
Subject: Empire

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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
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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://geopoliticeconomy.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
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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
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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_uTs0ukLik

Subject: Re: Empire

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

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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

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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 facie 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-russki. Those are the people that are called "oligarchs" today. I call them "novi-russki" 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-russki any differently than I've described here. They all see novi-russki 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-russki are seen as dangerously violent spoiled brats that made their money off the backs of hardworking people. Novi-russki 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-russki 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

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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

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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

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I believe what Putin has done is more positive than what our propaganda 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 propaganda 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
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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
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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 it's 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. It's 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
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Rusty wrote on Fri, 07 March 2025 14:10 I 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
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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
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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
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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
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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

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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 sight 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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/>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 09 Apr 2025 11:43:32 GMT
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One man alone, (along with his stooges) stands at odds with the world. I don't know of any greater example of how absurd this empire mentality goes to such great lengths at being the source of chaos and dysfunction to world harmony. Its a sickness of coast to coast proportions. With the tumor in Washington DC.

There is hopefully a glimmer of challenge to this Ogre and his creepy minions to diffuse his mania. China, the source of calm and reasoned, cooperative temperance is negotiating with their Asian counterparts, Japan, Korea, Indonesia to form a unified buffer to this bullying. They also along with Russia are aligned with Iran to try and stabilize the out of proportion threat of US attacking Iran on the ruse of they making nuclear weapons.

And in our own government, there is a push to gain enough republican backing to thwart this autocratic, dictatorial onslaught to our society.
<https://wallstreetonparade.com/2025/04/trumps-tariff-plan-guts-5-trillion-in-stock-value-in-two-days-senator-warren-calls-for-emergency-action-before-markets-open-on-monday/>

We should take heed of what history has laid down with numerous examples of overbearing authoritarians gaining a toehold on government. It happens when economic conditions in a country become chronically oppressive to the population. And their governments have become ineffective to deal with it.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2025 15:40:38 GMT
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This article points out the United States has historically adhered to an illusion of thinking that has permeated our behavior in the world and at home. That now is reaching a climax of reckoning. Internally from our economic doctrine that's eroded our peoples welfare, and run up a huge foreign trade debt.

And a foreign policy which is unproductive through military diplomacy and unrealistic negative outcomes.

<https://voicefromrussia.ch/en/trump-putin-a-deal-yalta-or-no-deal/>

Conway Twitty's song, It's only make believe is an appropriate backdrop while reading this article. For what our political and economic consciousness amounts to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XbM7G-zJDY&t=2s>

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2025 17:49:49 GMT

I agree with some of what was said in the blog post you linked. We in America definitely have our problems, and many in politics here are our own form of "oligarchy."

But I will remind anyone reading here that in the Ukraine/Russia war - Ukraine is the "good guys" and Putin and his thugs are the "bad guys." It isn't the Russian people that are bad, but it most definitely is the Russian government that is bad.

It saddens me that we appear to be doing so little for Ukraine. We're making a mistake there. We should have stepped-in and allied with them decades ago.

That would have been good for everyone. Not a handout, but a partnership. That's where we need to be going in all our international relations.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2025 21:12:07 GMT

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What we have done with Ukraine is to have been like coaxing two dogs into a fight. The eastern Ukraine civil war we had supplied arms to was amped up when Russia commenced it's special military campaign to earnestly put an end to the Nazi Ukraine's regime's degradation of eastern Ukraine's Russian population.

And the article provides what our US, Great Britain's and Europe's irrational and destructive mindset is with the cold war and NATO's enlargement to feed the US's military industrial complex with a bloated budget and proven now a false belief in our superiority in our technology and weaponry.

We are not and Ukraine's Nazi infested government are not the good guys here. Russia as I have been speaking to all along is simply defending it's right to it's national security of it's borders.

Unfortunately the US and it's subservient European vassals are experiencing the errs of their ways now. But it's all by their own doings. Not Russia and not Putin or his government. Our government is the one overrun by oligarchic infestation. And is showing the world with this crooked president at the helm just how debauched we've become.

He's frustrated with the peace talks now because the Russians have the upper hand and want the real reasons for this behavior of the western war mongers to be made a part of the treaty for ending this war. NATO enlargement and western belligerent warmongering ideology.

It was a fraud after WWII and it's been perpetuated until today. It's wrongheaded and unproductive in the world.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2025 21:48:08 GMT
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Sorry, my friend, but I don't agree.

I don't agree that we've been coaxing two dogs into a fight. Maybe some individuals have been coaxing one side or another in the last few years, but we certainly haven't been doing that since the 1990s. We haven't done anything with respect to Ukraine until relatively recently.

And it looks to me like some highly-placed individuals in America have taken one side and other influential Americans have taken the other side. So we're not even uniform in our support, or whatever one might call it.

But the thing I think I disagree with most is any sort of characterization of Ukraine's government as being "Nazi infested." Their current government looks quite competent to me. In fact, I find their government right now to be the epitome of courage and honor.

I've been there, my friend. I know what I'm talking about. Please realize that and trust my judgement. The bloggers you're reading aren't giving you a good picture.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 19 Apr 2025 22:54:48 GMT
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Just because you've "been" there Wayne is about as useful to knowing how a government goes about it's business as what we living all our lives in the US know about our own government and it's business. Mainly because we've been lied to and manipulated with the propaganda narrative that our empire managers want crafted to sustain our compliant behavior to what deeds that have been done in the name of so called national security for decades on end.

Have we not these bloggers consisting of military veterans, CIA analysts, economists and political scientists that have disseminated what really is going on. Along with some brave whistle blowers like Snowden, Ellsberg and others that have a conscience enough seeing the egregious wrongdoings of our government at their peril and wellbeing to their lives afterward. We would all be a more compliant sheep unaware of what's going on.

What's being shown here by these people is the chronic dysfunctionality that gives a thread of evidence for what we know intuitively for what seems wrong with our society. The threads run through our economy our politics and our foreign policy that gives a clue to what isn't working and why.

And the irrational contradictions that our government goes through to justify supporting blatant genocide in Gaza. Our history of warmongering that hasn't had any positive outcomes. A military budget that exceeds those of the top 9 other countries military budgets combined. And having 800

military bases strewn through out the world.

There have been articles published about Ukraine's Neo Nazi nationalists from before the outbreak of this war. And the corruption of Zelensky's government. You just choose to dismiss it.

But the contradictions and threads of evidence add up to give credence to the alternative to the official narrative. Which is corrupt. Which is what's wrong with our country. Our current president is symbolic as a symptom of the disease that's crippled our country.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2025 13:01:53 GMT
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Corruption in Ukraine:
<https://kkc.com/corruption-index/corruption-in-ukraine/>

Nazi's in Ukraine:
<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2025/04/growth-of-ukraines-azov-units-follow-path-of-the-waffen-ss.html#more>

Zelensky's corruption:
<https://www.occrp.org/en/project/the-pandora-papers/pandora-papers-reveal-offshore-holdings-of-ukrainian-president-and-his-inner-circle>

I used the inimitable Conway Twitty's song, Only Make Believe as a reference to how our political and empire management spins the false "make believe" narrative to cover for a corruption of our own values system. Our phony exceptionalism. Our free lunch world trade using bonds over material to pay for imports and even finance our warmongering over the decades.

Now in jeopardy of running out of steam as countries around the world may not exactly want to "pledge" their homage to our dollar dominance and our so called security umbrella. Such as what Trump is basing his idiotic trade war on.

Empires rise, empires fall eventually. Maybe this is the twilight. I hope so. It's not worth it, keeping up appearances.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2025 13:43:52 GMT
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Again, I have first-hand experience. My opinions are not from third-party web gibberish

propaganda but from actually being there and having decades-long relationships.

So let me ask you this, Rusty: How are you forming your opinions?

You said, Just because you've "been" there Wayne is about as useful to knowing how a government goes about it's business as what we living all our lives in the US know about our own government and it's business. Mainly because we've been lied to and manipulated with the propaganda narrative that our empire managers want crafted to sustain our compliant behavior to what deeds that have been done in the name of so called national security for decades on end.

So the inference I'm taking from your statement is that all of us here in America know very little about our own government, and upon that I generally agree. But how much less must we know about other parts of the world? And if we know so little, what in the world gives you confidence in the bloggers you so often cite? Do you know them personally, and found that they have earned your trust? If not, what do you know about those bloggers that gives you such trust?

What exactly do you base your trust upon?

Is it their credentials? Why are their credentials more credible to you than other people with similar credentials? Or is it some kind of "gut feel?" How can you trust your intuition since we've all been "lied to and manipulated with the propaganda narrative that our empire managers want crafted," as you've said?

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2025 19:39:02 GMT

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Well that's very simple Wayne. People like economists Jeffrey Sachs and Michael Hudson have had direct contact with officials in the Russian government from the time of the USSR's dissolution and afterward. Larry Johnson and Ray McGovern were both former CIA analysts. McGovern has testified at the UN. Scott Ritter served in the military and was part of the original UN weapons inspector team in Iran that Trump tore up the treaty in his first term. Colonel Larry Wilkerson was in the cabinet of George Bush Jr. under Colin Powell and has extensive knowledge of foreign relations. Professor John Mearsheimer is a political scientist of international standing. Colonel Douglas Macgregor worked with NATO command in Europe. Alastair Crooke was a British diplomat serving in the Middle East and spent 30 years in the British CIA called MI6. I could list more..

These people aren't yahoo's sitting in their study or basement ranting about the world like some conspiracy geeks. They're legitimate career government and professional educators. They aren't like citizens of some country that have a gripe about their government. They have some training, experience and education and most important, some legitimate concern about what our country has been doing for quite some time. And p.s. they aren't all of the liberal way of political alignment. There is a grass roots formation of people that are more interested in a realistic understanding of the way the geopolitical relationships are progressing in the world. And politics doesn't determine the allegiance. They give for me at least, the most rational explanation for the irrational news I

certainly hear. That includes the reason for the Ukrainian conflict and the utter denial in aiding and abetting genocide in Gaza. Both, senseless and grotesque events that our country is at the center of happening. Deny it if you want. I don't that's all, thanks to these influencers and other's giving me insight to the make believe our government and commercial news outlets lead us on with.

I can appreciate your experience in that region of the world. I'm sure it gave you some insight about their culture and society. But that's not the same as having insight into the ways of government and it's hierarchy plays out in this world.
That's on a whole other level.

I feel our problems of our country are deep and conflicting. And our influence in the world has become unhealthy. Why else would other countries form together to counter our exceptionalism behavior? These influencers as you refer them as seem to feel so too. And I'm glad I've come to realize from them what they've explained.
Thing's are jacked up brother. It needs to change.

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.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 21 Apr 2025 13:09:53 GMT
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Well, if you look through time at what America has been doing both domestically and internationally. You can with a little effort readily see the patterns of negativity that are never challenged by our press and certainly in the political realm. As I stated, "Why would country's be aligning towards advancing an alternative to our pattern of dominance"? They are the majority in the world in population.

Domestically, we have been traversing an economic philosophy which has stripped out the middle class numbers pushing it downward. And oppressing people with debt servicing. All while the upper classes have been thriving. Why would we want to continue this downward spiral for the greater portion of our population? A few good academics propose alternatives to the orthodoxy that are either ignored or vilified.

Internationally our foreign relations have been centered in a philosophy of American dominance through military and financial aggression. Enmeshed in war either directly or by proxy and using our dollar dominance to try and "hurt" sovereign country's economies that won't play the way we want. Why shouldn't country's be opposed to this?

So, the eyes of the people are rather shaded from a lot of this realization. As our news outlets are shallow in content and our politicians are essentially bribed and beholden to the donor class. People do know inherently though that things are not kosher. They turn to differing means to try and understand. Some are influenced though through crack pot conspiracy notions. Some just acquiesce to whatever the news outlets spew out.

I feel "for me" that the people I listed and more have some personal ethics to lend their acquired knowledge over their lives and speak up and make a challenge to the narrative we're fed officially by government and by media. I find it compelling as it answers with some degree of rationality the core reasons for what is going on.

They have some expertise and insight that is valuable that we people living our lives where ever haven't had the time or notion to be aware of.

So, while I admire what you say about I see it through the eyes of the people. I think we need some help fleshing out what's going on.

Just like we need the expertise of any field of endeavor from Dr's. to carpenters. Even speaker builders.

Not all talking heads are spewing nonsense. Least the ones I find compelling.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 21 Apr 2025 14:49:40 GMT

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I understand that you're placing trust in people you think have access and/or credentials. I would generally do that too.

But then again, when I see or hear someone say things that I know aren't true, I don't care about their access or credentials. I realize that trust in them isn't warranted. And this is most egregious when what they say is not only false but outrageous.

Here's one popular example: The emotionally charged statement that there are Nazis in Ukraine. This has been one of Putin's favorites, and to my amazement, it has been regurgitated here in America by some people. It is an emotionally-charged slur that is not only inaccurate but extremely offensive.

The Ukrainians lost millions of people to the Nazis in WWII. Ukrainians are particularly sensitive to that. So Putin saying there are Nazis in Ukraine is probably the biggest insult he could make. Not only is it the pot calling the kettle black, but it is an insult that goes deep into a Ukrainian's heart.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 21 Apr 2025 15:26:59 GMT

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So did the Russians. 27 million by some accounts. What Putin says about the Nazi's in Ukraine can be bandied about and pontificated ad nauseum. Ukraine's Azov military units have been pretty well disseminated as being fascist Nazi sympathetic nationalist's. I've heard about it and

read about it. I put it on the shelf as a footnote to the real reason that the war in Ukraine really got going. And I think I've linked the evidence out there that substantiates that in the Ukraine thread.

NATO.

Everything else is word salad dressing.

The pope died yesterday. I'm not a very church going type. And the Catholic church in particular has a long history of, well, kind of unsavory reputation. But this pope was one of that I felt was a genuine pope of the people. The Moon of Alabama blog this morning had an endearing homage to pope Francis that ended with this.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/pope-francis-says-nato-started-135952616.html>

Well, you know I'd jump on that!

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 21 Apr 2025 18:27:11 GMT

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There are some things that are near every Ukrainian heart that we in the U.S.A. would not immediately recognize. To know these things helps understand the relationship between Russians and Ukrainians.

1. Prior to WWII, the population of Ukraine was approximately 42 million. After WWII, its population was 27 million. So Ukraine lost fully 1/3rd of its people.
2. Consider the fact that the German advance went through Ukraine. Ukraine was completely occupied.
3. The population of the Soviet Union (including Ukraine) before WWII was 195 million. After WWII its population was 170 million. So you can see by these numbers that the vast majority of losses were actually Ukrainian.
4. In modern times, many Ukrainians prefer to speak Russian, or at least they did before Putin invaded them. They are proud of both their Russian heritage and their independent Ukrainian citizenship. They lean heavily pro-Western and want relationships with Europe and the U.S.A. as much or more than having ties with Russia. It appears that the population of large cities tends to speak Russian and rural areas are more likely to speak Ukrainian. One exception is the city of Kiev, where most people speak Ukrainian.
5. Ukrainians have complicated emotions about their ties to Russia. In modern times, many Ukrainians consider themselves to be Russians even after Ukrainian independence in 1991. But do not mistake this to mean they wish to be Russian citizens. They prefer their independence, and their "Russian-ness" is purely cultural.

6. This goes back and has ties to the early days of the Soviet Union, up and through the period of the second world war. Ukraine, like many other former Soviet states, did not want to be part of the Soviet Union. During the Bolshevik revolution - when the Tsar and his family were imprisoned and shot - Ukraine declared independence. But since it had so many natural resources, it was attractive to the Soviet Union, so Russian troops invaded Ukraine. It eventually fell and became part of the Soviet Union in 1922.
7. Ukraine had been part of the Russian Empire when it was ruled by the Tsars, so it already had ties to Russia. But it did attempt to gain independence in the period between 1917 and 1922. It was unable to maintain its independence because political and economic conditions were too chaotic and unstable. So the people of Ukraine must have felt some of the same Russian/Ukrainian ambivalence 100 years ago as they feel today.
8. For a brief time in 1941 - because of the desire to be independent of Russia - some people in Ukraine thought Nazis might act as liberators rather than conquerors. This hope was quickly dashed when the Nazis invaded. The Nazis were especially brutal, because there were a large number of Jews in areas of Ukraine. Massacres at Babi Yar and in Kiev are still remembered by all Russians and Ukrainians, to this day.
9. A Nazi resistance was formed in Ukraine while it was occupied, much like the one in France. In particular, the city of Odessa has 1600 miles of underground tunnels that acted as home base for "partisans" that fought the Nazis.
10. So the ties between Russians and Ukrainians are deep and complicated. They are definitely kindred spirits in many ways. But Ukrainians are proud to be independent of Russia, which is evident by their tenacity in war after the modern Russian invasion.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 22 Apr 2025 12:21:31 GMT
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Ukraine was free to align with Europe and the west whatever suited them, economically, socially. Russia had no qualms with that. Russia's main stipulation was..

NO NATO alignment.

The simple core issue never brought up in western media. The make believe that is spun. And the core of what Russia now in talks with US diplomacy that they want spelled out for the end of hostilities. The sticking point is the US admitting complicity in convincing Ukraine to ramp up this war. After initially agreeing to no NATO in talks in Istanbul. This is as well documented as is the loss of life in both Ukraine and Russia in WWII.

NO NATO. Period!

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 22 Apr 2025 13:38:00 GMT

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The truth is that discussions about NATO don't matter if Ukraine is occupied by Russia. That is what Putin really wants - He wants Ukraine to cease to exist, and for the Ukrainian lands to be part of Russia.

That's why the supposed cease-fire agreement has stalled - Putin wants Ukraine and he isn't willing to settle.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2025 11:05:53 GMT

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That isn't true. Managing a territory where the populous is willing to subvert occupation by guerilla warfare isn't a tactic worth the effort. The eastern "Russian" area is viable. And the ports to the Black Sea. Russia never coveted Ukraine. But push came to shove with US & UK meddling. Russia does not want NATO at their door. Period. And they aren't going to let that happen. Kiev, Europe and the US will just have to accept that.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2025 14:30:10 GMT

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I don't understand the point you are taking in your last post.

You said, "Managing a territory where the populous is willing to subvert occupation by guerilla warfare isn't a tactic worth the effort."

I don't understand that statement. Are you trying to argue that Ukrainians should just lie down and take it? They should just allow themselves to be invaded and occupied? Are you saying they should roll over and become a Russian state?

And you said, "The eastern "Russian" area is viable. And the ports to the Black Sea. Russia never coveted Ukraine."

Then why did Russia invade in the first place? If Russia didn't care about the territory, why engage in war to conquer it?

You said, "Russia does not want NATO at their door. Period. And they aren't going to let that happen. Kiev, Europe and the US will just have to accept that."

NATO membership of an adjacent country is not something that rises to war. It's a diplomatic issue.

Russia has had NATO all along its western border for decades. Its latest actions have awarded it Finland joining NATO in 2023, extending that line far to the north.

So if NATO membership were truly a motive for war, then Russia has clearly played a losing hand.

But that's a red herring. NATO membership is not what Russia really cared about. Ukraine has been independent for over thirty years without joining NATO. It wasn't a member of NATO before Russia invaded and it isn't NATO now. That's actually a side issue - it isn't the main thing here. It's a red herring.

This whole thing about NATO is a distraction. It isn't why Russia invaded. Putin invaded Ukraine purely as a power grab. He wants the territory to be Russian.

To be honest, that fact is self-evident.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2025 20:52:24 GMT

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Not true Wayne. As I've pointed out a number of times. Our country nearly started WWII in the 1960's over missile placement in Cuba by Russia. After we provoked them first with missiles in Turkey. Know your history. Now, I think the facts for Russia having committed to this war far outnumber your assessment. And it's backed up by historical documents.

Russia has stated and backed up by historical documents and speeches that Ukraine would be the last straw in the United States and Europe's quest to encircle Russia with missiles, some with nuclear capability pointed into Russia for a quick strike. Known as a decapitation strike. Facts Wayne. Historical facts. Documented facts. Yours are speculation and bias.

They called our bluff finally after decades of encroachment by our warmongering, neocon, paranoid deep-state military complex. People like John Bolton, Dick Chaney, Robert McNamara just to name a few.

When our country fictitiously invaded Iraq under the guise of the phony weapons of mass destruction. During our occupation an insurgency developed to rid us out of their country. Which would be the same if Russia took all of Ukraine. That's what I meant. They would have a protracted mess to deal with just like our troops did in Iraq. And frankly, Putin is too smart to want that kind of quagmire. So the eastern "Russian" speaking and Russian sympathetic region is all that will be assimilated back into Russia. And Crimea. And the rest of Ukraine can be free to do whatever it wants economically, socially to align with Europe and the US. Just as they had prior to this stupid NATO war. Though frankly they'd be better off aligning with the BRICS. All our current administration wants is to confiscate as much of their resources as what our current leader thinks

would pay back our losing deal with this war commitment from our prior administration.

This whole concocted NATO farse is just that. Russia never had any what-so-ever desire to take that country back into it's management. Their hand was forced by our country and Europe. Why would Russia want the headache of it all? And the absurd battle cry of the European Union mismanaged wrongheaded seat in Brussels that Russia would invade all of Europe eventually is so far fetched beyond reason. They've been duking it out for 3 years now just in Ukraine. Imagine the time, the money, the loss of life to take all of Europe! Ridiculous!

And as I've stated ad nauseum now and also historically documented. Russia had a treaty with Ukraine hammered out in Istanbul to end hostilities in eastern Ukraine when the messy haired Brit. Boris Johnson at our behest convinced Zelensky to "give it a go", we'd back him 100%. Yessiree.

And now we want war with Iran and China! Who's the war freaking fanatics here Wayne?

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2025 21:36:31 GMT

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I'm only talking about Russia's invasion of Ukraine right now. Not on any other world events. Although I have wondered why we took sides at other times and in other parts of the world but don't seem as firm right now in our stance against Putin.

You said, "Putin is too smart to want that kind of quagmire. So the eastern Russian speaking and Russian sympathetic region is all that will be assimilated back into Russia."

The language spoken by the citizens of Ukraine has nothing to do with their "sympathies."
There are many Ukrainian people that speak Russian.

Ukrainians want their independence. They do not want to be part of Russia. That is evident by their bravery and tenacity in standing up to Putin.

Ukraine has been independent since 1991. The only thing that's really changed in the last 30+ years is that Putin has grown more wealthy and entitled. I think that's all this is - He personally thought "now is the time." What history he would have made! What a legacy he would leave!

So he invaded Ukraine, hoping it would be an easy victory and the land would be his.

Instead, what has happened is that Ukraine has given Russia quite a fight. Europe has become alerted to the warmongering Putin is capable of, and they are now set against him too. Russia has lost any chance of having good relations with European countries.

America seems to be on the fence a little bit, but I think that's mostly 'cause we don't want to mess with it. We didn't want to involve ourselves in Ukraine thirty years ago when it would have been easy. And now it is no longer easy - it's messy - so we throw our hands up in the air. We've

generally been pretty isolationist until somebody blows up something in our own back yard.

I'll admit that I'm usually pretty happy being an isolationist. I'm not now 'cause I'm so familiar with Ukraine and Russia. Not sure if I would have felt this way about Germany in the 1930s. Probably only if I knew something about their culture at that time.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2025 15:35:46 GMT

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Your obsessed with Putin and Russiaphobia. And you've left your objectivity behind on this. When you brought up seeing things through time, aka, history. The history of the United States is well documented and fraught with meddling. That isn't sitting on the fence. That is a perversion of diplomacy and sovereignty of nations.

You don't seem to make the connections of how our economic aggression and trade imbalances have contributed to world geopolitical disturbances. And our country's long standing idealism of arbiter of world dominance through economic warfare and diplomacy through strength as it's called. Which is our recipe for military conflict.

No other country has so many military installations throughout as we do. Not even close. Even Russia whose country borders with 16 others is no where close to ours. And no other country has been involved in so many conflicts since WWII as ours has. So, who has the pattern of aggression historically? It's right here. That isn't sitting on the fence. That is what the term "unipolarity" is used to describe a dominant country influencing world affairs.

All while we can't get our own act together in this country. Other than to protect and preserve the ruling class of wealth and privilege pulling the political strings.

Yes I feel Putin is intelligent and is conducting this campaign intelligently. And his country. Despite what we, our government has done subversively to try and hurt their economy. Our petty control freak agenda. Trying to "contain" is our term used. That is the crux of what our influence with Zelensky using the carrot and stick of maybe, possibly joining the European Union if they'd also join NATO amounted to. It didn't work. And Biden having had the Nordstream pipeline destroyed didn't work either. It only put Europe and especially Germany economically depleted.

The terms of Russia's halt to hostilities has been consistent. They will keep the traditional Russian sympathetic regions and Crimea, they will "disarm" Ukraine without NATO influence, and they want the "root" causes for the US and NATO eastern expansion addressed. But they put that in for a reason. The reason Wayne you and our government won't acknowledge. You both have a scapegoat, Putin and Russiaphobia.

Well, Trump just wants to look like the peacemaker like when he said as a candidate he could end the war in 24hrs. But now our diplomacy is to just walk away and let Europe and Ukraine deal with it. Because neither Ukraine or Russia won't play Trump's dealmaker game.

China is the new con job. Our "containment" quest. That isn't working either by trade war or

economic warfare. We are as the Chinese say, a paper tiger. Meow.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 24 Apr 2025 17:33:28 GMT

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You misunderstand me when you say, "You're obsessed with Putin and Russiaphobia."

I am not against Russia or Russians. I am not against the majority of their population. I have met and become friends with many Russians, as well as many Ukrainians, Moldovans and people from other former Soviet states.

One of my good friends was a Russian tank driver in Afghanistan. As a gift, he gave me his tank helmet. I think of him often, especially now. Actually, this man is Moldovan, and like most Ukrainians, he is happy to be independent of Russia. But he - again like many other "Russians" from independent states of the former Soviet Union - still considers himself to be Russian, culturally.

This is not true of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Might not be true in other places either. And now - after Putin's aggressions - it is probably much less true everywhere. But at least in the 1990s and 2000s, there were lots of people in newly-independent, former Soviet states, that were proud to be both Russian and Azerbaijani or Moldovan or Ukrainian or whatever.

I find many people with that kind of background are very easy to like.

My point is that I am not anti-Russian. I will admit that I am anti-Putin, but I think that is clear.

You made another point to which I'd like to respond. You said, "You don't seem to make the connections of how our economic aggression and trade imbalances have contributed to world geopolitical disturbances. And our country's long standing idealism of arbiter of world dominance through economic warfare and diplomacy through strength as it's called. Which is our recipe for military conflict."

I realize this thread is about whole-world empire-building and perhaps meddling. At least I think that was your point in starting this thread.

But right now, I'm not talking about any other events except Russia's invasion of Ukraine and America's involvement in that arena.

And my point is essentially that I don't think we did enough there, and I think what we did do was a little too late and fairly ineffective. I think we wasted money that could have been spent better.

But at the same time, I think we could have partnered with Ukrainian businesses to help us both, and I think we needed to stare Putin down much more effectively.

I think we have been very weak where Putin is concerned, and that surprises me. The Russian military has not proven themselves as one might have expected, and their infrastructure is a joke. The last thing they need to be doing is tit-for-tat strikes destroying energy services and other infrastructure. They have nothing to sell except oil, and so their economy sucks.

I further think we should have engaged in this Russia/Ukraine situation more effectively, and much earlier. At least ten years earlier; Better if done twenty or thirty earlier. This was a big miss, in my opinion. We were so focused on other areas of the world that we missed this one.

I keep hearing in my mind, President Reagan saying, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" And then he does, it crashes down with a resounding rumble. And then I hear... Nothing. Crickets. Silence.

I think we missed a huge opportunity there. An opportunity that could have helped everyone - Get them back up on their feet and maybe share some resources with us too. But we just did nothing.

You said about Russia, "They will keep the traditional Russian sympathetic regions and Crimea, they will "disarm" Ukraine without NATO influence, and they want the "root" causes for the US and NATO eastern expansion addressed."

I'm not sure if that's what you are hoping for or if that's what you predict will happen. But I must insist that you drop the phrase "Russia sympathetic regions" because there is no such thing. I think you are talking about the eastern areas of Ukraine, and I can tell you with absolute certainty - from knowing people there - that the Ukrainian citizens in the east are not "Russian sympathetic." The people that live in Lugansk, Donetsk, Mariupol and Kherson hate the Russians. They are not "Russian sympathetic." I know people that live in those cities. I know people that have fought and died there, during this invasion.

There was a time when people in those cities were happy to be free Russian/Ukrainians. They saw themselves as both Russian and Ukrainian. They were sort of both. They were proud to be both Russian and Ukrainian. They were happy to be independent, to be Ukrainian citizens.

But now they feel completely betrayed. Their homes and shops are destroyed, and their friends and family have been killed.

So don't even think there is such a thing as a person in an east Ukrainian city that is "Russian sympathetic."

As for the rest of that, I kind of don't care what Putin wants. He shouldn't get what he wants.

About Trump, you said, "Trump just wants to look like the peacemaker like when he said as a candidate he could end the war in 24hrs. But now our diplomacy is to just walk away and let Europe and Ukraine deal with it. Because neither Ukraine or Russia won't play Trump's dealmaker game."

I have to say, I agree with that.

I have hopeful optimism about a lot of the things that Trump is doing, even if some of them are a scary shake-up. I think the tariffs are a tricky situation, but I agree with them in principle. And similarly, a lot of the other changes are kind of scary too, but I think they may be good. I hope they're good.

But in this case - the Russia/Ukraine situation - I do not agree with appeasement of Putin and I do not like seeing Zelensky made out to be the heavy. Our position looks weak to me, and it is also ineffective. I can see with my eyes that it is ineffective.

I do not need anyone else's assessment - I can see the violence is still there. Kiev was bombed again last night. Not a city in the east, mind you. That's the capital of Ukraine. When Putin first invaded Ukraine, that was his target. Kiev and nuclear plants.

This isn't the actions of a liberating army. Putin can say all he wants he is hoping to free "Russian sympathizers." But never mind the fact that they don't exist, and that phrase is pure spin. The fact is he attacked the capital first and tried to cutoff power to paralyze the nation. His plan was a total takeover, and it wasn't for the good of the people. It was for his own empire-building ambitions.

So I'm very surprised that we seem to be letting him do it.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2025 12:42:38 GMT
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Russiaphobia is the general term for the conditioning our government has pushed off on the public since post WWII. That and demonization of the words communism and socialism. I realize you have empathy for Russian and Ukrainian's as do I. But I don't obsess over the hydra Putin as is known. I've gotten over that. Using objectivity from linking what I read and hear that answers the contradictions and adds up to a high plausibility for what is real vs fantasy, propaganda & hogwash.

I could go out here in my own community and get a sample of disdain or defense for Trump. Thus, your assessment for what the disdain for the Russian government and Putin is in eastern Ukraine based on knowing "a few" people is no more revealing the dominant mood of the population. Even having visited that region won't give the knowledge to understand the big issues of geopolitical happenings. It's too complex and subtle.

But I'll wager from the narrative we all have here in this country our whole lives that traveling to that region and getting to know some people there that had negativity towards Russia & Putin led to confirmation bias as a result.

But none of this comes down to what we "feel" about this world event. It comes down to what an ideological pattern is followed for decades on end and giving no positive returns for the effort. And that is where I get the notion that you are not giving credence about. As if one person, Vladimir Putin, is a diabolical individual bent on conquest. Leading up to this terrible occurrence

happening.

This has played out over decades culminating in what is happening now. Our country has followed a path that plopped in its lap by default after the world war as an unscathed highly industrialized prosperous nation that embarked on being the unipolar defacto democratic capitalist beacon on the hill, as Regan described. Shining truth, liberty & the American way to the world. Which has become a warped fetish to maintain. Trying to control all aspects of world affairs.

Every empire in history has followed this pattern. It eventually becomes too great a burden on it's population to sustain it.

We didn't cultivate Ukraine or Russia as a result of this ideology of unipolarity, of dominance. We have considered Russia, its huge land mass and its military a threat to that unipolarity. And have acted accordingly as trying to contain that threat. When the Soviet system collapsed and asked for our capitalist guidance. We gave them neoliberalism. We only wanted them for their natural resources, oil and minerals.

We went to use them. That's as far as our charity went. That's what empires do. Colonize a population for the empires needs. Something Putin wouldn't allow. So he becomes a pariah for our empire managers.

And we've "used" Ukraine the same cynical way. They were a last piece of the puzzle to encircle Russia to the Black sea with the NATO so called defense umbrella. In defense of the military industrial complex our country maintains. Our last "profitable" industry.

Here's a good treatise on that note.

<https://sonar21.com/the-road-to-war-in-ukraine-the-history-of-nato-and-us-military-exercises-with-ukraine-part-1/>

I just don't agree Wayne with your simplistic assessment of what has happened. All you've been rationalizing seems more of an emotional element than an objective view.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2025 19:42:46 GMT

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I hear what you're saying, Rusty. And your argument has merit.

But then again, think about it: You said, "I could go out here in my own community and get a sample of disdain or defense for Trump. Thus, your assessment for what the disdain for the Russian government and Putin is in eastern Ukraine based on knowing 'a few' people is no more revealing the dominant mood of the population."

Now think about the actual facts here. Those people in east Ukraine have now had their homes and businesses destroyed, and many friends and family members killed.

How many of them do you think are Putin supporters?

Exactly zero.

If there ever were any folks in eastern Ukraine that thought Putin was OK, they don't think that anymore. I would argue there were few even before Russian aggression, but as a nod to the point you've made, I'll agree there may have been some here and there.

But not anymore. Now days, Ukrainians that used to be proud to be Russian Ukrainians are less so.

Most Ukrainians now have a seething hatred of Putin.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 26 Apr 2025 14:50:11 GMT

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Well Wayne I think that you could turn that argument around to land on the government of Ukraine and certainly the influence of the United States and Europe by means of how this war was instigated.

There was a civil war going on in that region before the Russian special operation which I gather had some solidarity with the Russian heritage inherent to that region being subverted by the Kiev government.

I don't know if you perused this piece of reporting done by journalist Shura Burtin about the war weariness of Ukrainians and how the Kiev government has gone to fascist methods of putting soldiers on the front lines. It's heartening to read the realities of warfare and its effect on people up close.

<https://meduza.io/en/feature/2025/03/27/please-don-t-use-my-name>

You'll be heartened as well by the preface of this piece condemning Russia invasion. But, I don't doubt the Ukrainian's will call to mobilize for invasion by an army across the boarder as being the enemy.

But when you piece together the cynical chess game that the west has done in using a whole country as a means to further an ideological construct that when analyzed over time and content. Amounts to a barbarous mind set. A totally negative, wasteful and cruel way of thinking.

That is what I find indefensible about our country. And is a sign of its depletion as a world leadership devoid of any virtue in government.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 26 Apr 2025 16:45:24 GMT
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I hear you, Rusty.

I think the point of what you've been trying to say in this thread is there are some selfish and even corrupt people in this country using ugly force to do nefarious activities around the world. You're saying it isn't fair and it isn't good. You're saying there's a lot of manipulation and much of what we read and hear in the media is spin.

I think you're saying that happens in Europe too.

I agree. I see that.

But where I chime in is specifically on this Russia / Ukraine thing. And most specifically, on Putin, his political allies and the novi russki.

I liked Putin when he first came to power at the end of 1999. He appeared to be a strong leader and I was hopeful for Russia. I was warned back then by many Russians though. They were afraid of exactly what has come to pass these past twenty-five years.

Putin's actions and those of his cronies are the absolute worst examples of everything you stand against in this thread. Vladimir Putin is the archetypal example of the emperor of an evil empire.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 27 Apr 2025 02:11:13 GMT
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I think the point of what you've been trying to say in this thread is there are some selfish and even corrupt people in this country using ugly force to do nefarious activities around the world. You're saying it isn't fair and it isn't good. You're saying there's a lot of manipulation and much of what we read and hear in the media is spin.

I think you're saying that happens in Europe too.

I'm with Wayne on this. At one time long ago I used to think the US was largely above all that stuff. Now I'm sure they are as involved as most others. What I see as a more immediate issue is that we as a country are engaged in a death spiral in both the economic and political senses. we have someone who wants to be a King and run the whole world. A large percentage of the world (and our population) doesn't want any of that. Worse the folks in positions that could put an end to it are sitting on their butts.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 27 Apr 2025 14:11:15 GMT

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I think the point of what you've been trying to say in this thread is there are some selfish and even corrupt people in this country using ugly force to do nefarious activities around the world. You're saying it isn't fair and it isn't good. You're saying there's a lot of manipulation and much of what we read and hear in the media is spin.

I'm saying its been a consistent behavior our government has crafted going on for longer than we've been alive. It has been a part of our foreign relations that our neocon mania induced ideology as the worlds sole superpower. The empire. Europe is but our cooperative vassal in this NATO scheme.

Our neoliberal economy is stretched thin now having succumbed to its inherent tendencies to eventually cannibalize itself with debt service on our people and trade deficits on our government. Over dependencies on imports has weakened our ability to thrive independently. Our world dollar standard that has been known for some time as our exorbitant privilege has been used as a weapon to hurt other sovereign nations economies unjustifiably.

We have tried to do exactly that to Russia, for years. In conjunction with our NATO expansion to rein in and contain that country. That is a long established policy having been passed on bipartisan from one administration to another to try and break up their nation. To neuter it out of our chronic cynical reasoning.

You're really off the mark though saying Russia's economy is bad. Data shows otherwise. That shows the competency of their government.

So when you say Wayne that Putin has evil intentions and empire, it's the mirror what your own country has amounted to in this world. The history shows it, the cover up promotes it. I think you're coming from a very micro oriented viewpoint. Based on relationships with a limited few amount of people and a lifetime of conditioning that our country crafts to assuage public sentiment.

The macro view I read gives a much different take on what has been going on for some time. Everything is interconnected so a broad view has to be considered. Without the intentional distortion that propaganda is used for. As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words". The cumulative actions that our country has exhibited over the years show a pattern of deception and deceit. That's been as counterproductive to ourselves as is to others. We are isolating ourselves by it.

You just discount it is all. In this ugly war that never had to be and with the other subjects I've brought up here in the dungeon. MMT, Israel, Politics and AI.

I don't expect to "change" anyone's minds here, I'm just giving my opinion is all. I make it a point to try and get more viewpoints to subject matter and try and piece together what makes sense to me. You mentioned once how the solar system was once an official standard that slowly came to be seen otherwise.

That's what I'm banking on. Probably not in my lifetime. From the real smart people I think anyway, that seem like pretty good detectives understanding this mess for what it is. I think their legacy is being passed on. There's some youngblood expanding on it.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 27 Apr 2025 15:04:31 GMT

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Rusty wrote:

"So when you say Wayne that Putin has evil intentions and empire, it's the mirror what your own country has amounted to in this world. The history shows it, the cover up promotes it. I think you're coming from a very micro oriented viewpoint."

I'm really not sure why you seem to be letting Putin off the hook here.

I mean, you're quick to point out the ugliness you see in America, but seem to give Putin a pass. I don't get it.

You've undoubtedly read that some in America are considering ways to reassert control over the Panama canal. Some think we are getting a raw deal there, and that since we built that canal, we should retain a great deal of influence and cooperation in how it is being used and who is using it.

Similarly, between here and there we have Mexico, and some say America has problems with Mexican criminals doing nefarious activities in America. They say we have economic problems from unfair tariffs and welfare payouts for food, housing and healthcare for illegal immigrants.

They usually also say the nations between Mexico and Panama are part of the same problem too.

Without making any judgement as to whether those things are right or wrong, fair or unfair, let's consider our options: We can take diplomatic measures, economic measures or military measures.

So what actions should America take? What have we done so far?

As much as I agree that there are some shady politicians and unfair practices in America, I must remind everyone reading this that what Putin is doing is an order of magnitude worse.

Consider his actions. Putin faced a situation in the port of Sevastopol, where he had cooperative agreements from Ukraine allowing Russia to maintain a fleet there. But apparently, Putin would rather take control than cooperate. So he simply claimed Crimea to be a Russian territory and attacked eastern Ukraine.

What Putin did would be like if America were to install an overwhelming number of troops in Panama, claiming it to be an American state. Then attack Mexico in war. Take control of that whole region, and make a corridor all the way through to Panama. Rile the population, saying "Remember the Alamo!"

You may say that America has overstepped some boundaries. I won't argue that. But I will remind you of what Putin has done. That's clearly an overstep. It's an ugly war created by an evil overlord.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2025 16:20:54 GMT

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You know Wayne, everything you mentioned there is the convoluted readout from our state department and lackadaisical press. It's not 'me' letting Putin off the hook. It's you letting off the hook our age old neoconservative influence in the realm of governmental policy support recommendations that underwrites our policy domestically and internationally. Our two political parties follow this nonsense as if it were like the tablets of the ten commandments.

This is why I bring up a narrow interpretation I read from your statements. The macro view I mentioned is what some very astute professional people, economists, analysts, journalists that have taken the interest and time to research the contradictions of what our government has been up to for a great long time. That have NOT had a positive impact on our longstanding good will with the rest of the world.

All you have been offering is what 'your' experiences have been with a few people in a region under conflict now. And I'm to trust you just by that.

That is so narrow of a slice of the way of the world operates as to be able to understand the big picture of things.

This thing with Panama is blown entirely out of proportion thanks to our new administration. It's too old and narrow now to accommodate larger vessels, it requires fresh water to operate that now is in short supply. And other routes are being built, (with the help of China) to circumvent the inherent downside of the aging Panama canal.

And by the way, China conducts it's infrastructure outreach without the overbearing imperialist colonizing mentality our country exhibits throughout history. They're policy is win-win. What's good for both country's.

We still hang on to the imperialist mentality of the Monroe Doctrine in Mexico, Central and South America.

The measures we should have taken all along in that region is what China shows like the golden rule for sovereign nations. Ours has been to use and abuse with impunity.

I could go back and forth with you till the cows come home about Putin and the Ukraine issue it seems. But for what I came to understand is that this conflict was underwritten as part of a longstanding effort to put the squeeze or even breakup the sovereign nation of Russia out of our asinine neocon behavior of long standing.

The historical record of it is obvious. And now our interest is in doing the same stupid pretense with China using Taiwan as the proxy. This shit never ends!

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2025 16:39:11 GMT

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A good summation of the ongoing peace negotiations with the Trump administration. I've no doubt that our press and official government release will spin this reality into the usual

gobbledygook. But this blog and others spell out the most accurate interpretation that most public has no clue to. Just read the typical western headlines and stay clueless.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2025/04/russia-continues-to-reject-trumps-attempt-to-freeze-the-war-in-ukraine.html#more>

P.S. Sergei Lavrov is a consummate foreign minister. He was on Meet the Press Sunday. And was very articulate and accurate. Something our State Department is sorely lacking in for quite some time.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2025 17:10:17 GMT

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Rusty wrote:

"You know Wayne, everything you mentioned there is the convoluted readout from our state department and lackadaisical press. It's not 'me' letting Putin off the hook. It's you letting off the hook our age old neoconservative influence in the realm of governmental policy support recommendations that underwrites our policy domestically and internationally. Our two political parties follow this nonsense as if it were like the tablets of the ten commandments."

This isn't a "readout from our state department" or anywhere else. It's my own observations. I've been following Russian and Ukrainian things pretty closely since the late 1990s.

Honestly, I'm kind of like you in the sense that I don't believe a lot of what I read and hear in the press, whether in print, television or online. So I'm not biased by spin 'cause I'm not listening to spin.

My main point is this: Without taking anyone else's opinions - just using your own eyes - you can see that Russia overran and occupied Crimea and then proceeded to militarily attack Ukraine. Putin is an aggressor.

In my eyes - since I'm close with friends, some that live there, others with family there - I can see that Putin has been brutal. I consider him and those that do his violence to be terrorists.

And the truth is, most every other nation sees it this way too. It's not just American "neoconservatives" or "neoliberals" or whatever. It's not one American administration or another. It's not just the United Kingdom or France. It's practically everyone. Almost every other nation is alarmed at Putin's aggression.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2025 15:56:31 GMT

Your interpretation just by what you "see" and the people whom you know there forms a bias to the part of what I think is a narrow, blinders-on approach I'm trying to describe. That there is an advance directive to what has transpired in that region which has contributed enormously to what has occurred! And there's plenty of evidence to show that. I've tried to include it in this series. Your scapegoat is Putin! The Novi-Ruski's! I haven't read any real documentation from your claim. Just, take your word for it. You've seen it, you've been there.

Nothing in the big picture of domestic and international relations is just blatant happenstance. There is always an underlying aggravation or scheme to eventually make things occur. You can liken it to a pre-cancer as an analogy.

You can say most other nations can see this tragedy in your good vs bad view. But I'd wager that it mainly follows within the G7 nations and not from the viewpoint of a greater number of nations and population of the world that are clamoring to join the BRICS alliance that want to be out from under our nation's dominating influence.

And you never say anything about this alliance. As maybe you don't follow this critical framework to what is changing in the world. But its a critical part of why our country is experiencing as well as all the G7 countries an economic downturn directly related to the economic doctrine that isn't functioning well for the people of the collective G7. And our exploitive behavior, that now from this new administration is exposing blatantly our true nature of international exploitation. Extortion!

So I'm saying all along this conflict is attributable to what has been the United States policy planners conniving over a great long time. That it is a continuation of other historical precedents that forms a pattern of behavior from this ideology. Just like what has happened with our economy. If one cares to follow the contradictions and patterns, one finds that the inevitable conclusion is that our country bears a great deal of responsibility for this conflict to have occurred. You can see that in the conditions that Russia has stuck to since before this war occurring right up to now with negotiations to end the conflict.

Or you can simply say in black and white terms that there's good vs bad. Nothing else bears witness to.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2025 18:54:05 GMT

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I can't continue this discussion for a while because I'm heading to Austin for the Lone Star Audiofest. So I'm just too busy to chat online much right now.

But I gotta say one last thing, even though it feels like we're just going round and round.

You said, "Your interpretation just by what you 'see' and the people whom you know there forms a bias to the part of what I think is a narrow, blinders-on approach I'm trying to describe. That there is an advance directive to what has transpired in that region which has contributed enormously to what has occurred! And there's plenty of evidence to show that. I've tried to include it in this series. Your scapegoat is Putin! The Novi-Russki's! I haven't read any real documentation from your claim."

I've heard and read all the kinds of stuff you keep saying. But I've heard and read expert analysis saying all the kinds of stuff I've described too. I'm not the only one saying it. In fact, some of the links you've posted in this thread and on the other one here about Ukraine say exactly the same things I'm telling you. So you can find "evidence" that supports either side.

It's just that I have an extra amount of confidence in what I'm saying because of my experience with that culture. And from the length of time I've been involved with people in that culture. I've literally been there, and I've been watching this stuff "up close and personal" since the 1990s. Most people in America did not have this view, and frankly, most still don't. It's just not on our radar, other than what we see in the nightly news.

What I'm saying is to disregard 99% of what you are calling "evidence" and simply look at the actions taken by both sides. Stop reading people you think are "experts" and think with your own mind, using actual physical evidence that you can see.

Since your main thrust of this forum thread is a mistrust of empire builders and their deceptive practices, I would think this would appeal to you.

The fact is that Putin annexed Crimea by sending a barrage of troops. He then attacked eastern Ukraine. Ukraine is a sovereign nation and has been since 1991. So no matter what else happened behind the scenes, that was an unwarranted attack.

Putin can say a whole bunch of nationalistic rhetoric - and others can repeat it - but it's all just saber-rattling. It's the very thing this thread complains about, only it is being done in Russia and not in America or by one of our allies.

So my position is if you want to get upset about ugly stuff going on behind the scenes in an "evil empire," you damn well shouldn't let Putin off the hook. He ain't the good guy.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2025 11:13:45 GMT
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I agree we have irreconcilable differences of opinion. So the table tennis debate is just that.

I don't think just being somewhere gives squat to what is going on behind the scene's in this world. And knowing a few people that are biased from living wherever gives a solid foundation for forming a true understanding. It just gives a taste of the scene. Not the nourishment of the banquet. And you're riding mainly from that perspective. I see that in this debate, from the MMT

thread and the AI thread.

I'll stick to what I got as I think it's better than what I read and hear on the news. That's the 99 percent of which anyone can discard. But that one percent is what is compelling in spelling out what's happening. In total, it adds up. Like detective work.

The evidence I've listed has enough depth to be figured into a pattern of real recognition of reality. Not propaganda that poses as evidence. You can file that away where it belongs.

Have a good'n at the audiofest.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2025 15:05:35 GMT
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I just watched this discussion from the Jeffrey Sachs Book Club. A young man named Aaron Good with a newly minted PhD has written a book based on his dissertation study called American "Exception", not exceptionalism. Which has been the typical narrative bandied about our country's perception of itself at home and abroad.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXvuOG33zLs>

Mr. Good explains how our American system of democratic government is supplemented with a bureaucracy of the Deep State consisting of the political state, the security state and the "overlord" state, (the oligarchy) which forms our domestic and foreign policy.

That a free reign is given to the security state to administer covert and overt operations in the world that the deep state apparatus seeks control of. Overriding even the legislative political state. Thanks to the "overlord" principal control over the political part of our government. Campaign finance and lobbying.

Really a fascinating discussion that gives great food for thought about the state of our empire and its system of management. It challenges the notion we actually have a democracy.

Its a book I'll be acquiring for sure. American Exception by Aaron Good.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 03 May 2025 14:13:30 GMT
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Having hoped that this already tiresome administration at least had a smidgeon of some ethical sense of ending the Ukraine disaster is a pipedream. The deep state along with a terribly flawed

individual figure heading our government plays with inadequate skills and faulty virtue to leave the conflict with no real attempt to fairly end it. Our country has bigger things to deal with now, (China). Everything is a transaction with the POTUS and our deep state continues to operate as usual with a demented ideology of conquest.

Cut out wasteful domestic social spending, slash programs. We need more money for our military! We must meet all the threats that we can ever imagine. Whether they exist or not. The important thing is our dominant standing in the world.

I think we're a sick, sick country judging from our long declining leadership. We've lost any shred of being fair and just to our people and to the rest of the world. Where its going doesn't give much encouragement.

A good article that contributes with the pessimism.

<https://consortiumnews.com/2025/05/02/core-trump/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 06 May 2025 16:44:42 GMT

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Here is a website showing the destruction and death created by the US air campaign in Yemen on Israel's behalf to try and halt the Houthis targeting vessels in the Red Sea that supply Israel. On behalf of the Palestinian genocide Israel is conducting in Gaza.

The Houthis had stopped their warfare on shipping during the brief ceasefire in Gaza, that Israel had broken their end repeatedly by sniper fire killing civilians during that period. The Houthis returned to their shipping warfare when Israel commenced bombarding and starving civilians again in Gaza.

The Trump administration supports Israel as did the Biden administration. Both bipartisan political party's are as one in this behavior. Aiding and abetting genocide in Israel's behalf. And bombing targets in Yemen that have done nothing to stop the Houthis support of Palestinians. Only killing innocent civilians as do the Israeli's.

This is our sick, degenerate political process at work today. The website shows the aftermath of our bombing campaign. Complete with images of bodies. Children. You can unblur the images. Which should be shown to all Americans if our news weren't sanitized and full of propaganda and fake journalism.

<https://airwars.org/country/yemen/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 13 May 2025 12:07:10 GMT

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This gal puts what I'm reading from the book, American Exception, with an academic perspective, into a layman's perspective. So, essentially how to interpret the news and how it's manipulated by the state to conform to its narrative.

<https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/how-to-make-your-mind-harder-for>

Meanwhile the book delves into the 3 pillars of our political, security and capitalist state. How their woven together and the power status of their influence. Going back to the founding of this country. A pretty big meal to digest so far for me. Academia writing doesn't lend itself to casual reading. But it's giving me a window into what makes this big mess operate as it has and does.

<https://www.skyhorsepublishing.com/9781510769137/american-exception/>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 14 May 2025 16:54:08 GMT

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Old Egghead I call him. Brian Berletic researches the real from the front page pablum. He digs into policy papers and political speeches from politicians to separate facts from the fiction we're fed. Pablum. Tasteless and non nourishing bunk the corporate press passes for journalism.

This blog entry shows how the story of our negotiating with Russia and the end of the Ukrainian conflict is all a front to "pivot" to our main adversary, "China" to try and maintain our silly hegemony stature in the world. Really though its more a desperate means of maintaining our neocon overworld continuation of wealth extraction and preservation we've been accustomed to since the big war last century. Hittin the skids now with big China, Russia and all the manufacturing countries in the world that are taking our mojo down a notch or two. But wait! We didn't account for the 3rd world becoming so resourceful and strong. We wanted to use them for as long as our fairytale vision of endless wealth extraction would go on and on forever.

So Trump and the policy manual Project 2025 are being adhered to verbatim as Mr. Berletic points out with his research. The spin Dr's do their part to keep us peons guessing wrong and clueless to their real designs. The big, big picture is keeping the empire intact and in command. No matter what the cost in lives and treasure spent to maintain the charade.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5B1o7E5A5o>

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.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 17 May 2025 12:08:06 GMT

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The more I read into this book American Exception, the more I can understand the depravity of what our country has become. The rule of law is absent within the power structure of our tripartite state. The power structure supplanted by the authority of the security state and the wealthy interests of the corporate overworld state. Working behind the scenes to the outward appearances of the political state. Overruling debate and developing plausible cover stories to mislead the public.

What we think of as a democracy is really a front for what is really happening within this multi staged control apparatus. And its gradually taken more control of the political "representation" we're all vaguely aware of. Our two party system basically follows what the prerogatives are in domestic and foreign policy of what the tripartite state decree's. Whether or not its in the best interest of the public or not.

Lying, cheating, stealing, defamation, killing, regime change and wars are all part of the lawlessness that this system perceives as for its best interests. And as a world leader of empire minded statecraft that's now in its twilight. The posturing positions employed to try and maintain this hegemony is finally isolating our position as one of an uncooperative spoiled sport that tries to get its way by subterfuge and bullying.

The latest with the tariff fiasco shines a bright light on this apparatus. It seems more and more clear to me that our country is on the wrong side of virtuousness and benign relationship with the greater part of the world these days.

Our economic system needs more than reform. Because reform only begats a brief time which corruption eats away at it. As with the period of economic social reform of the Roosevelt years. Slowly and surely reduced by the overworld wealth influences of the opaque power system we have.

The Chinese said it best in response to the tariff decree thrown out into the world. Someone said, The US needs a revolution.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 21 May 2025 15:29:42 GMT

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Come and see:

From the movie, Come and See. This article is about how the German political climate is all aboard with the NATO madness in Europe now to build up the military in the absence of the US having pivoted towards the China NATO madness. The author points out what the Nazi's did in the USSR during WWII was even a greater mass extermination of humanity than what all the extermination camps for the Jews were. That their atonement can never be truly reached ever. So the hypocrisy of the German government now along with the European NATO commitment is a shame to the memories of the past and a sham to the principals of the present. When the USSR dissolved in 1991 the build up of NATO commenced even more pulling countries into its fold. By design. The Russian military then was at its lowest level than ever.

There was never a threat to Europe from Russia. NATO was formed in 1949 while the Warsaw Pact was formed in 1955. Russia perpetually answering to the aggression of the west. The end of WWII was the beginning of the Cold War. A calculated effort mainly by the US to bolster our perpetual war machine economy. The Communist Soviets who were allied during the war and bore the brunt of destruction and death but tore the gut from the Nazi war machine became the pariah and threat to the western capitalist deep state after the war. Propaganda always needs a threat to sway public sentiment.

The United States and Europe have perpetuated this since then. Managing to protect the Nazi war criminals for the most part from justice and even utilizing them to a great extent by the US for the ones with technical prowess such as war criminal Dr. Wernher Von Braun for our aerospace program and others. Operation Paper Clip.

The Russian movie Come and See is regarded as one of, if not the most powerful depictions of war and its effect on people ever filmed. Little known about it here in the west. A gut wrencher.
<https://sonar21.com/germany-major-criminals-should-keep-quiet/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHaSQU-4wss&t=3s>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 21 May 2025 16:06:23 GMT

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Things are very different now. Not that the Russian government was great in the WWII years, but it is definitely a bad actor now.

I think your focus is on NATO "empire building" but don't forget that Russia and China are empire-builders too. Any critical assessment of the ills of men shouldn't stop with NATO.

And also remember that Ukraine was part of the USSR in WWII and most of the Soviet lives lost in that war were actually Ukrainians.

So when having empathy for the people over there - as we should - understand that the biggest

harm is being done to the people of Ukraine. Was in WWII and is again now.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 22 May 2025 18:47:54 GMT

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Of course Ukraine suffered as being part of the USSR then. And there's no animosity from that. What China and Russia now are doing economically is not empire building in the sense of being a unipolar hegemonic force in the world as what the United States has done since that terrible conflict. They are only doing what any nation state does in their own peoples interest for self determination. They both suffered great loss and destruction from WWII. Now China mainly but Russia by alignment with them and the other coalition of countries forming the BRICS are pushing the envelope of their ability to flourish for their peoples.

They've aligned as I've stated time and again to counter our country's unfair practices with our currency and meddling. They have no ambitions towards being as our country did by becoming the worlds dominant player in everyone's affairs.

The article spells out just that in what is going on in Europe now. And particularly Germany that committed those atrocities then. Which now is an affront to the memory of what they did then by posturing what they believe now in this arrogant geopolitical bad theater production. Which of course is all orchestrated from within our own empire mentality government structure.

The protagonist here is the United States. As it has been since post WWII. That's the focus of this thread.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 24 May 2025 13:59:44 GMT

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You have to have some historical underpinnings to understand the present time. Our country and Great Britain whom we are primarily derived from in our cultural and capitalist ties, have been opposed to the notion of Communism and Socialism since the Russian revolution.

After WWII the Soviet Union, our ally and a Communist oriented nation that gave more than any other nation in the effort to rid Nazi fascism was summarily and perversely made into a foe. The United States with Great Britain that we subordinated along with the rest of Europe and essentially the world then from our new found aspirations of arbiter of world affairs. The United States unscathed from the war, rich with abundance and calling the shots.

There was though an overhang from war production and a recession crept in in 1947. The principal war industries and particularly the aerospace industries were in a downturn. With the help of the deep state overworld corporate wealth and the authority of the security pillar of the defense department, the legislative and executive end of the government became as one with

forming the CIA agency, International Monetary Fund and other security and financial aligned agencies to prevail in world dominance.

The need was a scapegoat to arouse public fear of a potential threat to our society. That became the origins of the cold war with the Soviet Union mainly and China superficially. More so when they developed their own nuclear capability. It was the threat of Communism towards Capitalism. Evil authoritarianism vs benevolent democratic freedom.

NATO was formed in 1949 as a deterrent in Europe from the planned perception of the Communist USSR being a threat. It coincided with the build up of the military complex in the United States. An answer to the floundering defense industries of the post war.

The USSR didn't respond to this until 1955 with the Warsaw Pact. They had been after all a country devastated by the world war. Having lost millions and millions of people in their effort for freedom from the tyranny of fascism.

The economic sympathies towards Communism and Socialism that was prevalent in the US in the depression years and helped spur the Roosevelt government towards progressive socialism with the formation of Social Security and government subsidization in the industrial sectors was by the 1950's being dismantled by the forces of the deep state. McCarthyism was the neoconservative way of demonizing the prewar Communist, Socialist sympathies out of existence.

The now perpetual war machine economy of the military complex was entrenched. The Korean war was the beginning of our military adventurism to come. Fighting Communism with the virtue of Democratic Capitalism.

The deep state structure within our government has gradually grown more powerful and authoritarian over the decades. And our economic structure has followed suit becoming more financialized by design. Allowing our non war industry to wither and die domestically following the path of globalization to bolster the financial profitability of the growing wealthy end of our society. The military complex was utilized towards the blunt end of our security pillar of the deep state along with the financial overworld pillar to keep our world dollar hegemony to our advantage.

Eventually our ability to make war with our military service has become a strain for the public to accept. So a proxy method has served our security end by suppling forces with our military material to do our bidding in our strategic meddling. Our military budget though has mushroomed over the decades to be a drain on our already vast national debt. Mainly from our trade imbalances.

We're at a compromising point now economically that is influencing the authoritarian part of the deep state to be reflected in our political end more than ever. Our advantages internationally have also been compromised by overextending our financial restraints on countries we tried to control through sanctioning and now through tariffs.

Our deep state is showing its negative effects in the world that has coalized by responding with a firm ability to counter our dominance as it has never had the ability before. Its high time. I hope they prevail. We need a revolution in this country to end this negativity. I hope its bloodless. The deep state has shed enough of that over the years, mainly abroad. Lets hope it doesn't turn

inward on ourselves.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 26 May 2025 15:13:19 GMT

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Our deep state and its influence into policy with the political branch is woven tightly in our notion of democracy. The CIA is a subversive untethered organization that carries out clandestine and illegal activities which the legislative and executive branches have little control or even knowledge of.

The military complex along with the corporate end of it have a large influence with the political matrix to maintain our war mongering in the world. Its profitable.

The current Ukrainian Russian negotiations are hung up with the narrative of having a cease-fire. To which Ukraine could be bolstered with more weapons to carry on this delusional and debilitating proxy war. Meanwhile NATO Europe is being encouraged to buy American arms to build up their militaries. While the US pivots to our other delusional need to antagonize and threaten China with war. With Taiwan being the focal unprincipled reason just as Ukraine is for expanding NATO up to Russia's back door.

This is the imperial empire ideology that permeates our government that allows for the Israeli government to behave similarly in the Mideast. Our proxy military society there that we allow Carte Blanc to administer whatever barbarity upon their indigenous Arab population that suits the notions of some twisted biblical ordained prophecy.

So our current administration just as all preceding administrations of either party is bound to adhere to the deep state unprincipled in virtue notions of the imperial empire world order. Historians and political scientists have been writing of this phenomena since its origins post WWII.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 27 May 2025 16:35:17 GMT

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Un huh, un huh. Here we have the German Chancellor mentioning lifting restrictions on long range weapons for continuation of the Ukraine war with Russia. But its nothing new as the article in The Moon of Alabama points out. But it shows where Europe is as being a vassal to the United States to the war mongering, war machine economy that we've perpetuated for decades and decades. Its profitable! And its about the only industry left that is insinuated as being vital to the

world order security that our deep state requires.

It would appear that the planners of policy have decided to try and keep the pressure on Russia through attrition as the Russians are doing with Ukraine's faltering military. Wearing them down towards capitulation till collapse. There is a limit to what manpower Ukraine has left that they have to throw against the Russian superior forces.

While America pivots to the South China Sea to set up Eastern NATO with Taiwan as the focal point for conflict. Europe can purchase our weapons to carry on the supply to Ukraine's war weary and draw out this unnecessary conflict still to the last Ukrainian. They were nothing but pawns anyway with our deep state planners.

Proxy wars, genocide enabling, regime change, assassinations, sanctioning and now tariff extortion added to the list.

This is our purpose in the world it seems. An egregious amalgamation of devious manipulation without any virtue but perpetuating finance capitalism at any cost. A very sad example of governance.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2025/05/recycling-old-news-media-push-for-more-war-in-ukraine.html#more>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 27 May 2025 21:13:07 GMT

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The evil-empire builder here is Putin. He has poisoned his country and is hoping to poison Ukraine. He is attempting to steal from Ukraine the independence they achieved in 1991 and which they are desperately fighting to maintain.

Putin actually believes it is best for him to rape Ukraine, to take that country over by force, to make it a Russian state and to impose his will and his laws there.

There is no NATO empire-building there. I wish there had been. It was a huge miss to have not embraced Ukraine years ago. That's the real problem - not the meddling of NATO but rather the absence of it. We were too late, and we let Russian become emboldened.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 28 May 2025 13:29:09 GMT

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Heidi is more suited for stylish writing in the New Yorker than serious academic research presentation. From her book review on NPR:

Quote:Blake's book appears to be largely based on accounts provided by people who found themselves within Berezovsky's gravitational field at various points in time, as well as on intelligence sources in Britain and the U.S.

Sadly, these sources bring their own individual spin and narratives that warrant a much greater deal of scepticism — especially since the author herself pictures Berezovsky's circle as a bunch of extremely dodgy characters or outright crooks. In the words of a British judge, cited in the book, Berezovsky is "an unimpressive, and inherently unreliable, witness, who regarded truth as a transitory, flexible concept, which could be molded to suit his current purposes." So are his associates.

Quote:The author's personal lack of expertise in post-Soviet matters shows in a bombastic analysis of recent ex-Soviet history. She proposes, for example, that Berezovsky staged the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and that a U.S.-backed Georgian government may have wanted to murder an oligarch in Britain.

Anyway, the bones and skeletons abound in the closet of the CIA telling a tale of grand sweeping dirty deeds. Including the flawed Warren report concluding conspiracy of assassination most likely of a sitting president of this country. Including his brother who wanted to investigate Kennedy's assassination if he attained the presidency himself.

We ought to look inward at our own deep state of deception and lies that our very government foists upon us. But the cheap narrative of those "foreign" characters is just too easy to lead us on.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 28 May 2025 18:29:28 GMT

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Experts that assert Putin is evil

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 28 May 2025 20:09:42 GMT

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This expertise listed for the evil Mr. Putin is only the western think-speak Orwellian journalism that is influenced by our deep state construct.

A good example of this contradiction is the current article by The Moon of Alabama concerning the Patriot missile system being used in Ukraine. Which is ineffective and costly and has been such since its inception. But as the article points out, our press contradicts itself in covering its use in the world since 1992 in Iraq. Its either a boondoggle or a godsend to the might of our most

expensive military in the world by a multitude of percentage of countries heaped together to our expenditure. Which the Trump administration now wants to spend even greater than one trillion a year on now. With yet a "Golden Dome" maybe as a tribute to his cotton candy hairdo color to waste treasure on. Yet be a boon to the greedy defense industry.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2025/05/us-supplied-air-defences-fail-in-ukraine.html#more>

We are an empire on the skids my friend. Our economy shows it, our politics and society shows it. And our behavior in the world is most definitely showing a frenzied flailing about of incoherent thought. How long this can be kept up no ones knows. But its sickening to realize how unproductive and uncivilized it all is. When so much needs to be done for human development instead of inciting wars and throwing so much money into the black hole of defense spending rather than productive use that isn't realized.

I don't expect to change your beliefs and I'm not trying to. I'm just writing about what I am learning as I go along.

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 28 May 2025 20:30:55 GMT

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Rusty, my friend, you wrote:

Rusty wrote on Wed, 28 May 2025 15:09I don't expect to change your beliefs and I'm not trying to. I'm just writing about what I am learning as I go along.

But you're not learning. You have taken a side and are reinforcing it with the same old bloggers.

There was a time when I thought as you do now, that Putin was a good leader for Russia. I have learned since then that I was wrong.

The Google search link I provided is a generic search. Some of the articles returned by the search are from western sources, but some come from the east, some even from Russians.

When Putin was first made president, I thought he might be good for Russia. But the Russians I knew - way back then - set me straight. The first time I heard reasons to be leery about Putin was in 2000, when a Russian immigrant told me what Putin was like in East Germany and St. Petersburg. He and others were very concerned that Putin would make Russia an evil empire.

Their opinions have been proven to be correct. Putin has made Russia a terrorist state.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Thu, 29 May 2025 02:19:23 GMT
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Hi All, I have been following this for a while but resisted commenting. Some things seem really clear to me (not in any particular order). Ukraine didn't start the present conflict, Putin did. China is empire building. Just today they started to improve an island about 400 miles south of Guam. They aren't doing that to improve their trading needs. They have their tentacles in Panama. They don't want Australia to meddle with them on Australian turf. They have navy assets there now. They want Taiwan. There are more such instances. If it isn't empire building I don't know what it should be called. The one thing in their favor (if you can call it that) is that they have already figured out it is more to their benefit to trade with us particularly when it favors them than to get into a global conflict in which neither of us will do well. * At one time the US did engage in empire building. The current President would like to do that but the places he indicates are not for the taking in any peaceful manner. He can buy golf courses and hotels, but Greenland isn't for sale. The EU doesn't want Russian territory and would be glad to have Russia as a respectful trading partner. The opposite certainly doesn't seem true. In all this mess it seems as if our President is screwing up relations with folks he should be cultivating for mutual benefit. There is a lot more, but I'll save that for another time.

* A side issue...trying to get manufacturing back to the US is a good thought. Trying to do so quickly is naive. It will be a really long endeavor. Tariffs will not make that happen sooner.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 29 May 2025 14:48:58 GMT
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I totally agree with you, Bruce.

And an extra mention on the tariff stuff. It's tricky but, in my opinion, we probably have needed to do something about the trade imbalances for decades.

Fair trade is a good thing. But lopsided trade is just stupid for us to have allowed. Not sure why we allowed it for so long. Now it feels very difficult to "dial it back." It's looks pretty tricky.

And another adjacent matter - protectionism. I used to have a laissez-faire attitude towards that. I thought there was no need to protect an American industry. When we make the best stuff at the best price, no problem.

Even when the Japanese started beating us with better cars in the late 1970s, I thought that was our own fault. We were making junk and their cars were better. German cars were better too. My opinion back then was that we needed to get off our butts and design and build better cars. I thought we made better cars for decades, especially in the 1960s. My opinion was that we just needed to rise to the challenge of the 1970s and 1980s.

Eventually we self-corrected. Our car manufacturers did begin making better cars and by the

1990s, we were competitive again. So the beating we took in the 1980s was really a self-inflicted wound. Too much government pressure to shift design goals in the 1970s, and too slow to respond by the car manufacturers.

At least that's how I saw it.

But I see something else now. The Chinese government subsidizes a market, taking a loss in that market for a lengthy period of time. Essentially, the American companies producing products in the market China wants to control are under economic attack. It is economic siege warfare.

In the beginning of the siege period, Americans (and people in other countries, for that matter) - both individuals and companies needing supplies - shift from buying American products under siege and instead purchase the low-cost Chinese products. Often times, the Chinese products are of poor quality because the Chinese have little experience at first. But the cost is so low, American companies buying the inferior import products will make do with it. In many cases, it is repaired, retooled or otherwise made serviceable after import. The cost is so low, it is still economically viable.

After a while, the American companies making products in the market under attack slow production or cease entirely. We have lost a lot of industries that way in the last few decades. China has successfully monopolized several markets using that strategy.

And now that I look back, I realize the situation in Japan was somewhat similar in the 1960s and 1970s. It wasn't done exactly the same way - Japan wasn't subsidizing their industries - America did it as economic assistance. We were still helping Japan get on its feet after WWII.

I'm not sure I feel the same way about that as I do about the invasive market take-overs that China has done. But the results to the American economy were probably the same. American car companies eventually came back after a pretty bad beating, but the American consumer electronics market really never recovered.

So I think we must be much more careful in the matters of trade going forward. I like it when we can be helpful, as I think was initially the case in Japan. But I also think we have to protect our own interests. Otherwise, we'll find ourselves being unable to do things we once were great at. We'll be "out of shape."

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 29 May 2025 17:09:02 GMT

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Your both are so wrong on so many fronts its hard to accommodate an answer to. Economically, geopolitically and what an empire, (as in economic power) is all about.

I don't feel Wayne its of any use to play ping pong with you as we have about the notion of evil Putin and his government and what the Ukrainian conflict is all about that is the real geopolitical

truth. I've given more than enough factual account for what that is, with the help of those sources I use. That you can dismiss it with just personal experiences and relationships and articles written that reflect the manipulations of government to sway public opinion. It's about what is to be expected from anyone that with such a narrow framework of subjective feelings and our commercial journalism which does not do justice to their ethical standards.

China Bruce is an example of empire that has no ambitions of being a sole hegemonic sovereign state that our country has done. That they have literally pulled themselves out of abject poverty to the level they've attained just in our lifetimes is an accomplishment never realized before in human history. They interact with nations on a win win relationship. They do not bully, provoke or sanction or war monger as our country does historically and to this day. Taiwan to them is part of their territory just as Puerto Rico is to us. Maybe they should start arming that island and put their troops there. Or Cuba! Maybe they should start sending warships into the Gulf of (MEXICO) to antagonize our government. They had purchased the ports in Panama fair and square and had updated them. Why can't other nations branch out into the world as the United States has done with impunity?

The fact is you two is that this country of ours is a basket case of its own doing. Its our economic system that has financialized to the point that it is eating away at itself like a parasite. And we can't keep up in the world to the nations that we had tried to use their cheap labor to further enable our financial free lunch with our monopoly with the dollar that we use to punish with.

But we still have this Pollyanna notion we're the sole arbiter of freedom and democracy. We aren't! Either one. We are a war mongering, selfish and arrogant nation of wealthy elites that call the shots. We the people have no influence what-so-ever.

Subject: Re: Empire
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 29 May 2025 18:40:40 GMT
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Using bloggers, economists, political scientists, military veterans with world geopolitical experience and people with national security experience gathering information is useful to supplement your personal educational views. I don't think just reading headlines or viewing corporate news is nearly enough to give an understanding of how the world operates economically and politically. Both being bedfellows.

This fellow is a journalist that takes the time to read policy papers that our network of deep state corporate think tank organizations have funded to churn out the methodology that the legislative and executive branches adopt along with their respective political committees use as their political platforms.

Brian Berletic here goes over an article in the NY Times that "suggests" that the Trump administration has deviated from established policy reflected in think tank papers that the

administration has culled from almost word for word in speeches recently. What Mr. Berletic is laying out here is that the political end of the deep state is more of the sales branch of policy that the corporate think tanks and lobbyists bring to them to "sell" to the public. Such as Project 2025.

Berletic though says there are no policy papers to substantiate the article being written in the NYT's. Thus what commander and chief Trump states in the article is a ruse he uses common to his style of innuendo to stretching the truth. Saying that the world can accommodate multiple hegemonic empires. Implying the US, China and Russia. When the truth is as laid out in the policy paper is that the administration truly is following what the United States has been following as the hegemonic sole dominant world empire player its followed since post WWII.

Our press and media never try and tease out such detailed analysis of what the truth is that our government is really up to. And the public is not informed enough to judge whether or not our government is working for the true interests of ordinary people. But its a sure bet that the interests of our wealthy elite are the true recipients of the advantage that our government is playing cat and mouse in world geopolitics. After all, their the ones that write the play book for the politicians to play the game by.

I suspect YMMV though for any eyeballs attached here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCYwDtaRu6E>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 29 May 2025 20:07:27 GMT

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Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Fri, 30 May 2025 03:04:44 GMT

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Hi All, A good discussion that covers the subject from different viewpoints. With that siad I take my leave...

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 30 May 2025 15:55:31 GMT

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To anyone interested, it might be useful for your edification to listen to these two senior economists that I admittedly reference often. Because they are two of our greatest living national treasures we have whom the general public has no knowledge of. Unfortunately.

Hudson & Wolff. Here they go over the core of capitalism. Its origins, promises, successes and limitations and hopefully its demise, (particularly in the form its in currently). They describe how classical economics and its explanation of value theory has been manipulated into the opposite of what the classical economists Adam Smith and David Ricardo described the free market being. Free from economic rent! Free from the then parasitic renters class making money in their sleep and siphoning capital away from useful benefit to their own conspicuous consumption. Today the equivalent are the banking financier's and Wall Street.

They explain how Karl Marx and his remarkable volumes of capitalism took value theory from Smith & Ricardo and explained further the worker relationship with the capitalist and their surplus exchange, trade consolidation, monopolization and how industrial capitalism could become socialism in its final development. Never to be realized of course.

Listening to these two gives a foundation to understand where our country and the other capitalist countries following current neoliberal financial capitalism are experiencing the trials and tribulations that are degrading our way of life. Taking particular note in China's successful development is that their financial structure keeps banking as a public-state owned entity. Eliminating the capitalist monopoly on finance opens up the means to preventing the free lunch, money in their sleep financial class from hijacking the economy as ours has been made.

Economics and geopolitics mimic one another. So its little wonder from our finance capitalist economics how our country has in its dominant world character come to monopolize its influence through colonization, militarism, Imperialism etc. to maintain that dominance over the years.

It has become a burden to the world. Which countries now once part of the 3rd world are strategically aligning to counter our dominance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loxwfNQw17o>

Subject: Re: Empire

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 31 May 2025 13:16:41 GMT

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Watching this video this morning gives clarity to the abject absurdity that our government is going about now with whatever it is that diplomacy is supposed to be. Its a complete farse! Its a carnival ride of deception and collusion towards subordination of countries to literally kiss our ass! The Trump administration sows nothing but chaos. Irrelevant contradictory gobbledygook.

Panel discussion with former Ambassador Charles Freeman and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. Very informative yet exasperating illumination of our worse than ever diplomacy and state craft.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rsuGil1_Ms&list=PLzImU_KHY9-JjAlg0AZXxHaMhJD6UXfNj&index=1
