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Normalized Lunacy

I've always been that guy who doesn't fill up the tank until it's running out. Early VW's had a lever by the driver's seat you would turn to open the reserve tank when you ran out of gas. After I changed from British motorcycles to BMW airheads, they came with a lever, under the gas tank—just reach down and turn to the up position for another 40 miles.

That's all changed now. The lunatics from the south, as in, Gavin Newsom (supposedly looking out for us), shut-down petroleum refineries such that a gallon of SoCal gas is now processed in Asia. Then came Donald Trump who made it so there's no gas in Asia.

This morning I read a blip (maybe from the head of Chevron), warning that West Coast states, without access to West Texas crude, had best keep their vehicles filled-up because, unless Trump's Iran delusions play out favorably, it's more than likely gas prices rise dramatically, or subject to rationing, or not available at all. So now, when my truck gets down more than a quarter tank I fill it because I need my truck for work, 5 days a week.

As if things weren't bad enough when the *lunatic left* was running the nation as well as the West Coast—we voted for Trump because things could not get worse. But worse they got, with lunatic Trump on course to bring down everything we've ever worked for.

Online, geo-politically, there's 2 types of pundits: those who get it that Trump is heartlessly inhuman—with no connection to the Constitution/Bill of Rights. Then there's the other group that fails to scrutinize Trump's conduct, in terms of the law of the land—not to mention New Testament ethos.

Today, a ZeroHedge article, blindly supporting Trump, called gold—'a dollar-priced reserve asset'. If that author were to take off the blinders, it's obvious the dollar (as it depreciates), is at war with gold. He goes on to say: 'Dollar dominance is functioning exactly as Scott Bessent described in his testimony.' Is that the case? If come September, Hormuz is not opened on US terms, Bessent and his dollar will each be beyond repair. And Trump's lies will have lost all credibility. I wonder if Bessent is aware Trump's approval rating share the same numbers as Nixon during *Watergate* days?

The article goes on to describe its worst-case scenario: where oil, briefly, gets to \$200/250 barrel. If that happens, inflation peaks-out at 11%. Do you ever wonder how these guys know the worst-case scenario, and where it will peak—when you and I have no idea?

Allow me a shot at a different worse-case scenario. The US 2-part plan: 1st, strangle China into submission, using the *un-opposable* US Navy to cut off China's supply/trading routes. The US hasn't done that yet, but they are trying it out on Russia. They board/take control of Russian tankers on the high seas while, at the same time, unconcerned for consequences, they provide drone strike guidance for attacks deep inside Russia.

The US lately turned back a Russian oil tanker headed for Cuba. Will they try that on China? Or does the US have its facts wrong? Is what neocons regard as China/Russia weakness, instead a deliberative Chinese foreign policy, alongside Putin's penchant for watchful waiting, being mistaken for cowardice—soon to be se right? When China and Russia get pushed too

far, will they take a page from the Iranians, and, using their combined economic/military might, take drastic action on EU and US assets?

Or do you think, instead, that 2 great nuclear/manufacturing powers will fall in line like a Syria, Venezuela, Cuba? The horror brought by Trump on Venezuela/Cuba is an example of a *big guy picking on a little guy*. Is Trump capable of playing that same game with China or Russia?

As with everyone, I'm unaware where Venezuelan oil money is going, but wherever, it's controlled by Trump. Interim VEN president, Delcy Rodriguez, is between that rock/hard place. If she's not compliant enough, all control will be lost to US hegemony. But, if too compliant, she'll be thrown under the bus like every other Trump asset/appeaser.

Cuba—maybe a different story? Trump is starving Cuba into regime change, as he did to Venezuela, and for the past 43 years, the US (especially Trump), Iran. But, the US has lost the Iran war—as judged by Iran's survival. Because of that, Trump is licking his lips for a proposed 48 hour invasion of Cuba (he loves short films). But Cuba is fiercely nationalistic, and though they are truly starving, Trump may be in line for another big surprise.

No less than head neocon, Robert Kagan, husband of Victoria Nuland, head female neocon (maybe shared with Hillary Clinton), has come out with his assessment: the US is suffering defeat in Iran—from which there is no return to any previous US greatness.

So what about the price of oil? How can it be dropping in May when 10 million barrels a day are not reaching their destinations? What's prompting JP Morgan to publish: 'Something Is Off With The Global Math.' It's not difficult to assess—it's a canard perpetuated by Trump. Using timed pronouncements (lies), about how things are progressing, his jawboning brings down oil prices because Americans are stupid and gullible.

Consider the consequences once history makes clear the underlying reality. Between a ramping-up of oil deliveries (that only happen over the corpse of US hegemony and the death of NATO), combined with 10s of millions of US jobs lost to AI, what does that portend for America? What's that say about being able to feed our families?

As I look around for the good news, I don't see it. When I read that 80% of Americans cannot qualify for 80% of the homes listed for sale, I don't expect to see those numbers get better. Instead, I wonder if for a nation build around gas and diesel (where everything delivered to us depends on petroleum), home buying is bound to become some kind of sad joke when we have to deal with having no way to get to work or to get food.

All we have are the realities. When Trump offers \$1000 per child born, to be used for college, he'll be long dead when that dollar is worth a nickel and that kid will never see the inside of a college. Watching basketball, somebody heard that commercial and said 'Go Trump'! Is that where we're at?

Does Trump's \$1000 justify murdering 200 human beings in small boats? They are not fishermen you say; they're drug runners and mine layers. No they are not. Without due process, they're murdered fishermen.

How, without nuclear war, does Trump get out of Iran? Can he just lose and go away? Is it possible for Trump to deal with: no deal—but no war?

Before Trump, the US economy was headed for collapse—he hastened that end. Everywhere we look, it's *normalized* (economic) *lunacy*. I was on the phone today, asking why my Medicare supplement insurance went up \$100 a month. The woman assisting me said her rent went up \$200, today.

Columbian actress, Sophia Vergara got half a million an episode (Modern Family). My new Dodge Dart (1963), out the door, \$1985. What happened?

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