

TRUMP'S FOREIGN POLICY MIRRORS HIS TARIFF FLIP FLOPS.

The twists and turns in Trump's foreign policy cannot be understood out of context. The context is that Trump is aware of the deep-seated war weariness in the US and the resentment over monies spent abroad on wars and propping up allies. Trumps policies seek to negotiate these obstacles.

Whether it is Ukraine, Iran or Israel, Trump's policies are unfathomable, blowing hot and cold, reversing course and full of denial. One wonders if the average person in the US is aware of these gyrations, not that the President will own up to them, even less explain them away. It's worth putting Trump's contradictory positions alongside each other. The Table below provides a brief synopsis.

On Zelensky		On Putin	
Then	Now	Then	Now
Zelensky bad guy for refusing to negotiate a peace deal	Zelensky good guy for supporting a ceasefire	Trump butters up Putin saying he is a great guy whom he can work with.	Putin is a bad guy because he refuses the 30-day ceasefire
Zelensky Humiliated in White House	Zelensky feted in Europe including by US representatives.	Putin is someone Trump negotiate with.	Putin is now obstinate as he is refusing US demands.
Zelensky kept out of the earlier negotiations in Saudi Arabia.	Zelensky goes to Istanbul with Trump & EU backing		
In Saudi the US insisted it would deal directly with Russia not Ukraine.	Trump insists on direct negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.		Trump says any deal relies on him meeting Putin.
Zelensky puts conditions on mineral deal.	Zelensky signs mineral deal.		
Trump says no more arms and financial support for Ukraine.	Trump uses the fictional minerals deal to arm and finance Ukraine.		Putin holds firm, peace talks are needed to address the issues of war.

As I said in my previous article, Trump's anger in early March towards Zelensky was due to Zelensky refusing to enter into peace negotiations with Russia. The whole idea had been for Putin to reject these negotiations which fell well short of Russian demands, not Zelensky, so the US could portray Putin as the bad guy. But Zelensky steadfastly refused to entertain any territorial concessions including Crimea, so this was a non-starter.

Plan B was the unconditional 30-day ceasefire which the Trump Administration knew the Kremlin would not and could not accept because this would allow the Ukraine to regroup and re-arm and because Kyiv has never honoured any ceasefire since 2014. This ceasefire is not a serious offer, but one intended to call out Putin, to allow the Western Media to assert, as they have done, that it is the other side that does not want peace and instead are intent on war.

It should be said the same is true for the EU and Britain. In all the European countries there is unease amongst their populations over all the warmongering and expenditures on the war in Ukraine. So, they need this charade as much as the US. At least one it can be said the one of the mis-directions has been

set aside and that is the cultivated dispute between the EU and the US over the conduct of the war, with the US appearing to favour peace while the EU continued to favour war. Now both are joined at the hip diplomatically around the ceasefire call and any consequences which will follow its predictable failure. In short it is becoming more obvious that both sides of the Atlantic remain intent on continuing the war to tie up Russia.

Which brings us to the circus in Istanbul. Zelensky has challenged Putin, playground style, to meet him face to face in Turkey, ignoring the decree he himself enacted in Autumn 2022 banning any negotiations with Putin. Putin clearly had no plans to dignify this charade and instead has dispatched a medium level delegation to Istanbul which Zelensky promptly denounced as a *sham delegation*. Predictably the discussions broke up after only two hours with the only agreement an agreement to keep on talking at some point in the future.

The West have threatened Russia with a crushing storm of sanctions should they not agree to a ceasefire by Monday. This is typical Western bad faith negotiations; do what we say or else. But those days are long gone. NATO has been beaten on the Steppes of Ukraine, and it will take years to rebuild their arsenals.

It is important to point out that it is peace negotiations which results in a ceasefire, and not the other way round, or in other words, it is unusual for a ceasefire to precede peace negotiations. The former is the serious and good faith route, while the latter is the unserious and bad faith route. Why should Russia accept a ceasefire in the absence of substantive peace negotiations which addresses the root causes of the war? In any case these matters are normally decided on the battlefield and here the Ukrainians are falling back at an increasing rate with Russia now capturing between 25 and 50 square kilometres each day. Something which the Ukrainian government refuses to acknowledge.

The Russians are justifiably wary of a ceasefire providing Ukraine with the opportunity of provoking a war between Russia and Europe. Such a ceasefire would undoubtedly contain provisions for breaches meaning Kyiv could invoke triggers drawing in a NATO response. Western imperialism has a history of provoking such violations.

However, in the absence of a ceasefire, the West has plan C, provocations on the high sea. Should Monday come and go it is likely the West will announce further embargoes on Russian oil, including the right to seize what is called Russia's shadow fleet of tankers. Already there is evidence of such practice runs in the Baltic eliciting a Russian naval and aerial response. It is clear that any physical confrontation on the high seas leading to casualties amongst NATO sailors or pilots will provide a pretext for expanding the war.

Whatever the case, whether it is the Ukraine or Iran, the timing of any war depends on the timing of the war with China. It makes no strategic sense to the planners in the Pentagon for full scale wars to erupt before the US has finished its preparations for the Pacific Theatre. Nor does it make sense starting a war before the US and the EU have secured key supply chains to keep its industries going when it cuts off China. And the US is still not fully prepared, needing to play for time through its negotiations with Russia and Iran. But as the saying goes, even with the best laid plans...

There is a further consideration. Trump's extortionate tariffs, which he called reciprocal tariffs, were designed to drive a wedge between most countries and China, as much as they were intended to re-industrialise the US. They were really a bullying ultimatum and were seen to be thus by for example

the Japanese opposition parties in their parliament. Cease trading with China or you will be blocked from US markets and finance was the guts of the threat. In many ways the US was emulating what happened in 1945 via Bretton woods only this time using tariffs and sanctions, except of course this is not 1945 when the US was the undisputed power on the planet. But this tariff war, regardless of what the outcome is, is already hurting less developed economies, because of the disruption to their exports and thus their ability to earn foreign currencies. It will increase their dependency on the IMF, and we all know which country benefits from that.

The next three to six months will tell whether Trump has forced countries to opt for staying close to an erratic, destructive and declining imperial power or to align themselves with a rising Asia including China. This is a particularly acute test for the US now that it has lost the technical prowess to coerce its opponents. This was on display this week when the panicked US decreed that no country would be allowed to use Huawei's [Ascend A.I. chips](#). The reason they gave was laughable. Huawei had used US software to develop these chips. The US should be so honoured. In the future it is unlikely that China will be stealing US tech, more a case of US stealing Chinese tech as China pulls ahead.

If Trump fails in this quest, which must be emphasised, is his final commercial throw of the dice, then all that remains is war. And just as in Huawei's case, the US got a wake-up call during [the Indian Pakistan conflict](#) a few days ago when Chinese air to air missiles, electronic warfare and radars outmatched western supplied equipment and planes. Up until then the outdated racist opinions over the quality of Chinese military gear flourished. Just as the US is about to lose its Tech supremacy, so it is the case that it is losing or has lost its military supremacy against China as well, not that this will stop it, as it has too much to lose.

Conclusion.

No-one should be duped by all these negotiations. They are aimed at pacifying their populations. The US is intent on war, though its window of opportunity to win such a war is rapidly closing if not already closed. This won't stop the US, it will simply raise the nuclear stakes. The imperialists are without humanity. They are all President Truman's who did not hesitate about nuking Japan to project power.

But the imperialists are not having it their own way. Their populations are becoming increasingly distrustful hence the lengths they are going to, to pretend to talk peace. 2025 is turning into a crucial year for the human race. We need to redouble and then redouble our efforts to mobilise workers around the world to prevent this catastrophe. We have a long way to go.

**NO WAR BETWEEN NATIONS
NO PEACE BETWEEN CLASSES**

Brian Green, 16th May 2025.