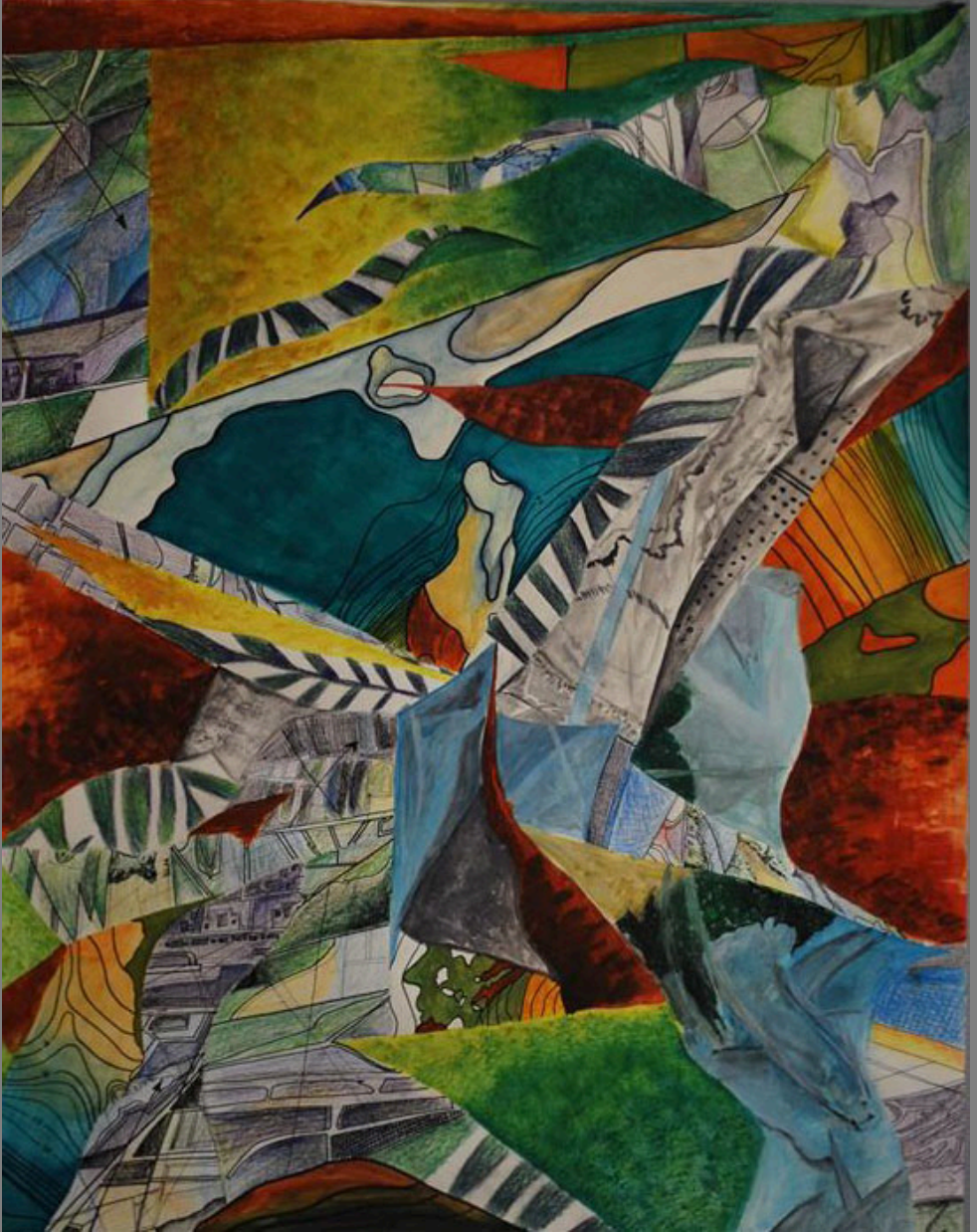


Free Thought/Pensamiento Libre



Journal of the Humanities Honor Society
Issue 3, 2018

Cover: Enriquez, Justine, Take a Walk, 2017

Herodotus's Horse-organization's symbol- by Professor Marianne Santelli from ESL, World Language and Culture Department at Middlesex County College.

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Free Thought/Pensamiento Libre



Journal of the Humanities Honor Society
at Middlesex County College

Issue 3, 2018

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Mood (2016) by Angelica Aponte

Note of appreciation

This publication could not have been possible without the support and contribution of President Joann La Perla-Morales, Mark McCormick, Vice President for Academic and Students Affairs, Thomas Peterson, Director of Marketing Communications, Robin Hetzko, manager at Printing and Communication Services, Odé Hoppie, Assistant Director of Student Activities, Timothy Hack, Chair at History and Social Science Department and Natali Justiniano, secretary at the same department.

Note of recognition

The Humanities Honor Society aims at empowering its members' dreams and passions. Students' thirst for knowledge and ambitious goals is its inspiration.

For that reason, it is honor to recognize Logan Germano. A founding member of the society, Mr. Germano received the 2018 New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Award and First Place recipient for the Central New Jersey region. The award recognizes Mr. Germano's contribution on the creation of this society, the publication of its first issue, his scholarship and his service as a mentor/tutor.

Congratulations, well-deserved.



Sintunado (2013) by Justine Enriquez

About the Humanities Honor Society

Created in 2015 as the History and Philosophy Honor Society, the organization hoped to open a space for students with an interest on teaching and researching memory and traditions of thought. As time progressed, it became evident that understanding humans required a broader approach. Addressing that need, on 2018, the organization became the Humanities Honor Society.

The Humanities Honor Society engages students in the art of understanding humans as beings who feel, think, imagine and create. Members accomplish this objective by working with a faculty mentor for the duration of an academic year. Our students' work, interests and passions is the soil upon which this organization thrives.

Cristóbal Espinoza-Wulach, PhD
Society's adviser

Sobre la Sociedad Honorífica de Humanidades

Creada en 2015 como La Sociedad Honorífica de Historia y Filosofía, la organización buscaba crear un espacio para aquellos alumnos interesados en el arte de enseñar e investigar la memoria y tradiciones de pensamiento. El tiempo transcurrió y se hizo evidente que entender al ser humano requería una metodología más ambiciosa. Inspirado por aquello, el año 2018 la organización se transformó en La Sociedad Honorífica de Humanidades.

La Sociedad Honorífica de Humanidades expone a sus miembros al arte de entender a los humanos como seres que siente, piensan, imaginan y crean. Los miembros desarrollan esas habilidades bajo la guía de un profesor/mentor por un año académico. La confianza en las habilidades, intereses y pasiones de nuestros alumnos es la piedra angular de esta organización.

Cristóbal Espinoza-Wulach, PhD
Society's adviser

Faculty Mentors for academic year 2017-2018:

Terrence Corrigan, PhD: Besides teaching Western Civilization II, Professor Corrigan teaches courses on Modern African History and Holocaust and Genocide. He is the director of the Human Rights and Genocide Center at Middlesex County College and the faculty adviser for Human Rights and Genocide Student Club

Cristóbal Espinoza-Wulach, PhD: Besides teaching History of the United States until and since Civil War, Professor Espinoza- Wulach teaches History of the Twentieth Century and Students Success. He is the adviser of the Humanities Honor Society.

Giuseppe Rotolo, PhD: Besides teaching Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics, Professor Rotolo teaches Social and Political Philosophy. Additionally, Professor Rotolo works on issues that include feminist philosophy and gender studies. He is the adviser for the Philosophy Club

Faculty Collaborators:

Susan Altman is an Associate Professor in the Visual, Performing & Media Arts Department. Professor Altman teaches studio courses in the department as well as the Portfolio and Studio Seminar courses, where art majors learn professional practices and prepare for their careers as artists. She is pleased and proud to have student art work included in this journal as students take the first steps in their professional lives as artists.

Sallie Delvecchio is an associate professor of composition and literature at Middlesex County College in Edison, N.J. She has taught there for over thirty years and will stop when it stops being interesting. Her interests/obsessions include the Kennedy assassination, Jack the Ripper, and the Shakespeare authorship question, and she includes them in her courses. Her favorite pastime is writing stories about her travels and her grandchildren. Sallie has two children and four grandchildren whom she adores. They truly are the inspiration for everything she does.

Members for academic year 2017- 2018

Members worked with a faculty during the course of the academic year learning the arts teaching and researching different topics associated with humanities.

Kaitlin Dower is a philosophy major and currently serves as President of the Philosophy Club. On the Fall 2018 she will be attending to New York University.

Megan Harder is a returning student. She will be working toward a double major in English and Nursing, with a minor in creative writing. Megan is president of the college's Human Rights and Genocide Awareness Club. She hopes that through her education she can obtain the knowledge and tools to ensure a better world for future generations.

Eugene Kashinsky, a student at Middlesex County College studying History. An immigrant with English not being his first language had difficulty acclimating to America but has been succeeding in different areas of academia and employment. With avid interest in History and especially international relations will continue his education at Rutgers University.

Serena Moore is a Political Science Major at Middlesex County College. After graduating, Serena expected to transfer to Rutgers University to pursue a BA in Linguistics with language concentrations in Arabic and Mandarin Chinese and a minor in History/ Political Science. While in Rutgers, Ms. Moore hopes to gain experience by studying abroad in Arab Middle Eastern countries. Soon after, she will attend law school to become either a human rights lawyer or a criminal prosecutor.

Katsiaryna Sikorskaya is a nursing student at Middlesex County College. She has always been a pioneer in her family. She is the first to venture out to the United States from a little town of Mozyr in Belarus at the age of 18. She is the President of Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society, Co-President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Katsiaryna has been named “National Honor Society Coca-Cola Leader of Promise 2017.” She has a passion for writing and children. When Katsiaryna is not pursuing her passions, she is volunteering. She considers volunteering to be the ultimate exercise in democracy. “You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” Katsiaryna is one of the winners of the 2017-2018 Essay Contest.

Winners of the 2017-2018 Essay Contest.

Making sense of the 2016 Presidential Election. Why did President Trump win the election?

Robert Krepek is a Business Administration Major at Middlesex County College. His goal is transferring to an accounting program and becoming a Certified Public Accountant. As a self-described Liberal, Robert decided to participate on the 2017-2018 Essay Contest hoping to challenge common misperception by many liberal pundits on television. Amongst those misconceptions, Robert was especially concern on refuting ideas such as: Russian interference changed everything or that the country's majority is Trump's stereotypical extremists. Robert's conclusions can be read on his essay.

Humberto Marmolejo is a Liberal Arts History Major hoping to graduate on spring 2018. His professional goals include a writing career focusing on the lives of key historical American figures, and a career in education. Humberto aims at educating future generations about the importance of studying history, and how analyzing history is beneficial for the benefit of our society.

Artist Biographies

Angelica Aponte is Visual Arts major, but once she transfers to Rutgers, she plans to continue as a Graphic Design Animation and Gaming. As a long term goal, Angelica hopes to create anime and other cartoons for companies such as Funimation. Naturally, she would also like to create her own anime programs and freelance. Another goal of hers is becoming a tattoo artist. She is currently trying to obtain a tattoo apprenticeship.

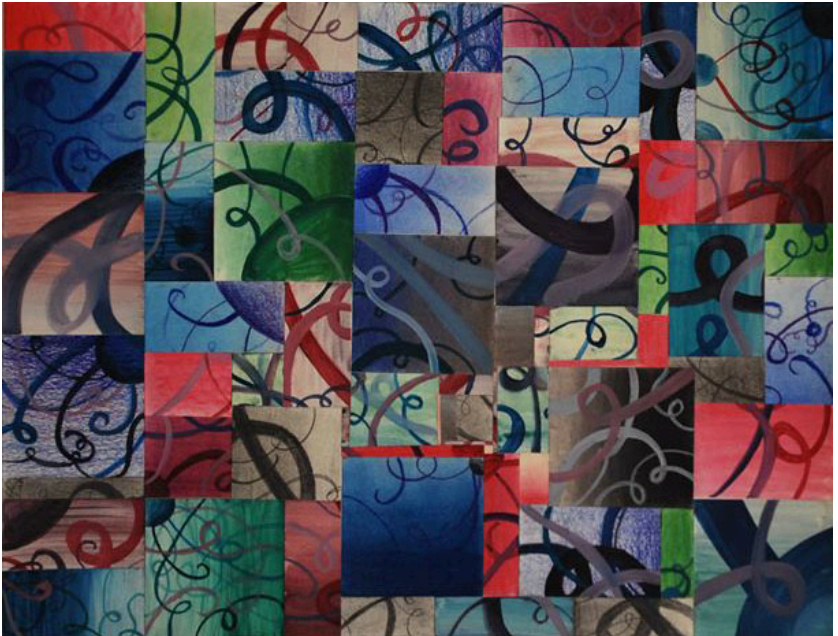
Justine Enriquez is a Fine Arts Major who is hoping to pursue her career in the Art field as a teacher and a future business owner. She is a graduate of Word of Life Bible Institute in the Philippines and loves working with children and helping other people. Most of her artwork shown comes from the classes she has taken on Fall 2017.

Contributors' biographies.

Robert Giorgi is an Army veteran; an alumnus of MCC, and is currently in his final semester at Columbia University where he is majoring in Sociology with a concentration in American Literature. He is the 2017 MCC alumni of the year.

Logan Germano is a student currently attending his final semester at Rutgers University, having earned his associates degree at Middlesex County College. He is majoring in History, with a minor in Political Science, and actively interning at the Rutgers University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives. With his degree, Logan hopes to either teach or write about history, as he takes a great pleasure in educating others about the past. As of now, Logan is unsure when he will pursue his graduate degree, though he fully intends to obtain it at some point in the future

Aaron J. Saguine, an MCC alumni, is currently a student at Kean University. He hopes to become a Social Studies teacher while pursuing a doctoral degree in History. Ultimately, Mr. Saguine aims at becoming a college professor on American History.



Music to my eyes (2017) by Justine Enriquez

Philosophy Glass

Escape from Prism
Subject colored views to a
Philosophy Glass

You've seen the light, but is it white? Maybe.
Depends on attitudes inside your head.
For when white light's unlocked by prism's key,
The spectrum runs from violet to red.

And that's the visible spectrum alone!
Much more remains unseen or else unheard.
Despite the subtle instruments we own.
Much that remains unknown must be inferred.

Clearly, things are not as they may appear.
The origins of things remain obscure.
Philosophers and tourist hold most dear
Not final destinations, but the tour

So join the game, don't settle for arrest
Because it's not the quarry, but the quest!

By H. Ian Smith
Professor of History and Philosophy at Middlesex County
College from 1964 to 1988



Trip (2016) by Angelica Aponte

Labor of Love

Katsiaryna Sikorskaya

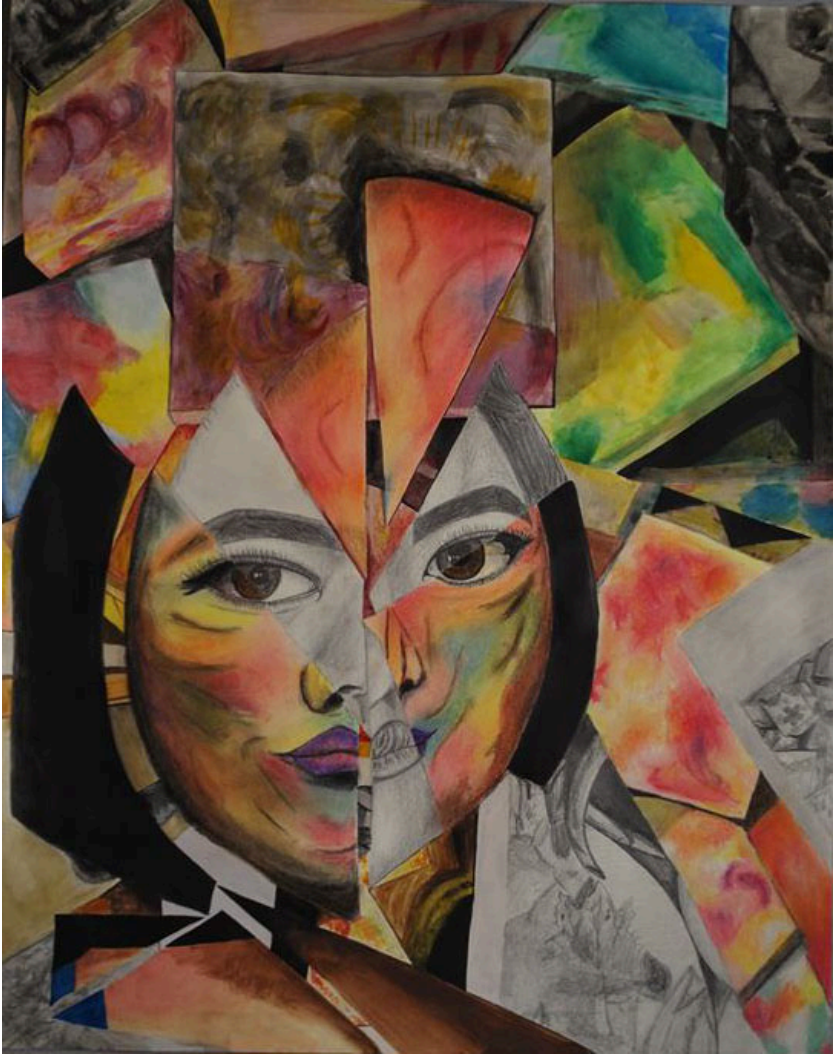
"Been there, done that," the inner
voice is whispering
Adrenaline is rushing through my veins.
"My God, help me!" the laboring
woman keeps uttering
Yet, the agonizing pain remains.

"You're doing a great job," I said
with conviction,
When I sympathized with the
mother-to-be in her affliction.
I went through the experience a
while back,
This time, I was in nursing student's
shoes, providing the feedback.

The team's gowns are donned; the
tools are all spread out,
"I can't take it anymore!" we all
heard her shout.
"Push with each contraction as we
count to ten," said the RN
"May Lord give you strength,"
thought I to myself. "Amen!"

Going through labor- an arduous
journey,
'tis what they say,
Impelled me to breath in sync whilst
holding up the mother's thigh.
Upon arrival we rushed to suction
the newborn's airway,
The silence filled the room in
anticipation of the cry.

As she lay in a state of ultimate
weakness,
Directing her gaze towards the
bundle of joy.
The eyes filled with limitless
mercifulness,
The mother is born along with a little
boy.
Miraculous sight to enjoy!



Jan Lauren (2017) by Justine Enriquez

Equality: Ongoing Struggle¹

Kaitlin Dower

“Half a century ago, the amazing courage of Rosa Parks, the visionary leadership of Martin Luther King, and the inspirational actions of the civil rights movement led politicians to write equality into the law and make real the promise of America for all her citizens” these are the wise words of former British Prime Minister David Cameron. Equality can be defined as ensuring equal opportunity for every individual regardless of the color of skin, disabilities, religious beliefs, gender, etc. so that they can make the most of their talents and lives. The Declaration of Independence proclaims “that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.” Every individual is entitled to the pursuit of happiness and success. The importance of equality lies within the fact that each human being’s worth is the same.

¹ Ms. Dower worked on this article under the guidance of Professor Rotolo.

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice” (King 27). This excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr’s book, *Stride Towards Freedom* accurately illustrates why the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s was unsuccessful in the goal of resulting in true equality. King emphasized the fact that fighting for equality and justice between whites and blacks is more important than living in acceptance of systematic racism. Legislations passed and Supreme Court decisions during this time period were useful in the sense that the Supreme Court was taking action to end segregation, however statistics show they were entirely ineffective in improving the quality of life for African Americans. The various forms of riots, strikes, and protests facilitated by the black community that took place throughout America in the 1960s pre and post-legislation prove that this movement continues to strive for racial equality that hasn’t been resolved by passing legislation. As a result of the failure to obtain true equality, many African Americans reverted to a nationalistic, even

separatist movement such as the United Negro Improvement Association. Not only should the Civil Rights Movement be understood as a long movement stretching across the 20th century, but also as a struggle that still carries on into the present, as African Americans continue to be systematically discriminated against.

After the Civil War, several ways to systematically impair the quality of life for African Americans were put into place. *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) was a historic supreme court case that upheld state racial segregation under the dogma, "separate but equal." However, when comparing black and white space, they proved to be completely unequal. This segregation left African Americans to underfunded programs, dirty bathrooms, poor education and less job opportunities. This idea was set into place by reformers of the south who thought of segregation as a crucial and necessary way to destroy populism, which was viewed as a threat to the "New South" (Cole, 1999). A majority of American states enforced segregation through "Jim Crow" laws, which

enabled states and cities to impose legal punishments on people for fraternizing with people of another race, forbade interracial marriages and ordered business owners to keep black and white clientele separated. Another, more violent form of racism, was Lynch Law, which took place from 1889-1899. Lynching is the practice of murdering, typically hanging that frequently took place in the south in order to suppress black, republican voters. During this time period of the "Lynch Law," 1,875 lynching took place a year on average, it was a widespread phenomenon (Cole, 1999). With the intent of destroying the People's party and their philosophy (populism), reformers of the South succeeded by keeping black and whites separate and inhibiting the African American community to vote.

Dominant leaders and intellectuals of the black community encompassed the heart of the origin of civil rights. Three prominent intellectuals discussed in lecture include Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Marcus Garvey. In 1895, in the midst of the Jim Crow laws

and lynching, Booker T. Washington delivered the speech, "Atlanta Compromise," which suggested that blacks in the South would conform to white political rule, if southern whites guaranteed blacks to educational and economic opportunities. Contrary to that idea of compromise, W.E.B. DuBois demanded full civil rights and political representation, which would be brought about by African American intellectuals. In order to achieve these goals, in 1909 he along with others formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to facilitate political change. Marcus Garvey is commonly known for founding the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and the Black Star Line. A tool for this "Back to Africa" movement, the Black Star Line was a shipping and passenger line that encouraged African Americans to move back to their ancestral destinations. These three intellectuals had different ideas on exactly how to gain a better quality of life for African Americans; that was to combine all of Garvey, DuBois and Washington's ideals, and recognize

blacks as a nation within a nation (Cole, 1999). All of these men made the root of the ideas which would eventually expedite the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, living situations, annual income, and segregated facilities in the South proved that whites and blacks were unequal. In 1950, the median income for the approximately 70,000 white people of Montgomery, Alabama was \$1,730 whereas it was \$970 for the 50,000 negroes (King 14). Two events helped detonate the Civil Rights Movement: the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board* , and the Montgomery bus boycott. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) was a crucial case for civil rights, as it overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision of 1896, deeming separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional (Livingston, " Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ,"12/5/16). An issue with this case's conclusion was that it contained no actual method of desegregating schools. To prove this, *Brown v. Board* 's

decision on school integration appeared to have no effect on Montgomery's determination to keep schools segregated (King 14). In 1956, a year after the Supreme Court deemed segregation unconstitutional, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began. This boycott is infamous and commenced when Rosa Parks, a member of the NAACP refused to give up her seat on the bus. She understood exactly what she was up to and its consequences (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ," 9/8/17). Prior to this, a fifteen year old highschooler, Claudette Colvin was taken off a bus in Montgomery, handcuffed and imprisoned for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. This occurrence aroused the African American community, and launched the initial idea of having a bus boycott (King 28). The Montgomery Bus Boycott began on December 5th, 1955, after the black community was sent a letter telling them: "Don't ride the bus to work, to town, to school, or to any place Monday, December 5... If you work, take a cab,

or share a ride, or walk. Come to a mass meeting, Monday at 7:00 P.M., at the Holt Street Baptist Church for further instruction" (35-36). This boycott is an accurate representation of how W.E.B. DuBois predicted civil rights movements work: by taking advantage of the necessity of blacks in a consumer society. The purpose of this boycott was to shed light on these issues of discrimination, whilst using black's abilities as consumers as a tool to entice these buses to promote equality. The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted one year, and ultimately resulted in a Montgomery federal court ruling that stated that any law requiring racially segregated seating on buses violated the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ," 9/8/17). Both *Brown v. Board* and the Montgomery Bus Boycott hasten the establishment of the legislation that constitutes the social rights era of this time period.

The Civil Rights Movement continued in the late 1950s with substantial legislations being passed, with hopes of enforcing the requirements of integration. Two

federal legislations were designed in 1957 to enforce the *Brown v. Board* decision, as well as guarantee black voters the ability to vote. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was made to assess the “Massive Resistance” of southern whites after *Brown v. Board* ; it gave the justice department the right to seek a court-ordered act against discrimination, and also assessed the issue of disenfranchisement and discriminatory voter registration that were set in place in the South. The goal of this act was to ensure all Americans, blacks included, were guaranteed the capability to exercise their right to vote (Livingston, “ Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ,” 9/8/17). The United States Commission on Civil Rights was created in 1957 too, this federal commission is responsible for investigating and reporting civil rights issues in America, as well as making recommendations for solutions to these issues. Three years after the creation of the Civil Rights Commission, the Civil Rights Act of 1960 was passed. This act was a federal law that introduced federal inspection of local voter registration polls, and set up punishments for

anyone who obstructed someone's attempt to become a registered voter (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ," 9/8/17). The last major legislation passed during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was the bill called for by President John. F. Kennedy, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was more general than the others in the sense that it outlawed all forms of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The goal of this legislation was to ensure that all Americans had the right to be served in all facilities that are open to the public. All of these legislations passed during this social rights era were in large part ineffective in the South, due to not only the resistance of African Americans, but due to the fact that a piece of paper cannot, and therefore will not and did not change the minds and feelings of the whites in America. During this time is when the concepts of "white privilege" began to arise. White supremacy and white privilege are concepts that are predisposed to white individuals, whether they realize it or not. White privilege can be

defined as a transparent preference for whiteness that creates a sense of entitlement and generates advantages for white individuals. For example, during this time period a white person would not be denied a job because of the color of their skin. Because of this, minorities will continue to be subjected to discrimination.

Failure at acquiring legitimate equality through the efforts of protests, strikes, and rebellions resulted in the transformation from a civil rights movement, to a black power movement. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), supported by Martin Luther King Jr., was one of the most important groups in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's that entailed peaceful protests for equality. A couple of prominent, influential, nonviolent protests that aimed at the goal of desegregation include the Greensboro sit in of 1960, and the Freedom Rides that began in 1961. Both of these protests against segregation were led by people trained in nonviolent techniques who tested how far whites would go in response to black people's presence in white-only restaurants, buses and

restrooms. The groups of people who chose to do this encountered hate from white protestors, but this is what drew the necessary international attention to their cause (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ," 9/8/17). Two more violent forms of protest emerge in 1964: Freedom Summer and the beginning of the urban rebellions. SNCC's Freedom Summer also known as the Mississippi Summer Project, was a voter registration drive in June of 1964 that consisted of thousands of black Mississippians, as well as out-of-state, white volunteers. This project was an utter disaster that was entirely more violent than productive. Police, the Klu Klux Klan, as well as state and local authorities carried out a series of violent attacks, including arson, beatings, false arrests and murder, in protest of Freedom Summer's purpose. This horror resulted in 35 Churches being burned, 6 people dead, and 80 people injured. After this hellacious historic event, racial tension between black and white SNCC organizers reached its ultimate height. This led to the idea that white power structure was impossible to reform. The

African American community believed that the SNCC had to be led solely by black people and must convert to a separatist agenda, the exact opposite of the assimilation, the goal that the SNCC was formed on. The urban riots began as a direct result of Freedom Summer. The urban rebellions consisted of crowds of African Americans who rioted, because despite legislation gains, the quality of life did not improve; making it necessary to rise up against the oppressive power. 321 rebellions took place across the time span of 1964-1969 throughout urban cities in America. They address issues including police brutality-killing of innocent African Americans by police officers, unemployment, poverty, inequality and poor housing conditions. These riots resulted in violent outcomes such as looting, arson, or death (Livingston, " Civil Rights to Black Power Movement ," 9/8/17). Over the course of the ongoing riots, black Americans began to shift goals from equality to the Black Power Movement. Just a year after the 1967 Detroit riots, the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) was formed. DRUM was a radical

organization of black Chrysler autoworkers in Detroit, Michigan, who had issues with their working conditions. In May of 1968 in Hamtramck, Michigan, the DRUM movement began with 4,000 black and white workers engaging in a wildcat strike, a strike undertaken by unionized workers without the union leadership's authorization, to protest these conditions. The documentary "Finally Got the News" reveals the activities of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers inside and outside the auto factories of Detroit. The United Auto Worker's leaders were almost all white and male, and punishment for the strike fell disproportionately on black workers ("Finally Got the News"). The perception of inequality, injustice, fear, and hopelessness for the present American society in African Americans after these detrimental events are exponentially high. Instead of continuing to try and not succeeding in going against these discriminatory societal norms, the majority of the black population turned to the black nationalist movement, leading to the founding of the Black Panther

Party. (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement"9/8/17).

Along with the transformation of African Americans from civil rights to the Black Power Movement, another transition occurred as well; the shift of focus from desegregation to political economy, in realization that the only way for blacks to make it in the capitalist system is to control the economic resources of their own people by creating a new form of government. Statistics during the time illustrate that despite legislations and civil rights efforts, nothing has positively changed for blacks economically. For example, in 1948 the median family incomes of black families are 58% of that of white families, and in 1963 during the Civil Rights Movement, their income is 57% of white families (Livingston, "Civil Rights to Black Power Movement," 9/8/17). Black unemployment rates exceed white unemployment rates across all levels of educational achievement. This clearly illustrates that the economic struggles of blacks stems from the unequal system of capitalism. The link between

racism and capitalism was eventually understood by Malcolm X and the Black Panthers, who attempted to organize on class lines and link the struggle of blacks for advancement to the general struggles of the American working class. The struggle for all different realms of equality continues to go on after the late 1960's. In fact, civil rights now encompasses all people who are marginalized. Not only are black people still fighting for equal rights, society now recognizes groups who are fighting to end the disparities for all people. Women, individuals with physical or mental disabilities, and elderly people or young people are all examples of groups fighting for equality. The new civil rights movement includes education, proper health care for all people, and the LGBTQ population to name few.

The Civil Rights movement that began in the 1950's paved the way for future generations to embrace the concept of equality and become activists themselves, expanding upon civil rights issues faced by those outside of the African American community. According to First

Lady Michelle Obama, education has been decided as the most important civil rights issue faced by America today. Equal rights to a decent education for everyone allows all people the same opportunity to access higher education, and actually levels the playing field for people who are on the lower level of the socio-economic ladder. Today in poorer, poverty-stricken cities of America, children are not provided the same education as those who attend school in wealthier areas, giving them fewer opportunities to achieve success in higher education and their future life endeavors. This is the issue that education equal rights activists focus on, in hopes to fix the structural disadvantages the people of these cities are subjected to experiencing. Another group that experiences systematic discrimination is the LGBTQ community. Despite the positive recent historic event in America allowing gay marriage, there's still ongoing debate and controversy regarding the accommodations that the LGBTQ community should be provided with. One of the most prominent issues concerns public restrooms, in which

society debates whether people should be allowed to use the restrooms that coincide with their gender identity, or if they should be forced to use those that correspond with their biological sex. Many accommodations have been made across the country to address and combat these issues. For example, “gender neutral” bathrooms have been put into place and implemented in some but not all places nationwide in order to decrease discrimination faced by transgendered Americans. “Despite these attempts to access the rights of the LGBTQ community, gays and transsexuals still receive unequal protection and are discriminated against in the job force, school and society in general” (Meyer, 2015). Gender inequality is yet an additional civil rights issue of today’s era. Although it’s been nearly 90 years after women were granted the right to vote in America, women still do not receive equal pay. Many argue that this is due to insurance being a higher cost for women, because of pregnancy and other gender specific conditions. The illogical reasoning behind why the wage gap is accepted by society is based on biological

differences between men and women, biological traits that weren't chosen by women. This makes one wonder, if it were the men bearing children would it be different? Probably, because the issue of gender inequality is rooted at societal instilled sexism, not the wage gap. The stigma that men are supposed get a high paying job, work hard, and expect to come home to a wife who cooks and cleans the house is still widely recognized. Last but not least, access to equal health care is a civil rights issue that's still ongoing. Throughout the world, wealthy people have access to higher quality health care. Having money to pay the high premiums for insurance and also having the funds to get first rights at donor organs, leaving those with less money to die at the end of the list awaiting a vital organ. Less developed countries than ours have a universal health care system, meaning there is no reason why this inequality still exists. According to a 2014 report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy dedicated to health, "Your healthcare depends on who you are." Access to quality healthcare is

a basic human right and should not depend on your affluence. In terms of achieving equality, one's health should not be a means for financial gain; American capitalism has no place in the healthcare system. These are just a few examples that encompass the Civil Rights Movement in the 21st century.

In closing, issues pertaining to civil rights have not ended in the 1960's, as many forms of inequality amongst American citizens still persist today. In terms of the future of the United States, it is important Americans inform themselves on the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the systematic discrimination that still goes on in order to combat inequality. The new Civil Rights Movement faces an upcoming war: a war against the racist, misogynistic, elitist ideals that continue to plague society. Although it will be a prolonged struggle to obtain equality, Martin Luther King Jr. once said something that should be considered when faced with civil rights issues throughout these next years: "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to

perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it" (King 39).

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Self Portrait (2018) by Justine Enriquez

Breaking the Cycle: Peace for Kosovo²

Megan Harder

In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. While Serbia claimed the declaration was “illegal”, the United States and most major European powers disagreed. To become its own entity, Kosovo was subject to extreme violence. The most notable event was the Kosovo War of 1998-1999. The “war” with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA, made up of ethnic Albanians) against ethnic Serbians. Both sides claimed to be victims. Both sides can be labeled as perpetrators of ethnic cleansing; however, the title mainly falls on the Serbians. According to the ICC (International Criminal Court), the actions of the Serbians can be classified as genocide. The Serbians were guilty of genocide and various war crimes. Some members and supporters of the KLA have been tried for war crimes but the violence between the KLA and Serbians has continued.

² Ms Harder worked on this article under the guidance of Professor Corrigan

To understand the savagery that occurred in Kosovo, the barbarism can be explained by the history prior to 1998. The Baltics were once part of the Ottoman Empire. As the Ottoman Empire grew weaker, following the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878), Russia began to expand its influence in Europe. The great European powers gathered in Berlin in 1878. The purpose was to sort out the Baltic region and limit Russia's gains. As a result of the Berlin congress, Serbia was recognized as a sovereign independent state. During the 1912-1913 Balkan Wars, Serbia fought successful campaigns with and against its neighbors, gaining the region known as modern Kosovo (Mark A. Wolfgram, *When the Men with Guns Rule: Explaining Human Rights Failures in Kosovo Since 1999*). Serbia was made up of Catholic or Eastern Orthodox citizens, while Kosovo, consisted of primarily ethnic Albanians. The ethnic Albanians were Muslim. The ethnic Albanians contrasted with Serbia in faith and eventually ideology. Ethnic Albanians wanted to separate from Serbia in order to maintain their identity. They were

granted autonomy in 1974 but that was not enough. They wanted to be independent from Serbia. The Yugoslav leadership attempted to suppress the ethnic tensions between Serbians and Albanians but to no avail. In 1981, a riot broke out in Kosovo by Albanian separatists leading to an organized movement. In 1982, the Popular Movement for the Republic of Kosovo (LPRK) formed. They were a precursor to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) that followed in the upcoming years. Ethnic Albanians were the majority group in Kosovo while Serbians were the minority. Toward the late 1980's, the situation in Kosovo deteriorated (Wolfgram). Serbians made claims that the ethnic Albanians were committing horrible atrocities against them. The acts included harassment, beatings, rapes, and murders by the ethnic Albanians, this resulted in a "blood feud" against the ethnic Albanians by the Serbians; one day would become genocide. Slobodan Milošević became President of Yugoslavia and used the ethnic hatred Serbians already had, to supplement the approaching violence in Kosovo.

He sympathized with the Serbians that they were victims of the ethnic Albanians. He inspired a feeling of nationalism amongst Serbians, prompting a desire to unite Serbia as it should be. To not allow Kosovo to be granted independence from Serbia. During the Yugoslav civil wars, ethnic Albanians began an armed resistance against Belgrade (the capital of Serbia). The LPRK became the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Belgrade then expelled ethnic Albanians from public service (and many other jobs) and segregated Kosovo society. Passive resistance was no longer enough for the KLA. The KLA made its debut in 1996 by murdering Serbian refugees in Kosovo. After the collapse of the Albanian government in 1997, the KLA gained more access to weapons (Wolfgram). The stage was set for genocide between the KLA and Serbians.

Open conflict began in 1998 and lasted until 1999. The Serbians committed acts of genocide during those few years. One article in the ICC states, "The perpetrator killed one of more persons. Such person or persons belonged to a particular national, ethnical, racial or religious group"

(International Criminal Court, 1998 Rome Statue). The Serbians were murdering Albanians in Kosovo based on their ethnic background. The KLA committed similar acts against Serbian refugees in 1996. The Serbians can be held accountable for genocide in Kosovo based off, "The perpetrator caused serious bodily or mental harm to one or more persons. Such person or persons belonged to a particular national, ethnical, racial or religious group" (ICC). Kosovo Albanians reported the horror Serbians inflicted on them such as rape, mass murders, beatings, and psychical trauma. Serbians forced ethnic Albanians out of their homes with violence. The forcible removal of a group of people falls under the segment of the definition of genocide, "The perpetrator forcible transferred one or more persons. Such person or persons belonged to a particular national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such" (ICC). The ethnic Albanians did not become refugees because they were fleeing the "war" in Kosovo; they were forced out by Serbians. Another reason why the KLA, is also guilty of genocide, can be summed up by

their actions toward the end of the 'Kosovo War". The KLA leader, Hashim Thaci admitted, "Any armed action we undertook would bring retaliation against civilians." Meaning if anyone outside Kosovo got involved, in the attempt to end the Kosovo Liberation Movement, the KLA would harm civilians. The KLA and Serbians were guilty of committing acts of genocide from 1998-1999.

The violence committed by Serbians and the KLA did not end after 1999. Nor did it end once Kosovo won independence in 2008. In March of 1999, international peace talks failed. NATO launched an airstrike on Yugoslavia for 78 days before Belgrade yielded. More Kosovo Albanian refugees poured into the neighboring countries with tales of "massacres and forced expulsions". In June of that year, President Milosevic withdrew troops from Kosovo. NATO called off its air strikes. The UN established the Kosovo Peace Implementation Force(Kfor) along with the arrival of NATO forces. The KLA had agreed to disarm themselves and Serbian civilians fled from "revenge attacks", (Kosovo Profile-Timeline, BBC

News)Some peace talks were held between Serbian and Kosovo Albanian leaders in 2003. Followed by 19 people being killed in “the worst clashes between Serbs and ethnic Albanians since 1999” (BBC News), in Mitrovica. The elections held in 2004 made it possible for pro independent leaders, President Rugova and Prime Minister Ramush Haradinja to take power. Serbians boycotted. Haradinja was indicted for war crimes by the UN, the following year, forcing him to resign. An explosion occurred near Rugova’s convoy of vehicles when he was traveling through Pristina. In July that same year, more explosions went off in Pristina near the UN, OSCE, and Kosovo Parliament buildings. (BBC News). In 2006 the UN sponsored peace talks once again for the future status of Kosovo in Vienna. They were the first direct talks between ethnic Serbian and Kosovan leaders since 1999. Voters, in Serbia, approved a constitution that declared Kosovo part of the country. Kosovo’s Albanian majority boycotted the ballot and the UN peace talks failed again. UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari revealed a plan

for Kosovo to obtain its independence. The Kosovo Albanians are obviously pleased and the plan is rejected by Serbia. (BBC News). In 2007, Hashim Thaci wins the general elections. Thaci was a former leader of the KLA who had said that he would harm civilians to make Kosovo independent. (BBC News). In February 2008, Kosovo declares its independence with Serbians crying out that the move was “illegal”. Serbians opponents of Kosovo independence seized a UN courthouse in Mitrovica and 100 people were injured with one death of a UN police officer. A new constitution is adopted in April with power being transferred to the majority ethnic Albanian government in June. This occurred after nine years of UN rule. Kosovo Serbians establish their own assembly in Mitrovica.(BBC News). In January of 2009, NATO supervises a new Kosovo Security Force (made up of the Kosovo independence movement veterans against Serbia). That February, former President Milutinovic is acquitted of charges that he ordered a campaign of terror against Kosovo Albanians in the 1990s. The backlash of

that decision was ethnic clashes in Mitrovica. The first post independence elections were held later that year. (BBC News). In July of 2010, The Hague War Crime tribunal ordered a new trial for Haradinaj and two ex-members of the KLA on charges of war crimes. Their reason was that the earlier trial was tampered with due to witness intimidation. The Council of Europe published a report that KLA rebels, led by Thaci, were involved in organ trafficking and other crimes, after the conflict with Serbia in 1999. (BBC News). Thaci is re-elected as prime minister in 2011 despite the allegations. Talks with Serbia began in March of 2011. It is the first time Serbia and Kosovo met peacefully, since Kosovo broke away. Violence breaks out from July to October as Serbians resist the efforts of the Kosovo government imposing its authority. In December, Kosovo and Serbia finally agree on something, regulating border crossings. (BBC News). In October of 2012, Kosovo Prime Minister Thaci and Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, meet in Brussels the first direct political contact between the two governments,

following Kosovo's independence. EU auditors reported that Kosovo remained plagued by organized crime and corruption. (BBC News). In 2013, the EU mediated talks between Serbia and Kosovo. Days prior, Belgrade approved support for minority rights for Serbians within Kosovo. Kosovo and Serbia reached an agreement with granting autonomy to Serb-majority areas. They also would not block one another from obtaining EU membership. November of that year, Serbia approved Kosovo local elections. A re-run was ordered after masked men damaged ballot boxes in ethnic Serb areas. (BBC News). In February of 2014, a war crimes tribunal in Serbia, found nine of the paramilitary members guilty of killing over 100 ethnic Albanian civilians during the violence in Kosovo, 15 years prior. A political dead lock occurred during the June elections when parliamentary elections gave inconclusive results. Former Prime Minister Haradinaj was briefly detained due to a 2006 Interpol arrest warrant, issued by Serbia. (BBC News). Serbia launched a new train service from Belgrade to northern

Kosovo in 2017. The slogan "Kosovo is Serbian" was painted on the trains in twenty languages. The act was a way of stating Kosovo was still part of Serbia and would always be. Haradinaj was given the job of forming a new government after the political dead lock from the earlier elections. (BBC News). Kosovo Serb politician Oliver Ivanovic was shot and killed in Mitrovica, January 2018. (BBC News). "Normalization" talks have been reported to be underway. What is normal for Kosovo, a history of peace or violence?

Some would argue that the fight for an independent Kosovo has not entered into the realm of genocide again, following the Kosovo War. They would happen to be wrong. Violence is not a normal occurrence for the fight of an independent country. The end result for peace does not negate the brutal actions taken to obtain such peace. The KLA and Serbians committed acts of genocide and war crimes. Their excuses were either to keep Kosovo part of Serbia or free it from the country. The atrocities committed were brutal acts that need to be recognized as

such. One can establish a long-lasting peace with words, laws, anything else aside from a fist or gun. Kosovo's "normalization" is a vicious cycle of peace and violence. Until ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians give up fighting, there will never be peace for Kosovo.

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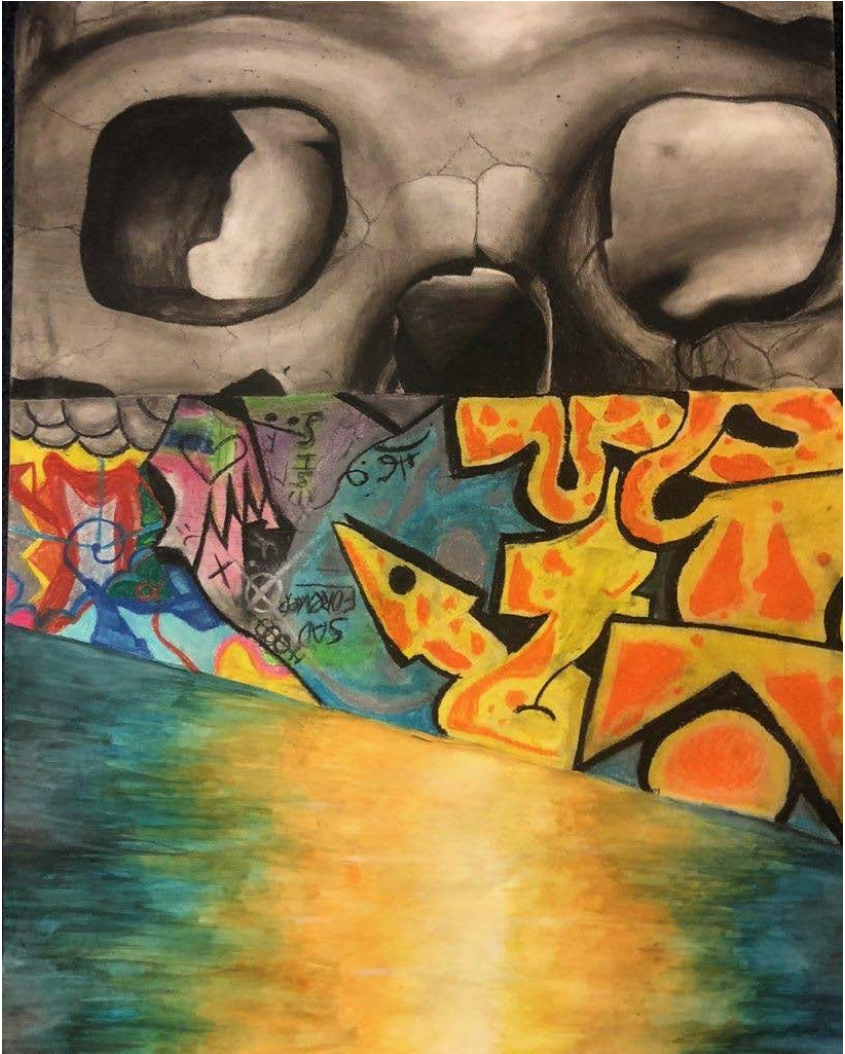
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Off the wall (2016) by Angelica Aponte

Ideological Origins of the Korean Conflict³

Eugene Kashinsky

Ideas shape how we relate to our environment. Moreover, ideas do not appear in a vacuum, rather they are the extension of their times. The conclusion, then, becomes self-evident: if we understand the ideological difference between North Korea and the West as well as the context that nurture such difference, we can make sense of the Korean Conflict. Based on that understanding, we can thoughtfully address questions such as: Is threatening North Korea with “fire and fury” the optimal solution, or are diplomatic measures more optimal in the situation?

A foundational element on the Korean conflict is the presence of two sources of nationalism. Each source had its respective leader. Kim Il Sung’s nationalism that gave birth to current North Korea and Syngman Rhee’s nationalism that gave birth to current South Korea. These

³ Mr. Kashinsky worked on this article under the guidance of Professor Espinoza-Wulach

two leaders are different in many respects, from their backgrounds all the way up to their ideas of how Korea can prosper. More importantly, they both want unification, but under different ideologies.

Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of the current North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un. To understand the mind of Kim Jong-un it is crucial we look at his family's leadership history. Because he was preached the ideologies of his grandfather and later his father on how they felt North Korea should be run and their ambition for it being viewed in the world. Kim Il Sung is a great believer that communism is the way to fight off oppression from the foreign countries. He is against Syngman Rhee's idea of opening and learning and working with the capitalist power houses of the world, by saying "Korea for the Koreans"⁴. The meaning of this idea is that Koreans need to take control of their country. They do not want any foreign influence in their politics or economics. Kim Il

⁴ Sung, Kim Il, "For the Establishment of a United Party of Working Masses: Report to the Inaugural Congress of Workers' Part of North Korea" no page

Sung is a past soldier, who fought for his country while Syngman Rhee was going to college in the United States. Mr. Sung wants his country back under Korean control, because he fought foreign Japanese control. And he feels like Syngman Rhee will just give up Korea to the control of another power, this time to the United States. He shows his position of opposition to the United States, when talking about how it is going to be difficult to unite Korea once again by saying “This is because the aggressive army of U.S. imperialism is stationed in South Korea, seeking to turn our country into a colony once again” (Sung)⁵. Based on this idea, we can understand the following quote: “Today the U.S. military government monopolizes all powers in South Korea”⁶. To a person like Kim Il Sung, the United States and especially capitalism is a system of oppression, slavery and tyranny. He does not want his

⁵ Sung, Kim Il, “For the Establishment of a United Party of Working Masses: Report to the Inaugural Congress of Workers’ Part of North Korea” no page

⁶ Sung, Kim Il, “For the Establishment of a United Party of Working Masses: Report to the Inaugural Congress of Workers’ Part of North Korea” no page

nation to be a colony once again. He does not want his nation to be subject to exploitation for the benefit of the American economy, the foreign economy.

Unsurprisingly, Kim Il Sung attacks his counterpart, Syngman Rhee, by stating “democratic political parties and social organizations are being wrecked by the terrorism of the traitorous Syngman Rhee gang openly patronized by the U.S. army”⁷. To him, and his communist effort, Syngman Rhee, a capitalist, was of great danger. He was a terrorist, he was a sellout to the Korean people. That is just how different these points of view are, where they cannot coexist together, one must be dominant over the other, and that is what the fight is for.

In the case of South Korea was led by a man that believed that capitalism was not an evil oppression machine, but it was an enlightened idea that the nation should get behind to prosper. That gentleman was Syngman Rhee. He studied in top Universities in the

⁷ Sung, Kim Il, “For the Establishment of a United Party of Working Masses: Report to the Inaugural Congress of Workers’ Part of North Korea” no page

United States of America. He saw the best of capitalism. He saw the post war American capitalism when the American style of life was promising, rich and seemed to be never ending. He wrote “the people who were born in these countries have enjoyed, without exception, the fruits of prosperity and development”⁸. Unsurprisingly, Rhee was an advocate for learning from capitalist countries, like the United States and not rejecting him like China or North Korea did and is doing until this day.

For Rhee, being capitalist equated with being enlighten. A nation, then, should aim at being enlighten if it hopes to be independent. Based on this, “the unenlightened do not understand the law and do not realize that the strong nation’s behavior reflects contempt”⁹. Very importantly, for a nation to be enlightened, it must accomplish a level of material prosperity. “take the examples of the telegraph and the

⁸ Rhee, Syngman, *The Spirit of Independence : A Primer of Korean Modernization and Reform*, p. 64

⁹ Rhee, Syngman, *The Spirit of Independence : A Primer of Korean Modernization and Reform*, p. 64

airship, which are of immense benefit to the world today; they are so much beyond our imagination that if we heard about the for them first time we would be incredulous”¹⁰. By stating that he really shows, how a nation that is enlightened, a nation that is intelligent, can create things that it could then sell on a world scale and benefit from it financially and convenience wise.

Differently than Kim Il Sun, Rhee hopes to open Korea to foreign influence, rejecting any form of isolationism. “We have kept the country closed and failed to develop an open society; and we have ignored our material resources and discouraged efforts to manufacture valuable and convenient articles as others have”¹¹. With this in mind, we can understand why Syngman Rhee and his version of nationalism embraced capitalism and sought a good relationship with a great capitalist country, like the United States to prosper his own. With that

¹⁰ Rhee, Syngman, *The Spirit of Independence : A Primer of Korean Modernization and Reform*, p. 64

¹¹ Rhee, Syngman, *The Spirit of Independence: A Primer of Korean Modernization and Reform*, p. 65

ideology in place, he would become the leader of South Korea, and of course be backed up by the United States.

Because the Korean conflict took place in the context of the Cold War, the conflict cannot be understood without making sense of U.S- Soviet relations in the aftermath of World War II. To make sense of the American perspective, the best place to start is the Kennan telegram. On 1946 George Kennan, a ranking member of the State Department and one of the few specialists on Soviet history, built America's basic understanding on Soviet Union and communism, which last up to the present. For him, the USSR was dangerous, not just to American foreign interest, but it threatens American way of life. According to him, for the Soviet Union was "desirable and necessary that the internal harmony of our society be disrupted, our traditional way of life be destroyed, the international authority of our state be broken"¹². For that reason, Kennan argues that "we have here a political force committed frantically to the belief that with US there can

¹² "George Kennan proposes commitment (1946)" p. 438

be no permanent *modus vivendi*”(Kennan, 438)¹³. This approach allows us to understand the content of the Truman Doctrine as well as American understanding of communism up to the present.

As we examine the public conversation on the Korean conflict, Communist and North Korean way of life is sold to the American public the same way. That can be seen in Donald Trump’s State of the Union Address on January 30, 2018. In that address he refers to North Korea as a “total and brutal” (Trump)¹⁴ dictatorship. He also says that “North Korea’s reckless pursuit of nuclear missiles could very soon threaten our homeland”¹⁵. Which is very close to the way Kennan looked at USSR and said that their sole goal is to destroy our traditional way of life. Such strong words from the President drives the opinion of the public in one direction, and that direction is that

¹³ “George Kennan proposes commitment (1946)” p. 438

¹⁴ Trump, Donald. President Donald J. Trump’s State of the Union Address, 2018.

¹⁵ Trump, Donald. President Donald J. Trump’s State of the Union Address, 2018.

North Korea needs to be stopped by all means necessary before it destroys us.

From a prudent perspective, the statement associated with the Korean conflict and the continuity of Kennan's understanding of communism evinces a long term problem on American diplomacy. The United States feels threatened by any other idea out there, it vilifies it and turns to conflict against it. The position of the country to the Korean problem is evidence of that. Here we have a country that wanted to be free, by itself, of any foreign influence. North Korea back in the 1950's had the ambition to become a world superpower, and to start its own infrastructure and to make their country great with its own people. The American political system were not big fans of that because they wanted to do it by the means of communism, and communism seemed like it wanted to destroy everything America worked so hard to get during the World Wars. As stated above, North Korea did not want to be a colony again, but a sovereign nation that would be up there with the world superpowers

economically, educationally and militarily. That is why there is conflict, one country, United States, does not want to give up its political influence in Asia, while the other country, North Korea, takes an opposing ideology to the one that oppressed it, and is trying to free itself of the mindset of being just a colony. Sure Syngman Rhee's ideas are very diplomatic and reasonable, but it has to be understood that he is coming from a different place. He is coming from the American college system and saw all the great things capitalism offers, while Kim Il Sung was at war with Japan, who were the "dark side" of Capitalism. Sung sees it as an enemy, not a friend, quite literally.

The way that the American government needs to learn to coexist with other nations that have rivaling ideas is by understanding their history. The history of North Korea is very much involved with world domination of the United States as well as the fact that North Korea has been taken over so many times by other stronger nations. Now that it is its own nation, it is trying to defend its borders, it is trying to create a great nation for themselves.

In this age, the way you do that is through piling up on big technologically advanced bombs and missiles so that nobody messes with you. North Korea is not trying to take over the world, it is trying to advance, but first they have to build a militarily advanced “wall” to secure their progress without foreign intervention. This quite literally frustrates the American government because they do not want any views that is not theirs to succeed, they see it as a threat on democracy and the American ideologies. But if we look at the history of the region and why it is the way it is, we have to recognize that we had a part in the dictatorship ways. By creating that vacuum of power, the strongest and loudest stepped up, and has kept his blood line there for more than sixty years.

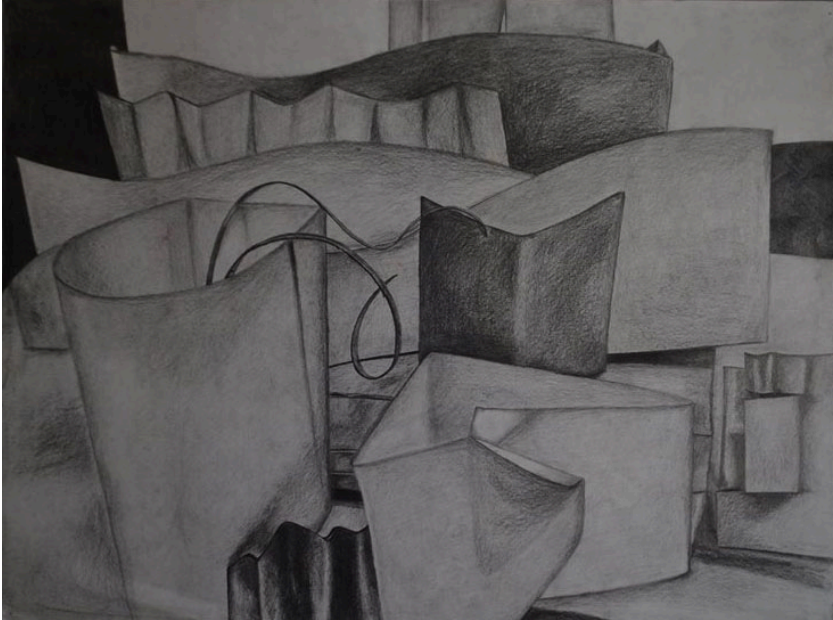
Clearly, North Korea does not want any International involvement in their political or economic system. They are closed down as it is, and America’s consistent poking at them to open up and abandon their way of life seems very aggressive. Even though, in my opinion and as historically proven, dictatorships and

communism does not work out long term, but a successful capitalist system does. In my opinion, during such a stressful time because of the technological advancements of weapons, we have to take the diplomatic approach in any instance. North Korea is not posing a direct threat to America, because the U.S. military is so much stronger and better, it has to be the better man, it has to prove Syngman Rhee's ideas of being the more enlightened man and talk things out. At any moment, the wrath of America's military could destroy the world, but that power has to give us the confidence to be diplomatic.

As an epilogue, it is evident that understanding the adversary should be the coherent path to confront them. History, then, proves its usefulness.

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Squiggles (2017) by Justine Enriquez



Pliable (2017) by Justine Enriquez

Origin: The Storm of Bastille¹⁶

Serena Moore

The fall of the monarchical government began when Paris civilians stormed a fourteenth-century gothic fortress, Bastille. In 1774, King Louis XVI was crowned heir to the throne after his grandfather's succession. Overall, the events that influenced the Bastille revolt were the decline of National Assembly and Third Estate, economic instability, inequality of the lower clergy, commoners and women, and the overlap of church and state in the government. During the revolt, there was a proliferation of deaths as King Louis XVI continued to implement unjust ideas. Fortunately, the storm of Bastille led to the French Revolution, where it marked the cease of inequality and began the prolonged Enlightenment Era. In time, the storm of Bastille overturned the longevity of France's absolute monarchical government system and refined the concepts of liberty, equality, fraternity, and

¹⁶ Ms. Moore worked on this paper on her English Composition I taught by Professor Keller on Spring, 2017. Some editions were made in preparation for this publication.

civil human rights to recent political practice. The Bastille upheaval is an exemplary model of civilians exercising their rights in order to revolutionize a country (*July 2014: Storming the Bastille (July 14, 1789) | Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*).

On 14 July 1789, a large group of Parisians stormed a fortress that had stored prisoners and ammunition. At the time of the revolt, there were seven prisoners: two lunatics, four forgers, and another who allegedly committed incest. None of these prisoners were given a trial, therefore, being demanded imprisonment by King Louis XVI. This imprisonment infuriated the people as they saw it as an example of unjust powers of the monarchical government system (French revolutionaries storm Bastille). Although the main trigger that led to the revolt was King Louis XVI's dismissal of Jacques Necker from the Third Estate (this represented the commoners and lower clergy) (wikipedia Storming the Bastille).

In fear of King Louis XVI being a tyrant, Necker had decided to bring together a mob of revolutionaries.

Their plan was to revolt against the French authorities. Later on, the Parisians decided to steal thousands of weapons- muskets and swords- from the Paris Arsenal (French revolutionaries storm Bastille). The military governor, Bernard-René Jordan de Launay, believed that the Bastille was going to be targeted, so he requested mercenaries to surround his fortress, Bastille. King Louis XVI gave Launay mercenaries upon request. Launay transferred 250 barrels of gunpowder from the Paris Arsenal to Bastille on 12 July 1789. Next, Launay demanded the mercenaries to stand in front of each window, and then risen both drawbridges, Many leaders had delegated Launay to surrender the fortress, but Launay refused. He then received a second delegation stating to not open fire on the mob. However, when Launay attempted to tame the crowd by showing them the unloaded cannons, the revolutionaries grew angrier. Then, a couple of men jumped over the outer wall to lower the first drawbridge, Launay ordered his mercenaries to open fire; which resulted in deaths and/or

injuries of one hundred rioters. When the second group of men lowered the second drawbridge, three hundred rioters opened fire (French revolutionaries storm Bastille). An overbearing amount of revolutionaries began to storm the Bastille, since Launay's mercenaries were unable to defend. After King Louis XVI was told of this hearsay, he demanded royal French troops to surround the Bastille and aim their five cannons at Bastille. Launay then surrendered. Later on, Launay and his mercenaries were taken into custody, and the cannons and gunpowder were seized (French revolutionaries storm Bastille).

Before King Louis XVI became an absolute monarch, the French were suffering serious economic turmoil and food shortages (French revolutionaries storm Bastille). Although King Louis XVI was not an ideal king, he was an intellectual individual regardless the popular opinion. Growing up, he knew the throne would had been ascended to his father and elder brother but, they both contracted tuberculosis and died. Therefore, King Louis XVI had not been entirely trained to lead a country by his

grandfather, King Louis XV. Unsurprisingly, when Louis XVI became King on 1774, he was unable to keep pace with the responsibilities that his job entailed, forcing him to seek ministerial and aristocratic advice for policy making. Unfortunately, in the midst of the Enlightenment era, aristocratic traditions and perspectives were dated.

King Louis XVI thought he should try to tax the nobles, but the Assembly of Nobles refused to cooperate and claimed that he needed to form a gathering of the three estates. He then formed "Estates General"; the First Estate represented the wealthy clergy, the Second Estate represented the nobles, and the Third Estate represented the commoners and lower clergy. The First and Second Estates wanted two people to represent each land they owned, but, the Third Estate was only given one representative for each land they owned. As a result, when a topic was to be ruled, such as taxes, the Third Estate would be overruled. This emboldened the financial minister, Jacques Necker, so he decided to leave the General Estate, and then formed a National Assembly;

where its objective was to represent the commoners and lower clergy. When King Louis XVI found out about the National Assembly he ordered French soldiers to close the doors where they had met. The National Assembly began to meet at a tennis court nearby and began to draft a new French Constitution. The First and Second Estates joined them when they found out that they were attempting to create a France Constitution. King Louis XVI agreed with this convention and decided to make the Third Estate to take a Tennis Court Oath; it stated that they are not allowed to disband without drafting a new French Constitution. A crucial mistake, then, was made. King Louis XVI decided to surround Versailles with troops and then dismissed Jacques Necker.

This decision, once again, left the commoners and lower clergy without representation (Third Estate makes Tennis Court Oath). Another group without representation was women, a group considered ornamental to men. Women were always told that their importance was to reproduce (Crook, 99). Once wrote, “ ...

the exercise of public power depended upon dignity conferred through birth" (Crook, 99).

As it is evident, the commoners and lower clergy were always found without representation, thus not having civil rights e.g voting, without voting there is no liberty, therefore, all civil rights were given to the wealthy clergy and noblemen. This was the primary motivation behind the storm of the Bastille (French revolutionaries storm Bastille).

The results of bastille concluded the execution of King Louis XVI, an overthrow of the monarch, a French Constitution, the French Revolution and Enlightenment Era, economic stability, and the application of civil and gender rights in the modern political system. Although there were a compilation of nine hundred deaths resulting from this storm, there were serious benefits (Storming of the Bastille). On 21 January 1793, King Louis XVI was executed with charges on conspiracy of foreign affairs and sentenced to the guillotine at Place de la Concorde, Paris, France (Louis XVI of France). In 1791, a French

constitution was created, stating that legislative power must be indirectly voted on, subsequently, overthrowing the monarchy (Constitution of 1791). During the French Revolution, the French empire was expanded; later leading to economic stability. Also, the prolonged years of Enlightenment; where it implemented reasoning and not theology in society (Enlightenment). Ultimately, the storm of Bastille reformed authority and led to many amendments to the new government system.

After a slew of governing mishaps, the French monarchical system ceased, and begun the the just powers of all civilians. (Biography) In conclusion, the storm of Bastille had overturned the monarchical government system. On 14 July 1789, Parisians stormed the Bastille because they wanted liberty and civil and gender rights in the government system. This resulted in the restoration of France by revising its legislative rights. Ultimately, France was revolutionized by the lower clergy and commoners that had stormed Bastille on 14 July 1789.

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R.E.M. (2016) by Angelica Aponte

What should be the weapon of choice in a battle against postpartum depression: Antidepressants or classical music?¹⁷

Katsiaryna Sikorskaya

Postpartum depression is more than a form of bad mood. Rather it is a disease which leads to disruption in individual's biological infrastructure encompassing the entire brain chemistry.

Anyone who tries to fight it can be likened to a private enlisted in an Army rank. That is to say, the lowest position, which is normally only held by new recruits with no prior experience. Then, they may realize that during times when the going gets tough, the tough must get going and make a careful decision when choosing the means that would either help or hinder their efforts in winning the battle against depression.

¹⁷Ms. Sikorskaya worked on an earlier version of this article for English Composition II with Professor Michael Lovaglio. The final version of this paper was completed under the guidance of Professor Espinoza-Wulach.

Trauma, grief, financial troubles, unemployment or even the arrival of a baby- all can put anyone in dire straits and mothers are no exception. This in turn can lead to postpartum depression in the newbie recruits, i.e. mothers. Consequently, it throws a monkey wrench into a family unit as a whole. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, "Postpartum depression is a mood disorder that can affect women after childbirth. With postpartum depression, feelings of sadness and anxiety can be extreme and might interfere with a woman's ability to care for herself or her family" (NIMH). Undoubtedly, this situation creates a domino effect. Sonia Hermosillo, a mother of three, went untreated for her depression and has ended up killing her infant by throwing him off a multistory parking lot. Her condition was minimized by the healthcare system and she was simply told to go get some sleep like many other sufferers, testified her husband. The implications are such that if the mother is not happy, the entire family could suffer the

consequences, which puts the wellbeing of its youngest member in jeopardy.

We have been sweeping under the rug the mental health issues of women who had gone through childbirth experience for long enough to realize that postpartum depression is no mere “baby blues.” A breakthrough documentary called “When the Bough Breaks” sheds light on the phenomenon. It portrays the lives of average and not quite average women from all walks of life who battled depression. While some found a peaceful salvation others faced a tragic end like Kelly Martinez. Despite being surrounded by family and friends Martinez felt isolated and helpless after having her daughter. She was diagnosed with postpartum depression and put on multiple antidepressants, yet her symptoms persisted. Three months after giving birth Martinez took her own life. By sharing her story in the documentary her husband hopes to raise awareness and prevent such tragedy from happening to anyone else. Speaking out about the ordeal has been therapeutic, he claims. Likewise, speaking out

and reaching out are wise tactics mothers could deploy from their own arsenal for defense against such a treacherous enemy as postpartum depression.

Between a wide array of antidepressants and a multitude of complementary therapy methods people, these days are somewhat spoiled for choice when it comes to depression treatment. After going through available options with a fine-tooth comb we can begin to narrow it down to two most promising choices, which are antidepressants and music. Now, the latter one should not be underestimated though, for it has the power to promote or even restore health. As reported by Dr. Oliver Sacks, former professor of Neurology at Columbia University, in the article "Gabby Giffords: Finding Words through Song," "Nothing activates the brain so extensively as music" (Moisse). Katie Moisse illustrates that by layering words on top of melody and rhythm Giffords, who lost the ability to talk after sustaining a brain injury, has trained her brain to use a less-travelled pathway to the same destination. With this example we are able to see

that music plays an immense role in fine tuning the brains of people with various neurologic disorders or traumas triggering an avalanche in visual, motor and coordination areas involved in memory and emotion. One thing is certain: music is a powerful tool in the doctor's toolkit.

Decades of efforts by researchers, therapists, specialists and amateurs alike have contributed to a snowball effect that eventually escalated into the exploration of the effects of music therapy on postpartum depression, one of the mysterious mood disorders. The key fact to mention is that not all music turns out to affect the brain in the same way. According to one randomized controlled study published in "The Arts in Psychotherapy" in the article "The effects of music therapy on depression compared with psychotherapy," "Mozart's sonata for two pianos in D major K. 448 has been largely associated with the 'Mozart effect' condition, which has proven to enhance brain capacity by activating several signal pathways. Bach's Italian Concertos have demonstrated their effectiveness in recovering memory in adults with

neurodegenerative disorders" (Castillo-Perez). The study is based on the facts that classical music activates the signal pathways in the brain, which regulates various chemical mediators, thus, promoting the recovery from depression or decreasing its symptoms when used as an adjuvant to psychotherapy (Castillo-Perez). Surely, these findings offer what seems to be a ray of hope to mothers suffering from postpartum depression.

In the 21st century we are accustomed to treating any abnormal symptoms with pills. There is a pill for everything you can imagine, as if it is some sort of panacea. But what we need to understand is that in pharmacotherapy the law of unintended circumstances prevails. In other words, side effects or adverse reactions are oftentimes expected with medication use. The decision of whether the benefits outweigh the risks is in the hands of the "commander" or the doctor per se. To paint a better picture, we can turn to Brook Shields, a famous actress's own testimony to be precise, who has revealed her arduous struggle with postpartum depression in the

documentary "When the Bough Breaks." According to her account, the antidepressants helped her although she does admit that she should have turned to other resources such as exercise and vitamin supplements in lieu of medications. In another opinion, all the antidepressants do is mask the problem, not cure it, Tom Cruz comments on Shields' story. As per case control studies published in "Pharmacological Research" the most commonly prescribed medication for depression, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, is related to increased risk of bleeding (Laporte). As a result, patients are left on the horns of a dilemma. When they take the medication they run the risk of undesirable consequences and if they do not take them, the depression is left untreated and they may eventually develop suicidal tendencies. This leaves us thinking that medication for depression is not a magic bullet after all.

While the child dwells in the womb, he or she is protected from the harmful elements of the outside world, provided the mother leads a healthy lifestyle. Then, after the child enters this world he becomes the most fragile of

all. For instance, animals start walking as soon as they are born and adapting to the environment relatively faster than their human counterparts. The human offspring require the utmost care on behalf of their mother. The delivery and quality of care could become compromised if a mother is suffering from postpartum depression and has a low socioeconomic background in addition to that. This may lead to neglect of simple preventive measures like car seats, smoke detectors, vaccinations, children's well visits to the doctor, not to mention a lack of reciprocal interaction on behalf of the mother to ensure her baby's proper neurological development. One easy way out at first glance is antidepressants which could actually backfire. According to the article "Childbearing and Depression" by Nancy C. Lintner, MSN: "All antidepressant medication cross the placenta and are found in breast milk to some degree. Both prenatal and postnatal exposure may be associated with at least transient neurobehavioral alternations in the newborn" (Lintner). Weighing the risks and benefits is of utmost

importance when dealing with potential health implications, especially, for the child, who is the most vulnerable and should not end up as a casualty of war against postpartum depression.

Unfortunately, postpartum depression doesn't discriminate, that is, it affects women on a broad spectrum of income, age differences and cultural variations. On the other side of the coin are women who, you may say, are well off. They are hostages to some extent in this case as well. However, they do have two strings to their bows. To illustrate, Aarti Sequeira, a celebrity chef, who provided her account in "When the Bough Breaks," was able to hire a doula, a support person, who helped taking care of the newborn during what seemed to be a dark period of her life. Carnie Wilson, a singer in Wilson Philips and a renowned TV personality, has turned to not only medication but also hypnosis therapy for aid. Equally important to say that some cultures, or grandmothers to be precise, provide women who has given birth with a helping hand for up to a month while she establishes a

connection with the newborn and recuperates. Some experts call it “Sitting moon,” a period of postpartum rejuvenation, so to speak. This option may not be available in our western society in which everyone has jobs and many other time consuming responsibilities. If that is the case, various support networks are out there even for those who were not born with the silver spoon in their mouths. One such example is Jane Honikm, a founder of PSI, postpartum support international, who co-founded postpartum education for parents as a support system for new mothers in her community. Once faced with postpartum depression she has discovered that reaching out and helping others can be healing. Thus, she has filled two needs with one deed in a way.

Whenever the victim is drowning in the sea of depression, the only thing at hand that can save them is medication, which serves somewhat as a lifeboat. But what it does is it is only temporarily keeping the victim afloat. If we take away the lifeboat, then, we are back to square one again. This fact is evident when the

depression victims stop taking the antidepressants as soon as they seem to feel better they run a chance of a relapse. As reported by Marcus Zulian Teixeira in the article "Rebound effects of modern drugs: serious adverse events unknown by health professionals," "This rebound syndrome is distinguished from the reappearance of the underlying disease that occurs in the absence of pharmacological drug actions, as rebound syndrome appears after (partial or complete) drug discontinuation and leads to symptoms and/or physiological manifestations more intense than those before treatment" (Teixeira). Another key finding in this research is that there is a significant risk of suicide at the onset of treatment, after discontinuation, and during periods of dose changes (Teixeira). Thus, it would be wise to err on the side of caution in an instance like this one.

Just as fever is a nature's way of telling someone that his/her body is fighting off an infection, or a baby's cry when he or she is born is nature's way of getting air into her lungs, so is depression nature's way of letting

mothers know that there is a depletion in the levels of hormones and neurotransmitters that need to be restored. They can be rest assured that there is a natural way of doing this. As reported by Caroline J. Hollins Martin from the College of Health and Social Care in the article "A narrative literature review of therapeutic effects of music upon childbearing women and neonates," "People who listen to music that they enjoy have shown to experience increased levels of natural serotonin that is used in the manufacture of some contemporary antidepressant medications" (Martin). "Why is serotonin so important?" you may ask. It opposes the action of stress hormones, which new mothers have an abundance to begin with, to create a more relaxed physiological state. Well, it is a no-brainer that music helps us relax. "But how?" that is the question. As reported by Martin, "Listening to music has been shown to counteract the physiological stress reaction, with response release of acetylcholine lowering heart rate, blood pressure and enhancing blood flow to the vital organs" (Martin). The evidence suggests that if music is

capable of altering vital signs just as medications do, then, it means that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Usually, self-medication is not considered a safe practice for anyone, but when it comes to listening to everyday music as a self-treatment method it tends to be quite the opposite. As stated by Peter M. Scheufle in the article "Effects of Progressive Relaxation and Classical Music on Measurements of Attention, Relaxation, and Stress Responses," "Physiological changes associated with listening to classical music and related to reduced stress included significant decreases in β -endorphin following one session of a combined progressive relaxation, classical music, and guided imagery condition, as well as significant decreases in serum cortisol" (Scheufle). Therefore, classical music has been used as a tool for relaxation and stress reduction among such specialists as surgeons, who are masters at multitasking, just like a majority of mothers. They have experienced the reductions in autonomic activity and self-reported tension,

fatigue and sadness (Scheufle). Now, if classical music has helped surgeons, then, mothers are no exception.

When one is desperate to find cure for his condition he might be grasping at straws at first, even if it has a little chance of success, ignoring statistics of any given treatment. When faced with uncertainties it turns out that numbers do matter. In accordance with statistical data provided in the article "Emerging antidepressants to treat major depressive disorder" by Samantha G. Block from Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, "Only 30-40% of patients remit with antidepressant monotherapy, leaving 60-70% of patients who do not optimally respond to therapy. Unremitted depressive patients are at increased risk for suicide" (Block). Now that may seem like a hard pill to swallow for someone relying heavily on medication as their only way out of depression.

However, some skeptics claim that music therapy is a mere distraction technique, or words to that effect. Even though some patients are whistling in the dark, in other words, trying to comfort themselves via distraction/music

when they cannot avoid a frightening situation like chemotherapy for instance, it is not all there is to it. As per the "gate control" theory of pain, in the article "Music as Medicine and Minstrel as Therapist" by Norman T. Berlinger, the neural pathways that transmit pain impulses can be blocked with music; therefore, there are not any left to respond to pain (Berlinger). Hereby, music therapy can bring some pain under the holder's control.

Contrary to popular belief, which dictates us that there is no pleasure without pain, the pleasure of becoming a mother does not have to come at a price of going through labor pains. In fact, the labor pain can and should be eliminated to create a positive experience for mothers-to-be. Oftentimes, the physical pain is overlooked as being the cause of depression. As reported in the article "Effect of Music Therapy During Vaginal Delivery on Postpartum Pain Relief and Mental Health" by Serap Simavli from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Turkey, "The intensity of childbirth pain is associated with mood disorders in the immediate

postpartum. Labor pain could result in the loss of emotional control leading to mood disorders" (Simavli). Lindsay Gerszt, a mother of a 6 year old, who has been suffering from postpartum depression for six years, talks about the trauma of delivery and all the chaos that came with that in the documentary "When the Bough Breaks." The experts agree that, the act of giving birth is similar to running several marathons at the same time without taking a break. Now, you would have to be a superhuman to accomplish that. Moreover, just as a soldier who went through terrible circumstances faces post-traumatic stress disorder, laboring women also face difficult circumstances. Gerszt's doctor recommended to try EMDR, a new technique, which stands for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing for treating post-traumatic stress. A lot of women with PPD have post-traumatic stress. Thus, it is a forgone conclusion that if we are able to decrease labor pain, we will decrease the phenomena of postpartum depression as well.

"But how does pain relates to depression?" you might wonder. Well, the answer may just be in plain sight. The triad of stress, anxiety and depression are intertwined in a conga line dance. As stated by Doctor Nilton Bezerra do Vale in the article "Adjuvant and alternative analgesia," "Chronic stress produces anxiety and depression, which have negative impacts: insomnia, hopelessness, and even back pain" (Bezzera do Vale). With that being said, the treatment options should be targeting the underlying causes of depression since they go hand in hand.

Rhythm, sound and music can be detected in everything that surrounds us; from the sound of birds tweeting to the rhythm of the human heart beating. These sounds help us live in harmony externally as well as internally, maintaining homeostasis. The rhythm of the mother's heart, in particular, is the first sound we all hear in-utero, the only sound capable of soothing children even after the birth as they lay close to the bosoms. According to Bezerra do Vale: "In the interaction music-analgesia, listening to classical music with slow rhythms or music

with sounds of nature has positive aspects, such as increasing distraction, comfort, well-being, and improving the mood of hospitalized patients and their companions, as well as of the whole medical and paramedical staff " (Bezzera do Vale). Thus, classical music serves as a second-fiddle in pain management and as mood stabilizer, reducing the need for medication.

We have been lead to believe that what cannot be cured must be endured. As a result, when life gets chaotic for new mothers who are faced with postpartum depression some adopt an ostrich strategy in the hope that it will resolve itself or disappear, only making matters worse. According to an article "Postpartum Depression 101: Teaching and Supporting the Family" by Jennifer Marie Camp, BSN, "The biggest obstacle in treating postpartum depression is that many families do not seek treatment. There is an extreme social stigma associated with mothers or families that are not overwhelmed with joy at the birth of a new child, and the families may be embarrassed to admit these thoughts" (Camp). Camp

suggests that the best way to battle the knowledge shortfall is education. This information should be part of any childbirth class, she adds (Camp). This bolsters an opinion that simply by attending childbirth classes, mothers could gain an opportunity to be one step ahead of depression development and stop the enemy, i.e. depression, in its tracks. This would allow mothers to recognize the earliest signs, thus, being more comfortable when seeking help.

In most turbulent times of our life it is hard to attain inner peace. Especially, it is difficult for someone suffering from depression precipitated by negative thoughts. How can they attain inner peace in the midst of the psychological turmoil inside their head? The key to answer this question lies with music. According to Eylem Toker, PhD, in the article "Effect of Turkish classical music on prenatal anxiety and satisfaction: A randomized controlled trial in pregnant women with pre-eclampsia," "Music may create a feeling of peace. This situation is realized through a certain selected type of music reducing

neuroendocrine and sympathetic nervous system stimuli, causing an increase in endorphin release and peace and satisfaction feelings to form in the individual" (Toker). Suffice to say, Dopamine, Serotonin, Oxytocin, and Endorphins are all neurotransmitters, or the happy quartet in other words, that can be naturally triggered to be released with the help of music. This can be controlled by the individual without the need for any manufactured aids, such as antidepressants. Naturally, it is not the time to throw away the medication yet, but what we all must agree on is that music is certainly an easier pill to take.

All of the biological explanations and clinical trials may not be sufficient to explain as to what music really can do for patients. Luckily, poets and philosophers may help to paint a better picture. In compliance with the article "Music as Medicine: The Impact of Healing Powers" provided by Harvard Health Publications, Plato explained that "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything else" (Harvard Health Newsletter). It seems

that back in the days, depression was less rampant and our predecessors already knew how to apply their musical knowledge to benefit society as a whole.

William Shakespeare's soliloquy from *Hamlet* is a perfect illustration of a dilemma that depression stricken mothers are faced with:

"To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?" (Shakespeare)

They are burdened with various thoughts: Shall I take the medication or not? Should I try complementary treatments such as psychotherapy, music therapy or both? Should I even bother telling someone I am having problems? If that sounds familiar, then, the treatment options must be discussed with the health professional to help determine the best course of action for a specific situation. Until then, the patients should keep their options open and do not necessarily eliminate one or the

other treatment without proper evaluation. One thing is sure, postpartum depression must not be left untreated.

Analyzing the evidence provided throughout the course of this paper, mothers will have an insight into the world of depression. From this time forward, they will not feel as if they are bringing a knife to a gunfight and, hopefully, will be able to make the right decision. William Shakespeare provides reassurance of that with the following quote: "Music can minister to minds diseased, pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, raze out the written troubles of the brain, and with its sweet oblivious antidote, cleansed the full bosom of all perilous stuff that weighs upon the heart" (Shakespeare). This may seem to give a shred of comfort, but some may find it more meaningful than that.

Despite all of the research performed so far, we can only behold just a tip of the iceberg; the rest of the mountain remains to be uncovered. To put it another way, we are only beginning to understand the science behind the mechanism of music therapy and there is so much

more that remains to be discovered. As per practice survey 93% of respondents agree that additional research is needed. In addition, according to the article "Music as Medicine and Minstrel as Therapist," "There hasn't been enough research yet to make responsible conclusions. We can't feel we're so right that we don't need to prove what it's all about" (Berlinger).

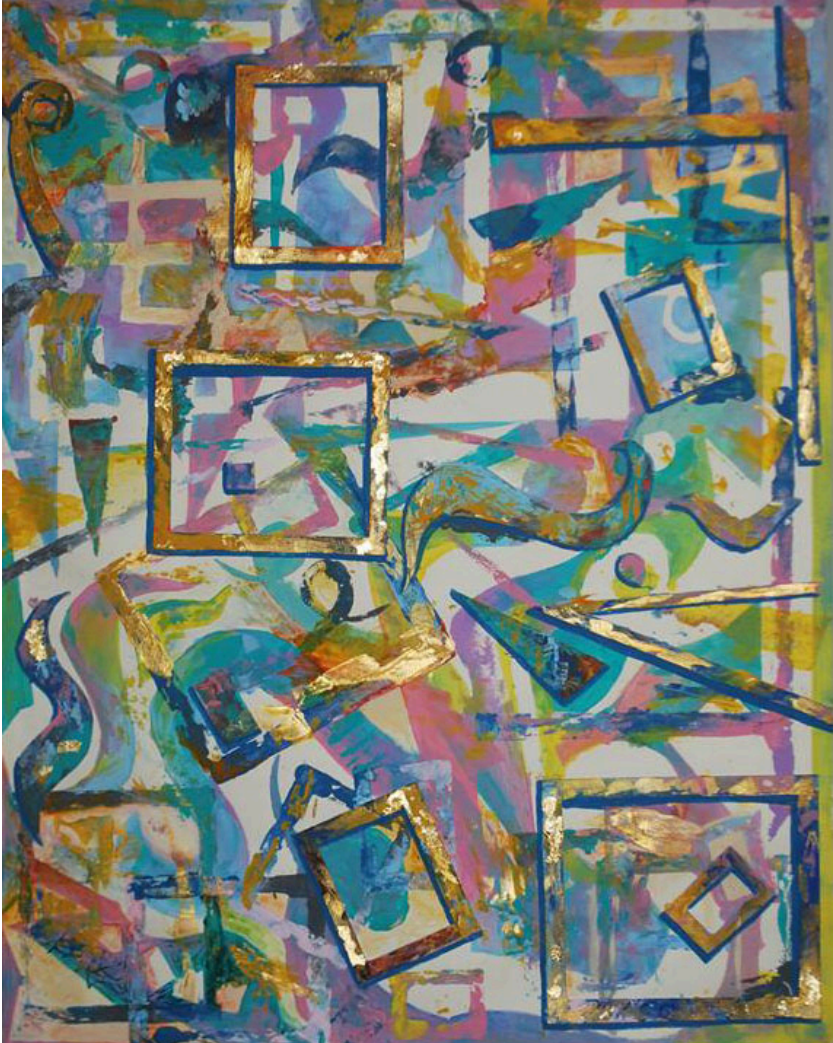
The tactical unit of Allied Motherhood Forces shall triumph over its enemies which are stress, anxiety, pain and depression. No one says it will be a stroll in the park. But the victory will be worthwhile. Even if the odds are insurmountable, the classical music's reinforcement is a shot in the arm indeed.

With the wide array of treatments, it would be improper to single out a particular one. Sufficient to say, treatments may not be the same for everybody. If a treatment is not working, one should be prepared to step up the game. In some instances, it may just mean trying other forms of art as expressions of the soul.

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Not so Eye Candy (2017) by Justine Enriquez

Winners of 2017-2018 Essay Contest.

Making Sense of the 2016 Presidential Election: Why did President Trump win?

Responding to the surprise of President Trump's election, participants were asked to compose an essay explaining President Trump's ideology and why did it resonate with American citizens. To explain President Trump's ideology, participants were asked to rely on at least three different essays. Essays should be at least 1000 words.

Robert Krepek, Humberto Marmolejo and Katsiaryna Sikorskaya were the winners of this contest. Enjoy reading their essays.

Robert Krepek

The rationale behind President Donald Trump's victory is a question that so many people from Trump's base to Trump's biggest critics have various answers to. Many have asked, "How can someone who's been seen as a stereotypical rich New Yorker for over three decades, a reality TV star, a climate science denier, someone who constantly changes political positions, a joke to many when he started running, has a questionable record of business ethics with allegations such as fraud, bankruptcies, discrimination, and debt that he doesn't condemn, has sexual assault allegations, condones violence, and has some supporters affiliated with the KKK become elected President?". Political commentators had offered many answers, but none addressed the central issue: Trump swayed up to 9.2 million Democrats that were mainly located in the Rust Belt.¹⁸ It is my argument President Trump accomplished this by running an

¹⁸ "The Democratic Party Is in Worse Shape Than You Thought" author, *The New York Times*, [June 8th, 2017]

ideologically progressive political campaign that highlighted ideas such as stopping outsourcing and bringing back American jobs, and stopping spending money on wars overseas to rebuild our infrastructure. This non-Republican ideology resonated most with Democrats in the Rust Belt, explaining Donald Trump's success as a presidential candidate.

President Trump's progressive campaign rhetoric often hammered free trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). On October 27, 2016 Trump gave a speech at the Champions Center Expo in Springfield, Ohio bashing free trade deals backed by the Clintons saying,

NAFTA, TPP they want to approve. A disaster. Ohio has lost one in four manufacturing jobs since NAFTA, a deal signed by Bill Clinton and supported strongly by Hillary Clinton. Remember, every time you see a closed factory, a wiped out community in Ohio, it was essentially caused by the Clintons. We've lost 70,000 factories since China entered the World Trade Organization, another Bill and

Hillary-backed disaster. Just this year, Eaton Corporation in Ohio closed its plant, laid off 152 workers, and moved their jobs to Mexico.¹⁹

President Trump's campaign rhetoric hammered free trade deals such as NAFTA and TPP for shipping American jobs overseas and hurting America's economy. Negative impacts on the American economy from NAFTA include the US-Mexico trade balance going from a \$1.7 billion surplus the year before NAFTA was passed (1993) to a \$54 billion deficit in 2014. According to economists such as Dean Baker and the Economic Policy Institute NAFTA is also responsible for the loss of up to 600,000 jobs.²⁰ President Trump used the harm on the American economy from free trade deals as attacks against Hillary Clinton because she supported NAFTA when it was passed while being the first lady during her husband's

¹⁹"Remarks at the Champions Center Expo in Springfield, Ohio" October 27th, 2016

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=123518>

²⁰ "NAFTA's Economic Impact", authors James McBride and Mohammed Aly Sergie, last updated October, 7th, 2017

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/naftas-economic-impact>

presidency. She also referred to the TPP as the gold standard, campaigning on continuing unpopular free trade deals.

While Trump not only campaigned on ending free trade deals, Trump also campaigned on premise he was going to be a president who would bring back jobs to the United States. On Halloween 2016 during Trump's speech at Macomb Community College South Campus in Warren, Michigan, Trump said about bringing back American jobs,

When we win on November 8th, I am going to bring back your jobs. The long nightmare of jobs leaving Michigan will be coming to an end. We will make Michigan the economic envy of the world once again. The political class in Washington has betrayed you. They've uprooted your jobs, and your communities, and shipped your wealth all over the world. They put new skyscrapers up in Beijing while your factories in Michigan crumbled. I will end the theft of American prosperity. I will fight for every last Michigan job. Because, when we win, it's going to be America First. So you have to make sure you get in your absentee ballots, and to get to the polls on November 8th. You have to vote. Vote with all of your heart and soul. Show the whole world how much you love Michigan, and how much you love America, by voting to take back the

jobs that have been stolen from you. I'm asking for the vote of Republicans, Democrats, Independents and First-Time voters who want great jobs, safe neighborhoods, and a government that works for the people.²¹

During President Trump's speech at Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan Trump promised to bring back American jobs to a state with a city that went from the Motor City to filing for bankruptcy in 2013. A good portion of American cars are no longer assembled in Detroit but in Canada, Mexico, and even Italy²², which contributed to Detroit's bankruptcy that NAFTA paved the way for. President Trump held the political class in Washington accountable for outsourcing because every president from Clinton, Bush, to Obama, both Democratic and Republican presidents, and Trump's opponent in the 2016 presidential election Hillary Clinton,

²¹ "Remarks at Macomb Community College South Campus in Warren, Michigan" October 31st, 2016

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=122537>

²² "Top 10 American Cars Not Actually Made in America" author Jason Siu. January 27th, 2017 <http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2017/01/top-10-american-cars-not-made-in-the-us.html>

all supported unpopular free trade deals that shipped jobs overseas such as NAFTA and the TPP, which led to Trump's rise portraying himself as the anti establishment billionaire for the middle class.

President Trump campaigning to stop spending money overseas to rebuild our infrastructure also swayed Democrats in the Rust Belt to vote for him. On October 21st, 2016 during a speech at Newtown Athletic Club Sports Training Center in Newtown, Pennsylvania, Trump criticized the Obama administration and the Democratic party establishment for spending money on wars opposed to infrastructure when he said,

As part of our plan for bold change to make your life better, we will also rebuild our massively depleted infrastructure. Obama-Clinton doubled the national debt in 8 years - but instead of rebuilding America, the money was all lost and America's infrastructure is like that of a third-world country. We're also spending \$6 trillion dollars in the Middle East, with nothing to show for it. Imagine if we had spent this money rebuilding the inner cities of Philadelphia. Instead, we spent trillions on foreign countries and left our own to crumble. We defend

other countries' borders, invest in their resources, but abandon our own. The plan I am proposing targets substantial new investment here at home to fix America's transportation, drinking water, and other vital infrastructure. This can be achieved through a focus on public-private partnerships, proven financing programs, and tax credits that incentivize companies to make major job-and-wealth producing investments in the local economy. This means help for projects like the Pennsylvania Turnpike as well as the Pennsylvania portion of the Appalachian Highway System. My plan will also help Pennsylvania upgrade or replace bridges in the Commonwealth that have been deemed structurally deficient.²³

President Trump campaigned to stop the United States spending money overseas on wars and spend it rebuilding our infrastructure. Trump pointed out that the United States spent \$6 trillion on wars such as in Afghanistan since 2001 and Iraq since 2003. While it's not exactly \$6 trillion spent on wars in the Middle East²⁴, that

²³ "Remarks at the Newtown Athletic Club Sports Training Center in Newtown, Pennsylvania" October 21st, 2016

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=119186>

²⁴ "Did U.S. spend \$6 trillion in Middle East wars?" author, Linda Qiu, [October 27th, 2016] <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o->

trillions of dollars still could've went to rebuild our infrastructure that received a D+ from a report card done by the American Society Of Civil Engineers'²⁵. This also would have created jobs and been much more popular with the American people.

So why did Trump's rhetoric resonate with 9.2 million democrats mainly located in the Rust Belt despite most Democrats calling out controversial things he said? To begin with Trump's rhetoric to end free trade deals resonated with Rust Belt Democrats. Van Jones proved this while interviewing a family in the Rust Belt known as the Seitzs that voted for Obama twice but flipped to Trump. Scott Steitz told Van Jones, "After putting Democrats in office for many years, they just forgot about working families like theirs.". He also said that "Trump is coming through here and speaking change", and "We built the tanks and bombs that won this countries wars

meter/statements/2016/oct/27/donald-trump/did-us-spend-6-trillion-middle-east-wars/

²⁵ <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/> The American Society of Civil Engineers

and for you (Hillary Clinton) to neglect us, we would've voted for anybody else, she hurt us"²⁶. Trump's rhetoric to stop spending money on wars to put into our infrastructure resonated because Americans use our infrastructure for necessities such as travel, water, electricity, etc that gets a grade of D+ while trillions of dollars are spent on the war in Afghanistan that according to a CNN poll in 2013 had only a 17% approval rating²⁷.

President Trump's campaign rhetoric on ending free trade deals and rebuilding our infrastructure ties right into him campaigning to be a "jobs president" because stopping outsourcing will prevent jobs from going overseas and rebuilding our infrastructure will create many jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the month prior to Trump's election 4.9% of Americans were

²⁶ "CNN's Van Jones Talks to Obama Voters Who Switched to Trump" by Josh Feldman December 6th, 2016
<https://www.mediaite.com/tv/cnns-van-jones-talks-to-obama-voters-who-switched-to-trump/>

²⁷ "CNN Poll: Afghanistan war arguably most unpopular in U.S. history" 12-30-13
<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/12/30/cnn-poll-afghanistan-war-most-unpopular-in-u-s-history/>

unemployed²⁸, according to the Social Security Administration the average American earned \$30,533.31 in 2016²⁹. Millions of Americans are starving for jobs and the rhetoric of bringing jobs back by ending outsourcing and rebuilding our infrastructure will resonate to some in poverty, especially that Trump's opponent supported free trade deals during her political career & neglected to campaign on issues that Trump hammered on in his campaign.

President Trump campaigned on progressive ideas that won him the presidential election; however could he have gotten away with his progressive rhetoric if his opponent wasn't Hillary Clinton? Many Democrats see Hillary Clinton as the problem when it came to outsourcing jobs because she supported NAFTA and TPP and approving the spending trillions of dollars on wars because she voted for the Iraq war knowing we had a

²⁸ <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000> The Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor

²⁹ <https://www.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/netcomp.cgi?year=2016> The United States Social Security Administration

crumbling infrastructure. Her campaign didn't redeem herself from her mistakes because her campaign focused on political correctness, being a part of the establishment, and facilitated a political effort against Senator Bernie Sanders³⁰. The Clinton campaign only legitimized Trump being an anti establishment working class billionaire and also legitimized her nickname given by Trump, "Crooked Hillary". Bloomberg Politics did a poll showing that despite President Trump being the most unpopular president in recent history, he's still more popular than Hillary Clinton by two points³¹.

Could a possibility have existed that Trump would have never gotten elected president regardless of the nominee? A poll done by Public Policy Polling showed that Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden are more popular than Trump, stating that 12 percent of Trump voters would've

³⁰ <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/11/02/clinton-brazile-hacks-2016-215774> Inside Hillary Clinton's Secret Takeover of the DNC by DONNA BRAZILE November 02, 2017

³¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-18/finally-a-poll-trump-will-like-clinton-even-more-unpopular> "Finally, a Poll Trump Will Like: Clinton Is Even More Unpopular" by John McCormick July 18th, 2017

voted for Vice President Biden and 13 percent of Trump voters would've voted for Senator Sanders³², who ranks as America's favorite politician³³. Senator Sanders just like President Trump during the 2016 presidential election, campaigned against free trade deals, stopping the wars, and rebuilding our infrastructure, however Senator Sanders' is more consistent on these issues such as voting against NAFTA and the Iraq War³⁴. While President Trump never had a political career prior to his presidency he's supported wars and even thought about committing a war crime³⁵ and during his time as the President of the Trump Organization, Trump shipped his own jobs

³² <http://www.newsweek.com/bernie-sanders-joe-biden-trump-reelection-poll-638432> "ELECTION 2020: POLL SHOWS JOE BIDEN AND BERNIE SANDERS WOULD BEAT DONALD TRUMP" by Julia Glum on 7/18/17

³³ <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/328214-poll-sanders-most-popular-senator-in-the-us> "Poll: Sanders most popular senator among home-state voters" by BY BROOKE SEIPEL - 04/11/17

³⁴ <https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/27110/bernie-sanders#.WmkbDa6nHcc> Bernie Sanders' voting record showed by VoteSmart.org

³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWiaYQUV2oM> Donald Trump on Fox & Friends saying, "We Should Take Out Their Families" December 2nd, 2015

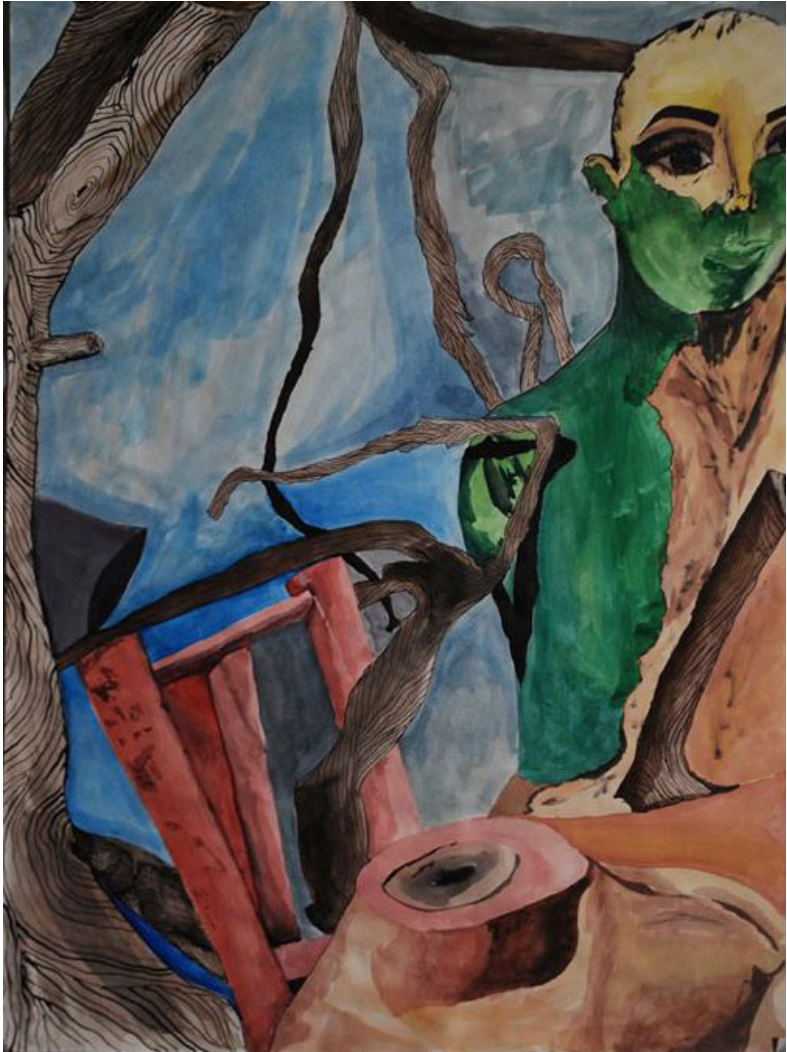
overseas such as his dress shirts being made in Bangladesh and his ties being made in China³⁶.

While the possibility of President Trump losing to a more popular candidate exists, Hillary Clinton and her supporters disagree. Clinton and her supporters say the Electoral College cost them the election, however the Clinton campaign knew about the Electoral College and still neglected to campaign in the rust belt. They often blame Democrats that didn't vote for Clinton but Clinton's campaign lacked policy substance to energize enough voters, which hurt her because her opponent campaigned on being a jobs president. The most controversial argument her supporters use is that Russia hacked the 2016 election tampering vote tallies³⁷. The closest to Russian hacking the election were Russian intelligence officials getting DNC emails giving them to Wikileaks that exposed the corruption of the DNC.

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYoOPgeTMQc> David Letterman interviewing Donald Trump October 29th 2012

³⁷ <https://today.yougov.com/news/2016/12/27/belief-conspiracies-largely-depends-political-iden/> "Belief in conspiracies largely depends on political identity" by Kathy Frankovic December 27, 2016

As we can see President Trump won the election based on his ability to understand the challenges that many Americans primarily located in the rust belt were facing. On doing this, Trump was more successful than Hillary Clinton who ran a campaign on political correctness and being the establishment President Trump railed against by embracing progressive rhetoric. Perhaps if the Democrats nominated a more popular candidate Trump would've never got elected president but since the Democrats nominated Hillary Clinton to be his opponent, the three decade old joke of Donald Trump becoming President of the United States became a reality when he won the 2016 presidential election to become the 45th President of the United States.



Still Life (2017) by Justine Enriquez

Humberto Marmolejo

As I look at the ray of light beaming through my mother's candelabra on our dining table, I observe the beautiful combination of colors visible to my eyes as does everyone else in the room. Yet, there is an unseen light that no one can see at a plain sight but we know it's there. As I think of the factors that played a role in the major win of President Trump, the analogy of the candelabra helps me view the various perspectives of his surprising victory. There are the colors that we can all see but there are also those that we cannot see at plain sight, but we know are there.

The spectrum will represent the campaign platforms many will dispute such argument. Some of the savviest political analysts would say that the Trump campaign did not have a solid domestic or foreign policy. Trump campaign policies were a combination of "Good TV", and outrageous remarks. Anything and everything that were to keep him relevant in the news cycle. This

strategy proved to be highly successful along his candid and often non-political correctness.

I remember a sunny day in mid-June when one of reality TV's most respected host was descending from the golden escalators at Trump Tower to announce to the Nation and the world that he was running to become the 45th president of the United States. As I take a glimpse at the spectrum on my dining table I see that red is the most vibrant and notable color. This aligns perfectly with President Trump's first major speech on June 6, 2016 in NY. In this speech, he was not just announcing his candidacy, he was also giving his views on the nation, from Obamacare to trade. But one portion of the speech was going to give him instant media coverage for days and weeks to come. His comments about Mexican immigrants were seen as repulsive and offensive to a nation of immigrants. Candidate Trump famously said: quote "When Mexico sends its people they're not sending their best, they're not sending you, they're not sending you, they are sending people that have lots of problems

and they are bringing these problems with us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapist and some, I assume are good people".

This remark erupted like a volcano on certain people in our Country. Donald Trump was finally speaking up on themes that were relevant to them. Here began the divisive election season. These remarks weren't presidential and did not poses the diplomatic tone that such policy needed it to be. I remember having a discussion about this particular speech and how speech writers, advisors, and confidants did not find this language and message inappropriate to the values of this great Nation. Trump supporters and campaign official will argue the fact that this was not a divisive message. They would counter the allegations by blaming the liberals and fake media for calling the speech racist. But this speech alone had given a root awakening to those voice who weren't heard before by other candidates. Voters from rural Pennsylvania to West Virginia and across the Nation had found their candidate and

candidate Trump had found his solid base. A base that would remain loyal and unchangeable regardless of what the candidate said.

Looking into the spectrum I see another light on the opposite side of red, is green. I have always been an American with the outmost respect for military personnel. Having family and friends in the army I know how much they sacrifice to protect our nation. During his appearance at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa in July of 2015. Candidate Trump took his personal attacks to a new height. When he described Senator John McCain, a navy pilot who spent five and half years in captivity and was constantly tortured, as a non-hero and quote: "He's not a hero, he was a hero because he was captured, I like people who weren't captured". By all metrics political analysts thought this was the end of his campaign as did many Americans. But the TV celebrity knew how to put a new show and pulled the news onto newer stories, while his support grew.

This was not the last attack on the military, as Candidate Trump also attacked the Khan family, a gold star family of slain U.S Army officer Humayun Khan. Candidate Trump stated that the soldier's mother was not allowed to speak, during Mr. Khan's remarkable DNC speech. These remarks would increase his hostility towards American Muslims and the Muslim community in general. Mr. Khan would give an interview explaining the reason why his wife did not participate in the speech due to the fact that it was still too painful for her to talk about her son's death.

Candidate Trump was reinforcing his image and that was uncountrified as most polls in America were favorite towards Hillary Clinton. I remember going to a trip to a buttermilk farm in northern New Jersey when I engaged in conversation with a Trump supporter who happen to be wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and pins from the Marine Corps, and I asked him what his opinion on this matter. He simply said he thought he is not afraid of speaking up. If his views were shared by

millions more, candidate Trump was undisputedly gaining ground. Candidate Trump was continuing to gain supporters as the country continued to be deeply divided.

Once more I view the spectrum and I see a yellow light right in between the two dominant colors on the opposite ends. To me this light represents transparency and neutrality just like our justice maintains perfect balance. Candidate Trump did not limit his attacks to personal attacks but also to the most sacred institutions in the land our legal system. In June of 2016, Candidate Trump started a feud with the federal judge preceding the case against Trump University. The judge was Gonzalo Curiel of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California who Candidate Trump disputed his ability to conduct a fair trial because he was of Mexican descent and this created a conflict of interest because he was going to build a wall between the two countries. In fact, Judge Curiel was born in Indiana. Invoking race to question the integrity of a District Judge, enabled people to see the character of the candidate, who could easily say

outrageous things with no foundation or facts. After all these scandals it was clear that candidate Trump was in the path to the Presidency. Social media and blogs were a clear expression of the popularity of the TV celebrity. What so many poll fail to gauge was that America was deeply divided by those who felt the Country was losing his authenticity and place in the global stage. Apparently, u=immigrants were taking the country and trade was taking the jobs. Candidate Trump was able to tap on the anger, fear and outrage of many Americans. Many Americans believed that the democrats wanted to damage the 2nd Amendment by introducing gun laws and stricter background checks, Candidate Trump was able to take advantage of tis by promising protecting the 2nd Amendment if he was elected. In doing so, many republicans and the National Rifle Association endorsed his campaign. One of Candidate Trumps most controversial speeches was the one in which he attacked his Democrat opponent, Hillary Clinton, at a Rally at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington in August of

2016. Candidate Trump infamously said, "By the way, and if she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the Second Amendment people, maybe there is, I don't know." This phrase was insinuated as calling for violence against his opponent. This just one of the few instances in which Candidate Trump's behavior normalized the narrative of division and in some extent racism was brought back to the spotlight, with men like Richard Spencer and David Duke voicing their support of Trump.

In conclusion, President Trump victory has many factors some are easily identified some others are more complex like the unseen light in the spectrum. Media played a major role since that summer day in June at the Trump Tower when the media fail to fact check his claims and gave his campaign unlimited media access to continue his devise narrative. Throughout the campaign many claims were made by then candidate Trump but the media wasn't that interested in the falsehoods during the campaign. Like other business they were more concern

with profit and Trump was giving “good TV” and higher ratings. The lack of unity within the Democratic Party’s two main candidates was also beneficial for candidate Trump, with both candidates failing to unify their bases, and thus leading citizens to vote for 3rd party candidates. The Presidential political debates became similar to reality show episodes, where people were excited to see Trump attack and disrespect other candidates instead of learning about his policy proposals.

Then we have the messy truth, the one that some people will completely deny. Those who still believe in race superiority and believe that immigrants are taking their country. President Trump undoubtedly gave a national platform to racist and white supremacist. With the travel ban, the wall, and other such actions President Trump is feeding his base by not condemning the Charlottesville riot, instead stating that there were good people on both sides on the confrontation. Just as recently as January of this year, while talking to a bi-partisan group of U.S congressmen, the President insulted people

emigrating from El Salvador, Haiti, and African countries, by labeling their homelands as “shitholes”, a comment that is degrading as it is embarrassing and shameful for a person with the prestige of being the President of the United States. Such actions validates my two arguments to his victory the inability of news media to their job and unwanted awakening he gave to a sentiment that was believed to be sedated for years.



Riveting Rose (2014) by Justine Enriquez

Katsiaryna Sikorskaya

Election Day is the day when status quo, the state of existing affairs, must change. For better or worse? It all depends on the electorate. Election outcome is influenced by a multitude of variables. In order to understand the current outcome of 2016 presidential elections we need to explore the policies of Donald Trump. These policies can be divided into four categories: social welfare, civil rights, foreign policy and social issues.

A rising tide lifts all boats. It means that improvements in overall economy benefit all parties of that economy. Social welfare is the key element that determines presidential approval by far. According to Robert S. Erikson in his book "American Public Opinion," "Changes in income help to account for changes in party identification as the electorate generally shifts its net partisanship in response to how well the presidential party maintains prosperity" (Erikson). The economic reforms that President Trump puts forth will ensure the working class has sufficient monetary resources by

creating more jobs and raising wages. He declared in one of his campaign speeches given at SoHo in New York City that he would pass a massive tax reform to create millions of new jobs. It is a common knowledge that construction is his strong suit. Thus, President Trump assured to build factories, roads, railways and airports of tomorrow which would lead the way to opportunities for workers' and the country's growth as well. He adds that he would expand the job opportunities for military and miners all alike. Trump's economic reforms would cancel rules and regulations that send jobs overseas. If we were to describe his ideas in just few words that would be "Economy for the common good." These statements definitely struck the right note within the hearts of voters.

Civil rights and liberties are guaranteed by the Constitution. The President who supports and protects these basic rights of citizens is taking a step in the right direction. Thus, Trump promised to appoint judges who would uphold the Constitution, the Second Amendment in particular. In his campaign speech "Accepting the

Presidential Nomination at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio” he claimed that the integrity of the Second Amendment was under the threat of being abolished by his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton and he guaranteed to keep the it intact. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." In general it states that you may bear arms as necessary for the security of a free State. Now, the right to bear arms has always been a sore point. But what everyone realizes is that interfering with another's civil rights is a violation with a potential for public's unrest. On the other hand, the Johnson Amendment has also been addressed by the President by yet another campaign speech "Remarks to the 11th Annual Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C." Under terms of the 1954 legislation (named for its principal sponsor, then-Sen. Lyndon Johnson), churches and other nonprofit

organizations that are exempt from taxation "are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office," according to the IRS website. What President Trump is saying is that freedom of voice has been taken away from the religious community of preachers. He states that all religious leaders should feel free to speak without the fear of losing their tax exempt status. He vouched to repeal this amendment. Once again, the freedom of speech and equality among all members of society has proven to sit well with the voters' decision.

Storms, as rare as they may seem, do happen. And when they do, the crew is urged to batten down the hatches. Just as a ship prepares for a storm, the citizens of any country should be prepared for adverse conditions. President Trump has revealed his stance on foreign policy in the campaign speech at the Union League of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He proposed reforms which will ensure the safety of citizens and ease

the tensions worldwide due to rising number of terrorist organizations like ISIS. President Trump promised to increase military strength, cyber security, modernization of equipment, and add to that job creation to military servicemen and servicewomen. According to Erikson in "American Public Opinion," "Public opinion polls show that people do not follow foreign affairs closely and often do not know the specifics of a particular issue to form opinions." The success of a presidential election depends on its appeal to politically uninformed public, he adds. Undoubtedly, an important policy matter such as terrorism can easily draw the public's attention which can affect outcome of the election. A key factor to consider is that national security is intertwined with immigration security. President Trump doesn't support an open door policy which carries potential possibilities for criminals and terrorists to immigrate to our country. There must be certain restrictions in place that would allow only people who support American values to immigrate, he considers. Therefore, it is urgent that a happy medium is found

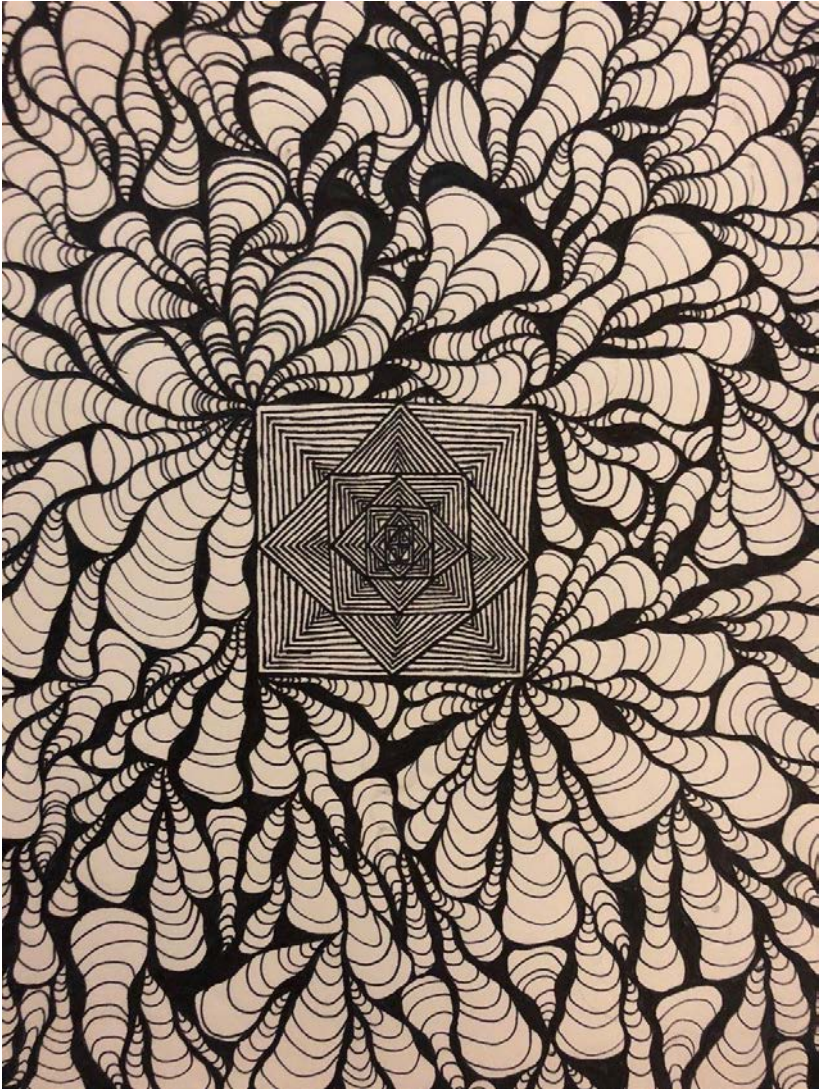
which would avoid extremes of course. First of all, his immigration reform would allow unemployed Americans to fill jobs, and second, everyone wants to feel in safe hands after all. Even though it is not easy to stem the tide of public opinion, matters of safety do play a big role. It is clear that American public stands their ground on immigration security by favoring Trump's vision of a safe country.

Moral values such as abortion, greater public schools and capital punishment are all under the umbrella of social issues, a domain well known to be used to ensure the same rights for everyone. Avowed intent of the President in "Remarks to the 11th Annual Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C." is to break the government monopoly to make schools compete to provide the best education for African Americans, Hispanics and whites all alike. He vouched to provide \$20 billion block grant from the federal government for states to install new school choice programs. Indeed, such funding has great implications for

disadvantaged students. A significant element of his speech was the statement where he maintained that we are all equal, and we all come from the same Creator. This turned out to be a sure cure which ensured voters' support.

Voters tend to judge the presidential candidates based on their personal qualities and leadership abilities in addition to their ideologies. Just like a paradox such statement may appear unreasonable at first. According to Erikson in "American Public Opinion," "Voters chose candidates who have the greatest character, competence and trustworthiness, even if they have opposing policy views." In other words, voters flock to the candidate with stronger character, even if they disagree with everything they say. The President has proven to be ahead of the pack by being a successful leader in his area of business. To put it in simpler terms, he has been able to build an empire of wealth. Having built an empire shows his intelligence to good advantage. Moreover, Trump's campaign speeches offered a silver lining pledging a great deal of money

influx to citizens. Those speeches served as a trump card in a way, a key resource which helped him gain advantage at the opportune moment during the times of rising unemployment rates, unstable educational system, terrorism threats among others and secured him a place as one of the most powerful people in the world, the President of the United States of America.



DNA (2015) by Angelica Aponte

*Alumni Articles and Essays***Toward a More Desirable Existence: *Beloved* Advice to Recover What We Have-Lost**

Robert Giorgi

Safety can be dangerous. Once reached, there occurs a short period of Self in elation—a chemical nirvana, forgotten once order is restored. Protected, one can become fearless, as even the most pointed memories erode like sand in an hourglass. Yet, always a trace remains. An unintelligible emptiness, a “thick” *heavy* absence that, once the last grain falls, becomes a tomb for the buried traumas of the mind. The circumstances forgotten, yet fear palpable, one must be led out of this imaginary convent by another—a desirable object. This other thing is not the scariest, most desirable Thing but it symbolizes significance if it’s completely whole; which it never is. The weight of being all alone in the world—of carrying bearable burdens on shattered souls—may lead one to confuse The Real with reality. Entombed within this

whirling eddy of unadulterated, psychotic joy, there is no reflection, no Other. The Law's symbolic violence victimizes itself, picking the lock but refusing to turn the key. Only when experience-exchange occurs within the equally-unequal collective can this code be broken, the way restored. The shared empathy of infinite voice releases the strangling brambles to reveal a clearing of wholly transcendent half-selves that win without an opponent; blessed to be moderately content, I's scanning for Silverbacks.

Beloved doesn't start at the beginning. In the beginning, a 61-year-old Baby discovers she has hands and gives birth to herself. *Beloved* starts after her death, a preview of the meaningful chaotic metaphor rooted throughout the text. Toni Morrison's characters move through the Lacanian registry, unslipping the Borromean knot by representing—and being a representation of—Lacan's psychoanalytic concepts. Taken together, the meaning inflates from individual journeys of self-discovery to an allegorical account of resolving the loss of

authority through radical replacement techniques. Baby Suggs, the representation of the Mother, a metonym of God, love and ancestry, is both the lost object of desire and victim of Original Trauma. Once she entered the community, Suggs:

became an unchurched preacher, one who visited pulpits and opened her great heart to those who could use it. In winter and fall she carried it to AME's and Baptists, Holiness and Sanctifieds...when warm weather came, Baby Suggs, holy, followed by every black man, woman, and child...took her great heart to the clearing (103).

The 61-year-old grandmother with bad hips does not make those trips, not in the realm of the flesh. Suggs must have reached her congregation in the spiritual realm through prayer, a godly task. She was "holy, followed by everybody" when she preached the Word in the clearing. All signifiers came together, under an "unchurched preacher" that is followed by all denominations, religious or otherwise. She and the community created their own Eden, a garden to cultivate and to be loved, until They

dropped the bomb that paradise lost, making orphans of us all. “There was no grace...no sunlit dance in a Clearing (105)” after that. The flesh may have remained, but Suggs’ spirit was gone with the wind—and the flock. The “heart that pumped out love, the mouth that spoke the Word, didn’t count (212).” To make an impossible decision is to have been raped of choice. She could no longer find the path to meaning, having recognized she never really had a choice in defining it. Heart-broken, forced to leave her collective children, the mother was proven unfit without a reasonable doubt. The Law penetrated the void—he came to show them the Way.

Paul D, the symbolic sheriff, became the mechanism that allowed the Thing to take form outside of the Real after he learned of Baby Suggs’ death. He shook the house and the house shook back, leaving their world exposed to the blissful agony of the inward gaze, which like a wrecking ball, swung between the walls of the imagination and the *faux ami* of Paul D’s symbolic gesticulation, leveling the desire each had for each other.

“Whatever they were or might have been, Paul D messed them up for good. With a table and a loud male voice, he had rid 124 of its claim to local fame (45).” Paul D nearly collapsed the dyad, unlocking the secret to overcoming the dialectic, but he hadn’t yet learned the keystone of transcendence. For although Paul was “blessed” and his intentions pure—he was no Baby Suggs. He didn’t have the “pressing fingers” and “quiet instructive voice” that caused Sethe to lay down “[h]er heavy knives of defense against misery, regret, gall, and hurt (101).” No “tobacco tin buried in his chest where a red heart used to be (86)” could support the heavy weight of the Clearing. The trauma of slavery caused Paul D to *wall off* his heart to protect it from the anguish of loss:

He had shut down a generous portion of his head, operating on the part that helped him walk, eat, sleep, sing...for more required him to dwell on Halle's face and Sixo laughing. To recall trembling in a box built into the ground...The box had done what Sweet Home had not, what working like an ass and living like a dog had not: drove him crazy so he would not lose his mind (49).

Absent the tenderness of the Mother, Paul thought he could overwhelm the opposition by bringing his gun to a knife fight, but what Sethe needed (what we all need) was an equal partner to share her burdens, not a benevolent strongman unsure of how to carry his own. Unconsciously forced further and further from her house by the Thing from their past neither had seen coming, Paul D set off in search of open-heart surgery as Sethe remained to pick up the pieces his presence left.

Shamed by another for whom Sethe had begun to desire, no longer able to construct moments unknown with best-case scenarios, void of silver-lining and saddled by double jeopardy, the hourglass began to crack. In a

world absent an object of desire, she drifted into psychosis, driving towards death:

When I put that headstone up I wanted to lay in there with you, put your head on my shoulder and keep you warm, and I would have if Buglar and Howard and Denver didn't need me, because my mind was homeless then. I couldn't lay down with you then...Now I can. I can sleep like the drowned, have mercy. She come back to me, my daughter, and she is mine (241).

Trapped within the vortex of an untethered mind, every sign is *the* sign. All lanes are detoured, all ways wrong. Sethe had taken her mother-in-law's advice on how to live, and decided to repay that humiliation by reliving how she died – penance for leaving oneself open to closed minds. Succumbed to the cold desire of trauma's past and finding nothing deserving of her attention in the present, her future would have been foreclosed; if not for the “sympathetic voices” her daughter brought, themselves no longer carrying “the revulsion in their eyes (14)” that kept them away for so long. They came. They

were led back to 124—to the site of Original Trauma, the place of wild Things—to dig up the root of helplessness under a half-churched preacher, herself having borne witness unto suffering, reaching the center through miles walked in shared shoes.

Denver ushers in new possibilities for future growth. The empathic daughter transcends the Imaginary and Symbolic by navigating through both without getting lost in either. However, the footsteps aren't hers alone. The words of Baby Suggs gave her the courage "to leave the yard; step off the edge of the world, leave the two behind and go ask somebody for help (286)." She restored the bond between kindness and gratitude with in-the-flesh house-calls, recovered the guidance from Baby through the collaborative exchange of human empathy (294). Buoyed by the community, Denver took steps toward self-reliance, further entrenching their support. When "the father's daughter...decided to do the necessary (296)" by inquiring how she could earn, she became the antecedent of healing—the mechanism that joins the Imaginary and

Symbolic to confront the Thing refugeed from the Real—and helped to reconstruct a new future, a self-contained pluralism of trace memories that balance the opposition, taking care to care, wary of conflating either parent or child or self with notions of infallibility.

Denver saw the way forward by passing on the care she received and forged a new path by passing on what came before her:

A dozen years had passed and the way came back. Four houses on the right, sitting close together in a line like wrens. The first house had two steps and a rocking chair on the porch, the second had three steps, a broom propped on the porch beam, two broken chairs and a clump of forsythia at the side. No window at the front...The third house had yellow shutters on its two front windows and pot after pot of green leaves with white hearts or red...At the fourth house, the buds of a sycamore tree had rained down on the roof and made this yard look as though grass grew there. A woman, standing at the open door lifted her hand halfway in greeting, then froze it near her shoulder to see whom she waved to (288).

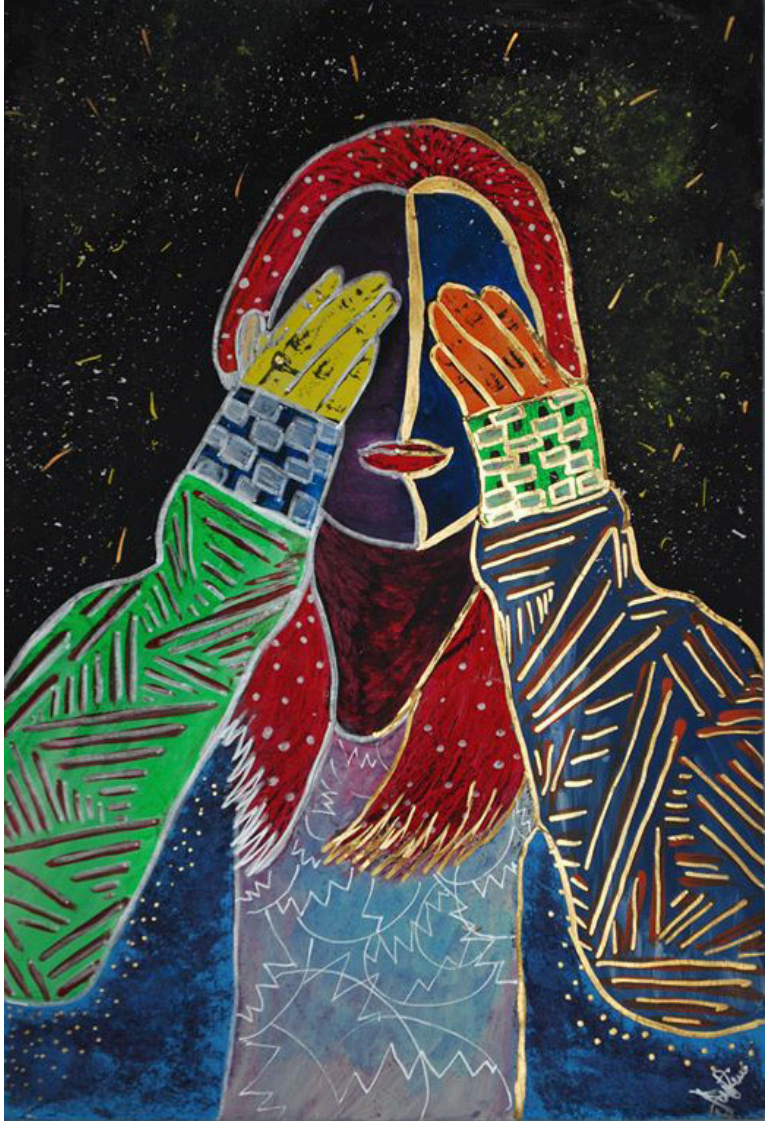
Four houses on the street, four representations of individual and collective growth on a linear trajectory of historical progression. The first is defined by the empty rocking chair, the lost authority that sat above the two steps and gave purpose to our existence. The second house, with two broken chairs on the porch, represents the deconstruction of History's grand narratives of equality; the violence of Law subsuming both colonizer and colonized, and the dangerous safety of a windowless gaze. The third house elicits the imagery of Wonderland, a perverted path to happiness revealed through lonely attempts to live out vanquished fantasies. Two windows belie beauty with hallucinations blinding—loss of sight, loss of mind. At the fourth and final house—unraised from the ground, yard replenished by an ancestral tree—a knightly woman stands in an open door, her arms willing to accept if her eyes tell her not to defend. She embodies the way forward, balancing between the Imaginary and Symbolic, well versed in the things from the past that affect the present, wary of those who may seek to redefine

what is already known, and willing to collaborate with others to define what is not. For there is a future, and it is ours.

Read these words with me. Read them carefully.
Meaning speaks where being lies.

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Nope (2012) by Justine Enriquez

Nursing in the Civil War

Logan Germano

When the Civil War began, thousands on both sides flocked to the standards of the Union and Confederacy, to fight. Often forgotten are the thousands of women who willingly volunteered as nurses to care for these men. With approximately 620,000 deaths, and countless more wounded, the nursing roles of women were clearly vital to sustaining the manpower of both sides. The Civil War were perhaps more vital than in other wars, where women, too, had previously assisted in caring for the sick and wounded men. Until the Civil war, American wars were comparatively of smaller scale. The Civil War was also the first “modern and total war,” in US history--requiring a large mobilization of men and supplies, and in kind requiring a large support staff. Given the huge mobilization, both sides suffered from a shortage of surgeons, and other jobs necessary for proper care. The nature of the war also resulted in greater casualties than

any other conflict the nation would suffer, before or since. Conditions were poor in the field hospitals, and medicine and surgical practices were still rather behind what modern society would expect from modern wars; surgeons usually relying on amputation, often shoddy, leading to death. General William Tecumseh Sherman famously remarked that "War is Hell," and General Robert E. Lee echoed this sentiment, stating, "It is well that *war is so terrible*, otherwise we should grow too fond of it." Why would women, who had no legal obligation to serve, nevertheless decide to do their part in the struggle? Why subject themselves to the horrid conditions and sights, away from home, when they did not have to? Having examined the accounts of five women it seems that these volunteer women were driven by both moral and political motivations to assist the war effort. Religiosity and standard ethics of the day pushed these women to aid the wounded and suffering, and the desire for greater standing as fuller, recognized political actors, also contributed.

Existing histories of Civil war Nurses generally focused on empirical evidence, simply demonstrating the presence of women in the war effort, as nurses, camp followers, and attempt to serve as actual soldiers. These rely upon military reports mentioning these women, or diaries from soldiers or women at the time. Other source only cover what nurses did in the war. Procedures like treatments, surgeries, travel, and other experiences make up the bulk of the information. If the source focuses on their experiences, it normally included excerpts from nurses' diaries, but not expand upon them. They only wanted to recount them to the reader. Others only focus on the medical practices of the time. This paper differs from these previous works on the subject, because it attempts to delve deeper. None really make an argument, other than pointing out the existence of these nurses. Unlike other pieces, this paper hopes to reveal what drove these women to make the choices that placed them into experience what they did.

The primary sources this paper are entirely made

up of diaries and letters of different nurses from the Civil war, giving a first hand account of what they went through. These include individuals such as Clara Barton, Amanda Stearns, Mary Phinney, Sarah Emma Edmonds, and Kate Cumming.

Women who served as nurses in the Civil War were driven in large part by religious motives. America at the time of the Civil war was a nation with a Protestant majority, and many held the Protestant ethics and values of the time dearly. Also at this time, more and more Catholic people began to emigrate across the Atlantic from Europe, in order to make a new life in the United States. This greatly intensified the already strained relations between these two branches of Christianity. Despite these rifts, both sects saw participation in the war as a duty, an opportunity, or both, especially from the perspective of women.

Although relatively new to the United States, Sisterhoods, or nunneries, were some of the earliest nursing volunteers of the war. Before the War had enough

time to start mobilizing society, the only surplus population with the proper training for the care taking of the sick and wounded were nuns.³⁸ In 1861, there were no nursing schools or formalized training to become a nurse.³⁹ Other women and personnel were not trained for that kind of work, meaning that much of the burden early in the war fell upon their shoulders. Only the Catholic church had the large scale infrastructure and institutions to provide relief. Many of the hospitals of the time were run by the church, and churches and cathedrals also rendered aid to those who needed it.⁴⁰ Theologically speaking, the justification of this burden was meant to emulate the suffering of Christ on the cross. In this way, it was believed they would be purer individuals, or at least, closer to God. It was part of their job as “brides of

³⁸ Mary Denis Maher, *To Bind Up the Wounds: Catholic Sister Nurses in the U.S. Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999), 20.

³⁹ Marilyn Mayer Culpepper, and Pauline Gordon Adams, *Nursing in the Civil War*. *The American Journal of Nursing* 88, no. 7 (1988), 981- 982.

⁴⁰ Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds* 38.

Christ.”⁴¹ Furthermore, this sort of work was expected from sisters. Society and other Catholics expected them to perform such hardships. It was believed that, “Sisters, therefore, were considered generous and self-sacrificing”.⁴² In this way, nuns were voluntarily, or involuntarily, pressured into this line of duty. This said, it is difficult to determine the latter, as few nuns wrote about their experiences, and those who did likely did not want to admit something negative about themselves. Those around them were not the only drivers pushing nuns to nursing. There was also a desire to improve the reputation of the Catholic church. As stated previously, the new immigrants who dramatically increased the presence of the Catholic Church in the United States were looked down upon, in large part due to their faith. The Protestant population, like that in Europe, especially the United Kingdom, were extremely Anti-Papist, and feared that the greater number of immigrants would make the Pope have

⁴¹ Ibid 23.

⁴² Ibid 21.

a hand in the nation's politics. They were also seen as lacking the same values, like the often mentioned "Work Ethic" of the Protestants. The sisters actively taking up the mantle of service as nurses was meant to increase the reputation of Catholicism.⁴³ By assisting the nation in its hour of need, it would not only make the sisters look good, but also reflect well on the church, as well as Catholics in the United States. It was hoped that it would make this marginalized group of society more accepted as citizens. It is worth noting, that both sides had nuns as volunteer nurses. Though the North had the majority due to immigration trends, the South also had a sizable Catholic population, and thus, nuns willing to aid the wounded.⁴⁴ Therefore, this attempt at raising the opinion of Catholics was present on both sides of the conflict, and also served to raise the Church's international appearance.⁴⁵ Lastly, many chose life as a nun because it opened many opportunities for women that were not

⁴³ Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds* 21.

⁴⁴ Ibid 58.

⁴⁵ Ibid 43.

readily available in society. Joining a convent gave women other pathways in life aside from marriage, and generally came with education. This was something many women did not have, again, making them an asset early in the war. To many nun nurses, their service was the price they had to pay in exchange for these opportunities convents provided. They were willing to join up for the perks, but now was the time to pay their dues.⁴⁶

Of course, Catholics alone did not support the war effort entirely. Protestants as the majority of the population played an even larger role in Civil war nursing. Although not as numerous at the very start of the Civil War, Protestant women would soon play the largest role as female nurses. Nursing fell into what was traditionally considered the female sphere of life. Treating the sick part of the domestic area of duties women were expected to do, while it had been reinforced by members of the clergy in the form of sermons, as well as women's magazines at the time. These magazines, initially popular

⁴⁶ Ibid 49.

in England, soon made their way to the United States and into the hands of American women, popularizing this notion here.⁴⁷ Thus, women were able to justify their service, and see it as a potential religious obligation, especially after years of the clergy indirectly preaching this doctrine. As the war progressed, and the demand for nurses increased, Protestant women started to become more organized. As stated before, the only women who had some education in the way of medicine were Catholic nuns. Due to this, Protestants needed some form of training to adequately perform in the war. While much training was received on the job, there were attempts by Churches to provide some training. Unlike Catholics, the many branches of Protestantism do not have a central hierarchy, resulting in a loose religious structure, where many sects have no ties to another. The demand for training actually forced many new organizations to form to collect women volunteers, organize, and train them. According to Maher, these “deaconesses” weren't as

⁴⁷Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds*, 20.

prolific as they had hoped, but the implication of women organizing would become apparent later.⁴⁸

If the call of religion was not enough to bring women to serve their country, then it was the cries of suffering from dying men. Being the bloodiest war for Americans in history, coupled with new exposure to the violence in the form of photographs, non-combatants were now more aware of the horrors of war than ever before.⁴⁹ Though it was a huge motivator, it is quite difficult to find evidence in the firsthand accounts to support this. It must be inferred due to various reasons, the first being fact that it is so obvious, why would it even need to be said in the first place, and the second is that certain parts of accounts putting so much emphasis on certain suffering individuals. The nurses even taking the time out of their day to write about a particular patient is itself remarkable, because of all the patients that remained unmentioned in their works. Clearly, that individual stood out to them

⁴⁸Ibid 31.

⁴⁹Ibid 11.

enough to take the time in their busy schedule to document, or at least, to take note of them. This becomes more evident when you look at the sources themselves. The most well-known Civil War Nurse, Clara Barton, wrote the following in a letter to one Mrs. Miller, secretary of the Ladies' Relief Committee, describing the condition of a soldier. Barton writes, "Whoever could have mistrusted that this soldier had *starved to death* through lack of proper attendance? Ah, me, all of our poor boys have not a sister within nine miles of them. And still it is said, upon authority, '*we have no need of nurses*' and '*our army is supplied*'"⁵⁰. Referring to the soldiers as "poor boys" indicates the caring nature of Barton. This sympathetic nature was shared with other nurses in this study. The failure of the army to provide sufficient care for the wounded led to her critical tone of towards the army, which likely would have placed more pressure on her to do more in her role as a nurse, or at least, to

⁵⁰ Clara Barton, *Life of Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross, Vol. 1*. Edited by William Eleazar Barton. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1922), 124.

continue as one, despite the disadvantages. Another description in the same letter describes a patient as the following:

[with] all parts of the body which rested hard upon whatever was under him had decayed, grown perfectly black, and was falling out; his heels had assumed the same appearance; his stockings had never been removed during all his illness and his toes were matted and grown together and are now *dropping off at the joint*; the cavities in his back are absolutely frightful. When intelligent medical attendance was summoned from the city, the verdict rendered upon examination was that his extremities were *perishing for want of nourishment*.⁵¹

Both of these ghastly descriptions, coupled with the fact that this letter was addressed to a representative of the Ladies' Relief Committee, shows the purpose of this letter. It is meant to engender a sympathetic sentiment in the reader, and thereby create an urge to assist the suffering, and understand the hard sights witnessed by the writer. Similar accounts of the suffering endured by

⁵¹ Ibid 125.

those in the war are echoed in other primary sources. From the memoirs of Mary Phinney, She specifically recounts “Such a sorrowful sight; the men had just been taken off the battle-field, some of them had been lying three or four days almost without clothing, their wounds never dressed, so dirty and wretched.”⁵² Amanda Stearns wrote in a letter, “with a sinking heart [I] watched her raise the head of a poor fellow in the last stages of typhoid, to give him a soothing draught.”⁵³ Another excerpt, this time from Kate

Cummings, the only Confederate Nurse with a firsthand account as a nurse, is less gruesomely detailed, but still provokes similar sentiments to the previous quotes. She writes, “[The soldier] did not get the aid he expected from the people. This is a sad blow to us.”⁵⁴ This was less

⁵² Mary Phinney Olnhausen, *Adventures of an Army Nurse in Two Wars*. Edited by James Phinney Munroe. (Boston: Little Brown and Company. 1903), 33.

⁵³ Amanda Akin Stearns, *The lady nurse of Ward E*. (Charleston, SC: Nabu Press, 2013), 12.

⁵⁴Kate Cumming, and Richard Barksdale. Harwell. *Kate: the journal of a Confederate nurse*. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2010), 74.

graphic due to the expectation of Southern ladies to not be so involved in such a bloody environment. From our final nurse, Sarah Emma Edmonds, we get our most brutal account, notably delivered in a laconic manner. “[a] stone church around which we saw stacks of dead bodies piled up, and arms and legs were thrown together in heaps. But how shall I describe the scene within the church at that hour.”⁵⁵ The curt nature of this allows us to deduce some additional information. Edmonds likely does not wish to remember the event in question, and held back details in order to keep the topic printable. She did not want to go over the line to what was considered proper during that time. Wanting to assist the hurt and helpless was, for some, the sole reason for their service. This can be inferred from a letter by Mary Phinney where she recorded, “the Chaplain made a fuss and stopped it, and asked us as a favor to go to church, at three. That was bad enough; but after we were done there, and thoroughly shrived, Dr.

⁵⁵ Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmonds, *Nurse and spy in the union army*. (2014), 53.

Bellangee stood up and said he would excuse no one, and expected us all to follow him and go to dress parade of the Eighty-sixth (I believe), that lies near us, and after that attend services there. I asked to be excused, but he said no. You may think I was mad; here we were marched out like so many cats."⁵⁶ The quotation shows her disdain for any sort of wasted time that involved political or religious practice, and was focused purely on how the time could be used practically for humanitarian pursuits. Clearly she and the other nurses had important work to do to treated the casualties of the war. What all of these nurses have in common is that they only mention a few individuals who they treated. Though there is a substantial number of these patients in these accounts, one must remember they constituted only a small fraction of patients they encountered. The nurses treated hundreds, if not thousands of casualties by themselves over the course of their service. The deliberate omission of all these attests to their despondency from the mass suffering, which made

⁵⁶ Phinney *Adventures of an Army Nurse*, 119.

them feel that doing nothing was unacceptable given the circumstances.

While some women dealt with the moral struggles of the war, others focused on the political struggles facing women at the time. Up to this point in American history, politics was considered to be part of the male sphere. Only men performed in this arena, and women were not seen to be fit enough to participate in governance, or the formation of policy. Women naturally wished to enter this field in order to gain greater recognition as citizens, with the same rights and responsibilities as men. Like men, women were also subject to nationalistic fervor, resulting in many women flocking to participate in the war effort. Often in their descriptions of scenes, the sources depict the soldiers, at least towards the beginning of the war, in a way that clearly shows their patriotism. For example, upon seeing a group of Union soldiers, Edmonds recalls:

About this time, I witnessed the departure of the first western troops which started for Washington. The

regiments were drawn up in line -- fully equipped for their journey -- with their bright bayonets flashing in the morning sunlight. It was on the principal street of a pleasant little village of about a thousand inhabitants, where there was scarcely a family who had not a father, husband, son, or brother in that little band of soldiers who stood there ready to bid them farewell, perhaps for years -
- perhaps forever.⁵⁷

The way she tacitly acknowledged their bravery for going off to war, shows some support for the Northern cause, and the country. Barton shares a similar sentiment in a letter to her cousin Vera, stating, "For however cheerfully and bravely he [God] has given up his sons and sent them out to die on the altar of Liberty, however nobly and martyr-like he may have responded, they are no longer '*mine*' when their Country calls."⁵⁸ Her patriotism is self-evident from the previous excerpt. Even before the war broke out, she still was quite proud in her country. She actually attended the inauguration of President Lincoln

⁵⁷ Edmonds *Nurse and Spy*, 45.

⁵⁸ Barton *Life of Clara Barton*, 118- 119.

was almost swept away with the occasion.⁵⁹ Feelings like this were not just limited to the Union. Women in the South also heard the call of their country. Cumming wrote this after the war, about the cause of the Confederacy. She bitterly recalls the failed cause of the South, remembering, "The southerner may learn a lesson from the superhuman endurance of the glorious dead and mutilated living who so nobly did their duty in their country's hour of peril. And the northerner, I trust, when he has brought in review before him the wrongs of every kind inflicted on us, will cry, Enough! they have suffered enough; let their wounds now be healed instead of opening them afresh."⁶⁰ Clearly after all these years, Cumming still holds dear the cause of the South, and is empathetic to its plight, displaying patriotism to what was her country, that is again part of the Union. Edmonds also wrote about her feelings towards the war and her country at the beginning of her memoir:

⁵⁹ Ibid. 131.

⁶⁰ Cumming *Confederate Nurse*, 3.

[I] was meditating upon the events which had transpired during the past few months, the record of which was destined to blacken the fair pages of American history, I was aroused from my reverie by a voice in the street crying 'New York Herald --Fall of Fort Sumter -- President's Proclamation -- Call for seventy-five thousand men!' This announcement startled me, while my imagination portrayed the coming struggle in all its fearful magnitude. War, civil war, with all its horrors seemed inevitable, and even then was ready to burst like a volcano upon the most happy and prosperous nation the sun ever shone upon. The contemplation of this sad picture filled my eyes with tears and my heart with sorrow.⁶¹

This account, while not as energetic as her previous one, it still has an important theme of love for one's country, as evident in the phrase describing the United States as the "most happy and prosperous nation the sun ever shone upon," caring so much about it that she feared for its well being.⁶² These notions of pride and fear for one nation forced these women to feel a sense of duty, one that

⁶¹ Edmonds *Nurse and Spy*, 2.

⁶² *Ibid.*

would drive them to aid the nation in its time of need.

Aside from nationalism, The desire to gain a more active role in the public sphere, or at least, to alter perception of women, drove these women to be seen as fuller political citizens, and nursing was the key to this. Previously mentioned in the paper was the formation of Protestant women into organizations to better train and organize nurses for the war effort. This is relevant because organizations naturally get people together, and when people get together, dialogues are created. Intentionally or unintentionally, this had political ramifications. Organizations inherently have some interest they want to push or defend, so many turn to the realm of politics to pursue it. This was not the only group women had formed by this time. The trend began some time earlier with the creation of some women's groups like the Female Anti-Slavery society and Female Moral Reform Society, both founded in the 1830s. These groups fought for abolition of slavery, as well as the introduction of women's rights and

suffrage.⁶³ With the arrival of the war, politics came to the fore of society, as the war became the central concern for the United States, and this mobilized more women to at least begin to pay attention to the running of the country and the war. After all, many had their brothers, fathers, or sons involved in the fighting. As a result, increased interest led to further organization by women. According to Maher, "Within two weeks of the outbreak of the war, there were more than twenty thousand aid societies at work in the Union and Confederacy."⁶⁴ This political mobilization has greater implications on things other than the organization of women. It also led to women seeking ways to improve their political position. Traditionally, the job of nurse was considered an occupation for males, but the manpower required for the war changed that. Merely choosing to become a nurse, especially in the southern states, was considered unladylike. Many in the

⁶³ Richard Hall, *Women on the Civil War Battlefield*, (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2006), 2.

⁶⁴ Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds*, 55.

Confederacy considered Cumming working as a nurse to be “indelicate and unfitting work for a Southern lady.”⁶⁵ Furthermore, both sides initially were wary of allowing women to nurse due to “prejudices against females caring for strange men, particularly when good will and not skill was the women's main contribution.”⁶⁶ A nurse by the name of Hannah Ropes stated to her daughter who also wanted to join the war effort that the hospital was “no place for her.”⁶⁷ What the demand for nursing allowed was for women to have a job of importance in the male gaze that let them to demonstrate virtues that were generally not considered to be feminine. This too has a political rationale. At the time, the foundation of full citizenship was based in masculine virtues, such as honor, duty to country, bravery, and loyalty. For the first for many women, an opportunity had arisen to show that women were also able to possess these traits. By demonstrating that women too could have civic virtue,

⁶⁵ Hall *Civil War Battlefront*, 24.

⁶⁶ Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds*, 46.

⁶⁷ Culpepper *Nursing in the Civil War*, 983.

through service to their country, and facing the terrible conditions by aiding their countrymen, implied that women were also deserving of a greater role in society. Similar to these virtues, military service is often considered a cornerstone of citizenship and loyalty to the nation. Nursing was the closest thing available to women, meaning it was the next best way to show their patriotism. These translates to greater political rights and freedoms as well, since the actions of these women would legitimize their position in the debate for women's rights and suffrage. A similar line of thought at the time was that if women showed their mettle, and worked hard in the war, they were to be rewarded afterward.⁶⁸ While this did not pan out, this rationale would continue to the First World War, leading to the eventual success of the suffragist movement. Lastly, these women did not only volunteer just for recognition at home. They also sought to increase the worldwide standing of women through their actions.

⁶⁸ Mary Elizabeth Massey, *Women in the Civil War*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 196.

The best example of this would happen after the war. Clara Barton, emerging from the conflict as an almost mythical figure, was able to use her new found influence to lend a hand in the creation of the Red Cross. She writes:

“I came in time to Geneva, when, while we were waiting, anticipating and settling ourselves, one day there was announced a visit from a body of Geneva gentlemen, having some business with me. They introduced themselves as the officers of a society known as the International Convention of Geneva, -- more familiarly, the Red Cross, -- having for its object the amelioration of the sufferings of war, the succor and nursing of the wounded and sick in battle, the relief of prisoners, the guarding against famine and pestilence, and whatever may befall a people, under the scourge of war.”⁶⁹

The fact that these representatives from the Red Cross met with her, and would allow her to become a part of their organization makes apparent the altered

⁶⁹ Clara Barton, *Life of Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross*, Vol. 2. Edited by William Eleazar Barton. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1922), 5.

perception of women worldwide.

Catholic nurses evinced a unique patriotic motivation because of the status of so many Catholics as despised immigrants.⁷⁰ Many immigrants were not considered to be Americans to the native born ones, and were looked down upon by them for this reason. The war provided an opportunity for these immigrants to prove themselves, and seek a better reputation for their kind through military service. Cumming noted the large number of Germans that served in the Union army during her time in Corinth as a nurse.⁷¹ While the men went off to war, immigrant women did not remain idle. Many volunteered as nurses and other roles, such as seamstresses, bandage rollers, and other auxiliary tasks.⁷² This was an attempt to either demonstrate their patriotism towards their new home, as well as secure them a better place in the hearts and minds of their fellow countrymen, or to demonstrate their thankfulness to the United States

⁷⁰ Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds*, 65.

⁷¹ Cumming *Confederate Nurse*, 85.

⁷² Maher *To Bind Up the Wounds*, 48.

for making their new life possible.

The political factor of slavery is considered by many one of the primary causes of the Civil War, and thus one would assume women assisted the war effort through nursing to help put an end to it, especially on the Northern side, or defend it, like in the South. Interestingly, it is not as huge of a driver for women to get involved in the war as one might think. Of course, largely in the North and New England, strong female organizations promoting abolitionism were motivation enough for some. However, to other women, it was merely a side note, and not the reason why the war was being fought. Barton, in a letter, talks about slavery, and its context in the war:

“In the first place, let me remove the one great error, prevalent among all (Union) people at the South, I presume, -- viz., that this is a war of "Abolitionism" or abolitionists. This is not so; our Government has for its object the restoration of the Union *as it was*, and will do so, unless the resistance of the South prove so obstinate and prolonged that the abolition or overthrow of slavery follow as a *consequence* -- never an object. Again, the idea of "*subjugation*." This application never originated with the

North, nor is it tolerated there, for an instant; desired by no one unless, like the first instance, it follows as a necessity incident upon a course of protracted warfare. Both these ideas are used as stimulants by the Southern (mis)leaders, and without them they could never hold their army together a month. The North are fighting for the maintenance of the Constitutional Government of the United States and the defense and honor of their country's flag. This accomplished, the army are ready to lay down their arms and return to their homes and peaceable pursuits, and our leaders are willing to disband them."⁷³

This decreased emphasis on slavery as the cause of the war at the time was obviously echoed by Southern nurses, like Cumming. With her, it was more about service to her country, and no political statement about slavery was made in her diary. It was more about defending the South from Northern aggression.⁷⁴ Again, it is more a case of nationalism motivating these two to support their respective causes.

Finally, something that may seem unimportant from the present, but had profound political impact was

⁷³ Barton *Life of Clara Barton*, 42.

⁷⁴ Cumming *Confederate Nurse*, 33.

that volunteering as a nurse lent women greater freedom, particularly of movement. While many opted to stay near where their homes were, or work in stationary hospitals,⁷⁵ Others traveled around the country. Hall writes, ““Newspapers often termed them ‘Amazons’; [...] as bold and daring women. In the early years of the war, newspapers reported their efforts admiringly.”⁷⁶ Mary Phinney, a native of New England, has entries written all over the Union, in Washington,⁷⁷ to Massachusetts.⁷⁸ Cumming, from Mobile, Alabama documents her travels well. From Mobile, she set off to Corinth by rail,⁷⁹ and there after a long stint working in the hospital, went to Okolona.⁸⁰ She even notes she “regretted returning home without seeing Kentucky; that I had left home with the intention of seeing Cincinnati before I went back.”⁸¹ Sarah

⁷⁵ Stearns, *The lady nurse of Ward E.*, 13.

⁷⁶ Hall *Civil War Battlefield* 120- 121.

⁷⁷ Phinney *Adventures of an Army Nurse* 36.

⁷⁸ *Ibid* 40.

⁷⁹ Cumming *Confederate Nurse*, 10.

⁸⁰ *Ibid* 41.

⁸¹ *Ibid*.

Edmonds, who began the war in Michigan,⁸² eventually ended up in Washington DC as a nurse.⁸³ As mentioned previously, Barton would also travel extensively, with her renown eventually landing her an invitation to travel overseas to Europe. This is exceptional, because being able to travel opens up one's perception of the world, and bring people into contact with new ideas, people, and customs. It adds a feeling of freedom and adventure that could be empowering. Cummings supports this by noting, "We never think of requiring an introduction to a soldier, as we have perfect confidence in them. To be in our army is a passport. The men are all gentlemen -- at least I have found them so thus far."⁸⁴ All of this work to further women politically, as it would make them more bold and connected.

All in all, though not obligated to do so be legal means, women on both sides of the war willingly joined the war effort to care for the sick and wounded. They were

⁸² Edmonds *Nurse and Spy*, 4.

⁸³ Ibid 123.

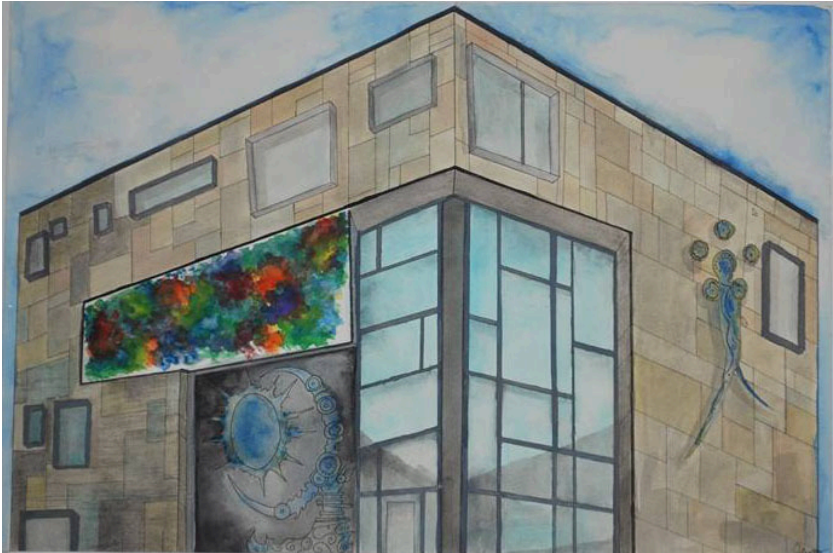
⁸⁴ Cumming *Confederate Nurse*, 46.

drawn to this cause due to a variety of factors, most boiling them down to moral and political reasons. When their nation was in need, in a time of crisis, many women came to its assistance. These women, through moralistic duty, or political drivers defended their homeland. The sentiments they held were strong enough to push them through the conditions they had to work in, and their experience likely hardened their resolve. The sparse entries into journals, as well as later accounts, attest to the difficult of the labor they had undertaken themselves. Religion and its demands on the individual, humanitarian desire to help the hurt, and various political rationalizations, be they nationalism and patriotism, to the struggle for greater rights and freedoms, to defending the values they hold as a society.

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The Corner on 15th Street (2014) by Justine Enriquez

**A Heightened Security During the Cold War Diminishes Democracy and Restricts Freedom.
A bibliographical essay.**

Aaron J. Seguire

For the majority of the twentieth century the United States of America and the Soviet Union had been engaged in a war of ideology. The Cold War was a nuclear arms race that had never resulted in direct combat between the United States and the Soviet Union. As both nations created massive arsenals of nuclear weapons, the thought of a nuclear apocalypse held the world in fear. Americans feared their neighbors may be Soviet spies who wish for nothing but to destroy the American way of life. According to Historian Elaine Tyler May in her paper *Security against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home* she discusses how security and democracy are reliant on one another therefore as the feeling of domestic security dwindles so does democracy and the freedoms all

Americans enjoy.⁸⁵ In order to find any internal spies for the Soviet Union the Government began wiretapping its citizens which furthered a distrust between the population and the government created by the cold war. The heightened domestic security created by the Government within the United States during the Cold war destroyed democracy and the freedoms enjoyed by the American citizens. As the fear of nuclear annihilation grew within the nation people began to question how is the government going to keep them safe, citizens were afraid of each other because they had believed extreme anti-communist propoganda examples thus believe their neighbor is a spy for the Soviet Union, in response to government wiretapping a distrust for the government grew within the people, as citizens feared to go out and live their lives they were unable to enjoy the freedoms and privileges of living in the United States. Therefore, as fear rises within society during the cold war, the government

⁸⁵ Elaine Tyler May, "Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home," *Journal of American History* 97, no.4 (Mar 2011) 939-958. <http://search.ebscohost.com>

takes measures to heighten national domestic security, which diminish ones' ability to enjoy American freedoms at free will.

During the twentieth century witch hunts returned however with no intention of hunting those accused of witchcraft they were intended to locate and incarcerate soviet spies and supporters of communism however in a time where every American was afraid of each other and the Government, the criteria that made one a supporter of communism grew broader and broader. Which created a further distrust between American citizens and further decreased the feeling of domestic security Americans felt restricting their freedoms that Americans enjoy. David H. Price further discusses a "Nation Security State" promoting a "diverse mixture of patriotic and nationalistic programs ranging from McCarthyistic witch hunts to the xenophobic dumbing-down of history and social sciences taught in public schools."⁸⁶ As the red scare of the

⁸⁶ David H Price, "Cold war anthropology: Collaborators and victims of the national security state," *Identities*, 4:3-4, 389-430.
<http://search.ebscohost.com>

twentieth century ran rampant, a distrust within the country for one American to another grew, leading to a decrease of the feeling of security within the country. The government was deliberately making lessons pro-capitalist, anti-communist and pro-America, restricting the students' freedom to form their own ideological opinions in order to protect the Governments ideals of Capitalism and prevent Communism from spreading within the country. During the Cold War Americans felt as if they could not trust their fellow Americans as they may be soviet spies, and the government was heavily influencing public schools to instill the capitalistic ideals of the government so a fear continued to grow among Americans of each other, of the Soviet Union and the Federal Government dwindling the feeling of National security amongst Americans. Twentieth century Historians, Cold war Historians and American Historians have all researched and discussed the affects of the Government raising domestic national security during the

Cold War and how it decreases the Americans ability to enjoy freedoms and live their lives.

While the Cold war ended nearly thirty years ago the majority of works that will be discussed in this essay will be more recent dating from 2010 to the present. The collection of work views the Cold war as a whole and its lingering affects rather than one window into the cold war. In her Article *Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home*⁸⁷ Historian Elaine Tyler May begins by discussing that after World War II security and democracy within the United States were dependent on each other and were inevitably going to collapse. As the Cold war raged between the United States and the Soviet Union the fear of nuclear annihilation grew and grew within the nation the bunker fixation did so as well because as Americans learned from World War II their government cannot help them if nuclear war does commence, the citizens were responsible for their own

⁸⁷ May, "Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home" 939-958.

safety. May states that “Misguided ideas about security along with an investment in private life at the expense of public life, have muted efforts to expand and strengthen democracy, resulting in a nation that is not as democratic nor secure as it could be”⁸⁸. The author continues to discuss how false ideas of security is the downfall of democracy and freedom. May discusses how fear rose within the nation and citizens not only fortified their homes with shelters, they also armed themselves which created a fear of violent crime within the United States. The author touches on the distrust the citizens held for their government due to surveillance policies such as wiretapping, and preventative detection. Making everyone a suspect of being a communist, as fear increase in the eyes of the Americans, so did ones own security during the Cold War which resulted in Americans sacrificing their lives, freedoms of being in a country that allows one to do so, for a feeling of security. In *Senator*

⁸⁸ May, “Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home” 939.

*Joseph McCarthy Describes the Internal Communist Menace, 1950*⁸⁹, the primary source shows that a senator was influencing Americans that the Soviet Union is out to destroy their way of life and that the Americans are the underdogs in the battle statistically. Furthering the fear put into the hearts of Americans Senator McCarthy is fueling the paranoia and fear that has been wreaking havoc on the nation.

Several years after Mays article circulated in 2014 associate professor of history Andrea Friendman had gotten *Citizenship in Cold War America: the National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent* ⁹⁰ where like Elaine Tyler May she opens her work with the relation to the post September 11, 2001 America that we live in to the Cold war with the Soviet Union during the Twentieth Century. In her book the Author discusses the meanings of American citizenship during the early stages of the

⁸⁹ Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Edward J. Blum "Major Problems in American History".(Cengage Learning, 2017).

⁹⁰ Andrea Friedman, "Citizenship in Cold War America: the National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent". (Amherst, University of Massachusetts Press,2014).

Cold War. In agreement with Elaine Tyler May, Friedman discusses the government creating policies that invade the daily lives of Americans at random and at will in the name of public good in fear of Communism. During the Cold War, McCarthyism and the Red scare brainwashed the citizens of the United States, Friedman focuses on the account of an African American woman named Annie Lee Moss^{91,92} Who was a federal employee that worked her way up the chain of command at her job who was accused of Communist sympathies and she had even been investigated by a McCarthy committee. The author gives examples of people whose everyday lives had been affected by the Red Scare and the distrust Americans had for each other.

The primary source *The Federal Loyalty-Security Program Expels a Postal Clerk*, 1954 found in *Major Problems*

⁹¹ Friedman, "Citizenship in Cold War America: the National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent". 80-118.

⁹² Friedman, "Citizenship in Cold War America: the National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent". 80-118.

*in American History*⁹³ is a first hand account that further demonstrates how the policies put forward by the government mixed with the mindset induced by the Red Scared, is a recipe for ones life to be ruined. As a man nearly lost his job and had to fight in order to maintain it because of communist accusations. In cohesion with Dr. May, Friedman discusses how the fear that Americans had of Communists, each other and Soviet Spies dictated how the Americans lived their lives and in the case of Annie Lee Moss who had almost lost her job almost changed the course of her life. In the midst of the Red Scare and the height of McCarthyism anyone that did not fit the description of the social norm had been placed on the scale of communism to some extent between, communist sympathizer to communist. Furthering the distrust Americans had toward each other, McCarthyism and the Red scare increased the levels of fear within the American citizens as well as the feeling of security Americans because they had an idea of the characteristics of a

⁹³ Hoffman and Blum "Major Problems in American History".

Communist and since now able to identify a communist citizens are able to report them properly to the authorities. However the author shows that by doing so the freedoms of expression as well as decisions one makes in life were changed because of this phobia Americans had due to McCarthyism and the Red Scare, in order to remain safe one must stray as far from the traits of a communist listed by the government as possible restricting the ability to enjoy the freedoms that Americans had.

Not only did the American people fear and distrust one another, and their government that spies on them via wiretapping at will, during the Cold War they are also afraid of Soviet Invasion and nuclear war that would ultimately end in the destruction of the planet. In Mays article *Security Against Democracy* she discusses how the American people” became accustomed to the threat of nuclear annihilation, fueling a bunker mentality and a militarization of society”⁹⁴. The article continues to discuss

⁹⁴ May, “Security Against Democracy” *The Legacy of the Cold War at Home*” 941.

that throughout the Cold War members of society had fortified their homes, purchased and installed nuclear shelters for in the event of a nuclear war they would remain safe, armed themselves with guns and ammunition in case the Soviet Union invaded and given up their public life's. As the fear in society rose to such an extent the American people are sacrificing the privilege to be able to go out and enjoy their lives at their free will for the ability to defend themselves in case of a violent crime, invasion or bombing that the American people believed was imminent.

The reality of America and the Soviet Union going to nuclear war almost came to be during the Cold War and not only during the Cuban Missile Crisis. According to Guy Oaks in his essay *The Cold War Ethic: National Security and National Morale* he discusses how the New York Times reported on a flight of B-29 aircrafts to Great Britain and Germany, the only aircraft at the time that is capable of dropping a nuclear bomb as seen in World War

II⁹⁵. The author expands on how the American people knew the aircraft of being capable of transporting and dropping a nuclear weapon on a foreign country as World War II ended with the United States dropping two nuclear bombs on Japan in 1945. This means they also knew of the immense devastation that follows the dropping of a nuclear bomb and nothing is left but a wasteland of what once was. According to a survivor of the bomb of Hiroshima by the end of 1945 the death toll was estimated to be 200,00 with approximately 100,000-400,000 people exposed to the radiation of the blast⁹⁶. As the account from the survivor supports Oaks in his theory in his essay that the American people know the incredible devastation and ability to take away life that the nuclear bombs possessed, and the fear of Nuclear War with the Soviet

⁹⁵ Guy Oaks, "The Cold War Ethic: National Security and National Morale," *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* 6, no.3(1993) 379-404.

⁹⁶ Aiko Sawada, Julia Chaitin and Dan Bar-On. "Surviving Hiroshima and Nagasaki- Experiences and Psychosocial Meanings" *Psychiatry: Interpersonal & Biological Processes* 67, no.1 (Spring 2004) 43-60.

Union was controlling how the American people lived their lives.

The American people believed the threat of Nuclear war to be incredibly real and during the cold war it appeared the United States was preparing for nuclear war with the Soviet Union on a number of occasions. In concurrence with Dr. May the Americans fear of nuclear war was incredibly real and as a result the majority of the American society went into a bunker trend. Where many Americans focused on fortifying their homes incase of invasion and bought bunkers incase of a nuclear war, and in consequence sacrificed their public lives due to fear. As the fear of invasion, nuclear war, of spies or domestic communism, violent crime, and their own government fear within American society rose to an all-time high during the twentieth century. As fear rose to such an incredible level in order to establish a sense of security within America, Americans sacrificed their ability to enjoy their lives and the freedoms that are associated with doing

so. Therefore during the Cold War as fear rose within society, security also rose but at the expense of freedom. *

As the cold war never resulted in direct conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union propaganda was incredibly important for fueling morale and discouraging the enemy. Historian Dr. Linda Risso discusses how radio was incredibly important for the sake of propaganda in her article *Radio Wars: Broadcasting in the Cold War*⁹⁷. As Dr. Risso begins her article she first discusses how radio was unrestricted by the iron curtain and had the ability to directly affect the public of the enemy, friendly nations and the United States morale at the same time. In the article Dr. Risso continues to state that while radio can be used in favor of the United States and capitalism it can also be used against the United states in favor of Communism. The radios effect on the fears and emotions of those who can hear the broadcasts over the airwaves were periodical in the sense that it was based on

⁹⁷ Linda Risso. "Radio Wars: Broadcasting in the Cold War." *Cold War History* 13, no.2 (May 2013) 145-152.

the propaganda that was heard at the time that influenced the mindset of the people. While in one instance it may be pro-capitalist in the next it may be pro-communist, the message interpreted by the people through the radio affects their mindset and how they will act within society. Dr. Benno Nietzel discusses how technology and methods of relaying information are crucial during the Cold War; as both sides of the war had scientists working to improve their propaganda technology in order to gain the upper hand on their enemy.⁹⁸ The article agrees with Dr. Risso in the importance of radio and propaganda however it was used by both sides of the war and had impacts both positive and negative.

In the work by Dr. May *Security Against Democracy*, she also describes the affects of propaganda on the mindset of the people. In her article she gives examples of ads where children are being taught that darkness “is a hiding place for confusion greed conspiracy treachery,

⁹⁸ Benno Nietzel. “Propaganda, psychological warfare and communication research in the USA and the Soviet Union during the Cold war” *History of Human Sciences* 29. (2016)59-76.

socialism.... And its uglier brother communism”⁹⁹. Dr. Mays article describes the propaganda at the time to fuel the mindset of McCarthyism and the Red Scare and is influencing the public that it is there responsibility to report and thwart the spread of Communism to the government. This use of propaganda only further influenced the witch hunts and accusations that ruined the lives of some people during the twentieth century. Her article continues to describe propaganda against the Government of the United States of America. “A 1950 public service announcement in *U.S. News and World Report* from the Electric Light and Power Companies warned of increasing government control and assured readers that the company was ‘battling this move toward a socialistic government.’”¹⁰⁰. Propaganda was furthering the distrust Americans felt towards their own government as well with accusations that it is becoming socialist which

⁹⁹ May, “Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home” 943.

¹⁰⁰ May, “Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home” 943.

in the previous usage of propaganda is the brother of communism. As Americans could not trust one another, or their own government, fear spread like wildfire through the nation during the Cold War.

The majority of the twentieth century the United States and the Soviet Union had been locked in stalemate in a war of ideology known as the Cold War. The era is known as the Cold war merely because there was never a direct conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union however the reality of total Nuclear annihilation almost came true on several occasions during this era. Historian Federico Romero describes how the cold war is an example of a historical turning point in nuclear war as the leaders of the world know realize that there can only be two outcomes of nuclear war the total destruction of planet earth and all life on it or a stalemate¹⁰¹. He reflects on how the intense fear during the cold war still lingers in today's society as the "long term militarization of states

¹⁰¹ Federico Romero, "Cold war Historiography at the crossroads" *Cold War History* 14, no.4 (2014) 685-703.

and societies”¹⁰² remain. In society due to the mindset instilled to those experienced the cold war remain in the same mindset and will never change out of it. The traumatic experience of almost being brought to a nuclear holocaust, the fear of invasion at any minute by a foreign enemy, the phobia of being a victim to a violent crime, the constant propaganda influencing ones mindset and the reinforced extremely pro-capitalist education.

As fear rose within society during the Cold war, distrust grew as well. As citizens did not trust each other as propaganda had influenced them to believe anyone can be a communist nor did they trust the government who had been found spying on Americans wiretapping at will in an effort to maintain national security; citizens felt obliged to provide their own security during this chaotic time. As the American population sought to enhance their own security, a bunker mentality rose where Americans had

¹⁰² Romero, “Cold War Historiography at the crossroads” 689.

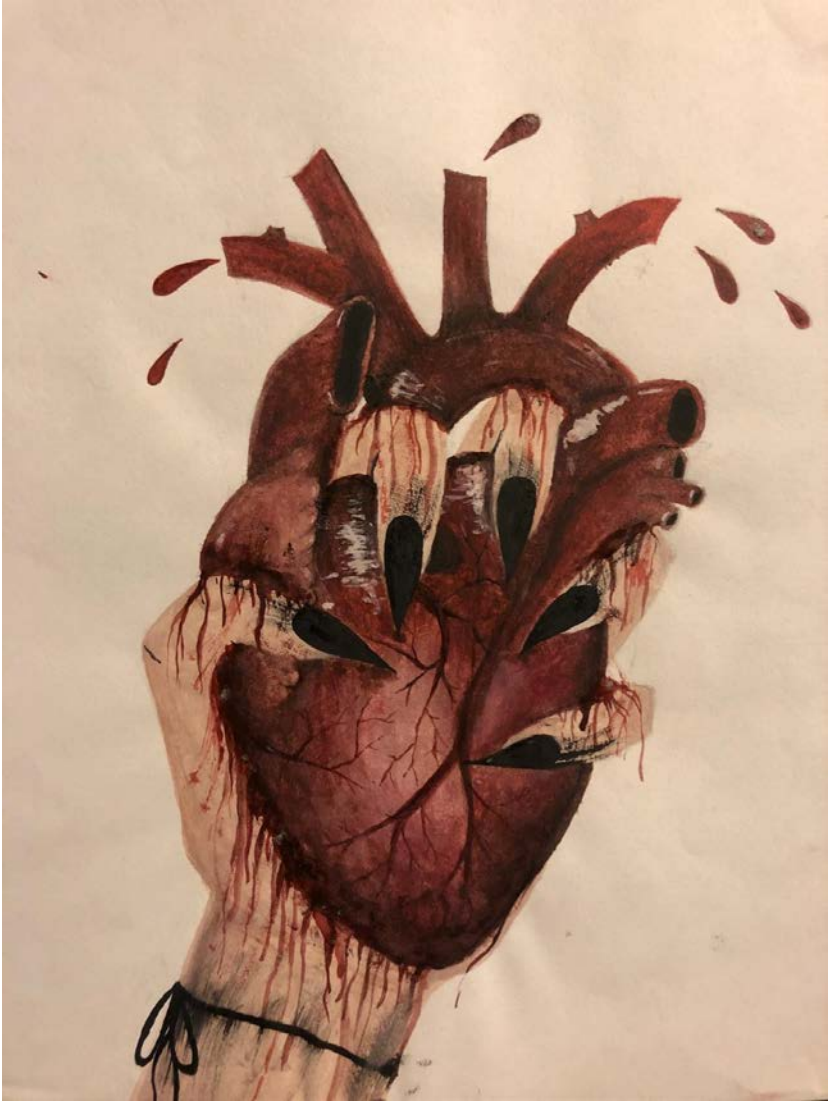
been fortifying their homes, purchasing nuclear fallout shelters and arming themselves with weapons. Fear had taken over the minds of Americans and as a result of the increased fear, distrust and self-security Americans had sacrificed the freedoms they had once enjoyed as Americans. Fear prevented Americans from going out and investing in public life instead they invested their, time, energy and money, into preparing for a war that they truly believed to be imminent. As deconstructionists and psycho-historians research the events of the cold war and relate it to the mindset of the people this subject of research is currently and will eventually form into a plethora of knowledge based on the subject. As the works in this essay have depicted, during the cold war, as fear, distrust and security flourished in society, Americans were willing to sacrifice their freedoms for this false sense of security. Sociocultural-historians will also be able to discover and interpret the social factors and aspects of the daily lives of the American people during the Cold War with the Soviet Union during the twentieth century. In an

attempt to fully understand the way of life the people of this era had underwent, coming out of world war II victorious to almost becoming victims to the end of the world.

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