

NOTICE.

WILL BE SOLD, on Monday, the 23 day of April next, at the late residence of Hardy B. Croom deceased, a variety of

Household and Kitchen Furniture,

together with a *Wagon & Harness*, and other articles, belonging to the Estate of said deceased.

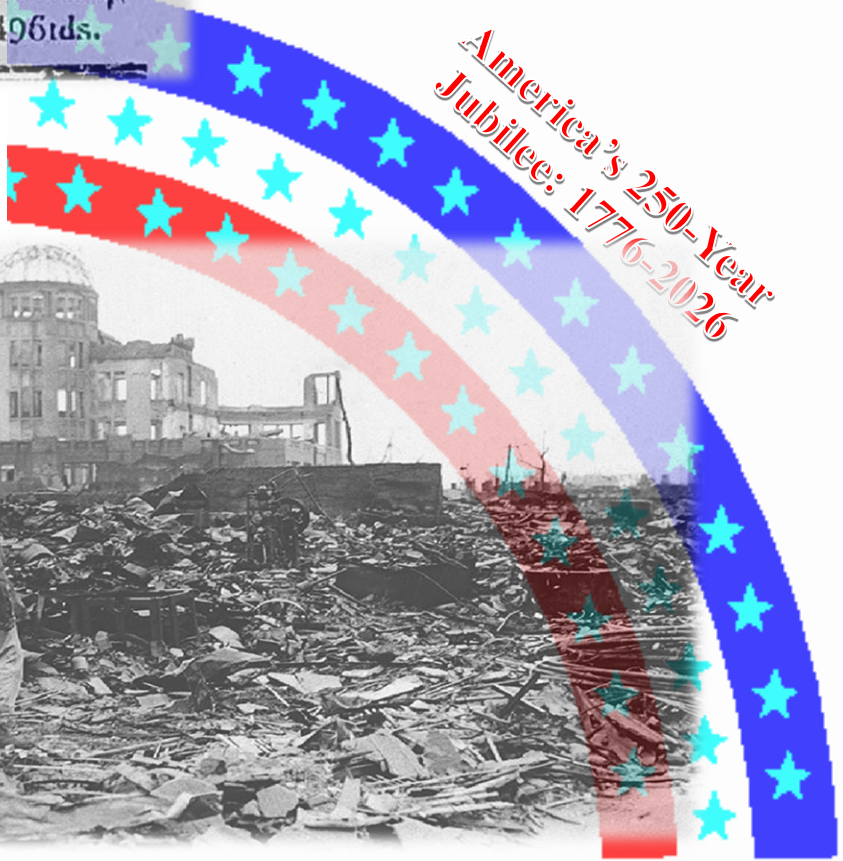
At the same time and place, several **NEGROES**, viz. a man, three women and two children, will either be sold, or hired out for the remainder of the year.

HENRIETTA SMITH, Adm'r
Newbern, 9th March, 1838—496tds.

We in America

But for wars and wealth,
were we ever great?

Don Krieger



America Prays



Join The Movement

§ Impressions

Julie Marie Wade, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Florida International University, and author of 21 volumes of poetry, prose, and hybrid forms, including the newly released nonfiction novella, *The Mary Years* (Texas Review Press, 2024).

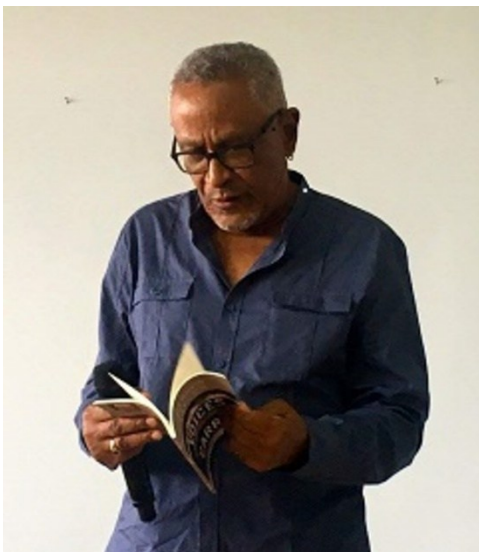


I was so struck by the ways you juxtaposed various events in American history--very recent and much more distant--to illustrate repeated patterns of ignorance and violence. Yet of course, there are also glimmers of hope.

The use of imported text/ artifacts added so much texture and dimension to the reading experience. I was especially moved by the moments where a slim, potent, lineated poem was juxtaposed with denser language in prose form. For instance, "White Out Three Times." The moment "the sun/ bright as a bomb" took my breath. It was perfect. The enjambment too. The smallest way to say so much with a simile I don't think I've ever encountered before.

Most moving here is the human consciousness moving through these pages, making this not "textbook" but living history, witnessed history, and reflected-upon history. Nothing feels static. The language and the reckoning are so alive and imbricated at the micro/personal and macro/historical levels.

Mervyn Taylor is a Trinidad-born poet, an often honored teacher and poetry activist, and author of nine volumes of poetry including *The Last Train* (Broadstone Books, 2023).



Years ago, when I was a student at Columbia, Joseph Brodsky advised us to take courses in other disciplines. We poetry students felt we didn't need anything more. He said, "Take something concrete like geography or even accounting," so we would have something to write about in our poems besides our feelings and our family.

Don Krieger is a biomedical researcher and a poet. His poems simultaneously investigate the heart and the brain, which leads to the most intriguing discoveries. For example, in his poem "Memorial Day, 2019," he finds the distinct irony in a flag so big, it can't hang at half-mast without touching the ground. In "Long Time Coming," a father tells his son, "All the fires are in the colored towns."

All the villains, his work suggests, are to be tried in the same court, the court of humanity, the court of conscience. Perhaps it's because his profession is related to those that examine bodies from the inside, where the heart and liver lie, where blood and bile coexist. In "Our Dead Are Different from Yours," he writes of bodies on sacred land of the Sioux, where in the name of progress, pipelines are being laid. The phrase he writes: "... cradled in cement ..." will haunt me for a long time.

We in America

But for wars and wealth,
what made us great?

Special edition for America's
250-year jubilee: 1776-2026

Don Krieger

Shared Humanities Press

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13Oct2024	addition: “Unveiling on Yom Kippur”
10Nov2024	addition: “Cassandra, Daughter of Troy”
5Dec2024	addition: “§ Impressions”
30Mar2026	Latest Release

Upper front cover image: Estate sale notice from a newspaper, New Bern, NC, 1838: (“We Remember Goodwood”). Lower front cover image: Atomic bomb dome, Hiroshima, 7Sep1945, courtesy of AP Images by Stanley Troutman (“Ground Zero”). Lower right front cover “America Prays” image courtesy of US President Trump, 19Dec2025, [whitehouse.gov/america250](https://www.whitehouse.gov/america250) (“Our President’s Prayer”). “But for wars and wealth, // We in America // were never great” originally appeared in the haiku column of [Asahi Shimbun](#), one of Japan’s national newspapers. Back cover image courtesy of the US State Department.

Thank you, Marcia, always.

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§ Forward

3Oct2024: So many I know refuse to write about the horror and madness of our world. I too am reluctant, out of fear of causing harm, out of fear of doing something wrong, out of despair, out of hopelessness. Strangely it is this last, hopelessness, which moves me to push through and write. Maybe my words could provide a moment's relief or an insight to another person? Though I have little hope as I watch the world, though I feel that I am crying out into an echo chamber filled with memes, I refuse to surrender to silence. - Don

10Nov2024: There is a small but silver lining to the shocking US Presidential election, that many times many are coming to understand the profound sickness of America. *We in America* speaks to this from many points of view for all to see. I think that we must understand what lies beneath to find a way forward. – Don

Election Day

Palmetto bugs
perch dead still
or fly right at you.

The day after
I woke in the dark
to a loud scraping.
It was perched on a foam cup
rubbing its jaw on the lip.

Another time,
I cut one in half with a hoe --
both ends scrambled
into the grass.

Ants in the hot sun
rush away from the child
with his magnifying glass.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Click or scan to
listen or comment.



§ Prologue

Nothing is more seductive:
privilege. Indifference
to the innocents' suffering
is a sickness.



Our Dead Are Different from Yours

Thirty years ago construction halted on I-279. Down from Penn Brewery and North Catholic, bones were found where Voegtley Church had stood. Seven hundred twenty-seven dead were sifted from the earth and cataloged while backhoes, pavers, politicians, and lawyers stood by.

The Voegtley remains were separated for burial and laid with a single marker. Present were scientists, reporters, and Dorothy Davies, baptized at Voegtley Church eighty years before. No living relative was ever found, but the Voegtley dead were on protected ground and respected.

Last fall, the Standing Rock Sioux found sacred ground on the Dakota Access pipeline path. Now their dead lie pulverized beneath an easement and thirty-inch pipe cradled in cement.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Alien Creature at the Door

Tuesdays I wore my cub scout uniform, pedaled the mile to school, most of it on Martin, parallel to Dixie Highway. All day I listened, trying to understand. I took my turn at kick ball, then stood to the side silent.

That day, the bell rang early -- the sky was dark green and black, rolling like boiling honey. I turned onto Martin; the wind came up in my face like a wall, then the rain and the roar, flying branches and lightning. The night-like sky reached down and covered the houses and street -- I ran to the nearest door -- a man with a gun opened it and sniggered, "You wait on the porch."

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listen or comment.



Long Time Coming

The house fires were always in colored town. Dad called them less fortunate. “But we’re different; our house is concrete and you’re meant for college.”

The missile crisis came; Castro had nukes; bombers flew over every few minutes; convoys ran Dixie Highway for weeks, so it was hard crossing to school.

We had no basement for shelter. I dug a hole in the yard one time; it filled with sea water. We were drilled in class, marched to the closet to cower. When Nixon got in, I was terrified, thought he might use nukes in Vietnam, burn everything clean.

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listen or comment.



Upward Mobility

Summer nights we heard shots down Larimer Avenue. One day Bo, who barks at everyone, shat in the neighbor's yard again. When I got home from work, the neighbor rushed at me with a shovel.

We bought a place across town by the city steps to the Allderdice ball field – you can hear the kids up the hill at night all smoked up and laughing. I often hear our neighbor plinking away with his .22 at the squirrels beneath their feet.

When the kids piss in the parking lot and I ask, *take it elsewhere*, they come back, *I'll kill you, kike*. I've thought about calling the cops, about the kids, and about the neighbor.

Where I work there's a loading dock in the basement, women in paper coveralls, busy, laughing – you can smell the morgue and the incinerator. When I walk through to the stairs and my office, I feel like a Jewish kid at the front of a 50's Florida bus, ashamed of my privilege, invisible, but branded.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Sunday Drive

I only need to show my face at work sometimes; most of what I do is online. Since the Covid though, it's that way for almost everyone. We ping-pong every other week, her place or mine, four hours each way in my sealed car at eighty, like a transport pod in Musk's Hyperloop, but we have windows.

truck packs race in slow motion
shredded treads, bright fog
roadkill, tunnel mouth
cops under every overpass
glaring like the dazzling sun.

Once we stopped in Breezewood for crackers. The manager was terrified – he checked each of us at the door for a mask as if we had come for his head.

Just this Friday, my office computer went down. I'm not essential, so I called someone who was to push the reset button. The grand-baby was born on Friday too. We drove up first thing Saturday, watched little Becky while dad helped mom in the hospital, then drove back, four hours each way.

broken trees laid flat
cell towers and billboards
Jesus Saves . . . Fresh Cracked Eggs
hog barns, silos, *Keep America Great*
When will we reap the whirlwind?

We're hoping mom and baby come home today,
and we're waiting two weeks to see if we got the
Covid, or they did.

Driving back, south Jersey was empty and dark
as a closet. Some fool sat in the blind spot on my
bumper for half an hour. We were frightened, and
enough is enough. I slowed to get his tag number,
not so easy since he slowed too.

flags on every porch
church buses on cruise control
chain reaction pile-up
Are you confused? Trust Jesus
One Eight-Hundred Four truth

I turned on the dome light and dialed 911 as we passed him. He bore off on an exit just then; maybe the cops got him, maybe not. I wonder if he had a pistol and what would have happened had I.



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listen or comment.



On Valentine's Day, 2018, an intruder murdered 17 and injured 17 more at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida. A year later, Sidney Aiello and a second unnamed Parkland survivor, and Jeremy Richman, the father of a child murdered in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary, all committed suicide in the same week.

Memorial Day, 2019

Ninety miles upriver from Washington,
the flag at the Blue Goose Market
flew for a year at half-mast.

Was a child of Maryland
killed last year at Parkland?
And why was it

that since those survivors' suicides this March,
as I passed by on the highway,
roof open to the sun and spring air,

the flagpole was empty? But no,

none of that makes sense,
for though twenty of our warriors
killed themselves this month,

a new flag flew on Memorial Day
so huge that at half mast
it would touch the ground.



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listen or comment.



Our President's Prayer

If I slave each host
to her fetus

yet separate migrant mothers
from their kids;

if I name queer love
Abomination

all, that our nation
shall live

Your holy Word;

if I am a fraud, a pervert,
graceless, for sale,
and a vicious coward;

am I not just a sinner
doing Your holy work?

Am I not, though human,
just like You?



Join The Movement

¹ Image courtesy of US President Donald Trump, 19Dec2025, whitehouse.gov/america250

Citizen Trump and his children travelled to Russia many times. How often did they engage in humiliating acts or solicit money laundering investments in their American properties?^{1,2}

Joint Press Conference at the 2018 Helsinki Summit³: Putin's Puppet

A reporter asks, *"President Putin, Why should Americans ... believe ... that Russia did not intervene in the ... election?"* Trump interrupts: *"The electoral college is ... advantageous for Democrats ... There was no collusion ...* Putin adds: *"... you can trust no one ... "*

They ask Trump: *"... President Putin denied ... election interference ... Every US intelligence agency has concluded that Russia did ... would you denounce what happened?"* Trump: *... Where are those servers? ... it's a disgrace that we can't get Hillary Clinton's ... emails.*

They ask Putin *"Did you want President Trump to win the election and did you direct any of your officials to help him?"* Putin answers: *Yes, I did. Yes, I did.*

Trump is caught and bound
as slave to master
like a masochist john.

They ask Putin: *"... does the Russian government have any compromising material?"* Russia's strong man chuckles and says: *... I was an intelligence officer myself... back then, when he [Donald Trump] was a private individual, ... St. Petersburg economic forum, for instance ... There were over 500 American businessmen ... Do you think that we tried to collect compromising material on each ... of them?*

He taunts Trump
with unrevealed secrets
we all must suspect
but even Trump
can never know.

Coda: *On 28Feb2025, US President Trump and VP Vance publicly confronted Ukrainian President Zelenskyy with the false narrative that Ukraine had started the war with Russia and then informed him that Ukraine must provide financial incentives to the US to preserve our support for its war of aggression. On 3Mar2025, the US suspended delivery of all military aid to Ukraine. On 2Apr2025, President Trump placed exceptionally high tariffs on imports from every nation on earth except Russia.*

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-russia-business-financial-ties-2018-11>

² <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-trump-property/>

³ The transcript (NPR) from which the quotes were taken may be found here:

<https://www.npr.org/2018/07/16/629462401/transcript-president-trump-and-russian-president-putins-joint-press-conference>

Here is an article (The Atlantic) containing links to several different videos of the press conference, several different transcripts, and comments regards differences/alterations in both the videos and the transcripts provided by different outlets including the Russian and US governments. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/07/trump-putin-press-conference-transcript/565385/>

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listen or comment.



Unveiling on Yom Kippur (Orig: *Times of Israel*)

I entered the synagogue last night for the *kol nidre* service past two armed and armored police. The *rabbi* told us of the need to find our Jewish community because we are strangers in a strange land, a small minority. He told us that we were all at Sinai when God spoke to us through Moses, that we must work tirelessly to be righteous, to deserve the blessings we have received. Through it all I kept thinking how flawed and small I am, how often I cause harm no matter how vigilant I am, no matter how hard I try for perfection.

I was cold and uneasy, not like someone among friends praying together in cushioned chairs, but like one of the condemned. I wondered what difference I could make if someone burst in with a machine gun blazing. I worried that I and all those around me stood condemned for my failures, that none of us were to be sealed in the book of life this year. When the *rabbi* told us of the 36 righteous people on which the fate of the world depends, I wondered if I am one of the innumerable unrighteous who bear responsibility for suffering and death.

When it was time for the mourner's *kaddish*, a few stood in remembrance of their family members. I stood too, and though I have no faith, I prayed with the congregation, but in remembrance of the Palestinians who died a year ago today. They are my kin, as surely as the strangers sitting around me in that synagogue. All of us are complicit in the deaths of 1200 Israeli's on October 7, in the deaths of 30,000 in Gaza since, for Hamas' and Hezbollah's continued murderous belligerence, for a primary cause of it all, Israel's past and continued expansion into the West Bank, and for Israel's tyrannical police presence throughout Palestine.

We are complicit, yet we are helpless to do differently. How can we fail to support Israel? It will always be a refuge for all of us whose ancestors were herded together and murdered. Yet how can we support doing precisely the same to Palestinians, who Israel brutalizes in its futile and self-destructive attempts to kill all its enemies, who Israel herds together and displaces by the hundreds of thousands, like cattle being moved from one pasture to the next?

I marvel at the tight correspondence between America's response to 9/11 and Israel's response to October 7. We too mounted a counter-productive and disastrous war on an innocent people. We too handed our enemies a far greater victory with our self-destructive over-reaction than they had already won. We too killed 20 innocents for every one of ours that was murdered. We too inflamed the worldwide hatred for our people and our nation far beyond that which had led to war in the first place.

I marvel in horror at the naïve hope that I can amend the wrongs of the past year and somehow induce God to seal my name in the book of life. What of my complicity in the deaths of 100,000 Iraqi's, 30,000 Palestinians, 1200 Israeli's, and counting? What of my indifference to the suffering of others when hurricane Helene swerved away from Tallahassee but devastated towns 50 miles east while we never even lost power?

I marvel too at the dread with which I carry my complicity, as if the religious dogma of Yom Kippur has been transmuted into personal guilt. The sense of responsibility that I carry is, I believe, far greater than what I have done to deserve it or, for that matter, than what I can do to correct what I have done. Yet there is truth in it. I think that truth resides in my indifference to others' suffering, That is a kind of sickness, sociopathy. Indifference requires that I fail to recognize or acknowledge the humanity of another, that I ignore the simple fact that they are like me, that they could be me.

On October 27, 2018, a monster shouting, "Jews will not replace us," opened fire at The Tree of Life Synagogue. Three days later, the first of the murdered were buried. One was husband to my co-worker and friend. Eleven months later, I wrote "Unveiling." The Jewish Chronicle turned it down but the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published it.

... **Unveiling** (Orig: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*)

Eleven lives taken
at The Tree of Life – hours later
and miles away, our writing workshop
canceled,
our chance for defiance,
however small,
gone.

I waited at the funeral
with hundreds to pass security,
newsboys on the street asking
with their cameras, “Who is afraid?”

I watched her halting walk to his grave,
reluctant like a child.

I followed like a child
with a shovelful of earth
to cover him.

I listened to the learned
seeking meaning, hundreds crowded
into the Beth Shalom basement,
police in armor at the entrance.

When the doors locked behind us,
I noticed the dampness
and a draft on my bare neck.

Today was eleven months,
hundreds standing witness
in the warmth beneath the trees.

I still live so I was there.

I wonder though
would we have
cancelled our workshop
for a drive-by
at a playground?

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

DECLARATION,

By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

In GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled.

WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind require, that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid

For protecting them by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States :
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the World :
For imposing Taxes on us without our consent :
For depriving us, in many Cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury :
For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences :
For abolishing the free System of English Laws, in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies :
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments :
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging War against us.
He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
He is at this time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.
He has excited Domestic Insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



§ The Big Lie

I woke to the governor's
stay-at-home order,
drove the turnpike anyway.

Each cop we passed,
and there were many,
I thought of my white Subaru,
and my skin,
like a thousand times before.

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listen or comment.



In the Beginning

“... there are no slaves, ... anyone that sets foot here becomes free. Men and women are equal before the law ...” -- Article 19, Pinochet’s Constitution

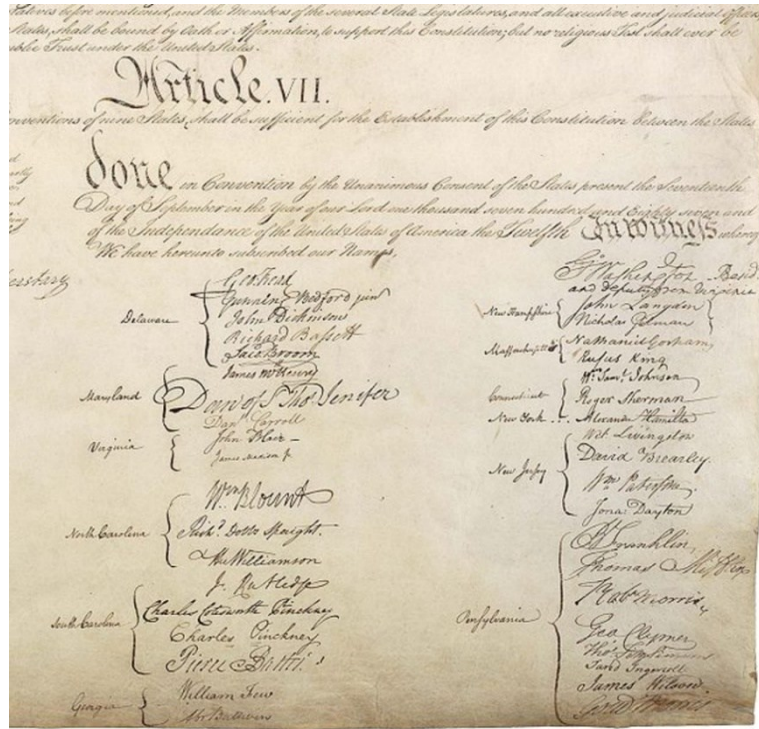
Our Fathers conceived America
in war and a sweet promise:
*all men
are ... equal ...*

Eleven years later
at full term
with a quill dipped
in iron gall ink

they aborted their oath
to enslaved people,
to the indigenous
and to the unmale --

even Chile’s monster did better.

But for wars and wealth,
we in America
were never great.



Signature page of the U.S. Constitution



Martha's Dowry and George's Will

"... [our first president] was one of the few ... who was not carried away by power." – Robert Frost

He was eleven,
heir to the family farm
and ten slaves. Later that year
he bought eight more,
and yet another seven
as a young man.

He lived
three generations. At his death
he owned one hundred
twenty-three,

and one hundred, fifty-three more,
Martha's dowry doubled
in their twenty-year marriage,

his and hers, hers hostage
to the law, destined
for return to her first husband's heirs.

George's death
freed his own
though he left it to Martha
to sign their deeds.

He was our first King
in all but name.
He could have ended it
and redeemed the nation.

"Principled and elegant,"
said Abigail Adams.

Comments from my dear friends:

"You disrespect the Father of our country."

"Most people owned slaves; you would have too."

"It's not poetry."



Mount Vernon Female Slave Quarters¹

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



My Dear Friend

If we had sat together
in a Berlin café
on that black election day in 1932,
sharing our art,
laughing and learning,

I know you would have spoken for evil
though the beast and his brown-shirts
were weaker then
than ours are now.²

Would you still have spoken so in '33
when their mad master so like ours
triumphed,³

or weeks later
when their Capitol burned,⁶
or the next day
when their Patriot Act passed,⁷
or the next month
when their Manzanar opened?⁸

What say you now, so like then,
just weeks since our President's darlings,
The Uncolored Beasts,
swarmed our Reichstag?

Which of us will pick up your tab this time
and what will it be?

When is the end of friendship?

Will you speak for the monsters still,
tender yet again
your gas-lighting caress
to all of us who love you?



Romanisches Café, Berlin.^{4,5}

... Mein Lieber Freund (German translation by Antje Stehn)

Wenn wir
an diesem schwarzen Wahltag im Jahr '32,
in einem Berliner Café
zusammen gesessen hätten
über Kunst geredet,
gelacht und voneinander gelernt hätten,

ich weiß, du hättest für das Böse gesprochen
obwohl das Biest und seine Braunhemden
damals schwächer waren
als jetzt bei uns.⁹

Hättest du im Jahr 33 auch noch so gesprochen?
Als deren verrückter Tyrann, dem unserem so gleich
triumphierte,¹⁰

oder Wochen später
als ihr Reichstag brannte,¹¹
oder am Tag nachdem
die Reichstagsbrandverordnung verabschiedet wurde,¹²
oder im Monat nachdem
ihr Dachau eröffnet wurde?¹³

Was sagst du jetzt, so wie damals,
nur wenige Wochen nachdem die Anhänger unseres Präsidenten,
die weißen Bestien,
unseren Capitol in Massen besetzten?
Wer von uns wird dieses Mal die Rechnung zahlen
und was für eine wird es sein?

Wann ist eine Freundschaft zu Ende?

Wirst du weiter für die Monster sprechen,
und uns die wir dich alle lieben
mit deinen falschen Streicheleien
umgarnen?

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



In February 2017, Charlottesville's city council voted to remove statues of confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Six months later, "Unite the Right" rallied thousands to protest. A young neo-Nazi from Ohio, attacked counter-protesters and killed Heather Hyer. He was convicted of 29 hate crimes and first degree murder. At sentencing, he apologized to his mother. She told reporters, "He's the least sincere person I've ever met. ... He probably deserves the death penalty." In 2021, the statues were finally removed, but the stone pedestals on which they stood remain.

White Out Three Times

After the wedding I puked,
then slept in the bushes. At first light
I drove east, no goodbye, the sun
bright as a bomb. By eight

it was snowing. By ten
I was alone running sixty
in the passing lane, the others
behind slow trucks or on the shoulder.

This weekend a white boy
drove into the crowd
and killed somebody. Other boys
with credit cards, K-Mart torches,
mommy's clean muscle shirts, chanted,

You ... won't ... erase ... us.

Obeah

A spiritual practice (origin: Igbo, Nigeria)

He tapped small drums, a wiry man
with skateboard, cross-legged
on the summer sidewalk.
I refused his plea for alms
with a palm wave. *Ah*
he said, *the curse*
of the white man.

In my dream he lives
in a concrete room without
furniture or heat, he
and his friends are watched
and murdered, yet they are kind,
make poems and music,
as some did
at Auschwitz.

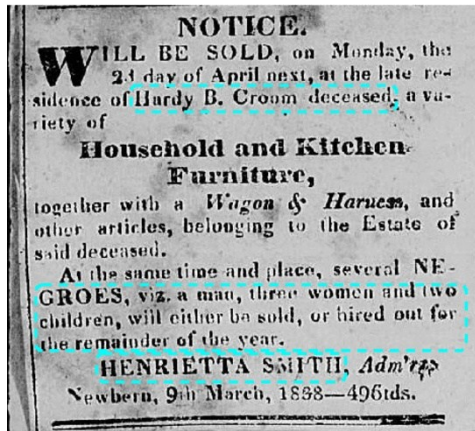
I felt I had been there
in that room always
with him, my enemy. Then
the bright light of morning
washed through me
with luminous privilege.



We Remember Goodwood

On a stormy Monday night in 1837, the steamship Home came apart and Hardy Croom was killed with his family. His wife and their youngest, Justina Rosa, were buried in New Bern with their maternal grandfather. Hardy and his son and older daughter were never found.

Greenwood Estate was their Florida home; today it's Goodwood Museum and Gardens. Ancient live oaks grace the verandas of the Main House and the History Promenade. Rare plants that Hardy identified and cherished still flourish in the Gardens. A 4th grade lesson at Leon Schools Dot Net states: *A visit to Goodwood today provides guests with a unique glimpse of history and the people who shaped the Tallahassee community*¹⁴.



Hardy's brother Bryan moved in from his nearby plantation¹⁵, expanded the house, and renamed it Goodwood. Hardy's mother-in-law Henrietta sold his North Carolina furniture and six of his people including two children. Hardy's son was the last one seen alive. His next of kin was not his father's brother, but his mother's mother. So ruled Florida's Supreme Court in 1857¹⁶. So all that was Goodwood passed from the boy to Henrietta.

In 1850¹⁷, Bryan Croom owned 120 people and had \$105,000 cash. In 1860¹⁸ he had 50 people and a \$130,000 cash. He bought war bonds and fought for Alabama. In 1870,¹⁹ he had \$3,000 cash and lived near three other Croom families he had likely owned. His Evelina died that year.

In 1858²⁰ Henrietta sold Goodwood to a cotton broker from New York, *twenty three thousand five hundred dollars with interest at the rate of Eight per cent.* The sale included 1750 acres *more or less* and Sam, Dolly, Ron, Mary, Jane, Celia, Easter, Parker, Daniel, Lucy, Old Lucy, Henry, Mary, Letty, Maria, Ben, Lena, Shirley, George, Patsy, Mary, Louisa, Harris, Nancy, Will, Rachel, Ted, Godfrey, William, Simmy, George, Rose, Noah, Jonas, Fereby, Moses, Celey, Mathew, Alfred, and Letty *together with the future issue and increase of the females thereof*. A month before, Bryan had transferred 186 people to

Slaves	Age	Sex	Particulars, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate
178	67	M	Farmer	3,000
179	46	M		
180	21	M	Am't on farm	
181	42	M	Farmer	6,000
182	41	F	Domestic	
183	46	M	"	
184	36	F	"	
185	9	M	"	
186	45	M	Farmer	
187	41	F	"	
188	42	M	"	
189	48	F	"	
190	2	F	"	
191	14	F	"	
192	7	F	"	
193	11	F	"	
194	35	F	at home	

aged about 15 years George a man about 29 years old Letty a girl about 8 years old Mary a woman about 28 years old Susan a girl about 7 years old Harris a man about 28 years old Nancy a woman about 5 years old Will a boy about 4 years old Rachel a girl about 2 years old Fred a man about 32 years old Godfrey a man about 28 years old William a man about 28 years old Letty a girl about 10 years old George a boy about 5 years old Ned a man about 38 years old Rose a woman about 37 years old Noah a boy about 8 years old Jonas a boy about 3 years old Fereby a girl about one year old Moses a man about 28 years old Letty a woman about 25 years old Mathew a boy about 10 years old Alfred a man about 32 years old and Letty a woman about 22 years old together with the future issue and increase of the females thereof To Have and to Hold the above described lands and the above named slaves and all and singular the tenements improvements and appurtenances

Henrietta for \$10²¹. Surely that was by court order. Two years later²², she had 20 adult women and \$42,000 cash. She must have sold the leftover men and kids.

The generations who worked at Goodwood or who were leased out to others are long gone, so too their quarters and graves. Come tour the Main House for \$12 -- no pictures please. You will marvel at the baroque mirrors and clocks, the frescoed ceilings and black marble fireplaces, the mahogany staircase²³ shipped from Europe along with the artisan who made it, the servant bell-calls in the sitting room, dining room, and upstairs bedrooms. You will see the high canopied master bed, the step stool with hidden chamber pot, the ancient wooden cradle at the foot of the bed. Though long since hidden, you will hear of the back stairs²⁴ used by the servants to bring breakfast on fine China from the basement.



Come take pictures and walk the gorgeous grounds for free during office hours. Several out-buildings have been renovated for business meetings, weddings, and baby showers. Forget the past and share the joy of your wedding this Valentine's Day on the Main House lawn courtesy of The Croom Plantation and Leon County Clerk Gwen Marshall²⁵.

Wealth stolen from the lives of purchased people and their children bought the land, built Goodwood, and furnished the Main House with treasure. The rare grandeur of that wealth was the story I heard when I took the tour. The grim truth of life as a possession was absent.

I visited Mount Vernon in 6th grade. We loved George Washington as Father of America, even though the furniture and mirrors in his house were plain compared with Goodwood. I recall no mention of the enslaved people's lives there either, though recently I found pictures of the women's quarters online²⁶. They look an awful lot like the barracks at Auschwitz²⁷, don't they? There is a difference though. Auschwitz was never meant to hold families generation after generation.





"... all men are created equal ..." Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

- *Eighty-seven years later: "... all persons held as slaves ... are and henceforward shall be free ..."* Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863.
- *Two years later federal troops take control of Texas to ensure that all enslaved people are freed, June 19, 1865, Juneteenth*

Eighty-nine years later: "... in the field of public education ... segregation is a denial of equal protection ..." Brown vs Board of Education, May 17, 1954.

- *Eight years later federal marshals escort James Meredith at the University of Mississippi, October 1, 1962.*
- *The next year federalized National Guard troops escort Vivian Malone and Alexander Hood past Governor George Wallace at the University of Alabama, June 11, 1963.*
- *Seven years later over Governor Claude Kirk's objections, federal marshals enforce court-ordered busing for Florida school children, Spring 1970.*

Two-hundred, forty years after America's Independence Day: "... one in a thousand black men [in America] can expect to be killed by police ..." Edwards et al, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, August 2019, 116(34): 16793-16798

Juneteenth at Carter-Howell-Strong Park

Just clear of the underbrush I walk the street's edge up Dewey, an Old Frenchtown morning and ninety-five degrees, rusty metal roofs, a rare two-story, vinyl siding and the original owner engraved on a plaque, a man on a bicycle, toothless, a shoeless woman in an overgrown yard, a pickup on flat tires -- the driver's door on top of the engine ... the Fourth Street Market, meat cases and canned juice, bagged ice and grey fruit, twenty for a baseball cap, twenty more for a case of Coke.

The Frenchtown in my city -- we never walked there as kids, and they never came around our streets either. But some things have changed.

I jog shirtless round the lagoon, hot sun on my pale skin, a great egret with fanned wings on the fountain in the center, wind-rippled water to the left, pigeons and crows, geese and laughing gulls settled in the shade or foraging together, trash and pond scum to the right, and from every bench men wave "hello," shade trees over-hanging. So many offer a kind word, a sharing hand, but each must repeat himself so my kind may hear.



Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Strange Days

“One in a thousand black men [in America] can expect to be killed by police.” Edward et. al.,
Proceedings of the National Academy, 2019.

I woke to the governor's
stay-at-home order,
drove the turnpike anyway.

Each cop we passed,
and there were many,
I thought of my white Subaru,
and my skin,
like a thousand times before.

May we always remember
understand and care enough
to do better sooner.

हिंदी अनुवाद: आशा सिंह गौर , अनूप पांडेय

The Hindi translation is by Asha Singh Gaur and Anoop Pandey. Here is Asha's comment: “The moment I read your poem, I wanted to translate it. You have condensed the brutality, fear, and prejudice in less than 20 lines. *Strange Days* is a unique and emotional expression.”



... अजीब सा समय (Hindi Translation by Asha
Singh Gaur and Anoop Pandey)

"अमेरिका में हर एक हजार अश्वेत पुरुषों में से एक व्यक्ति को इस
बात की आशंका होती है कि वह पुलिस द्वारा मारा जा सकता है!"
- एडवड एट.अल. 2019, राष्ट्रीय अकादमी की कायवाही, 2019

मेरी नींद खुली गवर्नर के
घर से न निकलने के आदेश के साथ,
फिर भी मैं नाके तक गाड़ी ले गया।

वहाँ बहुत सारे पुलिस वाले थे,
हम जिस भी पुलिस वाले के पास से गुज़रे,
मैंने अपनी सफ़ेद सुबारू के बारे में सोचा,
और अपनी चमड़ी के रंग के बारे में,
हज़ार बार पहले की की तरह।

हमें हमेशा याद रखना होगा,
हमें इस बात को समझना और
इसपर पर ध्यान देना होगा
कि हमें बेहतर बनना होगा,

शायद ... शायद बहुत जल्दी।



Click or scan to
listen or comment.



To Save a Life Is to Save the World

Early in the 2016 American football season, Colin Kaepernick and then other players kneeled during the national anthem to protest police brutality.

An A student and all-state,
you went cheap to Nevada
where you shined. On the block
again four years later
you brought top dollar to go pro.

To the fans now, you're ingrate or hero,
gifted, beautiful in your tight pants
and plastic armor, ripe for the blow
that will break your neck.

When we stand for the anthem,
you kneel beneath the yoke
and cry out: No more!

If the field announcer called us
to remember the dead
as you do,

one at a time,

would we kneel with you,
we who count murders
on a scoreboard,

would we remember the dead
as you do,

one at a time,

each a mighty blow
which moves the world.



Click or scan to
listen or comment.

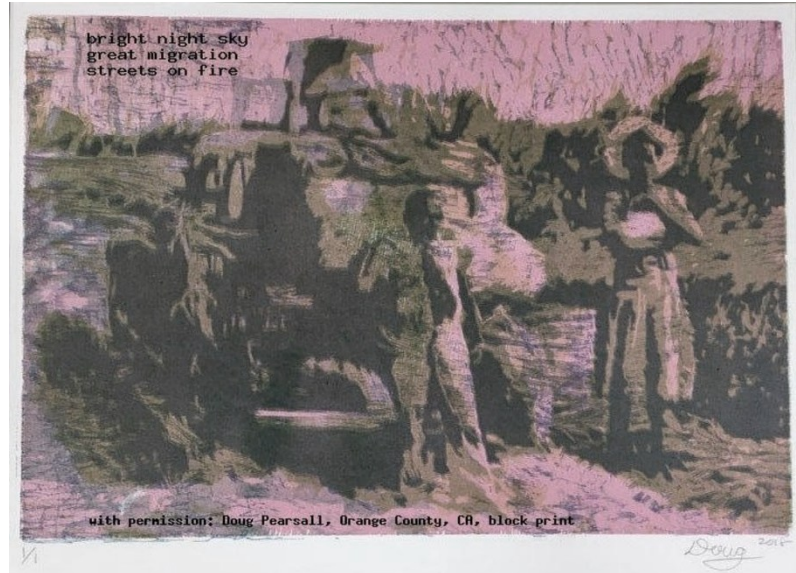


On the night of July 17, 1944, black naval work gangs loaded bombs and live munitions onto two cargo ships at Port Chicago on the Sacramento River. At 10:18, explosions destroyed both vessels and the pier, killing 320 including all of the loaders. The black seamen who had been off duty were ordered to clean up the decimated base, including their dead colleagues, and then resume loading operations downriver at Mare Island. 252 protested. When threatened with court-martial, 202 returned to work. And though defended by Thurgood Marshall, 50 were convicted of mutiny and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Their white officers were given 30 days hardship leave.

That Familiar Comfort

The river at Port Chicago
was pink in the dawn glare,
strangely like that night
they fled for their lives,

biplanes spotlit by burning buildings,
kerosene bombs bursting on the roofs,
clubs and rifles,
white boys and their fathers,
beasts hunting little Africa
for black runners.



Greenwood District, Tulsa, OK, USA, 1Jun1921

Public Domain



Do you know this story,
the Tulsa pogrom of 1921,
six thousand black people jailed,
no whites, the Greenwood ghetto
burned to the ground,
no insurance ever paid,
no crime ever charged,
the dead uncounted.

I never knew it
till today. I bear that shame,
small price for my privilege.

From this day I forswear
that familiar comfort,
the cowardice of forgetting.


Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Indifference to the Innocents' Suffering Is a Sickness (Orig: *Times of Israel*)

This morning, October 7, 2024, I received the following email notice from the Board Chair David Sherman and CEO David Halperin, both of Israel Policy Forum. It included a list of in-person events of remembrance scheduled for today in Toronto and in major cities across the United States.

ISRAEL POLICY FORUM



One Year Since October 7

Dear Don,

For Israelis and Jews across the world, October 7 is not a distant tragedy. It was an assault by Hamas terrorists on our people and a violation of our humanity that permeates our days with anguish.

One year later, we remember the nearly 1,200 innocents murdered by Hamas—the most Jews slaughtered in one day since the Holocaust—and stand in solidarity with the survivors of the massacre, sexual violence, and other unthinkable atrocities.

And not for a single moment do we forget the 101 hostages still held captive by Hamas—only half of whom are estimated to be alive after one year in unimaginable conditions. Nor do we forget those whose lives were cut short while in Hamas captivity and those who died valiantly trying to secure their release since that black Saturday. Only once the hostages are brought home to their families will we begin to be able to see beyond this nightmare.

I applaud these efforts and am horrified and outraged by the needless death and destruction perpetrated by Hamas militants on innocent Israeli citizens. I call on the people of Palestine to identify and bring to justice those among them who murdered the innocent on October 7.

I am horrified in solidarity with the people of Israel by Hamas's unconscionable act of continuing to hold 101 hostages. I call on the people of Palestine to identify and bring to justice the leaders who continue to perpetrate these universally recognized crimes.

I am deeply saddened and discouraged by the ongoing failure and loss of life among those in the Israeli military who continue the battle to find and secure those hostages. I call on the people of Israel to halt these counter-productive wars and bring their loved ones home.

But I am also horrified and discouraged by the total absence of any acknowledgement of Israel's destruction of 20,000 innocent lives in Gaza since October 7, and its repeated displacement of hundreds of thousands on a moment's notice. I call on the people of Israel to identify and bring to justice those government leaders who are responsible for these unjustifiable and counter-productive crimes of war.

The failure to recognize or even acknowledge the suffering of the people of Gaza represents an implicit denial of the simple fact that Palestinians are people, that they exist, and that they too are worthy of consideration as fellow humans. This implicit denial of personhood is, by definition, sociopathic. It characterizes far too many of those in positions of power in the Israeli government, far too many Israeli citizens, and far too many American citizens who support Israel's God-given biblical privilege to occupy all of Palestine and its current self-destructive wars in Gaza and Lebanon in service of that religious dogma. I call on the Israel Policy Forum to amend their heart-felt efforts by removing their sociopathic indifference to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Strikingly, the same lack of mention and therefore the same implicit denial of personhood is found in the United States Constitution. There, it is for indigenous and enslaved people, for their descendants, and for women. I am horrified and ashamed by this disgrace, that sociopathy is enshrined in our Constitution and still remains 250 years later. The violence and disservice we have done and continue to do to what amounts to 60% of our population is done in the name of all Americans, regardless of the fact that almost all of us are powerless to change it, just as most Israelis and Palestinians are powerless to change the policies of their leaders. Our peoples, even the weakest of us, Palestine, have enormous power for destruction. We must place the destructive legacy of past wrongs behind us, and make the tough choices that return our shared humanity to our policies, no matter how difficult. That is the only path away from destruction and toward the productive and ethical/righteous lives that we all deserve.



Click or scan to
listen or comment.



§ We in America

We cling to platitudes
because they're easy
and we long to believe:

“My Nation Is Great,”
“God Is Good,”

we who count the dead
on a scoreboard.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



In the Beginning

"We must know ourselves."

-- Saint Augustine

We in America
wake to the horror,
1200 dead, 247 abducted,
Israel poised to destroy
as God did to Sodom.

We swear: "Never forget"
or: "Free Palestine"
or some other such meme of the moment

Babel
the towers at city center in flames
smoke and harbor stench
billowing silver in the sun,

and so it goes on and on.

We care as we watch on TV
but we live in an orchard,

figs and cedar, fresh bread and warm shade,
clean work and time stretching
to the evening cool.

The innocents and righteous
of Israel and Gaza
may as well have died
with Lot's nameless wife,

killed by God for caring
because He never did
even for his own,
so why should we?

We in America
may as well have lived
as imbeciles in Eden

where knowledge was forbidden
when hate and humanity
were new.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



On October 7, 2023, terrorist gangs/freedom fighters breached the Israeli/Gaza border, killed 1200 and kidnapped 247. The ferocious response of Israel's military has killed 30,000 innocents and counting, and turned the lives of Gaza's millions upside down.

Lament for Those Held Hostage Tonight

Tonight Israel lives, sworn to defiance and blood, in fear for her children, shackled by fanatics or dead. Gaza waits breathless the hell strike to come. Her creatures hide in her ruins, surrounded by innocents. How many would kill me if they knew me? How many would I murder if I could?

Which of us is clean? I judge myself without mercy. Yet the brutal cycle we cherish in God's image is beggared by His cruel glory. I am a Jew, without hope or faith. Yet I can still pray and do:

“One more time this night, may Your death angel pass me by, leave me whole, Your chosen, terrorized and waiting for tomorrow's horrors. If You truly exist and hear, then hear this: You are a beast and unfit. So too Your zealots, whatever their name for themselves or You. If I held Your might, Almighty God, in that instant I would erase You and Your memory from all that is. If You truly exist and care, open the earth and destroy me. For though I claim nothing over Moses, Your darling, I claim goodness over You.” – *psalm 151, Nathan ben Schmuel*

Surely we would be better off without you. But who if not you can stop the madness? Who even wants to? Surely not Israel whose privilege stands on her armed might and her God-given destiny; surely not the dispossessed, Palestine, whose only strength is destruction; surely not their Arab kin whose only gifts are weapons forged for an ancient feud; and surely not America, we whose nuclear bullets hold the world hostage, like those Israeli hostages shackled in Gaza tonight, like those Gaza innocents beggared by Israel's might.



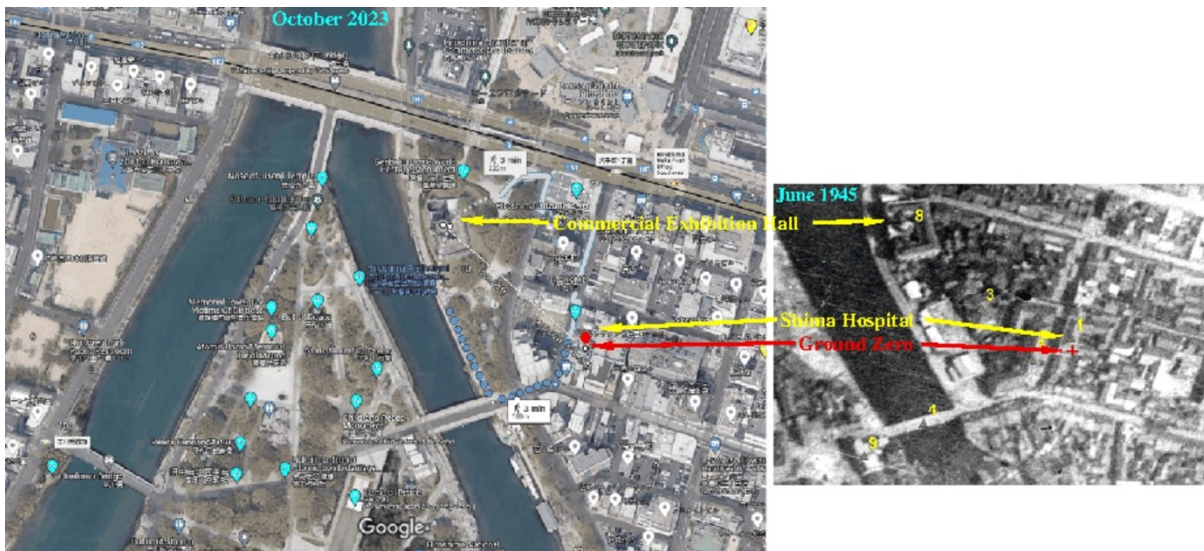
Click or scan to
listen or comment.



In November 2023, Al-Shifa hospital came under repeated Israeli attacks as a suspected Hamas command center and hostage transshipment hub. In the ensuing weeks, the 50,000 refugees sheltered there and many patients including 31 premature babies were evacuated to save their lives.

Ground Zero

On that sunny morning in August 1945, Shima Hospital held only unwhites with strange faces and customs, no hostages or anyone else of value. Why not incinerate the 80,000 in and around it, and doom 200,000 more to something slower and crueler? 200 yards to the west, the city's Commercial Exhibition Hall braved the hellfire and still stands.



Today Hiroshima is reborn, with ten times the population it had when America killed it. Shima Hospital was rebuilt where it stood. But the scorched walls of the Exhibition Hall remain naked, a testament to the resilience of European handiwork, to the defiance of life in the face of wholesale murder, all embodied in the dogged tolerance of stone for insufferable heat.²⁸



leaf clad stone ramparts
Phoenix trees at river's fork
deciduous souls



Demi-God 20/20

Hiroshima and Nagasaki ... hindsight

Seventy-five years since
we killed with fire. They said,
“We saved millions.” At least
they had reasons. We say
the same today. How many

believe that? How many
care: Japan that last year,
harmless, defenseless,
defiant like a toddler?^A How many

forget the Soviets that last year,
risen from the carnage,
swooping like a ravenous eagle.

The day we killed Nagasaki,
Stalin declared war. In weeks
he crossed Korea,
seized Karafuto Island,^B
stopped only at the beach.

We killed two multitudes,
vaporized and uncounted,^C
just to draw a line
in sand.

One man made the choice then;
it’s one man’s choice to make again,^D
not just two cities this time,
but thousands.

... The Fire Next Time

^AAugust 6th and 9th,
our 75-year Jubilee,
and Harry Truman
in his deepest thought:

“So many killed
that all may know,
friend or foe,
Don’t Tread on Me.” At least
he had reason.

^BAt Yalta with its Black Sea chill,
stuffed shirts and arm chairs,
we condemned half of Europe,
half of Asia too --
our fool’s pact with Stalin.

^CAnd Donald Trump, we surely know
his deepest thought: “Friend or foe,
you have flesh and a marked grave

^DOn My Whim, Mine Alone.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



My Neighborhood

I step outside for a break,
shade trees and hanging moss,
metal roofs and rubbish.

A roar sounds out,
a sharp crack in the bones, close,
very close. An atom bomb?

but no flash and I can still see.
No, a warplane streaks low,
then a second, are they here for me?

but this isn't Gaza
or the Texas border. Yet,

I hold still as a rabbit
hidden beneath the trees
till they are long gone.

Hurricane Harvey's high winds and torrential rainfall caused widespread flooding and more than 100 deaths. – August, 2017

Halls Bayou on CNN, Close-Captioned

Out Front with Erin Burnett is on TV at the gym,
Ric Saldivar tells how it happened.
His brother, Sammy, turned off toward the bridge.
The water was half up the guard rail. He hesitated,

then drove slowly across. On the other side
the road dipped and the van floated,
Sammy went out the side window,
left his parents and four grandchildren screaming.

He told Ric, *They went to heaven holding hands.*

Your cheeks flushed, Erin, when he said,
... flood water covered the bridge. You hid your face
when he said, *... left them screaming.*

They're still finding bodies in the Freetown mud slide,
more than a thousand, and this year's monsoon,
twelve hundred dead, millions homeless. Erin, why
do I care nothing for them?

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Not My Nightmare

I saw The Pawnbroker in college,
a family picnic in a spotless German wood,
the growl and squeal of engines and brakes,
soldiers climbing from the trucks,
the father led in chains through a warehouse,

another father
dragged from the table
tortured and set to work
in a Baghdad prison

another cop
the wrong door
another black teenager
shot dead

a glimpse of his nude wife on a gurney,
men pointing and haggling,
the son on another,
men pointing and haggling,
the daughters calling out
and screaming.

another daughter
sold for breeding,
another wife
in a fine house

I have lived that in a dream since,
and since I was a child,
the same trucks at the same curb,
the same growls and the same screams.

I have always feared
that even here in America
the trucks will come some day for me

but that's not my nightmare.

another news flash
flak jackets and rifles
another sick certainty
pure men of faith

I never noticed that
anywhere in the world if

you're not white
they come any day --
you're not male
it's every day.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



On August 23, 2024, 13-year old Cohen Craddock of Madison West Virginia, and 16-year old Caden Tellier of Selma Alabama, sustained head injuries, one during Madison Middle School's Friday football practice, the other during John T. Morgan Academy's season opener. Both were pronounced dead the next day.²⁹ Four other student athletes died from heatstroke in this same opening month of the school year³⁰, 15-year-old Ovet Gomez-Regelado of Kansas City, 14-year-old Semaj Wilkins of New Brockton, Alabama, 15-year-old Jayvion Taylor of Hopewell, Virginia, and 16-year-old Leslie Noble of Franklin, Maryland. On October 19, 2022, two days before his 19th birthday, Sam Westmoreland, a freshman lineman on the Mississippi State University football team, texted love to his mother and sister, drove to the Blackjack Missionary Baptist Church, and died in the car. His cause of death has never been made public.³¹

Sparrow Generations

Brown offered a full ride on my tennis,
MIT on academics ... even then I knew,
I want to learn in college.
I have a choice.

Chris Doleman, Tony Dorsett, Dan Marino,
the lucky athletes who soared to glory --
their generations passed through Pitt Stadium
right outside my office window.

I marveled as the Coliseum was demolished
and one early morning at the end
when no one else was looking
the facade with the entrance gate fell,

the last grand relic to come down,
broke the street and the sewer beneath
and I finally understood
that choice I had made at sixteen.

Now it's an event center, *The Pete* --
glass and concrete, food mall and wifi,
Judas Priest and basketball,
Foo Fighters, hockey, Disney on Ice.

Sometimes I ride up the escalator.
Mostly I walk
outdoors through the hedges
alive with birds,
feral cats and groundhogs.

Either way you can't miss



that vaulted interior, limitless ceiling,
video wall like the side of a house,
sports news constantly running,

pictures of trophied athletes
displayed in locked cases
like numbered Audubon prints
or rare baseball cards.

In the morning, I pass by the gym.
Even at 6 there are students on the treadmills
boys fit and massive, beautiful,
girls fit and beautiful too.

I see them on campus with their teammates,
lounging and laughing,
bruised and braced,
casts and crutches.

Often a bird strikes *The Pete* windows in flight,
then lies still on the concrete till the janitor comes.
Sometimes I carry one back to the hedges
when it's been days.

Last week I saw a sparrow by the glass wall
standing on the concrete like a statue,
even when I knelt beside it.

I touched his belly, urged him, "Step up."
He hopped over my finger, then turned
and flew onto my hand --

the life and quickness in that tiny body,
the bright trust of a stranger.

I slowly stood
and walked him up to the hedges,
urged him once more,
and he flew free,
on to his own life.



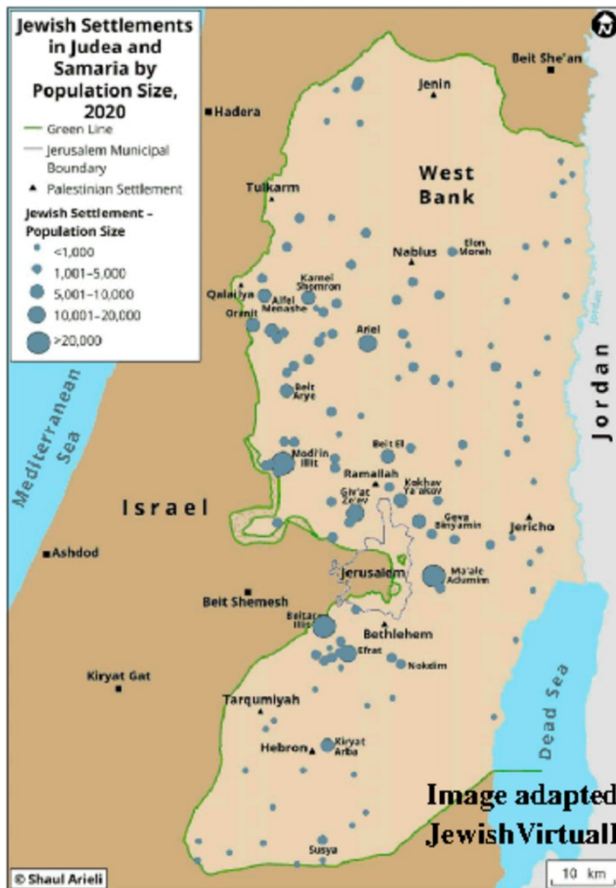


Image adapted from JewishVirtualLibrary.org

Map 37: Jewish Settlements in Judea and Samaria by Population Size, 2020

Map 38: Palestinian Settlements in Judea and Samaria by Population Size, 2020

Click or scan to
listen to this page
or to comment.



§ Epilogue

May we always remember,
understand,
and care enough
to do better sooner,
even when we don't want to.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Three Faces of Cowardice

Once again on this year's anniversary of 9/11, we will mourn the loss of American lives and the betrayal of our free society by murderers. Once again, we will ignore the additional defeats we inflicted on ourselves and why.

(1) Six weeks after 9/11, the Patriot Act was signed into law.

George Bush and Tony Blair, Donald Rumsfeld and Condoleezza Rice, two hundred ninety-six House members and seventy-seven Senators, even our best and brightest, John Kerry and Colin Powell, Hillary Clinton, Adam Schiff and Joe Biden, sold our self-respect, thirty billion in war work for Cheney's cronies.

(2) Seventeen months after 9/11, the United States invaded Iraq.

Three hundred thousand fought, four hundred thousand of theirs. Five thousand died, thirty thousand of theirs, and a hundred thousand innocents. Delirious with fear and dogma, we and our terrified brothers worldwide feed on our fair share of discarded freedom and blood lust. We and they proclaim our defiance: "Don't Tread on Me," that we may forget: America The Beautiful still cowed by nineteen dead felons.

(3) Today on September 11 twenty-two years later: The Justice Departments' first priority is not "uphold the Constitution" or "uphold the law," as is its sworn mission, but instead "to prevent future terrorist attacks."³²

Department of Justice Website

PROTECT AMERICA ACT

- WHAT IS THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT?
- DISPELLING THE MYTHS
- RECENT CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY/LETTERS
- RELEASES/TRANSCRIPTS
- TEXT OF THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT
- APRIL 2007 FISA MODERNIZATION PROPOSAL

USA PATRIOT ACT

- WHAT IS THE USA PATRIOT WEB TESTIMONY
- DISPELLING THE MYTHS
- PASSED BY CONGRESS

Highlights of the USA PATRIOT Act

[Delayed Notice Search Warrants: A Vital and Time-Honored Tool for Fighting Crime](#)

[Field Report on the PATRIOT Act](#)

The Department of Justice's first priority is to prevent future terrorist attacks. Since its passage following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Patriot Act has played a key part - and often the leading role - in a number of successful operations to protect innocent Americans from the deadly plans of terrorists dedicated to destroying America and our way of life. While the results have been important, in passing the Patriot Act, Congress provided for only modest, incremental changes in the law. Congress simply took existing legal principles and retrofitted them to preserve the lives and liberty of the American people from the challenges posed by a global terrorist network.

[PDF version](#)

The USA PATRIOT Act: Preserving Life and Liberty

(Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism)

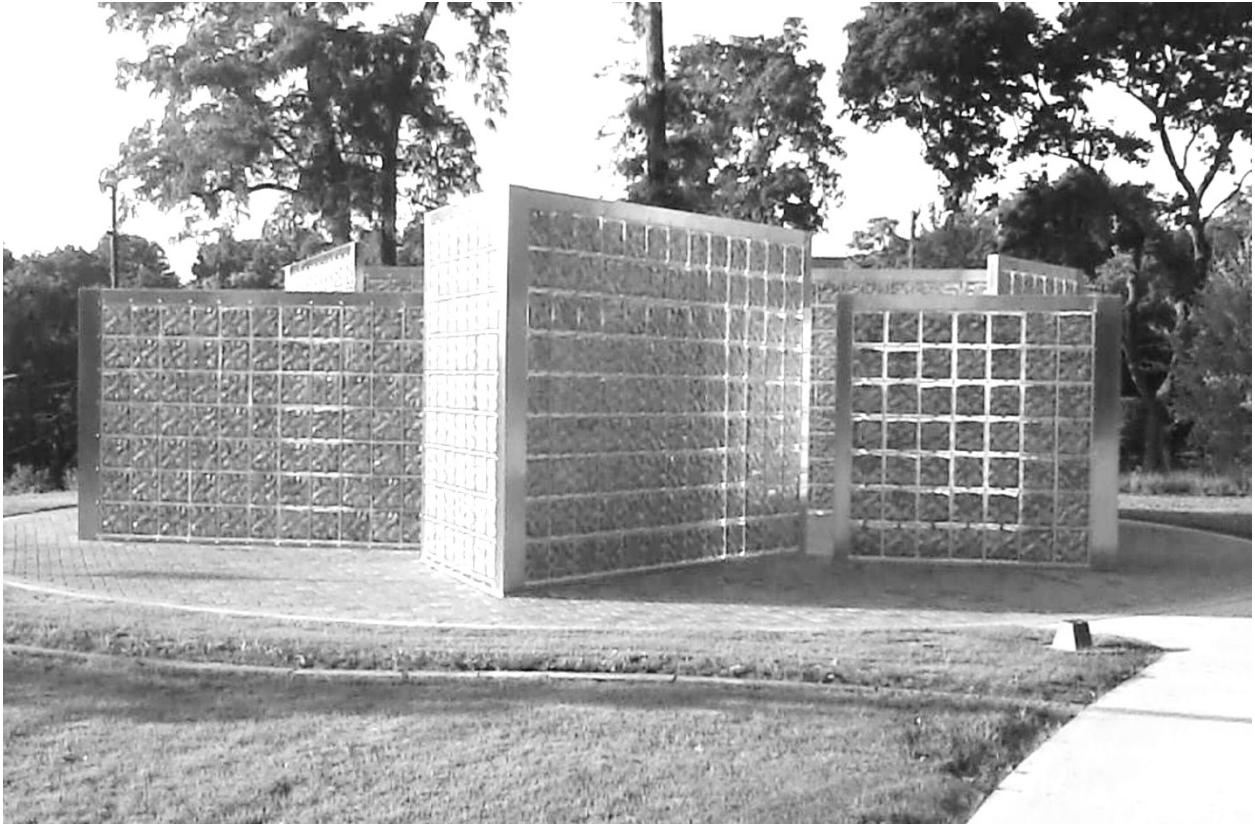
Congress enacted the Patriot Act by overwhelming, bipartisan margins, arming law enforcement with new tools to detect and prevent terrorism: The USA Patriot Act was passed nearly unanimously by the Senate 98-1, and 357-66 in the House, with the support of members from across the political spectrum.

The Act Improves Our Counter-Terrorism Efforts in Several Significant Ways:

- The Patriot Act allows investigators to use the tools that were already available to investigate organized crime and drug trafficking.** Many of the tools the Act provides to law enforcement to fight terrorism have been used for decades to fight organized crime and drug dealers, and have been reviewed and approved by the courts. As Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE) explained during the floor debate about the Act, "the FBI could get a wiretap to investigate the mafia, but they could not get one to investigate terrorists. To put it bluntly, that was exactly what the need for the work should be used for." (Sen. Joe Biden, 10/22/01)

Uncounted

Here in the school yard,
tribute wall to our murdered kin,
six million pull tabs washed clean,
stuffed in glass blocks,
stacked in stainless frames.
What of the Poles and communists,
Romani and queers?



Click or scan to
listen or comment.



Religious Fundamentalism and Government: Setup for Inhuman Cruelty (Orig: *Times of Israel*)

The current war in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorist gangs/freedom fighters invaded Israel, killed 1200 and kidnapped 247. The ferocious response of Israel's military has killed more than 30,000 civilians in Gaza³³ and has displaced more than 75% of its 2.1 million people. No reasonable person can excuse Hamas or Israel for their horrendous cruelty to each other. Yet, no matter how great the suffering and hatred, a remedy that creates peace must be found. To do that, the harsh truths at the root of the conflict must be confronted.

Israel isolated Gaza and killed the invading fighters within a few days, preventing further loss of life within its borders. But since the subsequent November seven-day truce and hostage release, little discernable progress has been made. On the contrary, Israel's troops have sustained casualties within Gaza, its excessive use of force has radicalized another antisemitic generation, both in Palestine and around the world, and it has escalated the conflict with attacks on Syria and Iran.

Why is Israel's government persisting in this unproductive and increasingly self-destructive war? Is it just revenge and self-serving distraction of its people from their government's failures? No. I claim the obvious but rarely spoken truth, that Israel's current "secular" government is steeped in religious fundamentalism and biblically justified bigotry. Consider the Otzma Yehudit Party platform of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir³⁴. It begins: "... G-d of Israel made an everlasting covenant with Avraham's descendants" and continues, "By virtue of the Divine promise to the Jewish People, the entire area of Eretz Israel as defined by the Torah belongs to Am Israel in all of their generations ...". Similarly, the Likud Party platform³⁵ of Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant begins: "The right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is eternal ...". These Party platforms disclose an institutional commitment to religious dogma and the letter of the biblical text. That is religious fundamentalism. Note that Likud holds half of the 64 Knesset seats controlled by the current majority coalition. Otzma and other self-proclaimed religious parties with comparable views hold the other half³⁶. If four or more members of any of those parties withdraw their support, the current coalition government will collapse. Hence the Haredi, the avowed religious fundamentalists who constitute 13.5% of Israel's population, are firmly in control of Israeli government policy.

Otzma's platform continues: "We must act to restore those parts of our Homeland that were stolen from us over the generations ...". This demonizes as thieves non-Jews who occupy the God-given land. It is religious dogma which justifies the racial bigotry and intended ethnic cleansing of Ben-Gvir, who has publicly stated: "We do not want to expel all Arabs ... Those who are loyal, fine." For his part, Gallant officially announced "a complete siege of Gaza" two days after the attacks with the racist statement³⁷: "... no electricity, no food, no fuel ... We are fighting human animals ...".

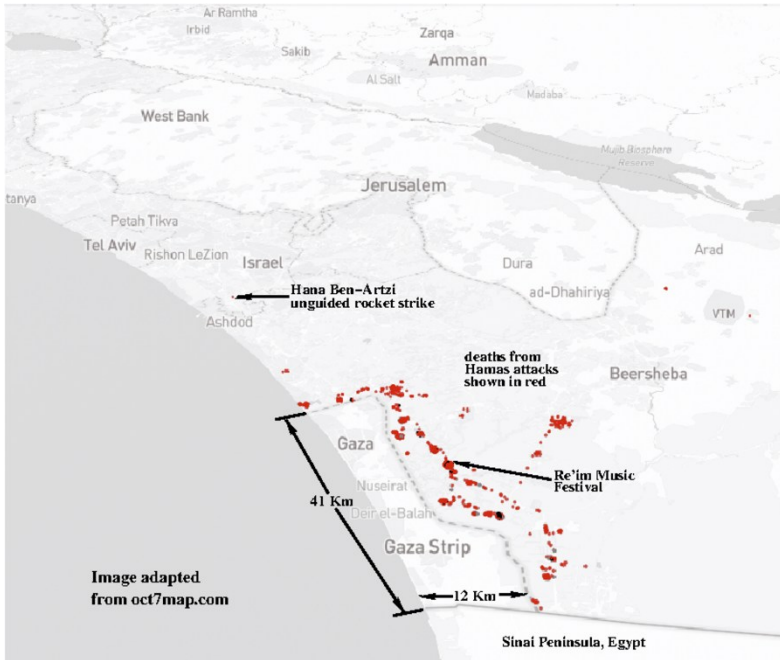
These are the stated beliefs and intentions of those who control Israel's government, armed forces and police. No such person should ever hold the state's authority over life and death. Their fundamentalist commitment to a God-given entitlement transmutes their racist nationalism to righteousness that can excuse any act, no matter how repugnant. This religious dogma has driven Israel's corrosive expansionism into the neighboring Palestinian territories and that has played a prominent causal role in the resultant cyclic violence.

The bitterly divisive problems caused by religious dogma in government are not unique to Israel (Judaism). Hamas and Iran (Islam), India (Hindu), and the United States (Christianity) are timely examples in the news. Many nations protect the religious freedom of their people, but nowhere is the law or government policy protected from religion.

The Palestinian people live in the West Bank (85%, 2.7 million); Gaza (100%, 2.1 million); and Israel (21%, 1.9 million)³⁸. The current locus of war, Gaza, is a 240 km² strip bordered by Egypt, Israel, and the

Mediterranean Sea. It has been governed since 2007 by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Hamas was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by America's CIA in 1997³⁹.

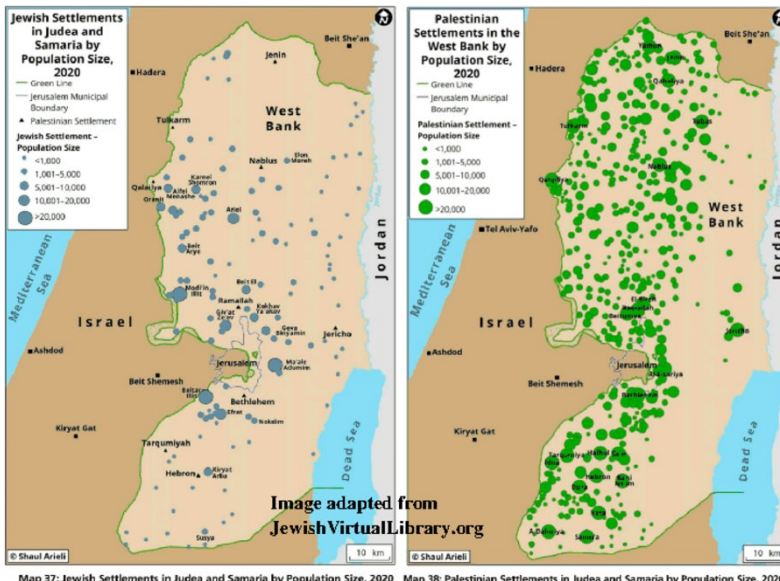
The map of those killed on October 7 shows the close proximity of the attacks to the Gaza border⁴⁰. This illustrates the profound limits on Hamas's ability to project power at a distance, i.e. that Hamas does not pose



an existential threat to the state of Israel. In fact, it never has^{41,42}. The map also highlights Israel's folly in permitting vulnerable communities in close proximity to Gaza without adequate border defense.

That folly is magnified 1000-fold by Israel's 50-year policy permitting Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories outside its borders. In 2005, imminent threats in Gaza led Israel to unilaterally dismantle its 21 settlements there, relocate the settlers, and redeploy its troops along the border. But there has been no such pullback for the half million settlers living in Palestine's West Bank. Most of those settlements are indefensibly intermingled with and outnumbered by

Palestinian communities⁴³. Fortunately, no wholesale bloodshed like that of October 7 has ever occurred there. Though the West Bank is accessible to Hamas and other terrorist organizations, it's clear that the Palestinian people are not controlled by terrorists or committed to violence. That sign of simple human decency is, in my opinion, justifiable cause for hope. So too is the fact that both sides have so much to gain from reconciliation.



Going forward, it is the people of Israel and Palestine who must force their governments to act. Palestine must release the remaining hostages held in Gaza, offer restitution to the families, and bring to justice those responsible for the October 7 attacks. Israel must bring to justice the members of its government and military responsible for the unjustifiable civilian deaths and destruction in Gaza and must forever cease building settlements in the West Bank.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



A young white man killed eight last week to save himself from temptation. Seven were women: Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Xiaojie Tan, Soon Chung Park, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Ashley Yaun, and Paul Andre Michels.

No One Was There

We shopped today
at the Pious Bookshop,
bought Seder plates for the kids

packed in a clean pizza box
with second-hand bubble wrap --
Passover is this weekend

They had coffee mugs and fridge magnets
skull caps with slogans --
We are stronger together and
No place for hate

As if it was this morning
I remembered passing security
for the funeral, the line blocks long
down Darlington Road

eleven Unorthodox
killed at the Tree of Life

I longed for the others, the Pious
to be with us together
down Darlington Road
and at the cemetery later,
their beards, black coats and *tzitzit*

but no one was there

as if *"you're not Orthodox,
you're not a Jew"*

as if it matters
that the murdered are.

Lot's wife
died nameless
for being unmale.



Our Shared Humanities

Nothing is deadlier:
dogma

more primordial:
pain

so beautiful:
courage

riskier:
faith

seductive:
privilege

more noble and just:
war

more profane and hurtful:
indifference

more cowardly:
forgetting

crueler:
God;

no greater truth:
kindness

nor greater lie:
color;

nothing is more human,
a discovery, even when
it isn't correct.

Cassandra's Choice

Take me, Cassandra, else you will never be believed. – Apollo

I

I am Cassandra, sister to Helenus. We held to each other, twins in the royal crèche, seeing, knowing, our innocence ripped away, shrieking, but our understanding still unstained. That changed, and I knew that when Apollo asked, fate would turn on my answer for my city, for all the world, even for the gods. Either way, my lot was servitude and horror.

Once I chose, it hardly mattered that I was made mute, invisible, like an old woman. That after all, was my fame, and power too, for it granted those brief moments to breathe free and speak ungodly truth: to my father, *Beware the gift horse*; to Agamemnon, *Your queen breathes murder*; to Apollo, *No*.

Hecuba

Night after night, Cassandra's screams echoed through the walls into the town. When I held her, she slept, then woke and screamed till dawn; Helenus too, but together, they slept, clinging to each other's feet.

War came and my city lay open – so many sons killed, women taken, my husband, my children; I went mad. They say I blinded someone, killed his sons. They named me *dog*, but no greater beasts exist than princes. I bore nineteen of Priam's children, one after the next. I hardly knew them, even their names, but I know their killers. Though I lived only as crucible, I live yet in Elysium with my daughters, and there are no heroes here.

Hector

I was still young when they were born, always together, whispering, hiding, full of mischief but somehow, never caught. One day, they were still tiny, they came to me hand in hand as I practiced the axe. Helenus was distracted by dragonflies. Cassandra looked up at me with calm, her eyes the same as our grandmother's, and as if I was a player in her child's game she said, *Andromache will always have life*.

Andromache

The day Troy fell, Pyrrhus snatched Hector's son from my arms, cast him from our tower, and so I withered to a wraith. The victors' lot cast me to this same Pyrrhus, my second husband, father of more sons. Helenus, my third husband, told me that Cassandra caused it all. What do I care? I only know I bore son after son to one prince after the next, and wove shrouds for them all.

II

I am Cassandra, daughter of Troy. That day we washed, girls in a sand pool near the river mouth, first our clothes, then each other. I lived that moment a thousand times as an infant and as a child, when I chose for myself, for my sisters, and for Greece.

At first step into the water, the cold of it rippled through us and he was there, perfect, but only his manly torso, for though the faces of Zeus's children are beautiful, Apollo is hideous for the cruel meanness which would compel a girl, and for his utter reliance on his gifts. No one has understood that, that I bore his curse because he lived as coward and failed as god.

Ajax

We are creatures of war. Even the Hebrews know this. And so at Troy's fall, my lust was sated with innocent

blood. I wrested Cassandra from your embrace, feeble goddess, your arm ripped away by my might, and with it your pledge to Troy's safety. Why would I worship Athena, a goddess who could not kill me, when I am mightier than she.

But when my fellow kings seized me, my life in the balance, then I cried, *I am innocent*. Never before have I cowered so. I would flush to the bone remembering, had I skin and blood. So many heroes dwell here in anguish, yet that wisp of a girl, that heroes' toy, lives on with the righteous.

Agamemnon

I knew Helen, of course, trouble from the start, Clytemnestra's sister and lovely as the sun, a constant temptation and my brother's wife. When she ran off, *good riddance*, but he was wild for her, and when we learned it was Trojans, then there was power in it and glory too.

When it came to spoils at Troy's fall, I chose Cassandra, her unquenched fire like a force of nature, and I was glad I did. Before we reached home though, I should have given her away or killed her, for Clyté saw her and became too sweet. I should have seen it and I should have believed Cassandra, for that last night together, Clyté and her creature stabbed us, then hacked us to pieces for fools. Clyté's spite sent me to hell, King and Greatest of Greeks; Cassandra still lives in Elysium.

Helenus

We were children, clinging to each other, staring into the stark futures, axes and arrows, bronze blades and blood, the power of prescience raged in us like a furnace. War came for a decade, the Greeks' siege defeated again and again by Hector, by our wall, by their own madness and lust for glory. They hunted me down and yes, I told them. Why not? They said it was jealousy, that Helen chose another, but I knew it all from the start. I had seen Troy laid open a thousand times. I knew with the certainty of a god what would come, and just as surely that I would flourish.

Yes I told them, *deface Athena, kill Troilus*, yet I did not betray, for the furies had long since decreed Troy's fall. Cassandra chose our fate and I allowed it. Why not? My life was good. We both saw that as tender children; my lot was contentment, hers was grief and rage.

Athena

How cruel that a child saw so clearly and was forced to choose her own doom! I admire you, Cassandra, your courage and your judgment too, but your choice undid me. When Ajax defied me in my own house and the Greeks favored his coward's plea, I, God of War and Wisdom, was forced to vengeance and so served your prescient will. Never have I served a mortal unless I wished it, even Odysseus. But that ended my power over men – how strange, that no one believed you, then or now, yet everyone knows the Gods are bested by knowledge.

III

I am Cassandra, cursed princess of Troy. I had wealth and station, but like those before me and the multitude since, only through men who wanted me. Apollo was mine, the towering perfection of him, the glories of the god's mistress. I could not bear it, subject body and soul to a coward, even a god. Had I taken him, Troy lives an extra month, I have a daughter, and Agamemnon takes her. No! I chose instead to deny both beasts and bear the curse, to live mute with my lucid vision, my wit and freedom transmuted to a weapon, wielded to shield the unborn.

Tell my story to all who will listen. Though straight from me, you can only write as has always been for us, through a glass darkly. For we still have power only through men. That battle goes on, and though my sight remains, this time, the choice of fate is not mine. I only know our power grows, and so too man's cowardice.

Click or scan to
listen or comment.



A New World

I gashed my knee, my head too, maybe a broken rib. Someone at work offered a bed, so he could check me through the night. As a kid I often fell, a stone under a skate, a bike crash. When a scrape bled or that time they found me, head against a tree root, no one said a word or seemed to care; I didn't either. If they see my frailty though, how long will I hold my job? How much safer to look good, now that I'm old.

At the Giant Eagle, an old man stares at the pay pad till the clerk presses the button for him. I use cash so I won't look like that. Outside, they walk by laughing, hand in hand, or just looking at each other. I don't notice their color, only that they're young and have accents I don't understand.

At the Lotto counter we wait, our faces and posture, American, surrendered to hope and chance, like trees. We could do something with life in it, look at each other, or at least at those faces on the street. Is that why we hate them, saying what they please, acting like they're free?

Lately people talk faster than I can listen, like I'm sitting on a bench and they're running by. Maybe I'm listening too deep to keep up, because under the talk, I see the vitality of their thought and hear our shared humanity. It's getting worse and I'm often near tears, but it feels like freedom.

How 32,000 MAGA People Came to Own This Book

In October, 2024, my new collection of prose, poem, and photo was ready for publication. “We in America” is a call to all Americans and to people all around the world: “We must understand, accept responsibility, amend the harms we have done as a nation, to our own and to others.” With its cover haiku: “But for wars and wealth, // We in America // were never great.”² it defies both President Trump’s trademark: “Make America Great Again,” and the righteous boasts with which we deceive ourselves.

Above all, I wanted “We in America” to be read widely by people who don’t think like I do. Small presses had previously published two of my books. Both press runs were a hundred copies; neither sold out. So I took a different route; I released it myself as a free PDF.

To promote it, I posted the cover with a notice to each writing-oriented group to which I belong on Facebook. Here is a copy of that first notice. I saw 85 downloads the first day, 10 on the next, then nothing ... it wasn’t enough.

I began to post with less caution to more permissive sites, BlueSky, X (Twitter), and Donald Trump’s Truth Social. On those, there are many influencers whose channels are followed by tens of thousands or more, and particularly on X, by millions. I posted my notices as comments on those mega-influencers’ posts with the presumption that though each notice would be seen by only a fraction of one influencer’s followers, that would be many since each influencer had millions of followers.

That worked! It consistently produced three to four downloads for every posted notice, about 350 copies downloaded per day since I could make about 30 posts in 15 minutes and I was doing that three times per day. That added up to more than 20,000 downloads in the first three months.

The overwhelming majority of widely followed influencers are MAGA people, Elon Musk (219 million followers), Donald Trump (102M), Sean Hannity (7.2M), ...³, though there are many others⁴. But within days, I was banned from Truth Social, and within a week, from Blue Sky.

The X robot overseers, however, left me free to continue, although every few days, they tested me with a puzzle to make sure that I was human. I worried that I would be cut off by X, which was my only remaining channel. But I figured, “I can always rejoin using a throw-away email address.”

Early in February, I was alarmed when forced to pass a humanity test instantly after my first post of the day.

“We in America” is a collection of essays and photos. Each depicts inhuman wrongs perpetrated by our nation, wrongs from which we, as individuals, continue to benefit. Please download it as my gift to you.

<https://donslit.net/We-In-America.pdf>



² haiku column of the Asahi Shimbun, 1Nov2024. [ASAHI HAIKUIST NETWORK/ David McMurray | The Asahi Shimbun: Breaking News, Japan News and Analysis](#)

³ Ted Cruz (6.9M), Charlie Kirk (5.7M), Alex Jones (4.4M), Jack Poso (3.1M), Larry Elder (1.7M), Juanita Broaddrick (1.7M), John Solomon (1.3M), Dinesh D’Souza (4.9M), Lara Logan (1.1M), Matt Gaetz (3.3M), Collin Rugg (1.8M), Mario Nawfal (2.1M), Libs of TikTok (4.3M), Lindsey Graham (2.2M), Laura Loomer (1.5M), Anonymous (5.2M), Judicial Watch (2.2M), One America News (2.2M), Fox News (28.9M), and many more.

⁴ Bloomberg business (9.6M), The Atlantic (2.0M), The Economist (27.1M), Al Jazeera English (8.9M), Elizabeth Warren (6.6M), ABC News (17.8M), BBC News (World) (41.3M), France24 (4.2M), China Xinhua News (11.8M), Financial Times (6.0M), CNBC (5.3M), Politico (4.5M), The Hill (4.3M)

It was as if the overseers had been waiting for me, and to make it worse, the test was much more difficult and time consuming than any I had encountered before.

At that point, the book had been downloaded more than 30,000 times. I thought, “Although people have clicked on the link 30,000 times, I have no way of knowing how much, if anything, anyone has read. The same would be true, had I sold 30,000 copies, but that would never happen anyway. Why am I continuing with this, reading this hateful propaganda 45 minutes each day with all the anguish and hopelessness it brings me?”

I took a break and pondered. After the first day, I noticed that something was gone that was important to me. Each time I had posted a notice, I had felt a small but real sense that I was defying the madness, that I wasn’t just keeping my head down and hoping that the terrorism and chaos of the Trump presidency would pass me by. Maybe too, some few of the thirty thousand who had downloaded the book might find something in it that made a difference to them.

I thought and read about how I might make my notices yield more clicks, and how I might avoid drawing the attention of X’s robot overseers⁵. I knew that I was likely drawing attention by posting the same notice many times every day. To change this, I transferred most of the text of the notice to the image which included the cover. Only the text of the download link remained in the revised notice, and I created ten different download links so no link appears nearly as often as it had. I wrote a computer program which generated different versions of the image, each with small random variations of its height and width and each contaminated with a little bit of random noise. All the images looked the same to a human, but they all “looked” different to a robot.

I began posting the revised notices and was surprised and then worried to see eight to ten downloads per notice, i.e. more than double what I was getting before. What had changed? My logs showed that since the hiatus, half the downloads were by malicious Twitterbots. People were using X’s robot tools to attack my website⁶. At last I had confirmation that people were reading my book!

I searched my download log from the beginning, identified all of the malignant bots, blocked them, and eliminated their contributions to the download count. The naïve count had just passed 49,000, but the corrections reduced that by 35% to 32,140. In the months since I made those changes, no one has complained or blocked me and the robot overseers have tested my humanity only once.

Why publish this article? After all, it contains enough information to sabotage my efforts to disseminate “We in America.” If the ideas in it are worthy of dissemination, isn’t publishing it an act of constructive defiance? Isn’t that also true of the innumerable voices and ideas of so many others? I do not know if “We in America” has made a significant difference ... to be honest, maybe for a few and maybe not at all. But maybe its story and the message of its limited success might.

“We in America” is the truth from the viewpoint of one person. It is limited in its ability to reach the multitude, both by its non-viral distribution to a few tens of thousands, but more importantly, by the intrinsic limitations of one writer’s voice, skills, and viewpoint. Will any of those who read it be moved to overcome their indoctrination with inhuman hate and delusion? For surely, that is what is needed. But articulation of the truth by many writers in the much wider diversity of voice and viewpoint they bring just might have a chance.

⁵ Sivakumar, P., Balasubramani, M., Sowndharya, R. *et al.* Twitter spam drift detection by semi supervised learning approach using YATSI algorithm. *Int J Syst Assur Eng Manag* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13198-024-02445-1>

⁶ Denial of Service (DoS) guidance, UK National Cyber Security Center, [Denial of Service \(DoS\) guidance - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/denial-of-service-guidance) . Introduction to denial of service attacks, Amazon Web Services, [Introduction to denial of service attacks - AWS Best Practices for DDoS Resiliency](https://aws.amazon.com/best-practices-for-ddos-resiliency/)

§ Acknowledgments and End-Notes

“Election Day” originally appeared in *Trailer Park Quarterly*.

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“Hall’s Bayou on CNN” originally appeared in *Entropy Magazine*.

“Lament for Those Held Hostage Tonight” originally appeared in *Fixed and Free*.

“Sparrow Generations” and “A New World” originally appeared in *The Blue Nib*.

“Religious Fundamentalism and Government: Setup for Inhuman Cruelty,” “Indifference to the Innocents’ Suffering Is a Sickness,” and “Unveiling on Yom Kippur” originally appeared in the *Times of Israel*.

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Several of the 3-line pieces originally appeared in the *Asahi Haikuist Network*.

¹ Mount Vernon Female Slave Quarters, image shared with permission of Tim Evanson, 20Oct2014, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/timevanson/16837991372/>; Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike 2.0 Generic License.

² In Germany’s presidential election of March/April, 1932, Adolph Hitler’s Party won 37% of the seats in Germany’s parliament, the Reichstag. In America’s presidential election of November 2020/January 2021, Donald Trump’s Party won 49% of the seats in the House and 50% of the seats in the Senate. Private gun ownership was rigidly limited in Germany after World War One. In America today, it is nearly unfettered.

³ Germany’s President Hindenburg appointed Adolph Hitler Chancellor on January 30, 1933. Donald Trump was America’s President from 2017 till January 20, 2021.

⁴ Romanisches Café. Bildindex Der Kunst & Architektur – Image Archive Photo Marburg. Free Image. <https://www.bildindex.de/media/obj20555032/fm821906?medium=fm821906> Famous regulars at Romanisches Cafe: Bertolt Brecht, Otto Dix, Alfred Döblin, Hanns Eisler, George Grosz, Sylvia von Harden, Erich Kästner, Irmgard Keun, Else Lasker-Schüler, Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Roth, Ernst Toller, Kurt Tucholsky, Franz Werfel, Billy Wilder.

⁵ Berühmte Stammgäste im Romanischen Café: Bertolt Brecht, Otto Dix, Alfred Döblin, Hans Eisler, George Grosz, Sylvia von Harden, Erich Kästner, Irmgard Keun, Else Lasker-Schüler, Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Roth, Ernst Toller, Kurt Tucholsky, Franz Werfel, Billy Wilder.

⁶ Germany’s parliament was destroyed by fire February 27, 1933. America’s Capitol was attacked and occupied on January 6, 2021.

⁷ Germany’s Reichstag Fire Decree was passed February 28, 1933. America’s Patriot Act was passed October 26, 2001, six weeks after the 9/11 attacks.

⁸ Germany’s concentration camp at Dachau opened March 22, 1933. America’s Relocation Center at Manzanar opened in March 1942, three months after Pearl Harbor.

⁹ Bei der deutschen Präsidentschaftswahl im März/April 1932 gewann die Partei Adolf Hitlers 37 % der Sitze im deutschen Reichstag. Bei der US-Präsidentschaftswahl November 2020/Januar 2021 gewann die Partei von Donald

Trump 49 % der Sitze im Repräsentantenhaus und 50 % der Sitze im Senat. Nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg war der private Waffenbesitz in Deutschland stark eingeschränkt, in Amerika ist er heute fast uneingeschränkt.

¹⁰ Deutschlands Präsident Hindenburg ernannte Adolph Hitler am 30. Januar 1933 zum Kanzler. Donald Trump war von 2017 bis 20. Januar 2021 Amerikas Präsident.

¹¹ Der Deutsche Reichstag wurde am 27. Februar 1933 durch einen Brand zerstört. Am 6. Januar 2021 wurde das Kapitol von Amerika angegriffen und besetzt.

¹² Die deutsche Reichstagsbrandverordnung wurde am 28. Februar 1933 verabschiedet. Der amerikanische Patriot Act wurde am 26. Oktober 2001, sechs Wochen nach den Anschlägen vom 11. September, verabschiedet.

¹³ Das deutsche Konzentrationslager Dachau wurde am 22. März 1933 eröffnet. Das Amerikanische Relocation Center in Manzanar wurde im März 1942, drei Monate nach Pearl Harbor, in Betrieb genommen.

¹⁴ [Microsoft Word - Lesson 4 The Story of Goodwood Museum.docx \(leonschools.net\)](#) Leon County Schools Grade 4 Lesson on Goodwood

¹⁵ [Florida Historical Markers Programs - Marker Detail - Preservation - Florida Division of Historical Resources \(flheritage.com\)](#) Bryan Croom's Rocky Comfort Plantation in Gadsden County.

¹⁶ [Smith v. Croom, 7 Fla. 81 \(1857\) | Caselaw Access Project](#) 1857 judgement; FL Supreme Court

¹⁷ US Census and US Slave Census of 1850

¹⁸ US Census and US Slave Census of 1860

¹⁹ US Census of 1870

²⁰ [Deeds, 1825-1886; index, 1825-1940 \(familysearch.org\)](#) 1858, Image 400-1; Goodwood; Henrietta Smith -- Arvah and Susan Hopkins

²¹ [Deeds, 1825-1886; index, 1825-1940 \(familysearch.org\)](#) 1858, Image 402-3; Bryan Croom => Henrietta Smth

²² US Census and US Slave Census of 1860

²³ <http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/70289> Young women pose on a staircase in "Goodwood" - Tallahassee, Florida. 1951. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/70289>, accessed 6 February 2023.

²⁴ Courtesy of Marcia Bronstein, Tallahassee, Florida.

²⁵ [Group wedding in Tallahassee marries 15 couples on Valentine's Day, 2023](#)

²⁶ [File:Female Slave Quarters interior 06 - Mount Vernon - 2014-10-20.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

²⁷ [File:Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland \(74212993\).jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

²⁸ Upper left image, "Ground Zero": Google Maps (2023) Shima Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan. Available from: [Shima Hospital - Google Maps](#) (Accessed 10Dec2023). Upper right image, "Ground Zero": Masaharu Hoshi. Available from (3) (PDF) [Sample collection and documentation \(researchgate.net\)](#). Lower left image, "Ground Zero": Clay Gilliland, 29Apr2015. [File:Hiroshima Peace Memorial \(Genbaku Dome\) \(15114280886\).jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#). Lower right image, "Ground Zero": AP Photo, Stanley Troutman, 8Sep1945. Available from [Atomic Photographers Stanley Troutman](#)

²⁹ CNN, 28Aug2024. <https://www.cnn.com/2024/08/28/us/student-football-player-deaths-west-virginia-alabama/index.html>

³⁰ The Guardian, 29Aug2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/article/2024/aug/29/high-school-football-deaths-public-health-crisis>

³¹ AP News, 19Oct2022. <https://apnews.com/article/college-football-sports-sam-westmoreland-alabama-mississippi-state-bulldogs-93beb707043dfbef781bbec07a07e615>

³² U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ll/highlights.htm> . Public Domain.

³³ AP News, 29Feb2024

³⁴ [Ozma-yeudit.com: The Platform of Otzma Yehudit](#)

³⁵ [JewishVirtualLibrary.org: The Platform of Likud, 1977](#)

³⁶ An Israeli government must control at least 61 of the 120 seats in the Knesset. Likud won 32 in the November 2022 election. Their coalition with self-proclaimed religious parties now controls 64. 14 seats: Religious Zionist Party [12] ; 11 seats: SHAS: Assoc. of Sefardi Observers of Torah Haredi; 7 seats: United Torah Judaism & Shabbat.

³⁷ Times of Israel, 9Oct2023

³⁸ CIA World Factbook: Gaza Strip, Israel, West Bank

³⁹ CIA World Factbook: Terrorist Organizations, Hamas

⁴⁰ [oct7map.com : Mapping the Massacres](#)

⁴¹ [JewishVirtualLibrary.org : Background and Overview of Hamas](#)

⁴² Encyclopedia Britannica: Hamas, Definition, History, Ideology, & Facts

⁴³ [IsraelPolicyForum.org: West Bank Settlements Explained](#)

We in America, by Don Krieger

We in America is a collection of topical essays and poems, many with photo illustrations. It will be released as a paperback in the spring, but was introduced in October, 2024, as a free eBook preprint through notices on Truth Social and X. As of April 2025, more than 32,000 copies have been downloaded.

We in America depicts the inhuman wrongs perpetrated by the United States, wrongs from which we as a nation and as individuals continue to benefit generation after generation. Like the political pamphlets published during America's Revolution and since, the book is an indictment, yet it has been uniquely successful in reaching those for whom its viewpoints are contrary.

We in America is a call to all Americans and to people all around the world: "We must understand and accept responsibility for the harms we have done as a nation, to our own and to others." With its cover haiku, "But for wars and wealth // We in America // were never great," it defies both President Trump's trademark: "Make America Great Again," and the righteous boasts with which we deceive ourselves.

Revelations from the Gulf of America

Our dead are different
from yours. That frightens me:
sociopathy.

Nothing is more seductive:
privilege. Indifference
to the innocents' suffering
is a sickness.

But for wars and wealth,
We in America
were never great.

We cling to platitudes
because they're easy
and we long to believe:

"My Nation Is Great,"
"God Is Good."

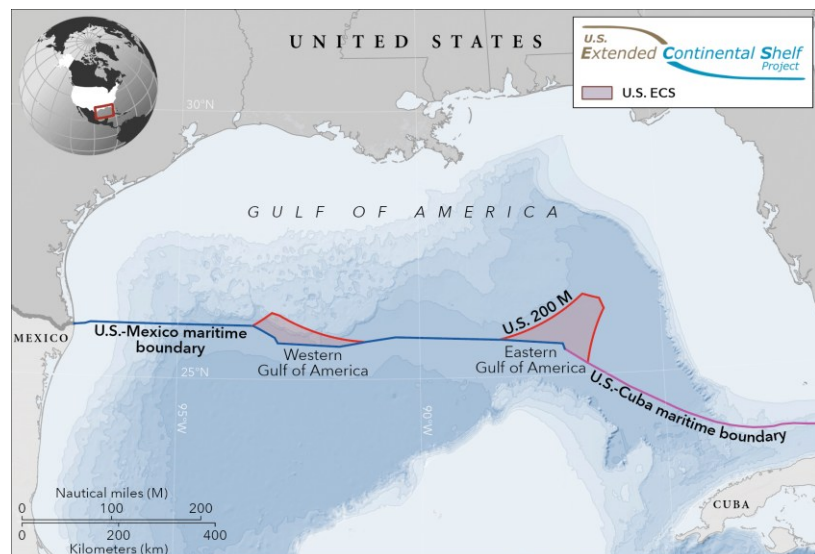
We would make a difference
if only we knew what to do
and it didn't cost too much,
we who count the dead
on a scoreboard.

We are infected with fear
of the other. We each must confront that,
else we can never be free.

May we always remember,
understand and care enough
to do better sooner,
even when we don't want to.



DON KRIEGER is a retired clinical neurophysiologist, university professor, and biomedical engineer. His essays and poetry have been published widely in literary journals and newspapers and have been translated into many languages.



https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Gulf_of_America_ECS_2025-1950.png

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