

Batavian preparations for war

(December 2023)

"The Netherlands should prepare for war with Russia",

said the Commander of the Dutch Land Forces, General Martin Wijnen, at the end of December 2023.



Now, despite the bellicose rodomontade of our soldiers and politicians, are we truly scared of Russia being about to conquer the Netherlands and enslave the subjects of King Willem-Alexander?

Isn't the notion a bit preposterous?

To provide but a few examples, since Russians have such a demonstrated appetite for French wines, cheese, and alpine skiing vacations, German and Italian luxury automobiles, European naval military equipment, Dutch marine pipeline installation prowess, and so many other delicacies from the West, should we believe for a minute that they would have any taste for invading the West, thus destroying altogether the

production of the very manufactures and services by which they seem to be so enthralled? And which armies would Russia use to conquer and then maintain the West under her martial boot, since Russia is one of the least densely populated places on Earth? With a population of 145 million, can we think for a second that Russia will try to conquer Europe and its 500 million people? With a land mass of 17 million square kilometers encompassing 11 time zones, could Russia be coveting more *Lebensraum*, especially in a part of the world with one of the highest population densities?

Shouldn't the Dutch Generalissimo divulge the nature of his strategy in response to his fear of a Russian invasion?

It would appear that Western fears, real or feigned, reside in the quite stubborn disregard for a candid investigation of the fundamental issues.

One could suggest the following:

1. Make a reasoned list of Russia's possible incentives for conquering Lichtenstein, or the Netherlands, or Germany, or even all of the Ukraine;
2. Make a reasoned list of Russia's past attempts to conquer Western nations;
3. Make a reasoned list of the West's possible incentives for conquering Russia;
4. Make a reasoned list of the West's past attempts to conquer Russia;
5. The longest lists will determine who's more interested in invading the other;
6. Repeat for China.

On another level, regarding the defensibility of territory according to size, it is not at all certain that the Netherlands, for example, would be easier to defend against Russia than Russia against the Netherlands, but, on the other hand, although Australia is half the size of Russia while Australians number but a sixth of the Russian population and less than only 2% of the Chinese, it is doubtful that the Chinese would find it a cinch to invade and conquer Australia.