

Partial Reading Diary

Lawrence C. Chin

June – November 2018

17 June

Checked out: Ronald Florence, *Marx's Daughters: Eleanor Marx, Rosa Luxemburg, and Angelica Balabanoff*, The Dial Press: New York, 1975. And: *Herzlichst Ihre Rosa: Ausgewählte Briefe*, herausgegeben von Annelies Laschitzka und Georg Adler, Dietz Verlag, Berlin, 1989.

18 June

Checked out: Benoîte Groult, *Le féminisme au masculin*, Édition Denoël-Gonthier, 1977. And: Denis Mack Smith, *Mazzini*, Yale University Press, 1994.

27 June

Marxism, like other forms of socialism, was a trick invented by capitalism (the form in which “mass production, mass consumption” system appeared at the time) to trick people to resist against it as a way to grow it. What distinguishes Marx from other forms of socialism is however historical materialism: the germ which can enable the philosopher to wake up from the trick and see the truth.

Reading August Bebel's *Die Frau und der Sozialismus*. Thought: before the radicals were upset with the suppression of human potentials under the oppressive regime; today I am concerned with the underdevelopment of human potentials under the liberation regime. (That is what my “McDonaldization, Rationalization...” is about.)

13 July

Mazzini's People's International League: a European Union where any member would not “suffer or be fettered in developing its powers without inconvenience to the others...” (Smith, p. 52). To advocate “peace for the free growth of national peculiarities of character...” (p. 53). “... that every man may have the opportunity of placing himself in that sphere in which his energies may be turned to the best account for the public service; and that each country may thus be the gainer, not only by the immigration of useful members from other countries, but also by the emigration of such of her own members as cannot find at home a profitable investment of their faculties...” (ibid.). Again, the concern with removing constraints to enable nations and citizens to develop their potential.

15 July

Downloaded George Szpiro's *Numbers Rule* and its German translation *Die verflixte Mathematik der Demokratie*. Read the chapter on Condorcet.

20 July

Read Hanna Rosin's "The Patriarchy Is Dead: Feminists, accept it." (Slate, 11.09.2013) One of the best-known quotes of Goethe is "Man sieht nur das, was man weiß..." Indeed, since the feminist doesn't know that patriarchy is dead – having been brainwashed to believe that it still exists – she will never, upon following Rosin's injunction "Look around", see that it is not there.

22 July

Checked out: Hans Kinck, *Machiavelli: seine Geschichte und seine Zeit* (1938).

23 July

Days ago downloaded Andreas Reckwitz' *Die Gesellschaft der Singularitäten*. A note: both the USSR and USA are exemplars of the logic of Generalization (*Logik des Allgemeinen*). Whereas the standardization of society is imposed top-down by a central planer in the USSR, it evolves bottom-up through society's members' own volition in the case of USA.

26 July

Library. Read the Preface of Harvey Mansfield's Machiavelli's *New Modes and Orders: A Study of the Discourses on Livy* (Cornell University Press, 1979). Machiavelli prudently conceals many of his messages. The hidden messages are hinted at through "little things, pregnant silences, and manifest blunders".

Browsed the comment on Machiavelli in Daniel Tanguay's Leo Strauss: *An Intellectual Biography*, translation of *Leo Strauss, une biographie intellectuelle*.

28 July

Library. Browsed Elaine Weiss' *The Woman's Hour*. More of Mansfield's *New Modes and Orders*. Machiavelli's goal: to be the founder of a new city (new modes and orders) through imitating the ancients. He is founding a city in discourse. He is bringing a common good to everyone. The city will be a stable regime which will last a long time. It's today no longer possible to imitate the ancients because Christianity has too much corrupted people (made them weak). To found a new city is quite dangerous given the envious nature of men, and so he, as a founder, must hide his true intention so some extent.

29 July

Mansfield. Cheney would agree with this: most men will not agree to a new law unless necessity convinces them that it must be done. A long lasting mixed regime to be achieved through accidents: hence Cheney used 911 as the "accident" to lead the regime to its perfection. The cycle of regimes. Each regime declines when the laws passed by the previous generation can no longer cause the next generation to fear each other. To escape the cycle, a mixed regime, and an active foreign policy.

30 July

UCLA. Watched ARTE's "Gas Macht: Politik mit Pipelines" (about Nord Stream II). Richard

Whatmore's new introduction to Pocock's *The Machiavellian Moment* and Pocock's 2003 Afterword: how the Florentine formulated the concept of liberty as "active citizenship" (Aristotle's *zoon politikon*) and "armed citizen". "Active citizenship" sounds like Hannah Arendt's definition of freedom as the ability to participate in the public sphere. Pocock's method consists in returning texts to their original contexts and follow them from context to context.

31 July

"Justice for Aarefah Mosavi". The rape case.

1 August

Watched the interview with Siva Vaidhyanathan (*Anti-Social Media*) about Facebook on Democracy Now. Checked out Elaine Weiss' *The Woman's Hour*.

6 August

From Rebecca Karl's *The Birth of Chinese Feminism*:

Fukuda Hideko 福田英子: Japanese feminist of the Meiji period.
Kanno Suga 菅野須賀子: Japanese feminist.

Other Chinese feminists:

Ling Zongsu: 林宗素, suffragist.
Chen Xiefen:
Luo Yanbing

8 August

Watched the 3sat documentary "Hutterer: ein Leben wie die Amish".

10 August

Watched Lauren Southern's protest at SlutWalk (Vancouver, Canada, "The Rebel"). She shouted, "We are not living in a rape culture". She's completely right. Realized: both the left and the right are again sharing the same foundation and doing the same thing. The left laugh at the right for coming up with this conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton and her Democrats are running an elite pedophile ring. In fact the left are doing the same thing, but they don't notice it. Just because a rape case happens here and there occasionally, they fear-monger and exaggerate and claim there is an epidemic of rape. Those on the right are merely doing exactly what those on the left are doing: just because a friend of Clinton is caught running a pedophile ring (e.g. Jeffrey Epstein) or a Democratic fundraiser is arrested for keeping child pornography, so they claim there is an epidemic of pedophilia among the elites and among the Democrats. Both sides are being unrealistic and exaggerating and fear-mongering in the same way: turning an exception into a general rule.

It's human nature to invent stories out of one's own head and then believe firmly that the stories are

true. We see this in primitive people's myth-making, and now in contemporary people's fear-mongering on both the left and the right. The vast majority of human population can never be expected to be hard-core rationalists and empiricists – to bother to check whether one's stories really are true.

15 August

Watched Lauren Southern's "Farmlands". Kaiser's review of Gustav Le Bon's *Psychology of the Masses*. Downloaded Leo Strauss' *Thoughts on Machiavelli*.

20 August

Read Kim Severson's short piece on Asia Argento. Asia Argento paid 360,000 dollars to Jimmy Bennet to kill his story of being sexually assaulted by her. Asia Argento is one of the first women to accuse Weinstein of sexual assault and has been a leading figure in the Me-Too movement.

22 August

CBS News: "Botched CIA Communications System Helped Blow Cover of Chinese Agents" (published on 20 August; originally a *Foreign Policy* magazine article). Interview with Zach Dorfman. 30 CIA assets in China were arrested and killed between 2010 and 2012 because the Chinese intelligence was able to break into the Internet-based communication system which CIA used to communicate with its assets. The FP article starts:

"It was considered one of the CIA's worst failures in decades: Over a two-year period starting in late 2010, Chinese authorities systematically dismantled the agency's network of agents across the country, executing dozens of suspected U.S. spies. But since then, a question has loomed over the entire debacle."

26 August

Read Irina Reznik, Ilya Arkhipov, and Alexander Sazonov, "Putin family split offers peek at secret dealings of Russia Inc." *Bloomberg*, 25.01.2018.

31 August

Watched "Forensic Files". On Sherry Dally's murder.

14 September

After my argument with Dr Yen (11 September), I can finally verbalize my long held impression: People's description and judgment of things is a reflection of the level of their own intelligence, rather than of the nature of the things described and judged. Thus, everyone sees me as a dangerous and insane criminal with Antisocial Personality Disorder not because this is my true nature but because this is all that people can understand. In the same way, people (the mainstream left) have judged Lindsay Shepherd, Brittany Pettibone, and Lauren Southern to be "white supremacists" not because these three ladies are really "white supremacists" but because that's all that people can imagine.

Downloaded Luc Boltanski and Eve Chiapello's *Le nouvel esprit du capitalisme*.

Read the Introduction to Bob Woodward's *Fear*.

19 September

The mainstream media are not only government's war propaganda machine but also the mouth piece of the new "academic middle-class" (in Andreas Reckwitz's words). The following summarizes the world-view from which the mainstream media will never deviate in their reporting: "Putin's Russia is evil", "Muslim terrorists are America's enemies", "Right-wing people are white supremacists", and "Women are victims of society's sexism and men's sexual violence". Mainstream media are "fake news" in that this summary doesn't actually (or always) describe reality.

21 September

Very touched by the documentary: "Hexen: Hundert Jahre Folter und Mord", 1. Das Buch des König (Malleus Maleficarum and Daemonology), 2. Der Hexenjäger (Mathew Hopkins). The documentary is originally British (Suzannah Lipscomb).

26 September

Read Christopher Bigsby's introduction to Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Very touched.

27 September

Downloaded Frederic Jameson's *Postmodernism: the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*.

3 October

Read parts of Jordan Peterson's *12 Rules for Life*.

8 October

The interview with Soraya Chemaly on Democracy Now. A perfect example of how people are so engulfed in their own narrative that they have lost touch with reality (i.e. when the narrative in question simply doesn't correspond to reality). The narrative in question is that patriarchy is running a conspiracy to silence women so that, when women victims speak out, nobody believes them. Thus, so goes Chemaly, when Dr Ford speaks out, nobody believes her, with the result that Kavanaugh gets confirmed as Supreme Court judge. This is obviously *not* what's going on. It's obvious that the Republicans have all believed Dr Ford – which in effect means that both Democrats and Republicans believe her – which is why they have tried so hard to prevent a FBI investigation and, when that can't happen, to limit it by excluding her testimonies. If they didn't believe her, they wouldn't have tried so hard to avoid her. The problem with which the Republicans are faced is the *inconvenience* which Dr Ford's testimonies, if officially validated, would bring to their project (a new conservative Supreme Court). Chemaly, like most people, is not a thinking being, and has been prevented from perceiving what is obvious by her own ideology, her own *false* narrative.

14 October

Downloaded, and started reading, Jordan Peterson's *12 Rules for Life, Personality and Its Transformation*, and *Maps of Meaning*.

16 October

Downloaded, and started reading, Erich Fromm's *To Have Or To Be*.

20 October

Read Judith Thurman's introduction to Colette in *The Complete Claudine* (2001). Also the beginning of her *Desire of the Flesh: A Life of Colette* (2000).

22 October

With Pussy Riot girl Nadya in Skylight. Bought her *Read and Riot*.

23 October

Downloaded Daniele Ganser's *Illegale Kriege* (Leseprobe).

27 October

Watched PBS Frontline „Documenting Hate“ (7 August 2018).

Boltanski-Chiapello's description of the „artist“ is a perfect description of my way of being: „Une vie d'artiste, au XIXe siècle, pouvait être jugée 'authentique', notamment parce qu'elle n'était pas cloisonnée mais réussissait au contraire à unir toutes les facettes d'une même existence et à l'orienter vers l'accomplissement d'une œuvre et vers la singularité de son créateur.” (*Le nouvel esprit du capitalisme*).

31 October

Mathew Bodner, „Jinxed aircraft carrier suffers blow in Russia“, LA Times. The accident on Russian carrier Admiral Kuznetsov.

1 November

Downloaded Dale Carnegie's *How To Win Friends and Influence People* (revised edition). Also Lowell Thomas' biographical sketch of Dale Carnegie.

4 November

Checked out Dale Carnegie: *Cómo ganar amigos e influir sobre las personas*, traducción de Román Jiménez.

10 November

Watched Cassie Jaye's "The Red Pill".

The book which Carmen has been using with me is Cynthia Chalupa and Heiko ter Haseborg, *Neue Blickwinkel*.

Then bought Daniele Ganser's *Illegale Kriege* on Amazon Kindle.