

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 06

16 April 2011

The Arab Revolution

Curt Gibby with help from Ahmad Solomon

**ALL Program, Lone Star College - Montgomery, Conroe,
Texas**

The Cosmic War – Revisited

It is no secret to those who have bothered to understand that the jihadi have no plan for success, only a desire for retribution. To fight an apocalyptic war, to become martyrs in the cause.

We have one war in Afghanistan but each side has a different objectives. We need need to understand. They don't need to defeat us, their goal is for us to weaken ourselves.

A woman police officer slaps a man making a living by selling vegetables on the streets and will be remembered in history as the woman who unintentionally sparked a revolution in the Arab world.



الشرطية التونسية فادية حمدي بلباسها الرسمي

This is the woman that brought about the Arab Revolution 2011. Her name is Fadia Hamdi and she is a police officer in the city of BouZaid in southern Tunisia. .

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She slapped Muhammad AbuAziz for refusing to moving his vegetable cart, which he used to support his mother, brother and sisters.

Muhammad AbuAziz - a college graduate - who could not find a job and the government would not give him a license to sell vegetables as a street vendors. He eventually poured gasoline on himself and set himself on fire. His younger brother and friends tried to put the fire out but they couldn't.

JUDY WOODRUFF: Finally tonight, the fallout from the Arab revolts on the rest of the world. Margaret Warner reports.

MARGARET WARNER: The demonstrations that erupted in Tunisia last December, sparking a wider revolt throughout the Arab world, were touched off by a young fruit seller who set himself on fire after being harassed by police.

His story and a photo of his charred body in a hospital bed spread on the Internet. Protests erupted, and in less than a month, on January 14, Tunisia's strongman president, Zine Ben Ali, had resigned.

Since then, with an assist from social media, Arabs elsewhere have taken to the streets demanding more dignity, less corruption and democratic and economic reforms. In Egypt in late January, activists massed by the tens of thousands in Cairo's Tahrir Square. After 18 days of protests and a push from his own army, longtime Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/arabspring1_04-05.html

ANALYSIS AIR DATE: April 5, 2011

Tunisian Fruit Seller's Death Helped Unleash Arab World Turmoil



SUMMARY

Shortly after the story of a young fruit seller who set himself on fire after being harassed by police began circulating on the Internet, protests erupted in Tunisia and ousted the country's longtime president before spreading to Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere. Margaret Warner reports on the protests' wider impact.



Demonstrations also broke out in Yemen, Libya, Bahrain and Syria, and more modestly, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The Obama administration has responded by calling on autocratic Arab leaders to make reforms and avoid violence. But in Libya last month, the U.S. and a NATO coalition under a U.N. resolution, intervened militarily to protect civilians and support rebels fighting President Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

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The Arab awakening Tunisia, Egypt, Libya,

Bahrain: Last Modified: 22 Feb 2011 16:05



Click on a highlighted country above for Al Jazeera's coverage of those protests.

The world's attention has been focused on a handful of countries - Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain and Libya - since the first popular protests broke out in Tunisia in December. But nearly a dozen countries in the region have seen political unrest, and the protest movement shows no signs of stopping.

There's been some apparent reaction in other parts of the world as well, most notably in China. The government has cracked down further on dissent and on any stirrings on the streets or the Internet of a Chinese version of the Arab spring

Map of Islamic world today



eaglesofpakistan.blogspot.com


Muslim Distribution



http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/arabspring2_04-05.html

ANALYSIS AIR DATE: April 5, 2011

'Huge Step up for Democracy' in Arab World Revolts: Who's Next?



SUMMARY

How will the unrest sweeping the Middle East and North Africa impact the wider world? Margaret Warner discusses the political turmoil with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Jessica Mathews, Time Magazine's Romesh Ratnesar and former United Nations official Mark Malloch Brown.

Who's Next?

For that, we turn to **Jessica Mathews**, president of the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) -- she served in the Carter and Clinton administrations; **Romesh Ratnesar**, a columnist for ["Time" magazine](#) and fellow at the [New America Foundation](#) -- he is the author of "Tear Down This Wall"; and **Mark Malloch Brown**, a former deputy secretary-general of the [United Nations](#) and a minister in the **last British government**. His new book is "The Unfinished Global Revolution."

JESSICA MATHEWS, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Jessica Mathews, beginning with you, this has been so dramatic, these events, dramatic enough in themselves, in the Arab world. Do you think they're going to have an impact on the broader world?

I do.

I think everything -- eventually, everything will be different as a result, because the relationship -- what they really mean is, the relationship of people to their governments has changed. And in this world, it will spread. There's -- eventually, I think there will be no part of the world that will -- will be untouched by it. It will take time

MARK MALLOCH BROWN,

former United Nations official:

I think that's right. I mean, I think Jessica is correct, that in that sense, things won't be the same again.

And it's been a huge step up for democracy, which had been lingering a bit in the -- you know, we had had a period when, just a few months ago, you started to hear people saying, well, maybe the Chinese way of government, with its firmness and its strategic planning, has it over the confusion of American democracy.

Well, it's been a very good few months for democracy. But I don't think you're going to see a simple contagion, where, you know, the Arab spring becomes the Chinese spring or the Russian spring. But I think, as Jessica says, things will be different, even if, in many ways, it will take a little time for it to work through, and it will work through in these slightly more indirect ways.

ROMESH RATNESAR, "Time" Magazine:

MARGARET WARNER: Do you think that this will -- that discontented publics everywhere in the world and their governments are taking notice, and - and will be affected?

RR: I think so.

I mean, it's clear that the genie is sort of out of the bottle. And I think it's going to be very hard to put it back in, certainly in the Arab world, probably in other parts of the world as well.

But I do think that the direction in which this goes is still unclear. And I think it's going to be a bumpy ride. We have already seen the transition to democracy in Egypt and Tunisia, it's going pretty well, about as well as we could hope. But clearly, the response in other parts of the region has not been as encouraging.

And we could see a very uneven and very unstable situation going forward. And I think that that is something that we have to be prepared for.

MARGARET WARNER: What we see now -- and certainly in China, it's widely believed that this latest, tougher crackdown is related to this. In other words, what you have got is a government moving preemptively to try to head off any hint of this.

Where else do you think that might happen, Jessica Mathews, or flip it around, where the publics might be inspired in some way?

JESSICA MATHEWS: I -- it's very hard to tell.

I think you -- where you look is in the countries that are worst-governed around the world. And certainly at the top of my list would be Pakistan, another Muslim country also. I'm not making any predictions. But you -- if the core meaning of this has to do with a sense, as your setup piece said, of dignity and of governments that fulfill their basic job of delivering reasonably good governance, Pakistan's governments haven't done that for decades.

And I think those would be the places. I -- look, I think it may very well also have impacts across Africa, because, of course, Libya, we think of it as part of the Middle East and as an Arab country, but it's an African country. So, there will be that effect as well.

MARK MALLOCH BROWN: I think, **Jessica**, it's interesting that you are picking on countries which are democratic. There have been elections, very imperfect ones, in Pakistan. And in most of Africa, there are now elections, which I -- I think that goes to the heart of the issue, which is elections are not enough.

JESSICA MATHEWS: Yes. Right.

MARK MALLOCH BROWN: That doesn't necessarily give you a government that is trusted and representative and legitimate, which again takes us back to why this is going to be a difficult transition, because an election in a country which has no history of pluralism, no real middle class to be the kind of bedrock of a new system, well, you wonder, in Syria, Yemen, particularly Libya, just how easy it will be.

I think it's a very good point. We all know where we want to go, but some of these journeys are going to be very difficult. And I think it's also worth pointing out, [The New York Times today had an article](#) which I have been waiting for, which is, oh my goodness, there's al-Qaida inside the opposition in Yemen.

And, you know, this is going to be a tough period, where the risk that Washington or governments in the region flip back to preferring security and stability over democracy and choice.

JESSICA MATHEWS: And Yemen is the obvious case.

MARGARET WARNER: Well, Romesh, so, that is the question. If this world -- if these relationships are going to shift, how does the U.S. and its allies in Europe have to adjust, picking up on what Mark and Jessica have been saying?

ROMESH RATNESAR: Yes.

Well, I mean, I think the -- it's an enormous challenge. And I -- it's a puzzle. And I don't think it's one that we have figured out how to put the pieces together on. And, you know, I do think that the sort of old bargain that dominated our thinking, you know, vis-a-vis the Middle East is being re-evaluated,

the idea that we spoke about being for democracy and supporting democratic values, but because we had to protect our vital national interests, we ended up supporting regimes that were far from democratic.

I do think that that narrative, as the president has said, is changing. And I think that evaluation is changing. And I think it probably should. But I think we also have to recognize that we have real limits on what we can do and how much we can influence events. We don't have very strong, reliable partners in the region right now who can work with us, the way you had after the revolutions in Eastern Europe.

You had Mitterrand and Thatcher and Kohl, all these people who -- who could help us manage the transition. We don't have that right now. And we have to, to some extent, wait to see what happens. I mean, we don't have a great deal of influence to shape the environment.

MARGARET WARNER: Well, that does suggest that these -- I mean, we have seen in this example that the U.S., certainly, has not had huge influence. I mean, President Obama has been calling on different governments to essentially do the same thing, some of...

JESSICA MATHEWS: In the Libyan case, of course, the military case, it's only we that have the military capability.

So, one aspect of this that needs to change that I think that will change as these movements, revolutions spread across the region will be, we have to reach some understanding with our British and French allies that they don't take us to war, depending on our capability, without our agreement.

You know, it's -- there certainly was an element of that with the French in this case.

MARK MALLOCH BROWN: Well, I think so, although I think that, in Europe, there's a slightly cynical observation that the reason they did this in Libya and not Cote d'Ivoire is their rather elderly warplanes could reach Libya but couldn't have reached Cote d'Ivoire.

(LAUGHTER)

JESSICA MATHEWS: Well, but they couldn't...

MARK MALLOCH BROWN: Well, no, but I think there is -- that there's another point worth saying, which is say, from outside America, to those of us in Europe, we actually think Obama has had a pretty -- President Obama has had a pretty good crisis, that he showed a pretty deft touch with both Egypt and Tunisia, pressure, but without being too overt about it, bravely getting on to the side of change.

You know, Libya -- kind of American and European leaders always break their knuckles on Libya.

JESSICA MATHEWS: Yes.

MARK MALLOCH BROWN: It's a very, very difficult one. But I hope it's the exception and that thereafter, we're not going to see military intervention; we're going to see diplomatic pressures to encourage people to make change themselves. I think it's terrible if we get into...

MARGARET WARNER: But, Romesh, do you think that, militarily, though, that Libya may be something of a new model? Or do you think it's a one-off, that is, the U.S. does put its military muscle at work on behalf of something, though, that actually countries are more eager to do, and the U.S. essentially lets others take the lead?

ROMESH RATNESAR: Well, I think Libya is a very unique circumstance, for all the reasons you just pointed out. I mean, you had an imminent threat, or what we viewed as an imminent possibility of really sort of horrible ethnic -- or horrible slaughter of civilians.

You had a general international consensus. You had the Arabs asking us to intervene. It's hard to imagine that those conditions are going to be replicated elsewhere in the region. But I do think it's a template, in the sense that, clearly, what the administration, philosophically, wants to promote is this idea that the United States needs partners, and that we cannot carry the burden for these kinds of missions

And that goes to this bigger issue of the kind of constraints on American power, and I think the desire that the administration has to persuade other countries that it's in their interest to take on some of the burdens that, in the past, we assumed ourselves.

MARGARET WARNER: And brief final thought, what do you think this does to the relationship the U.S. and the West have with, say, allies in the near neighborhood, Turkey or Israel, or managing an adversary like Iran?

I know I put way too much on the table there for a final minute, but...

JESSICA MATHEWS: Well, I will try it very quickly.

I think there's a big challenge for Israel, which will no longer be able to rest on its laurels, so to speak, as asserting itself as the only democracy in the region. This poses -- this series of revolutions, this Arab spring, poses real challenges for Israel to rethink a frozen domestic political situation.

For Turkey, I think -- of course, Iran is perhaps a little simpler, right? I mean, the pressure will be on a huge push to -- for change domestically.

Turkey, it's -- I think it's hard to tell. It's not quite so obvious that Turkey will benefit, as it thinks it was -- because Egypt will reassert itself as the leader of -- in this part of the world, I think.

MARGARET WARNER: Unfortunately, we have to leave it there, at least for our on-air audience.

Thank you, all three, very much.

UN, AL urge political solution, cease fire to stop Libyan crisis

English.news.cn 2011-04-15 05:24:21



African Union Commission chairman Jean Ping speaks at a news conference after a meeting on the Libyan crisis in the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo April 14, 2011. The meeting, attended by the UN secretary general, EU foreign policy chief Ashton, the head of the Organization of Islamic Conference and African Union Commission chairman Jean Ping, came one day after the international contact group's meeting in the Qatari capital of Doha to address the Libyan crisis. (Xinhua/Nasser Nouri)

Operation Unified Protector

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopediaJump to: [navigation](#), [search](#) **Operation Unified Protector**

Part of [2011 military intervention in Libya](#)

Date

25 March 2011–ongoing

[NATO Libya](#) Commanders and leaders

- [Admiral James G. Stavridis](#) (Supreme Commander)
- [Lt. General Charles Bouchard](#) (Operational Commander)
- [Lieutenant General Ralph J. Jodice II](#) (Air Commander)
- [Vice Admiral Rinaldo Veri](#) (Maritime Commander)

[Military intervention in Libya](#)

Operation Unified Protector is a [NATO naval](#) and air operation to enforce the [arms embargo](#) and the [no-fly zone](#) against [Libya](#) in support of United Nations Security Council Resolutions [1970](#) and [1973](#).^[1] The arms embargo is carried out using ships from NATO's [Standing Maritime Group 1](#) and [Standing Mine Countermeasures Group 1](#)^[2] and additional ships, submarines and maritime surveillance planes from NATO members.^[3] They would "monitor, report and, if needed, [interdict](#) vessels suspected of carrying illegal arms or [mercenaries](#)".^[2]

The no-fly zone is enforced by planes transferred to Unified Protector from the [military intervention in Libya](#), with additional planes from NATO and allied nations.^[1] NATO took sole command of all operations in Libya from 06:00 GMT on 31 March 2011, which effectively ended the U.S. [Operation Odyssey Dawn](#), as all U.S. operations were absorbed into NATO's *Unified Protector*.^[4]

Questions?

Don't panic!

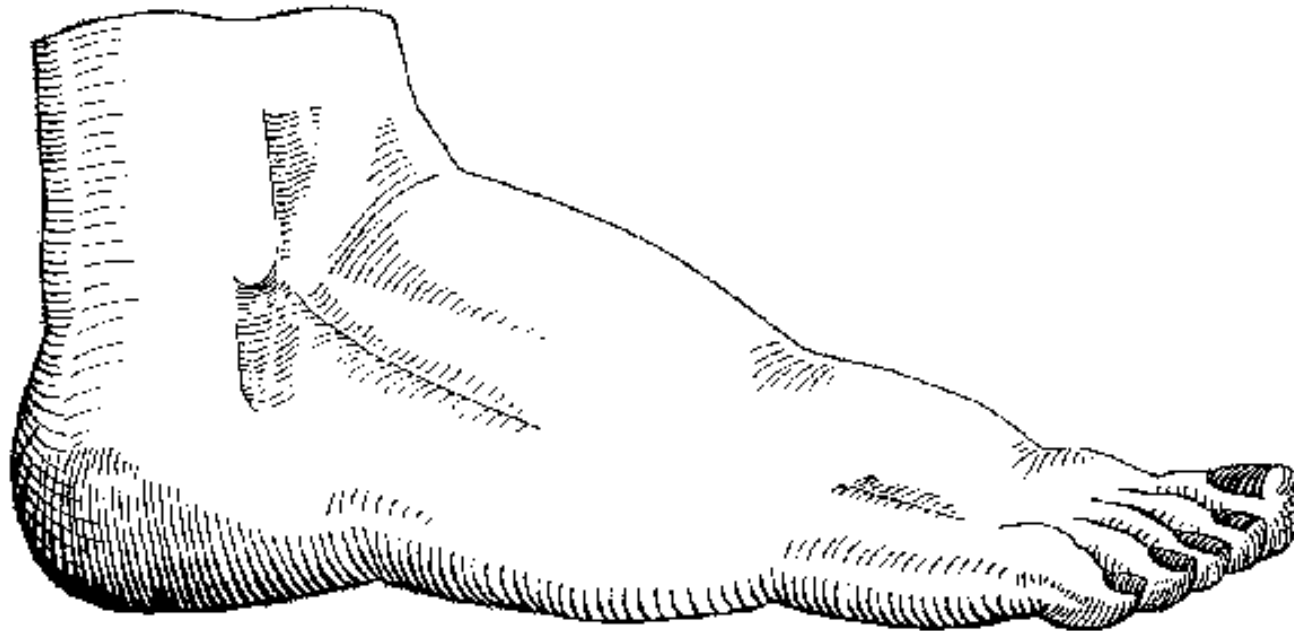
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 21 May 2011

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

Enrichment Material

What makes you an Authority?

The word authority comes from the word *author*. And the word author has a Latin root. It means: “he who enables growth”.

So, the person whom you recognize as an authority is a person who enables your growth.

The others are the ones to decide if I am an authority to them or not.

What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

Authority and Inner Power:

I just said the true Authority is the result of your Inner Power.

This means I would judge your sense of Authority at your Inner Power.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

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Authority and Inner Power:

Yet, most people will judge your authority by **how you appear** and **how you act**.

We could call this your intrapersonal intelligence and your interpersonal intelligence.

People will confuse your Inner Power with your appearance and your acts, which are part of the ego.

This means that may you be totally genuine or totally faked, you will be an authority for someone.

Some will like a person's big ego and strong personality.

And he will be considered as an authority to them. That's their choice.

Some others will prefer another person's genuine vibration and ability to connect and recognize the source, and he will be considered as an authority to them.

It's always the others' choice.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

Authority and Knowledge:

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

It can be because you are a good listener, or because you react calmly and softly to others' fragilities, or because you are good at saying No, or because you have no fears, or because you verbalize and observe your emotions...

If you are an individual who is very much identified with your ego, you will recognize authority to egotistic people.

If you are an individual who prefers to connect to the Source, to the I Am, you will recognize authority in spiritual people, for example, but not in egotistic people.

Authority and Knowledge:

Your knowledge is your ability to master [Instruction on Matter](#).

People will like your knowledge in Economy, or in Finance, or in Law, or in Philosophy, or in Engineering, or in Astrology, or in Painting...

This means authority does not claim for obedience, never!

Only someone who feels that his authority may be at stake will claim for obedience thru the use of power.

Power inspires fear.

Authority inspires respect.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

RETURN of the ELDERS UNLEASH YOUR WISDOM

It's time for the Return of the ELDERS! Previous successful societies relied on the councils of their ELDERS to offer WISDOM in times of confusion. Folks, we can't quit yet.

What does Authority mean?

The true Authority is the result of your inner power. It's the wisdom that comes from within.

It has to do with your connection [to the source, to the I Am](#).

Authority has nothing to do with the verb to have, but rather with the verb to be.

You do not have authority. You are seen as an authority.

The big difference between the External Power and Authority lies in the fact that authority cannot be imposed, it needs to be recognized.

So your authority depends on those who look at you.

Some people may recognize your authority and some others may not.

And you cannot do anything about it.

This is why people who are very much identified with their ego, and thus seeking for others approval, can't stand those who do not recognize their authority and hence use power to submit them by force.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

Accepting the challenge

Many of you have in fact made real contributions during your lifetimes and careers. And now you feel you have earned a rest and start cashing in your chips and enjoying the good life.

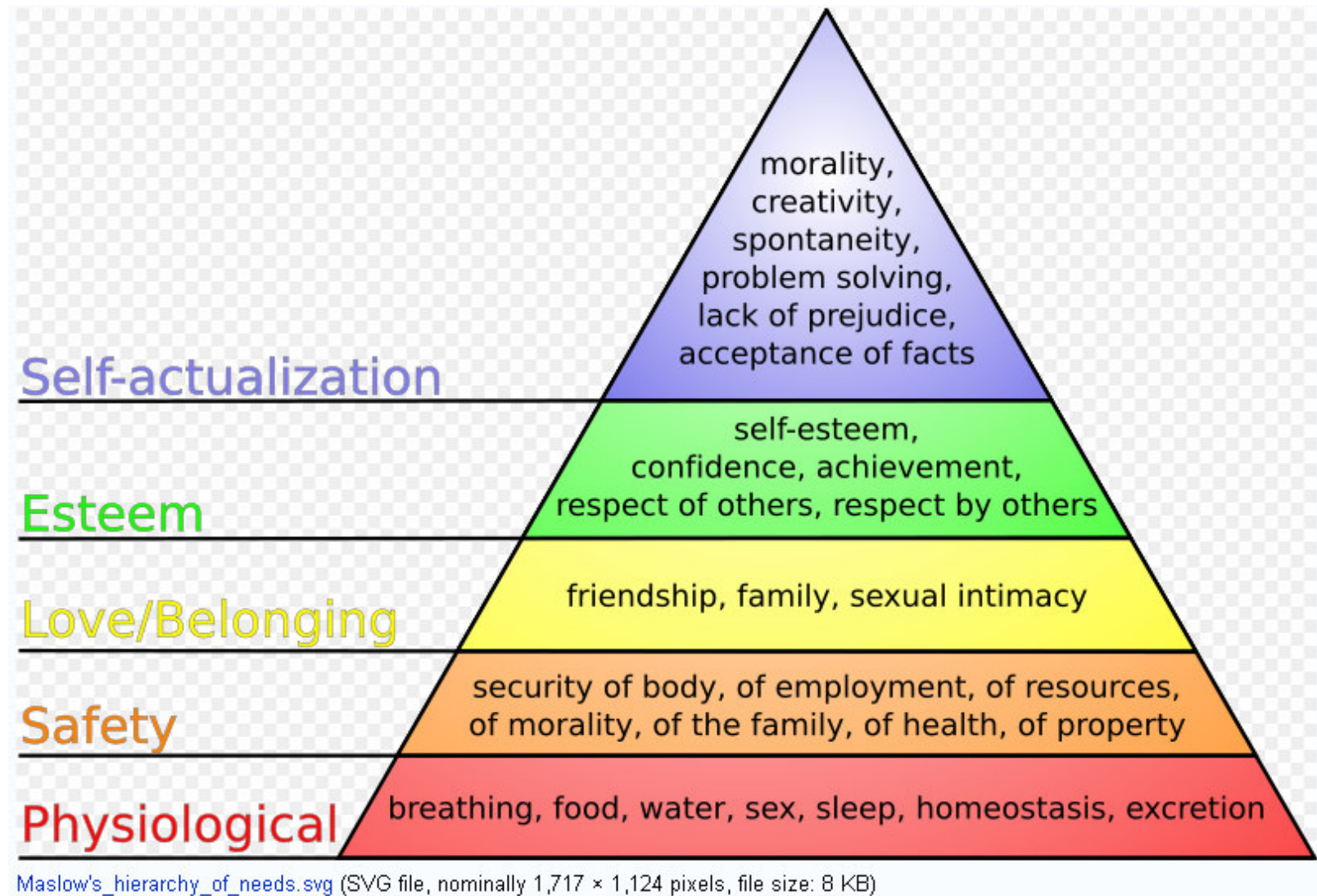
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



It all connects

Fear, War, Greed

To much capital in the hands of the few

Too little money in the hands of the consumers.

Credit is not a replacement for disposable income

Oil is a limited resource

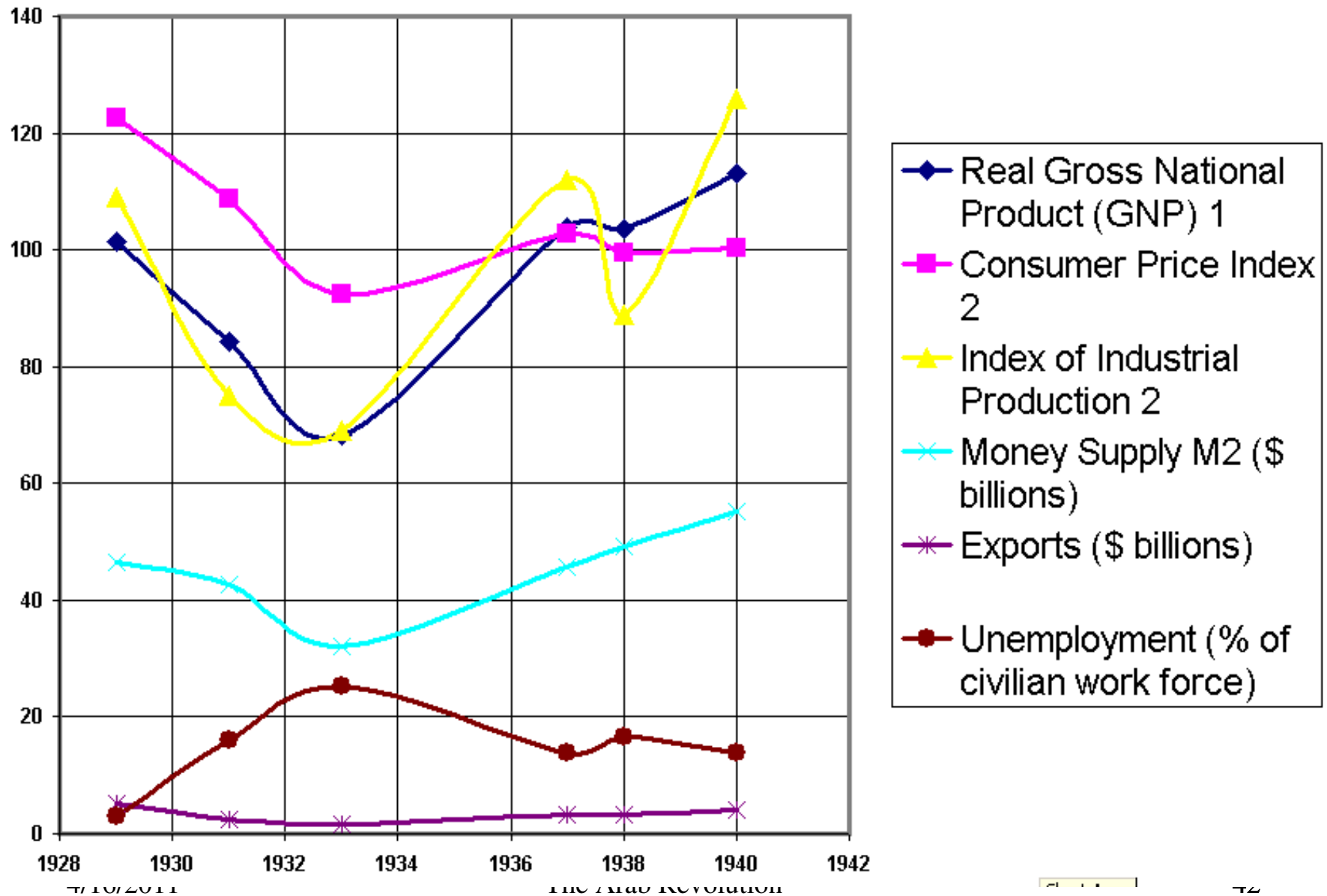
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

**“...we are the leaders we've
been looking for.”**

Grace Lee Boggs

Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

Fear - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

Pain - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

Cold - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

Hunger - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

Fatigue - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

Boredom & Loneliness - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.