

BALTIMORE BRACES FOR TRIALS BY FIRE

Are the Riots, Looting and Arson of Last April About to Re-Ignite As Six Police Officers Individually Go on Trial, Starting This Month?

NOV. 18, 2015 -- The world remains in shock following the murder of 129 in Paris by Islamist terrorists on Friday the 13th. But in Baltimore, Maryland, criminals have murdered more than 300 people this year, more than double the number just killed in Paris. More have been murdered this year in Baltimore than in New York City with a population 13 times larger.

Since the April riots in Baltimore, the city's murder rate has surged 54%, but arrests by beleaguered and belittled police are down 30%. Many Baltimoreans feel as terrorized in their neighborhoods as Parisians.

We remember news images of the Baltimore riots in April 2015:

- Police retreating from a mob that was hurling stones at them;
- A city councilman chatting with reporters while only feet away a mob of looters was robbing a liquor store;
- A CVS Pharmacy erupting in smoke and flame, one of 27 such stores that gangs raided for drugs while the riots hamstrung police;
- Having ordered her police to back off, Progressive Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake sought help from gang members, who protected African-American stores by directing looters instead to businesses owned by Arab-Americans and Chinese-Americans.
- The Mayor proclaimed that *“We also gave those who wished to destroy space to do that as well, and we work very hard to keep that balance...”*

Those riots – which injured 200 police, damaged 350 businesses, and set fire to 150 vehicles and 60 structures – were sparked by allegations that six Baltimore police officers had caused fatal spinal injuries to Freddie Gray, a small-time drug dealer in this city where nearly one resident in 10 uses heroin.

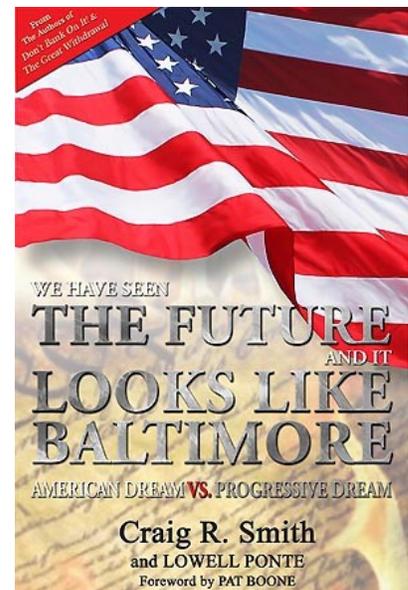
On November 30, the first of these police officers goes on trial, with the rest to follow, one by one, in January, February and March.

If convicted of involuntary manslaughter and other charges, Officer William G. Porter, Jr., 26, could face 20 years in prison.

If acquitted, he might be hit with federal charges from President Barack Obama’s Justice Department. Porter being found guilty or not guilty might ignite new protests, violence and looting.

Porter is being tried first by prosecutors who hope to strike a plea or sentencing deal to get his testimony against other officers, especially against police van driver Officer Caesar R. Goodson, Jr., who is charged with “second-degree depraved-heart murder.”

These officers are being prosecuted as political sacrifices to appease the mob, say critics, and this is



undermining law and order.

In late October 2015, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), James Comey, warned that the “Ferguson Effect,” named for a Missouri town where mobs violently protested against the police after an officer killed a young man who attacked him, was deterring police from enforcing the law.

(In Ferguson, the police officer was white and the young man he shot was black. In Baltimore, a city whose population is 64 percent African-American, the Mayor and State Attorney are black, like Freddie Gray. Like the city police force, half of the six officers going on trial are black, including William Porter, Jr. and Caesar Goodson, Jr.)

Since Baltimore officials last April, in effect, sided with rioters and against their own law enforcement officers, police have ceased to do pro-active enforcement. Arrests have fallen by 30 percent, and the murder rate has risen by 54 percent.

More people have been murdered in 2015 in Baltimore than in New York City, with a population more than 13 times larger. Murder and violence are rising sharply in 35 Progressive-run American cities where police are undermined, and crime – from illicit drug use to illegal immigration – has been “decriminalized” and given political sanctuary.

In our new book ***WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE AND IT LOOKS LIKE BALTIMORE: AMERICAN DREAM VS. PROGRESSIVE DREAM***, Craig R. Smith and I explore the past, present and future of Baltimore, Maryland, once one of the top two destinations for immigrants seeking the American Dream.

Baltimore was one of the great technology centers, the Silicon Valley of the early 19th Century, where America’s first railroad was created and the famous first telegraph message “What Hath God Wrought?” was sent.

As we discovered, this “Beautiful City” was pulled down by the collectivist, Big Government Progressive Dream, which begat government dependency, welfare addiction and drug addiction.

After more than half a century of unbroken leftist machine politics, this birthplace of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi – daughter of one of the city’s Democratic political bosses – Baltimore has today become the heroin capital of the United States, a city rife with fear, violence, poverty and despair.

We believe America’s future will be like Baltimore – but there are two Baltimores. If we continue to be pulled into the Progressive nightmare politics of Pelosi, Obama and Hillary Clinton, then we are headed for a future society we saw in 2015’s riots.

But as we discovered, surprising remnants of Baltimore’s pioneering genius and achievement still survive...as they do in many other cities and towns...and these could restore the American Dream and its bright future.

For a media copy of ***WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE AND IT LOOKS LIKE BALTIMORE*** – or to interview Lowell Ponte about today’s Dream War between the American Dream and Progressive Dream, contact: Bronwin Barilla at 800-950-2428 or email bkbarilla@thefuturelookslikebaltimore.com