

Articles/books

Trump and Putin

December 5

From today's NY Times, a Pussy Riot member on the similarities between Trump's tactics and Putin's:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/04/business/rutenberg-lessons-in-free-speech-from-pussy-riot.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>



Nadya Tolokonnikova, who was imprisoned for a 2012 performance, sees similarities between the situation in Russia and post-election America.

Jack

Whither white workers?

December 11

I recommend highly the recent analysis of the election results by Andrew Flood, **Trump and the myth of the progressive but misled 'white working class' voters**

<http://www.anarkismo.net/article/29827>

Wayne

December 12

Wayne,

I recommend reading "The Blind Spots of Liberalism" by Adam Fisher, at jacobinmag.com, which is really the counterpoint to the article you recommended.

I think that Andrew Flood's article fails to adequately deal with the devastating effect that globalization has had, especially in the Midwest, and how the despair of broken communities and desperate working families thrown into poverty engendered fury at the elites. Hillary Clinton represented the fusion of neoliberal globalization with narrow and smug identity politics, and as such was the target of the fury, driving the desperate to not vote or to vote for Trump. Flood's example of the overwhelming vote in his home for Kamala Harris while giving Trump a majority undercuts the explanation that this was largely racist.

--Jack

December 16

For those who read--and disagreed with--my previously cited article by Andrew Flood on the white working class and the election, you might be interested in this criticism of Flood's article.

Unpacking the basket of deplorables: a reply on Trump voters, myths and myth making



<https://nothingiseverlost.wordpress.com/2016/12/14/unpacking-the-basket-of-deplorables-a-reply-on-trump-voters-myths-and-myth-making/>

--Wayne

December 16

Wayne,

Thanks. I think that this reply hit many nails on the head. I think that it would have made its point if it had been half the length and hit only half as many nails, but in any event I think that it more than amply did its job.

Solidarity,
Jack

December 16

Wayne,

Thanks for posting the two articles.

Actually, I was surprised that you liked Andrew Flood's piece as much as you seemed to. While I had trouble actually reading all of it (too many statistics), I thought it was much too glib in dismissing claims that any significant number of Obama voters and other formerly Democratic Party voters voted for Trump as well as the



need for the left to try to reach these people. It implied that virtually all white workers who supported Trump were unreformable racists, misogynists, and xenophobes. While I am not up on the left, I doubt that any significant left-wing forces are urging everybody to focus on the Trump voters and forget about other people and other issues. I felt that, despite its great length, the critique of Flood's piece was, overall, correct. I also thought Flood came very close to a "give up your white skin in privileges" position.

Ron

December 26

Top ten books I read in 2016

--Shemon

1. *The Concept of the political*, Carl Schmitt
2. *The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food*, Lizzie Collingham
3. *Strike Riot Strike: The New Era of Uprisings*, Joshua Clover
4. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Giorgio Agamben
5. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prisons*, Michel Foucault
6. *The New Dialectic and Marx's Capital*, Christopher J Arthur
7. *An Introduction to the Three Volumes of Karl Marx's Capital*, Michael Heinrich
8. *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War*, Leila Al-Shami and Robin Yassin-Kassab
9. *The 2015 Baltimore Uprising: A Teen Epistolary*, Various Authors
10. *Baeden—Journal of Queer Time Travel*:
<https://baedan.noblogs.org/>

December 26

My non-fiction list

--Wayne

1. Bernstein, Eduard, *Ferdinand Lassalle as a Social Reformer*
2. Berthier, Rene, *Social Democracy & Anarchism in the International Workers' Association 1864--1877.*
3. Carson, Kevin A., *Organization Theory; A Libertarian Perspective*
4. Chomsky, Noam, *Imperial Ambitions; Conversations on the Post-9/11 World; Interviews with David Barsamian*
5. Coates, Ta-Nehisi, *Between the World and Me.*
6. Doberman, Martin Bauml, *Paul Robeson; A Biography*
7. Kinna, Ruth, *William Morris; The Art of Socialism*
8. McKay, Iain (ed.), *Direct Struggle Against Capital; A Peter Kropotkin Anthology*
9. Perry, Lewis, *Radical Abolitionism; Anarchy and the Government off God in Antislavery Thought*
10. York, Richard, & Clark, Brett, *The Science and Humanism of Stephen Jay Gould*

Seattle Neighborhood Forms Groups to Resist Trump Attacks

<http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/seattleites-form-neighborhood-groups-to-resist-trump/>



Seattle residents gather on December 4 to discuss next steps after Trump.

FYI --Jack

These millennial Jews are protesting Trump — and Jewish groups

December 14

Check this out.

Roni

By [Ben Sales](#), December 13, 2016

NEW YORK ([JTA](#)) — “This Jew says no to white nationalism,” one sign read. “Silence is akin to consent,” another said, quoting the Talmud. A third displayed a lyric from a Yiddish song: “We will outlive them.”

The signs, along with chants like “Donald Trump, it’s your fault; Stephen Bannon, oy gevalt!” were not only directed against Bannon, the president-elect’s choice for chief strategist. As hundreds of Jewish protesters marched up Manhattan’s East Side on Nov. 20, they also targeted the Zionist Organization of America, the pro-settlement group that had invited Bannon to its gala that night.

Bannon never showed up at the dinner, but to these protesters that wasn't the point.



IfNotNow activists marching in Philadelphia to demand that President-elect Donald Trump fire Stephen Bannon, Nov. 22, 2016.

The group that organized the protest, IfNotNow, says the real issue is a disconnect between Jewish institutions and the values of young Jews. Legacy Jewish organizations, IfNotNow activists charge, are so focused on supporting Israeli government policy that they are willing to dismiss other Jewish concerns — like bigotry on Bannon's former website, Breitbart News.

"This is the inevitable result of pro-Israel-at-any-cost policies," said Yonah Lieberman, 25, a founding member of IfNotNow. "They are so caught up in their desire to ensure that the U.S. government supports Israel unilaterally that [they're] willing to sacrifice [their] own values."

The group takes its name from "If not now, when?," the end of a statement by Hillel, a first-century rabbi. Founded in the summer of 2014 to organize young Jews opposed to Israel's war in Gaza, IfNotNow has since evolved into an activist community steeped both in left-wing protest and Jewish tradition. It rails against Israel's control of the West Bank, the incoming Trump administration and Jewish organizations it accuses of supporting both those things. Trump's election has given the group a boost. In November, IfNotNow organized simultaneous demonstrations against Trump and Bannon in 30 cities — dubbed the Day of Jewish Resistance. On Wednesday, the group expects 200 people to attend its protest of a Hanukkah party hosted by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Embassy of Azerbaijan at

Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. Lieberman said nearly 3,000 people have participated in IfNotNow's recent anti-Trump demonstrations, and 650 have attended activist training sessions the group is holding across the country.

Ending "American Jewish support for the occupation" is the group's primary goal, although it is light on ideological specifics: IfNotNow takes no position on Zionism, the two-state solution or the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel known as BDS. The neutral stances lead some mainstream leaders to label the group as naive and worse.



"The occupation is a crisis for our entire community," said Lizzie Horne, 25, a former Hillel International employee who helps organize IfNotNow actions in New York. "Pivoting to focus on some of these Donald Trump appointments is really just recognizing this is a part of the bigger system. There are people and institutions that are willing to forgo certain values as a way of maintaining the occupation."

What sets IfNotNow apart is its focus on disruptive protest. While some Jewish groups have long preferred quiet dialogue with the powerful over vocal demonstrations, IfNotNow believes that sitting and reasoning with American Jewish leaders won't get them anywhere.

In April, 17 IfNotNow activists were arrested after staging a sit-in in the lobby of the Anti-Defamation League's national headquarters to protest the "Jewish establishment's support of the occupation of Palestine."

Many Jewish groups, including the ADL, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the American Jewish Committee, endorse a two-state solution. Some vocally criticize Israeli actions and

explicitly support Palestinian rights, like the dovish J Street. But IfNotNow accuses the mainstream of empty rhetoric in place of meaningful action.

“In order for us to win, and to end our community’s support for the occupation, we have to get the majority of American Jews on our side,” said Sarah Brammer-Shlay, 25, one of the organizers of Wednesday’s protest. “Doing work primarily in board rooms and meetings, that’s not moving thousands and thousands of people because they’re not seeing that happen.”



But the brash language encouraged by IfNotNow has meant trouble for at least one of its organizers. Simone Zimmerman, one of the group’s activists in 2014, was briefly appointed as director of Jewish outreach for Sen. Bernie Sanders’ Democratic presidential campaign, only to be suspended after it emerged that she had used expletives in a Facebook post about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

If the group’s goal is to consternate large Jewish groups, it is succeeding. The ADL and the Jewish Federations of North America both offered to meet with IfNotNow and were rebuffed. In April, the ADL lamented in a statement that the group “seems to be more interested in spectacles and ultimatums than in discussion and dialogue.”

Left-wing organizations are friendlier. T’ruah, the rabbinic human rights group, participated in the ZOA protest, and its executive director, Rabbi Jill Jacobs, noted a long history of young Jews staging protests of large Jewish institutions. In a statement, J Street said it shares IfNotNow’s concerns about the occupation and Trump.

IfNotNow isn't the only anti-occupation Jewish group that has shifted to protesting Trump. J Street has released statements criticizing the president-elect's domestic policies and appointees. And Jewish Voice for Peace, which supports BDS, has also placed a new emphasis on protesting his statements and policies targeting minorities.

"It's a new political world and we'll have to figure it out," JVP Executive Director Rebecca Vilkomerson told JTA in November. "We're definitely in conversation on what's going to need to shift given the Trump presidency."

IfNotNow activists say the fights against the occupation and Jewish communal acceptance of Trump are one and the same. But beyond any particular issue, some say the group has become a young, left-wing Jewish community for them. In their mission to make the establishment Jewish community uncomfortable, they've become comfortable with one another.

"For me, this is a space where I found a home and I could say the things I wanted to say," Horne said. "It's one of the most welcoming communities I have ever been a part of."

December 14
Roni,

Thanks for the article.

Still a bit soft on Zionism (all of Israel represents an occupation of Palestinian land, not just the West Bank and Gaza), but a welcome sight in any case.

Ron

Marxists Discuss Contemporary Crisis

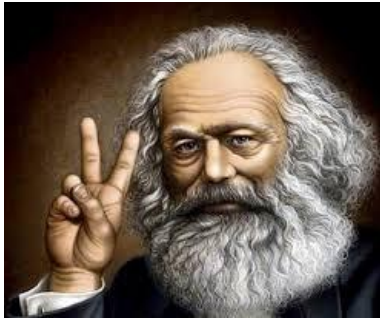
December 7

Here's a link to two "prominent Marxist scholars" talking for two hours about the contemporary crisis. One of them is our old friend

Bob Brenner. The other is David Harvey. In the last half hour or so, the question is raised of whether a new world war is needed for capitalism to recover. Brenner responds, and I think his response is really poor.

<http://www.leftvoice.org/David-Harvey-and-Robert-Brenner-Discuss-The-Economy-and-Donald-Trump>

Jack



Silicon Valley, Neo-liberalism and Trump

December 13

Interesting article by Ben Tarnoff in the Guardian:

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/13/donald-trump-silicon-valley-leaders-neoliberalism-administration?CMP=fb_gu

Jack

December 27

How the Obama Coalition Crumbled

I found the following article to be worth reading:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/23/upshot/how-the-obama-coalition-crumbled-leaving-an-opening-for-trump.html>

Jack
