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updates on the insane world of money and power

*Both Ends Against the Middle*

When I hear Chas Freeman, the former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and a rational man, saying that he doesn't understand what's happening in Yemen and other places, that gives me some solace because I don't either.

How to separate facts from subterfuge? An Israeli plumber breaks into the cockpit to subdue a would-be murderous pilot and then successfully lands a large, damaged airliner? Is this all for a Netanyahu, election photo-op?

And this thing in Britain about terrorists and US bombers, with the new PM linking it to a supposed earlier Novichok poisoning incident, conducted by Russia—that never happened. A fabric of lies blankets the entire world.

And it translates to TV where, I tried streaming *Slow Horses*, a British political crime drama, with Gary Oldman (an actor I enjoy), heading up an elite but unorthodox crime unit. It starts off with his uppity boss, showing videos of Russian bots smashed (in her words), the same way Britain smashed a Russian attempt to poison its own spies in a park. Oh boy. Changing the channel to *Fauda*, I was treated to phony Israeli glorification.

US propaganda comes to us with a distinct mission: to spew-out of lies, throwing the world into utter confusion, such that ordinary citizens will beg elites to look-out for their welfare and take charge of protecting them.

What can't be changed by propaganda and lies are the underlying facts.

Elites tell us that Russia and China are each on the brink of economic collapse, when *in fact* both nations have the resources/productivity that we lack. No matter what Trump *tweets*—China is going to bury him.

China and Russia, in addressing the US, refer to the *Thucydides Trap*, which can only be avoided by cooperation—an argument that falls on deaf US ears. As Ray McGovern tells it: Sec/Rubio functions as an *anal sphincter*, impeding any flow of information to Trump. As he plans his invasion, Rubio knows Russia/China can't defend Cuba (90 miles from US).

Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, has drawn Russia's red lines. Invading Cuba is one of them. At the Kremlin, the *Duma* is insisting Putin act more decisively, and he is doing just that. This morning he let the EU/Trump lunatics know that any cutting off of Kaliningrad will result in direct action (including nukes), against any perpetrators. Remember, Putin does not bluff.

Trump's blunt assertions around US dominance makes it easier for BRICS to understand the worthless machinations of US foreign policy. The summit with Xi proved a waste of time—with Trump absurdly suggesting China buy weapons from the US. Trump, like Biden, is undoubtably losing his mind.

Across the world, fear of global war is palpable, but I'm betting not. With both ends against the middle, the US economy will crash. When that happens is anybody's guess, but its inevitability is greater than world war.

What will that look like? Because of Trump's policies (and some who came before him), Americans who need it most will be deprived of energy/transportation. US farmers, lacking fertilizer, while being historically uncompensated for hard work—will go under. Universities, administratively heavy and deeply in debt, will collapse. Social welfare for the needy will go unfunded. Homes and mortgages will become a burden rather than an asset. Institutional viability will fade. At the extremes, communism and fascism will gain support as the middle class ceases to be a thing.

The world now realizes that the US (with its proxy EU taking on Russia), is ill-equipped for war. EU GDP is 8X that of Russia, but in *productivity/purchasing power* terms Russia's economy is 4th in the world. For war with NATO, Russia produces 4X the artillery shells that can be produced by the EU. Deprived of cheap Russian energy the EU has no way to defeat Russia.

We've reached the end of September with only one more month between us and the midterms. But, the midterms (no matter the outcome), won't matter to Trump. As God's emissary he will adjust his *tactics* to annihilate Iran, but not his *strategy* for securing forever dominance of the US Empire.

For now, Trump/Bessent are doing their best to downplay the danger of Iran at Hormuz—a danger that while not rising to the level of absolute control, doesn't explain why Brent crude remains above \$100 a barrel.

Those of us who live by the political axiom: 'throw the bums out', while recognizing the necessity to de-fang Trump have to be concerned for what will replace him. Already, a new caravan, 600 strong, from Central American nations destroyed by US Foreign Policy, anticipating democrats winning the midterms, is making its way north. The insanity returns. The beat goes on.

Domestically, there are red flag warnings in the US—as in the real estate market? With mortgage rates at 7.5%, pundits are betting on 9% by the end of 2027. When I was a young man buying my first house, the rate was 10%, but the economy was sound. My friend couldn't qualify when rates were 6%. How's he going to do at 9%? Think on this: a \$400K house at 9% comes with a monthly payment, higher by \$575. How can Americans afford that?

Real estate offices point to no viewings. Buyers can't even afford to look. Like rural train stations where the train neither stops nor slows—interest rates pass through, speeding up—having nothing to do with passengers.

Underlying all of the above, America has a *socialism* problem. Beginning

in K-12 (where history of communism is no longer a subject), socialism is viewed favorably. The American left has transformed our education system into an indoctrination machine—buying into the lie that socialism provides a better quality of life than free enterprise—misrepresenting each and both.

Socialism (except for basic necessities for the poor), is mired in a misunderstanding/contradiction of human nature. To this end, the left preaches evils of free-market competition, which bears the ultimate responsibility for America's economic growth for the past 250 years. And, the free market the left attacks bears no resemblance to actual capitalism.

Nearly half of college students surveyed view college classes and activities as negatively affecting their view of capitalism, compared to less than 10% that view their education as positive towards free-market capitalism. Educators keep on with misidentifying capitalism for cronyism,

Polls indicate that 46% of Americans, ages 18/34 have a favorable opinion of socialism. 46% favorable is double what it was two decades ago.

Along with the rise of socialism, frightened Americans are willing to give over control to elites. To that end we find that, rather than *approaching* a cashless society, we are *sleepwalking* into it. The propaganda around closed, digital control of money, works to render digital money to appear rational—something needed. But, when it arrives, the control horror ensues.

Expecting metals to rise, I don't have cash to cover property taxes—and I don't want to sell metal at beat-down prices. Pre-65 dimes/quarters are well below spot. Do I regret buying them? No. In 2023, junk silver had a premium of half the melt value. In a rational world, all commodities would be rising.

What we are experiencing is a middle, squeezed on both ends—into non-existence. What will that look like? I'll leave that for you to think on.

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