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Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 16 May 2025 13:21:16 GMT

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In this discussion with Wolff & Hudson entitled Empire Without Returns is a telling paragraph by M. Hudson regarding the origins of the Cold War.

<https://michael-hudson.com/2025/05/empire-without-returns/>

Quote:What was really the source of this Cold War?

It wasn't just geopolitical. The Soviet Union wasn't a trade rival or an investment rival. It was a different economic system. And that's what led the United States to start the Cold War right away in 1917. As soon as you had the Bolshevik Revolution there, the U.S., along with England, tried to invade Russia and overthrow the revolution.

The whole fight against communism, they didn't say it's against the Soviet Union or the Russian people or Russian production. It was against communism.

And the threat of communism, what was it? The Americans feared that it was an alternative economic organization to that of American finance capitalism. And in the negotiations in 1944 and 1945, leading up to the World Trade Organization creation, the International Trade Organization, the U.S. negotiators said, "how are we going to deal with a socialist economy?" Because socialist economies are lower cost than Western capitalist economies.

Socialist economies are more efficient because they don't have a predatory financial class. They don't have a real estate class. Their housing costs are much lower because you don't have an absentee landlord class that is able to maximize its land rent. You don't have debt. The government of Russia simply creates the money.

Well, we all know that the Russian system really wasn't a workable economic threat to the West because it was basically, under Stalin, a bureaucratic collectivism. They didn't let a hundred flowers bloom as Mao did. They didn't let what had been Lenin's new economic policy of 1921 actually create any kind of competition there. China did.

In a nutshell this explains what our whole cold war ideology has been derived from. That nowadays has become such a monetary strain on our country. The whole tariff debacle is just an extension of our longstanding cold war capitalism vs socialism ideology. We're losing the advantage we enjoyed as a free lunch with our exorbitant dollar dominance in trade. Which allowed for us to deindustrialize and pursue finance capitalism service economy as our economic model.

Its proven to be a self destructive and perverse means of running an economy that funnels the economic proceeds towards the upper incomes. At the expense of the middle and lower incomes. So the tariff chaos now is but an attempt to try and extort the worlds economies towards keeping our upper income free lunch protected from countries now de-dollarizing because of our perverse weaponization of the dollar. Sanctioning, proxy warring, regime changing behavior.

In the meantime, another indicator of our empire's decay is our educational standards has been falling behind to the rest of the world. And our literacy rate is declining. Public schooling is

underfunded and being perversely challenged by privatization. But the data shows the story.  
<https://sonar21.com/if-ignorance-is-bliss-the-us-is-the-happiest-superpower/>

The trends show that our economic system is faltering and the deep state financialized military industrial complex ideology is only now isolating our country from the rest of the world as the once 3rd world has the economic and political power to counter our empire finally since the great war of last century.

So far our leadership still maintains that our empire is the necessary center of gravity in this world. While the greater portion of humanity and countries are feeling that no one country has claim over the rest.

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