Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from “Noam Chomsky: ‘L’America fondata sulla schiavitù, i neri repressi da 400 anni,’”

(“N.C.: ‘(The) America Founded on/upon Slavery; (the) Blacks/Black People Repressed for 400 Years’”).

Interview by Valentina Nicoli in *il manifesto*, 2 June 2020 (abridged text/text shortened)

The United States is burning, (the) revolts in/on the streets show no sign(s) of diminishing, increasingly

(are) on fire, (riots?) do not give any sign of decreasing/abating,

seem/appear to be lessening,

are not seeming/appearing to decrease,

involving/involving more and more the white population also/too/as well, and the army is ready to

engaging even the white population,

intervene/step in/take action. (…)

(we posed/put some questions to N.C.,)

To understand how very old/ancient? the roots of the revolts are (…) we (have) asked Prof. Noam

(In order to/So as) far back (in history) the roots of the revolts go (in history)

one of the world’s

Chomsky, among the world’s leading/top experts on politics and American society, some questions. (…)

Utmost/major authorities on (American politics and society?).

(“)Professor Chomsky, what is happening in the United States? Is there something deeper/more profound

going on in the U.S.A.? anything

behind the protests against the racism and (the) abuse of power of the white police?(“)

racism and the abuse of power by

(“)Something deeper is 400 years of brutal repression. First/Firstly/First of all, the most violent

Deeper than that/this (there) are… At first

What is more profound is…

The deeper aspect behind them is

slave system formed/established

system of slavery in history, which constituted the basis/base/foundation for/of the economic growth and

Following this period there were

(the) prosperity of the United States (and (of) England). This phase was followed by ten years of freedom\*

After this phase there followed (liberty)

in every respect

in/during which the Black population was able to participate completely/fully/ (to all effect?) in society and

when could to take part for all intents and purposes

(they/it) did so with great success. After which/this/that a pact was formed/made between (the) North and

it very successfully. Then reached

South which in effect conceded to the ex-slave states the authority to do what/whatever they wanted. And

that effectively former to act however they pleased/wished.

the lives/life of Black people,

what they did was (to) criminalize Black lives/the lives of the Blacks, instituting (a) (a form of) “slavery

Black people’s lives, establishing

around/approximately

with/by/under another name,” (…) This phase lasted until about World War II/Two//the Second World

War, (…) Afterward(s)(,)/Subsequently/Later a new wave of criminalization of Black lives/the lives of

Blacks/Black people arose/took place. The paternity of that expression is not mine/my own. It is often used

came about. authorship? does not belong to me. frequently

in the studies on/of American society. In the ex-slave states at the end of the 19th century/the 1800s,

former slave

a matter of a

it was a (question of a) premeditated/deliberate policy/politics. If a Black man was standing in/on the

vagabodism, a fine could be imposed on him

street, he could be stopped/arrested for vagrancy, he could be given/inflicted a fine (that/which) he would/could

detained/held for vagabondage, they could give him a fine

not pay and so/in this way he would end up in prison. Once there, he would be made available to/for companies

consequently be sent to (jail). (put) at the disposal/disposition of

as an/the ideal/perfect worker: disciplined, no protests/protesting, almost free of cost/at almost zero cost.

at near to zero costs/no expense(s).

costs (at) almost zero.

costs almost non-existent.

(and) almost for free.

This strategy contributed greatly/immensely/enormously to the industrial revolution of the time/that time/

, just as it did to the large/big commercial agriculture (interests).

epoch/period/era, and in the same way to/and so too to/and similarly to/, as well as to (the) agri/obusiness.

, as well as to

the second wave of criminalization gained/took on momentum/took on impetus/intensified/took off with/under

Ronald Reagan.(“)

(…)

\* 1865-77 (Reconstruction).