

Puzzled

(September 2022)

I am puzzled by the Western animosity against all things Russian and the hybrid war the West is waging against Russia, although by proxy, the Ukrainian being mere cannon fodder for its policies.

Premises:

1. Ukraine is not a member of the European Union;
2. Ukraine is not a member of NATO;
3. Ukraine had no pre-existing defense treaty with the West;
4. Ukraine is far from being a democracy, and claiming she is seems quite hilarious;
5. Ukraine's military has violently suppressed since at least 2014 the aspiration for and declarations of self-determination of at least three of her Russian speaking provinces;
6. Which was one of the avowed reasons for Russia's invasion across her western border, the other being the fear she was in of seeing Western offensive weapons massed on said border, a mere 450 km from the Kremlin;
7. In view of the past three decades of peaceful trade with Russia, it is hard to see in which novel way she may have suddenly become a menace for the West, even if the Russian-speaking ex-Ukrainian republics remained independent;
8. Likewise, it is hard to see in which way the West justifies logically and morally that in the very name of independence from all things Russian it is supporting Ukraine so forcefully in her military repression of the ethnic Russian desire for self-determination in her eastern provinces.

Considering the absurdity of these premises, it is fair to ask why the West is flooding Ukraine with such a colossal amount of lethal armament and is imposing such a self-destructive blockade on a major supplier of commodities and client of manufactures and services.

Can there be any genuine reason beside the West's own ambition of eastward expansion?

Many have contended that the major reason for their hostility is a deep dislike for the Russian president and/or Russia as a whole, which is not surprising, since Russia and her people have been continuously vilified in the West since 1917 (except from 1941 to 1945 when we needed her for our own survival). I do understand the vilification process in view of the ideological differences and political competition during the 74 years after 1917, but I fail to find thereafter any serious rationale beside economic and expansionist motives.

Many have claimed that Mr. Putin is Evil personified and thus the West is entitled to the most violent response. I would observe that, at any rate, it is one of the staunches foundations of our democracies that no accused may be executed without a fair trial in which he will be deemed innocent until proven guilty and will be given every opportunity to defend himself. A mere accusation of Evil, especially without providing irrefutable evidence, is not reason enough for summary execution. Even at Salem witches were tried before some were hung.

Besides, unlike elementary school quarrels, no war was ever waged anywhere solely because one party claimed the other was evil, least of all World War II, despite our self-serving official memory (it can be noted that parties to a war seldom assert after the fact that their opponent is anything but evil).

Here is a partial chronology of the Second World War:

- On 27 February 1933, Adolf Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany;
- On September 1st, 1939, Germany and the Slovak Republic declared war on Poland;
- Between September 3rd and 9th, 1939, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand, India, Tonga, Transjordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Nepal, South Africa, Bahrain, Canada, Oman, declared war on Germany (not the other way around);
- On May 10th, 1940, Germany invaded France;
- On June 22nd, 1941, Germany declared war on the Soviet Union;
- On December 11th, 1941, Germany declared war on the United States.

War was declared on Germany not because Herr Hitler was deemed to be evil (although I would say he was), but because of pre-existing peacetime treaties with Poland.

Despite Herr Hitler's known and widely publicized exactions since the early 1930s, the United States never declared war on Germany, and even turned back thousands of

Jewish refugees fleeing Germany, including hundreds of children, to send them to their eventual demise under the pretense that "*Jewish immigrants could threaten national security*", some well after the U.S.' entry into war.

I am not judging past events here, one way or another, mostly because judging past human decisions is not only unfair, but also useless, and in addition I am not God.

The past is what it is and cannot be undone, although it must be scrutinized with the utmost detached honesty, even more so because we can in no way be held responsible for the deeds of our ancestors.

However, I am quite embarrassed by the West's total lack of intellectual decency and honesty in its conduct of current affairs.

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