

**RECLAIMING OUR  
LEADERSHIP...  
OUR STOLEN GIFTS...  
TO ESTABLISH  
A FUTURE BASED ON  
DISTRIBUTED  
GENERATION:**

**THE WAKING UP RADIO  
CONVERSATIONS**

**(Volume 1: June 23 – August 25, 2013)**

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A HUMMING WORDS • NEW (NASCENCE TO END WORK) PRESS BOOK  
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Untold Accolades, Thanks and Praises To:  
The Ancestors, the Earth, and Each  
Other... who with one voice say...  
“truth is truth until the end of  
reckoning...” and beyond...



This book is to support the establishment  
of a new world based on reverence for  
life... a world necessarily therefore without  
hierarchy and rank.... To achieve this  
world requires a mass movement to end  
the coerced work of humans... and this  
means ‘coercion’ of any kind... whether of  
constructed scarcity... or of constructed lies.



THIS IS A HUMMING WORDS • NEW  
(NASCENCE TO END WORK) PRESS  
BOOK

“My soul is like a singing bowl – it *hums*.”

RECLAIMING OUR LEADERSHIP... OUR STOLEN GIFTS... TO  
ESTABLISH A FUTURE BASED ON  
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (VOL. 1)

(Transcripts of the *Waking Up: Freeing Ourselves From Work*  
Sunday morning radio program. Visit [www.nas2endwork.org](http://www.nas2endwork.org) to hear the  
corresponding audio excerpts.)

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WUR, Sunday, June 16th, 2013... continuing our discussion of what it means to defer always to 'the economy'...

Once again I'd like to begin with an expression of gratitude for the courage and strength of our sisters and brothers in Turkey... and to add as well these words: whatever you decide know this... 'power' never forgets... will never let go determination to recover whatever they (temporarily... to their minds...) strategically relinquished... they will return in time to grab it back again... and more besides... grab everything we have that speaks to us of freedom... and the only 'win' we can achieve with any degree of permanence is the end of 'power'... i.e. the end of concentrated 'conquering' energy... we have to face and eliminate that threat... and that threat is global... these so-called 'kings' convene in global bodies and converse together... their goal in common... to control the 'cattle'... and we can only face them by concentrating our energy... linking hands globally... matching our thoughts and steps together... the time is now to begin discussing this.

No doubt 'power' schools itself in these global bodies to learn restraint.... It's been clear to them at least since Bentham that discipline should be internal... overt violence is a losing play... they know it... our implied consent... our tacit obedience... is the only way to corral us over time... What did Kissinger say? How did he put it?

Almost all empires were created by force, but none can be sustained by it. Universal rule, to last, needs to translate force into obligation. Otherwise, the energies of the rulers will be exhausted in maintaining their dominance at the expense of their ability to shape the future, which is the ultimate task of statesmanship. Empires persist if repression gives way to consensus. (Henry Kissinger, *On China*, p. 13)

The violence of the police you're witnessing cannot be sustained... 'power' believes it should be used only in great extremity... and its goal is to appear benign... perhaps even mostly to itself.

I suspect 'power' tells itself that 'force'... 'coercion'... the enormous amount of violence used to force us off the land... and "compel us

to 'come in'" ... by means of the various 'enclosure' movements over the centuries of final-stage-'class' ... destroying our ability to be self-sufficient ... that this 'original sin' was (and continues to be) ... an unfortunate 'necessity' ... to get the 'engine of progress' going ... after which ... once it's rolling ... 'force' can be withdrawn ... if we've been well-taught ... have become, therefore, 'self-regulating' ... (and ... earth-knows at times we have to ... jump through those hoops ... Ted Fishman, quoted in Red Inc. reported from his visit to Chinese factories that "the ranks of managers are remarkably thin by Western standards. Depending on the work, you might see 15 managers for 5,000 workers, an indication of how incredibly well self-managed they are." [p. 141])

...otherwise... absent our quiescence...

...they'd inevitably encounter difficulties sustaining the 'happy-face-ideology' that it's all "for us" ... that the 'intelligent' ones among us will 'get it' that we're 'benefiting' ... though, certainly, 'civilization' has its costs...

But ideology is also coercion... is also massive suppression....

Today we're going to be talking about the consequences of quiescence... and arguing that we have allowed certain 'economic' cons to sway and hold us... because we don't hear alternative thoughts... because we've been betrayed... perhaps most insidiously by averred left pundits who tell us we challenge 'power' best by becoming peerless 'rationalists'...

Apropos this I find Noam Chomsky's rhetoric most insidious (this is a reference to his speech last week at the July 7, 2013 'Left Forum' in New York City....) ... and I don't just mean that he never sits down... till he's served around a heavy dose of doom-and-gloom. More derailing of a successful strategy... is that his speech generally reinforces the legitimacy of a narrow nation-state focus for our activism... on what is called 'U.S. capitalism' ... legitimating the notion that the problem is greed for money... not greed for 'power'.... This matters because it defines strategic focus... and 'guaranteed-leads' to the solution "let's make the economy fairer" ... we'll discuss this later... but the most disturbing tend I hear in Chomsky is the attempt to divert us from trusting our hearts... our clogged lungs and jagged breathing.... I even hear him... and this definitely raises my suspicion... along with David

Brooks using terms and phrases used in our Waking Up discussions... e.g. acknowledging that to 'power' we are 'cattle'... and that 'power' must stay hidden to exist... but redirecting them... away from a movement for our due leisure... and into... in Chomsky's case... the search for perfect reason (subtly expressed)... away, that is, from a global mass movement... supporting each other with the single broad goal of reclaimed leisure... and into a notion of becoming 'better' 'scientific rationalists'... now there's a project to divert you for a lifetime... the endless search for 'interesting' things to dissect... now this could be but Chomsky's predilection only... but, these days, I suspect all such coincidence...

There's a scene toward the beginning of the James Cameron film *Aliens* in which the hero Ripley is being grilled to determine her guilt or competence in the destruction of an expensive piece of aviation equipment... and as the weight of the negative reactions around the table starts accumulating, she says: "OK, I see where this is going,"... i.e., "at this point there's nothing I can do to turn this around..." i.e. she saw reality... she had certainty...

Well, I believe that we here in the U.S. should be looking around the global table, paying attention to the reactions of states around the planet to resource-contraction... see that governments everywhere are whispering in their citizens' ears... or clubbing us with sticks... depending... about the 'necessity' of lowering our expectations... we... who could barely make ends meet as it was... are being told... 'hold your breaths and squeeze in'... squeeze into those too-tight budgets....

And I say to them: "we didn't make this mess, you did. We, on the contrary, made all the wealth... which you used to destroy our happiness and health... it's time for us to 'down-size' you... and in the spiritual and material space that opens in your place... finally... we can start to live..."

So, in this show we hope to debunk the myth of 'sustainable growth and development'... and the myth of "mind makes wealth"... 'sustainable growth' because it has such a hold on progressive thinking... distracting us from the only truly viable alternative... generalized human freedom. And 'power's already begun... grabbing that concept... fleeing with it at a run... returning with something far distant... from what it was... (and they're doing this as ill with the word 'communal'... and by-the-by we really have to get... that 'power' is exceedingly

strategic and systematic... and that that's the way you get... to your goal... and that we have to be likewise systematic... although as open... as they are closed... 'open' is our ace in the hole...)

...yet... as they return with our poor bedraggled concept... as it still bears its name... the unconscious amaze of many may take years to invade our conscious mind... by which time... we'll be fried.

Because they know it's a deeply held and shared goal... to live in balance as we did once... before the horror of 'class' transformed us... into watchers stuck in dull acquiescence... fed like pets while others plan the world...

...but how then if none are labeled 'out'... none 'in'... will the dirty work get done? Who will produce the food... fuel the military machine so the philosopher-statesmen can play at being kings?

Today we'll address this question and others as we continue our probing... as we have in the last three shows... of this notion of 'the economy'.

We'll begin by summarizing what we've learned in examining Galbraith.

We see now the tend... thanks to James Galbraith and his book *Inequality and Instability*... and that it has momentum... which can only mean that it has a destination... ...a destination-shape they are trying to make with bags of money as the scalpel... to realize a plan of ever-tightening totalitarianism...

...and we see the hand behind that plan... leading to that destination... as they gather in their boards of global finance... using money and credit and interest rates... to sculpt a world based on rank and 'place'...

...a world where thoughts are given... and we-the-people perform with precision... and utter, complete... predictability... and willingness to set aside our souls... nothing less would let their troubled hearts rest... ...or so they think.

And a destination means a plan... because you can't reach one... without it... and their plan is the key to determining their policy... which means we can see it unfold systematically... and see that if we don't intervene globally... we will be carried to that destination... like a boat swept helplessly downstream... if we don't convene globally... (electronically...) and begin seeing another vision... a world in which we-the-people make our own decisions... and downsize... for all time... for all life... the philosopher-statesmen'...

And a destination underway... by those who play at being kings...

means that we... their so-called 'subjects'... are either taken by the hand... or booted... in order to move us to it...

...and as we are excused from this discussion... as we are but a factor in their calculations... we must ask ourselves these questions: "do we want this? Do we want to drift... asleep... through malevolent schemes? Do we want a world based on making tight spaces for our sisters and brothers to squeeze into? A world of making 'winners' and 'losers'? Do we want a world of 'rank'?"

And to keep us being subjects means... they must provide the thoughts we think... and these thoughts... the cons... must be repeated... across the political spectrum... ad infinitum... And this they learned from Bentham... that the people will believe with certainty... only if these are the only thoughts we hear... And these thoughts are either pounded like a drumbeat in our ears... or radiate quietly from the rigid structures around us: grades... ranks... tests... monitoring... differential access to survival... differential access to the 'good life'...

And these thoughts must never be called into question... must ever be heard without exception... and this means they must never allow us to think... must give us our thoughts... through their media and academic pundits... and our own thought consequently... cannot develop...

Here are the drumbeat suggestive injunctions: "protect the economy; fix the state; work hard and be productive; find your passion or your calling; earn your chance at a little rest; respect authority, it knows best; trust the experts to tell you true... to tell us who deserves due credit... and who is 'in' and who is 'out'... accept that rank reflects true merit... and true merit steadfast service; let our reason rule your heart, and let your heart be quiet; let our quest for perfection be your guide... as you are small and ignorant... and we are large and wise."

All this can be determined... just by seeing... Galbraith's pattern.

And Galbraith also showed us how economists think... the unconscious cons of 'class' that grant it legitimacy... e.g. 'progress' means accepting that 'inequality is built into the mental – manual divide'; 'rank is 'natural'...

We concluded that... to rebuild our freedom we have to see reality... and that seeing reality means seeing the tend... privatization... creating ever-greater disparities... and rising inequality.... In sum, we have to:

- ...see the tend... see where it's headed – i.e. captive populations... a secured caste of captive hands that provide the food...



the fuel... the base on which the global game of 'supremacy' can be played... an army runs on food... and clearly 'power' sees we-the-people... as its troops... made willing to serve... to obey... to do... to do what we're told... when we're told to... and despite what we tell ourselves we think... all this is what 'wage work' means... it means we serve unquestioningly... and though we may be confused as to who we give our allegiance to... the results speak true... whatever the ideology 'power' uses....

- ...see that the tend is global;
- ...see the con 'progress' is being used to divide us... to seize our land... control our hands;
- ...see that we're hurting our children...

Seeing the tend means seeing the upside-down nature of 'class'... that it runs counter to life – to what life needs for health...

As children we're all taught the 'stages of history' 'progress'-myth... which is essentially that 'inequality' is built into the mental-manual division... that this is a con to control 'hands' must be clearly seen... a lot of us still deeply believe in the distinction... and think that 'mental labor' is 'better'... and ask: "who will do the manual labor if not those most fitted to it?"

(Of course the 'urban farmers' threaten the viability of this myth... and we're seeing some erosion today of it... but the challenge is scale and coordination... and how to support a vast urban population...

...but... to rebuild our freedom we have to feel confident in our ability to get our food... and that means a network of folks... globally... who are committed to seeing this through...)

Economists... as reflected in Kuznets... are taught there is something magical about so-called 'mental labor'... that it "creates wealth"... and so would... as it encompassed more and more of the global population... create generalized 'prosperity'...

(...economists believe... they are contributing... to the furthering... of 'progress'... ...the key con of 'the market' is that... through it... the 'best' arise... is identified... and so promotes the lie 'progress'... when, in reality... it exists to ensure our common earth is made private... i.e. that they control all the resources of the planet... and if they control all the resources... they control... us... [so their strategy is to control both our minds... and our stomachs (bodies)]... ...based in the fallacy of the 'necessity' of 'inequality'...)

...and this being so, we find ourselves swayed by those who claim the world is organized to let 'mind' lead... and because we hear this like a drumbeat throughout our lives... we ignore the evidence of our eyes that this ship is sinking... and taking down all life... which is why Galbraith is important... he calls our attention to the obvious and tells us, "don't ignore it!"

So the happy-prate-patter about 'growth' that is 'sustainable'... when nothing has changed... and we are still chained... with statesmen at helms... holding the leashes... is sheer lunacy...

The pattern Galbraith identified must be placed side-by-side with the left-happy-talk... it should be a reality-check for progressive pundits... who say they want 'power's 'economic model' to shift... to something more 'sustainably' 'economic'... when the helmsmen at the ships of state are in a race... and to them our place is only at the oars... and have nothing of interest to them to say... they will not stop... their goal is 'rule'... to be a player among players is the place they choose... it's time for us to say we too will choose...the lives we live... but that means working and planning in concert... as they do... and, most importantly... taking steps in sync...

But far from this being what is being recommended on the Left... instead we hear reinforcement of the standard cons about a so-called 'free market'... as if such a thing exists. When will we force these guys to switch to earth-terms... the people's tongue... our mother tongue in which we put ourselves... life... first... a tongue in which to speak of our being free... not 'the market'.

We-the-people are the source of the energy that fuels 'economic activity'... and where do we-the-people come by this wealth? From the earth of course! But her store has suffered grievous loss... 'power's feasted on her flesh as if she could automatically regenerate it... as if 'power's simply wanting... could simply make it so... so like a loveless child... but earth cannot be eaten infinitely... and we are earth no less than the birds swinging through the trees... and we deserve to be just that free...

There's no such thing as a 'free market' when what we see is the cost of food production being driven down artificially... 'extra-

economically'... and driving down the cost of providing food to the populace is accomplished by intentionally degrading some among us... targeted for our artificially-structured vulnerabilities. This is called creating (sculpting) 'class'... creating so-called 'winners' and so-called 'losers'... using the mechanism of the so-called 'market'... sanctioned by the blind eyes of government... the state.

E.g. 'payday loans'... no effective minimum wage... withdrawal of hope for material improvement [let's use 'material' instead of 'economic'... it's more earth-friendly...] via credit-mechanisms... destroying the possibility of home ownership... which carries with it possibilities for income-generation and improvement of material conditions... even if only slightly it can be a critical margin... because it provides a base from which to generate income... 'under the table'... in informal networks of mutual aid and bartering...

But 'power' want our provenance established... wants every one of us to possess clear, identifiable, masters... preferably discernable at a glance... which is why the notion of a racial caste was so appealing to them... and why they've now turned to 'info-tech' to solve this 'problem' of our resistance to being managed... perhaps embedded chips... like they tried to convince us to install in our pets... perhaps as a test... of our 'malleability'...

Point being... they want a permanent underclass of despised and kept-pushed-down...

...they've always wanted this... and Galbraith has 'proven' they're well on their way... and we've yet to even say... let's discuss it... this clear pattern....

This determination to have a permanent class solution is deeply set... and has been their consistent and lively interest for almost three centuries... or longer...

We've seen since class began consistently repeated attempts to create a permanent 'underclass'... or 'outsider caste'... who have no chance of seeing above the high fence erected to convince us to rein in our ambition... to scale low our hope that necessarily comes... with having a vista... they want it settled once and for all... so... the issue of authoritarian rule will never be past-tense... till we decide to act together as a global populace... to consciously put it behind us...

You do the math... if all the economic activity we see depends on

'cheap' and degraded 'hands'... and they're disappearing... as we learned five years ago from Wallerstein... as we grow up and see what they're doing... give ourselves higher vistas to see... what will be the means for providing food cheap? They may allow a few contained sporadic attempts at so-called 'self-sufficiency' projects... urban farms... backyard gardens... and such... but they will fight tooth-and-nail generalized human freedom. How will the game of 'supremacy' be played... if they can't drive us to produce the things they need to keep playing kings?

"Who will do 'the dirty work' they want to know... Well, let's tell them... let's not wait for our cage-assignment... Let's begin to think this through off-leash... pretend to be 'freely-associating-humans' until we wake up seeing that it's true.

Because it's remunerated well... it seems as if the mind work is actually generating wealth... the force of 'what-is' is so powerful... and so consistent across the political spectrum... that simple truth is hard to see...

Waking Up includes my first wade through these murky waters... or maybe thick air is a better image... as it's very much swirling around inside of us... coloring how we see things... limiting our sense of possibilities...

What confuses is that the word 'wealth' or 'worth' is confused in us... into our sense of personal worth... our once true 'earth-sense' has been remodeled... shaped to fit ignoble aims... the bottomless lust of statesmen ... but our original 'worth' is always ready to return... and each one of us is in a different moment of that rebirth with every breath we take... each breath... we're in a slightly different place... still... the attempt at synchronized step... not only must be made to save our earth... it is a deeply felt urge...

In Waking Up I wrote poetically because there's no other way to describe it... out right to live our lives authentically... we've all been trained to think in the master's tongue... which is a language at odds with feeling...

George Eliot spoke the truth: "feeling's a kind of knowledge..." You have to feel it in your body... your right to be free... but if you don't... that problem's not insuperable ... the earth continuously tries to reclaim her own... that too is a tend toward which we bend.

I've been trying to find the words to break the code on 'worth'...

‘value’... ‘wealth’... to strip away the sham... see true ‘worth’ at last... by translating the seeming ‘economic verities’... of ‘class’... into earth-terms...

If, as I wrote in *Waking Up*, ‘wealth’ is human labor made manifest... then ‘hiring people’ is betrayal of self... and our brothers and sisters. It may be that this wisdom is only approachable and possessed in words such as this:

Hamlet: ...while, to my shame, I see  
The imminent death of twenty thousand men, [he’s commenting on a Norwegian army on its way “to gain a little patch of ground”]  
That for a fantasy and trick of fame, [trifle]  
Go to their graves like beds, fight for a plot,  
Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,  
Which is not tomb enough and continent [a sufficient receptacle]  
To hide the slain?  
(Hamlet, III:8)

Shakespeare is all about explaining ‘power’ and helping us to distinguish true from false wealth... I think it bothered him – as it does most of us reared under the regimen of the ‘class’ system – that the knowledge of true wealth seemed so hard to hang onto – such that we would sacrifice our lives and our children’s... for a trick of vision (fame)... for some illusory gain of ‘power’...

The struggle between ruling elites for ‘power’... in this case the throne of England... in Shakespeare’s *King John*... inspires these musings in the character the Bastard, who has just witnessed the righteous motivation of the King of France fold upon being made... a suitable offer:

Bastard: Mad world! mad kings! mad composition! [agreement]  
John, to stop Arthur’s title in the whole,  
Hath willingly departed with a part,  
And France, whose armour conscience buckled on,  
Whom zeal and charity brought to the field  
As God’s own soldier, rounded [whispered] in the ear  
With that same purpose-changer, that sly devil,  
That daily break-vow, he that wins of all,  
Who, having no external thing to lose

But the word 'maid,' cheats the poor maid of that  
 That smooth-fac'd gentleman, tickling Commodity, [flattering self-  
 interest]  
 Commodity, the bias of the world;  
 Made to run even upon even ground,  
 Till this advantage, this vile-drawing bias, [drawing into evil]  
 This sway of motion, this Commodity,  
 Makes it take head from all indifferency, [out of all moderation]  
 From all direction, purpose, course, intent.  
 And this same bias, this Commodity,  
 This bawd, this broker [go-between], this all-changing word,  
 Clapp'd on the outward eye of fickle France,  
 Hath drawn him from his own determin'd aid,  
 From a resolv'd and honourable war, [determined upon]  
 To a most base and vile-concluded peace.  
 And why rail I on this Commodity?  
 But for because he hath not woo'd me yet.  
 Not that I have the power to clutch my hand  
 When his fair angels would salute my palm;  
 But for my hand, as unattempted yet, [for = because; unattempted =  
 untempted]  
 Like a poor beggar, raileth on the rich.  
 Well, whiles I am a beggar, I will rail  
 And say there is no sin but to be rich;  
 And being rich, my virtue then shall be  
 To say there is no vice but beggary.  
 Since kings break faith upon Commodity, [upon = inconsequence  
 of]  
 Gain, be my lord, for I will worship thee?  
 (King John, Act II, Scene 1)

He uses 'commodity' to mean being tempted to self-betrayal... and what better proof of the truth of his words... than to see how we walk through our days so thoughtlessly... so forgetful of 'self'... begging to be used...

So we see that since 'class' began... 'wealth' has been a slippery concept... defined by those who had the lead... to bend reality such that we would necessarily – because the world was slanted... tumble after them...

In King John... a note at the back explains the allusions of 'bias'... that it partly refers to a game of 'bowls'... in which he who places the lead calls the tune...

In this the world is compared to the bowl in the game of bowls. Within the bowl is lead, which makes it turn, when rolled, toward this heavier side. The word bias is derived from the French 'biais.' (Yale Shakespeare, King John, p. 109)

And 'biais' as an adjective means slanting, sloping, askew, oblique; and as a noun means obliquity, slope, or (figuratively, shift or subterfuge... and 'biaisment' means shift or evasion; and 'biaiser' means to slope or slant, to lean on one side or to use shifts or evasions... I think we could also say... "to unbalance"...

...and all of us have simply been sliding around in that bowl for millennia... at the whim of the guys who set the weight...

True wealth is thus ever skewed based on the egos and madness of these tiny few... and as they have made the words... the concepts... the thoughts... which are the most important weight... that roll around in our heads... we tend to see 'wealth' as they tell us to...

"Why are we so easily led?" I imagine Shakespeare probably said... "why do so few still own the mother tongue... the earth... and through her know true worth?"

But he also knew the answer... as he also felt at times that even he had difficulty... hanging onto 'self'... reality...

The world was made before him... and before him it was slanted... and we each all have our own role here to play... ...to un-bias it...

...and set it right again....

So do criteria exist to help us distinguish 'earth-truth' – that which allows every human being to be self-determining... have the leisure and resources we need... to let 'curiosity'... 'interest'... and other earth-given-gifts lead?... instead of 'necessity'... or 'need'?... or "power-lust-to-be-a-philosopher-king-greed"?... ruling over... the globe... pretending to be supreme... disguising self-interest as service... telling us (essentially)... that it's in our interest to remain as children... letting the 'grown-ups' make the decisions... and then con us into doing the work to realize them... harnessing our true power... while claiming that

without them its worthless...–

...how to distinguish this... in proposed 'solutions'?... 'solutions' for extricating ourselves from this global mess... of poisoned earth... and us... likewise... both discarded and trashed with such extravagance...

... how to distinguish this from what promotes health, leisure, and happiness? ...not for an artificially-elevated few... but for all?

- Does it force us off our land? Does it cause 'earth-damage'... now or in the future?

- Does it inhibit individual independence? i.e. is 'force' a factor?

Healthy souls need a chance... to sit on earth they care for and feel it bear their weight... to have the option of being alone... and the option to congregate... which can be chosen or changed... as one's soul dictates...

So e.g.... no one could dupe us into believing we have no choice but to support the nuclear power industry... their attempt to do so we'd find funny...

- And the flip side is... does it promote health and exuberance... happiness... for individual and collective humans?

- A seeming 'complexity' in the rationale means... it's consigned to the bottom of the 'pile of possibilities'...

How do we know this?... because we're picturing free humans.... Take that seed... that plant... what does it need to be protected?....

And... if we foster a sense of abundance... as we move into that day that enables self-creation... it could minimize minor arguments... so we'll make lists of opportunities... that identify where help is needed... whether to give or to receive... and to be broadly-made will be so exciting!... Coffee Cruises... learning to listen to diverse ways ... helping to heal polluted bays... traveling with the earth and sky... This is the time... to let longing fly.

But the challenge to tackle right away... is overcoming the fear... a belief only... that we have to sacrifice our leisure... the possession of our bodies... for some 'good' they tell us matters more than our lives... so we'll learn to see through all such lies... and trust our body's truth... that what we have when we're relaxed... is not just our right... but our due.

For Two Winds 6:

Waking Up... of course today I'd never use the word 'worker'...



WUR, Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013: Taking issue with Wallerstein... discussing 'capitalism' as 'ideology'... and... "How do we *know* that a wage work system... leads to totalitarianism?"

Let's send some thanks and love to all the folks rising up... in Turkey... and now Brazil... thank you... thank you... thank you.... I have no words to express my grief at what you... and all of us... have suffered under the regime of 'class'...or to express my joy at your courage in facing it... and transforming it into love and true power...

...and we know what makes it to the airwaves is but the tip of a huge insurgent 'below'... we all know people are waking up globally... but we aren't told what's going on in Sweden... or Egypt... or China... or South Africa... or Canada... or the Ukraine... until the numbers are such 'power' can no longer pretend... it doesn't exist...

And it's important not to forget in this context... Galbraith's point about the inability of nation-states to affect... to any great extent... the global trend called 'growing disparities' consequent to 'capitalism's [power's] end.... As long as nations restrict their actions to those sanctioned by the 'global market'... the degree to which... within that mindset... government policy can intervene in global tendencies... is limited to 'non-existent'.

*"We can't all be Denmark..."*

On today's show we'll be examining some recent thoughts on this matter of 'the future' that I recently heard from Immanuel Wallerstein... perhaps taking issue with them a bit... to the degree we get fuller access to his comments... and we'll be discussing 'capitalism' as 'ideology'... and we'll be asking... "How do we *know* that a wage work system... leads to totalitarianism?"

We cannot let these guys tell us what is ‘wealth’... We cannot let them tell us it’s determined by a quantity or quantities... or some selection of commodities... by sums of labor-dense-stuff... packed... into the soul’s absence... and... we cannot let them tell us there must be differential access to this stuff... because... or so they tell us: “We can’t all be Denmark...”

“We can’t all be Denmark...” I heard Immanuel Wallerstein say <sup>1</sup> on my way home from last week’s radio show.... He was speaking at the June 7, 2013 Left Forum... with his usual straightforwardness and clarity... which I so appreciate... except... in this brief excerpt of his advice... I couldn’t make sense of why on earth... I would want to be Denmark... (which to say is not in any way to disparage Denmark...)

But... thanks to him... we seem to at last have consensus that “‘capitalism’ is doomed”... I know because I heard – at this same event – even Richard Wolff say it... quite unabashedly, by the way... despite his having just written a book supposedly telling us how to ‘cure’ it’... ‘U.S. capitalism’, whatever that is... he’s even admitted that what we’re trying to move beyond is *global*... and that a narrow nation-state focus is insufficient for anything like a useful strategy leading to a future that’s free.... Such is the degree to which more and more of us are now ‘seeing reality...’ that even Richard Wolff is forced to concede.

While Immanuel Wallerstein acknowledges that ‘democracy’ has never existed... he still poses it – or some future realized form of it – as the alternative to an ever-growing totalitarianism.... So... along with the professional left generally... his advice boils down to, apparently: “let’s make democracy real.”

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1 I heard the replay of his remarks on KPFA.

But in *Beginning Again* (p. 34) I wrote that “democracy is a politics of want... of manufactured scarcity...” and that it exists at the expense... of individual power.... And Wallerstein’s words suggest he may be in agreement... as he seems to believe in this notion of ‘scarcity.’ Now... Hesiod, a farmer, knew better... and this a few thousand years ago, too....

He wrote:

For the gods keep hidden the livelihood of men.  
Otherwise you might easily do enough work in a day to  
have enough for a full year with no further need to be  
working,  
and might immediately hang up your rudder in the  
smoke of the fireplace  
and release your oxen and hardworking mules from  
their labor.  
(Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 42 – 46, R. M. Frazer  
translation)

What good is your argument, he asked, and your fat  
tastes, if “there is not a sufficiency stored within of  
seasonably gathered grain, earth’s produce, the fruit of  
Demeter?” (From section on Hesiod in *Palmers’ Chat...  
As We Take Our Earth Back*)

If you study the ways of Demeter, Hesiod told us...  
Demeter, goddess of the corn... and know her secrets...  
then you will know “...how much more the half is than the  
whole....”.

Now every year our plum tree in one day gives plums  
enough to keep us in jam... I’m swimming in it as we speak...  
for a whole year... and that’s a single tree... in low-income  
Berkeley... covered in concrete.... So... you know and I  
know... the earth is rich and generous.

But... back to Wallerstein...

Now that we, apparently, are all agreed that “capitalism is doomed”... as it’s so tattered and besmattered (smirched with dirt)... that even ‘power,’ Wallerstein tells us... is done with the concept... has relinquished it and wiped its hands without comment... the issue now is... “what comes after it?”... or... “what do we do about it?”... ‘it’ being ‘the end of the exponential eating of the earth’... which is what the tag ‘capitalism’ meant in earth-terms...

(...it matters how you frame things...  
...one way you’re interring abstract concepts...  
...or pronouncing bankers punished for their greed...  
...in the other...  
...we’re standing with grandmother...  
...and if we see...  
...that we are she...  
...the next thing is...  
...we’re standing with ourselves...  
...and then we’re free...)

(Last week we said that Shakespeare calls our attention to “the commodity’ as self-betrayal”... self-betrayal is how they get us in the cage.)

(And when Christian Parenti says... at this same Left Forum... that the state exists to secure the resources that ‘corporations’ need... what he fails to see... or neglects to mention... or omits... is that *we* are the key resource the state secures for ‘power’s use... that...

...the state exists for disciplining we-the-people... to sooth our restless longing to be free... to gently place the yoke... or order us with stern command... and heavy stick... depending... to accept it... or leash...

or carpeted lush captive quarters... depending... as determined by what 'power' needs...

A recent report from Turkey noted that our Turkish brothers and sisters in Gezi Park all sang together... imagine if we called a one-day global General Strike... and in that day a time was chosen to sing a common song... when all the world would harmonize together... feel our souls in synchronized rhythm... and make the truth of global oneness for that one sweet moment concrete truth...

...and once we pick the day and time we tell all of our brothers and sisters... each one we see each day... about that moment... when the world will sing as one... and further our common vision of the world we want...)

Wallerstein... for reasons we've been exploring... is using the master's tongue... and true wealth... true worth... cannot be expressed in the master's tongue...

(...the master's tongue is directive... not expressive... a tongue for reining-in and controlling... not releasing and freeing-up energy...)

When Immanuel said that all 'systems'... (and by this word means... essentially... 'systems of thought'...) have a certain life-span... exist for but a bit and then pass on... I agree... for this reason... they are premised on force... and force... in whatever form... can't be sustained over time... because it doesn't feel right... we resist it... we resist it... and so 'power' has to reinvent it... the rationalization for it is re-packaged....

(This is what Victor Hugo, perhaps, was describing but not seeing when he said:

The counterfeits of the past take assumed names, and are fond of calling themselves the future. That spectre, the past, not infrequently falsifies its passport. Let us be ready for the snare. Let us beware. (Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*, Book VI – XI)

And I just heard over the airwaves a quote attributed to George Bernard Shaw that says essentially the same thing: “Revolutions never lift the burden of tyranny, they merely shift it to another’s shoulders.”

It may be that Hugo and Shaw failed to see the reason why the dead keep trying to... not only walk but woo us... is that this vampire has for centuries hoarded all the certainty... and the means to keep us from harboring any of our own. And hobbled by the ‘progress-myth’ the ‘class’-trained ‘intellectual’ seldom sees it... sees that it’s not a matter of our moving through a stage of growth... but rather of our getting ‘power’ off our backs.... This was my challenge to Marcuse... in *Beginning Again*... who was making the same point Hugo and Shaw and many others make... about the ‘past’ seemingly reinventing itself time and again... despite... our efforts to move beyond it.)

...so... returning to the point I’m making as to *why* ‘ideologies’ come and go... because the cons applied to keep them alive are invariably exposed and resisted... they depend on coerced belief.... And Bentham explained how that installation of thought could be accomplished... but what Wallerstein did not say... and I hope he will consider and keep us apprised of his conclusions... is that ‘the system’ that’s coming to an end is not ‘capitalism’... which is but an ideology of class... but rather it

is 'class' itself which... at long last and hallelujah!... with jagged breath is facing its demise...

We are in transition... and with this, at least, with Immanuel... and with Popper before him... I think we-of-good-heart can agree: it's up to us...to not just bend that arc... but take it all the way this time... to freedom...

In that news report about the song sung in Gezi Park... we were told it was from *Les Miserables*... which is what put me in mind to take up Hugo... for me he's a treat I seldom eat... bur I'm so glad that I this time took the hint... and for the synchronicity of being led to it... for as I was thinking about what Wallerstein said I read this:

In the nineteenth century the religious idea is undergoing a crisis. We are unlearning certain things, and we do well [to]... provided that while unlearning one thing we are learning another. No vacuum in the human heart! Certain forms are torn down, and it is well that they should be, but on condition that they are followed by reconstructions. (Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*, Book VI – XI)

There's a sense in which 'the economy'... or more particularly... 'capitalism' is just such an orthodoxy as this one Hugo speaks of....

Is it not orthodoxy to believe in notions like 'developing the productive forces'... to view as righteous the transmuting... in our minds... of violent consumption (read: 'trashing') of the resources of the planet... into 'progress'... beliefs shared across the political spectrum?...

...while living in balance... and possessing leisure (ourselves... our lives)... we're conditioned to see as 'backward'?

If ideologies fall they must either be replaced with new

ones... or truth must finally be allowed to live... to stand unbent and move unencumbered... i.e. we must return to wholeness...

Rather than our hearts *being* filled... they must be allowed to find their flow through a self-determined process of exploration... to find their levels in subtle balance with the earth....

As a fervent intellectual of class... a believer in the myth of 'progress'... Hugo seemed weighted at times with a 'presumed preeminence of 'mind''... with the ideas folks *said* motivated them... instead of the results of their actions... e.g. in noting that 'excess' children were turned over to the monastic life and worked like mules... the most relevant fact is that food was provided... 'hands' delivered up the harvest... while for themselves they asked little... (this is realized self-betrayal...)

...but on the other hand he knew... and told us true... "facts are stubborn things... and hard to baffle..."

When we concluded last week by saying that 'earth-truth' is that which allows every human being to be self-determining... to have the leisure and the resources we need to let curiosity and interest... our earth-gifts... lead... instead of 'need' or 'power-lust-greed'... these 'resources' we need are not the same 'resources' that Wallerstein means when he says that "'resources' don't exist" for all of us to "be Denmark"....

There is a common myopia among the so-called 'Western'-trained... so-called 'mind'-'worker'... so-called 'privileged' strain of left professional... which clouds their vision... inhibits their ability to see... the full range of human expressive qualities and ways of being... the rich diversity of joy... and even of 'peace'... to have one's heart filled with unburdened easy laughter... nostrils filled with dense enveloping green... mind filled with helping others build or craft a structure that merges perfectly color, line and practicality... these are the



'resources' I mean... enlivening still further vital leisure and necessary conviviality and good things to eat and nestle in our care... to watch a studded sky and know... the horror of drone-pollution is no more... these are the 'resources' I mean that we will experience commonly.

When I was a young woman just out of university... a woman I'd met at school who came to be a friend said to me that she counted herself among the fortunate to have escaped my fate of being black.... I heard her words in silent shock... it had simply never occurred to me that she... a left academic... well-read and sensitive... could possibly not see the degree to which her so-called 'privilege' damaged her.

This was a new thought for me... that sat in a slight depression in my soul... hollowed out for the purpose... for decades... for decades I would take it out and worry it again... and wonder at it... that she could not see that damage.

A wage-work system means we do not know each other... a wage work system *means* narrowed vision... a wage-work system means slipping into rutted lanes... where every time you try to move you roll back in again.

It is the center of a packaged set of bending tendencies... that turns us back to see only one way... one thing... the comfort of one possible 'self' ....

Limits narrowed artificially is a defining quality of totalitarianism... expressed in microcosm in the nuclear family... and found in every institution of 'class'... and most of us are so much in and of it... we cannot see beyond it... until the force that bends those tendencies falls in... and we begin to see each other.

I think it would be helpful to revisit Herbert Marcuse's

words (from *Eros and Civilization*) that I quoted in *Waking Up* (p. 200 – 201... “The Plan,” Pt. 4)... about “the responsibility of the intellectual” [which is also the title of my ‘Blog 48’]...

...asking the question... “how would we translate his words... so very prescient... into our mother tongue?”

To the degree to which organized labor operates in defense of the status quo, and to the degree to which the share of labor in the material process of production declines, *intellectual* skills and capabilities become social and political factors. Today, the organized refusal to cooperate of the scientists, mathematicians, technicians, industrial psychologists and public opinion pollsters may well accomplish what a strike, even a large-scale strike, can no longer accomplish but once accomplished, namely, the beginning of the reversal, the preparation of the ground for political action. That the idea appears utterly unrealistic does not reduce the political responsibility involved in the position and function of the intellectual in contemporary industrial society. The intellectual refusal may find support in another catalyst, the instinctual refusal among the youth in protest. It is their lives which are at stake, and if not their lives, their mental health and their capacity to function as un mutilated humans. Their protest will continue because it is a biological necessity. (Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, p. xxv)

When he says, “to the degree to which the share of labor in the material process of production declines, *intellectual* skills and capabilities become social and political factors...” in *earth*-terms he’s saying: “to the degree the resources of the planet have been consumed and made private... and ‘power’ does not need us anymore to achieve these ends... and as its *sine qua non* of hierarchy and private control means they cannot feed us... and we must, then, necessarily... stomachs growling... get

restless... and what the ‘mind-workers’ do at that moment... this moment we’re in... could be determinative.” So what his words advise... and prophesy... most importantly... is a return of ‘heart’... of solidarity... to our global society.

But... just to clarify what’s been happening to us... is it really a matter of having worked ourselves out of a job?... of being so amazingly efficient and inventive... creating the machines that reduce the need for... so many of us... and now so many of us are lolling listlessly about the planet... reducing ourselves to redundancy?

To put it this way disappears ‘power’s logic and agency... hides it in some alleged inevitable process... called ‘the development of technology’...

...when... if conscious actors who shield themselves are returned to the picture... and so-called ‘natural’ tendencies are exposed as theft... it may be we could see all the machines and marvelous technology... so hungry for fuel, water, and energy... as the residual husks of a feeding frenzy... and our rich earth... in trouble below... is now decomposing flesh and bare bones... while we’re told the venom-topped tale that too many of us have over-stayed our hall passes... we are the laggards... the dull ones... who consume resources but contribute nothing... except to the joint effort ‘destroying the planet’... and that the point in fact is the crafting of rigid... fixed... ‘class’....

And below the radar-screen of mainstream-media... the constant pressure never lets up... on our most vulnerable sisters and brothers... to accept the thankless role of bearing the burden... with their ‘unskilled’ and so ‘not-worth-much’ brutal ‘hand’-labor... so the ‘really smart ones can ‘save the planet’....

So what is actually behind... the manly phrases and lines... like “developing the productive forces”... is a systematic crafting of ‘two worlds’... and a con-job unparalleled... to keep us performing our given tasks... with our minds managed in

such a way... that these roles... continuously made and re-made... get fixed in place....

So the point is not 'progress'... or 'benefiting the people'... not 'developing forces' so 'economies' can 'grow'... not 'managing most efficiently' planetary resources... but rather for a tiny few to play 'dress-up'... in ill-fitting robes....

And so the true point of Marcuse's words... which scream out to be heard... is the plea that we see... our future is in our global solidarity.

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Note regarding "Two Winds" (Part 6) in *Waking Up*...  
... of course today I'd never use the word 'worker'...  
today I see it as an economic category designed by 'power' for us to sit in... and when someone opens a cage door and beckons... I don't walk in...

... "a closer correspondence between what's in our heads with what's in our hands (our body's truth... the sweat, blood and love of our brothers and sisters in every 'product' put on the market for sale...

...and not just follow the money... but follow the money-*policy*... who sets the rules for its accumulation... the rates paid to those who are amassing it?

...where you see massive suppression you see as well massive power...

WUR, Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013: ‘Mind-work’ on the margin”  
... and... “‘mind-work’ *as* the margin”... and... continuing our  
discussion of the connection between the wage work system and  
totalitarianism...

Nelson Mandela... I know you’ve done so much... but  
we need your influence now... so please get well... ‘power’s plan  
for us is malevolent... and we are rising to challenge it... but we  
haven’t yet achieved global momentum... we need your influence  
now... so please get well... it’s not time yet to rest. We send you  
strength and love... just as you have given us.

And we’re sending love and strength to our brothers  
and sisters in Egypt... who have paid so dearly... and are now  
determining... to not settle for re-packaged tyranny... our hearts  
are with you... and Brazil... and Turkey... and China...

...and here in the U.S. with our brothers and sisters in  
North Carolina... who are taking part in a NAACP-sponsored  
action called “Moral Mondays”<sup>1</sup> – facing the threat of arrest  
and harassment – standing up to a state government trying to  
wipe out the meager income protections that exist there... drive  
down the quality of life still further... hundreds arrested so far...  
Stay Strong... we salute you this morning...

I also heard this week about the retaliatory firings of  
folks abused by Wal-Mart and we will be asking during this  
show... is this stress ‘happiness’?

Why are we giving our allegiance to a wage-work  
system that we can now clearly see is not just abuse but  
an anachronism... (always was... but now we can see  
it...) it negates any attempt... to pursue happiness...

And before we begin I also want to comment on

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1 This was a news item on the June 26, 2013 *Democracy Now!*

something that is part of the global tend to expand the growing gap between them ‘the market’ – i.e., the weight ‘power’ places to keep us subjugated and to shape the world it wants – ... the global tend to expand the growing gap between them ‘the market’ smiles upon... and them it sees as its spittoon or punching bag... keeps drenching us (as per its customary tactic) till we agree to not want much of anything at all... beyond what ‘power’ gives us... but this time will be different... I trust... as this time will see a forging of a global solidarity....

My comment is this... the attempt to placate our uprisings with promises of new infrastructure... libraries... buses and like stuff... is the policy counterpart in ‘power’s thinking to the neutron bomb of old... which killed people but left infrastructure standing... they do not care about us... and in many cases they literally do not want us around....

So when I hear the Brazilian state tell Brazilians, “just relax we’ll buy you buses...” and here in Oakland folks abused by BART and AC Transit are told likewise... I recall my trip cross-country where I marveled at the glory of the libraries... in all the struggling cities.... There is a plan... don’t doubt it... in which the cities being made for ‘not-us’ but for the future iteration of ‘citizen’... the ones who fulfill their given roles without complaint... who are either beat-down... or elevated... as their so-called ‘merit’... as determined by ‘the market’ (or some new name that they give it)... places them... some will get the stick... others the carrot... while the dress-up gods look down upon us... and yet feel no calm within their troubled hearts....

But this is just my nightmare... never fear... we will not let it happen....

Today's show will be about ... "mind-work' on the margin" ... and... "mind-work' *as* the margin"... a margin in that artificially elevated 'middle' that tends towards 'power'.... We'll be asking several questions... e.g....

- Why does it matter what so-called 'mind-workers' do? ...and...
- As we in the U.S. have a codified right to 'pursue happiness'... are we on the Left abdicating our responsibility in not seizing this advantage... and forging a model for moving beyond 'power' that serves as beacon for the world? ...and...
- Are pundits on the Left more deceived or deceivers... in following lockstep the gods of 'rationalism'? ...and...
- What *could* they do to move toward true solidarity?
- So... we are asking... essentially... what is 'solidarity'... and what is 'betrayal'? And how do you tell the difference?

...and... we'll be continuing our discussion of the connection between the wage work system and totalitarianism... and ask, "Is there anything at all about this wage system that speaks to us as 'happiness'?"

I have been arguing that while our future is global... we here in the so-called 'West' have a particular role to play attendant upon our greater responsibility... bestowed on us (unintentionally) by our so-called 'masters'... in assigning to the region... or at least the light-skinned within it (broadly speaking)... the broad designation 'mind-workers'....

So... in living where the 'mind-work' is... or... being in the 'knowledge sectors'... which condemns those of us within them (and of course without) with darker skin... 'outsiders'... consigned to the so-called 'hand labor' sectors... weighted with the thankless role of being... the 'brute-force' for the world...

(...and... recall... this 'brute force' allows us to eat...  
...and light our homes...  
...and fire our cook-stoves...  
...so those who bring these necessities are in the truth  
the heroes...  
...on them existence rests...  
So when we stop and think we see...  
...that the enormous force of 'states'...  
...whether with official status...  
...or the ones that lurk in shadow...  
...is designed to push 'hand labor' low...  
...artificially...  
...and then the dollars flow... up from all this pain...  
...to the so-called 'workers with the brains'...  
...who invent amusing toys which *ad nauseam* we're  
told is "making money"...  
...and that the thoughts they have is 'wealth'...  
...and that from *them* proceeds 'the good life'...  
...when in reality...  
...all we have sprouts from that seed 'brute labor'...  
...and the earth...  
...forever... they hope... priced artificially low...  
...by 'the market'... we're told...  
And all the marvels of technology... which make 'our'  
lives so easy...  
[...if you ignore the silent horrors that are so  
suffocating...]  
... 'power' 'owns' ...  
...and so steals undue credit.)

(They so want to seem to save us, don't they?...  
...to think, "how enlightened is their guidance! ...  
...and their management of the world!"...  
...and to think, "how hard they work!...  
...to save us from ourselves...)



...though of course the dullards cannot see it...  
...see that the world they are making...  
...neatly packaged and efficient...  
...is the most benign and perfect of machines...  
(...if the dim-witted would only stop complaining...)"  
...‘benign’, they think, *because* they tend it...  
...because they know best... into infinity...  
...looking down from Mount Olympus...  
...making surgical adjustments...  
...via issued commands to their emissaries...  
...and overseers to impose...  
...the greatest happiness on us...  
...if only we would see...  
...how perfectly happy we *should* be...  
...that they... the best minds of the very best...  
...are taking on all the difficulty... all the complexity...  
*for us...*  
...to achieve the greatest ‘good’...  
...if only we could see it...  
...all for us...  
...so we can remain as children...  
...innocently play...  
...mindlessly frolic...  
...“feed our bellies like the beasts”...  
...keep our lives tenuous and brief...  
...easily released...  
...as we go peacefully to our beds...  
...to our beds without complaint...  
...as good dogs go... we go quietly...  
...letting go our useless worry...  
...ignoring nagging thoughts...  
...that ask why exactly did we live...  
...when we forfeited our dreams and longing...  
...so new energy can step in...  
...take our places...  
...in the boxes...

...where we keep... work ... work... working...  
...on and on...  
...into infinity....

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I have been arguing that while our future is global... we here in the so-called ‘West’ have a particular role to play attendant upon our greater responsibility... and as sheer happenstance has placed me in the U.S... I feel bound to attest... that our codified right to “pursue ‘happiness’” ...

(...the *Declaration of Independence* says, “that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it...” language Bentham warned against, by the way, as it suggested precisely what we’ll see Hugo is advancing [below]... an equivalence in significance for determining our lives between the demands of the body politic... and the demands of the soul... which demands... for love... equal standing...)

...is an advantage... that carries with it even greater responsibility... perhaps the greatest of them all... the honor of being first to forward as a mass the demand... for an end to concentrated ‘power’... and a welcoming in... of global freedom. (But I will gladly follow Egypt... if it should be that way... that it ends where it began...)

Last week I argued... as I did earlier in *Revealing Division*... that a key barrier to achieving our global solidarity... is the fondness of ‘mind-workers’ for inventing ideologies... contributing (...unconsciously and so unintentionally...) convenient content for ‘power’s con that the world ‘must’ have division... because ‘technological complexity’ requires it....

When, rather, I believe the truth is that we *all* are bursting with creativity... and that 'power' exists by stealing some (a very small sum) of our creativeness... then elevating it in 'the market'... calling it 'wealth' and pricing it high... then telling us the market is responsible for its existence... that we are driven because of 'it' to be creative... and, that the further goad of 'keeping products ('wealth') private' is the companion piece... a 'linked-necessary'... for 'creation' even being in the first place...

...then uses the scam-entire as whip to drive us....

This is the view of things 'power' never allows us to see and think about.

But take the measure of this story... as compared to 'power's tall tale... and we'll find it fits the facts of our lives very well... see no adjustments needed... no tweaking... bending... or cutting-out wholesale of these facts... and that it's the story we should use... because it's true.

And the biggest snipping-out of all... in 'power's house of horrors... is the burying of 'true wealth'... in suppressing the true power of the people.

(And I should clarify that when I say that 'the market' "prices 'mind-work' high and 'hand-work' low"... this is obviously a tendency that has been centuries in the making... it's already a tend well in place... so it in fact is effectuated simply by making sure that 'hand-labor'... the work that brings us our food... and fuel... and everything we need to literally exist... by making sure that it's priced low... by beating down people.... And... true... that is not 'the market'... that is often the extra-legal action of states... often hidden or shadow 'states'... but the result is what we need to be looking at... not the terminology... not the language... which 'power' owns... and has always used since it owned it... to confuse us... lead us astray...)

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Last week we said that true wealth... true worth... cannot be expressed in the 'master's tongue – and this 'master's tongue is often called 'rationalism' – a linear kind of thinking fond of classification... and abstractification... as 'classification' ... and abstractification... snips out the most important things to be dismissed... for 'power' to rule us... it snips out 'feeling'... and it snips out us... and so it snips out caring for each other... and our plant and animal friends... and our earth-entire... and replaces it with 'struggle for existence and / or recognition...' depending on one's 'standing'... in the market.

We've been conditioned to see 'rationalism' as the key to efficiently managing the resources of the planet... and so the key to any chance of freeing ourselves from necessity... i.e. hunger... and having any chance of comfort... i.e. security...

And so we cling to those who claim to *be* it... rationalism... 'Mind' personified... and distrust our own common... intuitive... 'feelingness'... and in no small part because we've not been allowed to sit with it... i.e., have leisure... and it's been so manipulated... seized and used as entertainment... made victim of the 'making-use' voracity of 'class'....

Depersonalizing the story... e.g. using the phrase, "the rate of profit declines with the growth of the middle class globally..." as opposed to: "we resist diminishment..." and... "they cannot keep pushing us when we push back..."

...depersonalizing the story ...inventing abstract concepts... and presenting them as 'forces'... that then become the 'actors'... what are given agency in the story...

...contributes to a cloud of confusion in which we are not shown ourselves back to ourselves... and so never get to

know what we are... and often question our existence... as we're kept... here in the 'West'... so atomized... and have no means to know ourselves except... through these mediations of 'mind-workers'... and...

...converted to abstract concepts... we're led to see ourselves as passive subjects... drifting through the musings of pundits... buffeted about by mysterious larger 'forces'... which we then need 'mind-workers' to explain for us... reinforcing structural dependence...

...but the truth is not complex... the truth is 'divide and conquer' conquers us on every level... and we regain access to ourselves... our power... by regaining access to each other... our brothers and sisters... and the earth... and to prevent that pundits play a *critical* role....

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I'd been pondering that word 'bias' we spoke of last week... along with the comment: "to be broadly-made will be so exciting..." when I read this:

Let us not take anything away from the human mind; suppression is evil. We must reform and transform. Certain faculties of man are directed towards the Unknown; thought, meditation, prayer. The Unknown is an ocean. What is conscience? It is the compass of the Unknown. Thought, meditation, prayer, these are the great, mysterious pointings of the needle. Let us respect them. Whither tend these majestic irradiations of the soul? into the shadow, that is, towards the light.

The grandeur of democracy is that it denies nothing and renounces nothing of humanity. Close by the rights of Man, side by side with them, at least, are the rights of the Soul.

To crush out fanaticisms and revere the Infinite, such is the law. Let us not confine ourselves to

falling prostrate beneath the tree of Creation and contemplating its vast ramifications full of stars. We have a duty to perform, to cultivate the human soul, to defend mystery against miracle, to adore the incomprehensible and reject the absurd; to admit nothing that is inexplicable excepting what is necessary, to purify faith and obliterate superstition from the face of religion, to remove the vermin from the garden of God. (Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*, Book VII – V)

Now this opens with words very like my opening poem in *Waking Up*: “There’s an earlier wholeness... for which our souls long... our interior compass tends towards it... and what’s called ‘reality’ *feels* wrong...”

...and moves through notions very like what Nikola Tesla told us:

Every living thing is an engine geared to the wheelwork of the universe. Though seemingly affected only by its immediate surrounding, the sphere of external influence extends to infinite distance. There is no constellation or nebula, no sun or planet, in all the depths of limitless space, no passing wanderer of the starry heavens, that does not exercise some control over its destiny – not in the vague and delusive sense of astrology, but in the rigid and positive meaning of physical science.

More than this can be said. There is no thing endowed with life – from man, who is enslaving the elements, to the numblest creature – in all this world that does not sway it in turn. Whatever action is born from force, though it be infinitesimal, the cosmic balance is upset and universal motion results. (Nikola Tesla, *Collected Papers*, Vol. 2, p. A-172)

...and closes with a statement of a project that Tesla, I suspect – and I – depending on the definitions... believe we're part of... “to obliterate superstition from the face of religion...” I think Hugo's ‘religion’ is the equivalent to Tesla's *sense* (feeling) of ‘science’... and that lies... superstition... cons (e.g. ‘economy’)... are vermin in the garden of God... the infinite....

Last week I challenged us to see ‘the market’ or ‘the economy’ as orthodoxy... a fraud... i.e. a pollution of reason and of faith (as Hugo uses these terms) in the garden of God... and ‘God’ is the name Hugo gives to ‘the infinite’... which has many names.

To achieve a broad existence on earth... is this not what our souls... our bodies... our minds... our wholeness... is hungering for? ...to realize in ourselves more and more of this truth called ‘the infinite’?

‘Excellence’...a step in the realization of this truth... is its own reward... we need no ‘drivers’ to it... the human soul cleaves to the questions it owns... and seeks those others who also own them... seeks to mate and match them... and develop those questions... and the fleetness of our thought is such that we can further many projects all at once... just as Marx saw clearly in his youth... the soul tends to bigness.

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So... to my pundit brothers and sisters of the progressive persuasion... and I mean of course the ones who are *of good heart* and sincere in their intentions... this may express the meeting point of my concerns:

...words matter... and I say this with the end-point ‘freedom’ at the forefront of my mind... words matter because we-the-people want and *need* words to matter... are tired of

meaningless chatter and empty speech... when language – words – our first creation and our best... because on them depend the meeting of all challenge... the first word of ‘success’ in our survival... our ‘chief arm’... as Kropotkin put it... in our struggle not just for life and health... but for life and health *exuberant*... the conditions that allow the flowering of all our gifts without exception... depend on it... on language that cements our bonds because it’s *honest*....

Language is the first thing ‘power’ stole from us when it turned words to betrayal... and weighted them with lies... then language ceased to matter much... except as entertainment... as mere mind-gymnastics or diversion to see who could tell the biggest lies... but for sharing hearts and strengthening ties between us... words became meaningless...

...for knitting us together... they were lost.

So do not say what sounds nice and means nothing... use abstract concepts full of air... then blow this effervescence into our faces... or up into the skies... to pop as nothing... forgotten in due time... or make them into animatrons relating to each other only... sneering at mere life... and laughing at us for not knowing the perverse logic that creates them... telling us we’re dull-witted for not grasping it... that we’d be ‘smarter’ if we cared about dead objects... when instead our eyes drift to the skies and we wonder... “how long?”... and how to get beyond this reign of death... and back to reverence for the earth... and for each other.

Words matter.... So before you bombard us with glib chatter... please pause and look into your hearts and see *that* ‘content’... and if you find nothing... please be silent.

And if you look into your heart and learn that you don’t care about us... we-the-people... please don’t share your empty thoughts... but rather repair to home-base... and repair.



Conning us requires a heart-in-hiding... as does a so-called 'rational mind'... which is but 'Mind' objectified... 'Mind' truncated with feeling excised....

And a mind without feeling is a mind to be used... as Alice Miller told us... for any purpose to which 'authority' ('weight') turns it....

(Think about what wage work does... when we're on the job... when we're *told* to excise feeling... so that we may be... more useful... to 'authority'...)

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So what could on-the-Left 'mind-workers' do to move toward true solidarity? ...the 'mind-workers' who see themselves as 'helping' us... as providing the information and the 'understanding' that we-the-people need... to insert ourselves as actors... in that far-away long-distant 'some day'... that never comes...

...is there some better use pundits could devote their 'thinking' to?

...that might even as a bonus restore excised bits and lead them back to wholeness...?

In what follows I suggest that the answer to that question lies in taking personal ownership of the actual, physical earth they see around them...

...what amount of it would allow true fellowship to flourish?

...and what would true fellowship look like... given our technological inheritance?

Hugo used the word 'community' in the way I use 'fellowship.' He believed that only in perfect

community lies the true body politic... and that only in the true body politic can justice exist.... He wrote:

Where community exists, there likewise exists the true body politic, and where the latter is, there too is justice. (Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*, Book VII – IV)

...and... as ever and everywhere under ‘class’, we can recognize in this example how critical Bentham’s notion of keeping a hold on the lexicon... controlling the definitions... and, as a sub-set and function of this... as a means of getting to... and being in... our freedom... likewise we must put on the table and keep our hands on... what we want... the fundamentals of village design...

(...let’s start talking about it before... ‘power’ does... let’s get this conversation well under way...)

...designing the basic components of village life that support communal verve... that constitute, therefore, the framework for our lives....

(We are defined by the structures we are born into... *we* have to be the ones who design them.)

I think we have to design a ‘high-minimum’ standard of ‘village life’ that we ensure becomes the basis of every village that exists... once we have our freedom... (and I don’t mean coercion when I say that word ‘ensure’...)

I found an interesting 13<sup>th</sup> century version of this in the George C. Homans book *English Villagers of the Thirteenth Century*.... He found a “thorough-going equality in the use of all the resources of the village....” (p. 83) There were even common stewards and common bulls and boars called the ‘free bull’... and the ‘free boar’... so-named because they roamed about freely...

fertilizing females as needed... I'm sure across the world there's innumerable examples of such identification of resources shared in common... that comprise a version of the 'ideal-communal-village'....

Now obviously the common resources of today are expanded... we have as our communal legacy... the development of communications and transportation technology... but this doesn't mean we may not also want a common ram (... which I mention as... I'm particularly fond of sheep cheese... though resigned to never having means for keeping it about the house....)

Point being... there once was interest in identifying the components of a decent village worthy of the name...  
...we'll one day return to this question...  
...of the good life.

Hugo, again, is relevant.... He tells us:

For ourselves... we will only say that we do not comprehend either man as a starting-point, or progress as the goal, without those two forces which are the two great motors, faith and love.

Progress is the aim, the ideal is the model.

What is the ideal? It is God.

Ideal, absolute, perfection, the infinite – these are identical words. (Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*, Book VII – VI)

So... his 'progress' and his 'perfection' is not the 'progress' and 'perfection' of these 'power'-guys... and their pundit-helpers... adorers and adepts... of rarified concepts... of 'Mind' as supreme 'object'... their damaged soul's chief artifact....

What our ‘pundit-helpers’ don’t get... is that the world we want hasn’t even partially existed yet... not since class began... and that we have to begin envisioning it... and discussing it... so as to turn our world onto a new track...

What they don’t get... is that we want a complete flip...

...and being thus... so oblivious... means...

...they feel no hunger for it... as Robert Shaw... the writer and actor saw and said... so many decades hence... “these guys ain’t bothered...”

Mr. Slattery asked: “Father Rockingham why can’t we just grow our own food? Why can’t we just do that now?”...

“Because those who could manage it, could organize it, could start it, don’t care to,” said the old man. “They’re not bothered,” said the old man.

“Ah,” they all said. And nodded their heads. “Ah yes. That’s it.”

(Robert Shaw, *The Flag*, quoted in Blog 39, “*Round And Round And Round We Go But Not Merrily*”)

Simple as that... “...these guys ain’t bothered...” they’re fine... to their minds they’re livin’ large... they’re having a good time... being treated like ‘mind’ personified... when ‘heart’ is what we need... not phony thinking...

...and for ‘heart’...

...we need each other.

Somehow we have to see ourselves... because if we can see ourselves... we will want ourselves... want... fiercely... as Robert Shaw did... to lose no more children to this system....

We have to want ourselves to not throw ourselves away.

The great voices... our great ancestors... who did

not throw themselves away... (and who wanted the same for us...) who were our spokespersons... gave us what we need... to end 'class'.... If that's not what you're doing... you official spokespeople over the airwaves... then why are you wasting our time... a.k.a.... our lives?

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Note regarding this Hugo quote in *Les Miserables*...

Men come together and live in common. By what right? By virtue of the right of association. (Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*, p. 447, Book VII – IV)

To place your foot on 'right' instead of 'feeling' ... angles you for the collar....

In *Waking Up* I said we have to have sound footing if we're going to jump... and not get stuck in the muck 'power' tries to mire us in.... Let's let '*feeling*' ... once based in abundance... guide us....

WUR, Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013: ‘so’ “Work is the key focus that unifies us... that will allow us to build our global freedom... and... Why ‘rationalism’ is a con... (Pt. 1)”

*“Egypt: a de-centralized civic structure requires transforming ‘work’ ...”*

To our brothers and sisters in Egypt... we are in awe of you... thank you for showing us what heart and determination can do. And let me say from the start... ‘power’ is so afraid of you... a lot of resources are being deployed behind scenes to sink your solidarity (and twenty million people in the streets is pretty solid...) I am very afraid of the horrors ‘power’ might unleash on you... now that it knows what you can do... and particularly if you use your powers of organization to shut down the Suez Canal and attempt to reclaim your country’s resources to fuel a *de-centralized* civic structure. I just want to say, “I feel you...” and if the professional Left stands for anything of worth, it needs right now to begin organizing global support... which means planning a global General Strike. Egypt cannot be left to face this threat alone. The question they are calling... the freedom they are advancing... is for us all.

The primary thrust of recent discussions has been: how can we better support each other? What are the mechanisms that will allow us to have each others’ backs... globally... so that we can align our actions with the actions of those who are withdrawing their ‘labor’... challenging ‘coercion?’ And how do we begin developing these mechanisms? Or... is the problem that we don’t have a clear enough goal that unites our thoughts and acts?

I believe that a focus on ‘work’ provides this unity... because it *is* what unifies us... all over the world we are the subjects of those who harness our energy... and harvest our energy... for ends ‘the people’ never determine. But the

problem has advanced well beyond the ability of the ideology ‘democracy’ to present itself credibly as the solution... well beyond the illusion that we are confronted by a problem of simple ‘injustice’... i.e. a matter of ‘exclusion’ of ‘outsider’ groups... to be ‘solved’ by including them... the problem, on the contrary, has advanced to the degree that we can recognize that we are, in fact, facing a global totalitarian threat. This threat is not what makes this moment singular... ‘power’ has known at least since the insights of Jeremy Bentham... that the installation of a class system had to be global – total – to be successful. The spread of fascism across Europe in the 1930s and forties was not an isolated attempt... not an aberration... far from it. ‘Power’ would not be ‘power’ if it was not steadily moving toward this goal – its every action and thought is informed by it. This steady movement toward a clear vision – clear, despite its manifesting itself in different versions – has effectively put a global population on lock-down... has almost achieved the freezing in place of ‘class.’

In today’s show, we’ll continue challenging the official Left to consider the destructiveness of their class-based assumptions – their reluctance to put forward a demand for the global-end to the global wage-work system... and through a discussion of “Why ‘rationalism’ is a con...” we’ll hope to set this issue into clearer relief... and we’ll be drawing on *Getting To Our Future Freedom* to examine why language is at the heart of this matter of our transformation.

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*“Egypt calls the question of ‘the state’ ...”*

In recent shows and on the website (particularly in light of recent events in Egypt)... we have been asking, “how can we better support each other?” But it’s important to acknowledge (and doing so may be sufficient to show how bankrupt is the professional Left...) that we haven’t yet even started the

conversation (over the airwaves) about the fact that this global society called ‘class’ is *specifically structured* to dissuade us from... and prevent the possibility of... mutual assistance... which is our nature as human beings. So... we have, until very recently, been effectively checked... atomized and kept divided... except... the cell-doors are opening... the ice floes are melting... and we’re beginning to see... what ‘power’ is doing... and we have to give some serious thanks to Egypt for the role it’s playing in helping us see that... see that ‘democracy’ is an ideology... see that gross disparities are built into the structure of the state... see that ‘the state’ is designed to prevent our solidarity... globally...

(...and we’ll be posing the question... “how can we create a future based on premises *opposite* to those we have with ‘class’... the premises of mutual assistance and expansive human possibilities... with a structure *designed* to prevent that?” Obviously we can’t. So... this matter of ‘the future’ cannot be left to those who are the beneficiaries of this existing manifestation... of disproportionate decision-making... a.k.a.... ‘the state’...)

...only through the determination... the *heart*... of our brothers and sisters in Egypt would we at this point be calling the question, “what do you do when the machinery of authority called ‘the state’ is set in motion because it’s backed up globally by ‘the market’... by global ‘power?’” (And ‘the market’ is in fact an invention, a creation, a tool, of global ‘power’.)

If folks in an individual nation cannot do anything to advance their freedom because the structure of ‘the state’ is designed to prevent them from doing that... and that in fact there is global pressure put on every state to maintain control of ‘their’ people...

...so this is a dilemma we have to work on together –or, rather, not just ‘work on’... but *actively confront*... together.



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“What gets numbers in the street is big vision... big hope... we want big change... we want the future... ‘affairs are now soul size’ ... and our longest stride is defining the future...”

(And forgive this aside... but this mention of floes reminds me to acknowledge another ancestor who soothes the soul, Christopher Fry, who wrote *The Lady's not for Burning*, a play I laboriously audio-taped from the television many moons ago and listened to repeatedly as a sort-of ‘bedtime-story’. Fry shows the power of words... i.e. of thought... which is essentially the focus of today’s show... the notion that reclaiming ‘thought’ is our hand-hold out of the pit ‘power’ continuously tries to shove us back into. This poem is from his play *A Sleep of Prisoners*:

*The Longest Stride of Soul*

(“Dark and cold we may be, but this is no winter now...” now that’s a great opening line... we may be dark and cold... but that doesn’t mean it’s winter... no... things are not what they seem... there’s a fire down below...)

Dark and cold we may be, but this  
Is no winter now. The frozen misery  
Of centuries breaks, cracks, begins to move,  
The thunder is the thunder of the floes,  
The thaw, the flood, the upstart Spring.  
Thank God our time is now when wrong  
Comes up to face us everywhere,  
Never to leave us till we take  
The longest stride of soul men ever took.  
Affairs are now soul size.  
(Christopher Fry, *A Sleep of Prisoners*)

To reclaim the earth in reality we must simultaneously reclaim it *in language*.

(from *Nascence* website page called: “*Getting to Our Future Freedom*”)

...he’s saying, “yes!... the question is now called... “yes, Egypt... you have called the question... dilemma

And though it may not seem so initially... focusing on ‘work’ is the key to the floes melting, the doors opening... the language coming... the words and thoughts that are the hand-holds out of the pit.

I’m very grateful for these radio conversations (despite their, as a rule, never going out over the airwaves)... as they’ve shed some light, I think, on this question of how to rebuild our freedom....

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*“All of our un-asked-for energy we let go... that’s wrong... there are critical ancestors who preserve the thoughts (the certainty) we need to see through ‘power’s cons...”*

Meeting this challenge can perhaps best be grasped by returning to our analysis in *Waking Up*... which argued that ‘power’ has been wildly successful in maintaining steady momentum toward its vision of ‘universal rule’ (as Kissinger put it <sup>1\*</sup>) by disconnecting us from our three sources of power: the ancestors (mind... they hold the thoughts we need)... the earth

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1 \* “Almost all empires were created by force, but none can be sustained by it. Universal rule, to last, needs to translate force into obligation. Otherwise, the energies of the rulers will be exhausted in maintaining their dominance at the expense of their ability to shape the future, which is the ultimate task of statesmanship. Empires persist if repression gives way to consensus.” (Henry Kissinger, *On China*, p. 13)

(body)... and each other (spirit). Using that tripartite lens allows us to see more clearly... and fully... exactly what happened to us... and what we need to do.

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*“Seeing in ‘the infinite’ the key to bridging rifts between all religions (and it’s only ‘scarcity’ that leads to all the false divisions being contentious issues between us...”*

At its most basic, what we need to do is to begin honoring our bodies’ truth... which means respecting our longing for reconnection... and that doing so opens up the path to recovering lost freedom... and those three areas of focus emerge... one leads to the other leads to the other. We have to...

- *See reality* [(which we need the ancestors for... those suppressed thoughts they preserve for us... (mind... the ancestors...)]

...recognize the cons (‘progress’ or ‘civilization’ or ‘rationalism’ [and we’ll be discussing why these three notions are various ways of expressing the same underlying reality]... and ‘economy’) *as* cons...;

...recognize the global threats of totalitarianism and ocean death (as a short-hand for destruction of our health); and so, therefore...

...recognize the *urgency* of our finally righting this upside-down social world...

...recognizing that we have to do this before we can do anything else... before we can heal the planet, and before we can heal our relations with each other...

- *Feel confident about how we will get our food* (body... earth...) We have to trust the earth will feed us.

• *Overcome false divisions* [systematically sown by ‘power’ (spirit... each other...)]; particularly the false divide between so-called ‘hand’ and so-called ‘mind’; as well as to see in ‘the infinite’ the unity of all authentic religion... and as the root of our fundamental unity.... To attempt to encompass in oneself... to attain... to become an adept in... ‘the infinite’... is Hugo’s practice of religion... and Tesla’s practice of the art of ‘science’... and so ultimately we see Nikola helps us to bridge *this* rift... between religion and science... *this* ‘distance’ as well.... (And... it is only ‘scarcity’ – which is a *manufactured* scarcity and not actual – that leads to religion... and all the other false divisions... being contentious issues between us....)

To examine ‘work’ with unskewed vision... without the lens of the sight-warping con ‘civilization’... and with a heart intact... means to see its otherwise hidden bias... that leans it towards the key dilemma of ‘class’... abusive authority... totalitarianism... not as a problem of any particular nation... but as a problem for global humanity.

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*“Mutual confidence is the first condition for courage ... So what would the martial arts training for ending class look like?... but we have to want to be free to start working on it...”*

Moreover, we cannot know ourselves while we stand in a net of coercion... a web of obligation... in a tangle of lies... and a trap of fear.... And to remain lost to ourselves... and this for millennia as well... is abominable. (But the Egyptian people have shown us our true cooperative selves... very humbling, it has been, to see... [and ‘power’ will never rest till it has destroyed our belief that such solidarity ever was... unless we stand with her... and prove it....])

And ‘the job’ manifests this problem in microcosm... with its demand to suppress authentic thought and elevate ‘rationalism’ (excised feeling)... and... we’re beginning to see that excised feeling means... ‘performance’... on the job... and under orders.

And if we choose to listen to the ancestors who call attention to the hidden actors... that set the weight...

...the shadow state of ‘power’...

...the ancestors who explained what moves these actors...

...and the visible effects that prove these motives....

The truth they point to emerges around us clearly.

It takes no perspicacity to see that ‘power’s never paused for an instant... in its forward-thrusting towards its aims... its goal of total privatization... and total control... its intent is evident all around us... and so... all that remains for us to know... is how to take that first step... to a *global* resistance? – global... to meet their ambition-total. (...And Egypt opens the door... invites us to start doing it.... How much more must Egypt do? They need some help... and that’s not helping them, that’s helping global humanity move to its long deserved... and long deferred... future freedom.)

To rebuild our freedom we have to re-knit our solidarity... which... Petr Kropotkin reminds us is the first condition for courage... mutual confidence – which is why ‘power’s use of agent provocateurs... paying people to act clandestinely... is such an effective tactic... and why we have to diligently pursue allegiance to our values and our vision and the earth.... And that’s hard to do in the flood of emotion... so we have to start talking about this. Remember that ‘kenpo stance’ I talked about in *Waking Up*? Well, we have to be able to re-ground in flux – that’s the point of martial arts training, so that you aren’t caught off-guard when you’re thrust into the situation that Egypt is now in. So what would the martial arts training for

ending 'class' look like? It's time to start practicing it right now... events are moving pretty quick.

But the necessary companion piece to our freedom's achievement... as a species... is wanting freedom as individualities. "Individual power is the only effective check to 'power'..." is what we've been arguing... and to suppress this need 'power' invented the 'civilization'... or 'progress'... story... and since controlling the stories that occupy our minds is critical for 'power'... we have to systematically replace the stories 'power' tells us... with ones of our own creation. Instead of, "We must work..." pundits could be helping us learn: "We are all artists... We all have the capacity for heroism..." and: "The critical heroic task of the moment which we must all help with is 'society-redesign' in order to replace the Hierarchy Myth... which is based, of course, on the myth of scarcity..."

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*"We have to change the physical infrastructure of society... and that means de-centralizing 'power' globally..."*

We all know by now how 'power' thinks... we can see it's sinking us... we don't want that... so we can now start developing... our *own* thought.

It's time now to turn away from 'power'... from 'class'... and the damage it's done to us... and start the discussions of what *we* want... *leisure*... our time... our lives... it's time to let *that* goal guide us... begin to describe the transformations of the physical world we seek to effect... and let the earth blow away the false fog... and clear our sight to the true path... so we can keep our eyes on the prize.

'Time to let the goal guide us' means getting behind (driving) a new train on a new track... this time with the earth on our side... the one we're on is being driven by an historicist-myth... or rather by us as its manifestation ... suppressing our own vitalness... the energy of suppression encounters

enormous resistance (unconsciously)... requires enormous costs and loss of life-energy... and now, when we've entered a time which calls for huge energy inputs to correct the evil effects of so much suppression... over the thousands of generations... still... 'power' wants to extract that toll by force... to use the same means that led to so much misery... and it will not let go their dream of so-called 'mastery'... of so-called 'perfection'... in which the various functions never drift from their designated places... so that 'power' can pretend it bends us all to 'Knowledge-Infinite'.

But their 'knowledge' is not our knowledge... their 'reason' not ours... but we can only become certain of this... certain we have reclaimed the definitions... if we consciously develop them... all of us... not some self-important few.

Today we're going to examine some of the key notions to be reclaimed... and discuss why it's critical that we do.

'Rationalism' is a juncture where many related notions meet... so it may be the key... to helping us see... how we got tied up in that web of obligation.

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*"Controlling us has three aspects... comprehended by 'the Panopticon'... globally..."*

Before we begin let's take a moment to recall a key piece of ground covered in these conversations, that serves as foundation for the present discussion.

Thanks to Karl Popper, in his book *The Open Society and Its Enemies: The Spell of Plato*, we learned that Plato identified the problem of 'imperialism' as the key problem to be solved in order to install a structure of rigid, fixed class... and thereby create the 'perfect state'...

(...and we can see 'power's push to install a system of rigid, fixed 'class' in its relentless propaganda that 'science' will bring us 'our future'... "Relax..." is what they tell us... "we'll keep

our eyes on the future... while you keep your eyes on the ground...”)

...and we learned from Popper that this became an on-going project... the key ‘historicist myth’... the longing to finally realize Plato’s totalitarian vision. (He wrote during the rise and march of fascism across Europe in the 1930s and forties.) And Martin Bernal, in *Black Athena: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece 1785 - 1985*, explained how this class-conscious mission of ‘power’ was inculcated in its middle and higher ranks by installing a ruling mythology... called ‘the classical heritage’ in its ‘institutions of higher learning.’

This problem of ‘imperialism’ was defined by Plato as ‘outsiders’ coming in and infecting the (hitherto) mentally-captive classes by bringing in new notions that disrupted the carefully-crafted mind-set of class.

‘Power’s solution to this problem identified by Plato at base folded along a tripartite conceptualization of the aspects of totalitarianism... leading to ‘total control’... of *us*: of mind... body... and spirit... i.e. it focused on the psychological-physical-spiritual aspects of how to control us... in order to define how we see the world. Previous shows focused on the mind-body... or psychological-physical-aspects of this social world of class... i.e. ‘power’s solution for controlling these dimensions. Today we’re going to consider ‘rationalism’ as the solution to addressing the spiritual dimension of this conceptualization... arguing that it literally *dis*-spirits us...

We’ve argued in these shows that Jeremy Bentham essentially restated and updated this problem Plato identified... and then devoted his days to solving it... on behalf of ‘perfect state’-lovers everywhere. (We also argued that, ultimately, in ‘solving’ this problem of how to achieve the ‘perfect state’... ‘power’ necessarily ‘outs’... or exposes... itself.)



Bentham's solution was to exhaustively explain to 'power' the need for careful assessment, planning and design... of us... and then how to accomplish it. He called this body of work that he created 'the logic of the will'... and created as its physical expression, the Panopticon – a structure designed to maximize effective control... of us. Viewed as the key structural design 'power' uses for managing us... and as a short-hand for his entire body of 'knowledge', the 'knowledge' of control... it's fair to say Bentham's Panopticon was enthusiastically embraced and successfully installed by 'power' *globally*.

(And, by the by, with so many folks staying plugged in 24 – 7...

...what the new technology does... in 'power's hands, not ours... if not leave the brain exposed... it at least leaves it vulnerable... and as 'power' has been trying to figure out for centuries how to control our thoughts... by giving them to us... this is concerning...

...they want us to be soulless beings... completely designed by 'power'.)

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*“A single world market compels everyone, all the people of the world, to, eventually, ‘come in’... making ‘the economy’ thereby a ‘universal lexicon’...”*

Bentham's primary gift to 'power' was to provide the psychological solution... and to remind them of the need for a 'total'-solution... to the problem of installing... rigid, fixed, class. And he also contributed to solving the 'total' dilemma by focusing on the physical-side of the problem of control by reminding 'power' of the need to always maintain conditions of generalized 'scarcity' and suggesting it could be accomplished globally... even drawing on Confucius... as Kissinger did.

Karl Polanyi wrote that Bentham explained to those who hope to rule us... (which he, along with Plato, hoped would one day be 'philosopher-statesmen'...) that the role of government is to increase want in order to make the physical sanction of hunger effective. He abhorred crude violence and recommended that 'power' focus on the *physical* design of the world... to focus on 'prevention' and 'environmental interventions' (as the public health bureaucrats of today might put it)... rather than 'punishment' after the fact. It was a matter of simple 'economics', he said... of 'efficient use of resources.'

However, the broader material dimension of control, we learned from Albert O. Hirschman in *The Passions and the Interests: Political Arguments for Capitalism Before Its Triumph...* was addressed first by the creation of the bill of exchange... which made transactions liquid across regions... and then, most importantly, we learned from Karl Polanyi in *The Great Transformation...* was the creation of a single global market... by means of the installation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century gold standard... and a single world market compels *everyone*, all the people of the world, to, eventually ... 'come in'... making 'the economy' thereby a 'universal lexicon'... all state priorities came to be convertible to this currency.

So... 'power's goal is to control what we think... (internal control)... control what we see... the physical world... (what's called 'reality'... [external control])... *and* control our *longing*... that which lies between the two and tries to change things... our energy... our will to affect our environments. 'Power' tries to ensure that the 'will to transform' and apply our skills in the physical world is confined within the strict lines given... by them... by 'rationalism'....

The sense in which all these paths meet in 'rationalism' is what we'll now be discussing.

WUR, Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013: ‘so’ “Why ‘rationalism’ is a con... (Pt. 2) and “The ‘accumulation process’ is the ‘privatization process’...”

July 7, 2013: Brothers and sisters: When ‘power’ brings out its pundits to tell us in the U.S.: “How sad Egyptian men don’t know self-control and so are raping their sisters...” please remember the January 25 revolution... when young women in Tahir Square said that for the first time in their lives they felt safe with their brothers.... Well, that’s because ‘power’ was caught off-guard and hadn’t time to prepare... of course now they have.

We can see ‘power’s push to install a global system of rigid, fixed ‘class’ in its relentless propaganda that ‘science’ will bring us our future.... So... what *is* the future we want? and how do we get there given ‘power’s effective use of agent provocateurs? We first considered this question in the blog, “*Occupying Our Commons*”... under the title, “Agent Provocateurs,” in which we raised the question of, “what is effective political education?” I hope you’ll get a chance to check it out. We’ll be discussing this matter of ‘the future’... this Sunday, July 14, 2013 on Waking Up Radio.

*“The ‘imperialism of rationalism’ erects interior structures in us all...”*

Today we’re going to be talking about ‘Egypt’... about “why ‘rationalism’ is a con”... about “how do we hang onto a movement when it’s being intentionally undermined by paid agents?”... about “in what sense did we mean last week that, ‘Egypt is calling the question of the state?’”... and that different angles on the truth – these different angles on the same reality – once translated into each other’s terms, or *rectified*... reveal more of the truth.

(And this last question is moving toward a juxtaposition of “revealing ‘truth’” with the project of ‘journalism’... which, I think we’ll see, resides in a sub-division of ‘rationalism’.... And

in the next show we'll looking at the question of 'rationalism' as the third dimension of 'power's totalitarian control.)

The June 30 2013 Egyptian Revolution has brought to mind those words of Victor Hugo:

The counterfeiters of the past take assumed names, and are fond of calling themselves the future. That spectre, the past, not infrequently falsifies its passport. Let us be ready for the snare. Let us beware. (Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*, Book VI – XI)

So long as 'class' exists, 'power' will never... *can* never... retire this magician's trick... this attempt to pass repackaged relationships of class... off on us as some bright and shiny... more 'just'... 'future'... a sleight-of-hand which is, just as Hugo said... palming the past in a false show of 'open-hand'... that it will, down the road, unceremoniously, shove down our throats.

So... it's time to look around us and say, "is this what we want?"... as... 'the future' 'power' plans for us is but a harsher version of what we have now. "Let us be ready for the snare. Let us beware."

But how?

This is essentially the same question we asked last week, when we said: "What would the martial arts training for 'ending class' look like?"... particularly when the deepest pockets that ever were is funding multiple layers of hidden opposition... in order to reverse this global awakening led by the Egyptian people....

So... let us not underestimate the threat, as, apparently, from birth onward states know... 'statesmen' stay on top only if *we* stay at each other's throats... which means that 'practical political education' must prepare us for the snare of 'division'... *and*... for the (hired) 'hands' that set it on our paths to trip us up. 'Division' is 'lesson number one' in 'power's plan for controlling us. And its preferred status as a tactic seems

deserved... certainly the moments when it's failed them are moments we generally never hear of.... But around us today exceptions are taking root in our minds.... In Pelican Bay Prison... where, in an earlier day, the most severely punished might have turned their pain on each other... are working together in good fellowship, bridging false divisions.

(And... by the way... bridging false divisions is different from *healing* them – though it's certainly the first step to healing them. 'Power' knows divisions can't be fully healed so long as it ['power'] controls the design of the infrastructure of society, so you'll find it pretending to encourage the attempt as a practice of mental discipline... i.e. individualism... which is not a threat to our continued atomization)

Bridging false divisions is what we see when twenty-four million people are in the streets... or when Occupy settlements grow. We become like a crew at a job site... (I wrote in *Waking Up*)... where we find ourselves all together at the same place and the same time... and we get the job done because we share the same goal. So the only thing we have to do... to get the job done... is to share the same goal. But I'm arguing that it has to be a *big* goal... or we get "same-ol'-same-ol'" And Egypt is proving that point for us in real time... (no matter the extreme measures to divide we're seeing in the media...) Egypt is moving us all... as a common humanity... forward at a speed heretofore unknown in history... we can see the truth of it... in a single generation...

...we just have to drive it home... to freedom.

And even though so many ancestors saw through the cons... and left their precious help... not a one could overcome the *structure* of class itself...

We have to change the infrastructure...

...and... never doubt...

...we all want this...

...good fellowship...

...heart...  
...which...  
...if we develop the stances and the practices we need...  
...trumps heartless ‘division’...  
...brings...  
...the upstart Spring.

And therein lies the key to a successful strategy when we find false minds are crawling through our movement.

I believe that allegiance to our values can inoculate us from the poisonous bite of agent provocateurs... but we also added last week that, “we have to *want* to be free to start working on our kenpo stance... and they have stolen our certainty... as Andrey Platonov pointed out almost ninety years ago – “It’s as if someone, or some few, had drawn the feeling of certainty out of us and taken it for themselves...” he said... and Shakespeare concurred with his energizing words, spoken some four hundred years ago... that “our doubts are traitors...” and, we must always add, that these traitors are created... systematically invented... and over time inserted in our lives.

Last week we said that the structures of class are designed to keep us contained... and that inserting good people in them cannot change them... but there is a second part to that question... which is that the real action of ‘statesmen’ happens behind scenes... and that the forefront is theater... and a third part... which is that the ‘imperialism of rationalism’ erects interior structures in us all.

Because ‘rationalism’ is a con set at a very oblique angle... and opaque as well... we will have to come at it from many directions to reveal it. So let’s review what we’ve been discussing of these issues in recent shows.

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*“When will the Left pundits call the question of ‘what we want?’”*

Last week we said this to the Egyptian people, that: “a de-centralized civic structure requires transforming ‘work.’” And not long ago we noted that Immanuel Wallerstein told folks at the 2013 Left Forum that even these ‘power’-guys are no longer trying to prop up the illusion of ‘capitalism’... that even they have concluded it is doomed.

This is confirmed in articles we’ve discussed on this show from the Yale Globalization Center. One of their articles was the subject of the January 13, 2013 audio-blog, “The Panopticon Illustrated (Part 2)”, in which we contrasted the relentless ‘ever-forward-thrustingness’ of ‘power’ – as represented in multiple of these reprinted articles [...and *Epoch Times*, why aren’t you reprinting them anymore? I miss them...] – and the reluctance of Left pundits to drift from mere megaphoning of what it *thinks* ‘power’ is doing...

(...and this on the most superficial level... on the level of ‘proof’... i.e. what can be seen using the skewed lens of ‘class society’... by which I mean... that the logic of ‘class’ itself is never challenged... that we are taught not to trust what is obvious from ‘the pattern’ itself... the pattern of only a miniscule few ever being able to use a part of their earth-given gifts.... Instead we are taught, in the absence of ‘concrete proof’ otherwise... that the few ‘facts’ that [are allowed to] surface... must reflect what’s ‘true’... that ‘the best’ are picked by means of ‘the system’... and the rest ‘merit’ their subordinate status... this obvious lie passes by the eyes of those who supposedly ‘speak’ for us... the official voices... of our ‘spokespeople’... the press and the elected representatives.)

*“Egypt has given us so many gifts... they are showing us that the global economy exposes the con ‘state sovereignty’...”*

In the Yale Globalization article the author was saying what I’ve also heard Immanuel Wallerstein say, that: “empires

fall... hegemons [hegemonic states] are self-liquidating.”

And this was discussed in the December 2, 2012 audio blog, “‘Power’ is exposed... the ‘philosopher-king’ has no clothes...”, in which we said that the global economy exposes the con ‘state sovereignty’... and that’s what we’re seeing in Egypt... Egypt has given us so many gifts... but here’s the latest one... they are *showing* us this, they are illustrating this... that the global economy exposes the illusion of the supposed ‘sovereignty’ of states... as it exposes that ‘rulers’ / elites – whether in China or Russia or Egypt... or wherever – have but one allegiance... and that is to ‘power’ – it’s a *world* economy.

We also said that ‘*global* scarcity’ [austerity] (and ‘global’ means we got nowhere to go... in theory) eliminates the need for *economic* ideology as ‘scarcity’ is self-justifying...

(...once again, this is Bentham’s and Townsend’s point about grabbing us by those short hairs... about the role of government being “to increase ‘want’ to make the physical sanction of hunger effective...” so... being in survival mode... globally... precludes the need for the song-and-dance of the ‘economic’ pundits... we’re too busy trying to stay alive to seek entertainment. And that’s the world they have planned for us... although they can never dispense with the ‘progress myth’... which requires that there be some ‘winners’... like Denmark. But this isn’t the *world* we want... in which a few grow fat while the mass clings by the skin of its teeth... fearing it’s slipping backwards... into an even deeper morass.)

...and asked: “so if *economic* ideology isn’t needed anymore because ‘austerity’ eliminates the need for it...

(...which is why they can say ‘goodbye’ to ‘capitalism’ as an ideology – “see ya! It’s been great... but we don’t need ya anymore...” – the world economy did its work... brought everybody ‘in’... that job is done. You could argue that’s true for the con ‘nationalism’ too... we’ll be talking about that in a minute...)



...what ideology replaces it?” (Remember Victor Hugo’s words, “...no vacuum in the human heart...”?)

...‘power’ seems to have recognized that need of ours... to have some meaning to our lives.)

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*“Egypt is an ‘in-real-time’ lesson in the hollowness of ‘the state’ as ideology...”*

So the professional Left... hand-in-hand with the policy-think-tanks of ‘power’... (at least as represented by the Yale Globalization Center...) is now speaking in one voice that the ideology known as ‘capitalism’ can no longer credibly contain the rhetoric of ‘progress’... (the most critical con ‘power’ has going for it at this point... the ‘barbarian hoards’ having failed miserably...) – ‘capitalism’ as ideology can no longer fit with the ‘progress-myth’...

(...which is essential... because... what else have they got to con us with... if ‘divide-and-conquer’ doesn’t work... and that’s always something we have to add: “if... we don’t allow ‘divide-and-conquer’ to work...” and if ‘divide-and-conquer’ don’t work, we don’t have to worry about no more cons... we’ll just be working together... creating the world we want...)

So... if ‘capitalism’ doesn’t work serve... we’re asking, “what ideology replaces it?”

Something new must be invented...

...and all the pundits... left, right and center... I’m sure are busy on it....

First they tried to rehabilitate ‘capitalism’...

...by distinguishing it from its ‘crony’ bad side...

Then they went straight to...  
...‘free-market’... tried and true...  
...now they’re taking ‘democratic economics’ out for a ride...  
...just to see if we’ll buy... but...  
...it’s a flawed con if all nations want it....  
So I suspect what they’ll float next...  
...is just to say...  
“...who needs ‘nation-states’ anyway?...  
“...aren’t we all ‘one’?...”  
“...let’s all share in common...”  
“...since the earth is in trouble...  
...and the oceans may die soon...  
...let’s call the resources of the planet ‘communal!’”  
And they’ll laugh into the lexicon kept private...  
...along with the ledgers in which entries are shifted...  
...carefully from one line to another...  
...and in that kept-private lexicon...  
...they’ll quietly switch...  
...to ‘stewards of the communal’...  
...from ‘philosopher-statesmen’....

And I say this because... we have to stop focusing on the *words* ‘power’ uses – as they’ve stolen the language... we’ve lost control of the lexicon – don’t listen to what they say, look at what they do... because they have survived over the centuries by taking the words we’ve tried to hang onto, like ‘democracy’, or ‘justice’, or ‘freedom’, or ‘liberty’, and re-filled them... taken out what we’ve loved about them... and put in there the ball-and-chain. So don’t look at what they say, and what they call themselves. When they say, “we’re about protecting the earth...” we say, “no, that’s our job...” When they say, “we are going to represent for ‘the communal’...” we say, “no, we have to create a world based on communal principles... *we* do this....” We cannot expect a ‘future’ that works for us if it’s *delivered* to us by our so-called ‘masters’.

‘Capitalism’... you will recall... according to the ideology... was ‘necessary’ to ‘develop the productive forces’... so that we could all have better lives...

...that this ‘better life’ quality tended to drift upwards... and exponentially so over time... can now no longer be denied...

...nor that the alleged superiority of ‘mind’... or the supposed ‘scientific rationality’ of it all... is a lie... as we watch the oceans die... and the lakes and rivers cough up death... and the poisoned soils cause cancer and make frogs lose their gender... and all the toxic-contaminating is killing the bees. And as we have trouble breathing... and all the electromagnetic and chemical hormone-mimicking is destroying any illusion of ‘health’ as a possibility... and the survival-stress wears us down to a bleak acquiescence...

...the pundits can no longer say (at least with a straight face...) how ‘improved’ are our lives... thanks to the supreme rationality... of the objectified ‘Mind’...

...‘mind’ with ‘heart’ excised....

—

*“The exploding, eroding notion of ‘work’...”*

Along with the dissolution of the ‘capitalism’ myth, the other concept that will be absorbing the pundits is the exploding-eroding notion of ‘work’...

So... “Egypt requires a transformed practice of ‘work’...” is also saying: “we better get on top of this concept quick... and define it ourselves... or we’ll find ourselves with a fresh and shiny hell served up... that ‘power’ will call ‘our service’... while telling us we must support *their* ‘service’... *for us* (we’ll be told)... so they can ‘save the planet’... and deliver to us their latest version of... the ‘good life’.

The ‘privatization-mechanisms’ of ‘power’ – also known

as ‘capitalism’ – cannot sustain the illusion that ‘the economy’ provides livelihoods... (let alone ‘the good life’... defined as: ‘comfortable levels of consumption...’) for more and more and more of us...

So... if in fact ‘capitalism’ was just a rationalization for the privatization mechanisms of ‘power’... which cannot stop as long as there is ‘power’... if that has been the truth all along... it will continue rolling along... undisturbed by an ideology’s purge...

So... we can see now stark and clear... the truth that the processes at work lo! these many years... is not ‘capitalism’ at all... but a progressive tightening of the noose... of the ‘total-control’... of humans.

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In the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 audio-blog, “Egypt calls the question of ‘the state’...,” we said: “...if folks in individual nations cannot do anything to advance their freedom because the structure of the state is designed to prevent that... and if that structure is backed up by global ‘power’...

...then ‘power’ stands bare and naked. It’s now clear for all to see that ‘the state’ is a husk filled up by the ‘world economy’...

This is that point we said we’d return to when we reviewed ‘key ground covered’ last week... i.e. that ‘power’ gets exposed in this process... this privatization process... this process of creating a single world market... and that *state sovereignty*... or the inability of ‘power’ to *totally* control the *definition* of it... is the fatal flaw in their practice of establishing ‘total control’... of us...

This is what we are being shown by Egypt. It’s an ‘in-real-time’ lesson in the hollowness of ‘the state’ as an ideology (and as an actual vehicle) through which we can achieve ‘freedom’.

But... it's double-edged for 'power'... this ideology.

So this contradiction between *our* need to realize ourselves... our power... by utilizing state structures (trying to make them work for us...)

...the contradiction between our use of the state for our purpose and the use of the state for 'power's purposes – that contradiction was pointed out by Terence Hopkins in the book he edited with Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: Theory and Methodology*, in 1982...

...and so at least for the last thirty years we could have been working on this question. And perhaps in academia they are... but they didn't get all of us working on it. We are one mind now... we always were but the internet has allowed us to actually make that a practical reality. There are honorable people in academia – and Terence Hopkins is one, for sure – so these critical questions that affect us all cannot be the exclusive province of a few designated 'thinkers'... have to be translated out of academic jargon and turned over to all of us... through the airwaves... because our eye has to stay on freedom... always... I don't care what role you play in the Matrix... in the world-system... in this artificial construction of 'power'... you have to have your eye on freedom for the species... that's what we're here for.

So... this inherent contradiction... if this had been a *discussion*... over the airwaves... would we still... thirty years later... would these left pundits have the nerve to stand up there and talk about 'perfecting the state'? if we had been discussing the fact that the state cannot deliver freedom... that only *we* can. So, instead of spinning our wheels over and over and over to get that Constitutional Amendment through, or whatever, we need to be talking to each other... we need to be advancing each other's thought... just as we're seeing in Egypt... apace... apace... apace....

And I am so concerned about the difficulty they face doing that as these paid folks are trying to wear us down. At this point it's an endurance test – I mean it always is....

So we have to hold close to our hearts... the vision... the future we want... of generalized, human freedom... and it has to be a global vision... or else they'll just isolate those who are recalcitrant... and systematically chip away at them... push them into that 'loser' box... and try to get everybody else to turn our backs on them. That's been their winning strategy from Day One, and the *exact* opposite needs to happen... we need to be having each other's backs so tough, so tight... and we have the mechanisms... the technology... to do it. No excuses today.

None.

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*"The 'accumulation process' is the 'privatization process'..."*

So...this 'contradiction' – between our use of the state for our purpose and the use of the state for 'power's purposes – was pointed out by Terence Hopkins.

The quotes that follow – first from Terence Hopkins and then from Karl Popper – hopefully will help us see... how different angles on the truth... together reveal more of the reality. They're looking at the same reality but from very different angles and from different distances from that reality... but it's the same reality... and... just as when I juxtaposed Alice Miller and Herbert Marcuse in *Waking Up*... they both tell the truth, but from different angles on it... and I'm going to be arguing that... that which is true can be *described* variously, but these different angles on the truth – these different angles on the same reality – once translated into each other's terms, or *rectified*... reveal more of the truth. They're saying the same thing, but there's a key for rectifying them called the earth... which we're going to have to develop quickly... in real time... so that we can keep our eyes on the prize.

So this is Terence Hopkins... presenting in a very, very condensed form... the overall picture... looking from the vantage of the whole:

If, now, one were to try to give the main ideas informing the construct of “the modern world-system” in a highly abbreviated form, they might run as follows. First, there is the “structure” of this social system, consisting of: (a) one expanding economy; (b) expanding multiple states; and (c) the capital – labor relation. Second, there is this social system’s “development”....

...This one world-scale economy... has a single or *axial* division and integration of labor processes (“division of labor”) [effectuated by the nineteenth century gold standard], which is both organized and paralleled by a single set of accumulation-processes...

[...viewed differently, ‘accumulation-processes’ means a process of creating ‘winners’ and ‘losers’... and this is a process we *always* resist... because of its basic unfairness... life wants balance... that’s in our constitution as life... that’s the only constitution we need, to get our freedom...]

...between its always more advanced, historically enlarging, and geographically shifting *core* and its always less advanced, disproportionately enlarging, and geographically shifting *periphery*. (p. 11)

[...so try to picture this... because this is condensed... but it’s not jargon... he speaks plainly, but it’s dense... you know, like Shakespeare... you gotta unpack it, you gotta let it... bloom in your mind... the fullness of what he’s saying... because he’s trying to capture life in words... improvisation... jazz... whatever... so you have to *see* that there’s this pressure... and it’s essentially *us*... we-the-people... that are pressuring the ‘winner’-box to enlarge... more and more people want to claim more and more of their wholeness.... At the same time, what’s working against that, is this accumulation process,

whereby the earth is exponentially made private... and so there's this constant pressure to push people out... this is called 'increasing disparities'.... So that's what he means when he says that there's this "historically enlarging, and geographically shifting *core*..." and by 'geographically shifting' you're picturing China wants 'in'... 'Russia' wants 'in'... 'Japan' wanted in... (got in...) and then that means... 'who's gonna be "out"?' you gotta keep enlarging that number of people 'out'... and this is the contradiction that he's describing here... because nobody wants to be 'out'.... This whole thing he's describing then is the process, as he says, of "modern social change"...

The inherent contradiction between the development of the "one economy" and the development of the "multiple states" continually paces, and shows itself in specific forms in the course of, the social system's long-term development (which equals modern social change).... It is the articulation of the *processes* of the world-scale division and integration of labor and the *processes* of state-formation and deformation... that constitute the system's formation and provide an account, at the most general level, for the patterns and features of its development (hence, of the patterns and features of modern social change). The articulation of the two sets of processes necessarily results, in the theory, in the network of relations among political formations... being patterned like the network of relations among production-accumulation zones (core-periphery), *and vice versa*.... [so... the 'political power' of states matches their 'economic power'...]

[There are] two important [contradictions]...: (1) the growing competition among states (owing to their increasing number and their increasingly competitive policies) to house centers of the production-accumulation network versus the strengthening tendency of that network toward centralization of the accumulation process (fewer centers); [...you feel



that tension that he's trying to capture in words...] (2) the increasing influence of class-organized politics (resulting from capitalist development) on state-policies versus the increasingly competitive search by larger and larger units of capital for larger and larger pools of low-cost labor. (Terence K. Hopkins, "The Study of the Capitalist World-Economy: Some Introductory Considerations," in Hopkins and Immanuel Wallerstein (eds.), *World-Systems Analysis: Theory and Methodology*, p. 12 – 13, quoted in *Palmer's Chat, As We Take Our Earth Back*)

What he's calling 'capital,' I don't call 'capital,' I call 'power'... because I believe that the 'accumulation process' for 'power' is essentially a privatization process with an underlying 'political' motive – i.e. that what we're seeing with this deepening 'institutionalization' of class is the accumulation of *means* (which includes the control of us... we-the-people...) to shape the future. And this missing 'power' piece is one of the many reasons why Karl Popper is so important to add to the mix. He studied 'power' and believed that Marxist theorists underestimated it... and that's because he looked real long... could read ancient Greek... (*and wrote as fascism marched across Europe...*) and he knew that lust for 'power' is nothing new. He studied 'power' just as Shakespeare did... and those who studied explicitly 'power' we need... they are not ancient history, by any means... until 'class' is settled – because 'class' is just the way they sculpt the world they want – until we reclaim our lives as a global humanity... we're going to be struggling with this problem called 'power.'

That's one of the many reasons I love that poem we read last week:

Thank God our time is now when wrong  
Comes up to face us everywhere,  
Never to leave us till we take  
The longest stride of soul men ever took.  
Affairs are now soul size.

Christopher Fry knew the truth of it... when he says, “when wrong comes up to face us everywhere,” ‘wrong’ is just another word for ‘power’... ‘power’ is everywhere... that’s just another way of saying, ‘we have a single, world system...’

So this is what I mean by saying that there is one reality... it can be described in many ways... but if it is accurately describing that reality... it is the truth... and you can use different words... you can use the language of Alice Miller... you can use the language of Shakespeare and Christopher Fry... you can use the language of Terence Hopkins, or any of his tribesmen like Erich Fromm or Herbert Marcuse...

...they’re describing accurately the same underlying reality – honestly... not trying to con... that’s the key difference... they *want* generalized human freedom. And they may have been misled about what the possibilities are... how we get there... or what it looks like... but they want it... they have a hunger for it....

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Karl Popper, in *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (Pt. 2), I’m arguing, is looking at this same reality from a different angle – and closer in. Terence Hopkins was stepping back and looking from the vantage of the whole. But Karl Popper, in *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (Pt. 2), also revealed this same tension... implicitly... this contest...

...and Polanyi talked about this too... this tension over ‘who claims the state’...

...and this underscores why it’s so frustrating that even though they’ve given us all we need to have these conversations for thirty... forty... fifty years... and yet we still haven’t had these conversations about: “is that a realistic strategy to engage in a contest for the mechanisms of ‘the state’?... *can* the people claim the mechanisms of ‘the state’?”... (conversations which would have been so helpful to the people of Egypt...)

Terence Hopkins offered insights that... if Karl Popper had thought about... he may have changed his mind... this is the conversation... we have to start having real conversations instead of always breathlessly waiting for the next scandal for 'power' to present to us to occupy our so-called 'reasoning process'... which it isn't, it's just scandal-mongering... it's voyeurism... we have to start realizing... of *course* there's a surveillance state... of *course* they lie to us... duh... come on.... And we-the-people know this. We have to somehow get better representation over the airwaves... to not just push our thought forward... but push our *hope* forward... to know that there's some life out there in the universe that is on our side....

So... Karl Popper, from his different angle was also looking at this tension... by looking at this word 'nationalism'... because, as I said, 'power' continually tries to dupe us by changing the meaning of words. And he describes, in this second volume of *The Open Society and Its Enemies, Vol. 2: The High Tide of Prophecy: Hegel, Marx, and the Aftermath*, a really interesting episode in which [the late eighteen / early nineteenth century 'philosopher'] Hegel was brought in by the Prussian Emperor in order to quell a 'nationalist' uprising (and this word is used to describe it now, but Popper reminds us that the 'nation-state' concept is extremely new, and was not one used then) – but I do want to re-emphasize the point that we have to be helping Egypt right now... which means helping ourselves.... If we can help Egypt *forward* this discussion of “how do we achieve our freedom when 'the state' has been captured by the 'global economy?'”... which is just another word for 'power'.... We have to be talking about this all over the globe... because otherwise we're going to be duped by these pundits who tell us to 'fix the state'... and that that's the way... “let's just working on the Constitution...” come on....

And so Egypt is accelerating our thought process on this... because... whoa... I mean it's breathtaking... two revolutions in the space of a couple years.... So... it's like: "ok... here's our revolution... we got rid of the dictator... alright, now let's have this democracy... ok, no... didn't work... perhaps 'democracy' is a con... hmm...." And so then they went ahead and called the question, right? "We don't want repackaged tyranny... we want democracy..." and so now... they got nothing else left to give the Egyptian people but... 'divide-and-conquer': "Oh well, see, 'tribalism' is rearing its ugly head... that's because, well, we turn against each other because of... blah, blah, blah.... Or... because the world economy is in such a dilapidated state... there's scarce resources, so we gotta fight each other... blah, blah, blah..."

So... this is not *Egypt's* problem, this is the problem for global humanity... to see through this con 'nation-state'... *or...* what I'm arguing is... because they've claimed the lexicon, we've got to start developing *earth-terms*... that cannot be co-opted... and undermined that way... that we cannot let them tell us that 'leisure' is 'having free time'... we cannot let them tell us that 'freedom' is *anything but* 'freedom from scarcity'... having the possession of our own bodies... being able to do what we *want* when we wake up in the morning... every single one of us....

We have the means. The earth is *extremely* generous.

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But Karl Popper, in *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (Pt. 2), also revealed it... implicitly... when he pointed out that 'nationalism' can either be a branch from the tree of freedom: "we shall be of one blood all nations..." or from the tree of fascism.

I now proceed to a very brief sketch of a rather strange story – the story of the *rise of German nationalism*....

Nationalism appeals to our tribal instincts, to passion and to

prejudice, and to our nostalgic desire to be relieved from the strain of individual responsibility which it attempts to replace by a collective or group responsibility.

[And I have to interject here... because I don't altogether agree with that... but I don't altogether disagree either.... As with most analysts based in... trained by... 'class' – what most people call 'the West'... trained in a class-based set of assumptions ('civilization'... the assumption of that... what Terence Hopkins might call 'the division of labor')... the possibility that Petr Kropotkin saw – because he knew earth-based people... and understood our reverence for the earth – the possibility that Kropotkin saw of individuality *thriving* in the security of the tribe eluded Karl Popper... i.e., that *my* power does not only *not* negate your power... but grows stronger in it: “the more I give to thee, the more I have....”

We *all* want to be *big*... and we often latch onto 'state sovereignty' as a means to *be* 'big'... but states have been roped into the world economy... tied into that web of obligation.... So the overall (global) structure Terence Hopkins describes cannot survive the expansion of our individualities beyond it.

We want to be *big*... to encompass in ourselves more and more of the infinite... (this is what unifies all the different religions... we are trying to encompass the 'infinite'...) while these structures we're trying to adapt for our use were *designed* to subject us to the world market... i.e. to 'power'....

But Popper accurately descried what he saw... which was a *class*-based reality... but s Emily Dickinson told us, “This world is not conclusion. A species stands beyond – invisible as music – but positive as sound –” ...this world is not conclusion... a reality called 'generalized human freedom'... called 'we *all* deserve to own our own selves...' stands beyond... and... our wholeness stands beyond....

And we're looking at it... towards it... in our mind's eye... in our heart, when we don't even know we are... *that's* the world we want... and we have to start talking about it.]

It is in keeping with these tendencies that we find that the oldest works on political theory, even that of the Old Oligarch, but more markedly those of Plato and of Aristotle, express decidedly nationalist views; for these works were written in an attempt to combat the open society and the new ideas of imperialism, cosmopolitanism, and equalitarianism. But this early development of a nationalist political theory stops short with Aristotle....

When nationalism was revived a hundred years ago [in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe], it was in one of the most mixed of all the thoroughly mixed regions of Europe, in Germany, and especially in Prussia with its largely Slav population. (It is not well known that barely a century ago, Prussia, with its then predominantly Slav population, was not considered a German state at all; though its kings, who as princes of Brandenburg were 'Electors' of the German Empire, were considered German princes. At the Congress of Vienna, Prussia was registered as a 'Slav kingdom'; and in 1830 [Georg Wilhelm Friedrich] Hegel still spoke even of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg as being populated by 'Germanized Slavs'.)

Thus it is only a short time since the *principle of the national state* was reintroduced into political theory. In spite of this fact, is it so widely accepted in our day that it is usually taken for granted, and very often unconsciously so. It now forms, as it were, an implicit assumption of popular political thought....

The principle of the national state, that is to say, the political demand that the territory of every state should coincide with the territory inhabited by one nation, is by no means so self-evident as it seems to appear to many people to-day....

In spite of its inherent reactionary and irrational tendencies, modern nationalism, strangely enough, was in its short history before Hegel, a revolutionary and liberal creed. By something like an historical accident – the invasion of German lands by the first national army, the French army under Napoleon, and the reaction caused by this event – it had made its way into the camp of freedom....

The people demanded democratic reforms which they understood in the sense of Rousseau and of the French Revolution, but which they wanted without their French conquerors. They turned against their own prince and against the emperor at the same time. This early nationalism arose with the force of a new religion, as a kind of cloak in which a humanitarian desire for freedom and equality was clad.... [Hegel] tamed nationalism not by outspoken opposition but by transforming it into a well-disciplined Prussian authoritarianism. And it so happened that he brought back a powerful weapon into the camp of the closed society, where it fundamentally belonged.... (Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies, Vol. 2: The High Tide of Prophecy: Hegel, Marx, and the Aftermath*, selections from pgs. 49 – 58, quoted in *Revealing Division*, p. 50 – 6)

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WUR, Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013: “‘Rationalism’ as a dimension of totalitarian control (Pt. 3)”

July 16, 2013: Brothers and sisters: Somehow we have to get beyond personalizing the injuries of ‘class’ – which our hurt at racial injustice fundamentally is – in order to get beyond ‘reaction’... and move toward actively shaping the future... the world... we want.

But how do we do that when the only ‘spokespeople’ (pundits) allowed over the airwaves are those who will (for the most part) stoke division?

If we were discussing how ‘power’ sculpts the world it wants... *shapes* the future... it would quickly become apparent both the function (across multiple dimensions)... for ‘power’... of targeting by ‘race’...

...and... if we want a *world* without ‘rank’ (by whatever criteria... and I do)... then it would also become apparent what the effective strategies for achieving that world would have to look like....

This is essentially the argument of *The Violence of ‘Class,’* which addressed the issue of sexual violence. It’s a pretty straight-forward... even obvious... argument to make... yet we never hear it discussed over the airwaves. This fact alone speaks to the existence of an extremely organized resistance... called ‘power’.

We aren’t encouraged to think about the ‘hidden assumptions of class-based thought’... or the advocacies implied when ‘the state’ is petitioned for redress... essentially the argument of the pundits. (And even a slight delving into those “advocacies implied” uncovers ‘validating the state’... ‘the unconscious assertion that we want to remain slaves... and that we still need ‘daddy’.)

So... if the infrastructure of class society *itself* reproduces ‘winners’ and ‘losers’... and if race and gender are convenient tools (for ‘power’) to use to do that... what



infrastructure would support the *absence* of ‘rank’?...

...how would the infrastructure of society have to change to support a world that works *for us*?...

...and shouldn't we be talking about it?

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Brothers and sisters: to those of us full of grief and fury at the execution of Trayvon Martin... along with all the other like executions of youth by... what I believe... are folks *paid* to be heartless... please understand... we are at a turning point... and you're looking at a plan. Recall that these 'stand-your-ground' laws have been passed in *thirty* states. That's not by accident. It grants to those 'paid-to-be-heartless' folks... paid to potentially cause havoc and certainly dismay... a possible escape....

But to pundits who claim to be outraged... I have this to say: what if you're being played? I want to pose a hypothetical to you. Given that to the vast, vast majority of people in this country the thought would simply not occur... to track and stalk a child... to make a murder and so a martyr... or to then work under-cover to convince others – 'less certain others' (and recall what we've been discussing about the power of 'certainty')... to get that person off... because 'the law', as one juror said, required her to... – and... "what is official is incontestable" (that's a line from *The Lady's not for Burning* by Christopher Fry)... i.e. is part of the *structure* of control – so... again...

...what if it's orchestrated?

...because a tiny few... folks utterly without soul... but with a lotta lotta money... want to orchestrate... if not race war... then certainly an intensified race-divide. (And a shout-out and thank you to the youth... and older folks like you... who refuse to be played that way... and are standing together across race.)

But... returning to the official Left spokespersons... if

you were among this miniscule few... who never got that love which is true wealth... and who cling, therefore, to their illusions of 'specialness'... might you not, when the world is wising up to all your cons to keep us asleep... do such things as we're seeing around the country... along with the militarization and infiltration of the police... if it means being able to keep your exclusive illusions?

I pose this hypothetical to say... if you knew you were being played and diverted... and so the question then was... "diverted from what?"... and if that 'what' is such a threat to require such orchestration... should not that threat – our unity – be the goal-entire we seek...?

...and shouldn't we set aside outrage – as... for those who do the 'tightening of the screw' your indignation is a pleasure and a joy – and shouldn't our every thought, then, rather be... "by what means do we achieve it – our unity?"

—

OK, let's back away from the hypothetical for a second.... Do *you*... speaking to our left-pundit brothers and sisters... think our unity as commoners is the greatest threat to 'power'? based on your analysis?... or on your simply being alive and breathing under class? If so, should that be what we need to be bending our minds around?... how to achieve that unity?... if we want to end 'power'? Do you want to end 'power'? Aren't these the questions we should ask?... the discussions we should have?... instead of, "why can't they recognize our common humanity?" First of all, because most people do, so that's not our problem... our problem is organized 'power'...

(...and when we say 'organized 'power'... let's break that down so we don't think we're *doing* that with every demonstration

... (I mean, come on, 'stand-your-ground' laws popping up all at once in thirty states? What more evidence of organization and orchestration do you need?)... *and to* 'organized 'power'" your outrage is a joy-supreme... amusing, if not downright thrilling....

And second... if there are people *paid* not to care... the problem... in addition to organized 'power'... is the wage-work system.

The wage-work system is designed to *structurally* prevent our knowing... and so caring for... each other... to prevent our having empathy for each other...

...this outcome is *structurally* ordained... so all your outrage is spinning your wheels... toward what effect?... the paycheck?

...and your outrage only deepens the success of it... as a tactic...

Only a *new structure* is capable of preventing any of us from being dependent on... and so vulnerable to... the machinations of 'power'....

(And on this tip...

...please don't let us *ever* forget...

(till we're free... and there's no need... to not forget...)

...the virulent effect...

...of paid...

...provocative...

...agents.

If you were a small group of high-flyin'  
statesmen...

...sitting on mountains of money...

...and the *world* was awakening...

...and you knew clandestine agents were a way...  
...on the cheap...  
...and moreover effective means...  
...of unseating it...  
...and of preserving therefore your extreme  
privilege...  
...in which *you* get to make the decisions...  
...for the *world!*  
(...now *that's* high-flyin' vision...)  
...what would *you* do?  
[If you haven't already considered the essay "Agent  
Provocateurs" in the blog "Claiming Our Commons"...  
I hope you will.)

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Today we'll be asking, "what design of infrastructure supports 'freedom'?"... as well as, 'in what way is 'rationalism' a dimension of totalitarian control?"

And how are these two things related? – the structural reproduction of our atomization and lack of empathy for each other... called 'the wage-work system'... and... 'rationality' as a piece of the picture of 'power's 'total control'... of us...?

I believe they're related because 'rationality' is a key piece of how the control of we-the-people is *structurally* reproduced... key to that reproduction-process.

I've been... in deference to Bentham... using the word 'Panopticon' to mean 'the hierarchical structure of control (and this in macro and micro) by which we-the-people are directed into 'classes'... and, therefore, into our various functions...

...the mechanism for issuing orders and ensuring they are implemented...

(...what I'm arguing is that the 'Panopticon' is the design of *world*... on the model of a prison....

(...the Panopticon is the design of a prison that allowed maximum control of the many by the few... and prevented our interaction with each other... that produced thereby... atomization...)

...the *physical* manifestation of the structure of dominance and control which we mean when we say, 'hierarchy'....

As we learned from Terence Hopkins and Immanuel Wallerstein, the international system assigns a hierarchical place to nations... and as we learned from Jeremy Bentham and Alice Miller... this same structure manifests... in the 'family system' as well. But it is an organization-type inimical to life.

No world can exist for *life* and still be this.

I believe we have to start seeing this – the underlying structure of 'class'... in all its manifestations... in order to resist it... and that we have to start giving our attention to *this*... and not the theatre... the antics of the state is mere diversion... diversion of our energy and time (and generally designed to divide...) divert us from what really *does* deserve our focus... the *future-defining* that must be the underlying content of our every thought and act....

How does focusing on the illegal actions and misdeeds of governments ('states'... shadow or otherwise) help the Egyptian people now when they need it? Do the sacrifices they make affect *their* freedom only?

So a structure that not only forestalls our unity... but even our ability to think authentically...

...and we have to consider seriously the degree to which the exclusive focus on scandal-mongering of the punditry forestalls our thinking... it draws us into horror and despair... and cannot release the critical energy of founding (discussed in *Beginning Again*....) It prevents us from doing the thinking we need to shake off 'power'... the thinking that develops certainty...

...cannot be the structure we need for generalized human freedom...

...and "a tangled web of willing witnesses"...

...of ancestors who want freedom for us...

...have assured us that 'freedom' means...

...'freedom from necessity'...

...and if it does...

...then the resources of the planet...

...which allow for 'life-exuberant'...

...cannot be made private...

...must be shared with *all* of us...

...equally...

...including the resource called 'decision-making'...

...and 'developing our thinking'...

...the resource called...

'...using our intelligence to shape the world that works for *all* of us...'

These are capacities that must be shared equally... and...

...moreover... if we recall that to do significant harm... to the earth we are the stewards of... requires the dull compliance of masses among us... then we can readily see... not only that we haven't the *means* as individualities to make much

mischief... but that we need... each one of us... to become big enough to see the earth-entire... if we are to protect our freedom and the health of our earth (two ways of saying the same thing exactly...) and if we move to such a world... in which each one of us develops his or her earth-gifts, then we have moved to a world made exponentially more healthy... *just* by taking us 'off-leash'... and granting to us all equal responsibility for running things... as we *all* want to eat well, sleep well and grow to our full heights... these tasks necessarily receive our first attention.

The Egyptian people have shown us our cooperative spirit... it has shown us ourselves off-leash. So this matter of infrastructure-design is *all* about what works for humans....

The earth is abundant – and we must help each other to trust that... to trust both the earth *and* our cooperative spirit... so that we can move on... beyond the narrow boxes of 'class.'

So the issue is... what design of infrastructure allows the unfolding of our full human possibilities...

...*that* should be our sole consideration in thinking through this question.

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So the difficulty in chief... is overcoming what we've been taught to believe... which is... because of *structurally*-reinforced and *enforced* scarcity... that "nothing is certain...."

It's just as Platonov said... a tiny few have hoarded all the certainty, and to the rest of us is left an endless quest... to find it... and as we're kept ever-doubting what our children tell us... what the earth tells us... what our bodies tell us... while we follow orders from above... to pound recalcitrant life into tight boxes... told if we do we'll one day find it... discover why we sacrificed our lives... while a tiny few already know... that it's for them our lives were lost... for them... they are the point-entire

of all our stolen lives and accumulated misery... for them... to play-pretend at being gods.

And 'rationalism' is the dance they make us do on our leashes... "round and round and round we go... but not merrily."

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In recent shows we have been exploring the relationship between hierarchy (as structured by the global market)... discipline (...and its internalization... Bentham's 'logic of the will'... the implementation of which is achieved by means of imposed scarcity...) ... and rationalism (hijacked longing... excised feeling... dismissing the voice of the body... while subjecting the constructed 'facts' given (by 'power') to the 'creative intelligence' for dissection...)

...pondering these elements of control we see... that hierarchy requires us to be ever-striving... discipline, likewise... rationalism... ditto... and...

...as dissection is without end... our lives pass by unexamined.

Ever-strivingness implies a goal... who determines it? We certainly are not asked...

So who benefits... by all this ever-strivingness... as the earth is abundant... and if the globe... macro and micro... was not tied up... in a web of obligation...

...we'd just grow our own food then... why can't we just do that now?

It's easy to see what we need for a healthy life... and the resources exist for us all to have it... the fact that, on the contrary, life is made a feat of endurance should clue us in... to conscious plan.



So... who has assumed responsibility for this task... of tying us up in a web of obligation? who engineered it into the physical structures of our common world?

Moreover... an ever-strivingness (of the 'lower-orders') does not allow *time* to think...

...and so... for 'power'...

...the risk...

...that we will develop 'thought', then...

...is successfully averted...

So here we have yet another...

...of the innumerable ways that 'class'...

...depends 'thinking'...

...is upside-down-making...

...such that 'rationalism'...

...practically speaking...

...means: thought's absence....

The point of 'class' – as Plato named it – is to *prevent* thought...

(...in 'the people'...)

...from happening...

...and as...

...to 'life' thought is so intrinsic...

...only when we are kept striving...

...stressed...

...'survival'-focused...

...can we be kept thought-less.

Only if a constant state of scarcity is maintained...

...can we be kept striving...

...with 'discipline' replacing...

...'thought'.

('Productivity' is the name we're encouraged to give to 'internalized discipline.')

In observing the quality of thinking in alienated man, it is striking to see how his intelligence has developed and how his reason has deteriorated. He takes his reality for granted; he wants to eat it, consume it, touch it, manipulate it. He does not even ask what is behind it, why things are as they are, and where they are going. You cannot eat the meaning, you cannot consume the sense, and as far as the future is concerned – *apres nous le deluge!* (Erich Fromm, *The Sane Society*, p. 171 – 2)

...which essentially means, “who cares?” And of course we see... and manifest in ourselves... this sentiment all the time....

I remember a conversation I had with an insect exterminator when I tried to advocate for the earth a bit... that was his response... “who cares?”

He did not love the earth.

And Erich Fromm was describing this gap... this disconnection... in essence... when he said... in *The Art of Loving*... that “everyone wants to be loved, but no one wants to be loving...”

...as if ‘to be loving’ is an act of will... or an important conclusion to be reached by ‘Reason’.... This is why I wrote in *Unpacking ‘Democracy’* that Sebastian De Grazia... in contrast with Fromm’s emphasis on ‘alienation’... an abstract that *stands* for ‘the structure of work’ (and whenever we have a perfectly good earth-term in hand – let’s use that... over the abstract)... that De Grazia nailed it when he identified *work* as the true problem... which is identifying *the structure of society itself*... as the true problem... ...a truth Fromm is also calling our attention to when he tells us to look *behind things*... (*behind* the outrage... the scandal... the facade... so...)

So... looking behind we see... a structure that precludes the *possibility* of empathy...

...we cannot love each other or the earth... because... no one loves us... and our bodies know this, no matter what stories they give our conscious minds to chew on... that they attempt to con us with... we know the truth of it... we are but fuel to run the system with... we are being-made-use-of... we are not valued...

...which is why to say that basic fairness should be the basis of all our inter-relations... and to then express outrage when there's injustice... may be using your intelligence... but not your *reason*.

And Erich Fromm is calling us to look at this structure of the world as well, implicitly, by telling us to look *behind* things... reminding us that we cannot accept the social world of class as it presents itself at face value... and of course Bentham explained why... he explained that what we see is crafted carefully... and with his help the crafting stands in clear relief... we see it's done by designing the 'components' of society in the image they want for the whole – the 'total' society... which means 'power' ensures that all component structures are premised on scarcity (and nothing more so than 'time-off-leash'... off-duty... time when we don't have to be preoccupied with psychic and physical survival...) and struggle for the resulting 'made-scarce' resources is made the defining quality of our lives... which become, then, about hoarding rather than helping... and about competition instead of good fellowship.

What we *see* is the *appearance* of people behaving 'freely' (no obvious overseers standing with whip in hand)... coercion remains hidden in the circumstances crafted by simple means of making the resources of the earth private... i.e. in the *structure* of

‘society’ itself... made subservient to ‘the market’ (which, Polanyi told us, *destroys* ‘society’)... and ‘the market’ exists to make the resources of the planet... private...

...a *structure* that continuously reproduces conditions of scarcity... and clearly this is what is done by ‘the market’... abundance is hoarded (...and... perhaps most devastatingly... the abundance of love and attention we have to give to each other)... and parceled out to those who work... and work... and work...

...for if you don’t... you must stand... mouth watering... hat in hand... looking at that abundance and feeling excluded from love itself... because for some reason never explained... you do not deserve it.

So this is *structural* reinforcement.

We cannot live the lives we long to live... deserve to live... which is our biological inheritance... with this structure called ‘the global market’... which at base (as we are everything) is a market in *us*... constructed not by ‘greed-for-money’ fundamentally... but ‘greed-for-‘power’... for exclusive possession of the keys... to leisure... leisure *kept* artificially scarce... by the market... (that’s why it exists...) while the vast majority are kept *working*... so this infinitesimal few can pretend they think for the rest of us.

This is not just wrong... it’s *monumentally* wrong...  
...and we must change it.

We cannot love the earth if we do not first love ourselves... and that means loving our brothers and sisters... and *that* means creating the conditions of abundance that *allow* us to love... that allow good fellowship.

It means changing the structure.

‘Reason’ leads us to this conclusion... but only when... it walks hand-in-hand... with *heart*.

‘Reason’ is not ‘reason’...  
...if ‘heart’ be not there...  
...for truth is closed off to it...  
...when ‘reason’ cannot care.

(– *cannot* care.... The structure of society does not allow it. This is why all the indignation is not just useless... it hurts us... makes us feel we are to blame... instead of being the ones set up... in ‘power’s game.)

*“The exploding, eroding notion of ‘work’...”*

So... the ‘imperialism of rationalism’ means we are unseated from within... by an invasion... of heartlessness...  
...the consequences of which are then presented to us to use as the ‘objective’ facts of our lives.

So the struggle for existence is presented as a fact of nature... when, rather, as Kropotkin showed us... *helping* each other... our natural tendency to come together... is the true force... that ‘power’ must continuously attempt to crush... to overcome... by *creating* conditions of scarcity.

So it is heartlessness *disguised* as ‘reason’ that we’re seeing when we’re told that “China is leveraging it’s cheap manual labor to develop its intellectual capital...” or that “the manufacturing process in China adds very little to the value of the final product...” or that “the level of advancement of a society is determined by the degree of development of the productive forces...” – all of which statements have appeared in the mouths of progressive pundits over the years... we are hearing ‘craft’ posing as ‘fact’... heartlessness posing as ‘common sense’... ‘the only way’...

...and in this way are we pulled in...  
...by progressive pundits...  
...into lack of empathy and a *lethal* lethargy...  
...for it kills the soul.

When we can't open our doors wide and let our children roam the earth freely... and explore it as they're meant to... these are crafted facts posed as 'advanced civilization'... we are conditioned to accept less and less in terms of the quality of life and the use of our faculties... while those who still have both are disparaged as 'primitive'... (e.g. the mom I met from Yemen... who had such an effervescent energy... a vividness and vitality... it was jaw-dropping.)

We have to reunite with our sources of power – wholism – because our authentic connections have been replaced with fraudulent ones....

When we said last week that our ancestors who wrote *for us*... had a hunger to see generalized human freedom... the hunger was in the 'all' of them... their bodies... their minds... no difference. It was they themselves that hungered. This... 'freedom'... our bodies remember... no matter how forcefully and relentlessly 'power' tries to pound out the memory. It's not an abstract concept... it is our physical existence as whole beings... bodies... souls... no difference....

And this brings us back to 'work' – wage work – ... 'work'... whatever 'idea' you think it serves... it does not serve our wholeness – and it's time now for our wholeness... to lead... to say... to call the shots....

And it doesn't matter what that 'work' is that they give you... or how much you may enjoy it. All the pundits, I'm sure, would say they love their job... would say it meets their passion... because it allows them to use their intelligence...

...but 'one's intelligence' cannot get you to the underlying structure. On the contrary... it gets you... all unbeknownst to your conscious mind... to reproduce it.

...and, as we've said, they've made the ability to use (a fraction of) our gifts a scarce commodity... as with everything we need for a human existence...

...but Fromm reminds us... that 'using one's intelligence' is not wholeness... just the opposite... it leads you into narrow ruts from which you cannot grow... let alone fulfill our goal... of freeing the species.

—

'The future'... how do we make it our priority when most of us are too immersed, as Stanley Tookie Williams said, in our personal dramas called 'survival' to devote much time to thinking about it to any degree beyond what touches these personal dramas... and of course we never hear validated in the media... 'progressive' or otherwise... the idea that we should be taking responsibility for the species itself... 'the earth'... perhaps... but this notion of 'the earth'... (in the media...) which we are permitted to think and care about... is a concept exclusive of us... Is there any clearer evidence that we are the property of 'nation-states'... with no legitimacy... within that frame... apart from them?

The entire mind-set of 'power'... the only one we hear in the official voices (the media)... is, from the standpoint of *standing with life*... diseased and debased... the ground of freedom (defined as 'freedom from necessity') is surrendered without the slightest murmur of complaint. Today I heard an official 'thinker' on the Left allow that 'wage-work' is an outmoded notion... he said (I paraphrase), "it's clear that we should divorce 'income' from 'work'..." (or was it the other way

around?... ) by which he meant... I think... that ‘the economy’ in its current depleted state cannot support a system of ‘work-for-wage’... and... given that we-the-people are ‘no longer needed’... and he... (charitably...) would prefer to see our existence prolonged...

(Is this what the distinction between ‘left’ and ‘right’ has come to?... that the ‘radical’ voices proclaim our right to exist? This is our defense?... from those who would pose the false opposition between *our* lives and the planet’s existence?... those who claim that we are illegitimate?... that we take without giving. Is there any sharper lens with which to see the crying need for *all* of us to reclaim responsibility for securing the ‘freedom from necessity’ we need?)

...he would courageously request of ‘power’ that it consider the possibility that charity begins at home... This ‘bold’ assertion brings us back to the very same one from Jeremy Rifkin lo! these twenty years ago (...and in *Waking Up* I critiqued this notion that ‘power’... utilizing its individual ‘nation-state’-levellers... should benevolently dole out a bit of ‘its’ largesse to us... as we still seem to be on the planet... still breathing.)

And wasn’t this the same ‘solution’... (from a different pundit and stood up in slightly different clothing...) that I also heard today (07.10.13)... telling us that the ‘U.S. economy’ can be ‘fixed’ if a movement would only begin... to have the ‘New Deal’ all over again? “This is realistic,” he assured us, “it’s not utopian. It happened [once... i.e. it can happen again...]”

Can it?

A March 24, 2013 audio blog, “Why do we have pundits?”... noting popular confusion about the sources of ‘poverty’... addressed progressive economists directly:



“If you have not educated us about what ‘economy’ truly means and why there is ‘poverty’... in this day and age... then you need to go back to square one and start these conversations... since ‘society-re-design’ does not seem to be on your front burner at the moment... an authentic discussion of what ‘the economy’ is... that it is a major con for keeping us under control... that we don’t need a ‘market’ to help each other... we need ‘power’ off our backs.”

So these progressive pundits unbeknownst to themselves are serving us a healthy portion of ‘left-rationalism’ – i.e. their speech is divorced from their bodies... and what their bodies say is dismissed... they have relinquished all longing...

“The economy grows if people work. If the private sector won’t put people to work, then government should put people to work. Roosevelt put people to work so we need to put pressure on Barack to put people to work...” (...or at least put some money in our hands so we can eat – I presume is an equally acceptable version of this prime example of Left logical-thinking – that we deserve to be free is never granted legitimacy.)

‘Rationalism’ means reducing life to ‘factors’ (generously provided by ‘power’) that can be manipulated... (which by definition excludes the possibility of *self*-creation... excludes the possibility of freedom.)

But ‘manipulated’ by whom? ...well by ‘the thinkers’ of course... who are... necessarily then... the ‘managers’... of us.... And ‘power’ is disappeared into the mathematical process of cranking out satiety-units to keep the superfluous ‘hands’... un-rebellious... (until some more permanent solution can be found.)

But ‘power’ has not gone away... whether pundits choose to acknowledge it or not... and if ‘jobs’ as a concept can... on some level... be reduced to ‘the capacity to buy food and shelter’... as life ‘must’... (for the pundits who use the master’s tongue...) be commodified... (for some reason never discussed...) then... even if governments get busy printing money... at some point the buck butts up against actual *earth*... as there *is* an earth that is the ultimate provider... and sometimes that earth takes the shape of so-called ‘immigrant labor’... whose hands are priced artificially low... (so that ‘government’ [or read: ‘power’]) can do all this other stuff it finds fascinating...)

But this should not be... right?... this artificially-low pricing?...

So will our imaginary governments... free from the influence of ‘power’... subsidize a healthy increase in these salaries as well? At whose behest?

And, by the way, are the oceans still dying... while whoever it is... is deciding?

How far down this fantasy-road do we have to go before the existence of ‘power’ is admitted into the calculation?...

At which point ‘rationalism’ is thrown out the window.

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*“Power’s hollow concepts tumble in when examined... and... once this is the work of enough of us... crash ‘the system’...”*

In the *Waking Up Radio* discussions beginning on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to this one, the key idea we began with was... if we can see the pattern... then we can intervene and stop it... but intervene how? and where?

And so our thoughts inevitably were led to the global arena.

We need (global) society-wide conversations, we concluded... the issue is: how to start them?

How do we see ourselves as global beings? How do we take responsibility for the species... when we can't hear our thought developing over the airwaves?

And this is how we arrive at the importance of *certainty*... that Andrey Platonov called our attention to... because only with certainty can we pressure those available airwaves to advance the conversations *we need* to throw off the hold of 'power' on our minds... because that's what's keeping us held back right now... we have the technology (thanks to Nikola...)

...only with certainty, is courage steeled for facing the inevitable resistance of 'power'... and doing the things we *have* to do... knowing we have to do them. Without certainty we bend to the force 'power' exerts... without certainty, we have no counter-force of our own.

What 'power' does is provide an entire, internally-consistent universe... but as its hollow constructs are necessarily inter-laced... such that no way *out* could ever become apparent to us... they *necessarily had* to build it that way to keep our thought from finding a way out... and because they had to design it in that inter-locked way... once you pull at one thread... the whole thing tumbles in....

With authentic thought it is the opposite... pull at one thread and thought deepens... grows stronger... it can't be pulled apart because earth itself backs it... i.e. it is *true*... it aligns with the uncoerced energy of life.

I've been trying to help further this process of developing our authentic thought... to further a means of describing the world of class using authentic terms... by developing a set of concepts and definitions and language of what has been happening to us... such that our understanding of what is *true* deepens.

And, again, because truth has the opposite effect when you pull at it... of strengthening the weave by drawing us to pull more... and more... and yet again more... until eventually we ourselves are pulled in too... as... we *are authentically* a part... and the weave has the strength of being infinitely interwoven into... everything... authentically... not as artificial constructs of the objectified 'Mind'... personified by 'philosopher-statesmen'... set on realizing a very personal goal.

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'Power' knows that the power of our collective thought is awesome... and so it has successfully harnessed and harvested it to serve its purpose – what it tells itself... and us... is – 'the pursuit of "Knowledge-Infinite"... by constructing a massive 'psychological experiment'... that spanned generations... and forced the globe-entire 'to come in' – and constructed a 'reality' such that we would adopt that false 'pursuit' as our purpose too.... (Because of course it's not really 'Knowledge'-Supreme for which they lust, but 'Power'-Supreme... over us.)

It has hijacked our lives for millennia, while telling themselves it was the 'greater good' that they served... the best goal imaginable... 'Perfect Reason'... and buffed up its philosophical pundits to provide 'philosophical' cover for the carnage that resulted... from their breakneck destruction of the planet... in their rush to own it... *all of it*... so they could control us...

So 'mind' was elevated over 'hand' ...via the market... and all of us conned to see it as legitimate... via its educational system... for a few confused folks... to play 'god'.

And within that story we see... writ large as society itself... the power of *certainty*.

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If the Panopticon is the optimal infrastructure design for ‘power’s purpose... a design which places command in the hands of the tiny, tiny few... and we must upend this plan with one that has the opposite effect... of putting command in everyone’s hands... would not the effect... as well as the means... be that *every one of us* has to see the world... not just the few... be able to encompass it in our being... our daily lives... and make it be the basis of our thought and decision-making?... beyond even Stevie Wonder’s ‘higher ground’... to the ‘highest ground’ imaginable?

We cannot allow ourselves to get mired (stuck) in ‘the particular’... in ‘what-is’...

...rather we try to express ‘the infinite’ in ourselves... on *its* model... and apply that insight to *shape* ‘the particular’...

We cannot shape the future by allowing ‘what-is’ to own or ‘occupy’ us... to ‘be’ us... *we* have to *be* the future... (which takes as its shape ‘the infinite’...) if we want to escape ‘class’... a world of being trapped in boxes... ‘the particular’ in micro....

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‘Rationalism’ is the third dimension of their control... and arguably their back-up... their muscle... their fall-back and stop-gap... their last defense if we wake up... if the other mechanisms of control fail.

So we find ourselves back to that Marcuse quote about “the organized resistance of the scientists”... the responsibility of the ‘mind-workers’... the ones who give to ‘power’ its technological domination... that strong arm against us... but...

...even more than this... ‘power’ is defeated... if we... just... stop.

That simple.  
Because of the power of certainty.

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In the July 7<sup>th</sup> show we argued that ‘power’s solution to its dilemma of how to establish totalitarian control of us fell across three dimensions:

- Mind... the internalization of discipline, or *psychological* control;
- Body... ensuring that (external) societal conditions reflected the imperative (for ‘power’) of generalized ‘scarcity’... by creating... and extending globally... mechanisms for transferring the resources of the planet into its (‘power’s) hands, or *structural* control;
- Spirit... limiting our will to change things to the limits defined by ‘rationalism’... or by the requirement that ‘mind’ be objectified and divorced from ‘body’... that we relinquish control of our bodies... and all longing to be free – these latter thoughts then become ‘unthinkable’; this might be called the *control of our effective energy*... our vitality.

Today we’re been discussing how this third dimension of ‘power’s solution to establishing totalitarian control of us: the spiritual dimension... recalling Hugo’s point that there must be “no vacuum in the human heart... that our lives must have meaning... we’ve been discussing how it effects... effectuates... solidifies or concretizes... the structure of class.

Most of us want to believe that we’re part of some grand project – which explains the appeal of ‘nationalism’ – but this is only because our lives lack *intrinsic* meaning.

And most of us absolutely need our existence confirmed – recognition... and as we discussed in *Revealing Division*... when attention is made a scarce commodity... recognition itself becomes a type of currency. And ‘power’ owning exclusive rights to this dispensation (along with every other necessary resource for human existence)... the possession of ‘recognition-distribution rights’ ensures an effective on-going check on ‘heart’.

So what would release it? How do we ‘reoccupy’ our bodies? And how do we get the discussions going that will lead to conviction... certainty... and therefore ‘back-up’... the support of other people with conviction?

If we can agree that a good working definition of ‘rationalism’... one that reveals its practical effects... is that “‘body’ is divorced from the thought-process”... how does ‘rationalism’ direct us to ‘power’s self-avowed goal of ‘Knowledge-Infinite’? or assign this goal? It prioritizes ‘mind’... it directs society to only reward with recognition the ‘work’ of cognition... of ‘thought-for-thought’s sake’... of ‘Mind’-objectified.

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WUR, Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013: “‘Classification’ will not bring ‘class’ to a close... (Pt. 1)”

The gap between our hanging back...  
...and deciding to act...  
...cannot be filled but...  
...by our restored power...  
...and our love.

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013: The moves of the Egyptian Army to clamp down on the hopes of the Egyptian people... the killings of university students (generally the ones best positioned... along with organized tradesmen and women... to develop conviction... *certainty*...) is more than just ‘worrying’... it is clear-cut plan disrobed and armed...

...so food and gas may flow... for the army to test its success with this lever of control... but the long-term levers don’t exist... especially with *this* populace... *this* degree of heart – and this goes as well for our brothers and sisters in Tunisia – so I have to believe... somehow... the help they have so dearly earned... will come.

July 24, 2013: Brothers and sisters: ... for the July 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 show... I was initially planning an appeal to those who call themselves ‘socialists’ to consider no longer using that word... and to begin thinking instead... in a more open-ended fashion... on *freedom*...

...and on what freedom would have to be... to not be ‘class’ all over again.

But now that I’ve been listening... pretty much non-stop... to what I consider appeals to entrenched division across the progressive airwaves... ever since the Zimmerman decision... I feel moved to speak on it.

Yet... the two conversations are not really separate...

...I think we’ll see their fundamental unity by probing more deeply several questions raised in recent shows:



- Is ‘developing our thought’ our hand-hold out of the pit of the class-system?... when we reclaim thought... do we reclaim the power to name the world?...

...if so, do our socialist brothers and sisters forward this process?

- Is the point – of all our action ‘to change things’ – to define the future that works for us?

- Don’t we have to see the underlying structure of class society (see what-is) before we can newly-invent society (create what-is-not)?

- Can we newly-invent our world without newly-inventing the words and language we use to think about it with?

- If a future that works for all of us is the goal... what actions or discussions would set our thought on the right track to it?

- Does ‘critique of the system’ set our thought on the right track?

- Is ‘injustice’ “in us”... does it ‘crop up’... or does it manifest at the command of ‘the state’?

(...you don’t truly think... that bullyishness comes with the package called ‘human’, do you? No... bullyishness is *learned*.... Sit exclusively at the feet of your babies till they’re three (and try not to teach them anything)... if you don’t believe me...)

- How do ‘race’... and other false divisions... divert us from seeing the underlying structure?

I will be arguing in what follows that what sets our thought on the right track... is the discussion of what we want... otherwise... we are rudderless and we forfeit the future... to the miniscule few... and that...

...we are trapped in the 'master's boxes... the categories we think in... are pretty much trash... and that we need new ones... to move beyond 'class'.

I write these words after having listened to an archival Pacifica Radio speech of Price Cobbs from 1968... and the progressive-radio-folks... in fundraising mode... said they were struck by how 'relevant' were his words... and in truth, anyone listening would have a difficult time (if you ignored the occasional use of 'groovy' and 'cats'...) from distinguishing them from those of any of the favored pundits on 'race' that the 'progressive' airwaves host in fundraising mode... or those incorporated in the speech of its regular programmers.

Now... I've been arguing that the messages they propagate do not further the necessary goal of 'unity'... 'necessary' if we want to end 'power'... and I do...

(...and what should be meant by 'ending 'power' is another one of those conversations we should be having... and would be having... if we did indeed have an airwaves that serves we-the-people...)

*"Why have we been treading water for centuries?..."*

So why is it we have been treading water on the issue of 'race' for centuries?

Why is it we never hear Zora Neale Hurston's perspective on the issue?

Why are we never encouraged to consider her castigation of her grandmother for trying to destroy her hope... and force her to set her horizons low? (I shared her poetic description in the blog, "Who's Loving You, Mi.chael?")

Why do we never hear presented the words of the Black sociologist, Charles S. Johnson, that Karl Polanyi tells us to listen to... and who I cite among the opening quotes of the Chapter, "Progress" in *Waking Up*?

(...and, by the way, Karl Polanyi is an ancestor whose insights are far more pregnant and prescient and needed and worthy of being mined than any of those of the average pundit that Pacifica network treats us to today...)

While Price Cobbs tells us the damage caused by racial division began with the 'peculiar institution' of chattel slavery in the Americas, Charles Johnson goes deeper:

It will be remembered that Adam Smith expected the land-divorced laborer to lose all intellectual interest. And M'Farlane expected "that the knowledge of writing and accounts will every day become less frequent among the common people" (1782). A generation later Owen put down laborers' degradation to "neglect in infancy" and "overwork," thus rendering them "incompetent from ignorance to make a good use of high wages when they can procure them." He himself paid them low wages and raised their status by creating for them artificially an entirely new cultural environment. The vices developed by the mass of the people were on the whole the same as characterized colored populations debased by disintegrating culture contact: dissipation, prostitution, thievishness, lack of thrift and providence, slovenliness, low productivity of labor, lack of self-respect and stamina. The spreading of market economy was destroying the traditional fabric of the rural society, the village community, the family, the old form of land tenure,

the customs and standards that supported life within a cultural framework... By the 1830's the social catastrophe of the common people was as complete as that of the Kaffir is today. One and alone, an eminent Negro sociologist, Charles S. Johnson, reversed the analogy between racial debasement and class degradation, applying it this time to the latter: "In England, where, incidentally, the Industrial Revolution was more advanced than in the rest of Europe, the social chaos which followed the drastic economic reorganization converted impoverished children into the 'pieces' that the African slaves were, later, to become... The apologies for the child serf system were almost identical with those of the slave trade." (Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, p. 293-4)

And, yes. the damage goes deep, as Cobbs says... in how we're taught to think... so, then, yes, it is internal. And, yes, it is in all of us.

But what is 'it' fundamentally?

And why did Virginia Woolf say, "thank God you heap abuse upon me!"

And why did Christopher Fry say, "thank God our time is now when wrong comes up to face us everywhere!"

And why did Zora Neale Hurston say, "thank God I'm black!"?

Short answer?

...because you see more of the whole... more from the vantage of the whole... more of the truth... and the truth is the wealth we need to get free.

—

*"The savage institution of 'class'..."*

Interestingly... the very day Price Cobbs was having his say... I heard an interview with a man (Keith Lowe) about his book, *Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II*... in which he describes horrific state-encouraged... state-

sanctioned... violence and maltreatment of various peoples and categories of people...

...Jews... to steal their stuff and get rid of them...

...Germans outside of Germany... across Europe... to steal their stuff and get rid of them...

...struggle and strife over food-access...

...women... whose bodies were used as a perk for occupying armies...

...public humiliations of women (by hair-shaving... to render them readily recognizable) for having 'slept with the enemy', i.e. with Germans during the war.... "Women," the author said, "are seen as the embodiment of the nation, and so this was seen as the ultimate betrayal..."

...forcing women who bore the children of Germans to register their children as dangerous, illegal 'aliens' every year until they turned eighteen.

The picture that emerged as he spoke... was of a ruling class attempting to 'tidy up'... "here... you get in your box... and you in yours... and so on..."

... and 'the state' issued its orders to this effect... and... as we-the-people have been trained to do... we complied...

...because "what is official is incontestable..." we've learned that lesson well... at our mother's knee.

Which brings me back to Price Cobbs.

Listening to the title of the book he wrote, *Black Rage*... I thought... "I think I have that," and I went to the shelf... and there it was... bookmark inserted... I suspect where I left off... on page sixty-eight... in 1970. I'm pretty sure it was 1970 because the bookmark is one of those old house-party-invites (dated that year) popular during my teenage years back in Detroit...

(...which is being dragged through its own version of a public humiliation right now... for the crime of being powerful... that's what happens... under class... if you show your back is gaining length...)

...“The Black Renaissance”... it says... “creates a *Mist of Soul* with the mood of the Jones family... \$2 donation, with invitation only...”

On the page where I abandoned the book I found this:

...a family is a functional unit designed for one primary purpose – the protection of the young; and while it serves other vital social purposes, none is more important than the function of protection.

But the black family cannot protect its members...  
(*Black Rage*)

I can well imagine what my 16-year-old-self thought reading this.

As far as *my* horizons showed me... Detroit City-proper was all-black... teachers, cops, tradesmen... you name any of the category-boxes they slot us into that my little-girl-self could see... black folks ran them (except for the firefighters, at least when I was small). Now ask me if I felt ‘protected’?

It was black fathers and mothers and teachers who hit us... black cops that hit *on* us young black girls... quite often successfully... (I remember one telling me how he loved to shine his flashlight into cars at Belle Isle after dark just to see what he could see...) True, the doctor who could care less whether my father lived or died was white... but I was legally grown by then.

Let's just say, that my friends and I did not grow up feeling ‘protected’ by the family....

One friend was raped for years by her father before her older sister intervened... another child had the misfortune of a mother who was a Jehovah's Witness... the beatings he received still bring fury to me today...

And I suspect that across race... this is more often than not the case... this 'not-feeling-safe'... particularly if you have time... and plenty of earth-teaching... helping you to think it through....

Now the blurb on the back of his book says this:  
"Forcibly uprooted from his home, cut off from his past, robbed of language and culture, the black man in America has been methodically dehumanized and exploited by our society..."

...but this is true of every commoner under class...  
...it differs only by degree...  
...and by the pain of 'white' complicity...  
...but those who see...  
...of whatever category...  
...who see beyond and beneath...  
...the violation of our unity...  
...beneath betrayal entrenched...  
...and with purpose set...  
...to enmesh us in pain and regret...  
...must start to raise our voices up...  
...as... trust...  
...they'll never be met...  
...across the airwaves.

And all of the pain and scrapping with each other is due to the privatization mechanisms of 'power'... to create and maintain conditions of generalized scarcity... with which we are now all overly endowed... by the simple fact... of being born under 'class'.

As long as manufactured scarcity persists... made and maintained with intent... the structure of hierarchy does the rest... keeps us but... crabs-in-a-bucket.

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*"Is the future we want called 'socialism?'"*

Listening to several "Socialism 2013" speeches... I

thought, if this is what they want... this shadowy vision they call 'socialism'... why not define it?... tell us up front, "this is what we want..." and tell us why... and why it would work... and how we could achieve it... and how that vision gets realized. Why not concretize the word?"

Instead I hear this: "...if government is going to collect data on all of us it should at least be submitted to a referendum..." from which we glean that their 'future-vision' is not substantially different from what is existing now... so... is what we have now... 'socialist'?...

...what underlying structure must exist... to make the society it generates... 'socialist'?

Another's speech was full of outrage at the Obama administration....

Now... to confine his speech to critique is telling. It tells 'power': "we got nothing."

(And, by the way, of *course* the U.S. state is ruthless... is careless of the sanctity of life... is this news to any of us? And what is it that you propose to do to unmake what was *made* to *be* that way... i.e. ruthless? Made to be true to *its* intentions... which do not include... letting 'the people' make the decisions. What do you think 'the state' is for, exactly? Why was it invented?)

I've been arguing that the challenge before us is not 'eliminating injustice'... but replacing a hierarchical world-structure....

And why aren't we discussing the hollowness of 'state sovereignty'... given the world market... why fight for a piece of what is fundamentally diseased?

Why not focus rather on fleshing out what that structure *would have to be* – to *not* be 'class'?

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*“Both foci are premised on scarcity...”*

Both foci – ‘race’ and ‘socialism’ – are premised on scarcity... on scrapping for a piece... of a design handed to us... which we had no say in.... They’re both “tinkering with the machinery of death...” in order for some privileged intermediaries to make themselves (and theirs) exempt... from being ground up in its gears... they’re both based on fear... fear that ‘love’ is not real....

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*“To know the truth is critical... To hear the truth expressed is critical...”*

The media they present to us is extremely well-vetted... reflects exceeding artifice... it would have us believe that our crops will soon be harvested by machine... and that we should be joyfully embracing the practice of insect-eating... and... here in the U.S.... as everywhere... ‘power’ wants ‘its’ people to learn to accept... less and less (for the sake... of the planet of course...)

... and if you want to be among ‘the best!’...

...you’ll wear your ‘less-and-less’...

...with panache!

(...perhaps they’ll even invent some “pieces of flair” like the waitress in *Office Space* had to wear...)

...to distinguish U.S. ‘less’ from the even bleaker ‘less’-expressions elsewhere...

...in our “new and exciting world of greater and greater ‘less-and-less!’”

But... as always... of course...

...not for them...

...not for them contaminated air...

...not for them eating roaches...

...or genetically-modified-food-like-substances...

...not for them the pesticide-ridden... early-picked and tasteless...

...not for them huddling in smaller and smaller  
'apartment-like' units...  
...while attempting to comfort themselves that they're  
helping the planet...  
...not for them pre-packaged living...  
...not for them...  
...not for them...  
But for us it's different...  
...because, well...  
...we're... 'not-them'....  
"Ah yes. That's it."  
Simple as that.

What mistaken notions must there be to imagine that a state will change its ways because we wag a finger at it?... or that we-the-'workforce' could be moved to join a project that means but a change in management?

What did Emily say? "to fill a gap, insert the Thing that caused it..."

Well... the 'gap' to fill between our hanging back and our being moved to act... is but our stolen lives returned... it's that for which we yearn... the missing love and power... took.

---

So what would the authentic conversations about 'race... about 'socialism' be?... the ones that *do* lead to a *true* road?

They would... as Gustav Landauer told us...

([Gustav Landauer] defined as the task of the socialists and their movement: "to loosen the hardening of hearts so that what lies buried may rise to the surface: so that what truly lives yet now seems dead may emerge and grow light."  
(quoted in Erich Fromm's, *The Sane Society*)

...as Fry told us... as Alice Miller told us... as all the ancestors who see that we must be the *opposite* of what we have been *made* to be... under class...

...they must lead to tenderness.

What else but this could our future be... if its opposed to the frozen misery of centuries... breaking... now... finally... at long last.

And, yes, it's in us... of course it's in us... *is* us... this 'state' we manufacture fresh every day simply by not consciously renouncing it... and turning to our (always present) tenderness. It's there for us the second we stop jumping on our leashes.

As Christopher Fry said... to not care is *hell*... the *opposite* of our nature... and of what we want...

...but it's also true that our caring can be hijacked into supporting the system... precisely because this capacity in us – our empathy – is such a threat... it *must* be hijacked... and directed towards false 'culprits'... a simple matter (for 'power') as we're all complicit... we are all 'the system'... though it existed before us and we had no say in it's establishment.

So... as we've discussed... we have to see from the vantage of the whole... and take for our banner that which burns their hands – they cannot wave the flag of generalized freedom (defined as generalized leisure... freedom from necessity... a definition 'power' will never... can never... embrace... which means it's the one we must take... leisure to make the decisions... for only when we own our lives can we take responsibility for the world... as de Grazia saw...

...only then can love expand to enfold it in our arms... as our posterity and paternity in one... our all... to give and to receive is one.

We don't need 'masters' or 'managers' to 'work hard'... when will *that* be what we hear discussed over the airwaves?

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*Addendum:*

We have to newly-invent the language as we newly-invent the world... New words means seeing with fresh eyes.

Mutual confidence comes from a common language... from having our words back... on which conviction... certainty... can begin to grow...

A healthy wind is blowing... a new reclaimed spirit is remaking the world... we are being made 'one' on a new basis... on a basis of a conscious claiming of our commonality and our responsibility for each other and the earth.

This is a meeting place of all the rigid structures... an 'imperialism of rigidity' we've been trapped in... in being trapped in words... they meet in us...

...trapped in words... in us... and dispelled as well... in us... by developing our thought... making our own lexicon.

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As Christopher Fry said... in *A Sleep of Prisoners*... "the human heart can go to the lengths of God..." (he spoke personally...)

It is the endless delimiting of things that got us this mess... would you clap rings around the infinite? Must we drag our chains into the future?

I think not.

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And George Eliot... in *The Haunted Pool*... pointed out that we need art *because* we've lost our wholeness... and that its existence (i.e. art's) would likely be irrelevant once we've regained it.

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"'Class' means 'scarcity'..."

Popper's concept of 'narrow tribalism' being the antithesis of the 'openness' for which he was the chief advocate... is a 'class'-based... i.e. *scarcity*-based notion... a concept of 'tribe' premised on abundance was unknown to him.

The problem is not our so-called 'tribalism'... the problem is manufactured scarcity.

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"What, after all is a halo? It's only one more thing to keep clean." (Christopher Fry, *The Lady's not for Burning*)

They've got us focused on function... on distraction and diversion... on performing... to keep us... from... *listening*.

Do we really need 'the media' "to tell us what's going on in our lives"? "...if people do not know what's going on around them they cannot act intelligently...?" as I just heard over the progressive airwaves...

...or do we need to listen to our bodies?

---

"A bit more on 'certainty'..."

Without 'certainty' we can be sold any bill of goods. We can... as Alice Miller showed us... even come to believe what society tells us... that we are worthless....

Without certainty we believe the crap the media tell us... about machines doing delicate-picking... or that we should be eating roaches.

Without certainty we cannot claim the future... we must, rather, leave it to 'the smart ones' to tell us what we must accept... but if we trusted that *our* power... which if we stopped long enough to feel we would know... if we trusted that *our* power is but a reflection of that of our brothers and sisters... and of the earth... we would not be duped.

In a way that's what the play *The Lady's not for Burning* is about... or any tale that attempts to show us courage... the phrase "courage of his convictions" captures the relationship perfectly...

...and yet so does Kropotkin when he tells us that "mutual confidence is the first condition for courage..."

I don't believe the sense in which he means that, however, is both societal and spiritual... that 'mutual confidence' must be emblem of our future... must give it its design... so I

believe we should be asking: “how can ‘mutual confidence’ be the design of our world?”

Without certainty what keeps us from grubbing about the dirt when we’re bombarded with a media-barrage telling us grubs are the latest delicacy? (which we’re getting now with insect-eating....)

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“On ‘classification’... under ‘class’”

Classification... under class... is a sub-set of hierarchy because it is only the few who get to determinate it...

(...and because a design of a world premised on ‘the infinite’ is set on very different... entirely opposite, in fact... assumptions and conditions... ‘classification’ *delimits*... so we must distinguish this practice under class... when ‘authority’ delivers its verdicts down... from *naming* things... which we do once we’re free and have a whole world judging... which comes from the ‘in’... and blooms in our consciousness.... ‘Naming’ means that we continuously challenge and make... and re-challenge and remake... *along with* what is being named... rather than attempt to force a stasis of reified ‘Mind’ on it...

...only the few who own the lexicon... and so it inevitably reflects and reinforces ‘class’... this problem of ‘class’... or ‘power’... owning the lexicon will plague us... until we take that ‘longest stride’ Fry told us we have to take....

We develop certainty by reclaiming our sources of power consciously... if we let them define us we will be forever servants to ‘power’... and lost to ourselves... so we need quiet... we need to disconnect from the ‘master’s voice and tongue –

which means we have to think and speak more consciously... let our heart and courage be the gatekeeper – is that word ‘worker’ tainted slavish? Let’s not use it brothers and sisters... let’s listen to those who love us... not the ones who want to use us as fuel for realizing their fantasies... listen to the earth that feeds our wholeness... not the broken souls who want to control us....

And listen to our heart that beats in common... feel the sadness and fear so we can move beyond it... let each source flow into the others till your heart... filled with that knowledge... lifts up your sisters and brothers...

---

Why not rather focus on fleshing out what that structure *would have to be* – to not be ‘class’ – instead of trying to stake your claim to some phony ‘body of expertise’ to claim... as basis for further recognition...

I’ve been arguing that ‘rationalism’ is a means to rip *our body’s* truth from our hands... and thus disarmed we are easy fodder for their *mis*-management of us... and the earth... to be ground up in their machinery of... ‘state’-making...

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What mistaken notions do you curl up in that supports your luxury to imagine that a state will change its ways because you wag a finger at it?... or that we who are your would-be ‘managed’ will leap to realize your dream of a wider field for your command? You who seem only to be moved... to seek for yourselves better sleighs to pull... and hunger dogs to pull them... you, whose every other word is ‘get-to-work’....

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WUR, Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013: “‘Classification’ will not bring ‘class’ to a close (Pt. 2): how it keeps us uncertain”

08.01.13: Brothers and sisters: I’ve been asked by Allen Markowski of KPFZ of Lakeport, California, one of the hosts of *Voices of Lake County* on Friday mornings, to come up with a few questions... and I posted the questions that I came up with on the home page. The interview will take place on Friday, August 30, 2013 from 9 – 10 AM, PST. If you have any questions that you would like him to ask... his email address is posted on the homepage... as is the live stream link.)

I thought I’d share my train of thought in beginning to do this:

The mind-set of ‘class’ cannot get us to our future... in which every human being gets to explore and fully develop their earth-given gifts...

...we have to think new thoughts.

I believe that we live our lives according to certain untested assumptions... which have led us to relinquish our unique gifts and cede our authority for decision-making (for the world... and in particular for the species...) to a select few, who cannot – *because* they are a select few, and good decision-making requires full inclusion, the full involvement of everyone (and by this I’m not thinking of ‘voting’...) – who cannot create a world that works for those of us they want to ‘profit’ by (and by ‘profit’ I’m thinking much larger than mere ‘money’). And the result of this relinquishing we can see coldly around us today – species die-offs and ocean-death... clogged lungs... lives wasted in humans denied their full strength... and in struggle for resources *made* scarce... made scarce by making a market of them.

‘Select fews’ tend to want to maintain their ‘selectness’ – as ‘selectness’ itself is made scarce.

But now with the earth – all life – seriously in trouble, most of us globally are seeing... we *have to* reclaim



full responsibility... and that means taking ourselves *off* the market... because we've seen where marketing resources leads... *and* because we need our full lives back to direct our energy best... where it's most needed.

To develop the confidence that we can achieve this... requires new ways of thinking... which we must begin discussing... *tout de suite*... right now... immediately.

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Stay strong... our brothers and sisters in Egypt and Tunisia and Turkey... and places we never hear about where these discussions are happening... confronting all the weight of the clandestine global 'state'...

(...and we have to flesh out our picture of what that is, so we can have *realistic* discussions of 'democracy'... as ideology... as is, I believe, 'participatory democracy'... unless your definition of that precludes the aggregation of 'power'...)

...you are leading the way... show us how it's done... and strength as well to our brothers and sisters challenging the privatization project of 'power' all over the world... and certainly to those right here in Berkeley occupying the land at our main Post Office to keep the building and the land for us... the ones who made it... and much love to those of us abused by the fast food industry who are rejecting that abuse... who are demanding that their humanity be recognized. Stay strong. And stay strong... as always... to our imprisoned brothers and sisters... especially those on hunger strike... risking their lives.

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Last week we said, "let's not use empty words... words matter... they're everything."

To move beyond 'power', we have to have our certainty... which means we have to have our words... but I also believe we need... means for distinguishing true from false gold... that we need a touchstone.

And we said that the point of having people who say they speak for us is to strengthen our confidence... our confidence that we can run things ourselves.

These are the themes of today's show.

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I've been arguing that 'rationalism'...  
(...or 'mind' stripped of feeling... with the stripping based on the propaganda that using our wholeness mis-equips us for making the big decisions about our world...)

...is a means used to rip *our body's* truth from our hands... *and* to trivialize the importance of the earth which is the chief source of our power... and thus disarmed... to make us easy fodder for their *mis*-management of us... and of the earth... to be *easily* ground up in their machinery of... 'state'-making... i.e. leaves us dependent on the state... both psychically and materially.

The state controls our means of connecting to mind, body and spirit. We've been arguing that our disconnection is a triple one... which amounts to three dimensions of 'power's totalitarian control of us: to mind – to the ancestors – by controlling the kind and quality of, and access to, education...

(...e.g. once when I was hawking books on the UC – Berkeley campus, I encountered a woman who, when I described *Unpacking Democracy*... which discusses the totalitarian nature of Plato's thought, got interested and said that the issue of Plato was up for her because she was taking a class on Plato. She'd never heard of Karl Popper. Now... if the usual game-plan of 'power' – shielding from our eyes the ancestors we need... to get free – goes according to plan... she will never read and discuss *The Open Society and Its Enemies: The Spell of Plato*. And not reading key ancestors conditions us – we stripped of earth... or other means of arriving at these key truths – it conditions us to be heartless... and this was a sistah-girl, a particular threat because her training in class did

*not* run many-multiples-of-generations deep.)

Maybe we need to talk more about that down the road: the power that Zora Neale Hurston tapped into... the power that Bob Marley tapped into... to clarify that that is true wealth... and that we have to start understanding 'wealth' in those terms... when there are perhaps good-hearted people who are who are misled by... and attempt to mislead us with... a lot of nationalist rhetoric ...and I'm using that word 'nationalist' as a black woman in America... thinking in terms of the assertion of a culture that's been attacked... and targeted.... We do need... as people from particular cultures... the ancestors of our particular cultures to help us get free... but the problem with that... particularly for us as Black people in America... is that we've only been struggling with this monster for a few centuries... but our brothers and sisters of European descent... and of Asian descent... have been struggling with this monster for millennia.

There's a reason Shakespeare is powerful... and there's a reason why we need him. And Karl Popper clued us into the fact that there was vigorous opposition to slavery in ancient 'Greece'... and ancient 'Greece' ain't ancient 'Greece', by the way, they didn't think of themselves that way... Plato based his whole theoretical system on... and honored... Egypt for their rigid caste system and drew on it in his writings. So this is not a 'Western' dilemma in the sense that we've been taught the word 'West'. I open the "Living the Transition" series (the Preface) with the image of a 'great Mediterranean bowl'... and it was the world travelers of that day who circulated these ideas around. And so Plato had the opportunity to understand the weaknesses of a caste system (from the perspective of 'power'... the perspective of his would-be 'philosopher-statesmen'...) and to write what he felt those 'ruler'-descendants would need – just as Bentham did – what they would need to *strengthen* up that ideology to make it firm... hard and fast... such that it could endure the inevitable (as we are beings of earth and built to resist force... coercion) resistance.

So... there is a deep, millennia-long history of struggle against this caste system which... if you're going to set to one side and say that it has no relevance to you, you will certainly be encouraged in that presumption by 'power'... and encouraged to dismiss folks of color who press the reading of Shakespeare... or Karl Popper... on you... and say that we need to understand what they want us to know... that they have the thoughts that we need to get free. The fact is... they... and their ancestors... have been struggling with it longer. There is thousands and thousands of years of thought... of "how do we do this?" pondering. And these ancestors are not just trying to free us... they're trying to free those would-be philosopher-kings... who are also trapped in the illusion of class.

The state also attempts to control our means of connecting...to spirit – our brothers and sisters – through processes of atomization, controlling and limiting the kinds of collectivities we are able to come together in...

(...this goal of 'power' explains the nervousness of states when we come together on our own... whether it's Black youth, or Occupy, or Tahir Square, or Taksim Square or Gezi Park... you see the same response of states: infiltrate... have the agents commit or provoke acts of violence... make certain the media broadcast the fact of the violence widely... discredit the protesters... and then move in with the heavy hand of the state... saying your only concern is to protect health and safety...);

...and to body – the earth – by severely limiting our access to shelter, beauty, and food...

(...e.g. it won't be Haiti where the "new sharing economy" and "local self-sufficiency" get promoted and lauded... we won't see blooming small villages conspicuously favoring and favoring the land there... such that every Haitian can enjoy their hard-earned and well-deserved leisure... hard, despite their living in a food-rich paradise.

And that means our motto for getting free must be... absolutely... “all of us or none....”)

Viewed another way, however, we are talking about three dimensions of loss... three dimensions of keeping us uncertain.... Today’s show is also partly about feeling those losses.

- Rationalism causes us to turn deaf ears to our body’s voice... undermining spirit from within...
- ‘Power’s possession of the lexicon... stealing our words... turning their use to deception and betrayal... undermines from within our ability to develop our thought...
- Structurally-enforced and reinforced scarcity... ensuring that physical survival and well-being is uncertain... undermining physical health from within the construction of society itself.

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Yet there’s a sense in which ‘rationalism’ unifies all the dimensions of ‘power’s control... by keeping us *generally* uncertain... because it plays a role... is insinuated in... all aspects of our existence under class... it keeps us mistrusting our bodies; it keeps us feeling intellectually inadequate... fearing that we aren’t smart enough... or doubting the quality of our thought; and a key residual effect is that vague oppressive sense of guilt... or at least a mild dissatisfaction... about the state of our heart... a concern about its poverty... the fact that it does not care... about its brothers and sisters – structurally ordained though it may be... it still feels yucky.

And there’s no judgment in saying that... it simply means that what we’ve been enabled to see – or not – is by virtue of our connections to our power-sources... that determines how much of the world we can be. That ‘power’ keeps us disconnected from them... intentionally... is devastating to the health of the species.

In the final analysis, ‘rationalism’ is a scarcity of *feeling*... and ‘scarcity’ is a scarcity of feeling... because there is no scarcity in *reality*... as the earth is abundant. So it’s a matter of ending manufactured scarcity... there’s no social musculature of future that is different from ‘class’ that isn’t premised on that.

This... rationalism (or its practical expression: ‘scarcity’)... is a meeting place of all the rigid structures... an ‘imperialism of rigidity’ we’ve been trapped in... in being trapped in bloodless thought and denuded words and manufactured want... they meet in us...

...we are trapped in words and thought that works against us... an interweave in us... but then dispelled as well... in us... by developing our thought... by making our own lexicon.

It is only the few... under the rule of ‘power’... who have determined and possess the lexicon... and so it inevitably reflects and reinforces ‘class’...

...and this problem of ‘class’... (or ‘power’...) owning the lexicon will plague us... until we take that ‘longest stride’ Fry told us we have to take....

As Christopher Fry said... in *A Sleep of Prisoners*... “the human heart can go to the lengths of God...” (he spoke personally....)

It is the endless delimiting of things that got us this mess... would you clap rings around the infinite? Must we drag our chains into the future?

I think not.

We have to newly-invent the language as we newly-invent the world... New words mean not just seeing with fresh eyes... but rebuilding trust... which Shakespeare shows to us.

We’ve discussed the fact that Shakespeare is a rich and

complex study of 'power'... but that study is simultaneously, and inextricably mixed with... a study of the power of words for controlling us... i.e. as a tool of 'power'... and I don't just mean... in a simple sense... as propaganda... but, more subtly... as a worm to be inserted in the apple of communion... into our inter-relationships based on good fellowship... rotting them out from within. This is a tactic as old as 'class' itself.

This is up for me because I'm reading Shakespeare's *Richard III*... the man who was the king of England from 1483 to 1485... the one we mentioned recently because his sword-bludgeoned and humiliated skeleton was found under a parking lot in Leicester...

...and by 'humiliated' I mean that there were 'humiliation injuries', the article said... "including a sword wound in the right buttock." We can imagine, I think, what happened. A note at the back of Shakespeare's *Richard III* says this (in explanation of the line, referring to Richard, "thou elfish-marked, abortive, rooting hog!"):

Richard's badge was a white boar. In the second year of Richard's reign, 1484, William Collingborne published the couplet:

"The Cat, the Rat, and Louell our dog,

Rule all England under an hog.

Meaning by the hog, the dreadfull wild boare, which was the king's cognissance."

Collingborne was executed for this indiscretion. (The Yale Shakespeare, Edited by Jack R. Crawford)

Anyway... the play by Shakespeare was mentioned on the radio because it has a particularly strong woman character... so strong in fact that it inspired the guest to want to be an actor... and as I don't need a lot of prompting to pick up a Shakespeare play... and as I've only read a very few, I thought, alright... I'd check it out.

Now this theme of the mis-use of language by ‘power’ comes up constantly in Shakespeare, yet we never hear its significance discussed for our current puzzle of how to get beyond these sad guys... and any listener to these shows will not be perplexed about that... (what? ‘power’ doesn’t want us discussing its chief tactic?!)

(...as that is how they control us... with words... and rationalism is how they rob us of them... as Shakespeare pointed out in *Measure For Measure*... [see: “*Getting To Our Future Freedom*”s “The Language”])

In *Richard III*... which I’m still laboriously step-step-stepping my way through... as the notes in the back are a necessary accompaniment to the main themes... one of the first things I find myself pondering... possibly because I’m also simultaneously reading Christopher Fry’s *The Lady’s not for Burning*... is the notion of ‘the witch’... because it seems to be a person who can see the truth writ in acts (the acts of ‘power’... whoever manifests it)... and is not conned by ‘mere’ words.

Of course, that words mean nothing means the shattering of the *possibility* of trust... and the vampire loosed... runs....

‘Power’ has quite literally stolen our words... when they are hollowed out to zeros... and turned over to mere inventive manipulation of what – denuded of heart – is weighted by ‘power’ with rationalism.

Mutual confidence comes from a common language... from having our words back... on which conviction... certainty... can begin to grow...

[Kropotkin tells us that “mutual confidence is the first condition for courage...” (and we cannot have confidence if nothing is certain....) I think the sense in which he means that, is both societal and spiritual... that ‘mutual confidence’



must be the emblem of our future... must give it its design... so I believe we should be asking: “how can ‘mutual confidence’ be reflected in the design of our world?” (See: “*A bit more on certainty... and theater...*” below)

And our upcoming shows I hope will be useful in helping us think through the musculature of a social world in which each one of us is actively... consciously actively... uncoerced actively... growing that world with our lives... in which the world is a garden blessed by the heathen rainfall – us.]

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Do we really need ‘the media’ to: “tell us what’s going on in our lives”? as one progressive pundit said this week...

“...if people do not know what’s going on around them they cannot act intelligently...?” said another...

...or do we need to listen to our bodies?

If we have been robbed of words... as I’ve been arguing... and in being robbed of the power of defining... and holding those definitions firm... robbed, as well, of certainty... which we need to challenge ‘power’s totalitarian control of our thinking... then we *do not want* the media to “tell us what’s going on in our lives...” just the opposite... we want the media to disperse widely the unthinkable thoughts... to encourage us to think about... and discuss together... what is *not* going on in our lives... what is *not* there... what has been stolen... why it’s not there... why it’s gold... and how to distinguish true from false gold, We need a touchstone.

And for that there’s this: heart knows....

Does the pundit call on you to reach out for those excised bits?... to reclaim what’s been stolen?... to affix to that from which we’ve been disconnected?

The human heart extends to the lengths of the infinite... and yet... we’re never allowed to come together to realize that truth. Does the pundit want us to? Does it tell us that the theft of our connections is illegitimate?

This week I listened to a pundit who lightly plunks the bell of righteousness but never summons up the strength to grab the pull and put some body into it.

This is what he said (in paraphrase):

The Occupy Movement, we're told, lacked a goal, but that's not so... it had a very clear demand: "we want to reverse corporate domination and take back power for the people." The decision to break-up the encampment was telling. It said the state has nothing but repression with which to control the people. (Chris Hedges, speaking in Seattle, replayed by David Barsamian on *Alternative Radio*, 07.29.13)

So... to distinguish true gold from false in a goal... ask: "what is the operational flip-side? When you flip that goal you gotta see... one clear road to get there... if it's gold. But far from showing us a clear road to the goal... all he can give to us... is more hopin' and wishin' and dreamin' and prayin'.... This is not gold... this is common as dirt... and designed to keep us wallowing in it... *ad infinitum*.

To serve as advice to us he took the words of a priest he knew:

"...we have to do the good and then we have to let it go. The Buddhists call it karma." If we stand with the good 'power' can be defeated.

To offer such advice in such times as these... is gross abdication of that responsibility he wears... by claiming to represent for those of us who have no way... of having our voices flung across the world.

And it's straight-up con to say that all the state has left to rely on is blunt repression with which to corral us... come on... that's not just crude assessment... it's wrong. The state

didn't dare lift its heavy hand till it had already undermined Occupy from within... with agents.... 'Power' knows it must first capture hearts and minds (...with lies – that's all they got...) for when the people are roused... they rise.

And so the dilemma of agents must be factored into our goal.... If Occupy had stiffened itself up with a vision... of a different future... with a clear picture of the world they wanted... and found some means of communicating it's basic lines to 'the people'... that would have energized and strengthened – bulked up – the movement.

Because a healthy wind is blowing...a new reclaimed spirit is remaking the world... we are being made 'one' on a new basis... on a basis of a conscious claiming of our commonality and our responsibility for each other and the earth.

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We develop certainty by reclaiming our sources of power consciously... if we let 'power' define us... we will forever be its servants... and lost to ourselves...

...so we need quiet... we need to disconnect from the 'master's voice and tongue – which means we have to think and speak more consciously... let our heart and courage guard the gate – is that word 'worker' tainted slavish? Then let's not use it brothers and sisters... let's listen to those who love us... not the ones who want to use us as fuel for furthering their fantasies... listen to the earth that feeds our wholeness... not the broken souls who want to control us.... A hold on minds is only broken from re-thinking bottom-up.

And listen to our heart that beats in common... feel the sadness and fear so we can move beyond it... let each source flow into the others till your heart... filled with that knowledge... lifts up your brothers and sisters...

I know the time will come when people will wonder at their own beauty, when each will be like a star to all the others. The earth will be peopled with free men, great in their freedom. The hearts of all will be open, and every heart will be innocent of envy and malice. Then life will be transformed into the great service of Man, and Man will have become something fine and exalted, for all things are attainable to those who are free. Then people will live in truth and freedom for the sake of beauty, and the best people will be accounted those whose hearts are most capable of embracing the world and of loving it, those who are most free, for in them lies the greatest beauty. They will be great people, those of the new life!... And for the sake of that life I am ready to do anything at all. (Maxim Gorky, *Mother*, Chapter XXIV)

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“We don’t need ‘masters’ or ‘managers’ to ‘work hard’... when will *that* be what we hear discussed over the airwaves?” is how we concluded last week’s show... such a simple thought... and... once we consult our bodies... when we’ve got that glimmering fish we’re pursuing by the tail... so obvious...

...so obvious... and yet a truth we never hear... “now, why should that be?”

And we concluded that authentic conversations about ‘race’ and ‘socialism’ must lead to tenderness... i.e. to allegiance with each another and with all life... i.e. must lead to our own power restored... i.e. must lead to solidarity... i.e. must explode all idle categories.

And we argued that we have to unite these discussions of ‘the state’... jointly with discussions of what it means to ‘be free’ – into a single frame globally... which lights them from within... that... united global action requires that we first have thought it through...

...literally... “thought it *through*”... with the light of authentic earth shining into every hollow category... and

exposing it as false...

...as only when we readily distinguish false from true...  
and test truth with the steely communal mind's eye of mutual  
discussion... a test of strength that only earth withstands...

...will 'certainty' be like steel tempered in our hand...

...and only when we have this truth in hand... do  
we possess the necessary 'command'... does certainty become  
our joint possession... our weapon and our staff... for standing  
strong together... and against... 'class.'

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The discussion of what it means... "to be free"...  
necessarily leads to the discussion of what it means "to be  
powerful"... and beginning to think this "through and  
through"... from one side to the other... and from above...

...this process develops our thought... forges powerful  
people.

And this is critical... as we can't want to be powerful...  
until we see it... see it modeled...

"...what do we covet?" said our Hannibal Lector to his  
Clarice... his light upon the world...

...and as we explore this notion of being powerful  
individually I think we'll see... it necessarily means exploding the  
categories... becoming more open beings...

...not relinquishing tribe exactly... as its through our  
very personal relations that we learn the world... but certainly  
more porous... as once it was... when strangers were honored  
for the broadened vistas that they brought... as world-travelers...  
with them.

Our allegiance is necessarily dual... both to the earth (all life)... and to ourselves... as its closest manifestation... to the degree we represent for it.

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Towards the end of the last show we said that ‘the state’ plugs our ‘caring’ into ‘outrage’... and then directs it towards false culprits...

We could as justly said that ‘the state’ hijacks empathy into ‘service’ ... and ‘service’ ends up meaning ‘the state’...

(...even when we call it something else... like an NGO... or an ‘issue’... because ‘the state’ is that *fait accompli* we adjust to... and we legitimate it when we’re successful in making incremental improvements in the lives of some percentage of its subjects...)

...because we have no other secular models for service... and the non-secular models mire us in particularity... Popper’s unhappy notion of what ‘having tribe’ would mean.

I believe we need such a secular model of service to advocate for the species... and for life generally... and that focusing narrowly on a specificity ultimately becomes but a form of ‘mind-worship’ (elevating abstracts)... or proselytizing... a narrowing of responsibility.

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“What, after all is a halo? It’s only one more thing to keep clean.” (Christopher Fry, *The Lady’s not for Burning*)

They’ve got us focused on function... on distraction and diversion... on performing... to keep us... from... *listening*.

So... we've discussed that:

...the current structure prevents our being powerful...  
as the current structure reproduces scarcity...

...the current structure prevents us living our nature...  
as 'scarcity' dries the bloom of empathy on the stalk....

We've also said that power comes with *certainty*... and that our trap is structural... i.e. was here before us... built with intent to last well past any living generation...

...so we must ask: "in what way does the structure itself reproduce our *confusion* – which is the mental state that accompanies structural disempowerment... the continuous mental state associated with the absence of certainty? How is this mental state reinforced daily... as part of the structural reproduction of the absence of our – we-the-people's – certainty?"... a continuous state of confusion is like a 'bolster shot' for the structure.

In order to shake off 'power' and build *our* power we have to dispel confusion... and this requires developing meanings that we share in common and agree on...

...dispelling confusion, e.g., about the meaning of words like 'structure' or 'structures' or 'organizations'... or 'institutions'... and about the notion that if we create 'new' ones... or 'fix' the old ones... we need not upend... or start all over again... but... rather... 'progress'?... 'advance'?... or 'stretch'?... the rigidity to 'fit' our greater expansiveness?

'Power's institutions are riddled through with that intent of reproducing 'class'... are structured hierarchically to ensure it... and cannot exist in a world in which we straighten our backs... and live fully in our human-ness...

Last week, in answer to the question, “why to we have pundits?”... it seemed to me the inescapable conclusion was: to keep us confused... fused... frozen... fixed... paralyzed... in cons.

They are a tribe in the worst sense... in Popper’s sense... Popper’s concept of ‘narrow tribalism’ being the antithesis of the ‘openness’ for which he was the chief advocate... and which he consciously and continuously tried to forward in emphasizing the importance of honesty in education of the young... i.e. he believed in helping us all develop certainty....

But his notion of ‘tribe’ is a ‘class’-based... i.e. *scarcity*-based notion... and this notion definitely applies... to how the privileged-intermediary-official-spokespeople practice their ‘craft’... opposed to seeing all of us share in what is now a perk reserved for them....

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When we hear one say, “there’s no such thing as ‘perfect equality’...” let’s think this through... and as we do... remember what we’ve been discussing... about the illusion... systematically-maintained... of ‘scarcity’...

Just as Popper’s concept of ‘tribe’ is a scarcity- or class-based notion... so is the pundit’s use of ‘equality’. And class-based notions are false... i.e. the earth don’t back them.

Some months back I listened to a public radio conversation between dog-trainers on their ‘craft’ (and we’ll ignore for the purpose of this example the issue of ‘training’ non-human animals.) One guest... who talked more like a policy analyst or academic... (actually he may have been an academic...) than someone who worked with living things... said: “just as some people are more intelligent than others, some dogs are more intelligent than others.” You could feel the bristle when the man with more earth in him replied, “I don’t believe there’s any stupid dogs. There are people who don’t know how to work with certain dogs... but any dog is capable of learning.”



‘Power’ is very big on this notion of ‘breeding’... the notion that some... by virtue of their ‘blood’, or genes... possess some ‘natural’ superiority when it comes to ‘intellectuality’ – ‘mind’ – which... as we’ve been discussing... they claim reverence for... and elevate over... ‘hand’.

And this false reverence and false elevation is what pundits are thinking of when they say, “there’s no such thing as ‘perfect equality’...”

When I went into the trades, one teacher said to us that what he loved about electrical work was that there was a place in it for everyone... a spot every one of us could find... in which to shine. If you loved ‘logic’, there was motor control; if you had an artistic bent, especially if it was combined with an intuitive gift for making spatial calculations, you could bend and run conduit or racks. So whether you loved math or physical challenges, big-picture layout or electrical calculations, drawing, theory, or the visual-rendering of things in spatial-relation...

...I mean electrical work is a universe unto itself...

...and it all required... relied on... bringing... and using... the *whole* of one’s self... one’s wholeness – mind, body, and spirit.

The truth is... we all have rich capacities... untapped under ‘class’... under ‘power’... it comes with the package called ‘human’... and the misshapen, shallow thing that pundit-intermediaries mean by ‘equality’... (i.e. squirming on the same narrow rung while stomping on those below...) is a standard we shall blow past so fast – once we’re free – the living of it will be breath-taking.

All ideologies of ‘class’ have at base this key message: “Turn away from your brothers and sisters... they are common, you are not... ally yourself with the truly great... the power and the majesty of the ideal state.”

To tell men that they are equal has a certain sentimental appeal. But this appeal is small compared with that made by

a propaganda that tells them that they are superior to others, and that others are inferior to them. Are you naturally equal to your servants, to your slaves, to the manual worker who is no better than an animal? The very question is ridiculous! (Karl R. Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, Vol. 1. p. 96, quoted in *Revealing Division*, p. 58)

The key divide of ‘class’... is the classification-divide between ‘hand’... and ‘mind’.... Once we leave *that* behind... the possibilities for a whole life... for humans and all life... are endless.

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We’ve said that a world market is fundamentally... as we are everything... a market in *us*... and that we are the fuel on which the system runs... and that ‘power’ likes to think of itself as pursuing ‘Knowledge-Infinite’...

(...and as regards the function of that critical intermediary class that Plato told ‘power’ it needed to have to keep the cattle herded... we can now see clearly that this includes: “to keep the cattle divided... and confused...”

...but what is evident is that the academics and the self-averted intellectuals join *with* ‘power’ in that self-delusion...

...and have conned us for centuries into thinking that it might be so... “maybe what they do does matter more than I do,” we are encouraged to think... particularly if you occupy despised boxes... or languish in categories that are never seen.

Because the solution to ending ‘power’s reign is so obvious... and would be so easy if we had the necessary conversation... in order to achieve the necessary solidarity... it’s worth while taking some time to think through why ‘the obvious’ ‘power’ is ever able to make certain will elude us...

“Why won’t they say it?” I’ve thought a lot about this question... “Why won’t they say it?” as they have time to ponder while the slavery of the rest of us is such we barely have

time to briefly rest before we rise and slave away again... is that the answer?... everyone *else* must slave away... yet *they* have time to think...

...quite a perk... as Platonov showed us... quite a perk... it must be quite a perk to reap such a harvest... command such a price...

...but that hardly seems sufficient reason for the burying of heart... when it seems so blazonly and blazingly clear that it's wrong to make a market in our humanity... wrong to make a market in our lives... why won't they say it?... when it's worse than wrong, it's refuse from a steaming pit of hell... leave aside the marketing of life overall... we'll make that moot as we flood the walls... once those potent words are spoke... we'll flood the walls and re-fertilize the world with basic common sense... i.e. the truth.

*This* tribe – this pundit tribe – seems to unify across false divisions... (something I generally advocate for...) and maybe even real ones... despite their bombast and their nationalist rhetoric... acting as a form of nationalist-orates... that congregate at conferences and commiserate together... on the dullness of 'the masses' they've committed themselves to 'protecting'...

...a tribe with the function of furthering 'exclusivity' as a key political principle for divvying us up into small little mini-states for 'power'... all for the 'greater-good' of keeping us herded... neatly packaged and powdered fresh for the eating... and definitely well-conned and kept perennially perplexed...

...I digress...

...why do they hoard their manufactured certainty? Their unity in either contempt or paternalistic concern for us surpasses any differences in the specificities of their exclusivities... what they claim as their exclusive advocacies...

...why?... if not because those eyes upon them are so intoxicating?

‘Power’ knows how strong the pull of our full gifts... how piercingly they scream to be reclaimed... that which is inherent in us... but structurally disclaimed...

So we stand in line to join the tribe of ‘Mind’... the tribe of ‘smart ones’... tribe of those who ‘manage’ the ‘child-like proles’... the Tribe of Plato... because the human ability to see from high above the low-ground-level of things...

...is so intoxicating.

(So... it’s likely not... on the Left... conscious betrayal... but, as George Eliot pointed out... there is an inventiveness of ‘mind’ that takes ‘what is’... as *fait accompli*... and ‘adjusts’ to it... tells itself it has no choice... invents reasons why it’s ‘legitimate’... to not demand for others... the perks it has claimed for itself.)

This week a progressive radio host, Davey D., played a speech by a former political prisoner who spoke as a black nationalist, and he used the phrase ‘the punditry class’... saying that, “the problem is ‘the rise of a punditry class’ that is not pushing forward the conversations that we need to have...” (07.30.13).

Now that is very like something I would say... if not my exact words... and to hear these words... used for such a purpose... what I would consider furthering division... and in such a venue... designed to reach a progressive audience... is quite disheartening... and could provoke our curiosity... as it seems to be the same tactic (discussed here) used by David Brooks... but we won’t indulge it... (130428brooks\_3) ... beyond restating the conclusion of that audio-blog: he who controls the lexicon... i.e. our thoughts... rules the world.

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But a cursory look behind the screen of ‘power’s official screed and we see in their determination to keep college beyond the means of everyone but those who boast a long family history

of folks who take readily to the leash (or to the crown, that goes without saying...) and to the carrot of recognition... and who eagerly seize the challenge of leaping blithely through whatever hoops are given to achieve it...

...a fear...

...because those still-earth-connected... and so not-easily-led to lose their souls for poisoned carrots...

(...when healthy ones the earth will give if you but sit with her and learn her lessons – what a no-brainer that is... if your connection to her still exists...)

...pose 'problems'....

There is a plain... straight-up power that comes from earth... that comes from being earth-taught... that comes to bloom completely unconnected to any conscious certainty.... Yet certainty is its effect.

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Does getting to that discussion of the world... the future... we want... presume a power we don't yet have?

That tripartite disconnection we've discussed bears repetition here... in losing earth we've lost our power and our voice... in losing the ancestors, we've lost the means to develop our thought, and so our certainty... in losing access to each other... our communal form... we've lost empathy, heart and spirit...

...so... looked at this way might lead us to say... the way to regain our lost wholeness is to reunite heart, voice, and root... we must sink our roots in healthy thoughts... and healthy earth... in communion with each other.

So the goal seems to be to drop particularity... drop particular allegiances... and embrace a global humanity... not as a thought but as a *practical* reality... i.e. as a process of consciously constructing our world.

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We said if we could see the pattern... then we could intervene... but intervene how? where? and with what tools and tactics and strategies?

And all I seem to say for answer is to talk... to speak out loud unthinkable thoughts with your friends and neighbors...

And I've said that we don't listen to our bodies' voices... and that this is both cause and effect of our continued disempowerment... and that 'disempowerment' means lack of certainty... the absence of belief that we deserve to be free... lack of clarity about what it *means* to be free...

...and that being so... to begin with talking seems reasonable... so...

WUR, Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013: “‘Classification’ will not bring ‘class’ to a close (Pt. 3): “what do we covet?”

08.07.13: Hang in there brothers and sisters occupying Berkeley’s main Post Office... who, folks should know, are now being threatened... in a city where the mayor claims he’s so ‘supportive’ of keeping it in the people’s hands. So why are the occupying heroes... folks challenging privatization (a global assault...) being threatened? Perhaps he’s unclear on the word ‘support’ when applied to campers... I can help clarify... ‘support’ is tarps and mats and sleeping-bags and cook-tents and porto-potties and rich, organic coffee and croissants delivered fresh every morning... and Cheese Board pizza every night... and big bowls of green-things and trail mix and musical treats all day. I hear Berkeley is enjoying a nice budgetary surplus these days... why not do something luminously wonderful and honorable with it?

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We don’t know our own beauty... our vision is kept intentionally skewed and foreshortened... the punditry is the Greek Chorus to ‘power’... (and... as an aside... it’s suggestive that in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century – says Wikipedia – controversy erupted among the claqueurs of the day at the intimation that the purpose of the Chorus was to indoctrinate ‘the people’... to tell them what to think...) the ‘wage-work system’ means you can buy anyone to do anything – and that alone should tell us that it’s unfit for the life we are given – and so what is the ‘social musculature’ of *freedom*? Also... in *Waking Up* and subsequently I’ve been arguing that ‘power’ is very organized... and... since reading *The Open Society and Its Enemies*... that it is not monied interests *as* monied interests making the deep moves behind the scenes... pulling the strings... but something far more disturbing... A handful of folks who dream of being philosopher-kings... The Tribe of Plato.

Today we’ll also be asking how do you *know* that it’s these folks and not ‘capital’... i.e. impersonal so-called ‘economic

forces'? How do you know that there are conscious actors rigging the rules of 'survival under hierarchy' such that all the resources of the planet get concentrated in their hands... to be used to realize a plan... that is in essence totalitarian? And *why* does it matter? Why does it matter whether the folks causing the harm are organized players motivated by greed for money and 'power'-to-stay-on-top... or organized players motivated by greed for 'power' because they have a clear plan... and a clear picture in their minds... of what they want?

Is the point of our activism just to address the harm and attempt to reverse its effects? – which is all we hear from Left pundits.

If the problem is defined as unregulated competition... or unfettered greed that disturbs the orderly consumption of the planet... then you'll hear even left pundits – as I heard one this week – say that “we need rational economic planning at the G20...” I've heard that all my whole life... “we need rational economic planning...” – the level of that planning just keeps ascending up there. So you see how *that* definition of the problem – that we hear from the pundits – pushes us to get on the same side with 'power'... to believe that our interests coincide... whereas, if the problem is defined as conscious actors with a *plan*... then... they are *taking us somewhere*... with intention... with focus... and with a whole lot of determination... which means that if we don't stop them, we'll find ourselves deposited in a hell-hole for a future bemoaning our fate... betraying our children... and the whole human race. So this must be discussed... and discussed broadly.

We just have to define things authentically... and sense is made of the mess.

These are the themes of today's show.

In upcoming shows we're going to try to merge our discussion of the need to develop *certainty* – by means of a common, authentic (earth-based) language – in order to flesh out our picture of a future premised on abundance instead of scarcity... with our discussion of infrastructure redesign. And



on this last point I just want to say that it might forward our discussion if instead of saying ‘the state’ we begin to use the phrase “the aggregation of ‘power.’”

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I believe that our authentic lives – our beauty – are sacrificed when we do not think and live consciously... which is necessarily the case when we are prevented from examining the assumptions that structure our lives...

(...and I hope we will start asking ourselves what we *are* when we are not *self*-determined... *self*-created?)

...and I believe our authentic lives are sacrificed when we are born into hierarchy... into multiple layers of scarcity... kept dancing on a leash... leaping for a minute share of what is ours by birth... the earth’s abundance... kept artificially scarce... by making a market of it.

But the threat to all life now demands... that we fight our way to the truth, whatever else we do... that we reclaim our lives... our thoughts... our minds... and direct them to creating... and continuously testing... a social world that works for everyone... i.e. creates the terms for furthering health and *self*-creation. And I prefer the phrase ‘self-creation’ to ‘self-determination’ because ‘self-determination’ has been claimed by ‘power’... and has come to mean ‘state sovereignty’... which once again cycles our thoughts back to ‘protecting and strengthening the state’... instead of taking for our *basis* self-creating *individual* human beings... *agreeing* to congregate.

But we can only create this society by becoming certain that we do not live authentic... i.e. self-determined... lives currently... and that we deserve them....

How do we reclaim our belief in our right to our own beauty (self-creativity)... without that beauty (self-creativity) in hand? This is a more intimate version of saying, “if the mechanisms that exist for self-governance are not in our own hands, why should we be endorsing them?” – means and ends are one... when it comes to freedom.

Discussions of this dilemma are happening... all over the planet... but how can we broaden and accelerate them... commensurate with the threat that faces us?

I think we have to see it... see 'self-creation'... and that we have to model it for each other... and lean on our sources of power... consciously... for help. If we let 'power' define us... we will forever be its servants... and lost to ourselves...

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I know the time will come when people will wonder at their own beauty, when each will be like a star to all the others. The earth will be peopled with free men, great in their freedom. The hearts of all will be open, and every heart will be innocent of envy and malice. Then life will be transformed into the great service of Man, and Man will have become something fine and exalted, for all things are attainable to those who are free. Then people will live in truth and freedom for the sake of beauty, and the best people will be accounted those whose hearts are most capable of embracing the world and of loving it, those who are most free, for in them lies the greatest beauty. They will be great people, those of the new life!... And for the sake of that life I am ready to do anything at all. (Maxim Gorky, *Mother*, Chapter XXIV)

What's clear from the very first page of *Mother* is that we-the-people don't know ourselves as stars... and that we are careless of our beauty – many ancestors who long for generalized human freedom have pointed this out – and the reason we don't know it is that we're never given time to stop... to see it...

'Power' will encourage us to believe... by means of its recognition-dispensation rights... that beauty exists only where it serves them... and for that they will dispense recognition... for qualities we exhibit that bolster *their* story... the story that legitimates the fact of rule itself ('progress' being the chief one – and by the by, have you noticed that whenever the people [globally] start to rise... they announce some new Mars-

expedition? I guess just to remind us [and themselves] who's in charge...) gifts which... once relinquished... deepen our unconscious shame and self-betrayal... eroding our spirit from within... when we sell our gifts from earth ('power' didn't give them... yet they make certain they brand them...) to the highest bidder.

Recalling that 'power' has locked us in place by being global – by ensuring that we got no place else to go – when I read what follows from the opening pages of *Mother*... we should ask ourselves what the people he describes could do to unseat that weight that 'power' had placed to bias the world toward manufactured scarcity (uncertainty...) to suit the narrow interest of the few.

I suggest we do this because our situation today is no different... except in one important respect... from that of these men and women laboring in a Russian factory a hundred years ago... but the distance from our present enmeshment may help us to see more clearly the lines and dimension of the trap... help us see what some of us can't see in looking at our contemporary reality – because we are too involved in it... it's our water when we're fish.

Some ancestors of heart tried to help us see how contrived (planned) our enslavement... the poisoned fluid we swim in... by presenting it as a futuristic nightmare (George Orwell's *1984*). Others (like William Shakespeare and Christopher Fry) tried to help us see it by showing that the past is... in its essentials... in its relationships of 'power'... the same as this present that we're living. Still others, like Maxim Gorky, exposed reality directly... by shining a bright light around it:

The day had been devoured by the factory, whose machines sucked up as much of the workers' strength as they needed. The day was struck out, leaving not a trace, and Man had advanced one more step towards his grave. But now he was looking forward to rest and to the delights of a smoke-filled tavern, and he was content....

On meeting their friends they talked about the factory, the machines and their foremen; they never thought or talked about anything not connected with their work...

Their human relations were dominated by a lurking sense of animosity, a feeling as old as the incurable exhaustion of their muscles. [Especially the ones called 'the brain'... and 'the heart'... and 'the soul'....] People were born with this malady of the spirit inherited from their fathers, and like a dark shadow it accompanied them to the very grave, making them do things revolting in their senseless cruelty. (Maxim Gorky, *Mother*, Chapter I)

The 'wage-work system' gives us what thoughts 'power' is comfortable with us thinking... thoughts designed to limit us to *given functions*... consign us to a life *we* do not determine... except in the sense of choosing chains... and the selection we're presented with is that *fait accompli* called 'the state'... 'power'-aggregated.

So... this is us... if we care to admit it...

("...Oh, be disturbed, be disturbed, madam, to the extent of a tut and I'll thank God for civilization." [*The Lady's not for Burning*]...)

...and it's essential that we start to care... because we are in a moment when the exhaustion is curable and this cycle of beleaguered spirit can be broken... and we can look around us and no longer see 'inevitability'... but instead 'possibility'... writ large in the restless hearts around us... and to the degree we back each other vigorously.

Now... on this matter of 'the social musculature of the future'... which we raised last week... I believe we have to rethink 'social life' such that it means full engagement with the world... of everyone in society... and of everyone *with*... their full faculties. And that can only mean uninfluenced by anything but what "the soul selects..."

The Soul selects her own Society –  
Then – shuts the Door –  
To her divine Majority –  
Present no more –

Unmoved – she notes the Chariots – pausing –  
At her low Gate –  
Unmoved – an Emperor be kneeling  
Upon her Mat –

I've known her – from an ample nation –  
Choose One –  
Then – close the Valves of her attention –  
Like Stone –  
(Emily Dickinson)

We need *that* level of focus on our future... to get there.

So let's stretch wide our visioning wings for a moment... and swing our vision wide around the globe... where first alight our eyes... on what?... that... set alight... would send light further on... into ever greater illumination... of the world we want?

And I choose what Nikola Tesla chose... our unified Mind... built into the infrastructure that we create... but it must be an infrastructure that cannot harm us.

Ok... so let's assume, for the purposes of this discussion, that there are wireless signals that *don't* damage the heart... the circulatory system... as I heard one electrical engineer say some while back... on the progressive airwaves....

If 'power' depends on secrecy to keep its' mean privilege... needs it for its very existence... (and so needs the punditry to direct our eyes elsewhere...)

...then...

...dispersed... decentralized... and distributed power

and truth to every corner of our earth depends on *openness*...

...on all eyes coveting a healthy earth... and healthy souls... and the honor of being common shepherds of that health.

We need full openness.

And that being so... the social musculature of our future distributes power and light (knowledge of one another)... 'light' meaning the free flow of our communications... such that as we maintain village life we maintain the whole....

This means we see... and so consciously and continuously maintain and recreate... our inter-connectivity... our interweave... If our social world is a tapestry... we are all sewers of it... and textures and tinters and weaves... ends and means in one.

As rivers run to oceans... and as the water passes by... we see its full trajectory in our minds... each one of us... standing on our bit of earth... eyes sweeping in wide arc across our common sky... we see the interweave in full... we see we are a part... of a vast tapestry... of heart and mind unified.

But not one contrived by force... but by our open and encouraged and *enlarged* 'seeing'...

...every one of us has equal access to the means...

...as every one of us *is* self-creating means...

...so each can move to where the thoughts and actions are that move us...

...that we want to see more of...

...and all along the course of each one's journey to this 'closer seeing'...

...we offer *to each other*... means...

...we *want* to further our sisters and brothers...

...as we want that for ourselves...

(...recall... we are the *opposite* of 'class'...)

...and some among us 'see' by sitting with the green...

...and some among us 'see' along the long roads...

...noticing what is needed....

Imagine the world that will unfold...  
...as we walk freely on our roads...  
...a world of conscious... engaged... 'seeing'... folks...  
...looking for beauty...  
...to cool the eyes...  
...and in incipency...  
...feeding wholeness and health for all life...  
...and 'loss' is lifted by a hundred hands holding it...  
...and in...  
...that love that's given unreservedly...  
...because it *can*.

I write these words after a lifetime of *not* seeing – of being kept intentionally in the dark... what worse indictment can there be... of a global society... with a bankrupt leadership by-and-for the few... it's sole aim being... to keep us quiet... and ignorant of the truth.

You know how... with tree roots... when they encounter a house, they go around it?... and I suspect a lot of young, non-human, urban animals get hit by cars because such blunt lack of accommodativeness... is unknown to healthy life...  
...life accommodates life... unless mutilated by force – necessity.

...so it will be... that once we are free... and all of us can see... Grandmother's vast abundance... we will not be covetous of it... and will only want to see... more and more and more... like all our great... and I mean Goya-great... who every day see more... and more... and more...

So the 'social musculature' of our future freedom is a mental musculature – the capacity to develop our thought unreservedly is allowed in every human (...because it's what we want to do by virtue of what earth gave us... it's what we are *as* earth...)

...because we can (...the earth allows it.)

"The Soul selects her own Society" – that can only be true for each one of us... if coercion is removed from our

backs... and we can stand unbeleaguered... and we are *free* to choose... as a bloom unhindered feels its way to the sun it needs... so must *we* be allowed *to feel*... (the wage-work system converts us all into automatons. Emily in some sense foresaw this, she said, "...Reduce no human spirit to disgrace of price..." wise advice.)

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I've been arguing that we need our own lexicon... The People's Lexicon... A Lexicon for a Free People...

...in it we might define 'necessity' as: "to drift from our true nature because we feel compelled to..." and 'wage work' as: "the practical expression of created scarcity, the key means for compelling and conditioning humans to service, for keeping humans needy, and subdued to 'power'."

Jennet: Do you think he knows what's been happening to us?

Thomas: Old angel-scraper? He knows all right. But he's subdued to the cloth he works in.

(Christopher Fry, *The Lady's not for Burning*)

O, for my sake do you with Fortune chide,  
The guilty goddess of my harmful deeds,  
That did not better for my life provide  
Than public means which public manners breeds.  
Thence comes it that my name receives a brand,  
And almost thence my nature is subdued  
To what it works in, like the dyer's hand.  
Pity me then, and wish I were renewed,  
Whilst, like a willing patient, I will drink  
Potions of eisel 'gainst my strong infection.  
No bitterness that I will bitter think,  
Nor double penance to correct correction.

Pity me then, dear friend, and, I assure ye,  
Even that your pity is enough to cure me.  
(Sonnet 111)



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In The People's Lexicon... our Lexicon for a Free People...

'Worker' might be: "a person all of whose thoughts are given or driven by the Duke of Gloucester's purse":

Murderer 1: I thought thou hadst been resolute.

Murderer 2; So I am, to let him live.

Mur. 1: I'll back to the Duke of Gloucester [soon to be Richard III], and tell him so.

Mur. 2: Nay, I prithee, stay a little: I hope this passionate humour of mine [conscience] will change; it was wont to hold me but while one tells [counts to] twenty.

Mur. 1: How dost thou feel thyself now?

Mur. 2: Some certain dregs of conscience are yet within me.

Mur. 1: Remember our reward when the deed's done.

Mur. 2: Come, he dies: I had forgot the reward.

Mur. 1: Where's thy conscience now?

Mur. 2: O, in the Duke of Gloucester's purse.

Mur. 1: When he opens his purse to give us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

Mur. 2: 'Tis no matter; let it go: there's few or none will entertain it. (*Richard III*, I. iv)

Then... as now.

Now... that's the wage-work system... manufactured scarcity makes it so... the Duke of Gloucester's purse driving and controlling us... whether we want to admit it or not...

So, we've no shortage of honorable ancestors telling us the truth... the only shortage is of opportunities to discuss it over the airwaves.

All life is so powerful – but it needs to be free... if you try to harness that power, you destroy its essential nature... and create something... not just half of... but warped from... what it's meant to be.

(Now, 'power' will tell us that it's not possible for all of us to be free... or, like David Brooks, will tell us that 'free' means "the wisdom to see that not everyone can be free" ... or: "the wisdom to see that each must be unfree for 'society' to be free" ... or some such convoluted non-logic... convoluted the better to con us with... to get us to accept that 'web of obligation' as 'the good life'... or 'maturity'... or some such nonsense... so his masters can enjoy their leisure untroubled and unhindered by the foaming of the spent fuel – us – unwilling to go quietly to our cages... and then our graves.)

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In harnessing us to its vision... with the weight supplied by us given... the world was distorted by that weight... and the biased minds keep biasing the means... exponentially... so the purse grows... continuously... as into its coffers our stolen lives go... exponentially. This is what Hirschman was duly noting... how wishes are, in this case, indeed horses... and these horses have been pounding our backside... for quite some time.

The basic theme of this work also connects with a common interest in self-knowledge: how exactly have we ended up where we now are?...

...there is much general interest in the relationship between expectations that support and sustain powerful and profound changes without actually leading to the realization of those expectations. In contrast with Smith's and Menger's interest in, and Hayek's fascination with, "unintended but realized effects," Hirschman shows the power and influence

of “intended but unrealized effects.” [i.e., a vision...] The latter may be less observable than the former (since unrealized effects are not there to be observed), but the influence of those unrealized expectations survives powerfully today. (Amartya Sen, in his “Forward” to Albert O. Hirschman’s *The Passions and the Interests: Political Arguments for Capitalism before Its Triumph*, p. xvii)

“How ’bout it Doctor, why don’t you focus some of that high-powered insight on yourself?... or maybe you’re afraid to?” (That’s from *Silence of the Lambs*.)

Brakenbury [regarding the sleeping Clarence (the imprisoned brother of the Duke of Gloucester), who’d just described a horrible nightmare in which he was tormented by his guilt and betrayal]:

Sorrow breaks seasons and reposing hours,  
Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide night.  
Princes have but their titles for their glories,  
An outward honour for an inward toil;  
And, for unfelt imaginations,  
They often feel a world of restless cares:  
So that, between their titles and low name,  
There’s nothing differs but the outward fame.  
(*Richard III*, I. iv)

But... I would add: “and the capacity to do harm.”

The note at the bottom tells us that ‘unfelt imaginations’ means: “what they imagine they might do but are unable to realize.”

I.e. the power of a vision is also the curse of a vision... if you can’t do it... if it’s opposed to life... if it’s against the earth... because earth... life... will rise.

And even though that ‘for-the-few-exclusive-goal’ be

unattainable... O the damage it can do... the damage that this tiny few can do... in their continuous strivingness... to fill that bottomless hole.

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Considering the character of Clarence, I thought... Shakespeare absorbed almost all of the whole... now *that's* a goal... that's a vision that can't bite you in the ass... because the earth backs it.

It's quite disturbing to see Shakespeare begging child-princes for money to write and produce his plays... but the result speaks for itself. He shows us 'power' despite... We saw what happened to Collingborne when he looked too closely... Shakespeare had to do a mad-dance on that egg... he looks directly at the 'power'-guys... and they don't like to be scrutinized. And saying this reminds me of that line, spoken by Clarice to Lector, in *Silence of the Lambs*: "How 'bout it Doctor, why don't you focus some of that high-powered insight on yourself?... or maybe you're afraid to?"...

(Recall the character of 'the prince'... his vision and his troubled soul... his ever-seekingness... the fact that he can only pursue his vision if *we* aren't aware he's doing it... and the exceedingly strong need... given all of this... for a huge self-belief. This quote from Virginia Woolf, modified, sheds even more light on this question:

Possibly when ['the prince'] insisted a little too emphatically upon the inferiority of ['we-who-do-the-work'], he was concerned not with [our] inferiority, but with his own superiority. That was what he was protecting rather hot-headedly and with too much emphasis, because it was a jewel to him of the rarest price. Life for both sexes – and I looked at them, shouldering their way along the pavement – is arduous, difficult, a perpetual struggle. It calls for gigantic courage and strength. More than anything, perhaps, creatures of

illusion as we are, it calls for confidence in oneself. Without self-confidence we are as babes in the cradle.... [We-who-do-the-work] have served all these centuries as looking-glasses possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of 'the prince' at twice its natural size. Without that power probably the earth would still be swamp and jungle. The glories of all our wars would be unknown.... (*A Room of One's Own*)

But perhaps the potent reason is the best one... that if we make them out by their acts... if we see the hidden hand that wears the stain... and rigs the game... then that's the end of rigging... and all thought for them of winning... and if they can't win!... well, then... O my goddess they'd be common!... and 'common' to them means the fall... of the paterfamilias... of the Tribe of Plato....

The power of conviction is such... that when its feathers are plucked... its magician's trick exposed... and it can't stand up for the cold... it shrinks to its immature stature... and we see that what caused such havoc... was just a shiveringly-small and unloved child... (as in the closing credit-sequence of the film *Men-In-Black*... when we see that the 'power' wreaking havoc with the world is but a child ignored... with means... grown mean... and bored.)

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Listening to a series of foreclosure-fight-back stories, I thought... "what's not to be inspired by?" creative challenging of heartless banks... well, let's all rise and cheer... but... it could inspire us to believe... that just being on the side of 'right' means the world we want will come about incrementally... just lots of good folks doing lots of good things will do...

...and so it might... if 'power' wasn't actively working against it... with a lot more accumulated resources (the fluid form of our lives...) *and* much greater certainty about what they want... and the means to span centuries.

We have to start talking about what it means that ‘power’ looks long... what it means to have a vision... what a long-term vision can do... that it multiplies impact... that it allows ‘power’ to be almost indifferent to short-term set-backs because it rears ‘its children’... biological and trained... to continue to move towards realizing those long-term effects that give it its *raison d’être*. (Recall that parable that Mao told....) Let’s start talking about it.

What does it mean to have a vision?... for ‘power’... for us.

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“We don’t need ‘masters’ or ‘managers’ to ‘work hard’... when will *that* be what we hear discussed over the airwaves?” is how we concluded the July 28<sup>th</sup> show... such a simple thought... and... once we consult our bodies... when we’ve got that glimmering fish we’re pursuing by the tail... so obvious...

...so obvious... and yet a truth we never hear... “now, why should that be?”

And we concluded that authentic conversations about ‘race’ and ‘socialism’ must lead to tenderness... i.e. to allegiance with each another and with all life... i.e. must lead to our own power restored... i.e. must lead to solidarity... i.e. must explode all idle categories.

And we argued that we have to unite these discussions of ‘the state’... jointly with discussions of what it means to ‘be free’ – into a single frame globally... which lights them from within... that... united global action requires that we first have thought it through...

...literally... “thought it *through*”... with the light of authentic earth shining into every hollow category... and exposing it as false.....as only when we readily distinguish false from true... and test truth with the steely communal mind’s eye of mutual discussion... a test of strength that only earth withstands...

...will 'certainty' be like steel tempered in our hand...

...and only when we have this truth in hand... do we possess the necessary 'command'... does certainty become our joint possession... our weapon and our staff... for standing strong together... and against... 'class.'

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The discussion of what it means... "to be free"... necessarily leads to the discussion of what it means "to be powerful"... and beginning to think this "through and through"... from one side to the other... and from above...  
...this process develops our thought... forges powerful people.

And this is critical... as we can't want to be powerful... until we see it... see it modeled...

"...what do we covet?" said our Hannibal Lector to his Clarice... his light upon the world...

...and as we explore this notion of being powerful individually I think we'll see... it necessarily means exploding the categories... becoming more open beings...

...not relinquishing tribe exactly... as its through our very personal relations that we learn the world... but certainly more porous... as once it was... when strangers were honored for the broadened vistas that they brought... as world-travelers... with them.

Our allegiance is necessarily dual... both to the earth (all life)... and to ourselves... as its closest manifestation... to the degree we represent for it.

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Towards the end of the July 28<sup>th</sup> show we said that ‘the state’ plugs our ‘caring’ into ‘outrage’... and then directs it towards false culprits...

We could as justly have said that ‘the state’ hijacks empathy into ‘service’ ... and ‘service’ ends up meaning ‘the state’...

(...even when we call it something else... like an NGO... or an ‘issue’... because ‘the state’ is that *fait accompli* we adjust to... and we legitimate it when we’re successful in making incremental improvements in the lives of some tiny percentage of its subjects...)

...because we have no other models for service... and the non-secular models mire us in particularity... Popper’s unhappy notion of what ‘having tribe’ would mean.

I believe we need such a model of service to advocate for the species... and for life generally... and that focusing narrowly on a specificity ultimately becomes but a form of ‘mind-worship’ (elevating abstracts)... or proselytizing... a narrowing of responsibility.

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WUR, Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013: “Growing ‘Certain’ that we want to ‘grow up’ as a global humanity... (Pt. 1): “what do we covet? (Pt. 2)”

08.15.13: Sisters and brothers: The suffering Egypt is being subjected to was utterly predictable. An organizing effort that turns out 24 million people – a third of the populace – inevitably makes Egypt a big red target in ‘power’s big bright spotlight (the ‘power’ that hides behind scenes even more so than the folks in government clothes...) Without the support of ‘the people’ globally... and until we forge new means for building solidarity... within a single frame... ‘global support’ can only mean whatever segment of the labor movement that has the capacity to organize globally. But for that segment to act... would have required the possession of ‘certainty’ that it needed to... and *that* would have required realistic discussions of the purpose of ‘the state’... in a class system... a subject as taboo as the discussion of ending the class system... the wage work system... itself.

Egypt: We have few facts about your fallen... but I feel certain that the critical issue for the military who did the targeting is not the religious or political affiliation of those slaughtered... but the heart required to brave the danger in the first place... and I hope it matters more to you that they are your brothers and sisters than that they long to see a short-sighted and callous president reinstated. The issue is the state... the issue is ‘power’... the issue is a military whose souls have been purchased by placing in its hands almost the whole of your country’s resources – it’s in the Duke of Gloucester’s purse... and he can pull it out and put it back as he pleases. So, there must be a vision the way to which cannot be clouded. A vision makes almost irrelevant who torched those churches and businesses... though I suspect clandestine agents (it’s what the state would do to bolster the story they want believed globally...)

I hope we will begin discussing (globally) the fact that in some form or another what is being done to Egypt is being

done everywhere – ‘wrong’ is coming up to face us everywhere... ‘division’ and ‘separation is being stoked everywhere... ‘austerity’ is being imposed everywhere... fear and insecurity is being fostered everywhere... and we must learn how to begin having each other’s backs... everywhere.

And this cannot become a prolonged setback to a nation that organizes 24 million people into the streets. We *need* your heart and example... and you need more from us than the mere pondering of filtered and predigested pap. It’s time to set ‘particularity’ aside and say... until we have re-constituted our lives on a communal basis (globally)... that we will put our tribes on hold when it comes to ‘vision’... we need a collective, *common* vision... a vision big enough to hold all particularities. Let’s ignore those false divisions. Please. The issue is ‘the state’... and needing our freedom... globally.

08.13.13: Sisters and brothers... on our August 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday *Waking Up* radio program will focus on “growing ‘certain’ that we want to ‘grow up’ as a global humanity... reflecting on Kropotkin’s point that individual initiative and growth depends on having mutual confidence *in each other*. He wrote that, “mutual aid leads to confidence, which is the first condition for courage... *and* mutual aid leads to individual initiative, which is the first condition for intellectual progress...” (Petr Kropotkin, *Mutual Aid*, p. 15)

(I believe that our lack of confidence in each other is part and parcel of the lack of confidence in ‘the state’... as we manifest and represent for ‘the state’... as Bentham instructed ‘power’ to ensure... by which he meant that we must be so instructed (constructed) such that we support the set of terms by which ‘power’ is aggregated in ‘the state’ – the primary one being that we renounce possession of our own power... and vest it in ‘the state’. Aggregated ‘power’ (and its lack of authenticity... its fundamental dishonesty... as it must

conceal its true purpose... is disseminated out... and filtered down... through *us*...) is a collective body that exists – in the propaganda...

[...or according to the ideology of ‘democracy’... or ‘communism’... or ‘socialism’... or ‘social democracy’... and perhaps even ‘participatory democracy’... and with that conversation in mind... I’d appreciate your feedback on these comments I shared with my fellow Berkeley Liberation Radio Collective members: “On the practice of ‘democracy’”...]

...to advance, protect... and advocate for in the global arena... the interests of ‘the people’.... But of course that’s never the case in reality... as the B.L.R. example illustrates.)

– our fellows of the same species – and on the fact that the ‘wage-work system’ erodes relationships of trust from within – because anyone can be bought to do anything... and because it coerces us to support dishonesty with our children (about their value and the value of the earth... about our power... about the legitimacy of ‘the state’... and about ‘truth’ itself.)

(Our accommodativeness with what we know in our hearts is not right – ‘the state’ – is picked up on by children at least by age two... the message that “nothing can be done...” so... scale back your hopes and your power... and adjust yourselves to that *fait accompli*... so they sacrifice themselves as their parents... we... have done... and do.)

In recent shows we’ve said that the power of an authentic definition is such that it illuminates far beyond itself – as... what is ‘authentic’ reflects truth... and truth is an intricately

interwoven whole... meaning that the threads are interlaced without artifice... and that the more we delve... the more we see... of the whole – which is why we need to start using the lexicon for a free people... so we can begin to reveal to our eyes the whole... If a definition does not lead us into light but rather deeper and deeper into confusion, that's not 'gold'... brothers and sisters... that's a con.

This issue of distinguishing 'truth' from lies is up for all of us right now for many reasons... but a big one is that the secrecy of 'power' in its 'state'-form is being progressively exposed – i.e. more and more of us cannot help but see it's reality. So what does that mean? What does it mean that more and more are seeing the hand that wears the stain? I think we need to look more deeply at this question of 'secrecy'... and ask what social musculature supports full transparency.

Last week we said that there are three possible definitions of the main problem facing us as a global humanity – at least from the perspective of folks who want to establish societal conditions based on 'fairness' (i.e. cooperation... openness... and sharing...) instead of on cons and manipulation...: the problem could either be 'unrestrained greed'... with the solution 'fix the state'; or the problem could be 'impersonal but accelerating economic forces of consumption unleashed on the world'... with the solution 'fix the state'; or... the problem could be 'Plato-lovin'-philosopher-king-hopefuls' (a.k.a. 'power'-guys) consciously moving us toward totalitarianism... who use the global inter-state structure and the global market as levers'... in which case 'fixing the state' but strengthens 'power'... helps the 'power'-guys realize their vision.

And I'm arguing that we need to put these theories to the test of the Great Communal Mind working on them... which means *discussion*... which means that we must hear *all* of them.

Now the latter possibility we never hear discussed over the airwaves such that 'the people' could hear it and begin

considering it. And that omission is not just suggestive... if you think about it... it's definitive... as it cannot be explained except by accepting that there is conscious design behind it... because it fits with that definition and not the others. (And this is also the case I think with the cutting-away of planetary health beneath our feet.... I mean... it's true that greed does lead to eating the earth faster...i.e. the consolidation and aggregation of the planet's resources... but this means putting them in a *very* few hands... and as resources are finite... these few butt up against very real physical limits... but the accumulation is still in their hands regardless. What do you suppose they intend to do with it? Redistribute it... or apply it to the concretization of a vision in which their supremacy gets locked in place... which can only happen if *our* 'lower status' is 'locked in place'...

...a vision in which they cannot be challenged as... as we've been discussing... 'the state' is in their pocket. So the question is: what do we want to do about this biasing of the world?

So let's probe further the hypothesis that there are 'power'-guys *with a vision*...

(...and a vision makes everything they do more potent and dangerous... because it means conscious, *intentional magnification of effects*... because it's reinforced across multiple overt policies and clandestine acts...)

...a vision that is essentially totalitarian... and let's also figure out how to push that discussion onto the airwaves... as we need all of us... or at least an ever-growing percentage of us... working on this question. We'll be asking of our hypothesis... do the facts fit neatly into it... does it grant greater clarity to the puzzle-mask 'power' erects to keep us con-fused? Because there will likely never be exposure to the degree that will satisfy the punditry. They're there to plant doubt – if they do their job well

(from ‘power’s perspective...) – if they perform such that they attract to themselves the highly valued recognition...

...and their structurally-assured-and-designed longing for this reward insures their compliance, unless by some rare chance they received both financial independence *and* heart (love)... an almost miraculous combination – as Plato schooled them... so they will ever – whether consciously or not – work to deceive us. That’s their job.

We’re going to begin with some illustration of how using an accurate definition of the problem not only serves as a compass... showing you which way to that future freedom... but as a touchstone to distinguish true from false gold... in the words of the folks you hear... whether in person or over the airwaves.

We’ll take for illustration thoughts and words heard on a single day – August 12, 2013 – on KPFA, a Pacifica (progressive) network radio station. We’ll be asking: “does the pundit shed light?... illuminate ‘the pattern of ‘power’... help us see past its mask and to its underlying motives?... does it help us become stronger... stimulate us to expand our power... such that we can begin to ask what *we* want?... or does it confuse?... cause us to feel overwhelmed?... or feed a sense that it’s ‘all too complicated’ for everyday folks to understand?

Because if the world is structured hierarchically... and who can deny that it is?... and if scarcity is the defining characteristic of our lives (globally) overall... and... again... who can deny this? Then that pattern can be found everywhere (and the letter that I shared: “On the practice of ‘democracy’” also serves us as illustration...) and once it’s seen... if we are growing human beings (and I’m talking about the species over time) we should be about moving beyond it... *not* rediscovering it... generation after generation. Most of the efforts of the pundits in aggregate... because they never point the way out of the muck... the circular trap... but serves to tell us that ‘nothing can be done...’ And this is wrong.

We'll also be discussing the article by David Price that I've linked to on the Nascence website, so I hope you have time to check it out: "A Social History of Wiretaps"... that was the subject of one of the interviews we'll be looking at.

(When we see the same things happening across the country... and the globe... it's not by accident. But without adequate means for us to discuss what we're seeing... it's difficult to piece together the pattern... and act on it.

For some time now, I've been looking around, what once was an open and easy-going college-town... and thinking... "all of a sudden it's like Wild-West-time here..." and I know... it's not Berkeley alone... it's all over the globe. We're those frogs in warming water getting conditioned to accept the heat... Let's jump out, brothers and sisters, let's jump out... And reclaim possession of our kitchen... and brew us up some healthy self-confidence... to turn the false-hearts out... so we can begin to live as free beings.

As confirmation that it's happening all over... Just now I heard an interview with a *New Yorker* staff-writer who's written an article on "civil asset forfeiture..." about how a militarized network of police forces is stealing folks' property... because they can... and... *because they're told to...*

(...let's always add that last point... *of course* they are following orders... how else could there be such a synchronized pattern? And don't *you* follow bosses' orders? So let's not demonize cops... particularly as that is precisely what 'power' hopes we will do...)

...and a woman called in from Mendocino County and reported that police there... are using 'suspicion of a crime' as an excuse to... strip-search teenagers and confiscate homes... She said, "In Northern Mendocino County a lot of the criminal activity is on the part of the police force."

(...and by the by... I don't think it's happenstance that twice in recent months a young African-American father with an infant child were shot and killed here in the Bay Area... the first when the father was pulling his baby out of a car-seat, and... most recently... the father and his baby were asleep in a car.... Now it could just be unpaid-racists in love with a fantasy... but it could also be that loving African-American dads is not part of the picture of 'the Republic' these 'power'-guys have.... If you are 'power'... and have a picture of the world you want... your resources are such... that you can pay people to do the snipping away of what doesn't reinforce that picture... which makes the work on the policy end... simpler...  
...and three catastrophic train accidents within a brief period... all in places where they're trying to overcome opposition to pipeline-construction... could be coincidence... or could be... not...)

We have to learn to see, recognize and read patterns quickly... while saying focused on a common global vision – i.e. once we see the pattern overall... to develop our own 'overall' pattern.

I hope we will not let our activism rest in the collection and dissemination of horrors... 'power' is manufacturing trouble in *oceans* globally... we cannot keep up with them... nor should that be what we're about. They can manufacture them so fast because they have an 'original'... a 'form'... of 'state' by which they operate... that serves them as guide.... We have to have our own... 'picture' that we systematically watch unfold... and exponentially so... as the fact of our numbers means... if we could coordinate and concentrate *our* 'seeing'... we'd be there in triple-time.)

• A guest on *Democracy Now* who was a former deputy chief of staff for Democratic Senator Ron Wyden,



was interviewed about government domestic surveillance (“Senate Insider Speaks Out: Ex-Wyden Staffer on Secret Laws, Domestic Spying and Obama’s NSA Reforms”), seemed to me a propagandist for ‘power’...

(...and even though you can be a propagandist for ‘power’ without being aware that you are – simply because the ‘master’s voice is so omnipresent... and generally the only one we hear and are conditioned to accept... and we tend to believe the thoughts we hear repeatedly... I suspect this woman is not an unconscious propagandist for ‘power’...)

...but how do you know true from false gold... without a touchstone? Because they will say some things that you agree with... we listeners who want to see fairness established in the world... so some things will seem to cohere with that aim – how else get good-hearted folks to listen sympathetically (‘power’ was schooled in that tactic by Plato...) rather than with a critical mind.

What first got me curious is that Amy Goodman kept trying to get her to voice things that she apparently had written. The guest kept duckin’ and dodgin’... that’s always a ‘tell’... and, secondly, when you find basically only one key substantive point being made repeatedly... only in various ways... repeated throughout the interview... obsessively – that’s another ‘tell’... this guest was not there for discourse... she was there to plant points.

(And... as an aside... I have to express my gratitude to Democracy Now!... despite its silence about ‘power’... about ‘the state’... and the limits it imposes on what we’re allowed to think... for giving us those transcripts of their shows. Because often you don’t realize that delivery has *far* outdistanced substance... and that no one asked the tough questions... until you read the transcript.)

(There was a second... though minor... point the guest seemed there to plant: “Barack did not keep his promises...” a point being made across the political pundit spectrum. I think we can see in it a Right-wing diligence with an eye on the history books... on constructing a story... the story that Barack’s is a ‘failed presidency’ [and of course as part of a strategy for regaining the presidency]... a diligence which, again, speaks to ‘power’s long-term vision.’)

But her primary talking point was this: “Senator Wyden did everything he could... he tried to draw attention... to the Administration’s overreach in its interpretation of the new power authorized by the Patriot Act.” She repeated this refrain in various ways in answer to every question Amy Goodman asked.

We’ve said that a key ‘tell’ that what we’re being served up is not gold... is that the obvious questions are not asked. So when... during the interview... they replayed Barack saying this:

Barack: ...[Regarding] Mr. Snowden... if the concern was that somehow [what he did] was the only way to get this information out to the public, I signed an executive order, well before Mr. Snowden leaked this information, that provided whistleblower protection to the intelligence community, for the first time. So there were other avenues available for somebody who’s conscience was stirred and thought that they needed to question government actions.

...the obvious question is: “is that true?...” and if so... what would lead him to *not* avail himself of this ‘whistleblower protection’... if it exists... and if it would have applied to him?

When Senator Wyden and his former staffer emphasize that he ‘tried’ to tell us his concerns... and the guest makes this point over and over... the next obvious question is: “why does he speak as if he’s helpless? Why not call for debate on the Senate

floor and make it clear to us all the extent of the additional power the Patriot Act gives ‘the state?’”

Why was she not called on her talking point: “Sen. Wyden did ‘everything he could’”? ...when Article I, Section 6 of the U.S. Constitution says that: “for any Speech or Debate in either House, [a Senator or Representative] shall not be questioned in any other Place”, thus (says *Wikipedia*) “Senator Gravel [who read 4,100 pages of the Pentagon Papers into the record] could not be prosecuted for anything said on the Senate floor, and, by extension, for anything entered to the Congressional Record, allowing the Papers to be publicly read without threat of a treason trial and conviction. This was confirmed by the Supreme Court in the decision *Gravel v. United States.*”

And, interestingly, a guest on *Letters and Politics* last week made precisely this point... saying that if Edward Snowden has simply followed historical precedent and found a sympathizer in Congress to read his revelations into the record he would have had immunity from prosecution... and then this woman is slipped into Democracy Now!

So... how does someone like this get on Democracy Now!... all I can come up with is: she’s a smooth operator and folks spoke for her... but... I suppose to Amy Goodman’s credit... she does cover her butt right up front... by telling us that “Jennifer Hoelzer went to school at the U.S. Naval Academy and spent two years interning for the National Security Council...” and in telling us that probably told us all we need to know.

- Later that morning, a guest on *Up Front* was interviewed on the same topic. Now I generally don’t find much cheering in the work of academics... but I very much appreciated what I heard from David Price, being interviewed about his article, “A Social History of Wiretaps”, especially in

contrast with the earlier interview of the former Wyden staffer. He described the cowardice of Wyden as compared with Otis Pike, who chaired the Pike Committee in the 1970s, which seized Congress' authority to declassify documents. Pike simply opted to tell people in the U.S. what was being done in their name.

Price also pointed out that moral outrage at government intrusion in our lives is being incrementally massaged out of us with each passing generation – saying that... as opposed to their parents' generation... his students, far from being horrified at the persistent and increasing intrusion of government into their thoughts and actions, seem to be passively accepting it. (Though we can comfort ourselves by imagining that his students are drawn from among that 'segment' that is particularly groomed for self-betrayal.)

Quotes from (and my comments on the quotes from...) "A Social History of Wiretaps":

DP: American attitudes towards wiretapping significantly shifted during the 1940s, as the war and changes in the class distribution of telephones helped shift judicial acceptance of wiretaps. In 1940 J. Edgar Hoover attempted to secure new wiretapping powers from Congress but was defeated by FCC Chairman James Fly. But President Roosevelt issued a secret executive order authorizing widespread Justice Department wire-taps of "subversives" and suspected spies. Hoover used these vague new powers to investigate not just Nazis but anyone he thought subversive. Hoover's assistant, William Sullivan, later recalled that during the war, the FBI routinely conducted warrantless wiretaps. "with the country's future at stake, getting approval from Washington seemed like an unnecessary legal technicality. Years

later, the FBI was still listening in on other people's conversations without the authorization of the attorney general." The social history of wiretaps is a history of mission creep, where FBI agents initially hunting for wartime Nazi spies soon monitored progressive activists fighting racial segregation....

To plant the explanation 'mission-creep'... versus 'vision-creep'... the systematic advancing of a vision... misleads... in a self-flattering fashion... as it implies that we need the pundit class to re-design – de-bureaucratize bureaucracies – as opposed to *ending the possibility*... of 'would-be-philosopher-king-statesmen'...

So, in a sense, this show has been about reclaiming our own authentic voice... as opposed to letting the media tell us what are 'appropriate'... 'legitimate'... thoughts... thoughts that cede to 'power' *everything*... everything is ceded in ceding the *fait accompli* of 'the state'....

The pundit class acts as a Greek Chorus for 'power'... that insidiously plants the thoughts to think and the frames in which to think them... and their uniform, constant refrain is... "accept the *fait accompli* of 'the state'....

We are conditioned to believe that we must relinquish *our* power in order for 'the state' to be powerful... and the damning result is that our children are provided... by us... with a false model of what it means... to be a human.

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*Addendum: Excerpts and Commentary:*

AG: President Obama, speaking at his news conference on Friday. To discuss his remarks and the NSA leaks, we go to Los Angeles to speak with Jennifer Hoelzer, who served as deputy chief of staff for Democratic Senator Ron Wyden, one of the Senate's leading critics

of the NSA. Jennifer Hoelzer went to school at the U.S. Naval Academy and spent two years interning for the National Security Council. The website Techdirt has just published a piece of hers entitled “Insider’s View of the Administration’s Response to NSA Surveillance Leaks.” Jennifer Hoelzer, welcome to Democracy Now! Your response to what President Obama has just outlined around changes to NSA surveillance?

AG: President Obama said in his news conference—he talked about Edward Snowden. This is what he had to say.

BARACK: ...Mr. Snowden... if the concern was that somehow this was the only way to get this information out to the public, I signed an executive order, well before Mr. Snowden leaked this information, that provided whistleblower protection to the intelligence community, for the first time. So there were other avenues available for somebody who’s conscience was stirred and thought that they needed to question government actions.

[My interjection: now... is that true?... is the obvious question to ask at this point.]

AG: That is President Obama at his news conference on Friday. Jennifer Hoelzer, your response?

JH: ...I worked for Senator Ron Wyden for six years. And Senator Wyden, his conscience did move him to try to speak up about these things and try to draw attention and try to start a debate, and, quite frankly, there were no other avenues to bring this information to light...I think we put up a timeline, you know, because our frustration of how many times we asked the administration to declassify information so that

we could have a public debate on these issues, where we asked him to slow down because Congress didn't know what it was voting on and didn't know what the authorities the administration was claiming to have... I think we left no stone unturned to try to bring these issues to light.

AG: So, you think this is all happening because of Edward Snowden now?

JH: I mean, yeah, I think it is happening because this information was brought to light.... And we, working for Senator Wyden, did everything to try to encourage the administration to bring these facts to light.

Sen. Ron Wyden: ...The fact is, anyone can read the plain text of the Patriot Act, and yet many members of Congress have no idea how the law is being secretly interpreted by the executive branch, because that interpretation is classified. It's almost as if there were two Patriot Acts, and many members of Congress have not read the one that matters. Our constituents, of course, are totally in the dark. Members of the public have no access to the secret legal interpretations, so they have no idea what their government believes the law actually means.

[My interjection: Why does he speak as if he's helpless? Why not call for debate on the Senate floor and make it clear to us all the extent of the additional power the Patriot Act gives 'the state'?]

JH: I spent close to a thousand hours of my life [i.e. two years] trying to draw attention and trying to push for exactly that, a public debate on these issues, on what the administration believes a unclassified law,

that you or I or anyone else can read, says and allows them to do. You know, Congress writes these laws, and then Congress needs to know how these laws are being interpreted. Are they being interpreted the way Congress intended to be interpreted? And in this case, I mean, I still haven't seen...

[My interjection: When Wyden could just do it... he wouldn't have to 'try'.]

AG: So, Jennifer, give us the—give us the example.

JH: —the legal interpretation here.

AG: Give us the example, Jennifer.

JH: Exactly. ...I believe it was November of 2009—both the senator and his Intelligence Committee staffer, you know, came to me, and I sat down, and said, “We need to start drawing attention to these issues.” And it was a very difficult conversation, as it was for the following four years, in which, you know, they're trying to tell me that we need to draw attention to things that they couldn't, you know, give me details or even tell me what they were trying to get me to draw attention to.... that we tried everything we could, and there was no give on that side.

[My interjection: And this is the talking point: “Sen. Wyden did ‘everything he could’” A key tell is when you find basically only one key substantive point being made repeatedly... only in various ways... such that when you look back over the flood of words... you realize the delivery far outdistanced the substance... and that no one asked the tough questions. So... how does someone like this get on Democracy Now!... all I can come up with is: she's a smooth operator and folks spoke for her... but... I suppose to AG's credit... she does cover her butt right up front...]



by telling us that “Jennifer Hoelzer went to school at the U.S. Naval Academy and spent two years interning for the National Security Council.”]

- Later that morning, a guest on *Up Front* was interviewed on the same topic. Now I generally don't find much cheering in the work of academics... but I very much appreciated what I heard from David Price, being interviewed about his article, “A Social History of Wiretaps”, especially in contrast with the earlier interview of the former Wyden staffer. He described the cowardice of Wyden as compared with the Church and Pike Committee in the 1970s, which seized Congress' authority to declassify documents. Pike simply opted to tell people in the U.S. what was being done in their name.

Price also pointed out that moral outrage at government intrusion in our lives is being incrementally massaged out of us with each passing generation – saying that... as opposed to their parents' generation... his students, far from being horrified at the persistent and increasing intrusion of government into their thoughts and actions, seem to be passively accepting it. (Though we can comfort ourselves by imagining that his students are drawn from among that 'segment' that is particularly groomed for self-betrayal.)

Interestingly, there was a guest last week on *Letters and Politics* who said if Edward Snowden has simply followed historical precedent and found a sympathizer in Congress to read them into the record he would have had immunity from prosecution.

[Leak: Daniel Ellsberg knew the leaders of the task force well. He had worked as an aide to McNaughton from 1964 to 1965, had worked on the study for several months in 1967, and in 1969 Gelb and Halperin approved his access to the work at RAND. Now opposing the war, Ellsberg and his friend Anthony Russo photocopied the study in October

1969 intending to disclose it. He approached Nixon's National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, Senators William Fulbright and George McGovern, and others, but none were interested.

In February 1971 Ellsberg discussed the study with New York Times reporter Neil Sheehan, and gave 43 of the volumes to him in March. The New York Times began publishing excerpts on June 13, 1971; the first article in the series was titled "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces Three Decades of Growing US Involvement". The name "Pentagon Papers" for the study arose during the resulting media publicity. Street protests, political controversy and lawsuits followed. To ensure the possibility of public debate about the content of the papers, on June 29, US Senator Mike Gravel entered 4,100 pages of the Papers to the record of his Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds. These portions of the Papers were subsequently published by Beacon Press, the publishing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

Article I, Section 6 of the United States Constitution provides that "for any Speech or Debate in either House, [a Senator or Representative] shall not be questioned in any other Place", thus the Senator could not be prosecuted for anything said on the Senate floor, and, by extension, for anything entered to the Congressional Record, allowing the Papers to be publicly read without threat of a treason trial and conviction. This was confirmed by the Supreme Court in the decision *Gravel v. United States*.  
(from *Wikipedia*)

Quotes from (and my comments on the quotes from...) "A Social History of Wiretaps":

DP: American attitudes towards wiretapping significantly shifted during the 1940s, as the war and changes in the class distribution of telephones helped shift judicial acceptance of wiretaps. In 1940 J. Edgar Hoover attempted to secure new wiretapping powers from Congress but was defeated by FCC Chairman James Fly. But President Roosevelt issued a secret executive order authorizing widespread Justice Department wire-taps of "subversives" and suspected spies. Hoover used these vague new powers to investigate not just Nazis but anyone he thought subversive. Hoover's assistant, William Sullivan, later recalled that during the war, the FBI routinely conducted warrantless wiretaps. "with the country's future at stake, getting approval from Washington seemed like an unnecessary legal technicality. Years later, the FBI was still listening in on other people's conversations without the authorization of the attorney general." The social history of wiretaps is a history of mission creep, where FBI agents initially hunting for wartime Nazi spies soon monitored progressive activists fighting racial segregation....

[My interjection: I'd call it 'vision-creep'... the systematic advancing of a vision.]

The years following Hoover's 1972 death brought successive scandalous revelations about the FBI and CIA's illegal intrusions into Americans' private lives. The Church and Pike Committee investigations revealed extensive surveillance campaigns directed at Americans engaging in lawful political activities. The American public was outraged at the extent of the CIA and FBI's illegal activities, but an initial wave of shock

gave way to complacency, and congress abandoned meaningful oversight of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies. With time, many Americans learned to forget these documented instances of CIA and FBI prurient surveillance, harassment, assassination and defamation programs—by 2001, few American’s recalled the FBI and CIA’s abuses that led to the restrictions on domestic intelligence activities that were removed by the Patriot Act.

[My interjection: Our children see this and often conclude: “nothing can be done... we must make the best we can of it...” because they trust that we’re telling them the trust... and I mean... what we tell them *with our bodies*... with our ‘complacency’. Because our children are born *big*... you can feel the question looming up in them... at age two... “if something is wrong...” because our unhappiness is obvious... “if something is wrong, why don’t they fix it?” Children never shirk from asking the obvious questions.]

...from *Wikipedia*:

[Otis Grey Pike (born August 31, 1921) was... elected to Congress in 1960 and represented New York’s 1st congressional district from January 3, 1961 until January 3, 1979. As a Democrat, it is interesting to note that the NY 1st Congressional District in that same election gave the Republican candidate for President, Richard Nixon, the highest percentage of votes of any Congressional District in the country. He was a member of the House Armed Services Committee and in the mid-1970s headed the Congressional Special Select Committee on Intelligence, the House version of the Senate Committee on Intelligence headed by Senator Frank Church. The House of

Representatives voted 246-124 to direct that the Pike report not be released if not certified by the President not to contain classified information. However, the report was published by the *Village Voice*. In his final years in Congress, Pike served on the Ways and Means Committee.

*Pike Committee:*

After the Church Committee had begun its investigation, the Nedzi Committee was created, headed by Democratic Congressman Lucien N. Nedzi which dissolved only after a few months. Its successor was the Pike Committee, officially called the Select Committee on Intelligence which revealed more secret dealings of the US government. This was around the same time as the United States President's Commission on CIA activities within the United States, commonly called the Rockefeller Commission. The *American Prospect* gives some background, noting that prior to these investigations, "the U.S. intelligence community had never undergone significant congressional scrutiny" because of a "laissez-faire attitude...but after a 1974 New York Times series by Seymour Hersh revealed that the CIA had conducted "massive" illegal spying activities against American antiwar protesters and dissidents, Congress and the executive branch convulsed into action." Three separate bodies just described were created to further this investigation. The report was suppressed from the start but was leaked by Daniel Schorr to the Village Voice who asked the publication to give to his legal defense fund, which was refused. Schorr showed the "committee report...on television and discussed its contents," resulting in his resignation from CBS and to his death, refusing "to identify his source for the

Pike committee report.” The CIA would later write that “these Congressional investigations eventually delved into all aspects of the CIA and the IC [Intelligence Community] and for the first time in the Agency’s history, CIA officials faced hostile Congressional committees bent on the exposure of abuses by intelligence agencies and on major reforms,” while criticizing the Pike Committee for never developing a “cooperative working relationship with the Agency [CIA] or the Ford administration,” and noting that “despite its failures, the Pike Committee inquiry was a new and dramatic break with the past [because] it was the first significant House investigation of the IC since the creation of the CIA in 1947.” The London School of Economics and Science wrote a similar piece in 2011, saying that the oversight committee chaired by Pike who wanted to publish his committee’s report was stonewalled by the Ford administration. This piece also notes that the report describes “details of a covert CIA operation in support of Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, who were fighting for autonomy against the sinister, pro-Communist, Ba’ath regime in Baghdad” but that in their view there were distortions of “important details” and criticism of Henry Kissinger. In the present, the Mary Farrell Foundation decided to publish the sections of the final report Pike wanted to make public in the first place. (from *Wikipedia*)

...Many Americans opposed the 1994 Digital Telephony Act, which required all fiber-optic based switches be equipped to facilitate court approved wiretaps. The ACLU and Electronic Privacy Information Center organized widespread opposition

to the bill, and across the country letters to editors and editorials criticized the bill's obtrusive features....

With little public notice the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations each increased the use of federal wiretaps, and the conservative federal judiciary appointed during the 1980s brought little judicial opposition to wiretaps. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s there was a steady increase in wiretaps undertaken by federal authorities, but given the secrecy surrounding FISA approved wiretaps, these numbers only tell a small part of the story. According to investigative journalist and longtime NSA chronicler, James Bamford, offshore surveillance networks such as ECHELON skirted pre-Patriot Act limitations on domestic surveillance by using third-party countries to monitor US citizens' phones and email....

As cultural beings we are all susceptible to the numbing and routinizing impacts of recurrent events. Time normalizes what were once obvious atrocities. Sustaining shock is always difficult, outrage's half-life is short and the toll of cognitive dissonance weighs heavy. With time the outrageous and offensive can be seen as the "unfortunately necessary," the potency of shock is short-lived as once current events become historicized.

[My interjection: Because we are kept in survival mode... and even if you're a so-called professional person... bringing home pay in the hundreds of thousands... you are in 'survival mode'...

...if George Eliot told us this... told us that "our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds...

[that] there is a terrible coercion in our deeds..."

which conditions us to see with "the lens of apologetic ingenuity" as opposed to "the healthy eye of the soul..." that, "Europe adjusts itself to a *fait accompli*,

and so does an individual character – until the placid adjustment is disturbed by a convulsive retribution...” (and, by the way, this would be called ‘pragmatism’ – ‘seeking “the good” – but always within the scope of ‘the possible’ – by Plato... or Machiavelli... or Kissinger... i.e. by the ‘philosopher-statesmen’...) ... if George Eliot told us this... and here we have David Price telling us all over again... we are not growing up as human beings.]

The key to understanding the opinion shifts supporting the rise of domestic metadata mining programs and wiretaps is that these developments are less something new than they are part of a long parade of legitimization validating the American intelligence agencies’ campaign to erode constitutional protections against rampant wiretaps. The Patriot Act dismantled the firewall separating domestic criminal investigations from espionage investigations and empowered Homeland Security, FBI and NSA to oversee roving wiretap and surveillance operations without public oversight.

[My interjection: ...of ‘the state’... the *fait accompli*...]

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WUR, Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013: “Staying Focused On Designing A Future... On Not Getting Divided... (Pt. 1): “what do we covet? (Pt. 3)”

There continues to be confusion and disagreement about the nature and the purpose of ‘the state’ (now that’s an obvious conversation to have... if there really was such a thing as open discussion in this country...) which is why I heard a pundit reply in the negative when asked whether the August 14<sup>th</sup> massacres by the Egyptian state could have been predicted.

So... let’s ask ourselves... what is the purpose of ‘the state’?

Last week we said that ‘the state’ and ‘the wage work system’ are two ways of saying the same thing. A cursory look at the question tells us that ‘power’ doesn’t want us to think of our core societal role as anything more than ‘worker’ (and by ‘core societal role’ I mean how we feed ourselves.) Now, most of us seem to believe (although in the absence of on-going... direct discussions in our communities, this is difficult to gauge...) because we’re taught to think this... that it has to be this way – that we must be stripped of our gifts... (and they doubt whether any exist...) and compelled to work in order for ‘society’ to function ‘efficiently’... No one wants to do the ‘drudgery’... so... some ‘must’ be ‘trained’ to do it... and egoism being what it is (as Plato schooled ‘power’ to see...) the majority we need to end ‘rule’ is easily confused into thinking that “the drudgery-work is not for me, but you...” and, “my gifts are such they place me above the vast majority...” and we then work hard our whole life long to ‘prove’ it... and ‘power’ is left alone... to rule us.

So... seeing that equivalency – regardless of its imagined legitimacy... or not – seeing that ‘the state’ constructs us such that we relinquish our authentic power... and get to work... thereby helping to reproduce the set of terms by which ‘power’ is aggregated in ‘the state’... that the point of the coerced

renunciation of our power – our unique earth-gifts – is to make us easier to control – easier to manipulate on those strings (or treadmill...)... make us ‘processed’ versus ‘crude’ fuel to light ‘the theatre’... the stage on which the few can play-pretend at being philosopher-king-statesmen....

...means that (as Plato put it...) ‘the state’ exists to “keep the cattle herded”... and *not* “to help ‘its’ people develop their earth-given gifts and cultivate within themselves... ‘the infinite’” (as the ancestors who wanted each one of us to be as ‘big’ as possible – and who I believe we should emulate... told us.) Recall Maxim Gorky’s words: “I know the time will come when people will wonder at their own beauty, when each will be like a star to all the others... and the best people will be accounted those whose hearts are most capable of embracing the world and of loving it, those who are most free, for in them lies the greatest beauty.”

(And while we’re on this subject... to our street-musician brothers and sisters in Madrid... I hope you will give a big fat finger to your ‘state’... telling you that your gifts are not sufficient to subject our ears to them... excuse me, this is *how* we grow them... this is *how* we claim them... and the ranking that ‘the state’ takes as its prerogative... is *its* big fat finger to us... which sometimes bends in a crook... to woo us in... to wither our spirit either from without or within... encouraging us to sneer at each other – a familiar, even familial, pattern... I would say.

[And no doubt... our but pointing out this tactic will inspire the agents of ‘power’ to pay folks without either heart or means... to pretend to be what they aren’t. I suspected such doings when my local community here in Berkeley was being asked to vote on a ‘sit-lie ordinance’... which criminalized occupying the public

sidewalks (so ‘frightened’ of each other we must be, it would have us believe, as to need ‘the state’s protection from folks’ taking for themselves such a modest degree of independence from convention...) and as the vote was being pondered... the local Telegraph drag down by the university held an exceptionally disruptive quotient of street-youth... the authenticity of many of whom I doubted. This tactic of paying folks to influence public opinion was also used recently in Richmond, California... where folks suspect that it was Chevron behind the non-profit that paid low-income folks to flood a City Council meeting and pretend to be homophobic... and... best believe... my brothers and sisters occupying our main post office here in Berkeley... some inauthentic folk will try to make your lives a misery... and try to wear you down to make you leave... and selfishly I say... please stay.]

... and just now... I’ll say it while I’m thinkin’ it... I heard this: “...human beings in general aren’t good at ‘prevention’... they’re good at responding to things...” (...these are the words of a pundit I heard on 08.23.13 on a ‘progressive’ radio station...) to which I say, “use ‘I’ statements, dude, please.” The First Folks here... and earth-connected folks ‘in general’ are... *mos def...* able to think about what future is wanted... and in this same segment both the host and guest made ‘the brain’ the ‘actor-determiner’ of behavior apart from the whole-of-us ... a pet-peeve of mind... ... this is deep propaganda that is reinforced across the political spectrum....)

While we will hear *ad infinitum* that our priority should be to ‘develop the economy’, we will not hear discussed how ‘the economy’ is the structural framework for ensuring that we never develop our voices... our unique gifts.

If we see all this as we see the trashing and consuming of the earth... it's easier to see why it's but continuing our enslavement with re-forged chains... re-polished locks... to limit our vision of the future to 'fixing the state'... i.e. to 'improving' incrementally the conditions of our lives, or trying to 'lessen' 'power's grip on the planet... while leaving the structure... the class system... the wage work system... intact.

And if we see this, we also see the power of owning the lexicon – consider the effect of simply defining 'the state' as "aggregated 'power'" ... "what?... we should even *more* effectively renounce our power... vest even more of it in the institutions that keep us on 'lock-down'?" – and how authentic definitions lead us deeper into 'truth'... and why, then, we need 'the lexicon for a free people' (an earth-based language in which we describe what we want...) as opposed to using those float-away or drift-words... e.g. 'democracy'... or at the very least we see the need to make our own meanings of terms now seized and filled by 'power.'

I believe that to begin living authentic lives we have to begin having authentic conversations with each other about the reality of our lives... and entertain the possibility that we have been misled... and systematically placed upon a treadmill that we were trained not to see...

...but that... now that we do see it... it is possible to step off of it.

There are two images to keep before our eyes... 'what we want'... and 'what we don't want'... and the threat of that 'don't want' is the spur at our backs... and the prize of that 'do' is the sparkling 'ahead-of-us' that we don't want to lose.

So let's begin with the threat... with 'what we don't want': we don't want to lose all empathy for our brothers and sisters... which we are at risk of having happen to us...

...when those who have access to ears and eyes in many countries around the world refuse to say:

“...we need a mass movement to end wage work... and we must begin now... take that first step... that leads to the next... that leads to the next... by withholding our labor all around the world on a single day which we take for ourselves... a one-day Global General Strike to sit and discuss with each other what the future we want would look like... and perhaps its reach is such that it doesn't even register as a blip in overall global human-energy-extraction... but in a month or so... we do it again... and again... and again... each time discussing... each time putting more flesh on our vision... such that a picture begins to form before more and more eyes – *and then... we have a means...* of responding... to the massacres... to the callousness... to the wholesale contempt and abusiveness... of 'states'...”

The end-point is inevitable... because earth (earth in us) backs it... if we would but *start*.

And we shouldn't under-estimate the value to our souls... of finally addressing that “wrong that comes up to face us everywhere...” The ‘Occupy’ movement is again illustrative... it felt *good* to be able to folks struggling on the streets, “have you been down to the ‘Occupy’ encampment?”... and to know that good fellowship (at least at first... before ‘power’ started catching up...) and a chance to use their gifts awaited them.

And it seems it must be we... in the “global ‘mind-work’ zones”... primarily... to take the lead... before we too are looking down the barrel of Autocracy... or Oligarchy... before we too find that the ‘global shadow-state’ has checked all moves.

The need for urgency is there for all to see. ‘Power’ is moving... apace... apace... apace... to separate our lives... our ‘fates’... to divide us globally... by the very fact that they can unleash atrocities... for all to see... and send the implicit message, “you are helpless to intervene... you can do nothing...” and by sending that message and we receiving... and with that receipt confirming its imagined truth... they incrementally but systematically (as it builds daily) blunt our outrage... dull our appetite for empathy....

When we don’t build a global response, we are not just made helpless... we are forwarding a process by which we become less and less human.

And though it’s only now... with the Internet... that we’re beginning to challenge the fallacy of ‘the *fait accompli* of the state’ (globally... and the force of this fallacy is such that it hobbled even great hearts like Malcolm X... until he went to Mecca... fast upon which, ‘power’ murdered him) – as the Internet allows our thought as a species to advance exponentially... within a single generation... although there have always been ancestors who saw through it... “we shall be of one blood all nations” is a knowledge spoken by Nikola Tesla, Gorky, Tolstoi... the anti-slavery activists of Plato’s day...

(...I mean, think about it... Plato, who did everything he could to defeat the anti-slavery movement, we know... but about those who worked to end slavery we know next to nothing... that speaks to the existence of a very organized ‘power’... and the Sophists ‘power’ was so afraid of, they had to re-define ‘sophism’ to mean “making a phony argument...” to suppress the truth, that it means “believing in the fundamental equality of all humans...)

...and so many others pushed away from us... to ensure we would have no access to them.

So when I say we must join hands with Congo... with Egypt... with Syria... Bangladesh... and China... with Bedouins robbed of their ancestral lands... with all those who have no homes... I don't mean "send money"... I mean "let's form a plan to end 'power' globally..." and systematically work toward realizing it... by embracing with our actions... not just those targeted to receive 'power's worst beatings... but ourselves.

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As we discuss the nature of 'the state' and weigh these two competing theories – 'the state' serves the people versus 'the state' herds the people – consider that all the evidence of our bodies (...as to our minds... I've been arguing that the very structure of 'class' is designed to prevent authentic thought... as our thoughts have been captured and guided from birth...) lies with the theory that 'the state' exists to control and manage 'the people'...

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But... as we always want to work towards achieving greater clarity with the terms we use... I propose a few questions... that I hope will help us to all get on the same page... by sharpening our picture of "what is 'the state'?":

Do we-the-people as individuals manifest... or represent for... 'the state'? In what sense beyond 'we behave as we're trained'? Is there a sense in which we represent beyond the fact that it shapes us via its various institutions (family... wage-work... political and 'cultural')?

(...i.e., yes, we are conditioned to be control-freaks and competitive... dispassionate and even cut-throat... to harden our hearts to suffering... and yes, we agree with ranking... with the veneration

of 'Mind' and the devaluation of 'Hand' ... and yes, we energetically focus on our 'functions' ... on 'working hard' and 'being productive' ... and confuse the value 'power' assigns us with our true value... i.e. we see ourselves as 'power' sees us... yes, yes, yes... all yes... but beyond that?)

If the function of 'the state' is "to keep the cattle herded..." the key form our representation for it (of it) takes is by performing the work of 'management' – most importantly of our children... and of ourselves – we do not trust each other... we do not trust the earth... we do not trust what the earth instructs... instead, we trust 'the state' to guide us... and, most poignantly and critically for 'power's reign, our children – and it shapes us to suit *its* purposes. So is it possible to trust the *earth* instead? And what would that mean? If we assume a certain equivalency between 'the state' and 'the wage work system'... where do 'particularities' (raising particular allegiances as identities) fit in the reproduction of the 'class system'?

Does 'no particularities' mean that we don't want 'the state' in us?

But aren't some identities oppositional to 'power'?... to 'the state'?

Don't we challenge our disempowerment by 'reclaiming our authentic voices'...

By claiming oppositional identities aren't we 'reclaiming our authentic voices'?... and isn't cultivating an allegiance with a tribe *as opposed to* 'the state' reducing the power of 'the state'?

How are particular identities coherent with 'the majesty of the state'? Do they act like 'mini-states'?... as 'state sovereignties' on a micro scale... 'nations' that do not fundamentally challenge 'power' but rather try to finesse, position, or maneuver for themselves a larger



share of the earth's resources... a somewhat better bit of flotsam on which to perch... while lording over the treaders and downtrodden... or the floating-lost who no one gives a hand to?

Is not love the greatest threat to 'power'?

Was Maxim Gorky right, when he said that those who are capable of embracing the world... and of loving it... are the most free?

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So... let's challenge this hour conventional notions... is it true that we have to accept the *fait accompli* of 'the state'? And if not... how would we *self*-organize ourselves differently?

Is it true that cultural identities that accept the *fait accompli* of 'the state' are in any way a threat to 'power'?

And we have to test this notion – deeply reinforced and conditioned in us by 'power' – that not everyone can be 'big'... can grow their gifts... can begin to encompass 'the infinite'...

...or... that even if this is a theoretical biological inheritance (...though even this they deny...) the practical limits of available resources will not allow it... not allow everyone the freedom from necessity... the leisure... to realize that possibility inherent in our nature as living things.

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We've been considering 'what we don't want'... we don't want to lose all empathy for our brothers and sisters (globally)... we don't want to lose our humanity... our ability to grow as a species... and we don't want to lose that prize of generalized human freedom.

Now let's consider just for a moment what we *do* want... and how to determine what that is... and how to come

to consensus about what that is. Because it seems to me that if we're going to have a conversation about the future... that there are two main options for we-the-people to contemplate: either we see ourselves as – depending on how you look at it – either... huddling or cozying in... or militantly or courageously occupying... our tribes (whether you call those tribes 'collectives' or 'low-income lesbians' or 'ex-pat Pakistanis,' or 'theoretical physicists'...) – or we take responsibility for the species and decide to stand with and represent for all of our brothers and sisters.

Some might argue that it weakens 'power' if they live separate lives... with their tribes... that 'power' is not going to determine *them*... occupy *their* time... that their time will go to growing big souls... regardless of bully-'power's attempts to control.... But if 'the state' tips everything into its maw by controlling all social institutions – through the schools they got your child... through the wage-work system they got you – is it really *possible* to 'separate'? And what about those floating-lost?... those ones pushed-under?... those pounded by the big boot?

When 'power'... that deeply entrenched, consolidated and accumulated Imbalance (which is simultaneously emboldened by our seeming... our implicit... 'helplessness'...) has not been dissolved... but is rather allowed to continue biasing the world in its direction... i.e. toward ever-greater Imbalance... all 'particularities' become advocacies for a larger share of that biasing mass... and will inevitably be consumed by it – as the biasing of Titanic, once done, could not be undone... and took everything on board with it... as the sinking ship in the film *Jaws*... slid everything on the deck into the waiting jaws of the Great White... so will all those 'psychological-mini-states' that cultural advocacies resolve into... under 'class'... when 'particularity' attempts to erect a protective defense in the face of gross Imbalance... likewise be subsumed... and rendered moot.

So it's only by confronting the global state in the world – as opposed to just in our minds – that we can confront the global state in us... because it's not just that the global state tips everything into its maw... it also worms its way into every apple... every heart... every tribe... so long as it exists... i.e. it's not just that 'power' won't leave your tribe alone in an *active* sense... will actively intervene to destroy earth-connected tribes like the Uygurs... or the Amazon indigenous... or the Bedouins that Israel is (as we speak) trying to eradicate – but that it will force its way into our spirits simply because it exists... if we don't face... take that “longest stride of soul men ever took... affairs are now soul size.”

It may be that the kind of tribe defined by wholeness-for-all as a generalized human capacity will have to be invented... as we expand the space that our individual power takes... and the space taken now by aggregated 'power'... shrinks... exponentially....

Whatever you're looking at... whatever you're giving your attention to... your job... your tribe... your gifts... pause for a moment and look at this: look at the problem... the problem is global 'power'... what can stop it?... only our... we-the-people's... global power... can stop it. If that is true it will continue to be the hard truth our children face unless *we* choose to free them of that burden... by ending 'power' ourselves.

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“...the estate [state] is green and yet ungoverned;  
Where every horse bears his commanding rein,  
And may direct his course as please himself...  
(*Richard III*, II, iii)

What does it mean for a people to be 'ungovernable'?  
Does it truly mean chaos? – a message we are being blasted

with from all sides of late... film... novels... apocalyptic commentaries about increasing strife... or its effects... dominating our lives – but I believe all such messages are propaganda posing as prognostications... hoping to foster division and reinforce the competitive mindset of ‘class’... in which ‘necessity’ pits us against each other... a ‘class’ which depends on created scarcity to exist – ‘power’s grand scheme to keep us divided. But under the terms *we* create for our lives, I think we’ll find that abundance butters our paths and that we slide *to each other* (as our nature is communal...) and that... we actually like each other.

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The David Price article: “*A Social History of Wiretaps*”, serves to remind us of the consistency and the consistent forward thrust of ‘power’s vision... they never let up for an instant (... and in that respect alone we would do well to emulate them... but in their narrow self-interest and duplicitousness... we will be as far from them as infinite distance will allow.)

Quotes from (and my comments on the quotes from the article...

The years following Hoover’s 1972 death brought successive scandalous revelations about the FBI and CIA’s illegal intrusions into Americans’ private lives. The Church and Pike Committee investigations revealed extensive surveillance campaigns directed at Americans engaging in lawful political activities. The American public was outraged at the extent of the CIA and FBI’s illegal activities, but an initial wave of shock gave way to complacency, and congress abandoned meaningful oversight of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies. With time, many Americans learned to forget these documented instances of CIA

and FBI prurient surveillance, harassment, assassination and defamation programs—by 2001, few Americans recalled the FBI and CIA's abuses that led to the restrictions on domestic intelligence activities that were removed by the Patriot Act. (David Price, *"A Social History of Wiretaps"*)

Our children see that we accept what does not make us very nice people... i.e. that we accept what makes us unhappy... see that we huddle in 'what-is' and lose our dreams of 'what-we-want'... and our children can come to no other conclusion than that there must be a *very* good reason for what we do... and for what we tell them *with our bodies*... with our 'complacency'... with our fierce loyalty to 'what-is'... and so they follow us... trustingly... into the chasm.

Because children are born *big*... and start out asking at age two... "if something is wrong..." because our unhappiness is obvious... "if something is wrong, why don't they fix it?" Children never shirk from asking the obvious questions... until the punishment for so doing tips the balance away from honoring earth.

...Many Americans opposed the 1994 Digital Telephony Act, which required all fiber-optic based switches be equipped to facilitate court approved wiretaps. The ACLU and Electronic Privacy Information Center organized widespread opposition to the bill, and across the country letters to editors and editorials criticized the bill's obtrusive features....

With little public notice the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations each increased the use of federal wiretaps, and the conservative federal judiciary appointed during the 1980s brought little judicial opposition to wiretaps. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s there was a steady increase in wiretaps

undertaken by federal authorities, but given the secrecy surrounding FISA approved wiretaps, these numbers only tell a small part of the story. According to investigative journalist and longtime NSA chronicler, James Bamford, offshore surveillance networks such as ECHELON skirted pre-Patriot Act limitations on domestic surveillance by using third-party countries to monitor US citizens' phones and email....

As cultural beings we are all susceptible to the numbing and routinizing impacts of recurrent events. Time normalizes what were once obvious atrocities. Sustaining shock is always difficult, outrage's half-life is short and the toll of cognitive dissonance weighs heavy. With time the outrageous and offensive can be seen as the "unfortunately necessary," the potency of shock is short-lived as once current events become historicized.

(David Price, *A Social History of Wiretaps*)

But I think we need to go deeper than merely re-stating George Eliot and put what he's observing in the frame of the *fait accompli* of 'the state'... which sets the terms for our lives. (Because we are *kept*... artificially kept... in survival mode... and even if you're a so-called professional person... bringing home pay in the hundreds of thousands... you are in 'survival mode'...)

...if George Eliot told us this... told us that "our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds... [that] there is a terrible coercion in our deeds..." which conditions us to see with "the lens of apologetic ingenuity" as opposed to "the healthy eye of the soul..." that, "Europe adjusts itself to a *fait accompli*, and so does an individual character – until the placid adjustment is disturbed by a convulsive retribution..." (and, by the way, this could be called 'pragmatism' – 'seeking "the good" – but always within the scope of 'the possible' – by Plato... or Machiavelli... or Kissinger... i.e. by the 'philosopher-statesmen'...)

...if George Eliot told us this... and here we have David Price telling us all

over again... we are not growing up as human beings. We're here to synthesize and advance the earth-gifts our ancestors give.

One of his final points in the article addresses our progressive loss of power attendant upon our being called 'citizens'... that we cede greater and greater authority to 'the state'... and that as it becomes stronger... we necessarily become weaker. We betray our essential gifts.

- And lastly that morning, I listened to several interviews conducted by the host of the *Morning Mix*, who brought on several guests who brought good information to the airwaves... but whose conduct of the interviews raised some con-alerts that can serve us as illustrations. The more powerful the guest, the more she talked on top of him... and often her questions – whether with intent or not, who knows? – seemed worded to plant doubt in the minds of the listeners – either about the intellectual credibility of the guest... or about... and this is a key propaganda-insertion-point for 'power'... of what 'wealth' is.

She asked the guest, "...so why are big corporations interested in El Salvador... I *know* there's cheap labor and everything," she hurriedly added, "but I mean *beyond that*... What does El Salvador have that they want?" and she continued her emphasis overlong... and her tone implied that what she was digging for was... the 'real wealth'... what 'real wealth' are the corporations after? she seemed to be asking. And in this way the seed is planted that a market in humans is *not* the point...

...when in actuality, the earth they can rape for free... it's *we* who are the troublesome 'resources'...

(...and 'we' means 'we' who make the machinery... dig the coal... construct the pipelines... drive the trucks... you see my point...)

...we who are always wanting more to life than slavery... always fighting our 'fate'... refusing our place... always wanting *more*... and must, therefore, be continuously re-boxed... (it was quite annoying, really...) in scarcity.

But it was her final interview that was most troubling. The guest directed a non-profit called Coach and Court, the purpose of which is to "provide a skilled [volunteer] workforce to after-school programs with shrinking budgets... and which are therefore cutting staff... in order to address the crisis of child neglect in low-income communities.

The host asked the guest: "how do you know 3:00 – 10:00 PM is when children in low-income communities are most likely to get in trouble?" And the guest replied, "because parents are working multiple jobs and can't be there for their children."

She wants to teach youth "a love of 'showing up'"... a.k.a. "good work habits"...and then she stated a truism of class... that the children 'feel abandoned'... because of course they are.

She told a story you'll hear often in the world of children's services provision, about a child asking one of the coaches, "Coach, will you be back tomorrow?" "Of course, why do you ask?" "Because no one ever comes back."

Now, this is true... all children... one way or another... are abandoned in a class system... but the particular form in low-income communities can be particularly blatant. Because it's reinforced across society... no ideology that justifies 'the state' can encompass the fact of it... as we're seeing through the con 'individual dysfunction'.... It's become patently clear to all that we have no control over this mess... called 'manufactured scarcity'... so the only conclusion is the correct one: "the state doesn't exist for us... that is to say, to serve our interests."

Although these observations may seem small... as they reflect the pattern in micro... if we can see it small... we can see



it all. And... I believe we have to pay closer attention to what seems minor... that it's in subtlety that propaganda works most insidiously... and therefore effectively.

This interview was disturbing to me on so many levels it's hard to unpack. Perhaps the center of my concern is that the obvious questions... as always... are not asked... (we see this repeatedly in propaganda-plants...) leaving in its wake a vague sense of dissatisfaction at the lack of completion of the logic presented... the other shoe never drops...

(...e.g. if the problem is that parents are not allowed to be with their own children... shouldn't we be talking about *that*?... asking why the practice of child-abandonment is so widely accepted?... not just socially-sanctioned but socially-*mandated*... asking why parents are kept struggling in scarcity-mode... acknowledging that children pay the biggest price to maintain the practice of coerced work?... why aren't we talking about that?...)

...and when the most obvious questions are not asked (Con-Alert!)... it means either the interviewer is swimming shallow with intent or unconscious... either way... we need the opposite: deep analysis. Rather, the convoluted non-logic is presented: "since parents are kept from being with their own children by the wage-work system... let's give this coerced-work system a helping hand by training people to work for nothing!"... and we're left with our unanswered questions.

Another example I heard just yesterday (08.17.13)... a former IMF economist was asked if Greece and Spain can pull themselves out of their economic malaise... and he replied: "if they can start to grow their economies, they can grow themselves out of this crisis..." To which the obvious... but unasked and unaddressed... question was... 'how?'

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