

WITH A FRIEND LIKE TRUMP WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?

The scramble for Latin America has been joined by the scramble to turn Greenland into the Greenback. The rules-based order has once again been revealed, as he who rules the waves, rules. The Trump blunt axe is cleaving the world into two hemispheres, West and East.

I will begin with Greenland. There were great expectations that it would be the EU and Britain who would cave in over Greenland, but in the end, it was Trump under pressure from his nemesis, Wall Street, who did. With 10-year bond yield approaching 4.3% and with a stock market plunge not seen in 3 months it was Trump who withdrew his threat to invade Greenland militarily and to tariff his European partners were they to refuse to accept his demands unconditionally. (To a lesser extent Trump was putting NATO on the block.) By Wednesday Trump removed his threats reverting to offering to buy Greenland and cover it with a golden dome thereby appealing to the Danish Government's rabid antipathy to Russia. Not so much Donald Duck as Chicken Little crying wolf once again.

There is much confusion over US imperialism's newfound infatuation with Greenland. The official line is it's all about the exploitation of its wealth namely exotic minerals under the message if we don't dig them up the Chinese will. In fact, it's all about the military advantages Greenland offers. Firstly, with Europe in disarray and NATO humbled, the Eastern flank protecting the approaches to the North Atlantic has become less robust. Bolstering this with the Western flank formed by Greenland makes strategic sense to the Pentagon, especially at a time when the natural barrier provided by the Arctic ice sheet is fracturing due to global warming.

Secondly, the high latitudes hosted by Greenland offers space-warfare advantages. Only the northern tips of Canada and Siberia are closer to the geographic North Pole than Greenland. The reason this is important is that most [military satellites especially surveillance satellites](#) are put into polar orbit converging on this part of the globe. "[For this reason, the largest commercial ground station is located in the region, on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.](#)". This is also the area where the densest web of seabed communication cables is found, attracting or so we are told, flotillas of Russian and Chinese cable cutting vessels. The advantage of siting receiver stations in high latitudes is that the speed of earth's rotation falls from over 1600 km per hour at the equator to zero at the poles, which when added to convergence, ensures that the duration of the line of sight with satellites is increased.

The latest development is the negotiation on Thursday between Mark Rutte NATO's general secretary and Trump. The fact that it was a negotiation between NATO and the US rather than with the EU says it all, namely that this was always about US security needs. Much has been made of Denmark ceding parts of Greenland to the US but in reality the [US often leases land in foreign countries](#) on which to site its bases and however Trump spins it, this is likely to be the arrangement reached though few details have been leaked. In the meantime, Greenland's premier said that Greenland sovereignty "[was a red line](#)".

But even as Trump was trying to rope in Greenland to build fortress Western Hemisphere, Canada was inching away from the US with a new trade deal with China. This was a calculated move based on the Canadian Government's reassessment of the new world order. This was made clear during [Premier Carney's groundbreaking speech](#) at Davos. In effect he said that hitching Canada's economic prospects to a declining and unpredictable US order was no longer viable, and that middle ranking countries now had to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Sino-US split, in short to play one

superpower off against another. This is a salutary lesson, the first amongst many, to what happens when allies are mistreated by the flailing US empire as it seeks to save itself at their expense. Trump's first comments concerning the trade deal were not condemnatory, that won't last.

Iran.

Iran is stable for the moment. The Zionist Yankee axis of reaction has failed to execute regime change twice now in under a year. It is instructive that the axis was forced to choose internal means because they did not have the external military means to achieve this goal. More likely the internal violence was intended to weaken the regime's ability to fight back making Iran vulnerable to external means. The speed, once again, with which the Iranian authorities regrouped shutting off the means of communication, particularly Starlinks, spoke once more to the overestimation by the axis about the level of opposition to the regime together with an underestimation of the resilience and capacities of the regime itself, especially when backed up by Russia and China.

Trump senses that Washington and Tel Aviv have been thwarted. To avoid any sign of US weakness and to regain the initiative, on his way back from Davos on Airforce One, he said the US was watching Iran. He warned them of an approaching armada. *"We have a big flotilla going in that direction. We'll see what happens,"* He repeated *"We have a big force going toward Iran,"* Trump understands even when not egged on by the Zionists that Iran is the key battleground in the war against Russia and China.

The defeats in Ukraine and Iran of Imperialist ambitions are much more consequential than the victories gained in Syria and Venezuela. One thing is for certain, the axis of reaction headed by Mossad, the CIA and Mi6 will not rest until regime change is affected in Iran. On the other hand, it is likely that Iran, China and Russia will become more integrated in their efforts to repel the axis of reaction. For a good analysis of the history of intrigue against Iran this [New Atlas](#) report is good viewing.

Ukraine.

I would like to begin this section with a personal statement which I first added to my Facebook page.

"Whilst recognising that it was the US and NATO who provoked the Ukraine war and whilst recognising that it is the EU who is preventing the war from ending, the Russian obliteration of the energy network in Ukraine condemning the civilian population in Western Ukraine and the Odessa region to suffer a freezing winter, amounts to collective punishment constituting a war crime, on the scale of the sieges of Leningrad and Stalingrad during the second world war as well as the city wide aerial bombings of German and Japanese cities at the time." There is evidence that hundreds of thousands of residents in Kyiv are now fleeing the city. In other cities there are now regular protests over the lack of electricity and heating.

I have always criticised the conduct of the war in Ukraine beginning with the naivety of Putin in the early days besieging Kyiv to force Zelensky to the negotiating table in Istanbul only to have the emerging peace treaty torn up by Western Imperialism with financial threats and promises that NATO would go all out in supporting Ukraine. Instead, what the Russian army should have done was to secure the borders of Kherson, Zaporizhia, Luhansk and Donetsk trapping the Ukrainian troops present in these Oblasts and building border fortifications to prevent any offensives from the direction of Western Ukraine. By splitting the Ukrainian army and preventing reinforcements entering, the Russian army would have gained the initiative and the advantage.

Instead, what followed was a war of attrition. In many ways this is a novel war. Its purpose is not territorial but demographic, to eliminate as many fighting age Ukrainians as possible. And it has worked as [this graphic shows](#). The normal age-related graphic is shaped like a pyramid, but the Ukrainian graphic is shaped like an hourglass, due on the male side to the death of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers, and on the female side to migration. This has been a cruel war as all proxy wars are.

But this war is coming to an end. The Ukrainian army is reeling. And as Russia's grip on Ukraine tightens so its demands are getting more strategic. These demands no longer just cover the four Oblasts. Moscow is now reframing peace by [insisting on a security framework](#) for the whole region, including Europe, blaming the war in Ukraine on the absence of such a framework. This development is under-reported by the Western Media. It serves a further purpose. It undermines the western narrative that Russia is about to invade Europe, it undermines the rationale put forward that Europe needs to re-arm.

As the crisis deepens for Ukraine, Trump once again dispatched his handpicked envoys, Laurel and Hardy, or as they are more commonly known, Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, to Moscow to meet with Putin. This comes only 6 weeks after their last farcical trip to Moscow. Trump's propensity to send businessmen to Moscow shows his ongoing attempts to solicit the support of Russian oligarchs to sow dissent amongst the leadership in Moscow. This time they came away with the promise of a trilateral meeting in Abu Dhabi, the first since the outbreak of hostilities in 2022. Zelensky confirmed Ukraine would be present after he attended Davos having finally secured a face-to-face meeting with Trump there. This trilateral meeting is the first tangible development since Anchorage when Trump and Putin last met in August last year.

The usual positive diplomatic clucking noises are coming out of Washington, Moscow and Kyiv, but given Zelensky's ongoing opposition to territorial concessions, the main sticking point, a successful peace agreement is still unlikely to succeed. And this can be expected even if Trump has agreed to sweeten this concession by offering US support for a security guarantee to Ukraine following any agreement. However, besides the battlefield losses, there are two indications that Zelensky may be cornered, firstly, he feels Brussels may no longer have his back, hence his extraordinary Davos attack on Europe for not standing up to the USA, and secondly, the growing civilian discord within Ukraine itself. To this we may add that the Ukrainian budget is bare while the flow of funds into Ukraine is diminished, but without this money the glue holding the Ukrainian establishment together is coming unstuck. In sum Zelensky's wriggle room is reducing by the week.

In the meantime, and in the background, the low-grade war between Russia and the West continues unabated. Mossad, the CIA and Mi6 continue their intrigues and machinations to undermine both Russia and China. In many ways these peace meetings instigated by Trump are vanity projects to hide true intent. That intent was spelt out in November's [US National Security Strategy](#) where Washington conceded it could no longer dominate the world, settling for ensuring no other country, aka China, could.

Conclusion.

Trump projects power. He wraps himself in the aura of invincibility. He prances before the cameras. But beneath all this hype his actions are timid with the exceptions of bullying of smaller countries unable to defend themselves. He tests the water rather than breaking ice. He is always looking over

his shoulder at Wall Street, ready to step back whenever economic weakness appears. He is a showman with little to show when resistance steps in the way. This is commensurate with a declining empire where swagger replaces diplomacy and bravado replaces capacity.

Brian Green, 23rd January 2026.