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Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 24 Jun 2025 16:41:43 GMT

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I've watched the middle-east conflicts through my lifetime and thought of it as a sad war between fanatic Moslems and Israel. I don't think it's the common people that are to blame - I think it's the politicians and fanatics driving that perpetual conflict. Jews, Christians and Moslems should consider themselves like-minded, but the mentally sick ones don't and they cause strife. Other than that, I don't have an opinion on events in the middle east.

But I do have my finger on the pulse of the conflict in Ukraine and it is caused solely by Putin. It isn't the west. You may say America and Europe had fingers in stuff in other parts of the world, but not there. We should have, in my opinion, but we didn't. At least not 'til now, and we're a little late.

That's just how it is, my friend.

Let me give you just one of a million examples. Back in the late 1990s, I considered buying a Volga and having it shipped here. I wanted to put a blown big block in it and wrinkle-wall back

it would be really cool.

Well, days passed and I didn't get around to doing that. I spent my hot-rod dollars on my Cutlass and eventually bought an Impala. But I never stopped thinkin' about the Volga...

Then later I learned that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton tried to smooth-over relations with the Russians with a "Russian Reset" campaign. I don't suppose it's ever a bad thing to improve relations with anyone, but my point is that American political attention to Russia and Ukraine is so abysmally slight that we didn't even take the time to pay a translator a hundred bucks to make sure we got the word right.

We gave the Russian Foreign Minister a cute little Staples-like-that-was-easy button with what we

Caught my eye 'cause of my fun Volga phrase. Still think that would have been cool on a funny car based on a Volga.

Point is, we ain't into it here. We don't have a clue what's going on there. Not at the everyman level and not even at the highest political levels. It's not a sinister plot. It's a comedy of errors.

Odessa, Ukraine, at the top of the Potemkin stairs, right by the statue of Duke de Richelieu (in a jacket, just for fun):

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