Dear  

The anti-Trump demonstrations in the US are heartening in a sense but they are happening in a comparatively safe environment in the twilight hours of the Obama administration. There is a long way to go, and the new rulers will be organised and will leave nothing to chance; they are hard and ruthless people, and to act against them will be punishing and terrible, with militarised policing, incarcerations, loyalty tests in the offing, and civil liberties out the window. And if the highest US courts are purged of liberal legalists…..well, the fascists will have carte blanche. To protest then will take courage and guts and, in a sense, people as hard as those they oppose, and these don’t grow on trees. I reckon that is the shape of the future, and Australia will not be immune, since we have developed as one of the largest US military bases in the world, and Pine Gap is key to the US nuclear military capacity. So we can expect Australian governments to fall in line behind Trump, we having already pioneered Trumpism in many ways.

But there will be other historic forces in play…..we are possibly looking at the fall of the US Empire, going the way of Rome…….there will be major geopolitical shifts as Trumpism rolls through the world, resistances of all kinds, and things that pollsters and opinion writers have not countenanced, maybe even the further decline of capitalism, and all sorts of nasty efforts to stave that off…..indeed, we could, even now, be witnessing the emergence of a new world, a struggling birth like that of a butterfly struggling from its grub form into the light of day……it will be a messy, confusing, and probably frightening process……for all of us ordinaries who have not gone along with the neoliberal madnesses, of which Trump is a mutant product, it will be and is a time to love and to care for those we are close to, to nourish and shelter and aid and support and comfort, and to work for social justice in whatever ways we can, and to recognise the face of evil, and not to yield, nor grant it normalcy. It is essential too, to not abandon hope, nor the imagining and dreaming of a better world.

I recently saw some statistics about the French Resistance during WWII. General de Gaulle, post-war, encouraged the myth that the Resistance was a popular movement in an effort to help him paper over and rule a fractured nation and to promote it in a guilty Europe and on the world stage…….well no, it wasn’t……it was a minority movement, about 1% of the population, and a significant proportion were women since the bulk of the male population were in the armed forces, variously dead, in POW camps, in exile fighting to return, or collaborating/coexisting along with the majority of the population…….part of the feelings of hopelessness we have in the face of Trumpism is that understandings of resistance generally and its possibilities have, historically, been misrepresented, censored, and emasculated…….for ruling class elites it is best the plebs, we who are ruled, do not understand the possibilities of our agency and the making of history from below.
But for the moment, we are safe, and we can sleep safely. And there is an old saying, ‘history surprises’... the future is not yet written, nor set in stone.

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