

**Partial Reading List and Notes**  
**July – September 2020**

**Lawrence C. Chin**

**25 July**

Watched the movie “Official Secrets”: the story of GCHQ whistleblower Katharine Gun.

**26 July**

Also watched Democracy Now interview with Katharine Gun and others on 20.07.2019.

**30 July**

Have been watching a lot of reports about the disappearance of Malaysian flight MH-370. At first, bought into the “official narrative” that the captain flew the plane into the southern Indian Ocean to make it disappear (e.g. 60 Minutes Australia, 13.05.2018). But then became aware of Florence de Changy’s debunking of the official narrative: that the plane in fact crashed into South China Sea and governments around the world covered it up. And finally became convinced by Ghyslain Watrelos’ theory that the truth was covered up because the plane was shot down (there is someone or something on board which the United States couldn’t permit to land in Beijing). He wrote: the moment the plane disappeared, the world was divided into those who knew what happened and those who didn’t. Indeed. Many government officials around the world knew what happened to the plane but wouldn’t say anything to the victims’ families in order to protect national security secrets: the victims’ families were expected to be content with the stupid story of a pilot suicide. The governments don’t care about the victims’ families, just as Wes and so on will never divulge the secrets about me to me because he and everyone else don’t care about me.

**2 August**

More thoughts upon reading Shadia Drury’s *Alexandre Kojève*. Alan Bloom inherited his conception of modernity from Leo Strauss, and it is this conception which explains the “Cheney Plan”. (1) Culture (all the values and customs of a society) is a myth – illusion – which the superman has created but which the superman makes the common people believe is nature (objective, “true”). (2) Modernity happens when those modern philosophers want to make nature the basis of society instead and to completely dispense with culture. Such is the “death of man”, the homogeneous universal state with its universal values rooted in nature (the rights of man, egalitarianism, democracy, etc.). (3) Modernity is essentially the project of making what is reserved for a minority (“truth” or the knowledge of nature) accessible to everybody. Only the philosopher is supposed to know nature and live according to nature; the common people are supposed to mistake the illusions that constitute culture for objective, true reality (nature). Only the philosopher is supposed to swallow nihilism and use it as an opportunity to make himself however he wants.

Cheney considered himself one of the “supermen”. He had completely bought into Bloom’s critique of modernity, and so wanted to destroy modernity and return human society to the era of culture: all the illusions which constitute myths and religions should become the basis of human society again. Hence

he wanted to orchestrate the nuclear holocaust in accordance with Biblical prophecies (including the descent of a spaceship and the discovery of Atlantis or the Garden of Eden) so that the remnants (the “elect”) can be deceived into mistaking orchestrated illusions for objective reality. Cheney wanted to be a superman that introduced “new modes and orders”: the microchipped society run by a super computer with everyone duped into believing evangelical Christianity is indeed something completely new in human history and yet a return to the era of myths and religions.

### **17 August**

Drury’s thesis is that Kojève’s conception of history – including the aforementioned view on modernity: that modernity has exploded all horizons, all myths and illusions, which constitute culture – gives rise to three responses – all postmodernism: those who delight in the resultant void (Queneau, Deleuze); those who glorify revolt for the sake of revolting (the leftwing postmoderns like Foucault and Bataille); and those who glorify mastery, conquest, and domination (the rightwing postmoderns like Bloom and Fukuyama). The Cheney Plan is but the most succinct expression of rightwing postmodernism: when modernity – reason and science – has exploded all horizons of culture (all myths and illusions), the solution is to reinvent these myths and illusions on the basis of which human life is meaningful and society is possible. The Cheney Plan must also be about restoring history: namely, restoring struggle, war, and the masculinity that is the essence of these. Even though Russia and China will have been eliminated and America reconstituted as the *Weltstaat*, Cheney would make sure that pockets of revolt (such as Islamic terrorists and guerrillas) will always remain here and there on the edge of the *Weltstaat* so that society will continue to have use for heroic soldiers and the passage of time will continue to be characterized by deadly struggles and stories of heroic overcoming.

### **20 August**

Read James Risen and Mathew Cole, “Gina Haspel hangs on at CIA, with little support from Trump or Democrats”, *The Intercept*, 20.08.2020. Haspel was afraid that Trump would fire her, but she was temporarily out of danger until the election day.

### **26 August**

As I began researching PhD programs in the US and looking for professors of history who have written about the CIA, I discovered Prof. Nick Cullather, from Indiana University at Bloomington. After examining his profile pages and videos of his lectures on Youtube, I began reading his most famous book, *Secret History: The CIA’s Classified Account of Its Operations in Guatemala, 1952 – 1954*: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Stanford University Press, 2006. On Operation PBSUCCESS, which overthrew the regime of Jacobo Arbenz.

### **28 August**

Took notice of what eventually happened with the CIA officer Sabrina de Sousa’s case in Italy (how the Italian PM eventually commuted her sentence). Sabrina de Sousa is another female CIA operative.

### **29 August**

Watched Millie Weaver's "Shadowgate". It features two whistleblowers, "Tore": linguist, US Navy contractor; and Patrick Bergy, cyber security, US Army, PSYOP Program Developer, contractor at Dynology (Interactive Internet Abilities/ "ShadowNet"). Bergy was basically working on automating PSYOP (creating algorithms for it). Tore's job was to train the algorithms. She was connected to The Analysis Corporation and Global Strategies Group. The FISA Amendment Act of 2008, Section 702. Brennan instructed Tore to remove the passport files of Hillary Clinton, President Obama, and John McCain from State Department's database, and yet the government later claimed there was "unauthorized access" by a contractor to these files. Brennan also contracted Stanley and Canadian Global Information. All NSA intercepts from mass surveillance were diverted to these private corporations which then stored the data in overseas data centers (in Luxembourg, Germany, and Ukraine). The government is diverting dirty jobs to contractors so that they wouldn't show up in any FOIA requests or Congressional hearings.

### **31 August**

Have been reading Ian McEwan's *Cockroach* for the Taipei Literature Club: the UK prime minister's project to implement "Reversalism" is satirical of the UK implementation of BREXIT.

### **2 September**

Watched the interview with Antonia Juhasz on Democracy Now. Juhasz explained that the demand for oil has been declining since 2015 while the oil companies continue to over-produce. The demand has especially dropped in 2017. The current glut – where oil companies are forced to store the oil that nobody buys in tankers at the ports – is thus merely the culmination of a trend that has been in the works for several years. She predicted the end of oil in the future. ExxonMobile has just been dropped from Dow Jones Industrial Average. "ExxonMobile's stocks are so weak by now that the company is practically irrelevant to the US economy." Shell and BP all have to declare to the public that they see not much value in their products in the future. During the current pandemic, massive government bail-out of oil industries – mostly through the Paycheck Protection Program (because the Democrats' objected to any direct bail-out). The Department of Treasury has used tax-dollars to purchase the oil companies' debts and, after bail-out, many of them got out of the business altogether.

### **6 September**

Watched a video compilation of Jennifer Pan's interrogation by the police. Extremely touched by it. The video is compiled by JCS Criminal Psychology (Youtube channel). Downloaded Jeremy Grimaldi's *A Daughter's Deadly Deception: The Jennifer Pan Story*. Especially read Dr Betty Kershner's assessment of Jennifer Pan (Afterword).

### **9 September**

In the past few days, watched more videos from JCS Criminal Psychology: the interrogation of Stephen McDaniel; the interrogation of Lee Rodarte; the case of Michael Drejka; and the funniest case of Dalia Dippolito – among others. Also an excellent SWR documentary: "China in Dossen: billige Lebensmittel aus Fernost" (12.06.2019)

### **11 September**

In the past few days, read two articles on Jacinda Ardern: “Der Hass einiger Neuseeländer auf ihre Premierministerin”, Die Welt, 12.01.2020; and Jennifer Curtin, “Neuseeland: Warum Jacinda Ardern als Premierministerin so erfolgreich ist”, Vorwärts, 19.06.2020. Also read: Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “DHS downplayed threats from Russia and white supremacist, whistleblower says”, The New York Times, 09.09.2020. Along with Whistleblower Reprisal Complaint, DHS Office of Inspector General, 08.09.2020. (Note that the whistleblower Brian Murphy’s attorney is Mark Zaid.) Then, Ingrid Norbu, “Grundstein eines Konflikts, der bis heute andauert”, Deutschlandfunk, 08.09.2020. Also followed closely the Taiwanese news reports on the US effort to strangle Huawei by forcing all chip manufacturers in South Korea, Taiwan, and the US to stop supplying chips to Huawei by 15 September. (How Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese companies have also started withdrawing from China: the US plan to completely isolate China.)

## **12 September**

Very affected by Thomas Röper’s “Die Schöne und die Mächtigen im Hintergrund – Was über den Fall Navalny bisher nicht bekannt war” (Anti-Spiegel, 12.09.2020). Two days after Navalny was poisoned, his intimate associate Maria Pevtschich who was there when this happened mysteriously fled to Germany. How around 2012 Ashurkov (in London) decided to build up Navalny in Western media as Putin’s “opposition”, his connection to Integrity Initiative (funded by MI6), how Bill Browder, Michail Chodorkovski, and Yevgeni Tschetschvarin also became Navalny’s sponsors through Ashurkov (Open Russia, Dossier Center), and how Maria Pevtschich was a close associate of Ashurkov. Röper is implying that Ashurkov was behind Navalny’s poisoning for two reasons: (1) to get Navalny out of Russia: he was under investigation and not allowed to leave Russia because he couldn’t explain to the authority where the 14 million Euro donation for his anti-corruption funds came from; and (2) Navalny had developed differences with Ashurkov and Ashurkov was now thinking of building up Ljubov Sobol (a lawyer at Navalny’s anti-corruption funds) as Navalny’s replacement. Poisoning him with Novichok can accomplish both objectives in addition to framing Putin (again)! (Certainly, if Putin poisoned Navalny but didn’t succeed in killing him with such deadly nerve agent and then agreed to let him fly out to Germany – this is surely the dumbest assassination attempt!)

Got a sense of Milan Kundera and his works in: Maria Rubins, “In fremden Zungen: Milan Kunderas und Andreï Makines französische Prosa”; Liisa Saariluoma, “Kundera, Broch und die Tradition des modernen Romans”; and a Mainpost article on the new biography of Kundera by Jan Novak (Michael Heitmann, 04.08.2020).

## **14 September**

The Taiwanese news reported today that the US continues to cut off all chip exports to China: the British ARM is lately sold to the American NVIDIA. 90% of the chips which China needs in smartphone manufacturing are manufactured by ARM. In such case, China will not obtain any chip imports in the future, with devastating consequences for all its high-tech manufacturing.

## **15 September**

Heard about the latest publication by Yan Limeng (閔麗夢) and downloaded it: “Unusual Features of the SARS-CoV-2 Genome Suggesting Sophisticated Laboratory Modification Rather Than Natural

Evolution and Delineation of Its Probable Synthetic Route”. Yan’s co-authors are: Shu Kang, Jie Guan, and Shanchang Hu.



## 21 September

What should I do when I can never get what I want (get my story and essays read)? The utter despair. Great quote from Kundera’s *The Festival of Insignificance* (the reading from the Taipei Literature Club last night):

L’insignifiance, mon ami, c’est l’essence de l’existence. Elle est avec nous partout et toujours. Elle est présente même là où personne ne veut la voir : dans les horreurs, dans les luttes sanglantes, dans les pires malheurs. Cela exige souvent du courage pour la reconnaître dans des conditions aussi dramatiques et pour l’appeler par son nom. Mais il ne s’agit pas seulement de la reconnaître, il faut l’aimer, l’insignifiance, il faut apprendre à l’aimer. Ici, dans ce parc, devant nous, regardez, mon ami, elle est présente avec toute son évidence, avec toute son innocence, avec toute sa beauté. Oui, sa beauté. Comme vous l’avez dit vous-même : l’animation parfaite... et complètement inutile, les enfants qui rient... sans savoir pourquoi, n’est-ce pas beau ? Respirez, D’Ardelo, mon ami, respirez cette insignifiance qui nous entoure, elle est la clé de la sagesse, elle est la clé de la bonne humeur...

And in face of all the intelligence agencies which are determined to discredit me and never let me get anywhere in life – and they are a thousand times stronger than I:

Il n’y avait qu’une seule résistance possible: ne pas le prendre au sérieux.

## 25 September

For the next Taipei Literature Club meeting, downloaded Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*. Given its difficulty, downloaded and read *The Connell Guide to Mrs Dalloway* by John Sutherland and Susanna Hislop.

Given my communication with Prof. Hugh Wilford, also listened to his interviews and presentations: on C-SPAN Book TV, 06.01.2014, and on Talking Points, September 2014 (both on the CIA in Middle East, or his book *America's Great Game*). Have already downloaded his books weeks ago and started reading them from time to time: *The CIA, the British Left, and the Cold War* (Frank Cass, 2003), *The Mighty Wurlitzer* (Harvard University Press, 2008), *America's Great Game* (Basic Books, 2013), and his Great Courses series, *The Agency: A History of the CIA* (2019), as well as the collection he has helped edit (together with Helen Laville): *The US Government, Citizen Groups, and the Cold War* (Routledge, 2006). (His own article therein is "The permanent revolution? The New York intellectuals, the CIA, and the cultural Cold War.")

## 28 September

The news reported today that the US is now proceeding with the next step in strangling China: prohibiting all supplies to China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (中芯) in addition to sanctioning Huawei's Hisilicon (海思).

## 29 September

These are the links which Jim sent me today and which I read – all the politically incorrect stuff about the demonization of white men (and a lot about Tom Wolfe): (1) The blog "Gene Expression" (gnxp.com) by the politically incorrect geneticist Razib Khan; (2) Steve Sailer, "Tom Wolfe – Clear Eye for the Different Human" (Vdare, 02.01.2005); and (3) Steve Sailer, "Media Trying to Spin Ferguson Fiasco" (iSteve Blog (unz.com), 16.08.2014).