[For discussion during our November 1, 2015 Waking Up Radio show – 2nd corrected edition]

WUR of April 13th, 2014... "Miklos Nyiszli's Lessons On Class":

[140413manageus.mp3]

April 8th, 2014... Sisters and Brothers: Last week we listened to Egyptian Activist Alaa Abd El-Fattah testifying from Egypt... how... following each one of our steps toward freedom... 'power' learns from our movements... and mounts a reaction... that... they hope... incorporates what they've learned.

In *Founding & Realizing A Test-Site*... we noted – or rather De Tocqueville does – that this is a long historical process (much longer than he discusses...) coterminous with 'class'...

...and that it was with the French Revolution that the dutiful sons of 'rule' finally got what Plato was trying to teach them... that the only way to successfully... to permanently... sit on the people is: if they ('power'... the philosopher-king-global-statesmen...) unite... while we (the people) are systematically riven (by them...) by divisions...

(... and aren't states just working double-time on this of late – perhaps they are ever working double-time on this – trying to rev up antipathy towards immigrants... gays, lesbians and transgendered... mutual mistrust between police and people... and between various ethnicities...

...and let's not forget that the wage work system is the mechanism by which states utilize our energy... by which they do everything. I think it's time for us to recognize that the wage work system is how they shape the world they want ... and that it's time for us to shape different priorities... which we can only do if we're in charge of our own lives... which we can't do if we're leashed to a paycheck.

The wage work system is how they implement their plans – so we see the Kenyan police become tools of those who rule... and are the means for global-state-backed 'ethnic cleansing'... and Russian soldiers are similarly played... to try to create divisions in the Ukraine.... This is the banality of obedience – everyday horrors 'power' unleashes around us – the banality of 'following orders'. Only when we are free to think for ourselves can we end these everyday horrors of betrayal... and of the failure of our empathy... our greatest gift as a human being – and the coerced work system... our dependence on the state for the 'right' to exist... doesn't allow this...)

...and – and this is equally important – they cannot successfully sit on us... and thereby maintain their 'superior' position... unless the development of our thought-process is prevented.

Just as 'power' was slow to grasp Plato (it took the French Revolution and Bentham to accomplish it...) 'power' has been likewise slow to 'get' De Tocqueville – or maybe just slow to accept his message... that we-the-people will *never* stop pushing to use our gifts... and that they must 'manage' it – this longing (preferably... for 'power'... in the way that Bentham said – and De Tocqueville heartily endorsed: "get them to internalize 'discipline'..." [and – going beyond this – De Tocqueville praised the U.S. way of de-centralizing our – we-the-people's – management... because it makes the state seem non-totalitarian.])

["140413powterms.mp3":]

Yet the consumption of the planet... and the advance of the Internet... occurring at once... pose an unmeetable challenge for 'power'.

When De Tocqueville describes 'democracy' as an irresistible force he's but noting that we human beings are determined to grow our gifts... to get 'big'... and use our leadership (capacities.) This is the earth speaking in us.

So what can 'power' do about it?

What it does is to... simultaneously (again following Plato's guidance...) rank us... teach us to deify 'mind'... equate 'mind' with growing our gifts... while only allowing some to devote their lives to this 'mind-worship'... and... if all else fails... try to orchestrate a way to make us (the broad populace...) *feel* we're growing our gifts... our leadership (a quality... again... inherent in every human being... by virtue of our being living things.)

(They can only make it *seem* like a scarce 'commodity' by using the means we've been discussing: creating 'scarcity'... and so dependence... ensuring insecurity as our general inheritance... and its *sine qua non* applied-atomization – the means of achieving this larger orchestration of managing and maintaining the illusion of 'scarcity' –)

So... 'leadership' is in all of us... and as the Piper's price (his blood-lust of consumption of the planet's resources...) has now fallen due... is weighing on us... 'power' has three choices... which in its desperation it unleashes all at once: first... appeals to nationalism... by creating external threats – the threat of war; second... population-reduction... by unleashing catastrophic events; third... buy-off the former 'better-offs'... the ones it used to placate with jobs... with offers to let them use their 'leadership'....

(And now that I've delved a bit into 'Campaign Sic-Rifkin-On-'Em'... I have to admit a fourth option... though it's really an amalgam of all of them... but for convenience let's call it "re-energize 'capitalism'".)

Which is the proper context... I think... for making sense of this series of over-lapping orchestrations that we've been witnessing... from 'power's bought-and-paid-for media. This is what 'power' does... when it unleashes significant propaganda. It throws it at us from every angle... using multiple pundits but with single messages... variously stated... employing inter-linking... mutually-reinforcing... terms and concepts – all designed to paint a clear picture... of the future 'power' wants us to want (while always controlling the definitions): "local economies"... "worker-owned businesses or cooperatives'... "'democratic' economics"... "making independent contractors owners of the company"... "the 'Third Industrial Revolution"... "the sharing economy"... "owners' instead of 'workers"... "a new left-right consensus"... "guaranteed minimum income" – and just now (April 9, 2014): "zero-marginal-cost-jobs"... "social commons"... "collaborative commons" ('the commons' being a concept of which they are obviously much a'feared...) – that are "based on the notion of 'abundance' instead of 'scarcity"..." ('abundance'... likewise a word the definition of which 'power' very much wants to determine... to ensure a definition of 'abundance' that refuses all relationship with 'reverence'...) 'self-sufficiency' (of course what they call 'self-sufficiency' isn't '*individual* self-sufficiency'...

(When you look at the terms they claim... you see the terms of which they are deeply afraid. I heard another one just today (April 11, 2014 on *Democracy Now*)... another one they're rushing to name... fit into the 'democratic economics' frame...

...so when they propose their vision... of 'socialism'...

...let's get out our glasses with clear lens for that discussion... let's insist on certain basic parameters for our future... and never forget that clear terms... definitions... language... is critical... as is the fact that until now 'power' has owned them... the terms... controlled the lexicon... and so the thoughts we think keep getting stuck in empty jargon.

Or... worse... mire us in division. For example... we're thinking with 'power's terms when we use those 'ism' words. We could say instead: "systems of ranking imposed by 'power'"... which locates the source... and helps us align our sense of reality more accurately – rejecting 'power's frame. We can't develop our thought... and we can't get on the same page... using 'power's concepts and frame.

So let's not be duped by circular... abstract... loops... that are designed to cycle us right back... to rule by the few.)

["140413planetprop.mp3":]

And perhaps the most telling fact dropped along the way is that: youth today can't be bought with a wage... they want their 'work' to also be a contribution... they want their 'work' to be socially significant... probably because... the earth is in the throes of consumption... and the Internet has brought us all closer... and they care about their brothers and sisters....

So... 'power' asks itself... "how to control them?"... "how to manage this matter of shrinking resources... *and* swelling numbers of humans who no longer want to be 'factors of production'?"... "how to push back *into* boxes the growing numbers who are determined to get out of them?" If not by controlling the menu of options available to them?

(It's not about 'saving the planet'. There's an element in the emphasis on climate change disruption which is propagandistic... in the sense that... once again... we're not supposed to care about ourselves. "There's bigger issues that matter more..." we're always told. But there's always 'bigger issues'. Let's not be suckered at this juncture... not just because our freedom is long overdue... but also because it's only us – out of the boxes and out of harness – who can truly brings things back into balance... because it's our being used... our energy being stolen... which is the major imbalance that is the root of the problem.)

["140413questions.mp3":]

So the questions that matter most to us everyday folks... are carefully avoided:

What about the children who are being abandoned *right now?* Does he care about them? And what about us... stuck... soul-crushed... *right now?* Does he care about us?

And how did these global-statesmen who pay him fill their deep pockets?... how did they get their bottomless war chests?

(And in the particular case of Mr. Rifkin... serving the European Union and the big German banks... they got that from Greece... they got that from Spain... they got that from us... squeezing us and telling us: "live within your means...." Yeah, well, they definitely feel they're living within 'there's.' Their 'means' are bottomless because they always can suck on us.)

What about all that 'legacy-disparity'? While the youth are building the 'healing economy'...

(...there... I grant you a new term to try to co-opt... go ahead... fill it with empty content...)

...their 'merit' rising them up to the surface... does he care about us systematically kicked below it?

What about 'hierarchy'? Who makes the decisions? What about this matter of global-'power' sitting on our leadership? What about the horrors that have come from states instilling 'obedience'? And how do we help our brothers and sisters? (They want us to not care about our brothers and sisters. Lack of empathy will always be rewarded with a 'wage' [or with whatever word 'power' comes up with that means the same thing: "don't fight the leash and you'll get extra things..."]) And is your vision of the future based on coercion? Doesn't following orders but get us more 'Auschwitzs'? Isn't what's needed that we-the-people free our souls of 'obedience'?

The future is *not* the global-state statesmen's exclusive province. 'The future' means the lives of all of us. And they cannot be respected by maintaining the current terms of 'governance'... which disallow 'all of us' making the decisions... and rather, as Spearman said, ever tend us toward totalitarianism.

How is this so-called 'new' vision not "the subordination of the individual to the collective purpose..."? as Diana Spearman described 'dictatorship'?

'Power' must end for our world to be based on *reverence*... instead of obedience.

It could not be more obvious that 'power' is but trying to get their 'global-statesmen-status' past this present generation... past those dangerous (for 'power') questions....

^{[&}quot;140413pilot.mp3":]

April 10th, 2014... Sisters and Brothers: The more I probe this latest thrust... from 'power's 'Shape the Future' Project... in which they make use of Jeremy Rifkin (I listened to an interview with him yesterday... promoting his latest book...) particularly as there's quite a pile of spokesmen now stacked up (Venus... Zeitgeist... Thrive... the MIT guys... the pop-economists asking us to help save 'capitalism'... or 'the economy' – we're always supposed to put that first... before our lives... and the similar version of that will be 'the planet'... because 'the planet' and 'the economy' are going to be defined as equivalent – all the 'visionary thinkers' telling us what future we will have... *telling* us...)

(...and realizing that they will just keep coming... they can trot them out *ad infinitum* [and so... what do *we* got?...] because 'power' has endless resources to devote to their problem... of herding us into our 21st century boxes...)

... the more it seems to me...

...we need strategy sessions... 'planning-ins' ('Planning-ins' to launch *our* transition... 'PILOTs'... pilots of the process of helping to further these necessary discussions...) we need on-going efforts that aren't exclusive... that recognize, e.g., that folks who work construction... or grow and harvest our food... may be the 'thinkers' that we most need... to get us to... the 'opposite' of 'power'... of 'rule'... of hierarchy and exclusivity.

Because... truly... we must somehow make our voices louder... somehow get *our* priorities out there... those of us who want to move forward an alternative for *popular* discussion... demonstrate to our brothers and sisters that 'power's plans *are* being met with an alternative....

This cannot be only an academic discussion. This is up for me because when I went to look at Jeremy Rifkin's book I saw almost next to it a book called *Does Capitalism Have A Future?* And impetuously I splurged and got it... because it includes an essay by Immanuel Wallerstein... and I thought... here might be the best offensive... against 'power's 'Shape the Future' Initiative...

We'll see... although my first foray makes me kind of doubt it. My first foray makes me think... that we-the-people are caught between 'two poles of punditry' (as I'm seeing these two middle ranks as either unconscious or conscious servants of 'power'): 'the scholarly pursuit of truth'... versus 'the planted propagandist'...

...seeing this... a strong sense of urgency in me surges... that says: we on the Left... that is, those of us who admit that 'power' is not engaged in 'objective' 'scholarship'... but is deadly committed to its 'future-vision'... we have to start talking about how to challenge it... meet it with an alternative vision that is not elitist... but rather is 'power's opposite.

["140413coreofvis.mp3":]

Given the time constraints of the radio show... and given this effort's (of 'power's) scope... what may be best is to list some of my concerns about this propaganda plant of Rifkin's... and then tackle the whole initiative in more depth (as doing so will help us... I think... get clearer on 'power's key con 'the economy'...) using the page we set up and left (initially titled "Is Capitalism Doomed?"... but which should perhaps be re-titled "How Do We-The-People Come Together To Invent The Future *We* Want?: Getting A Design-Draft... Putting It On The People's Telegraph" [because that's the real issue...]) – and inter-linking its discussions with those of *Founding & Realizing A Test-Site*.

(We learned from Sebastian de Grazia that 'power' has known for decades that 'wage work' is an antiquated system... and that it doesn't need us on leash anymore. It's long past time for us to figure out how to have our *time* back – that's the only way we can be happy.... So we have this right... here in the U.S.... to plan freedom... and it's just so completely reasonable to say "let's have a test site... – just the folks who want to... we're not trying to impose nothing on nobody. We just want whoever is interested... we need a sufficient little bit of land... we want to use all this amazing knowledge [Michael Reynolds' Earthship... David Blume's de-centralization of energy production... e.g... each village having it's own energy co-op...] that people are putting on the table because they want all of us to be free [globally....] So this is reasonable. There's no reason aside from 'power' nakedly exposing itself why this shouldn't be... a test site.)

It seems to me we need to identify the key criteria – the people's criteria – for evaluating any proposed plan for our future... so as not to be duped... as Karl Popper said... by 'mere words'.

(See... this is where we've been tripped up in the past... with mere words... plugged into our good-heartedness and our longing to be able to trust our fellows.... We're told: "Now *we* own the means of production! Get to work!" And the flowery phrases don't make my body *feel* any more free – and my speaks true... I'm not.)

Some of the main ones we've identified:

First: Does it help free us – each individual one of us – from dependency? Does it emphasize *individual* self-sufficiency? Is 'freedom' defined as "freedom from necessity"? Is 'work' or leisure at the core of the vision?... leisure? – living and sharing our gifts freely?... or forcing them to fit within given limits?

["140413freeuscrit.mp3":]

(Consider... for example... this from David Blume... who argues that de-centralized production of alcohol... from a variety of plant sources... could allow all humans to be energy self-sufficient:

It's become a sort of heresy to talk about alcohol fuel or any form of alternative energy as a viable way out of our energy dilemma.... Rest assured, there is enough land to produce solar energy in many forms, including alcohol, for a world that makes energy-efficient design a priority. We can have a large cooperative cellulose distillery operation in each county, producing ethanol and biomass electricity to keep our essential services running. We can have small integrated farms that produce fuel, food, and building materials. We can eat well on locally produced food and locally processed products. We can even cogenerate our electricity and hot water at our homes using our cars running on alcohol in a pinch...

...I was granted a patent in 2007 on the process to use distiller's dried grains with solubles [DDGS: "the substance that remains when, in making alcohol from grain, all of the starch is removed, but all of the protein and fat, some of the cellulose, and a wide array of vitamins and minerals remain, along with yeast from fermentation; useful as animal feed. In the case of DDGS, after the DDG is separated from the spent mash, the liquid portion is evaporated to concentrate the soluble components to a syrup, which is then blended with the DDG."] as a combination fertilizer and herbicide. Now an agribusiness corporation cannot patent it and then prevent others from using it. I am going to handle use of my patent in a completely different manner than a large agribusiness corporation would. A program will be set up to let individual farmers and small collectives with small capacity license this patent for a nominal fee, perhaps only requiring registration (details are still be worked out as of the publication date of this book (2008).]

I ask the following three things of these small-volume users of my patent: 1) that they not use chemical herbicides and not use genetically modified seeds; 2) that they learn how to breed and save their seed from season to season; over time, you will end up with a variety tailored to your climate and soil (write me if you need help with this): and 3) in lieu of the patent royalty, donate what you think is fair to the International Institute for Ecological Agriculture [309 Cedar Street #127, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA] so that I can keep doing this kind of work. Make sure that you take care of your family and workers first. I trust my fellow small farmers to do right by me if their profit increases. So take that, Monsanto!

Alcohol fuel production can result in more concentrated corporate farming of monocrops processed in giant plants, or it can save the family farm and provide farmers with markets for a wide variety of crops. The preferable route to a sustainable agriculture system looks to me like farmers cooperatively producing fuel and multiple co-products in small plants, using a wide range of feedstocks, from roots to grains to cellulose. (David Blume, *Alcohol Can Be A Gas!*, p. 24, 50, info@permaculture.com)

Second: Does it acknowledge the existence of 'organized 'power"... and that there will be therefore strenuous resistance and reaction (backlash)... and factor that into the plan for how to get there? Does it even *have* a plan for how to get there?

Third: Does it overcome our atomization? Does it bring us together – physically and psychically – across false divisions?

Fourth: Is decision-making broad and generous... open and transparent... slow and inclusive?

And far from us needing 'power's help with this business of reproducing ourselves... their imposed class-regime of millennia has but meant them sitting and sucking on us.

Moreover... as David Blume illustrates in his book... 'power' sits on the ideas that would free us from their 'direction' of us – Nikola Tesla's work being perhaps the most glaring example – at least until we start to do them anyway... and it's clear they can't be stopped – then it rushes in to claim ownership... and as they're shameless... they'll even try to reinvent provenance out of whole cloth... and pretend they are the source of them.

["140413telegraph.mp3":]

The parade of 'power's prognosticators are revealing of *their* plans for *us*. But I've yet to hear our commensurate response – i.e. one global in scope... that penetrates the deep social relations of class (as 'power's does implicitly... never inviting discussion of course...) and attempts to enlist global humanity in this massive 'transition' project. Now that's largely a matter of our not having our own public media commons... our own shared public discussion space... our own shared voices to echo throughout our day to counter 'power's. But that we must figure out how to create such spaces could not be clearer. In the space "How Do We-The-People Come Together To Invent The Future *We* Want?: Getting A Design-Draft... Putting It On The People's Telegraph" I'll try to present as much of *Does Capitalism Have A Future*? as I can... so that we can engage with it... and advance our thinking on the question... and hopefully make progress toward consensus... but consider how it begins:

Our quintet gathered to write this unusual book because something big looms on the horizon: a structural crisis much bigger than the recent Great Recession, which might in retrospect seem only a prologue to a period of deeper troubles and transformation. Immanuel Wallerstein explains the rationale for predicting the breakdown of the capitalist system. Over the next three or four decades capitalists of the world, overcrowding the global markets and hard pressed on all sides by the social and ecological costs of doing business, may find it simply impossible to make their usual investment decisions.

[...he will be arguing that the sine qua non of 'capitalism' as a world system is not wage labor... or production for exchange and profit... or the class struggle... or the 'free market'... but rather the endless accumulation of capital... which Rosa Luxemburg told us a hundred years ago... So this historical situation will ultimately reach its systemic limitations... – P.S.]

In the last five centuries capitalism has been the cosmopolitan and explicitly hierarchical world-market economy where the elite operators, favorable located at its geographical core, were in a position to reap large and reasonable secure profits. But, Wallerstein argues, this historical situation, however dynamic, will ultimately reach its systemic limitations, as do all historical systems. In this hypothesis, capitalism would end in the frustration of capitalists themselves. (Wallerstein, Collins, Mann, Derluguian, Calhoun, *Does Capitalism Have A Future?)*

But what about organized 'power'? Where do they fit into this analysis?... is one of the key questions... as we begin examining the book... that we will be asking.

["140413rapist.mp3":]

Initial Thoughts On the Rifkin Initiative:

• As with all 'power's propaganda about 'the future'... it uses the declarative voice. It brooks no challenge... no counter vision... and certainly no squawking from mere commoners. This is 'Big Boys Business' is what he's saying... the 'Big Boys Game'... the exclusive province of the Global Players.

So we're *told* what we're going to get – and it's an appalling vision... all this "billions of sensors" business has always been 'power's longing: total surveillance of us and all life. But it's not what we want. Where are the healthy, happy babies in this vision? Where is the limitless time? Where is the boundless roving and the spanning of seas to explore new things? When 'power' salivates about how it can monitor the entire planet from it's Control Room atop the Panopticon... and waxes poetic about how we also should want it... should passionately wish to contribute our small bit to the "billions of brains" working on Total Surveillance... what it's lusting for is the end of our efforts to even try to be independent... the achievement of their deep longing that we will end all resistance... and become passionately 'self-regulating'... eagerly offer our allegiance...

• ...so what 'power' most wants is for us to turn our backs on our brothers and sisters. Where they keep in place the harshest regimes live the people they plan will feed the more 'privileged' sectors of the global economy. But they don't want us thinking about that. They want us to keep to our given tasks... and be obedient. (*And*... and I've said this before but it's not being discussed... 'power' wants to control the so-called 'knowledge resources': 'Knowledge Infinite'... for which they've always lusted.)

["140413corpcover.mp3":]

• He describes an 'economy' in which 'marginal costs' (of production) will plummet... resulting in a Brave New World in which:

...thousands of start-up businesses and hobbyists establish 3D-printing operations, infofacture products at near zero marginal cost, power their Fab Labs with green electricity, market their goods for nearly free on hundreds of global websites, and deliver their products in electric and fuel-cell vehicles powered by their own green energy.

A powerful new technology revolution is emerging that is going to fundamentally alter our economic life. The Communication Internet is converging with an embryonic Energy Internet and Logistics Internet to create a new technology platform -- the Internet of Things (IoT) – that connects everything and everyone. Billions of sensors are being attached to natural resources, production lines, the electricity grid, logistics networks, recycling flows, and implanted in homes, offices, stores, and vehicles, feeding Big Data into the IoT global neural network. Small and medium sized enterprises and Prosumers will be able to connect to the network and use Big Data, analytics, and algorithms to accelerate efficiency, dramatically increase productivity, and lower the marginal cost of producing and sharing a wide range of physical products and services to near zero, making them nearly free, just like we now do with information goods.

The plummeting of marginal costs is spawning a hybrid economy – part capitalist market and part Collaborative Commons – with far reaching implications for society. Millions of people are already transferring parts of their economic lives to the global Collaborative Commons.

But who is buying these things? And how is it that they're able to? And who will feed the folks who have all this discretionary income?

• And since we're on the subject of food. To keep the book from being a downer... so as to not spoil the good vibe... blow the great high... he thoughtfully leaves the dire predictions to the end... when he says:

Extreme storms and floods... are occurring twice as often as they did a century ago... Droughts are proliferating everywhere. A 2009 International Food Policy Research Institute report on the impact of climate change on agriculture in the developing world was sobering... The impact on agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa over the next four decades because of climate change

is equally alarming: rice yields will decline by 30%, maize by 47%, and wheat by 20%... Climate change will have no less of a dramatic impact on human infrastructure...

Is it any wonder they're pushing so hard to create an 'economy' based on 'cooperation' (for us...) to get us to give generously of our time... and... willingly... continue to let them direct our lives.

They have manipulated our good hearts and our good natures only because we haven't been able to talk about it. Those good hearts and good natures need to be turned to a worthy object: ourselves and the earth...

... and it ain't about them... it's about us growing up.

• And every good fairy tale needs a villain... would it surprise you to learn it's corporations?...'power's traditional cover – the facade global-'power' apparently cannot do without.

(During the February 16, 2014 show on "mis-directing dissent" we argued that the Left's ability to be strategic has been successfully derailed by 'power'... in large measure via the efforts of propped-up pundits directing it down fruitless paths... so here's another example not just of the broad strategy of mis-direction but of the particular strategy (for 'power') of using 'the economy' for cover.

And while last week we repeated what was said in an earlier discussion: that "'scarcity' is self-justifying"... and if imposed universally reduces the need for economic ideology... what we're seeing... in 'power's clinging to it – the *idea* of 'capitalism' – is 'power's need for its larger ideological purpose: 'capitalism's ideological function... in this stage of the game... is less about providing motivation – or legitimization and justification of 'rule' – and now almost exclusively about providing 'power' with needed cover... i.e. shielding its totalitarian planning from public scrutiny... and trying to get we-the-people on 'it's side [as Hugo told them... "no vacuum in the human heart..."] So... their story will go "there's no 'plan' to force or brothers and sisters in other lands into a desperation that's inescapable... oh no... there's only evil corporations..." And of course that example of destitution will also do admirable service as a cautionary tale for all of the 'privileged' servants... as a reminder of how 'good' they have it: a 'guaranteed income'!... and all that 'freedom'.)

And who is the only player strong enough to do battle with this villain? – the evil corporations – well, 'the state' of course... only Daddy has sufficient resources... we-the-people are way out of our league... we must go back to our bedtime stories... and let the Big Boys lead.

• He tells us there's an 'epic struggle' going on... and I agree... but of course his is not the 'epic struggle' that I see...

(Further discussion of 'power's 'Shape the Future Project" will hopefully unfold at: "How Do We-The-People Come Together To Invent The Future *We* Want?: Getting A Design-Draft... Putting It On The People's Telegraph.")

Continuing with Chapter XXVI of Miklos Nyiszli's Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account - P.S.]

"Chapter XXVI (continued)":