
Subject: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 15 Dec 2024 15:30:18 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

World and domestic events and policies are the big picture that the elder brain trust of Hudson and Wolff synthesize in their discussions on the Dialogue Works blog. The latest being the US strategy of controlled anarchy its practiced for decades.

All the big strategies going on in the world now. Reflecting back on our own domestic policies that reinforce the notion of our US empire is its own worst enemy. The chaos it disseminates in the world trying to maintain a national security cover for the control of fossil fuels and our military complex umbrella. Is matched by a domestic economic doctrine that had done chaos to the wellbeing of the greater part of its citizenry. Great thought provoking discussion. As always. Time to have a serious dialogue in this country.

<https://michael-hudson.com/2024/12/the-u-s-strategy-of-controlled-anarchy-syria-ukraine-and-beyond/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2024 15:15:28 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Another in a continuing series with the two elder statesmen of what the world, needs now. Is PEACE and cooperation. That isn't the American philosophy. We want to stir the pot. We'll bargain with the devil as an asset like we've done in Syria recently. You name a hot spot in this world and we're there in some fashion instigating trouble.

These two vessels of wisdom know more about what our country does and has done than just about anyone. They know the historical precedence and the current foundations of our national and world economic and social status to lift the lid on what governments do and what implications they have. You can't find this analysis from the NY Times or any publication owned by our own oligarchic class that own the politicians. Democracy. Aristotle warned about it way back when.

<https://michael-hudson.com/2024/12/the-irony-of-calling-the-opponents-of-nazism-nazis/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2024 15:27:31 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

No sooner I post one I see another tidbit of crucial understanding of whatthehells going on. The Moon of Alabama blog seems to always do a wonderful job in my view summing up skullduggery in this world. I like this editorial. Washington Values. You can take that to the Quickie Mart to pay for a lottery ticket and lose anytime.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 05 Jan 2025 18:23:02 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Kennedy and Khrushchev. From the Chris Hedges Report. Economist Jeffrey Sachs who has studied the Cuban Missile crisis and its effect on John Kennedy's foreign policy initiatives until he was assassinated.

Our foreign policy with Russia for a century along with Great Britain has been full of dangerous misappropriation of ill will of our national defense planning and diplomacy. Or lack thereof. Mr. Sachs gives a full rendering of how the Cuban Missile crisis happened, leading up to and the post threat aversion to an all out nuclear exchange with Russia.

Kennedy had the foresight to realize the need for dialogue with Russia. Which led to a seminal speech on ending the "cold war" and respecting our so called adversaries. His assassination erased any effort in this vein with our policy with Russia since.

<https://www.american.edu/cas/news/no-problem-of-human-destiny-is-beyond-human-beings.cfm>

We refuse to "learn" from our very own history. Its remarkable in light of what is still going on in the world today. That we, the USA are like some benevolent hand in keeping the world stitched together.

Ironically we are the catalyst for world chaos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wqm9YI1gGEY>

(Snowed in in KC with a rare blizzard)

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 07 Feb 2025 15:47:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Politics & profit are the motives with the destruction of Gaza. The Palestinians are just an impediment to realizing the potential to raze what's left of Gaza which was an open air prison since 2007. To keep the Palestinians in control by the Israeli's. Before they eventually decided to exterminate them once and for all. With a little help from their friend. The USA. The new administration in the US is doing a spin job of what it feels is only logical in the sense of revitalizing that area destroyed with our prior administrations unwavering solidarity to keep the stronghold of the Middle East in our national interests. The oil. Never mind genocide was being committed. Collateral damage.

Trump and his son in law Jerid Kushner who has business interests in Israel and Saudi Arabia stand to profit from this new proposal in Gaza. The Israeli government proposes a "voluntary" withdraw of the Palestinians to neighboring countries so that Gaza can be "renewed". As Ben Norton points out in his expose of this corrupt proposal. A voluntary choice between either death

by staying in Gaza or keeping your life by leaving.

The extent of decay of the American political and economic hegemony is accelerating more quickly than ever now under this new administration. The shock & awe style Trump is proposing for initiatives around the world to make America great again is only showing how debauched and corrupt our system of government has become. Not that it wasn't so prior to him. But he simply pulls the cover off the disease process that's been going on for some time. Why not make a profit out of it?

But, this latest proposal for Gaza is despicable and grotesque. Ben Norton shows all the gory details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMBwV8kL5NY>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 16 Feb 2025 15:22:41 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I think Kevin Walmsley is an important source to follow for where our economy is at. He's a businessman and savvy to finance. He reports from Qingdao China where he's lived for more than a decade. He frequently speaks out about our financialized economy's shortcomings and erosion. Here he's speaking to what was once one of our top export commodities. Farming. Crops and equipment. Both now suffering from our very own economic shortcomings we've followed for decades now.

The once third world has overtaken ours and our partners in the G7 in all forms of commerce. And now our very own star of the trade show is on the ropes. Equipment manufacturers of farm equipment are being replaced by Chinese brands that are or course, cheaper and just as effective. And now our farmers are being undercut with the grains and crops that we were known as the "breadbasket of the world". Drought, flooding and finance has made farming more and more difficult for our dwindling family based heritage.

We've done this to ourselves slowly and methodically. In denial of what we've been doing. Arrogantly pursuing our rules based exceptionalism world wide. While ridding our nation of the means to make things and even now grow things to trade with. So our balance of payments in trade is an enormous deficit now.

Kevin Walmsley substack:

US farmland is seeing steep declines nationally. In every region surveyed, the most productive and highest-yielding farmland has fallen between 5 and 15%. In many areas with less-than-ideal tillage or water supplies, the losses are much higher, at over 30%.

<https://kdwalmsley.substack.com/p/american-farmland-values-falling?r=4pow86&triedRedirect=true>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2025 20:15:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

A trustworthy journalist. Ben Norton. Always pointing out apolitically the shortcomings of US policy. Here explaining US Multipolarity vs Chinese Multipolarity.

The new administration is converting from an outdated unipolarity philosophy from the prior administration to one which the US is "competing" with another empire, the Chinese, in a way that maintains the aspect of US imperialism within the sphere of the western hemisphere. Whereas China expresses multipolarity as a uniform sovereign right of all countries to develop and prosper in the midst of cooperation and respect.

The old ways die hard even with acceptance of not being the biggest kid in the playground. Trouble is, being a bully doesn't win respect or gain prosperity in the long run.

<https://geopoliticaconomy.com/2025/02/16/multipolarity-china-trump-marco-rubio-imperialism/>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2025 12:14:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Economist Jeffrey Sachs, an astute mind and orator gave a speech recently at the European parliament in Brussels Belgium. He points out I think the folly of the European Union to have slavishly followed the whim and will of the US dominating hegemony for decades on end to perpetuate its notion of its exceptionalism in the world politically and militarily.

It would be an irony of sorts to the old Domino Theory of the 1960's that was the leading assumption of the US committing to the Vietnam war to stop communist takeover of East Asia. That if the European nations were to wake up to their chronic allegiance with America's war mongering for decades. The alternative to joining the BRICS coalition and pursue stability and prosperity over the latter wasteful and unproductive ideology of the US would be a reverse to the old unrealized domino theory.

A transcript of his speech in full.:

<https://singjupost.com/transcript-jeffrey-sachs-on-the-geopolitics-of-peace-in-the-european-parliament/?singlepage=1>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2025 13:06:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The state of Russia is a mafia state? Full of corruption and palm greasers. Takes a back seat to what vulgarity was regurgitated unto the world from the President of the United States in his

"Truth" Social com. Who's society is really on the skids?

Making Gaza the Rivera of the Middle East AI presentation. USA F'n A Yeah baby!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_uTs0ukLk

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 05 Mar 2025 21:46:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The United States and our political parties, both, I can't help comparing to the character created by Mike Myers for his Austin Powers movies.

Both parties are like Dr. Evil towards world hegemony, world domination. For benefit of our OLIGARCHY. This makes Russia's oligarchy bush league in comparison. The Trump administration now is composed of 13 billionaires. And both parties are heavily financed in campaign contributions by the fraction of the one percent. Two financial companies in particular, Blackrock and Blackstone factored heavily in this last presidential election.

Biden concentrated on our old cold war rival Russia while Trump now is fully on with China as enemy number one for our Dr. Evil State Department and military complex to try and destabilize China. Meanwhile Trump and his minions are shoring up our Monroe Doctrine in South and Latin America to make the western hemisphere OURs and ours alone to control.

Ben Norton with his Geopolitical Economic Report blog explains this whole scheme being hatched for carrying out the next 4 years.

What a sad and crappy initiative to be concentrating on in this world. Instead of planning and financing a long term initiative to really make America great again. Industry and manufacturing that takes time to blossom. Which is what China did. Instead our country carries out the short term needs of our most wealthy financiers in Wall Street for their world dominance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANqHCEjgUTM>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 06 Mar 2025 16:18:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Not to belabor this point - I've made it enough, I think - but while I agree with you that we have

some really ugly problems in America with greed and power, they aren't the same thing as what happened and is still happening in Russia.

First though, to your point about problems here at home, I always thought it slimy that career politicians in USA could become millionaires. If a family gets paychecks of say \$200K/year, then they should never be able to amass hundreds of millions of dollars. It's just not ethically or legally possible. Their net worth over a lifetime should be in the low millions, if they've invested well.

A career politician with more than a few million dollars is prima facia evidence of foul play. If a politician has other incomes prior to entering public service, that's possibly a path to wealth, but even then, it seems rife with ethical dilemmas.

But certainly, a person that enters politics early in life and then does nothing else has no ethical or legal way to generate an income that leaves them with more than an upper-middle-class retirement nest egg. There's no way to become a multi-millionaire. Yet we see dozens of people that fit that description, and I think it's wrong.

Now then, let's compare that with Russia. First, remember what I said about the novi-ruski. Those are the people that are called "oligarchs" today. I call them "novi-ruski" because that's the pejoratively slang term used by Russians, themselves. That's what the population of Russia calls these guys. They started calling them that in the 1990s.

The majority of Russians (and Ukrainians and Moldovans and Belarusians, etc.) are a lot like Americans. They're proud of their culture. They value fairness. They value strength and are proud of themselves, but they also value kindness. They do not like seeing someone win by unfair behavior. And because of that, they are somewhat untrusting of government. They do not consider culture and nation to be synonymous with politics. They usually keep their political opinions to themselves, largely out of prudence. Better to stay out of it, and not voice an opinion.

Not everyone is like that, but most are. The ones that speak out are people with high risk tolerance. When you get 'em alone - behind closed doors - there isn't anyone in any of the former Soviet states that sees novi-ruski any differently than I've described here. They all see novi-ruski as powerful, dangerous spoiled brats.

Don't mistake a comparison with the "spoiled brats" you see here. In America, there are thousands of truly famous "influencers" that have never done a thing. But it's worse than that there. Novi-ruski are seen as dangerously violent spoiled brats that made their money off the backs of hardworking people. Novi-ruski are literally hated there. They have a lot of power in every city and most every company, so they are feared. They're something like the robber-barons of America in the 1800s, but worse because of their criminal beginnings.

And by the way - if you like Jeffrey Sachs and you trust his opinions - you may want to look back through what he has said through the years because he recounts this too.

In Russia and Ukraine, the novi-ruski were the mobsters from back when the Soviet Union still existed. They were local criminals, some that had local power in their cities. They were like Al

Capone, selling guns and drugs, and pimping out young girls that became addicted. They became interwoven in local politics, and they occasionally killed people that crossed them or didn't pay "protection" or black-market debts.

Consider the fact of life for every "comrade" in the Soviet days. It was different than here, so we sometimes forget the fact that a person didn't do stuff to make money. They didn't try to better themselves financially. They didn't run their own businesses, and they didn't have mutual funds, stock or retirement accounts. They were given a very tiny paycheck, and that was used to buy things like food, vodka and cigarettes. Major items weren't purchased - they were assigned.

Every person went to school, were assigned a career, and they then performed their task under penalty of law. Most people wanted to work and be useful, so I'm not saying they hated their lives or anything like that. As with everyone else, sometimes you like your work and sometimes you don't. But my point is that they had no understanding of private company ownership, of stock markets or even of what it is like to be a salesman. Most people just had no concept of owning or selling anything more valuable than a wristwatch.

So when the Soviet Union collapsed, one of the things that happened was every company in the nation issued ownership stock to its employees. That was one of the things the former Soviet Union did in an attempt to become a free-market nation. It was a great idea, in my opinion.

The only problem is that most people didn't understand the value of stock, and they were desperate enough to need cash. It was easy to convince them to sell their stock, because most of the population didn't understand the benefit in owning it. They needed food, electricity and heating oil. So they sold their stock. And who were there to buy that stock? Who had cash? The novi-ruski.

Again, this is something Jeffrey Sachs has said. He wishes we in America had done more to help with the transition. We could have educated the people, and we could have invested in the private companies. Maybe that would have been taking advantage of the situation, I don't know. Or maybe it wouldn't have been wrong to take advantage. Again, I don't know. But I know that we didn't do that. We didn't involve ourselves. We were busy in the Middle East during that time.

So the novi-ruski took over. Yeltsin saw this as a growing problem, and for some reason he thought Putin could help. Putin had a lot of experience with novi-ruski in St. Petersburg.

But Putin ended up simply bringing all the novi-ruski together as one big organization of mob families. The few dissenting novi-ruski that legitimized themselves - wanting to make Russia a proud country of law-abiding citizens - those people were imprisoned or killed. Look at Mikhail Khodorkovsky, for an example.

Not all novi-ruski were thugs, and some of those that started off slimy wanted to reform themselves. Some truly wanted a better country, and to do legitimate business. But if they didn't tow the Putin line, those were imprisoned or killed. And this even spanned out away from Russia, into other former Soviet states that had gained independence from Russia.

So what is left is a country of thugs. They aren't just "fat cats" - they are hit men. They murder

political opponents. It's pretty bad over there. Lots of political poisonings, lots of political incarcerations that result in death and lots of other kinds of murders. It's a whole other level than the ethics problems you see here.

Ukraine has struggled with this too. I've watched it since the 1990s, up close and personal. The people of Ukraine largely want to be associated with the west - with Europe and with the USA. They always vote for politicians that are pro-western. The pro-Russia politicians in Ukraine get very low votes. I've also seen popular pro-western politicians in Ukraine be poisoned and disfigured. It's been messy, and there is only one reason for that - Putin and his thugs. But Ukraine still hangs on.

I hope Ukraine stays pro-American. Recent events over here have shocked their population. Many of them feel betrayed by us now. I'm fairly sure they'll stay pro-western, but I hope they also stay pro-American. It's nice to have former Soviet states that prefer American values.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 13:26:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I think it may be well Wayne to try and digest what economist Michael Hudson says from back in 2004 from the transcription interview, Reforming the reformers.
<https://michael-hudson.com/2004/02/russia-reforming-the-reformers/>

That Putin was instrumental in initiating a house cleaning to the mess created by Yeltsin during his administration. No less though than what our own impetus had been to support the "big buyoff of Russia's resources". As one journalist expressed as the US being the willing "fence" for the Russian oligarchy's looting of natural resources.

Our policy towards Russia has always been to degrade their government one way or the other. To weaken Russia and if possible to break up Russia into small ununified pieces with no military threat to what our Warhawk Pentagon planners obsess over.

Your ire towards Putin might be more evenly placed on his predecessor Yeltsin.

This thread Empire is directed at what our own government historically and currently pursues unabashedly in this world that is of no positive good to the promotion of peace and goodwill. Wealth plays a large part in history to the downfall of empires. Right now that seems more evident than ever before in our country that the one percent of our society is whom our government is aligned with.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 15:14:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

The link you provided from Michael Hudson describes the situation in Russia pretty well. I think it may blame some players a little more than others, but it definitely gives the picture. The point is that there is a huge problem over there from novi-ruski.

As for what we're doing over here, I agree with what I think is your point - that we have some politicians that make "magic money" simply by entering politics. They are in a position to decide where the money can go, and in so doing, some seems to fall right into their pockets.

In that respect, I kind of like the house-cleaning we appear to be doing right now. I hope it's on the up-and-up. I don't like how we've begun to treat Ukraine, but I like everything else. Hopefully, it all ends up being for the best.

This is a time when my fingers are crossed very tightly.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 16:15:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I believe what Putin has done is more positive than what our propoganda projects. Russia's GDP has increased even despite our sanctioning. They're winning the war we concocted in Ukraine. They're firmly allied with China and the BRICS initiative. And I believe Putin is the major reason for that. I claim that from what I get from economists like Hudson and Sachs. Therefore I might be characterized as they are as, "Putin sympathizers" or enablers. Whatever. It's B.S.

We have a huge problem right here in America with our novi-amerikanski's. The house cleaning going on here with governmental agencies is nothing more than appearing to be doing something positive for our debt problems. That's a farse. Our debt problems are self generated by decades of neoliberal decay of our manufacturing and industry and allowing Wall Street to manage our government.

Which is what Hudson describes the novi-ruski's of trying to do in Russia before Putin put a stop to it as with the criminal Khodorkovsky. Who became the darling of western media propoganda after he was pardoned ironically by Putin and exiled out of Russia.

Our empire is flailing away at losing it's mojo we had by default for so many years after WWII. China is the leader of the burgeoning once third world. Because they have put their banking sector in its place by being state owned and operated. They are a socialist hybrid state/free market economy. They are thriving. We are held down by privatization, monopolization and an oligarchic class of citizens that control the flow of income to anoint our political representatives in servitude to them. Our 2 party system will not allow for any other public groundswell of political organization to counter their capitulation to an economic doctrine that works for, of and by the one percent.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 17:21:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I think there are a lot of things we agree upon, but on this one - on Putin's Russia - I just don't see any way to see his actions as positive.

Here's the bottom line to me: Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia has been murdering innocent people there for years.

Why?

Putin says it is because he is trying to "free" the people of Ukraine from corruption.

That's mobster talk. It's Putin saying, "you need us for protection."

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 20:10:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Quote:That's mobster talk. It's Putin saying, "you need us for protection."

I can't help but chuckle. Because that's basically what NATO was all about with the US to Europe. There was never-ever any menace of Russia being a threat to Europe. It's impractical, redundant and too arduous of a task. But that's our neocon mindset in the Pentagon and State Department for many decades. Now Trump has ditched them and burdened them with talk of tariffs. China is the big enchilada. We're taking on something there much more than we can chew. And its all totally unnecessary. As I read from the mind trust of these very wise men and women out there. Empires overreach when they start to falter. Its in the history books. Greece, Rome, Ottoman, British and many more empires.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 07 Mar 2025 22:15:15 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Rusty wrote on Fri, 07 March 2025 14:10I can't help but chuckle. Because that's basically what NATO was all about with the US to Europe.

You might be right. But only Russia has resorted to actual warfare in this arena.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 08 Mar 2025 14:01:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Because they had no choice. They did every bit of diplomacy and negotiation with Ukraine. Even after commencing their military occupation. And it was our country and Britain that cajoled Zelensky and his corrupt government to "give it a go", we're with ya 110 percent. America's bluff tactic they had done throughout NATO expansion. "Russia won't do anything". They don't have the will or know how to do so.

Russia showed they did and that they would not tolerate any expansion of NATO into Ukraine. Exactly as had been framed by Putin and his diplomats for years leading up to this fraud. You won't consider that even though the evidence is plain. Subjectivity over objectivity. Your disdain of Putin. Take it out on Yeltsin.

The way to condition the public is through propaganda. We always attribute that to our enemies. But our government uses it extensively to push agenda.

Like our pretext for invading Iraq. Total lies.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 09 Mar 2025 14:34:44 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Jeffrey Sachs lays out the sensible end to this ugly unnecessary war. I hope so. Europe has been the locale of unnumerable unnecessary wars for centuries. Maybe it's an Anglo-Saxon trademark. But its time to think differently. There's always more potential with cooperation.

<https://consortiumnews.com/2025/03/06/jeffrey-sachs-negotiating-lasting-peace-in-ukraine/>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 09 Mar 2025 16:01:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In the analysis described by Jeffrey Sachs in the link above, you will notice mention of two Ukrainian political figures:

Victor Yanukovych, and
Victor Yushchenko

The history of these two men illustrates the heart of the conflict very well, in my opinion. I've mentioned their behavior a few times in this thread and in the other one about Ukraine here in "the Dungeon" forum.

I traveled to Odessa, Ukraine several times during the era when those two were "duking it out" in politics. Back in the 1990s and 2000s, I saw first-hand how the population of Ukraine viewed these men. It's pretty much how most of the rest of the world saw things too - anyone actually watching - which included Jeffrey Sachs. Of course, most people here weren't really paying attention to Ukraine back then, so Americans had no view of this until the last couple years.

But if you read up on these men, what you will notice is that Yanukovich had been a criminal from early life and so gained ties to novi-ruski back when they were just local thugs. That was really his main occupation. Naturally, his ties to the novi-ruski "oligarchs" brought him closer to Putin later in life. About five years after Ukraine became independent, Yanukovich became a politician. He was essentially hand-crafted to be a shill for the novi-ruski and for Putin.

What you will also notice is that Yushchenko was not a criminal in his youth or at any other time. He became involved with banking as a career, way back in the 1970s, long before Ukraine was independent. When Ukraine became independent, he helped to create their currency system and was appointed to various economic/political positions by the newly-formed Ukrainian parliament called the Verkhovna Rada.

So the difference between these two men is night and day. It is obvious to anyone native to the culture that one of them is a class act and the other is a thug. One is tied to the novi-ruski and all the corruption that goes with them. The other is an upstanding citizen and respectable civic leader interested in breaking from that.

Yushchenko was widely respected as an honest businessman. He was never allied with any novi-ruski. He wanted to be free from the corruption of the novi-ruski that was so prevalent. Yushchenko was very popular with the population of Ukraine. Yanukovich, on the other hand, was a life-long criminal, a thug that had obvious ties to political corruption and to the Kremlin.

At one point in 2004 - during an election cycle with Yanukovich - Yushchenko was poisoned using dioxin. This was at a time when Yanukovich was so unpopular with the Ukrainian population that he took over media outlets and prevented any sort of free or public speech. Yet, Yushchenko was still more popular with the public. So the pro-Putin thugs tried to kill him.

I encourage anyone that is truly interested in the history of Ukraine after its independence to read about those two men. Read about them and other politicians and events from the 1990s and 2000s. Don't just read one source, and don't watch TV today and form an "opinion" based on the chatter of American politics in the 2020s. We have our own stuff going on here, and it distorts our view.

Most of us here in America don't know anything about Ukraine and its independence. It just wasn't on our radars until recent events in American politics brought it into view. But the fact that American politics are in play means that what we're really seeing is American politics in action, and that generates its own form of spin. A lot of it is out of sync with what has been going on over there for the past 30 years or so.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 10 Mar 2025 12:37:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Well, we have a politician right here right now that isn't the most virtuous individual ever to be in the position of highest power in our own government. The world stage and actions of nations are

the final arbiter of all the machinations in politics.

And any politician of Ukrainian heritage would know of its relationship with Russia that aligning with NATO would be tantamount to serious consequence. As Sachs points out in the article, Russia was not interested in what alignment Ukraine had with western economic countries. It had signed a "lease" since it had from the 18th century to the critical Black Sea port in Crimea. It was pursuing negotiations with Ukraine for the civil war in eastern Ukraine.

You pursue the character of Putin and the novi-russki to paint a sinister backdrop to what led up to this conflict. Without acknowledging all the evidence of what the United States and Britain were up to in regards to NATO encirclement "to" the Black Sea, a strategic aspect of naval security to Russia.

Skirting the issue of what the prime political aspect is of this having ever to occur. As Sachs has pointed to all along. The US had been on this quest ever since the unification of Eastern Germany and dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. That NATO "would not" move one inch further towards Russia.

Plenty of official non journalistic opinion pieces of documentation to back this up.

So, the character driven plot for what you're substantiating doesn't really factor into what the real motives are in this sordid and tragic affair of states. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and not just Ukrainians. Many thousands of Russians. It's a fight upholding principals of states. Our country sits back and supplies some of our weapons in storage to essentially degrade, (as an official in the Biden administration revealed) and at a wild longshot chance of toppling the head of state in Russia along with our sanctioning.

And shucks, it didn't work out after all. Well, dusting our hands off. Next... China! Onward ho!

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 2025 22:20:27 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

If not for a few bloggers sharing their research into our behavior in the world. We'd be at the mercy of our absentee journalism and media outlets. Whom are totally devoid of any ethical standards. They only regurgitate the will of our national security apparatus.

Egghead here, (Brian Berletic) and his New Atlas YouTube channel untangles the web of deceit that our government offers Russia with a ceasefire in Ukraine. One of many over the years in our proxy minded meddling of sovereign governments of country's we seek to diminish in our quest for world wide dominance. Dr. Evil's real counterpart in the world that is humorless and void of virtue.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59OHfIIPDrM>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 23 Mar 2025 16:22:57 GMT

Ben Norton seems to ferret out the most detailed analysis of what our government projects to the world and our citizens that's cloaked in disguises in plain sight. A political equivalent to the man behind the curtain in the Wizard of Oz.

Here he untangles a speech by JD Vance recently to a group of Silicon Valley bigwigs that have grouped together with an incentive towards "reindustrializing" our country. Using China as the foe of the near future to incentivizing revitalization of tech industry under the threat of war with the Chinese.

The theme of war permeates our political landscape incessantly. Our military industrial complex depends on it. It feeds on government subsidy. Which perversely points to Modern Monetary Theory used for all the wrong reasons.

China incidentally has only participated in one military campaign back in 1979 lasting all of one month. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia. The Sino-Vietnamese War. Whereas the US has been constantly involved with war and supplying weapons of war since post WWII. Yet China represents a so called national security threat to the US. Mainly due to their superior build up of their economy. Which we allowed ostensibly through our very own acquiescence of our industry in the name of neoliberal financial doctrine.

We can't compete with China now on all levels of commerce from heavy industry to sophisticated high tech and scientific sectors. An empire based on war is an empire losing sights on its own principles of democracy.

Ben Norton:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywmpea6vvOE>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 25 Mar 2025 15:50:37 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

What I seem to glean from my influencers I read and listen to in both the economic and political spectrum. Which blends together always. Is that our country's elected leadership, are themselves influenced by our wealthy elite through dependency on campaign financing. Have a conflict of interest due to that and through an ideology as well financed by elite wealth in the form of think tanks and organizations promoting ideology in line with their financing. And further supported by an institutionalized educational system that teaches within the format consistent with the dominant ideology of finance capitalism which is in line with what supports the ideology of the wealthy elite.

We have a system created that tamps down any alternative ideologies that's perceived as being contrary to the dominant one. Using further the means of communication of journalism and media that have primarily been acquiesced by elitist wealth. Sort of a closed loop system now that might loosely be analogous to an electrical canceling circuit. When a perceived distortion encountering

the prominent ideology waveform is detected, it may be referred to as being "radical". Harmful to the system. An enemy of the state. And cancelled out.

That's been applied to certain countries of our world over the years. Threatening our own national security its been said. Primarily those countries have had an economic ideology that runs counter to capitalism and more so now, finance capitalism's evolution in the traditional centers of capitalism, the G7. That has eschewed investment in traditional industrial capitalism that requires greater investment, socialized subsidy and requires longer less gain in return on investment.

Over time now our finance capitalism has eroded the welfare of its population, the infrastructure of its society and has warped the political legislative structure of its governments. While our so called rivals who have used alternative hybrid economic ideologies have surpassed our own capabilities. Coming to terms with this reality has shown both denial and overreaction on what our governments do to counter their perceived threats.

Using both an exorbitant privilege of an advantage in trade currency dominance and a military complex used unsubstantiated to try and force compliance with our ideology. Both of which are now reflecting the undeserved and unwelcomed title of most exceptional and most essential nation on earth itself. A very self centered, narrow minded and arrogant perception for a nation that comprises only 4.5 percent of this planets population. Which ironically is the same as our economic ideology.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 25 Mar 2025 16:25:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Rusty wrote on Tue, 25 March 2025 10:50Our country's elected leadership, are themselves influenced by our wealthy elite through dependency on campaign financing. Have a conflict of interest due to that and through an ideology as well financed by elite wealth in the form of think tanks and organizations promoting ideology in line with their financing.

I definitely agree with that.

What I see in many American politicians is a class of people that often make a career out of "civil service," using their influence to gain a huge amount of money and power, often without ever working in any other field. That is only possible if they are growing their net worth through influence peddling of some sort.

Other parts of the world have other kinds of problems. Some other countries' problems are similar, some less so. Some countries are worse, others aren't.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 25 Mar 2025 17:10:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Which is why, what the world needs now is, cooperation sweet cooperation, dialogue, diplomacy and broad minded multi disciplined integration of reasoning. Our government has in its current administration, 13 billionaires in it's decision making cabinet. These are people that have a distinctive business oriented profit making mindset. Government should not be profit motivated in and of itself. Rather a catalyst of promoting economic stability and uplifting the wellbeing of its citizens. The free market isn't the end all of making that possible. The free market is a human invention and has its limitations limited in capitalism towards profits for a relatively few participants.

Our foe's or perception of foes now seems to be motivated by a threat evaluation to what the bottom line of our wealthy elite might be effected by eroding their free lunch they've grown accustomed to. The Chinese have a completely different ideology and philosophy to ours. Its been spectacularly successful for them. Yet.. We perceive that a threat?

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 26 Mar 2025 10:36:52 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Fascinating discussion here by who else. Wolff and Hudson. Encompassing near everything going on on this spinning ball we all live. But mainly the nonsense that swirls within the empire mucking up a logical, rationally functioning world.

<https://michael-hudson.com/2025/03/the-strategic-disjoint-continues/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2025 14:58:26 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

A large component of our empire concept is the assessment of what our intelligence gathering complex feeds our military, diplomatic and legislative branches of government. Larry Johnson is a former CIA Analyst with insight into how politics and the neocon deep state influence warps the realism of what should be the whole purpose of intelligence threat assessment.

But when you're looking for justification to promote questionable policy to use our military and our soft power, (sanctioning) to the ends of what our war game planners idea is of the world and how we fit on top of everyone else. A little fudging of figures is needed kind of like cooking the books a crooked financial officer might do.

Larry here points out the US Annual Threat Assessment flaws which he was all too familiar with when he served his time at the CIA.

A big piece of the puzzle that our national security is based on. Lets call it what it is. Fraud!

<https://sonar21.com/us-annual-threat-assessment-is-a-hot-mess/>
