

A mortal enemy?

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There was a time after 1917 when the Soviet Union was our unconditional nemesis, for we dreaded that Communism would spread to our lands and the riches of our Capitalists would be confiscated by hordes of destitute serves.

We pushed our antipathy aside for a few years when we needed her to castigate Herr Hitler, but as soon as that was done our hostility came back with a vengeance.

However, 30 years or so ago, Communism removed to other climes and thus the threat of Soviet Communism vanished.

A deep sigh of relief!

You would think that after the demise of Soviet Communism we should have become best friends, but you'd be mistaken.

In the last decades Russia found in Western Europe a long term, stable, and profitable market for her vast natural resources, while she procured in the Western World everything from wine to automobiles to exotic vacations, in a quite lucrative fashion for both parties.

One wonders why Russia would entertain any idea of killing the proverbial Goose-that-Laid-the-Golden-Eggs, especially after she spent so much to lay all the fixed infrastructure required for her exports.

But perhaps are we fearful lest Russia be suddenly in need of more "*Lebensraum*" for her people, as were the Hitlerian folks nearly a century ago? Couldn't Russia be dreaming of colonizing our land for her scarce people?

To be sure, Russia is more than four times the size of the rest of Europe, while her population is not even one third thereof. She evidently has more "*Lebensraum*" than she can deal with and seems to be in no need of additional real estate.

One would have trouble finding much rationale for a Russian fancy to push her borders westward.

On the other hand, and by the same token, the rest of Europe in its entirety is but a quarter of the size of Russia, and her population is more than three times as many. In addition, Europe is rather poor in natural resources despite her huge appetite therefor,

excepting her own thin air, which she found lately to be a valuable substitute for foreign fossil energy.

As a consequence, one could possibly find at least some rationale for a European dream of extending borders eastward.

As a matter of fact, it seems Europeans not only had such a Napoleonic dream, but also did everything they could to make it happen, under the guidance of a transatlantic cousin who may have nurtured his own dreams of using both parties to his own advantage.

So, is Russia our mortal enemy? Does she covet anything we have that she hasn't? Couldn't she procure our manufactures elsewhere, or even replicate them anywhere within her vast and diverse land (although if she did what would we use to pay for her commodities)?

Or are we Russia's mortal enemy? Wouldn't we covet everything she has that we haven't? Could we replicate her natural resources anywhere in our soil?

Ultimately, aren't we our own worst mortal enemy?

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