Kear, Adrian. "The Anxiety of the Image." *Parallax* 11 (2005): 107-116.

-Notes on the strategic soldier

-Is there anything to do to reduce societal anxiety?

-societal anxiety is caused by these photos of “disturbing” images that portray the typical American soldier dehumanizing a prisoner of war in various manners, which suggests that the governments ability and choice to suspend such rights is very real and in their point of view necessary (pp. 110)

-article doesn’t give any suggestions on how to reduce anxiety, it focuses more so on how anxiety has been used as torture, except it mentions that Bush’s apology regarding these picture could reduce societal anxiety because the people criticizing this ill treatment “didn’t understand the true nature and heart of America” (didn’t understand why they were doing it or their intentions) (pp. 115)

The image as such appears to contribute to the anxiety governing its reception by its very nature as representation, which, despite its explicitness, makes it a site of political contestation. As Susan Sontag has noted, no end of justification and apologia surrounded the publication of the photographs of ‘prisoner abuse’ – even the euphemistic eschewal of the word ‘torture’ itself is significant to this process of

reification – as if the problem ‘lay in the images, rather than in what they depict’.

-pp. 115

Although the anxiety the image induces might be experienced individually, it is nonetheless ‘fixed’ ideologically when it is directed toward the figuration of a resilient national identity and a specifically political delineation of futurity. The reconfiguration of the image as representation in this way covers over its significance as a site of ethical revelation; the ideological disturbance it promises to effect

is masked once again by the resurgence of affect. In short, the disruptive capacity of the image is constrained by its performative mediation, producing in the process a mimetic orchestration that both anticipates and accommodates anxiety’s otherwise futural orientation.

-pp. 115