**Literature of War: World War I and Now**

Class 6: Layers of Identity

November 13, 2018

Next week: *The Sympathizer,* by Viet Thanh Nguyen, Chapters 11-23, pp. 172-382.

1. **Backtracking and Catching up**
   1. *Exit West: Questions, Summary*
      1. **“Language”**

Compression and Expansion; Metaphor and exposition; Realistic and philosophical takes

Generalities and particularities

* 1. “*Surviving a Bombing Raid in Syria”* by Martin Nakell
     1. Text available (see class website)
     2. Questions and comments?
  2. **America Decides (Recruitment:** Tempting; Shaming; Identifying; Exploiting**)**

The Newberry Collection Maps and photos at class website.

1. ***The Sympathizer***

**“The American War” / The Conflict in Vietnam: Some background**

Fascinating link from Louise re military / political perspective on class website

**Chapter I: The Setup: time(s), place(s), voice(s)**

What does this mean? *“I am a spy, a sleeper, a man of two faces. Perhaps not surprisingly, I am also a man of two minds.“*

**Chapter 2: The Musketeers and the Plan**

What is the significance of this: *“Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom”*

**Chapter 3: The Exit and Tragedy**

What is significance of this: “*a hush blanked the passengers, hypnotized by trepidation and anticipation?”*

**Chapter 4: Sadness and Hope (Guam and Orange County)**

What does it matter that the narrator was an English major?

**BREAK**

**Chapter 5: Starting Over; Racism’s Face; An Assassin in Training**

What is different in Claude’s version of the evacuation?

**Chapter 6: Execution and Guilt**

What is significance of: *“What we have here is your usual American tragedy, only this time starring a hapless refugee?”*

*And, “No one is innocent,” Claude says, “especially in this business.”?*

**Chapter 7: Congressman and Lana**

What do these characters represent?

**Chapter 8: Director and Sonny**

What does Director’s statement--*“No one gives a shit.”—*mean?

**Chapter 9: The Little Red Envelope and other Corruptions**

What is significance of: *“Promise your mother you will.”*

**Chapter 10: Protests and Screeds about race and power**

How are you responding to this barrage?