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Madmen and Yes Men

Frank Zappa warned us that one day, inside the crowded theater we metaphorically occupy, the curtain across the back wall would be pulled back revealing no windows and no exit—no way out. At the time, Frank's imagery seemed preposterous, something from the realm of science fiction.

Zappa's warning is now the reality, portending a horrific future that might be beyond our imagination. In light of this, to give me purpose, I'm upgrading my rentals (they've gotten older as I have). The workload is colossal, so I've hired someone to help with it. Whereas I was something of a spendthrift before, I now spend my de-valued dollars at a much faster clip.

Which brings up my gold/silver holdings. Most gold I invested in came in the $250/$900 range (25 years ago), and the silver 10/20/30 years ago, in the $9/$12/$28 range. Now, because I need additional funds, even with silver at more than $60, I don't want to sell—so I'm opting to borrow against it.

Why? As Frank Zappa suggested, the curtain, pulled back, reveals a reality where hard assets will 'fly me to the moon'. Because of that, even with offers from friends to buy metal, I'm opting to borrow against it—and hold.

Big changes are in store for us, post elections. Nigel Farage may join Marine Le Pen as leaders of the Anglo-Saxons, and conservative Germans may sweep-up power. Along with the end of NATO, this could usher-in the end of the EU bureaucracy that could disappear faster than dollar viability. All of this and more is now in the realm of credibility.

At the same time, Russia and China are flexing their muscles for the world to see. The Chinese foreign minister told Marco Rubio to mind his own business—and his business does no include Chinese oil imports. And Putin, looking forward to renewed power as President (post mid-September elections), has made it clear that NATO attacks on Russian shipping would be met tit for tat, across the globe. For Putin, this is just the beginning.

This week he visited the disputed islands off Japan that since WW2 have been part of Russia—given to Russia, post WW2, by the UN. Japanese PM Minister Abe was ready to sign an agreement to finally conclude a peace treaty with Russia, but the new PM, Takaichi, a clone of Ursula von Der Leyen, for reasons not in the interest of her constituents, made an alliance with Trump that involves non-cooperation with Russia.

Putin, unlike his predecessors, is visiting the islands to let the world know it is dealing with a mature, battle-ready Russia, which is willing to negotiate diplomatically, but in the final analysis, as in Ukraine, will rely on military victory—as its last resort means.

Unfortunately for the peace of the world, something else might be changing. Until recently, Putin could call Trump and make small bargains. For the victory over Nazi Germany (May 9th celebrations), Zelensky would respect no cease-fire, but Trump agreed to and enforced it. And when Zelensky wanted long-range Tomahawks, Putin called Trump, letting him know this was ‘a bridge too far’, and Trump backed-off.

Now, with Trump under pressure from Netanyahu/Mossad (whatever they have on him), and likelihood of Trump’s diminishing mental/physical condition, it appears his desperation/megalomania have taken control of his mind.

Though Ukraine's drone strikes on Russian infrastructure (as with Wildberries), is disrupting Russian commerce/fuel sources, neither will prove to be game changers. And, until elections in Russia are concluded, Putin will continue with incremental war, and not striking NATO arms manufacturers.

Back in the States, there are strategies I find troubling—beginning with John Mearsheimer and his take on 'grand strategy'. John doesn't support US policy in Iran/Ukraine, but his grand strategy includes stopping China as a regional hegemony. At the same time maintaining it's okay for the US to be and continue to be the only regional hegemony.

For me this sounds like ramblings of a 'tired empire spokesman', talking for musty notes, without assessing the Chinese economic miracle (being just that), made possible by an obese, mindless US, which long ago let go its ability to compete or even care to compete.

Imagine being Chinese, listening to someone as respected as John, Mearsheimer, and hearing this. It doesn't even have to be China's plan to become a regional hegemony. If it comes about simply from economic necessity, those damn Chinese have to be stopped—in no uncertain terms.

How would to be it possible for the US to do that? Dispatch the Abe Lincoln to the South China Sea, with no food, soap and deodorant. Sailors at sea for 7 months—committing suicide? Will Mearsheimer instruct his family members to step up/volunteer for his 'grand strategy'? Of course not—grand strategies don't include pain to be experienced by elite families.

Is Mearsheimer sharing in a 'deep state' delusion? If he is, while being more rational than most in the US government, I predict the US is getting ready to be on the receiving end of a Global South 'ass-whooping'.

Getting down to brass tacks, we are on the edge of a political and economic precipice. Our allies are faltering. We gave some $20/40B to Javier

Milei, to save the Argentinian economy, only because he is pro-Trump. Now Argentina's currency is again at an all time low, and Argentina has appealed to China for support to keep from bankruptcy. At the same time, the US dollar, continuing to be printed, will lose any credibility it has.

A bankrupt nation (US), cannot simply print dollars to shore-up Trump's bought and sold alliances—and this includes Japan. The US being able to shore-up anyone, especially in the Middle East, is laughable. Outside of Israel, there will be no ME US military bases. They are not militarily supportable and there is no interest to fund rebuilding them from Gulf monarchies.

There is one card that has not been played. Marjorie Taylor Green, who has come out against her long-time ally, Trump, announced today that she is aware of discussions in DC, providing for nuclear strikes on Iran. If there is any rational at all for this—it is a result of Trump's desperation.

My take: Netanyahu has not become mad—he was always mad—and as such would be on board with nuclear strikes against Iran. According to pundits closest to Trump's administration, there is consensus that Trump is diminished, psychologically/physically. As such, given his hubris/inability to admit responsibility for his failed presidency—he might do whatever it takes.

Considering how bad off we are compared to even the Cuban Missile Crisis, our salvation may lie in some military subordinate just saying no to giving Trump the nuclear codes. The Pentagon is making noise that using nukes as offensive weapons is a war crime. But Trump can override that.

If Putin gains support mid-September, and Trump/Netanyahu face jail terms, why not go nuclear, while they still have the power to use it.

That reminds me—get that bag of pre-65 dimes while the getting is good.

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