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Caught Between Ideologues and Opportunists

I explain to readers who accuse me of being too hard on Trump that I'm the same guy who went after Obama/Hillary/Biden, with the same questions, doing the same research. Now Trump, another flawed human being, is in my crosshairs. But some readers, attached to Trump, are unwilling to question his policies as they did the *left*.

Persons without the confidence to make their own decisions attach themselves and give over responsibility for their well-being to bigger than life personalities. This from a long-time reader today: "Erik, I can hardly read you any more. You are weakening the war against the left. Yes, Trump is flawed but he is what we have..." He goes on to direct me to James Howard Kunstler, an avowed Zionist—who I can no longer abide.

I support some Trump policies. Closing our border and stopping 1000s coming here to have American citizen babies. But, where Biden was milk-toasty around suppressing free speech, Trump (and his team) are militants. US citizens, critical of the Zionist state, are detained/questioned upon reentering the US—an indication that King Donald is not affiliated with the Constitution/Bill of Rights. Another indicator: Supreme Court votes 9/0 to return a man from an El Salvador prison—which *apparently* won't happen.

The best hope for Trump is seen in a 3rd entity—the American people. Neither Biden/Trump were/are statesmen. Trump was elected twice, against the full-out effort of the elite, indicating that the power still resides in the hands of the American people.

It's difficult to separate *ideologues* from *opportunists*. Ideologues require the capacity to believe in something larger than themselves. This excludes Netanyahu and Trump, both opportunists, who, devoid of empathy, pursue un-questioned personal agendas.

A continuum I last described: a small number of rational beings, crushed from the right/left by ideologues/opportunists—becomes more apparent with time. Gabbard is a shade of herself. Free speech fighter, Bhattacharya, (Great Barrington Declaration), defers to his boss, Bobby Jr, who advocates criminalizing anti-semitism as a disease?

The left is mute on free speech rights, acquiescing to Trump/Rubio, around an agenda to quell protest against genocide/human slaughter. Begging the question: Is Trump a God-fearing man? No, Trump believes in *global cold war* with the US pitted in battle with Russia, Iran, China, BRICS—any who threaten US economic hegemony.

But his focus is on China. Nations wanting desired trade tariff status with the US have to line-up against China. Trump beats China by assuring less nations trade with

China, and at the same time, pledge fealty to the US, to not support China Belt/Road.

Trump may or may not understand (but not admit publicly), that decades of rising debt as the reserve currency created the conditions we now face. But what he does understand is that his principle tariff mission functions to throttle China's ability to trade.

The US uses its navy to control global trade. Belt/Road nullifies that threat with a more efficient means of moving products from Asia to Europe, across land. Belt/Road, if not stopped, allows China, the world's manufacturer, undeterred world trade access.

Beneath each US policy, lies the true intent. Consider the negotiations with Iran, supposedly about the development of nuclear weapons. Since the early 2000s, Iran's policy (corroborated each year by US Intelligence), by law, has no nuclear weapons program. As that is the case, what are US and Israel hoping to accomplish in Iran?

Trump got rid of the JCPOA because Israel doesn't want negotiations with Iran about nuclear weapons—instead regime change. And Trump states clearly, he is with Netanyahu—all the way. Hopefully, the world (and enough Trump advisors), see beyond this desired outcome (attack on Iran), to bring us to a more sane agreement.

Back in the States, we are witness to Trump's policies: Rubio says there can be no reduction of sanctions against Russia, which would allow the EU to return to accessing cheap energy from Russia. That would get in the way of US LNG sales. In the rush to support Trump, is it forgotten that the US blew-up the NordStream2 pipeline? How bright does one have to be to recognize, clearly stated, bold-faced opportunism?

This article began as: *Send Us Your Money So We Can Continue To Spend*. Trump's tariffs function as banal opportunism, and, as consequences become apparent, his strong-arm tactics show he has no idea what he is doing to the world—and to the US.

The harm Trump does globally may be irreversible. Trade stoppage is not something wherein one side gains and the other side loses. When trade stops, everybody loses. Because of Trump's tariffs, the world has already lost \$10T in trade. \$10T—that is gone and will not be coming back. Making it worse, China shows no sign of backing down.

Chinese diplomats, historical pillars of restraint, are now rude to America emissaries. China has entered into long-term soybean contracts (disrupting US shipments en route). And Chinese negotiators are scouring the world to replace all US AG imports. This is causing a main MAGA support sector, US truckers—to verge on bankruptcy.

Does Trump know that *Trippin's Dilemma* came about in 1960, when Robert Trippin informed Congress that European currencies were prospering, moving forward, becoming convertible, while the US dollar (global reserve currency), with a consistent trade deficit, to provide needed dollars for global liquidity, became ever-indebted?

This condition, for the short run, allowed the US to lower interest rates when other nations were raising interest rates, and the US basked in what seemed to be a bargain.

Non reserve-currency nations that cannot print currency at will, are analogous to homeowners, in principle, needing to balance checkbooks at the end of each month.

The sustaining idea for the US was for foreign nations to recycle surplus dollars into *Treasuries*, holding down dollar value. If nations did not buy Treasuries, the value of the dollar would rise, making imports expensive, with fewer Americans inclined to buy.

The world is reacting by dropping the dollar. Global trade/supply line stability is now under attack from a Trump notion: tariffs will Make America Great Again. They won't—and he won't. My advice for Americans: question everything—there's no sacred cows.

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