

Essay 2: War is Peace



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No one prefers peace as much as the dominant order does. Peace is, in essence, when divested of rights-based substance: a freeze in those human activities that yield aggression, violence, and disorder. In addition, real changes do not occur during a peace. Change can be achieved with non-violence, but they cannot occur in a calm. Such 'peace' is that of sheep grazing or serfs cultivating; a happy imagined tranquility like that of Switzerland. Except when normative peace is just a muffled grindhouse covering over the structural genocide called poverty; it does not last long. If you are a Norwegian then the world is a highly peaceful place indeed. If interrupted by demands, followed by disruptions of economic and political order, it then fast devolves into great violence as expectations based on real and imagined rights or daily injustice propel rebellions forward. The uninvolved and unaffiliated of course, pay the highest price. Rape and barbarism follows. That violence then cascades into a cycle, but there is no real beneficiary. Only losers, imagined winners, and changed survivors. All are changed for the worst. Rarely do these rebellions yield equitable settlements. Only purges, concessions or quarantines. Rarely does the conflict profiteering reach a level that trumps the value of legitimate normative commerce, except perhaps in the cases of Colombia, Israel, South Korea and the DRC. Intractability and its subsequent total cost in lives and national treasure benefits no one in theory, but in reality some parasitical cluster always do profit quite well off of an endless war. If war can now be understood divested of constructed nationalism, 'the great human war' has never ended. Peace has classically meant ceasefire at the core; stalemate at semi-periphery and at periphery proper; the developing world remains in a state of constant war that ensures its crippled dependency. Since peace is not just an absence of war, there is supposedly some justice attached to it: it has never existed except in the minds of college professors. An incomplete peace; or peace at the global core is just the lowest intensity war taking place in bloodthirsty magnitude in all outer reaches of the globe.

The media attention paid to resolve troubles in Northern Ireland, Israel and South Africa is because they were semi-peripheral nations, with strong economies with Caucasian elite populations (Hasenfeld, 2002). Now in 2014 Ireland via the EU is part of the core, South Africa is part of the BRICS economic alliance, and Israel is status-quo as all invested therein prefer it. This is not just a purely Wallerstienian economic designation within world systems theory; this is also about regional power, global

culture, about psychological pacification of populations into manageable units.

The goal of all warfare is to dispose of human surplus while acquiring new markets. The goal of all peace is to freeze the victories of a war into manageable markets. The goal of nearly all development is make those newly acquired markets dependent on the economic priorities of the core while at optimum yield. The sloganeering 'no development with out peace, no peace without development' is the kind of self-actualizing rhetoric that that deludes and denuders the force of our moral message and the validity of our field. 'Peace' is never in the interests of the oppressed and disenfranchised until that peace is firmly coupled with the needed structural changes to affect development and achieve the human rights that compose the baseline of any meaningful freedom.

Peace, like 'freedom' or 'development' is a relative term. They connote in one sense unmeasurable abstractions often in relation to their negative values of war, oppression and poverty. An Old Russian idiom loosely translates to 'that if you are starving and I am full then we have nothing to talk about; we have no common perspective'. The same applies to measurements of war, poverty, peace, needs or rights. If the World Bank and United Nations achieve success in measuring how many millions go from one to two dollars per family a day or how many how much multi-dimensional poverty was measured in the nuances of earthen floors and running water; those terms, those measurements; those aspirations ensure that peace, freedom and development remain malleable abstracts. Both war and peace are forms of highly orchestrated political leveraging. Let us briefly examine several contemporary cases where people and intuitions are currently thriving on the perpetuation of war.

At The Core: The United States of America has almost unceasingly waged imperial war since 1775 (Boot, 2014). This war engine vastly expanded its control of geographic territory and propelled its economic growth. Coupled synergistically with popular culture and a massive development enterprise the hard power needed to open up markets to core dependency was based on this triumvirate: perpetual war, manufactured consent and development aid. The USA thrives on this perpetual war, which is always on either side of two vast oceans with the noted exception of the terrorist operations of 11 September. A key component of this war machine is its reliance on two soft power components that are far more important than overwhelming military might. The United States has not decisively 'won' a war since 1945 with the exception of Panama, Haiti and

Grenada (Blum, 2003). Massive deployments into proxy conflicts with Russian and China have only resulted in stalemates (Korea), losses (Vietnam), state disintegrations (USSR & Iraq) or prolonged occupations with minimal lasting impacts (Afghanistan). Not a single American war since the war with German & Japan have tangibly advanced the proclaimed objective of the war effort; nominally to defeat revolutionary socialism and presently Salafist Jihadi political Islam.

Looking at that equation, it is unclear how the USA can justify a military expenditure of \$756.4 billion for FY 2015; a foreign troop commitment of over 160,000 abroad, especially weighed by the fact that since 1945 there has only been ONE singular attack on US soil (11 September). The answer is that the point of the war is to dispose of resources and tie up large bodies of underemployed men abroad. The warfare unleashed unceasingly by the United States is just an abrasive prong for insertion of its culture and economy. The culture is a mass socialization campaign to promote extravagant consumerism on the global level under the auspices of cosmopolitanism. The economy is a globalized web of supply chains meeting an artificial demand and the interlinking of markets to link the periphery and semi-periphery to the dictates of the core. The national & ethnic conflicts are an illusion. They are not historically important to the process of war or peace. The old wars disposed of excess resources and unneeded labor reserves launched by states. The new wars are non-state actors either resisting the economic designs of the core or fighting for scraps in the wilderness (Kaldor, 2003).

Why the US Oligarchy cannot ever allow peace is as follows. 1) Dismantling the military-industrial complex would free up an enormous budget for health, education and humanitarian aid, radically altering class dynamics in the country. 2) Less important that the overt military might is the intelligence community and its facilitation of assassinations, color revolutions, proxy wars and clandestine dealings that are how US power was projected with great success off the battlefield. 3) A highly educated and physically healthy population without the military and secret police so robust would very quickly topple the government of the United States and dissolve the union. For those three reasons, the war will never end.

China is a far older and sophisticated hegemon that will soon be contesting the US-EU core monopoly. It has so far avoided old wars after Korea. Its belligerency on the South China Sea has been limited but its resource colonization in Africa has been expansive. It has via State Capitalism purchased 1.12 trillion in US debt, developed a military at y, and

will eventually use this force to regain control of Taiwan. Peace with Taiwanese is clearly impossible for it admits remaining a semi-peripheral power.

Russia has since 1991 been engaging in proxy war to retain its shattered territory. Wars in Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Chechnya, Tajikistan and Ukraine have proceeded without pause since 1991. Over 140,000 Russian citizens of Chechen descent were slaughtered in the two Chechnya Wars in (1994-2004). Russia has of course ceaselessly supplied its regional client Syria with modern war material throughout the bloody civil war. It retains control of its Mediterranean port. The clear aim of the war machine is to reconstruct the USSR around the new oligarchy of United Russia (Politkovskaya, 2005). Thanks to the help of the WB/IMF, a transnational mafia coalesced around a disbanded intelligence service (KGB) has fully privatized a nuclear-armed state.

To attain core status or multi-polarity both the PRC and the RF will continue to fuel the endless war at the **Semi-Periphery: North & South Korea**: It seems sometimes forgotten that the 1950 Korean War was a rather direct engagement between USA and China (Gaddis, 2005). That it split the country into two diametrically opposed ideological camps; the North a post-communist junta and the South a Neo-liberal Oligarchy; America's Israel in Asia. There cannot ever be peace between these two factions because the union of one will dissolve the hegemon-backed party of the other. They mutually reinforce inequity on either side of the line by perpetuating the war. While deprivation reigns in the north, the South is highly unequal and periodically highly unfree.

Cuba was until 1989 USSR's Israel; the Communist Party of Cuba has a lot to lose if the embargo ends. Without the full opposition of the USA there is incredible likelihood market forces, the return of the highly reactionary Cuban diaspora and rapid opening of the society could crumble the regimes social capital. It is in the interest of the Cuban government to never normalize relations with the United States and carry on the cold war indefinitely. At the same; time Cuba must be very careful; Venezuelan oil subsidies are bank rolling her medical internationalism. Nicaragua, Bolivia and Venezuela have all closely aligned policy via ALBA towards 21st century socialism. In **Colombia** a Russian/Cuban/Venezuelan backed civil war has gone on since 1964 killing so far over 200,000 people; while both Socialist insurgent groups ELN and FARC-EP have been severely weakened; the Columbian government has taken back a great deal of

control. The war however cannot end for any party. For the Colombian government its huge source of US military aid and for the dual insurgency entangled in cocaine transshipment it is much about revenue as survival. In the meantime, the drug and human traffic heading north spreads conflict throughout Central America; notably in Honduras, Haiti and Mexico.

Israel Palestine: Both the Israelis and the Palestinians have nothing to gain from peace either. Any territorial adjustment they make will be inadequate (Kovel, 2007). They cannot share a society, and they will not compromise. In addition, they are not killing or dying at proportional rates to necessarily need to (under 26,000 since 1948) though natural birth will challenge the 'Jewish' nature of the state by 2050. What happens in Palestine directly affects Jordan, where over 70% of the population is Palestinian (Morris, 2009). In neighboring, disintegrating Syria (also above 200,000 body count); if the Alawites surrender, they will be genocided. ISIS has emerged since perhaps the time of the Zionist expansion into Palestine or the Iranian proxy expansion into Lebanon as the largest para-state military operation since 1945. Hezbollah in Syria and Lebanon has no way to make any peace except via Iran from stopping to back them. In imagined Kurdistan; the Kurds are the largest group of people without their own state; 25-35 million people spread out over four nations are slowly coming to achieve their autonomy. Not a single faction in this region benefits from a peace that leaves them second, third or fourth-class citizens. In the meantime, USA arms Israel and Egypt, Israel and USA arm the Kurds, Russia arms Syria, Iran arms Hezbollah and Iraqi Shi'a while Saudi Arabia and Qatar arm Sunnis. Peace cannot come until the border of Sykes-Picot are wiped away. It does not begin in Jerusalem although active efforts to Balkanize the Middle East probably do. As for **India & Pakistan**, we see again, what amounts to a once singular Mughal state locked in a post-colonial perpetual war, which abuts well the elites of both nations.

Moreover, at **the Periphery: North & South Sudan** before it broke in two parts was defined a reverse consociationalist republic: one where diverse elite groups at the core perpetuated violence at the periphery to monopolize the national wealth; preventing violence in Khartoum by perpetuating the violence in hard bursts at the national periphery. Truly, a perpetuation in a peripheral nation what the Oligarical collective does at the core. Suffice to say Chinese oil money and weapons have enabled a genocide in Darfur that has swallowed over 400,000 since 2004 as well as a civil war that have broken the nation into north/south. As the South has the oil and the North, the extraction logistics and Chinese contracts this

bloodletting will go on for some time. Especially with the US military industrial commitments to South Sudan. In **Rwanda**; the Rwandan Patriotic Front built their nation on the back of Tutsi/Hutu genocide and now perpetuate a mythology about it for the economic health of the nation. After a four-year insurgency (1990-1994) which triggered the actual genocide in 1998 the RPF (and many allies) invaded Zaire (now the **DRC**), igniting what has come to be called the African World War where over 5.4 million have perished. Kagame milks the core for genocide guilt money while his proxy fighters milk the DRC for their minerals, which are illegally exported via Rwanda (Uvin, 1998)(Herman, 2010) (Prunier, 2008)(Stearns, 2011).

States have recently dissolved completely into relative anarchy in eastern Syria, Western Iraq, Northern Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and the CAR. 15 genocides have been documented post 1945 (Gellately, 2003). In as real sense as we have seen peace and war are loaded words but they are not objective realities. If peace is the absence of violence then we have war in but 35 and counting territories. However, those that are paying for these new wars are same players that were paying for the old. Paying in the sense of selling the weapons, paying as in paying with lives.

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