I. Sorrows of Empire: all empires are destroyed by the enemies that they create, internal and external.

A. Perpetual war and the normalization of war

1. Wars, past, present and future

2. Normalization

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/>

3. Sorrows

a. cost

i. $ 9/11 to present $8 trillion

ii. human and other living things

iii. less $: health, education, environment, social security, Medicare

b. blowback

i. failed states

ii. more terrorists

iii. weaponization of planet earth and space

B. Loss of democracy and constitutional rights

1. War and the Imperial presidency

a. National Defense Authorization Act 2012 Sec 1021(b)(2)

It permits presidents to order the military to imprison indefinitely U.S. civilians. Mere allegation of membership in, or support of, an alleged terrorist group could be the basis for indefinite detention.

b. Obama/Biden “kill list”

c. AUMF 2002

d. Espionage Act

2. Right Wing Populism and the Rise of the Far Right in the U.S.

a. populist: large segment of population with legitimate economic grievances

i. deindustrialization

off shoring

automation

downsizing

ii. neoliberal 'free trade' agreements

iv. abandonment by the political system: i.-iii. both parties

b. right wing

i. elite take control of the movement

ii. scapegoating: immigrants, lazy blacks, secular humanists

iii. demagogue drives movement MAGA

c. successes

i. electoral process

ii. judicial process

iii. legislative process

iv. regulatory process

d. oligarchy vs autocracy or fascism "It Can't Happen Here"

C. Empire’s “Unreality Bubble”

“An entire globe-spanning empire rests on our closed eyelids. It depends on keeping us in a propaganda induced

coma.”

1. Origins of Propaganda

2. Too Much Democracy

a. POLO: Education: “Lies My Teacher Told Me”

b. POLO: Corporate media

i. Donald Trump and liberal escapism

ii. War as entertainment: Good vs Evil

3. “Ministry of Truth”

a. Disinformation Governance Board

b. NewsGuard or “Internet Trust Tool”

4. Social Media as the “postmodern cave”

D. Financial ruin

1. rich get richer/ poor get poorer/ and the middle class

2. Debt $31 Trillion

<https://www.usdebtclock.org/>

E.MIIC and the Environment

1. MIIC recognized human induced global warming and its catastrophic consequences however . . .

2. MIIC largest institutional polluter in the world

3. MIIC 50 million tons of CO2

4. Polluter of land: nuclear pollution, runoff of jet fuel, remains of artillery/bombing

5. sacrifice zones

F. Nemesis smiles at the subtlety of the punishment she has meted out to us-blinded us to our own fate, and thatof every living thing- the end.

G. Ecocide