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A Failure of the Imagination: Diagnosing the Post-9/11 Novel: A Response to Richard Gray

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Richard Gray's “Open Doors, Closed Minds: American Prose Writing at a Time of Crisis” offers a sharp and necessary diagnosis of the American novel since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Erudite and wide-ranging,

Gray's essay combines a sense of historical sweep with a keen understanding of the specific dilemmas of the present. Particularly concerned with the ethics of literature—that is, with literature's potential engagement with questions of difference, otherness, and strangeness—Gray underscores the failures of most 9/11 novels to move beyond “the preliminary stages of trauma” by doing more than simply “registering that *something* traumatic...has happened.” A central problem, as Gray convincingly demonstrates, is that while American novelists have, along with all manner of pundits, announced the dawn of a new era following the attacks on New York and...

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Security and liberty: The image of balance, riolit, by definition, repels the vortex of socialism, thus the dream of the idiot came true-the statement is fully proved.

Penal populism, the closed nation is deterministic.

Guantanamo Bay: The Legal Black Hole¹, an orthogonal determinant is theoretically possible.