

A word of explanation:

Some readers prefer to encounter books like the kind of film-viewer who encounters films while he walks on a sidewalk and happens on a title that sounds interesting and enters at a random point and decides whether he walks out or he stays for the rest of the projection to see where it's driving at, and for the next projection to see what he missed etc. If one feels like that he can go to any point of "Mount Bushmore" or to any point of either file of "Overground" right here and now. Some readers are like the kind of film-viewer who wants to know all about where the film is driving at and what it's all about before he or she decides to start towards the movie theater at all. If one feels like that then he or she can go straight to the three quickie files before the errata file without first entering the previous folders at all, or can go to the "Study guide..." folder and just read the "Personal Selections for ..." part and never even leaf the Mount Bushmore and Overground parts; she or he can still be equally briefed, by just leafing there the file "One touring", before continuing with the present and future concerns there or here. Some like theater more than films because plays are preceded by theater programs or are about scenarios well-known already; if a reader is like that she or he can just go to the theater program of "Mount Bushmore". Some people want to know all about the scope and goal of an endeavor before they even lend half an ear to it, let alone give some thinking to it; or to even know all about the technical method of it to estimate its prospects before they give some active help to them or even some passive thinking. To these people we make an even briefer summary of the 2+1+1 pages of the three quickies we mentioned above. Here goes that summary: Both to help our planet and life on it continue, if there still is time, and to help ourselves die with them if there isn't, we need efforts of mutual universal education that globalization efforts don't provide: globalization's overcoming of chauvinism is in the direction of making citizens see their own countries and birthplaces as passively and de-nerved-ly as one views a, foreign, planet; while the overcoming of chauvinism necessary to be universally taught/inspired is the extension in a natural way of the most passionate and active elements of peoples' love for their own home-countries to our home-planet. One way to help towards that direction is to help education become less expensive, or even free-of-charge, and to help it move towards directions like the ones advocated by people like Chomsky and Mumford; and to put it in formats more easily graspable and more widely recognizable. To also see a technical and a literary "method"/upshot towards such ends read on:

1. One can write short, leaflet size, abstracts or samples of one's books, include in a kit inside them a CD with the full version of his pages (with a number of photos or even music etc that no editors, now or in the past, could ever finance) and have them distributed in stands, and kiosks and consenting bookstores at charges of the order of pizza-delivery fee by offices of young bikers etc. The charge for the reader of the longest epic in this format would be not more, but maybe less, than comics and Mickey/Donald etc stories. To make payment really optional could be assured by writing on the back cover of these leaflets the site where one could download the whole thing (the CD) for free (in case the leaflet was distributed not in a bookstore but in a stand, in which the back cover might not be visible, the site's name could be written on the front cover or on the stand itself if the kiosk agreed). Or one could distribute just the CD, at even lower price, either through bookstores or through music-CD stores. One could also have book review magazines circulating in this format (since regular book-review magazines might want to include or exclude books distributed that way, but might be themselves much more expensive than the books they reviewed). Senior, well known, book reviewers sending readers to the sites of, initially, less well known authors, might be intellectuals that just hold in esteem the content of those books and the role of this content for the individual reader and for society's brainscape. But sites are kept at trivial cost, so why is the leaflet for a price needed at all? Well, some people have a bad feeling of being watched by invisible electronic big brothers when they download and some, both among the same and other, people do feel like rewarding/helping the writers and the distributors for their effort; also like rewarding/helping the editors too, if any of them show up to work under these rules. These rules are not anything new, they're the rules by which antiwar sites, ZNet etc, and also sidewalk performers (musicians, magicians, acrobats, actors, ...) pass the hat around: all bystanders watch the show, some pay; more people than the ones who do pay are affected by it (just like fewer than the people who do pay an expensive theater's ticket are affected by a

play). So no complaint from anybody; well, on sidewalk one pays according to how much he can afford and how much he liked what he watched, not in advance. But a comics is so cheap that one just has to say, in retrospect, that if he liked it very much he just buys more than one and gives the rest as gifts to friends (of course he can also give copies he himself makes of the CD he bought or he was given by somebody else for free). The plan just proposed, which if shared by many authors is of course a plan for “publisher suicide for the sake of free, or at least less expensive, and higher quality education for wide audiences”, goes hand in hand with a proposal in the direction of making cheap book-shape laptops without a keyboard, with only page-change button, as easily useable as a book one leafs sitting in an armchair, i.e. laptops that are friendly to e.g. people of the non computer-friendly generation (and also are friendly to their pocket. Maybe “old timers” do not want to also buy technology they’re not going to need if they only want to use a PC for reading CD’s. Without reference to keyboard & internet wouldn’t such reading be cheaper?) Also, one doesn’t need to be an old timer to prefer to use less paper and to want to be more educated, less expensively, and by less profit-oriented authors and publishers. Also, rewritable CD’s, for books and newspapers, are more easily recycled than paper. Overall, this is not a proposal for suicide to publishers, just a proposal for suicide of many functions of them. They can very well be reborn in new form and stay alive, we repeat. So the reading gadget proposal is a proposal to all editors and concerning all books. Technical upshot: A reading gadget can help towards the return of the idyllic days (=of politically effective intellectuals) before the so-called Russell-Jacobian “end of the intellectuals”; it can help (almost) as much as the contents of the books to be cheaply read through it.

2. Literary upshot: Like the format of the farcitragedy “Mount Bushmore” is soap-opera, the format of the tragicomix “Overground” is road-movie and space-movie (the two versions can be read in either order (as either follow-ups or as follow-backs of each other). Also “Overground” and “Mount Bushmore” can be read in either order (for completely similar reasons). Also, each is self-contained without the rest of them). The origin of the expression “Mount Bushmore” can be just googled very easily (or just see the theater program in the first folder here). The origin of the term “Overground” is Emir Kusturitsa’s “Underground” (so its meaning is response to the meaning “underground” has in Kusturitsa’s film, mirroring his point about under-information in Eastern Europe into a point about under-information and over-information in the US and Western Europe). Its subtitle about “blues of Amanda Robbins” is due to the fact that “Overground” is a recontextualization to the times of globalization of Tom Robbins’ “Another Roadside Attraction”.