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If You're a Thinker— You're a Non-Conformist

Following geo-politics doesn't make me grumpy, but researching a gloomy world assures gloomy articles. It doesn't make me a complainer but precludes my articles being up-lifting. Some friends, separated from need for a geo-political overview, who instead focus on the spiritual, seem unable to read my articles without criticizing my ungodly advocacy.

For the rest of us—we have to ask what the hell is going on? Whether Trump is as stupid as he seems, or simply paralyzed by his need for Netanyahu's support and Miriam Adelson's money? Beyond that, do you imagine Oval Office discussions having to do with destroying nations/conducting regime-change, which also ask whether such actions are constitutional or in any sense, just? If not—who the hell does Trump think he is?

What's new with Trump's *taking over the world campaign*? Trump has a plan. He will contain/constrain China by cutting their ability to get necessary energy. This, of course, is illegal under international law (and not mandated executive powers), but with checks and balances haplessly strewn across the game board, who is there to care—that matters?

Seizing ships is new. The way it works: if Russia or China want to do something about it besides initiate nuclear war, they need proximity, support bases to take on the US Navy—which they don't have. So the US seizes

ships where we have support bases. Where is that? Everywhere. Russia/China support bases? Pretty much nowhere. But, China/Russia (with few global bases), can destroy the US.

Of course there's assumptions: any nation having its ships seized, without an array of foreign bases, is powerless to defend itself. But are they? Just as the mighty Trump arrays his armada up against Iran, does that mean Iran will bend a knee? It doesn't look like it. Any attack on Iran will be met with Tel Aviv, Haifa, US ships/bases, subject to Iranian missile attack.

The US uses Patriot missiles for defense/Tomahawks for offense. Each costs millions of dollars. Patriots work against aircraft, but are hopeless against ballistic missiles. Tomahawks, in short supply, require ships to return to selected port-bases for re-supply.

China and Russia are each strong Iran advocates. While avoiding getting into it with Trump, they are silently arming Iran. China has reportedly given Iran new radar that can detect US stealth aircraft. Russia is assisting Iran with accuracy for its missiles. Since the 12 day war with Israel, Russian technology has purportedly greatly increased Iran's missile accuracy, and, technology given to Iran has neutered StarLink.

In a world hip to the fact that Israel/US are capable of horrors associated with the 3rd Reich—gone is the element of surprise. Decapitation strikes are less likely and the Lebanon pager horror is in the past. Making it worse, Americans are tired of useless, endless wars, while Russia, China, and Iran, subject to US perfidy, see their existence at stake.

If Trump goes to war with Iran, the left likely gets back both houses of Congress, so Trump needs some kind of win. Maybe, as with the B2s and Houthi's, he declares victory—gloating that a 2nd carrier group got Iran to agree to never produce a nuclear weapon (they never wanted one but surly

needed one). It's to be a tough sell as Bibi requires, no enrichment, disassociation with Palestine, and reduction of ballistic missiles.

Trump is in a tough spot—he needs to do something other than make a deal or threaten an opponent into genuflecting. It was viable for Venezuela, but Iran, being the size of Europe with its closer proximity to Russia and China's need for Iranian oil—is a different ball game. Trump's best option is to get back the JCPOA, he shit-canned 1st term.

The sad truth about Trump, given some good things, domestically, such as getting men out of women's sports, is his demanding of unilateral concessions from anyone he sees fit to steal from/sanction. Alas, we got rid of Biden, but US elections only re-affirm the status quo.

I heard an old Russian speaking to Europeans: 'I've lived through your future.' If you think Americans are exempt from the history to which he speaks—think again. For the US left, (having gone beyond any social contract), with their brand of socialism—has crossed a bridge to communism. And, Trump (likely to prove a fascist?), his tyranny is a bridge too far.

The best we can hope for with Trump is somehow, while avoiding nuclear exchange, he returns to nuclear agreements with Russia/Iran—a regress to where he began.

If you feel your rights are safe under Trump, know (that so far), he's been bought-off by Israel and the gas/oil industry. And what about his identifying persons with anti-capitalism beliefs as domestic terrorists? Can he define constitutional capitalism—or does he see it as crony capitalism?

How's the economy under Trump? His tariffs were going to re-shore industry, but what foreign CEO is going to choose to onshore to Trump's America—understanding there are no rules? Trump's 1st year resulted in loss of 70K manufacturing jobs—a million jobs have been revised downward

since Trump inauguration. Are the good days yet ahead of us?

If we can steal hard-earned assets and take ships on the high seas—maybe we prosper? But no. What was industrial capitalism will remain the rust belt. And, huge brick buildings, manufacturing sites in New England, will continue to house yoga studios. Classical economics will no longer be taught in schools—with cabinet officials not able to explain economic theory.

We don't need Lenin's socialism—that's a bridge to communism. And we don't need this present iteration of Trump's posse (ICE), which more resembles Mussolini's 'black shirts' than Hitler's 'brown shirts'. The black shirt motto (like unapologetic ICE), translates to— 'I don't care.'

What about the metals? I'm good with the latest pullback because, even pulled-back, silver is up multiples from where I bought it. The long game played by China (accruing metals without fanfare), for a little while, keeps the peace—allowing paper markets a tad more time before the West gets a shock: paper price of gold/silver has nothing to do with metals—only profit.

Bill Holter tells us: 'Nobody gives a shit.' A bit hyperbolic, maybe but he's not far wrong. Friends from my past don't give a shit because they're obliged to see our future in terms of communism, globalism, or fascism. It gets awful lonely here in the middle.

Don't look forward to when a silver dime is the measure of all things, because that's when our lives won't be worth a plug nickel—and it will be upon us soon enough. Until then, hopefully longer, I'll try to make some connections between geo-politics and dollar doom.

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erik@neverhadaboss.com. And thank you.