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The Sandy Next Time

SAM FRIEDMAN

As the water rose
to occupy Wall Street,
ten thousand helicopters
flew massed dollars out
lest all that cabbage salt to slaw
and the balance of payments
blow out to sea.

Merrill Lynch's bull
splashed its massive chiseled hooves
in feral panic
at going underwater
like all the homes
it had helped foreclose.

Liberty Tower,

floated off across the Atlantic,
all 1,776 feet of it.
It was last seen from a flood-fleeing yacht,
erect like Frankenstein's kindred creation,
adrift in the ever-rising sea,

while high-flying drones
lassoed bales of stampeding stock certificates
lest any bankers lose their cents
once and for all,

and armed battalions arrested
everyone
who lacked a trust fund
and tried to flee.

"The Sandy Next Time," Syndic No. 12, February 2015. syndicjournal.us/cover-syndic-no-12/poetry-the-sandy-next-time-bible-stories-at-peace-at-ease-by-sam-friedman/. Reprinted *Heated Words on a Heating World: Poems for a Future*. Central Jersey Coalition against Endless War. 2019.

NEW POLITICS

68

Vol. XVII No. 4

Winter 2020

68

From SNCC to Black Lives Matter on SNCC's 60th
■ Martin Oppenheimer

NewPolitics

An Independent Socialist Journal

Vol. XVII No. 4 \$7.00 (\$9.00 Canada)

Winter 2020

SOCIALIST HISTORY AND THEORY

Walter Rodney's Russian Revolution ■ Matthew Quest

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Anti-colonialism and Humanism ■ Ndindi Kitonga

Global Crises and Uprisings

The Puerto Rican Summer ■ Rafael Bernabe

Sudan's Revolution of 2019 ■ Kevin B. Anderson

Civic Resistance to Japanese Militarism ■ Donald C. Wood

U.S. POLITICS AND LABOR

Problems with the Electoral Road to Socialism in the United States
■ Kit Wainer and Mel Bienenfeld

Take my Benefits—Please! Unions and Health Care ■ Mark Dudzic

Syndicalism's Legacy and Left Labor Strategy Today ■ Avery Wear

Reply to Cedric Johnson on Black Socialist Organizing ■ Brian Jones

Two Articles about Election by Lottery

■ Nicholas Cocco ■ Stephen R. Shalom

... and book reviews and poems

A Radical New Politics of Surrogacy

■ Alexandra Holmstrom-Smith

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NEW POLITICS is published by New Politics Associates, 294 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216, USA

e-mail: newpoliticsjournal@gmail.com

on the web at: www.newpol.org

NEW POLITICS is indexed in The Left Index and in Alternative Press Index, as well as Political Science Abstracts, the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences, and International Political Science Abstracts.

Subscriptions: *New Politics* is currently published twice a year. A one-year, two-issue digital subscription costs only \$20 (a PDF will be emailed to you while we update our website) or \$35 for two years. If you also want the print issue mailed to you, the cost of digital plus print is \$30 for U.S. subscribers, \$50 for two years. A foreign print plus digital sub is \$55 for a year. For institutions, the rate is \$50 in the United States or \$70 foreign (digital plus print).

©2020 New Politics Associates ISSN (0028-6494)

VOLUME XVII • NUMBER 4 • Winter 2020

Full Circle

In closing his work, August Nimtz draws some broad conclusions for today's socialists from his study: "only in the streets, on the barricades and the battlefields is where the oppressed advance themselves." (283) In this we come full circle, returning to his recent interview and his words on organizing. Socialism, he maintains, citing the *Communist Manifesto*, entails "the destruction of the 'social' as well as 'political power of capital'" (289) He points out that both are maintained under the social democratic institutions created in Tocqueville's France and in the remains of the welfare state we have today.

As for our modern-day liberals, Nimtz warns that like Tocqueville they continue to fear the masses. Disdaining the "deplorables" and "abstainers," they tend to indict the victims of capitalism rather than the system itself. (283) For Nimtz, the lesson is clear: "class and class orientation matter." In our future activism, we socialists would do well to remember this.

Every activist and serious student of history should read Nimtz's *Marxism versus Liberalism* and seriously consider the lessons drawn from comparing liberalism's best to what Marx, Engels, and Lenin have to offer.