

Si vis bellum

(March 2024)

European Council President Charles Michel made these profound remarks on Monday, 18 March 2024:

- a) *"The world is watching our European continent"*;
- b) *"We must ... shift to a 'war economy' mode"*;
- c) *"If we want peace, we must prepare for war"*.

A few candid comments by a new Publius:

- a) There can't subsist much doubt about Mr. Michel's Natoleonic ambitions when one considers that the European continent covers 10 million square kilometers, whereas the European Union extends over 4 million square kilometers only. What could Mr. Michel possibly have had in mind when he used the possessive *"our"*? Could it be a repeat of the Emperor's ill-fated Russian Campaign of 1812;
- b) No doubt that the populations of Europe will warmly acquiesce, badly hurt economically as they are by their own governments self-inflicted injuries;
- c) Mr. Michel, undoubtedly a Latinist, is probably referring to the original, written nearly 1,500 years ago by a Publius Vegetius: *"Si vis pacem, para bellum"*.

However, Mr. Michel's real aspiration seems to be rather *"Si vis bellum, para bellum"*.

One would be tempted to refer ironically to 1914 and the Russian entry into the First World War, which led directly to the world-shattering Bolshevik revolution.

The quote becomes *"Si vis bellum stultum, para te ipsum ad bellum civiles"*¹.

¹ For the Latin ignarus: *"If you want a stupid war, prepare yourself for a civil war"*.