I. Sorrows of Empire- "All empires meet the same fate."

A. Perpetual war and the normalization of war

B. Loss of democracy and constitutional rights

C. "magical kingdom" of necessary illusions and manufactured consent

D. financial ruin

“Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punisher of pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”

E. A Different "Fate": 2 minutes to midnight

II. American Empire

A. Johnson: U.S.is an empire that dominates peoples and countries of the world with the most powerful military in history.

1. imperial presidency

2. dominant institution: military industrial complex

3. military (militarists) dominate political system

4. military values saturate culture

5. militarization of police

B. Goals

1. maintain empire

2. eliminate threats (real, possible, potential, hypothetical) foreign and domestic

3. remake world in its own image

4. serve complex arrangement of economic and political interest s

**[National Security Strategy 2002**

**1. US is in a unique position**

**a. single dominate power .**

**b. largest economy**

**c. most powerful military**

**2. US model: free market capitalism and democracy**

**3. U.S. has moral responsibility to spread democracy and capitalism**

**4. Needs to maintain position, enhance interests, and**

**eliminate threats**

**a. Middle East is extremely important: economically**

**and strategically**

**b. third world countries into line**

**c. counter threats to global hegemony**

**5. rejection of doctrines of deterrence and containment**

**a. MAD**

**b. 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**

**c. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

**d. 1967 Outer Space Treaty**

**6. doctrine of preventive war: rejection of international law regarding war**

**a. rejects doctrine of preemptive war**

**i. established with the Nuremberg Trials after WWII and the UN Charter**

**ii. the standard of imminent threat**

[**https://www.truthdig.com/articles/illegal-wars-the-new-american-way/**](https://www.truthdig.com/articles/illegal-wars-the-new-american-way/)

**b. established doctrine of preventive war**

**i.. Basic Principle: the US has the right to use force**

**against any nation**

**whose leaders have hostile intentions**

**have alleged connection with terrorists**

**have alleged potential connection with terrorists**

**have alleged plans and projects regarding wmd**

**anticipation of possible future dangers**

**ii. Between 50 and 60 countries could be targets]**

National Security Strategy 2017

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>

National Defense Strategy 2018

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1419045/dod-official-national-defense-strategy-will-enhance-deterrence/>

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III. Rise of American Empire

A. Prologue

1. Ideology of the Benevolent Empire: American Exceptionalism

a. The City on the Hill

**“for we must Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us” (John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Mitt Romney)**

b. Early Pre-Revolutionary Puritans

i. new Chosen People

ii. new “Promised Land”

c. unlimited natural resources

d. no class or caste system

e. infinite opportunity

f. benevolent and moral country ( a “good” country)

g.. a unique and special people (if you are white!)

2. America: Manifest Destiny

a. white race is ordained by God

b. conquer North America

c. justified “expansion”

i. Native Americans

ii. Mexican American War

d. Monroe Doctrine

e. Wilson: a “global destiny”

3. Overthrow

a. Hawaii

b. Spanish American War

i. Cuba/Platt Amendment

ii. Philippines and Manifest Destiny

iii. Puerto Rico

c. Panama and the Canal

d. Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine

" practically. . .it did serve as justification for U.S. intervention in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic."

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/roosevelt-and-monroe-doctrine>

e. Wilson's empire: Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Mexico

B. Post WWII: Grand Strategy

1. dividing the world: again

2. policy of containment

a. Soviet Union and China

b. empire of bases

c. NATO

d. “friendly dictators” : South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil,

3. Cold War

a. MI Complex

b. MAD: arms race

c. economy:

i. permanent war economy

ii..56 cents of every dollar to defense

d. political

i. power elite

ii. witch hunts

e. CIA: Killing hope

National Security Act of 1947

The 1947 Act loosely defined CIA’s mission and while the Act did not alter the functions of CIG, it did add four broad tasks: (1) advise the National Security Council (NSC) on matters related to national security; (2) make recommendations to the NSC regarding the coordination of intelligence activities of the Departments; (3) correlate and evaluate intelligence and provide for its appropriate dissemination and (4) " perform such other functions... as the NSC will from time to time direct..."

Two years later, President Truman signed the Central Intelligence Agency Act, which authorized CIA to secretly fund intelligence operations and conduct personnel actions outside of standard US Government procedures.

f.. “unfriendly dictators”:Cuba and Castro, Congo and Lumumba, Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh, Iran and Mossadegh.

Guatemala and Arbenz, Brazil and Goulart

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/20/64-years-later-cia-finally-releases-details-of-iranian-coup-iran-tehran-oil/>

<https://nacla.org/news/2014/4/1/remembering-brazils-military-coup-50-years-later>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/21/world/americas/an-apology-for-a-guatemalan-coup-57-years-later.html>

6. Vietnam and the Grand Strategy

7. Empire and Eternal War: New enemies and old: from the Soviet Union to Terrorism to China and Russia and Iran and Venezuela)

IV. American Empire: "Full Spectrum Dominance"

A. Military-Industrial-Intelligence Complex

1.Military

a. civilian command and administration

b. military command

c. armed forces

i. Active duty 1.3 million

ii.1.1 million members of the National Guard/Reserves

iii.branches of military

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176048/tomgram%3A_nick_turse,_a_secret_war_in_135_countries/>

2. bases

a. 6,000 +

b. 800+ in 160+ countries

c. 0 non-bases in Africa "enduring locations"

3. military intelligence agencies

Defense Intelligence Agency. ..

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. ...

National Reconnaissance Office. ...

National Security Agency/Central Security Service.

4. military academies, schools for strategic studies, ROTC

5. "m-industrial":weapons contractors

a. shared monopoly: Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon,

Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics

i. weapons systems

ii. annually: billions in contracts

iii. cost +

iv. current overruns

b. weapons dealers

i.sell to over 140 countries,

ii. Defense Export Loan

Guarantee Fund $15 billion

iii. DOD has 6500

Clinton :"promote peaceful conflict resolution, and arms control, human rights, and democratization”

6. Private Military Contractors (PMCs)

a. security

b. support

c. special forces

7. Lobbying:

a. corporate

b. trade groups: Aerospace Industry Association

8. think tanks: Center for Strategic and International Studies

9. Congress

a. own stock in defense contractors

b. “reelection” and weapons contractors

c. Pork: + $8 billion

10. Universities

a. funding for “basic research”

b. Professors work for think tanks funded by Corporations

11. Intelligence Agencies

a. 17 intelligence agencies

b. surveillance

c. internal security

B. global military dominance

1. global commands

<https://archive.defense.gov/ucc/>

2. land

3. sea

4. air

5. space

a. full scale weaponization of space

b. drones "wonder weapon," satellites, Space Surveillance Network

c. Joint Functional Component Command for Space

mission is to protect "friendly space sytems, prevention of an adversary's ability to use space. . . for purposes hostile to U.S national security interests, and direct support of battle management."

d. ultimately an AI "robotic command" structure to coordinating operations across all domans

6. cyber space

a. defense: prevent cyber attacks

b. offencse:wage cyber warfare

c. CYBERCOM or U.S. Cyber Command

7. covert: CIA

a. National Security Directive 1948

a. overthrow

b. assassinations

c. tactics

d. drugs

8. JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command)

a. created in 1980s, 10x larger now

b. reports only to president

c. operates beyond any legal accountability

any thing, any where, any time

d. operations are secret

e.operations are in many countries and in countries we

have not even claimed are tied to terrorism

f. sabotage, assassinate, “kill lists”

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/01/map-startling-size-us-special%20forces>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-military-operations-worldwide-2016-1>

9. nuclear

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**[Nuclear Posture Review**

**1. Use against non-nuclear country if conventional weapons fail to achieve military goals.**

**2. If specific targets withstand non nuclear attack**

**3."in the event of a surprising military development"**

**4.in retaliation for attack with wmd**

**5. will begin developing new types of nuclear weapons**

**6. Under Obama**

**a.“Nuclear Employment Strategy.” . . . the U.S. government considers itself free to initiate a nuclear attack on other nations.**

**b. counterforce strategy. Designed to employ U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy an enemy nation’s nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and associated installations. . .**

**c. “modernize” delivery systems and nuclear weapons, including developing new “low yield.”**

**7. Under Trump**

**a. expand modernization**

**b. expand criteria for use: infrastructure disruption aka cyber attack**

[**https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/nuclear-posture-review/**](https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/nuclear-posture-review/)

**c. nuclear weapons closer to Russian borders**

**d. reject the**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOUtZOqgSG8)

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B. Dominance and Client States

1. subordinate elites: dictators, monarchs, military juntas

2. SOF agreements: bases

3. weapons sales

4. training (JCET)

5. Army School of the Americas aka Western Hemisphere Institute for Securing Cooperation

6. direct military intervention

7. covert intervention

C. Ideological dominance: domestic control

1. corporate media

2. think tanks

<https://fair.org/home/new-york-times-csis-pentagon-funding/>

3. education