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"Madman Across the Water"

Cutting the wheat from the chaff, Donald Trump, must have grown up without the virtue of ethics—as did most, if not all, of his cabinet. As a result, Madman Trump has no qualms conducting piracy/murder on uncharged foreign nationals—across the water.

Today, in fishing camps along the coast of Venezuela, women and children mourn the loss of fathers murdered by Trump—fishermen, blown apart in outboard motor boats, that would require many refuels to get drugs into proximity to the United States.

Trump has a \$50M bounty on the capture of Maduro (taxpayer dollars), who Trump claims stole the election (Trump is messing in an election?) Trump's 1st term ploy was to have Juan Guido, the assembly speaker, installed as president. That didn't work so Trump now places his bet on Maria Machado, an unpopular, Nobel Prize fraud in Venezuelan politics who makes RussiaGate look to be normalized fact. Machado gets no traction on her own, so who you gonna call—the big boys—Netanyahu and Trump.

This, extra-constitutional horror perpetrated by Trump and Exxon, marks a return to turning up the heat on Venezuela. After the Russian invasion of Ukraine it became apparent the US could not sanction all oil-producing nations, so Venezuela got some sequential reprieve. But now comes Rubio's

hatred for socialist regimes— so look out.

Under VEN rule of Hugo Chavez, at the beginning, there were Venezuelan gas stations (Citgo), across the US, and Chavez subsidized, across the globe, poor nations. But when he nationalized VEN oil, he became instant enemy of corporate privatization, and his successor, Nicolas Maduro, has fared no better in dealing with the US Empire.

Trump can ravage the Middle East because that's just a bunch of Arab Muslims. He has to be more careful with Venezuela, who are Spanish-speaking Latinos, not different from 10s of millions living in the US—precluding the usual slaughter for Freedom.

Trump is inching his way forward. Basing his actions on a drug war (that few in the Americas believe), Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor, has drafted lethal Venezuelan assassination documents for the CIA and Trump is authorizing boots on the ground.

A more significant development may be designating Russia as a terrorist state. Treaties, including nuclear treaties cannot be made with terrorist states. New Start, the only treaty remaining that Russia offers to extend for 1 year to give time for negotiations, cannot be extended. Who told Trump he could play fast and loose with our lives?

The war in Ukraine is Trump's war. Trump made the plan that Biden implemented. With these new sanctions, Trump's takes on full responsibility for the war. In Trump's 1st term he conducted more Ukrainian NATO exercises than did Obama over 8 years. Remember that B-52 flying over the Black Sea? Trumps again demands a cease fire, after which, likely nothing. As in North Korea where the war continues—on paper.

This is the 3rd time Trump, understanding the only solution to be an extensive security agreement between Russia/EU, has gone back to an unac

ceptable, to Russia, cease fire. Which brings me to a conclusion: below the surface there is no Trump—just a kind of vacillation where he adopts the views of others. We hear that behind the scenes, Putin/Trump are talking, but nothing moves. Maybe we get lucky and Russia/China force a NATO/Russia security agreement. Maybe Xi/Putin say no VEN invasion.

It's all lies about India/China backing away from Russian energy because of Bessent/Trump sanctions. India bought more oil from Russia during the month of September than any other month. China is locked in with long-term purchase agreements.

Meanwhile Britain refuses to return Venezuela's gold. Britain is worst of the worst—and Putin's patience is wearing thin. Expect the next British hit to bring massive retaliation.

Trump's biggest problem is being ethically bereft, lacking courage, or both. He's an old man. Were he assassinated, after making peace—that's 100 Nobel Prizes. Trump (by opting-out of Budapest?), thinks he can strong-arm his way out of the the hell he's creating—but he can't. In Ukraine, if worse comes to worse, Russia will end the attacks inside Russia by mobilizing so as to take all of Ukraine (unless NATO goes to war and UKR draft 18 year olds). With an end to the conflict and no more attacks on Russia, how will Trump and NATO save face from the total defeat of the US Empire in Europe?

Without tough diplomacy and with the US cozying-up to bankruptcy, there is no outcome that doesn't involve Mad Max. Only 1 legislator, Thomas Massie, is willing to take a stand against Trump and the Neocons. The democrats can't speak-out on non-performance for ending the war in Ukraine, because they had no plan to negotiate an end.

There are 535 legislators in Congress and Thomas Massie is the best of

them. He's the only one (without an Israeli handler), who supports limited government, fiscal responsibility, and is loyal to the Constitution. Consequently, he opposed the Big, Beautiful Bill, Gaza genocide, \$2T Covid package, and an end to conflict between Israel/Iran.

How is Massie rewarded? Trump calls him a RINO (Republican in name only), and seeks to have him lose re-election. Trump says of Massie: 'Third Rate Congressman Thomas Massie, a Weak and Pathetic RINO from the Great Commonwealth of Kentucky, a place I love, and won big SIX TIMES, must be thrown out of office, ASAP! ...'

What Trump is doing in support of Gaza slaughter is far worse, but his demeaning attack on a better man, Massie, betrays huge arrogance/ignorance of ethics/judgement.

The Donroe Doctrine in Latin America has 2 functions: regime change for any left-leaning, duly-elected government, and theft of natural resources. US pretense has now been shaken off, and Trump speaks openly about killing and stealing as he wishes.

We've regressed to the point where pity/anger is what we owe towards any American who supports either of the political parties. And, as the cause for it, we should remind them that affiliation with any these monsters indicates a relationship with sycophancy.

Sycophancy is giving up your power of discernment to move in the orbit of someone more powerful. As when you accept Elon Musk's speculation: only 20% chance AI will wipe out humanity—80% chance it does some good. As with Trump—what an asshole!

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erik@neverhadaboss.com. And thank you.

