

The background of the entire page is a black and white image of marbled paper. The pattern is dense and organic, with swirling, cell-like structures in various shades of gray, from light to dark, creating a complex, textured appearance.

the monitor

sept 2017

dear reader,

Hi! Hope your day is going well. If you're reading this, there's a very likely chance that you're cool. Congratulations! This is a zine that's published three times a semester. We publish anything people send us (trumanmonitor@gmail.com). That's right, anything. We've published pretty much anything you can think of — comics, mazes, and even short films! Even paper can't restrict the freedom that is **the monitor**.

The reason we do this is so people in our community have a platform for expression and creativity. We want everyone to have a voice, so please, if you create stuff you should seriously consider sending to us and sharing it with the world.

If you didn't know, Truman is turning 150. You probably knew. Well **the monitor** is actually 22! We've been at this since 1995 and we have a very rich history. You can read nearly all our issues on **trumanmonitor.com**! I read the one that came out on my birthday which is so crazy right? Yeah.

Our next submission deadline is Friday, October 13th! Hope you're ready for that. Our last deadline is Friday, November 10th. Go ahead and put these in your calendar so you don't forget. That would be a shame.

Enjoy the issue! And pass it to a friend when you're done. It's totally green and very wholesome.

Love,

the monitor

meet the staff,

“words to live by?”

ben wallis : “form follows function”

blake buthod : “stay positive, stay passionate”

jacob st. omer : “You only live once ”

will chaney : “find the illusions ”

~We meet on Mondays from 5:00-6:00 pm in Baldwin Hall 303~

submit

Words

We encourage submissions of original articles, essays, prose, and opinion. Due to space limitations, please limit pieces to 2,000 words. If you would like to publish something longer, please submit it and we'll try to accommodate your piece. For formatting reasons, please submit all text as an email attachment. Please include a short one or two sentence bio.

Poems

Let us know if you have any specific printing or formatting requests. For formatting reasons, please submit all text as an email attachment. Please include your title (real name, pseudonym, or anonymous).

Visuals

We encourage submissions of original art, comics, and photography. Due to publication limitations, our art and photography is printed relatively small and in black-and-white (except in the online issue). Keep this in mind when submitting your piece. If we like your piece enough, it may end up on the cover! Let us know if you don't want that.

Our contributors retain all rights to their works. Submissions will be published online. If you would like your work not to be published online or would like us to remove previously published material, send us an email.

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will chaney	p. 7
larry isles	p. 8
xiao ning	p. 10
sarah connolly	p. 11
allison kufra	p. 13
xiao ning	p. 13
makar golosheykin	p. 14
julia miller	p. 20

What's up with Venezuela?

by Marc Becker

Quick, close your eyes and think of Venezuela. What comes to mind?

If you're like most people who get most of their news on Venezuela from the mainstream media or only know of Venezuela from its ex-pat community, the images that probably come to mind are authoritarianism, dictatorship, economic collapse, the failure of socialism.

Mainstream media outlets like the New York Times and NPR who conservatives like to denounce for their liberal bias will rarely if ever say anything positive about Venezuela's government. Entire stories are sourced entirely from hardcore opponents of socialist president Nicolás Maduro. Similarly, Venezuelans living in the United States will rarely say anything positive about their government.

Obviously, the only way that Maduro manages to hold on to power is by repudiating democratic norms, and jailing and killing his opponents, right? Socialism is a failure, and works against the interests of all, including the working class that it purports to support.

Or at least that is what the ruling class wants you to think.

But the story is more complex than that.

Take a couple things under consideration:

Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chávez won election as president in 1998, and subsequently both Chávez and then Maduro won a series of elections, often by wide margins, in what most international observers, including the Carter Center, recognized as models of free and fair contests.

Chávez (and now Maduro) won election by appealing to previously dispossessed poor, brown, and black people who had been excluded from the country's oil wealth. Think about the race and class (which are closely intertwined) of those who oppose the socialist government. Are any of them poor, brown, or black?

From the beginning, those who oppose the socialist reforms have repeatedly turned to extra-legal and often violent measures to remove first Chávez and then Maduro from power because as a wealthy and privileged minority they don't have the votes necessary to win a free and fair election.

The violence in recent protests comes primarily from conservative opponents, and most of those who are killed are either socialist supporters or innocent bystanders, something that most people do not know and is never reported in the mainstream media. Unlike in the United States where police execute Black men with impunity, when police in Venezuela shoot a protester they face criminal sanctions and prison sentences.

In short, those who accuse Maduro of imposing a dictatorship are not ideologically committed to democracy but want to regain the economic and political power that they previously enjoyed, and are willing to use any means necessary to do so.

Yes, Venezuela does face serious problems. The country is heavily depend on petroleum exports, and has become even more so, which hinders the internal development of the country. The government is plagued with economic mismanagement, which is always a problem when a revolutionary administration comes to power that is long on idealism and short on technocratic experience. Corruption and crime are serious problems.

An open question, though, is how many of Venezuela's problems are due to the government's shortcomings and how many are due to economic warfare declared against the country by a conservative opposition that wants to stop socialist policies of favoring the poor and marginalized by an means necessary.

Strong parallels exist between the current crisis that the Venezuelan government faces and the brutal 1973 military coup in Chile.

In 1970, Salvador Allende was the first openly socialist to win office as president in a free and fair election. Richard Nixon's National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger retorted that United States policy would not be constrained by ballots cast in a faraway land, and advocated to make the economy scream to force Allende from office.

Kissinger celebrated when three years later a brutal military coup destroyed Chilean democracy and imposed neoliberal governance that benefited the wealthy but denied access to basic healthcare and educational services to the poor and marginalized.

If conservatives have their way, a similar fate awaits Venezuela.



Students for a Democratic Society

—meetings—

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SDS is a radical, multi-tendency, all-inclusive organization working to build power in our schools and communities.

Dare to struggle, dare to win!

-----trumanstatesds@gmail.com-----

The Kirksville 4

by eddie jenkins hernandez

I wrote the following text about five years ago, and it recalls a direct action in which I participated on campus at Truman State University in September 2001.

(See also *Monitor* Volume 8, Issue 3 on trumanmonitor.com)

i walked to the ftl house where four or five people were gathered in the back bedroom / 'makeout room'—ben, daniel, kathy, and jennifer were there, i think. they wanted to do an action on campus—there was a sense of immediacy about addressing the aftermath of the wtc attacks, as the response was growing into revenge. we discussed having two people lock down to the sub doors while another two conducted a teach-in. i said 'i want to be one of the talkers,' and they all smiled and agree, as if that was obviously what i was there for. and at that moment i realized my peers perceived i had a skill—being able to talk in public—and so i didn't feel so much like a follower at that moment.

i remember going to ace hardware with jennifer and daniel to buy the chains and stuff for the lock down apparatus. at some point we worked on our statement together, and somebody called bill to come up from columbia to become our other arrestable member besides daniel. i was nervous the night before—i was scared. i took the secrecy of the event seriously. i made plans with kelly later in the week, and i told her i would be there if i wasn't in jail—only half-jokingly.

people such as kathy and afro mike helped us get set-up, others passed out flyers, and we had a bunch of our friends among the passers-by. i had told a freshman photographer named dan to be outside the sub at the appointed time, and so when the action started he stepped out from behind a pillar and got pictures of everything.

we walked onto campus. i had on a tie for my political presentation. bill and daniel locked themselves to the doors with some help. we had to tell students not to walk through the doors while we were setting up. then classes let out, and ben and i started talking—saying our talking points. when dps and kpd arrived, i moved out of the way to the other side of the fountain and just kept talking as the others were being arrested. bill released himself and ran away, but daniel wouldn't budge. officer logston manhandled him, but they had to cut him out his lockbox. logston came over to me and told me i was under arrest—he put the cuffs on me. cameron yelled 'what are you arresting him for,' and logston replied, 'inciting a riot and vandalism.' another friend screamed 'fucking fascist!' and that made me feel good.

my blood was loaded with adrenaline as they put me in the back of a police car. they drove me two blocks to the dps office and sat me in an office separate from ben and daniel. nobody read me any rights. they asked me to write a statement, which i did. the guy behind the

desk read it and was surprised when he read that i had only been talking. they wrote us tickets for disturbing the peace, then let us go. our friends were waiting outside. somebody went and got bill, and he came back and turned himself in. later, when we showed up for our court date, we weren't on their list—they had dropped the charges without telling us.

i felt good about the whole thing, though i was self-conscious about it all. people in my classes were curious, and this is where it was a successful action. we

pissed a few people off because they had to go the long way around the sub, but otherwise our teach-in was tactful—wasn't explicitly leftist or anarchistic. we were advocating discussion and deep thinking, at least as a starting point. that dialogue may have affected people a little, but the more enduring effect for the next few years was that radical direct action became a powerful tool, one that we could get away with, at least for a while.

Alternative News Brief

by Will Chaney

***The number of people suffering from malnutrition rose by 38 million to 815 million in 2016, the first increase of the 21st century. This is about 11% of the world population.

— World Socialist Website

***Hurricane Harvey hits Caribbean, Central, and North America. Government officials in Texas admit they are not prepared to order an evacuation, while Cuba's response was "a well-oiled machine." 82 people in Texas lost their lives.

— New York Times

***Former St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley is acquitted after killing Anthony Lamar Smith in 2011. Those who demonstrated against this injustice, including 1,000 comrades who marched on the mayor's house, were met with riot police and numerous arrests. State violence justifies previous state violence.

— Washington Post

***On September 4th, which is one version of Labor Day, McDonalds workers went on strike for the first time in the United Kingdom. They demanded a minimum wage of £10 per hour, no zero hour contracts, and the right to form a union without harassment from management.

— Socialist Worker UK

***In Lowndes County, Alabama, 34% of residents tested positive for traces of hookworm, a parasite that was believed to have disappeared from the United States decades ago. Hookworm disproportionately affects people in poverty across the world, and causes "iron deficiency and anemia, weight loss, tiredness and impaired mental function."

— The Guardian

***Eric Greitens' reactionary government cuts Missouri's higher education budget by 9%. Truman responds by raising tuition, begging for

money from rich people in a “capital campaign,” denial, and protecting the high salaries of administrators while commending them for their ability to determine which campus functions are least valuable.

— The Index

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TOM REED, WITHOUT ACTIVIST YOU, WOULD WE ALL EXIST TODAY?

by Larry Iles

A terrible blow to us all happened last July in the death of Tom Reed whose son, ex-TSU student and local repairer Ben told me then had passed away of unsuccessful heart by-pass surgery on the 19th. I, Betty, and at least three other liberal professorial families were able to represent yourselves at the fast afterwards lying-in-state and funeral events. But his vast political activism was in the opinion especially of many of his beloved female clan, and some of us over-observed by understandable emotion by non-relatives in sheer loss, tears. And more debatably, suppressed by this area's unfortunate over-conservatism, that had him down as too moodily just angry about things like anti-militarism he in fact rightly detested. He was in bold if calmly wry reality, extremely well-read, once delighting in telling me how he had ditched the Clinton-Blair wars flirtational NEW REPUBLIC for THE NATION, despite friendly fights with widow MABEL about the clutter such magazine collections gave their apparently conventional town houses.

In fact, Tom was such a modest man that I could easily embarrass him but until ghost now, by stating a simple other truism. Sometimes European and Canadian friends so despair about you Americans generally. That we descend into our own kinds of xenophobic false superiority complexes, to the effect not only that "ALL" of you are either brainless and or pathologically, swollenly right wing. Well, my most effective retort to such comrades in the two massive anti-gulf war protests in UK, Canada, and France which I was involved in was to cite families like Tom's who in a country whose elites often smugly cut off other critics of them, go au contraire all out to fight the Pentagon war mongery and the comfortable blasé Americans. UNLIKE OUR OWN COUNTRIES, TOO, THEY GET NONE OF THE HONOUR AND RECOGNITION WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO SUSTAIN OUR OWN DISSENTER REALMS.

You see, Tom's attitude to all this suppression that goes on in America's so-called interior parts, the heartlands,



was defiantly to create an alternative when others said he and we ought not to un-Americanly exist. His methodology of early resistance was to revive in the 1990s a chapter of the UK FOUNDED US FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION here. Even though far too many students were too apathetic to but once try and set up but only briefly once an "FOR" such outfit of your own. And FOR's own origins lay in two religious Christian Episcopalian, Quakers' foundation of the body to protest the sheer stupidity of WWI. Yet if all went wrong in Reed's such vital creative endeavors for those of us more out front less idealistic types, Tom was the first to go back to the organizational drawing board. He did not like THE MONITOR's predecessor mag THE PUNDIT, for instance, despite its pioneer reporting of his anti-Gulf war one quad rallies. Because correctly he detected unwillingnesses to critique his own faculties, staffers' normal careerist status quo repose, shut-up stances. AND WHEN HE ACTUALLY GOT AN EX-US SENATOR, MIKE GRAVEL, OF ALASKA DOWN TO A CAMPUS HELD INTERNATIONAL PEACE RALLY, TOM WAS THE FIRST TO VOCALLY JOIN YOUNGER

STUDENTS IN ANGER AT THE WAY THIS EX-DEMOCRAT WAS GOP-TURNING TOWARDS EASY UN RUBBISHING THAT LAST BODY'S REAL PEACE SUCCESSES. SINCE ITS LONDON-SAN FRANCISCO LATE FORTIES START FOR ALL OF US.

Not that Tom was an apologist for liberals, clearly far more radical than that. Often he would regale me with accounts of visits he made in his musician repair capacity to see fellow and lady European peace activists. And he dared to take on a thoroughly odd Democrat Congressman H. Volkmeyer, notorious for being the gun lobby's man in DC, even against Clinton's limited gun control legislation bids. As irate as me, by this Congressman's hypocrisy on this matter, he was staunchly anti-abortion and racist about ST Louis Black teen deaths, Tom descanted once to me. HE WENT TO A TSU CONGRESSIONAL MEETING AND DESTROYED THE FAWNING GOING ON. BY ELICITING HOW IGNORANT THE MAN REALLY WAS. Tom asked him what he thought about constructively "the UN AND MID EAST PEACE."

photography

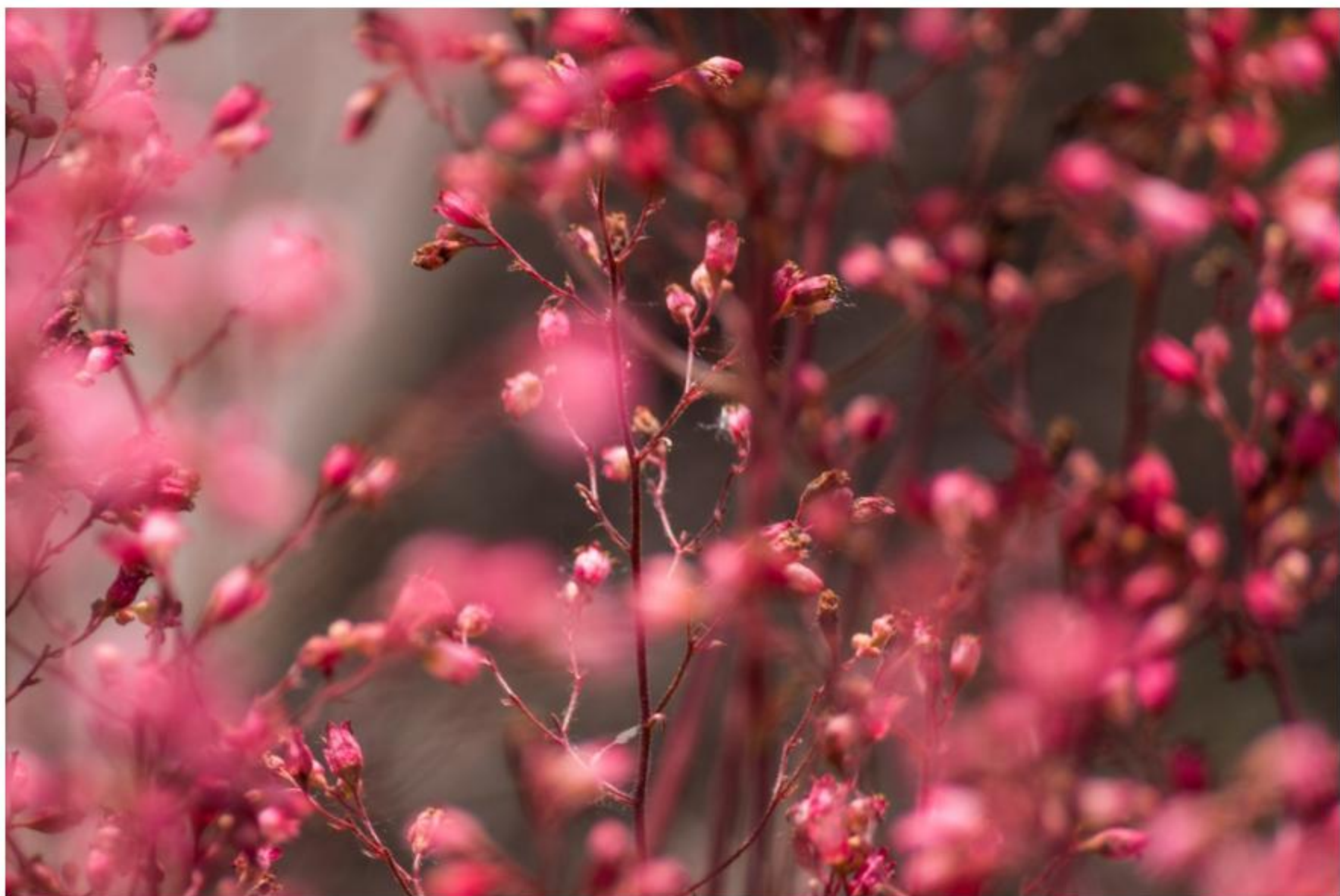


by Xiao Ning



**“Eat Your Heart Out”
by Sarah Connolly**





by Allison Kufta



by Xiao Ning

The 2016 Election and American Exceptionalism

by Makar Golosheykin

Recent outrage over allegations of Russian agents interfering in the American “democratic process” should be bringing up questions about the moral implications of foreign powers involving themselves in the internal politics of a sovereign nation. After all, this is precisely what the Democrats in the United States are accusing Russia of doing, stating that Russia should be punished for its intrusion in the elections, an act considered to be a direct attack on the democracy of the country. Indeed, colluding with the campaign of any candidate during an election in hopes of damaging the chances of other candidates would be undemocratic and criminal -- an ethical red flag by current international political standards. However such standards are clearly only applied and observed when seen fit by those who call the shots in the international arena. Unsurprisingly, when the finger is pointed to Russia, regardless of the accuracy of existing evidence, the “free world” cries out in outrage and condemns the Kremlin’s involvement in a foreign election. And yet, an eerie silence falls over Western observers when it is the United States that engages in similar acts. In fact, statistically, the United States consistently outperforms Russia, or any other nation for that matter, when it comes to election interference or even regime change. It does not take much research to stumble upon the mounds of historical examples in which the United States covertly or overtly meddled in the internal affairs of other sovereign entities.

Since the beginning of the Cold War, the United States has interfered in 81 elections while its long-time enemy, Russia (and the USSR), has interfered in 36.¹ In recent years the NSA has expanded its surveillance to foreign subjects, keeping tabs on 35 world leaders, some of whom are considered to be close allies of the United States.² But for a country whose national security agency is legally authorized by the national legislative body to spy on 193 sovereign nations, this is to be expected.³ By any international code, official or unspoken, American agents and politicians have violated the sovereignties and democratic processes of a wide array of countries. Virtually no nation on Earth has been left untouched by American interference, a simple fact supported by decades of historical events. It would probably take several volumes of detailed research and a comprehensive compilation of documents to cover the (known) instances of US involvement in the affairs of other nations.

In Asia, the United States had expressed strategic interest well before the Cold War, especially in the Middle East, a region that has historically been rich with natural resources and major trade hubs. During the Cold War, the stakes were raised as political and economic power passed from the British Empire to the United States. With the rise of the Soviet Union on the Eurasian continent, the United States stepped up its involvement to secure its interests.

One classic example of a nation frequently plagued by American interference is Iran. In 1953 the popular Prime Minister Mossadeq was overthrown with the help of the CIA and its British counterparts. In his place, American agents installed Mohammed Reza Shah, a pro-American dictator known for political repression and his vice-like military grip of the country. The Shah's reign lasted for several decades until it was finally toppled by dissenting Iranian citizens. Following the period after the Shah's demise, during which Ayatollah Khomeini took power, the United States frequently engaged in the meddling of Iran's internal affairs, launching both covert and overt operations, ranging from espionage to full military intervention on numerous occasions. For the better part of the 20th century, the United States has deliberately shaped the political and economic landscape of Iran. Similar policies were applied to Iraq, though the US had a somewhat ambiguous policy with the oil-rich Middle Eastern nation. For a number of decades, the US either extended or withdrew its support for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The United States finally toppled Saddam's regime after falsely accusing the dictator of possessing weapons of mass destruction, despite Iraqi claims that they had long abandoned their nuclear weapon development projects of the 90s. Since then, the United States has engaged in several armed conflicts in Iraq resulting in the casualties of hundreds of thousands of lives, by conservative estimates.⁴ It is also no secret that the United States has had a long standing policy of political and military control over Afghanistan, dating back to its support of the

Mujahadeen, the guerilla force composed of many Islamic radicals fighting against the Soviet army in the 80s. Those same guerilla fighters, supported by the United States via Pakistan -- where the US also had considerable influence -- went on to form such organizations as Al-Qaeda.

In another region of the world, the United States has also had a long history of invasion and political interference. There is the Philippines, which was nothing short of a US colony, with American Governor-Generals controlling the country in the late 19th century and early 20th centuries. This was followed by a period of near-occupation during which the United States had extensive military presence in the Philippines. Using the guise of the "containment of communism", the United States invaded and destroyed the nation of Vietnam, which had just broken free from French control. Estimates of total Vietnamese casualties over the course of the war are as high as 3.9 million killed.⁵ American bombing operations included more than just the conventional bombing material, with various chemicals being used by the millions of tons on vegetation and human targets, causing serious agricultural devastation and creating many long-term medical problems for millions of Vietnamese. The war in Vietnam also spilled over to its neighbor, Cambodia, where around 500,000 tons of explosives were dropped between 1965 and 1973 by the US. Anywhere between 50,000 to 150,000 were killed during this period as a result of US bombings.⁶ The US supported the infamously bloody Pol Pot regime, which would not have seized control of the country without the US efforts to destabilize the existing neutral

government in the 60s and 70s. Even after the Khmer Rouge was deposed by the Vietnamese, the United States continued to give support to the guerrilla resistance.⁷ In Indonesia, the CIA was involved in an attempted coup in 1958, which sought to remove the nationalist leader Sukarno. The CIA also played a role in the massacre of at least one million Indonesians who were associated with the Indonesian Communist Party, effectively decimating the leftist movement in the country.⁸⁻⁹ Apart from these examples, entire books could be written about United States' involvement in the Korean peninsula and a number of other countries on the Asian continent.

Asia's neighbor to the west, Africa, has also experienced its fair share of "democracy". From 1981 to 1982 the US provided support to Hissene Habre, after helping him topple a pro-Libyan leader. Habre has recently been accused of major human rights violations, including torture and ethnic cleansing, among other crimes. During his rule he received consistent support from the CIA.¹⁰ In 2011, the United States decided to remove Muammar Gaddafi, who had long been a thorn in America's side in the North African region. Under the guise of humanitarian aid, an American-led coalition supported the anti-government rebels and staged a coup, deposing Gaddafi and effectively lying about their military objectives in the country. The US provided support to the rebels and conducted strikes against the Libyan military, as well as delivering a fatal blow to fleeing forces, resulting in the capture and public execution of Gaddafi.¹¹ Media coverage failed to bring to light the fact that during Gaddafi's

rule, Libya went from being one of the poorest nations in Africa to being the wealthiest, boasting the highest GDP per capita and life expectancy on the continent.¹² Thanks to the US-led "humanitarian intervention" Libya is now in complete disarray, overrun by militia fighters, with its economy on its knees. The CIA was also involved in the assassination of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's first democratically elected prime minister, Lumumba. But even before that the US attempted to put in place a pro-Western government.¹³ The US led a campaign against Lumumba's successor, who was subsequently exiled from the Congo.¹⁴ Joseph Mobutu, a Congolese military dictator who controlled the country from 1965 to 1997, known for human rights violations, high degrees of corruption and oppression of political rights, enjoyed extensive support from the United States.

Then there is the region that has, perhaps, struggled the most with a long history of US imperialism and dominance: Latin America. There is the US backed, conservative-led coup against a democratically elected Joao Goulart, which removed from power the potential leftist threat with efficiency, installing a military regime which had ties to the United States. Panama was the subject of US invasion in 1989 -- hardly a shock for a country that for a large portion of the 19th and 20th centuries, was under the control of US companies. Nicaragua, which was occupied by the US between 1912 and 1933, was rocked by a series of bloody conflicts in the second half of the 20th century. During this time of unrest, the United States famously trained and armed Contra commandos who were the

right-wing counterparts to the left-leaning Sandinista forces. Nicaragua's Caribbean neighbor, Cuba, suffered US military occupation from 1898 to 1902, then again from 1906 to 1909, and once more from 1917 to 1922. After finally shaking free of US control in the second half of the 20th century, Cuba remained the target of numerous US efforts to destabilize its political structure, with some 638 CIA assassination attempts on Cuban revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro.¹⁵ The United States has had a long standing anti-left policy in Bolivia, in which it helped rightist, military groups take control of the country by deposing mostly democratically elected and popular governments. The result of US support of such groups has been the persecution and execution of individuals associated with leftist movements, as well as economic setbacks and political repressions.¹⁶ Operation PBSUCCESS orchestrated a coup in Guatemala, removing democratically elected Jacobo Arbenz, dissolving the leftist Revolutionary Action Party and installing a military junta followed by a long period of military rule. Having been one of the Banana Republics whose natural resources were monopolised by the American-owned United Fruit Company, Guatemala was no stranger to US interference in its domestic affairs. Then, of course, there were the occupations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the latter of which saw US military intervention remove a democratically elected Juan Bosch in 1965, resulting in a bloody and oppressive regime established and supported by the United States. During the 1970s, Project FUBELT sought to prevent leftist Salvador Allende from taking office in Chile.

When he narrowly won in a free and contested election, the CIA supported a military coup in replacing Allende with Augusto Pinochet, who began a reign of terror and political repression in 1973.

In light of recent developments regarding Russia's involvement in the US elections, one final case of US interference should be remembered. In 1996, the United States interfered in the Russian elections.¹⁷ TIME magazine published a documented report of how the US directly worked to turn around the election of 1996 in favor of Yeltsin, who at the time had some 6% approval and was behind in the polls compared to communist candidates like Gennady Zyuganov.¹⁸ It looked like the Zyuganov, or another leftist candidate, was going to win the election by a landslide. So unpopular was the incumbent president that he was polling lower than Josef Stalin in the months before the elections. After a disastrous period of complete economic collapse, Yeltsin was seen by a majority of Russians as an incompetent, corrupt leader who destroyed the country. The White House eagerly offered to advise Yeltsin, who was seen as the best chance to stop the return of a communist majority in the parliament. A team of specialists was sent to turn the election around. Despite being unimaginably unpopular in the public eye, thanks to the efforts of the American team working for Yeltsin's campaign, the president was re-elected. The resulting situation was one where the ends and the means were even less democratic than prior elections that took place in the last years of the USSR, during the period of perestroika.

The consequences of that election are perhaps too grave to put into words. Yeltsin's victory over the popularly backed communist candidates solidified Russia's trajectory towards the nation we know it as today. Given the largely accepted fact that the country's current leader, Vladimir Putin, climbed the ranks to presidency with the help and patronage of Yeltsin himself, it can be ironically concluded that the American interference in 1996 paved the way for Putin's rise to power. What's more, the work done by the American team in that election was carefully observed by Yeltsin's own team. Thus, it can be reasonably concluded that much of Yeltsin's -- and subsequently, Putin's -- campaign strategies were born in the very office of the Americans who were hired by Yeltsin to change the outcome of an election he was in no position to win.

If Russia ever sent a team of specialists to manage and direct the campaign of a politician running for office in America, let alone a candidate for the presidency, the outrage would be unfathomable. The worst accusations regarding Russia's involvement in the 2016 elections limit themselves to the possible acquisition and deliberate dissemination of sensitive information that likely damaged the public appearance of a targeted candidate, which in reality pale in comparison to the thought of an entire team of Russians working on American soil as campaign managers for any political figure. It's worth noting that the information that was leaked was not a fictional and hostile accusation directed at a candidate but rather an unveiling of what had in fact been happening behind closed doors. The leaks revealed the

truth, as damaging as it may have been for the people involved. What's more, a number of experienced ex-intelligence officials in the United States question the veracity of the accusations aimed at the Kremlin, going as far as saying that it is entirely possible the leaks could have come from an internal source.¹⁹ Already, Russia has been punished for a crime it may or may not have committed as a new wave of sanctions blew through Congress and was signed off by the president. While the 2016 American elections were fairly close, with or without outside interference, the Russian elections of 1996 were not. There is no doubt that what that American team did for Yeltsin in 1996 was much more serious than any advantage Donald Trump may have received as a result of potential aid from the Kremlin. If Russia's alleged involvement in the leaking of damaging material is to be labeled an attack on the democracy of a sovereign nation, then an entirely new word ought to be created for what the US consistently does and has done in dozens upon dozens of countries. If the appropriate punishment for the crime Russia supposedly committed is a swath of economic and political sanctions, then the world should long have embargoed the United States and cut off any diplomatic ties. US operations abroad have regularly compromised the democratic process in many countries of the world, and with 193 of all 196 nations being placed under the watchful eye of the NSA, who knows how many elections are upset by US agents every year, and how many more will face the same fate.

Knowing these facts, one of two things must become true in terms of election or

political interference. Either any foreign meddling is to be internationally denounced and appropriately punished, or it should be an accepted fact that foreign agents will always be interested in influencing and shaping the political landscape of their allies and enemies. If the former is to be true, then the United States should face a number of trials and subsequent charges for its many violations of democracy and sovereignty. If the latter is to be embraced, then Russia should not be scrutinized or

punished for meddling in the US elections, if the Kremlin was in fact involved. The existing establishment within the United States prefers taking the route of double standards and regularly enjoys picking and choosing when it wants to uphold “justice and democracy” and when certain actions can be overlooked in the name of “freedom,” even if it means reversing the results of democratic elections or helping military dictators crush their political opposition.

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poetry

by Julia Miller

There's nothing in this world like a woman who wants a man
but needs herself more;
She's tied to nothing but her fierce intuition
that lies at her very core.

I don't want love,
no, not at this moment in precious time.
I want danger at a 90 degree angle,
at a slippery slope,
at the edge of a cliff where I'm clinging onto hope.
I want to burn out like the dying sun.
Right now, I'm just a wild child on the run.

Past versions of myself are suicidal..
Yearning to kill themselves to give my current being some room to breathe,
some room to fly free.
Wondering if they'll ever end the constant stifle..
So that the former tragedies are nothing but a distant memory.

I'm the Holden Caulfield of the modern age..
Mourning change that inevitably occurs when you leave and come back to someplace.
Yet, it's not that I myself haven't changed along with it,
it's just that it makes it harder to remember the past women I've been.

not sick enough

by Dima M.

A color version can be found at trumanmonitor.com

I would love to have a caregiver. A caregiver is someone who might kiss your finger when you burn it on the stove. Or maybe just sigh and get the good Band-Aids. Someone who looks you in the eyes, who listens without interrupting. Or knows when to make a silly joke, but they all have compassion in common.

Your caregiver could be someone who doesn't judge, but reminds you that your intrusive thoughts are wrong. They could be a parent, a friend, a lover. They could be sick themselves, but willing to help when they can manage it. You would always have that emergency contact, who would never tell you to suck it up and stop asking for handouts.

I'm not sick enough to have a caregiver, though. For someone to feel sorry for you, they have to see it on you. Bedridden with fever, and you can most of the time get a friend to tuck you in, bring you soup and ice cream. Sometimes even that is too much to ask, though. Especially nowadays. Some people could see you fainting with fatigue and still expect you to pull yourself up by those metaphorical bootstraps. I mean, it could be worse.

But overall, it's a lot easier when the sickness is visible. Because then we don't feel too sappy in giving help. It's no surprise that some people fake sickness, "for attention", but of course when nobody will look you in the eyes you need attention like air. Are we supposed to never have any attention, then? Seen but not heard.

You don't look convincing, if nothing in your face, demeanor, or gait shows us what we're used to sympathizing with. That's when you're screwed; invisible. We acknowledge that looking sick isn't all there is to it. And all the same, we expect it to a T when something goes wrong. If it doesn't fit the part, we get suspicious.

With that suspicion, we try to make ourselves believe that it really isn't that bad, so it's easier on our consciences. It's the same kind of ego a guy gets when he looks straight through the faces of the servers who flip his burgers. He doesn't want to put in the effort of thinking about the potential miseries in their lives. So he decides the workers must like it that way, or that it's all important in the grand scheme of things. And so he goes on with his day undisturbed.

If questioned, he'll respond with the undeniable piece of evidence that they don't look tired and overworked. (Happy smiles and greetings are a required part of the job, though we forget this). It's a hell of a lot easier to get the burger and walk away. Minimal effort, minimal empathy.

Once we imagine someone's happier despite what they themselves claim, it's easy to dismiss their calls for help. It's easy to think they're overreacting, that their worry is what's making them sick, not the other way around. Just don't think about it, right?

Margaret Atwood said that after a while, sickness becomes a personal affront to those around the patient. Any acknowledgment of their pain is an accusation, an attack, an "I deserve more than you".

Obviously, assuming that everyone is crying wolf means some will be lost to actual wolves. So what? They didn't reach out enough; it was too late. Why couldn't they have fought off the teeth and claws by themselves? If only they'd said something...and of course, a lot of the time people have, but nobody hears it right.

We like to believe in martyrs. We like to see Odin hanging in his tree, Atlas straining with the Earth on his shoulders. We especially like cross-bearers, and lone saints being shot with arrows. Even better: lifetimes spent solitary in cold, empty dungeons, only to be made stronger in the end through self-improvement. Mindfulness, faith or love. But where exactly you're supposed to get that love when all you have is your own miserable brain? That's left to interpretation.

People like these stories because they reinforce the idea that we are all invincible. That we can endure anything, as long as we keep holding out, keep trusting in our own strength. And if someone can't... then it couldn't be helped. Just another statistic.

We don't like to think that nobody can live for themselves only. We don't like to admit that solitude can't be filled entirely with self-care and positive outlooks. Life can be utterly cruel, but we hold on to the idea that nobody really needs to ask for help. Or give it. Maybe a little, but sure as hell never commit to it.

And yet we deeply mourn childhood, the time when most could cry and not be ridiculed. We bemoan how easy those days were, and then turn around and scoff at anyone who dares bring that level of gentleness and loyalty into adulthood. It's too childish, we say. As if careful consideration of others' feelings is something that needs to be killed by the time you're old enough to do taxes. We can't coddle people, is one of the mottos-life isn't fair, and everyone has to get used to it.

It's true that life isn't fair. But people can be. Or at least try. That would be much more valuable than being a productive member of society; than clocking in on time and being "successful". We don't have to break our backs taking care of everyone around us. But if we stop dismissing pain, we can all heal better.

I'm fine with being thought of as childish, selfish, clingy. I just wish I was sick enough that someone might actually see the truth. Maybe then I wouldn't be stuck fantasizing about finger kisses and shoulders to cry on.



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LET'S END THE CONSERVATIVES' RELEGATION IN DELIBERATE FORGETFUL NEGLECT OF C.F.G.MASTERMAN AND H.G.WELLS AS SOCIAL CHANGE SEEKERS, 1903-27, Part 2

by L.I. Iles

*Dedicated to Neville Masterman and Walter Arnstein,
Incomparable mentors/truth-seekers*

[Editor's Note: This is the second part of an article submitted to the monitor in January of 2017. The first part was published in the February 2017 issue and the third and final part will be published later this year. The first part can be found at www.trumanmonitor.com]

However, darkness has again descended blockingly on CFGM/HGW. In 1999 the late E.Hopkins of Birmingham campus, and an undisguised very right-wing ethic Christianity slant, when I met him, made up for failure to locate any other willing publisher. By finding in the extreme right wing publisher, the so-called vanity press, E.Mellen Press of the USA. The result has been his CHARLES MASTERMAN, SPLENDID FAILURE. Counteringly I, in a UK JNL OF LIBERAL DEMOCRAT HISTORY PDF, have dismissed it with its factually distortive, and medically unqualified claims, of CFGM being manic depressively "a closet homosexual," a near lifelong manic depressive. And by implication, a wife deserter, despite his three kids! Above all, Hopkins ignored the entire journalism of CFGM, as I quote "Peter Pan... Mastermanland" fantasy. And, for all his foreword claims to thus have been a "warts and all" denigrator, so ultra-conservatively "in

last word," Hopkins draws damage only once. CFGM had an alcohol problem. To which one retorts: not only do many politicians and academics, but where was Hopkins' EVIDENCE that this impaired CFGM's output in consequence. Answer—nowhere!

Offsettingly, of all this dispriority, has wonderfully in better legacy been HGW himself. Justly, as CFGM told Lucy, if she did outcome with an early death by him and was thus "in a hole" penuriously, she was to go to HGW and his fellow Leftist writer, the more Centrist Arnold Bennett. Real prescience, as they did set up a trust to help complete his children's education. And Wells even broke from his normal greater Labour Party allegiance. In spite of there being an excellently feminist Labour woman candidate in place, he endorsed Lucy in her attempts to become Salisbury's only woman Radical Liberal MP abortively after her husband's own death. A devotion on his part, all the more belying of the "sexism" charges. Since, in Lucy's own 1939 memoir of her husband, she does not hide an awkward fact. A long-time adherent of such late Victorian things in puritanism as "leagues of moral hygiene," she caused her husband's intercession more than crucially once. In

spite of caravanning together as couples along Southern and Eastern England's verdant coasts, she did not argumentatively hide her disapproval of Wells' extramarital free love affairs. CFGM, who had very much more advanced views, laid the law down enough to halt the near complete ruptures. Advisedly sage, as I MYSELF only once saw the formidable Lucy, in September 1972 at a Margate Liberal Annual Conference, Anti-South African Apartheid Movement gathering. None of us younger radicals could figure out how to surmount her obvious loneliness in resolutely unchaperoned status, not going inside with us, heedless of the windy weather. Donned augustly in a late Victorian bonnet and black dress attire, she offputtingly eyed all us metasexual youngster long hairs with disdain remoteness. But, crucially, she did share her husband's economic collectivist beliefs that socially we all in this world together. And even when in the 1950s her dwindled to a few MPS over-beloved Liberals were under the Welsh lawyer 'laissez faire' leadership sway of the ex-Liberal National, TORY ALLIED once Clement Davies, she dared to chair a panel suggesting government aid packages for the ongoing elderly unemployed populaces, then as now, too "free enterprise" capitalistically hidden from us all.

The Urbana papers basically suggest 1903 as the starting place for the beginning of the CFGM/HGW therefore family resilient mutual support compact. Yet my own hunches indicate that there was a social change common hinterland earlier beginning reality. CFGM began much richer in life and educational

opportunities thereby than HGW. Wells' sole earned degree was a Bachelors in Natural Sciences, one externally from London University. His atheism was assuredly fortified by exposure in this role, a student teacher to lectures given by Darwin's famous atheist champion, T. Huxley and all their mutual beliefs in all our species' evolutionary futures. In Masterman's own case, he would end up with not only internal Cambridge University Moral Sciences MA and Fellowship awards, but something else until now unrecognized in earlier accomplishment. He was Natural Sciences first year's passes in excellence of examined papers. Both CFGM/HGW strenuously would lifetime deny and chide each other with a resultant "insect state" fascination. Masterman on his chiding Christian Socialist ground that this this "insect state model" if over-applied in community nurture model to we human species would be too derogatory to individual free will. Or to free choice democratically in we human's case, in Wells' democratic socialism respects. Nevertheless, it is a perfect nurture beehive analogy in efficiency quest against chaotic free enterprise capitalism in both men's common credos.

Masterman actually came into Cambridge Campus Liberal club politics as a convert from a Disraelian Conservative Evangelical capitalist work ethic household with abundant servants. Cripplingly, in that it made him many Liberal and Socialist enemies on his own side, he never rid himself of such Disraelian cynicism in cruel phraseology brilliance of his own, nor at least in his first Cambridge student politics years

with a partiality for his Liberals own Right center Liberal Imperialism faction. That had its own quasi-neoconservative penchant for co-efficiency of the future “UK race” around their leader, ex-PM Lord Rosebery. This eugenicist social change haughtiness seems to have vanished in Masterman by the turn of the century. And CFGM’S first edited social reform advocacy book, THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE was yet a sardonic title reference to an earlier Rosebery speech demanding an end to ugly slum squalor, stunting of the “race” in London’s imperial hubris center.

Almost certainly CFGM had self-propelled himself far more to the more genuinely social democratic left. With its notions of egalitarian change. Influenced not just by at whiggish high politics level by Canon Scott Holland in his Christian Social Union London settlement HQs, but by mathematician Liberal and Labour future MP P.W. Wilson, the future NEW YORK TIMES journalist at more humble Congregationalist level. It was Wilson who was Masterman’s senior in the Cambridge Liberal club and as both himself an ISIS, [MONITOR], writer and student union operative, appears to have sponsored CFGMS first publications and speeches. Wilson could be and was outspokenly acerbic in both public and private later companionship with Masterman. If the last ever was ever below par in their Commons together 1906-09 speechmaking. Or post WWI. Masterman was ever backsliding in books. There was Wilson critiquing him for such upper class married into clan, offhand-like social eugenicist tendencies like antisemitism.

Wells himself would same first last century decade, too, become just as radical impassioned a critic of such Rosebery-like perfect specimen efficiency state creation sloppiness. When in wars with his Fabian Socialist own upper class whiggish foes, like sometimes empiricist-inclined playwright G.B. Shaw. Yet one has only to read small goblets of HGW’S FIRST MEN IN THE MOON or THE TIME MACHINE to sample that he is almost as lustfully fascinated as Masterman by the communal collectivistic drives nurturingly and ultra-efficiently of his ruling/invasive Moon and Martian insectile creatures. Even if finally glad, we imperfect but more richly diverse free will humans win out in Progressive Optimism.

Similarly CFGM has often distressed his descendants by what they misconstrue as some of his worst semi-atheistic conduct in what is thought to be inconsistency and faith/hope abandonment. But, in realism and consistency, sometimes yes to the extreme of rigidity or fanaticism/piracy as he was often cartoonist portrayed, its CFGM’s own Christian collectivism at explanatory play! By the emergence of his self-ended Cambridge life, he could easily have gone on to be an English don, into being a social settlement Anglican-affiliated, south London slums social worker, CFGM had early given up on literal religious faith, as unscientific miraculous nonsense. His Christianity, instead, was communal, this world change centered. High church in the semi-Catholic good works have to be performed, but low church or as he put it in his 1908 book F.D.MAURICE, broad

or liberal minded enough to see the best in the collective, football-loving crowdiness of his neighbours. He indeed came to detest his supposed own High Churchmen leaders for their own Conservative politics indifference to the poor. As he made clear in a UK CHURCH GUARDIAN set of 1920s articles he penned on “Liberalism” against one of their Tory leaders, Lord Cecil. So defiant, that he boycotted most

church attendance by his last such decade years. However, none of this unambiguity meant he could avoid or ever desired to avoid any more than HGW the ambiguity in their insect/ beehive collectivism in real Jesus the carpenter, self-cross sacrificial, unselfishly or collectivistically new state creation.

To be continued...





Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 5 – *Fancy Night with KTRM*

Friday, Oct. 6 – *Alumni Show ft. Gloom Balloon*

Friday-Monday, Oct. 6-9 – *Muralists Painting*

Thursday, Oct. 12 – *Open Mic* [free]

Tuesday, Oct. 17 – *Pocket Vinyl Documentary*
+ *DIY Q&A*

Thursday, Oct. 26 – *Open Mic* [free]

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