

# Apolitical Intellectuals

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 Music: Frederic Rzewski  
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$\text{♩} = 96$

1. One day the a-po-li-ti-cal in-tel-lect-u-al-s of my country

2. They will be asked what they did when their na-tion died out

$f$

will be inter-ro-ga-ted by the sim-plest of our peo-ple.

slowt ly, like a sweet fire, small and a lone.

*mf*

1. No one will ask them a· bout their clothes, their long si-es-tas af-ter lunch,  
 2. won't be ques-tioned on Greek mytho-logy or their feel-ings of self-dis-gust when

or the philo-so-phy of no-thin-gness, or the on-to-logy of money. They  
 one among them be-gins to die the cow-ard's death.

They'll be asked no-thing on their ab-surd jus-ti-fi-ca-tions,

*p*

A handwritten musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line is in soprano clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The score consists of six staves of music, each with four measures. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano part includes dynamic markings like *mp* and *mf*, and various harmonic changes indicated by key signatures and chord symbols.

Born in the shad-ow of the to- tal lie. *x (whispered)*

On that day the sim-ple peo-ple will come, will come, who

had no place in the books and po-ems of the a-po-li-ti-cal intel-lect-u-als, but

daily de-livered their bread and milk, who mended their clothes, and drove their cars, and

cleaned their houses, and kept their gardens, and worked for them,  
and they'll ask:

Solo Voice: What did you do, What did you do, when the poor suf- fered, when

Spoken Chorus: WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU DO?

Piano: ff (3) (3) (3) (3)

ten-der-ness and life burned out in them?

#d. #d. #d. #d.

ff

crescendo

A-po-liti-cal      in-tel-lec-tu-als      of my      sweet coun-tr-y,

you will not be a- ble to an- swer.

diminuendo

Handwritten musical score for voice and piano. The score consists of two systems of music.

**System 1:** The vocal line starts with a dynamic of *mp*. The lyrics are: "A vulture of silence will eat your gut. Your". The piano accompaniment has a dynamic of *p*. The tempo is marked *J=60*. The vocal line includes a spoken section indicated by "(Spoken)". The piano line features eighth-note chords.

**System 2:** The vocal line continues with a dynamic of *pp*. The lyrics are: "own mi-sery will pick at your soul, and you will be mute in your shame.". The piano accompaniment has a dynamic of *p*. The vocal line uses sustained notes and eighth-note patterns. The piano line includes a dynamic of *bp*.

*(Steadily slower to the end)*