



# Moon of Alabama

Where Barflies Get Together

*And must have whiskey  
Oh, you know why*

## « Open Thread 2019-44 | Main

**August 03, 2019**

### **Why The End Of The INF Treaty Will Not Start A New Arms Race**

Yesterday the U.S. left the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. The end of this and other treaties that eliminated or restricted the deployment of nuclear systems is seen by some as the beginning of a news arms race:

William J. Perry - @SecDef19 - 7:37 PM · Aug 2, 2019

The U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty today deals a great blow to nuclear arms control and global security, we are sleepwalking into a new arms race.

The former Secretary of Defense is wrong. The race will not happen because Russia (and China) won't run. Or said differently, they already won.

To understand why that is the case we have to look at the history if the nuclear treaties and their demise.

In 1976 the Soviet Union started to deploy nuclear armed SS-20 (RSD-10 Pioneer) intermediate range missiles in Europe. The west-Europeans, especially Germany, feared that these missiles would decouple the U.S. from western Europe. The Soviet Union might tell the U.S. that it would not use its intercontinental nuclear missiles against the U.S. mainland as long as the U.S. would not fire its intercontinental missiles into the Soviet Union. It could then use the SS-20 to attack NATO in Europe while the U.S. would refrain from nuclear counter strikes on the Soviet Union. Europe would become a nuclear battle field while the U.S. and the Soviet Union would be left untouched.

The German chancellor Helmut Schmidt urged the U.S. to station nuclear armed intermediate range missiles in western Europe to press the Soviets to eliminate the SS-20. In 1979

NATO made the double track decision. It would deploy U.S. made Pershing II missiles in Europe and at the same time offer the Soviet Union a treaty to ban all such intermediate range weapons. The effort was successful.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) between the U.S. and the Soviet Union (later Russia) banned all of the two countries' land-based ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310-3,420 mi). All SS-20 and Pershing II missiles were withdrawn and destroyed. A nuclear war in Europe became less likely.

Another successful treaty was the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. It prohibited both sides from deploying more than one ABM system. It was necessary because the side that thought it had a working anti-ballistic missile defense could launch a massive first strike on the other side, destroy most of its forces, and defend itself against the smaller retaliation strike that would follow. Both sides were better off with prohibiting ABM in general and to rely on Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) for the prevention of a nuclear war.

In June 2002 U.S. President George W. Bush, under the influence of one John Bolton, withdrew from the ABM treaty which led to its termination. The U.S. deployed ABM system in Alaska and California but during tests the systems proved to be unreliable.

The U.S. claimed at that time that ABM was needed to defend against nuclear missiles from North Korea and Iran. That was always obvious nonsense. At that time North Korea had no missile that could reach the United States and Iran has no nukes and limits the range of its missiles to 2,000 kilometer.

Russia saw the U.S. step as an attempt to achieve a first strike capability against it. It immediately started the development of new system that would make the U.S. anti-missile defense irrelevant.

The U.S. also pressed NATO to deploy ABM systems in Europe. Iran was again cited as the main danger. Plans were developed to deploy Patriot and THAAD anti-missile system in Poland and Romania. These did not immediately endangered Russia. But in 2009 President Obama canceled the deployment and came up with a more devilish plan. The AEGIS system used on many U.S. war ships would be converted into a land based version and deployed in an alleged ABM role. AEGIS consist of radar, a battle management system and canister missiles launchers. The big issue is that these canisters can contain very different types of missiles. While the Standard Missile-2 or 3 can be launched from those canisters in an ABM role, the very same canisters can

also hold nuclear armed cruise missile with a range of 2,400 kilometer.

Russia had no means to detect which type of missiles the U.S. would deploy on these sites. It had to assume that nuclear intermediate range nuclear missiles will be in those canisters. In 2016 the U.S. activated the first of these AEGIS ashore systems in Romania. It was that step that broke the INF treaty.

That Obama had earlier signed a nuclear agreement with Iran that made sure that Iran would never build nukes made it obvious that Russia is the one and only target of those system:

During a visit to Greece intended to repair ties with the EU, Vladimir Putin said that Russia has “no choice” but to target Romania, which has recently opened a NATO missile defense base, and Poland, which plans to do so within two years.

“If yesterday people simply did not know what it means to be in the crosshairs in those areas of Romania, then today we will be forced to carry out certain measures to ensure our security. And it will be the same with Poland,” Putin said during a joint press conference with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens on Friday.

...

“At the moment the interceptor missiles installed have a range of 500 kilometers, soon this will go up to 1000 kilometers, and worse than that, they can be rearmed with 2400km-range offensive missiles even today, and it can be done by simply switching the software, so that even the Romanians themselves won’t know,” said Putin, who is in Greece for a two-day tour.

Russia urged the U.S. to negotiate about the issue but the U.S. rejected that. A year after the U.S. deployed its system in Romania it alleged that Russia itself was in breach of the INF treaty. It claimed that Russia deployed the 9M729 missile, an extended range version of a previous missile, with a range that exceeds the limits of the INF treaty. Russia says that the missile is just a technical upgrade of an older one and has a maximum range below 500 kilometers. The U.S. never provided evidence for its claim.

In January 2019 the U.S. rejected a Russian offer to inspect the new Russian missile and started to pull out of the INF treaty. It gave a six month notice on February 2 and yesterday the INF treaty terminated.

Neither the *New York Times* obituary of the treaty nor the *CNN* write-up mention the ABM system in Romania and Poland that were the first to breach of the treaty. Both repeat the unproven claim that Russia deployed new intermediate range systems as fact.

The Europeans in NATO are not happy about the treaty's end:

The official demise of a landmark arms control pact between the US and Russia is a "bad day" for stability in Europe, the military alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told CNN Friday, hours after the US withdrew from the pact.

Speaking to CNN's Hala Gorani, the Norwegian politician called the end of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Moscow a "serious setback."

"I'm part of a political generation that was shaped during the 1980s, where we all were concerned for the risk of nuclear war and where we were actually able to reach the INF treaty that didn't only reduce the missiles but banned all intermediate range missiles and weapons," he said.

Stoltenberg went on to blame Russia without mentioning the fake U.S. "ABM" sites in Romania and Poland.

It was John Bolton who was behind the demise of the ABM treaty and it was John Bolton who convinced Trump to terminate the INF treaty. With Bolton in the lead the New Start treaty, which limits intercontinental systems but ends in 2021, will likely not be renewed. Soon the whole system of treaties that limited U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons and delivery means will be gone.

Why is the U.S. so eager to end all these? It is known John Bolton hates anything that restricts the U.S., but there is also a larger strategy behind it. The U.S. believes that it defeated the Soviet Union by creating an arms race that the Soviets lost. It hopes that it can do the same with a recalcitrant Russia. But that calculation is wrong. President Putin has long said that Russia will not fall for it:

Moscow will not engage in an exhausting arms race, and the country's military spending will gradually decrease as Russia does not seek a role as the "world gendarme," President Vladimir Putin said.

Moscow is not seeking to get involved in a "pointless" new arms race, and will stick to "smart decisions" to strengthen its defensive capabilities, Putin said on Friday during an annual extended meeting of the Defense Ministry board.

As Patrick Armstrong explains well:

Putin & Co have learned: Russia has no World-Historical purpose and its military is just for Russia. They understand what this means for Russia's Armed Forces:

Moscow doesn't have to match the US military; it just has to checkmate it.

And it doesn't have to checkmate it everywhere, only at home. The US Air Force can rampage anywhere but not in Russia's airspace; the US Navy can go anywhere but not in Russia's waters. It's a much simpler job and it costs much less than what Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev were attempting; it's much easier to achieve; it's easier to plan and carry out. The exceptionalist/interventionist has to plan for Everything; the nationalist for One Thing.

Russia already has all the weapons it needs to defend itself. U.S. warfare depends on satellite communication, air superiority and missiles. But Russia's air defense and electronic warfare systems are first class. They demonstrated in Syria that their capabilities exceed any U.S. systems.

When the U.S. left the ABM treaty Russia started to develop new weapons. In 2018 it was ready and demonstrated weapon systems that defeat any ABM system. The U.S. can not longer achieve first strike capability against Russia no matter how many ABM systems and nukes it deploys. There is no defense against hypersonic systems, nuclear torpedoes or nuclear powered cruise missiles with unlimited reach.

If the U.S. wants to start a new arms race with Russia or China it will be the only one to run. It will have to run fast to catch up.

Unlike the U.S. neither Russia nor China try to achieve world wide hegemony. They only have the need to defend their realm. The U.S. threat against both of them made them allies. If China needs more defense capabilities Russia will be happy to provide these. A U.S. nuclear attack against either of them, from Europe, Japan or the U.S. itself, will be responded to with a nuclear attack on the U.S. mainland. As the U.S. has no ability to defend itself from the new Russian systems it will continue to be deterred.

Posted by b on August 3, 2019 at 18:55 UTC | [Permalink](#)

## Comments

One has to wonder what kind of treaty would replace the Pentagon's continuing public announcements that it will stage a first strike on Russia as soon as it thinks it could win. Such announcements have driven the Russians to abandon any other motivation than to assure the absolute maximum destruction of the American homeland they are capable of producing. Anyone who launches an attack against a opponent who has a hypersonic nuclear arsenal such as the Russian have demonstrated deserves to be exterminated in the retaliatory strike.

Posted by: Vonu | Aug 3 2019 19:13 utc | [1](#)

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Thank you MOA.

Posted by: Dave Welsh | Aug 3 2019 19:25 utc | 2

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Very informative. Thanks b.

But I am not as optimistic as you are. US is in a provocation mode on all fronts. It has started a campaign of “we can fuck with anybody with impunity” and they will force the other superpowers into a confrontation somewhere.

I posted this in the open thread but it is relevant here as well.

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/03/citadels-america-elites-fractured-and-at-odds-with-each-other/>

The ballistic missile discrepancy between Russia and the US is a gap that will be filled. It is just matter of time. And then, Russia will be forced to come up with something deadlier and more superior. That is the nature of arms race.

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 19:47 utc | 3

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Looks like the START nuclear agreement is gone too. It won't be extended, per Bolton.

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/larison/new-start-is-on-the-chopping-block/>

Posted by: Passer by | Aug 3 2019 19:50 utc | 4

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Thanks MoA for showing what a boondoggle our military spending is.

The US war machine is profitable. Oversize yearly increases to the military budget and this issue of updating our nuclear arsenal at \$1.7 trillion plus that get little press that is brought up by presidential candidate Mike Gravel. Of course when asking for Universal Health care, college education and other direct benefits to the people the elite always chime in how are we going to pay for that.

“I’ve seen reports from The Intercept, for example, that the Pentagon has more money than they know what to do with. But maybe they do know what to do with it?”

“Well they sure do; they sure do. Let me give you an example. Right now, this started under Obama. We in Congress have authorized \$1.7 trillion to refurbish our nuclear arsenal. Now, of course if you know the cost overruns the records of Congress, what you know of the Pentagon, is you know we’re talking \$3+ trillion to refurbish our nuclear arsenal.”

<https://merionwest.com/2019/05/31/interview-mike-gravels-priorities-in-running-for-president/>

Posted by: Stever | Aug 3 2019 19:51 utc | 5

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"The ballistic missile discrepancy between Russia and the US is a gap that will be filled. It is just matter of time. And then, Russia will be forced to come up with something deadlier and more superior. That is the nature of arms race."

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 19:47 utc | 3

According to Andrei Martyanov, the US already lost the arms race. Russia can destroy the US 5 times. Therefore does it matter if the US can destroy Russia 10 times? No.

The key point is that there is no current or prospective defense against hypersonic weapons, especially submarine launched, swarms of nuclear powered cruise missiles with unlimited range, or against underwater nuclear drones.

There will be no defense for at least 50 years. So Russia can now calmly decrease its defense budget as it has everything it needs.

Posted by: Passer by | Aug 3 2019 19:56 utc | 6

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For the USA it's all about money and power. I believe the deep state, which runs Washington, DC, desires power, it is the driving force. After all they can print all the money they need. Here's something to chew on. Does the 'deep state' have a back door access to the Federal Reserve Inc., and all CBs? It certainly explains how they can control the drug trade, and all major corporations, politicians, judiciary etc.

Posted by: [joetv](#) | Aug 3 2019 19:57 utc | 7

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What makes you think the Russians won't continue their research and haven't already gotten the next generation after this one lined up. Russian research scientists have always been leading edge, they always fell down on development before. They have demonstrated that they seem to have conquered that shortfall.

Posted by: Winston2 | Aug 3 2019 20:04 utc | 8

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Posted by: Winston2 | Aug 3 2019 20:04 utc | 8

I did not said that they won't, but they won't bankrupt themselves in doing so.

Posted by: Passer by | Aug 3 2019 20:09 utc | 9

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The leaders of the AngloZionist Empire are filled with hubris. The on-going WW3 will inevitably go nuclear, the only question is when. I give it 5 years at the latest.

Posted by: JasonT | Aug 3 2019 20:16 utc | 10

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It is most definitely beyond my imagination, why one mentally ill person can have so much power and is given absolute free reign in matters that affect all of mankind.

John Bolton et al belong into mental healthcare as much as Dr. Strangelove did. It says everything one needs to know about a society that harbors and protects these criminal psychopaths.

In one aspect I totally concur with Bernhard on this topic and have stated it elsewhere:

As someone who lived through the false flag 'incoming ballistic missile alert' in Hawai'i, I witnessed how people felt about being in the cross hairs of another nuclear capable Nation.

This time, it will be 'The Day After' for all of the US mainland. Everybody should know that. If the American population ignores the warning signs - like the fake missile alert - the real missiles will come without alert. That's what hypersonic missiles do.

Therefore, the internal destruction and dissolution of the US society will continue. Thanks to psychopaths like Bolton, Pompeo, Wolfowitz and cohorts.

Posted by: nottheonly1 | Aug 3 2019 20:16 utc | 11

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There is one simple reason that Russia has already sustainably won the new arms race that the Ziocons have initiated against Russia. The Russian MIC works for the defence of Russia, the Ziocon MIC works primarily for the enrichment of the Chosen. It is impossible to both rule the World and line up your own pockets with taxpayers' moneys. Thus in US tactics won over strategy, a hobby won over the day job in the offence called "defence".

This is a deep systemic issue which is impossible to change under the present ownership of US. Thus the Russian new Wunderwaffe are just a symptom of the sustainable systemic advantage.



Posted by: Kiza | Aug 3 2019 20:20 utc | [12](#)

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This is the best explanation of the whole situation available on the internet. Bravo b!

The only thing I would like to add is the schedule of these new Russian strategic weapons entering service. Nuclear-armed hypersonic glide vehicle Avangard (launched in space on top of an ICBM) will enter service by the end of this year. However, the nuclear-armed nuclear-powered intercontinental torpedo Poseidon is still in late development, and will take a few years to enter service. And the nuclear-armed nuclear-powered cruise missile Burevestnik is in what looks like early-to-middle development, and may take many years to enter service. It's one thing to build a nuclear thermal rocket or a nuclear ramjet on the ground (both the U.S. and the Soviet Union did that), it's another thing to achieve a stable nuclear ramjet flight. This will take time. So the immediate factors are Avangard and Poseidon.

Posted by: S | Aug 3 2019 20:24 utc | [13](#)

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@Passer by 6

“there will be no Defence for at least 50 years.”

Do you truly believe that? It is just matter of time, and certainly not 50 years, before US get their hands on similar technology either through R&D, spies or Russian Jewish proxies planted everywhere. Remember the Rosenbergs, although in reverse? There will always be someone in both sides that thinks balance of power is a must. Plus, You are assuming that US military researchers are defeated and they are just going to pack up and go home.

Taking Martyanov's opinion with a grain of salt, I wish I could arrive at the same conclusion as you for a safer world but that's rather naive.

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 20:27 utc | [14](#)

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Posted by: S | Aug 3 2019 20:24 utc | 13

Not a good enough explanation actually.

US exiting the INF is more about China than about Russia, and there, it will give them advantage until China can match Russia's nuclear and missile capabilities.

This happened due to the realisation that the US will soon be unable to win a conventional conflict with China.

The US will soon deploy its new intermediate range conventional missiles in the Pacific Region.

<https://southfront.org/us-military-to-soon-deploy-mid-range-missiles-in-asia/>

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 20:27 utc | 14

Do you truly believe that? It is just matter of time, and certainly not 50 years, before US get their hands on similar technology either through R&D, spies or Russian Jewish proxies planted everywhere.

Dear Uncle Jon, read what i wrote again. It does not matter if the US steals or creates simllar technology, because this will simply lead to the US being able to destroy Russia 10 times instead of 5 times. MAD remais assured, because there is no defense against the combination of submarine launched hypersonic missies (Zircon), HGVs, high speed underwater nuclear drones, and unlimited range crusie missiles, and there won't be defense for at least 50 years, the way i or Martyanov see it.

Posted by: Passer by | Aug 3 2019 20:39 utc | 15

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The new arms race is in 'space': outer space, cyber space, and mind space (broader area than simple propaganda, it includes things like cultural colonization). These represent the ultimate 'high ground'.

The next war (excepting in the middle east or socialist countries in the Americas that are in USA "back yard") will probably be a cyber- or outer-space war.

Can the world find a way to collaborate instead of compete in these spaces? Today it looks unlikely.

Posted by: [Jackrabbit](#) | Aug 3 2019 20:41 utc | 16

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*"...[the US] will continue to be deterred."*

I am not so certain of that. The delusion in America I often write about is the real thing. I am not exaggerating it. Further, I tend to write about this collective mental illness the US suffers from in somewhat dry and understated terms when it actually deserves a "*Holy shit we're all gonna die!!*" level of panic.

Most foreigners looking in at America see it through the lens of corporate mass media and their impressions are colored by holdovers from the country's glory days of Apollo and Dr. Martin Luther King and President Kennedy and so on. Most Americans, attempting their best effort at simulating introspection, also see themselves through the lens of corporate mass media, and what Americans see are superheroes and bulletproof soldiers. Most Americans very literally think that the \$trillions that the US military cannot account for wasn't lost to corruption and graft, but have instead been thriftily used to develop scifi ultra weapons that

can defeat any attack on American soil.

This is a direct consequence of *American exceptionalism*, which impacts the issue in a number of ways. Viewing the matter from this *exceptional* perspective, Americans figure that Russian atomic weapons and their missiles are crap compared with what America has, and most probably will just fizzle or crash when the Russians try to launch them. They are all probably rusty and full of birds nests and cobwebs in any case. Any of Russia's missile that do get off the ground will probably hit the wrong side of the planet too, because they are just Russian crap. Of the Russian missiles that do reach America, most of their warheads won't explode because either they are too old, they are crappy Russian designed, or the bombs are too intimidated by America's awesomeness to explode and mar the shine, so those bombs will just commit suicide by diving into the ocean. The few Russian warheads that continue? Well, that's when America breaks out its super-secret giant frickin` laser beams and zaps them out of the sky!

[Americans reading this thread be like "*Damn this Gruff guy, talking about our secret laser beams!*"]

What's worse is that most Americans firmly believe that Russia won't retaliate for a nuclear attack by America on Moscow. "*We're just going to 'bloody their nose' a little. Hit them with a little tiny baby tactical nuke. Something trivial, like kill a couple hundred thousand in Moscow or something minor like that. The Russians would never resort to all-out war over something inconsequential like that!*"

And yes, Americans are so ill in the head that they really do believe that murdering a few hundred thousand is trivial and isn't something that others should get upset over.

America is spending a \$trillion on developing tactical nukes because they fully intend to use them. Tactical atomic weapons are **not** a deterrent. The only reason to develop them is because it is easier to rationalize using them.

If the Russians, Chinese, Iranians, and America's poodles in Europe think they are dealing with rational people, they are in for far more unpleasant surprises than what Trump has sprung on them so far.

Posted by: William Gruff | Aug 3 2019 20:41 utc | [17](#)

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@nottheonly1 11

Bolton et al are only foot soldiers and enforcers. For the capos, you have to look elsewhere.

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 20:43 utc | [18](#)

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It wasn't wealth that tricked down from the top but the psychopathy sure did.

Posted by: Winston2 | Aug 3 2019 20:53 utc | [19](#)

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Thanks b, hopefully an alliance between China and Russia can blunt the empire's drive for total hegemony.

Let's all hope so..

Posted by: ben | Aug 3 2019 20:58 utc | [20](#)

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@ 19; Man, that's the bottom line truth...

Posted by: ben | Aug 3 2019 20:59 utc | [21](#)

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Follow the Benjamin's baby. There is a lot of money to be made by first scaring the hell out of their own (US) population and their client states and then providing them with the means to protect themselves. Doesn't matter if the stuff works, the racketeering and shakedowns will continue. The US will build and deploy them to Asia and Europe and then get to buy ABM systems. It's a win win for those that really matter.

Posted by: Tom | Aug 3 2019 21:36 utc | [22](#)

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It seems part and parcel of the mania gripping the dollar backed side of the world.

It's race to see if we blow up the world, or implode first.

My money is on the markets imploding first. While there is an awful lot of bluster in the foreign policy, even if the sticks used to beat up the weak are all too real, the not too distant implosion of the currency is inevitable. Throw in a serious earthquake in California and America is going to be looking seriously inward. Hard to seriously blame earthquakes on Russia. Though some will try blaming a stock market crash on them.

Having survived the collapse of the USSR and being sanctioned, Russia is probably best situated to survive the collapse of the global system. It's also a part of the world probably to be least affected by rising temperatures.

Posted by: John Merryman | Aug 3 2019 21:55 utc | [23](#)

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@Uncle Jon | Aug 3 2019 20:43 utc | [18](#)

Bolton et al are only foot soldiers and enforcers. For the capos, you have to look elsewhere.

Yes, of course. I am aware of that. But in the light of the recent 'Demo-erratic Party' establishments priorities, it has become obvious that they are fine with these decrepit people.

The fake Russia story was a big thing - the foot soldiers and enforcers on their way to inconceivable mayhem - not only 'not so much', but 'not at all'. That is the real scary shit. There is no more political power to stem the tide of those who install these puppets. If there ever was.

Posted by: nottheonly1 | Aug 3 2019 21:58 utc | [24](#)

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@ Jackrabbit | Aug 3 2019 20:41 utc | 16

Can the world find a way to collaborate instead of compete in these spaces? Today it looks unlikely.

Indeed. Competition creates winners and losers. Collaboration creates only winners. I have often wondered where mankind could be right now without having wasted all the precious resources for competition and oneupmanship.

Imagine:

"Okay kids, we got the dates for our next field trip. We will be leaving the Pacific Space Center for the Moon on the first week of August. Tell your parents they need to sign the consent form and return it before the end of June..."

Posted by: nottheonly1 | Aug 3 2019 22:12 utc | [25](#)

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It is time for an MRI treaty. Only luck has spared Earth the WW3 of a thousand nuclear explosions, etc. [The etc. is to spare reader depression.]

By use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and other modern tech, the brain lesions and tumors that account for much madness can be used to effectively quarantine from .gov the StrangeloveBoltonMcCain-types, as is done already done with other, known victims of overwhelming, biological hazards.

There was no MRI/CatScan tech to keep Woodrow Wilson off the ballot. Maybe we would be spared our Fed Reserve System and Personal Income Tax insults.

Posted by: chu teh | Aug 3 2019 22:14 utc | [26](#)

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Posted by: Tom | Aug 3 2019 21:36 utc | 22

LOL and so true. Amerika builds weapons for profit and Russia builds weapon for the citizens.

Posted by: jo6pac | Aug 3 2019 22:34 utc | [27](#)

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While I fully agree with your analysis, I'm terrified about the little stuff you left out.

US is clearly trying to achieve first strike capabilities. Medium range missiles surely give the illusion of having such abilities.

If you cut your flight time to less than 10 mins, down from 20+ you get from an ICBM, you certainly give your opponent less time to react successfully. Combine this with the ability to simply drop an (already deployed) nuke from space to target in less than a couple of minutes (do you really think "space force" will not include nukes?), you can create an illusion in Washington circles that they are able to pull a successful first strike through.

I'm terrified of this scenario. First cause there are crazies in D.C. that might try to do it and most importantly because it will force both Russia and China operate with hair trigger defense. If your enemy has the ability to "first strike" you in a few minutes, the more likely is that you will strike back as soon as you can, even if you cannot confirm if what you see is an actual attack or not.

Posted by: Erlindur | Aug 3 2019 22:38 utc | [28](#)

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@15, intermediate range vs China

I think that is exactly correct. Larger and more efficient Chinese industry, and larger population = eventually larger conventional forces. US has maybe 15-20 years before China reaches parity in conventional forces. Possibly half that if Chinese leadership felt particularly threatened.

This is a big headache for US defense planners.

Meanwhile, Bolton and his mates are just crazy. They're trying to provoke conflicts. Sponsors are crazy too, but that's the middle east for you.

Posted by: Pxb | Aug 3 2019 23:39 utc | [29](#)

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It is a mistake to concentrate on the European theatre when discussing the rationale behind the USA's withdrawal from the INF treaty.

This isn't about Europe.  
It isn't even really about Russia.  
It is about China.

The INF Treaty prevents the USA from surrounding China with land-based IRBMs.

Ship-based missiles, yes.  
Carrier-based air-to-land missiles, yes.  
But not shore-based missiles.

Not such a big deal \*except\* that China is free to build as many IRBM as it likes.

That's the core objection from the Exceptional Nation: it will grudgingly accept mutual-prohibitions, but it is beyond maddening to watch Someone Else do something that it is

prevented from doing.

That's all this is about: American bruised pride.

Posted by: Yeah, Right | Aug 4 2019 0:05 utc | [30](#)

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so as long as we are still viewing current happenings through the lens of yesteryears polite discurs and diplomacy we are not going to adjust to the diplomacy of todays mobster governments. D. Trump is a hostage taker. And so far he is collecting his ransoms without ever letting go of the hostage - which is this planet and people. We are already in a weapons race, and chances are that the trumpster in order to show everyone how serious and unscrupulous he is will use some of his toys on some country, after all you have to offer bread and circus to those that have elevated you. Nothing this man has done over the last years was without malice, without indent, without clear planning and strategies, they are living teir alternative reality and facts and you can just shove your history books and watch them burn. there is a new reality, better get used to it.

We are at the year 3 of the new order. Enjoy the ride.

Posted by: Sabine | Aug 4 2019 0:27 utc | [31](#)

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By use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and other modern tech, the brain lesions and tumors that account for much madness can be used to effectively quarantine from .gov the StrangeloveBoltonMcCain-types, ...

Posted by: chu teh | Aug 3 2019 22:14 utc | [26](#)

The reality is more sobering than that. Humans are social creatures and apart from atypical solitaire types that may be overrepresented among commenters here, they form their norms of "common sense" from their milieu. Within the reality of that milieu, what you think is crazy is the common sense. University level education on foreign affairs, modern history etc. is quite polarized between alumni of CIA, military, State Department etc. who fully share beliefs of their milieu and leftist (less frequently, libertarian) folks who never joined their milieu or got disenchanted with it (like those who run Consortium News). Students can believe one set or the other, there is little ground in between, and guess who goes to CIA, military, State Department and politics in general? Add assorted think tanks etc. We have a wide milieu with that runs institutiona, university courses, seminars for political newbies etc., provide expert explanations and useful leaks to journalists who, more often than not, just not know any better (they are hired for docility). Peculiarity of a person like Bolton is a combative personality and choleric temperament, but cultured, mild manner folks can do very much the same kind of thing, with nary a brain lesion.

Posted by: Piotr Berman | Aug 4 2019 0:59 utc | 32

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Dear Passer by:

"...the way i or Martyanov see it."

Glad you cleared that up.

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 4 2019 1:00 utc | 33

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@ nottheonly1 24

I am with you. The political parties are two faces of the same coin as the old cliché goes. But ever so true.

We are in trouble and us voting won't help, at least not at grand theater level.

Posted by: Uncle Jon | Aug 4 2019 1:07 utc | 34

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I just finished watching *'The Day After'*. A few things were most peculiar - watching it in 2019:

In the movie someone is repeatedly stating that "...Hiroshima was peanuts...". The movie also as brilliantly as frighteningly depicted the mindset of the American population at the time of the Pershing II deployment. The real frightening aspect though is the fact that it appears to be sort of a time machine - because it is obvious that not a whole lot has happened in the mindset of the American people since this movie. It should be mandatory to watch in all schools.

Last but not least I like to recite the epilogue of the film, which is also my opinion:

"The catastrophic events you have just witnessed are, in all likelihood, less severe than the destruction that would actually occur in the event of a full nuclear strike against the United States. It is hoped that the images of this film will inspire the nations of this earth, their peoples and leaders, to find the means to avert the fateful day."

The movie is now 36 years old and has not lost an iota of its message. It could be argued - in the face of the recent unilateral breaking of several treaties by the US regime - that the American people and the world at that, are much closer to the scenario depicted in the film, than 36 years ago. Much closer. And the Doomsday Clock is actually tardy. It is definitely only a few more seconds to Midnight.

Maybe this is the equivalent for the mushroom growing out of the head of a certain ant species in the jungle - when it overwhelms the supporting capacity of the rain forest, endangering all life in the forest.



Posted by: [nottheonly1](#) | Aug 4 2019 1:20 utc | 35

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By use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and other modern tech, the brain lesions and tumors that account for much madness can be used to effectively quarantine from .gov the StrangeloveBoltonMcCain-types, ...

Posted by: [chu teh](#) | Aug 3 2019 22:14 utc | 26

I read Piotr Berman's response but let me give you mine.

There is technology out there to identify folks that are really mentally hurt. It is called neurofeedback and more specifically the QEEG (Quantitative EEG) protocol will give you a brain map showing "likely problem areas". It is not perfect and does not have a long enough history to work out all the "exceptions" to its findings but its use of a normative database is very telling of abnormal rhythmic patterns.

A positive aspect of this and other neuromodulation therapies is that they can remediate the problems found. I am a worst case user of these technologies in the successful pursuit of my healing path

Posted by: [psychohistorian](#) | Aug 4 2019 1:24 utc | 36

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[Americans reading this thread be like "Damn this Gruff guy, talking about our secret laser beams!"]

What's worse is that most Americans firmly believe that Russia won't retaliate for a nuclear attack by America on Moscow. "We're just going to 'bloody their nose' a little. Hit them with a little tiny baby tactical nuke. Something trivial, like kill a couple hundred thousand in Moscow or something minor like that. The Russians would never resort to all-out war over something inconsequential like that!"

And yes, Americans are so ill in the head that they really do believe that murdering a few hundred thousand is trivial and isn't something that others should get upset over.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Gruff, most of the time I really appreciate what you write, as you inform me of things I need to know. I'm an American. And what you write above really doesn't pass muster. I don't know anyone that feels the way you depict Americans, and while I wasn't born an American I have lived here more years than in my native land, and to put my age bluntly, I am long, long in the tooth. And I have never met an American who thinks as you suppose most Americans do.

But then, I don't usually socialize with the rich and powerful. In fact, I never do. The closest thing I came to that was when as a Kelly girl in DC during the Kennedy years, one of their lawyers actually patted me on the head.

We Americans are better people than you make us out to be. Most ordinary citizens, whatever their nationality generally are.

Posted by: juliania | Aug 4 2019 1:26 utc | [37](#)

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Jackrabbit @ 16

True, the war is also being fought in empty space. The empty space between the ears of most people. The empty space is maintained by the cell phone they stare at all day.

If the Polish leaders and the crazies in the US place these types of missiles in Poland then it is over. Might as well cash it in for the planet for a while.

Posted by: dltravers | Aug 4 2019 1:47 utc | [38](#)

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Abolishing treaties, sanctions, tariffs, empty chest beating....all the acts of a frightened and impotent nation. Countries that are strong and secure in their abilities don't behave that way. So which nuclear weapon loving Asian nation will be begging to be made a target for hosting the dying Empire's missiles??

Posted by: Indrid Cold | Aug 4 2019 1:47 utc | [39](#)

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Dear Juliania.

It is not that americans are that self sufficient and all powerful.

It s the Military security complex, the infinite nbr. of war linked enterprises scattered over all states there, the self righteous arrogant media tone deriving therefrom... and the absolute ignorance of 99% mericans on whatever are foreign capabilities and geographic realities that produces this megalomania.

And last not least, a corrupt 700 billion budget run by thousands of "revolving door" babies can simply be dismantled by a 70 billion rusky one. and how about a ruskian plus chinese defense budgets put together, with a fraction of the US prevailing corrupted MIC?

Posted by: [augusto](#) | Aug 4 2019 1:56 utc | [40](#)

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William Gruff @ 17

*This is a direct consequence of American exceptionalism, which impacts the issue in a number of ways. Viewing the matter from this exceptional perspective, Americans figure that Russian atomic weapons and their missiles are crap compared with what America has, and most probably will just fizzle or crash when the Russians try to launch them.*

You are over analyzing us in some respects and under

analyzing us in others. Those views would hold for the few in the National Security State. The average US citizen has not a clue what is going and really does not care. The focus is on whatever cable news spews out, the next great video game, twitter, and how to fill their bellies and satisfy their sexual urges.

The sports and the entertainment industry are their major concerns. They are experts in those fields. If they placed one tenth of a percent of interest on global affairs things would be very different.

When Trump lined up the fleet against North Korea to back them down they got scared for a bit but that is about it. When the moment arises they will show fear. Before that forget-about-it.

Posted by: dltravers | Aug 4 2019 2:01 utc | [41](#)

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j @ 37 said; "We Amerians are better people than you make us out to be. Most ordinary citizens, whatever their nationality generally are."

Except for the fact that most Americans have been brain-washed for decades with the mantra of "individualism uber-alles". The well-being of society takes a back seat to hedonism, by pursuing individual pleasure over the needs of the many. It makes for a very sick and selfish country. Most Americans are totally indifferent to the terrorism and mayhem, we, as a nation, cause around the globe, by our belief that we, as Americans, are exceptional, and can do as we please.

Too many of us have succumbed to the BS peddled to us daily.

Time to wake up!!

Posted by: ben | Aug 4 2019 2:06 utc | [42](#)

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The ending of the INF treaty will not create a new arms race but it will also not stop the existing one.

The existing arms race has forced Russia and China to develop defensive tools/measures for their countries that surpasses the current capabilities of Empire.

The reason we are all still alive is because of those capabilities by Russia and China that have been communicated to Empire enough to know (at least the Generals) that a nuclear attack is a death wish.

Empire is bloviating and bullying all over the place and showing pictures of Trump walking around with a baseball

bat like he is some movie Mafia don because that is all failing empire has left.....bullying and bloviating by TV type personalities.

And more and more countries have stopped listening to the trolls of empire and are following the leadership of China and Russia that have better human futures to offer their people as well as the rest of the world.

The reason that China and Russia have better weapons is because they don't have to provide a profit to do so.....anyone believe that the financialization of Boeing had NO impact on the MIC related products they produce?

Posted by: [psychohistorian](#) | Aug 4 2019 2:18 utc | 43

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@41

Maybe if we kill 2-3 million again, a la 50-53, they will mind us better?

Posted by: Tom in AZ | Aug 4 2019 2:22 utc | 44

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The threat of nuclear war is a cudgel to beat the masses of each respective superstate and to keep them obedient to the aims of that superstate. Fear and paranoia are tools of mass mind control and what keeps the worldwide military and weapons industry swimming in profits.

All out nuclear war would bring the whole house of cards crashing down economically and to say nothing of the actual natural resources rendered useless through fallout or no population to speak of to rule over.

As much as Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia are supposedly at war, they cooperate at much higher levels. Go learn about all the technology transfers that occurred between the US and Russia even at the height of the "Cold War" Or all the technology transfers to China in the 1980's. The world is like a wobbly 3 legged stool.

Posted by: O | Aug 4 2019 2:48 utc | 45

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I still don't know how exiting the INF is going to change the fact that the US military is run by a bunch of grossly overpaid, inefficient and incompetent cowards who only finds courage when it comes to bullying the defenseless.

Posted by: Jonathan | Aug 4 2019 2:48 utc | 46

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Excellent analysis b. However, assuming the US will one day be able to develop anti-hypersonic weapons then, by default, this results in a need for Russia to develop new weapons technology. But I get the point - for now Russia has no need to develop anything new, and the US may take a very long

time to catch up.

Posted by: TEP | Aug 4 2019 2:55 utc | [47](#)

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@41

Funny I was just thinking. If the Russian/Chinese kill a few million exceptionals maybe the rest will mind them a bit better. Grow up.

Posted by: Ike | Aug 4 2019 3:01 utc | [48](#)

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O @ 45 said;" The threat of nuclear war is a cudgel to beat the masses of each respective superstate and to keep them obedient to the aims of that superstate. Fear and paranoia are tools of mass mind control and what keeps the worldwide military and weapons industry swimming in profits."

Yep, worth repeating over and over.....

Posted by: ben | Aug 4 2019 3:07 utc | [49](#)

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Одна и таже группа людей - организация Хаббад-Любавич контролирует обоих президентов: Путина и Трампа.

Зачем же этот антогонизм, зачем война?

Ответ прост: сыновья сатаны всегда жаждут крови, а от крови православных христиан они получают просто оргазмическое удовольствие; вся история России об этом свидетельствует.

Posted by: Vitaliy Yakubovskiy | Aug 4 2019 3:21 utc | [50](#)

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Just as a friendly reminder for those who forgot or don't know about it, you might want to read the information from the "Perimeter System/Dead Hand".

Posted by: Bob | Aug 4 2019 3:43 utc | [51](#)

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*The \$13 Billion USS Gerald Ford Plagued by Problems*

*Only two of the 11 weapons elevators on the USS Gerald R. Ford work. Huntington Ingalls delivered the \$13 billion aircraft carrier to the Navy in 2017, with no working elevators. It's just the latest in a long line of problems for the ship. (Source: Bloomberg)*

F-35... Oh yeah, new arms race...

Posted by: curious man | Aug 4 2019 3:54 utc | [52](#)

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@16 "What's worse is that most Americans firmly believe that Russia won't retaliate for a nuclear attack by America on Moscow."

I keep finding your observations conflict with the reality I live in.

We the dwindling dregs of the US middle class know, either instinctively or intellectually, that we're being dragged down a terminally dangerous road these days with no real domestic opposition to stop it. The people over which you've tossed the above blanket statement are relying on the cooler heads of other nations not to give in to our bully government while it stalks around like it owns the planet.

If there is an actual mass belief, should the US use nuclear weapons for the third time in history, it is that we the citizenry would pay the drastic costs of nuclear retaliation, while our "leadership" cower in their fancy bunkers. We'll die, just like the citizenry of any other nation experiencing corruption at it's head, but meantime, we still have to work and pay the bills. Perhaps it is this which appears to you as a casual dismissal of any nuclear worries.

Posted by: Summer Diaz | Aug 4 2019 4:03 utc | 53

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@17 my post was directed.

Posted by: Summer Diaz | Aug 4 2019 4:06 utc | 54

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[https://www.georgemjames.com/store/p3/American\\_Military\\_Might\\_-\\_Debunked.html](https://www.georgemjames.com/store/p3/American_Military_Might_-_Debunked.html)

I must say I am glad that people are realizing that the US & NATO are in no way as powerful or good as the Merchants of Death are claiming. Debunked them in this book, almost 700 pages, no one listened. Perhaps when the coming war ends with a broken America (not my wish, really not), the arrogance will end. GMJ

Posted by: GMJ | Aug 4 2019 4:27 utc | 55

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Any state not primarily developing missile technology is also by definition not spending their defence dollar in the wisest manner, notwithstanding other disruptive technologies which may have the same dollar-capability ratio. F35 planes and aircraft carriers that don't work well aren't really leaving big holes in anyones ability to defend themselves, and as many have pointed out, are doing exactly as they were designed to do - funnel large amounts of money from taxpayers to already rich people. In fact they may even be somewhat of a windfall in terms of the chances for peace, with one or two well known middle eastern countries unable to cause as much trouble as they'd sometimes like to.

The fact that Russia and China have managed to develop measures to defend themselves and also enough offensive capability discourage any first attack, for a comparatively low

price, bodes well for the futures of the citizens of those countries, as they can then concentrate on the more important aspects of running civilization.

Posted by: [tspoon](#) | Aug 4 2019 4:28 utc | [56](#)

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[@juliania](#) 37

I wish I had such a positive outlook of US dumbed-downed masses as you do. But it is really the Idiocracy of Russiagate combined with what dltravers says below your comment. Case to point, when the Cretin in Chief recently used Twitter to hint at using nu-killer weapons against Iran by hinting their use against Afghanistan, Scott Ritter wrote an article in the AmConMag about it. Neither the article, nor the commenters mentioned that if US hit Iran with nu-killer weapons (Bush junior) Russia would or should do anything. No matter how darkly funny William Gruff's description here is, it is not actually far from this discussion and the AmConMag is written and read by those not totally remote from the decision making.

If US hits Iran with a few kilotons, just as the commenters and William Gruff were suggesting, how about Russia hit Tijuana in Mexico with a few kilotons under this or that or some other pretext (like, they gave us an ugly look, they stopped using Roubles ...). Why would US get upset about this, it is none of US business what Russia does to Mexico, right? This equivalence actually never occurred to any of those AmConMag debaters and such stupidity is profoundly scary.

As US becomes militarily weak, in relative terms, so it will become more likely to use tactical nuclear weapons again to demonstrate its capacity and willingness to third parties, just as with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It will not hit Russia or China, then some chosen hopefully sparsely populated and weak resister, such as Afghanistan or another Stan. Actually, there were hints that US already used a very small tactical nuke in Afghanistan when supposedly hunting for bin Laden. **We, US, were once the most powerful, but now we are the craziest on the planet** Russia and China, do you really want to pick up a fight with the planet's greatest madman, the sick man of the West?

Posted by: [Kiza](#) | Aug 4 2019 4:44 utc | [57](#)

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"The Europeans in NATO are not happy about the treaty's end" -- which their own defense ministers unanimously voted for in the NATO meeting. Don't take Europeans at their word: they lie, and I'm not talking about the small stuff.

Both me and the Dark Throne have drawn the opposite lesson from the Syrian war compared to what b writes here. Yes, Russian weapons work well enough -- in part because they're often simpler. But the Syrian adventure has been a

huge negative for Russian *deterrence*: all the warnings about "grave consequences" from Maj. Gen. Konashenkov c.s. have turned out to be bluffs, leading to painful climbdowns when the bluff is called. In part, this just exposed the cold fact that Russia cares about Syria, but only a little, not enough to take any meaningful risk--inside Russia or at its borders, it'd be a different story. But beyond this, Russian threats carry little bite as long as Russian elites park their wealth and families in NATO capitals. And the Dark Throne knows this very well; Washington may be psychopathic, but it's not always as "stupid" as claimed.

Even if b were right about all his claims, then the RF/CN strategy of restrained, territorial defense will mean: we can't defend our allies. Again, the world is taking notice, and not only in Syria. Venezuela has pretty modern Russian air defenses (the competence of the crews is another story), but the Armies of Mordor violate their airspace at will because nobody has the nerve to kill a bunch of them. In this climate, American confidence is building that they can get away with just about anything.

Posted by: Ma Laoshi | Aug 4 2019 5:09 utc | 58

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@ Kiza who wrote

"

.....Russia and China, do you really want to pick up a fight with the planet's greatest madman, the sick man of the West?

"

I believe that China and Russia have said quite clearly to the faux madman of the West that using another nuke is grounds for MAD extinction of all humans.

These faux madmen stand between the rest of the world and saving what is left of our planet. It is no longer worth saving if the madmen continue to hold power and so the gauntlet has been thrown down and we get bully and bloviating posturing in response.

I agree with China and Russia that living under a bully cult is no way for humanity to continue to operate and doing so just eliminates our chance to remediate the excesses of empire.

Posted by: [psychohistorian](#) | Aug 4 2019 5:11 utc | 59

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uncle john #3

there is no arms race. the dying empire has been outflanked by smarter and much older cultures. there is no catch up because the east is in the ascendancy. unless the us body politic has a death wish (quite possible) there will be a transition to a new set of global rules. the 5 eyes and most of europe will not fare well in the new structure unless they sharply come to their senses. it's a physical thing that has been playing out for centuries.



Posted by: m | Aug 4 2019 5:12 utc | [60](#)

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## The establishment press is shocked ... SHOCKED! to find that there's a new Cold War

But have no fear, because Alastair Crooke is on the case. Breathlessly exclaiming that "something is up", he quotes ft columnist Luce:

*The speed with which US political leaders of all stripes have united behind **the idea of a 'new cold war' is something that takes my breath away. Eighteen months ago the phrase was dismissed as fringe scaremongering. Today it is consensus.***

Crooke illustrates this Cold War mentality with a description of Jefferies remarks at the recent Aspen Conference:

*"Hammering Russia" (he insisted repeatedly), will continue until President Putin understands there is no military solution in Syria (he said with heightened verbal emphasis). Russia falsely assumes that Assad has 'won' war: "He hasn't", Jeffrey said. And the US is committed to demonstrating this fundamental 'truth'.*

*Therefore, the US plans to 'up the pressure'; will escalate the cost to Russia, until a political transition is in place, with a new Syria emerging as a "normal nation". The US will 'leverage' the costs on Russia across the board: Through military pressure – ensuring a lack of military progress in Idlib; through Israelis operating freely across Syria's airspace; through 'US partners' (i.e. the Kurds) consolidating in NE Syria; through economic costs ("our success" in stopping reconstruction aid to Syria); through extensive US sanctions on Syria (integrated with those on Iran) – "these sanctions are succeeding"; and thirdly, by diplomatic pressure: i.e. "hammering Russia" in the UN.*

And then summarizes:

*... the picture seems to be one in which US bellicosity is somehow consolidating as an elite consensus ...*

But this is where Crooke (predictably) goes off the rails as he returns to his *elites are divided* mantra, claiming that despite their disparate aims, various elite groupings find a belligerent stand to be useful to achieve their goals. He further goes on to explain that *peace-loving* Trump may be susceptible to this malevolent elite consensus. Oh my!

I've often taken issue with the notion that US elites are divided. IMO those who put forth this theory confuse and conflate the many issues involved. For one thing, elite power varies greatly by subject area, for example: neocons and MIC have vastly greater power in military-related foreign policy than financial, healthcare or agricultural 'elites'. "Divided elites" pretends that there a change in policy is more possible

than it is.

Crooke also continues to credit Trump as anti-war and to push the propaganda meme that he's an *independent actor* that is pressured or influenced to do things that he doesn't want to. As I've written so many times before, it's *inconceivable* that the Deep State allows someone that is not a well-vetted team player to assume the office of President. Trump is not a dictator or a puppet - he's a team player who will receive *yuuge* gratuities for his teamwork after he leaves office - just like the Presidents that came before him.

Perhaps in another 18 months, Crooke will breathlessly relate new revelations that will, like the "new Cold War", bring his thinking more into line with reality. We can only hope.

[In The Citadels of America's Elites: Fractured and At Odds with Each Other](#)

Posted by: [Jackrabbit](#) | Aug 4 2019 5:15 utc | [61](#)

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