



neverhadaboss.com

updates on the insane world of money and power

*Come Summer—"All (Will Be) Quiet on the Western Front"*

Winter came to Oregon this morning; now it's midday, 37 degrees and raining, close to snow, reminding me that Russia's military offensive in Ukraine waits for frozen ground.

Though I understand why Russia has been forced to do what it does, nothing is sadder than what this winter will bring to Ukraine, Europe, and by default, the rest of the world.

The problem with humans is defined by a lack of 25 IQ points—rendering us stupid. Last night, with my dog curled-up on my lap, we watched the 1st hour of the remake of "All Quiet on the Western Front", depicting the horror of World War 1. 100s of German boys (just kids), whipped up into patriotic frenzy, marching along the road to Flanders, singing in unison about a girl to whom they will soon return, and will be re-united.

An abrupt scene change put us in 'trenches', water above the ankle, whistled to attack machine guns and wire—shot in the back if we refuse. Takes me back to an American anti-war film, "The Deer Hunter" that opens in a drunken Russo-American wedding in 'steel town', maybe Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, then an unfathomable shift to a bamboo cage on the Mekong River where our captive wedding frolickers are forced to play 'Russian Roulette' for Viet Kong who place bets, over and over, until all are dead.

All is not 'quiet' on our Western Front this winter—no matter your politics. Europe is in death-grip inflation combined with having lost its source of energy. The EU expresses short-time hope because energy reservoirs are full—but that only lasts 2 months. A cold winter gets them to February. Without peace, next year's prospects are terrifying.

The circumstance for Ukraine parallels each film. Once the pride of NATO (which used Minsk Accords as a ruse to build UKR fighting capacity), Ukraine's army has all but been destroyed by Russia—re-stocked with young untrained Ukrainians. Meanwhile EU prints Euros, doled-out to assist citizens with rising energy costs—for energy that does not exist. NATO resupplies arms to UKR, for an army—that no longer exists.

NATO and the US have each put forth the position that everything hinges on Ukraine beating Russia—which is not going to happen. A stale-mate might have been achieved early on when Putin assumed Ukraine would come to terms with Russia's security concerns—but that did not happen. Had Putin not re-assessed, the West might have bought time to pour all of NATO's resources into Ukraine—possibly stopping Russia.

Instead, the West/Zelensky upped the ante, bombing the Crimea Bridge, targeting Russian civilians, NS bombings, and attacking the fleet at Sevastopol—giving rise to

Mother-Russia anger and forcing Putin to mobilize likely a million men, for all-out war.

The West either wins in Ukraine, or the entire world joins the 'BRICs', which then backs a currency with gold, forcing the US to default on debt, at the same time the dollar can no longer purchase. After that, 2 options remain, each involving greater lunacy.

Given the admission we have boots on the ground in Ukraine, we must speculate about the 30K NATO troops massed along Russia's border, which includes 4500 Americans from the 101st Airborne Division. Do those troops intervene—secure Odessa? Not with the those 'Screaming Eagles' we don't. They are 'light assault' for moving troops swiftly, using helicopters. The 101st in Odessa would be 'cannon fodder'—another stanza for "The Charge of the Light Brigade": 'Theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to die'. Not 'do or die', die. 35K men is a long afternoon for Russian artillery..

Which brings us to 'option 2': When a beast suffers wounds that will prove 'fatal', what does it do? If it can take everyone with it, does it opt for that? In a gasoline dump, does it light a match? If it has nuclear submarines up against Russia, and has transferred nukes to Europe—rather than admit defeat—does it play its ultimate card?

The West knows that Russia, within its charter, cannot make a nuke 1st strike, so why all the 'hot air' about a Russian tactical strike? Beyond that, Russian will only use nukes if threatened existentially. Russia is calling-out (on), the other 5 nuclear nations to make this same pledge. But, if Ukraine re-patriates 'breakaway regions' (now part of Russia), that would constitute an 'existential threat' to Russia, requiring nuclear strikes.

The leaders of the Western world are idiots, and our best hope is that citizens recognize that fact and do something about it. Fear of US power is all that binds the empire, as it seeks to quell dissent in a losing battle. At the UN, the US disallowed a 'secret ballot' vote over condemning and sanctioning Russia, because nations freely expressing votes, without fear of US reprisal, would have brought a different outcome.

The facts are that between 65% and 75% of the 7.5 billion people on the planet see Russia and China as trusted partners in business—partners that keep their word. They are seen as self-interested nations that also work with other nations for mutual benefit.

Assuming Russia wins in Ukraine, what is the world going look like? Will NATO survive? That's unlikely. Will Germany return to its role as 'fine machine toolmaker' for the world? Only if Russia forgives 'lives lost' to EU sanctions and EU Ukrainian support.

For decades German economic success depended on inexpensive Russian energy. Now, without that—Europe is done. What caused that? Germany, the EU, and for that matter the US and entire West have run off the tracks of political and economic reality.

Successful economies are successful because they are 'in line' with a nation's economic interests—resulting in a better standard of living for the population. Russia, and especially China, do that. China's interests come first, but they also see other nations as needing to prosper from the partnership. The problem for the US is a world that now sees us for the vicious predator we are. That poorer nations, farther out on the periphery from US neighbor nations who plunder alongside us, are subject to US inhumanity.

The West is now totally ideological, a recipe for disaster because it does not consider human nature and-self interest. If an economy is constructed around ideology, and not self-interest, there will not be support for it. And, if you ask young people to fight to the death for an ideology, you, the 'greens', and Greta Thunberg—all get destroyed.

We need to talk about China. It is not what most of you think—tomorrow's article will be a hard sell. Contrarians can get my articles by request: erik@neverhadaboss.com.