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Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2025 21:01:31 GMT

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I am visiting with you, imagining we are hangin' out at Town Topic eatin' a burger.

There are a lot of people that I tend to trust in most respects, but not in everything. That's true in many fields but I think it holds most strongly in politics right now.

I think some of the reasons for this are that conditions are changing. We are all changing our opinions on things, but those opinion-shifts are slow. An example is conservatives that are shifting from laissez-faire to protectionist views. Another example is liberals that are shifting from wanting to reduce military spending and "make love not war" to wanting to increase military spending and throw money at wars. We are seeing some shifts. They are slow shifts, but very apparent.

I think another reason is what you said earlier. People can't see the inner-workings of government, so they have to depend upon information sources and it's hard to know who to trust. We are becoming more suspicious of our news sources, and probably rightly so. But that doesn't stop our human tendency to form opinions, even if we don't really know our information or its sources.

As for me, I base my opinion on the Russia/Ukraine situation on what I've seen there since the 1990s. It's based on Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, Azerbaijanians and others from the former Soviet Union that I know personally. Most of them are good American citizens or they are family or friends of Americans. Some are legal work visa holders.

And just as importantly - I don't see this through the eyes of politicians in Moscow or Kiev or even Washington D.C. I don't see it through the eyes of news media that's intractably tied to those political machines either. I see it through the eyes of the people living in cities in the former Soviet Union. I see it through the eyes of the people.

And just as importantly, I see with the eyes of time. We all do if we care to look. What I mean by that is this: Time tends to show motives very plainly. I don't have to believe what a man says, I can simply watch what he does. Similarly, I don't have to believe what a government says it will do, I can watch it to see what it actually does. And over time, one can always see a man's actions or those of an organization, a company or an entire country.

What I see very clearly is there was no "empire building" in Ukraine. If there had been, they wouldn't be having this problem right now. They were left to fend for themselves. They even gave their nuclear weapons to Russia on the promise that they would not need those weapons to defend themselves. But now look where they sit. Very little economic or military/security partnership ever occurred. That's not empire building. That's very much the opposite.

So I tell you this because I want you to realize that I see this situation with crystal clarity. I have absolutely no motivation for spin. I don't have a political blog. I'm not tied to someone running for office. I'm just a guy that happens to be really familiar with the culture. That's why I can

see through all the "talking heads" that speak nonsense.

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