

Up and Down the Tube (Re: Howard Zinn & Michael Gove)

By Pavle RaDonic

WHY WE LIKE IT: *Moxy kool.*

(Spacing and format is author's own.)

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Howard Zinn

Isn't he wonderful. Heard him before. Loved the mentions of Mark Twain & Helen Keller. Who in the heck knew that stuff? Carefully tailored fame.

From memory an autodidact, not uni grad.

You notice the size of the nib on Trumpet's signature quill? See the pour of lustrous black from the Fordham grad who cheated his way into Penn.

Remember Prof Blainey only a decade & half back during Howard's time, Bush's sheriff, banging on relentlessly about the advance of civilisation, impossibility of holding back against lesser cultures, refusing the black armband version of history. Still not dead the old bastard, god forgive me. (The voice of Bab at my back.)

My Pentel *ENERGel 07* flows like a dream. Brought 20-25 refills with me out here, as well as half dozen pens; near the end of the supply after such an extended stay. Disdain inferior product. It took the Japs some good while to refine the technology for their nibs. Not to be taken for granted. You drop or even knock them, goodbye the cascading outpour from the heart.

His skin treatment in the shot here, as well as the autocue either side he swivels to read from like a halting schoolboy. You can imagine years ago how long he practised that tag, curls, hooks and flourishes to die for. No statesman in history has anything to compare, Theodore Roosevelt poss coming closest.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_L7U0R0oSM

Michael Gove

Knew the name but never laid eyes on the man previously, nor heard that voice and those rhythms. You feel humanity has been cruelly trapped and overpowered by malign forces of darkness causing such numbers to be herded into the language of this fellow's marauding ancestors. Stuck there we are like insect specimens in aspic. Three minutes of the twelve was as much as could be borne. You begin to think of the possibility of the revenge of the natural order currently working away on that island through this pandemic, the late interventions by BoJo all too little. Did you hear his recent freedom-loving guff contrasting Brits / Germans & others?!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV42soUXW_g

NB. Replies to mail from George

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *Not being so much a Net surfer myself, I rely on friends fwd-ing material for widening the aperture, something that has been important in the last few years trying to take measure of the pol scene, especially over a number of different locales. The quick of email sometimes has spinoffs for other writings too. Some of my friends are mining v. useful material.*

Being a literary writer means serious, hard-nosed. Many years schnoz to the grindstone/Sisyphian wheel in my case. Influences are really too too many to mention. On the blog I posted a list a few years ago:

The headkickers: Beckett, Joyce (not F.W.), Pynchon, Dickinson, Celine, Genet, Flaubert, Nietzsche, Vidal, Sontag, Bernhard, Dostojevsky, Chekhov, Camus, Kafka, Canetti, Jelinek, Wordsworth, Banville (nay to the nay-sayers), Larkin, P. P. Njegos, Kawabata, Oe, Whitman, Rilke, Garcia Marquez, Walser, Hamsun, Anais Nin, Brodkey, Chomsky.... Shakespeare! Blake, Milton, Sam Johnson....

Recent discoveries: Victor Serge, Debord, Virilio, Alexievich, Pessoa. Then Tariq Ali, Chris Hedges, Zizek, Pankaj Mishra.

The I Ching (David Hinton transl.), Bhagavad Gita, Tao Te Ching, Analects.

Australian: Bail, Garner (Children's Bach), Drewe (Our Sunshine), Lawson, Stead (Man Who Loved Children)

Must hasten to add Cornel West, only exposure thus far in my case performing on the Tube, but a number of hours watched/listened. The man is a glory; marvellous riffs.

Took a number of years to get to The Wretched of the Earth – Franz Fanon, only finally eventuating because of the Islamic community where I was living and a particularly persistent bibliophile friend.

The Tamil Perumal Murugan is worth added mention, one of the rare authors providing scintillating insight into “native,” village life. Urban greenies/foodies/enviro activists should get acquainted with such natural, important allies. Programmatic discourse can only take one so far.

AUTHOR’S BIO: Australian by birth and Montenegrin origin, Pavle Radonic’s eight years living and writing in S-E Asia has provided unexpected stimulus. Previous work has appeared in a range of literary journals and magazines, most recently Panoply, Modern Literature, The Blue Nib & New World Writing.