

COLLAPSE VII

The New Alimentary Continuum

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*As you might have expected, I have a message for you
from control.*

ZILLATRON LORD OF THE HARVEST

AN ECONOMY OF SPEED

On 25 October 1832, President Andrew Jackson signed an order that was to replace the rations of rum, whiskey or brandy, as they had been given to his soldiers before, with sugar and coffee (Army General Order No.100). Jackson's Executive Order was recognized by Congress in July 1838. Since the 1820s, Secretary of War John C. Calhoun had already warned against the harmful effects of alcohol for field operations, favouring coffee instead, yet the actual replacement of alcohol with sugar and coffee, at the rate of four pounds of coffee and eight pounds of sugar per 100 rations, cannot merely be seen as a negative response to alcohol consumption. The change from alcohol to caffeine was the first sign of a new economy of violence

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which increasingly controls the world today. It is an economy that is all about speeding up the strategies and tactics of the now omnipresent battlefield.

It should be noted that neither sugar nor coffee were products of mass consumption at that time. By introducing them to the military diet, into *solde*, President Jackson invented the first of a whole series of revolutionary weapons through which (US) military intelligence speeded up modern life. For although designed for military use, these weapons all became customary mass consumption products. It was World War One, in particular, that introduced sugar and coffee (and also chewing gum), together with their economy of speed, to every household around the world. Turning every body into the body of a soldier, the twentieth century thus became the time in which all of these military, alimentary machines, that had remained largely virtual for so long, turned viral. Radically new undercurrents have spread throughout the earth, breeding new life that today controls all the mouths in the world, feeding them Martial Law, creating a universality that is determined by notions of warfare, subjectivity and territoriality. Virilio is right to insist that in our days the fabric of war is everywhere. It has sunk deep into the earth, into every object, into all of us. But his 'Pure War'¹ is not just to be found in and around technique.

1. P. Virilio, *Pure War* (Los Angeles: Semiotext(e)/Foreign Agents, 1983).

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Claude Lévi-Strauss² had already told us that nutrition and alimentation (and not copulation) conceptualizes space (and not time), making edibles (virtual as they might be) the most elementary of all hyperobjects, the primal strata, the first and foremost of the ‘phenomena of thickening on the Body of the Earth’.³ This new military regime too, starting by replacing alcohol with caffeine, reaches well beyond proposing us particular products to consume. Its desire to speed up every body is also enacted by setting out new paths of food preparation (the microwave oven and more recently, flameless heating) and of ways to keep products fresh at all times (canning, sterilization, and more recently, zein packaging). But these are only a few of the formalizations and quantifications produced by the machinery that today keeps *everything* in a permanent state of emergency, as Virilio would put it. It has brought us wholly other physicochemical, organic and anthropomorphic contours of the earth, opening up a whole new and unforeseen arsenal by means of which life on earth is controlled and will proceed.

Today, as part of the First Strike Rations, US soldiers are offered large amounts of carbohydrate (maltodextrin) and caffeine – presented to them, of course, in a much more refined way than was the case

2. C. Lévi-Strauss, *The Origin of Table Manners* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1978), 190.

3. G. Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 1987), 502.

two hundred years ago. Field marshals in our times are given mocha energy bars fortified with 200 mg of caffeine, or chewing gum with 100 mg of fast-absorbing caffeine per piece, along with central nervous system stimulating d-amphetamines (commonly referred to as 'speed') and Modafinil, a (new) synthetic drug currently being tested by the Defense Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA). In line with these new rations, the discourse surrounding food additives has of course taken a more 'scientific' (read 'Taylorist') turn over the years. Tests with modafinil discuss the increase of cognitive performance in sleep deprivation situations,⁴ its thermogenetic and aggression-increasing effects. Today, the US Army proudly informs us about its improved caffeine additives,⁵ claiming to have increased soldiers' 'usefulness' from 48 to 68 hours (when taking a piece of gum every two hours). The chewing gum is named 'Stay Alert', which nicely summarizes what the large amounts of caffeine are supposed to do: to maintain the troops in a perpetual state of emergency. *Stand up straight. The enemy is here.*

4. See for instance J.V. Baranski, R. Pigeau, P. Dinich, I. Jacobs, 'Effects of Modafinil on Cognitive and Meta-Cognitive Performance' in *Human Psychopharmacology: Clinical and Experimental*, Volume 19, Issue 5, 2004: 323-32).

5. Committee on Military Nutrition Research, Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine, *Caffeine for the Sustainment of Mental Task Performance: Formulations for Military Operations* (National Academies Press, 2001).

**FRAGMENTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE
FUTURITY OF WAR**

Although of vital strategic importance, alimentation is still poorly developed in military theory. Famously, Napoleon is supposed to have said that an army marches on its stomach; but, at least in the occidental tradition, military theorists prefer to pay homage to the work of Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1831), whose strategies of the battlefield only mention the soldier's body when it comes to the question of shelter.⁶ His famous adage 'war is the continuation of politics by other means' is certainly still valuable for us; but in approaching this notion of politics from the alimentary point of view, we should not focus too much on the Apollonian romanticism of Clausewitz and instead (for a start) turn to his Dionysian predecessor, Frederick the Great of Prussia (1712-1786). Frederick, an artist, *bon-vivant* and very successful military leader, was perhaps one of the first generals in the West to emphasize that 'the first object in the establishment of an army ought to be making provision for the belly, that being the basis and foundation of all operations'.⁷ This indeed is a very different point of departure to that of the Clausewitzian tradition.

6. General Carl von Clausewitz, *On War* (Brooklyn, NY, Brownstone Books, 2009), 116.

7. See T. Foster. *Military Instructions from the Late King of Prussia to his Generals* (London: Cruttwell publishers, 1918), 7.

Our minor alimentary history of warfare then brings us to William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891), the famous general of the Union army in the American Civil War, who, following the aforementioned President Jackson, seems to develop Frederick's politics further, stating that:

[t]he feeding of an army is a matter of the most vital importance, and demands the earliest attention of the general entrusted with a campaign. To be strong, healthy, and capable of largest measure of physical effort, the soldier needs about three pounds gross of food per day, and the horse or mule about twenty pounds ... Probably no army ever had a more varied experience in this regard than the one I commanded in 1864-65.⁸

With Sherman, Frederick's emphasis on alimentation was rewritten dramatically. Frederick considers the food intake of soldiers 'the basis and foundation of all operations', in other words as the most important *preparation* for the battle to come (food) or *celebration* after it is won (alcohol). The Executive Order by President Jackson, as echoed in Sherman's style of warfare, however, has accelerated into a continuous set of *interventions*, into continuously taking action via

8. In O. Connelly, *On War and Leadership: The Words of Combat Commanders from Frederick the Great to Norman Schwarzkopf* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005), 24.

alimentation, thereby actually making alimentation a *central means* of warfare (deterritorializing dominant ideas on logistics, strategy *and* tactics). Sherman fully included the body of the soldier as part of a total machinery that no longer has time to prepare for a battle to come or to celebrate when it is over. With Sherman the soldier is always already actively intervening. Sherman gave us the soldier who has to keep on drinking coffee and chewing gum.

Military historians had already noted Sherman's ability to move deeply into enemy territory fast, which again draws our attention to the new weaponry he made use of, the new idea of the motor he applied. It is remarkable that, in terms of the semiotics of warfare that still dominates academic thought in this area, Sherman appears only as the merciless general who so successfully practiced a scorched earth policy against the Confederate States (during his March to the Sea, for instance). This was only his rewriting of Sun Tzu's famous claim that 'each pound of food taken from the enemy is equivalent to twenty pounds you provide by yourself'.⁹ Sherman understood the black earth, the chemistry of distribution. He knew that to control the alimentary continuum he had not only to feed his soldiers continuously; he had also to starve the enemy forces. To control alimentation is to control life.

9. Sun Tzu, *The Art of War* (Boston: Shambhala, 1988), 28.

In Sherman's generalization of the alimentary principles we can spot fragments of a style of warfare that emphasizes a control of *life as a whole*. Sherman's new strategies prehended the new processes of subjectification that were to dominate the earth and to alter its synthetic and chemical horizon accordingly. Of course the promotion and development of performance-enhancing foodstuff comes with the activation and addition of desirable enzymes and micro-organisms as well as the inactivation and exclusion of unwanted enzymes and micro-organisms from edibles and from the earth. But this politics of speeding up is a *human* endeavour, as it comes with a reterritorialization of the entire earth (and all of its possible life) upon these new (accelerated) processes of subjectification. Adding organic micronutrients such as Vitamin C might accelerate the human being, it does not affect the animal. Or even worse: adding Glyphosate (a systemic herbicide) to our foodstuff (such as soy) kills competing weeds, but is also toxic to aquatic organisms and especially amphibians.

Sherman's military style in the end burns the earth as it creates, feeds, breeds, enriches, grafts, as it accelerates a new earth to come. It once again shows us that a *military style* has never been just a blackboard strategy 'designed in order to achieve some end', such as Wylie and Caldwell Wylie consider to be a common ground

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for military styles in literature.¹⁰ Rather we agree with them when they conclude that '[w]hat is necessary is that the whole of the thing, all of war, be studied. The fragments of war, the minor parts of strategy, the details of tactics, are quite literally infinite'.¹¹ Military styles are to be defined pragmatically or empirically as a set of 'mechanism-independent, structure-building singularities ... capable of being incarnated in many different physical mechanisms'.¹² Sherman's first attempts to control life as a whole are still very elementary compared to how this is practiced by US military intelligence in the twenty-first century. They do however announce this whole, total politics. His experiments do not anticipate the contemporary scenario, but they were the first attempts to grasp its motor.

Today's Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) – the field rations served by the US Army to its troops in combat – and the machinery that surrounds them (crucial parts of it developed by the Soldiers System Centre in Natick, Massachusetts) perform the quantum leap that fully achieves the economy of speed. The new alimentary continuum has now installed itself, distributing a chemical and synthactical whole that accelerates all. It became fully operational in January 2003, when

10. Rhodes, James F., *History of the United States* (Vol. V. 1864-1865, Ch. XXIX) [1904] (Port Washington, NY: 1967), 14.

11. *Ibid.*, 12.

12. M. DeLanda, *War in the Age of Intelligent Machines* (NY: Swerve Editions, 1991), 18.

Donald Rumsfeld, the illustrious State Secretary of Defense in the first George W. Bush administration, concerning the torment of Mohammed al-Qahtani at Guantanamo, approved of new 'interrogation methods', many of them already described in the Army Field Manual. Apart from putting them in isolation, changing their sleep schedules, and making temperature adjustments in order to disorient them, Rumsfeld also denied them hot rations and limited their intake to MRE products.¹³ The interrogation log of detainee 063 (al-Qahtani) from 23 November 2002 already shows this new policy in action: '0755: The detainee ate the entire MRE plus an extra cereal bar'.¹⁴

ALIMENTARY REGIMES

Agamben concludes that '[w]hat is new about President Bush's order is that it radically erases any legal status of the individual, thus producing a legally unnamable and unclassifiable being. Not only do the Taliban captured in Afghanistan not enjoy the status of POWs as defined by the Geneva Convention, they do not even have the status of people charged with a

13. Stuart Taylor Jr. and Benjamin Wittes, 'Refining Immigration Law's Role in Counterterrorism', in B. Witten (ed.) *Legislating the War on Terror: an Agenda for Reform* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2009): 289-345, 305.

14. Interrogation log detainee 063. Viewed at: http://ccrjustice.org/files/Publication_AIQahtaniLog.pdf (last visited 5th of May 2011).

crime according to American laws'.¹⁵ Rumsfeld's new interrogation methods seem to practice this biopolitics; his take on the deregulation and acceleration of the tormented body is indeed in no way obstructed by civil rights. Furthermore, and this is perhaps of even greater importance, here the prisoner and the soldier are being controlled by *the same weaponry* (the MRE). It no longer matters whether the body in question belongs to a US civilian or to someone else. Rumsfeld's tactics of immanently speeding up (and slowing down) the body through MREs reveal to us the new ideas of territoriality that come with the control of the biosphere, excluding or even removing *zoé*. All must be controlled.

As the proper (Foucauldian) archaeologist knows, digging further into the fertile soil will inevitably recover the villain – the outsider that endangered classical or feudal power – as well as the delinquent – the insider that fell short and must be treated accordingly. Just as there is more than one type of criminal to be found in the earth, Deleuze and Guattari, following Virilio, show us that all processes of grounding imply the production of a certain type of soldier, a style of hunting, a way of catching the prey. It all started with the nomad-soldier, the hunter, who invented war.

War was accidentally invented by animal-raising nomads as a consequence of the machinery, the kinetic

15. G. Agamben, *State of Exception* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 3.

energy of the hunted animal that was now being conserved. And it was this process (this style of conservation) that was reinvented several times in history. Most importantly this meant that the dominance of the nomad-soldier was succeeded by the peasant-soldier and the citizen-soldier¹⁶ that are in one way or another related to the aforementioned villain and delinquent. The hunter comes into being at the moment he ‘... captures the force of the hunted animal’,¹⁷ introducing us to an alimentary economy of violence that has reinvented the earth ever since. Conserving the kinetic energy of the hunted animal – or rather the particular *style of conservation* – thus gave form to the earth, installing the regime of the nomad-soldier that was succeeded by the peasant-soldier and the citizen-soldier,¹⁸ introducing us respectively to the villain and the delinquent.

The various types of soldiers Deleuze and Guattari conceptualize can, then, be addressed as *alimentary figures* that come with new styles of conservation, new ways of catching prey. The initial force of the nomad hunt is the pure, raw and untamed alimentary force. The peasant soldier, inventing sedimentary continuity (spatiotemporal fixation) introduces us already to a very different regime of consumption, by means of

16. Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*, 399.

17. *Ibid.*, 396.

18. *Ibid.*, 399.

which a territoriality is introduced that places war at its margins (which thus have to be protected). The citizen soldier, by inventing the city *and* the countryside (the capitalist opposition between consumption and production) fights for surplus and needs land in order to enlarge the hierarchy.

Yet, as history is neither universal nor finite, there have always been a multitude of war machines crawling around (in and out of) the surface of the earth, some more successful than others, some more resilient, more powerful, more capable of acceleration. Deleuze and Guattari already mapped many of them, some quite far removed from the more conventional definitions of war common in literature (which is why Paul Patton proposed to reconceptualize their 'war machine' as a 'machine of metamorphoses').¹⁹ Think of the war without battle lines, proper to the Chinese game of Go, and compare this with Simoons analysis of the dominance of the Han-Chinese:

In their southward migration, the Chinese, a literate people who had the only system of writing in East Asia from the second half of the second millennium BC until the second century AD, faced a similar situation but acted very differently from the Anglo-Americans in their westward expansion across the United States. Whereas the Anglo-Americans largely

19. Paul Patton, *Deleuze and the Political* (London, New York Routledge, 2000).

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eliminated or displaced the aboriginal inhabitants, the Chinese commonly settled among, and ultimately absorbed them.²⁰

This wholly other strategy, at work in the past as it is today (with the emergence of Chinatowns, with the current consumption by China of Africa) practices a very different type of 'warfare'; or at least, it hunts differently, works by means of a very different notion of territoriality (and of alimentation, for that matter).

But even if we 'limit' ourselves to studying warfare (a small minor consequence of the war machine), it is not too difficult to see various new styles or chemistries appear. Especially in the last fifty years, in which Occidental battle traditions have more and more been challenged by other styles which had been successful in warding off their hunting techniques with remarkable ease. First, the Vietnam war saw the French (and the US Army) '[c]onfronted by an opponent who offered neither a front not a solid rear to target...'²¹ but instead invented jungle-space and expanded it into many unknown dimensions – think of the Cu Chi tunnel systems. How different this jungle notion of territoriality is from the way the civilian-soldier intends to cultivate its own land: No two-dimensional Cartesian

20. F. J. Simoons, *Food in China: a Cultural and Historical Inquiry* (CRC Press, 1991), 1.

21. M. A. Hennessy, *Strategy in Vietnam: the Marines and Revolutionary Warfare in I Corps, 1965-1972* (Westport, London: Praeger Publishers 1997), 56.

grid here, that needs its lines to separate the inside from the outside, the good guys from the bad guys (consumption from production, city from countryside). The Cu Chi tunnel systems are nothing but a mirror of the interlacing drainage and irrigation canal systems that has traversed this part of the earth for ages. The flows of water, of the undulating surfaces of the paddy fields (*sóng lúa*) follow this earth, its winds, its rocks, its Mekong floods. The civilian-soldier turned war increasingly into a capitalist demand for *Lebensraum*, a desire for even more earth (square metres), for spaces of production. He had no understanding at all of the *wormhole-soldier* that, like a stream of water, continuously slips into another dimension. The wormhole-soldier comes close to what Deleuze and Guattari call 'holey space': it is *connected* to nomad space (the nomad-soldier) whereas it *conjugates* with sedentary space (the peasant-soldier).²² Existing between the two, the hunt of the wormhole-soldier remains unseen, consequently its n-1 dimensionality constitutes a wholly new (unforeseen) weapon system.

With the War on Terror, we are confronted with yet another style, another chemistry of warfare that skirts around the powers of the US Army with even greater ease. In fact, it only needed a one-dollar razorblade in order to defeat all of the billion-dollar defence shields (SDI/SDIO/BMDO/MDA, better known as

22. Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*, 415.

‘Star Wars’) that US presidents since Ronald Reagan had launched in order to shield attacks from the Other. And again, this chemistry is first of all a new conceptualization of the earth: earth as xeromorphic desert. Negarestani calls this the Assyrian doctrine of War – ‘not a geographical or even a political body, but a sentient process of desertification which can be grasped only by presupposing that war is an autonomous entity free from its provocateurs’.²³ As always, the War starts with the undercurrents, the powers of the Earth which we saw being opened up by the foregoing styles discussed above.

Compared to the multidimensional and *invisible* (alimentary) strategies of the Vietcong (hidden from the logic of the eye), the Assyrian style of hunting is *unvisible* (in full conformity with the logic of the eye) because of its clarity, or better even, because of the transparency of oil (that which speeds it up). For art historians have long told us that it is oil that enlightens everything, that oil equals pure enlightenment. Likewise in dietetics – in which oil, the fattiest of fluids, virtually carries all flavours within it, in full conformity with perception. Or in scientific terms, where ‘[f]at, it turns out, doesn’t just have a flavour, it has *every* flavour. Whereas a sugar solution stimulates only five to ten percent of taste buds, fat stimulates

23. R. Negarestani, *Cyclonopedia: Complicity with Anonymous Materials* (Melbourne: Re.Press, 2008), 132.

ninety-five percent'.²⁴ When Negarestani then reminds us that 'Islam does not perceive oil merely as a motor grease – in the way Capitalism identifies it'²⁵ he suggests to us the *absolute* claim to territoriality and to invisible presence that comes with this new style of the desert-soldier who, living the Kingdom of God, knows that '... all elevations must be burned down'.²⁶

In his performance of seeming-being, the good politician George W. Bush accused his 9/11 enemies of being 'faceless'. This – through Occidental eyes – might seem to refer to a kind of cowardice, but actually it perfectly captures the invisible, oily, translucent face of Islam that has been staring at him ever since the devastation of Manhattan. Bush's 'analysts', as DeLanda would call them, 'in search for the well-defined patterns of behaviour in their activities ...', with their convictions that 'these organizations perform their operations by the book',²⁷ obeyed the good old mesophytic capitalist war rhetoric, demanding the desert – the xerophytic (an)organism – to express itself, which would then allow them to turn it into the Other possible world to be conquered. Perhaps one day 9/11 (even more than 1989) will prove to have been the point of inflexion at which a biopolitical world

24. B. Massumi, *Parables for the Virtual* (Durham, London: Duke 2002), 153.

25. Negarestani, *Cyclonopedia*, 20.

26. *Ibid.* 21.

27. DeLanda, *War in the Age of Intelligent Machines*, 185.

order was cut loose from its capitalist calcomania. For now however, it is heating the capitalist system to its (topological) extreme.

IN FEAR OF THE TERRORIST-SOLDIER

The invisible and the unvisible h(a)unting of capitalist warfare through turbulence, friction (or frictional electricity), collision and attraction, actualized a 'schema of concretization', as Simondon²⁸ calls it, that is making our present day economy of speed fully operative. For how different is the soldier of today from the civilian-soldier that still pretends to roam the (Romantic) Occidental earth, so well situated in (for instance) the minds of the occidental bankers. And yet everyone knows that contemporary biopolitics has *always already* given us a style of hunting that has sprung from a very different earth, from a very different chemistry of cooking. Contrary to the citizen-soldier, this new regime no longer has any interest in the capitalist trick of temporarily placing criminals (called delinquents) outside of society; it also sees no reason to keep its soldiers on the inside of the State. Similarly, a dualist notion of territoriality (city and countryside, consumption and production) is of no importance anymore. Again, this is what Donald Rumsfeld has taught us with regard to the al-Qahtani case. For indeed, isn't

28. G. Simondon, 'Technical Mentality', *Parrhesia* 7, 2009: 17-29, 19.

the horrible conclusion we ought to draw from his new policy, that there is no intrinsic difference anymore between the insider (the civilian, the soldier) and the outsider (the criminal, the terrorist)? If there is one lesson to be drawn from the War on Terror as it we have watched it unfold for ten years now, it is that *there is only one terrorist-soldier*. We are all terrorist-soldiers. We all desire to eat/hunt this same earth with fear and are thus formed (subjectified) according to it.

In this new type of warfare, in which the delinquent (the one different individual, that in the end is to be put back into society) is replaced by the terrorist (absolute destruction as at work in all of us), it is not the police (selected citizens) but the soldier that guards the camps (Agamben's territory). Yet he is also the only one who inhabits it. Similarly it is not the judge (the elected citizen) but the soldier that takes action against 'those against us', as George W. Bush labelled the exception: an exception which is at the same time the soldier. And again, this new type of warfare brings with it a particular cultivation of the land (as did nomadic, sedentary and capitalist culture).

In a way the terrorist soldier recalls the nomad-soldier, who, unlike the peasant-soldier and the civilian-soldier, knows no dualism, no division of labour. Yet at the same time it has become even more sedentary than the peasants and the civilians, who still needed their distribution routes to keep going. The terrorist

soldier is everyman, is everywhere, includes everything. Even the nomad, barely surviving the capitalist regime, is included in this new continuum. The Israeli army openly admitted that the Deleuzo-Guattarian nomadic idea of 'smooth space' was used in their anti-Palestinian urban guerrilla attacks. 'You are either with us or against us'. All the different compartments familiar to us have folded into one. The terrorist-soldier is, in every sense, the critical threshold of contemporary biopolitics.

Agamben had already concluded that the 'camp', as he conceptualized it, is everywhere: '... the camp is the very paradigm of political space at the point which politics becomes biopolitics and *homo sacer* is virtually confused with citizen'.²⁹ The camp is everywhere, the State is everywhere and the warzone is everywhere and thus includes all bodies, *consumes* them. 'While prison law only constitutes a particular sphere of penal law and is not outside the juridical order, the juridical constellation that guides the camp is martial law and the state of siege ... As the absolute space of exception, the camp is topologically different from a single space of confinement'.³⁰ Agamben thus concludes that 'we are all virtually *homines sacri*'.³¹

29. G. Agamben, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 1998), 171.

30. *Ibid.*, 20.

31. *Ibid.*, 115.

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The camp is everywhere, and it has been everywhere for a long time. Agamben might prefer to analyse the concentration camps of Nazi Germany, for here (as well as the Soviet Union) the camp may have been introduced as a crucial element of State terror. But in the South African *Boer War* (1899-1902) and even in the American Civil War, similar crude biopolitical strategies were already in use.³² Yes, in the American Civil War, starring the above mentioned General William Tecumseh Sherman, concentration camps played a crucial role, for exactly those reasons that Agamben conceptualizes in terms of a contemporary biopolitics: to secure the State of Exception. On 10 August 1864, General Grant reported to Washington:

Every man we hold, when released on parole or otherwise, becomes an active soldier against us at once either directly or indirectly ... If we hold those caught they amount to no more than dead men. At this particular time to release all rebel prisoners North would insure Sherman's defeat and would compromise our safety here.³³

32. See L.A. Horvitz and C. Catherwood (ed.), *Concentration Camps. In: Encyclopedia of War Crimes and Genocide* (New York: Facts of File Library of World History), 97.

33. Rhodes, *History of the United States*, 499-500.

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Biopolitics turned the outside of the State into the outside of the inside, the inside into the inside of the outside. The same goes for all bodies, ergo for all terrorist-soldiers. In the War on Terror, the Bush administration, representing humanity (the initial crime [9/11] as crime against humanity), thus repeatedly addressed all of us with those same words used by General Grant: 'You are either with us or you are against us'. In fear of the invisible and the unvisible, General Bush, more than anyone else, knows that his faceless enemy is everywhere and that the facialization of the soldier is always already highest priority. Not only in order to fortify the troops, but as an instant and necessary continuation of the State. Using fractal logic the State, or better state control, is by now essentially a fractal continuity that needs to travel deeper and deeper into spacetime. It controls by h(a)unting the body perpetually.

THE SMELL OF HOME

Virilio is right that this chemistry of warfare includes the clothing of the soldiers. They have become part of the weaponry giving form to the body of the soldier, today more than ever before: '... the latest combat outfit tends to be nothing other than a technological prosthesis that represents an updating of the armour of the chevalier, *the most evident sign of the resuscitated fighting*

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*body, it is the vehicle or the more precisely its speed...'*³⁴ But this is nothing compared to how this new form of (biopolitical) warfare maintains itself through alim-entation. Let us explore some of the novel chem-istries, the radical topological or mereotopological re-creations of the earth, through which the terrorist soldier comes into being, through which this total war is effectuated.

Crucial is here the most volatile of the senses, the most immediate, the least linguistic, the least obstructed by in- or outside: smell. The Futurists (see their *Futurist Cookbook*) were the first to understand that the alimentary nature of warfare had little to do with the need to fill the stomach, but more with under-standing the speed of smell. They knew that smell not only dominates the culinary but also drives the hunt. Or rather; the smell of death makes us hungry as it makes us fear. It is then for good reason that orthonasal stimulation, instantly reaching the olfactory bulb, is now a key focus in research activities in US Army laboratories and affiliated research institutes.

A company like ScentSational Technologies, currently bidding for the Army's \$85,000 food packaging research contract, proposes the injection of scents into the MRE plastic wrappings as they're being molded. Stimulating the brain through the external nares of

34. P. Virilio, *Negative Horizon: an Essay in Dromoscopy* (New York: Continuum, 2007), 86.

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nostrils (rather than through the retronasal stimulation developed while eating) has been widely experimented with by fast food and instant coffee companies and has for some time also been very popular in the best restaurants of the world (for instance through so-called 'molecular gastronomy').

The economics of speed as practiced by the US army today considers orthonasal stimulation a key weapon in its topological definition of territoriality, in its conceptualization of the terrorist-soldier. For far more than the sights and sounds of war, it is the smell of fear that obstructs the speeding up of the body of the terrorist-soldier, which threatens the State from happening. Thus, the smell of home is the most crucial ingredient of MREs, of its packaging, and indeed of everything that concerns the alimentary event so crucial to (this particular style of) warfare.

Smell is the ultimate reterritorialization of territoriality in general. As Proust already taught us, it is smells that are '... more fragile but more enduring, more unsubstantial, more persistent, more faithful, remain poised a long time, like souls, remembering, waiting, hoping, amid the ruins of all the rest; and bear unflinchingly, in the tiny and almost impalpable drop of their essence, the vast structure of recollection'.³⁵ Smell's 'pointless' interventions (pointless as in, not

35. M. Proust, *Swann's Way. Within a Budding Grove*, trans. C. K. Scott Moncrieff and T. Kilmartin (London: Chatto & Windus Ltd, 1981), 51.

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making use of specific locations, specific identifiable) have the power to accelerate. This is a topological effect *par excellence*, as it proves that any particular point in Cartesian space(/time) is always already infinitely close to any other given point.

The imperial *spatium* defended by the peasant-soldier, and the capitalist *extensio* defended by the citizen-soldier, are being overcoded by a new spatio-temporal numerology of the State that considers all bodies *multiplicities in which to operate*. Its continual interventions secure and control, paving the way for future acceleration to happen. It calls out for it even, naming its energy bars HOOAH! or OO-RAH! These common battle cries (from the army and the navy respectively) *demand* acceleration to take place everywhere, to accelerate everybody. Bodily modification is required as it is only there that the State occurs, that the face of the soldier happens.

Being in a constant state of emergency, the body of the terrorist-soldier (composed in our new earth) has to stay alert for even more than sixty-eight hours. It must always remain alert (fearful), just as it must always stay hungry. Sherman, he who controlled America, can still tell us how to conquer the world: only by intervening through the feeding of all terrorist-soldiers. It is a matter of the most vital importance, and demands the earliest attention of the general entrusted with a campaign. Only thus can one prevent the terrorist-soldier

COLLAPSE VII

from becoming an active terrorist against us, either directly or indirectly ...