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Listening Journal

Writing prompt 1

Notes on Guantanamo Chapter 1

- Mahvish Rukhsana Khan, a University of Miami law student, volunteered as an interpreter in 2005. Khan, the daughter of Afghan immigrants who studied at Johns Hopkins, thought it was unfair that detainees could not understand their lawyers because they did not know Pashto (Slahi 2).
- Khan did not know if the captives were innocent, but she thought they should prove it.
- After visiting Guantánamo over 30 times, Khan "began to suspect that many, if not most," of the captives were "innocent men swept up by mistake."
- She started "My Guantánamo Diary," wondering if Khan was too innocent after reading that she "gave ample, and maybe naive credence to the prisoners' points of view."
- The military later released the Afghans she met, and her assessment convinced her that most were not guilty of crimes against the U.S. (Slahi 4)
- After learning the surprising endings, Khan's stories sound like false-guilt tales (Slahi 10).

13th

The 13th film examines slavery's economy and post-Civil War legal and social replacements. DuVernay contends that "racial control" and coerced labour have continued since liberation (Ava). The 13th Documentary is complicated but is also uplifting and open-

hearted. Its name comes from Amendment 13 of the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery.

The film investigates the reasons and repercussions of racial discrimination in the U.S., focusing on the disproportionate representation of African Americans in jails. (Ava). "Birth of a Nation" creates the notion of ravenous black men hunting white women. It is a solid first film as a revisionist historian. The "Black Lives Matter" movement, inspired by COPS and others, reveals that African Americans feel unfairly treated and need better (Ava).

Foreword and Introduction to "Freedom is a Constant Struggle" by Angela Y. Davis

In the book's introduction, Cornel West discusses meeting Angela Davis. Angela Davis has never wavered in her commitment to the world's underprivileged, from the 1960s to today. Her astute structural analysis and bold practice cost her more than other academic lefties (Davis). She was a fresh philosophy assistant professor in California when Reagan attacked her. Her Communist Party membership got her dismissed from UC Berkeley.

Frank Barat prefaces the book. What role does Black feminism play? What does it mean to campaign for prison abolition? He asserts that these and other subjects were mentioned during interviews. Angela addresses the struggles for justice in Ferguson and Charleston in lengthy and poignant writings, showing that the fight for equality and freedom is far from over (Davis).

Writing prompt 2

Small Group Recap on Davis

"Freedom is a Constant Struggle's" first three interviews were with Davis and Frank Barat (the interviewer) in 2014. Davis emphasizes group action in progressive causes, citing the problems of capitalism and the global prison-industrial complex in his first interview

(Davis). In the subsequent interview, she expands on the thought of shared effort by introducing global solidarity by pointing out comparisons between global struggles, such as Palestine and Ferguson, and by advocating for considerate structural racism rather than treating Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin's murders as isolated happenings. In the third interview, she emphasizes the importance of intersectionality in progressive movements and the lessons that can be learned from observing movements in other parts of the world.

Chapter 1 in Davis

In the first chapter, progressives fight capitalist individualism's subtlety. The first interview's title could cover the book's subjects. The Concentrated effort from many can spark transformation. Davis says we should not only commemorate renowned people and campaigners as historical figures. We must also honor those who took action and sought change, despite their quieter voices.

Davis explained how the black power movement won civil rights. Barack Obama's victory as president shows that blacks can achieve in public life (Davis). Black people are still persecuted and denied fundamental rights because they are black. Ferguson stands out. Davis agrees that Obama's presidency will end racism, but she believes it is feasible because of the dream.

Article: Woman in Labor

Yolanda Huang's article "Woman in Labor" covers a pregnant woman who was ignored while in labor in Santa Rita Jail. According to reports, no one helped the mother as she gave birth (Mary). She could not walk and had to crawl to the hospital with cramping. Other female convicts said guards Ms. Steele was in great pain.

A CFMG nurse told Ms. Steele she was exaggerating her agony, was only eight months pregnant, and had no dilated cervix. The deputies locked Ms. Steele in a dirty cell with a metal bed, door, and toilet. The lawsuit claims deputies shut the window as Ms. Steele yelled in pain. The lawsuit claims Ms. Steele waited hours for help but received none. Ms. Steele "gave birth alone and in pain in a cold, concrete, unsanitary isolation cell at Santa Rita Jail" so other inmates could hear the baby wailing.

Chapter 1 “Active Listening” Tools 1-6

- Interrogating your bias
- Keeping your hopes in check
- Taking the time to be present at the moment
- Controlling one's own emotions
- The capacity to recognize one's own body
- Awareness of One's Voice

Emotional intelligence Quiz and Reflection

Statement	never	rarely	Sometimes	Often
It bothers me when people make statements that are hard to understand.				✓
I need help paying attention in group settings.		✓		
When people speak to me, I look them directly in the eye.				✓
Often, when I am having a conversation, I look down at my phone or my computer.		✓		
I prefer electronic communication, such as texting and emailing, over actual physical contact.			✓	
I am trying to come up with something to say while everyone else is talking.	✓			
I do not hold back from saying exactly what is on my mind.				✓
I often hurt people's feelings accidentally.			✓	
By observing their body language, I can deduce how a				✓

person is feeling.				
Many people feel I need to grasp their meaning.			✓	
There are times when I involve myself in other people's arguments.	✓			

A Meaningful Analysis of the Score

11-25: You need to work on your listening skills (Leonardo 20). You have a hard time understanding what other people are saying, and they have a hard time understanding what you are saying.

26-39: you have good listening skills. You already possess some of the abilities necessary to become a good listener, but there is always room for improvement.

40-44: Your listening abilities are above average, but there is room for improvement

Chapter 2: Guantanamo

Dr Ali Shah Mousavi, a paediatrician, claims he returned to Afghanistan in 2003 from Iran to open a clinic and rehabilitate the country. American soldiers accused him of being a Taliban sympathizer and took him to Bagram Air Base (Slahi). American soldiers allegedly spat on him, cursed him, blindfolded, hooded, gagged, and kicked him in the head.

After being taken to Guantánamo and waiting over a year and a half for a hearing, he was not allowed to call witnesses in his defence. Shiite Muslim and infidel to the Taliban, he felt sold by bounty-hunting political opponents. "I'm not sure what I'm charged with," he told his judges, who remained silent. After three years of mind-numbing boredom and humiliation at Guantánamo, Mousavi was released and returned to Iran.

Questions about Ferguson Documentary

- What is happening in Palestine is now happening in Europe, the United States, etc., and this is something we constantly discuss (Slahi). The connection needs to be

made so that people can see the global scope of the fight. If so, do you think Ferguson is an outlier?

- What do you think of the theoretical underpinnings of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* in light of the events in Ferguson?

Chapter 2 Davis (2 entries so far)

- **Black civil rights movement**

Davis presents examples of how black U.S. movements have or could impact others. Davis prefers coordinated action sequences (Ferguson).

- **Black radical tradition**

Davis prioritizes Black radicalism when fighting racism and colonialism. Davis shows how the Black American liberation struggle affected anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa.

- **Police brutality**

Davis discusses police violence in Ferguson. Blacks dying at the hands of police is nothing new, but she questions if punishing the police officers will give justice.

- **Calling back liberation terrorism**

Davis often cites Black Panther Party member Assata Shakur as evidence of government racism. Shakur was granted political shelter in Cuba decades after the Black Power movement.

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