

In the Public Space

Spring, 1989,
Tiananmen Square
named after the old gate
to the Forbidden Palace,
100 acres in the center of Beijing,
filled with students
clamoring for reform,
for participation.
Everybody knew
Party members and officials
were enriching themselves
through corruption and speculation,
their families strutting
with Mandarin privilege,
violating their duty
to Socialism,
to the egalitarian state.
So, ordinary people, workers,
quickly joined the students.
Demonstrations of support
spread across the country.
The trumpet voice of the people
day after day
shook the encrusted souls of the Party
who sent in the soldiers and tanks
to gun down and sweep away
and silence the voice.
Oh, the indignation in the mouths of the West.
President Bush waved a few sanctions in the air
walking the tightrope of propaganda.

Politicians and pundits grunted with superiority
demanding Civil Liberties
in China.

Fall,
2011
Zuccotti Park,
near the entrance to Wall Street,
filled with citizens
who built a camp community
clamoring for reform.
Everybody knew
the Finance Mandarins
had stolen trillions of dollars
and wrecked millions of lives
with their corruption and speculation.
Camp communities arose
across the country.
The trumpet voice of reform
shook the gilded souls of Politicians
who sent the riot-gearred police
to gas, club, bulldoze, sweep away
and silence the voice.
Those flakes and fantasists
with no clear objectives
had been there too long
and join a long history
of Civil Liberty
clubbed, water hosed, gunned,
attack dogged and gassed away.