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updates on the insane world of money and power

*Maintaining Our Posture?*

After 3 weeks of working every day, I needed to get away. I went back and forth about whether it would be motorcycle or car, but as tired as I've been, I opted for 4 wheels. It didn't make much difference—my high desert backroads trip—fell apart right quick.

For these past weeks I've been trying to get my Allstate fire insurance on forest land rentals re-instated (nearly impossible because they're avoiding risk?). If I can't, I have to go to the Fair Program for a lot more dollars and a lot less coverage. I heard from the agent half way into day 1 of my trip. The photos I sent were inadequate—the underwriter required they be shot from the same spots/angles that Allstate took their photos.

Here I was, hundreds of miles from home, with my agent possessing 70% of my photos. I had done work far beyond what anyone might have expected or required. At this moment of decision, I could vent, tell her to kiss off—or do what I did: thank her for all she'd done for me, and since Allstate accepted 8 of 9 addressed categories, could she please help me get past this last hurdle? She said she would but I had to retake photos.

Heading home, back roads turned to gravel and I turned back. Just before the junction north I came upon the Paiute museum. The night before, I had passed through the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation—so I went in.

Inside the museum I was approached by a big, young guy, who obviously belonged to the museum and the tribe. I mentioned to him (Jeremy), how good it would be if instead of having 800 overseas military bases, there could be museums for the many tribes of 1st Americans. Jeremy seemed lukewarm to the idea—so I asked him about it.

Didn't he think having 800 bases around the world was the opposite of our founders wanting us to steer clear of foreign entanglements, and weren't some of those bases CIA operatives, doing regime change for hegemony control? He didn't. The bases were needed to maintain our *global posture*.

Whatever that means. After he called me sir for a 2nd time I asked if he'd served in the military? He had—Iraq combat veteran. I asked no more questions (I did tell him that I also served). Walking around the museum proved to be a military service revelation. The reservation treaty with the US was made in the late 1800s, involving all land encompassed by 5 peaks, but Paiutes were not granted citizenship until 1924. Nevertheless they were eligible for the WW1 draft. Inside, a totem inscribed non-citizen dead—names.

That got me thinking about where we are at now. And what I've discovered is even more concerning than what I've been thinking. It's always that way when you find out things about some main players that you didn't know. When you fit that information into the whole, it's more bad news.

Begin with Xi Jinping who is a much better leader than Trump (or recent US presidents). But Xi is the subject of his own hubris. I've lately caught glimpses of Xi getting rid of competitors, then today came an inside look from a bank owner in China who contends that Xi needs to go.

Xi's serving his 3rd term and he's doing the Trump thing, rather than doing things for his economy and his people, he's trying to hold on to power, which in terms of the parts/whole relationship, is revelatory. Start with Iran: most

Americans assume Iran is a theocracy—it is not. In fact, since Netanyahu murdered the Ayatollah (for no good reason), and the son has taken over the role, Iran is even more a secular nations than a theocracy. The kid is different from that dad, more secular, a military realist—than faith-based.

In nations whose roots are faith-based, as in the republic of the United States, we've had our bouts with usurpers wanting to put Christianity into the driver's seat—and not the 1st Amendment. Likewise in China (a Confucian/Taoist nation where principles supersede personal gain), Xi Jinping should walk away. Instead he's doing the Trump thing—hanging onto power.

This is tough for me because I have some hope that Xi and Putin can hold this world together. And with Trump having alienated most of the Kremlin by transferring that war to European idiots rather stopping it, the world and mankind hangs in the balance.

Xi may yet prove dependable, but now there's personal hubris admixed. Xi's fixated on Taiwan (he should be), but the more relevant issues right now are Iran and Ukraine. Trump is desperate, and desperate men do desperate things. Allow me a possible scenario for where this goes.

There has never been a time when global leadership has sunk this low—it's as if the entire EU has either been voted out or is vaccine-injured. Sometimes I think there is not one reliable person in the entirety of the European Union—not true but not many.

What we see in Europe is a massive movement to carry Ukraine's war (actually a US war), to Russia. These fools actually think that with Ukrainian/Latvian/NATO drone attacks on Mother Russia, Ukraine's winning the war. They're not—it's not even close.

But the EU in its delusion thinks otherwise. Russia is being challenged with drone attacks but Putin is correct that it's not nearly enough to save

Ukraine. However, because Putin has moved slowly/incrementally (to save young Russian lives), he's now being challenged by even his supporters to act, not only to stop Ukraine—but NATO nations.

Putin has had 80%+ approval but now the majority of players and Russian citizens are calling for him to act to stop Ukraine/Europe. That's the fear Xi should be having because Russia is ever closer to striking EU nations responsible for manufacture/launching/intelligence for drone attacks against Russia. In fact, this may be inexorably close—with no way to turn back.

How does that play out? Either idiot Macon/Starmer answer Russian, Oreshnik, hypersonic missiles with a nuclear strike, which would clear the way for Trump/Netanyahu to deal with Beirut/Tehran using a mushroom clouds. Why not—when everybody's doing it?

The head of NATO waxes on how he could take Kaliningrad. Yeah just like China could take Long Island. All NATO forces mobilized to take part of Russia would soon be dead. And the world would be in nuclear holocaust.

Back in the States, any Republican (though an early supporter of MAGA), such as Thomas Massie, have now been primary-ed by Israel using US taxpayer dollars that were given to Zionism, not to steal our elections—but to commit Middle East genocide. Why stupid Americans allow Israel to do this?

If you were looking for some good news on the world scene, there is none. Trump/Hegseth are out there *maintaining posture*—which translates—as Pete likes to say—'showing no quarter'. Is that in the Constitution?

Other than Title 9, and ending illegal immigration, Trump and his EU cadre are the greatest threats to civilization/culture. Vance advocates for EU free speech, while disallowing questions about Zionism ruling the United States.

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