

To err is human, to forgive divine ¹

(June 2024)

Fifteen score ² and thirteen years were apparently insufficient to heed the advice.

A short historical summary:

A

The Union of the Councils of the Socialist Republics ³

(Союз Советских Социалистических Республик)

- Political model: Marxism-Leninism;
- Collective defense organization: Warsaw Pact;
- Total population of the organization: fell from **400** million to **150**, down 60%;
- Total territory: fell from **23** million sq. km to **17**, down 25%;
- Voluntarily dissolved the Union and the Warsaw Pact;
- Voluntarily granted independence to all previous members;
- Said they had had enough of Marxism-Leninism already;
- Recognized they had erred.

B

The Natoleonic Union of Mercantilist States

(Натолеоновский союз меркантилистских государств)

- Political model: Capitalism;
- Collective defense organization: NATO;
- Total population of the organization: rose from **800** million to **1,000**, up 25%;
- Total territory: rose from **23** million sq. km to **26**, up 15%;
- Expanded the Union;
- Carved out territory out of the UCSR and Warsaw Pact;
- Says they defeated **A**;
- Contends erring is un-natoleonian.

It would appear that, despite the considerable disparities, **B** is experiencing some trouble in imposing its views on **A** militarily. One could contend therefore that the political executives of **B** must have erred in their preliminary assessment of the situation, which sensible and self-confident human beings would have contritely and apologetically acknowledged.

Moreover, it seems that, rather than acknowledging their erring with humility, the executives of **B** are prepared to risk a nuclear apocalypse in which most of those to whom they are directly accountable (their constituents) would expediently perish, at least locally.

As for themselves and their immediate suite, they will have sought refuge just before Armageddon in the farthest reaches of Patagonia.

¹ In Alexander Pope's "An Essay on Criticism" - 1711

² Coincidentally, the Gallic Quinze-Vingt hospice is a famous hospital for the blind, originally with 300 beds.

³ Dissolved 1991; for some reason one defining word in four was left untranslated