

Reminiscence of the Future...

Si Vis Pacem, Para Vno © Andrei Martyanov's Blog

Saturday, November 30, 2019

Patrick Armstrong Asks A Question.

Patrick wrote today an important piece. I would say a metaphysical (almost) one. In it he essentially asks and answers the question of WHY people like him (it relates to me in a sense too) do what they do. The piece is titled:

WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING TO OURSELVES – OTHERS FIND US

It is one of those must read pieces and here is the answer (crucial part of it) to the question of why do what Patrick, Bernhard from MoA, The Saker or I do.

So what's the point of writing? I already agree with you, you already agree with me. Our readers are here because they also agree. Writing becomes a mechanical operation, moving along a pre-determined course. No minds are changed, no minds are even engaged. But there is one big and important difference between the two solitudes which leads us out of the my bubble/your bubble stalemate. The well-informed person will be less often surprised than the poorly informed person. There is an objective reality and people who actually do have a pretty good take on things, see that reality more clearly than those who don't. In short, those who actually are well-informed will be less often surprised than those who aren't. Surprise is the clue: it is both the consequence and the evidence of ignorance.

It is absolutely crucial point. Consider this blog. OK, you read this blog, so let's consider this one as an example, in the end it is the only one way for me to heap the praise on myself, otherwise, as Russian saying goes--*did not praise yourself today, consider the whole day wasted*(c). This blog, now in a sixth year of its existence, was and remains relentless from the very inception in its warnings about reality being not what it is being presented by people and institutions which Patrick effectively described as being surprised in a non-stop manner:

But the readers and writers of the WaPo/NYT/Economist/Guardian bloc were surprised. They are certain that Assad gasses his own people when there's no reason to; they believe that Qaddafi "bombed his own people"; they laughed when Trump said he was taped; they called Milosevic the "butcher of the Balkans"; they expect the Russian economy to collapse; they're confident that the JIT is an honest investigation; they expect the protests will weaken Putin; they believe the "world community" recognises Guaidó; they are confident the West would be happy if Putin weren't sowing discord; they expect that the next world problem will be managing China's decline; they know where to find democracy in Hong Kong. And, especially, they were confident that Mueller will find a bombshell to blow up Trump. They remain believers in Browder's story. The devotees of the establishment media bloc are almost always surprised by the way things turn out. That, by itself, shows that they are poorly informed about reality. Everybody is surprised some of the time but the poorly informed are surprised all of the time.

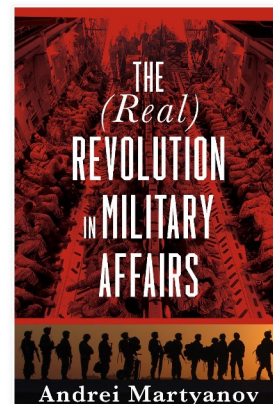
Bingo, I write for years now that not only WE (as an alternative media) are better in our OODA due diligence, but that Western establishment is utterly incompetent and that is why it is surprised non-stop. I called it few years ago a permanent Chalabi Moment. Mind you, Patrick Armstrong was an analyst in Canadian Defense Ministry, Larry C Johnson or Philip Giraldi were *bona fide* CIA officers, Colonel Patrick Lang is a Vietnam War combat veteran who availed his blog as a platform for many people whose military-intelligence backgrounds and experiences are genuine and proved viable throughout the years by giving in general a top-notch analysis and providing good reliability of their forecasts. And here is the point--for people who involve themselves into such activity as assessing and forecasting anything, the first requirement for them, if to put it in a layman's lingo, is to be right, correct in their "predictions" at least once in a while, forget being consistent. That requires knowledge of the subject. In the end, one has to have his facts straight and this is not easy and requires a lot of professionalism, labor and honesty--qualities completely lacking in the Establishment media and think-tankdom.

We (I say we because I do not separate myself from what, say, Patrick Armstrong and [Strategic Culture Foundation](#) do) simply know better. Let me demonstrate Patrick's point about people seeking out truth on this blog's example--from the inception I literally did not use any technologies other than my posts on a discussion boards to attract attention to my blog. None. I referred to some of my post through links on a discussion boards at Unz Review, plus I posted couple of them at Colonel Lang's blog. My blog became more or less known largely through the "word of mouth". Here is how it went since 2014.

For A Nice Shot Of Bourbon And A Good Cigar

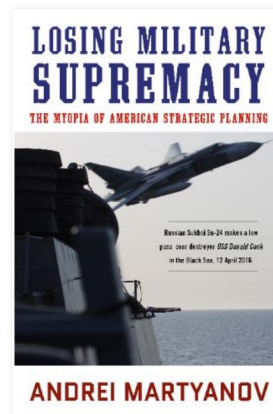


Real Revolution In Military Affairs



It Is Here

My Book Is On Sale

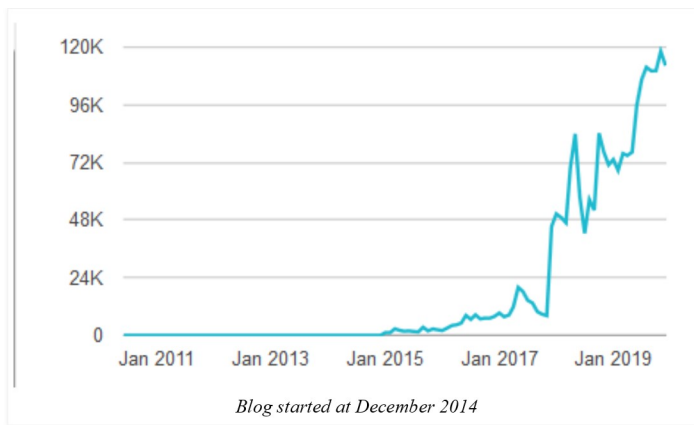


It Is Here

Saker's Review.



The above summary does not do justice to Martyanov's truly seminal book. I can only say that I consider this book as an absolutely indispensable "must read" for every person in the USA who loves his/her country and for every person who believes that wars, especially nuclear ones, must be avoided at all costs.



In other words, Armstrong is spot on when stating:

But people do change and our audience is growing. How can that be happening if we change no minds? Because the individual makes the first step on his own. So this is the reason why we write and speak and – religious allusion again – testify: People we've never heard of, disgusted by the strident one-sided nonsense, surprised by some unexpected reality they bump into, stop passively believing, begin to doubt, search around and find us. Our writings then show them they were right to doubt and lead them to a better appreciation of reality. We don't persuade them, they persuade themselves; we don't convert them, they convert themselves. But we reinforce their conversion and show them that there is more reality (less surprise) on our side. Once gained to our side, they won't leave. It's conversion.

But in the end, we are simply better, because we know more, much more about things we are talking about. Moreover, most of us know our own limitations but we know where to seek competent opinion on matters we don't know about. BTW, while at it, this blog is well over 2 million original views now and, as I stated before, practically nothing was done to promote it, people simply started seeking it out mostly by the "word of mouth". Of course, publishing books helped too. Recall what I stated almost five years ago:

The realization, that Russia IS already inside the West's (and US in particular) OODA Loop (if it does have any at all--the conclusion to which I begin to lean) should settle in by now. Getting inside one's OODA Loop was a highest priority for Colonel Boyd. It did already happen. It is so simple, if to put in into famous (and correct) slogan--You Are What You Know. And it goes without saying that combined West knows shit about Russia. It always did.

My assertion stands and it is now supported by an overwhelming body of empirical evidence.

Posted by smoothiex12 at 12:18 PM

13 Comments

Labels: alternative media, analysis, establishment, incompetence., knowledge, Patrick Armstrong, truth

Asia Times About The Book



In *Losing Military Supremacy*, his latest, groundbreaking book, crack Russian military-naval analyst Andrei Martynov deconstructs in detail how, "the United States faces two nuclear and industrial superpowers, one of which fields a world-class armed forces. If the military-political, as opposed to merely economic, alliance between Russia and China is ever formalized – this will spell the final doom for the United States as a global power."

My Blog List

Sic Semper Tyrannis

Moon of Alabama

[The Vineyard of the Saker](#)

Russia Observer

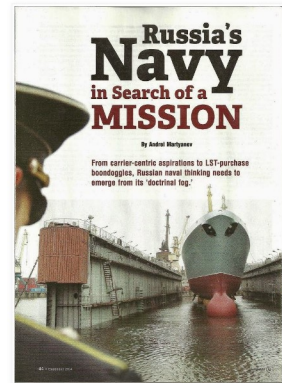
The Unz Review:

Awara Group Economics Of Note

Daniel Larison The American Conservative

ROCK SOLID POLITICS

Russia's Navy In Search Of A Mission



My article came out in December issue of US Naval Institute Proceedings

About Me

[smoothiex12](#)

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3 Responses

13 Comments <http://smoothix12.blogspot.com/>

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Name

**howdy.modi** • 15 hours ago

Caveat Emptor for reader of SST , while patrick lang always go against the so called borg deep state , he is still a blind follower of american exceptionalism doctrine as seen in his constant pro trump anti china BS and the blocking of posters who criticize american hegemony and resultant destruction of the nations..

He is supposedly an ex DIA but everyone know theres no "ex" when it came to intelligence agent of his stature / rank..

Read SST and Col Pat Lang with open mind , his opposition to deepstate and israeli-frster neocons are well known , but that didnt absolve him of his disgusting fanaticism of america the great and benevolent empire

3 ^ | v • Reply •

**tom** • 9 hours ago

In my case, the critical moment came with the invasion of Iraq in 2003. I couldn't help noticing how very often special bombing or missile attacks were announced, based on special secret intelligence and designed to kill Saddam Hussein. After the first dozen or so of these, I began to wonder if I might be being lied to. (The attacks did kill several hundred - or perhaps thousand - women and children, so the bombs weren't wasted).

Instead of the Western media, I began to follow the Russian MoD's reports online. Overnight, it was as if someone switched on the lights!

2 ^ | v • Reply •

**SumGuy** → tom • 7 hours ago

You reminded me of my own "moment of truth". It was when the US "accidentally" bombed a train during the Yugoslavia campaign and TV showed the footage from the missile cam, official excuse was that the pilot didn't have enough time to disarm the missile before impact. I remember noticing immediately it looked WAY too fast (as a kid, I used to play a lot of flight simulation games) but dismissed it as I didn't have any "real" experience. Years later I learned that the footage was doctored and sped up 4x to push the official story.

(Ref: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wi...>)

1 ^ | v • Reply •

**The Ariocho** → SumGuy • 3 hours ago

There was also bridge bombing, and there can not be issue of speed, bridge is not moving, for years.

And westerners told me yugoslavian civilians should blame themselves for riding cars over that bridge so interfering with NATO bombing it and precluding NATO from bombing it safely.

^ | v • Reply •

**Rob Naardin** → The Ariocho • 2 hours ago

I'll bet the sociopathic leadership of the West won't be blaming themselves for driving the car off the economic bridge.

They'll be blaming Russia and China.

Paul Tudor Jones became famous during the stock market crash of 1987.

<https://www.zerohedge.com/m...>

^ | v • Reply •

**Arctic_Fox** • 15 hours ago

Some yrs ago, I read a few of your "Smoothie" comments somewhere.. I think Cdr Salamander. You clearly knew/know something. I followed you on Disqus, which led to this site. I admire your fortitude in posting so much.

It's been an ongoing pleasure to read your thoughts. And the comments by many posters. And your books. I've certainly enjoyed our back & forth notes on occasion, here. Learned quite a bit... Facts & perspectives. And I'm grateful to be part of Your deep knowledge & sense of personal/professional courtesy.

2 ^ | v • Reply •

**SumGuy** • 7 hours ago

Can't remember exactly how I found your excellent blog (probably via Saker, Moon of Alabama or Dmitry Orlov) but let me tell you that since then this has been one of my daily stops for actual information. Thanks a lot for your work, I mean it.

1 ^ | v • Reply •

**Otto** → SumGuy • 5 hours ago

There was a time he wrote post on National Interest too.

^ | v • Reply •

**Tuấn Đoàn** • 15 hours ago • edited

I'm from Hanoi, Vietnam. I have followed your blog for several years, and I noted the traffic indicator grows tremendously

Putin In His Own Words.

For White Board MBAs.

A Teeny-Weeny Bit Of News From Germany.

Hey, Don, Take The Job.

Europeans Want Own Weapons.

Don Cherry Is Fired.

Some Technological Issues For The Russian Navy.

Matthew 5:39 States.

A Complete Degeneracy And Lack Of Civilization In....

So, She Is Upset That She Didn't Get The Scoop...

Total Recall-2.

Total Recall-1.

Stephen Cohen Is Late. We Are Past The Turning Poi...

Although Not A Friday.

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