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Will Trump Quit Chasing Optics—In Favor of Substance?

I got home last night from 6000 miles of backroads. I didn't take the bike and glad of it—one morning in Ely, Nevada it was 27 degrees and snowing. I took my wife's CRV and slept in truck stops except for one night at my friend Tony's. I'd been warned by another friend about truck stops but they seem safer than un-patrolled rest stops.

What did I see out there? Everything costs more. At Subway, the foot long sandwich costs north of \$15. The only time I see network TV is at travel plazas, writing articles. With gold running amuck, there was nary a mention.

Back home, my wife told me there was a NYT article and honorable mention on NPR about gold becoming important because there is uncertainty. But, why is that? That's the beginning of the discussion—not the end.

As readers know, I'm no fan of Trump—but I need to follow the facts. Though I plan to eviscerate him over Thomas Massie and the murder of untold women and children, and, being nothing but a pirate/murderer of Venezuelan fishermen, Trump may yet pull us back from nuclear war.

Historically, Obama (as much as I detest the man), corrected Anthony Blinkin (who was part of his entourage), to desist with the notion that given the right weapons, Ukraine was capable of defeating Russia. Obama was intelligent enough to see a fact. Then, Blinkin became the SEC/State under

Biden and he shifted back to his earlier notion that UKR could take on and defeat Russia. Sleepy Joe bought into that notion.

1.7 million dead young Ukrainians later (they best hope there is no after-life justice), we arrive at Trump. Rather than refer to him as a hapless bore, I'll address the facts. He likely understood Putin's terms at Anchorage, then listened to Lindsey Graham. Or, maybe he's simply stirring the pot—threatening Putin to do something to end this war—or there will be trouble.

Now Trump is going to meet with Putin in Budapest, the home of out-of-EU-favor Hungarian President, Viktor Orban. The world will soon know what Trump is up to. There are only 2 options: make the deal with Putin for an overreaching security agreement with NATO, or advance that nuclear clock a few more minutes towards midnight.

If Trump doesn't choose the path of peace, we are back to my last article: *What's Wrong—And Is It Purposeful?*, where I took-up an important question: why does it seem, wherever we look (excepting the Global South), we see a uni-party. In the same way Covid lockdown swept the world and the trans agenda came out of nowhere, along with DEI and equity, we now have Trump, for whom we had some hope, chasing optics, not substance. Now, there's another meeting with Putin/Trump—with much on the line.

Putin has been doing his level best over any years to join the West. Whatever it took. He would join NATO; he would do anything possible to become a peaceful trading partner of the West. He didn't know Raytheon/General Dynamics had already decided his future.

There's no indication that Trump has accepted Russia's prerequisite for a security agreement. If Trump meets with Putin, thinking he can get a cease fire and that doesn't come, without a comprehensive security agreement—

it's hard to predict what's next?

JD Vance is threatening Russia if they don't end the war, and Trump's letting it be known if Hamas does not disarm, he will disarm them, quickly and violently. Could it be that whoever is in power in the US intends to continue on as Empire—destabilizing? Is that why our Al-Qaeda buddy, al Jolani, is feted in the US and General Petraeus—but Syria sanctions abide?

The West and its economic allies are oblivious. Half of Canadian wealth is in the retail stock market, and stock participation in the US is on the rise. Westerners, because they're broke, in need of a big score, have no idea that over the same time span that S&P is up 4X, gold is up 16X. They don't know that 2 decades of free money—is over and done with.

The fixes are farcical. Japan's new leader, a Trump-ian conservative, wants to print, print print. This will lead to negative compounding—the financial equivalent of gravity. Then the West, like Hemingway, will have its answer how the bankruptcy went—*slowly, at first*.

To the man on the American street, it still feels the dollar is in control, at around the 100 range. Yet everything is so precarious. Bitcoin ain't what it used to be—if it goes down (it now shares the strength of NASDAQ), economic hell will break loose.

Consider the Dutch, seizing of a Chinese company so as to stabilize their economy. This is Russian Forex, 2.0. The West isn't at war with China—this is nothing but theft.

Everyone in the West should be taking steps to protect themselves from their governments. But our citizens are not buying gold/silver—if they have any, they're selling. They are in the calm before the storm, and there they mean to stay. But reality has another plan.

So where does all this go? Trump is not a neocon but he's surrounded by

neocons. He is a Zionist. Trump threatens, then backs off. Putin speaks in the 'what if' subjunctive, careful to head off rash decisions from the West—without making any of his own.

Trump, I'm cautiously hoping, abides by the midnight nuclear clock. Republican presidents have moved the clock back 19 minutes from midnight. Democrats have moved the clock 13 minutes towards midnight. JFK being the only democrat exception. Let's hope Trump continues the trend.

What's the deal in Venezuela? It's becoming apparent from the mourning in fish camps, that Trump murders fisherman? Also, Venezuela never developed, a for profit, drug industry because, with the world's largest oil reserve, and a huge in-ground gold reserve, it was never needed. Hugo Chavez bequeathed Venezuelan oil to it's citizens—which the US is desperate to privatize—with lies that Venezuela is a drug state.

In fact, 90% of cocaine production happens in Columbia, Peru, Bolivia, with whom Trump has closer ties—especially with Columbia. And, what is the FBI doing in Venezuela assessing drug production? Are they not tasked with working within the US?

Trump is in a serious bind. The US cannot continue to export soft power because the world sees our economy (therein our military), as ever-powerless. The world knows that Trump's great ally, Netanyahu, practices sequential wars: pull back from Syria to take Lebanon. Get the US on board for Iran. And when the time is right, look out Gaza!

So much depends on Budapest. Trump could make a great step forward by reducing sanctions.

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