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The Men Who Would Be King

John Steinbeck gave us *The Grapes of Wrath*, with its dustbowl poor, displaced, driven off their lands by bankster profiteers—left with nothing but jalopies, worn-out souls and a hope that California would be better. But what awaited them in California was the *wrath* of wealthy growers who saw them as nothing but fruit pickers—and cared less if they lived or died.

Today's world is at least as bad as then and Steinbeck is no longer widely read. At a time when Americans need to dig deep into history, Steinbeck's stories are no longer subjects for study. Now, his epic novel, *East of Eden*, has found its way unto Netflix, as a *re-imagined/misrepresented* mini-series.

Making it worse, the new director for *East of Eden* is the granddaughter of Elia Kazan who directed the 1955 film of the same name. Although Elia only focused on the last third of the long novel, Steinbeck lauded his depiction of the father-son relationship as an honest rendition of his story. Zoe Kazan's series, instead, turns Steinbeck upside down.

If you think I'm writing about a writer or a novel—I'm not. I'm writing about what's happened to our culture—using Steinbeck as a measuring stick. How Trump's fascism and woke/DEI turned a nation on its head. None of us is exempt from the sell-job—beginning with me. Intense, ongoing EQUITY

propaganda requires that each of us work hard to protect our sanity.

The US political culture is made up of despicable political monsters. And a sell-job of excuses to exempt/protect them from the horrors they inflict. Trump, as an example. Not since tyrants of old has there been a man excused by 80% of his base for the slaughter of fishermen, the kidnapping of a duly-elected president, and his attempt to purposely eradicate Iran—the historical seat of civilization.

While Trump's fascist criminality is allowed a pass—with the actual facts not part of any network discussion, the left is busy subverting competitive meritocracy in favor of socialism—where (as Mamdani says), government will provides those things necessary for life to meet our minimum standards.

I too, am affected by propaganda. I sometimes say, as an example that no one is born bad, that if Hitler had been born into my family, he would have gotten into art college. Maybe I do think that, but it misses the point. Hitler wasn't born into my family. Hitler was a consummate monster.

Back to *East of Eden*. For Steinbeck, his was a novel of good and evil—without the frills of explanation. Kate, the mother of the twin boys, had no concern for them. Instead she's chose the life of a whorehouse madam—without Steinbeck offering-up any rationale as to why.

Steinbeck leaves that for us. He presents it and the reader does with it what he/she may (notice I didn't write 'they'—wouldn't want anyone thinking I use preferred pronouns). There is no rational for why Kate is what she is or why her son Cal is who he is.

It's assumed we will read the tale and grapple with the metaphysics within ourselves. We don't need Zoe Kazan telling us about Lee, the Chinaman, raising the boys, only to find out that he has no status as an American in San Francisco. That's not in the novel.

As for my thing about no babies born bad. Who cares? Hitler is Hitler—Trump is Trump. Only really bad fortune brings inept leaders on the right/left, to control our lives. This is the result of divide and conquer, dumbing down, eradications of the 1st/2nd Amendments, and most of all, the removal of free market competition in favor of cronyism and socialism—sucking the life blood of American ingenuity, to raise-up the useless to equal status.

This last week was a tough one for me. Along with several trolls, one that I told to ‘piss off’, there were 2 happenings in town that my loved ones participating in, a no kings rally and a pride parade. None of my townspeople know that Obama, W Bush, Clinton or Biden saw themselves as monarches—Trump is not alone, acting out that role. And, most don’t know that what they are taking *pride* in—is the political motivator to fill prisons in the EU.

Would-be King Trump tells the world that if nations attempt to sell our bonds, we have the military to stop them. If fear of military action is not effective in gaining our demands to loot other nations, Scott Bessent desperately warns that we will would have no alternative but to hyper-inflate.

Trump, rather than supporting EQUITY—is a racist. Clinging to a phony excuse that Iran seeks nuclear weapons, Trump is either stupid, calculating, or willing to shed Muslim blood without concern. Though not a religious man, Trump has a shared vision with Benjamin Netanyahu, that something written by ‘God knows who’, 2500 years ago, is a useful rationale to push 150 million people off their lands, and failing that—to kill them.

Hitler’s Barbarossa invasion of Russia, with the Nazis as the master race, planned to kill 30 million inferior Russians during the 1st year of the invasion. In a same way: murder in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iran, goes unmentioned—the body counts mount—all for nothing.

A problem with kings is indifference towards subjects, the underlying

cause of the American Revolution. As the default king of the world, Trump has little concern for allies and no concern for the other seven billion global inhabitants. What Trump is likely close to understanding is the bonehead attack on Iran is his undoing—and his hope for a crown—goes with it.

Trump's early, post-inaugural attack on Yemen and his blind trust in Netanyahu (Iran would fall in weeks), must have Trump and his posse (2 weeks from midterms), chewing Xanax all night. Iran will not go along with his tit for tat strikes that would allow Trump the rationale to walk away as a victor. And there's plenty of other things Trump does not understand.

Iran is not Syria—China and Russia will not let it go down. None of these 3 economies are going to fail. And when push comes to shove, they will deal with an existential crisis—supporting each other—in every way.

Russia and Iran, since 2025, have had a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership providing for military/intelligence sharing and giving no assistance to any nation actively engaged in attacking either nation. Totally unaware that Russia is required to support Iran, Trump thinks he can tell Putin to offer no aid Iran. Post the midterms, Russian support for Iran will only increase.

The US has no way of getting energy through Hormuz for Israel or the US. China can say no to a US blockade, while Iran/Russia have other routes.

A week from next Tuesday, there will likely be no further need for *No Kings* rallies—at least as it pertains to Trump. But the wars will go on. The American left hates Russia at least as much as the right. And, if you think Germany's AfD or Marine Le Pen will opt to dialogue with Putin—forget it.

The question remaining is whether or not forever wars become global wars. US unwillingness to reflect on the role it plays—is a vote for WW3.

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