloc countries steadily exceeded their allowable aid to the North. In spite of the shortage of necessary US aid, South Vietnam alone successfully fought off the attacking North for two more years. Then in 1975, also in violation of the “Peace Agreement,” the communists launched a full scale invasion complete with 250,000 shock troops and the latest in Russian tanks and artillery. The response by Congress was not to back up the negotiated agreement, but to hold up delivery of fuel, ammunition and aid to the already under-equipped South - resulting 55 days later in the collapse of South Vietnam and the following communist takeover of Laos and Cambodia.

Because this resulted in hundreds of thousands of fleeing “Boat People” (and they’re still fleeing), in the communist Khmer Rouge slaughter of millions of Cambodians, in over a million land-fleeing refugees, in the use of chemical Yellow Rain warfare against resisting Laotians, and in additional oppressive actions by the victorious North Vietnamese, some “antiwar” activists finally had enough integrity to reconsider their previous positions.

• On May 30, 1979 Joan Baez and 84 other activists published a full page ad in many newspapers imploring the North Vietnamese regime to stop the imprisonment and torture of over 150,000 political prisoners, and to stop clearing minefields by forcing the prisoners to crawl through them, etc. Though asked to participate in this ad even at this late date, Jane Fonda refused and along with radical attorney William Kunstler attacked those who placed the ad for making the communist regime “look bad.”

Most recently Tom and Jane Fonda-Hayden use the “Campaign For Economic Democracy” (CED) as a front to further their political objective, and have used several millions of Jane’s and CED’s money to cultivate their image and finally get Tom elected to the state legislature in California. In attempts to gain supporters Hayden now votes for some “veteran issues” and gives the appearance of working within the system. However, in addition to having worked more than 8 years for the defeat of the United States and her ally, they still have said nothing to indicate that their previous political goal has changed. In fact at this late date neither Fonda, Hayden or certain Congressmen have atoned to veterans or to the country, for their actions during the war.

These people and others who helped the enemy have not yet been tried for treason, a crime that when committed by a factory worker for the relatively lesser offense of giving away a secret, is punishable by 5 years in prison up to execution. Treason is defined as the betrayal of one’s country, and according to the United States constitution (Art.III, Sec 3) includes “adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.”

If the elected leaders of our United States commit America’s soldiers in the future, legitimate dissent must not be abused by those actually working for a victory for our enemy. If you believe something must be done, please join the boycott of those who commit treasonous acts, and write your elected representatives to support legislation that more clearly defines treason and its punishment.

In memory of our betrayed comrades who died in Vietnam, our 2,481 MIA/POWs still unaccounted for, our abandoned allies, the 60 million new people behind the “Iron Curtain,” and future generations of Americans, let us not forget the meaning of treason, or to punish those who practice it.