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*We Can Do This The Easy Way...*

On the cop shows, the *bad cop* says: *We can do this the easy way, or we can do it the hard way.* Donald Trump finds himself in that role, in a world already having made the decision to replace the dollar as the reserve currency. The only question being—how long it will take? 2nd-term, Trump confronts that dilemma, without any clear direction.

On the one hand, Trump wants to make the US a productive nation backed by a strong dollar, while retaining dollar reserve currency status. Not likely, as global reserve currency needs trade deficits/weakened currency to provide liquidity and settle trade.

Two economic truths: a strong economy requires a strong currency, as well as a corresponding interest rate high enough to support the purchasing power of that currency.

To retain reserve currency status, requires a currency be weakened by currency creation, so as to meet the needs of liquidity (US dollars), for use by participating nations.

Making the US productive, while maintaining Fed policies and reserve currency status are at odds with each other, putting Trump, at odds with himself. Does he get this?

Although the Fed talks a strong dollar, its actual function is to prop the stock market/real estate, while advocating for a strong dollar but actually seeking a weakened dollar.

To slow down the process of lose of reserve currency status, Trump would have to judiciously manage the dollar, providing liquidity for the rest of the world by cutting spending at home. This is what needs done, but unfortunately—what will not be done.

As in, Trump is being cajoled into a possibility of investing half a trillion into saving Moderna from bankruptcy with a scheme to combine mRNA/AI to save mankind, individually, through personalized cancer vaccines. Gee, what could go wrong with that?

Half a trillion is likely double what Musk is going to be able to find in savings. And the mRNA/AI boondoggle is not the only Trump policy that may well result in accelerating dollar depreciation. If Trump is successful in having OPEC reduce oil supply, the price of oil will rise, resulting in higher energy costs for already cash-strapped Americans.

Then there's the tariffs. If tariffs have a positive function, it is to level the playing-field amongst nations. But, if 100% tariffs are placed on nations drifting away from using the dollar, those are sanctions, intended to force all nations to support dollar hegemony.

Talk is cheap—or is it? To replace proceeds from income tax (\$1.7T), would require a 50% tariff to be applied to everything imported to the US—crashing the economy. Instead, debt is created to prop up the stock market—92% of which is owned by the 1%.

How do tariffs work? They are not applied at the point of productive origin, but at the port of entry. Anything imported from China (100% sanctioned), is doubled as that product comes through customs. That product, at double the price, finds few buyers—even from those for whom the product is essential. Hence, the economy degrades.

The hope for tariff/sanctions is that consumers will cease to use the products of the nation being sanctioned. That might work if the US/EU were not pathetically dependent on products from China. Instead, unable to afford *sanctioned* products we rely on, we find no better options to obtain the products we require from unsanctioned nations.

Sanctions result in tariff/sanction wars that only exacerbate the problem—adding impetus to an already accelerating demise for the dollar—as the reserve global currency.

Trump, to some degree understands, with his appointment of Musk/Vivek (now just Musk), to reduce spending. But the amount of dollars saved through cutting the excess fat will do little to offset the inevitable loss of reserve status—without a grand plan.

Obscuring reality are 2 Donald Trumps. Domestic-front Trump is doing, and will do, good things for Americans. There can be no rational objection to sealing our borders and deporting, first criminal illegals, then illegals. Counter arguments that the US needs foreign workers to do jobs Americans don't want, are correct. But, as in the 60's with the Mexican *bracero* program, workers coming into our nation need to be vetted.

Also, President Trump understands that, in terms of science, men are men and women are women, and the trans depravity that has invaded our media, our schools, our lives, and women's sports, needs driven out. And America back into human reality.

Trump understands the purposeful plan to divide us, using *non-debated* climate change. To that end, unexplored assumptions blame fossil fuels. For now that's over.

Unfortunately, Trump's boisterous power politics talk is reaffirming that the US can't be trusted, and a small window for a settlement in Ukraine may be closing. Though Putin suggests that the invasion may not have happened had Trump been president, I wonder if Putin is simply attempting to support dialogue? Rationally, given that Trump was arming Ukraine, what would Trump have done to make the situation resolve itself?

Now, instead of coming up with a solution to end the war, Trump is disparaging/threatening Putin. Imagine Putin (who wants a just solution for Ukraine), having to hear the number of Russian deaths misrepresented by a power of 10? And Trump's solution being the same one we inflicted on North Korea in the early 50s: namely a demilitarized zone manned by NATO troops that Russia sees as responsible for the war/killing.

Trump presents with bluster and threat that either Putin agrees to it or sanctions will ensue. What sanctions? We hardly trade with Russia. We have stolen its foreign reserves (without an act of war). We allowed Zelensky to kill Russians using our technology/weapons. And the US destroyed Russia's pipeline and trade relations with Europe.

Putin will stand his ground, keeping the ground won. There will be no timeline for Ukraine joining NATO, UKR will be de-Nazified, and Ukraine will be a neutral nation.

I fear Trump sees the world in 1970s terms, where the US is the maestro, and everybody dances to its tune. Those days are gone. Russia is the battle-tested military power in the world, with China/US vying for 2nd place. The only US option is nuclear.

The war in Ukraine is over. Invasion by NATO would require full mobilization of the US/EU—the hostilities in Ukraine will be long over before that could happen. Trump is being fed lies about Russia. Hopefully, Putin offers Trump something resembling a win.

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