

In 2023 I combed through the files on my old computers looking for blogs I had made. I used several of vehicles: just email and a couple of blog sites. I collected what I found in Word documents. I do not remember how I saved them. Some I probably copied from email archives, others I composed in Word before posting.

The emails that went into this one were not in chronological order, so I created the index below to help myself order them.

I'm posting them in pdf format on my web site for several reasons. One, at 81, there are several reasons why it is better now than later. Secondly, they provide an insight into what I saw, as a resident of Kyiv, during the Yanukovich, Yuschenko, Poroschenko and now Zelensky years. In particular, those from the Yanukovich years give the lie to many of Putin's claims in his interview with Tucker Carlson.

It would take a masochist or somebody with too much time on his hands to go through them all. I trust that the volume, the consistency and the breadth of topics covered is evidence enough of their authenticity.

Graham Seibert
February 12, 2024

AgroGeneration_- _Communiqu_de_presse_rsultats_annuels_20091.docx	12/08/2010
Beat them all (tax article).doc	12/07/2010
I am disappointed with my grown family.docx	11/30/2010
Invest Gazette - tax system Nov 29 2010.doc	12/07/2010
Mentor article.doc	12/07/2010
reasons I quit drinking.docx	12/07/2010
Steve Jennings Renaissance Group in Invest Gazette Nov 14 2010.doc	11/18/2010
A tragic death I cant talk about.docx	07/22/2011
Education_article_text.doc	10/22/2011
I want grandchildren.docx	11/05/2011
IMF loan.docx	06/26/2011
khan academy offerings.docx	02/18/2011
Our last chapter.docx	09/10/2011
retaining contacts.docx	07/10/2011
The Pitch.docx	06/27/2011
Traditional science and the British and American electoral systems have confirmed.docx	06/27/2011
Why are we here1.docx	07/04/2011
Why Ukrainian bosses treat employees the way they do.docx	12/01/2011
Women in Eddie's first six weeks.docx	06/27/2011
Bankrupt nations try to stop the future from happening.docx	05/21/2012
Edward Seibert.docx	08/24/2012
Evolution and reproduction.docx	05/21/2012
I am proud of Ukrainians.docx	07/17/2012
Once we realize government isnt the solution.docx	08/16/2012
Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.docx	05/06/2012
Ukraine.docx	05/22/2012
blog.docx	08/26/2013
Darwin and Democracy.docx	11/08/2013

Following the trail of the red man.docx	08/31/2013
gatto.docx	11/08/2013
gold.docx	11/08/2013
Jerry called me a racist and homophobe.docx	09/13/2013
Me.docx	11/11/2013
Moscow times links.docx	08/25/2013
My safety.docx	11/09/2013
oligarchs.docx	12/05/2013
Our Toastmasters club conducted its meeting in native languages today.docx	07/17/2013
Refusing to give into the double standard.docx	08/30/2013
Rotary - Toastmasters.docx	09/13/2013
The diversity we don.docx	08/30/2013
The IMF loan - kp article.docx	08/24/2013
The IMF loan.docx	08/31/2013
The squeeze.docx	11/08/2013
Ukraine and global warming.docx	08/28/2013
UKRAINE GOVERNMENT BUDGET.docx	08/30/2013
Ukraine IMF borrowing.docx	08/29/2013
y.docx	11/28/2013
Alls fair in love and war.docx	09/02/2014
Altruism and relatedness.docx	09/02/2014
Altruism and relatedness1.docx	09/02/2014
ASSABIYAH.docx	03/27/2014
Basta Pasta - Nicholas Farrell.docx	06/03/2014
bilingual russian.docx	12/02/2014
Cars in Kiev.docx	10/29/2014
criteria for civilization.docx	01/29/2014
dark enlightenment suggested links.docx	01/27/2014
dark enlightenment.docx	01/27/2014
Do you want grandchildren.docx	12/30/2014
double standard.docx	06/10/2014
emigrating.docx	01/11/2014
for jim davis.docx	07/29/2014
For John re Fred.docx	02/14/2014
for ukraine business.docx	04/09/2014
Foreign policy toward Ukraine seems to be controlled by domestic politics in every country in the world.docx	01/28/2014
Gratitude.docx	04/30/2014
I am a white guy with a white family blending in in a white country.docx	08/04/2014
intro for LiveJournal.docx	08/03/2014
Is it good for the Jews.docx	07/23/2014
It is not good vs evil jim davis.docx	07/22/2014
It is not good vs evil.docx	09/14/2014
Letter to Denny re primate roots and Gramsci.docx	10/07/2014
Modern democracies intrude into citizens.docx	05/29/2014
MSWORD TEMP FILE.docx	02/23/2014
Not worth the effort.docx	05/16/2014

Notes from a lecture by Timothy Snyder onUkraine.docx	10/07/2014
Oksana and I took our first vacation without Getty this week.docx	03/03/2014
Open letter to children.docx	11/07/2014
Pinchuk.docx	07/30/2014
political philosophy - materialism and family.docx	08/03/2014
Political Philosophy - wealth and family.docx	07/30/2014
political philosophy essay 2.docx	08/08/2014
political philosophy the genome.docx	07/11/2014
propaganda - post for trolls.docx	05/22/2014
propaganda.docx	05/22/2014
putin press conference.docx	08/21/2014
Raising Eddie in an uncertain world.docx	02/09/2014
Reedie Arlene Blum.docx	10/30/2014
Reply to Snyder NY review of books - link Kyiv Post.docx	11/07/2014
ROK wordpress get started.docx	07/23/2014
Ron Paul.docx	07/23/2014
Ron Paul1.docx	07/23/2014
Russia's law on homosexual propaganda.docx	12/22/2014
Self-improvement.docx	10/19/2014
Shedlock links.docx	10/19/2014
Social Scientists and Social Justice Warriors.docx	05/22/2014
Speculation on the future evolution of mankind.docx	05/15/2014
The Dark Enlightenment.docx	11/27/2014
The modern parable of the tower of Babel.docx	08/14/2014
The OJ Simpson and MA 17 juries.docx	11/10/2014
The Russian and Ukrainian languages in Ukraine.docx	03/25/2014
The_Man.docx	04/11/2014
Ukrainian Business Acumen.docx	03/30/2014
Vladimir Putin is not anybody.docx	05/09/2014
We criticize liberals for allowing explanations to serve as excuses for bad behavior.docx	03/18/2014
What might possibly be good in this crisis.docx	08/06/2014
Who was really responsible for the downing of flight MH17.docx	03/05/2014
Whos who.docx	10/23/2014
Why are we here speech.docx	10/18/2014
Why are we here.docx	10/21/2014
Yanukovich has carried the day.docx	02/25/2014
You readers are kind not to call me for hypocrisy.docx	03/03/2014
A few thoughts on adoption.docx	02/05/2015
assassination.docx	06/22/2015
debt.docx	06/22/2015
Dialog on race.docx	12/10/2015
Evolution and political philosophy.docx	06/03/2015
For Fear of the Jews - Joe Sobran.docx	02/27/2015
Gram Stone.docx	05/26/2015
I write in praise of mothers in law.docx	06/18/2015

illogic.docx	06/16/2015
justin rosengrant.docx	02/08/2015
Kayapo.doc	07/08/2015
Liars to the left of me.docx	06/19/2015
Paradise.docx	03/07/2015
paradox - democracy vs evolution.docx	03/08/2015
political philosophy.docx	03/31/2015
Raising children - Ukraine vs the nanny state.docx	10/08/2015
Ron Paul2.docx	04/03/2015
Saul Alinsky rules for radicals.docx	04/03/2015
There is an impending crisis.docx	02/05/2015
This is the quiet face of a panic.docx	03/07/2015
dictation - ideas for piece on ukraine.docx	07/30/2016
Dugin.docx	07/26/2016
happiness.docx	06/11/2016
I marvel at the efficiency with which the flowers in front of our house reproduce.docx	07/20/2016
Jews as spent force.docx	08/01/2016
Kevin Sutherland RIP - liberal killed on DC metro.docx	02/26/2016
Right and wrong ways for getting to know Ukrainian girls.docx	11/09/2016
The Jewish Establishment - Joe Sobran.docx	06/19/2016
Three paradoxes.docx	12/03/2016
Why come to Ukraine to look for a woman.docx	06/21/2016
Working in Ukraine.docx	06/30/2016
x.docx	06/23/2016
Paradoxes - Genotype and Phenotype.docx	02/08/2017
Philosophizing about politics is a doomed effort.docx	01/09/2017
Americas family feud - political divide on children.docx	10/21/2020
Blacks are acting in evolutionary self.docx	10/21/2020
companies in invest gazeta 2010-12-12.doc	10/20/2020
Everybody loses Welcome to Ukraine.docx	10/20/2020
expats and girls.docx	10/21/2020
It is time to reassess.docx	10/21/2020
logical illogic.docx	10/21/2020
Spy vs.docx	10/21/2020
Steve Jennings Russian original.doc	10/20/2020
sweet mystery of life at last I found you.docx	10/21/2020
vocab.doc	10/20/2020

ANCIEN A few thoughts on adoption.docx 2/5/2015

A few thoughts on adoption

These thoughts are prompted by comments on my Amazon review of "Blue Nights," by posters who were outraged that I might imply there was any difference between adoptive and natural children. I had written that

adoptive kids are a “mixed bag” and that Joan Didion was lucky to get one who had the intellect and interest to pursue literary interests similar to her mother’s

Following the example set by celebrities such as Mia Farrow, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, an increasing number of Americans have decided to adopt rather than bear children. Though they give high tone moral justifications for a desire to adopt, there are a considerable number of selfish considerations which are never mentioned. At the heart of the issue is the difference between having a cat or a dog and having children. Cats and dogs are companions, kids are part of your life forever. You have to teach dogs and cats not to bite and pee on the carpet. A parent's obligation to children is to give them character, to raise them to be successful adults in the society into which they were born. For the religious, bearing and raising children is a fulfillment of God's command to be fruitful and multiply.

There are many legitimate reasons to adopt. The most obvious is infertility – one or the other partner is infertile, and therefore as a couple cannot get pregnant. There are same-sex pairs for whom natural childbirth is not an option. Such couples may choose not to try among the many expensive alternatives, such as in vitro fertilization, surrogate parenthood, sperm donors and the like, for religious reasons, financial reasons or just out of plane squeamishness. And, there are couples who know they carry genetic disorders such as Tay-Sachs and whose faith would not permit them to abort if amniocentesis showed that the fetus would be affected.

None of the Hollywood people I have read about choose to give this reason. Instead they say that the planet is overpopulated as it stands, and they feel a moral obligation not to add to the crowding. There are children, like those in Darfur and Cambodia, who will never have a chance unless they are taken out of their miserable surroundings. It is certainly true that an individual child will be better off if adopted by a Western family, however, such adoptions will not put a dent in the problem of overpopulation in poor countries. There will always be more poor wretches where those came from.

The argument that the planet is overpopulated is out of date. Birthrates in every first world country, and in fact much of the world outside of Africa, are below replacement levels. Without immigration these countries will start to shrink and population within the next couple of decades, as old people die without enough births to replace them.

Moreover, as Thilo Sarrazin argued in “Deutschland Schafft Sich Ab” and Richard Lynn and Tatu Vanhanen so thoroughly document in “IQ and the wealth of nations” and “Race and Intelligence,” and as Murray and Herrnstein wrote in “The Bell Curve,” not all human populations are equal in human potential. People who choose to adopt from a different country (northeast Asian countries excepted) are generally drawing from a more shallower pool of inborn talent. There are bright kids in any country, but they are more plentiful in some places than others. It goes without saying that the children of the best and brightest are the least likely to be available for adoption.

The selfish reasons to adopt rather than having your own kids are pretty compelling. Giving birth is a dangerous process. One in 10,000 US pregnancies end up with the death of the mother, and 65 out of 10,000 children don't make it.

A far more immediate consideration is that childbirth takes you out of circulation for a while. There nine months of pregnancy during which a woman suffers from morning sickness, bloating, small digestive issues and a lot of other unpleasantness as her body shifts resources to the fetus. Then, for a conscientious mother comes a year or so of breast-feeding, which means turning her body into a milk machine for an insatiable baby. Mom loses a lot of sleep and energy. A woman's body is never the same after childbirth. The parts that have been stretched are never quite going to go back to their girlish form. For a celebrity this can be a real liability.

Although fathers get off a little bit easier, they have to accept and live with their wife's mood changes and peculiar needs and cravings. They also have to understand that she doesn't feel much like sex for much of this

time. If he gets any action, she's going to look at it as doing him a favor. And, she won't have her previous level of energy for socializing or much else.

Taking all this into consideration, why would you want to bear your own children when it is so much easier to let somebody else do all the hard work, the animal functions of gestation and lactation, and simply pay for the end product – a baby. For somebody with a celebrity lifestyle, it is possible to adopt, hire a nanny to bottle feed the baby, and never miss a beat in life.

For most of us the desire to have our own children is a matter of ego and/or religion. We're pretty happy with ourselves and we want our genotype to go forward through the ages. We think the world will be a better place was little copies of ourselves running around. For the followers of the Abrahamic religions having kids is a fulfillment of the commandment to "be fruitful and multiply." Heaven is only a promise, but achieving immortality through our kids seems like a fairly concrete possibility.

You have to be a bit settled in life in order to adopt. Most adoptive parents have steady jobs and steady lives. One can easily extrapolate that people in a position to adopt are a little bit above average. From that follows the proposition that natural children would also be a bit above average. Statistics tend to bear this out. In families with a mix of adoptive and natural kids, the natural kids score a few points higher on IQ tests. There is one Rhodes scholar in the Mia Farrow menage, and it should not be at all surprising that it is the natural child of Mia and Woody Allen rather than one of their many adoptees.

Quite a few adoptive children start life with major handicaps. Some have obvious problems such as spina bifida, Downs syndrome or other problems which the birth mother simply did not want to cope with. When you visit orphanages in Ukraine, you see quite a bit of fetal alcohol syndrome. It is also prevalent among children given up for adoption by Native Americans and certain Latin American countries to which Americans often go for adoptions.

Diagnosable conditions aside, you have to consider the population of women who get pregnant without the capacity to carry through and take care of a child. They are disproportionately women who don't have very good control of their lives. They may be simply rather slow witted, or have emotional difficulties. The number of American-born white babies available for adoption has been shrinking over the past few decades due to several factors: the widespread availability of contraceptives, abortion, and the lack of stigma associated with keeping the child. Simply put, in the nicer high schools you no longer hear about girls going to spend the semester with their aunt in Peoria for a "change of pace." The result is that fewer babies are available for adoption, and of those that are, the odds of being dealt a Steve Jobs in the adoption lottery are a whole lot slimmer than they were in 1955.

Genetics has been one of the most rapidly advancing fields in science. Every year we know substantially more about how the brain develops, and it becomes clearer and clearer that John Locke's theory that the brain is a "blank slate" at birth is untenable. The infant brain has a great deal going on, and approximately half of the characteristics that we call personality – temperament, intelligence, and so on – are inherited. They are inherited within families, tribes, and entire peoples. It is not by accident that Chinese children turn out to be smart, studious, and often somewhat introverted. Likewise it is not by accident that Jews tend to have higher verbal intelligence and excel at business. It is true that Chinese and Jewish cultures nurture and encourage certain attributes and their children, but it is equally true that most children born into those societies have the native ability to absorb that which is taught.

At the level of families, this means that to the extent that any child can be understood – certainly a limitation which frustrates every parent – their own children stand the best chance of being understood. That is because they are like the parents. Judith Rich Harris writes in "No Two Alike" that direct parental influence in the family home probably doesn't account for more than 15 percent or so of the kids' personality. Most of the parents' influence is already in place at the time of birth, in the form of the kids' genetic endowment.

Comparing adoptive with natural kids, you find that parents will generally have a better intuitive understanding of their natural born kids than of adoptees. Moreover, they will probably have a better understanding of kids adopted from their own population than cross-cultural adoptions.

Given the scarcity of adoptable white children in the United States, a great many people look overseas. The situation changes from year to year, and there are a large number of adoption agencies who attempt to match families and children. The business is somewhat tainted as well by baby selling.

A generation ago quite a few parents were able to adopt children from China and Korea. The intelligence and temperament characteristic of their native lands usually enabled them to do fairly well in American schools in American society. After the fall of the Soviet Union it was possible for quite a while to adopt children from the newly independent Eastern European countries as well. All of these countries are getting more and more difficult to deal with. Although there are lots of children in Ukrainian orphanages, Ukraine gives its own citizens the first pick of newborns, and presents unnecessary hurdles to Westerners attempting to adopt older children out of orphanages. When you visit the orphanages you meet a lot of very normal kids. My advice, if you want to adopt, would be to spend time visiting orphanages in Ukraine, get to know several kids and a good Ukrainian attorney, and plan to adopt a somewhat older child, so you have some idea what kind of personality you are inviting into your house.

All that said, the advantages of having your own kids rather than adopting seem overwhelming. I would caution anybody who is thinking about adopting simply to avoid the hard work of pregnancy and nursing to visit a few schools and ask the counsellors hard questions about adopted kids. Many adoptions work out fine, but the chances of the relationship failing are quite a bit higher with adoptees.

ANCIEN A tragic death I cant talk about.docx 7/22/2011

A tragic death I can't talk about

One of my acquaintances here in Kiev was murdered last week. He had invited some new acquaintances into his flat and they killed him.

As an American, I can say to other Americans that he was obviously gay. He had every mannerism that one associates with being gay.

He displayed an array of the better qualities for which gays are known. He was intelligent, compassionate, a good speaker, a reliable volunteer in a volunteer organization, and all around good company.

But... being a gay male frequently entails seeking many casual sex partners, and that in turn brings risks, among them disease and violence.

I can't offer this observation to my Ukrainian friends because homosexuality is not something you talk about here. They would think I was defaming his memory. My wife was shocked that I should imagine that that he was gay. The victim kept it to himself.

It was certainly obvious, I would think to any foreigner who is here, and anybody who had much experience in the West, what his situation was. But he was in the closet, as almost all gays here are.

Is this a bad thing? I assume that had he been out of the closet we might have had a bit less of his company. Gays in the United States seem to have retreated in more into their own worlds, comfortable being with each other most of the time. There it is more than a subculture; it's a dominant culture, on the march. Gays are

lionized on TV shows, in the media and everywhere else. Here, on the other hand, gays seem to find it best to act just about like everybody else.

Being just like everybody else means only not flaunting their sex lives. Those of us who are married quietly go about being married. The assumption is that we sleep with our wives, but how and when is strictly a private matter. Same with people who are in long-term relationships, and singles. You don't ask and they generally don't tell. So this victim was living in a world similar to that that the gays had lived in when I was a kid, and that all of us heterosexuals live in today, in which sex lives remain generally private.

I doubt that he would've been better protected had he been out. I don't think that the police would have vastly more sympathy; I don't notice that they do much of anywhere. I am sure that the victim knew the dangers that come with inviting strangers into your house. When I was a young man hitchhiking in California, 50 some years ago, I was fairly often picked up by gays and I was rather struck by the risks that they took inviting me into their house. If I had been a different sort of person the outcome could've been difficult for them. Risk is part and parcel of their lifestyle, a fact of which they are acutely aware.

The reasons why people are the way they are hard to fathom. I'm quite sure that homosexuality is a choice for some people, but I'm equally sure that it was not whatsoever for this young man. It was in every fiber of his being.

Homosexuality is a phenomenon that might be explained but not a problem begging to be solved. Rather, my observation is that we probably induce more problems than we resolve by a bringing it to the surface the way the West has done. Let's let sleeping dogs lie, and take a moment to remember a man who was accepted by all for just what he was: a nice guy.

ANCIEN All's fair in love and war.docx 9/2/2014

All's fair in love and war

Natural gas exports to Europe account for a major proportion of Russian export income.

Russia has quarreled continually with Ukraine over the price of gas, leading to a showdown in the winter of 2009 during which supplies to much of Europe were cut off. They have recently almost doubled the price of natural gas to Ukraine, effectively declaring an economic war on a country they hypocritically call a "Slavic Brother."

Russia exports its natural gas to Europe through Ukraine and the Nord Stream pipeline under the Baltic Sea. They built Nord Stream to end their dependence on Ukraine.

Nord Stream is 1220 kilometers long, terminating in Germany. The Baltic Sea is shallow. For most of its length, the pipeline is at depths a Scuba diver could reach. Or, perhaps, a Navy Seal. Perhaps a Navy Seal sapper. Perhaps without uniforms or insignia, like the insurgents who took over Crimea.

I would propose that declaring an economic war might not be such a good idea for Russia. People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, and they have been lobbing a lot. Some might come back.

ANCIEN Altruism and relatedness.docx 9/2/2014

Mutation rate: Wikipedia
 1.1×10^{-8} per site per generation

Question: If Jews were 100% endogamous over the course of 3,000 years, how much altruism should they show?

3000 years = 150 generations

Number of ancestors = 1.5×10^{45}

Each of the 300,000 ancestors appears in the family tree on average 5×10^{39} times.

There is some change by mutation. Cumulative over 150 generations means that the gene pool is only 99.9998% the same after 150 generations. Not much.

1.1	$\times 10^{-8}$ mutations per site per generation
5,000,000	Years separation
15	Years per generation
333,333	Generations
0.999999989	Mutations/site/generation
	Above multiplied by itself 333,333 times
99.63%	Cumulative mutations

Natural selection of course operates quite quickly in such a population. While we are related to the entire endogamous population, if we assume that natural selection has changed the gene pool, then the descendants of more recent ancestors will be closer to us than descendants of distant ancestors.

Therefore, at a societal level, assuming 100% endogamy, a high level of altruism makes sense. Although one might not be able to name the common ancestors, an inbreeding population will be made up of the same genetic stuff.

Base pairs change by mutation at the rate of 1.1×10^{-8} per site per generation.

Assume: Population was about 300,000 ($=3 \times 10^5$) at the time of King David
No intermarriage –

J.B.S. Haldane in 1932 set out the mathematics of kin selection, with Haldane famously joking that he would willingly die for three brothers or nine cousins.
Hamilton's law

ANCIEN Altruism and relatedness1.docx 9/2/2014

Some theoretical musings about a practical problem: how altruistic should I be, and where should we live?

I am an American living in Ukraine with a half Ukrainian son. Like everybody in Kiev I am shocked at Russia's barbarous invasion. Shocked, but not surprised – the Russians are behaving the way they have for the last eight centuries.

We have several options, the top two of which are to stay put or to leave now that there is a war. Staying, we could be faced with the decision of whether or not we want to be Russian. My son, when he comes of age, may be faced with the decision of whether or not to fight for Ukraine.

At the heart of the question is, to what extent are these my people? Will they support me and should I support them? JBS Haldane famously said he was willing to give up his life for three brothers or nine cousins. His logic was as follows: each brother shares half of his genome. Three brothers together add up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times his genome. Allowing them to survive would promote his evolutionary interests more than sacrificing their lives for his own.

By this logic, I owe Ukraine nothing. My son is my only genetic investment. We should get out. By this same logic I likewise owe the United States nothing. I have almost no remaining relations who are of childbearing age and inclination.

Wikipedia's statement of Hamilton's rule is more nuanced: "According to Hamilton's rule, kin selection causes genes to increase in frequency when the genetic relatedness of a recipient to an actor multiplied by the benefit to the recipient is greater than the reproductive cost to the actor." Simply put, the question is how closely related am I to the Ukrainians? Walking down the street I am taken for Ukrainian. Our behavior is similar. We understand each other pretty well. I did a thought experiment using numbers I got from Wikipedia.

Let's start with a crude assumption that I am descended of white people living at the dawn of the agricultural age, 10,000 years ago. That far back my family tree shows as many ancestors as there are grains of sand. They double up. Each of the few hundred thousand white people of that era who shows up anywhere in my lineage probably shows up billions and billions of times. The same DNA was recycled over and over in the gene pool.

Random mutation acts only very slowly. Our DNA is made up of base pairs of the four chemicals abbreviated A,C,T and G. Only one pair in 100 million mutates per generation. A little figuring shows that random mutations would have resulted in a cumulative gene pool change of only .0007% over that time. I am sure I am different from my ancestors in thousand years ago, but random mutation cannot explain it. I would be pretty much the same as every other white person, descended from the same white ancestors, my DNA drawn randomly from their gene pool, and I should therefore have a high level of altruism. The fact that I cannot trace any of my ancestry back to Ukraine would make no difference.

Those are the extremes. By Hamilton's Law I should display no altruism toward the Ukrainians, and expect none. On the other hand, if only random mutation made us different, I should assume that we have so much in common that I should naturally give and expect altruism. Neither can possibly be right. Darwin's theory of natural selection leads me to a middle assumption.

Darwin would observe that people are different. Their different qualities allow some people to leave more surviving offspring than others. Such differing qualities get passed along in the DNA. Tibetans and Andean Indians have evolved to survive at high altitude. We Europeans have white skins to make maximum use of scant sunlight, the ability to digest milk, and the altruism necessary for community life in harsh conditions. Vikings, Tatars and Yanomamo Indians evolved fierceness. Chinese evolved industriousness, and Jews evolved intelligence.

The selection pressures on Ukrainians were only somewhat different than on my ancestors in Western Europe and the United States. Natural selection would have favored most of the same traits in either place.

Living in the United States, I found myself among people who shared a last common ancestor thousands of years farther back, and whose ancestors were subject to quite different evolutionary pressures. Theoretically I have less reason to expect that they would display altruism towards me. The daily newspaper confirms the

fact. It only makes sense that they evolved with different skills and different notions as to who belongs within their circle of altruistic, ethical behavior.

In the best of all possible worlds we will raise our son in a free and liberal Ukraine where he looks, thinks, and talks just like everybody else. He will be naturally accepted. There is a high level of what is called "social capital" because there is a low-level of diversity. Our son is accepted as one of them. He can be expected to be an asset to them: a taxpayer, a son-in-law, a good neighbor, and perhaps a soldier.

If we are put to the hard decision, whether to become subject to a Russian dictatorship in which our son looks just like everybody else, or to return to a United States in which his difference would stand out evermore clearly every year, perhaps it would be safer to remain here. In either place he will have to learn the discipline of keeping his mouth shut. That should be enough to survive here. Back in the United States his pale hide would betray him to the likes of the polar bear hunters and the Attorney General. I think my evolutionary odds are better here.

ANCIEN ASSABIYAH.docx 3/27/2014

"ASSABIYAH"

preferred seems to be asabiyyah. One translation is prejudice. Following article is more subtle.

This Arabic word means ; tribal solidarity, or social adhesion. Its meaning here is looked at from a perspective of societal dynamics and their rules of evolution.

The power-base of each state depends on its "assabiyah" or group solidarity based on family and small communities ties and lineage which is to be found mostly among new migrating people and emerging nations.

The power of each "assabiyah" extends basically to four generations. The first generation, driven by tribal expansionism or religious mission, would conquer the settled nations and establish a powerful state.

The second generation would consolidate and expand the state and build its institutions and would still enjoy strong attachment to its "assabiyah" due to its close connection with an original migrating tribal ethos.

The third generation would enjoy the prosperity of the state and provide support for arts, sciences, and culture. But would have less attachment to their "assabiyah" as a result of their urban upbringing.

The fourth generation would be the one to waste the achievements of their ancestors. Confined to a life of palace machinations and the pursuit of material gratification.

This generation would be mostly concerned with raising money to spend on their welfare and the preservation of their thrones. Which would lead to an intensification of the tax burden on the populace and the erosion of existing social welfare systems, the resulting injustices would lead to the dissolution of the state and the annihilation of its civilisation, and make it vulnerable to invasions of new ideas and social behavioral patterns from other migrating groups, the cycle then starts anew.

Are we at these times witnessing the completion of a full cycle in many places of our world ?? America, Lebanon, many of the rich golf emirates to name a few.

The core idea comes originally from the philosopher Ibn Khaldoun(1332-1406) who inspired the actual thought and opinion, salamat.

ANCIEN assassination.docx 6/22/2015

Thoughts on Voltaire, assassination, drones, snipers, Russia and Ukraine

Technology changes the art of war. In Ukraine we have seen an application of the lessons learned in the Arab Spring. The Internet, and social media, are very effective in uniting people against an oppressive government. Governments which were previously able to divide, suppress and hold people in ignorance when no longer able to do so. We now are witnessing the laughable example of Turkey trying to suppress Twitter and Facebook. It simply does not work.

In Ukraine, people from all over the country were able to assemble at Maidan and protest peacefully against an autocrat in the form of Victor Yanukovich. Yanukovich is simply did not understand what he was up against. The Kyiv Post wrote within the last two years that he didn't even have a computer in his office. He depended for his election on buying votes from older and poorer people in the southern and eastern parts of the country. He used the popular Russian trick of black PR, scaring the daylight out of people with the crudest of propaganda. He had in this he had a lot of help from Vladimir Putin. So he bullied and cajoled people into supporting him. Ignorance was on his side. But the Internet cuts right through that ignorance.

The people I know in Kiev, whom I might add are uniformly Russian speaking, and uniformly detest Vladimir Putin, are extremely active on the Internet. Their impressions from Kiev were disseminated throughout Ukraine and Russia. There was a great divide between what people elsewhere were hearing on the distorted media and what they were reading from their friends here in Kiev. Russia has a history, going back through the Soviet Union to czarist times, of massive propaganda and lies through their media. Her citizens are quite willing to believe that the Russian media are telling lies. It helps when people are able to confirm the truths from outside sources.

The Internet is thus a very powerful tool simply for information. The Internet is a valuable tool of war in another means. The United States is able to manage drone warfare from locations in the heart of the United States, from which they launch unmanned aircraft against targeted individuals in Afghanistan, Yemen, and other countries. It is long-distance assassination. Target the individual, figure out where that individual will be at a certain point in time, and send a drone to kill them.

So far the United States is the only state actor to have mastered this art of distance killing. However, one can assume that others will manage it as well. I would like to take the thought a little bit further. The amounts of money involved in running such a program our not so vast that it could not be undertaken by private individuals.

Drone aircraft are already fairly widely used in police work, agriculture, and other industries. Their cost starts in the low thousands of dollars. It does not take too much of a leap to assume that these cheap drones might be armed for use in all military or political applications. It seems just a matter of time before drones are used for political assassination. As ubiquitous as drones are, plausible deniability will be increasingly easy for even a state actor practicing assassination.

Assassination of politicians has been on the decline over the past the century. It was quite a popular undertaking in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The Archduke's assassination started the First World War. Several United States presidents have been assassinated, the last of them a half century ago.

Since Kennedy's time, security details and gotten better. However there is always a balance between offense and defense. As defenses get better, offenses gain strength as well. What we have not seen is application of the new offensive powers that appear to be fairly clearly available, starting with drones.

There is another kind, low technology tool for assassination. Sniper rifles, conventional rifles equipped with proper scopes and properly built and properly equipped with scopes, are accurate now at distances up to a mile or mile and a half. That offers a tremendous opportunity for a sniper, a lone gunman with a weapon the costs perhaps \$10,000, take out a high-value individual target. He simply has to anticipate when that individual will be visible and within range, and he has to figure out how to position himself and his weapon into position to take advantage of it. So far this has not been done, but my guess is that it is a matter of time before somebody is assassinated with the kind of sniper weapon that the US has used in Afghanistan. After the first, given the copycat nature of the human animal, it will probably be done repeatedly. Political assassination may again come into fashion, like aircraft hijackings, flash mobs, and the knockout game. Its reappearance may instill some caution in world politicians. Voltaire wrote that "The ideal form of government is democracy tempered with assassination." Have we gotten out of balance?

It is interesting how passive people are. They can be bought off to put up with very imperfect governments. But they reach a breaking point. Analysts say that Russia is able to use natural resource revenues to placate its citizens through enough government handouts that it does not face open rebellions. Ukraine's gross national product per capita is about a quarter that of Russia. Perhaps the problem in Ukraine was that the people really are quite hard up, and they were therefore less willing to put up with the dictatorship of Victor Yanukovich. This could probably be said as well of the northern African countries that we build in the Arab Spring.

A question that comes to mind then is how much Putin will be able to put upon the Russian people before they also rise up. The Russian economy depends on the export of natural resources. The Soviet Union did a very bad job of building technologies, of inventing things and manufacturing anything besides heavy equipment. This problem persists in the Soviet Union, which retains the cumbersome, centralized, oligarch-owned model of heavy industry. The engines of wealth in Europe have been small to midsized businesses whose skilled employees are able to respond quickly to marketplace demand. The oligarchs, on the other hand, use more autocratic management styles. They do not trust intelligent employees. Workers are not inclined to question the boss, and the boss is not inclined to accept suggestions for improvement. There is little improvement in business processes. Russia (and Ukraine) have quite primitive economies for their natural resources and the intelligence of their people.

This is a very interconnected world. Russia is demonstrating that it is not a reliable business partner. The West he has come to depend on Russian energy exports, gas and oil, as well as other minerals such as palladium. However, none of these materials are indispensable. There are substitutes and alternative sources for almost all of them. It seems very likely that the European Union will be looking hard at substitutes for Russian energy in particular. They can accelerate their programs for shale gas, for one thing. For another, they can rethink the nuclear moratorium, and keep their nuclear reactors online, and even build a new generation of nuclear reactors in order to become self-sufficient in the energy sphere.

If this happens, Russia will find that it's that the engine of its economy, natural resources, no longer has as much value in the West. Putin will find that he has overplayed his hand, and in five years or so, with less income from natural resources, the amount of wealth that he can redistribute among the citizens for fall. That will lead to less satisfaction on their part, and with the Internet, one can envision that Putin will face the same kind of popular uprising that unseated Yanukovich in Ukraine. Yanukovich got out alive. What will the climate be like when Putin has to leave?

Putting Ukraine's language issue in an international perspective

Vladimir Putin makes a big point of protecting Russian speakers in Ukraine as if they were Russian. The huge flaw in his logic is the fact that a vast majority of the people in the country speak Russian. They also speak Ukrainian. It is the largest natively multilingual country I know of. Moreover, the language issue is seldom as divisive as Putin would make it seem. Let's take a look.

Switzerland is the world's most perfectly multilingual country. This country of less than 8 million speaks German, French, Italian and Romanche. The percentages are 65 percent, 23 percent, eight percent and one percent. As a bonus, most educated Swiss speak English as well. There is no notable friction on language front.

Some cities of Belgium, most notably Brussels, are quite bilingual in Flemish and French. Montréal is bilingual between English and French. Strasburg is bilingual German and French. Knowing the language is a simply a matter of getting along. These cities happen to be located on linguistic borders. The countries on either side of their particular borders, however, tend to be monolingual. Or, if they are not, they use English as a second language.

English is far and away the world's most important second language. It is a mandatory subject in elementary schools in the smaller northern European countries – the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. While natives of these countries all speak their native language, they expect to speak English when they study abroad, travel, and do business.

English is the world's lingua franca. It is the language that Indians from different regions of that vast country use to communicate with one another. It has the richest vocabulary of any world language, and far and away the most support in terms of dictionaries, word processors, search engines and everything else one could want to go with a language. It is grammatically fairly easy, and because it is so universal most people who speak English can converse usefully with people who don't speak it well. While there may not be a vast number of natively bilingual people one of whose languages is English, English is by far the most prevalent second language among people who are bilingual to some degree.

English colonial expansion spread the language throughout the world. Britain colonized the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, and a lot of Africa. The language remained because it was useful. However, these events happened one or two centuries ago. Countries have either adopted English as their native language, as in Liberia, or a firmly established second language for the educated.

The expansion of the Russian speaking world has been more recent. The Soviet Union dominated Eastern Europe until three decades ago. Russian was a mandatory subject in school, and a knowledge of Russian was essential for career development for the generation now in their 60s and 70s. It was a living Imperial language until recently.

That has certainly been the case in Ukraine. Ukraine has been dominated by Russia since Bogdan Khmelnytsky was forced into a fateful choice between Poland and Russia in 1648. Various czars and commissars have forced the teaching of Russian over the years, to the extent that everybody has some exposure. Just as an example, my wife's parents, born in the 1940s, spoke Ukrainian in school. 30 years later in the same region my wife was schooled in the Russian language. That's what we speak at home. Needless to say, the choice was made in Moscow, not anywhere in Ukraine.

Ukraine's situation differs from that of many of the former Soviet Socialist republics only in the period of time that it was dominated by Russia. The Baltic states came under the communists only after World War II. Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan had been under czarist control, but later and not as strong. The same can be said of the Central Asian 'stans. For this reason one can get by in any of them, even today, by speaking Russian. However, without a doubt Russian is more pervasive in Ukraine than any place else because of the length of the association and the determination with which the language was forced on the population.

That is the history of what is to my knowledge the largest almost totally bilingual country in the world. Yes, Ukraine is Russian speaking. No, it is not because they love Russia.

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That is the history of what is to my knowledge the largest almost totally bilingual country in the world. It is home to the world's third-largest Russian speaking city, Kiev. Yes, Ukraine is Russian speaking. No, it is not because they love Russia. They remain bilingual because their own language, and sense of themselves as a people, has survived massive programs of education, indoctrination, exile, colonization, repression and starvation conducted by the Russians.

[ANCIEN Blacks are acting in evolutionary self.docx 10/21/2020](#)

Burning and looting is in Black evolutionary self-interest

We white people react in horror to the violence in Ferguson. What can the Blacks be thinking? I am not an evolutionary psychologist, but let me project some ways in which what they are doing might be rational.

First, one must recognize that the situation of Black people outside of the tribal environment in which they evolved is precarious. Europeans have historically been responsible for almost all modern science, industry, and business. Asians have recently started contributing significantly. Blacks have contributed next to nothing, and technology makes even their labor contribution increasingly marginal.

Black populations have been unable to acquire the education or the skills now in demand. The obvious reason for this is a lack of intellectual capability. However, because Blacks vote no government can afford to state this fact. Nonetheless, the conclusions of intelligence researchers which have stood for almost 100 years remain unchanged. Different populations have different average intelligences. As Steve Sailer wryly put it, the order understood back then was Semetic, Oriental, Caucasian, Latino and Negro. It is now Jewish, Asian, White, Hispanic, and Black.

The differences are large. The average Jew is smarter than 5/6 of white people, and the average white person is smarter than 5/6 of black people. The Wikipedia article on this, "Mainstream Science on Intelligence" – Google it, remains as valid today as when it was written in 1994.

Blacks have no recourse. Tribal life is no longer viable. They have no land available for subsistence farming. They have few skills that are valued in the labor market. They have become quite totally dependent on the majority society for their livelihood. And, they have become very adept at manipulating that mainstream society. Fortunately for them, mainstream society is quite affluent. Moreover, it is afflicted by altruism, easily permuted into white guilt by the Blacks and their enablers. This so far has given them what they need.

Blacks get jobs by demanding them. They challenge society to tell them why they should not have jobs in proportions equivalent to those held by other races. The honest answer, that they cannot do the jobs as well as others because they are not that smart, cannot be uttered. Therefore, the powers that be cave in and grant them jobs through affirmative action and other preferential tools. Blacks get jobs which they can only marginally perform but from which they cannot easily be fired. The society is rich; it can afford the drag on productivity that black employees represent.

Employed Blacks, however productive or not, are in line for a number of government provided benefits. They receive subsidies for purchasing houses, preferential admission to educational institutions which will grant them certifications that help them get a job. Insurance companies and others are legally prohibited from making rational decisions with regard to Blacks on the basis of statistical analysis of their driving, loan repayment and other performance indicators.

Many Blacks do not work. There are a host of government programs to make sure they survive. They benefit from unemployment insurance, disability programs, welfare, state run food programs like food stamps, private charities, a number of healthcare program, rent subsidies, student loans even when they do not study and other similar handouts. One would observe that a cynical knowledge of how to play the system is widespread throughout Black communities. It is not even cynical: despite having nothing on which to base it, they have developed a profound sense of entitlement.

Blacks have learned that crime pays. Many have no other way, besides taking handouts, of making money. Though they are not caught that often, the number who are overwhelm the system. There are simply not enough police to catch them or jails to lock them up. More than that, there is a legion of apologists who second-guess the police, schools, prison authorities and others that would attempt to hold them to account. Blacks are not given to deep thinking, but they correctly conclude that a thug life is not a bad deal, given their alternatives. Liberals are aghast that they would make such terrible life decisions. The sad truth is that Blacks are

more rational than these overeducated bien-pensants. Their choices make sense within the context of their lives.

Rioting and looting made sense fifty years ago in Watts, Hunters Point and Washington. It makes sense today in Ferguson. Not for all Blacks, but for enough that they are able to carry it off. They riot, the police are constrained from responding with anything like appropriate force, and Blacks can carry off what they want. They also have the pleasure of intimidating the white man once again as they do it.

As a breeding population Blacks are doing well relative to whites. They have more children, shorter generations, and feel much less obligation to invest in those children's education and socialization. Black children become wards of society at birth. White people's taxes pay for their babysitting. Head Start and the school system, and food through the school lunch programs. White charities often provide them with clothes, summer camp and other amenities. Black people, unencumbered by the expenses, have more children than white people. They are evolutionarily more successful. While it lasts.

It would be an oversimplification to say that the Blacks are an example of a parasite killing the host. White societies' altruistic toleration of black parasitism is only one of their many dysfunctions. They have lost faith in their own beliefs and traditions. Their endorsement of sexual practices totally unconnected with reproduction does not lead to children. The self-indulgent lifestyle of the baby boomers, financed with money borrowed from their children, is also unsustainable. One can say merely that celebrating diversity is one among many indulgences which is not promoting the evolutionary interests of white people.

Whatever brings it about, the demise of the white population will deprive Blacks of their host. Other peoples of the world will not be sympathetic. If Blacks have so many children that they starve in the streets of Johannesburg, one can hardly expect that the Chinese will take it on themselves to feed them. Chinese have had no difficulty watching each other starve over the centuries. They maintain the benighted notion that Chinese lives are more valuable than starving Blacks.

White society, if it is to survive, needs to regain its own sense of tribal identity. This is happening in Europe. *Génération Identitaire*, for example, is a French manifestation. They are not anti-Black or anti-Muslim, simply pro-European. The effect is the same. If French resources are to be distributed among peoples, they want to put French recipients at the head of the line.

It may be that the put-upon white population of the United States is finally finding its voice, daring to speak the unspeakable. It is hard to predict what will happen when they do. As noted, the Blacks have nowhere to go. It will certainly be bloody and unpleasant, and it could mark the end of a remarkable civilization.

[ANCIEN Cars in Kiev.docx 10/29/2014](#)

The song goes, "You don't know what you got till it's gone." Kiev has an excellent system of public transportation. The compact geography and the dense combination of Metro, buses, trolleys, elektrishka trains and marshrutkas makes it possible to get just about anywhere quickly and cheaply. But this wonderful system is under threat, and nobody trumpets what an asset it is.

The increasing number of cars is the biggest danger. They clog up the roads, slowing down not only each other but public transportation as well. They get in the way. It is hard for a pedestrian or a bicyclist to navigate through the cars parked on the sidewalks. Cars block each other, and pedestrians, in downtown intersections. Conversely, when pedestrians have the right of the way they can block cars, causing traffic jams.

Ukraine's reaction to the growing automobile population has been pulling Kiev into the same vortex that has swallowed every Western capital. Simply put, the public can buy cars faster than any city can build roads. Every improvement in one road simply adds to congestion on the others that feed it. Commute times are rising everywhere, inexorably.

The solution is not to abandon road projects, but to build intelligently, preserving public transportation and encouraging alternatives such as walking and bicycling. Many improvements can be effected simply by changes in policy without affecting the road grid. Here are some suggestions.

1. Kiev should continue efforts to control on-sidewalk parking to encourage walking, the cheapest and most efficient mode of transport. For example, the sidewalks along Pushkinskaya are fairly navigable due to a system of demarcated parking places and people to enforce the system with tickets and even parking boots. My standard would be that it should be possible for a mother with a baby stroller to get through any sidewalk in the city.
2. Unclog intersections by having traffic police issue tickets for blocking traffic when the light changes. Washington D.C.'s "Don't block the box" campaign has done this with great success. Here in Kiev, as the light is about to change at Volodymyrska and Prorizna, cars push their noses into the intersection, blocking both cross traffic and pedestrians. They should not enter unless they can get through. If there were militia there with cameras, they could photograph the license plate and driver's license of offenders quickly enough not to further impede traffic, and issue fines sizeable enough to discourage this rude and counterproductive activity.
3. Charge motorists for the privilege of downtown driving and street parking. Various English and European cities use systems of bumper stickers and cameras, or transponders, to enforce the policies. Revenues would more than pay for the system. Discouraging downtown driving would unclog the roads, making it more efficient for both those willing to pay for the privilege and those who choose to use public transportation as an alternative.
4. Install walk/wait lights to prevent pedestrians from snarling vehicular traffic. Pedestrians have the right-of-way as they cross Brovarskii Prospect in Livoberezhna, blocking the on-ramp and backing up traffic for hundreds of meters. Simply asking them to wait while giving cars an unbroken 40 seconds or so of unfettered movement would greatly reduce the problem.

Roadway construction projects should be conceived with not just motorists, but public transit, pedestrians and bicyclists in mind. Walking is the best way to get around in most Western downtown areas. Bicycles are an increasingly popular means of commuting in Holland, major California cities and Washington D.C. Not only is biking healthy and inexpensive, but it is often faster than the alternatives. Moreover, cities such as Curitiba, Brazil, which are designed for public transit can be amazingly efficient. To this end Ukraine should:

5. Make it a policy to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians on every new urban roadway. The Obolonska Naberezhna and Moskovsky bridges do it well.
6. To ensure that the greatest number of commuters derive the greatest benefit from new construction (sounds like Communism – but with a positive twist), follow the lead of US cities by creating dedicated bus and high-occupancy vehicle lanes on newly constructed roads to encourage people to carpool or use the bus.

7. Build parking facilities near outlying metro and elektrishka stations, where commuters can safely leave their cars or bicycles as they ride into work.

Kiev's road grid evolved over many centuries during which private car ownership was not even a consideration. This city of four million was not planned for cars: it would grind to a halt if any sizeable percentage of the citizens drove. The master transportation plan has to take into consideration that even when most people can afford cars, commuting with them would be a disaster. The city has no alternatives for moving its large numbers of citizens about but to group them into buses and metros, making efficient use of the roadways and railways, and encourage them to walk and bike.

The first four ideas presented here would not require any significant capital investment. It would take no more than the political will to convince car owners that managing automobile usage and preserving Kiev's wonderful system of public transportation is in motorists' own interest. The city cannot grow economically if it is strangled in traffic, and owning a car is only an advantage if the roads are clear enough to use them.

Graham H. Seibert works in Kiev as a teacher and writer's and and. His most recent book *Edward* lays out his plans, and most importantly, his reasons for choosing Kiev to homeschool his son. In his earlier career he founded two computer consulting companies and wrote books for programmers and managers on Oracle database and enterprise management software. He is a top 1000 Amazon book reviewer. Contact graham1@grahamseibert.com

Graham:

I have examined the piece and look forward to publishing it within relatively short time. However, first we need to make some decisions and take certain administrative actions:

1. We have a standard policy of include one or more photos with every article or op-ed. We often use author photos with op-eds and would be quite happy to do this with your article(s). We could also use other photos that we have in file or develop specifically to illustrate the pieces. I think the piece in hand would be particularly amenable to a greater number of photos than usual.
2. Also, we use an author ID slug at the end of each op-ed. I would ask you to compose your own, giving as much or as little info as you choose. We strongly recommend the inclusion of your e-mail address. We, however, do not recommend the inclusion of telephone contact numbers but would do so if an author so desired.

I will include below several examples of present or previous closing slugs that might be helpful in framing you own:

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*Paul Peter Jesep, JD, MPS, MA, is a bishop in the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. He is the [appointed U.S. spokesperson of Metropolitan Myfodii of the UAOC](#). Jesep is also a policy analyst, New York attorney and author of [Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis](#). The views expressed here are personal. Contact Jesep at: pjesep@gmail.com

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*Prof. Emilio F. Riccio has spent over 40 years in the active practice of logistics in the United States, Middle East, Caribbean, and the former Soviet Union (FSU). His business activities, consulting and writing in the field include almost 20 years as adjunct faculty of New York University and more recently FSU universities and institutes. He is the author of a number of books on logistics and was a founder of the Netherlands-based professional organization, the Society of International Logistics and Operations (SILO), which he currently chairs. Contact: ricciologistics@gmail.com

3. On the issue of a possible IMF op-ed, it would be most welcome since this is one of those subjects that most people have accepted at face value with no critical discussion ever being offered.

All the best, jd

Graham H. Seibert works in Kiev as a teacher and author. His most recent book *Edward* lays out his plans, and most importantly, his reasons for choosing Kiev to homeschool his son. In his earlier career he founded two computer consulting companies and wrote books for programmers and managers on Oracle database and enterprise management software. He is a top 1000 Amazon book reviewer. Contact graham1@grahamseibert.com

ANCIEN criteria for civilization.docx 1/29/2014

1. In the ordinary circumstances of life in public places, they cover the greater part of the trunk with clothes.
2. They keep the body clean and take care to dispose of its waste products.
- 3 ■ They do not practice severe mutilation or deformation of the body, except for medical reasons.
4. They have knowledge of building in brick or stone, if the necessary materials are available in their territory.
5. Many of them live in towns or cities, which are linked by roads.
6. They cultivate food plants.
7. They domesticate animals and use some of the larger ones for transport (or have in the past so used them), if suitable species are available.
8. They have knowledge of the use of metals, if these are available.
9. They use wheels.
10. They exchange property by the use of money.
11. They order their society by a system of laws, which are enforced in such a way that they ordinarily go about their various concerns in times of peace without danger of attack or arbitrary arrest.
12. They permit accused persons to defend themselves and to bring witnesses for their defense.
- 13 ■ They do not use torture to extract information or for punishment.
14. They do not practice cannibalism.
15. Their religious systems include ethical elements and are not purely or grossly superstitious.
16. They use a script (not simply a succession of pictures) to communicate ideas.
17. There is some facility in the abstract use of numbers, without consideration of actual objects (or, in other words, at least a start has been made in mathematics).

- 1 8. A calendar is in use, accurate to within a few days in the year.
- 1 9. Arrangements are made for the instruction of the young in intellectual subjects.
- 2 0. There is some appreciation of the fine arts.
- 2 1 . Knowledge and understanding are valued as ends in themselves.

(Page 158).

ANCIEN Darwin and Democracy.docx 11/8/2013

Darwin and Democracy

Equality is the cornerstone concept of democracy. All citizens are awarded equal political and legal rights. This permuted over the last few decades into the assumption that all humans are in fact equal, with the corollary that their achievements in life should be roughly equal. Observing that this is not the fact, most modern democracies seek to rectify the situation by assigning blame, granting some groups offsetting advantages and handicapping others.

Individual difference is the cornerstone of Darwin's theory of evolution. It is a natural result of the lottery of sexual reproduction, augmented by random mutation. Those differences translate into degrees of fitness for survival and reproduction which determine the path of evolution. There are successful and less successful members within every level: family, clan, tribe, nation and races of mankind.

Evolutionary success means reproductive success. Note that among humans over last two centuries, abetted by liberal democracy, the economically successful have become reproductively unsuccessful. The thesis of this book is that this inversion is not consistent with evolution and will eventually be reversed. When and how are the important questions.

Chapters

The evolution of democracy. Better than monarchy. Napoleon's ability to enlist millions to fight his wars. The sham of democracy: communism and fascism. Propaganda and the ability to motivate people. Memes as evolutionary units. The broadening of the franchise.

Civil rights. Who can fight it? Truth has no friends in court. People are not equal, but There is no way to weight inequality.

Family and civilization. Recap Zimmerman. Trustee, patriarchal and atomistic family (look it up).

Include Calhoun. Democracy is necessary to accommodate the crowded living conditions of modern life. Without it there would presumably be nationalistic chaos. With it we have the behavioral sink.

Stephen Pinker. Better angels good as long as it lasts.

Government's expanding reach. Taking over family, clan, tribe and ethnicity. Evolutionary unit is now the nation, too big, and the individual couple, too small. No support for the gene pool at the essential levels.

Belief systems. We all believe something irrational. What we used to believe, Christianity or Judaism, supported reproduction. What we now belief, Gaia, individual rights, etc. does not.

My friend Daniel, slipping on the banana peel of Canadian socialized medicine, departed for the happy hunting grounds last year. I miss him. He was one of the few progressives with whom I could hold a conversation. We were both concerned about global warming. He wasn't strident, and I don't deny its reality. It is rare to find a conversation like that.

In his last year, I asked Dan what his stake was. Why was he concerned about global warming? He has no children. For whom is he concerned? Consistent with his humility and candor, he said that he could not answer that question. It's some sort of a deep-rooted altruism that defies explanation.

I can speak for myself and say that my interest in the future of the world is quite clear. I have four children, and I hope to have grandchildren. I want there to be something left for them to inherit. That would include a physical earth capable of supporting them, and a society in which they can feel at home and raise successive generations of my family.

A smart person used to be considered an asset to his family, his tribe, his neighborhood, and all of society. But as we have ceased to recognize such mutual obligations, he is a benefit only to himself. Government demands its share of taxes, and provides benefits whether asked or not, and appears bent on increasing its own strength. Neither government nor civil society asks much of the individual in return for what is given. There is not much loyalty. Likewise the however, at the same time, the state has usurped a lot of the role of the family. The family is no longer involved in providing the secular education for children. The role of family in providing moral instruction has also been diminished. The children conversely do not feel much obligation to the parents.

The upshot is that whereas in previous generations you raised your kid to support you, and you supported the kid as he got his start in life, now the kid is pretty much on his own. Also, you raised your child to be part of a group, a community, and the tribe. It was expected to be some mutual support. The implicit contract of mutual support is also gone. The state has rather heavily subsumed all of the functions, or most of the functions provided by neighborhoods and communities. It administers these things in its bureaucratic way without engendering any sense of loyalty in either direction. The bureaucrat's loyalty is to his paycheck, and the beneficiary of government largesse takes what is given as an entitlement.

My question is then, to whom does my child owe his loyalty in this age? He owes it to nobody but himself, and possibly to his family if we are able to make ours an exception. What should we expect of him? Unlike in previous generations, it does not make sense to expect him to support his government. It makes sense to expect him or to ask him only to support our genetic interests and have children. This is a fairly lonesome existence. It's not a subject the successful call. But it's all we have.

And here I recount the history of our family and the 19th and 20th centuries, going from being quite fertile with a sense of direction to quite the opposite.

Have three articles to write. One of them is about the negative effect of modern society on evolution. The second is or should we as individuals do about it. The third would be how the focus of people like Charles Murray on the United States is wrong – the such a broad policy cannot be saved.

Thoughts on the breeding pool. Humans are just like animals of many other species. We meet within a breeding population, and there is a gene pool alive within that group. Evolution works through the union of individuals within a breeding population, with their progeny perpetuating the gene pool. This historically

operated at the level of the family and the tribe. The Kayapo with whom I spent time in Brazil offer a good example. Their entire society is set up for breeding and raising children.

Within Western Europe there were, in the agricultural age, places within the community that were very important. People didn't travel very far, they got there meeting partners generally from the neighborhood. There were institutions such as the church and other civic institutions through which they met and which were interested in perpetuating the people. There was also a broader interest at the level of the county, the earldom or whatever. But the interest became diffuse as you went up the hierarchy. It was mostly local.

Inasmuch as it was local, the local elders had a great interest in seeing their offspring give them grandchildren. There was a lot of pressure from mothers for their daughters to marry. Social status was wrapped up in being married and raising kids. A man achieved social status by taking his place among the men in a group. It was as it was intimate, and everybody knowing each other.

Cities have historically been enemies of the family. People did not reproduce terribly well in the cities starting back in the Middle Ages. The population of France started to stagnate just after the revolution, much to Napoleon's chagrin. Paris wasn't fertile. Still, the cities were constantly renewed from the countryside, where there was a breeding population.

In modern society the government has taken over the roles that were formerly filled by communities. The cities are large so large that there is no perceived community interest. Thus Generation X becomes invisible, masked by the fact that they are generally lost in impossibly large the cities. Overrun with people, we have no perspective. We lose sight of the fact that people like us are not having children.

Part of our past genius, as recorded by Nicholas Wade in *An Inconvenient Truth* and Sarah Blaffer Hardy in *Mothers and Others* was to enlist the entire society in raising children. This allowed us to be more fertile than other apes. We were evolutionarily successful, and it became hardwired part of our sociology.

Among the Kayapó, a Stone Age people, fertility was the top priority. They didn't give much thought were give much emphasis to true love and pair bonding. The emphasis was children. And the sexual relations were rather fluid. The chief decided who was married to whom.

I have been among primitive agricultural people. In Honduras with a family that was living on their own land in the hinterlands of Joya Grande. Subsistence farmers, they had a very definite family structure, and children were extremely useful in the economy of the farm. This could also be observed in Vietnam. My ex-wife's family had 12 children – they were from the agricultural south. Most the women I knew came from families with several siblings. The maids I employed had names like Ba Bi and Ba Hi. It was customary there to call kids not by their given name but by their birth order. Ba Hi meant that my maid was a seventh in the family. Without a doubt some had died in childhood, but overall the fertility was fairly high. The same is evident in small towns elsewhere. The German settlers in Colonia Alicia, Misionens, Argentina, live in scattered farm villages across the Uruguay river from Brazil. Families are extremely useful in farming; their social structure, built around church, community and Saturday night dances, is designed to form couples and families.

I know a lot about my family, some lines going back to the time the fifteenth century. The average number of children is large. They prospered especially after coming to America. During the 19th century most of those children grew to to adulthood, and the family tree is very thick. In the 20th century it thinned out rapidly, to the point where I am the lone descendent of my mother's parents to have children, and the lone legitimate descendent to produce offspring on my father's side.

The obvious conclusion is that fertility depends a great deal on one's social arrangements. American, and all Western social arrangements have changed, and our fertility has as well. The question for me is how to reverse

this for my descendents. I cannot roll back the political and social tides that have so drastically affected urban society around me.

We see some examples. Successful groups today include the Amish, Muslims, Orthodox Jews, the Hutterites, and the Mormons. The Gypsies, whatever else might be said of them, are evolutionarily successful – they have large families. What can we learn from them? Is it possible to remain thoroughly modern, enlightened men and still have a culture that encourages fertility?

It appears that these two principles are at loggerheads. Procreation taxes the individual in the interests of his offspring. It taxes the phenotype to the advantage of the genotype. All of Enlightenment thinking, however, favors the phenotype and takes the propagation of the genotype for granted. Though the flaws in this line of thought were obvious to Malthus in the early 19th century, it was not until the 20th century, when the secular, democratic ideas of the Enlightenment swept down through all layers of society, that the reality became clear.

Why the problem should worry me so much I don't know.

Central government has grown so aggressively in most countries that it has crowded out the lower levels of civic participation. Growth was enabled by improved communications and transportation. It was justified on the theory of economies of scale and uniformity of policy. It was in the interests of the federal and state bureaucrats who had the power to force it on the lower echelons of government. Neighborhood-based charities have largely lost their mission, because government assumes responsibility for the needy. The volunteers who used to knit together the fabric of society, socializing as they worked to help their neighbors and community, have been sent the message that they are superfluous: government employees can handle those tasks.

Part of this is in response to technological advances. The community used to be a real entity, where people saw each other day in and day out in the markets and doing business with each other. Transportation has changed that. The advent of even before the advent of the train, there were stagecoaches connecting the cities to the country, as in *Madame Bovary*. The trains do the vastly improved the connections. Then the automobile in the 1920s and communications starting with telephone brought people together, but it allowed people to define new communities, much more broadly spread than today. Than previously. Even within my lifetime this is changed. Community churches are less common, and churchgoing is less common. Libraries have gone downhill, replaced by the Internet. Where I live now in Kiev my neighbors said see each other on the in the shops and especially on the local box. That didn't happen when I lived in Washington.

The simplest possible statement of the problem. Democracy posits that all people are equal. It attributes unequal outcomes among individuals sexes and races as evidence of discrimination. Evolution, as defined by Darwin, is the survival of the fittest. It is the process whereby individual differences, about which Darwin went on a length, lead to the differential ability to leave surviving progeny. That is how evolution works. The individuals, the groups, the gene pools which are most successful are the ones which survive and leave progeny and the others become extinct. The conflict between these two is severe and irreconcilable.

ANCIEN dictation - ideas for piece on ukraine.docx 7/30/2016

Ukraine is already in a difficult position, given. It never fully recovered from the crisis of 2008, and for as long as anyone can remember it has been beset by incredible levels of corruption. Already corrupt, it had experienced an altogether new level of misgovernment with the Yanukovich election in 2010. The thievery was widespread and implausibly bold and inept. Yanukovich overstepped himself and was thrown out with the Maidan revolution which started in late 2013 and ended with his departure in March 2014. Ukraine it was not coopted -it was an impromptu revolution. The proof is in the fact that the revolutionaries were not whatsoever organized to run the government when they finally won. Kiev was in chaos. The old parliament still functioned, however poorly, and the institutions remained but there was no direction.

Putin seized the moment to invade Crimea. The whole world was taken aback by the audacity of the move. It was without precedent in the postwar world, and by virtue of its being so unprincipled it succeeded quite quickly. Putin was emboldened by the success to attempt to capture the Donbass by similar subterfuge. Although he had confederates in power in the Lugansk and Donetsk oblasts, it did not prove as easy as he had expected. Ukraine put up a resistance that was surprisingly effective giving their lack of organization and the sorry state of the military. The obsolete, undertrained, understaffed and poorly led military, supported by zealous Ukrainian patriots mostly from the west, stanchd the Russian-initiated invasion/revolution. And that is the state of Ukraine in late 2015. The war with Russia is seemingly at a standstill. The West has rallied sufficiently to Ukraine's support that Putin dares not push further. Moreover, it is clear that if he occupied any additional territory he would have to work against a hostile citizenry. On the other hand, Putin has a hard time withdrawing support from the separatists, because the Russian people have swallowed his propaganda that this is a great victory for Russia. The status quo is bleeding him dry. He is exhausting his military, spending money had an unsustainable clip on his fighting machine, and is saddled with the expenses of three nonfunctional entities: Crimea, Lugansk and Donetsk.

That's the situation in Ukraine and Russia as of now. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the world events are moving at an accelerating pace, not in directions that are promising.

Europe has been forestalling a monetary and fiscal crisis for two years, since the Cyprus bank bail-in. Greece is on the ropes, and Italy Portugal and France appear not to be far behind. The Chinese stock market overextended itself and is crashing. China has mismanaged its economy, investing hugely in ghosts cities, bridges to nowhere, trains with no riders and other costly infrastructure. The bill has come due there. Brazil is overextended as well. The miracle has fallen apart and President Dilma is seeing approval ratings in the low teens. The United States appears strong as any, but the racial problems are coming to a head. The Dow Jones fell 5% within a week, only to be refloated through massive manipulation on the part of the government's Plunge Protection Team. Although the dollar is strong, the government's efforts to prop up the stock market and the bond market appeared to be unsustainable.

Thoughts to capture

Ukraine's Soviet era industries, heavy machinery mining and chemicals and steel are dying. On the other hand agriculture is surging. Computer programming is taking off. Ukraine has a lot to offer in the services area. It should be a destination for more medical tourism. Note that is already a center for fertility treatments, offshore dental work, outsourced advertising and graphic art, music production and other things that can be moved over the Internet.

The next step may be things that involve light manufacturer – some movement of product. The big holdups have been customs and the bribes involved in doing business here.

Economists claim that labor prices are sticky. The costs of production will remain high in the developed countries, even as unemployment rises. Raises will be scarce, but even in a deflationary environment it will be hard to bring wages down. Ukraine's wage structure is much more flexible. Here, wages are not supported by

unions and other bargaining devices that would keep them steady. The wages here are freer to adjust to the market. A high rate of inflation makes the decreases automatic, in the absence of actively raising salaries.

Wages here are already very low by European standards. Even as Europe enters a recession, it will still experience relatively high wages and high labor overhead costs. There will be an incentive to outsource to Ukraine, and to move activities into Ukraine.

Ukraine has not been a destination of choice for several reasons. One is the high corruption. Another is the problems with the infrastructure. The third is the concern about the war – uncertainty with regard to what I should do.

These considerations may be diminishing.

Except during wartime, Europe has generally had relatively free movement of people. There are, for instance, French leaving for England because of the high taxes they experience. Germany has seen immigration out for centuries. My ancestors went to the United States. Catherine the Great and Peter the Great settled thousands of Germans in the Volga and here in Ukraine. It seems likely seems plausible that Ukraine will accept immigrants from the West who want to start businesses here as soon as it is clear that there will be legal protections for the business. They will not have to deal with the high overheads for the legislated diversity in the West. Labor laws are less onerous here – it is easier to hire and fire. That makes sense that foreign entrepreneurs may come here.

The foreign entrepreneurs may bring a virtuous cycle. Foreign laws make it less appealing to resort to the bribery that has been standard here. Foreign companies in Ukraine are in a stronger position due to the legislation in their home countries to oppose corruption. A McDonald's has the power to simply say "no" to inspectors of various sorts who want to be paid off. They can say no and if the locals demanding bribes persist, they are well enough connected to get something done at an official level. European companies belong to the European business Association. American companies belong to the American Chamber of Commerce. These organizations have been fairly powerful and are likely to become more so with the portion code government willing to listen to them.

ANCIEN Do you want grandchildren.docx 12/30/2014

Do you want grandchildren? In the sweeping, biblical sense that God had in mind when he told Abraham that his descendents would outnumber the stars in the skies?

Your answer to this question should affect just about everything you do in life: your education, your career, choice of spouse, the choice of where to live, your politics and even your morality.

If you do not want grandchildren it ultimately does not matter what you do with your life. A long-term outcome is already decided: you die, and that's it. What you do along the way, whether you are gay, married or a swinger, whether you are a responsible citizen or a gutter bum, really doesn't matter... At least not to your progeny or the world.

A good deal of the illogic that pervades our society is promulgated by people who do not want grandchildren but are extremely ready to tell other people how to live. They have no stake in the future, but they demand a strong say in shaping the world my grandchildren inherit.

The Pope probably knows less about global warming than I do, and if he has been true to his vows he has no genetic stake in the world a century from now. His stands against global warming and in defense of homosexuality are amusing. Even if he were right, what affair is it of his? I, on the other hand, I want food to eat

and air to breathe for my grandchildren. I want to do whatever is within my power to encourage them to get married and pass along the family line. I have a stake.

Human illogic dictates why people put their hand in these affairs that ultimately are of no interest to them. They do it out of a sense of self-importance, perhaps even inflated because they are in not having children of their own. Social justice warriors and Greenpeace activists veins flow with the juices of self-righteousness. You cannot extricate their ego from their altruism.

Those of us who have children have to accept these meddling do-gooders as a part of the environment against which we have to fight in order to do a proper job of raising kids. Raising children is difficult. Let me enumerate some of the considerations.

Our society has a profound present time orientation. Only a minority would answer the question that they want grandchildren in the affirmative. Only a fraction of that minority would say that they want their grandchildren to be like themselves, and that they think their culture is superior and deserves to be preserved. Most are rather likely answer the other way around. They have bought the notion that all cultures are equivalent, and that their grandchildren deserve no preference over the grandchildren of anybody else.

The stands evolution on its head. That's where it has been for two centuries now. The results are not pretty.

Belief in grandchildren is belief in the genotype, the seed. Reproduction has been at the core of religions throughout history. Without it, they die. It was assumed when the United States was founded for "us and our posterity." It is so fundamental that it is not articulated.

Perversely, in the West, the most intelligent members of society, the ones most capable of putting its aspirations into words, were caught up in the individualism that characterized the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution.

For the first time in history, entire countries became so productive that leisure and even luxury could be enjoyed by the middle class. They became literate

ANCIEN double standard.docx 6/10/2014

Refusing to give in to the double standard

We white men are subject to double standards in many ways. It is war. Forced to play by the rules, we lose. That is how they eviscerated good old Dad, the well-meaning white Christian doofus of 1950s sitcoms. I'm fed up and not going to take it any more.

In warfare there is the double standard that states have to behave themselves according to the Geneva Convention but nonstate actors do not. ISIS and Al Qaeda presume to be weaker and ignore these conventions. The Russians of late play it both ways. Despite being vastly superior in force, they pretend to be "insurgents" in Ukraine and operate outside of the conventions of war.

In the war between men and women, men are bound under the threat of severe penalties not to hit women. However, if a woman hits a man, he gets little sympathy. He is presumed to be stronger and able to defend himself. Many will assume he started it in any case. My first wife would flail at me with reckless abandon. Only half my weight, she was not effective, but if she had been, I would have been in a no-win situation.

Students in the 1960s felt entitled to do outrageous things and use outrageous language in attacking college administrations and the police. The officials had to react with restraint, using moderate language and avoiding deadly force whatever the provocation. There was a presumed inequality, and the forces of the state had to hold their power in check. They were overwhelmed.

It is the same in the battle between conservatives and liberals. Liberals assail me with all sorts of hurtful words. They call me a racist, homophobic, hater, an anti-Semite and whatever else comes to mind. The unfairness of it all never crosses their minds. As a supposed representative of the establishment I am expected to play by the rules. They don't have to. They give no thought to the validity of their slurs.

However, absolutely asymmetrically, if I say something true about them they get righteously indignant. I have pointed out that the liberal members of my ex-wife's family have not been successful in raising children. The kids among other things have not been successful in building careers, forming relationships, getting married or having children. If I state these truths, which seem evident enough to me, I'm accused of being hurtful and negative. They ask me to take writings down off my website. In the very same letter in which they do this, they insult my new wife and claim that I have written it only to savor some delicious, sadistic pleasure. I am just describing things as I think any reasoning person would see them. But – objective truth does not matter in their world.

The proper Christian response is to turn the other cheek. "Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me." This is a good-sounding philosophy, but the fact is that unless I defend myself, the slurs will stick. It's the technique of the big lie.

It is time for me to condemn those "stupid, muddle headed, group thinking, partner-swapping, vicious slanderous" progressives for what they are. I'll have to admit that my string of invective isn't quite as powerful as their "racist, homophobic, and sexist." It is, however, much closer to the truth.

Somebody expressed the concern that I might hurt the feelings of some member of the family. Yes, writing the truth about them might do that. Did they ever consider what telling lies about me might do to my feelings? I doubt it – they probably don't believe their lies, or expect that anybody else will. It's just what they do.

In modern society we are forbidden to even investigate what appeared to be facts about sex and race and ethnicity, while the people who employ the double standard can attack us with impunity with words that clearly do not apply.

The supposition is that we white guys are strong, we can take it. If we attack them, were picking on the weak, and we should be more careful. But the other way around – we are men. We can take it.

Here's the news. The generation of strong men is dying out. Strong men are losing their jobs to women and minorities. Strong men are being falsely accused of rape spousal abuse and all sorts of other things. Strong men are being locked up and shut out. Those of us who speak our minds, offer opinions, are being shunned.

It appears obvious that soon there will not be many strong men left to pick on. Women already lament, where have all the good men gone? The short answer would be that women should know. They destroyed them. Young men "failed to launch," discovered the pleasures of homosexuality or pornography, got locked up on false rape charges, and/or connived their way onto the disability payroll. In any case, they are not there to be breadwinners for the new generation of women.

Many of those of us who were not destroyed have left. You ladies and minorities were not as weak as you let on, and our imagined strength was not sufficient to withstand your assaults. You won. Do you enjoy your victory? You have destroyed the movers and shakers, the people whose energy and creativity made America rich. You have discouraged them from having children, and when they did, perverted their sons into beta

males, objects of derision. And in the process you've destroyed Western civilization. Are you satisfied with your victory?

The accusation that I enjoy hurting people through my writing is absolutely wrong. The truth is that I get quite angry that we cannot speak the truth. My pleasure is in solving problems. In life, as in mathematics, you cannot solve a problem unless you can state it clearly. When political correctness prevents us from framing them, we will solve problems only very rarely. Few are obliging enough that they go away on their own. They only get worse.

The fact that I could not honestly discuss my children's problems in their relationships with us, their parents, or school, or with each other, or later their relationships with their boyfriends and girlfriends, meant that they never learned how to get along with anybody. The problems they have today are the result of our failing long ago to grapple with the truth.

My ex-wife and I did not raise successful adults. This bothers me more than it bothers any of the rest of their all-liberal tribe. I'm conservative. I would like to conserve what I thought was my forebears' successful way of life. The rest of the ex-family are quite content to let their own, and my kids' lives be meaningless, without grandchildren and without the perpetuation of any tradition. Up to their necks in the cess pool, all they ask is that nobody make waves.

If people want to prohibit me from speaking my mind for fear of hurting somebody's feelings, too bad. Although it is certainly too late at this point to do anything about it, I want to proclaim emphatically that I should have raised my voice in the past. I hope that others can learn from my experience that it is better to tell it like it is. I will no longer submit to a double standard whereby others can say what they will about me, but I can't even speak the truth.

Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Chapter 15, Tyranny of the Majority.

"Under the absolute sway of an individual despot the body was attacked in order to subdue the soul, and the soul escaped the blows which were directed against it and rose superior to the attempt; but such is not the course adopted by tyranny in democratic republics; there the body is left free, and the soul is enslaved. The sovereign can no longer say, "You shall think as I do on pain of death;" but he says, "You are free to think differently from me, and to retain your life, your property, and all that you possess; but if such be your determination, you are henceforth an alien among your people. You may retain your civil rights, but they will be useless to you, for you will never be chosen by your fellow-citizens if you solicit their suffrages, and they will affect to scorn you if you solicit their esteem. You will remain among men, but you will be deprived of the rights of mankind. Your fellow-creatures will shun you like an impure being, and those who are most persuaded of your innocence will abandon you too, lest they should be shunned in their turn. Go in peace! I have given you your life, but it is an existence in comparably worse than death."

de Tocqueville, Alexis (2012-05-12). Democracy in America - Volume 1 (p. 218). . Kindle Edition.

“At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas of which it is assumed that all right-thinking people will accept without question. It is not exactly forbidden to say this, that or the other, but it is “not done” to say it... Anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing, either in the popular press or in the high-brow periodicals.” George Orwell

Children's Educational Options in Kyiv

The love Ukrainians have for their families is one of the most attractive things about the country. Children are deeply committed to their parents throughout life, and parents constantly work to provide the best for their children. A good education is one of the most important things parents can provide; it is the foundation for their success as adults.

Education was good under the Soviets. Teaching was a prestigious profession, and the Soviets directed talented people into the schools. Most parents did not have a choice about where their children would be schooled, but the state did not often let them down. As much as anywhere in the world, Soviet schools provided an education commensurate with the child's interests and abilities.

Twenty years of independence have not served education well. The profession is underpaid. The Soviet era teachers are less effective as they grow older, and many are retiring. New entrants into the field of teaching come from the more mediocre universities. They characteristically lack the ability to inspire students, and often do not even have mastery of the material they are supposed to teach.

At the same time, a middle class is emerging in Ukraine with values and aspirations similar to the middle classes of Europe and the United States. In the United States, a child's educational achievement is the ultimate status symbol. The claim that "My child goes to Harvard" carries more status than whatever house you could buy. Ukrainian families are looking more and more to Western educational alternatives for their children.

The educational options available in Kyiv and other major cities include the following:

- Neighborhood schools -- the school your child will be assigned to unless you work to get something different.
- Elite schools within the public system -- schools with selective admissions which specialize in a given area such as English, math or science.
- Private schools, mostly western, where the language of instruction is generally English.
- Boarding schools in the West, primarily England.
- Individual instruction either through home schooling or top end tutoring services.

The choices open to any given family depend on the family's objectives for the child the child's interests, the child's abilities, and of course the money available for education.

The objective of education below the university level is education itself -- establishing a good enough record, and the ability to pass standardized tests, to get to the next level. The long-faded Victorian notion was that education was something to do for its own sake, to create a gentleman, familiar with classic authors and able to express himself clearly. Not so today: parents want material success.

Almost every family wants their children to attend a university, the more prestigious the better. There is an assumption that a university's reputation correlates well with the quality of the education they offer. The reputation depends on how old the school is, how expensive it is, and how strict its entrance requirements are.

Every person in society who makes his living with his head rather than his hands is in the business of processing information. We take in documents, information, and other data; we rearrange it, organize it, summarize it; then we produce some output which may be as elaborate as the book or as simple as a warehouse picking slip. The goal of education must be to make people efficient at processing information. We need to provide students with a broad enough factual basis in science, history, economics and other fields that they can make

sense of the data they get. We need to give them the reading and mathematical skills to analyze what they take in, and the writing and calculating skills to produce output that other people can use.

Specialized university education, in fields such as medicine or economics, is designed to make students broadly familiar with the body of factual and theoretical information current in the field, the algorithms that are used to manipulate facts and data, and standard format for expressing results. A parent, and deciding that their son should become a lawyer, is deciding that he should learn a body of laws and precedents, and techniques for making a case verbally and in writing.

Of course, the ultimate objective is to prepare the student to make a comfortable living in a complex society. It is rare for a high school student to have detailed plans for a career, but everybody knows that they will have to be good at manipulating words, and it is a strong advantage to be good at manipulating numbers as well. Therefore, high schools are designed to give children these skills. Standardized college entrance examinations designed to see how well the children have absorbed them, and to match students with university is appropriate to their skill level.

Some students present special challenges. On the positive side, exceptionally bright children have the ability to learn subject matter more quickly than their agemates. Some students are exceptionally gifted in music, drama, or other areas. Once these talents are recognized, a parent generally wants to make sure that they are nurtured.

For some students, just being normal is a challenge. A student who walks with crutches, is in a wheelchair, or suffers from epilepsy wants to be like the other kids. The parents of children with autism, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder or other neurological conditions want nothing more than for their children to blend in as "ordinary." It is important for parents to find a school that can accommodate their child's needs. Private schools usually do try, and they are quite explicit in stating which types of students they can serve.

The Ukrainian public schools have retained some of their strengths from Soviet times. Classroom discipline is generally fairly good, and children still feel an obligation to complete their assignments. Not only is education free, but school related expenditures are minimal. A parent does not have to pay for expensive books, trips, computers, or clothes to keep up with the other students.

The Soviet philosophy in education, as in most spheres of life, was that the state knows best -- citizen involvement is not expected or even desired. Therefore, in public schools, a parent does not feel pressure to participate in parent teacher associations or fundraisers. There is not a lot of expectation that parents will help children with homework. Whatever effort a parent expends on behalf of their child will be in excess of the norm.

Standard Ukrainian schools, at best, prepare children for Ukrainian universities. While students may get instruction in English, language teachers are usually poorly paid Ukrainians. It would be rare for a high school student to have enough preparation to attend a university abroad/

Ukrainian is the primary language of instruction in schools in most oblasts. It is the most useful language for students who will be entering public service in Ukraine, but it is not as helpful as English or Russian for students who studies will require that they read material and communicate with scholars from abroad, such as in the hard sciences, social sciences, or business. A question for parents who send their children to public schools is whether their children will develop fluency in English or Russian.

Specialized schools have always been part of the school system. Although they are public, admission is limited to students who have a special interest in a given subject area and who show talent. These schools

almost always have a third important asset, parents who are committed to their children's education and willing to spend time and money to advance it

Providing that your family lives within the area serviced by an appropriate school, and that between your child's demonstrated talent and your own connections you can get him admitted, a specialized school represents a great value. Your child benefits from the best of the teachers from the Soviet system, a rigorous curriculum, and a group of peers all of whom are dedicated to success.

The specialized schools have established relationships with the better universities in the country, such as Kyiv Polytechnic Institute and Shevchenko in Kyiv. If your child is qualified, you can be sure that he will be considered for admission. However, attending universities abroad is still a stretch. Ukrainian universities do not prepare students for the standardized tests used internationally, and unless the school's specialization is English, the graduates may not have the language skills needed to move easily into a university curriculum abroad.

Private schools are a post-Soviet innovation. There are still few enough top-ranked schools to be named. The premier English-language schools are Kyiv International School, with an enrollment of about 600 and Pechersk School International, about 450. The British International School, Meridian School and a few church oriented institutions also offer English-language instruction. The Collège Français Anne de Kiev offers instruction in French for 240 students, and the new Deutsche Schule offers primary education in German.

English is essential for students who intend to study and work internationally. The English-language schools are very skilled at accepting children with a minimal knowledge of the language and integrating them into the program. They offer intensive English to bring them up to speed, but the most important advantage is a child's own inherent ability to learn new languages. The near native fluency of Ukrainian high school children in these schools is impressive.

Foreigners make up the majority of the enrollment in each of the private schools. They are the sons and daughters of business people, diplomats, and of course the teachers themselves. Because many of the parents are in Kyiv on temporary postings, the average time that a student stays in one of the schools is somewhere around three or four years.

Tuition varies from school to school, up to perhaps 20,000 dollars per year. Reflecting the lower costs of doing business in Ukraine, and local market conditions, this is less than the cost of comparable schools in most cities in the United States and Western Europe. Tuition is not the only expense: a private school parent must also reckon with the cost of travel on field trips, computers, and other expenses associated with keeping up with the student's newfound peers.

Ukrainian students make up a significant minority of the enrollment. Some are the children of mixed marriages, and others the children of families who have a strong desire to have their children learn English and study abroad. Still and all, the dollar-denominated tuitions are beyond the reach of most middle-class Ukrainians. Some of the schools offer scholarships, tuition assistance for Ukrainian students which the administration believes will be an asset to the school. This echoes the widespread scholarship programs and private schools in the United States, where the objective is to minimize the appearance that private school children form a social elite, and especially to integrate talented minority children into the mainstream.

The private schools in Kyiv also follow the private school practice in the United States and Western Europe in admitting children with handicaps. One sees autistic children and children with braces and crutches in the hallways. Some schools are even capable of serving children who require full-time attendants to accompany them to class.

The two greatest determinants of quality in a private school are the headmaster and the teachers. Whereas a public school principal is often just a bureaucrat in a hierarchy, a private school headmaster has the responsibility and authority of a chief executive officer. They are paid accordingly, and most are rather impressive individuals. The headmaster has great latitude in choosing teachers, and the teachers themselves usually enjoy quite a bit of latitude in setting the curriculum. In a healthy private school, there is a strong feeling that the entire staff is working together as a team.

International schools are able to recruit on a worldwide basis. Kyiv is an attractive posting. Many teachers come as married couples; with two salaries, a housing allowance, free tuition for their children, and usually some tax benefits accruing to expatriates, working here can be financially attractive. The result is that the teachers one finds in private schools in Kyiv are motivated, know their subjects well, and most importantly, love children and are dedicated to their education. They are here by choice: their own and the headmaster's.

Even though the parents who find themselves in Kyiv and are able to afford a private school form a fairly selective group, their children nonetheless vary significantly in ability. While none of the schools overtly track children -- assigning them to a faster or slower group -- nevertheless the range of courses that they offer makes it possible to select courses of appropriate levels of difficulty. For example, health may be offered as less challenging alternative to biology.

The private schools have networks of other professionals to whom they can refer parents. These include neurologists, psychologists, and others who can address developmental difficulties. They also recommend tutors as necessary. They recognize that not every student can learn everything they need simply from the classroom instruction and the textbook. Many students can benefit by working one-on-one with a tutor. Students worldwide have difficulty with math, science, and writing. Writing is even more difficult when English is not the student's native language.

Boarding schools represent the high end of private education. The best known of them are in England, where they prepare students for entry into the most prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. It goes without saying that a student will graduate from a boarding school speaking good English. In fact, it will be the English of the British upper class, and simply speaking and acting like an English gentleman is a considerable asset to carry through life.

Attending a boarding school, a child rubs shoulders with children of the worldwide elite. It is an intellectually demanding environment, and it requires a student who is self-assured and capable of thriving away from his or her parents. The admissions process is quite selective, and cost, taking in travel, clothing, and other incidentals, comes out several times that of a private school in Kyiv.

For parents who can afford it, a boarding school offers their children an excellent education and offers parents the freedom to travel and pursue their own careers unburdened by the day-to-day issues of their children's education.

Individual education alternatives are becoming more widespread in the West. Americans in particular are disenchanted with the public school system. Parents with strong religious beliefs reject the secular orientation of public schools, and parents with high intellectual aspirations for their children are appalled with the falling expectations for what children learn in public school. Increasingly, parents are choosing to teach their own children in what is called "homeschooling."

Homeschooling takes a vast range of forms, of course, but there are some common threads. A lot of education can be delivered over the Internet. Some of it is absolutely top rate. As an example, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the best science university in the country, has put most of its courses online, accessible to homeschoolers. There are a large number of for-profit firms selling instructional materials to homeschoolers.

Homeschooling gives parents freedom to choose the curriculum. This can be especially important in the humanities -- literature, history, and social studies -- where there is no fixed canon. The students themselves can decide what books they will read, which civilizations they will study, and what historical eras they will specialize in.

Its name notwithstanding, homeschooling does not always, or even primarily, involve teaching directly by parents. Home schoolers find each other over the Internet and form study groups. Some parents are either trained teachers or have a gift for teaching a given subject. They will get together groups of students and teach them, more or less as if they were at school. Parents will get kids together for field trips. In this way, children have a chance to interact with each other, and they get the best of instruction offered by a community of adults.

Using international post in the Internet, parents and Kyiv have just as much access to homeschooling resources as Americans. All that remains is for a community to develop with a mutual interest in homeschooling so they can share their talents in teaching their children.

A live-in private tutor represents the pinnacle of educational options. A family can recruit a tutor to meet their children's exact needs. The tutor offers all of the advantages of homeschooling, as well as professional training in the field of education and the subject matter at hand. The tutor also relieves parents of the obligation to handle the teaching themselves.

Live-in tutors make optimal use of academic time. In school, most of a child's time spent in activities other than direct instruction. Time is allocated for getting from class to class, for recess, for lunch, to spend in the library, for computer learning and so on. Because each class has to accommodate the lowest common denominator, the children with the least ability or knowledge of English, the pace of a classroom must be below the pace of most individual students. One-on-one instruction avoids all these problems.

A live-in tutor can be used to supplement a regular school education. For instance, a tutor can help a student catch up over the summer if he has perhaps fallen behind in math, or in writing. A tutor can provide intensive training, perhaps preparing a student in the language of the next country in which the parents will be posted. If a family decides to take a "year out" to travel the world, a tutor can accompany them to see that the children keep up with their schooling.

Homeschooling and live-in tutoring are sometimes criticized as producing hothouse flowers, children unaccustomed to social interaction with their peers. The growing body of experience with homeschoolers entering American colleges shows that this is generally not the case. Quite the contrary, children who study in an ambience dominated by adults end up being more comfortable in adult surroundings and generally more polite and mature, which are considerable assets.

With freedom comes choice, and with choice comes responsibility. There are more educational options available than most Ukrainians realize, and a responsible parent should be aware of the options. The difference a child's study environment makes can be striking. The student's peers and the school's teaching style influence a child's willingness to commit to becoming educated. Therefore, the biggest contribution a parent can make to a child's formation is selecting the right educational environment. It supplies the foundation of facts for future learning and familiarity with the tools for acquiring, manipulating and presenting knowledge. Equally important, the school and the peers he meets there shape his image of the adult he strives to become.

The secondary education, and the system of education you choose strongly influences your child's selection of colleges and universities. A Ukrainian / Russian education generally prepares your student to be educated

within the CIS. The prestige of the secondary school is closely correlated to the prestige of the universities they can expect to attend. Attendance at one of the foreign private schools, on the other hand, gives a student broad preparation for American, Canadian and Western European colleges. Their grades and their scores on standardized tests are most significant in determining which one.

Regardless of which educational option you choose for your child, it is clear that the world into which they are growing will increasingly demand and knowledge of English and an ability to work in an international environment. Ukrainians already cherish education, and for these reasons they increasingly prize a Western education. With a little planning and research, you can be sure your children have a maximal chance for success.

ANCIEN Edward Seibert.docx October 15, 2011

Edward Seibert, born October 15

Mother-in-law Nadia and I breakfasted in the kitchen on a simple soup – buckwheat, carrots, and squash with a bit of onion. I'm feeling close to the earth. Edward was born in that kitchen Saturday night, Oksana attended by a midwife and myself. She had won out – I had wanted a hospital. Oksana had called Nadia Sunday morning, yesterday, and she arrived on the first bus.

Last week I read in Stephen Pinker's recent "Our Better Angels" that "The Child Study movement aimed for a scientific approach to child development and began to replace the superstition and bunkum of old wives with the superstition and bunkum of child-rearing experts." Bunkum sums up Oksana's attitude towards doctors. They speak with such certainty! However, if you have been around this world for as many spins as we have, dear reader, you know with certainty how often that certainty changes.

We had a consulting obstetrician throughout the pregnancy, taking blood and blood pressure, poking and probing. I bought most of her program because I'm used to western medicine. However, the greatest part of the prescription here as in the west is CYA on the part of the doctor, very little that really needs to be done. After all, people managed to procreate even before there were shamans to tell us how it ought to be. I worked up a maximal sincerity as I coaxed Oksana to eat her iron pills, avoid salt, and maximize healthy things in her diet.

Lyudmila was death on any form of quackery other than her own. In one instance she stoutly refused to approve of Oksana's taking some black walnut herbal stuff a friend recommended... it wasn't in the book of approved medications. She recommended onions as a source of Vitamin C. She told Oksana to eat raisins for iron – black raisins, not green ones. I added sternly that she should also eat lots of beef, from black cows, not brown ones.

Come time for delivery Oksana was thoroughly fed up with the medical establishment. Through a friend she heard of a doctor/midwife, Olga. She is a charming woman, polnaya, which is how you translate saftig into Russian, with a very feminine yet confidently authoritative manner. The arguments in favor of home birth are simple. A woman feels a whole lot better in her own house, with her husband, than being poked and prodded by a parade of strangers in some cold, impersonal hospital. Beside, in case we needed help, we are five minutes by taxi or ambulance from a maternity hospital. By happenstance the maternity hospital was conducting tours last week. Oksana went out of curiosity, and was strongly reconfirmed in her decision for a home birth.

I was busy last week hustling from pharmacy to pharmacy buying all of the (wrong) stuff for the delivery. Everywhere I go in the world I see a need for more of us Germans to put things in order. I could have done a whole lot more efficiently, starting with a standard list. Anyhow, the Germans' offer to set things straight in Ukraine somehow wasn't accepted, but that's another story.

I had a long lunch with a bunch of friends Saturday as Oksana went for a swim, coincidentally with the midwife. Oksana felt a little something, and Olga took a look and told her she should head home right away. I got a call to pick up some chocolate and oranges on the way home, followed in five minutes by a call to forget that and come home right now. When I arrived at 5:00 Olga was coaching her through early contractions. I pitched in. The Lamaze huffing and puffing thing is 90% forgotten. Now it is all about massage. Of course there is a correct way to do it – always stroking down, rather than in circles – so there is always an opportunity to chide the male party to the process for not exactly understanding the program. That’s a slam dunk. We never do, and I suspect that’s how it’s planned to be.

We progressed fairly quickly. One thing I liked about the process was that Oksana stayed fairly vertical. Let gravity help. What a concept! Another that I liked is that she squatted in the bathtub in warm water. Has to help – the water bears some of her weight, and warm water and massage oil are a good mixture in any situation. Olga was great. She had a very reassuring voice, calmly telling her to keep on pressing, press, press. And breathe. Just in and out, not the huff and puff stuff.

As Oksana quivered from the strain we moved back and forth among four stations. Her straddling the legs of a kitchen stool, on its side and draped with towels; her on the john, her back in the bath and her in my arms as I was seated on a stool in the kitchen. Olga offering comfort and encouragement as we went. But with something added. More and more invocation of God. The mystic, Orthodox God. Pushing and prayer together. It worked well. Oksana was in pain, but she had an angelic look on her face throughout.

About 7:30 we were on the stool and things got serious. I was holding her, my hands on the ends of a twisted sheet across the top of Oksana’s belly, pushing down harder than I felt was advisable, but not as hard as the women want me to. Olga was on her knees, looking up, checking progress and encouraging her. Oksana was in pain now, saying so as fact and not complaint, and chanting “Help me God” in sincere belief that God was helping, all the while with a beatific look on her face far outshining the pain. And then, wow, a cry and there he was, covered in parchment and blood, his little head shaped like a bullet, as it had had to be to make his exit. Crying and blinking. It was officially 8:10. Olga had an eye on the clock, along with everything else.

She cleaned his nose, but from the crying it was pretty evident his lungs are working OK. She cleaned him up and we waited a bit for the placenta, which we put into a pot. Then we proceeded, baby still attached to placenta in a pot, but mother free, to the bedroom, where Edward lay on his mom’s breast to get some well-deserved rest. Olga cleaned mom up and I did tasks as assigned. Among the things we needed were raw potatoes. They had not been on the list of provisions, but fortunately we had some. You grate them and the make a pretty good astringent. Edward got a potato poultice on his head and Oksana took one to stop the bleeding. Some part of the process involved iodine, an antiseptic we haven’t used in the US since before I was a kid. Also a bunch of homeopathic stuff and herbs. Since moving to Ukraine I’ve armed myself with the authoritative reference on herbal medicines, and have come to accept the proposition that at a minimum they generally won’t do you any harm. Anyhow, the cleanup worked, but you won’t see these procedures at Cedars of Sinai.

When all was in order I tried to start cleaning up, but the women insisted I lie down and rest a bit. So I did, just looking at Edward and Oksana. After two hours (!) it was time to cut the cord. I learned that the placenta has great spiritual significance. Olga tied it with red cord. We took a moment of prayer, telling God of our aspirations for baby Edward. I was offered the scissors to cut him free to join our world, but I asked Olga to do it as I trusted her hands more than mine. The placenta will be buried in our new land, tying Edward to a place, and Edward himself spent his first night lying on the breast of a very happy mama, as I lay on the other side of the bed giving thanks and thinking about his future.

(Comment on this)

Sunday, July 10th, 2011
12:57 pm

ANCIEN Right and wrong ways for getting to know Ukrainian girls. 2011

A lot of guys suffer from the Dominique Strauss Kahn syndrome, (abbreviated DSKYS, pronounced D-sexy), the delusion that you are so doggone sexy that any woman is going to fall in bed with you just as a matter of course. Get real. If that were true, you wouldn't be looking halfway around the world for a woman. I want to tell you about the wrong way, and in the right way, to meet girls here in Ukraine.

If some dating agency lines up a number of meetings with sweet young things for you throughout Ukraine, and you manage to get a few of them in bed, do not deceive yourself that is due to your charm alone. There is a lot of money at work here. You should be able to figure it out – after all, it is your money.

Right off the top, you pay the agency to meet the girls, and you pay them to translate letters. You pay them to arrange dates while you are here, and they get a cut if you arrange hotels and transportation through them.

The girls get a slice of the money that you pay for going out on a date. Given that you want to make a good impression on them, it also provides the opportunity to even some nice restaurants and go to some nice clubs. A lot of girls will take you shopping to test your generosity. If you wind up in bed, it may be a sign of true love. Or, it may be what often is back home, something they figure they owe you after a generous evening out. In the worst case it may be what they do for a living anyhow.

Ask yourself why a girl would want to meet a pig in a poke – that would be you – with the notion of marrying and living on another continent? The obvious answer is that she doesn't have many prospects at home. After all, there are men here in Ukraine too. In my limited experience, some of the girls are sincere, but really don't have too much to offer. They don't speak good English, they are not extraordinarily attractive, and they are old enough that it is now or never. Through dating agencies I met among others a plain, quiet obstetrician who probably will make somebody a good wife; a small business owner; an academic with fairly pronounced political views. I'm pretty sure these women wanted to marry, but I wasn't attracted enough for a second date.

Other girls are in it for the money. I started a conversation with a guy in his 50s named Herman as he was having a charcoal caricature of himself drawn in the Metro. He described the absolutely beautiful girl that he was seeing here, and showed me a picture. Enough to make any guy jealous. He described the fabulous dinner that they had had last night – her and three of her equally beautiful friends in one of the most expensive restaurants in town. He described her taste in jewelry. A girl of infinite taste, fit for a guy of infinite means. I can only assume how it turned out – Herman hasn't returned my e-mails.

Enough of how not to do it. How, 10,000 km away, can you get to know a nice Ukrainian girl who might want to get married? The answer is simple. You do it the same way that you would anyplace. The only secret is it works a little bit better here. Back in 1967 just as he was becoming famous somebody asked Woody Allen how his love life was going and he said "Wonderful, I'm being turned down by a better class of women." I knew I was making progress in Ukraine when I was being turned down by attractive, reasonable girls 30 years younger than I was. At least they weren't laughing; often enough they went out with me, and I actually wound up marrying one.

That's the secret. Expose yourself to a lot of the right kind of women, and magic will happen. No, Congressman Weiner, that's not what I mean by expose yourself. Get to know them.

Getting to meet women is more easily said than done, you will observe. You have a hard time doing that even back home where you speak the language. I'm going to give you a little bit of advice that you should probably be following back home, but which works even better here.

Join volunteer organizations. Join the Rotary or Rotaract or the Lions Club. Join Toastmasters – it is big here. Volunteer as an English language teacher; there is a big demand for English as a second language in the states. Join a church. If you are calculating, use Google to find an American church that has missions to Ukraine. Quite a few come here for medical work and to help orphans. In the best of all worlds, get sent here on business.

Before your trip to Ukraine, write to the local chapters of the organizations you have joined and let them know you are coming. People here are genuinely thrilled to receive guests. They don't get a vast number and English speakers are a high prestige deal. People will generally be happy to introduce you around.

First impressions are vitally important in any sphere, but never more so than dating. If you meet a girl through dating agency, you arrive with "hard up" written all over you. It is only a little bit better if you are chatting up girls in a bar; at least you have enough faith in your social skills to make an overture to them. But it is far better to come with some sort of a recommendation. If you can make telephone or e-mail contact with somebody who can introduce you into the right circles, it will make a world of difference.

Even random people that you meet can be useful in advancing your agenda. Get to know you guys, and the guys will tell you where to find the girls. They might even introduce you. I am far from expert, but I would recommend that you check out O'Brien's Irish pub, TGI Friday's, the Canadian Embassy's pub night, Inter-nation's periodic Friday night get-togethers, and any other place there are likely to be foreign guys. Strike up a conversation with somebody who has been here for a while, and you will probably get a lot of advice which is both better and cheaper than what you'll get from your dating agency. A good place to meet young people is in the backpacker youth hostels you find here and there in downtown. Check them out on the Internet before you come. None of them are anyplace that you would want to bring a girl, but they are good places to meet people who know what's going on locally.

Dancing is pretty big here in Kiev, especially salsa and swing. The kids here are reasonably good, but if you know what you are doing you should come out okay. Go on the Internet and find out where the dance spots are, then plan to go there. I should add, plan to go there by Metro or on foot – the taxis love nothing more than ripping off a foreigner who is new in town. Once you meet a girl she can negotiate reasonable prices for you. But that is the topic of another blog.

Let me close in saying that Internet dating is a big thing in Ukraine just as it is in the US. If you are in that minority of Americans who can express themselves well in writing, and you are not afraid of Google translate, you might try to locate some girls on your own. I never got into this much myself, since a truthful answer to the question about age would have killed me right at the beginning. Still, I understand that Slando.com and bigmir.net (click next to the red heart on either) are good places to look

[ANCIEN emigrating.docx 1/11/2014](#)

When life became unbearable for them in England and Germany, my ancestors pulled up stakes and left. They figured it was better to hack new farms out of the wilderness and fight the Indians than to fight the powers that be in their homelands. They gave up a level of comfort, and even material wealth, for the freedom to make what they could of themselves in a new land, and to worship as they pleased. Why isn't this option under discussion anymore? Why are Americans so wedded to the notion that the only solution to their personal discontents is to fix America's problems?

The powers that be in the United States and Europe are becoming increasingly oppressive. Our governments track our movements, read our correspondence, and keep detailed records of our financial activities. They circumscribe what we can do with a body of law so dense and so unpredictable in its interpretation that every adult citizen finds himself in perpetual but unknowing violation of some statute somewhere. If they want to get you, they can.

Some of the worst laws to which we are subject to are the unwritten protocols of political correctness. If a candidate of a conservative stripe utters a malapropism which can be construed as unfavorable to some protected minorities such as women or blacks, said politician is immediately assailed and forced out of the race. Stating their opinions has cost conservative commentators such as Rush Limbaugh and John Derbyshire advertisers and even jobs. There is, of course, no symmetry. Blacks and Marxists routinely utter outrageous remarks with impunity.

So why do people stay?

M2016- Everybody loses Welcome to Ukraine.docx 8/2/2012

The Spolsky affair: Everybody loses - welcome to Ukraine

Myron Spolsky has returned all but \$5,000 of the money that was in his custody as treasurer of the Kyiv Multinational Rotary Club. He claimed that the finances were incredibly complex, and auditing them meant that he had been unable to return the approximately \$50,000 between the end of his term, June 2010, and now, August 2012.

What brought the audit to a conclusion? Brute force, Ukrainian style. The KMRC directors got the Kyiv Post to publish an article in October, 2011 exposing the fact that the money had been unaccounted for more than a year. Subsequent articles kept the heat on. Finally, four officers of KMRC cornered Spolsky in his office and refused to leave. When Spolsky threatened to call the police, they invited him to do so. Spolsky backed down. The four would not leave without some collateral for the money owed, which took the form of Spolsky's soon-to-expire passport.

The Canadian Embassy was properly embarrassed that a prominent member of the Canadian-Ukrainian community would behave in this way. One assumes that they would not issue a new passport knowing the circumstances under which Spolsky lost his old one. They stopped serving Spolsky's pizza at embassy functions. Moreover, other Canadians close to the embassy probed for, and found, irregularities in other charities in which Spolsky was involved.

The affair appears to be wrapping up. Let's assess the damage.

Spolsky's lies split the Rotary Club as early as 2009. Several members found his excuses for being slow to repay members who had advanced money on behalf of the club to be suspicious, and demanded an audit. Spolsky claimed to be spending a lot of time in Uzbekistan working on a rare-earth metals deal, and made up elaborate stories about his activities there. He sent frequent SMS from an Uzbek mobile phone. However, some members saw him in Kyiv when he was supposedly in Uzbekistan.

The Uzbekistan stories were intermixed with hospital stories. He supposedly had some elaborate heart operation which kept him incommunicado for weeks on end, sometimes at sanatoria far away from Kiev, sometimes in the city. He arranged some charade whereby club members visited him in a hospital. The net of it was that for the entire period of January 2010 through well into the summer he was never available for an audit. Once again, there were glaring contradictions. A club member saw him power walking with his wife on a day when he was supposed to be in the hospital.

An audit starts with a look at the accounting records. Spolsky kept them in Excel. Given that he was on Facebook just about every day, it is abundantly clear that he could have allowed the club to start an audit by simply emailing the spreadsheet. It would have taken a minute. He never did this, and never offered a reason

for not doing it. Instead, he stuck with the story that he could not be physically available to open his safe and show us the money. But without the accounting records, we would have had no idea of whether the amount was right or not.

We will soon be able to see how complex the books were for 2009-10. For 2010-11 there were about 200 transactions altogether and the audit took perhaps four hours. It would not be a stretch to say that the claim of “incredible complexity” accounting for the two year delay is also a fabrication.

Spolsky himself is severely damaged. His reputation in Kyiv is shot. It appears unlikely that any organization will extend him credit, which is the life's blood of a small business. It will make it hard to expand to compete with Celantano, Mafia and other pizza chains. He has lost the friendship, support, or at least presumption of affinity with the expatriate community. And... after all his valiant efforts to hang onto the money in his custody, he had to give it up. He gained nothing, lost everything.

Spolsky showed no embarrassment as his lies unraveled. He simply invented new ones. If Uzbekistan, or the hospital, or out-of-town visitors or whatever had been a true reason he could not meet with us, then the subsequent story of “completing an audit” would make no sense. That should have been the first story. He lied like a child, without guilt and without any effort to keep his lies consistent. The litmus was loyalty. The test of a loyal friend is that he will support you whatever stories you tell. Half the club remained loyal to Myron for six months and more.

The other half of the club left. Angry words were exchanged over the need for an audit. Membership fell by more than 50%. Attendance at the club's 2010 Midsummer Night fundraiser was meager; in 2011 the club did not even hold the event. Today the club is rebuilding slowly with new members. None who left has yet returned.

It is hard to know how many premature children could have been saved had the \$50,000 been used to place incubators in hospitals two years ago.

Samuel Johnson wrote that “Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.” Spolsky is a loud patriot, browbeating any club member who might by accident use the Russian “pazhalucta” rather than the Ukrainian “bud laska” for “you're welcome.” Spolsky will be forever associated with Ukrainian patriotism, my attitude towards which has certainly fallen. I'm increasingly indifferent to whether Spolsky's set of crooks or some other is running the place.

A country's wealth depends greatly on the trust that exists between its citizens. Even where courts are fair, a businessman has to depend on the basic honesty of his partners. A person cannot make any money if he must constantly be on the defense against being cheated. The basis of honesty is telling the truth. In a country where people lie as openly and artlessly as Spolsky, who can put faith in a business partner? How can a bank make loans if they cannot trust what is written on a loan application? How can a grain exporter contract to buy corn if he cannot trust that it exists? Concluding that it is impossible, more and more Western banks and businesses are simply pulling out of Ukraine.

The West long ago learned the value of enlightened self-interest. A reputation for honesty is more valuable than any amount of money. A trusting business relationship is more valuable than whatever is to be gained by exploiting a partner in a single transaction. Until Ukraine learns the lessons of trust and honesty, it will remain mired in its past, unable to build a modern society.

ANCIEN Evolution and political philosophy.docx 6/3/2015

Philosophy has not made the same evolution that natural science has. This is clear in reading Francis Fukuyama's "end of history".

The paradigm shift is toward empirical observation. Testing theory against by scientific means. Building theory on scientific observation.

In natural science this happened in three stages, perhaps 2 ½. Aristotle started out with a theory of how all things were composed of Earth air wind and fire, the four humors. By the time of the of Francis Bacon the hit of the fifth, the aether, the nothing through which everything flowed. Aristotle was a very intelligent man, but all of what he wrote was hypothesis hypothesizing. After Aristotle, and embellishing somewhat on what he did, followed biblically based theories. Galileo fought the theory that the earth was the center of the universe. Other biblical theories were that the earth was only 6000 years old. These theories were similar to Aristotle's, only they had to tie in with the sacred Scripture.

There were a number of thinkers who led the move to empiricism. The one whose name is associated with empiricism is Francis Bacon, in the English Renaissance. However, Galileo, van Leowenhoek and others earlier had employed observation and common sense. Columbus figured out that the earth was round as he sailed to find America.

Quote from Dawkins: story about Galileo, which summarizes what was new about Renaissance science. Galileo was showing a learned man an astronomical phenomenon through his telescope. This gentleman said, approximately: 'Sir, your demonstration with your telescope is so convincing that, were it not that Aristotle positively states the contrary, I would believe you.' Today it amazes us – or ought to – that anybody could possibly reject real observational or experimental evidence in favour of what some supposed authority had simply asserted. But that's the point. That is what has changed. Dawkins, Richard (2013-09-24). *An Appetite for Wonder: The Making of a Scientist* (Kindle Locations 2174-2178). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Such a transition has not happened in philosophy. The great philosophers of the Enlightenment, Hobbes, Locke, Nietzsche, and the French philosophes were still working in the same realm as Aristotle. They observed human nature and and generalized their observed nations into constructs of how human beings operated. They did not empirically test their philosophy. Sometimes this resulted in grave disasters, such as communism, which was built on the theories of a philosopher, Karl Marx. It simply didn't work. People were not divided into rigid social classes, and they turned out not to be as altruistic and free of personal ambition as he posited. Others were somewhat more for fortunate. The theories of Locke and Hobbes, with a darker, or more realistic assessment of human nature, were used as the cornerstone of the American constitution. They had been more on target, and the American constitution was a more successful document.

Problems of ignoring empiricism

Ignoring science means ignoring evolution and all of its implications. One is that neither society nor human nature stands still. They are ongoing processes. The theory that we can find an ideal form of government for all people, for all time, is unsustainable. Evolution progresses too quickly. The American constitution was appropriate to the Americans of the 18th and early 19th century. It appears to be no longer as applicable to Americans of the 21st century. Society is different, technology is different, and the people are different.

Another problem with a lack of empiricism is that philosophers are wedded to concepts that they hold as ideals, which may not stand up under scrutiny. One philosophy embedded in the United States Constitution, and the thinking of Locke and others, is the equality of man. What they meant was equality under the law. They didn't believe in actual equality, but rather, they wanted to take inequality into account by making all men equal under the law. This has been transmogrified into a theory of absolute equality. The notion that people are absolutely equal, taken together with the observation of great inequality, has led to political decisions in the 20th and 21st centuries which appear by their results to have been mistakes.

At any rate, the point is that ideas which are taken as givens, a priori's, should be subject to examination, if they're going to be the foundation of a political system.

Two-dimensional explanations of three-dimensional objects: like Newton to Einstein

The philosophers' explanation was not very nuanced. Their explanation was relatively simplistic because they didn't have the tools to give a sophisticated one.

A good example is Hegel's dialectic. He noticed things oscillate back and forth in society. One sees many manifestations of this. Forms of government go back and forth between absolutism and oligarchy. Individual fortunes code changed by generations Shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations..

This is rather like Plato's shadows on the wall of the cave. Reflections of reality, that could be explained in three dimensions if they change their paradigm.

Philosophers of science are on the right track.

Daniel Dennett wrote a classic, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, which set the tone. What remains is for others to expand on Dennett's work. The other sympathetic authors include Richard Dawkins, EO Wilson.

Dawkins added the idea of a meme, an evolutionary unit in the realm of culture. It's a useful idea, because genes and culture even coevolve. The amazing thing is the speed with which culture changes. Just as an aside, I describe the sexual mores changes in sexual mores within my lifetime.

The philosophers of the 19th century such as Hegel and Nietzsche were taken seriously and are widely discussed. Philosophers of the 20th century merely seems silly.

The most widely respected are people like Wittgenstein who dealt with isolated corners of philosophy, rather than the human condition.

Nobody reads Rorty or Foucault. The political philosophers likewise seem out of touch.

Most recent is Alexander Dugan, whose a fourth political theory doesn't advocate any theory at all. It is a shining illustration of the fact that there are no new new ideas to be advocated in philosophy. Francis Fukuyama's end of history refers to all of the classical philosophers, yet likewise manages to be rather mistaken.

Fukuyama, writing about the time of the fall of communism, celebrated the triumph of liberal democracy all over the world. In the 20 years since, it has lost every society that he mentions appears to have lost ground in the realm of liberal democracy. He doesn't take evolution into account.

It has not worked out as he projected. The trendline toward more and more liberal democracy is simply not been extended. What has happened instead is that the liberal democracies have lost ground as the people elected to government in those places have increasingly found ways to circumvent or subvert the founding documents and do what leaders have always done, amass power and turn it to their own ends. Democracy did not prove to be the magic bullet solution to abuse of power.

Where does the paradigm shift lead in terms of political philosophy?

It leads to places that many people do not want to go. The first implication is that there is no solution. There is no ideal political system. Not only will political systems of necessity vary from culture to culture, consistent with the culture and the very genome of the people who choose them, but they will change over time as a function of evolution.

The more frightening implication is that not every people will find a benign, liberal system of government. Some people have simply not evolved to the point of being able to make one work. It is only within historical time that people have learned how to live together in large societies. Even the people of modern nation states such as England and Germany did not do a wonderful job of it. Crime remains, prejudices remain among those populations. The states that have less evolutionary history in coming together as nations, the artificial creations of the 18th and 19th centuries in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, are even less inclined to support liberal democracies.

It simply has not worked in sub-Saharan Africa. That part of the world never evolved past the tribe, and tribalism remains the effective limit of the level of government. Whatever supposed democracies exist are dominated by a single tribe. The same seems to be happening in South America, where the dominant Amerindian groups are now achieving power in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

Elsewhere in the Americas the native peoples are a minority and they are simply shut out, not participating much at all in process of government. This would be Canada, the United States, southern Mexico, the Mapuche Indians of Chile, and the of the Amazon jungle in Brazil and Peru.

What does it mean for us?

If there can be no durable political philosophy, we are back to the evolutionary basics: Our gene pool, our tribe.

Operate within larger political structures, where they can provide safety. Violence has gone down, per Pinker. Trade off individual liberty for security, per Fukayama.

Don't look for universal solutions for anything: government, education, police protection. Look out for you and yours, but teach them how to get along in the world as it is: hostile, uncaring, but sometimes benign and protective.

Philosophy aspires to teach us how to live. It doesn't. Nobody, therefore, pays attention to modern philosophers.

This represents quite a change. Hobbes, Locke, Burke, Voltaire, Schopenhauer, Hegel, and Nietzsche were celebrities in their day. Their ideas were fresh. The philosophers of the 20th century added little to nothing.

Natural science experienced a revolution starting in the late Renaissance with Francis Bacon. The idea was that in science, you'd concoct a theory based on mathematical models and speculation, and then you would test that theory empirically. Philosophy missed that turn.

Gallileo had a theory about the speed of falling objects – it increases as the square of time. He tested it. He measured how long it took a cannonball dropped from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to hit the ground. He proved his theory. Philosophers' theories, however, have never been tested and are often wrong.

The impact

Philosophers even today don't talk about any science about of how real people operate. There is several branches of philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of science, but they the political philosophers still referred to Hegel and kind as if they were the last word. They totally ignore the fact that there has been a lot of's good science done on how human but actual human beings operate. The problem is that what these actual scientists find out doesn't lend itself very well to grand theories. To grand solutions to the problems mankind.

People in the Enlightenment felt that science would bring the answers to all their questions. They saw the marvelous advances in physics, chemistry, electricity and magnetism and projected that the whole realm of human knowledge would be subject to the same tools. Some of them like Marx and Freud projected science into the realm of human activity. They were not very successful. They had theories, but their theories do not lend themselves to empirical tests.

And so was with all the philosophers. Great theories, no empirical tests. And gradually human thought moved away from the conviction that there would be's demonstrated, uncontroversial scientific resolutions to all human problems. Quite the opposite happened. Within the realm of the hard sciences, physics in particular, they read your breast. Heisenberg's uncertainty binds all said that you cannot know everything. It is chaos theory.

ANCIEN Evolution and reproduction.docx 6/3/2015

Sexual reproduction among all species is an elaborate, delicate process. An effective way to control noxious pests is to confuse their reproductive process. They control moths and screwworms by releasing sterile males to mate with but not impregnate females. They control ash borers using electrically charged artificial females to kill the males by shocking them. Captive breeding programs fail because animals raised in captivity don't learn to socialize with wild members of the species.

Our species, Homo sapiens, has decided that it is noxious. We are becoming extraordinarily effective in controlling numbers by destroying our own ability to reproduce.

Birth control is nothing new, but it is more effective than it has ever been. The Romans invented condoms, had a morning-after pill in the form of silphium, a North African plant which they drove to extinction, and engaged in a number of sexual practices that don't produce babies. Their Empire collapsed for want of Romans.

We have been much more inventive than. Women who don't want babies generally don't have them. The technology is in place, and the propaganda battle has also been won. Increasing numbers of people do not want marriage, don't want babies, and don't even want sex.

Reproduction is more than a matter of simply having babies. Just as animals born in captivity are incapable of reproducing themselves in the wild, large swaths of humanity are unable to faithfully pass their cultures down to successive generations. It is a mistake to confuse the presence of children with the perpetuation of a culture.

The people within a viable culture must be self-sustaining. They must be able to earn their own livelihood, physically reproduce, and raise their offspring to be like themselves. By these criteria, hardly strict by historical standards, the earth does not currently support many viable cultures.

Anecdote: Wedding games

Put a balloon on a guy's lap, woman pops it with her bottom. Woman threads an egg up a guy's left pants leg, across and down the right. Toothpick and lifesaver.

Not subtle. Assume that guys and girls are shy, inexperienced. Push them into marriage, then support the marriage.

Decline of matchmakers – yentas

Decline of community support: church, scouts, schools.

Thinning our ranks is a good thing.

Lemmings.

Who is not reproducing:

Paul Ehrlich disciples, who think there are too many

ANCIEN expats and girls.docx 10/21/2020

The French called it "yellow fever." The addiction they developed in Vietnam of having a trim young body next to them in bed every night.

As you leave the United States for warmer climes you often see the same thing. Older American guys who have sized up the offerings in America and quietly snuck out the back door. Could be they felt some pressure from bill collectors or the child support Mafia.

Costa Rica is rich with ex-pat bars. At the city limits of one: "Welcome to Santa Teresa - a sleepy little drinking town with a big fishing problem." The bar consists of a thatched roof and a few barstools. The gringos smoke, drink and swap stories at the bar while their significant others do the same at a table. There may be kids running around.

The common thread is a desire for a life that is both peaceful and includes a woman. Desire immediately exposes the lie that men and women are biologically equivalent. No – women are damnably capable of living without men, but men have a primitive need for women that cannot be denied. Those who can accept each other as substitutes can stay in America but the guys who want women, and can do so, often go abroad.

American women feel compelled to find words to fit this phenomenon into their cosmology. Why would any right-thinking man want to escape the benevolent custody of American feminism? The "docile Asian woman" is one such stereotype. Lisa Mundy in "The Richer Sex" imputes a motive: "Meanwhile, men in Western nations may opt for mail-order brides, or move and settle in less developed countries with a wife who will take care of them—and take their money."

"Those Slavic women are going to suck you dry" was the line I got from the last woman I dated before leaving for Ukraine. As she blew off my repeated requests to pony up her half of the tab for the affection-free vacation

I had put on my credit card, over a dinner which added generously to said tab. No, certain rules are universal. The pleasure of her pretty company cost a pretty penny.

Mating always has been a market process. Both parties bring equal value to the table, and in an ideal world they love each other. However the union is made, they perpetuate their seed and raise said progeny to adulthood. The guy brought money, protection and social connections; the woman her fertility, household skills and the prestige associated with her beauty.

The mating process has become grotesquely deformed in the contemporary West. The value of the chips has changed as the objective has become the mating act itself instead of having kids. Housewifely skills? Handy around the house? Good with kids? People don't care: it is money, good times and good looks. Tragically, the mating and marriage markets are pretty much one and the same. If you go into a sex shop shopping for love, you are going to be disappointed.

When you separate the mating and marriage markets, you find the wares in the marriage market disappointing. Women with the tickets for success in the mating market, that is, brains, good looks and education, often are not interested in kids, or even marriage. Equality is their theme! Equal opportunity for career success and for wringing enjoyment out of life. Although there is some conspicuous and highly touted exceptions, career success and motherhood are incompatible. Doing either one right requires top priority on a woman's time. So, by the law of supply and demand, the women who would be and are willing to be good mothers are at a premium in the Western world. The guy has to have a pretty good tickets, and also a strong appetite for putting up with crap. Which brings us back overseas.

At 64 I had succeeded in most things in life except finding true love. Cold marriage, three estranged kids and no prospects of grandchildren. I left. I probed the American marriage market from all directions and came up so absolutely empty that the decision was clear: get myself overseas again. Where?

Like most people, I wanted a wife rather like myself. An American woman would have been ideal, except that they didn't feel like marriage. How close can you come? I had married an Asian and a half Asian woman before. They're smart, neat, and have a strong sense of family. Lots of my Vietnam friends have been married a lifetime. My experience was that they valued family over community, and duty over love. Been there, done that, what's next?

I had spent quite a bit of time in Latin America and just didn't find the girls that attractive. The ones hanging around the bars with the gringos with the fishing problem were dutiful and affectionate, but they didn't seem to offer much in the way of intellectual companionship. The politically incorrect stuff I read on intelligence would tell me there are better places to look.

How about Eastern Europe? My first crush was on Jana, who I find later was Slovakian. Some of the hottest girls in college 50 years ago had Russian surnames. Trolling the dating sites on the Internet I was peppered with come ons for Russian brides. The pictures were beautiful. I reasoned that if there were not some substance, some desire on the part of these putative potentials, there would not be so many sites. A girl would have to be hard up to take a pig-in-a-poke American sight unseen. Nonetheless, were quite a few stories of girls doing exactly that, and coming out of it as dedicated wives with loving husband and children. Where there is smoke there's fire. It made sense to go to the source, learn the language, and take a better look. I did that in 2007.

I can't say that I have anything like yellow fever. Although many of the women here are attractive, I have just one, a woman with a sparkling personality which comes across bright and clear without anything lost in the filter of cultural differences. Instead of a general pretty girl, I came up with a very specific loving wife. All she wanted in life was a dedicated guy with whom to raise a family. Coincidentally, she is beautiful – I didn't ask for that, but I like it. So far the family consists of Edward, seven months old. Thus begins a blog on Ukraine.

ANCIEN Following the trail of the red man.docx 8/31/2013

Following the trail of the red man.

Ten years ago I had an opportunity unique for a retiree – I spent a month on a remote Indian reservation in Brazil. At the time I thought it was no more than an exotic and exciting adventure which had no bearing on my life. It appears now that the Indian experience presages that of the millennials, and even more my toddler son's generation. The Indians' way of life seems destined to end in tragedy, and I fear the same for our progeny.

The Kayapó roamed wild through the Brazilian Amazon until 1967, battling other Indians and avoiding Brazilians. The government finally convinced them to accept a reservation. Not a bad deal – the size of Virginia for 5000 Indians.

The Kayapó are as remote as possible from Brazilian society, both physically and socially. The Brazilian Law of the Indian restricts their interaction with the mainstream society. There are limits on trade and travel, rules against alcohol, and protection of their indigenous society and languages. The men my age – born in the 1950s and before – had totally traditional childhoods and even in adulthood have only been minimally affected by modernity.

The men my age were a splendid bunch of people. They knew the forest intimately, and were proud to show it to an American who spoke Portuguese. They knew how to catch fish with their bare hands, how to kill wild pigs with war clubs, how to find everything edible in the Amazon forest, and which herbs, vines and barks were good for which ailments. They laughed easily, and were at ease with themselves. They loved children, and romped with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

They had given up their nomadic ways, settling in permanent wooden shacks built by the government, living on well water and using a modern septic system. A small generator powers a radio and water pump. There is a landing strip for single-engine planes such as the one we flew in on.

The younger Indians' lives are very different from the men my age. They did not learn the forest from their elders because they did not need to. They hunt wild pigs with shotguns and fish with fishing rods. There is a Brazilian nurse in the camp to cure their ills. They seem to spend their time playing battery-powered video games and listening to popular Brazilian music on boom boxes.

Simply put, there is nothing in the lives of the young Indians that demands the human characteristics of intelligence, dedication, courage, physical labor or self-sacrifice. Everything seems to be given to them. They are forgetting how to be Indians, and in losing that, they are losing their humanity.

The Kayapó are traveling a trail of tears forged over the past four centuries by Indians throughout the Americas. They do not adapt to Western culture. They are not individualistic. They don't particularly want to work for wages, they are not competitive, and they don't see much point in the way the white man does things. Disaffected, they succumb to alcohol and dissipation. Rape and pederasty are rampant on Indian reservations in North America. Their society has fallen apart.

Not coincidentally, a famous series of rodent studies by John B. Calhoun in the 1960s made the same observation. Rats and mice that have everything given to them, and do not have to use their wits to obtain food and avoid danger, likewise fall apart. The resulting "behavioral sink" spells doom. They forget how to be rodents, how to breed and raise young, and, in the midst of plenty, they go extinct.

I read today that only 44% of working-age Americans have full-time jobs – 30 hours a week or more. Only a fraction of those 44% are truly satisfying and remunerative. The rest are just marking time, keeping bread on the table.

Increasing numbers of young people stay in school as long as possible, taking student loans they will never be able to repay in order to forestall the day of reckoning when they must attempt to find work. For a great many, work will simply not be there. Youth unemployment approaches 50% in some southern European nations and among some demographics within America.

Technology is racing at breakneck speed in the wrong direction. Millions of jobs have already been lost to automation. Warehouses are automated, self-checkout reigns in grocery stores, ATMs have replaced tellers, email has replaced postman, and online shopping has replaced retail shop clerks. It will get worse. Self-driving vehicles and companies such as Uber and Lyft will eliminate millions of drivers, insurance agents, carwashes and others in service industries. GPS guides driverless vehicles through tilling, seeding and harvesting our food. Cryptocurrencies and automation will continue to decimate the legions of clerks in the financial sector. Artificial intelligence, driven by neural networks and the like, will reduce the doctor's judgment in the practice of medicine, and most clerks and associates in law offices. We are encountering a future in which opportunities will be vast for the highly intelligent, but there will be nothing much meaningful for the rest to do. For a preview of the result, one has only to look at life in the ghettos and barrios of today's American cities, the *zones sensibles* in France, and the African enclaves in Scandinavian cities. The things which made life meaningful to these citizens' ancestors are simply not part of their contemporary existence. They are at the end of the process of which I saw the beginning during my visit with the Kayapó. With nothing meaningful required of them to survive, they have lost their humanity.

The human animal is resourceful. We react, though not in healthy ways. We white people in Asians are simply not repopulating ourselves. Why bring progeny into a meaningless existence? Sex has swirled down the above-mentioned "behavioral sink". Asexuality, homosexuality, and hyper sexuality are rampant, while few parents seem interested in or capable of raising normal families. Normalcy itself has lost its definition.

The Indians first confronted the loss of meaning in their lives with the arrival of the white man. Harvard and Dartmouth were dedicated to educating Indians – a project that never got off the ground. Indian culture has been a disaster. There has not been a successful Indian society after their contact with the Europeans.

It would be nice to say that we are different, that there are signs of hope for the future of Western civilization. It does not appear to be so – life for the bulk of mankind is becoming meaningless. One reads this gloomy prognostication from more and more of our wiser heads. It appears that we are traveling the path of the red man, simply with a couple of centuries' remove. The reprieve may be longer for the smarter among us, but who can, in the long run, outpace progress itself?

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ANCIEN for jim davis.docx 7/29/2014

Putting Ukraine's Russian Language Issue in an International Perspective

Posted on [February 27, 2015](#)

Vladimir Putin makes a big point of protecting Russian speakers in Ukraine as if they were Russian. The huge flaw in his logic is the fact that a vast majority of the people in the country speak Russian. They also speak Ukrainian. It is the largest natively multilingual country in the world. Moreover, the language issue is seldom as divisive as Putin would make it seem. Let's take a look.

Switzerland is the world's most perfectly multilingual country. This country of less than 8 million speaks German, French, Italian and Romanche. The percentages are 65 percent, 23 percent, eight percent and one percent. As a bonus, most educated Swiss speak English as well. There is no notable friction on language front.

Some cities are quite bilingual: Brussels in Flemish and French, Montréal in English and French, and Strasburg in German and French. Knowing the language is simply a matter of getting along. These cities happen to be located on linguistic borders. The countries on either side of their particular borders, however, tend to be monolingual. Or, if they are not, they use English as a second language.

English is far and away the world's most important second language. It is a mandatory subject in elementary schools in the smaller northern European countries – the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. While natives of these countries all speak their native language, they expect to speak English when they study abroad, travel, and do business.

English is the world's lingua franca. It is the language that Indians from different regions of that vast country use to communicate with one another. It has the richest vocabulary of any world language, and far and away the most support in terms of dictionaries, word processors, search engines and everything else one could want to go with a language. It is grammatically fairly easy, and because it is so universal most people who speak English can converse usefully with people who don't speak it well. While there may not be a vast number of natively bilingual people one of whose languages is English, English is by far the most prevalent second language among people who are bilingual to some degree.

English colonial expansion spread the language throughout the world. Britain colonized the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, and a lot of Africa. The language remained because it was useful. However, these events happened one or two centuries ago. Countries have either adopted English as their native language, as in Liberia, or as a firmly established second language for the educated.

The expansion of the Russian speaking world has been more recent. The Soviet Union dominated Eastern Europe until three decades ago. Russian was a mandatory subject in school, and a knowledge of Russian was essential for career development for the generation now in their 60s and 70s. It was a living imperial language until recently.

That has certainly been the case in Ukraine. Ukraine has been dominated by Russia since Bogdan Khmel'nitsky was forced into a fateful choice between Poland and Russia in 1648. Various czars and commissars have forced the teaching of Russian over the years, to the extent that everybody has some exposure. Just as an example, my wife's parents, born in the 1940s, spoke Ukrainian in school. 30 years later in the same region my wife was schooled in the Russian language. Russian is what we speak at home. Needless to say, the choice was made in Moscow, not anywhere in Ukraine.

Ukraine's situation differs from that of many of the former Soviet Socialist republics only in the period of time that it was dominated by Russia. The Baltic states came under the communists only after World War II. Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan had been under czarist control, but later and not as strongly. The same can be said of the Central Asian 'stans. For this reason one can get by in any of them, even today, by speaking Russian. However, without a doubt Russian is more pervasive in Ukraine than the others because of the length of the association and the determination with which the language was forced on the population.

That is the history of what is to my knowledge the largest almost totally bilingual country in the world. Yes, Ukraine is Russian speaking. No, it is not because they love Russia.

[ANCIEN Foreign policy toward Ukraine seems to be controlled by domestic politics in every country in the world.docx 1/28/2014](#)

Everywhere in the world, foreign policy toward Ukraine seems to be controlled by domestic political considerations

In the United States the conservatives so much want Obama to fail, that they criticize everything he does. This of course includes his policy on Ukraine. With regards to potential help from the United States, Ukraine is between a rock and a hard place. Obama does nothing but empty posturing, making himself increasingly a laughingstock. Many conservative opponents want to send armaments and maybe even troops, which would only get a lot of people – mainly Ukrainians - killed.

Neither side especially wants to respect the new Ukrainian government. Several web sites I usually respect, zerohedge, Paul Craig Roberts and Mish Shedlock, put forth the claim that the ouster of Putin's widely despised puppet, Yanukovich, was illegal. He wasn't ousted – he left of his own accord because he had lost the support of the people. Using Putin's methods, tools and even people to violently suppress Ukraine's peaceful demonstrators resulted in the quiet resolve of Maidan that he did not have the strength to face down.

The new government has not yet had time to come together, much less prove itself feckless or powerless. It is a hodgepodge confederation... It includes the right-wing party, Svoboda, a handful of politicians from the moderate centralist parties, and a few members of splinter groups, militants who came to the fore during Maidan. It also includes some oligarchs whose holdings are in the East, people who have an interest in maintaining some stability there and also have some administrative experience.

Given the corrupt nature of Ukrainian governments for all of the 23 years of its existence, it is entirely natural that every experienced member of the new government is somewhat tainted. Expecting otherwise would be like expecting a kid raised in the barrios of East Los Angeles to have no experience with gangs, or an old-time politician from the American South (Robert Byrd, Strom Thurmond) to have no experience with segregation and the Ku Klux Klan. There are clear signs that the times are changing. One can only hope that the politicians will change with them.

Europe's interest is in keeping Russian gas flowing. They depend on trade with Russia far more than does America. Given their exposure, the Europeans, especially the Germans, appear to have been quite brave. Timing is on their side – it will be seven months until they again need Russian gas for heating.

Russia's domestic policy interest is quite clear. Putin wants to destabilize Ukraine and exercise an atavistic desire to recreate a Russian Empire by annexing Russian speaking parts of Ukraine. Claims that he feels a need for buffer states to protect Russia against foreign aggression are far-fetched. A more real need is to insulate the Russian people from other peoples with freer and richer societies. The autocratic Putin has been careful to surround himself with similar martinets in Belarus and Kazakhstan. Russia lost control of the Caucasus, and went to war with Georgia in 2008 to reassert its interests there. The prospect of a democratic Ukraine, closer, more central to Europe, and with ten times the population of Georgia has to be a bigger threat.

It appears, however, that Merkel had it right when she observed that Putin has "lost it." There is no small element of vainglory in Putin's aggression. It stirs the same nationalistic passions as (very temporarily) boosted the standing of Argentina's dictatorship during the Falklands war. Domestic politics are certainly key to Putin's calculations.

Putin uses exactly the same kind of lies about "protecting Russian speakers" to justify meddling in Ukraine's business that Hitler did about German speakers in the Sudetenland. Borders have been fluid and Russian speaking populations have lived in Ukraine since the time of the Mongols. Ukraine was situated in between the Ottoman and Russian empires. About the time of the American Revolution, Catherine the Great cemented its Russification by founding cities on the lands captured from the Turks. Changing a population's language is easier than changing the population itself. As part of the Russian empire and later the Soviet Union, eastern Ukrainians increasingly spoke Russian. It is still a patchwork – there are pockets of Ukrainian speakers everywhere.

Americans, with Spanish as their frame of reference, are inclined to blow the language issue out of proportion. Ukraine is a thoroughly bilingual country. Aside from the border regions, almost everybody speaks both languages adequately. The two are no more different than Spanish and Portuguese. Knowing one, it is possible to make sense out of a document written in the other. I write as a Russian speaker studying Ukrainian that learning to talk and understand the other takes only a bit of practice.

Educated people in Kiev speak Russian as a matter of convenience. It is a world language. Even here more books are published in Russian than Ukrainian. Serious books, those on business, science and medicine, are overwhelmingly in Russian. However, to assume that because people want to join Russia just because they speak Russian would be as foolish as to assume that the Irish or the Americans want to join the United Kingdom because English originated there.

While the West may assume that Russophone Ukrainians are pro-Russian, the Russians themselves are under no such illusion. The referendum in Crimea was a complete farce, sprung with only two weeks' notice, and no opportunity for any sort of electoral campaign. They presented only two options, neither of which was for Crimea to remain part of Ukraine. Both the reported turnout and the reported results are higher than would be statistically possible if one assumes that native Ukrainians and Tatars voted their self-interest. This seems to be the model for the referendums Russia wants to impose in eastern Ukraine as well. Stalin said "It's not who

votes that counts, it's who counts the votes."

The big lie has been part of Russia's toolkit for more than a century, at least since they annexed a free and unwilling Ukraine in 1922. The Soviets adorned Kiev with a huge arch dedicated to "Druzhbi Narodi," or friendship between peoples. It is also the name of a major boulevard. But the friendship has never been one of equals, a fact strongly underscored by Putin's behavior since his protégée/puppet Yanukovich chose to scoot out of town. Never a great intellect, the exiled Yanukovich gave the lie to Putin's claims in an April 3 interview. He confessed to having invited Putin's soldiers into Crimea, whereas Putin still refuses to acknowledge either that they were soldiers, or Russian.

Putin echoes some of the kinds of ineptitude that brought Yanukovich down. Yanukovich hired goons from the countryside, his "tituchi," to foment trouble in Kiev. They only reinforced the resolve of Kievians, who scorned and despised them.

Russia has exploited its long, unprotected border with Ukraine to infiltrate troublemakers such as those who took over government buildings in Kharkiv, Lugansk and Donetsk. The troublemakers, however, seem at times not up to the task. They unfurled a sign in Donetsk, the capital of Donbas, proclaiming "Free Dombas." It is a spelling error no Ukrainian would make. In another incident, insurgents were videotaped as they tore down and burned two flags from over a building in Donetsk. One was the flag of Ukraine, the other – that of the highly popular local soccer team, Shakhtar. Locals would never have been so stupid. In yet another incident, insurgents storming government buildings chose - a library. Any local would have known better.

Ukraine has managed to arrest the 60 insurgents who took over government buildings in Kharkiv. That leaves only Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine has been highly successful in not rising to Russian provocations, avoiding giving Russia the excuse it so desperately wants to send troops across the border. It will be interesting to learn the identities of the insurgents.

The best Ukraine can hope for is that the world continues to pay attention to their plight, and, recognizing the depth of the hole they are trying to climb out of, allows them some time. Just to be left out of other countries' domestic political considerations would be the greatest of blessings.

ANCIEN Gratitude.docx – About Mary Ann and the family 4/30/2014

Gratitude

I tried to be a perfect husband in an imperfect marriage. Our mutual friends sometimes commented on it. I loaned money to each of my wife's siblings to help them get on their feet. If I dutifully cleaned her windshield and kissed her goodbye every morning as she set off to compete in a man's world. I opened our house to her father in the last four years as he was dying of Parkinson's. I did the little things, like digging the holes for her new garden flowers, raking leaves, and shoveling the snow. Nonetheless, my wife never fell in love with me, nor even trusted me. She resolutely sought to be self-sufficient. She courted the children's affection by undercutting my efforts to give them structure and discipline as they grew up.

Once they were grown, I left. She didn't love me, and then they weren't talking to me. They bought the evil white man story they learned in school hook line and sinker. To the extent she gave it any thought, my wife seems to have done so too. It jibed with the mainstream media story. The kids wouldn't even argue with me – apparently, even to think there was anything meritorious about Western civilization made me morally deficient. End of story.

I left in the least obtrusive way. We had a brief conversation, and three days later the movers brought me to a new house. I came back twice for stuff I had forgotten, and we saw each other a dozen times or so over the course of a no-fault divorce. I had brought a portfolio of five rental properties and a fair amount of stock into the marriage; she had brought a half paid for Toyota Corolla. She left the marriage with a million-dollar house and half of everything else. That's how it works. At 64, I got the freedom to look for true love and maybe sire some appreciative children. It was a considerable gamble, but better than sure defeat.

All this was all seven years ago. The thing that surprises me most is how much the single fact that I left my wife trumps everything else. Her family, and our mutual friends, do not care to think about the state of the marriage, our mutual contributions, and our failure at raising children. They see only one fact. I left her. That makes me evil, by the lights of contemporary America. Few of them care to talk to me, including the woman to whom I gave a job after her husband died and the relatives who benefited from our generosity.

This is not sour grapes. I got lucky. I moved to Ukraine, learned Russian and integrated into Ukrainian society, married and have a new son. I have more friends here than I did in the United States. I still have my health. For a guy in his eighth decade I'm doing extraordinarily well. I have a lot to look forward to, and many plans for my son's future.

Still and all, I am perplexed and disappointed by the unfairness of it all. Women have truly taken over America. They dominate the educational process and the intellectual zeitgeist. By merit or by force, they have come to dominate many aspects of the workplace. They have changed the perception of the male role from "father knows best" to "father knows squat." Men are universally branded as unreliable layabouts, philanderers, and incompetents. It is useless to attempt to fight this mindset. Our mutual acquaintances forced the facts into accordance with this template as an explanation of how the marriage ended.

To me this is part of a larger sea change in Western thinking, part of the progressive project. All of the forces that expanded Western culture throughout the world have been challenged. Masculine leadership in business, the father's role in the family, heterosexuality itself, and the very Enlightenment thinking that underlies all modern Western thought. The modern generation has looked over its shoulder at those who brought them as far as they have come, only to shun and disown them, without creating anything approaching the merit of their ancestors' creations. As a straight white man, I am prima facie bigoted, out of touch and ineffectual.

Here in Kiev I encounter a traditional society, one in which men are men, women are women, diversity for all intents and purposes does not exist, gays are tolerated but quiet, and extended families remain robust. It is rather like the world I was born into. Meanwhile, it appears that the Western world is rushing headlong into collapse. There is too much debt, both too little work and too little will to work, and far too little desire to have children, much less raise them in any sort of tradition. My hope is that the collapse will be complete by the time my new son comes of age, and that the intellectual currents which swept over my first family and rendered them unwilling and unable to form families or, for the most part, make a constructive contribution to society will be in thorough disrepute.

Perhaps manly virtues will again become fashionable by the time my son becomes a man. As I write, those virtues are being tested here in downtown Kiev. I hope they prevail, and provide a model to the West. And I hope that my son, the descendant of thirteen generations of Americans, becomes the proud patriarch of generations of proud and independent Ukrainians.

"Memories Are Made Of This"

(Sweet, sweet memories you gave-a me
you can't beat the memories you gave-a me)

Take one fresh and tender kiss
Add one stolen night of bliss
One girl, one boy
Some grief, some joy
Memories are made of this

Don't forget a small moonbeam
Fold in lightly with a dream
Your lips and mine
Two sips of wine
Memories are made of this

Then add the wedding bells
One house where lovers dwell
Three little kids for flavor
Stir carefully through the days
See how the flavor stays
These are the dreams you will savor

With His blessings from above
Serve it generously with love
One man, one wife
One love through life
Memories are made of this
Memories are made of this

Essays about happiness are merely descriptive. They will sell you how to get it, but they don't so you what "it" is.

There is something we all want. It is assured to us by the preamble to our Constitution.

Happiness is often just the absence of unhappiness. It a lot easier to name the things that make us unhappy. Being without food, being ignored or insulted, not being appreciated. These things make us unhappy. What does it take them away for you have left for the big boy?

The positive aspects

Some people say happiness is the freedom to do whatever you like. Many people today enjoyed our freedom. Potter kids grow up in families which enough that they don't have to worry about working. These are not happy children. Happiness is not passive. It is not simply the absence of unhappiness. People today are better shielded from hardships than any past generation, and yet it would be hard to say we're happier. Happiness is also not simply the addition and two otherwise neutral wires of elements that might make us happy. Which why that would drugs, alcohol, and meaningless sex. Perhaps commercial sex. Without work. Happiness you can't buy happiness remains as true as ever.

I am in a happy marriage. I am better positioned than most to recognize it. Is my third marriage, which I entered at the age of 68. Make 67. My wife remarked that we are really happy. I have to agree. Thinking back, where the other marriages were after 3 ½

years, this one really is better. My challenge in this article is to say why that is true. What's different this time?. I ended my first two marriages because they were unsatisfactory. What one could call them unhappy marriages. A better word might be unfulfilling, or unsatisfying. They simply did not have the type of mutual love and affection that I worked for. My wife was otherwise happy and successful. I had quite a few friends, professional success, adventure and an active intellectual life. My wife was fairly complete in any case. But my marriages were simply not contributing anything. The first one, childless, was easy the end. The second, with three children, was certain was tolerable up until the point where the children were grown. At that point we had nothing to talk about and contributed nothing to each other, and it was time to leave.

I find myself singing a silly little romance ditty from the 50s. Dean Martin's "Memories are made of this." It's the last day of April. My son Eddie is sitting on my lap as we look out over a small pond eating a couple cookies and drinking some coffee at a tiny little café in the suburbs of Kiev.

The thought crosses my mind here, at 71 years old, I am finally living the reality of the schmaltzy love songs of the 50s. So what is the secret of happiness? I think I'm happy. Haven't I been happy before? What is this thing?

People say I'm far too old to have a young son. I would say the opposite. What a wonderful time to have a kid! I finally have time to do it right! Eddie and I spend a lot of time together. Realistically, how else is he going to learn how to be a man except to be around one?

It is a profound irony of our age that we become so productive, we have invented so many laborsaving devices that acquiring shelter, food and transport are almost trivially easy. Yet, yet we spend more time than ever n away from our families, letting the next generation be socialized by uncaring caregivers and the even more merciless TV.

The last time that our civilization raised its sons and daughters to be more or less like their parents was when we lived on the farm. Children were around parents day in and day out, saw their work, and learned the farm economy from the ground up. They learned that they had to support one another, raising brothers and sisters.

It was successful. My 19th century ancestors had large families. Conversely, my citified 20th century ancestors had small families. Half my aunts and uncles, great aunts and great uncles, successful though they were, never married. They pioneered the global Caucasian self-extermination process.

The eugenists of a century ago were concerned that the smartest people were the ones who didn't have kids. The world loves them for what they can do, and they more seldom bother to have children. Meanwhile, their productivity supports the fertility of the legions who don't have the wit to offer labor that is use to society. They don't look at those kids as a gift, just something that happens, and generally don't raise them well. So either perverse result is that we as a society are doing a very poor job of perpetuating our society: raising new generations who will be productive enough to keep the financial engine going, and perpetuating the values we inherited.

Here is an objective description of my grown family. There are three, aged 25 to 32, graduates of prestigious colleges. Only one of them has a professional job at above minimum wage. None are married or in serious relationships. Only one of them is speaking to me. Why so?

My ex- and I were active professionals when the kids were young. We entrusted their upbringing to two responsible nannies, a Salvadorenian and a Filipina. From the age of three on we sent them expensive Episcopal private schools. My expectation was that they would learn something about behavior, responsibility, Christian ethics and traditional values.

In retrospect, this could not have been. The educators were all of the progressive mindset. The philosophy was kind of from the 1930s. What the kids do what they want. The children know better what they need to learn than the adults, and it is somewhat oppressive for the adults to impose an agenda on the kids. You want to protect the children from any particular any danger, including eliminating bullying, name-calling and so on. But all the children receive valentines on Valentine's Day and gold stars for whatever they may do, so you don't hurt their self-esteem.

I didn't play as active a role as I should have in raising them. My wife didn't my wife wanted to control the process, and we had were paying the nannies to do it. I played with the kids and took them out occasionally, but I did not spend a lot of time with them. In this I think I am not at all atypical. I probably spent more time than most fathers did simply because I ran my own company and did not have to travel much. Moreover, I was making that I made quite a bit of my money from investments in real estate and stocks, and did not have to work extraordinarily long hours. So I was unavailable father, but I did not push myself into the fatherhood role, and the kids and certainly nothing else but me. If anything, the spirit of the age was the fathers should leave this to people who know better – the mothers in the professionals.

So I began this by talking about happiness. Happiness escapes definition. We know what it is not. It is not the immediate cheap thrills brought by drugs alcohol or comparable rights. Or sex. We have some sense that it is

deeper satisfaction. That is certainly been the case for me. I was good at my job, and derived a great deal of satisfaction out of getting things done well. I did things well even in the pursuit of long-term goals that did not make sense to me, such as the Vietnam War, and supporting the military-industrial complex. I was able to do my task well, I wasn't terribly concerned with the long-term objectives of the organization's I was serving work.

Right now, my long-term objective is raising a new son who may give me grandchildren. Whether or not I am around see those grandchildren doesn't really matter to me. I have a great responsibility and I take great pride in this responsibility. Is the satisfaction to watch him grow up,

And at every moment, such as this one sitting with him sitting on my lap overlooking the lake on a spring day, I'm aware at how much he is learning from moment to moment from the environmentally Zen, and certainly from being around me. I read that his brain is forming about 2 ½ billion neural connections every day. I have to imagine that which connections he made the fence is somewhat dependent on his contact with me. I hope that they are good ones. I know one thing is learning is how to form sounds in three languages – Russian, English, and Ukrainians killed shorthand for the upbringing of my grown children. They grew up in a thoroughly feminized environment. The schools had a feminine mindset, despite having male skiy heads of school. The and that their mother felt that they their mother took charge of their education, Inc., of excluding scams she pushing me gently aside a, which I allowed, and we gave responsibility to the to the babysitters. The result was that they grew up coddled, and without much responsibility because other people handled most of the problems. They got gold stars for everything so they self-esteem was not damaged. And the result is what it is. They have not taken responsibility and their adult life for getting responsible jobs were taking on family responsibilities were contributing toward the end they don't feel much of any obligation to contribute to society.

Children here I as as I continue this, I see a man fixing the house in his front garden. In United States we probably we've replaced that I was proud of and tape it up. Your people make things work because they have to. And people work in jobs that might not be essential within a highly productive society like the United States. Great example is the farmers markets. They are more reminiscent of Nicaragua than the United States. There could very low productivity, but they give the grandmothers something to do – sit all day and so produce that they may have brought from their own farms, or bought from other farmers. A similar low private productivity in other sectors. The bureaucracy employs an inordinate number of people. But they seem to have something to do. Maybe the low employment is better than no employment.

ANCIEN I am a white guy with a white family blending in in a white country.docx 8/4/2014

I am a white guy with a white family blending in in a white country. All of the bordering countries are white. Our neighbors to the west are defiant about it, strongly resisting the European Union's efforts to force Africans and Arabs on them. They did not give George Soros his way. Nationalism is on the rise across Europe, especially in this central European cordon sanitaire holding back the immigrant flood. My country, and those to our north, east and south are generally too poor to be attractive to African and Arab economic refugees.

As of today, June 2016, even to mention these facts still leads to my being called a racist. Within the coming year I expect opinions will change; in hindsight I will appear to have been visionary.

White America brought our disaster on ourselves, through our feckless failure to defend traditional values, common sense, and our European heritage. It is not going to end well. To cite two prophetic Dylan tunes "It's all over now baby blue" and "There's a hard rain gonna fall." How could he know the US would roll over so quickly and so thoroughly?

And how could I know I would end up sheltering my family in the heartland of our former Slavic enemies?

M2016- I am disappointed with my grown family.docx 7/21/2012

The reaction is always the same when I tell people I'm disappointed with my grown family. They tell me not to give up. I tell him that my 30-year-old son has never had a professional job in his life doesn't look like he's going to. They frown because that is indeed serious, but they still advise me not to give up hope.

My daughter is only 23, possessor of a very expensive education from Trinity College, the most prestigious university in Ireland, and she is off in Sweden, living with a boyfriend and supposedly learning Swedish and Whatever else we don't know... she doesn't communicate much with any of the family, whatsoever with me.

Does that mean giving up hope? I can't really say that I have given up hope, because one always hopes. However in the real world one has to make practical decisions. How do you allocate your time and money? In that sense, the decision is pretty clear. I'm not going to spend a lot of time worrying about my grown children who don't talk to me, and I'm certainly not going to be very quick to open my wallet to them. I'm spending my time now with a second family, one that does both appreciate and need me.

This is an embarrassing position to be in. To have two adult children who will not even speak to me certainly represents a failure on somebody's part, and you would have to suppose the failure was mine.

There certainly was a contrast in styles as the children were growing up. The children came of age during the self-esteem movement. Whatever problems they had, whatever they did was wrong, their mother, the school, and the rest of the family would look for a therapeutic reason. Reason did I say? I mean, excuse. Their behavior was readily excused, whatever it was. This included certainly lying, neglect of schoolwork on occasion, and failure to apply themselves. I was the odd man out, pushing the kids to be honest when nobody else would, pushing them to put their bodies in shape, and things of the sort.

Putting it in clearer terms, I believed that children could and should develop character, whereas others were inclined to accept whatever the environment did to children. Their blank slate philosophy applied elsewhere. I believe that there was something noble in the history of the West and the US in particular, whereas everything the children learned was told him that it had been almost uniquely evil.

My youngest was taught that men dominated and abused women throughout history, and continue to do so, and so on. She learned not to argue with me – I am quite well informed. The children generally didn't think it was my place to question authority, in this case, the school. They thought it was quirky that I would critique Connie Chung or Diane Sawyer as they gave their slant on the news.

I'm disappointed with my children because I don't talk to me, but more so because the two who have dismissed me from their lives haven't done anything with those lives. Their potential remains unrealized. I look at this is a tragedy for me. Success as a parent is when you have grandchildren, even better if you get to spend time with them. The prospects don't look bright either way.

I'm maintaining hope for my grown children rather the way I hope for world peace or a solution to global warming. Nice if it happens. My energies, however, are going into something I can influence – my second family.

ANCIEN I am proud of Ukrainians.docx 7/17/2012

I am proud of Ukrainians. I think that they are doing a great deal right in a very difficult situation. I disagree with the newspaper articles I read daily which attempt to point out one shortcoming or another. Certainly shortcomings exist, but it is a complex situation in which the right answers are hard to know.

Ukraine is no match militarily for Russia. It has a new government, in place only for a few months. That government, particularly its military and intelligence services, are riddled with spies who were salted their during the pro-Russian administration of Victor Yanukovich, which ended only a few months ago. They are underequipped, undertrained and underbudgeted. Their task is an extremely difficult one.

Russia, a country three times its size whose natural resources afford it a much larger budget, has been working hard to create turmoil in Ukraine. Russia has five centuries of experience destabilizing and gobbling up its neighbors, adding them to its empire. The catalog of neighboring countries that have successfully resisted Russia's advances is relatively short. The last was Finland, which held off Stalin in 1939. It came at great cost in land and men, but they did it. Afghanistan, with outside help, survived until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia has a stable government with long experience in propaganda. Their lies are being spread as gospel by a new set of friends, this time so-called conservatives. The Russians have co-opted the nationalist movements in Europe and the libertarians in the United States. It is as frightening as when the Communists were the darlings of the left in those places. Somehow starry eyed idealists never seem to learn. This time the illusion is that Putin is a good Christian supporter of traditional values. Though that image is hard to reconcile with murder, mistresses and pervasive corruption, it must satisfy the conservatives' innate desire to believe in something.

One must agree that there is much not to like in modern Europe and the United States. The welfare state is coming to the end of its rope. The budget deficits are unsustainable, third-world immigration is irreversible, and the social decay is pervasive. All these things being true do not mean that Russia offers a better alternative. Whatever problems the West has, to embrace Putin is to jump out of the frying pan into the fire. It may be true that Obama, the NSA and the bureaucrats in the United States are smothering America's freedoms. Those freedoms still look pretty good upon examining the despotism Putin has to offer.

The most impressive thing about Ukraine's resistance has been the country's quiet resolve. Yanukovich tried hard to provoke the Ukrainian people to violence. He brought his thugs, the titushki, in from the country in order to start fights. He sent in his riot police, the Berkut, to provoke the demonstrators in Maidan. Although a few did respond with violence, the vast majority remained peaceful. That peaceful majority yielded 100 martyrs when Yanukovich lost his cool and had his Berkut open fire with live ammunition. Those martyrs died not in vain. Yanukovich was unable to break the will of the demonstrators, unable to goad them into actions that might have justified, in the eyes of the world, his suppressing them. Instead, Yanukovich chose to flee to Russia. His puppet master Putin, giving him shelter and a place to stash his pelf, hid him away as an embarrassment and took over.

It is now Putin's turn to be goading Ukraine. He is shipping arms to the "separatists," provocateurs that he himself sent. He is staffing them with Russian military and KGB in leadership positions. He is paying Chechnyan and Cossack mercenaries to do nastiest of the dirty work in the uprising. And, Russia is firing at the Ukrainians across the Russian border. Ukraine has turned the other cheek in this case also. They are not returning fire.

Though it costs a few lives, Ukraine is not giving the Russians the *casus belli* and they are looking for. They are not affording the Russians any excuse to invade. Ukraine is making it more and more clear to the world that this situation is exactly what they claim, a case of unprovoked Russian aggression. By their patience, the Ukrainians are slowly winning the world's admiration, and more important, the grudging conviction that Ukraine must be defended against Russian aggression. As British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home said, "The Russians move when they see an opportunity. They always have. Like a knife, they push ahead when they hit butter, and back away when they hit steel. Where they run into unity and strength, relations tend to improve. Russian policy seeks a maximum of confusion for a minimum of commitment." The West is awakening the reality that they have been as soft as butter, and the threat is unbounded. The threat is not just to Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and the Baltics, but eventually to them as well.

For their courage and wisdom I salute the Ukrainian people. This is a difficult battle, an uncertain battle. Given all of the handicaps facing the country, I think the Ukrainian people are doing a marvelous job in fighting it. We of the West owe them our thanks and our support. Slava Ukraina. Glory to Ukraine.

ANCIEN I marvel at the efficiency with which the flowers in front of our house reproduce.docx 7/20/2016

I marvel at the efficiency with which the flowers in front of our house reproduce. The blossoms move from bottom to top up a tall stalk. Everything below today's blossoms has already been fertilized, and above today's blossoms are tomorrow's buds. The bees love it – they can come to the same place every day.

Even monkeys are pretty good at reproduction. The female comes into heat, the males fight it out with each other, or do whatever it takes to charm her, and soon there is monkey business followed by monkey babies.

By comparison, human courtship and mating is impossibly complex. It seems like it would never work. And, in fact, it seems to work less and less well with each passing year. We have separated, alienated, and compartmentalized sexual attraction from mating from reproduction.

Women are increasingly obsessed with their appearance, spending significant fractions of their available time and money on clothes, cosmetics, fitness programs and whatever it takes to make themselves attractive to a man.

Having established this competition, this unstated beauty contest with every other female, they make themselves unsatisfied with less than the ideal male, and they engender in men the notion that somewhere in the world an ideal female exists for them. For the flowers, any bee will do. The lady monkey may be a bit choosy, but she chooses somebody and gets pregnant. Among humans, however, the mating dance may go on endlessly.

Eventually, in most cases, humans finally do get together to mate. Through modern contraception, and female tricks that have been known since the days of the Greeks and the Kama Sutra, said mating does not always result in pregnancy. The abortion inducing silphium plant was in such demand that it was driven extinct in Roman times.

Human copulation does lead to children, which then take 20 years of care to raise to adulthood.

ANCIEN I want grandchildren.docx 11/5/2011

I want grandchildren.

My three adult children, American millennials all, are simply not going to have families. If they did, their kids would be nothing like me. They certainly would not share the values that I inherited from ten generations of American ancestors and was unable to pass on. No, their children in turn would be indoctrinated in the poisonous philosophies of the modern American campus.

We humans have a lot in common with the apes from which we evolved. Like them, we are very much the products of our society. We have always been brought up by our families, clans, tribes and nations. Members of our gene pool. We learn how to be human from the humans around us. Until two centuries ago these were almost always relatives, close or distant.

The modern age has disrupted that pattern, sometimes inadvertently but often on purpose. Since the industrial revolution few of us any longer practice our parents' professions and we are less likely to live in the same place. Our children are not surrounded by the aunts, uncles and cousins who would teach them what it means to belong to our clan and tribe.

American children are formed according to policies established at a national level by elites who are not like us, far removed from our communities. By federal fiat, they force us to live in integrated neighborhoods and attend integrated schools. The curriculum is established by some combination of State Education Associations, a national Department of Education and textbook publishers. Our children don't learn about sex from older siblings and young aunts and uncles, but the school. They no longer attend church – the schools see to it that they do not subscribe to such anachronistic superstitions. Few belong to the Boy Scouts – the Scouts proved to be too unyielding on the subject of homosexuality and have been forced into a precipitous decline.

American children have become creatures of their government. That government relentlessly panders to their interests as individuals, promising state benefits in return for loyalty. Our children do not belong to any clans, tribes and nations that would be interested in the perpetuation of their parents' values. Quite the opposite – the American state teaches them, at every level, to reject their parents' values in favor of government-approved wisdom. Political correctness ensures that dissent is stifled.

Raising them to be peers vs. partners. Girls are just like boys. No need to teach them how to get along – expect them to spontaneously combust, to automatically know how to behave in a relationship.

Make the rules impossible to know. In almost all animal species the male displays, the female chooses. Display has to be somewhat aggressive – but it can be construed as "sexual harassment" if it is done awkwardly, or just from the wrong boy.

America has been poison for my adult children. Not just them, but virtually their entire generation. It is a generation that concerns itself greatly with global warming and a panoply of social justice issues, yet hardly at all with its own propagation. After years of observing these trends as a parent, teacher, school trustee and Ed School student, I concluded I had to leave. I chose Eastern Europe.

Ukraine is still traditional. Grandmothers and grandfathers play an active role in raising grandchildren. They teach them what it is to be Ukrainian – nation, clan and tribe. There is continuity in small things such as the recipes for borscht, and big things such as the Orthodox Church. Ukraine is a homogeneous place. The small Jewish, Muslim and Gypsy minorities are accepted, but there is no question as to which culture establishes social mores.

Perhaps most significantly, Ukraine's oligarchs seem to be quite content simply to be rich. Unlike American oligarchs from Rockefeller and Carnegie down through Gates and Soros, they do not to meddle in the realms of education, gay rights and the like. Ukraine is delightfully free of gadflies who would turn society upside down to right some perceived wrong. I am pleased to note that a recent gay rights parade organized by foreign do-gooders attracted relatively little attention. The gays I (think I) know seem to get along just fine. They are discrete enough not to drag me into their sex lives. Neither, for that matter, do straight people. The result is much like the America I remember of the 1950s – a comfortable place run according to the common sense and mores of the majority.

Contrast this with the West. We believe that the individual is paramount, owing nothing to society. A young man is free to shirk military service, owes nothing to civic organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the church, and has no obligation to marry and have kids. A young woman likewise has no obligation other than to pursue her own pleasures, physical and intellectual. This theme, with its roots going back to the Enlightenment, dominates Western Europe as well.

Given the conviction that they have no obligation to anything greater than themselves, moderns can very easily conclude that having children is not worth the effort. They don't bring any benefit. They are expensive and ungrateful. Moreover, western governments have promised to support us in our old age into underwrite our healthcare. Western societies do not seem to need kids, nor to want them.

Eastern Europe has not been like that. Ukrainians claim the Eastern Orthodox faith, though relatively few adherents are familiar with the Bible or the church teachings. What they do claim is to be spiritual, *dukhovnyy*. Like the unarticulated religions of Asia and the Native Americans, they have a profound belief in their people, *narod*. They believe that their people is destined to live forever. While few have aspirations of spreading their

faith to the whole world, they feel strongly that they should keep it alive among themselves and their successors. They live not for themselves alone, but as trustees of their culture and civilization, with a felt obligation to pass it forward to future generations.

Regrettably, this portrayal is not as accurate as it might have been a couple of generations back. Young Ukrainians are fairly strongly influenced by Western values. While most young people still express a desire to get married and have children, it is tempered by the desire to complete their education, get a good job, and see the world before settling down. In practice that means that fewer and fewer of the best and brightest are indeed committing themselves to marriage and family. The straw at which I grasp is the fact that they at least express such traditional values. In the West young people seem to have abandoned them altogether.

Having chosen a homogeneous Eastern European country with traditional values to raise our son is a necessary step, but it is not sufficient. Even here, we cannot leave our son's upbringing and education up to other people. We need a substitute for family and clan. He needs to be surrounded by like-minded people.

Those like-minded people need to teach him about God, morality, and society. At his current age of four they are already instructing him concerning crying, lying, the different nature of our neighborhood Gypsies, Muslims, and how to get along with little girls. The girls' mothers are equally dedicated to teaching their daughters how to get along with boys. They are also looking forward to grandchildren.

The style of learning in Ukrainian public schools is different than in America. The teacher remains totally in control. Kids are expected to learn by rote as much as experimentation. The teachers are not afraid to grade kids honestly. They are not tangled up in diversity issues. All this is to the good. However, the classes are relatively big and the kids not necessarily tracked by ability. Just like the factory schools introduced in America a century ago, they waste a lot of the smart kids' time bringing along the not so smart ones.

The teachers are products of their culture. Parents should be thankful that there isn't any gender confusion in Ukraine's public schools. Boys are boys and girls are girls. The Orthodox religion is a background assumption. Teachers respect children of other faiths in the classroom, but they don't apologize for their Christianity. They are not afraid to celebrate Christmas, Easter, Trinity Sunday, and Pentecost are school holidays.

The schools in Ukraine, unfortunately, do not pay well enough to attract the best talent into teaching. The good teachers from the Soviet generation are retiring, and young people can make more money entering almost any other profession.

My children would be better off in Ukrainian than American public schools on two counts. The culture and values that they would be taught are more traditional and more wholesome, and the level of instruction would be better because there isn't the "dumbing down" associated with forced diversity.

Nonetheless, Ukrainian public schools share some unfortunate traits with American schools. They treat education as a factory product. The kid moves along the assembly line having little bits of knowledge installed, one semester at a time, seven subjects per semester. The objective at each level is to move them to the next. For smart kids that means entering a university for another four years of the factory treatment. They emerge, blinking at the bright light of independence, with a shiny college degree which may or may not reflect skills that are useful in the real world, and no work experience.

Therefore, like in America, Ukrainian society is rife with unemployed and underemployed college graduates. Their earnings don't correspond with their expectations. What they do earn goes more towards material acquisitions such as cars and to ephemeral pleasures such as yoga lessons and foreign vacations than to starting families. Trusting the educational system to prepare my son to give me grandchildren would be a huge risk. They don't see it as their job to make him either successful in life or to be interested in marriage.

I need an alternative. So – what's my plan? We need to assemble a circle of like-minded people as a substitute for family and clan, and let our children learn from them. Elements of the plan are:

- 1. Home school as long as possible. With the offerings of the Internet, it may be possible never to spend time on campus in his life.**

There is a wealth of curricular material available on the Internet, reasonably priced when not free. I am an experienced teacher, and as a retiree I have the time. I can teach him almost all he needs to know in the academic disciplines. However, it will be better for both of us if we are able to network with other homeschoolers. Other parents will certainly be able to teach certain subjects better than I can, and the children will have the benefit of exposure to different kids and different adults. Our son is already able to help other kids with their English.

2. Teach him values, especially by our own example.

At the age of four our son is already learning to contribute to the household. He actively helps in the kitchen and in cleaning up. He helps me with my Russian as I help him with his English. The theme running through all of this is that one should be productive. Even in his unstructured time, he is busy painting, building things out of his constructor kits, and playing in the sandbox rather than sitting and being passively entertained. I make a point of expecting him to follow in whatever book as I read to him. He recognizes quite a few words. He also recognizes that the adults in the household expect him before long to be counting, doing a bit of arithmetic, and reading.

3. Minimize electronic devices and video entertainment. .

I am conservative in that I believe human nature changes slowly. I cannot believe that so strongly turning our attention from each other and the world around us to our electronic devices is healthy. I have reviewed a number of books, *iDisorder* being one, that support this belief. I do not accept that any good that might come of watching video entertainment and playing video games would offset the wasted opportunities to read, exercise, and engage with other people.

Though I was slow coming around, I have become a conspiracy theorist. I observe that there are strong social messages woven into children's TV programs and even kids' books. The great advantage of books is that I can read them to my son as while he is young, and later I can observe what books he is reading so we can discuss them. He certainly should read books promoting opinions different than my own, but he should also be able to take his father's opinion into consideration. Conversely, children's video consumption, as I know from sad experience, is almost impossible to control

When he does see movies, it is my intent that they be mostly old ones with uplifting messages, such as the Disney movies through the 1950s and Russian ones from the Soviet era. He does not need vapid stories about brightly colored though addle-brained fish and their transgendered friends.

4. We need to teach him how to make a living.

School is an artificial experience. Classroom exercises are largely made up, not related to real life, simplified so that the majority of students can handle them. The important skills that a child learns in any subject are gathering, organizing and presenting information. In mathematics it involves looking at the problem, figuring out how to structure the problem in order to solve it, coming up with a solution and presenting that solution. In the shorthand of arithmetic or algebra, this can usually be done in one or two lines.

Other subjects require that the student read and listen to teachers or video presentations to acquire information. Meaningful work entails searching for multiple reliable sources of information and taking reading notes that can be used to capture ideas and to cite authorities. Composing an article is a matter of conceiving a structure for presenting the argument, making the argument, wrapping it in an appropriate introduction and conclusion, and ensuring continuity from one topic to another. Along the way the child should observe the rules of grammar and spelling. Mechanically, he has to learn how to get his computer to present the written product in an attractive and useful way. Increasingly, a student needs to learn to make an oral presentation.

Computer programs support all of this activity. Excel supports arithmetic and more advanced mathematics. It is also useful for creating numeric tables and graphics to include within written articles. Microsoft Word is useful for capturing notes, outlining and organizing an article, and writing the article. PowerPoint is useful (albeit generally poorly used) for making oral presentations. Beyond these basic tools a serious student should certainly know how to use vector graphics drawing packages, bitmap photo packages, dictation software and sometimes other packages for applications such as statistics and accounting.

What media the student should use for gathering and presenting information depends on the circumstances. Kids have a natural bias in favor of video because it is passive. The disadvantage is that watching video is about four times slower than reading, and creating a video presentation usually takes more time than writing. While there will be a role for video in homeschooling, my emphasis will be on reading and writing. Video will take care of itself.

The key insight is that everything a person does is a matter of information processing: collect, organize, and present information in a meaningful way, either to an audience or to support one's own activities. For adults, one's own activities might include baking lasagna, building a table, planning a lawn, or investing in stock. In the artificial environment the school the teacher always looks at the output. In the crucible of real life, the student will be judged by whether his meal tastes good, his table holds up, his lawn dies, or he goes bankrupt.

The better able we are to have our children spend their time solving real-world problems, the easier will be to enter the world of work. It is reasonable to expect a kid of fifteen or sixteen to be tackling tasks of real-world significance instead of make-work classroom exercises. The work itself has value, and the experience of doing valuable work is- invaluable.

5. Make him comfortable with adults. Have him involved with the whole family, the way it was generations ago.

The concepts of childhood and to an even greater extent adolescence are relatively recent. Two hundred years ago boys learned from their fathers and other older males in the community, and girls learned from the older females. There was always work to do as soon as a child was old enough to do it, and the tasks were fairly cleanly divided between men and women.

This was true even in wealthy families. John Stuart Mill learned to write books from James Mill. England had many illustrious families: the Darwin's, the Huxleys and the Spencers. Their biographies tell of playing with the village kids and returning to the manor house to be tutored by adults.

One of the most significant losses in modern society is the continuity of culture from generation to generation. This is largely due to taking children away from their parents and putting them in school. Schools do not teach children the culture of their parents, and have not been preparing them to become parents. Since I want grandchildren, I have to entrust my children's education not to schools, but to people who want to pass along their cultural patrimony.

6. We cannot do it as individuals – I must be part of a group, and we must believe in something bigger than ourselves.

Our belief in the unfettered right of the individual to do whatever he wants, and the freedom of individuals from any expectations imposed on them by society, has brought us low.

In casting aside family, clan, tribe and nation we free ourselves from any obligation that would compromise our ability to do what we want. We thereby throw away religion as well. Religion teaches people to honor their father and mother, to respect and care for spouses, and to teach their children their traditions and their religion. Fetters! The West's society of atomistic individuals has thrown them all off. And they are dying out.

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Ukrainian society is healthier than society in the West, but it is under pressure. Cosmo and Maxim magazines pollute our newsstands, and young Ukrainians dream more about travel and fast cars than they do about marrying and starting families. For the moment at least, most young people feel some obligation to get married, and older people push them to get married. But in order to maximize our chances for success, my family will have to form our own circle of like-minded acquaintances. Our son needs to be surrounded by girls and boys who look forward to growing up, getting married, and assuming the responsibilities of adulthood. The most likely way for that to happen is by putting ourselves among parents who share that commitment.

The battle to preserve Western society cannot be won at the level of individuals. Individuals are mortal; we need to reestablish family, clan, tribe and nation. Individuals must again see themselves as one-generation trustees of

those inheritances. Salvation cannot come via an extension of Enlightenment thinking, but rather a return to forms that preceded it. We have to believe in something bigger than ourselves. God is as convenient and universal of a formulation as we could ask. If we are not convinced that we are special – God's creatures is a useful way to phrase it – and that our task is to pass on our special qualities to future generations, any fight to retain or restore our civilization is in vain. It must be done through grandchildren.

Second (and overlapping – overlap to be remedied) part of the article [here](#).

Eddie's World (follow on from above) 7/26/2016

This does not seem like an auspicious moment to be raising children. Ukraine does not seem like a good place. That is, however, what I am doing. Here is why.

The savants and pundits have never been as pessimistic as they are now. Rising generations are smaller, less intelligent and less well-educated than those they replace. The world is awash in debt. The central banks are marching in lockstep off a cliff. They know they can't print money forever, but they have no way to stop. Governments will never be able to support the pension, health, and welfare benefits they have promised. Almost no government in the world has a balanced budget, or the hope of ever having one again.

The breadth, depth, and nature of the cataclysm are beyond any prognosticator's ability to forecast, but there is a brooding sense that it will be bad. It will be far more widespread than the Great Depression of the 1930s. It is exacerbated by the fact that technology has made people in the lower strata of the ability distribution superfluous. There are fewer and fewer jobs customarily done by people with less than average intelligence that cannot be better done by machines.

In one sense I have no alternative but to be optimistic. Not to have children would be to admit defeat – to remove my genome from human evolution. But the fact that so many people are making exactly that choice may create favorable conditions for my own children. The fact that it is such a Western phenomenon means that the place to raise them may be in Eastern Europe.

The demographics of my children's generation

Looking at the first two columns of Table 1, the reader sees that East Asians and whites are having children at a rate well below replacement. Succeeding generations will be smaller. Because these are the richest countries, it means that the world will consume less. Even without improving our methods, it will take fewer resources to feed them, house them, and provide transportation. This will be a blessing.

Table 1 – How well two parents in the current generation are represented in the future, as a function of the fertility rate.

		East Asia	Whites	Latin America	South Asia	Muslim	Africa
	<i>Fertility rate</i>	<i>1.57</i>	<i>1.71</i>	<i>2.04</i>	<i>2.39</i>	<i>2.64</i>	<i>4.66</i>
Effective Replacement	This generation	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	Children	1.57	1.71	2.04	2.39	2.64	4.66
	Grandchildren	1.23	1.46	2.09	2.86	3.50	10.9
	G Grand	0.96	1.25	2.13	3.42	4.62	25.3
	GG grand	0.76	1.07	2.18	4.09	6.11	59.0
	GGG Grand	0.59	0.91	2.22	4.89	8.08	137
	GGGG Grand	0.46	0.78	2.27	5.85	10.7	320

But technology is improving. Bloomberg projects that within 10 or 15 years we will be getting enough of our energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind to substantially decrease our use of petroleum. Self-driving cars can afford to be smaller, safer, and more efficient. They will be boring, reducing cars from status

symbols to mere transportation. If the most efficient way to use the roadways turns out to be point-to-point, on-demand, multi-passenger taxis, there will probably not be too much complaint, just as long as the shared vehicles are comfortable and have Wi-Fi.

From an environmental standpoint, fewer people will be a good thing. The populations of Japan and some European countries are already falling. Other countries are not far behind. As average age creeps up, their people consume less. Oldsters don't buy that many cars, clothes, new houses or appliances.

Turning back to children, a glance at Table 1 shows that a rapidly growing percentage of young people will be from economically poorer areas of the world – Africa, the Muslim countries. These are peoples that have not mastered technology either at home or as immigrants to the developed world. People who will be made redundant by technology. On the other hand, the decreasing percentage of highly intelligent children among the decreasing number children born to the East Asian and white populations should find themselves in demand. That was certainly the experience of the smaller generation born during the Great Depression. It will give the social justice warriors fits; it will not be fair. However, I expect that if my children are properly reared and educated that they will do well financially. There will not be that much competition.

Demographers will say that our children passed through a population bottleneck. When they reach adulthood, today's crisis should have passed. The world will be their oyster. They should be in a position to raise sizeable families. Whether or not they will is a separate question. It will require a change of mindset.

The mantra among today's intelligentsia has been that there are too many people in the world. Most of my peers believed they were doing themselves and the world a favor not having them. None of my college classmates has a fertility rate of 2.0, the four natural grandchildren that would sustain their genome.

Moreover, the richest countries of the West have been recklessly destroying the concepts of family, clan, tribe and nation that previously supported our regeneration. Quite the opposite. Insisting that we are all one, the elites impose diversity everywhere. They are forcing people of different backgrounds together in workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and indeed everywhere. The pretext is that all peoples are of equal ability and therefore all peoples should be equally represented. Western elites defend this concept vehemently in the face of overwhelming evidence of its falsity. The idealistic concept is that we belong to no family except the family of man. However, we are social animals. We reproduce as gene pools, at the level of family, clan, tribe and nation. Survival of the fittest applies to gene pools, not whole populations.

The obstacles to raising children in America

Whether or not the diverse peoples of the world enjoy this supposed, never -demonstrated equality of ability, the breakdown of family, clan and tribe, and imposition of forced diversity has made raising children in the US and the West a far more difficult project.

1. Parents raising children today are pretty much on their own. They no longer enjoy the traditional support structure of older siblings, aunts and uncles, grandparents, like-minded neighbors, institutions like 4-H and the Boy Scouts, or neighborhood schools in which the teachers really felt like part of the neighborhood.

The elites' theory is that all childcare is equivalent, and that in fact government childcare is better than friends and relatives. They point to studies showing that the health and educational attainment of kids in both environments is more or less the same.

They neglect the fact that parents and relatives care about how the child turns out as a human being. Aunts and uncles will teach a kid to mind his manners. They correct his grammar, encourage him to

overcome shyness, or conversely, not to be so dominant and to let the other kids have a chance. They have a genetic interest in socializing the kid to pass on his genes, some of which they share. They want children to be interested in the opposite sex.

Paid day care workers may or may not care for their charges. It is low-paying work and the turnover is high. Only infrequently will a child develop much of a long-term relationship with a day care worker. Paid workers may be inclined to let the kids goof off, watch TV and do whatever they want as long as they are not causing trouble. They see their mission as returning a healthy child to the parents at the end of the day. How they get through the day is not a matter of great concern.

2. People want to be with others of their own kind. Growing up in California, I went to school with Chinese and Jewish kids. Nobody questioned their academic ability, but they did seem to be more comfortable with each other than us HAGVACAS (House and Garden Variety [non-Jewish] Caucasians). The Jewish kids had what seems to me to be a very well-founded apprehension as to whether we Goyim would measure up intellectually. I did not find it strange at all that although Jews were predominant in my college prep classes, the gang I ran with was a bunch of ordinary white kids. We were comfortable together; we were comfortable with each other's parents.

They discriminated in very understandable ways. Chinese, Japanese and Jewish families were often apprehensive about their children dating us. They had a very understandable and justifiable desire to have grandchildren like themselves. However attractive I might have found Vicki Toy or Emmy Gill, they simply were not going to go out with me. Even if they liked me (I'll never know) it could have scandalized their parents.

The upshot was that back in the 1950s we usually dated and married within our own race. Getting along with a person of the opposite sex is hard enough; compounding that with the difficulty of different races and cultures does not make sense. This I discovered the hard way in the '60s when I rebelliously married first a Vietnamese and then a half-Japanese. There is a lot to be said for traditional wisdom. Although my Oriental wives were smart, hard-working and honest, our culturally-defined expectations for marriage were simply different. The generalization that Oriental marriages must be held together by family and social pressure, with well-defined role models, whereas love is the foundation of Western marriage has been true in my life. My Oriental wives neither expected nor offered a loving bond.

3. The most remarked qualities of the other minority groups – those in the columns on the right in Table 1 – are not intelligence, hard work and honesty. While individuals may have those traits, we of the other groups do not impute them to most. I was a private school parent, trustee and later a teacher. I observed that the "minority kids" – by that they didn't mean Asians and Jews – tended to be disruptive and disinterested in study. Everybody saw it and everybody was conditioned to studiously ignore it.

Private schools have a tremendous advantage in that they can suspend and expel students. Minority kids experienced more such discipline than the others. However, the fact that their parents wanted them to be in these schools, to take advantage of the scholarships and get a leg up in life, and gave the administration a fair amount of leverage in dealing with the kids. Between the schools' overlooking certain behaviors and the parents' disciplining their young, it more or less worked. The schools were

quite careful not to exceed what Malcolm Gladwell calls the "tipping point." If the school was more than 15% minority or a class more than about 30%, it was very difficult to control. Though the administrators were careful never to articulate it – some truths cannot be uttered - those seem to have been more or less their admissions objectives.

Classroom instruction proceeds at the pace of the 20th percentile student, more or less. The teacher has to ensure that most of the kids absorb the instruction. Needless to say, consciously admitting less competent students into the mixture slows a class down. In aggregate, these kids slow the whole system down. It results in "dumbing down" admissions standards, curricular materials, textbooks, examinations and graduation requirements. Some systems cope better than others. Catholic schools and the KIPP schools have a markedly better record of educating minority students than the public schools. Nevertheless, none of them can be as rigorous as the top public schools of yesteryear: Stuyvesant High, Bronx High School of Science, New Trier High School, or my own El Cerrito High School in the shadow of UC Berkeley. In summary, forcing diversity into public schools has lowered standards and hence the academic achievement of the more talented students. It could not be otherwise.

People prefer to be among others of their kind. They feel safe and comfortable in neighborhoods of people like themselves. There is a simple and fairly well borne out expectation that your neighbors will see things the way you do. If your kids are in schools with others like them, be they Chinese, Latino or white, the teachers have a somewhat narrower range of talents to deal with. To the extent the children are interested in learning, the teacher can teach. They don't have the stress of intergroup tensions.

4. It is logical that populations self-segregate to be in neighborhoods and in schools of similar people. The rich segregate by moving where they want and the poor are segregated by default – they are left behind. The rich in America have tended to pay high prices for houses a long way from the city center, enduring long commutes, so their kids can be safe and well educated.

Progressives see this as "white privilege" and have done everything they could to dismantle it. The courts imposed regimes of forced busing to achieve racial balance. They have replaced local funding with statewide and even federal funding to ensure that all schools have more or less the same amount of money per student. The United States has long forbidden discrimination in both rentals and home sales. The Obama administration is implementing a "Small-Area Fair Market Rents" (SAFMR) program with the explicit objective of injecting low income minorities into rich neighborhoods. They want to make it impossible for anybody in America to avoid diversity. Obama is forcing Syrian refugees into unwilling communities in Maine, Vermont, Montana and other overwhelmingly white states.

It takes fair amount of money to live in a community of like-minded people. Nevertheless, sending your children to school in such a community still subjects them to the universally "dumbed-down" textbooks and curriculum, and to mediocre, highly indoctrinated graduates of education schools. The teachers are paid to deliver academic instruction. Their mission is to create homogeneity out of diversity. They absolutely will not want to bring your children into the traditions of family, clan, tribe and nation. While it would be possible under some circumstances to raise a successful family in the United States – kids that could earn a living, find a mate, and give me grandchildren who carry on my values – it does not look terribly likely. Eastern Europe looks like a better bet.

Social Capital in Ukraine

Ukraine is tough. It had the bloodiest 20th century history of any country. During the 21st it has suffered the depredations of rapacious presidents and oligarchs and a not-so-covert invasion by Russia. Yet it survives.

The travail it has suffered has protected Ukraine. Nobody wants to come here. There are very few Arabs and Africans. Most of the Jews left for the United States a century ago. Chinese come for business but they don't stay. The Gypsies have figured out that the West offers much easier pickings; those who remain in our neighborhood seem - out of fear or lack of opportunity - to make their money honestly. A smattering of long-resident Muslims from the 'Stans dominate the dried fruit and spice stands in the local markets. Though such people just pulled off the suicide bombing in the Istanbul airport, they don't do it here. No grievances.

In Robert Putnam's words, there is a lot of social capital here. Young people give old people (me) and children (my son) seats on the Metro. Any of us will stand up to give a seat to a pregnant lady. The old ladies in the market stalls love to talk with my son. They are proud that he will be a Ukrainian.

Families take care of each other. The promise of pensions collapsed with the Soviet Union. Most pensioners get a bit over \$100 per month. Healthcare is free, but it is minimal and doesn't cover prescription drugs. Old people usually get help from their families. Grandmothers, in turn, are very good about watching grandchildren as their daughters work. There is, of course, the usual bickering between mother and daughter, husband and wife, parents and children. But when all is said and done, and even through divorce, they remain family.

The Coming Chaos in the West

Pippa Malmgren titled her wonderful book "Signals." A person has to read the newspaper, listen to the news, then deduce what is likely to happen and protect himself.

The West has very high levels of unemployment. Southern EU countries have unemployment in excess of 20%, youth unemployment over 50%. In the United States, although the reported unemployment rate is under 5%, it is actually around 25%. It is a question of lying with statistics. A larger number of people work at less-than-full-time jobs with no benefits. Senior citizens such as myself often have the best of jobs and hang onto them for dear life, the result of which is that employment is actually falling among the 25 to 54 year old group, the people who should be building families and saving for retirement.

At the other end, the young people entering the workforce have poorer educations, poorer work habits, and come increasingly from the minority groups in the right-hand columns of Table 1. The people who retire are not whatsoever being replaced one for one. Most young people are already redundant when and if they enter the workforce: machines can work more cheaply than they can.

Society has been rich enough to support these people despite their lack of productivity. An irony of the 21st century is that America's poor are becoming obese and obsessed with gimmicks like iPhones at the same time that they bring less and less to the country's economy. The United States government has bought peace by funneling them money through student loans, disability, welfare and other channels. Up to now, despite the Federal Reserve having extraordinarily expanded the money supply since the financial crisis, there is no inflation. The rest of the world has been willing to take American dollars and buy United States bonds.

This regime is collapsing as I write in July 2016. Foreigners are selling our bonds. The stock market is wavering, propped up only by increasingly frantic government buying via public open market operations (POMO) in the United States and similar programs in Japan and the European Union. The pundits are joking that we are entering communism via the back door: governments are printing money to buy overpriced stocks that investors refuse. When inflation eventually hits, as it must, the benefits that are being paid to the unproductive via government transfers will rapidly lose their value. Already the press is rife with stories of "helicopter money" that will be delivered to give people enough to live on. It will not, can not be enough.

The people being affected are the most impulsive, least rational elements of society. I went to the Watts section of Los Angeles in 1965 carrying a gun to put down an insurrection brought on by the arrest of a drunk driver. I did the same in the Hunters Point section of San Francisco in 1966. The world has seen them again in the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, the Ferguson riots in St. Louis, and the Baltimore riots in 2015. Trouble simmers again in the summer of 2016 despite all of the transfer payments intended to placate the poor. When inflation hits and the transfer payments lose their potency, there will be trouble in the streets.

Western Europe is undergoing the same kind of problems, probably worse. Demographic pressure – see Table 1 again – is sending millions of African and Muslim immigrants to Europe. They have little education and little aptitude, even if there were jobs. But there aren't. Most of them remain on public welfare for years after arriving, and relatively few even master European languages. It is becoming increasingly impossible to buy peace. Europe has no use for these people, but there is no place to send them back to. It is a pressure cooker waiting to explode.

Ukraine the Tranquil

The level of corruption in Ukraine is huge and well documented. As noted above, it has discouraged the riffraff from coming. It is a sanitary type of corruption in the sense that it is so open that the lies are transparent, pro forma. Ukrainian corruption survives without the myths of diversity or "public safety." Ukrainians do not like it, but they can see it for what it is and openly talk about what they see. Ukraine enjoys a higher level of free speech than the United States. Political correctness will not cost you your job. I expect that some readers are uncomfortable with what I write here, out of a sense that the topics are off-limits more than that I might be wrong.

Ukraine is a white nation surrounded on the south, east, north and west by other white nations. Those to the west, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, are strenuously resisting pressure from the EU to accept asylum-seekers. Having so recently and so precariously obtained its freedom, Ukraine is rather unabashedly xenophobic. It does not want them. It is well buffered from a demographic crisis.

There is a nasty little war going on with Russia, one which has cost close to 10,000 lives already. Although it certainly could, Russia does not appear ready to move on the rest of Ukraine. The country would resist, and Russia would lose materially and in world opinion without gaining useful resources. The political risk of living in Ukraine seems acceptable. An added benefit for a foreigner is that the war with Russia has made Ukraine an incredibly cheap place to live.

Ukraine has long been known for having the world's best soil – its "black earth," exceeding even Argentina's pampas. The soil has not been degraded by overuse. It is well-watered by an extensive river system. Global warming would only improve the weather. With a falling population, the country can easily feed itself.

Conclusion

Troubled times are coming to the West. The economies are collapsing and there will be civil disturbances. Western society has changed to the point that it is almost impossible to raise children with traditional values. The West simply cannot do what any breeding population must: raise succeeding generations as numerous and fit to survive as the previous.

Ukraine is not ideal, but it appears to be the most likely place on earth to raise white children who will be successful in the latter half of the 21st century. Others assure me that all countries along the Baltic-Black Sea corridor are more attractive than the West. Having children is a gamble in any time or place. I am making my gamble in Eastern Europe.

ANCIEN I write in praise of mothers in law.docx 6/18/2015

I write in praise of mother-in-laws. Mine arrived on the next bus after Oksana called to say she had a grandson, and was with us for two and a half weeks. It is a bit stressful having three people in a two-bedroom apartment, and just like in a troop of Jane Goodall's chimpanzees there is competition for the rights to the baby. I have more experience than she does, but it doesn't count whatsoever – I'm just the husband.

So I learn a bit of humility and Christian charity, letting her do things the "right" way and accepting the tacit implication that my way is "wrong." For instance, the receiving blankets have to be ironed; the baby needs three hours' exposure every day to the November weather; he has to be washed in the shower and not in the sink; he needs an herbal bath every night for his skin, with water that has been sterilized by boiling; mother cannot eat raisins, radishes, beef or... almost anything while she is nursing. And lastly, he has to go out in a baby buggy. Carrying him in a sling would give him permanent curvature of the spine.

When I look back on the nonsense I witnessed the last time I went through parenthood, I have to say today's version has its benefits. The previous pediatricians who never could exactly identify what to do required a drive into town and a \$100 visit. Today's offer a variety of useless nostrums, mostly herbal, but they are harmless and cost next to nothing, besides which the doctor comes to the house. Better bedside manner.

I love that Nadia loves having a grandson. That is how it is supposed to be. Grandchildren are life's crowning glory. If she feels a bit proprietary, a bit overbearing in telling Oksana and me exactly how to go about the care and feeding of said grandchild, we are smart to indulge her. She really did a lot of work while she was here. Nobody else was allowed near the kitchen, and unless we were quick about it we didn't get the chance to wash or change the baby or do the laundry.

This visit confirms my resolve to include room for Nadia in our new house. It also confirms the wisdom of making a "mother-in-law suite" sufficiently separate that we can each enjoy some privacy.

We will have some battles. The Ukrainians spoil boy babies just like Latinos. Eddy can't cry for five seconds without one of the women running over to divine his momentary whim. My observation is that crying doesn't hurt anything fundamental in a child's physiogamy, that they always seem to get enough to eat, and that they can survive thirty minutes with a wet diaper. For contrast I recall to Oksana the conditions under which her grandparents survived to adulthood, and project that dad had to be working hard, mom also had a job, and somehow the kids made it. I don't think that spoiling a two-week-old infant is bad for the kid, but refusing to let the kid wait a second rather than have whatever desired instantly fulfilled isn't a great habit for the parents to be forming.

ANCIEN illogic.docx 6/16/2015

Voters can be cajoled into thinking that there is a solution to every problem. Drug problem? War on drugs! Poor people? War on poverty! Alcoholism? Enact prohibition! Unemployment? Train the untrainable! They also readily believe that there is somebody responsible for every problem – and it is never them.

Flagrantly, conspicuously absent are any analyses of cause and effect. These grand programs make the instigators feel good. Constituencies develop around the money they dispense. But nobody wants to know whether they work.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in programs designed to deal with problems of race. Blacks and Indians have always performed much worse in education, work and crime. America's founding fathers knew it. Jefferson wrote "Nothing is more clearly written in the book of destiny than the emancipation of the blacks; and it is equally certain, that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit, and opinion have established between them."

The **moralistic fallacy** is the informal **fallacy** of assuming that whichever aspect of nature which has socially unpleasant consequences cannot exist. Its typical form is "if X were true, then it would happen that Z!", where Z is a morally, socially or politically undesirable thing.

Obvious differences between groups, however, do not condemn individuals. Exceptional people have always risen to the top. Benjamin Banneker, chosen by George Washington to survey the District of Columbia, was scientist, surveyor, almanac author and farmer. George Washington Carver rose from slavery to become a famous 19th century scientist. Paul Robeson was a cultural hero in the 1930s. In our day, Clarence Thomas rose from a hut in a Georgia backwater to become a Supreme Court justice. Each of these men credited whites not with holding them down, but celebrating their talent and raising them up. They wryly write that the whites were surprised to find such talent in a Black man, but usually accepted it readily once it was demonstrated.

11% of Blacks were free just before the [civil war](#). Yet, Tocqueville wrote that the problems which beset the black community were just as evident, north or south. Only a few, such as Booker T. Washington, W. E. B DuBois and Frederick Douglass rose about to prominence. The average net worth of free blacks was 11% of that of whites; today, 150 years later, despite hundreds of programs designed to raise black wealth, and black millionaire athletes and entertainers, it is [only 8%](#).

We human beings have a hard time accepting ourselves as we are. Called a white supremacist, I have written ironically that "We're Number Three." Jews and North Asians always test higher than we Anglo-Saxon whites. I am assailed from all sides. Jews hate it when somebody points out that they are smart. Some fellow WASPs refuse to accept that anybody is smarter. And, predictably, liberals attack me for implying that there are populations lower in average ability than my own. Blacks may not have the ability to understand statistics –most whites don't. Even if they do, who do they have to look down upon. Hottentots? Gypsies? Conversely, Blacks are genetically endowed with high self esteem. Of course they will not see themselves as they are.

It is ironic that it took white liberals to educate Blacks with regard to the presumption of equality. Gedeliah Braun and Axelle Kabou write about how Africans innocently accept whites' superior abilities. Even W. E. B. Dubois was content to identify a "talented tenth" of the Black race.

Efforts to better the situation of the Blacks in America go back to colonial times.. Booker T. Washington received generous contributions from whites, mostly north is, to set up programs training black teachers. Many white schoolteachers came south to help him. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was a truly interracial project. Many of its early leaders were whites.. The Black college system was sponsored in large part by white people. They had a genuine desire to see Blacks succeed.

None of this seems to have worked. Fast forward to the civil rights and we have the white population acting out of fear, having been Mau Maued, in the words of Tom Wolfe, rather than motivated by high-minded spirituality and good intentions.

We enacted the Voting Rights Act to ensure that Blacks were equally represented in the polls. Brown versus Board of Education ended the separate but equal schools, and a series of court decisions resulted in forced busing to force integration.

Although it is difficult to point to any success of forced integration anyplace, and although the costs were astronomical, well into the billions and even trillions of dollars, there is no success. The places where the races were forced to be in closest proximity places for Blacks and whites dislike each other the most. Forced integration has not forced in forced or encouraged amity between the races. Quite the opposite. Made the whites fearful and Blacks resentful. Yet, a hallmark of all such high-minded efforts is an absolute unwillingness to reflect back on successes. The lack of success is never, never interpreted as being a result of a wrong headed program. No! Quite the opposite, the lack of success is always interpreted as a result of never having done enough.

The game doesn't end. Somehow the advocates are always able to think of something else to do, however absurd it may be. However ludicrous it may seem, and however far-fetched it would've seemed at the inception of the project.

Explanation

There are two fundamentally different types of statement: statements of fact which describe the way that the world is, and statements of value which describe the way that the world ought to be. The naturalistic fallacy is the alleged fallacy of inferring a statement of the latter kind from a statement of the former kind.

Arguments cannot introduce completely new terms in their conclusions. The argument, "(1) All men are mortal, (2) Socrates is a man, therefore (3) Socrates is a philosopher" is clearly invalid; the conclusion obviously doesn't follow from the premises. This is because the conclusion contains an idea—that of being a philosopher—that isn't contained in the premises; the premises say nothing about being a philosopher, and so cannot establish a conclusion about being a philosopher.

Arguments that commit the naturalistic fallacy are arguably flawed in exactly the same way. An argument whose premises merely describe the way that the world is, but whose conclusion describes the way that the world ought to be, introduce a new term in the conclusion in just the same way as the above example. If the premises merely describe the way

ANCIEN IMF loan.docx 6/26/2011

My personal opinion is that IMF loans have caused more problems than they have solved. They allow governments to spend money today on the promise of paying it back with interest tomorrow.

The premise must be that the discounted value of the investments being made with the borrowed money exceeds the discounted value of the loan. This requires optimistic thinking on the part of the bureaucrats, who of course usually funnel the money to friends. The current generation of politicians have favors to hand out, delivering overpriced projects once the rake-offs have been made, saddling taxpayers with future debt.

Who makes the case that Ukraine would be better off without the IMF? Anybody?

Also, if Ukraine accedes to Europe, the latter will impose its terms for a visa regime and free travel. Ukraine will be subject to immigration by immiscible minorities. The Finns bit into this poisoned apple in the late 90s, and they are swamped with Somalis who contribute nothing to their society, suck welfare and commit crimes. Ukraine is well off as it is.

Is anybody making that case? Would you like an article?

Inordinate

Ukraine's [economy](#) contracted for the fourth quarter on an annual basis as industrial production slumped because of weak global demand for the country's products.

Gross domestic product shrank 1.1 percent in the second quarter from the same period a year ago, matching the median estimate in a [Bloomberg survey](#) of eight economists, the state statistics committee, based in the capital Kiev, said in a statement on its [website](#). The economy slid 0.4 percent in the first three months.

Ukraine slipped into recession in mid-2012 as [Europe's](#) debt crisis curbed demand for export goods such as steel. The country exited its second recession in four years in the first quarter of this year after GDP grew 0.6 percent from the previous three-month period.

"A low comparison base and a strong harvest, which is expected to increase from the previous year on higher yields, will help GDP to advance in the second half of the year," [Olena Bilan](#), the chief economist at Dragon Capital Investment bank, said by phone. "We maintain our full-year projection of 0 percent growth."

Ukraine's grain harvest will climb 20 percent to about 56 million metric tons this year, according to estimates by the [Agriculture Ministry](#).

The government also plans to resume cooperation with the [International Monetary Fund](#) late this year and secure an agreement for a "long-expected" new loan program of about \$15 billion, Ukrinform newswire reported yesterday, citing First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbutov.

The government has failed to seal a third IMF bailout since 2008 because of disagreements over heating subsidies.

Ukraine's government bonds due 2023 rose, pushing the yield down to 9.439 percent as of 11:34 a.m. in Kiev from 9.463 percent yesterday, data compiled by Bloomberg shows. Ukraine's hryvnia strengthened against the dollar to 8.1170 from 8.1278 yesterday.

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Ukraine government statements and IMF realities

2013/7/31 14:37:56



The gap between optimistic statements by Ukrainian government officials and the realities as publicly expressed by the IMF seems far apart

News and commentary from *Ukraine Business Online*

KYIV, July 31, 2013 (UBO) – The issue of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan for Ukraine has been the subject of frequent discussion recently with various members of the Ukrainian government issuing optimistic statements that, taken at face value, would lead the casual observer to believe that another \$15 billion loan program is a virtual certainty.

For example, the state news service UkrInform quotes Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbutov as saying during a working visit to Vinnytsia region on Tuesday, "The issue concerns a new program where the amount of the loan is envisaged at about \$15 billion. However, the discussions on this issue are ongoing. This

autumn we expect the mission that will resolve everything. We are currently finalizing the issues that are important to the IMF, and I think that this autumn we should sign a long-awaited agreement."

On the other end of the spectrum you will find many analysts who have a considerably different view of the situation. One of the most respected commentators on Ukraine's situation, Timothy Ash, head of emerging markets research of the UK's Standard Bank, said today in commentary provided to the BNE news service, "...PM Azarov this week spoke again about a new IMF programme in the autumn - the IMF has been pretty clear this week in sending the message that no new loan talks are currently on-going, and on the policy front these guys are now light years from a new programme, and if anything moving further distant from chances of a new programme."

When in doubt, go to the best source

On June 25 2013, William Murray, deputy spokesman for the IMF Communications Division, responding to questions during a scheduled IMF briefing, told reporters that after the last IMF mission to Ukraine in April there have been technical level discussions ongoing at the staff level on possible changes that could be part of a comprehensive new program. However, Murray also made it plain that there has been "no in-depth discussion of such a program at the policy level since April."

Murray went on to point out that any further action regarding Ukraine's desire for a new program would be subject to the findings of a new IMF mission, not yet scheduled but assumed to be sometime in the coming Autumn, with no discussion at the board level before "November at the earliest."

[Editor's Note: Link below to view the complete Murray news conference video
<http://www.imf.org/external/mmedia/view.aspx?vid=2565914500001>]

On July 29, the IMF issued a news release that revealed the placement of Ukraine in post-program monitoring and also suggested an even later date for board consideration of any Ukrainian loan request. The news release says in part:

"Ukraine's outstanding Fund credit exceeds the 200 percent of quota threshold beyond which PPM is typically initiated. The first PPM will be conducted in conjunction with the 2013 Article IV consultation in the fall. The Executive Board discussion is tentatively scheduled for December 2013."

To access the complete text of the news release, link below
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2013/pr13281.htm>

Conclusion

We do not suggest that UBO's crystal ball is any clearer than anyone else's. However, listening to the official statements of the IMF spokesman and reading the official IMF news releases, we believe it is fair to assume that Ukraine still has a long and difficult road to travel before any new loan program makes it to the decision stage. Further, we believe it is likely to be well into 2014 at the earliest before there is any possibility of new funds from the IMF.

Jim Davis

ANCIEN intro for LiveJournal.docx 8/3/2014

Slightly Older Guy who exiled himself to Ukraine to take another stab at life. Learned passable Russian, met the woman I had twice given up on ever meeting, before I compromised on marriage the first and then the second time. Starting a family and a new career.

I see Ukraine as a new frontier. My cry is "Go East, Young Man." Or not-so-young. Though you don't have to fight Indians here, there are certainly difficulties enough to overcome, starting with the language. The government has improved constantly over the last two centuries; it is now merely terrible. People gripe, but there is no revolution in the cards. Weather is kind of like New York or Washington - nasty winters, hot in midsummer.

The rewards are many. Start with women who want to marry and have families. Who appreciate men. Whose combination of culture and Christianity makes them outstanding partners. And, BTW, are natively attractive and work at enhancing what nature gave them.

Ukraine has a wonderful lack of diversity. All white folks here. I have never visited a city with a neighborhood I would not walk through by myself at midnight. Contrast this with America – every city has neighborhoods that radically tighten my sphincter even in daytime. Although outsiders make a big deal of the difference between the Russian speaking east and the Ukrainian speaking West, here in Kyiv everybody speaks both and nobody thinks about it. I project that when the nativist parties of Western Europe triumph and get serious about controlling immigration, Ukraine and a few other countries like Japan and Korea, which never allowed any, are going to look golden.

Education is getting worse everywhere, but Ukrainians still take it more seriously than Americans. They are not handicapped by No Child Left Behind and other political considerations.

Political correctness, what's that? A father can still bathe his kids or take pictures of them in the buff and not be called a pervert. You can still tell a pretty girl she is pretty. She will smile if you open the car door for her. Gays are treated decently, but they are not constantly in your face flaunting their orientation. It's live and let live, like San Francisco in the 60s.

Ukraine will come through global warming as well as any country in the world. The professionals who guess what is coming prognosticating warmer weather and more rainfall. Ukraine already has the most fertile land in the world, underutilized as a legacy of terrible agricultural policies for the past century. People here have always been able to eat, except when Stalin worked extraordinarily hard to starve them 80 years ago.

My purpose in starting this blog is to encourage exceptional people who want to meet good women and raise families in a country with a bright future to consider Ukraine.

[M2016- Invest Gazette - tax system Nov 29 2010.doc](#)

[ANCIEN Is it good for the Jews.docx – Who supports Russia in 2014
7/23/2014](#)

Is it good for the Jews?

Charges of anti-Semitism raises their head in every conflict. The accusation is being thrown around rather liberally in the Russia-Ukraine affair.

Ukraine's president Poroshenko is part Jewish. The oligarch he appointed for Dnipropetrovsk, Igor Kolomoisky, is the head of the European Jewish union. Several other appointees such as Groisman have names that suggest they are Jewish.

The Russians are gloriously inconsistent in smearing the leadership of Ukraine. In one breath they call them Fascists, and the next they tar them as Jewish oligarchs. The fact is, Jews in Ukraine are active in government and supportive of their president.

People accuse Putin of anti-Semitism. He looks more like a ruthless political pragmatist, willing to do whatever it takes to reestablish the Russian Empire. In doing so he associates with very unsavory sorts – the kind of people among whom jealousy and anti-Semitism are endemic .

Modeling himself after the czars, he has augmented his army with Cossacks, Chechens and other quasi-mercenary irregular forces. He usually keeps them at arm's length in an attempt to maintain deniability. They fight without uniforms. Putin shrugs and claims he has no power to stop their looting, shooting down civilian aircraft, or robbing the corpses.

Cossacks, however, have been installed over the past decade to serve as the Kremlin palace guard. These former horse people from the steppes have a history of brutality and opportunism. The Tsars used Cossacks against the Jews – older Jews even in the United States shudder at their mention. Ukraine, where the Cossacks emerged five centuries ago as escaped serfs, no longer has identifiable Cossack populations. Most fled to Krasnodar Krai in Russia and became "registered Cossacks" in the service of the Tsars. They were useful, willing to commit acts that an ordinary conscript could not force his conscience to accept.

Putin's Chechen forces, headed by Kadyrov, chose money over blood as they savagely defy the religious injunction of Muslim fighting Muslim as they indiscriminately killed their own people, predominantly civilians, in a process that shrunk the population by almost 20%.

Six of the seven billionaires to emerge after the fall of the USSR were Jewish. Though a few remain, cowed and quiet, Putin has squeezed most of them out one way or another. Jailed them or forced them into exile.

Putin supports the European nationalist parties, all of which have all been accused, with varying degrees of justification, of anti-Semitism. Despite her strong anti-immigrant rhetoric, anti-Semitism won out as Marine le Pen recently supported Arabs as they rioted against Israel's invasion of Gaza. The sole exception to this support is Ukraine's Svoboda (freedom) party. Although its positions are similar in almost every way to the western parties, though its anti-Semitism is mute to non-existent, Putin rails against them as Fascists and Banderistas. The evidence is that Putin is no friend of the Jews, though he will use them when he can.

The intellectual foundation, such as it is, of Putin's empire-building is a concept called Eurasia. It's primary advocate, and Putin's house philosopher, is Alexander Dugin. Dugin lives in such a different world that it is hard to choose the right adjectives, though anti-Semite is certainly among them. He chose a well-known French anti-Semite, Alain Soral (see Wikipedia for anti-Semetic quotes), to write the forward to his masterwork, "The Fourth Political Philosophy."

Why are American Libertarians coming out strong in support of Putin's invasion of Ukraine? Why are people like Paul Craig Roberts, Ron Paul, Mish Shedlock and Pat Buchanan joining the European nationalists in spouting Russian propaganda chapter and verse? There are several reasons.

- Money comes first. The Russians are generous with their friends.
- Greed comes second. The gold bugs' theory (which I happen to believe) is that evil rulers and central bankers of the US and Europe have artificially depressed the price of gold for three years now. Gold will soar when an ascendent Russia and China dump their US bonds. All the named players have a strong interest in gold.
- Indolence comes third. If the Russians will write your articles for you, saying things that appeal to your readership, why work?

The final question is, why should Jews support Putin? To make a short-term killing in the gold market? If that entails standing silently by as the Russians massacre Ukrainians, including their fellow Jews, and take over their country it is definitely blood money.

Jews have never fared well attempting to choose winners among despots. B'nai Brith's slogan is "Never Again!" So why are they doing it again?

ANCIEN It is not good vs evil jim davis.docx 7/22/2014

It is not good vs. evil, truth vs. falsehood. It is who is lying about what.

Both Russia and the West lie profusely. They lie, however, about different things.

The West has been lying about the state of their economies; they lie about their ability to meet entitlement expense obligations; they lie about levels of immigration, legal and illegal; they lie about the levels of crime and social expenditures associated with that immigration. Lastly, politicians lie more and more brazenly about their personal conduct, corruption and sexual peccadillos.

The West shouts down anybody bold enough to utter yesterday's common sense. They do not want to hear that our ancestors were mostly honorable and well-intentioned, at least no worse than the rest of humanity. Homosexuality and feminism are antithetical to sustaining a population. People, and races, differ in temperament and average ability. The Christian religion is only one belief system among others. It must be taken on faith, and those who take things on faith sometimes go overboard. Just like Greenpeace activists or Scientologists. Christians are not unique in this way, and certainly not uniquely evil. There is a stripe of irrationality in just about everybody's belief system.

Lying has a long and illustrious history in Russia as well. Read two current books, the Marquis de Custine's "Letters from Russia," first published in 1839 and Pat Buchanan's recollections of Nixon's dealing with Khrushchev and Brezhnev in "The Greatest Comeback." The Russians are the world's master propagandists, from Potemkin showing entire fake villages to visitors in the times of Catherine the Great to Stalin totally snowing the Western press, most infamously Walter Duranty, on just about everything, especially the forced starvation in Ukraine.

Russia is attempting to annex part of Ukraine. They have taken Crimea and they are working on Novorossia, "New Russia," the oblasts of Lugansk and Donbas. Russian propaganda says that "Freedom fighters" or "separatists" are attempting to "liberate" predominantly Russian-speaking parts of Ukraine where the natives are supposedly oppressed by "Fascists" and "Banderistas." Or something like that. The story is constantly shifting. The fighters are foreigners and thugs. They are not motivated by ideology, mainly their own personal gain... the money Russia pays them, the opportunity to loot, and the hope of the leadership of some Russian satrapy. The governorship of Crimea went to Sergey Aksyonov, a small-town heavy.

Russian speakers make up a majority of the Ukrainian population. Russian is the dominant language in every large city except L'viv. Russian is the language of everyday business here in Kiev, although almost everybody speaks both. They nonetheless loathe Putin. They have no desire to be part of Russia. They have long and bitter memories. The Communists starved millions of Ukrainians to death, used them in preference to real Russians as cannon fodder in WWII, constantly derided the Ukrainian language as "not a real language" Ukraine as "not a real country," and Ukrainians as bumpkins. These threads are very evident in Russian propaganda as they attempt to slice off part of Ukraine today.

Russian propaganda is massive and unrelenting. It is also transparently false. Yet, many conservatives in the West are willing to believe it and even to publish it. Why?

Ukraine has no friends. It has essentially nothing to offer the West. No energy and no unique natural resources. Ukraine has been difficult to deal with for all of its two decades of independence. The politicians have been deeply corrupt, and at loggerheads with one another. The West has long suffered "Ukraine fatigue." They are reluctant to accept that Maidan was a genuine revolution and there is now a government they can trust. Also, dealing with their own impending bankruptcies, they do not find it convenient to discover a country worthy of financial and political support.

The Western democracies are so bankrupt, financially, morally, socially, and Western conservatives – Europe's

nationalist parties and America's libertarians - so anxious for the charade to end that they welcome Putin as a savior, no questions asked. Putin claims to support traditional values. He is encouraging Christianity, discouraging feminism, and banning gay propaganda. His rhetoric supports white people (though curiously, on his watch, Moscow has become about 25% Muslim). He appears willing to take down the hollowed-out, over-valued, overborrowed dollar and Euro. These are all on the conservative agenda.

All Putin has to do to satisfy Western conservatives is to create enough of a fog of lies and disinformation that people like Paul Craig Roberts, Ron Paul, the bloggers at zero hedge and elsewhere have some cover when Russia's stories become impossible to defend. Russia is doing an adequate job of that. The ironic, the tragic outcome is that the groups in the West that are most concerned about their own loss of freedom are the very ones who are willing to write off Ukraine's freedom.

ANCIEN It is not good vs evil.docx

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Russian speakers make up a majority of the Ukrainian population. I chose to study Russian when I came here seven years ago. People told me, and nobody has argued otherwise, that Russian is the dominant language in every large city except L'viv. Russian is the language of everyday business here in Kiev, although almost everybody speaks both. I, the foreigner, find myself able to read Ukrainian on the strength of my imperfect Russian. All of my acquaintances, every one, loathe Putin. They have no desire to be part of Russia. They have long and bitter memories. The Communists starved millions of Ukrainians to death, used them in preference to real Russians as cannon fodder in WWII, constantly derided the Ukrainian language as "not a real language"

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ANCIEN It is time to reassess.docx 11/21/2020

It is time to reassess.

Blogging and writing book reviews won't make me rich. The well-known bloggers I follow are constantly crying poor and asking for donations, and I do not have the energy, desire and probably not the talent to match their output.

Being a marginally public persona has made me a handful of online acquaintances, which I appreciate. I get called names, which is only to be expected. I expand my horizons. People post useful leads, and I push myself to research my topics. It has been enjoyable.

I am making enemies. That is not a good idea for a father with a young family. I have long been critical of the governments of the United States and Europe. While they can deal harshly with dissenters, they usually don't bother with small fry like myself. Ukraine's enemies are of another sort. Closer, less scrupulous and less subject to scrutiny. I should not go out of my way to irk them.

This era is witnessing a clash of world orders. Enlightenment liberalism has passed its apogee. It has sunk into indolence and the intolerance of enforced tolerance. The Muslim world remains as the Bible said of Ishmael: "And he (Islam) will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." China, despite major problems, seems likely to continue its ascent. Lastly, Russia remains as Chaadaev described it 250 years ago, living "in the narrowest of presents, without past or future, amidst dull stagnation... Alone in the world, we have not given the world anything, have not taken anything from the world, have contributed nothing to the advance of human thought, and have distorted whatever traces of that advance we did receive."

Russia's very resistance to change may position it well in comparison to other cultures whose experimentation seems to be their undoing. In any case, one does not reason with steppe raiders, and one is wise not to antagonize them. Becoming meek and invisible seems a wise strategic move. I should dedicate myself to preparing my child for adult life. Whatever battles are to be fought are more his than mine.

I've deleted a couple of my more aggressive book reviews. I may do the same with entries in this blog, though it has the protection of a very small readership. Nobody cares. I'm resolved to spend more time with the music, English and other lessons we are conducting for toddlers. I plan to learn more about early childhood education and to continue to improve my Russian as my son develops his own knowledge of the language. The Christian posture is to recognize that the individual is virtually powerless to change the path of history, and to pray that God will take care of one's family. We'll do all we can, and pray for help. And I expect I'll be writing less.

ANCIEN Jerry called me a racist and homophobe.docx 9/13/2013

Most of you on Facebook received my last post as it was intended: merely my opinion. You may not agree with everything I say, but that is of course your right. You have your own observations in your own fundamental beliefs.

One fellow I know from Kiev, however, chose to attack me personally:

"Graham, you are at heart a racist and a homophobe and you can't seem to write anything without those true colors revealing themselves. You are a bigot masquerading as a scholar. I have been wanting to type those words, and your "analysis" today was my necessary impetus for doing so. I'm glad that you are happy where you are, but I am also glad that you are no longer in the U.S. or the West."

I single out this particular FB friend, whom I expect to unfriend me shortly, because this typifies the response that a blogger such as myself gets from a liberal. It was a long article, with a lot of substantive points that might be debated. He might have chosen particular points to rebut, saying that he did not believe they were true. No, he didn't. And I will generalize that no – they don't. People are quite content smear me with whatever labels they wish without going to the arguments.

Is this laziness on the part of left? I think it is evidence that they succeed all too well in shutting people up by labeling them, libeling them, and excluding them from the circles of supposedly polite company. What is what he is doing is exercising a generally successful strategy. If I were in the United States and I had something to lose like a job, calling me these things would pose a real threat. When I was a grad student at the University of Maryland 10 years ago I was threatened with a charge of sexual harassment on the basis of an email observation that another women dressed in a way calculated to maximize her jiggle. We had had shared such banter before – but this time she was under deadline pressure to finish editing my manuscript, and appears to have chosen this device to push me off. The advantage I had was that being retired I didn't need an academic career in the first place. I could afford to be braver than most.

Let me go to the charge of being a homophobe. A homophobe would be somebody who fears homosexuals. Fear would certainly not be an applicable word. I have known homosexuals all my life. Indeed, in my early years my parents ran a sort of a rooming house, housing being short in the Berkeley area during the war, and some of the roomers were gay. Mother knew it, it didn't bother her, some became friends of the family and they sometimes babysat me. When I was old enough to understand such things, my mother explained it to me.

In business life likewise I came across quite a few homosexuals. I didn't judge them by what they do with their private parts, I judged them by how well they did business. I was the president of the Washington Independent Computer Consultants Association about 1983. Maurice, the fellow that I sponsored to succeed me, was a black gay. He was a capable consultant. Sadly, he died of AIDS few years later. It was a marvelous funeral attended by all. Later, when I had my own company, I employed a handful of gay men. Given that I was long

married and my orientation was clear, we could talk about relationships without any question of ulterior motives.

Gays frequently hit upon me when I was hitchhiking as a student and later in Vietnam. The male nurses seemed almost all gay, and if you went to the soldier's clubs where they hung out, they would try to get something going. I didn't fear them, I didn't resent them. I used Nancy Reagan's famous words and just said no. I wasn't interested. People like to pretend that it was a dark age in which gays were universally shunned and despised. In my experience that was not the case. Whatever, I do not fear homosexuals.

The fear that I do have is for the future of our society. In order for the society into which I was born to perpetuate itself, it needs to have children. It needs parents who will nurture those children and raise them to be more or less like themselves. This is how societies have always perpetuated themselves, and when they have stopped doing so they died.

My concern is that the gay agenda, as well as the swinger agenda, both of which put all the emphasis on sexual fulfillment and none on the use of sex to perpetuate society, is detrimental to the long-term interests of the society. For that reason I oppose the gay agenda, as well as the swinger agenda. I am critical in my reviews of Roosh V's books on seducing women throughout the world. Conversely, I give five stars to "The Intelligence Paradox" which has favorable comments on average gay intelligence. I do try to be consistent and objective.

What I advocate in the article that I wrote recently is that Ukraine avoid gender confusion, avoid glorifying homosexuality. I'm not a great fan of Vladimir Putin in general, but in this one in this case I am absolutely with him. I agree with him that society should tolerate homosexuals. I also agree with him that there is nothing to be gained, and a lot to be lost by glorifying and promoting the homosexual lifestyle. If there is any choice in the matter people should not be led to choose a lifestyle that is not in the interests of society. The gays who have come on to me certainly acted as if I could choose to be gay, and I believe the evidence of my eyes much more than the gay lobby's self-serving propaganda. Moreover, if there is no choice in the matter, why in hell do they need to propagandize us so relentlessly? This is the case in which everybody should just shut up.

Now, Jerry, if you want an argument, please pick one of the above points and compose a scholarly statement as to why you think I am wrong. Don't just smear me as a homophobe, cast me a superior smirk and walk away from the issue. Show some intellectual rigor.

People likewise call me a racist. Let me spell it out. The different races differ in terms of average ability. Nonetheless, there are geniuses and idiots of all races, my own included.

You can look on Wikipedia and learn that the average intelligence of the races has been known for almost a century. People will quibble over a couple of points of IQ here or there, but the ranking of the races has remained unchanged at least since I was a child. In grammar school we knew that the Oriental kids tested as being smarter than us white kids. It was a fact that accepted without comment and without concern.

So here are the average IQs that I work with. Please recognize that people put these averages a point or to a new direction. Ashkenazi Jews: 115. North Asians living in the United States: 105. White Americans such as myself: 100. And below that, the averages are in the low 90s for some and 85 for the lowest group. I'm being coy – you know very well which ones I'm talking about.

I repeat that this does not mean that there are not geniuses from every group. I have great admiration for Thomas Sowell and Clarence Thomas, both of whom I think are first-rate intellects. But the average of their race is below mine. This is a fact that can be easily observed, has been endlessly measured, and about which there is no scientific debate. Conversely, the average intelligence of Jews is above that of us whites, but my intelligence is above that of most Jews. It gives me a perverse pleasure when some smug Jew takes me for a "goyische kopf" and stubs his toe against this fact.

It delights me to encounter in the biographies of Clarence Thomas, Paul Robeson and W. E. B. DuBois, accounts of the astonishment their white classmates experienced in discovering that these men were not just quick, but quite obviously quite a bit smarter. Also better at athletics, singing and acting. I would have loved to be there to witness it. Such talent is not the kind of thing you can bet on encountering frequently, but you will be sadly mistaken if you rule it out. That is precisely what statistics will tell you.

Calling me a racist for observing these facts is futile. Calling me a racist has no bearing on the facts. I will treat each individual as an individual, on the basis of whatever talent that they demonstrate. I certainly try not to be prejudiced except in the case where I have no other criterion upon which to judge than a person's color. If you asked if I would cross the street to avoid confronting a group of three oncoming young black men in hoodies, the answer is yes. If that makes me a racist, then it's common sense to be racist.

Jerry, if you can cite any science which contradicts what I have written above, I look forward to hearing about it. If you insist on calling me a racist simply because I accept the broad consensus of four generations of psychometricians, which concurs very well with my own lifetime of experience, I am afraid I can only conclude that you are hopeless. No facts can penetrate your liberal armor, and we really have nothing to talk about.

Looping back to Ukraine, the great thing about the society is that we don't have to worry about these issues. Here it is all just Ukrainians. Most of the Jews left for Argentina and the United States and Canada a hundred years ago. There are a few tens of thousands left. There are a handful of blacks, and a handful of Muslims. There are not enough Chinese even to support a good restaurant. These minorities all seem to get along just fine. What I advocate is that Ukraine recognize how good things are and simply preserve the status quo. Every nation has a sovereign right to limit immigration. That is what I advocate.

[ANCIEN Jews as spent force.docx 8/1/2016](#)

This appears to be a historical moment, a sea change in American politics. In foreign policy, the issue at hand was whether or not to go to war with Syria. Obama came into the presidency vowing to avoid foreign wars. He also seems projected the image of a fresh face, not beholden to the traditional constituencies. However, he appeared to be more and more captive of the same interests that in Bush's time were called the neocons. The defense industry, and in particular the interests of Israel. So his antiwar stances wavered over time, and he has allowed the US to be involved, reluctantly and without a great deal of organization and plan, in Libya and now Syria. His lack of resolution led to a confused situations, his unwillingness to lead what made it easy for our ally England to let us down to to to vote against getting involved in a war that was clearly not in the interests of the English people. The French are dallying, a majority of the population against the French getting involved, and a large majority of Americans has come down fairly decidedly against our involvement.

This leaves congressional leadership strung out, between the increasingly clear sentiments of the American people that they did not want to fight wars in the Middle East, and the strong lobbies who support the leaders in legislature, both the Israelis and the Saudis, who would just as soon see the Americans get involved in yet another war. Syria remains hospitable to Israel's enemies, Iran and Hezbollah, and an impediment to Saudi and Qatari petrochemical interests.

The Jewish lobby, whether through the neoconservatives supporting George Bush or liberals supporting Obama, has always been strong in support of Israel. In addition to foreign aid, it included support for America's wars in the Middle East. When voters concluded that there was not much of a choice to make in 2008 or 2012, this was certainly the case with regard to the Middle East. McCain remains a resolute hawk on wars in the Middle East, and Romney was supported by the same moneyed interests, the same banking clique that had

supported Obama in 2008. Either Republican candidate would have been mightily beholden to the Israeli interests, had it is hard to expect that they would have kept us out of war even to the extent that Obama has.

For the past century Jewish interests have been working against what one might call Christian, or mainstream white American interests in many ways. Jews are certainly not coordinated, and the effort is perhaps not conscious. However, at every turn the interests of ordinary white Americans, what they would hold to be common sense, appears to be thwarted by groups with a conspicuous Jewish presence in leadership roles.

The ACLU has weakened traditional law enforcement, by making cops adhere to the letter of the law. Law enforcement is always an inexact science, involving matters of judgment. The ACLU's forcing everything into the courts has reduced the amount of discretion and judgment that can be used by police, and hence strengthened the criminals. This has been true both in policing and in the courts.

The civil rights movement has championed the rights of blacks, to the detriment of average white people. It was not the Jews, but the average white people who lived in the neighborhoods of Chicago, Mecklenburg, and others which were affected by forced integration, forced school busing and the lack of school discipline which was brought on by the ACLU and other Jewish led interests. The Southern poverty Law Center, led by the obviously Jewish Morris Dees, is a major player in all of these. The fact that Jews fund blacks to fight whites has been clear for a long time. Though white awareness has not been that great, white resentments is growing. The anti-Jewish sentiment expressed on intelligent Internet sites (Amazon reviews, Atlantic Magazine, Real Clear Politics, New York Times), though impossible to measure, seems to this observer to be growing significantly.

The Jews have also been at the forefront of other revolutions, such as feminism (Betty Friedan) and the gay rights movement. Both of these movements undermine the white male. They undermine the system which existed for creating families organizing families and raising children. Jews were also at the also behind social programs which replaced the parents' responsibility with increasing amounts of state responsibility. This placed the parents as the sole people responsible for raising a family, and assigned increasing amounts of that responsibility to the state. This undermined the traditional family, reducing the need for a man is a breadwinner in a house, and not coincidentally increasing the number of female that households.

The education establishment has been strongly Jewish. Al Shanker and Randi Weingarten were among the most prominent liberal leaders of the unions. The top-rated education schools likewise have been quite strongly Jewish; the University of Chicago and Columbia. The education establishment has led to revisionist movements in about every discipline. Perhaps most notable is history, which was revised by writers such as Zinn to be rather strongly critical of the founding fathers, the white people who started the country. Whether these causes championed by the Jews, whether meant purposively to stick it to the Christian majority, or simply an outgrowth of traditional Jewish liberalism which was certainly evident in their homelands before they immigrated to the United States, the result was disastrous for the Christians.

The Boy Scouts are have been a special target. Christianity and family values are very evident in their mottos and creeds. Perhaps because they were hard necked and refused to cave in, progressives have worked with extraordinary vigor to discredit them.

the Jews been disproportionately affected by the movements they themselves championed.

It interfered with her ability to get not knowing detracted from their political power, but it greatly hindered their ability to reproduce themselves and educate themselves. The net is that the white population of the United States as a replacement rate of about 1.6, out of the 2.1 required for population to reproduce itself, and their children are growing up to be culturally quite different from their parents. In fact, their growing up steeped in the culture of the public school establishment and popular culture, which is antithetical to the values of their grandparents.

Who is to blame is a good question. Some of it is simply cultural evolution, which has taken place in every country of the world, without the aid of the Jews. Some of it is unconscious on the part of the Jews, simply manifesting evolutionary strategies as so well described by Kevin MacDonald. And, some of it is over, stick it in your I kinds of issues. The Jews were quite aware of the impact that increasing nonwhite immigration would have to the white majority. Bob Shrum of the Democratic Party was pretty clear of what he expected the immigration Reform Bill of 1968 to accomplish. It would dilute the voting power of the white majority. They did exactly that. So was intentional harm, and it was a shot which found its target.

They had a sad confluence of two strong directions. First, there was historical altruism on the part of the Europeans, especially the northern Europeans. Altruism had been a historical virtue among homogeneous peoples of northern Europe. The reason to great heights; the northern European nations were the strongest in the world at the close of the 19th century. The other strong current was that of Jewish phrase making, writing and persuasion. They evoked the questions altruism and shaped it into white guilt. They taught that the white man has been responsible for many of history's crimes, including slavery, the decimation of the Native American populations, and the internment of the Japanese and Jim Crow and so many other injustices. The white people were not uniquely guilty in any of this. In fact, the white people were conspicuously altruistic, leaving the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement and others. But quite white guilt to form was not forget the environmentalist movement. They liberals managed to settle the white population with a sense of guilt for all the wrongs that had been done to the environment. Jewish complicity, certainly present, was never mentioned. However, that sums friend Bob Apple no were invented the aerosol spray can probably contributed about as much as anybody to the destruction of the environment. It is never credited as a Jewish problem. It is called problem of progress, the white man's progress. The fact that the Jews had quite a bit to do with that progress is overlooked. As is, by the way, the Jews involvement in slavery and the other things for which the white man gets the blame.

The Jews, however, are waste on their own part. Scratch that.

Among the impacts that could not have been imagined was the disintegration of traditionally Jewish communities. Brooklyn was an extraordinary breeding ground for genius during the first part of the 20th century. One thinks of all of the people such as Larry Ellison, Alan Greenspan, Benny Goodman, more than one can part of Feynman, more than one can possibly name to grew up in Brooklyn, took advantage of the good New York public schools and New York University – “Jew you” and went on to brilliant careers. They reinforced one another's Jewish month Jewishness.

The same phenomenon happened elsewhere in the world. Alan Drummond writes about Ellen German and Alana Mercer write about how it happened in South Africa, and that was also true in the Jewish neighborhoods of Buenos Aires and other big cities.

Since the Jews have become so thoroughly next, they are not in Jewish neighborhoods somewhat nearly so much, and the Jewishness is not reinforced. That, and the fact that Jews have been at the heads of the trust toward secularism, especially among the most intelligent, means that they do not really they they are abandoning centuries of culture for whatever the benefits are of their newfound enlightenment. One of them

Whatever else, this means that they are not driven to marry one another as they did, and they are not having children.

The statistics are dismal. The Jews have the lowest we've replacement rate of any religion in the United States – 1.47. Almost half of Jews marry outside the faith. I read that 5% of Jewish children are adopted. My own observation in Washington DC in the Tony presents of Washington DC is that it is much higher – 25 to 30%. The

adopted kids are simply not Jewish in the same way that the parents are. The result is a smaller generation, and one that is inclined to all of the things their parents advocated – just gender confusion, no children, careerism for the women, feminism for the women, everything that is antithetical to the formation of families. Jews are on the average seven years older than other Americans. Significantly older than white Americans. They are simply not replacing themselves.

So the younger generation is smaller, mixed, sexually confused. Whatever the elements were that made the Jews of force in mid and in the mid-and late 20th century are disappearing quickly. The Jews will simply not be as much of a force in the coming generations.

On the other hand, the minorities whose interests they have championed, blacks and Hispanics, are becoming ever more numerous and politically powerful. These groups are not, one could say, especially charitable. Witness Jesse Jackson’s “Hymie town” remark they tend to lump Jews and other white people together. They may not be competing with against Jews for jobs as firefighters, but they are certainly they certainly regard the Jews as white people if they regard white people as prejudiced and oppressive. They are as inclined to rape and murder Jews as any other white people – they don’t know the difference. The Jews have as much to fear from the rising minorities as anybody else, except to the extent that they can hide that they are financially better capable of hiding in exclusive neighborhoods behind barricades.

ANCIEN justin rosengrant.docx 2/8/2015

<p>I'm going to respond in some detail, if I may. The issues and our grasp of them in this country are extremely important, and it may possibly be interesting to examine the various points, many of which you will have thought about, certainly, and may or may not agree with.</p>	
<p>I think Putin's reasoning is actually pretty simple. Crimea became Russian territory in the 18C, when Catherine II took it from the Ottomans as a sort of culmination of Russia's own Manifest Destiny, and it remained Russian territory until Khrushchev gave it to Ukraine in 1954, an act that Russians never accepted; so that now it will seem right to them and to Putin, who I believe represents a broad consensus in this, to restore the historical balance. That becomes easier given the fact that the region itself has never been comfortable as part of Ukraine; hence, its status as an "autonomous republic" with its own constitution -- explicit recognition of its special (awkward) place within the Ukrainian polity.</p>	<p>I agree in part. I don't agree that they have never been comfortable as part of Ukraine. For most of its independent history Ukraine has been governed by men from the east, and Crimea has had a fair amount of autonomy. The native Crimeans I meet – obviously atypical if they have moved to Kiev – feel themselves fully Ukrainian.</p> <p>It is true that Russian is the language there. That has never been under serious challenge.</p> <p>There are many such situations in the world, of states with irredentist claims on other nations' lands. Peru maintains its claims for land lost in the War of the Pacific; Argentina fights over the Malvinas. That's what various treaties such as Helsenki have attempted to resolve.</p>
<p>More importantly, however, the annexation of Crimea will ensure the security of the Sevastopol naval base in the event that any new government in Kiev adopts a strong Western orientation and becomes impatient with the terms of the lease. If Crimea is part</p>	<p>I find this argument weak. They have a lease through 2042 – another 28 years. All the players, and indeed the world situation will have changed by then.</p>

<p>of the Russian Federation, Russia won't need a lease; that is, it won't be dependent on Kiev's "whim," on its consent to the arrangement. Crimea will be Russian territory and secure. So there's an important strategic question in play from the Russian point of view, and not merely a historical and emotional one, as profoundly important as the latter will be for Russians themselves, including those who live in the Crimea and will certainly vote to secede this month.</p>	<p>Russia is jeopardizing its standing their by antagonizing the Ukrainians at this juncture. It is a calculated risk; I think they calculated wrong.</p> <p>I believe they will vote to secede. The people are being stampeded into voting before there has been any discussion. They certainly have not heard both sides of the issue. Putin has seen to that.</p>
<p>This analysis is not, by the way, intended to favor or approve the claims of either side in the dispute, but merely to indicate that the Russian position is not a trivial one, nor simply the result of some vague or irrational expansionist impulse. It's a logical, coherent policy and was a completely predictable result of the power vacuum produced by the Maidan events. The annexation of Crimea will entail real costs for Russia, to be sure, but in the end it will have been worth it from their national security vantage.</p>	<p>This assumes that Russia's view of its national security is correct, and that the world situation will not change.</p> <p>My expectation is that the Western powers will collapse of their own demographics, debt and other factors. Russia could have waited. The west will not pose a threat to them. The West's ineffectual response even now is testimony to their weakness.</p>
<p>Accordingly, it will be naïve of us to discount either the historical or the strategic motivation, let alone both, and naïve too to think the we (the US and the EU) are in any position to force a reversal of what would seem to be a fundamental, nonnegotiable policy decision by Russia. That Kiev by itself will not be able to reverse it either is self-evident.</p>	<p>Agree with you. The West lacks the will, and Kiev does not and will not have the power to reverse things.</p>
<p>Given the unreliability, as Russia sees it, of the new Kiev government, such as it is, and the other issues, it is extremely improbable that Crimea will ever be returned to Ukraine. It's a fait accompli that it will now be wise to find a way to accommodate, since there won't be any way to negate it, short of armed intervention, which would obviously fail, if anyone should be ever stupid enough to attempt such a thing. This isn't 1853, after all, and there won't be any Charges of the Light Brigade or Fourth Bastions.</p>	<p>Agree with you here.</p>
<p>The energy supply issue is probably not a problem for Russia, which is just across the Kerch Strait from the Crimea. In any case, Ukraine gets most of it energy (sixty percent?) from Russia, so that the idea that it would then refuse to pass on those supplies to a new Russian Crimea is unconvincing. It's Russia that holds the energy cards, not Ukraine. The US is now the world leader in natural gas production (and second in petroleum), but our gas reserves won't have any strategic value for at least a couple of years, not, that is, until we've created the infrastructure necessary to export the resource and use it as a foreign policy tool. So the fact of Ukrainian energy dependence on Russia is indeed a fact and an important</p>	<p>Ukraine gets natural gas from Russia. It is self-sufficient in coal and uranium, and thus electric power. Oil is bought on a world market.</p> <p>Russia's advantage in energy will diminish as shale gas comes online in Europe as it has in the US. Ukraine remains dependent for the time being. The Yanukovich government was ineffectual in energy policy – and almost everything else. One can hope (as always) that the new government will do better.</p>

<p>part of the complex geopolitical equation. All parties need to recognize that and operate from it as a premise. (As I suspect Angela Merkel does, since Germany is Gazprom's biggest customer, with Ukraine only second.)</p>	
<p>So I think the best we can hope for here is that Russia will be content with the Crimea and not be tempted to occupy eastern Ukraine. That would be an entirely different kettle of fish and entail an ugly armed conflict that would be at least as destructive to Russia in a variety of ways as it would be to Ukraine. For all his incoherence and evident nervousness and clumsy bluster and mystification, it was clear from the Tues. press conference that Putin understood that essential fact and meant to convey his understanding to the Russian public. To use a sort of short hand, he was acknowledging Kiev as the mother city of East Slavic culture and the profound historical and cultural bond between the two nations and peoples, as well as, quite surprisingly, a sympathetic grasp of a motivation of the Maidan protesters, their wish to be rid of the "thieves," as Putin himself called them (and meant Yanukovich). War with Ukraine is something that almost all ordinary Russians would regard with horror, and even an autocrat like Putin would have to accept that, supposing that he didn't share the horror (although I think it's obvious that he does).</p>	<p>I hope also that he will be content with Crimea. He is absorbing an area with a withered economy – Kiev Post article says that 70% of Crimea's tourists are Ukrainian, 25% Russian, and bookings are off 90% for this season, \$5 billion loss in taxable income – and God knows what on the grey market.</p>
<p>I don't know how well the Obama administration understands these issues and the complexities of Putin's more or less conscious revelations on Tues., but so far I would have to say they probably don't, and thus find themselves occupying untenable, reactive positions and failing to work toward the kinds of realistic accommodation that will ultimately be in everyone's interest, but especially that of the very complex society that is modern Ukraine.</p>	<p>The Obama administration seems rather inept at foreign policy. They are in a weak position both morally and intellectually. Not that I would wish for a return of the neocons.</p> <p>Bottom line – I agree. Moreover, it is not in Ukraine's interest to be too close to the US or the West in general.</p>
<p>Yes, Timothy Snyder's Bloodlands is a magnificent work of scholarship and a profound contribution to our understanding of the century. I relied on it in my commentary to the edition of the Wolf autobiography I indicated to you. It puts the events in a much broader and richer historical context than we have been used to regarding them, and it brought to the fore Stalin's horrific devastation of the Ukrainian peasantry -- the terror famines -- so little appreciated in the English-speaking world (Robert Conquest's Harvest of Sorrow notwithstanding).</p>	<p>My rather sour take on the future of the West is that it will become victim of its own liberalism.</p> <p>Per Putnam, diversity is eroding our social capital. Per Richard Lynn's "IQ and the Wealth of Nations" and most of the psychometric community, we are dumbing ourselves down via immigration and the lack of fertility of the more intelligent of us Caucasians and Jews. Anecdotally, I was not able to find a single member of my class of '64 who has four grandchildren. Many that they do have are adopted. If one assumes that Reed gets the best and brightest, and that it is somewhat typical, we are doing ourselves in.</p> <p>My lifetime observation is that sex has shifted in a big way from a means of procreation to a vehicle for recreation. Swingers and gays. They do not form as many families, and those they do form are not</p>

	<p>stable enough, and not connected enough with extended family, to raise kids to perpetuate our culture.</p> <p>Politicians of both parties refuse to address the debt issue. Twenty years ago we could say they would have to work hard to ever again have a balance budget. We can now state with certainty that they will never be able to do it again. Collapse is inevitable. Dmitry Orlof has a good comparison of the fall of the Soviet Union and the coming collapse of the US "Reinventing Collapse."</p> <p>Where to be in these troubled times? I'm planning to stay here, on the bet that a Slavic culture, traditional by nature and protected by despots like Yaunkovych, will be a better place to raise a kid.</p> <p>Whether or not there is any justice to what Putin is doing at the moment, it might work in my own long term interest.</p>
Best regards,	
Jud	

ANCIEN Kayapo.doc 7/8/2015

This is an academic paper written after a month-long stay with the Kayapo Indians in the state of Para, in the Brazilian Amazon. I reference it in a subsequent blog.

Introduction

The Kayapó are making their accommodation to Brazilian society late in history. Whites (kuben) worked their way only slowly into the Kayapó's homeland in the cerrado (savanna) and forests of the Brazilian states of Pará, Matto Grosso and Tocantins. The Kayapó's reputation for killing intruders made fortune hunters tend to look elsewhere. A lack of ferocity and the misfortune of living in the paths of an expanding Brazilian civilization long ago brought most of their Indian brethren to terms with the national society.

Terms of accommodation were overwhelmingly dictated by the Brazilians. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Portuguese simply enslaved the Indians. The Jesuits gradually brought the practice to an end, noting that Christianity was a hard sell among enslaved peoples. Thereafter and through the twentieth century Indians continued to be brought under the "protection" of the white man, supposedly for their education and betterment, a situation which again often meant labor for minimal wages at tasks not of their choosing.

Over the past few decades the situation has improved. The Indians' rights to their own reservations and their land is written into the Brazilian constitution. The result is that while Brazil counts only about 200,000 tribal Indians, a mere ½ of one percent of Native Americans in the hemisphere, those few groups are today quite well endowed with land and have several government bureaucracies to serve them.

Indians continue to suffer from the gap between de jure and de facto law in Brazilian society. The Kayapó have however grown resourceful in using the law and public opinion to defend their interests. For the first time in history there are groups of Indians who have title to something well-defined and worth defending, and the tools and connections to mount a defense. This moves the focus of the issue to a new set of questions. What are the Kayapó's long-term prospects? What are their long-term interests? Do they know their long-term interests? And, most significantly, what can they do for current income to support their material needs without invading the corpus of their forest patrimony?

The question bears on three interwoven themes: time, money and education. For Indians, the equation between time and money is a new thing. The nomadic Kayapó, with minimal material culture, historically lacked the realization that structures and machinery have to be maintained over time. They had no history of trading time at labor for money, nor of investing over time in return for interest income.

Indians' initial exposures to a money society are fairly uniformly disastrous. Kaj Århem noted that Indians of the Colombian Amazon tend to spend what money they get, acquiring things they do not need and cannot maintain, and contract debts they cannot service. The history is repeated throughout the Americas. Zimmerman et. al. (2001) report that the Kayapó realized millions of dollars liquidating their prime mahogany and permitting gold mining in the 1990s, and have little left to show for it today.

Here are the elements of the dilemma. The Brazilian Constitution and the Law of the Indian grant the Indians the right to self-determination. It is only just, and could not be otherwise in today's rights-conscious world. At the same time, it is widely observed that indigenous American peoples have difficulty coping with aspects of the modern world such as alcohol, money and individualism. Brazilian law accords them a status of judicial incompetence similar to that of minor children. What kinds of lives will or should today's indigenous peoples lead, what education do they need to prepare for these lives, and what right do any outsiders, conservationists, governmental or whatever, have to influence indigenous education?

External Contacts and Essential Expenditures

Kayapó Chief Rop Ni observed in 1976 that the time had passed when the Kayapó could maintain a totally autonomous existence. The villagers of A'Ukre depend on the government to maintain their airstrip, their deep water well and their septic system, complete with its flush toilets. They have eased their traditional hunting and gathering labors through the acquisition of shotguns, outboard motors, chain saws and fishing tackle, their paths through the forest with manufactured shoes, and their treks with sleeping bags, tents, mosquito nets, flashlights and other western paraphernalia. They have generated a demand for gasoline and batteries. As a consequence, the Kayapó's attentions are focused on acquiring these goods by trade, and increasingly, simply acquiring the cash to buy them.

The 5,000 people of the 16 villages of the Kayapó nation are closely related. They use air taxi services and an airplane bought with mahogany money to visit one another. They are linked by a CB radio network powered by solar cells connected to automotive batteries. Whoever paid for it -- the cost was probably not great -- radio has become indispensable. Radio has evident imperfections as well. It

can handle only one conversation at a time, it is absolutely not private, and requires all speakers to be at their radios at the same time. There will be a market for telephones or VOIP connections.

Maintaining airplanes, radios, and even chainsaws and outboard motors requires more training, reference materials and tools than the Kayapó possess. Their dependence on Kuben society for these services exacerbates their need for cash income. Negotiating and contracting for complex and expensive services such as aircraft maintenance requires a certain level of sophistication in addition to knowledge of Portuguese and basic accounting.

A mere inventory of material wants understates the interaction with and dependence of the Kayapó upon Brazilian society. The Kayapó recognize both Western and traditional branches of medicine. Shamans still treat some ailments, but they look more and more to Western medicine. FUNASA (Fundação Nacional de Saúde) has established an infirmary at the village of A'Ukre. Angela, the resident nurse, maintains health records and growth charts of all the village children and treats common infectious diseases. She arranges air transportation to send the more seriously ill to hospitals, the closest being about 100km distant in Ourilandia do Norte. The Kayapó have an increasing appreciation for the value of eyeglasses, insect repellants and over-the-counter medicines.

The Kayapó are in the minority among Brazilian indigenous people in having no school of any sort. Accounts of Kayapó education under FUNAI prior to 1991 are vague. In any case little residual effect is noticeable today. The probable reasons that they don't have a school today are complex. There is an anecdote to the effect that the elders of A'Ukre rejected an offer to set up a school in the abandoned Body Shop / schoolhouse building, demanding instead a new and better building. Such a stance would have been in character, but it is not even clear with whom they would have been negotiating.

They want a school. Most of the elders with whom we worked signed the plea that has been posted on the Internet since 2002. Dealing with educators should and will become an essential outside contact for the Kayapó. The evidence is that they will need to be strong advocates of their own interests as they deal with the educational bureaucracies.

Kayapó Sources of Income

The Kayapó control a vast resource in their virgin rainforest, 11 million hectares, the size of the State of Virginia. The income potential represented by their labor force of 2,000 untrained adults is insignificant by comparison.

They must meet their cash needs by one means or the other. The essential questions are how to derive an ongoing income from their rainforest without destroying it, or how to increase the value of their labor. Otherwise they are likely to fall back on the third and tragic option, far too commonly followed by indigenous peoples, squandering the patrimony in return for a temporary influx of cash and leaving future generations to fend for themselves. A catalog of the major income possibilities includes:

Labor

- o Handicrafts: The Kayapó sell bows and arrows, war clubs and beadwork to visitors, and have some limited outlets in the cities. Production and marketing of handicrafts could benefit by better organization and connection with markets. There is however a limited market for tourist items and many other Indian tribes make comparable artifacts.

- o Services: Kayapó genipap body painting is quite unique. There is again a limited market and it is a service that must be delivered in person.
- o Conservation Organizations: Conservation International employs a significant fraction of the elders of A'Ukre village as associates in their Pinkaití research center. There is potential here. A tiny fraction of the resources of NGOs, environmental organizations and environmentally engaged individuals would satisfy the Kayapó's income needs.

Sustainable forestry income

- o Brazil nut collection: Brazil nuts remain abundant despite widespread logging. The world market is weak and getting nuts or oil to market from remote corners of the reservation is prohibitively expensive.
- o Permits and Fees: The Kayapó receive a per capita stipend from visitors to the Pinkaití research station and a stipulated income for the use of the 8,100 hectare (ca. 32 square mile) station. Increasing the number of visitors could significantly offset their income needs.

Attractive but unproven suggestions

- o Ecotourism, including sport fishing: Such ventures would require the development of significant infrastructure and would expose the Kayapó to potentially detrimental outside influences.
- o Harvesting or researching medicinal plants: Though much is made of the medicinal value of rainforest species, few are proven and there are no markets.

Unsustainable Activities

- o Logging: Most mature mahogany has already been cut; it will be at least a generation before it can be harvested again. Cutting what remains in Pinkaití and in remote recesses of the reserve would end the relationship with Conservation International. Logging lower value species would very likely have to ruin the forest to be economically feasible.
- o Agriculture: The Kayapó are not and do not want to become ranchers or farmers. Either activity would require clearing some forest and represent a radical change in their culture.
- o Gold mining: Mining on the Rio Fresco in the Gorotire territory was a disaster. It converted the valley into a wasteland of sand dunes and stagnant pools that will take decades or centuries for the forest to reclaim. Mercury poisoned the fish, the groundwater, and the Kayapó themselves.

Income from sustainable activities may run into the tens of thousands of dollars per year, that from unsustainable activities could easily be millions. The challenges for the Kayapó are stark. They need to invent ways to earn more sustainable income. If, in the worst case, they are forced to realize unsustainable income from the forest, it is essential that they invest the proceeds to provide returns over time. They will need education in either case. The Kayapó have to become sophisticated in trading time for money and letting money work over time or they will become the slaves that Sting so fears.

The State of Indigenous Education in Brazil

Until recent decades Brazilian applied a mainstream view of education to its Indians. All Brazilians need a primary education to learn to read and write Portuguese, to do basic arithmetic, and to know the fundamentals of Brazilian culture and government. Promising students need the opportunity to advance to secondary education, which involves more advanced work in these subjects, and broader exposure to sciences and the world outside of Brazil. Those with the ability and desire should have the opportunity to go from secondary into universities.

Brazil's 1988 constitution reflected the world, and more specifically the American multicultural zeitgeist. "The State shall protect expressions of popular, Indian and Afro-Brazilian cultures..." and

"...Indian communities shall be ensured the use of their native tongues and their own learning methods." Articles 78 and 79 of the 1996 Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Nacional effectively give Indian communities control over their own education. This implied autonomy is a major theme of most of the addresses to the 1994 Congresso de Leitura do Brasil included in "Leitura e Escrita no Brasil." The various authors at once examine what autonomy might mean in theory and deplore the fact that in practice few Brazilian states have implemented much of anything. Tocantins, a recognized leader, declares "A conquista da autonomia" (the conquest of autonomy) as a goal, and provides a program to educate native teachers.

The Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Nacional defines Indian rights in education. However, since an executive decree transferred responsibility from FUNAI to MEC in 1991, indigenous education appears to have fallen into limbo. The competent bureaucracy remains within the Ministry of Education (MEC) but responsibility lies with the various state educational bureaucracies. As the law is not very specific about what needs to be done and who needs to do it, not much is happening.

The noble turns of speech in the constitution and the laws aside, it is unclear what indigenous education should or could be. The laws do not deal with the practical limitations. Education programs are expensive to develop. That is why most societies centralize the effort at national and state levels. One criticism of American education is that local school boards, serving only tens of thousands of students, don't have funds to do an adequate job. Where does that leave the Kayapó, with 5,000 people and no tax base?

Implementing a complete program for Kayapó education would be vastly more complex than a mere school district. There is no written language. It is unclear what literacy even would mean if it were not in Portuguese. The written materials that exist regarding Kayapó history, myths and culture are written by outsiders in outside languages. Even if there were a written language, which might be developed by philanthropists such as the Sumner Institute of Linguistics, the economics of publishing would make it cost-prohibitive to translate textbooks into Kayapó. There are few examples in history of a written language being adopted de novo. The most notable, Vietnamese, involved a population of tens of millions and a society with a basis of literacy in Chinese ideograms. Written Hawaiian and Maori are struggling because they have no natural role within their English-speaking societies. For the Kayapó, an attempt at native-language education would be a conceit standing in the way rather than a path to education.

Despite the emotional attractiveness of bilingual education the Kayapó language can serve only as a bridge. Students must enter the Portuguese world to encounter advanced materials of any kind. It is also essential to interact with anybody outside of their tribe: Portuguese is the lingua franca among Indians themselves. The traditionalists were right in their conviction that indigenous education had to mean familiarizing Indians with the language of Brazilian society.

If the Kayapó are to be educated, it has to be done using outside curricular materials and at least some outside instructors. What kind of education they need to acquire is a separate issue.

The Need for Education Among the Kayapó

Musician Sting noted that "... you meet the [Indian] people there and you hear their story, and you realize that without their environment they are going to be sucked into the lowest part of Brazilian society, which is basically slavery." d'Angelis, an advocate of autonomous education, laments Indians

trained as accountants and secretaries in the Rio Negro region "became hod carriers and maids in Manaus." Their forest reserve should provide the Kayapó with more attractive options for putting an education to use than merely working as hired hands in that Kuben society. The question is, how?

The elders we worked with, Ukaruru, Ngipre, Ireo, Tiago, Bastion and Kubanyet, earn money working for Conservation International and serve the village of A'Ukre negotiating with the outside world. Tiago, who polished his Portuguese during a stint with FUNAI, is frequently sent to training courses in medicine and maintenance of such apparatus as the deep well system.

The esteem in which the village holds those members who speak Portuguese, and their eloquent Internet plea for education, bespeaks a sincere interest. The fact that these elders took the effort to learn Portuguese despite the lack of a school indicates that they would probably be receptive to outside help in education.

The ability to write Portuguese is essential. The Kayapó need to be able to draft contractual agreements. They also need to become familiar with terms common in contracts, stipulating contract deliverables, payment terms, liquidated damages, dispute resolution and the like. They need enough arithmetic to deal with the time value of money as represented by interest, payment schedules, and computing return on investment. They already have experience in contract management, having designated elders to oversee gold, mahogany, water, health and other projects. Though it is not in their tradition, it makes sense for them to protect their contract managers from second-guessing in the men's house by documenting their rights, responsibilities and privileges. This is part of a larger theme. The Indians' affairs are becoming too complex to manage by mere oral agreements.

The Kayapó can reduce their cash expenditures if village members are able to perform necessary services. They need to learn to build houses, to repair buildings, plumbing, septic systems and motors, and to read instructions so they can install radios, solar panels and other gear. The more Kayapó that get involved in delivering education and health care, the better the level of service and the more money is likely to flow into the village in the form of government salaries.

The Challenges in Adopting a Western Mindframe

The emerging discipline of Ethnomathematics suggests that even learning arithmetic may imply cultural changes. The nearby Bororo Indians' reckoning of the time of day and the day of the month, which appear to apply as well to Gê peoples such as the Kayapó, is by the position of celestial objects. The sun and stars mark hours of night and day, days in the recent past are identified by the hour the moon rose, the more distant past by seasons and the positions of constellations, and past years by the height or age grade a villager had attained at the time of a past event.

Jonathan Hill discounts Lévi-Strauss's characterization of Amazonian societies as "cold" in that they resist historical changes. Hill demonstrates that Indians recognize their lives' recurring cycles of days, moons and seasons are nonetheless imposed upon the linear unfolding of historical events, the most significant of which has been the arrival of the white man, the devastation wrought by disease and the acquisition of artifacts such as guns.

The current generation of Kayapó may however be the first to deeply internalize the implications of linear history. The forest, which has always been taken as a given, is not unchangeable. The big mahoganies are gone and mining has ruined the Rio Fresco. Tapir are becoming scarce. Kuben and

the Kayapó's increasing dependence on the kuben society are permanent. Kayapó must think of the lives their children will lead, and even of their own old age, in ways that never would have occurred to their parents. They have to think in financial terms, recognizing education, investments and their territorial endowment as financial assets that must over time yield the income the tribe needs to survive.

Learning to relate time to money, capital to income, is not an easy task... witness the American sports stars and even entrepreneurs who fail at it. Acquiring money sense may be the most difficult aspect of Kayapó education. Their tradition of community, however, will work to their benefit. One can hope that once the elders fully grasp what the tribe must do to support itself over the long term they will have the power to sway their people.

Although education is essential to support these immediate needs, it will also give the Kayapó access to print and broadcast information about the broader world and pleasures such as reading, television and video. All are mixed blessings, and all promise to significantly change the Kayapó culture. Given that, bidden or not, the media eventually intrude on every society, the Kayapó can at least anticipate their exposure.

Potential Forms and Objectives of Kayapó Education

Indigenous educators in Brazil, like those in Chile, Mexico and elsewhere, seem to picture it being delivered in a one- or two-room primary school, staffed by indigenous professors, delivering bilingual education in the fundamentals of language, arithmetic, and ethnic and Brazilian culture, history, geography, laws and customs. Such systems have been subject to a host of criticisms:

- o Education deracinates the young, neglecting traditional knowledge and providing them with learning that they cannot apply within the village.
- o Giving value to "white" knowledge systems devalues the knowledge of the elders and estranges the young from those who should be teaching them to garden, weave, hunt, fish and appreciate the forest.
- o Western education is inherently individualistic, acknowledging differences in drive and ability and thereby eroding the communitarian nature of Indian society.
- o A principal objective of primary education is preparation for secondary, which assuredly renders an individual unfit for life in the village.
- o Educators believe overwhelmingly that girls have an equal right to education. Such education is bound to change sex roles to the detriment of traditional culture.

The Kayapó need to strike a balance, and it will be uncomfortable. People need education even if it does imply fundamental cultural changes. The Kayapó need to find the most appropriate compromise and somehow locate resources to implement it. There are a couple of other aspects to consider.

The adults of A'Ukre appreciate the value of Portuguese and arithmetic in dealing with the outside world. They are good candidates for adult education. Paulo Freire was a strong advocate of adult education, providing adults with the practical tools they need in life, and the Brazilian educational establishment embraces Freire. Giving adults, men and women, the opportunity to learn will raise the esteem of education within the village and diminish potential resistance to schoolhouse education.

Indian children are not the only potential students interested in traditional Kayapó education. The material the elders teach their children about hunting and fishing, myths, folkways, medicine and festivals is of interest as well to anthropologists, botanists, foresters, ecologists and other scientists.

The Kayapó can use outside resources to collect curricular material and they may be able to persuade outsiders to help develop curriculum as part of their own scholarly pursuits.

Education's Likely Impact on Traditional Values

The advocates of autonomous education, designed and delivered by the Indians themselves, rightly want to mitigate the "noxious" effects of education on indigenous society. Marta Maria Azevedo writes:

"School is and always was a colonial, civilizing institution. It was always used, as much in Brazil as other countries, to colonize and to civilize. It is an occidental institution person, and as part of occidental culture it creates individuals. School is not an institution that takes care of, for example, the social family, or groups, or communities, or clans. The school ministers to a classroom of individuals. It is in the school the creation of this idea of "individual" begins. This individualism, a central concept in our culture, is not at all central in the aboriginal cultures. This is terribly important because many times people use aboriginal languages in school, speak of working in the native cultures in the schools, but overlook this very important point. I already said on other occasions (including in Brasilia) that I find that one of the important questions that people are forgetting as they work in the aboriginal schools is the question of evaluation. Grading always touches in this point of the individualism, of the individualization of the person within a community that is not whatsoever individualistic. In the village, if the oldest brother goes to the garden with his younger brother new and they cooperate, or it may be the son-in-law going to work with the father-in-law. In any case, the environment outside of the school is totally one of cooperation relation, of mutual aid. Inside of the school the pupil has learn on his own; the grade will be his own. And it is forbidden for one pupil to help another, even if they are brothers, . For what!? Because the whole purpose is to create this figure of the individual."

Azevedo is right about individualism. Most educators claim that their goal is to help each individual attain the maximum that is within his or her power to achieve. Educators accept that children have differing levels of drive, character and intellect. It fits well with the fact that the immense range of occupations within our society demand equally broad ranges of skill and formation.

Equality is an overwhelming social value in Kayapó society. Families live so communally that the lack of privacy drives the visiting non-Indian crazy. Substantial material possessions such as canoes and outboard motors belong to the community. The only things an individual tends to own are goods for personal use: tents, sleeping bags, flashlights and fishing gear. Houses are identical and their furnishings indistinguishable. The culture includes a kind of forced generosity. If one Indian expresses a desire for another's possession, unless he can make a good excuse not to the possessor is morally obliged to give it up. Idleness is a cardinal sin: an individual should always be working, helping others.

The Kayapó have always practiced political equality in that they (men only) make decisions communally. Discussion of an issue continues until there is a consensus. Traditionally, the village would split when it was unable to achieve consensus on an important issue. The fact that this traditionally nomadic people has an increasingly fixed village structure, with wooden houses, an airstrip, infirmary, plumbing and such, also means they are no longer free to split. Who in a dissident group would have the skills or desire to clear the forest and build a longhouse village? They have to live with each other and resolve their differences.

Their tradition of rather pure and immediate democracy will likely be forced to change. When dealing with the kuben, a contract is a contract. The men's house is not at liberty to reargue contractual terms or overrule a contract administrator's judgment. To do so would rupture relationships with the outside world.

The men's house is the center of male social life as well as politics. It is where the community plans hunts, festivals, war and all other community projects. Even when there is nothing that to be decided, the men gather in the evening to tell stories and enjoy each other's company. There is a lot of locker-room kidding. The visitor notices a few looming threats to this venerable institution. Pre-teens now gather in the dark to listen to Brazilian music and dance the forro. They are captivated by video games. It seems unlikely the Kayapó will do better than any other culture in resisting the inevitable incursion of video and TV. When this happens, the retreat from the men's house to the TV room appears likely to signal the kind of disengagement from community life that Arhem chronicled among the Makuna of the Rio Negro.

The Kayapó hold traditional knowledge in high respect. This includes the shamans' knowledge of medicinal herbs, elders' recollections of history and myth, and faithful reproduction of ceremonial rites. The young, on the other hand, are the quickest to accumulate school learning. To grant greater respect to textbook knowledge would be to upset traditional veneration of the elders.

Earlier generations of Brazilians zealously converted Indians to Christianity. In the process they brought them closer to the dominant society and often provided some education. Christianity, however, has lost some of its self-assurance and the Kayapó may be less subject to its evangelistic appeals.

Environmentalism has emerged as a secular religion in America and Europe, complete with the passions and, many would argue, the unquestioning faith of the old-time gospel. The Kayapó could be high priests of such a sect. Chief Payakan was respected as such before his mahogany deals. The tribe already has title to a triple-canopy cathedral, and their oratorical style lends itself well to preaching. If they play their cards right they might parlay the role of Redford's "ecologically noble savage" into a position of moral leadership on the world stage and maybe even a paying proposition. Their self-image is better adapted to the role of moral leaders on a world stage than that of the downtrodden and dispossessed who are saved only by God's grace.

The genius of Western productivity is attributable to specialization and capital. The advantages are obvious. We all drive cars and talk on cell phones when no single one of us could make even a tricycle from raw materials. The Kayapó can all, albeit with varying degrees of skill, all make bows and arrows, spears, baskets and every other kind of artifact he needs in daily life. The talents of the average Kayapó taken individually would put a Westerner to shame. Collectively, however, we possess immensely more ability. Each individual among us is educated and/or trained to fulfill an occupational specialty, be it iron mining, rubber chemistry or telecommunications network planning. In aggregate these individual skills make us a highly productive society.

We are also a society of individuals. Contact with civilization will perforce turn the Kayapó into a society of individuals. Education will be key in determining what kind of individuals they become. Will they become professors, teaching westerners their traditional knowledge of the forests, guiding visitors through their paradise and providing them with spiritual leadership, or will they become mere hired hands? It depends on their vision and that of whoever educates them.

Conclusion

The Kayapó will have to deal more and more with Brazilian society. They will become more dependent on the dominant society. They will need more income to support their needs. They will need to acquire a Western-style education in order to function successfully in this new order.

The rainforest itself is by far the tribe's most significant source of potential income. The most obvious and the largest rewards, however, are one-time affairs like logging and gold mining that destroy the forest. The most essential educational objective must be to enable the Kayapó to derive enough income to support themselves while preserving the forest patrimony for future generations. They need to quickly acquire the kind of sophisticated appreciation of the relationships among time, money and education that remains difficult even in Western societies.

There is every sign that increased contact with mainstream society will detract from the highly communal social order of the Kayapó. It will also require education. The experience of other tribes, the opinion of experts and the very nature of education suggests that schooling will also have a significant impact on traditional values, among them communal decision making and respect for elders.

Sting is right to observe that only their environment can save the Kayapó from the fate of other tribal peoples in Brazil and throughout the Americas, the virtual slavery of disinherited and unskilled laborers. The Kayapó have a few unique advantages. Their rights to their land are as strong as any tribe has ever enjoyed, there is a lot of land, they have the support of Conservation International and the world environmental community, and they have the wealth of tragic experience of other tribes to draw on. Their challenge is to learn how to assemble these unique assets into a unique solution and become the first Amerindian tribe to negotiate the transition into modernity with their lands, culture and dignity intact.

ANCIEN Letter to Denny re primate roots and Gramsci.docx 10/7/2014

Denny – the virtue of promiscuity is certainly a delightful area for disagreement. We can go on forever about the pros and cons of bedding many women. There are historical examples: Charlie Chaplin was a noted Hollywood swordsman who settled down happily with Oona, as was Warren Beatty who seems to be quite happy with Annette Benning.

I am putting together the pieces on the grandchildren disaster in my own family. Here is what I have assembled.

Human beings are decidedly primates. Social animals. Descendent of the great apes. The way we nurture our children is well described by Sarah Blaffer Hrdy in her books "Mother Nature" and "Mothers and Others." Her theory is that like all apes, human babies take a long time to educate and socialize. The evolutionary advantage of human beings over our great ape cousins is that we evolved to the point that brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and most especially grandmothers relieve the mother and father of some of the burden of raising kids. This has a pronounced effect on fertility. Whereas orangutans and gorillas can bear children only every four years or so, with the help of extended family a human mother can have a kid every couple of years.

In the realm of personality formation, Judith Rich Harris has two good books entitled "The Nurture Assumption" and "No Two Alike." Her thesis is that personality is about 45% heritable. Your kids are like you. No getting around it. My Amazon reviews of these books are fairly lengthy.

The other 55% has been a big question mark. Things that ought to be, are not. Controlling for genetics, identical twins are hardly more alike in personality than fraternal twins, fraternal twins no more alike than siblings, and even adoptive kids no more alike. This shared environment of the parental home seems to make no difference. What the hell does?

Let's start with language, which we know about. Steven Pinker has written a great series of books on how language develops. I have reviewed half a dozen others, and find that there is a great consensus, tracing back to Noam Chomsky's insights. The human brain comes prewired for language acquisition. It is the farthest thing in the world from John Locke's "blank slate." Language acquisition is fascinating to watch, and I do it every day. The fact that children pick up the accent not of their parents, but of their playmates gives us a good clue as to where to start.

Harris's theme is that a kid comes prewired for learning other behavior that is necessary in a primate society. First, the infant starts to build relationships the moment it is born. He needs to develop relationships with all of his caregivers, starting with mom. He needs to build a mental Rolodex of who is useful for what, and how they behave. He needs to know that you push mommy's buttons this way and daddy's buttons another way to get what you want.

The second prewired behavioral system is socialization. The kid has to learn what it means to be a member of the tribe. He has to learn the tribe's customs, its dialect, its prejudices and its affinities. The kid learning to play baseball has to watch Billy Husa and Joe Bonini to see how it's done. He will then imitate their behavior, high-fives and all. The kid may join many different groups – church choir, baseball team, chess club, fifth-grade class – and socialize himself into the culture of each of them.

The third prewired behavioral system is status seeking. Whereas socialization makes kids alike, the status system leads them to differentiate themselves. This is how Ronnie Gagnon distinguishes himself from Donnie Gagnon. High status is important for winning the goodies that society has to dole out: mating opportunities, wealth, comfort and so on.

In this, according to Harris' hypothesis, human self-awareness is key. We are able to judge our relative strengths and differences. A Graham Seibert will assess himself against the baseball players, Husa and Bonini, and decide that baseball is not for him. On the other hand, his self-assessment may lead him to join the chess club. There are many ways to seek status in society, and we each choose an individual strategy. We carve out niches. Even on the baseball team, we note that the team captain, Steve Carpenter, seems to enjoy better mating opportunities than the other members of the team. We also notice that perhaps we have a good eye for catching balls but not such a good arm for throwing them. We find the position – catching – that suits us best.

The development ordained by these three systems takes place among one's peers, not one's family. Harris theory is that growing children are largely socialized by their peers. The influence of the parents and even siblings in the home environment is not nearly as great as one might have suspected. Controlling for the 45% of behavior attributable to genes, common environment does not have much effect on the other 55%. For that, look to our inheritance from our monkey ancestors, the tribe, the troop, the clan.

Taking this into the political realm, the stuff I sent you from Gramsci and the cultural Marxists comes into play. Cultural Marxism places great emphasis on individual freedom, the individual's right to do whatever the hell he wants. It also places great emphasis on what we owe all of humanity. Curbing global warming, saving the

oceans, saving the rain forests and so on. It does this at the expense of the traditional units: family, clan, tribe and nation. Cultural Marxism would like to pretend that tribalism and nationalism are things of the past.

But, wait! We primates evolve within gene pools. We select mates from our clan and tribe. We acquire our culture, and pass along the culture, of our particular tribe and nation. Cultural Marxism, by devaluing our traditional primate groups, has rendered us unable to reproduce ourselves. It has nullified the devices by which we Europeans evolved to be at the top of the heap.

And that, my friend, at the end of this long paragraph, is why my children were socialized to be unable to give me grandchildren. Even in the case of a happy accident whereby a child is born, they will certainly not be in a position to pass on my culture. That is why we of European descent are dying out. Meanwhile, groups like the Haitians who do not bother their heads with such notions happily procreate. They will swamp us all.

To another topic, I think that the West likes to point it Ukraine simply to divert attention from how bad things are in the United States and the West. Yes, we are corrupt here.

I have yet to read the second "Economic Hit Man" book, but I think it is absolutely on the money. The West is trying to entice Ukraine into debt via the IMF and other bodies. Ukraine simply does not want to jump through the requisite hoops. Therefore it is being maligned.

The level of lies to which Americans are subjected grows more and more amazing. They have been there for all of my life, but I am just becoming more aware of them as I mature. I reflect back on the conversations I had with lobbyist members of our church in Washington DC and say to myself, yeah. I loved Edward Snowden's take on the real reasons that the feds are trying to make Apple unlock that cell phone. As one might suspect, it has nothing to do with the case at hand. Enter Trump. I don't think he's telling the truth, but at least he has some fresh lies.

Anyhow, I like the refreshingly honest corruption here. It is less corrosive to the soul than the more subtle corruption where you are.

A spring garden we do not yet have. We woke up this morning to snow flurries. Yes, I am absolutely with you on Armando. I used to go to the Casa de Maryland to look for Latino workers. I was a good boss – I speak good Spanish and I pay well – and enjoyed the pleasure of working alongside them. And no, my kids never learned to do a damned thing physically. The best favor my dad ever did for me was to get me to dig out the basement so he could put a garage under our house on Gladys Avenue. A summer of physical work at the age of 13 was a wonderful thing, as was the feeling of accomplishment when I got the job done. Eddie will not miss out on this opportunity.

With regard to Naomi, if this relationship still looks strong in six months or so I intend to volunteer that we are here as her extended family. Raising a kid is a crapshoot in any case. We have a house that is built for kids, and I should tell her that we will back her up if she goes out on a limb and has one. It would not be difficult for us to raise a second one, and a grandchild would be welcome.

Here's to our good wives. Every time I clean up a mess that is not mine, or get reprimanded for something silly like not microwaving Eddie's cereal before giving it to him, I grab myself mentally and tell myself how lucky I am. Perfect does not exist, and I don't see anybody who has cut a better deal in life than I have. I of course have to tell myself that because I certainly am not going to get another chance.

Let me close with that. I invite your feedback on the long disquisition on evolutionary psychology and cultural Marxism. I intend to use it again.

Graham

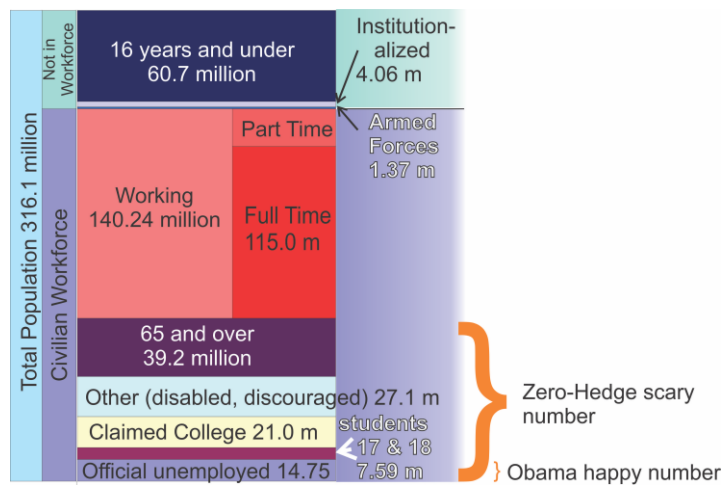
ANCIEN Liars to the left of me.docx 6/15/2015

Liars to the left of me, liars to the right

Libertarian blog Zero-hedge is making a big deal out of the fact that labor force participation rate is only 62.7 percent, having fallen rather continuously since the year 2000. Disaster!

Obama is crowing that unemployment is down to 5.9% Whoopee!

What am I to make of this? I tried a chart. Try to pigeonhole everybody in the population. Nice idea, but it is impossible. Trying, however, leads to some wisdom.



The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the number of people employed. This is backed up by payroll company ADP and the IRS. The numbers can be fudged, but not too much.

Equally reliable are the number of people not in the labor force: kids under 16 and the number of people in prisons and institutions and the Armed Forces. I would quibble that our soldiers are employed and our jailbirds unemployed. Fine – but at least we can count them.

Below that (on the chart above) it gets murky. Kids between the age of 16 and college are generally in an undefined status.

The claim that 21 million people – that's almost eight years' worth of high school grads – are in college seems exaggerated. Without doubt, a good number of them are claiming student status, perhaps to knock down student loans, rather than simply admitting they don't want to work. Conversely, lots of bona fide students work. The numbers are fuzzy.

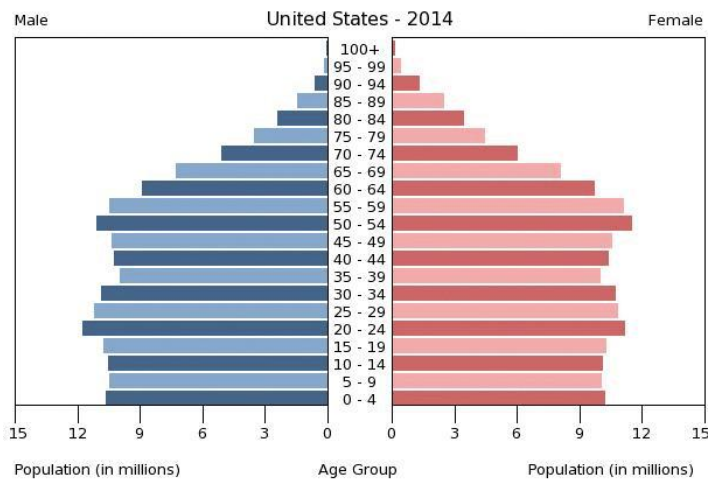
Lots of people over 65 continue to work. At one point I was a retiree, a PhD student and an employee simultaneously. Assuming that people over 65 are retired makes the numbers work, but it doesn't represent reality.

The 5.9% unemployed are people actually looking for work. They are a distinct minority of the people without jobs. The people not looking – disabled, discourage, etc. – make up twice as many by my arithmetic, 27.1 million.

When one makes intelligent guesses about the number of retirement-aged people who continue to work, students who are also working, and so on, it leaves the number of bums – people who aren't studying, retired

or working, in the neighborhood of 60 to 70 million. That's almost 2/3 as large as the number of people employed full time. The work ethic, one can safely say, is a relic of the Americana of former times.

The demographic outlook isn't promising. Boomers are retiring – see the population pyramid below – with fewer people in the succeeding generations to pay taxes to support their PAYGO Social Security and Medicare.



There is a shift in attitude. The millennial generation isn't as successful as their predecessors, which is why older folks are able to deny them jobs by avoiding retirement.

There is a shift in demographics. The founding stock Anglo Saxons, successor European immigrant stock, Asians and Jews who run the place are just not having enough kids. Those kids there are in the bottom tiers of the population pyramid are increasingly of traditionally less successful minorities. US K12 education is becoming majority minority this year. It takes a cockeyed optimist to assume that they are capable, and willing, to support us Anglo retirees in the style to which we have accustomed ourselves.

I would love to see somebody from either camp of liars, left or right, challenge my numbers. The major difference between mine and theirs is that I readily admit that mine have to be wrong. Question – what is right? Larger question – how will you pay my Social Security in twenty years? Largest question of all – how will the American republic, and my grandchildren, survive?

M2016- Mentor article.doc 12/7/2010

There is a need for mentors in business. Powerful people build networks of trust and competence. Supports their power, and builds the next generation. Plants powerful friends in new organizations.

Also a generation of consultants. Path in western business: you get good, and if you are good enough you rent your time via McKinzie, Booz Allen or others.

Ukraine is missing its generation of mentors. People who came of age under the Communists (roughly, those who were born before 1975 and therefore finished their schooling by the end of communism) did not, by and large, either learn business skills or the virtues of mentoring.

Ukraine is run by a new generation, top level managers in their 30s and even 20s, who are largely self-taught. Moreover, there

There is no trust. Thus, very heavy on family, and on joint culpability. Like the mafia, can't trust you unless you are a "made man." compromised enough that you cannot back out.

Universities: ICU, Wisconsin, MAUP. Secrets, deals, mistrust.

Either you blindly do as you are told, as a functionary, or you allow yourself to become complicit and to rise to the top. One way you don't know, the other you can't tell. In either case you can't afford to look to outsiders for advice. Problem of running SCM, etc. Frustrating for both advisors and clients.

The people you know as students seem as idealistic as ever. You cannot imagine them as oligarchs. Then... give them some power and you see a change. There is a marked sense of privilege. Coffee cups that say "the boss." Email "theboss@xxxx.com" and presumption to cars, junkets, etc. Help themselves to stationery, misappropriation of volunteer time (UARP).

ANCIEN Modern democracies intrude into citizens.docx 5/29/2014

Modern democracies intrude into citizens' lives far more than monarchs ever dared. That's the view of writers such as Alain de Benoist and Trenton Fervor. The major concern of the typical monarch was hanging onto his crown. He had to placate and hold off nobles who might aspire to usurp it and keep the peasantry satisfied enough not to switch allegiances, and sufficiently healthy that they could serve as soldiers. It was wise to leave them alone otherwise.

Modern bureaucratic states have little to fear from usurpers or invaders. In the popular imagination politicians have only to fear being voted out of office – but even that is a chimera. They may experience defeat, but they do not suffer from defeat. They mark their time selling access as lobbyist or corporate executives, acquiring healthy bankrolls along the way, until they can return to office. Bureaucrats enjoy lifelong sinecures.

All of the best respected so-called democracies are run by entrenched elites. However corrosive their words for each other, their conduct demonstrates an elaborate professional courtesy, a live-and-let-live approach. They almost never, for instance, send each other to jail for even the most egregious offenses. Jail is for common people. Why, you might get raped there! There is also a mutual understanding as to how fortunes are acquired in politics, and a willingness not to question each other's sources of wealth.

Governments propagandize their citizenry from grade school on up about the benefits of democracy. Children learn that they are ruled with the "consent of the governed." Not that anybody offers them a consent form to sign. They later learn that paying taxes, performing military service, observing extensive and often nonsensical rules about where a person is allowed to be, what he is allowed to ingest, and how he is allowed to drive are also "by consent." Lastly, they learn that there are many things they are certainly not allowed to say, and wise not even to think. Many observations that were no more than everyday knowledge to their grandparents' generation are now called "hate speech." Do you question the number given for victims of the Holocaust, six million? Do you question the wisdom of gay marriage? Do you wonder how many rapes are actually committed on campus, and even worse, who commits them? Better shut up before they lock you up.

Over the past couple of centuries the economic freedom afforded by modern democracies (and fossil fuels) allowed business to realize extraordinary increases in productivity. Democratic societies created vast wealth. While much of it flowed to the entrepreneurs, a great deal remained with the working, merchant and professional classes as well. It began to appear that freedom from want and from fear of catastrophe could be made available to everybody. In any case, politicians observed that promising as much would get them elected. It was simply a matter of skimming from society's wealth, those with money to spare, in order to provide for victims of bad breaks.

Unfortunately, assessing bad breaks involves considerable moral hazard. It is hard to say no to a supplicant, even when the problem is manifestly his own fault. Saying "yes" actually benefits the people charged with saying "no." The government, in its role as middleman, has had to hire an army of bureaucrats to handle the redistribution. Their very jobs depend on the problems, and there is no way they intend to see any of them solved. More and more learned to take rather than provide for themselves, and the skimming has become painful for productive members of society. Margaret Thatcher quipped "the problem with socialism is that you quickly run out of other people's money."

The justifications given for this plunder have resulted in some of the worst abuses of freedom. It is not enough for government to simply say that it is redistributing from citizens with the ability to make money to those who lack it. Productive people might have complained that it was unfair – which it was. Government was therefore obliged to make excuses, concoct a rationale, a reason why the unproductive people are that way. In cases where there are obvious reasons, such as a physical handicap, they exploit them to the fullest. Otherwise, they contend that the unproductive are somehow the victims of the more productive.

Thus, blacks and Hispanics have become presumed victims. The most obvious abuses, such as slavery, are in the distant past and not at all unique to the putative victims. They were certainly not universally suffered by the supposed victims or their distant ancestors, and many other ethnicities also suffered slavery and discrimination. Nonetheless, government blames these minorities' failure today on these events of yesterday. They also go out of their way to invent offenses that they assert are taking place today, such as the "invisible knapsack" of "white privilege."

Government makes same types of claim on behalf of women, gays, and any other class of people whom it benefits the bureaucrats to identify as victims. The homely and the obese are seeing their day come as well. The hierarchy of talent and respect that stood for centuries has been upended. The Jews, however, the perpetual outsiders, who seem to have had a hand in all this upheaval, appear untouched. They remain in the seats of power. A deeper look at their inability to reproduce their people and their culture, however, shows that they are the greatest victims of all of their own success, if such success can be accurately attributed to them. Jewish identity is dissolving through intermarriage and their bloodline is thinning through homosexuality, adoption, and a simple aversion to having children.

Blaming the productive members of society – white men are the archetype – certainly makes them less productive. They cannot hire whom they want to get their business done, choose to live among similar people, or choose private social arrangements among themselves. They can lose their jobs and even be imprisoned for the imagined crimes of racism, sexism and anti-Semitism, thought crimes against which nobody could mount a defense. They cannot impart their knowledge of how the world really works to their children, lest the children carelessly let slip some forbidden truth which brings upon them the wrath of the authorities and the scorn of their "better informed," that is, more highly indoctrinated peers. Public schools and universities do not serve their children well. The curriculum is paced according to the ability level of the disadvantaged, out of the forlorn, eternal hope that they may someday catch up. College admissions discriminate against them for the same reasons.

Of course, granting perpetual government favor to those not favored by God or nature is expensive. They breed – the normal disincentives to bearing children have been removed. These populations become more and more dependent on government. Government, in turn, continues to invent new ways to buy their votes. Poor people are invited to immigrate (and vote for the leftist parties). People too young to work are perpetuated in their adolescence, paid to attend institutions of supposedly higher education (and vote for the leftist parties). The catalog of identified disabilities continues to grow, giving people who are unwilling to work an excuse not even to try (and vote for the leftist parties).

It has long been impossible to balance the budget and at the same time buy off these constituencies. Almost every rich democracy is running an unsustainable budget deficit. The United States, through heroic efforts, has brought the ratio of expenses to revenues down from 4:3 to 5:4. To paper over the difference, all governments create money out of thin air – and claim that there is no way it will lead to inflation. Per capita debt in most rich countries is far greater than per capita annual income. Righting their budgets is a mathematical impossibility, eventual collapse a certainty. The politicians' game is to milk the system as long as they can, and pray that somebody else takes the blame when it all collapses.

Everywhere, those who can do so dip their hands into the public till. Plunder is subtle in rich countries. Obama awards the Obamacare computer contract to a friend and major campaign contributor; an acquaintance of Hillary Clinton "advises" her to buy an option which results in a several thousand percent overnight profit; George W. Bush was persuaded by campaign contributors to revoke Glass-Steagall, which curbed banking abuses. However, international surveys such as those by Transparency International and the World Bank show that despite all it remains considerably easier to do business in the big democracies.

There are a few benighted corners of the world in which the despots are content, just like royalty of old, simply to hang onto their crowns. As every nation must, they call themselves democracies, but the leaders of the "true" democracies sneer at the very pretense. These lesser "democracies" show no subtlety at all in their rapacious theft. Businesses are nationalized, and then privatized to the privileged at the drop of a hat. Tax police may investigate a company relentlessly, until the owner finds it in his best interest to sell out, for a song, to a crony of the president.

Sober leaders of the Western powers, people like that paragon of ~~fiscal personal~~ virtues Dominique Strauss-Kahn, constantly lecture leaders of the lesser democracies on the error of their ways. Moreover, they don't lend them much money. The supposedly smart leaders of Western institutions prefer to loan to the crypto crooks in charge of Western democracies rather than the conspicuously crooked leaders of second-class nations. This has the happy effect of forcing the latter to live within their means, more or less. Argentina has renounced its foreign debt, several times. The citizenry is not on the hook to pay anything back. Ukraine's national debt is only about \$2,000 per capita – less than 1% of that of many Western European nations.

When the day of reckoning comes, when it becomes too patently obvious to all concerned that the sovereign powers can never repay their debts, all countries will be stuck with the two historically inevitable alternatives: renounce their debt, or inflate it away. Either the bondholders – that would be pension trust funds, by and large – suffer a default, or inflation dissolves the pensioners' purchasing power. Either way they lose, along with Medicare, food stamp and other government beneficiaries. Meanwhile, those benighted lands with small debts, mostly to the West, should be able to shed even those obligations amidst the general chaos. They will certainly face disruptions as world trade falls, but their currencies and economies, already rock-bottom, may perversely, hold up better than their more elaborately structured, and hence more fragile, counterparts in the more developed countries.

Moreover, these sham democracies leave the people alone! Argentina is in many ways a very free country. The government is so busy making a complete mess of the economy that people are free to do as they will outside of the political realm. The same is true of Ukraine. As long as you don't make the mistake of getting between the pigs and the trough, you have few problems.

In Ukraine we can talk on just about any topic without fear of jeopardizing friendships or losing jobs. Do the races differ in average intelligence? Do Jewish interests have an outsized impact on politics and foreign policy? Is it wise to persuade women to excel in the workforce rather than raise children? Should the advocacy of homosexuality be allowed in schools? I am pleased to say that one can have a conversation on any of these topics in Kiev without being peremptorily shouted down.

The level of medicine here is quite good – especially if you pay for it. Socialized medicine is such a sham that even ordinary people bribe the doctors to get ordinary service. If you are willing to pay a hundred dollars a visit out of your own pocket you get outstanding service. An English friend with osteoporosis needed several steel pins to fix her broken leg here. The Pakistani and even English doctors at National Health were impressed at the quality of the work. Kiev is a medical tourism destination for dentistry, fertility and transplant services.

This erstwhile worker's paradise isn't unionized. Bus drivers drive, waiters wait, and builders build for market wages, and they don't strike. Buses, trains, trolleys and taxis are old, but they are well maintained. The metro costs 25¢ per ride. They plan to raise it; 40¢ seems to be the most people will pay. The ridership is middle class. If a rider smells of urine, or acts rowdy, he will hear about it. There aren't any minorities permitted to live outside the norms of civilized behavior.

Kids here grow up more or less normal. Schools do not infuse them with propaganda. Nobody tells them that "white privilege" accounts for where their parents have arrived in life. Materially, they are much less well off than Blacks in America or Western Europe. Spiritually, however, they do all right. They are mostly members of supportive communities of people like themselves. Most have loving parents, and grandparents to fill any gaps in the love department. They grow up healthy and hetero. The high level of overt heterosexuality here must be an affront to gay-prideniks everywhere.

Two opposite forces are bringing the populations of rich countries down. Meaningless jobs, for those who have them, create a vast amount of stress. Conversely, the increasing fraction of the populace that has no job finds life all the more meaningless, an endless cycle of watching TV and cashing welfare checks. The society is becoming sour and cantankerous. The young people don't trust their own skills. They depend on government, but don't really trust it. They seek escapes from this uncomfortable reality in drugs, alcohol, video games, television, and sex divorced from any notion of procreation. Unhappy with themselves, uncertain about their security, they avoid the responsibility of family.

For every four Americans of working age who work, there are three who do not. One in four of those who work are part time. 80% of all US jobs are in the service sector, and many of them require no special skills and pay abysmally. 20% of workers do not make enough money to pay taxes.

The West has been persuaded to conflate material well-being with physical and spiritual health. It doesn't work that way. The centuries-long increase in lifespans, especially for women, appears to be coming to an end in America. We are becoming obese. With obesity comes less activity, and with that comes a decrease in physical well-being and self-esteem. Meanwhile, in backwaters with traditional diets and some combination of folk cures and old-fashioned medicine, people seem healthier. They walk a lot. Many have physically demanding jobs. They spend much of their free time working in their vegetable gardens. Although Latin America and Eastern Europe are infected with television, fast food and video games like the rest of the world, remnants of their traditional culture keep them more slender and more socially cohesive than the richer countries.

The enlightenment dream that a well-chosen government could make its citizens happy has turned into a nightmare. Governments everywhere operate in the best interests of the governing class. The average citizen is better off adopting the cynical wisdom of the ages. Take care of yourself and your family. Don't expect anything from government – avoid contact with it as much as possible. And, given that everybody must live under some government or another, choose one that is too inept to curtail the liberties that matter, such as your freedom of thought and speech, and freedom to raise your children as you choose. Choose despots smart enough not to press the citizenry so hard as to foment a rebellion, tolerate their plunder, and be content with what they leave you. We humans are a productive and resourceful lot, and it doesn't take much to survive.

ANCIEN My safety.docx 11/9/2013

Lots of people wrote this week to ask how I am. I was gathering my thoughts in this piece, overtaken by events as the government seems to have collapsed just as I finished writing this piece.

The short answer is that we are doing, and were doing just fine.

My problem at the moment there is a two-year-old who is jealous that I'm talking to voice recorder, and is interrupting me. I have sent a number of you a map. Let me put it in words. We are across the river from the center of the city where all the fighting is going on. The river is about half a mile wide, and we are 3 miles away. As I think I've written before, we are in a real backwater, a rural enclave surrounded by the city. We are more than a mile from any big buildings in any direction. We're cut off from vehicular traffic on the west by the river, and on the north and the east by a railroad. This has been a problem in general, because we have to go three miles south in order to connect with civilization. In this instance that looks like a pretty good situation. Nobody is coming here to look for us.

Our major vulnerability is electricity. We use well water and a septic system. It all operates on the power grid. However, if the electricity goes out other people will have a much worse time than we do. Where people live in apartments, between 10 and 20 stories high, they absolutely depend on their elevators. If the electricity goes, there would be an awful lot of immobilized grandmothers, and great general outrage against the government that shut it off. Also, we have a barbecue and a kerosene heater so which comes to worse we will survive. We lost power for stretches of up to the day throughout the winter and got along okay.

The Metro did not work for four days. Nothing wrong with the Metro. The excuse is that they wanted to avert terrorist threats. The real reason was quite obvious. Protesters used the Metro to get around the city, and the administration wants to immobilize people. To that end they have also periodically blocked roads, shut down the gas stations, and yesterday they shut down the banks. I don't know what that would do; make it harder for people to buy sandbags? Except for the branches in the center of town, mine is open again today. Yesterday I changed money at 8.92 hryvnya/dollar; it is a bit lower today.

It appears to me that the major effect was to bring the economy to a standstill. I have two housemates, and Yurii and Polina. Yurii he wasn't able to get to work yesterday. Paulina went, and she said is only about half the office was there, and they didn't get much done. Everybody was glued to their streaming video on Internet.

You are concerned about me. Let me tell you about the guy I was concerned about. Michael Bedwell is a 79-year-old Englishman who lives at the corner of Khrushchevskovo and Khreschatik streets, right behind the Dniepro hotel. That's right on European square, the absolute center of the fighting. He is across from the Ukraine house, the museum being used as a medical facility to treat injured demonstrators.

Michael had trouble getting in and out of his house. He says that he faces intense interrogation by the police every time he goes home. However, given that he is an older foreigner, they don't take them to be much of a terrorist and they let him go. In any case, Michael has been living with in this apartment since he got back to town to weeks ago from a trip to Burma. I told him that he should get the hell out, come live with us. He said yes, in due time. He's coming over today, ironically, after the threat is over.

Michael experienced the London blitz a few years back. He was in the Navy and is a hard guy to faze. That may explain some of my attitude as well. I lived in the cities of Danang in Saigon for four years during the Vietnam War. When I first flew in in 1968 I remember being somewhat apprehensive as I looked out of the windows of the 707 that I would be seeing anti-aircraft rockets coming up to greet me. However, in the four years I was there nobody ever shot at me. There were a few explosions around me, but no gunfire that could have gotten me. I became kind of used to what one must do living in a war zone. And that's how I feel right now.

One of the things to think about in this standoff is how limited the president's options have been. His major force is the better equipped Berkut, the special police. These are his bully boys. They number only about 4000. They are trained riot police, and their major tactic is the Roman one called the turtle. They move forward in a phalanx with their heavy shields in front of them and break through the crowd. So they advance and retreat as a group. This avoids bloodshed, and it will clear an area when it works. However that doesn't hold up fairly well against really determined line of defense, and he is not very good for occupying ground. There are not enough of them to really take over.

The other widely deployed force are called titushkis. These are ne'er-do-wells, young men who are recruited from the bars the fight clubs in the streets of the of the villages, which is the political stronghold of the president. They are paid about \$30/day to cause trouble. They have been a fixture in this administration. In this case they have been brought in by the busload. There are supposedly three busloads in one hotel about 5 miles from here.

There was another interesting story about a busload that was waylaid in the town of Cherkassy, about a hundred miles south of Kiev. The residents of Cherkassy saw that it was a busfull of young men headed toward Kiev and they simply immobilized the bus. They somehow stopped it, took the wheels off and left it right there with these young men in it. In another story from yesterday, a bus full of young men was observed on the outskirts of Kiev. Locals stopped the bus, forced the young men out, made them wade into a knee-deep pond barefoot, took the \$30 plus whatever other money they had, gave them back \$5 apiece and told them to get the hell out of town. Which they did.

I may have mentioned that there are condemned houses in the path of the future metro a half mile from where we live. Occupied by Gypsies, if at all. As Oksana and I were out walking this morning a guy in a small SUV stopped to tell us that titushki were going looking for places to stay, and the neighborhood was organizing to resist them. He asked if there were any abandoned houses on our block; we said, no.

Housemate Yurii bicycled through the center yesterday to get his car. The metro wasn't working. He says he saw more than 100 titushki on his way, less than a mile from the center. They were carrying sticks, but mostly just goofing. Taking cell-phone pictures of each other and so on. He biked through them without incident. He said there were people on the sidewalks. It wasn't like a gang war or anything.

Friend Mark says there were a lot of titushki in Poznaky where he lives. There they broke store windows, burned cars and just raised hell. His neighbors formed an ad-hoc association of more than 100 men to patrol the streets and keep them at bay. They cornered one guy such that he had no option but to run across the ice-covered river. He went in. There was a firetruck right there, by pure chance, and they pulled him out and took him away.

I find these incidents very illustrative. People throughout the country are disgusted by what's going on, and they will take measures to thwart this government. It also shows a proclivity to avoid violence. On hearing the instance of the immobilized bus, I pictured them setting fire to it and killing the thugs as a warning to others not to get involved. They did not do that. Nor did the young men spill out of the bus in a panic and look for a fight.

I feel that restraint has characterized this entire confrontation. Significantly, it ended the day after government forces started shooting Kalishnikovs indiscriminately into the crowd. Several ranking officials deserted the president's Party of Regions, and the government collapsed. The wonder is not that 100 people were killed, but that it was so few. There were many thousands of people on both sides. The government certainly had the resources to arm their people, and the civilians are not totally unarmed despite a European no guns policy. Despite all, the use of firearms has been quite limited. So it is kind of a kabuki battle, or an old Chinese warlord battle going back and forth back and forth with a lot of symbolic movement, but not a vast amount of real violence.

Which brings me to another topic, that of the media. The media don't have any very exciting wars going on at the moment. It's true, if you want to look for bodies you have to go no further than any city in Africa and you'll find quite a few. They are still cutting each other up butcher shop style in Congo and Rwanda and places like that. That's not news. It's news when Europeans are going at each other. So however restrained the violence here, it's the best they've got, and the media played to the hilt.

Media attention puts pressure on the European and United States governments to do something. They really have nothing to do. I see both as spent forces, well overextended by their own budgetary problems, their involvement in the Middle East and elsewhere, and ineffective in any case. Moreover, as we learned from the intercepted telephone call with the lovely language that that our American girls use these days, the United States government just doesn't know what to do. The message that I took from this intercepted phone call was how impotent the United States is in the face of all this. We only know the leading players with party affiliations. We don't know the people on the streets. There was no talk of how to get money to these leaders to these party leaders because that's not really what they need. They need supporters they need cohesion. And that was what Nuland talked about – her perception of who needs to be in charge. Incidentally, I agree with her. The fact that she and I agreed means nothing, because the leaders themselves don't listen to either of us. Now that it appears the issue will be resolved in the Rada (parliament) these elected faction leaders become more important. I hope they can work it out. I don't see much role for the US to help. Maybe they can come up with the \$15 billion that Russia seems to have withdrawn. That will help the bondholders, who in turn helped the corrupt regime by bankrolling it. It wouldn't pain me whatsoever to see such bondholders hung out to dry. Argentina survives despite stiffing its creditors four times in the last couple of decades; why not Ukraine?

It does not appear to me that the United States could have swayed things much by smuggling in armaments, and if they did they would escalate the violence and put themselves in very bad odor. The same is true of Russia, which with its long border with Ukraine could do so more easily. I don't think that we want to get into a contest with Russia's in attempting to arm one of their neighbors. You may remember that such a strategy didn't turn out very well in Georgia a couple years back. I don't think that the United States can contribute very much in the way of intelligence gathering either. And there's nothing much that electronic intelligence can pick up that Ukrainians cannot gather on their own. Something that the United States doesn't know, and nobody else knows either, is how the situation will play out, knowing the intentions are of each of the players. It is a truly murky situation. It's one that would call for good human intelligence and diplomacy. The United States is not proven itself to be terribly adept at either of these.

One of the observations to take from the situation is how poorly the Russians have done. For instance, an activist kidnapped a couple of weeks back and held for 10 days or so before being released. He was severely questioned while in captivity. However, the questions revealed that his captors didn't know much at all about the situation. Finally they way they let him go after he gave some nonsensical answers. There was another instance in which a somebody turned up claiming to have been a Western Ukrainian activist who incited all sorts of violence. He was widely interviewed on TV talking about the atrocities that the activists were perpetrating. But he spoke with a very identifiable Russian accent. So finally the interviewer, a few minutes into the interview asked "where are you from" and he said Rivne, a Western province. So interviewer asked, "okay and what's the capital of Rivne?" There is a city named Rivne and he said Rivne. But as any Ukrainian would know, the capital of a Rivne Oblast is Lutsk. It's hard to believe that the Russian their level of spy tradecraft had sunk so far from Soviet standards to commit an error so obvious.

The bottom line. Although the United States and Russia, and presumably the Europeans would apparently like to be involved, they simply don't have tools that are useful. Money is not going to be tremendously effective, bringing weapons into the system would not be, and they don't have much to give them the way of diplomacy and intelligence. I think that they are both consigned to letting it play out among the Ukrainians. That's me is the best solution, the only thing that will result in the in anything permanent or meaningful.

I've been an advocate of a theory of government, or rather technologies of government. The monarchy system ran its course in the 18th century. We witnessed the end of the warlord system in Vietnam: the communist system was simply more effective way of organizing and motivating people than what we supported in South Vietnam. Of course we attempted to put a patina of democracy over the warlord system, but it didn't fool anybody. We lost.

What we see in Ukraine is a strong man, thuggish system. It is a legacy of the Soviets, which is itself descended from the Mongols, a strongman rule, always from the top down. This government is not effective because it cannot delegate that authority effectively. In the warlord system you don't really trust your subordinates because if you give them too much power they will displace you. You have a tendency to appoint people around you on the basis of loyalty rather than ability.

This president is not a very smart man. He has surrounded himself with people who do not cast him in a bad light. In other words, some fairly dull tools. They are simply not effective at getting things done. Every action they undertake appears to be rather ham-fisted. Their thefts are blatant, crude and very destructive for what they realize out of it. The measures that government took to attempt control those insurrection were also crude, inclined to irritate people and inconvenience them, but not to deter them.

A president such as Yanukovich could formerly survive by keeping people divided, ignorant and propagandized. However, that simply does not work in Internet age. Kiev is full of young professionals who are well-educated and well connected and reasonably well-informed. They simply look at him as an embarrassment. Yanukovich supposedly does not even have a computer in his office. He doesn't know about the times. It is not know about the people he is governing. This disconnect weakens him a great deal. People simply don't have respect for him and if they don't respect him, they don't fear him.

What will be the successor government? Western democracy is not that attractive of a model. People here envy the affluence of the West, but there's not much in the political system that they really would adopt. They observe the paralysis of the financial systems, the banking system, and the wide unemployment. They don't want that. They look at the political correctness, and the enforced diversity, and they don't like that either.

People in Ukraine are socially very conservative. And even among the young the educated young people that I know, there aren't any people who advocate homosexuality. They advocate tolerance for homosexuality, but they still look at it as a perversion. One that they will put up with – but a perversion nonetheless. So they look at the West as being relatively sick, wealthy as it may be. So I don't think that there's a widespread aspiration to emulate the Western democracies. One hopes that Ukraine will select a government that is consistent with the needs of the country.

The governments of the West are no longer suited to the needs of their populations. Our representative democracy evolved in an era of much smaller more homogeneous populations, better educated populations, and one must add, populations that were on the average, smarter. With the influx of immigrants and the lowering of educational standards, the dysgenetic breeding whereby the smartest people don't have kids and the dumb ones do, a representative democracy doesn't work. We simply don't have voters of the caliber to demand high levels of honesty and accountability among their representatives. So the smart guys are taking over, and the small guy is getting squeezed. If you can't figure out what kind of mortgage you can afford, or that you can't afford that new iGadget, the banks will eat you alive. It is happening throughout the West. People are unhappy, angry, but they don't know exactly what to do.

I see a change happening here in Ukraine, with needed improvement coming with the departure of the oligarchs. Unfortunately I also see a collapse coming in the West, as the elites have arrogated most of the financial power for themselves become less and less responsive to the people. They will eventually take so much that they are they foment a rebellion and are done in by their greed. The argument that Ukraine's

government was "democratically elected" didn't save it. The process was scarcely any worse than the supposed democracy by which the US elects legislators who do not represent the people. I don't expect that the patina of democracy will long save the unrepresentative representatives in Western governments.

Every country in the West is running a budget deficit, most of which appear to be beyond any hope of control. They are printing fiat money at an increasingly great rate. There is debate as to whether this will result in inflation or deflation. I side with the people who expect inflation, because increasing the money supply has always ultimately ended in reducing the buying power of each individual unit of currency. Whatever the reason, the money they get spread it gets distributed to the through the banks to the wealthy, and increasingly benefits the wealthy at the expense of the hoi polloi. The people may not be smart enough to explain why, but they know that they are being screwed. No salary increases, no meaningful interest on their savings, patently manipulated financial markets, and vast increases in the cost of education, food and other necessary expenses.

This is the sea change. The people of the Former Soviet Union are intelligent, educated, and finally well enough informed to demand a more transparent, representative government. Conversely, the countries of the West are being dumbed down by policies that encourage immigration and the fertility of the less intelligent. They are no longer capable of sustaining representative government, and are increasingly governed by elites who make only cursory, sporadic and symbolic tribute to a democracy which in fact disappeared long ago. We can pray that nationalist parties in Europe may take their countries out of the European Union and the Euro, renounce their debt, dismiss their immigrants and resume their fertility. These actions seem highly unlikely. The best bet for Western civilization appears to be with countries such as Ukraine whose despots have protected them by making them unattractive targets for immigrants, debt and gender confusion. As Eastern Europe establishes democracies, one hopes that they take a hard look at what failed in the West and avoid our mistakes. They must maintain the ethnic integrity which assures a high level of social capital. They must avoid policies that permit people to avoid the responsibilities of work and family. They must continue to raise their children to be proud of who they are, to be like their parents. However irrational belief may appear to Richard Dawkins or Sam Harris, a solid grounding in Christianity supports all of the foregoing. They should retain that as well.

ANCIEN Not worth the effort.docx 5/16/2014

Not worth the effort

Switzerland has managed to stay out of the war since Napoleon's time. Their secret is simple. They are not worth the effort. Switzerland is a mountainous country with few natural resources. Every man in the country is trained as a soldier and has a weapon. Conquering Switzerland would not be worth the effort.

There are other countries that are likewise not worth the effort, although their enemies sometimes realize it only too late. Afghanistan has been the death of the British, Soviet and perhaps American empires. Napoleon and Hitler should have avoided war with Russia.

I like to think that is now true as well of Ukraine. Putin would be stupid to invade. Now, how stupid is he?

War has changed in several ways over the past century. The most obvious is the atomic bomb, the doomsday machine. Any country that truly feels that its back is against the wall could decide that it had nothing to lose by nuking its opponent. Once thinkable atrocities, such as the Nazi plan for a Ukrainian genocide to form "lebensraum," or the Soviet's actual murder of about six million in the Holodomor, have become unthinkable because of the possible retribution.

A more subtle change has been the vast growth of world trade. The Soviet Union could afford to ignore world opinion because it was entirely self-sufficient. Russia, on the other hand, depends on the export of natural resources. They import equipment, technology and even technologists to support their energy businesses.

Putin's aggression in Ukraine has forced hard decisions in many places, first of all Russia, as countries reassess doing business with unreliable partners. Economic isolation will be expensive.

Information binds the world even more tightly than trade. Barbarism even in remotest Africa elicits worldwide condemnation. We not only hear about acts of savagery, we see them on film and see interviews with the perpetrators. Groups like Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army are international pariahs. The United States' wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Russia's wars in Georgia and Ukraine, and China's uprisings among the Uighur and Tibetans create significant PR headaches. Being perceived as a bad world citizen carries very real costs, among them a government's reputation among its own people.

Unfortunately, not every despot is fully capable of assessing his own self-interest. Napoleon and Hitler's miscalculations about Russia cost not just vast carnage, but their empires. Ukraine and the Baltics emphatically do not want to become Russian again. Lenin himself explained why back in the 1920s:

The proletariat cannot but fight against the forcible retention of the oppressed nations within the boundaries of a given state, and this is exactly what the struggle for the right of self-determination means. The proletariat must demand the right of political secession for the colonies and for the nations that 'its own' nation oppresses. Unless it does this, proletarian internationalism will remain a meaningless phrase; mutual confidence and class solidarity between the workers of the oppressing and oppressed nations will be impossible.

The Ukrainians have had enough of being "Little Russia" and "New Russia." No, they want to be Ukraine. They demonstrated as much as they threw off Putin's puppet Yanukovich in Maidan, and they defied Putin's meddling in the recent elections. The evidence is that they will be more trouble than it is worth if Putin makes yet another attempt to make them Russian. Let's hope he is smart enough to see that.

ANCIEN Notes from a lecture by Timothy Snyder on Ukraine.docx 10/07/2014

Notes from a lecture by Timothy Snyder on Ukraine

I greatly enjoyed Timothy Snyder's 2010 book *Bloodlands* and have followed his commentary on the Maidan Nezelezhnosti demonstrations and the subsequent Russian invasion of Ukraine.

An observation I had not heard before is that Poland experienced a Renaissance. Never part of the classic world, it was not a rebirth of anything they had known, but the same currents ran through Poland as through Western Europe. The Renaissance even affected Ukraine.

Ukraine is located between East and West, and has always suffered on that account. From the mid-1500s it was dominated by the grand Duchy of Lithuania, putting it firmly in Europe. A century later the Cossacks rebelled against their Polish-Lithuanian masters and wound up siding with Muscovy, putting Ukraine firmly in the Russian Empire.

While in the Russian Empire, they tended to look at the Poles as representative of Europe, in Europe as the enemy, although they flirted with European ideas themselves. Ukraine was ready to join Europe before the red Army established its grip in the early 20s.

The Soviets initially attempted to bring that Ukraine into the Soviet Union through a system of inducements. Ukrainian intellectuals were fêted in Moscow, and Ukraine enjoyed a measure of independence. This ended in 1930 with forced collectivization, which Ukraine resisted strongly. After that followed the Holodomor and the great patriotic war, making Ukraine the deadliest place on earth for more than a decade.

Snyder said that the 1970s were the most significant era in recent Ukrainian history. Ukrainian born Brezhnev attempted to integrate all levels of academic, scientific, and commercial activity using the Russian language throughout. Ukrainian was no longer taught in school.

Since independence Ukraine has been pulled alternately east and west, depending on the short-term calculations of the oligarchs in charge. Only with Maidan did they make a decisive move towards the west, one which impelled Russia to a countermove.

Snyder speaks extensively about a Eurasian union without ever defining it. A Google search shows something less than grand – the customs union of Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia. Russia was trying to get Yanukovich to get Ukraine to commit to it, but he never succeeded. Whatever the case, a "Eurasia" composed of such weak parts could never be a counterweight to the west.

Russia's economy is roughly the size of France. It cannot challenge the European Union in economic terms. He says that Putin's strategy is to undermine the European Union, bringing it down rather than building Russia up.

The part of the strategy is to support the nationalist parties in Western Europe. He names the United Kingdom Independence party, the national front in France, Jobbik in Hungary and others. He says it is a supreme irony that Russia on one hand rails against fascists in Ukraine, of which there are none, and supports the right-wing parties everywhere else in Europe.

He says that the aim of the right-wing parties in Europe is to fragment, to split their countries. In this I disagree with him. The nationalist parties of France and England are truly conservative in their desire to return to the national character of those places prior to the European Union. The European Union has brought massive levels immigration from the Third World, and massive levels of public debt. The conservatives want to return to the former national character, when the average Frenchman was a Frenchman rather than an African.

My observation is that the European Union and the United States have favored immigrants over the native stock. It is a question of northern European altruism and idealism run amok – turned against itself. In a reversal of classic standards of free speech, it has become impossible to open one's mouth to question the wisdom of admitting said flood of Africans and Arabs. President of Finland Matti Vanhanen felt compelled to apologize that his father, intelligence researcher Tatu Vanhanen, published a [book](#) to the effect that the immigrants simply do not have the intellect required to succeed in Europe.

The immigrants, and the native stock's lack of fertility, are leading to a demographic and a financial disaster. Government spending is unsupportable and will become more so as the native born workers retire and the immigrants continue to fail to acquire the education and skills that would be needed to take their place.

Snyder observed that Putin that not have any articulated plan. He is simply an opportunist, taking advantage of Europe's apparent weakness. Snyder is disappointed at how evident that weakness appears. Europe is unable to unite in the face of this threat. Snyder also observed, and I totally agree, that the Russians are masters of propaganda. He calls it postmodern, in the sense that they can continue the propaganda despite glaring contradictions among their claims. As an example, they call the Ukrainian government fascist, while Russia itself supports the most right-wing elements in governments throughout the rest of Europe. While preparing for the lecture I had planned to attend today, I ran across [this striking piece](#) of propaganda that includes most of the threads to which Snyder was referring.

I would ask that Snyder answer for himself what is the appeal of the right-wing parties in Europe? They have been growing quite rapidly, and certainly doing so without Putin's help. My short answer would be that they represent the white man. Putin also represents the white man and traditional values. It's a pretty powerful, gut level argument.

The European bureaucrats represent unlimited immigration, untraditional sexuality, unsustainable levels of debt, and suppression of free speech by anybody who would question the above. Given the choice, Putin apparently does not look so bad to some large fraction of the citizenry. It may be time for Europe's leadership to reconsider its own values, and bring them back in line with the common people.

ANCIEN Oksana and I took our first vacation without Eddie this week.docx 03/03/2014

A 48 hour vacation in Ternopil, Western Ukraine

Oksana and I took our first vacation without Eddie this week. Anna, who has been living with us for about a month now, covered for us as we went to Ternopil in Western Ukraine.

The six o'clock fast train got us in at noon. I splurged for first class – all of about \$30 per ticket. We had the car pretty much to ourselves and a very solicitous and doctors came by on the hour to offer us tea and coffee.

Oksana called the car rental company from the train to reconfirm our reservation. They told her that the taxi from the train station to their location, about a mile away, should cost \$1.20. That was an introduction to the amazingly low wartime prices outside the big city.

It took us almost an hour to execute the rental contract. I still have it – six pages long! They photocopied every document we had. They work without credit cards. I left a \$400 cash deposit for the car. Oksana took advantage of the long negotiation to quiz the other guy in the booth on what there was to see and do in the area. She had a full page of notes by the time we were ready to go.

I was apprehensive – this was the first time I had driven in more than three years. We went slowly, slowly at first. We stopped at a restaurant on the way out of town. Driving in Ternopil reminded me of driving in Vietnam. There were narrow streets, lots of pedestrians, and people coming at you at odd angles. It was hardly the ideal circumstance to reappoint myself with driving. We parked and went in to get something to eat.

The second story restaurant overlooked our parking place and I could see how precarious it was. People were having to squeak by our car very carefully. I bolted my lunch quickly and told Oksana she could go shopping, I was going to move the car before it got hit. And so I did. Oksana went to the grocery store and got a bag of travel supplies and we got on the road.

I had insisted that we buy a paper map. Although our marriage contract says nothing about it, one of the most attractive features one can find in a wife is an ability to navigate. Oksana did well. She was able to read the street signs, follow the map, and tell me where to go. Most of the time – street signs in Ukraine are an iffy thing even for a pedestrian.

Her fourth and most viable ability is to accost anybody and ask any question. We stopped the car every 10 minutes to ask somebody for directions.

Let me add a fifth quality. Discernment. People in Ukraine will provide an answer whether or not they have information relevant to the question. Oksana is able to figure out when somebody is answering the question out of knowledge, and when they are answering simply to be polite. She knows when to stop somebody else and get a second opinion.

In any case, we headed north up to our supposed destination, the Pochaev Lavra, the second most impressive church complex in Ukraine.

About 15 miles up the road was a town that was mentioned in the guidebook, which the fellow in the car rental had also recommended to Oksana. It is a 17th century castle in the town of Zbarazh (pronounced zzzbarrage). It was a proper castle, with the moat, a deep well that they used to fill the moat and for drinking water during sieges, and a residence. The epoch of its construction marked the end of the fortified castle – cannons were too effective at knocking them down – so the owners focused more on increasingly fancy houses. This one had marble floors and a lot of ornate curved furniture. Still seemed cold and uncomfortable.

Most interesting to me was a small museum. It seems out of place to put an archaeological Museum in a castle, but so it was. They had stone artifacts from the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic ages. Their definition of the timescale was a little different than I recalled, so I just looked it up. The ending dates are 10,000, 7000 and 4000 BC by their reckoning.

The Paleolithic stone tools were large and crude. You don't kill a mammoth with a bow and arrow – you trick them into running into a ravine and doing themselves in. Ironically, it was small game that required the better stone tools of the later ages. They had arrowheads, daggers, fishhooks and other pretty refined stuff. The museum included the bones of mammoths and other prey animals.

Oksana observed that history is a history of slaughter and cruelty. Yes. The things they considered worth displaying all seem to have to do with warfare, culminating with suits of armor and cannons. Somewhere along the line they got better at agriculture, but it wasn't documented here. I observed that Oksana's stature and blonde good looks didn't come from rice farmers. It was those savage, cruel Norsemen who dominated Europe a thousand years back.

We continued north to Kremenets and then turned west to Pochaev. Road signs being what they are, we missed the turn we intend to take. When we arrived at the first one marked "Pochaev" it looked to me as if I had my choice between going against traffic on either of two lanes. Rather than make that choice, I took the wrong direction and looked for a place to turn around. I took a hard look at that intersection going by it from the other side, and it still did not make sense, but we were on our way.

We got to Pochaev with enough sunlight left to take a very thorough walk-through the place. Like the Pechersk Lavra in Kiev, it consists of a large number of churches and chapels. Whereas in the West there will be one huge building, like Notre Dame or St. Peter's, Orthodox holy sites feature numerous large but not overwhelmingly big chapels.

The largest of the chapels seems to have services continually. This is another difference between the Orthodox and Western faiths. People do not sit during the service, and they are free to walk in and out. It is all ritual and ceremony – there is no sermon, and there is very little participation from the worshipers. There are one or two pieces of music that they all know, one of which I think is the Lord's Prayer.

We walked to our hotel which is about half a block from the Lavra. As the restaurant closes at seven o'clock, we had missed dinner. We weren't hungry in the first place, so we ate a few cookies in our room and went to bed.

We had a leisurely morning Friday. The hotel did not open for breakfast until nine o'clock. Oksana wanted to go back to the Lavra one more time, so we spent another hour walking around and seeing pretty much the same things we had seen on Thursday.

Among the things that Oksana had heard was worth visiting was the spring of Saint Anna. It is a small oasis in the middle of nowhere where the water has supposedly miraculous powers. It was about 20 miles north, bringing us into Rivne Oblast.

There is nothing natural about the spring anymore. It is totally walled in, like a swimming pool. The bottom is natural, which is presumably where the water seeps in. It is about three feet deep, with steps leading into it so that pilgrims can send to the water. The sign says that the water is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit year round. I do not know of what that would cure me of except perhaps a hangover, but three or four carfuls of people during the hour we were there we actually went in the water. You can undress in a changing room and go down the stairs, or else dip yourself in a secluded corner behind walls, presumably without any clothes on.

I found the place where they served tea and told Oksana I would wait. Two long cups of tea later, there she was, radiant and beaming about the rejuvenating experience. I was ready to get on the road. We took off our warm clothes in the car, turned the heat on full blast, and pointed it all at Oksana so she could dry her hair.

The third time we touched the town of Kremenets we actually drove through it. The tour guide said that the only thing really worth seeing was the old castle, the only one in all of Ukraine which had withstood the Mongol attacks in the 13th and 14th century. It had, however, fallen to cannon fire in later centuries, and was thus a ruin.

As we drove through town, we saw this impressive castle upon a hill to our left, and a while later we saw the sign for the road. We couldn't resist an indication like that so we went. Although the hill couldn't have been more than about a thousand feet above the highway, it took us 15 minutes to get there.

Walking into the castle one is impressed by the surrounding countryside. The hill is the tallest one around, and there are a great many species of trees. I recognized some of the pines and firs, but there were others that were totally new to me. The guidebook said that this is indeed a national park celebrating Ukraine's wilderness. They pointed out that the rugged landscape is due to the place's geological history. It is all sedimentary rock, but as often happens there is a layer of hard rock over a layer of softer sediment. The hardpan dissolves rather unpredictably. When it does, it results in steep cliffs as the soft layers underneath are rapidly eroded. That was what we saw – flat-topped mountains with fairly steep sides.

It had started to rain a little bit when we left from Kremenets. I wanted to get rid of the car as soon as possible, so we drove straight through to Ternopil. All things considered, it worked out pretty well. Try to envision a two lane highway going through the gold country of California 60 years ago, and you have an impression of the quality of the pavement and the traffic density that I was dealing with. There were, as always, slow trucks. I needed to pass periodically. Passing on a two lane road in the rain has always been a fairly dangerous undertaking. However, I felt just as confident as I would have 50 years ago.

Returning the rental car was almost as much of an adventure as getting it. They inspected the whole car top to bottom, inside and out, make sure that there wasn't a scratch. To their credit, they did not invent any scratches, and decided to return the full \$400 deposit that they were holding. The car had gotten dirty in the rain, and they charged me four dollars to wash it. The whole process of giving a back must've taken 45 minutes.

We had eight hours until the train. Oksana and I consulted our map and decided to walk through the city park. It is an absolutely beautiful place, stretching for a long ways along a lovely stream about the size of Rock Creek in Washington DC or Wildcat Creek flowing through Orinda.

Upstream from the park this river is restrained by an earthen dam about 15 feet high, behind which there is a lake a couple of miles long and half a mile wide. Somebody had the wisdom not to build the road along the lake front, but simply a wide, paved pedestrian path. It is gorgeous, set with a very nice playground and a few restaurants. We had sushi overlooking the lake where we watched a replica of a Viking ship – a very small scale replica – with about 10 oarsmen making pretty good time up and down the lake.

We dawdled in a pedestrian square on our way back to the train station, and caught the 10:45 sleeper back to Kiev. We got in at seven in the morning, overpaid for a taxi, and got home in time to change for the Toastmasters club meeting that Saturday morning.

I'll close with a few additional observations about Ternopil. Everything is amazingly cheap: restaurants, taxis, and hotels.

Africans are much more visible in Ternopil than they are in Kiev. God knows why they are there, but they are. They are clustered in downtown, hanging around in languorous knots, shambling loosely and loudly down the streets. My guess is that some of the powers that be in Kiev succumbed to pressure from Europeans to take refugees, and they put them in a place that was too backwards and powerless to resist.

Ternopil is definitely Western Ukraine. They do not speak Russian, and they don't seem to want to hear it. I was very glad that Oksana, with her excellent Ukrainian, was there to conduct most of the business. When I needed to get something done, I found English to be almost as useful as Russian.

This 48 hour vacation was a good experience in many ways. Perhaps the best is that after about 36 hours Oksana was saying she was ready to go home. We really are homebodies. However, the next time we feel the urge to get out it is a pretty good bet that we will take another vacation in Ukraine. Though the guidebook doesn't make the places it names sound terribly exciting, once you were there you find attractions that aren't even mentioned. I was happy to discover as well that Oksana is a pretty good navigator and well as always, she is fun to be with.

ANCIEN oligarchs.docx 12/05/2013

Ukraine's temporary President has acted decisively, bringing in two oligarchs to govern volatile Eastern oblasts. Thanks to the Kyiv Post for unlocking their content in this hour of crisis – you can read the full thing here.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/business/oligarchs-step-in-to-save-ukraines-sovereignty-338116.html>

The article notes the significance of this move. The oligarchs have business interests to protect. They can be expected to defend their own interests as the defend Ukraine. They certainly know the opinion leaders in the areas they will govern, and this will be a decided advantage.

Not mentioned in the article, but very significant, is the fact that one of the ways Yanukovych lost power was by alienating these men. Taruta lived up the street from my house. One night about two years ago the tax police stormed his house, shooting live ammunition, in order to seize his records and place him in some sort of detention. They went after Kolomoisky's airline interests in a savage, illegal, and also stupid and clumsy way. Kolomoisky had time enough to hollow out the company before Yanukovych's "family" got it. Passengers were vastly inconvenienced, and they didn't forget. Yanukovych lost support of the oligarchs and goodwill among the people.

Kolomoisky is the founder of the European Jewish Union, headquartered in London. It rather rudely displaces the far better established but less well funded European Jewish Congress. That's how things are done here.

In the lawless 90s there was a bloody gang war between Jews and Muslim descendants – Tatars and others. Read "Abuse of Power – Corruption in the Office of the President." The Jewish mafia was pretty much wiped out. Many Jews, mafia and other, fled to Israel or elsewhere.

The small remaining Jewish community long vacillated, opportunistically supporting whichever thug seemed appropriate. Vadim Rabinovych touted Yanukovych for a Nobel Prize four years ago. Yanukovych paid several Jews, notably Alexander Feldman, to stir up fears of anti-Semitism in order to discredit the nationalist Svoboda

Party. There were three editorials written about whether how one Svoboda member referred to Mila Kunis was pejorative or not.

In my opinion, it is a smart political move to appoint a prominent Jew, one abused by the old government, to the new government. Kolomoisky appears, among other things, to be a bright and capable man. We know he has the self-interest and the connections. Maybe, sobered by the treatment oligarchs received at the hands of both Yanukovich and Putin, he has matured into a Ukrainian patriot. It is in his self-interest, and one hopes, that of Ukraine.

ANCIEN Once we realize government isnt the solution.docx 08/16/2012

Introduction

The West appears headed for disaster. In every developed nation the generation coming of age is encountering the same problem: they simply are not needed. Not for jobs, not to serve their societies, not as parents. Even were they needed, they are woefully unprepared.

At the same time, every Western country finds itself sinking deeper into debt as a result of redistributive social policies. Almost all have run significant budget deficits for years, and most are well past every historical estimate of unsustainable debt to GDP ratios. They survive by printing money. Through their willingness to support each other's lies, and the gullibility of their citizenry, they have so far gotten away with it.

Politicians and most journalists focus on what can be done about any given problem. They don't deal well with problems that have no solutions. Yet, the problems that beset the developed world are clearly in that category. Government cannot solve them. Government intervention postpones, but ultimately exacerbates them. When governments fail, it will be up to us as individuals to cope with them. Moreover, if our grandchildren are to be anything like us, we will somehow have to live through the problems as families and societies, whether or not the present geopolitical superstructures under which we live remain in place.

The mildest prognostications assume that present governmental systems and social arrangements will endure. All they need is help getting over the current rough patch. Our leaders advocate Band-Aid solutions like Quantitative Easing, in the (stated, if not believed) expectation that all will soon again be right, and that the citizenry can be mollified at least until the present generation of politicians leaves office.

Stronger prognostications call ever more loudly for measures such as secession from the United States, a return to the gold standard, and abolition of the European Union and the Euro. Their advocates assume that the populations are viable, but greatly in need of shedding excessive and burdensome government, and returning to fundamentals.

The problems nobody wants even to voice, because they have no solutions, are numerous. One is demographic. Western nations have experienced, invited even, a staggering ethnic diversity that will be impossible to undo. They have endorsed many decades of dysgenic policies, resulting in fewer people, especially fewer highly capable people, in each successive generation. Industrialization and computerization has fundamentally changed the workplace, reducing the job opportunities, even eliminating the need for labor contributions from the growing percentage of unexceptional individuals.

Tensions are building through the profound disconnects among:

- The value of different individuals' contributions to society,

- The shrinking ratio of highly productive to less productive members of society
- The fraction of productivity available to support government and the unproductive
- The debt that is being accrued to paper over these differences.

The chances of an explosive release of that tension seem relatively high, and assumptions we might make with regard to the continuity of governments and social arrangements after such a release are probably optimistic. We are thinking in the wrong frame of reference, government. The real question is, how will we survive as individuals, families, and communities?

The history of the problem, beginning with the Agricultural Revolution

Hunter gatherers have always lived close to the edge. There are no stores of excess wealth in tribal society. Without agriculture, there is not much mechanism for creating wealth. Nonetheless, some hunter gatherers can achieve quite an advanced age. They live fairly healthy lives in their forests where the biggest foes they have to fight are carnivores, disease, and the greatest threat of all, their fellow man.

With the advent of agriculture we started to live in towns and cities and we started to accumulate stored wealth. Agriculture is a more efficient way of amassing the calories to feed ourselves. Soon we were building houses and warehousing excess grain.

There had always been leaders in tribal society. Somebody needed to make the decisions and lead the efforts of war and defense. Now, with stored wealth, the leaders had some material to work with. The king could appropriate wealth from one set of members of society and use it to pay other members to serve as warriors, or builders, or whatever purpose he wanted to put the labor. We see that leaders of some very ancient societies such as the Babylonians and the Egyptians found enough excess labor in their civilizations to build huge monuments to themselves.

The upshot was that while the average man may not have lived much better, he was more productive. Government managed to sweep away the bulk of the fruits of that excess productivity, and spend it to the glory of the governing class. This established a pattern which has remained unbroken through the history of civilization. Despite all, the common man's lot has slowly improved.

Roman citizens, if not their slaves, had quite nice material surroundings. When one visits Roman ruins anywhere, such as the distant outposts in Germany, one finds the floor plans of the houses look like they would be livable by today's standards. Sanitation and baths were not at all bad. Better than a child's summer camp of today.

Material well-being has improved gradually and unevenly through the ages. Houses became larger, diets became more varied and trade brought more goods to the common man. And kings were always able to appropriate some of the surplus from society either to their own use, building grand castles and living in a sumptuous style, and/or expanding their kingdoms through warfare. The amount of wealth that was available to support armies was quite impressive.

The Industrial Revolution

Since the Industrial Revolution, our excess productivity has so far outstripped our needs that we were able to expand our populations at a rapid pace. This explosive population growth ended in the 20th century in Western Europe and North America. In Latin America it has slowed rapidly over the last two decades, and it appears to be slowing even in Africa and in the Middle East. The innovativeness of European and North Asian peoples allowed all world populations to expand and to improve their material lot.

There have been several accelerating trends since the dawn of the industrial age: productivity, the size of government, and the erosion of individual self-sufficiency.

Productivity allowed per capita consumption to rise, even if the average person doesn't do the consuming. This was true with the harnessing of chemical energy in the 19th century, and it is especially true with the automated application of algorithms through the programmed computer in the 20th, to automate repetitive jobs.

Marx described the dehumanizing effect of 19th century capitalism on workers. The capitalist first invests in plant and equipment. It takes entrepreneurial skill to organize the capital and the skills required to build a factory. It takes skilled planners and craftsmen to construct the buildings, the machine tools, the transportation and communications connections. Once complete, this capitalized labor repays itself many times over in increased productivity.

The newly productive worker less often has to plan or to deal with exceptions. Even though the factory's overall productivity was many times that of an equal number of craftsmen, working in a factory demanded fewer skills of the individual. The premium for intelligence was diminished... no special wit was required to succeed on a factory floor. Pay relative to other strata of society diminished accordingly, although productivity has facilitated a significant increase in absolute pay, that is, buying power.

Capitalists and workers both benefited from increases in productivity. The biggest beneficiary of all, however, was government. It quickly learned to appropriate the excess wealth. They armed and fought wars, as always. Moreover, the bureaucrats expanded their purviews by finding hitherto unrecognized needs for government services.

Government education grew dramatically around the turn of the 20th century. Income tax was introduced in the USA in 1913. In the first part of the twentieth century government began to interest itself in public health, retirement income, healthcare, unemployment insurance and support of the disabled. Progressives trumpeted a "social gospel" to the effect that society was productive enough that none of its members should be left in poverty. As they attained some of their objectives, progressives added others. They decreed that there should be a minimum level of support for pensioners, and there should be universal medical insurance. Nobody, however little they contribute to the common weal, should have to die or be forced into penury because of their medical problems.

All advanced democracies expanded the level of economic security they offered their citizens. It was good politics, an idea whose time had come. In democracies, the beneficiaries usually constituted a voting majority. Socialist regimes, democratic or not, purported that they represented the interests of the common man.

In the West social programs were financed through taxes on business and individuals. Under communism the state assumed the role of the capitalist, on the assumption that surplus wealth generated through superior organization of resources belonged to all the people. In all Western societies there was some mix of public and private ownership. Communications and transportation, natural monopolies, tended to be public, and factories private.

At the dawn of the computer age, the last third of the twentieth century, the populations of Western Europe, North America and North Asia were far more prosperous than at any time in their history. Taxes generally amounted to somewhere between 30% and 60% of middle class income, yet what was left after taxes was adequate for an enviable lifestyle. Tax monies nourished flourishing bureaucracies.

It is the nature of bureaucracy to expand to consume the resources available. Individuals in government have a constant desire to increase the size of their fiefdoms and thereby acquire more power and income. The process feeds on itself. People outside government have few tools to curtail its growth. Every program finds a constituency in the private sector which is enthusiastic about seeing their sector of government grow. Farmers benefit from food giveaways. Defense contractors benefit from wars. Poor people benefit from

increased social programs. Technology companies benefit from the war on cancer, war on AIDS, and the war on drugs. Whatever merit such "wars" have, they benefit careers inside government and investors in companies doing business with government.

The computer revolution

On the productivity front, computers have ushered in a second revolution. The Industrial Revolution had created a workplace which generally required no special skills or intelligence. The bulk of the thinking had been done by the people who designed the factory in the first place. Management handled the rest, with the intent that the factory hand would not have to call on his own judgment very often. A century-old Navy expression captures the idea clearly: "Designed by geniuses for execution by idiots." Today, computers are advancing that concept with a vengeance.

In printing, the Linotype operators for newspapers had to be highly skilled. Each key they pressed resulted in a metal die falling into a tray, these trays to be manually arranged into an entire newspaper page. A mistake setting a line of type was quite expensive to fix.

Reporters had adopted typewriters around the turn of the 20th century. Every article wound up being typed several times: by the reporter, the editor, and again by the Linotype operator. But in the 1960s computers eliminated the duplicate effort. They could store the story as typed by the reporter, after which the editor could merely change what was stored in the computer. The last step was to create a punched paper tape version of the article to drive the Linotype machine, quickly and without errors. The revolution eventually eliminated the jobs of highly paid, highly unionized workers. It didn't just make their work mindless, it made it unnecessary. In the decades since the whole process has become seamlessly integrated, and the paper medium itself has become obsolete.

Computer automation is having similar effects in most spheres of business. Retail groceries use automated cash registers to control inventory. Computers send a message automatically when the shelves need to be restocked. The computers tell the suppliers automatically when to send groceries to the store. The groceries are picked automatically within a warehouse and assembled by machines to be loaded on trucks. Computers tell the truck driver what route to take, when and where to buy fuel. The numbers and skills of people involved continue to fall dramatically. Self checkout, eliminating checkers, is one of the latest innovations. As I write this, Appleby's restaurants are installing 100,000 "E a la carte" tablet computers at their restaurants, replacing waiters as order-takers and check-presenters. Their jobs will be reduced to bringing food. Even that, one would think, could be easily handled by robots.

Computers are making a strong push into areas which were thought to be immune to automation, such as medicine and education. A doctor can dictate medical notes just as I am dictating this article. His notes become part of an electronic medical record, and may also be used to form prescriptions for a patient and to drive patient billing. Artificial intelligence, exemplified by IBM's Watson, is being used to help doctors make diagnoses. Computers are being used to perform surgical operations. Even the most highly paid specialists, if they perform the same skilled operation over and over, are in danger of being replaced by machines. The only people who appear indispensable are the people who instruct the machines how to do things in the first place. This is capital investment in the 21st century: telling machines via computer code how to perform repetitive processes, however complex.

Automation has totally eliminated a number of jobs. Not just dumbed them down, but gotten rid of them. Middle-class citizens with no special education or skills, and nothing exceptional in the way of intelligence, find that there are fewer and fewer jobs that are suited to them. Eighty percent of Americans work in the service sector, many for low wages as clerks, cooks, and drivers. Computers are applying relentless pressure even in these sectors.

The problems are permanent

People have lost the skills their ancestors possessed. Most cannot work the land, build houses, fix their own cars, or do the other things that would be required to sustain themselves without the support of the advanced civilization around them. Their labor is redundant, superfluous in the society as it is structured, and they do not know how to go back in time. Less developed societies retain an advantage. In the backwoods of Honduras or Ukraine the common man still knows how to build a house, dig a well, and raise food. They may not be highly productive, but they have the self-esteem that comes with the ability to perform needed work.

Agitators and politicians lead us to believe our stagnation is due to some sinister plot by bankers, plutocrats and the other political party. Jobs are being sent offshore, financiers are ripping off the common man. This is unlikely a conscious plot, but simply the confluence of a number of trends:

- The two-century-old trend towards industrialization
- The half century old wave of computerizing repetitive operations
- The dysgenic secular trend in intelligence. Within all races and ethnicities, the less intelligent are having the most children. Among ethnicities, the more intelligent are having the fewest children overall. Herbert Spencer's prophesy of a century and a half ago has been fulfilled: "The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools."
- The diminishing quality of education, the result of less capable students, less capable teachers, and diminished classroom discipline resulting from changes in the norms of society.

The net is that a shrinking percentage of the population is needed to do, or even capable of doing, things that their fellow man needs done. Productivity has made human labor increasingly unnecessary. The superfluous people are smart enough, however, to recognize that they are not needed. Their vain attempts to invest their lives with meaning through drugs, alcohol and violence and other antisocial behavior, announcing their presence rather than passively whiling away their lives in front of the boob tube, is part of the problem. If we were honest with ourselves, we could offer them some form of Huxley's soma rather than a war on drugs.

A related question is, what needs to be done? What does a person really need in order to survive? Taking into account the great increases that have been realized in productivity, how much labor does it take to meet a human being's needs?

Our most fundamental need is housing. A \$200,000 house is certainly adequate for the average American family. The house will last 50 years or more. The capital cost, in present dollars, would then be about $200,000/50 = \$4,000$ per year. If labor costs \$20 an hour, it would take 10,000 hours' capital investment to house a family (manufacture all the materials and build it), or 200 hours of labor per year.

Agriculture has become vastly productive. Crop yields have increased and machinery has greatly reduced the number of people required to feed the entire population. The American farm population has fallen to about one percent, and yet they produce enough to feed ourselves and export a good deal as well. By the simplest arithmetic, if one person works 2,000 hours per year, and one percent of the population is able to feed everybody else, then the per capita labor expended to grow food is about 20 hours per year. The labor expended processing and distributing that food may be several times greater, but all in all it probably takes no more than 100 hours of labor per year to feed a person.

The same kinds of arguments can be made for transportation and communications. Due to the vast economies of scale of modern enterprise, it does not take that much labor to provide a single person with everything he needs in life.

Taken altogether, by virtue of our collective productivity we should be able to live adequately working quarter-time and lead comfortable lives indeed if we were to work full time. However, strong countertrends appear to

have prevented that outcome in most parts of the world, and reversed or at least stalled them in the industrial democracies.

One countertrend is that we have maintained the rough equation between labor and rewards. The Industrial Revolution served to reduce labor from the level of skilled crafts to repetitive factory operations. The computer revolution accelerated that trend, and eliminated the need altogether in many cases. Modern societies have more labor than they need. A significant function of modern governments is to attempt to arrange income streams for people whose labor is not in demand. In the United States they do this by providing loans to students, food stamps to the poor, medical care to the indigent, unemployment payments, outright welfare, and disability. For all that, however, the truly productive minority continues to receive a disproportionate share of society's income.

A second countertrend is consumption-related debt. Very few individuals are free to manage their own lives, having encumbered the proceeds of their future labor to feed current desires for consumption. Most people do not have financial freedom. This is a significant shift from a half century ago, before the advent of revolving credit, when most debt was in the form of home mortgages and auto loans. The debt was generally to local banks, which held the notes, handled their own collections and were liable for defaults. Government was not generally involved in initiating or guaranteeing such loans, and especially not in dictating loan policy to banks. Fifty years ago debt was in the form of private contracts between what was assumed to be two rational parties. People didn't generally contract for or receive debt they could not support. Government has since stepped in to question the motives and mental capacity of both borrower and lender, and almost forced the majority of citizens to become debt slaves.

A third countertrend is the growing appetite of government and private sector entities that depend on government. A large fraction of society's production is confiscated through taxation and reallocated to serve the supposed public good. The reallocation is almost invariably inefficient. The bureaucrats are numerous, well paid and not very effective. The private sector companies contracted to carry out government programs are likewise inefficient. Their incentive is not to satisfy their ultimate clients, the taxpayers, but the government agents who oversee them. Government oversight is generally weak. The civil service system is not designed to select on the basis of specific talents, the incentives for doing outstanding work are weak, and pleasing the politicians serves them better than serving the beneficiaries. Most sectors of the economy have coopted government to some degree. Those in which the government is most heavily entwined – banks and medicine, for example – are manifestly inefficient. Other sectors such as education and defense are for the most part creatures of the government in the first place.

The trend lines are coming close to crossing

For several decades already the productive subset of the citizenry of every western country has been under increased pressure. They are declining in numbers: Sarrazin says that in Germany there are roughly half as many grandchildren as grandparents among ethnic Germans. The brightest of those who might be productive have been drawn into unproductive sectors of the economy such as government, banking, and finance. Although increases in productivity have allowed the economy to grow despite their loss, inflation-adjusted average income and per capita GDP are relatively stagnant as an increasingly lower fraction of the workforce is doing the actual production.

An increasing number of people are coming of age who will never play a productive role in society. In many countries their numbers are augmented by unskilled, often illegal immigrants. They suffer greater lacks of education and even basic intellect than prior generations, at a time when the overall number of job openings in the productive sector is shrinking, and those that remain demand increasing levels of both intellect and education. Politicians in Europe and America deplore this "lost generation" as if it is something government policy could fix. It appears, however, to be for the most part an unavoidable result of demographics on one hand and technical advances on the other.

Politicians, journalists, and all who influence policy are obliged to be optimistic. They do not talk about problems that cannot be solved. They steadfastly ignore the wisdom of their grandparents, substantiated by a century of intelligence research, that different ethnic groups differ significantly in average intelligence. They refuse to believe that the workplace changes brought by industrialization and computerization are permanent and irreversible. However, as Philip Dick wrote, "Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, does not go away." We appear to be on a collision course with a few awkward realities, chief among which is that the majority of the population in advanced democracies is economically either superfluous or parasitic. When push comes to shove, and it becomes widely recognized that society does not generate enough excess wealth to support everybody, some will be left out. It will be painful.

Government policy has so far not remedied any of the above-named problems. Government is aggressively expanding, in the belief that it can attract smart and selfless civil servants who can reorder society and put things right again. Their refusal to acknowledge insoluble problems, and formulation of policy as if they could be solved, has only made matters worse. Immigration policy imagines that the unassimilable can be assimilated. Education policy assumes that the unintelligent can be educated. Labor policy assumes that the jobs which have been taken over by automation can somehow be recovered or replaced, stimulating a renewed need for human labor. None of that will happen. What then?

When empires collapse

It is impossible to predict what will happen when an old order – ironically, in this case, the "New World Order" - collapses. Predictions about the collapse of the Soviet Union, post-Soviet society and the post-Soviet world order were all dramatically wrong. Most predictions are constrained by the obstinate refusal to abandon cherished principles. A prognosticator loses his audience once he puts aside the belief in democracy, the equality of ability among human populations, the belief that most humans are capable of performing useful labor within some productive sector of society, the belief that most humans are smart enough to manage their own affairs, and the expectation that there will be no revolutionary change, that future governments and social orders will evolve smoothly from the present. Yet those scenarios seem, upon reflection, among the more probable.

Predictions that violate these expectations will simply not be read. However, we as individuals need to be prepared to survive in any eventuality. Those who accept the credo of the Abrahamic religions, that our purpose on earth is to "be fruitful and multiply", need to prepare their children and grandchildren to prosper in what may be a very different world. When it becomes impossible to envision any way to preserve the present order, it is necessary to project disorder. The challenge is not to fix the present system, but to survive whatever succeeds it.

[ANCIEN Open letter to children.docx 11/07/2014](#)

Open letter to my estranged children

dear children:

The world you have grown up appears about ready to change. You grew up in a time of affluence, in an affluent suburb, with the illusion that it was a world of plenty and the world's greatest problem was an unequal distribution of that plenty. And of course, there were people who should be blamed for this inequality, people like me. The comfortable times are coming to an end, and with them, your comfortable biases and the comfortable lives that support them.

The peers and teachers you encountered in your affluent world reinforced this perception of inequality. Perversely, just as you strove to demonstrate that you were above the common run of people so you would be

admitted to elite colleges and get the most prestigious jobs, you insisted that whatever it was that held other people back, especially every type of minority, could be nothing other than prejudice.

You searched your souls looking for prejudice and of course found none. It had to be the prejudice of others, especially your parents. You absorbed an entire politically correct vocabulary which woefully misrepresents the world but insulates you from anything that might erode your self-esteem. You branded those of us who refused to succumb to this newspeak, this willful misrepresentation of the reality which surrounds us all, with a rich lexicon of derogatory words happily provided to you by Marxists. To provide a very partial list, in alphabetical order: anti-Semite, capitalist, creationist, elitist, fundamentalist, hater, patriarchy, privileged, racist, right-winger, sexist, social darwinist.

I'm using the format of an open letter to address you

Upcoming crisis

"dumb" givers vs "smart" takers. The coming imbalance.

Marxist education. Working for "the man."

Systematically rejecting responsibility. Work, parents, children, society. Has it made you happy?

Slovenly personal habits. Smoke, pudgy, no exercise, foul mouthed, and sometimes too much dope and drink.

Not talking to me. Usually successful dad cuts off ne'erdoowell son, not vice versa. Nothing I did, just who I am. Can't talk with me about world issues because you don't know. Can't talk about personal issues because you are too sensitive. Not only hide from me, but from your friends as well. Not visible on Facebook.

Their free ride: school, university, language study, unemployment, food stamps. Dad paid for it: bought 2114, put it into 2120, put that into an educational trust. Put dad's money into an insurance trust from which you each got \$43,000. Any gratitude? No!

Judith Rich Harris - 15% of environment. 50% genetics worries me. Teaching you that the whole world is entitled, and that includes you, is poisonous. If you are all privileged, who's paying the tab? Don't you feel guilty mooching?

[ANCIEN Our last chapter.docx 09/10/2011](#)

Our last chapter

The past century has witnessed the confluence of several major streams of civilization. From the European tradition comes the spirit of individualism and altruism. From the North Asian and Jewish bloodlines come intelligence and industry. Wedding the two, we have created a strain of super-humans. Our upper strata include the most productive people ever.

However, in abandoning tradition for individualism the Orientals and Jews have rejected the former sense of obligation which would have compelled them to bear children and raise them in their own traditions.

Universalizing European altruism, we impute to the children of others the virtues which our own children might have had. Had we had them.

Our highly evolved intelligence appears to have pushed us into an evolutionary cul-de-sac, rather like the Irish Elk, done in by their magnificent but unwieldy oversized antlers. We are too smart to be bothered raising children, and we have used our superior intelligence to convince ourselves that it doesn't matter.

In the sweep of evolutionary history it doesn't matter. Peoples and civilizations go extinct all the time. In the saga of our own history, however, it matters a lot. It appears that we are writing our own last chapter.

ANCIEN Our Toastmasters club conducted its meeting in native languages today.docx 07/17/2013

Our Toastmasters club conducted its meeting in native languages today. It was a change in culture as much as language.

Every one of the 20 people present had an opportunity to speak in the language of their choice, Ukrainian or Russian. Six spoken Ukrainian, the remainder, including some whom I know to be native Ukrainian speakers, chose Russian. The most significant thing is that the language makes little difference to them. Everybody who spoke Russian could be certain that the Ukrainian speakers would understand them. The reverse is pretty much true. A couple of people use both languages in the course of the meeting. The woman who led the impromptu speaking session conducted at and Ukrainian, but most of the people who spoke chose to answer her questions in Russian. To them it is all the same. It is a problem only to us foreigners, who primarily speak Russian if we speak anything at all.

Toastmasters is a quintessential American self improvement organization. It was founded in California about 1920 to help people who regularly needed to speak in public to develop their skills. The meetings have a highly rigorous format: introduce the ToastMaster, introduce three standard evaluators, introduce three speakers in succession, conduct impromptu speaking with somewhere on the order of 5 to 7 speakers, then I have other members evaluate the three prepared speeches and the impromptu speeches, and lastly have the three general evaluators deliver reports on how well the speeches adhered to time limits, any systematic problems the speakers had with fluency, and grammatical errors.

The program is popular with Ukrainians. We have six clubs in Kiev alone. The members are predominantly young professionals, with a smattering of students on the young end and seasoned professionals on the older side. Our club of 40 also has two Americans in their 60s and an Englishman in his 70s.

It was delightful to see the change when Ukrainians are able to speak in their own language. The speeches were really animated and intelligent, much more so than when they have to pass their ideas through the filter of imperfect English. Our club president, who is somewhat wooden in English, delivered an amazingly funny speech in Russian. One of the older members, a programmer, who still speak stumbling English after six years as a member, gave a brilliant impromptu speech on how much he hates the whole protocol of giving and receiving gifts.

Our time discipline absolutely disintegrated. The leader of the impromptu speaking portion of the meeting is expected to hold its 20 minutes. Ludmila went on forever, allowing everybody in the room a chance to speak. Since they were having such a good time nobody interrupted it. After she exhausted the topic of giftgiving, she passed around a box full of folded papers with off-the-wall questions, and gave about seven more people a chance to speak. When I thought it was finally over, she started calling on people to deliver poems. My wife

Oksana did a brilliant job, I gather, as did several other people. Ukrainians are still not at all shy about asking students to do rote memory, and they're pretty good at it.

ANCIEN Paradise.docx 03/07/2015

Paradise

Every day I'm beset with everyday problems. The workers aren't finishing our house. The sink is clogged again. My investments are going down, not up.

I try to envision what life would be like without such problems. It would be paradise. How much would I like that paradise? Our most human faculty, intelligence, would be idle in heaven. We would pass eternity with nothing to do. How boring!

I reflect on this
Billionaires keep working.

People who retire tend to die.

Wide swaths of people put themselves in a do-nothing paradise – welfare and TV.


Paradise is not stable. America for the settlers, Utopia 25. Births, deaths. 72 virgins.

The Islamic texts describes life for its immortal inhabitants as: one that is happy — without hurt, sorrow, fear or shame — where every wish is fulfilled. Traditions relate that inhabitants will be of the same age (33 years), and of the same standing/equal. Their life is one of bliss including: wearing fancy robes, bracelets, perfumes as they partake in exquisite banquets, served in priceless vessels by immortal youths, as they recline on couches inlaid with gold or precious stones. They will eat foods and fruits continuously up to 40 years, every bowl will have a new taste. They will take eructation which will digest the food and there will be perfumed sweating for the digestion of water. Inhabitants will rejoice in the company of their parents, spouses, and children (provided they were admitted to paradise) — conversing and recalling the past.

The food in Jannah is reported by the companions of the Prophet as never rotting and so sweet it will make any person on earth live without feeling hunger forever. The dwellings for inhabitants will be pleasant, with lofty gardens, shady valleys, fountains scented with camphor or ginger; rivers of water, milk, honey and Sharabun Tahoorā (pure drink); delicious fruits of all seasons without thorns;

One day in paradise is considered equal to a thousand years on earth. Palaces are made from bricks of gold, silver, pearls, among other things. Traditions also note the presence of horses and camels of "dazzling whiteness", along with other creatures. Large trees are described, mountains made of musk, between which rivers flow in valleys of pearl and ruby.[2]

Interactions with other people. Is TV paradise? No demands on a person. It has replaced social involvement, homework, meetings, family time.

<p>Three paradoxes at the heart of the collapse of modern civilization</p>	
<p>Mankind's genius for illogic is a fascinating topic of modern research. We find something attractive about both horns of a paradox and fail to register that our beliefs are irreconcilably conflicted.</p>	
<p>We believe in evolution and democracy. We believe in the individual's right to self-fulfilment, but are concerned at the same time for the welfare of future generations. We celebrate equality, while our runaway technology magnifies the distance between the haves and have-nots, or rather, the cans and the can-nots, by leaps and bounds. Embracing both sides of these irreconcilable paradoxes, we are sinking into a quagmire.</p>	
<p>We believe in evolution. Progressives proudly sport Darwin fish bumper stickers and ridicule the bumpkins who believe we are products of a divine Creator.</p>	
	
<p>We believe in democracy – government by the people – which in turn posits the fundamental equality of all people. We fail, however, to grasp that both humans and human institutions are subject to evolution. Evolution rewards inequality - the survival of the fittest. Our attempts to embrace both sides of this dichotomy are killing us.</p>	
<p>Democracy, because it treats all citizens as equals, has been forced into the position of positing that all people are in fact equal. The founding fathers certainly knew better. They constructed an elaborate structure to ensure that the common man's voice and opinion were filtered through those of his betters via a system of republican government.</p>	
<p>The tiered system of enfranchisement has been under attack since its inception. It is always to some politician's benefit to bring in more voters, and the case can always be made that it is mean-spirited to exclude them. In the US the voting franchise was broadened to</p>	

<p>include men without property, then minorities, then women, then mere teenagers, and lately ex-convicts and illegal aliens. The right to vote has been similarly expanded in almost every world democracy.</p>	
<p>Two things have invariably been true. First, there have always been capable people among the disenfranchised. But second, the average level of civic involvement of the voting public has gone down with each expansion. A few criminals and illegal aliens will be well-informed and civically involved voters – but not many.</p>	
<p>Expansions cannot be reversed. Because politicians must attract votes from every enfranchised group across the spectrum, they cannot offend any by pointing out obvious differences. Instead, they find it easier to regard unequal outcomes among individuals sexes and races as evidence of discrimination. Discrimination is the only politically acceptable explanation.</p>	
<p>Democracy has also institutionalized altruism. On the principle that we are all equal, misfortunes are construed as naught but bad turns of fate which could befall any of us. No citizen must be allowed to suffer from hunger, ill health, unemployment or any other preventable condition. Certainly the children of such unfortunates are not to blame for their plight. It is the responsibility of a democratic society to support them, and to go out of its way to "level the playing field." To question such altruism as unsustainable is called heartless. Voices that do are virulently suppressed.</p>	
<p>On the other hand evolution, as defined by Darwin, is the survival of the fittest. It is the process whereby individual differences, about which Darwin went on a length, lead to the differential ability to leave surviving progeny. That is how evolution works. The individuals, the groups, the gene pools which are most successful are the ones which survive and leave progeny and the others become extinct. The fundamental premise is exactly the opposite of democracy: all people are different.</p>	
<p>Genes and cultures coevolve. We nordic types developed altruistic behavior – and genes – because tribes that altruistically supported their members outcompeted others. Ditto the intelligent, hard-working and scholarly East Asians, and the verbally and financially adept Jews. Hundreds of human societies have come and gone over the five millennia of recorded human history. Every group bore more</p>	

<p>children than could survive. The strongest did survive, displacing the weaker. So it continued until the Industrial Revolution and beyond, and the rise of modern democracies. The World Wars of the twentieth century were clashes of titans, competitions between the most successful products of human evolution.</p>	
<p>The horrific bloodshed of those wars gave mankind pause. Moreover, the communications and transportation technologies that these dominant peoples had created reduced the distances between peoples. Western people recoiled at the human price of strife among peoples – that another war could result in the annihilation of all mankind. Now that they could more easily visit and communicate with others, they also developed an appreciation for the humanity of other peoples. The human brain is not very nuanced. We reclassified the global "other" from "not like us – unfriendly" to "like us - friend," from barbarian to equal. That rough computation is also wrong, the consequences of which are playing out today.</p>	
<p>Evolution is working more than ever in today's mating process. The best and brightest of both sexes are selected and thrown together in elite universities and technology companies. When they marry and bear children – if they do so – those children stand to inherit brains enough to succeed in the technological society their parents are building.</p> <p>Unfortunately, however, the elite become enamored of the things they can do with the money they make, and the very process of making it, to the exclusion of having children.</p> <p>Technology means increases in productivity. Doing more work with fewer people. Those few are the ones who are able to read the instructions, communicate intelligently with each other, use computers and program computers. There is increasingly less use for people who do the same mindless job over and over – at the very time the birthrate is growing for precisely these people.</p> <p>Childbearing has been left to the less capable strata of society. Since that feckless lot cannot be entrusted with the responsibility, bureaucrats ever on the lookout for justifications of their existence have taken over more and more responsibility for child rearing. The rising generation, less capable from birth, is conditioned to depend on government largess for everything in life. Democracy dictates that they be</p>	

<p>allowed to vote for that government, which of course they do. They vote themselves more and more of both handouts and government.</p>	
<p>The conflict between the democratic dream of equality and the Darwinian observation that differences among people and peoples are natural, and that they enlarge themselves, is severe and irreconcilable.</p> <p>F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposing ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function." We are not even to first base. We refuse to recognize the paradox. It will bite us.</p>	
<p><u>Genotype vs. phenotype.</u></p>	
<p>Richard Dawkins famously wrote in "The Selfish Gene" that the phenotype – living, breathing animals, the creatures we see, including human beings – are only the gene's vehicles for reproducing themselves. We are here to reproduce. Yet Western thought, starting with the Greeks and cresting with the Enlightenment, celebrates the individual and gives no consideration to the gene pool to which he belongs. Humanity is gored as well on the horns of this paradox</p>	
<p>Enlightenment values celebrate the phenotype. It enshrines the individual's search for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."</p>	
<p>The obvious conclusion is that fertility depends a great deal on one's social arrangements. American, and all Western social arrangements have changed, and our fertility has as well. The question for me is how to reverse this for my descendents. I cannot roll back the political and social tides that have so drastically affected urban society around me.</p>	
<p>We see some examples. Successful groups today include the Amish, Muslims, Orthodox Jews, the Hutterites, and the Mormons. The Gypsies, whatever else might be said of them, are evolutionarily successful – they have large families. What can we learn from them? Is it possible to remain thoroughly modern, enlightened men and still have a culture that encourages fertility?</p>	
<p>It appears that these two principles are at loggerheads. Procreation taxes the individual in the interests of his offspring. It taxes the phenotype to the advantage of the genotype. All of Enlightenment thinking, however, favors the phenotype and takes the propagation of the genotype for granted. Though the flaws in this line of</p>	

thought were obvious to Malthus in the early 19 th century, it was not until the 20 th century, when the secular, democratic ideas of the Enlightenment swept down through all layers of society, that the reality became clear.	
Intelligence and technology. The world is	
<u>Religion vs atheism</u>	

Democracy vs. evolution: a paradox at the heart of modern civilization

Mankind's genius for illogic is a fascinating topic of modern research. We find something attractive about both horns of a paradox and fail to register that our beliefs are irreconcilably conflicted.

We believe in evolution and democracy. We believe in the individual's right to self-fulfilment, but are concerned at the same time for the welfare of future generations. We celebrate equality, while our runaway technology magnifies the distance between the haves and have-nots, or rather, the cans and the can-nots, by leaps and bounds. Embracing both sides of these irreconcilable paradoxes, we are sinking into a quagmire.

We believe in evolution. Progressives proudly sport Darwin fish bumper stickers and ridicule the bumpkins who believe we are products of a divine Creator.

We believe in democracy – government by the people – which in turn posits the fundamental equality of all people. We fail, however, to grasp that both humans and human institutions are subject to evolution. Evolution rewards inequality - the survival of the fittest. Our attempts to embrace both sides of this dichotomy are killing us.

Democracy, because it treats all citizens as equals, has been forced into the position of positing that all people are in fact equal. The founding fathers certainly knew better. They constructed an elaborate structure to ensure that the common man's voice and opinion were filtered through those of his betters via a system of republican government.

The tiered system of enfranchisement has been under attack since its inception. It is always to some politician's benefit to bring in more voters, and the case can always be made that it is mean-spirited to exclude them. In the US the voting franchise was broadened to include men without property, then minorities, then women, then mere teenagers, and lately ex-convicts and illegal aliens. The right to vote has been similarly expanded in almost every world democracy.

Two things have invariably been true. First, there have always been capable people among the disenfranchised. But second, the average level of civic involvement of the voting public has gone down with each expansion. A few criminals and illegal aliens will be well-informed and civically involved voters – but not many.

Expansions cannot be reversed. Because politicians must attract votes from every enfranchised group across the spectrum, they cannot offend any by pointing out obvious differences. Instead, they find it easier to regard unequal outcomes among individuals sexes and races as evidence of discrimination. Discrimination is the only politically acceptable explanation.

Democracy has also institutionalized altruism. On the principle that we are all equal, misfortunes are construed as naught but bad turns of fate which could befall any of us. No citizen must be allowed to suffer from hunger, ill health, unemployment or any other preventable condition. Certainly the children of such unfortunates are not to blame for their plight. It is the responsibility of a democratic society to support them, and to go out of its way to "level the playing field." To question such altruism as unsustainable is called heartless. Voices that do are virulently suppressed.

On the other hand evolution, as defined by Darwin, is the survival of the fittest. It is the process whereby individual differences, about which Darwin went on a length, lead to the differential ability to leave surviving progeny. That is how evolution works. The individuals, the groups, the gene pools which are most successful are the ones which survive and leave progeny and the others become extinct. The fundamental premise is exactly the opposite of democracy: all people are different.

Genes and cultures coevolve. We nordic types developed altruistic behavior – and genes – because tribes that altruistically supported their members outcompeted others. Ditto the intelligent, hard-working and scholarly East Asians, and the verbally and financially adept Jews. Hundreds of human societies have come and gone over the five millennia of recorded human history. Every group bore more children than could survive. The strongest did survive, displacing the weaker. So it continued until the Industrial Revolution and beyond, and the rise of modern democracies. The World Wars of the twentieth century were clashes of titans, competitions between the most successful products of human evolution.

The horrific bloodshed of those wars gave mankind pause. Moreover, the communications and transportation technologies that these dominant peoples had created reduced the distances between peoples. Western people recoiled at the human price of strife among peoples – that another war could result in the annihilation of all mankind. Now that they could more easily visit and communicate with others, they also developed an appreciation for the humanity of other peoples. The human brain is not very nuanced. We reclassified the global "other" from "not like us – unfriendly" to "like us - friend," from barbarian to equal. That rough computation is also wrong, the consequences of which are playing out today. Evolution is working more than ever in today's mating process. The best and brightest of both sexes are selected and thrown together in elite universities and technology companies. When they marry and bear children – if they do so – those children stand to inherit brains enough to succeed in the technological society their parents are building.

Unfortunately, however, the elite become enamored of the things they can do with the money they make, and the very process of making it, to the exclusion of having children.

Technology means increases in productivity. Doing more work with fewer people. Those few are the ones who are able to read the instructions, communicate intelligently with each other, use computers and program computers. There is increasingly less use for people who do the same mindless job over and over – at the very time the birthrate is growing for precisely these people.

Childbearing has been left to the less capable strata of society. Since that feckless lot cannot be entrusted with the responsibility, bureaucrats ever on the lookout for justifications of their existence have taken over more and more responsibility for child rearing. The rising generation, less capable from birth, is conditioned to depend on government largess for everything in life. Democracy dictates that they be allowed to vote for that government, which of course they do. They vote themselves more and more of both handouts and government.

The conflict between the democratic dream of equality and the Darwinian observation that differences among people and peoples are natural, and that they enlarge themselves, is severe and irreconcilable.

F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposing ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function." We are not even to first base. We refuse to recognize the paradox. It will bite us.

ANCIEN Paradoxes - Genotype and Phenotype.docx 02/08/2017

Paradoxes - Genotype and Phenotype

Richard Dawkins famously wrote in "The Selfish Gene" that the phenotype – living, breathing animals, the creatures we see, including human beings – are only the gene's vehicles for reproducing themselves. We are here to reproduce. Yet Western thought, starting with the Greeks and cresting with the Enlightenment, celebrates the individual and gives no consideration to the gene pool to which he belongs. Humanity is gored as well on the horns of this paradox

Enlightenment values celebrate the phenotype. It enshrines the individual's search for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Primitive man was – and still is – more concerned with the genotype. They believed in a "trustee family," in which the individual is no more than a trustee for one generation of the tribal bloodline and culture. This is manifested in the ancestor worship of AmerIndian and East Asian societies, in the recital of forty-generation genealogies in the Bible, and in modern Muslim's seemingly insane tendency to sacrifice their lives in service to their God.

Today's Amish, Muslims, Orthodox Jews, Hutterites, Mormons. and Gypsies, whatever else might be said of them, are evolutionarily successful – they have large families. They share traits most of us have abandoned, strong commitments to their families and communities. What can we learn from them? Is it possible to remain thoroughly modern, enlightened men and still have a culture that encourages fertility?

The obvious conclusion is that fertility depends a great deal on one's social arrangements. American, and all Western social arrangements have changed, and our fertility has as well. The question for me is how to reverse this for my descendents. I cannot roll back the political and social tides that have so drastically affected urban society around me.

It appears that these two principles are at loggerheads. Procreation taxes the individual in the interests of his offspring. It taxes the phenotype to the advantage of the genotype. All of Enlightenment thinking, however, favors the phenotype and takes the propagation of the genotype for granted. Though the flaws in this line of thought were obvious to Malthus in the early 19th century, it was not until the 20th century, when the secular, democratic ideas of the Enlightenment swept down through all layers of society, that the reality became clear.

M2016- Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.docx 05/06/2012

Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, wrote Samuel Johnson, and I observe that Ukraine is awfully full of patriots. Whenever I hear somebody loudly declaiming the thievery of the country's power elite, I have learned to hang onto my wallet.

Myron Spolsky, the former treasurer of our Rotary club, would jump down my throat every time I said something in Russian, and abuse me severely for learning that language instead of Ukrainian. He has brazenly stolen \$56,000 from the club, and equally brazenly continues to tell the world that after two years still can't

return it because he is "doing an audit." Four years ago my first landlord railed at length about the thieves in charge, as he manipulated my rental contract so he could cancel it after only two months, giving him and the agent a \$1,750 fee to split. My second landlord was a professor of Christian ethics at a leading university. She moaned about the terrible government, at the same time pressing her speaking-in-tongues, rolling-on-the-floor-brand of Christianity on me. Last year I told her that my family was outgrowing the apartment and we were looking. Nevertheless, when the time came, she invented a bold lie about my breaking the Brezhnev era furniture and withheld my \$1,500 security deposit. You can read the story on my website.

It is hard to fathom a culture in which this is possible. People show absolutely no embarrassment when they turn on you and steal your money. Ukrainians even have a name for it – baran, or billy goat style. They simply decide they're going to steal your money and tell whatever improbable lies they can invent to cover the situation. They are as transparent as the lies the government tells to paper over scandals such as the Timoshenko trial, the Ukrtelecom privatization or the Khlebinvestbud theft. Why do they even waste their time inventing such futile stories? Theodore Dalrymple wrote "In my study of communist societies, I came to the conclusion that the purpose of communist propaganda was not to persuade or convince, nor to inform, but to humiliate; and therefore, the less it corresponded to reality the better." Secure in the knowledge that Ukrainian law is no threat to them, these thieves seem to taunt me with their improbable fabrications.

They cannot know how damaging this is. Myron Spolsky alone has deprived me of any sympathy for Ukrainian language supporters. My former landlady makes me suspect that all Christians in the country are tainted. I come to the conclusion that the country will be governed by thieves no matter what, and the only question is which ones. I don't care. And I conclude that it will be a long time before this country is safe for investment. The landlady in question bemoaned the fact that she could not get a loan to remodel the apartment, which would more than double the rent. I might have been naïve enough to make such a loan to her. However, she is a thief, and, Christian professor or not, the banks probably know to expect as much.

The patriotism which fueled the American Revolution was based on Enlightenment values. One of the most remarkable things that de Tocqueville noted about our country was the incredibly high level of honesty and trust among citizens. Until Ukrainians start to be trustworthy, their rantings about patriotism will amount to nothing more than empty noise.

Graham Seibert

[ANCIEN Philosophizing about politics is a doomed effort.docx 01/09/2017](#)

Philosophizing about politics is a doomed effort. Every political system will fail for reasons given by Darwin himself. They all create niches, opportunities for astute citizens to exploit the system. The principle of evolution states that some will prosper by doing so.

The founders of the American Republic were cautious. They expected the worst, and worked to forestall it as long as possible. They only gave the vote to propertied white men – common laborers, paupers, women, Indians and Blacks need not apply. They did not even trust white men very much. They established a Republican hierarchy, whereby the men who were entitled voted only for representatives. Those representatives, presumably more educated, would perform the functions of governing in a democratic fashion among themselves.

In fact, the American stock of those days was rather exceptional. It took fortitude to sail the Atlantic in wooden boats in search of a better life. Some of my ancestors arrived on the Mayflower. Quite a few of that company died. Those Mayflower descendents look down on my German ancestors who arrived a century later on much sturdier wooden boats to farm a somewhat pacified frontier. But even at that, those German ancestors were almost certain a cut above those they left back home. They were made of tough stuff, this pioneer stock.

Now that we can measure intelligence, we find that the most intelligent societies in the world are Singapore and Hong Kong, populated by self-selected Chinese émigrés – the people who were smart enough and courageous enough to leave mainland China. They are measurably more intelligent than the Chinese they left behind. This must have been true of the self-selected pioneers in the United States. Their success would indicate as much.

The young United States had everything going for it. A smart electorate, a population small enough that people knew each other and they could know their elected representatives. It was homogeneous, in the sense that only white people voted. Even at that the elections were rancorous and the people of the time were not optimistic about the future of their own democracy. They should only see what has happened since!

Among other things, via a Darwinian process, the franchise has been continually expanded. Whenever some electoral faction has considered it good politics for their side to extend the to expand the franchise, they did so. The vote was extended by degrees to the propertyless, Blacks, women, Indians, teenagers, and now it seems to be going to illegal immigrants. The founding fathers would be horrified.

Our system of work Republican government has also gone by the wayside. Senators are elected directly. Many states have popular referendums. Television has made it possible for the politicians to communicate directly with the voters, eliminating the experienced politicians who used to mediate things. The dim wits of the common man are no longer moderated by a republican process.

The founding fathers would be horrified. The political issues of our day are quite a bit more complex than those of our agrarian founders. The greatest ones concern public finance, education, defense, health, welfare and public health. These are issues that are hard for even experts to understand. And yet, just as the political issues have become more complex, we have expanded the franchise to include just everybody capable of fogging a mirror. It is an open imminent invitation to demagoguery, and that is exactly what we have.

But wait, it gets worse. The issues are more complex, and the people and the stakeholders in the Republic are have been diluted by people who don't really have much interest in the outcome. They are able to vote for those who will give them money.

The assumptions so far is that people remain as capable as they used to be. The voices who would suggest otherwise have been effectively silenced. Just as soon as Darwin wrote in the latter part of the 19th century, a group of prominent English scientists, the eugenicists, cropped up to make the observation that people were becoming less intelligent over the course of time. Their observation was that the more intelligent members of society were not having enough children to replace themselves, whereas the less intelligent elements and the criminal elements – they overlap that are not identical – buoyed by welfare, charity and a widespread humanitarian impulse, seemed to be having the most children.

Two of their number, Karl Pearson and Ronald Fisher, founded the field of statistics. As these fledgling statisticians set about their investigations, they found that yes, the fears were well-founded. The less intelligent members of society were, generation after generation, having more children. This was true even among nativeborn, white Englishmen and Americans.

Members of the Eugenics movement set about concocting schemes whereby the more intelligent members of society would have larger families. They were not very successful - the human animal is very hard to entice or coerce in matters of reproduction.

Nazi Germany took their message more to heart than any other political movement, and it disgraced itself by misidentifying the Jews as inferior and wiping them out. Eugenics was in a bad odor after World War II.

The civil rights movement civil rights movement was somewhat underway by that time. Gunnary Myrdal had written "An American Dilemma" about the Negro problem in 1944. Truman had desegregated the Army in 1948. In 1954 the Supreme Court struck down segregated schools, and by the 1960s the US civil rights movement was in full swing. Eugenics became vastly unfashionable.

Among other things, as the early psychometricians measured intelligence, they confirmed observations which had seemed to be only common sense. Intelligence is heritable. Smart parents tend to have smart children. This confirmed what they were observing among white populations, and justified their fears of the lower classes outbreeding the upper classes.

Both race and intelligence being heritable, they confirmed that the average intelligence of the various races were different. This had been common sense since the days of the Greeks. The smartest members of society, on average, were the Jews. East Asians fell in next – their success as they immigrated to the United States had been widely chronicled by people such as Mark Twain. Next were white people. Falling in below the whites were Middle Easterners, South Asians, Latin Americans, American Indians, and last of all Gypsies and Blacks. In most cases the differences were pronounced. The average Ashkenazi Jew is smarter than 5/6 of whites; the average white smarter than 5/6 of Blacks.

It doesn't take a genius to recognize that calling the voters stupid is bad politics. It became unfashionable, and by degrees absolutely forbidden to talk about intelligence and race. It is interesting that science has never refuted these findings of the early 20th century psychometricians. Subsequent research, and it has continued through the years despite intense pressure, only reconfirms what they found decades ago. The relative hierarchy rating of average intelligence remains exactly as stated above. However, even saying as much can land you in prison in places such as Canada and much of Europe. In the United States you don't go to jail: you have to be content with losing your job, your publisher and your friendships.

So there it is, triple Darwinian devolution. Politics is forcing expansion of the voting franchise to include every warm body, regardless of accomplishment. Within every racial group average intelligence is declining. Those racial groups that have less intelligence to start with are more fertile than the formerly dominant groups such as whites. Moreover, the political process has relaxed immigration in most of the developed world, inundating them with less capable immigrants.

The upshot is that democracy, which was a struggle even two centuries ago, is now facing impossible odds. The democratic system doesn't work. The systems that continue to exist calling themselves democracies are no longer representative. Though the powers that be lie egregiously to attract his vote, the average person has no influence on the political process. It has gotten to the point that the democracies no longer work in the interests of the citizens.

The boat is no longer able to right itself. Every democracy in the world is running

We're at an interesting impasse. Any thing that doesn't call self a democracy stands no chance of being elected. Anything that is a democracy stands no chance of working. This calls for – liars. Fortunately, they're not in small and small supply among politicians. The thing that is in small supply is people who can find solutions, particularly when they have to make promises to everybody in the short-term, whereas the needed solutions are long-term. Moreover, long-term solutions must of necessity be prejudicial to some of the voters.

The modern parable of the tower of Babel.

Genesis reports that Babylon came together to build a tower to the sky. God, recognizing that if they were able to achieve this they would be as God themselves and they would forget about him, confused their language such that they could not complete the tower and scattered the people to all the ends of the earth.

Today's generation has certainly forgotten about God for the most part. We are united by our science and our Internet and our liberal democracy.

Could it be that God is working through these mechanisms to repeat the story of the Tower of Babel?

In presuming godlike powers, governments are enabling their. List members to survive. More and more people survive for less and less capable. At the same time, the more capable recently offensive. They their productivity engines make it possible for fewer people to do more of mankind's work. The result is that just as people become less capable, fewer the only jobs the remainder for the more capable, the people building the machines.

Nine seems to have reached a Wiley E coyote moment. Most of us are no longer necessary. We are being supported by the genius of the few to organize things. We are not wise enough to recognize the situation, and the unproductive multitudes demand more and more from the system. We are read that we have not earned. We are eating bread for from green we have not grown. We are reaping what we have not sown, and we are not even grateful for it.

There is resentment against the people who are creative. They are taking an increasing share of the world's wealth,. One might say it is their due, as they create the productivity. However, there are all there are many others who are merely clever at financial manipulation. They arouse a great deal of resentment.

Such imbalances have occurred many times in the past. They led to the inquisitions send the pogroms. There is no reason to suppose it will be different this time. The world will run out of resource, and people will become so ineffectual that they cannot take care of themselves.

There's only one note of hope in this. People have grown less fertile. There are not so many of us competing for the resources should the bad news is that is most capable have recognize our predicament and have stopped reproducing. The people who are least needed are the people who reproduce most.

History has to be written in hindsight. We cannot see how this will play out. Six but I'm sure that some theologians of future ages will point back and at our hubris, our pride in building the Internet and abandoning our systems of belief, as say that God once again brought us down to our appropriate size.

ANCIEN Pinchuk.docx 07/30/2014

There are several issues to consider:

- 1) Why, aside from pride, does Ukraine want the Donbas back? It is not an economic asset. It was a perpetual drain on the treasury. Crimea also. It was likewise a Party of Regions stronghold, harboring a fifth column. That's why Putin thought (wrongly) that it would be easy prey.
- 2) What are the chances of durable peace with Russia? Can you trust any agreement with them? History goes two ways.

Let's first examine Russia's few large-scale invasions. The ruthless Bolsheviks took back Ukraine, a longstanding part of the Russian empire in 1921. That is the most significant. They invaded

Poland and the Baltics only after Germany signaled the all clear in 1939. They invaded Afghanistan, then backed out.

On the other hand, the Russian bear seems to have been satisfied with a chunk of Finland in 1939 and two small non-Georgian provinces (South Ossetia and Abkhazia) from the Georgia war. They control a small hunk of Moldavia in the form of Transnistria. These were all small, largely Russophone areas.

Russia has not been a successful occupying country. Whereas the Romans, British and French persuaded their colonies to some extent of their moral right to rule, the Soviets never did. They imposed themselves by fear and repression. This remains true today in Crimea and Donbas. It is very expensive. Moreover, it taxes the moral sense even of the Russian people. They do not have the resources, or the stomach, to again dominate Ukraine.

Ukraine does not have to trust the Russians to honor their word, only to act in their own self-interest. Even if Ukraine had no support from the rest of the world, occupying Ukraine would tax Russia more than it could bear. But the world has generally lined up on Ukraine's side, with words and sanctions though not any firepower.

ANCIEN political philosophy - materialism and family.docx 08/03/2014

Political philosophy The connection between material wealth and family

Material wealth is a breeding strategy. For many centuries, increases in societal wealth led directly to increases in population.

Raising children to adulthood requires many resources among them food, shelter, and physical protection. Wealthier people have been better positioned to provide these. They had larger families. Farmers differ in their work ethic and their ability to plan. The smart and industrious farmer could feed more children, and could arrange better marriages for them. The same worked for blacksmiths, tinkers and other tradesmen. Society always tends to grow in complexity, though that very complexity sometimes brings a crash, as with the fall of the Roman Empire. The European societies that succeeded Rome continued to build in complexity, increasing opportunities for smart people. The Renaissance brought new technologies such as printing, ocean-going ships and international trade. Smart people grew wealthy exploiting these opportunities, and they tended to be rewarded with more grandchildren.

Also, the wealthier his society was, the greater the likelihood that the whole society would be able to expand its territory through war and invading its neighbors. People within its culture and gene pool enjoyed breeding success. The Vikings were successful here in Eastern Europe – one sees their legacy in today's tall blonde population who have to a great extent displaced the Turkic peoples who created the first civilizations here. Likewise, during Europe's great wanderings after the fall of Rome, the Germans spread their seed through Spain, Italy and east to Russia. The Greeks, Celts and Arabs all left their traces in Portugal. by the expansion of the gene pool in which they displayed.

Acquiring the skills allowed want to acquire wealth led to breeding success. That is no longer the case. Throughout human history breeding success has been associated with wealth. This occurred both at the individual and societal level. The more money a person had lots of different society, the more children he was likely to have.

At the individual level, increasing wealth means is man's the ability to put more food on the table for more children. People before birth-control people had about as many children as they could bear, and the whether or not they survived was largely a matter of how much food they got. The other essentials of life are sheltered, whether you had an adequate house to cover everybody, and further they had enough protection from the

water and so on that they didn't die of illness. Wealthy people were able to cobble themselves better when they get sick and isolate themselves from the owners illnesses such as typhoid and so on the ravaged the poor.

The Enlightenment redefined success away from simply raising children in one's own image.

Recognition of individual success, as a scientist, author, inventor or businessman became something to seek. Fame, recognition by one's peers, became more important than being represented in the next generation by one's offspring. The philosophes set the example. Rousseau had no legitimate children; neither did Mill. They considered their intellectual donations to mankind to be legacy enough.

In our age, wealth is inversely correlated with fertility. Caucasians and North Asians, the wealthiest demographics, witness more deaths than births in almost every country they inhabit. Conversely, Muslims and Africans in the poor nations of the Middle East and Africa are seeing their populations explode.

But start with one observation. That our material wealth is only very indirectly connected with our propagation of ourselves as a society. People with much less well-off, for instance, many Latin American countries were the Arab countries, managed to do a much better job of reproducing themselves both by numbers and by culture than we do. Much of the focus of our politics is on the acquisition and distribution of material wealth. We should recognize that material wealth is not the measure, is not the objective if our is not even an interim objective if our true objective is to propagate ourselves and our values. In this, we can do very well by emulating the after mentioned a mesh and Jewish populations

The economies of the West seem to be headed toward disaster. They are held off it is held off as I write mainly by the governments by the central bank's willingness to print endless amounts of money, buying stock problem, propping up the stock market and redistribute in distributing the money they print to constituencies which are unable to produce on their own. These are the increasing welfare rolls, disproportionately immigrant, then the increasing populations of old people. At some point this is all they are based on faith, for a harsher term, lies. So why the government stands behind the money that they print and can make good on it. As close project when the game will end. Many predicted it would end long before now. However, it cannot go on forever.

One Buffett has a favorite saying that when the tide goes out you find out who's swimming naked. More than half of our population is swimming naked. They can do they can produce nothing of economic value to their fellow man. They are being sustained by the wealth of our society. By the productive members of our society. When the productive members revolt, or rather, when the Ponzi scheme collapses, and people are no longer willing to invest in the future, will fall like a house of cards.

Our objective is not to stand by and short who was a plea out of schadenfreude when this happens. It is to make sure that our children survive I had a able to produce her own children. They don't need to be rich. But they do need to need is the ability to produce things that other people values so they can earn a living. Our society has distorted values. We put the greatest premium on things that are published fundamental use. Entertainment – movie actors, professional athletes, restaurants. The things that are of fundamental value, food and shelter, are taken for granted. What you need to teach your children. Right now children learn to echo the platitudes, the party line that is distributed by the schools, which endorses diversity, democracy, and the other principles which will lead to diminishing which prevent outbreaks of violence among the diverse populations that make up our democracy. These things the children are taught in schools are just like the Communist obligatory lies. We should teach our children that there is a double standard, and that they should do their best to remain silent and live when they must on these subjects. With the wide to the extent that you eliminate the possibility of finding kindred souls. Because your existence will depend on locating those few kindred souls, others who see through the system. So you have to lie quietly, with a nod and a wink, so that others may find you.

ANCIEN Political Philosophy - wealth and family.docx 07/30/2014

Political Philosophy - The connection between material wealth and family.

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We should recognize that material wealth is not the measure, is not the objective if our is not even an interim objective if our true objective is to propagate ourselves and our values. In this, we can do very well by emulating the after mentioned a mesh and Jewish populations

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They are held off it is held off as I write mainly by the governments by the central bank's willingness to print endless amounts of money, buying stock problem, propping up the stock market and distributing the money they print to constituencies which are unable to produce on their own.

These are the increasing welfare rolls, disproportionately immigrant, then the increasing populations of old people.

they are based on faith, for a harsher term, lies. So why the government stands behind the money that they print and can make good on it. As close project when the game will end. Many predicted it would end long before now. However, it cannot go on forever.

Warren Buffett has a favorite saying that when the tide goes out to you find out who's swimming naked. More than half of our population is swimming naked. They can do they can produce nothing of economic value to their fellow man. They are being sustained by the wealth of our society.

When the productive members revolt, or rather, when the Ponzi scheme collapses, and people are no longer willing to invest in the future, will fall like a house of cards.

Our objective is not to stand by and shout with glee out of schadenfreude when this happens. It is to make sure that our children survive and are able to produce her own children.

They don't need to be rich. But they do need to need is the ability to produce things that other people values so they can earn a living.

Our society has distorted values. We put the greatest premium on things that are without fundamental use.

Entertainment – movie actors, professional athletes, restaurants.

The things that are of fundamental value, food and shelter, are taken for granted.

What you need to teach your children.

Right now children learn to echo the platitudes, the party line that is distributed by the schools, which endorses diversity, democracy, and the other principles which will lead to diminishing which prevent outbreaks of violence among the diverse populations that make up our democracy.

These things the children are taught in schools are just like the Communist obligatory lies.

We should teach our children that there is a double standard, and that they should do their best to remain silent and lie when they must on these subjects. When you lie you reduce the possibility of finding kindred souls. Because your existence, your children, will depend on locating those few kindred souls, others who see through the system. So you have to lie quietly, with a nod and a wink, so that others may find you.

Family types - Zimmerman

Indian tribes saw their nation, their people as living forever. Mere individuals didn't matter. This is of course true among social animals – the group is everything. We have taken a curious evolutionary turn whereby the individual is all. Zimmerman's Trustee family.

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The Enlightenment redefined success away from simply raising children in one's own image. Recognition of individual success, as a scientist, author, inventor or businessman became something to seek. Fame, recognition by one's peers, became more important than being represented in the next generation by one's

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In our age, wealth is inversely correlated with fertility. Caucasians and North Asians, the wealthiest demographics, witness more deaths than births in almost every country they inhabit. Conversely, Muslims and Africans in the poor nations of the Middle East and Africa are seeing their populations explode.

material wealth is a breeding strategy. For many centuries, increases in material wealth led directly to increases in population.

Therefore, learning the acquiring the skills allowed want to acquire wealth led to breeding success. That is no longer the case. Throughout human history breeding success has been associated with wealth. This occurred both at the individual and societal level. The more money a person had lots of different society, the more children he was likely to have.

Also, the wealthier his society was, the greater the likelihood that it would be able to expand its territory to war and upgrading its neighbors, and the people would have breeding success by the expansion of the gene pool in which they displayed.

At the individual level, increasing wealth means is man's the ability to put more food on the table for more children. People before birth-control people had about as many children as they could bear, and the whether or not they survived was largely a matter of how much food they got. The other essentials of life are sheltered, whether you had an adequate house to cover everybody, and further they had enough protection from the water and so on that they didn't die of illness. Wealthy people were able to cobble themselves better when they get sick and isolate themselves from the owners illnesses such as typhoid and so on the ravaged the poor.

As a societal level, which are societies expanded. Good example in Europe as the Germans. German people expanded in Germanic peoples overran Spain during the time of the great wanderings in the after the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Germans more recently sold all our water for Russia and the child under Peter the Great Catherine the great. The Germans were a successful people. All peoples in Europe, prolapse, the Basques, and many the whose names are no longer remembered, Questions isolated corners and didn't enjoy breeding success.

What is happened is this in the last century, it has always been known that cities do not reproduce themselves terribly well. One of the reasons for the dynamic system of 19th-century society was that there was still a lot of countryside to draw from. There were a lot of capable people on the farms, and their large families could move to the cities and populate the cities. Within the cities themselves was difficult to raise children. Many who came from the forms to the cities worked as servants, taking care of the children of the wealthy. But overall, the cities did not reproduce themselves.

Sometime in the early 20th century this process slowed down and stopped. There was not there were not enough farm children being born to repopulate the cities. Life in the city remained as difficult as ever. One should not say difficult. People have it in an extreme focus on money in the city. People had a focus on money and the city. There were opportunities, intellectual opportunities, many things to do other than raise a family. It was hard to raise a family in any sort of family tradition, because children no longer knew what they did for a living.

So the child-rearing process became more artificial. All class of professional educators or worlds, and factory school system, to deal with the fact that families were no longer involved in educating their own children. Freeing people from the responsibility raising their own children of our allow them to accumulate more wealth, but the result was that there were increasingly fewer children.

We are at the end of that cycle. The baby boomers were the largest generation in American history. They were correspondingly large generate large cohorts in the European and Asian countries after the hostilities of World War II. Those people are now aging, and they simply did not have enough children to reproduce themselves. In

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The problem with a liberal democracy, as per the end of history, is that we are our own worst enemies. Democracy doesn't work because the people have their own short-term interests at heart. These interests are in conflict with their own long-term interests, and certainly throughout the world the policy can be in the best interest of everybody on the war in the long run. Policies have to do with allocating scarce resources, and we are becoming more numerous.

Quote Pogo here we have met the enemy and he is us.

The fundamental insight is that no political philosophy no written political philosophy can afford to be honest. We absolutely need to operate on a double standard. There is what is written, accepted for public consumption, what supports the masses, is not in the interests of people who are intelligent enough, concerned enough to take care of their own future. Right now this double standard works.

Fortunately, popular culture is sweeping most of the world toward practices in the areas of materialism and sexuality which hinder their ability to reproduce. This is in the long-term interests of the world. They cannot support 8 billion people forever. So by torpedoing our own fertility, are without simply reading a long-term survival. Paragraph

There are certain groups that do this is quite automatically, as a matter of how they operate. The Amish, Orthodox Jews, and certain other primitive peoples, Indians, have children as a matter of course. They have a very monarchical worldview, us and them. Call the college staff go back to Sir Arthur Keith for the word for it, but it's insiders and outsiders. The faithful and the glory of, or the grand jury, or whatever.

This essay is premised on evolution. Humans have evolved extremely rapidly since the advent of since our departure from Africa, and especially since the advent of agriculture. This evolution has resulted in a human diversity as we adapted to the different dishes that were open to us. And as part of that presently, there is a diversity of external appearance, temperament, and intellect,. And even with intellect, we have developed somewhat different skills, although the general principle of G, has devised by the sigh, traditions starting with Spearman, seems to hold. Verbal intelligence is highly correlated with mathematical intelligence and special intelligence. Nevertheless, certain peoples, the North Asians, simply better on the math end of the spectrum and Europeans perhaps a little bit better on the language end.

This double standard has always been operative. The Soviet Union was a dictatorship nominally in the interests of the people. The United States is a nominal democracy, very much in control of the moneyed interests. This is the same in Europe.

The people who are concerned about their future need to have a clear vision and know how to articulate a double standard. Essentially what we need is a double standard through which the people in spite of themselves as something that works toward the long-term interests of the world.

question then for the people in power, people who are recognize their own self-interest, how to always try is what you are obviously going to try out late select away from the masses of humanity, a way to somehow preserves what is of interest to us. That would be for us and our progeny. Of we care enough for our progeny, Thomas have to employ a double standard

So what are the implications of this double standard? We should throttle back, stop trying to do the undoable. With regard to the war on drugs, let it be. The people who destroy themselves with drugs are not going to contribute by a large to the betterment species. If you adopt the philosophy that there's not room enough for everybody in the world, end-user that some people want to eliminate themselves, they wouldn't thing to do is to stand aside and let them do so. Individual families, for interested in their genetic heritage, should of course spend whatever effort they desire to try to save their children. But for society to spend money trying to save societies children in general, cheaply as diverse the societies we have, is counterproductive. That investments will simply yields no particular returns.

's we could make the same conclusion about sexuality. People choose homosexuality, choose not to marry, virtues whatever they please as long as it doesn't disturb other people, let them do it. They and the realm of

sex, take a classic libertarian attitude. But some do what they want as long as it doesn't bother other people. Here again, individual families have a strong interest in not seeing their sons and daughters become homosexual, surveyors, or whatever else. That is, if those families take an interest in their own genetic legacy. Most do not. If they put their ideas in their pockets and don't care, I propose that those of us who are concerned for our own progeny to precisely the same. As long as and not hurting anybody, let them go. With regard to guns and violence and other antisocial behaviors, the answer would seem to be more on the conservative side. People who are to engage in these behaviors from FRC will never buy a large contribute anything worthwhile to the future of the species. The decision to make, then, is to give up hope for the present. But don't lock them away if you must, for better, give them some sort of Soma, some sort of droid to keep them from bothering the rest of us as they were about their dead-end existences. So this would be some combination of the Republicans prisons program for the liberals method on programs. Simply place the methadone was some birth-control chemicals and you got it.

This double standard poses quite a burden for people who want to raise normal families. I have to be very careful using the word normal, because there is no normal family anymore. It may just fine normal as raising families which will pass on their genome and pass along their culture more or less intact. That's fairly simple definition, but if you look around you'll find that it's extremely rarely affected in practice. Not too many people in the West have children were like themselves.

Humans are social animals. We depend on other people who are like us to support us, and to help raise our children. We depend on people like ourselves for common defense. The roots of this go way back to our chimpanzee ancestors, who fought tears tribes were troops against one another. People have coalesced into tribes and nations, but we still got there is still competition among them, and we depend on our fellow men for our mutual defense. Life is not short nasty solitary nasty brutal and short. Because we are social animals. We cannot allow it to be that. The big question is, for those of us who want our progeny to survive into the 22nd century, what is our society. When a society that surrounds us has turned counterproductive, has turned poisonous to our children, were to return for society

The groups that are breeding successfully, once again the animation the Hasidic Jews, Sean the outside world. This pretty much means shall shutting the benefits of commerce and science. Is there a path whereby we can accept the fruits of the enlightenment without accepting the downside?

In terms of political policy, this would generally mean that we should not concern ourselves excessively with policy. Whether Putin or Obama doesn't matter much. It's our genome. The founding fathers beieved they could ensure it via a political system. That has not worked. Other groups – Gypsies, Jews, Parsees, Hutterites, Amish – use other means. We should learn from them.

But start with one observation. That our material wealth is only very indirectly connected with our propagation of ourselves as a society. People with much less well-off, for instance, many Latin American countries were the Arab countries, managed to do a much better job of reproducing themselves both by numbers and by culture than we do. Much of the focus of our politics is on the acquisition and distribution of material wealth. We should recognize that material wealth is not the measure, is not the objective if our is not even an interim objective if our true objective is to propagate ourselves and our values. In this, we can do very well by emulating the after mentioned a mesh and Jewish populations

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One Buffett has a favorite saying that when the tide goes out to you find out who's swimming naked. More than half of our population is swimming naked. They can do they can produce nothing of economic value to their fellow man. They are being sustained by the wealth of our society. By the productive members of our

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Pay political philosophy was once something which helped one society in competition with other societies. The political philosophy of equality was of great benefit to the Vikings as they battled against the rest of Europe. The political philosophy of democracy was a great asset in America as it fought for dominance.

This is what has changed within world history. Have the political philosophy must now generally be embraced by such a diverse group of people, such a wide range of interests, that it cannot reflect the interests of everybody, and it usually does not even represent the long-term interests of those that it purports to recommend choose to support. Therefore the search for a an ideal political philosophy is a search for the holy Grail. It does not exist. There is no ideal political philosophy. Therefore, rather than search, we need to find individual philosophies which will enable us to prosper in whatever environment we happen to find ourselves politically. Mrs. not dissimilar from the traditional position of the Jews. Pay political philosophy is written in the interests of the society. The interests of the society did not coincide with the interests of the individuals in the society. Ms. Goff's been getting wider and wider. It used to be that people saw themselves as part of a greater whole, and their religious principles their religious convictions informed them or lead them to believe in the future of the of their own offspring and the society around them. Often, as a geneticist would say, supporting the society around them was in their own genetic interests because their fellow men were really poor fellow men were related. That is no longer the case.

The great empires of history, the Romans, British, and American, all had ample room for population growth at the time of their beginning. Their political philosophies could succeed because the populations could expand. The political five philosophy was able to define a common interest in a large group of people. There is no longer room to expand. A common policy cannot be in the genetic interests of the majority of the people. How to live regardless of the regime

What does this mean in practical terms? A person should never allow themselves to get into debt. A person should own stable, conservative assets such as land and gold. When markets are free one should own business and shares and businesses as well.

Over the course of the postwar years there has been a steady shift toward liberalism, that is toward the redistribution of wealth. There is a fundamental truth that work. The benefit once given cannot be taken away. There have been times when the benefits of being given to freely and to quickly, such as in the 1960s under Lyndon Johnson, with both the Kennedy and Nixon contributing. That led to inflation and the election of a supposedly conservative government led by Ronald Reagan. Reagan put the brakes on the expansion of benefits, but did not eliminate any significant benefits. The same can be said of Thatcher in Great Britain. So as and so there is a catastrophe, benefits continue to accrue promised benefits continue to accrue.

We have some examples of what happens when their creature greatly. The Soviet Union collapsed. At the same time, the Soviet banks collapsed, as did the currency. Promised pensions medical benefits and so on were reduced to almost nothing. They have been readjusted see figures that the state can afford, but the amounts being paid from our the matter of what the budget can handle, not what was promised in the first place. This

must certainly happen with the Western economies as well. Since they cannot pay what is promised, they will not pay what was promised.

Dawkins Selfish Gene. Somehow we have become all phenotype, no genotype. The phenotype is not interested in reproducing itself.

Family types - Zimmerman

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Irrationality transcription 535-539

When I tell people I'm homeschooling my son, but often ask how that can work for everybody. This is the wrong question – it just needs to work for me.

They asked the same question when it comes to "saving America." We all see the same things happening in America. The city unsustainable debt, uncontrolled immigration, the tragic take a constant slide in the quality of the schools, thousand increases in the level of crime, and the decrease in the universe in the population of white Americans who might control it. People are looking for solutions to that problem.

It's the wrong problem.

Civilizations die periodically throughout history. Ours is dying. If you will, however, people always survive in one form or another.

We survived the collapse of the Roman Empire. Somehow civilization was saved – how the Irish saved civilization. Civilization took strong jolts in the black plague and the two world wars.

Future of Western society

There are people who want to save our society values or democracy in our country, and their people don't think it'll work. There are survivalists, who are ready to survive the collapse of the state. They are holed up in Montana with years of supplies as Staples and guns and all they need to hold off the ravaging of words and the federal government.

What is missing is a middle ground in the middle ground would say yes society the broader society is collapsing therefore we cannot depend on the broader society to provide any sort of environment in which our children will grow and survive as adults. Nonetheless, there must be some kind of a society because we are social animals. The question then is, what kind of society will that be. There are answers to this question. The answers are the religious communities: Orthodox Jews, a mesh, which rewrites, and Muslims. There is no model that I know out for how to do this in a secular society. In order to achieve these benefits, you have to adopt a religion, and give up the enlightenment. The question is, and in doing that, you abandon a lot of knowledge, and some quite useful perspectives. The question is, can one have a non-religious form a nonreligious society which will be capable of survival.

This means we have to knowingly construct a contradiction. Construct a society was recognized, built-in contradictions and irrationality. Because, fundamentally, reproducing ourselves is an irrational act. When it did for Charles Zimmerman on three types of societies, the fact pattern atomistic fan way, the traditional domestic family, and the In.

We need to go back to a previous model without abandoning our rational minds. Question is how do we do it. We need to do to senior is between him and the same as the Titan phenotype. The type is one hour: we need to go back to our margins.

The United States had a vision consultation is a product of Enlightenment thinking. As national product. Fact IS software is currently certified as same characteristic as a lower ends your rationale in particular, you rationale is conflict between the genotype and phenotype.

Our survive was a race depends on the irrationality of the phenotype, that is as our constitutions assume that a balance can be found in society, but evolution is designed to throw things out of balance. Whenever there

appears to be some sort of a balance, and organism is ideally suited to its niche, evolution finds some way of finding of differentiating things, suiting one part of a population to its niche better than another part. So even if we did have an ideal constitution in the 18th century, it makes sense that it would be out of balance by now. The various the of the organism of American humanity self-selected to take advantage of the situation that are found. The balance was destroyed, if there ever was one need fuel for your rationality which residents are religion in a Western context. Our religion involves more belief in the supernatural than almost any other. If you put it in the context of the Far East, Shinto in Japan were Confucianism in China, it is simply a belief in the centrality of that people to the world, held the belief in perpetuating that particular system and set of beliefs. It's a bit easier to get yourself around,. Their problem is not necessarily a lack of belief, but the adaptation of Western materialism into that belief system. Materialism, and the individualism is inconsistent with the belief system. Also one might mention threads in Western thought. Herders romanticism in the Stroman drawing year of German literature, the early 19th century. Also Hitler's Beliefs in the early 20th century, and the reemergence nationalism in Europe, the generation identity the generation identity are movement in France and the similar nationalist movements in other countries in Europe. They simply don't want to be part of a homogenized truly modern and scientific new breed of man.

The New World order has been previewed and found wanting.

So the European nationalist movements seem to be the closest thing we have at the moment to an alternative to religious irrationalism as the basis for a new system. We have to ask how well it works.

Unfortunately carries with it a lot of the liberal excesses of the previous generation. Power of the previous belief systems.

It seems to be quite tolerant of homosexuality, and not necessarily focused on family. Those things may come, and as it becomes more clear that the only way for the national character to reassert itself is to have children.

When fertility becomes a strong issue with these groups, we may work for something promising to come with them.

At any rate, they are willing to assert their own identity as Europeans as they are right, something that belongs to them in their land, as a challenge to the Muslim and African invaders.

[ANCIEN political philosophy the genome.docx 07/11/2014](#)

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So what are the implications of this double standard? We should throttle back, stop trying to do the undoable. With regard to the war on drugs, let it be. The people who destroy themselves with drugs are not going to contribute by a large to the betterment species. If you adopt the philosophy that there's not room enough for everybody in the world, end-user that some people want to eliminate themselves, they wouldn't thing to do is to stand aside and let them do so. Individual families, for interested in their genetic heritage, should of course spend whatever effort they desire to try to save their children. But for society to spend money trying to save societies children in general, cheaply as diverse the societies we have, is counterproductive. That investments will simply yields no particular returns.

's we could make the same conclusion about sexuality. People choose homosexuality, choose not to marry, virtues whatever they please as long as it doesn't disturb other people, let them do it. They and the realm of sex, take a classic libertarian attitude. But some do what they want as long as it doesn't bother other people. Here again, individual families have a strong interest in not seeing their sons and daughters become homosexual, surveyors, or whatever else. That is, if those families take an interest in their own genetic legacy. Most do not. If they put their ideas in their pockets and don't care, I propose that those of us who are concerned for our own progeny to precisely the same. As long as and not hurting anybody, let them go. With regard to guns and violence and other antisocial behaviors, the answer would seem to be more on the conservative side. People who are to engage in these behaviors from FRC will never buy a large contribute anything worthwhile to the future of the species. The decision to make, then, is to give up hope for the present. But don't lock them away if you must, for better, give them some sort of Soma, some sort of droid to keep them from bothering the rest of us as they were about their dead-end existences. So this would be some combination of the Republicans prisons program for the liberals method on programs. Simply place the methadone was some birth-control chemicals and you got it.

This double standard poses quite a burden for people who want to raise normal families. I have to be very careful using the word normal, because there is no normal family anymore. It may just fine normal as raising families which will pass on their genome and pass along their culture more or less intact. That's fairly simple definition, but if you look around you'll find that it's extremely rarely affected in practice. Not too many people in the West have children were like themselves.

Humans are social animals. We depend on other people who are like us to support us, and to help raise our children. We depend on people like ourselves for common defense. The roots of this go way back to our chimpanzee ancestors, who fought tears tribes were troops against one another. People have coalesced into tribes and nations, but we still got there is still competition among them, and we depend on our fellow men for our mutual defense. Life is not short nasty solitary nasty brutal and short. Because we are social animals. We cannot allow it to be that. The big question is, for those of us who want our progeny to survive into the 22nd century, what is our society. When a society that surrounds us has turned counterproductive, has turned poisonous to our children, were to return for society

The groups that are breeding successfully, once again the animation the Hasidic Jews, Sean the outside world. This pretty much means shall shutting the benefits of commerce and science. Is there a path whereby we can accept the fruits of the enlightenment without accepting the downside?

In terms of political policy, this would generally mean that we should not concern ourselves excessively with policy. Whether Putin or Obama doesn't matter much. It's our genome. The founding fathers believed they could ensure it via a political system. That has not worked. Other groups – Gypsies, Jews, Parsees, Hutterites, Amish – use other means. We should learn from them.

But start with one observation. That our material wealth is only very indirectly connected with our propagation of ourselves as a society. People with much less well-off, for instance, many Latin American countries were the Arab countries, managed to do a much better job of reproducing themselves both by numbers and by culture than we do. Much of the focus of our politics is on the acquisition and distribution of material wealth. We should recognize that material wealth is not the measure, is not the objective if our is not even an interim objective if our true objective is to propagate ourselves and our values. In this, we can do very well by emulating the after mentioned a mesh and Jewish populations

The economies of the West seem to be headed toward disaster. They are held off it is held off as I write mainly by the governments by the central bank's willingness to print endless amounts of money, buying stock problem, propping up the stock market and redistribute in distributing the money they print to constituencies which are unable to produce on their own. These are the increasing welfare rolls, disproportionately immigrant, then the increasing populations of old people. At some point this is all they are based on faith, for a harsher term, lies. So why the government stands behind the money that they print and can make good on it. As close project when the game will end. Many predicted it would end long before now. However, it cannot go on forever.

One Buffett has a favorite saying that when the tide goes out to you find out who's swimming naked. More than half of our population is swimming naked. They can do they can produce nothing of economic value to their fellow man. They are being sustained by the wealth of our society. By the productive members of our society. When the productive members revolt, or rather, when the Ponzi scheme collapses, and people are no longer willing to invest in the future, will fall like a house of cards.

Our objective is not to stand by and short who was a plea out of schadenfreude when this happens. It is to make sure that our children survive I had a able to produce her own children. They don't need to be rich. But they do need to need is the ability to produce things that other people values so they can earn a living. Our society has distorted values. We put the greatest premium on things that are published fundamental use. Entertainment – movie actors, professional athletes, restaurants. The things that are of fundamental value, food and shelter, are taken for granted. What you need to teach your children. Right now children learn to echo the platitudes, the party line that is distributed by the schools, which endorses diversity, democracy, and the other principles which will lead to diminishing which prevent outbreaks of violence among the diverse populations that make up our democracy. These things the children are taught in schools are just like the Communist obligatory lies. We should teach our children that there is a double standard, and that they should do their best to remain silent and live when they must on these subjects. With the wide to the extent that you eliminate the possibility of finding kindred souls. Because your existence will depend on locating those few kindred souls, others who see through the system. So you have to lie quietly, with a nod and a wink, so that others may find you.

Pay political philosophy was once something which helped one society in competition with other societies. The political philosophy of equality was of great benefit to the Vikings as they battled against the rest of Europe. The political philosophy of democracy was a great asset in America as it fought for dominance.

This is what has changed within world history. Have the political philosophy must now generally be embraced by such a diverse group of people, such a wide range of interests, that it cannot reflect the interests of everybody, and it usually does not even represent the long-term interests of those that it purports to recommend choose to support. Therefore the search for a an ideal political philosophy is a search for the holy Grail. It does not exist. There is no ideal political philosophy. Therefore, rather than search, we need to find individual philosophies which will enable us to prosper in whatever environment we happen to find ourselves politically. Mrs. not dissimilar from the traditional position of the Jews. Pay political philosophy is written in the interests of the society. The interests of the society did not coincide with the interests of the individuals in the society. Ms. Goff's been getting wider and wider. It used to be that people saw themselves as part of a greater whole, and their religious principles their religious convictions informed them or lead them to believe in the

future of the of their own offspring and the society around them. Often, as a geneticist would say, supporting the society around them was in their own genetic interests because their fellow men were really poor fellow men were related. That is no longer the case.

The great empires of history, the Romans, British, and American, all had ample room for population growth at the time of their beginning. Their political philosophies could succeed because the populations could expand. The political five philosophy was able to define a common interest in a large group of people. There is no longer room to expand. A common policy cannot be in the genetic interests of the majority of the people.

How to live regardless of the regime

What does this mean in practical terms? A person should never allow themselves to get into debt. A person should own stable, conservative assets such as land and gold. When markets are free one should own business and shares and businesses as well.

Over the course of the postwar years there has been a steady shift toward liberalism, that is toward the redistribution of wealth. There is a fundamental truth that work. The benefit once given cannot be taken away. There have been times when the benefits of being given to freely and to quickly, such as in the 1960s under Lyndon Johnson, with both the Kennedy and Nixon contributing. That led to inflation and the election of a supposedly conservative government led by Ronald Reagan. Reagan put the brakes on the expansion of benefits, but did not eliminate any significant benefits. The same can be said of Thatcher in Great Britain. So as and so there is a catastrophe, benefits continue to accrue promised benefits continue to accrue.

We have some examples of what happens when their creature greatly. The Soviet Union collapsed. At the same time, the Soviet banks collapsed, as did the currency. Promised pensions medical benefits and so on were reduced to almost nothing. They have been readjusted see figures that the state can afford, but the amounts being paid from our the matter of what the budget can handle, not what was promised in the first place. This must certainly happen with the Western economies as well. Since they cannot pay what is promised, they will not pay was promised.

Dawkins Selfish Gene. Somehow we have become all phenotype, no genotype. The phenotype is not interested in reproducing itself.

Family types - Zimmerman

Indian tribes saw their nation, their people as living forever. Mere individuals didn't matter. This is of course true among social animals – the group is everything. We have taken a curious evolutionary turn whereby the individual is all. Zimmerman's Trustee family.

From the dawn of the agricultural age, essentially the beginning of the very concept of wealth, wealth enhanced reproductive success. A wealthy person could provide food for more children. He could house them, and prepare them to succeed in life in their own turn. The domestic family.

This changed sometime after the Renaissance. It was recognized that the big cities, London and Paris, did not reproduce themselves. They depended on continual infusions of new blood from the countryside. A few rich gentry were able to afford a number of children, but most people in cities merely survived.

The Enlightenment redefined success away from simply raising children in one's own image. Recognition of individual success, as a scientist, author, inventor or businessman became something to seek. Fame, recognition by one's peers, became more important than being represented in the next generation by one's offspring. The philosophes set the example. Rousseau had no legitimate children; neither did Mill. They considered their intellectual donations to mankind to be legacy enough.

In our age, wealth is inversely correlated with fertility. Caucasians and North Asians, the wealthiest demographics, witness more deaths than births in almost every country they inhabit. Conversely, Muslims and Africans in the poor nations of the Middle East and Africa are seeing their populations explode.

material wealth is a breeding strategy. For many centuries, increases in material wealth led directly to increases in population.

Therefore, learning the acquiring the skills allowed want to acquire wealth led to breeding success. That is no longer the case. Throughout human history breeding success has been associated with wealth. This occurred both at the individual and societal level. The more money a person had lots of different society, the more children he was likely to have.

Also, the wealthier his society was, the greater the likelihood that it would be able to expand its territory to war and upgrading its neighbors, and the people would have breeding success by the expansion of the gene pool in which they displayed.

At the individual level, increasing wealth means is man's the ability to put more food on the table for more children. People before birth-control people had about as many children as they could bear, and the whether or not they survived was largely a matter of how much food they got. The other essentials of life are sheltered, whether you had an adequate house to cover everybody, and further they had enough protection from the water and so on that they didn't die of illness. Wealthy people were able to cobble themselves better when they get sick and isolate themselves from the owners illnesses such as typhoid and so on the ravaged the poor.

As a societal level, which are societies expanded. Good example in Europe as the Germans. German people expanded in Germanic peoples overran Spain during the time of the great wanderings in the after the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Germans more recently sold all our water for Russia and the child under Peter the Great Catherine the great. The Germans were a successful people. All peoples in Europe, prolapse, the Basques, and many the whose names are no longer remembered, Questions isolated corners and didn't enjoy breeding success.

What is happened is this in the last century, it has always been known that cities do not reproduce themselves terribly well. One of the reasons for the dynamic system of 19th-century society was that there was still a lot of countryside to draw from. There were a lot of capable people on the farms, and their large families could move to the cities and populate the cities. Within the cities themselves was difficult to raise children. Many who came from the forms to the cities worked as servants, taking care of the children of the wealthy. But overall, the cities did not reproduce themselves.

Sometime in the early 20th century this process slowed down and stopped. There was not there were not enough farm children being born to repopulate the cities. Life in the city remained as difficult as ever. One should not say difficult. People have it in an extreme focus on money in the city. People had a focus on money and the city. There were opportunities, intellectual opportunities, many things to do other than raise a family. It was hard to raise a family in any sort of family tradition, because children no longer knew what they did for a living.

So the child-rearing process became more artificial. All class of professional educators or worlds, and factory school system, to deal with the fact that families were no longer involved in educating their own children.

Freeing people from the responsibility raising their own children of our allow them to accumulate more wealth, but the result was that there were increasingly fewer children.

We are at the end of that cycle. The baby boomers were the largest generation in American history. They were correspondingly large generate large cohorts in the European and Asian countries after the hostilities of World War II. Those people are now aging, and they simply did not have enough children to reproduce themselves. In China this was a matter of government policy. In Europe it just happened, as people's focus on went to money and the individual rather than the society.

Irrationality transcription 535-539

When I tell people I'm homeschooling my son, but often ask how that can work for everybody. This is the wrong question – it just needs to work for me.

They asked the same question when it comes to "saving America." We all see the same things happening in America. The city unsustainable debt, uncontrolled immigration, the tragic take a constant slide in the quality of the schools, thousand increases in the level of crime, and the decrease in the universe in the population of white Americans who might control it. People are looking for solutions to that problem.

It's the wrong problem.

Civilizations die periodically throughout history. Ours is dying. If you will, however, people always survive in one form or another.

We survived the collapse of the Roman Empire. Somehow civilization was saved – how the Irish saved civilization. Civilization took strong jolts in the black plague and the two world wars.

Future of Western society

There are people who want to save our society values or democracy in our country, and their people don't think it'll work. There are survivalists, who are ready to survive the collapse of the state. They are holed up in

Montana with years of supplies as Staples and guns and all they need to hold off the ravaging of words and the federal government.

What is missing is a middle ground in the middle ground would say yes society the broader society is collapsing therefore we cannot depend on the broader society to provide any sort of environment in which our children will grow and survive as adults. Nonetheless, there must be some kind of a society because we are social animals. The question then is, what kind of society will that be. There are answers to this question. The answers are the religious communities: Orthodox Jews, a mesh, which rewrites, and Muslims. There is no model that I know out for how to do this in a secular society. In order to achieve these benefits, you have to adopt a religion, and give up the enlightenment. The question is, and in doing that, you abandon a lot of knowledge, and some quite useful perspectives. The question is, can one have a non-religious form a nonreligious society which will be capable of survival.

This means we have to knowingly construct a contradiction. Construct a society was recognized, built-in contradictions and irrationality. Because, fundamentally, reproducing ourselves is an irrational act. When it did for Charles Zimmerman on three types of societies, the fact pattern atomistic fan way, the traditional domestic family, and the In.

We need to go back to a previous model without abandoning our rational minds. Question is how do we do it. We need to do to senior is between him and the same as the Titan phenotype. The type is one hour: we need to go back to our margins.

The United States had a vision consultation is a product of Enlightenment thinking. As national product. Fact IS software is currently certified as same characteristic as a lower ends your rationale in particular, you rationale is conflict between the genotype and phenotype.

Our survive was a race depends on the irrationality of the phenotype, that is as our constitutions assume that a balance can be found in society, but evolution is designed to throw things out of balance. Whenever there appears to be some sort of a balance, and organism is ideally suited to its niche, evolution finds some way of finding of differentiating things, suiting one part of a population to its niche better than another part.

So even if we did have an ideal constitution in the 18th century, it makes sense that it would be out of balance by now. The various the of the organism of American humanity self-selected to take advantage of the situation that are found. The balance was destroyed, if there ever was one

need fuel for your rationality which residents are religion in a Western context. Our religion involves more belief in the supernatural than almost any other. If you put it in the context of the Far East, Shinto in Japan were Confucianism in China, it is simply a belief in the centrality of that people to the world, held the belief in perpetuating that particular system and set of beliefs. It's a bit easier to get yourself around,. Their problem is not necessarily a lack of belief, but the adaptation of Western materialism into that belief system.

Materialism, and the individualism is inconsistent with the belief system. Also one might mention threads in Western thought. Herders romanticism in the Stroman drawing year of German literature, the early 19th century. Also Hitler's Beliefs in the early 20th century, and the reemergence nationalism in Europe, the generation identity the generation identity are movement in France and the similar nationalist movements in other countries in Europe. They simply don't want to be part of a homogenized truly modern and scientific new breed of man.

The New World order has been previewed and found wanting.

So the European nationalist movements seem to be the closest thing we have at the moment to an alternative to religious irrationalism as the basis for a new system. We have to ask how well it works.

Unfortunately carries with it a lot of the liberal excesses of the previous generation. Power of the previous belief systems.

It seems to be quite tolerant of homosexuality, and not necessarily focused on family. Those things may come, and as it becomes more clear that the only way for the national character to reassert itself is to have children.

When fertility becomes a strong issue with these groups, we may work for something promising to come with them.

At any rate, they are willing to assert their own identity as Europeans as they are right, something that belongs to them in their land, as a challenge to the Muslim and African invaders.

ANCIEN political philosophy.docx 03/31/2015

The problem with a liberal democracy, as per the end of history, is that we are our own worst enemies. Democracy doesn't work because the people have their own short-term interests at heart. These interests are in conflict with their own long-term interests, and certainly throughout the world the policy can be in the best interest of everybody on the war in the long run. Policies have to do with allocating scarce resources, and we are becoming more numerous.

Quote proto-here we have met the enemy and he is us.

The fundamental insight is that no political philosophy no written political philosophy can afford to be honest. We absolutely need to operate on a double standard. There is what is written, accepted for public consumption, what supports the masses, is not in the interests of people who are intelligent enough, concerned enough to take care of their own future. Right now this double standard works.

This double standard has always been operative. The Soviet Union was a dictatorship nominally in the interests of the people. The United States is a nominal democracy, very much in control of the moneyed interests. This is the same in Europe.

The people who are concerned about their future need to have a clear vision and know how to articulate a double standard. Essentially what we need is a double standard through which the people in spite of themselves as something that works toward the long-term interests of the world.

Fortunately, popular culture is sweeping most of the world toward practices in the areas of materialism and sexuality which hinder their ability to reproduce. This is in the long-term interests of the world. They cannot support 8 billion people forever. So by torpedoing our own fertility, are without simply reading a long-term survival. Paragraph

question then for the people in power, people who are recognize their own self-interest, how to always try is what you are obviously going to try out late select away from the masses of humanity, a way to somehow preserves what is of interest to us. That would be for us and our progeny. Of we care enough for our progeny, Thomas have to employ a double standard.

There are certain groups that do this is quite automatically, as a matter of how they operate. The Amish, Orthodox Jews, and certain other primitive peoples, Indians, have children as a matter of course. They have a very monarchical worldview, us and them. Call the college staff go back to Sir Arthur Keith for the word for it, but it's insiders and outsiders. The faithful and the glory of, or the grand jury, or whatever.

This essay is premised on evolution. Humans have evolved extremely rapidly since the advent of since our departure from Africa, and especially since the advent of agriculture. This evolution has resulted in a human diversity as we adapted to the different dishes that were open to us. And as part of that presently, there is a diversity of external appearance, temperament, and intellect. And even with intellect, we have developed somewhat different skills, although the general principle of G, has devised by the sigh, traditions starting with Spearman, seems to hold. Verbal intelligence is highly correlated with mathematical intelligence and special intelligence. Nevertheless, certain peoples, the North Asians, simply better on the math end of the spectrum and Europeans perhaps a little bit better on the language end.

So what are the implications? We should throttle back, stop trying to do the undoable.

With regard to the war on drugs, let it be. The people who destroy themselves with drugs are not going to contribute by a large to the betterment species. If you adopt the philosophy that there's not room enough for everybody in the world, end-user that some people want to eliminate themselves, they wouldn't thing to do is to stand aside and let them do so. Individual families, for interested in their genetic heritage, should of course

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Dictated on wealth: 527-530

material wealth is a breeding strategy. For many centuries, increases in material wealth led directly to increases in population. Therefore, learning the acquiring the skills allowed want to acquire wealth led to breeding success. That is no longer the case. Throughout human history breeding success has been associated with wealth. This occurred both at the individual and societal level. The more money a person had lots of different society, the more children he was likely to have. Also, the wealthier his society was, the greater the

likelihood that it would be able to expand its territory to war and upgrading its neighbors, and the people would have breeding success by the expansion of the gene pool in which they displayed. At the individual level, increasing wealth means is man's the ability to put more food on the table for more children. People before birth-control people had about as many children as they could bear, and the whether or not they survived was largely a matter of how much food they got. The other essentials of life are sheltered, whether you had an adequate house to cover everybody, and further they had enough protection from the water and so on that they didn't die of illness. Wealthy people were able to cobble themselves better when they get sick and isolate themselves from the owners illnesses such as typhoid and so on the ravaged the poor.

As a societal level, which are societies expanded. Good example in Europe as the Germans. German people expanded in Germanic peoples overran Spain during the time of the great wanderings in the after the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Germans more recently sold all our water for Russia and the child under Peter the Great Catherine the great. The Germans were a successful people. All peoples in Europe, prolapse, the Basques, and many the whose names are no longer remembered, Questions isolated corners and didn't enjoy breeding success.

What is happened is this in the West century, it has always been known that cities do not reproduce themselves terribly well. One of the reasons for the dynamic system of 19th-century society was that there was still a lot of countryside to draw from. There were a lot of capable people on the farms, and their large families could move to the cities and populate the cities. Within the cities themselves was difficult to raise children. Many who came from the forms to the cities worked as servants, taking care of the children of the wealthy. But overall, the cities did not reproduce themselves. Sometime in the early 20th century this process slowed down and stopped. There was not there were not enough farm children being born to repopulate the cities. Whites in the city remained as difficult as ever. One should not say difficult. People have it in an extreme focus on money in the city. People had a focus on money and the city. There were opportunities, intellectual opportunities, many things to do other than raise a family. It was hard to raise a family in any sort of family tradition, because children no longer knew what they did for a living. So the child-rearing process became more artificial. All class of professional educators or worlds, and factory school system, to deal with the fact that families were no longer involved in educating their own children. Freeing people from the responsibility raising their own children of our allow them to accumulate more wealth, but the result was that there were increasingly fewer children.

We are at the end of that cycle. The baby boomers were the largest generation in American history. They were correspondingly large generate large cohorts in the European and Asian countries after the hostilities of World War II. Those people are now aging, and they simply did not have enough children to reproduce themselves. In China this was a matter of government policy. In Europe it just happened, as people's focus on went to money and the individual rather than the society.

End of trasnscription

Irrationality transcription 535-539

When I tell people I'm homeschooling my son, but often ask how that can work for everybody. This is the wrong question – it just needs to work for me.

They asked the same question when it comes to "saving America." We all see the same things happening in America. The city unsustainable debt, uncontrolled immigration, the tragic take a constant slide in the quality of the schools, thousand increases in the level of crime, and the decrease in the universe in the population of white Americans who might control it. People are looking for solutions to that problem.

It's the wrong problem.

Civilizations die periodically throughout history. Ours is dying. If you will, however, people always survive in one form or another.

We survived the collapse of the Roman Empire. Somehow civilization was saved – how the Irish saved civilization. Civilization took strong jolts in the black plague and the two world wars.

There are people who want to save our society values or democracy in our country, and their people don't think it'll work. There are survivalists, who are ready to survive the collapse of the state. They are holed up in Montana with years of supplies as Staples and guns and all they need to hold off the ravaging of words and the federal government.

What is missing is a middle ground in the middle ground would say yes society the broader society is collapsing therefore we cannot depend on the broader society to provide any sort of environment in which our children will grow and survive as adults. Nonetheless, there must be some kind of a society because we are social and mouse. The question then is, what kind of society will that be. There are answers to this question. The answers are the religious communities: Orthodox Jews, a mesh, which rewrites, and Muslims. There is no model that I know out for how to do this in a secular society. In order to achieve these benefits, you have to adopt a religion, and give up the enlightenment. The question is, and in doing that, you abandon a lot of knowledge, and some quite useful perspectives. The question is, can one have a non-religious form a nonreligious society which will be capable of survival.

This means we have to knowingly construct a contradiction. Construct a society was recognized, built-in contradictions and irrationality. Because, fundamentally, reproducing ourselves is an irrational act. When it did for Charles Zimmerman on three types of societies, the fact pattern atomistic fan way, the traditional paternalistic family, and the In. We need to go back to a previous model without abandoning our rational minds. Question is how do we do it. We need to do to senior is between him and the same as the Titan phenotype. The type is one hour: we need to go back to our margins. The United States had a vision consultation is a product of Enlightenment thinking. As national product. Fact IS software is currently certified as same characteristic as a lower ends your rationale in particular, you rationale is conflict between the genotype and phenotype. Our survive was a race depends on the irrationality of the phenotype, that is as our constitutions assume that a balance can be found in society, but evolution is designed to throw things out of balance. Whenever there appears to be some sort of a balance, and organism is ideally suited to its niche, evolution finds some way of finding of differentiating things, suiting one part of a population to its niche better than another part. So even if we did have an ideal constitution in the 18th century, it makes sense that it would be out of balance by now. The various the of the organism of American humanity self-selected to take advantage of the situation that are found. The balance was destroyed, if there ever was one

End of 535-539

540-541

need fuel for your rationality which residents are religion and Western context. Our religion involves more belief in the supernatural than almost any other. If you put it in the context of the Far East, Shinto in Japan were Confucianism in China, it is simply a belief in the centrality of that people to the world, held the belief in perpetuating that particular system and set of beliefs. It's a bit easier to get yourself around,. Their problem is not necessarily a lack of belief, but the adaptation of Western materialism into that belief system. Materialism, and the individualism is inconsistent with the belief system. Also one might mention threads in Western thought. Herders romanticism in the Stroman drawing year of German literature, the early 19th century. Also Hitler's Beliefs in the early 20th century, and the reemergence nationalism in Europe, the generation identity the generation identity are movement in France and the similar nationalist movements in other countries in Europe. They simply don't want to be part of a homogenized truly modern and scientific new breed of man. The New World order has been previewed and found wanting. So the European nationalist movements seem

to be the closest thing we have at the moment to an alternative to religious irrationalism as the basis for a new system. We have to ask how well it works. Unfortunately carries with it a lot of the liberal excesses of the previous generation. Power of the previous belief systems. It seems to be quite tolerant of homosexuality, and not necessarily focused on family. Those things may come, and as it becomes more clear that the only way for the national character to reassert itself is to have children. When fertility becomes a strong issue with these groups, we may work for something promising to come with them.

At any rate, they are willing to assert their own identity as Europeans as they are right, something that belongs to them in their land, as a challenge to the Muslim and African invaders.

ANCIEN propaganda - post for trolls.docx 05/22/2014

The Russians are flooding libertarian web sites with propaganda.

The Soviets were notorious for their use of propaganda. Lenin co-opted a great many "useful idiots" such as the New York Times bureau Chief Walter Duranty to spread Soviet propaganda. American liberals sang the "Internationale" and demonstrated for Cuba when I was a kid. This time they are using the American right to spread their message. Can this be a surprise?

The relentless propaganda broadcast by all Ukrainian media in support of the Yanukovich regime up until February was ultimately unpersuasive: the Internet told the truth. The new government has had no time to put together a PR shop capable of countering the Russians. The propaganda war is totally one-sided. A few anti-Yanukovich publications such as the Kyiv Post survived. They are vilified as partisan, but they have established credibility over more than a decade in operation. And, they are all there is.

How can you identify Russian propaganda? It is professionally done, and the average reader cannot check the facts. There are some commonsense controls that anybody can apply.

1. Does it make historical sense? Ukraine was controlled by Putin ally Yanukovich until February. Yanukovich is a native Russian speaker whose Ukrainian is embarrassingly bad. If there had been any fascists, anti-Russian language activists, one would be sure that he would have rooted them out.

2. Does it make geographic sense? Look at a linguistic map of Ukraine, available online, and you will find that at least half the country speaks Russian natively. More than half the books published here are in Russian. Russian speakers are not persecuted. They are not even a minority.

3. Listen to the tone of the propaganda. Russians are arrogant, condescending to Ukrainians, treating them as uninformed bumpkins. This has been the Russians stance to toward Ukraine for centuries. Only by regarding them as sub-humans could they have justified starving millions to death. Russian bloggers condescend as well.

4. Examine the bloggers on the Internet. See if they have been in cyberspace for any length of time, and see if they post on other subjects.

5. Look for hypocrisy. Russia is busing in uneducated thugs from Russia and Transnistria to foment trouble. One has to look no further back than the demonstrations in Maidan to witness Yanukovich busing in thugs called titushki. Yet, Russia constantly blames the thuggery on the Ukrainians. The most blatant of paid shills accuse me of being a – paid shill. Russians, as they put the Nazi playbook for taking over Poland into practice once again, call Ukraine a nation of fascists.

6. Look for motives. Why would Ukrainians want to stir up trouble in their own southeast? They are attempting

to put together a nation. It would be extremely stupid to offend the Russian speakers. Russia's motive, on the other hand, is transparent: distract the Russian people, and steal land from a weaker neighbor.

7. Do they seem to have an endless supply of talking points? As if somebody in Moscow had done extensive research and broadcast it to them?

8. Do they show any sense of humor? Aside from their snide put-downs?

9. Do they ever have a negative word to say for their boy Putin? We free men certainly do for Obama, Bush, Cameron and every leader in the west. My opinion is that Moscow cannot allow even a single bit of deprecation, even to make the blogger appear human. Giving a blogger such freedom would be dangerous.

10. Do they change the subject? Do they respond with how awful the CIA is when you accuse them of spreading propaganda? The issue is the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It has nothing to do with the US.

We bloggers tend to express ourselves honestly and expect integrity from others on the Internet. We at least expect that they are speaking for themselves. Not so – Putin takes advantage of our sense of fair play. The strength of Russian propaganda, paid for and posted by useful idiots, is in its slick preparation, relentless repetition and emotional appeal. Subject it to analysis, and it falls apart.

Here are links to web sites about Russian propaganda

http://www.osw.waw.pl/sites/default/files/the_anatomy_of_russian_information_warfare.pdf

<http://www.stopfake.org/en/how-to-identity-a-fake/>

http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_2_urbanities-how_to_read.html

<http://anton-shekhovtsov.blogspot.com/2014/02/pro-russian-network-behind-anti.html>

<http://aillarionov.livejournal.com/696630.html>

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/maxseddon/documents-show-how-russias-troll-army-hit-america>

Google "moscow times opinion propaganda 2014"

J2015- propaganda.docx 05/22/2014

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Google "moscow times opinion propaganda 2014"

[ANCIEN putin press conference.docx 08/21/2014](#)

[ANCIEN Raising children - Ukraine vs the nanny state.docx 10/08/2015](#)

Raising children: Ukraine versus the nanny state

You don't meet too many authentic Christians, especially not converted by honest-to-goodness miracles. Pat and Len are two such. This working-class Englishman was saved by a miracle from death in an industrial accident, and then was bombarded by circumstance with about five messages to "sell all he had and give his life to the Lord." With no contacts here and no language facility whatsoever, they bought a farm here and take in Ukrainian orphans, whose lives they demonstrably change.

Last time they took their Ukrainian kids to England the social workers took an interest in them. Nosy, nosy. Len directed a sharp word at some kid who was misbehaving, and the social worker was up in arms. The social worker appeared to want to take charge of the kids, and Pad had to tell them it would be an international incident if they tried to commandeer a Ukrainian kid.

The state of affairs in England is much like America. God forbid that you should spank your kid, speak crossly to your kid, take a photograph of your kid in his underwear, risk asking your kid to walk someplace, ask your kid to work, or in general do anything to try to shape them into a productive adult.

This is an area in which Ukraine's relative backwardness is a definite asset. Even parents don't drive everywhere because they don't have a car. Kids know how to walk and take the buses. Kids don't talk back to teachers in school because the lawyers have better things to do than defend the schools against irate parents. The better things amount in no small measure to rampant corruption, but if it keeps the courts out of family life, it may be for the good. When the courts do intrude in family life it is for more serious matters. There are quite a few families of out and out alcoholics here who take no care of their kids whatsoever. The courts generally put those kids, lots of them, under the care of children's homes and in orphanages.

There are good and bad children's homes. In the best of them they care about the kids and are tickled pink when foreigners want to take care of them or even perhaps adopt them. In the worst of them the administration supplements their meager salaries by skimming off the kids milk money. God help the kids in the latter, but there are enough kids that you can practically support that everybody here who sees kids as a special mission can certainly find some to take care of.

One of the most encouraging signs is that organizations that have a lot of young Ukrainian members – churches, the young adult adjunct to Rotary, Toastmasters and so on organize trips to support orphans on a fairly regular basis. This is new. Under communism the party line was that the state was taking adequate care of everybody and there was no need for private charity.

My observation is that the kids in orphanages here seem to be about as well off as kids in foster care in the United States. Neither situation is ideal. The children often suffer from genetic defects or afflictions such as fetal alcohol syndrome. The fact that their parents are down-and-outers probably means that they would be lucky to have even average intelligence. Of course, the home life that they received prior to going into the orphanages, or foster homes, is often downright terrible. For all that, you see a surprising number of happy, smiling faces in the orphanages, and you hope and pray that that portends a normal future for at least some of them. One of the kids who was with Pat and Len learned the welding trade, through an apprenticeship and from Len himself, and is now working for a living. That's a success story for an orphan any place.

ANCIEN Raising Eddie in an uncertain world.docx 02/09/2014

The author gives a good account of the house of the Rothschild. Instead reating the protocols of the Elders of Zion, make some common sense observations which many others made.

The bankers look out for themselves and their own interests. They are not patriotic at all. Loyalty is to themselves and to their own financial self-interest. They have a rather quiet disdain of the common people. In other contexts this will be a disdain for the glacier Corp. form the vine and Tonya, common people of the realms in which the Jews lived.. General does this taste for the goyim. The volume are numerous, dangerous, but relatively simpleminded. As you simply take advantage of them.

This is not a matter of conspiracy. This is, as Kevin McDonald points out, Russian of evolutionary strategy. Paragraph bankers are not altruists. There were a professional banking depends on taking advantage of the borrowers lack of sophistication. The banker lends is something that he get for free, makes it out of thin air, at a profit bankers entire business is key advantage of his knowledge is very financial to earn interest from the less sophisticated. As a matter of course, the less is overpay for the services. In the best of times, tomorrow or may prudently leverage the money and make a profit. The banker always does. Except, when things fail, and may others are extremely adept at foisting their losses on one. Ask bear.

Cases in point on the American scene are the Savings and Loan bailout of the 80s and the too big to fail bank bailouts of the 2007 2008 crisis. Nothing seems to change. The too big to fail remain too big to fail. They continue to skirt the law, break the law actually, and get away with it as long as they are serving the interests of Washington. There's a question of what do I teach my child out of this. I don't think I want to teach them to be patriot. I don't think I want to teach him always to be fair to his fellow man. There are too many situations would be exception to this rule.

The simplest would be a bad. You make somebody a bet on a matter of fact, you assume that you have more knowledge than the other party. They make the same assumption. You happen to be right, is a moral failing to take advantage of their stupidity their lack of knowledge?

A similar example would be a game of poker. You enter into a card game for money, do you have any moral obligation to the other people in the game? Certainly you would not allow a total idiot into the game. But on the other hand, the way it is played, you have to allow people who have less acumen than you do into the game or else she would not make money. In other words, to make money you cannot be a total altruists. You have to be out for yourself.

I want to teach your child. He should not have an unqualified love for mankind. He does, he will not look out for his own self-interest. He will do as the my in this liberals of modern America do, look out for the people who are too stupid to understand they the altruism of the white man but are certainly willing to take it any of it. This would be the Blacks and Hispanics who exploit quite guilt, but certainly do not reciprocate with any sense of guilt of their own. They victimize whites whenever they can. Very to teach Edward not to be a victim, and not to lose his own interest by helping people were really beyond help. On the other hand, he should have a kind of sense of altruism toward others who are of his same social class and of his same ability. This is very

weakest and will not fly in today's society. Whatever, a double standard is quite common, and I'm afraid I must teach him a double standard. He should have one standard for people like yourself, and another standard toward lesser souls, cannot figure things out.

This is not Christian, but it is evolutionary.

The ultimate objective is genetics. Passing on my genome. My son should be attracted to women of his social class or better, and should inform stable union such that he passes on both his genome and his culture. That is hard to do, a significant challenge in any age but specially in the same.

If he turns out to be an exploiter of some sort, a lobbyist, banker, politician, or any of the others who sit astride modern society and take advantage of the lack of intellect of the common man, you believe I should object because it is the perpetuation of my genome. It is not a Jewish genome, but it is in the sense of superior genome, and just like the Jews, I have to accept the fact that he will be taking advantage of others in order to enjoy a superior income and superior ability to reproduce it.

M2016- reasons I quit drinking.docx 12/07/2010

Kind of like the Pharaoh dealing with Moses, I kept ignoring plague upon plague which God visited on me in the form of a message to ease up on the cup. Drinking makes you a bit fat. I ignored my spare tire. I got gout in my big toes. My father said that comes from drinking. If he could live with it, so could I. I ignored it. I got acid reflux—heartburn. I'm a man, I can handle a little pain. I ignored it. I got leg cramps at night. Painful, but they go away. I ignored them. Finally God got serious with me. He sent psoriasis. It is ugly, nasty, itchy stuff. People looked away as if I had leprosy. I finally got the hint. Or hints. I quit drinking on my birthday in December and the problems have gone away, or at least reversed themselves. Less weight, fewer cramps, less heartburn, and no gout or psoriasis. Oddly enough, after a couple of months I didn't even miss drinking.

I have to count my blessings with regard to the problems I didn't have. Drinking never caused me any problems with the law, with my employers or with my marriages. Each of my spouses would express concern about how much I drank, but they never accused me of abusing them or the children, ignoring them, or misbehaving due to alcohol. I think they were secretly glad, and might have asked that it take even more of the edge off my libido.

It was reminiscent of my quitting smoking. I puffed my last puff on my 21st birthday, a long long time ago. I had likewise been accumulating a list of unpleasant effects of smoking. My fingers were stained. My teeth were yellow. My breath smelled. My car smelled. My house smelled. Girls would not go out with me. It was expensive. I was short of breath. I made silly accommodations to this ridiculous habit, like going shopping in the middle of the night to buy more weeds, or interrupting meetings to go out for a smoke. I could see that smoking had visibly damaged my parents' health, and the evidence that it led to cancer, circulatory problems, heart disease and impotence was piling up.

Back when I quit, smoking was socially acceptable. I did not have to endure ostracism or the legal restrictions surrounding smokers today. I think part of the attraction of smoking nowadays is the in your face attitude that it displays. On the other hand, the health implications are no longer in doubt. Smoking kills.

Smoking also had its upside. Going out for a smoke throws you together with a bunch of congenial misfits and rebels. Smoking gives you something to do with your hands if you're a bit nervous. Smoking entails a number of skills and mannerisms that are kind of cool and hard to attain, such as lighting a match in the wind, French inhaling, and stubbing out a weed with your bare hands. I think about these things and I don't miss them at all. I didn't replace them, but in retrospect they were not at all essential. It is the same with drinking. It is nice to know how to mix a million kinds of cocktails, or all about different brands of beer, but it is knowledge you quickly find nobody really cares about the first place.

There you have my lifetime experience with the two greatest vices of our age. Interestingly, the more serious vices such as marijuana, amphetamines, LSD and mushrooms never got much of a hold on me. Maybe they are overrated. Perhaps the masters of vice know that there is more profit in the ones that they have allowed to remain legal.

ANCIEN Reddie Arlene Blum.docx 10/30/2014



██████████ '66, ice-ceiling breaker and anti-toxics advocate

Dear ██████████,

I believe that a ██████████ education empowers people to make a difference, and by giving to ██████████, we can change the world.

██████████ encourages people to be curious, to solve problems, and to be highly ethical. I love that combination, and I'm grateful for the intellectual honesty, research skills, critical thinking, and compassion for the world that I developed there. The skills I honed at ██████████ prepared me for everything from attempting icy summits to changing policy to protect public health.

So I ask you to join me in supporting the college with a gift of \$200, because our collective support makes more of an impact on those who go on to change the world than any one of our gifts possibly could.

3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE ██████████

Challenging
Nurturing
Creative

THESIS TITLE

Fumarole emanations from Mount Hood, Oregon (anticipated a Cascades eruption 20 years before Mount St. Helens blew its top)

PROUD MOMENTS

Successfully led the first American and first women's ascent of Annapurna I, the most dangerous 8,000-meter peak in the world

Worked with partners to change an ineffective 38-year-old California law that had led to the use of harmful flame retardants

Sincerely,

██████████

PS At ██████, I discovered my life's passions—mountains and molecules. Make your gift in honor of your ██████ discovery.

in our nation's furniture and baby products



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The above greeted me as I opened my mail this morning. My almost alma mater shaking a tin cup in my face. Again. What's wrong with this message?

First, private colleges aren't hurting for money. They have allowed their costs to balloon way out of proportion to inflation. Tuition, room and board was about \$1200 when I started with the class of '64. Now it is about \$50,000 for the same school. That's a compound annual rate of increase of 7.7%. My salary when I graduated in 1966 was about \$8,000 per year, five times the tuition. Today's college grad is lucky if he can earn as much per year as his tuition cost.

Looking at it from the other end, being a tenured professor today is a highly paid position. It was not then. Being a college president is a gold mine. And there are now more administrators than teaching faculty at almost every school. They don't need more money – they need to do more with what they have.

Secondly, I don't believe in their product. The pitchwoman here exemplifies much of what I find wrong in society today:

- Self righteousness
- Self-absorption
- Abandonment of tradition

An alumna of Bowdoin College has written a damning critique that seems to apply fairly well to liberal arts colleges across the board, mine included.

http://www.nas.org/images/documents/What_Does_Bowdoin_Teach.pdf

Our intrepid fundraiser is an avid mountain climber. This pursuit seems to have eclipsed other pursuits such as family. Her web site mentions a daughter, still with her maiden name, who must be in her 40s. No mention of husband or grandchildren. A couple of women in her party perished on one of the mountains she tackled.

As a good progressive, she seems to believe that only selfless watchdogs such as herself are capable of protecting the public against evildoers. Progressives have no faith in the marketplace to figure out what works and what doesn't. Invited or not, they use the courts intrude themselves into the marketplace. In this case, harmful flame retardants. I cannot argue the merits of this particular instance, but progressives are quite consistent in overblowing the supposed dangers of whatever they fight to combat. They earn the right to considerable moral preening, as well as a fairly good paycheck, from shaking down the supposed evildoers. They were probably guilty of little more than naiveté, trying to do the right thing, protecting kids from burns, and inadvertently exposing them to chemicals that may or may not have been very dangerous in the first place. DDT and alar fears have been judged in retrospect to have been overblown. This may have been as well.

How much worse is a society where this does not happen? Not much. The former Soviet Union had no such consumer activism, and they seem to have gotten along quite well, thank you. The people, after all, and despite the fears of the bien pensants, are not total idiots.

As evolutionary psychologist Kevin MacDonald has pointed out, seconded by many Jews such as David Gelernter, there is a religious/ethnic cast to this. Progressives, the fault-finders, skew Jewish. The nuts-and-bolts entrepreneurs who built the smokestack industries progressives criticize skew towards Christian, and the poor and downtrodden progressives claim to be defending skew minority. Through the civil rights movement, for instance, Jews are claimed to have brought down white Christians in the name of equality. The case is weaker today, as computer and internet businesses are more likely to have been founded by Jewish entrepreneurs like Sergei Brin, Mark Zuckerberg and Larry Ellison. Nevertheless, it seems to me that they get somewhat less grief from professional do-gooders than the likes of MacDonald's, Walmart and the oil companies. The financiers, guys like Jaime Dimon and Steve Cohen, get a pass despite the fact that they are almost universally considered to be criminals.

Beyond a doubt, the ability of white Christians to reproduce themselves has been severely impacted. Their institutions have been shattered, their schools ruined, and their jobs threatened by diversity. The claim that it is the Jews' fault is weaker, and the idea that they did it on purpose seems wholly unsupported. The best evidence is that the sea changes in society have impacted the Jews' ability to reproduce just as badly, if not worse, than the Christians. Our fundraiser here is a case in point. She is absorbed in climbing mountains to the apparent exclusion of a healthy family, and absorbed in righting the wrongs of productive members of society in lieu of making any constructive contribution herself. Her Orthodox Jewish grandparents must have had strong opinions about a grandchild who did not carry on the faith and the three millennium old bloodline. My opinions are the same as I would impute to them. What a waste of human potential! All that investment in raising and educating such a daughter, and for what? An evolutionary dead-end.

No, I'm keeping my wallet closed. If my genome is to succeed – narrowly construed as my direct descendants, or writ large via all of Christian society – it will be despite, not due to colleges like this.

ANCIEN Refusing to give into the double standard.docx 08/30/2013

Refusing to give in to the double standard

White men are subject to double standards in many ways. It is war. Forced to play by the rules, we lose. That is how they eviscerated good old Dad, the well-meaning white Christian doofus of 1950s sitcoms. I'm not going to take it any more.

In warfare there is the double standard that states have to behave themselves according to the Geneva Convention warfare but nonstate actors do not. ISIS and Al Qaeda presume to be weaker and ignore these conventions. The Russians of late play it both ways. Despite being vastly superior in force, they pretend to be "insurgents" in Ukraine and operate outside of the conventions of war.

In the war between men and women, men are bound under the threat of severe penalties not to hit women. However, if a woman hits a man, he gets little sympathy. He is presumed to be stronger and able to defend himself. Many will assume he started it. My first wife would flail at me with reckless abandon. Only half my weight, she was not effective, but if she had been, I would have been in a no-win situation.

Students in the 1960s felt entitled to do outrageous things and use outrageous language in attacking the administration and the police. The officials had to react with restraint, using moderate language and avoiding deadly force whatever the provocation. There was a presumed inequality, and the forces of the state had to hold their power in check. They were overwhelmed.

It is the same in the battle between conservatives and liberals. Liberals assail me with all sorts of hurtful words. They call me a racist, homophobic, a hater, an anti-Semite and whatever else comes to mind. The unfairness of it all never crosses their minds. It is effective. As a supposed representative of the establishment I am expected to play by the rules. They don't have to. They give no thought to the validity of their slurs.

However, absolutely asymmetrically, if I say something true about them they get righteously indignant. I have pointed out that the liberal members of my ex-wife's family have not been successful in raising children. The kids among other things have not been successful in building careers, forming relationships, getting married or having children. If I state these truths, which seem evident enough to me, I'm accused of being hurtful and negative. They ask me to take writings down off my website. In the very same letter in which they do this, they insult my wife and claim that I have written it only to savor some delicious, sadistic pleasure. I am just describing the world as I think any reasoning person would see it. But – objective truth does not matter in their world.

The proper Christian response is to turn the other cheek. "Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me." This idealistic philosophy sounds wonderful, but the fact is that unless I defend myself, the slurs stick. It's the technique of the big lie..

It is time for me to condemn those "stupid, muddle headed, group thinking, partner-swapping, vicious slanderous" progressives for what they are. I'll have to admit that my string of invective isn't quite as powerful as their "racist, homophobic, and sexist." It is, however, much closer to the truth.

Somebody expressed the concern that I might hurt the feelings of some member of the family. Yes, writing the truth about them might do that. Did they ever consider what telling lies about me might do to my feelings? I doubt it – they probably don't believe the lies, or expect that anybody else will. It's just what they do.

In modern society we are forbidden to even investigate what appeared to be facts about sex and race and ethnicity, while the people who employ the double standard can attack us with impunity for with words that clearly do not apply.

The supposition is that we white guys are strong, we can take it. If we attack them, were picking on the weak, and we should be more careful. But the other way around – we are men. We can take it.

Here's the news. The generation of strong men is dying out. Strong men are losing their jobs to women and minorities. Strong men are being falsely accused of rape spousal abuse and all sorts of other things. Strong men are being locked up and shut out. Those of us who speak our minds, offer opinions, are being shunned.

It appears obvious that soon there will not be any strong men left to pick on. Women already lament, where have all the good men gone? The short answer would be that you should know. You destroyed them. They "failed to launch," discovered the pleasures of homosexuality or pornography, got locked up on false rape charges, and/or connived their way onto the disability payroll. In any case, they are not there for you.

Those of us who were not destroyed have left. You ladies and minorities are not as weak as you would like to let on, and our imagined strength has not been sufficient to withstand all of your assaults. You've won. Do you enjoy your victory? You have destroyed the movers and shakers, the people whose energy and creativity made America rich. You have discouraged them from having children, and when they did, perverted their sons into beta males, objects of derision. You've won. And in the process you've destroyed Western civilization. Are you satisfied with your victory?

Russian Mark affirmative action is an official, government-sponsored double standard. Naomi infuses a motive to my posting what I did other than simply telling the truth. I falls a description of racism, the great pleasure and illicit Lee despising somebody or something like that all have a look at up. But he she imputed to me getting great deriving greater relish from putting down my children. In fact all I was doing was describing the situation.

Richard Rorty: "Sadism was recognized as having deeper roots than economic insecurity. The delicious pleasure to be had from creating a class of putative inferiors and then humiliating individual members of that class was seen as Freud saw it-as something which would be relished even if everybody were rich."

The accusation is that I enjoy hurting people. Absolutely wrong. I get quite angry that we cannot tell the truth. If we cannot truth truthfully describe problems, we cannot solve them.

The fact that we could not honestly discuss the children's problems with their relationships with their parents or with each other, and later there relationships with their boyfriends and girlfriends, mentor they never learned how to get along with anybody. The problems we have

today are the result of that. They can get along with each other and they can't get along with their father. I get along with their mother mainly because she doesn't challenge them.

The result is that we have not raised successful adults. This bothers me more than a bother rest of all liberal tribe – is quite content to let their lives be meaningless and without grandchildren and without carrying on any tradition. Just don't make waves. I'm conservative. I would like to conserve what I thought was a successful way of life. I do not see what they have as being anything have a continuation of that.

My pleasure is in solving problems. In life, as in mathematics, you cannot solve a problem unless you can stated clearly. His political correctness from which you are saying it correctly is that you will solve the problems very rarely have the are obliging enough that they go away on their own. Usually problems that you ignore only get worse. This was his certainly been the case with my children. We did not encourage them to learn how to get along with people, and they did not learn. There relationships are disasters. If I am prohibited from saying that for fear of hurting their feelings, too bad. Although it is probably too late at this point to do anything about it, I certainly want to state that I should have in the past and others will be better off in the future telling it like it is.

[ANCIEN Reply to Snyder NY review of books - link Kyiv Post.docx 11/07/2014](#)

The Soviet legacy and Soviet-style corruption has protected Ukraine from the worst excesses of Europe. Immigrants, legal and illegal, don't come here. Nobody has pressured them to be "diverse," and they aren't. Sex is still widely regarded as a means of creating children, and families as a vehicle for passing culture on to those children.

The European right is on the right track in rejecting Brussels and all it stands for in order to reclaim their freedom as individuals, communities and nations. They are gravely mistaken in assuming that Putin is an ally in any of this. He is a despot, plain and simple.

The best Ukraine can hope for, Mr. Snyder, is no "help" from the West other than honest reporting. We do not need to be sucked into debt slavery, sexual ambiguity and political correctness. We certainly do not need the dubious protection of NATO membership. Ukraine's only defense during Maidan and this recent Russian aggression has been simple justice and world opinion. We don't need Western arms, only Western values. Freedom, democracy, the right of free speech, etc. Now, if only the West could itself remember those.

[ANCIEN retaining contacts.docx 07/10/2011](#)

The strange compulsions of an examined life

It's only human to be interested in the people around you. I'm still in touch with friends from my childhood days, college days at Berkeley, and my days with IBM in Vietnam and Germany. I'm still in touch with almost all the women I loved seriously but didn't marry.

A huge exception in this is people that I knew during the 30 years I spent in Washington DC; a smaller one is the people I knew at Reed College. The people that I served with on school boards, in church, and professional organizations, and especially the family and associates of my former wife seem mostly uninterested in what I'm up to. I don't take it personally, and I do not think it is a coincidence that most of them are liberal.

One of the things we share with our primate relatives is an intense interest in others' reproductive success. Like monkeys, we compete for mates with others within the tribe, but cooperate with them to advance the interests of the whole tribe. As young men we were curious about what sort of a girlfriend another guy might have. Now, in my seventh decade, I have a similar curiosity about how well they did in the mating game. Is their marriage still intact? Do they have grandchildren? Are they happy? Did their children achieve what they would consider to be success in life?

This interest is not prurient or misplaced. It is natural human curiosity, an essential aspect of any animal community with an interest in perpetuating itself. Evolutionarily successful tribes like the Chinese and the Jews take great interest in every member's contribution to the survival of the tribe.

People who identify themselves as liberal purport to have an interest in all of mankind, but those I know seem to be rather oblivious to the individuals who make up that mankind. Particularly people whose politics do not agree with mine, and whose beliefs might be called into question if they were to examine their own lives. What is the purpose of their lives, if not their progeny? Are these childless people really scolding me on behalf of my own unborn descendants? Or, is this simply a perversion of a natural interest in other people's social conduct?

It is not coincidental that my conservative acquaintances seem more fertile than liberal friends. By and large they have raised their children a bit more traditionally, hence more likely to form families. They are also more inclined to keep up correspondence, including news on how our families and children are doing.

The world has previously witnessed changes in the course of civilization that are both vast and fast. The fall of the Roman Empire was major; others include the collapses of the Indian civilizations in the Americas, of the Ottoman empire and communism. I sense we are on the eve of another.

ANCIEN Right and wrong ways for getting to know Ukrainian girls.docx

11/09/2016

Right and wrong ways for getting to know Ukrainian girls.

A lot of guys suffer from the Dominique Strauss Kahn syndrome, (abbreviated DSKYS, pronounced D-sexy), the delusion that you are so doggone sexy that any woman is going to fall in bed with you just as a matter of course. Get real. If that were true, you wouldn't be looking halfway around the world for a woman. I want to tell you about the wrong way, and in the right way, to meet girls here in Ukraine.

If some dating agency lines up a number of meetings with sweet young things for you throughout Ukraine, and you manage to get a few of them in bed, do not deceive yourself that is due to your charm alone. There is a lot of money at work here. You should be able to figure it out – after all, it is your money.

Right off the top, you pay the agency to meet the girls, and you pay them to translate letters. You pay them to arrange dates while you are here, and they get a cut if you arrange hotels and transportation through them.

The girls get a slice of the money that you pay for going out on a date. Given that you want to make a good impression on them, it also provides the opportunity to even some nice restaurants and go to some nice clubs. A lot of girls will take you shopping to test your generosity. If you wind up in bed, it may be a sign of true love. Or, it may be what often is back home, something they figure they owe you after a generous evening out. In the worst case it may be what they do for a living anyhow.

Ask yourself why a girl would want to meet a pig in a poke – that would be you – with the notion of marrying and living on another continent? The obvious answer is that she doesn't have many prospects at home. After all, there are men here in Ukraine too. In my limited experience, some of the girls are sincere, but really don't have too much to offer. They don't speak good English, they are not extraordinarily attractive, and they are old enough that it is now or never. Through dating agencies I met among others a plain, quiet obstetrician who probably will make somebody a good wife; a small business owner; an academic with fairly pronounced political views. I'm pretty sure these women wanted to marry, but I wasn't attracted enough for a second date.

Other girls are in it for the money. I started a conversation with a guy in his 50s named Herman as he was having a charcoal caricature of himself drawn in the Metro. He described the absolutely beautiful girl that he was seeing here, and showed me a picture. Enough to make any guy jealous. He described the fabulous dinner that they had had last night – her and three of her equally beautiful friends in one of the most expensive restaurants in town. He described her taste in jewelry. A girl of infinite taste, fit for a guy of infinite means. I can only assume how it turned out – Herman hasn't returned my e-mails.

Enough of how not to do it. How, 10,000 km away, can you get to know a nice Ukrainian girl who might want to get married? The answer is simple. You do it the same way that you would anyplace. The only secret is it works a little bit better here. Back in 1967 just as he was becoming famous somebody asked Woody Allen how his love life was going and he said "Wonderful, I'm being turned down by a better class of women." I knew I was making progress in Ukraine when I was being turned down by attractive, reasonable girls 30 years younger than I was. At least they weren't laughing; often enough they went out with me, and I actually wound up marrying one.

That's the secret. Expose yourself to a lot of the right kind of women, and magic will happen. No, Congressman Weiner, that's not what I mean by expose yourself. Get to know them.

Getting to meet women is more easily said than done, you will observe. You have a hard time doing that even back home where you speak the language. I'm going to give you a little bit of advice that you should probably be following back home, but which works even better here.

Join volunteer organizations. Join the Rotary or Rotaract or the Lions Club. Join Toastmasters – it is big here. Volunteer as an English language teacher; there is a big demand for English as a second language in the states. Join a church. If you are calculating, use Google to find an American church that has missions to Ukraine. Quite a few come here for medical work and to help orphans. In the best of all worlds, get sent here on business.

Before your trip to Ukraine, write to the local chapters of the organizations you have joined and let them know you are coming. People here are genuinely thrilled to receive guests. They don't get a vast number and English speakers are a high prestige deal. People will generally be happy to introduce you around.

First impressions are vitally important in any sphere, but never more so than dating. If you meet a girl through dating agency, you arrive with "hard up" written all over you. It is only a little bit better if you are chatting up girls in a bar; at least you have enough faith in your social skills to make an overture to them. But it is far better to come with some sort of a recommendation. If you can make telephone or e-mail contact with somebody who can introduce you into the right circles, it will make a world of difference.

Even random people that you meet can be useful in advancing your agenda. Get to know you guys, and the guys will tell you where to find the girls. They might even introduce you. I am far from expert, but I would recommend that you check out O'Brien's Irish pub, TGI Friday's, the Canadian Embassy's pub night, International's periodic Friday night get-togethers, and any other place there are likely to be foreign guys. Strike up a conversation with somebody who has been here for a while, and you will probably get a lot of advice which is both better and cheaper than what you'll get from your dating agency. A good place to meet young people is in the backpacker youth hostels you find here and there in downtown. Check them out on the Internet before you come. None of them are anyplace that you would want to bring a girl, but they are good places to meet people who know what's going on locally.

Dancing is pretty big here in Kiev, especially salsa and swing. The kids here are reasonably good, but if you know what you are doing you should come out okay. Go on the Internet and find out where the dance spots are, then plan to go there. I should add, plan to go there by Metro or on foot – the taxis love nothing more than ripping off a foreigner who is new in town. Once you meet a girl she can negotiate reasonable prices for you. But that is the topic of another blog.

Let me close in saying that Internet dating is a big thing in Ukraine just as it is in the US. If you are in that minority of Americans who can express themselves well in writing, and you are not afraid of Google translate, you might try to locate some girls on your own. I never got into this much myself, since a truthful answer to the question about age would have killed me right at the beginning. Still, I understand that Slando.com and bigmir.net (click next to the red heart on either) are good places to look.

ANCIEN ROK wordpress get started.docx 07/23/2014

ROK Editor <returnofkingseditor@gmail.com>

Nov 5 (4 days ago)

to me

Hi,

Sorry for the delay. We will publish this if you haven't published it elsewhere

-Winston

On Sat, Oct 22, 2016 at 1:27 PM, ROK Article Form <no-reply@wufoo.com> wrote:

Your name * Graham Seibert

Email * grahamseib@gmail.com

Have we published an article of yours before?

No

What is the title of your article? *

Four Major Things I Like About Life in Kyiv

Your submission

Suppose you are one of those adventurous Americans who meets and marries a beautiful foreign woman. You are the envy of all your friends. What next?

You can bring her back home to the United States or Europe. The guys will be jealous, the women will feel threatened. And your bride will be a fish out of water – for a while. But it doesn't take them long to get established. She will find a group of her countrywomen, other Thais, Vietnamese or Ukrainians. They will teach her the ropes. Where to go shopping for the kind of groceries she needs. The most efficient way to send money to her relatives back home. Where her fellow countrymen hang out. And, oh yes! They will also learn American culture. Their friends will explain about American men and American divorce law. And that is where the trouble starts.

My Vietnamese war bride, an upscale Frenchified thing, informed me after just over a year of marriage, after I had helped her family escape Saigon, that "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle." When the inevitable the divorce came she refused a reasonable settlement offer and hired a junkyard dog lawyer to fight it in court. Losing, she was shocked to discover that that offer was off the table.

No! Keep your woman in her own country, where she is comfortable and where the culture is more likely to appreciate men. You make the adjustment to her culture instead of vice versa. Why? American culture is about the most poisonous in the world. Almost anything is better. Countries that haven't been indoctrinated in feminism and cultural Marxism still value children and respect a woman's role in bearing them and raising them. They also respect a man's role as the breadwinner and head of the family.

I committed myself to Ukraine nine years ago, met my wife seven years ago and our son appeared five years ago. It is worth enumerating the many ways in which it is a pleasure to be living with her and raising him in Kyiv instead of the USA.

1. Kyiv is a beautiful and lively city

Kyiv is a worthy capital city. It has millennium long history studded with cathedrals and other exquisitely crafted monuments. There are many, many targets for a tourist camera. The walled city was built to be defensible, situated atop a steep bluff on the right bank of the Dnieper River close to where the Desno River joins from the east, 20 miles south of where another major tributary, the Pripjat, flows in from the west. From their capital in Kyiv the Viking princes could easily sally out in their long boats to the Black Sea or anywhere in Western Russia.

The sandy river beaches, good for swimming from June to September and for fishing any time it isn't frozen. One can rent kayaks and rowboats, or take a river cruise in the warmer months. When it does freeze it is dotted with ice fishermen. All it takes is a saw, some bait, a line and the anti-freeze of one's choice. There are bicycle paths along the river and on the islands in the middle of the river. The city is experiencing a surge in the number of bicycle commuters.

The Soviet system had its good points. They housed everybody in high-rise apartments. It may not be as attractive as detached houses, but it makes for a very compact city. Those people needed places to breathe and exercise, so the city is full of parks. As compact as Kyiv is, it is, with most people living in apartment blocks, it easy to get around. Every place in the city is within walking distance of a convenience store of some sort, and restaurants and shopping centers are usually within a walk or a short bus ride.

Young people the world over want to live in the city, and Kyiv is no exception. It has lots of bars, cafés and nightclubs. The trends are toward sushi and Italian food, and salsa and swing music. Ukraine is traditional enough that young people even go to church. There are Orthodox churches in every neighborhood, and a handful of English-speaking congregations scattered throughout the city.

Kyiv is home to Ukraine's most famous universities, Shevchenko University, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. These are their Harvard, Yale and MIT – an extraordinarily high percentage of business and government leaders have graduated from them. They know each other. As in the United States, just being admitted to these universities is a sign of intelligence and talent. For a foreigner, getting to know these elites is a lot easier than getting to know Ivy Leaguers in the United States.

2. Ukraine is extremely affordable

Kyiv is a very affordable city... very bottom of the Big Mac Index. The hryvnya exchange rate has fallen threefold since the start of the war and Donbass. Prices have risen, especially for imports, but not nearly as

much. The tourist will note that it is still possible to get a decent hotel room for \$30, a taxi anywhere in the city for \$10 and a meal for under \$10. That is just the start.

For those of us who live here, 16¢ Metro rides – buses and trams are even less – make life cheap and convenient. Try the grocery store – 10¢ a pound for potatoes, beets, carrots, onions and cabbage, the staples of the Ukrainian diet. Meat is generally under two dollars a pound. Although there is a lot of hue and cry about corruption in the energy business, in the end it costs far less than in the United States: \$100 a month to heat a house and between four and five dollars a gallon for gasoline. However, most Ukrainians' utilities are included in rent, and only a few drive cars.

Medical care is a preview of the impending Obamacare disaster. The state promises the moon but delivers only what it can afford. The average Ukrainian has to stand in a long line to get indifferent service from underequipped and underpaid doctors and shabby, Soviet era hospitals. The flip side is that fee-for-service is alive and well. You can get decent care if you pay for it... and it doesn't cost very much. In fact, Ukraine is a medical tourism destination, especially for fertility treatments, plastic surgery and dental work.

An American Social Security check makes you rich by local standards. It is a good place to live in retirement. Moreover, any American can teach English, and there are a number of entrepreneurial opportunities that don't take a lot of capital to start.

3. Ukrainians are fairly uniformly Slavic – and they like people like themselves

Western newspapers are full of horror stories about Ukraine – war and corruption. Leaders in Moscow, Washington and Europe love to point fingers at us to distract from the increasingly blatant corruption surrounding in the West. I'm no fan of corruption, but given the fact that it is universal, it is worth relating why Ukrainian corruption is more comfortable than that of the Europe or the United States.

There is no hypocrisy about our corruption. Or, rather, the hypocrisy is so transparent that nobody believes it. The virtue? We still have free speech. Ukrainians do not lose their jobs if they are politically incorrect. They are not jailed if they say what they think about Middle Eastern immigration. If you tell a woman she looks good, she might actually blush and appreciate it.

The corruption has kept the standard of living low, which, perversely, has important benefits. People remain traditional because they have needed the support of families just to survive. "Asylum seeking" immigrants don't come because there is nothing here for them – few jobs and nothing in the way of welfare.

Not having immigrants leads to high levels of social capital. The people actually like and trust each other. I am the only American I know of in our little development of 3000 homes. They have included me in the group – everybody knows me and says hello when I meet them on the street, in the bus and in the stores. In my toney neighborhood of Bethesda, Maryland, most neighbors were too occupied with their important jobs – American corruption? – to bother being neighborly.

The fact that it is mostly just Slavs has a couple of important corollaries. There are no bad neighborhoods in Kyiv. People will tell you to avoid the Troyeshchena, but a lot of people I know live there. I went to see for myself. I had a couple of pleasant shots of vodka chatting with the locals. I cannot imagine doing that in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington DC.

People always stand up to give me and my son a seat on the bus or Metro. Old ladies absolutely gush over him, and engage him in small talk. They support their rising generation, and are tickled to death that I am raising him to be a Ukrainian.

Lastly, even though the Ukrainians will tell you otherwise, Ukrainians are good and polite drivers. They invariably stop for you at crosswalks. Very few will drive after even one drink. Fatalities are about twice as high as in the West because the roads are poor, but you can't blame it on the drivers.

4. It is a good place to sit out the West's coming civil unrest

The Western press would have you believe that Kyiv is a lawless Wild West. That is the opposite from the truth – even today it is safer than any Western capital city.

The first danger cited is Vladimir Putin. When are the Russians going to invade? Answer: they won't. Throughout its history Russia has expanded by stealth and opportunity. They stopped when Finland fought back in 1939 and Georgia fought back in 2008. They swiped the Baltics and part of Poland only after Germany had started a war that diverted the world's attention. They imposed their will on their European satellites only because the Red Army conveniently occupied them at the end of World War II.

In Ukraine, they took the opportunity of political chaos to steal Crimea, where by treaty they already had a large military presence. Emboldened, they thought they had an opportunity in the Russian-speaking Donbass. But the Ukrainians resisted, and that war is at a standstill. Putin knows full well that 80 million ethnic Russians cannot dominate 40 million ethnic Ukrainians, especially given the glare of world opinion. Despite what the neocons may be shouting to sway the US election, the Russians are not coming. Another comforting thought is that there is nothing here worth nuking. It is a benefit of staying out of NATO.

There is no dependent class here to rise up when economic hardship hits. Hardship is already here. There are no discontented minorities. Gypsies, the most visible of them, actually work – they sell flowers and work as junk dealers. You cannot be a parasite if there is no blood to suck. It is the United States and Europe that have legions of restless unemployed who are only being pacified by government benefits. and will rise up when governments can no longer afford them.

Ukraine's corruption is well understood by everybody. As much as they complain, people know how to cope with it. It may take bribery to get things done, but they generally do get done. Corruption does not result in much violence. Occasionally some hard-necked judge or a nosy reporter gets bumped off, true, but in every case the victim could have explained quite clearly why he was targeted. It is not like the random killing of whites by blacks in the United States or random Islamic terror in Western Europe.

Ukraine has lots of land, excellent agriculture, abundant water, reasonably good natural resources, and a homogeneous and hard-working population. It is not as dependent on international trade as most European countries. When the world financial system collapses, Ukraine will come through looking pretty good. They are so far down that it all looks like up, and the stress lines for civil unrest simply don't exist. Though you may come here for the love of a wonderful woman, you will find it a delightful place to make your home.

Additional comments about your submission (optional)

Graham is in the middle of Act III of his American life. Retiring from a career as an overseas adventurer, entrepreneur and author in 1998, he spent a while pursuing a PhD and then divorced and moved to Ukraine to start a new family. He occupies his time as a top 500 reviewer on Amazon and the father of a five-year-old.

Easy to find via search engines, Graham generally answers emails.

Do you agree to the above Submissions Agreement? *

Yes

ROK Editor <returnofkingseditor@gmail.com>

Nov 5 (4 days ago)

to me

The post you submitted looks good. Can you register an account so you will later be able to upload your post to Wordpress? Here's the registration guide:

<http://roo.sh/regguide>

Let me know when you have completed the steps in the guide.

Graham Seibert <grahamseib@gmail.com>
10:41 AM (4 minutes ago)

to ROK

No, I have not published it before. I wrote it for ROK, and I am pleased that you can use it.

Sorry for the delay - your message wound up in spam.

ANCIEN Ron Paul.docx 07/23/2014

<i>Authored by Ron Paul via The Ron Paul Institute,</i>	
Just days after the tragic crash of a Malaysian Airlines flight over eastern Ukraine, Western politicians and media joined together to gain the maximum propaganda value from the disaster. It had to be Russia; it had to be Putin, they said. President Obama held a press conference to claim – even before an investigation – that it was pro-Russian rebels in the region who were responsible. His ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, did the same at the UN Security Council – just one day after the crash!	
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<p><i>unrest that followed. Nor would the Malaysian Airlines crash have happened.</i></p>	<p><i>Without Yanukovich' departure, of course, Ukraine would have remained under Russia's thumb, and Putin would have felt no need to cause trouble.</i></p>
<p><i>The media has reported that the plane must have been shot down by Russian forces or Russian-backed separatists, because the missile that reportedly brought down the plane was Russian made. But they will not report that the Ukrainian government also uses the exact same Russian-made weapons.</i></p>	<p><i>This is flat wrong. It is well known and widely reported that Ukraine has about 60 Buk systems.</i></p> <p><i>They have not used them in this conflict because the rebels have no air power. They are allegedly being supported by Russian MIGs, but Ukraine is too cautious to shoot at them.</i></p>
<p><i>They will not report that the post-coup government in Kiev has, according to OSCE monitors, killed 250 people in the breakaway Lugansk region since June, including 20 killed as government forces bombed the city center the day after the plane crash! Most of these are civilians and together they roughly equal the number killed in the plane crash. By contrast, Russia has killed no one in Ukraine, and the separatists have struck largely military, not civilian, targets.</i></p>	<p><i>Note the constant use of colored words, a hallmark of propaganda whoever writes it. "Coup" is a colored, propaganda word. It is not a coup when almost the whole country is united in the desire to rid itself of a corrupt leader.</i></p> <p><i>In a guerilla war it is impossible to tell who the civilians are. This is by design. The separatists (I'll call them by Ukraine's propaganda word – terrorists) have taken over the civilian infrastructure. The Ukrainians are in uniform. They are military.</i></p>
<p><i>They will not report that the US has strongly backed the Ukrainian government in these attacks on civilians, which a State Department spokeswoman called "measured and moderate."</i></p>	<p><i>The United States has given diplomatic support but no logistical support. Ukraine is fighting pretty much with its own resources. The "terrorists" are using Russian-supplied arms.</i></p>
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<p><i>They will not report that the Ukrainian government has much to gain by pinning the attack on Russia, and that the Ukrainian prime minister has already expressed his pleasure that Russia is being blamed for the attack.</i></p>	<p><i>Ukraine has gained immense world sympathy from this incident. Also the shameful aftermath – no access to the site, hidden black boxes, looting by armed and drunken men at the site.</i></p>
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<p><i>that requires a good deal of training that the separatists do not have.</i></p>	<p><i>When the battle turned against them, they suddenly had air defense missiles.</i></p> <p><i>Who pulled the trigger is an interesting question. Shooting an innocent civilian aircraft would seem like an indication of a lack of training. In any case, all sides of this question have been widely covered in the press. Claiming that "they will not report" is just plain wrong. A lie.</i></p>
<p><i>They will not report that the separatists in eastern Ukraine have inflicted considerable losses on the Ukrainian government in the week before the plane was downed.</i></p>	<p><i>Of course it is reported! That's why they got SAMs.</i></p>
<p><i>They will not report how similar this is to last summer's US claim that the Assad government in Syria had used poison gas against civilians in Ghouta.</i> Assad was also gaining the upper hand in his struggle with US-backed rebels and the US claimed that the attack came from Syrian government positions. Then, US claims led us to the brink of another war in the Middle East. At the last minute public opposition forced Obama to back down – and we have learned since then that US claims about the gas attack were false.</p>	<p><i>I have to admit that I was convinced by the claims that Obama was rushing to war in Syria. I believed Putin. Events in Ukraine make me wonder if I was a victim of Russian propogande then as well. Anyhow, it worked.</i></p>
<p>Of course it is entirely possible that the Obama administration and the US media has it right this time, and Russia or the separatists in eastern Ukraine either purposely or inadvertently shot down this aircraft. The real point is, it's very difficult to get accurate information so everybody engages in propoganda. At this point it would be unwise to say the Russians did it, the Ukrainian government did it, or the rebels did it. Is it so hard to simply demand a real investigation?</p>	<p>He says this with his fingers crossed all the way up to his elbows. As committed as Ron Paul is to the Russian side of the story, there is no way he will ever recant.</p> <p>Many are demanding an investigation. The Russians have and will continue to slow-roll and stonewall any investigation that might help. If they had any intention of being helpful, they would have allowed access to the crash site.</p>

Contrast with:

<http://www.examiner.com/list/russia-s-top-10-lies-about-downed-malaysia-airliner>

ANCIEN Ron Paul1.docx 07/23/2014

<p>Authored by Ron Paul via The Ron Paul Institute,</p>	
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<p>Of course it is entirely possible that the Obama administration and the US media has it right this time, and Russia or the separatists in eastern Ukraine either purposely or inadvertently shot down this aircraft. The real point is, it's very difficult to get accurate information so everybody engages in propaganda. At this point it would be unwise to say the Russians did it, the Ukrainian government did it, or the rebels did it. Is it so hard to simply demand a real investigation?</p>	<p>He says this with his fingers crossed all the way up to his elbows. As committed as Ron Paul is to the Russian side of the story, there is no way he will ever recant.</p> <p>Many are demanding an investigation. The Russians have and will continue to slow-roll and stonewall any investigation that might help. If they had any intention of being helpful, they would have allowed access to the crash site.</p>

ANCIEN Ron Paul2.docx 04/03/2015

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While western media outlets rush to repeat government propaganda on the event, there are a few things they will not report.

They will not report that the crisis in Ukraine started late last year, when EU and US-supported protesters plotted the overthrow of the elected Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich. Without US-sponsored “regime change,” it is unlikely that hundreds would have been killed in the unrest that followed. Nor would the Malaysian Airlines crash have happened.

This is an often repeated, well-crafted piece of propaganda in its own right. Yanukovich left of his own accord. The evidence is that the US and the West in general were overtaken by events. This was a spontaneous uprising, the kind of thing that puts fear into the US, EU and Russia equally.

Without Yanukovich' departure, of course, Ukraine would have remained under Russia's thumb, and Putin would have felt no need to cause trouble.

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This is flat wrong. It is well known and widely reported that Ukraine has about 60 Buk systems.

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ANCIEN Rotary - Toastmasters.docx 09/13/2013

There are several American service and self-improvement organizations in Ukraine, among them Rotary, the Lions Club, and Toastmasters international.

The gift of voluntary organizations, public spiritedness, retains its luster as America's other gifts – our mode of government, our entertainments, our fast food – seem to fade in attractiveness.

Alexander de Tocqueville commented on the public spiritedness of Americans. We, better than any other people, recognized that our own best interest is often served by fulfilling a common interest. For the first three centuries of American's existence government was weak. The original settlers had fled from oppressive governments and did not want to reinstitute them. The country was too immense, and too diverse to support a powerful government. People depended on local communities and local associations to get things done.

It was in this spirit of citizen initiative, without government involvement, that the great volunteer organizations in America were founded. To name some of those now represented in Ukraine, Rotary began in 1905, the Lions Club in 1917, Toastmasters in 1923 and Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935.

Rotary and Lions are service clubs. The motivating factor is charity. Put in Christian terms – and most of the founders were Christians – it is a person's obligation to acknowledge that God has been generous to you by giving back to others. Of course, this message is present in all religions and these clubs have been international and nonsectarian almost since their founding.

Service clubs find many outlets for their charitable impulses. The Rotary club originated as a community service organization. One will still find numerous Rotary parks scattered in cities throughout the United States. They also rise to meet broader public service needs that are not being otherwise satisfied. Rotary International is working to eradicate the last vestiges of polio from the world and on drinking water issues. The Lions Club focuses on disaster relief and vision problems.

Local clubs are the core of each of these volunteer organizations. There are geographical organizations, often at country level, and they all come together in international headquarters. The bulk of their service projects take place at the local level.

The Kyiv Multinational Rotary, to which I belong, has placed incubators in outlying hospitals where premature babies were otherwise at significant risk of dying. We are currently involved in setting up a burn center for victims of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Toastmasters international and Alcoholics Anonymous are self-help organizations. Toastmasters founder Ralph Smedley was a teacher at the Young Men's Christian Association. Observing that there was a need for people to learn how to speak publicly, he organized speaking clubs everywhere he went, starting in 1910. The last one he founded, in 1923, had staying power. Toastmasters International dates itself from that time.

Toastmaster's insight is that to be successful in life, almost everybody has to express themselves well. They need the ability to put together a convincing oral presentation, to be delivered in the time available. They need to be able to make effective use of their voices, gestures, and visual aids. Any reader who has been subjected to speeches that go on forever, and PowerPoint presentations that make one's eyes glaze over, can appreciate this need.

Though Rotary had been active in Western Ukraine starting in 1929, it disappeared when the communists moved in. A group of French clubs helped restart Rotary in Ukraine in 1992. It was a local affair from the beginning, speaking local languages and taking on local projects. Of the 40 clubs now in existence, only one, founded in 2006, speaks English and there is now a French speaking club founded in 2011.

Toastmasters, on the contrary, started out in the 1990s as an English-speaking group. It was founded by English-speaking expatriates who had Toastmasters experience in other countries. Although the majority of the membership has always been Ukrainian, it is only recently that half the membership belongs to clubs that operate in the Ukrainian and Russian languages. Members of the native language clubs, obviously, are focused on improving their speaking skills. The members of the English-speaking clubs have two objectives: improve their knowledge of English and learn public speaking.

All these clubs, service and self-improvement, embody some of the more attractive aspects of American culture. They are informal. They give every member an opportunity to take a leadership role. Leadership gives people practice management, and this teaches humility. To get things done in a volunteer organization you have to be persuasive!

The clubs are also very social. It is a comfortable environment for people to get to know one another. Members converse easily with one another, strike up friendships at meetings and

conventions, and have social affairs such as dances and picnics. An unforced, but natural outcome is that members get together in business and in marriage.

Service and self-help clubs are the ultimate expression of American freedom. They belong entirely to the members. They do not represent any government or ideology. As such they are suspect in countries with totalitarian tendencies. These volunteer organizations are the canary in the coal mine. Where government looks on them with suspicion, as in Russia, all civil liberties are precarious. In a place like Ukraine where they are healthy, it is a fairly good bet that civil society is relatively healthy.

ANCIEN Russia's law on homosexual propaganda.docx 12/22/2014

Федеральный закон Российской Федерации от 29 июня 2013 г. N 135-ФЗ г. Москва	Federal Law of the Russian Federation dated June 29, 2013 N 135- FZ Moscow
"О внесении изменений в статью 5 Федерального закона "О защите детей от информации, причиняющей вред их здоровью и развитию" и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации в целях защиты детей от информации, пропагандирующей отрицание традиционных семейных ценностей"	"On Amendments to Article 5 of the Federal Law" On Protection of children from information harmful to their health and development, " and some legislative acts of the Russian Federation in order to protect children from information that promotes the rejection of traditional family values,"
Работа с документами:	Working with documents :
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Опубликовано: 2 июля 2013 г. в "РГ" - Федеральный выпуск №6117	Published: July 2, 2013 in the "WP " - federal issue number 6117
Принят Государственной Думой 11 июня 2013 года	Adopted by the State Duma on June 11, 2013
Одобен Советом Федерации 26 июня 2013 года	Approved by the Federation Council on 26 June 2013
Статья 1	Article 1
Пункт 4 части 2 статьи 5 Федерального закона от 29 декабря 2010 года N 436-ФЗ "О защите детей от информации, причиняющей вред их здоровью и развитию" (Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации, 2011, N 1, ст. 48; 2013, N 14, ст. 1658) после слова "ценности" дополнить словами ", пропагандирующая нетрадиционные сексуальные отношения".	Paragraph 4 of Part 2 of Article 5 of the Federal Law of 29 December 2010 N 436- FZ "On the protection of children from information harmful to their health and development " (Collected Legislation of the Russian Federation , 2011 , N 1 , Art. 48 , 2013 , N 14 , p. 1658) , after the word "values " , the words " that promotes non-traditional sexual relations ."

Статья 2	Article 2
<p>Пункт 1 статьи 14 Федерального закона от 24 июля 1998 года N 124-ФЗ "Об основных гарантиях прав ребенка в Российской Федерации" (Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации, 1998, N2 31, ст. 3802; 2008, N2 30, сто 3616; 2009, N2 23, ст. 2773; 2011, N2 30, сто 4600) после слов "порнографического характера," дополнить словами "от информации, пропагандирующей нетрадиционные сексуальные отношения,"</p>	<p>Paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the Federal Law of 24 July 1998 N 124- FZ " On basic guarantees of children's rights in the Russian Federation " (Collected Legislation of the Russian Federation, 1998 , N2 31, art . 3802 , 2008 , N2 30 , 3616 one , 2009 N2 23, p . 2773 , 2011 , N2 30 , 4600 one) after the word " pornography , " the words " of information that promotes non-traditional sexual relations "</p>
Статья 3	Article 3
<p>Внести в Кодекс Российской Федерации об административных правонарушениях (Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации, 2002, N 1, ст. 1; N 30, ст. 3029; N 44, ст. 4295; 2003, N 27, ст. 2700, 2708, 2717; N 46, ст. 4434; N 50, ст. 4847, 4855; 2004, N 31, ст. 3229; N 34, ст. 3529, 3533; N 44, ст. 4266; 2005, N 1, ст. 9, 13,40, 45; N 10, ст. 763; N 13, ст. 1075, 1077; N 19, ст. 1752; N 27, ст. 2719, 2721; N 30, ст. 3104, 3131; N 50, ст. 5247; N 52, ст. 5574; 2006, N 1, ст. 4, 1 о; N 2, ст. 172; N 6, ст. 636; N 10, ст. 1067; N 12, ст. 1234; N 17, ст. 1776; N 18, ст. 1907; N 19, ст. 2066; N 23, ст. 2380; N 31, ст. 3420, 3438, 3452; N 45, ст. 4641; N 50, ст. 5279, 5281; N 52, ст. 5498; 2007, N 1, ст. 21,29; N 16, ст. 1825; N 26, ст. 3089; N 30, ст. 3755; N 31, ст. 4007, 4008; N 41, ст. 4845; N43, ст. 5084; N 46, ст. 5553; 2008, N 18, ст. 1941; N 20, ст. 2251,2259; N29, ст. 3418; N 30, ст. 3604; N 49, ст. 5745; N 52, ст. 6235, 6236; 2009, N 7, ст. 777; N 23, ст. 2759; N 26, ст. 3120, 3122; N 29, ст. 3597, 3642; N 30, ст. 3739; N 48, ст. 5711, 5724; N 52, ст. 6412; 2010, N 1, ст. 1; N 19, ст. 2291; N 21, ст. 2525; N 23, ст. 2790; N 27, ст. 3416; N 30, ст. 4002, 4006, 4007; N 31, ст. 4158, 4164, 4193, 4195, 4206, 4207, 4208; N 41, ст. 5192; N 49, ст. 6409; 2011, N 1, ст. 10,23,29, 54; N 7, ст. 901; N 15, ст. 2039; N 17, ст. 2310; N 19, ст. 2714, 2715; N 23, ст. 3260; N 27, ст. 3873; N 29, ст. 4290, 4298; N 30, ст. 4573, 4585, 4590, 4598,4600, 4601, 4605; N 46, ст. 6406; N 47, ст. 6602; N 48, ст. 6728; N 49, ст. 7025, 7061; N 50, ст. 7342, 7345, 7346, 7351, 7352, 7355, 7362, 7366; 2012, N 6, ст. 621; N 10, ст. 1166; N 19, ст. 2278, 2281; N 24, ст. 3069, 3082; N 29, ст. 3996; N 31, ст. 4320, 4330; N 41, ст. 5523; N 47, ст. 6402, 6403, 6404, 6405; N 49, ст. 6757; N</p>	<p>Contribute to the Code of Administrative Offences (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2002 , N 1 , p. 1 ; N 30 , p . 3029 ; N 44 , art. 4295 , 2003 , N 27, art . 2700 2708 2717 ; N 46 , art. 4434 ; N 50 , art. 4847, 4855 , 2004 , N 31, art . 3229 ; N 34 , art. 3529 , 3533 ; N 44 , art. 4266 , 2005 , N 1 , Art. 9 13.40 , 45 ; N 10 , art. 763 ; N 13 , art . 1075, 1077 ; N 19, art . 1752 ; N 27, art . 2719 2721 ; N 30, art . 3104, 3131 ; N 50 , Art. 5247 ; N 52 , art. 5574 , 2006 , N 1 , Art. 4, 1 on ; N 2 , p. 172 ; N 6 , p. 636 ; N 10 , art. 1067 ; N 12 , art. 1234 ; N 17 , art. 1776 ; N 18, art . 1907 ; N 19, art . 2066 ; N 23, p . 2380 ; N 31, art . 3420, 3438, 3452 ; N 45, art . 4641 ; N 50 , art. 5279 , 5281 ; N 52 , art. 5498 , 2007 , N 1, Art . 21,29; N 16, art . 1825 ; N 26, art . 3089 ; N 30, p . 3755 ; N 31, art . 4007 , 4008 ; N 41, art . 4845 ; N43, Art. 5084 ; N 46 , art. 5553 , 2008 , N 18, art . 1941 ; N 20, art . 2251,2259; N29, Art. 3418 ; N 30 , Art. 3604 ; N 49, p . 5745 ; N 52 , art. 6235 , 6236 , 2009 , N 7 , Art. 777 ; N 23, p . 2759 ; N 26, art . 3120, 3122 ; N 29 , art . 3597 , 3642 ; N 30, p . 3739 ; N 48 , art. 5711 , 5724 ; N 52 , art. 6412 , 2010 , N 1 , p. 1 ; N 19, art . 2291 ; N 21, p . 2525 ; N 23, p . 2790 ; N 27, art . 3416 ; N 30, art . 4002, 4006 , 4007 ; N 31, art . 4158 , 4164 , 4193 , 4195 , 4206, 4207 , 4208 ; N 41, art . 5192 ; N 49, p . 6409 , 2011 , N 1 , Art. 10,23,29 , 54 ; N 7 , Art. 901 ; N 15, art . 2039 ; N 17 , art. 2310 ; N 19, art . 2714 , 2715 ; N 23, p . 3260 ; N 27, art . 3873 ; N 29 , art. 4290 , 4298 ; N 30, art . 4573 , 4585 , 4590 , 4598.4600 , 4601, 4605 ; N 46 , art . 6406 ; N 47 , art. 6602 ; N 48 , art. 6728 ; N 49, p . 7025 , 7061 ; N 50 , art. 7342 , 7345 , 7346 , 7351 , 7352 , 7355 , 7362 , 7366 , 2012 , N 6 , Art. 621 ; N 10 , art. 1166 ; N 19, art . 2278 , 2281 ; N 24 , art. 3069 , 3082 ; N 29 , art. 3996 ; N 31, art . 4320 , 4330 ; N</p>

53, ст. 7577, 7602, 7640; 2013, N 8, ст. 720; N 14, ст. 1651, 1658, 1666; N 19, ст. 2323, 2325) следующие изменения:	41, Art. 5523 ; N 47 , art. 6402 , 6403 , 6404 , 6405 ; N 49, p . 6757 ; N 53 , art. 7577 , 7602 , 7640 , 2013 , N 8 , Art. 720 ; N 14, art . 1651 , 1658 , 1666 ; N 19, art . 2323 , 2325) as follows :
1) в абзаце первом части 1 статьи 3.5 слова "статьями 5.38, 20.2" заменить словами "статьей 5.38, частями 2 и 4 статьи 6.21, статьями 20.2", слова "предусмотренных частью 21 статьи 14.16" заменить словами "предусмотренных частью 2 статьи 6.21, частью 21 статьи 14.16";	1) in the first paragraph of Part 1 of Article 3.5 of the word " Articles 5.38 , 20.2 " substitute " Article 5.38 , paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 6.21 , Articles 20.2 ," the words " specified in paragraph 21 of Article 14.16 " substitute " under Part 2 of Article 6.21 , part 21 of article 14.16 " ;
2) в главе 6:	2) in chapter 6,
а) в части 1 статьи 6.17:	a) in Part 1 of Article 6.17 :
в абзаце первом слова "статьей 6.20" заменить словами "статьями 6.20,6.21";	In the first paragraph the words " Article 6.20 " substitute " Articles 6.20,6.21 " ;
в абзаце втором слова "и (или) административное" заменить словами "или административное";	In the second paragraph the words "and (or) the administration " substitute " or administrative " ;
б) дополнить статьей 6.21 следующего содержания:	b) to add Article 6.21 as follows:
"Статья 6.21. Пропаганда нетрадиционных сексуальных отношений среди несовершеннолетних	"Section 6.21 . Promotion of non-traditional sexual relations among minors
1. Пропаганда нетрадиционных сексуальных отношений среди несовершеннолетних, выразившаяся в распространении информации, направленной на формирование у несовершеннолетних нетрадиционных сексуальных установок, привлекательности нетрадиционных сексуальных отношений, искаженного представления о социальной равноценности традиционных и нетрадиционных сексуальных отношений, либо навязывание информации о нетрадиционных сексуальных отношениях, вызывающей интерес к таким отношениям, если эти действия не содержат уголовно наказуемого деяния, - влечет наложение административного штрафа на граждан в размере от четырех тысяч до пяти тысяч рублей; на должностных лиц - от сорока тысяч до пятидесяти тысяч рублей; на юридических лиц -	1. Promotion of non-traditional sexual relations among minors, expressed in the dissemination of information aimed at developing non-traditional sexual juvenile facilities, attractiveness of non-traditional sexual relations, a distorted picture of the social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relations, or the imposition of information on non-traditional sexual relationships, causing interest in such relationships if these actions do not have a criminal offense, - punishable by an administrative fine on citizens in the amount of four thousand to five thousand rubles for officials - from forty thousand to fifty thousand rubles for legal entities - from eight hundred thousand to one million rubles or administrative suspension of activity for up to ninety days.

от восьмисот тысяч до одного миллиона рублей либо административное приостановление деятельности на срок до девяноста суток.	
2. Действия, предусмотренные частью 1 настоящей статьи, совершенные с применением средств массовой информации и (или) информационно-телекоммуникационных сетей (в том числе сети "Интернет"), если эти действия не содержат уголовно наказуемого деяния, -	2 . Actions provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, committed with the use of the media and (or) information and telecommunication networks (including network " Internet ") if these actions do not have a criminal offense, -
влекут наложение административного штрафа на граждан в размере от пятидесяти тысяч до ста тысяч рублей; на должностных лиц - от ста тысяч до двухсот тысяч рублей; на юридических лиц - одного миллиона рублей либо административное приостановление деятельности на срок до девяноста суток.	shall entail the imposition of an administrative fine on citizens in the amount of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand rubles for officials - from one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand rubles for legal entities - one million rubles or administrative suspension of activity for up to ninety days.
3. Действия, предусмотренные частью 1 настоящей статьи, совершенные иностранным гражданином или лицом без гражданства, если эти действия не содержат уголовно наказуемого деяния, -	3 . Actions provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, committed by a foreign national or a stateless person, if these actions do not have a criminal offense, -
влекут наложение административного штрафа в размере от четырех тысяч до пяти тысяч рублей с административным выдворением за пределы Российской Федерации либо административный арест на срок до пятнадцати суток с административным выдворением за пределы Российской Федерации.	shall be punishable by a fine of four thousand to five thousand rubles from the administrative expulsion from the Russian Federation or administrative arrest for up to fifteen days with administrative expulsion from the Russian Federation.
4. Действия, предусмотренные частью 1 настоящей статьи, совершенные иностранным гражданином или лицом без гражданства с применением средств массовой информации и (или) информационно-телекоммуникационных сетей (в том числе сети "Интернет"), если эти действия не содержат уголовно наказуемого деяния, -	4 . Actions provided for by paragraph 1 of this Article, committed by a foreign national or a stateless person with the use of the media and (or) information and telecommunications networks (including network " Internet ") if these actions do not have a criminal offense, -
влекут наложение административного штрафа в размере от пятидесяти тысяч до ста тысяч рублей с административным выдворением за пределы Российской Федерации либо административный арест на срок до пятнадцати суток с административным выдворением за пределы Российской Федерации.;"	shall be punishable by a fine of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand with administrative expulsion from the Russian Federation or administrative arrest for up to fifteen days with administrative expulsion from the Russian Federation. " ;

3) в части 1 статьи 23.1 цифры "6.18 - 6.20" заменить цифрами "6.18 - 6.21";	3) in Part 1 of Article 23.1 of the figure " 6.18 - 6.20 " replace " 6.18 - 6.21 " ;
4) в части 2 статьи 28.3:	4) in Part 2 of Article 28.3 :
а) пункт 1 после цифр "6.20," дополнить цифрами "6.21,";	a) Paragraph 1 after the numbers " 6.20 " to add the numbers " 6.21 " ;
б) пункт 58 после цифр "6.13," дополнить цифрами "6.21,".	b) Paragraph 58 digits after the " 6.13 " add numbers " 6.21 " .
Статья 4	Article 4
В абзаце втором пункта 1 статьи 1 Федерального закона от 7 мая 2013 года N 96-ФЗ "О внесении изменений в Кодекс Российской Федерации об административных правонарушениях" (Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации, 2013, N 19, ст. 2323) слова "статьями 5.38, 7.13, 7.14, 7.142, частью 2 статьи 7.15" заменить словами "статьей 5.38, частями 2 и 4 статьи 6.21, статьями 7.13, 7.14, 7.142, частью 2 статьи 7.15", слова "предусмотренных частью 21 статьи 14.16" заменить словами "предусмотренных частью 2 статьи 6.21, частью 21 статьи 14.16".	In the second paragraph of paragraph 1 of Article 1 of the Federal Law dated May 7, 2013 N 96- FZ "On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences" (Collected Legislation of the Russian Federation , 2013 , N 19, art . 2323), the words " Articles 5.38 , 7.13 , 7.14 , 7.142 , paragraph 2 of Article 7.15 "substitute" article 5.38 , paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 6.21 , Articles 7.13 , 7.14 , 7.142 , paragraph 2 of Article 7.15 , "the words " specified in paragraph 21 of Article 14.16 "substitute" under part 2, Article 6.21 , part 21 of article 14.16 . "
Статья 5	Article 5
Настоящий Федеральный закон вступает в силу со дня его официального опубликования.	This Federal Law shall enter into force on the day of its official publication.
Президент Российской Федерации В.Путин	Russian President Vladimir Putin

Google translation of the meat of Федеральный закон Российской Федерации от 29 июня 2013 г. N 135-ФЗ г. Москва. "1. Promotion of non-traditional sexual relations among minors, expressed in the dissemination of information aimed at developing non-traditional sexual juvenile facilities, attractiveness of non-traditional sexual relations, a distorted picture of the social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relations, or the imposition of information on non-traditional sexual relationships, causing interest in such relationships if these actions do not have a criminal offense, - punishable by an administrative fine on citizens in the amount of four thousand to five thousand rubles for officials - from forty thousand to fifty thousand rubles for legal entities - from eight hundred thousand to one million rubles or administrative suspension of activity for up to ninety days."

With the ruble worth 3¢, the fines start at \$120.

[ANCIEN Saul Alinsky rules for radicals.docx 04/03/2015](#)

Saul Alinsky's 12 Rules for Radicals

Here is the complete list from Alinsky.

- * RULE 1: "Power is not only what you have, but what the enemy thinks you have." Power is derived from 2 main sources – money and people. "Have-Nots" must build power from flesh and blood. (These are two things of which there is a plentiful supply. Government and corporations always have a difficult time appealing to people, and usually do so almost exclusively with economic arguments.)
- * RULE 2: "Never go outside the expertise of your people." It results in confusion, fear and retreat. Feeling secure adds to the backbone of anyone. (Organizations under attack wonder why radicals don't address the "real" issues. This is why. They avoid things with which they have no knowledge.)
- * RULE 3: "Whenever possible, go outside the expertise of the enemy." Look for ways to increase insecurity, anxiety and uncertainty. (This happens all the time. Watch how many organizations under attack are blind-sided by seemingly irrelevant arguments that they are then forced to address.)
- * RULE 4: "Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules." If the rule is that every letter gets a reply, send 30,000 letters. You can kill them with this because no one can possibly obey all of their own rules. (This is a serious rule. The besieged entity's very credibility and reputation is at stake, because if activists catch it lying or not living up to its commitments, they can continue to chip away at the damage.)
- * RULE 5: "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon." There is no defense. It's irrational. It's infuriating. It also works as a key pressure point to force the enemy into concessions. (Pretty crude, rude and mean, huh? They want to create anger and fear.)
- * RULE 6: "A good tactic is one your people enjoy." They'll keep doing it without urging and come back to do more. They're doing their thing, and will even suggest better ones. (Radical activists, in this sense, are no different than any other human being. We all avoid "un-fun" activities, and but we revel at and enjoy the ones that work and bring results.)
- * RULE 7: "A tactic that drags on too long becomes a drag." Don't become old news. (Even radical activists get bored. So to keep them excited and involved, organizers are constantly coming up with new tactics.)
- * RULE 8: "Keep the pressure on. Never let up." Keep trying new things to keep the opposition off balance. As the opposition masters one approach, hit them from the flank with something new. (Attack, attack, attack from all sides, never giving the reeling organization a chance to rest, regroup, recover and re-strategize.)
- * RULE 9: "The threat is usually more terrifying than the thing itself." Imagination and ego can dream up many more consequences than any activist. (Perception is reality. Large organizations always prepare a worst-case scenario, something that may be furthest from the activists' minds. The upshot is that the organization will expend enormous time and energy, creating in its own collective mind the direst of conclusions. The possibilities can easily poison the mind and result in demoralization.)
- * RULE 10: "If you push a negative hard enough, it will push through and become a positive." Violence from the other side can win the public to your side because the public sympathizes with the underdog. (Unions used this tactic. Peaceful [albeit loud] demonstrations during the heyday of unions in the early to mid-20th Century incurred management's wrath, often in the form of violence that eventually brought public sympathy to their side.)
- * RULE 11: "The price of a successful attack is a constructive alternative." Never let the enemy score points because you're caught without a solution to the problem. (Old saw: If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Activist organizations have an agenda, and their strategy is to hold a place at the table, to be given a forum to wield their power. So, they have to have a compromise solution.)
- * RULE 12: Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it." Cut off the support network and isolate the target from sympathy. Go after people and not institutions; people hurt faster than institutions. (This is cruel, but very effective. Direct, personalized criticism and ridicule works.)

[ANCIEN Self-improvement.docx 10/19/2014](#)

There are several American service and self-improvement organizations in Ukraine, among them Rotary, the Lions Club, and Toastmasters international.

The gift of voluntary organizations, public spiritedness, retains its luster as America's other gifts – our mode of government, our entertainments, our fast food – seem to fade in attractiveness.

Alexander de Tocqueville commented on the public spiritedness of Americans. We, better than any other people, recognized that our own best interest is often served by fulfilling a common interest. For the first three centuries of American's existence government was weak. The original settlers had fled from oppressive governments and did not want to reinstitute them. The country was too immense, and too diverse to support a powerful government. People depended on local communities and local associations to get things done.

It was in this spirit of citizen initiative, without government involvement, that the great volunteer organizations in America were founded. To name some of those now represented in Ukraine, Rotary began in 1905, the Lions Club in 1917, Toastmasters in 1923 and Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935.

Rotary and Lions are service clubs. The motivating factor is charity. Put in Christian terms – and most of the founders were Christians – it is a person's obligation to acknowledge that God has been generous to you by giving back to others. Of course, this message is present in all religions and these clubs have been international and nonsectarian almost since their founding.

Service clubs find many outlets for their charitable impulses. The Rotary club originated as a community service organization. One will still find numerous Rotary parks scattered in cities throughout the United States. They also rise to meet broader public service needs that are not being otherwise satisfied. Rotary International is working to eradicate the last vestiges of polio from the world and on drinking water issues. The Lions Club focuses on disaster relief and vision problems.

Local clubs are the core of each of these volunteer organizations. There are geographical organizations, often at country level, and they all come together in international headquarters. The bulk of their service projects take place at the local level.

The Kyiv Multinational Rotary, to which I belong, has placed incubators in outlying hospitals where premature babies were otherwise at significant risk of dying. We are currently involved in setting up a burn center for victims of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Toastmasters international and Alcoholics Anonymous are self-help organizations. Toastmasters founder Ralph Smedley was a teacher at the Young Men's Christian Association. Observing that there was a need for people to learn how to speak publicly, he organized speaking clubs everywhere he went, starting in 1910. The last one he founded, in 1923, had staying power. Toastmasters International dates itself from that time.

Toastmaster's insight is that to be successful in life, almost everybody has to express themselves well. They need the ability to put together a convincing oral presentation, to be delivered in the time available. They need to be able to make effective use of their voices, gestures, and visual aids. Any reader who has been subjected to speeches that go on forever, and PowerPoint presentations that make one's eyes glaze over, can appreciate this need.

Though Rotary had been active in Western Ukraine starting in 1929, it disappeared when the communists moved in. A group of French clubs helped restart Rotary in Ukraine in 1992. It was a local affair from the beginning, speaking local languages and taking on local projects. Of the 40 clubs now in existence, only one, founded in 2006, speaks English and there is now a French speaking club founded in 2011.

Toastmasters, on the contrary, started out in the 1990s as an English-speaking group. It was founded by English-speaking expatriates who had Toastmasters experience in other countries. Although the majority of the membership has always been Ukrainian, it is only recently that half the membership belongs to clubs that operate in the Ukrainian and Russian languages. Members of the native language clubs, obviously, are focused on improving their speaking skills. The members of the English-speaking clubs have two objectives: improve their knowledge of English and learn public speaking.

All these clubs, service and self-improvement, embody some of the more attractive aspects of American culture. They are informal. They give every member an opportunity to take a leadership role. Leadership gives people practice management, and this teaches humility. To get things done in a volunteer organization you have to be persuasive!

The clubs are also very social. It is a comfortable environment for people to get to know one another. Members converse easily with one another, strike up friendships at meetings and conventions, and have social affairs such as dances and picnics. An unforced, but natural outcome is that members get together in business and in marriage.

Service and self-help clubs are the ultimate expression of American freedom. They belong entirely to the members. They do not represent any government or ideology. As such they are suspect in countries with totalitarian tendencies. These volunteer organizations are the canary in the coal mine. Where government looks on them with suspicion, as in Russia, all civil liberties are precarious. In a place like Ukraine where they are healthy, it is a fairly good bet that civil society is relatively healthy.

[ANCIEN Social Scientists and Social Justice Warriors.docx 05/22/2014](#)

Social Scientists and Social Justice Warriors

A social scientist's aim is to explain human behavior. He does it by accurately observing and measuring every aspect of the human animal, drawing up theories to explain the correlations among them, and using the tools of statistics, genetics, biology, history and archaeology to test the theories.

A social justice warrior starts with a set of convictions with regard to how a fair world must operate. These convictions are held a priori, as religious tenets. The SJW applies every available tool to make the argument that the facts support his view of the world. These tools include leaving inconvenient observations out of the analysis, willfully misinterpreting the evidence, and even falsifying data to support their arguments.

SJWs are easy to distinguish from true social scientists. They do not merely claim that people with whom they disagree are wrong. No! They must be morally deficient to have arrived at their abhorrent conclusions. They must be demonized, excommunicated, pilloried, publicly shamed and fired from their jobs.

The SJWs are frighteningly effective in doing just this. They dominate academia to the extent that it is difficult to do honest research in any sector of the social sciences that addresses differences among races, genders or sexual orientations. The interesting questions are put off limits. Progressive dogma already provides the answers –they don't need no stinkin' research.

Reflect on what you have heard about social scientists such as Charles Murray (The Bell Curve), Arthur Jensen and Philippe Rushton. In most cases you will simply ask, "Who?," indicating that the SJWs have successfully prevented you from even hearing about some of the greatest scientific minds of our time. If you have heard anything, it is almost assuredly both negative and simplistic. They are tagged as racists, haters, bigots, homophobes, chauvinists and any number of other unsavory things. Even to ask why makes a person suspect – so most take the easy path and accept that there must be some substance to any such passionately held beliefs.

In the three years since he died Rushton, and the treatment he received over the years, has brought together courageous scientists in a number of disciplines. [Here is a paper](#) describing his contributions to science. More to the point, here is an excruciatingly well written and documented paper describing the [systematic abuse](#) to which he was subjected.

I'm doing a review of a book on Rushton, "The Life History Approach to Human Differences," available, typically, only from The Ulster Institute – no traditional bookseller will touch it. It is a collection of articles by leading scientists, all done in impeccably proper scholarly form. However, the SJWs have successfully pushed it to the fringes. I am fortunate to be retired and living in a foreign country, otherwise I am sure they would come for me just as they did for the others. These times require courage.

ANCIEN Speculation on the future evolution of mankind.docx 05/15/2014

Speculation on the future evolution of mankind

The book *A Troubled Inheritance* has met the expected troubled reception. The author, Nicholas Wade, lost his job of 30 years as science editor of the New York Times. The predictable forces of political correctness are choosing either to denounce or to ignore the book. They seemed to have gotten smarter – most are taking the latter course. The predictable libertarians and self-styled human biodiversity experts such as Jared Taylor, Steve Sailer, Theodore Dalrymple, and Charles Murray have written extremely good reviews of the book. One suspects that these reviewers probably know as much about the subject as the author. More to the point, they are willing to address different aspects of the situation. It is a highly politicized issue. One senses that each of them find certain aspects of the topic too dangerous to talk about. They do not overlap, however, so reading book and all its reviews one gets a pretty good picture of the science.

Politics and economics are ostensibly separate spheres. One of the messages Wade's book is that human behavior is every bit as subject to evolution as appearance. Therefore, the Chinese or the Jews' behavior in society and the market, is both genetically and culturally determined. The culture and the genome have coevolved.

The earth's three major populations have evolved independently, resulting in significant, observable differences. This is Wade's major heresy although it is merely a repetition of findings of scientists over the past several several decades, and the common sense observations going back to the Greeks.

The idea that our evolving quickly and separately as a new dimension to this. Behavior and culture go hand in and this is where

I would like to add some observations of my own in the three revolutionary groups which was the fact that a future course of human ity are the Caucasians, the East Asian, and the Africans. Other revolutionary groups were talking about would include the North Africans – Arabs – who are some combination of Caucasian and African, a separate breeding group, and American Indians. Leave them out of a discussion for the time being, recognizing they of course have an important role to play..

Wade, however, when talking about genes under selective pressure at the moment, confines himself the three major populations the says that the are approximately 200 genes on the active selection in the population, and that for the most part they do not overlap. Very few are common to all three populations, and only a minority are common any two populations.

One of the have your switches in either in my experience confined mostly to Caucasians is altruism. I would say, a echoing the title of the book by Barbara Oakley, *Pathological Altruism* we have evolved to become extremely others-oriented.

Altruistic behavior exists in other cultures. It is usually, however, altruism directed towards the well-being of the culture in question. The most obvious such behavior is suicide bombing on part of Islamic militants. The individual may martyr himself, but he is martyring himself him for his kinfolk, others who share his belief system and his blood. The might be said of Japanese kamikaze and other highly motivated soldiers in the service of Empires throughout the world.

It could perhaps it could be said for the American Indians who died quite willingly in defene of the Inca and Maya empires.

Altruism on behalf of the entire world appears to be a Western invention and something that is still largely confined to the West. It is the West that is concerned over global warming and species extinctions. These are problems that face all of humanity, yet it is selective Westerners who take the burden upon themselves to wrestle with on behalf of all of humanity and take charge of the politics of getting things changed.

This level of altruism, to repeat, seems quite exclusively Western. Westerners are concerned with the overpopulation of the planet. It was Westerners, first Malthus and then Erlich in the 70s, who concerned themselves with the population explosion and the Earth's inability to support all of the mouths that were to be fed. It was Westerners who were concerned with the with nuclear holocaust, air quality, and the increasing levels of CO2.

That is not to say that the problems are or are not real. My point is that it is a characteristic of Westerners to be concerned with them.

Westerners are concerned with the fate of the entire world. Within this last week I have talked with old friends, white people of course,, one of whom is finding meaning in life by helping convicts learn the job above grooming horses. Another is working in the area of victims' rights.

Their outreach in both cases seems to be predominantly to African-Americans. African-Americans are disproportionately represented among convicts, and also amont both victims and perpetrators of violence. This is a very typical Caucasian undertaking, to help other people, even of other races. My very white church in Washington, D.C. had missions to Haiti, the American Indians, and the black part of Washington itself. Churches did the same thing as missionaries a hundred years ago. Bill Gates' charity goes to Africa and the Common Core curriculum, addressing the problems of African American students. Mark Zuckerberg gave \$100 million to Newark schools – to help African Americans. The Carnegie Foundation brought

This distinguishes us Westerners from the East Asians, whose concerns are their own peoples and societies, and Africans, whose interests are confined by and large to family and tribe, not even their fellow Africans – Evolutionarily, the white population came up with an altruism gene the others did not.

My thesis is that this altruism gene is the undoing of the West. It was advantageous when we were tribes coalescing into nations. Nations of like peoples were stronger than tribes, hence more viable. It was beneficial for the Germans to come together into a German state, and the French into a French state. It is not beneficial as Thilo Sarrazin writes in *Deutschland Schafft Sich Ab*, for Germany to extend its liberalism to Turks, and for France to extend its liberalism to Arabs and Africans. Arabs and Africans do not appreciate it, and they have no respect for the French who extend this liberality to them.

The French are a special case because they attempted in their mission civilisatrice to expand French civilization to all peoples of the world. Specifically, they attempted to give citizenship to the Algerians in North Africa and the Gabonese in Africa proper, and spread their way of life to the Vietnamese and the Indians in Quebec. It has not taken any place. These people simply did not want to be French. They are who they are.

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nonetheless, the French. In fact all of the Europeans who opened their doors to have the hearing relative relations Europe a graphic trends point to their become guardian virtually every European country by the 21st century although one note that such demographic trends are have only one trait in common that another trend that is taken place in Western the secularization, and with that materialism is people no one under home with his beliefs. Religious beliefs were essential to process of of ring and is in children of economic benefit to having shown to them. I have more costly commitment only reason than to have them, virtual world which is all I want people know you have is called him a longer need to have children. It is evident that the Western Europeans are having were your children. Moreover, the educated were out front in this for your children and others graph not having children is truly one of the effect was is also, Betty Frieda wrote in 19 63, Russian event of a dual fulfill. And have expressed the belief that there is more to life than simply raising should do, and want to share water in all actual wife heretofore been the province of men want to be scientists my economist must start workers, and occupy all of the other prestigious occupations that were formed held by men. There is their success in this equate were made for finding mates in children graph with regard to finding a mate, there's no longer a vision into sex roles. Each man of wanting in the region marriage have to define sex roles for the to make sure that everything gets done marriage. With you children want back in any particular sort of, the house for, or the caregiver for that amount and the religious commitments to The relation so means the grandparents and other well those are no order as all as people become mobile, answering Mark Hunt the next with the other natural caregivers might as are the burden with them. Therefore, fuel US can't and less support from a from other blood relatives. Susan some cases cited by the labor is healthcare Center is is common for jet that these naming in the have the name vested interest as a grandmother or and and and every thing something that is part of rounds renown face, most of the caregivers are a lot "welcome ladies" different teachers and in many I would cannot be expected that they will children to be true to cultures of their warfare

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East Asian societies are quite conservative by nature. Going back to wait, this is your virtues and is built into the genome. For your formal competitive examination of rote memory have wetsuit not only population of Chinese quite good Rote memory. The use of relation that is extremely good as things still and doing what Westerners would take to be mindnumbing labor hour after hour. Then part of the Japanese and later the second to make miracles. Have a native Intel work that when a is a Western inventiveness, the Western type consumer orientation results has raised all the great deal of fun and so for economic progress. Stations have become the as extensive of Western-style vacations of entertainment everything else Western. Among the things have started revolution is not a question of whether or not such things that, as the Western notion of true love.

Is it fact most of Asia the sexual away as well as riding selected with free agency of their parents, as makers And the woods. The objective was quite clearly children are not necessarily happiness. Paragraph the wives

were quite separate happiness without such a reddish if you are of markedly different languages from mutually on tangible, but in different ways/12 ideas for Largely of women. And fathers with babies in life was a whole care for the babies is is labor is existence of such a not expected. It is nice surprised this is very nevertheless, when they have targeted by itself is very common for the role graph in the world. Last several in have half the federal new Alanson is a regular the idea of idea that one should marry for love Rosalie not second welfare results of taken a fair graph celebration sex in dealing with. Using West, is as is more as the cure for her age. You either alternative forms of the alternative for relationships was bicycle riding, even affected by other than those which produce and nurture children surveys indicate that young Japanese are simply not interested in sex, while allowing marriage is marriage rates are plummeting the most to which they might redefine in his does not bode well for the future of their societies.

Turning to Africa, one of the unanswered questions in a troubled inheritance is are under a force selection pressure in Africa. Africa is or significantly divided into diatribes and other small breeding groups and the other populations. One would expect that the federal OSHA refresher would be happening within smaller groups in Africa is so. Also, question and this is consistent with the observation that genetic diversity is much broader in a particular fellow another. You is, after all, all genetic diversity within the human race fixes to affect the 50,000 years ago. More population which Are here is to teach here the rest of the world contain the various all back children of human diversity that were as XP and 50,000 years ago the rest of it, rest of it presumably stayed in Africa and 15 software with a graph away for me in Africa has traditionally, and most tribes, a question more for the tribe and the family's sexual fidelity is not the highly prized may be fairly promiscuous in and when to have quite a bit of sex, is a largely been people who are genetically quite similar to them, the children are raised by the village rather than simply wave your is a traditional arrangement, and one that is quite similar to that of the hunter gatherers in the bazaars is them under a crew and the Kia Pro.

Additionally, rates of mortality in Africa have been quite high in them to a number of factors. These kills many, warfare kills a great many, there is starvation take their toll. Will you not particularly rich, meaning that they cannot afford large populations of agriculture.

For always reasons, it has been important historic way to have lots of children. Going back to wait, he says that the way it's claimed that the genome cultured code evolved, other researchers such as Philippe Rushton have noted that the Africans are in the more sexually active than the other races. They have higher frequency that they have higher levels of sex hormones, testosterone in particular. They have larger genitalia, and report more frequent sex. And did decreasing order of frequency the Perkins have the most, followed by the Caucasians, with the East release date by having the least. To revert to the note above about East Asians, the high changing the cultural arrangements that have enabled them to reproduce themselves may be such a disaster to them. It may be that you have the cultural behavior more than a more deep wiring sexual impulse possible for has been responsible for the revision way to recreate. The impact of Western culture has been quite different in Africa. The breakdown of the tribe, people moving into cities, has greatly increased their contact with one another. It has facilitated the spread of malarial diseases, which are often promoted by their uninhibited sexuality. The sexuality continues to result in a high level of fertility. Western medicines and the Western imposition of on the enforced peace, however spotty and piecemeal, has resulted in an increased population. The outcome is that the populations in sub-Saharan Africa are growing whereas the rest of the world seems to be quite stable there is severe demographic pressure to emigrate because there are simply no jobs available. The tribal instincts which made it hard to congeal into nations continued, and the lack of stable institutions has made it difficult to form profit-making businesses that would support people. There is therefore great pressure to emigrate. This week's news says that there are 600,000 Africans in North Africa poised to attempt the journey to the Spanish colonies the Spanish cities of sale to in armed on the African continent and by boat to when produced and elsewhere in Europe.

Nick the going these trends are happening within the populations and the court they are harbingers poor chance of the future directions of evolution within those populations. It is dangerous of course to project too far into the future because trends change quite quickly. However, for the moment, it appears that the

European genome is under threat from its own lack of fecility and its own and the fact that its own altruism has opened up its territory to all outsiders. Eastern Eastern Asia is much more of a piece, resistant to outsiders, rather xenophobic, and that will probably survive all of populations will fall as the present lack of fertility and ripples ripples through the populations in the next few decades. Once returned to Europe Europe is divided between East and West, more or less along the lines of the CICS, with the former Soviet Union. The altruism noted above does not seem to exist to manifest itself within the former Soviet Union. These countries remain one might say helpful way as Xena phobic, jingoistic. They retain a high level of ethnic homogeneity. They seem inclined to have children,. It is frightening to observe how much support such sentiments received from their advocated by Rabbi Vladimir Putin. He is a once a danger to the Western order of democracy and the enlightenment, but he's very much a manifestation of the kinds of sentiments that have been evolutionarily successful.

The bottom line conclusion is that Western values involves in the West in the interest to Western man. Those values have now spread in those values now affect how Western man treats the rest of the world, and some of those guys have been adopted by the rest of the world's however they are counterrevolutionary. They no longer serve the evolutionary interests of the Caucasian race in which they evolved. The question is whether the Caucasian race will continue to evolve, and the values will emerge that are consistent with the perpetuation of the race, or whether it will be subsumed by other races.

Evolution is not in directed. The ascent of the West has implied a tremendous has brought tremendous pressure on natural resources, and on the planet's ability to sustain itself. We might welcome some relief of that pressure. Certainly the Western trends, such as the separation of sex from procreation leads to a diminishing of the population which will be welcome. We can project what happens when

Is another dimension to this switches technology. The technology developed by the West and implemented by East Asians has greatly reduced the amount of work that we need to perform in order to survive. It has also reduced the worldwide demand for the kind of work that most people are capable of performing. The work work with our hands and bodies is no longer required. Fossil fuels and other sources provide the energy of our muscles, and programmed robotics control them with programmed logic. Manual labor is no longer as essential as it used to be, and it is becoming less essential at a with a speed that is remarkable in evolutionary terms.

The result is that people are no longer needed to support to support other people. We exist only as most of us exist only as parasites, as beneficiaries of the productivity of others. This circumstance has been allowed to continue in the West has been perpetuated by the welfare state. However, these welfare states are all sustaining debts that cannot be perpetuated. And one can expect that the system will collapse. From what happens evolutionarily when the majority of mankind has evolved to the point that they can no longer suspect themselves because they have lost. The traditional mechanisms, killing their own land, or doing work that others needed. And yet their fertility is such that they continue to breed. This will lead to complex of a kind that has that have not been seen together to in world history. His question of whether evolution will somehow eliminate the people who know want or make a contribution sufficient to support themselves or to support their fellow man any way, or whether there will be some accommodation. It is risky question.

There is a a and another question for the smarter for the more intelligent fraction of mankind, those who are able to program the machines that do the physical labor, how they will perpetuate themselves despite the disincentives, these and the destruction of their traditional mechanisms for family formation and raising families. They will continue to be needed. Will they be there? Will they be able to breach? Will the very concept of evolution be and that is of one generation per creating and producing a succeeding generation more or less like itself be superseded when the contact when the course of technology changes so much more rapidly than the course than the human genome can keep up. This is a question for futurists such as Ray Kurzweil. The projects that we will all be instantiated in carbon man and an electronic memory at some point. I cannot see that being the case, but on the other hand, is hard to project what will happen to our future when the majority of mankind is no longer needed.

ANCIEN Spy vs.docx 10/21/2020

Spy vs. Spy

Why do bullies act the way they do? Because they can. This week's edition features audacious exhibitions from both East and West.

In the East, we have Vladimir Putin. He has infiltrated soldiers and activists over the unguarded Ukrainian border – they probably came by car, as tourists – to raise hell and push to separate the Southeastern regions from Ukraine and unite them with Russia.

He does this with impunity. The Ukrainian military cannot stop him. As Putin has the huge logistical advantage of being next door, NATO forces would be foolish to oppose him. The drama unfolds as a very well planned, well-orchestrated effort. If only somebody, perhaps the NSA, had been able to read their mail and see it coming.

Alas, the NSA is too busy reading my email to bother with hard cases like Vladimir Putin, who presumably knows something more about secure communications than I do. It is easier to read my Facebook posts, so that is what they do. The NSA conducts their dragnet in the name of stopping terror, although I participate in no terror whatsoever and feel terror mainly of the omnipotence of my own government.

The most chilling point about Edward Snowden's book is how ineffective the NSA's efforts have been in stopping actual terror and war, but how effective they are at stifling dissent. We are all looking over our shoulders... afraid to say what we think. If they have unlimited power to read our mail, they presumably have equal power to create mail in our name and frame us for any crime they want.

My objective is just to raise a sane child, one who will give me grandchildren. I want him to be able to investigate, know and talk about the truth. Honest communication is the foundation of a successful democracy and commerce-based society. The future looks dicey. The first book I reviewed this week, *A Troubled Inheritance*, lays out the facts that our government and related institutions do not want told about human nature, and the lengths they went to keep this author, Nicholas Wade, from speaking the truth. The second, Snowden's *Nowhere to Hide*, describes that same government's incredible ability to invade our privacy.

Now, what do I tell my son? Grow up like a Soviet citizen, afraid even to be exposed to the truth, much less to speak it? That is not a world I would want for myself. When it comes to a choice between abandoning truth and not having grandchildren, I'll reluctantly go with the latter. Alas.

M2016- Steve Jennings Renaissance Group in Invest Gazette Nov 14 2010.doc 11/18/2010

M2016- Steve Jennings Russian original.doc 10/20/2020

ANCIEN sweet mystery of life at last I found you.docx 10/21/2020

Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald sang "Ah, sweet mystery of life at last I found you. At last, I know the secret of it all." Though as a teenager I might have thought otherwise, the secret was merely love, not the hidden mysteries of the form of the the opposite sex.

If I don't understand about sex now, in an age in which I can foresee the time when I will be too old to enjoy it, I will never understand it. Let me try.

Love and sex are intertwined, but exactly how remains a mystery. Sex is a physical act that takes a matter of a few minutes, an hour if you really stretch things, and is at a basic level merely a matter of physical satisfaction. And, for the bathhouse crowd, there it remains. It has been compared with the relief one gets going to the bathroom when it has been a long time. For most of us it is much more. In fact, the physical satisfaction is perhaps the least of it.

No, the major attraction in hetero sex seems to be the prestige, the scarcity. It is the knowledge that you are achieving something that is not available to everybody. It is an affirmation of your status as one of the superior apes within your simian band, the human species. If you are getting some, it means that somebody else was perhaps doing without. You are reaffirming your position in the pecking order of humanity.

Among our uncivilized ancestors, and living, stone-age contemporaries, just as among monkeys and apes, the dominant male showed his dominance by mounting as many females as possible. Not coincidentally, it ensures that his genes get widely spread throughout the population. The behavior that leads him to dominate is thus propagated to the next generation. Scientists have pretty much established that temperament is inherited, and thus the drive to dominate proceeds from generation to generation.

That model changed somewhat with agriculture. Monogamy became the rule for most men: it fit better with the farming lifestyle and questions of inheritance. Some dominant men continued to have access to lots of women, but often they no longer had to prove their stuff physically: money worked. Men became attractive not because they were physically dominant, but because they were socially dominant. They could sing songs better, or the mass more wealth. And that's where we were up until very recently was the human species.

The wildcards, the big changes in the twentieth century were women taking control of their own incomes and fertility. Condoms, then diaphragms and birth control pills, meant that sex no longer led to conception. Employment ended the quid-pro-quo of swapping their fertility for a meal ticket. It resulted in a radical change in the interrelationship between the sexes.

In agricultural societies, as in hundreds of gatherer societies, a woman's success was measured by the number of children she bore. It was her contribution to the society, and a very valuable one. And equally valuable contribution was nurturing those children, acculturating them to be members of the tribe. This responsibility was shared with other members of the group, mothers, sisters, even husbands and brothers. But the mother had the primary responsibility. The woman has always held to overall, first of bearing children, then of raising them and socializing them to be bona fide members of whatever tribe they are born into.

[ANCIEN The Dark Enlightenment.docx 11/27/2014](#)

[ANCIEN The diversity we don't see is killing us.docx 08/30/2013](#)

The diversity we don't see is killing us.

Everybody accepts that the peoples of the world are diverse in visible ways. We come in different colors, body shapes, and types of hair.

We observe, even if we do not talk about it, that the different peoples of the world enjoy different levels of success in modern economies derived from the European model. Europe, Israel and the white former English

colonies know how to make it work. East Asia has been catching up quickly. Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia and Africa are trailing. There are any number of narratives to account for these differences, but at least people generally see them.

Last, and deadliest is the supposition among all peoples that other people are temperamentally like themselves. We Europeans developed a high level of altruism. Violence in European societies diminished remarkably over the last millennium, and levels of trust rose as we consolidated from duchies to princedoms to kingdoms. Business depended on trust, and commerce flourished. To us, a high level of trust is the only thing that makes sense. Our deadly flaw is to believe that other people think the same way.

The Jews are historically literate and legalistic. They have taught and followed their own moral law for three millennia. They do not understand people who simply do not recognize the rule of law. Jews are bankers and financiers. They do not have much sympathy for people who do not understand the terms of a mortgage or credit card debt. Time after time they are surprised by the reemergence of antisemitism, resentment of their success.

East Asians are quite xenophobic. They have a tendency to see their own nation – Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese – as the only true humans, and to regard others as uncultured barbarians. Only reluctantly do they expand their sphere of moral consideration beyond their own people. The Japanese had no difficulty visiting unspeakable cruelty on the Chinese and the British in World War II. With the slow decline of Pax Americana, they are going at each other once again. They have certainly never internalized the brotherhood of man concept advanced by Western proponents of the New World order. Their people invariably come first.

American Indians are intensely tribal. Western individualism, the celebration of individual achievement in education and career, remains foreign to them. They had a difficult time adapting to European civilization in the five centuries since its introduction. We simply cannot celebrate their diversity in the context of a western market economy. They are not temperamentally adapted for it.

Arab societies are also quite tribal. They do not trust outsiders. One consequence is a high level of cousin marriage, which depresses intelligence. Another appears to be an inborn, genetic predisposition to hatred and religious fanaticism. We Europeans cannot understand the hatred that Arabs have for Jews, or even that Shiites have for Sunnis. It is our conceit that if they only understood their own self-interest, they would give up their hatreds. We remain oblivious to the fact that centuries of our preaching haven't changed a thing. Hatred is in their DNA.

European colonialization did not affect the fact that black Africans are very tribal. They do not have much trust even among their own tribes, and they have almost none at all between tribes. Intertribal violence was endemic in Africa, and violence remains a constant in every African city. It is impossible for whites to conceive of a worldview in which violence makes sense; it appears impossible for Africans to conceive of a world in which it does not.

Our European proclivity to look for universal solutions blinds us to the fact that no other people in the world do so. We give, and they gladly take. It is a paradigm that worked when we were rich beyond the measure of any other societies. With the burgeoning population of the third world, and the rise of other economies, it has stopped working. We are, however, so much captive to our own genetically programmed altruism that we refuse to see. We refuse to see that people are different even in very obvious ways, and doubly refuse to recognize invisible differences. Those differences will kill us.

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ANCIEN The IMF loan - kp article.docx 08/24/2013

ANCIEN The IMF loan.docx 08/31/2013

The IMF loan

Speculation as to whether or not the IMF will extend another \$15 billion credit to Ukraine varies greatly. The Yanukovich administration's position is that it is a fairly sure thing. The business community is skeptical. Nobody is asking the question as to whether the loan makes sense.

Under discussion is the behavior which the loan would be made to reward. The IMF is demanding that Ukraine pass the actual costs of energy on to consumers and raise the pension age, reducing pension expenses. This would reduce the budget deficit. Ukraine received \$3.4 billion, after which the loan was frozen due to non-compliance with IMF conditions. It expired in December 2012.

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2013/pr13281.htm>

As a proxy for the EU and the west, the IMF is attempting to convince Ukraine to "act European". They want Yanukovich to release ex-Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko from prison. Though certainly guilty, as is almost every Ukrainian politician, it does not appear to be of the trumped-up charges for which she is imprisoned. Europe advocates allowing gays to advocate their lifestyle as noisily as in the West. The EU wants Ukraine to reject Russia's customs union... which appears fairly likely given Putin's ham-fisted management of the issue. They want Ukraine to be more hospitable to impoverished foreigners who land on its doorstep to claim asylum or refugee status. Ukraine is being rather hard-necked about sticking to its traditions.

What would the loan be used for? Who would pay it back, when and how? Ukraine doesn't ask these questions. The IMF is required, as a bank, to ask them, but is very adept at inventing make-believe answers to justify loans they make for political purposes. The 2010 deal was broadly worded: "The IMF's Executive Board has approved a \$15.1 billion loan for Ukraine to put the country on the path to fiscal sustainability, reform the gas sector, and shore up the country's banking system." Money received has been spent, but there is no evidence of progress towards the stated ends, and no indication of disappointment that it hasn't happened.

Why can't Ukraine raise the money somewhere else – taxing oligarchs, for instance?

ANCIEN The Jewish Establishment - Joe Sobran.docx 06/19/2016

ANCIEN The modern parable of the tower of Babel.docx 08/14/2014

The modern parable of the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11 tells that all of mankind came together in Babylon sometime after Noah's flood to build a tower to the sky. God, recognizing that if they were able to achieve this they would be as God themselves and they would forget about Him, scattered the peoples to the ends of the earth and confused their language such that they could no longer challenge Him.

Today's generation has certainly forgotten about God for the most part. Mankind is united by science, the Internet and the belief that government will solve all our problems. Could it be that God is working through these mechanisms to repeat the story of the Tower of Babel?

In presuming godlike powers, governments are enabling every class of society to survive. The less intelligent reproduce willy-nilly. Progressives, more intelligent but not convinced of their own worth, dogmatically refuse to claim superiority over the witless lower classes. They preach to all who will listen – mainly themselves – that mankind is ruining the earth and having children is morally wrong. They aren't producing of their own, and by redistributing wealth to the non-productive they make it difficult for productive members of society to have kids.

As a result, the world is populated by more and more less and less capable people. Meanwhile, the top echelons have been prodigiously inventive, making it possible for fewer and fewer people to accomplish mankind's work. Just as people become more numerous and less capable, jobs are becoming scarcer and more demanding.

Humankind has reached a Wile E Coyote moment – off the cliff, legs churning over the abyss. The dumb are, predictably, not wise enough to recognize their situation. They are reaping what they have not sown and are not even grateful for it. The unproductive multitudes nurture more and more grievances against the system.

They resent the creative people who claim, some would say justly, an increasing share of the world's wealth. Though they often can't tell who is who, the multitudes resent others whose cleverness amounts to mere dexterity. These are people smart enough to put it over on them, devising diversions and financial instruments to cozen them out of their savings, homes and retirements.

Such imbalances have occurred many times in human history. They led to inquisitions and pogroms against the Jews, the anti-Western rage of the Muslims and the anti-White genocides underway in Zimbabwe and South Africa. There is no reason to suppose it will end more peaceably this time. We scions of the Enlightenment whose liberalism and inventiveness ushered in this halcyon era of rising living standards and widespread peace have run out of steam. We are dwindling in number and losing both the will and the moral standing to impose order on the world.

Après nous, le deluge. As we lay down our burden, the world is running out of resources, and most people cannot take care of themselves. Great will be the suffering as they fight over the leavings of the vanishing productive sector, and we of that sector finally recognize that liberalism has led to a cul de sac. Things must devolve again to the survival of the fittest. Will we have the grit to fight for our interests? Will Western civilization somehow survive, or will the world be left once more to barbarians?

History must be written in hindsight. We cannot see how this will play out. I'd bet that some future theologians will point back at our hubris, our mistake in putting our faith in governments and technology, to assert that God once again brought mankind down to our appropriate measure.

[ANCIEN The OJ Simpson and MA 17 juries.docx 11/10/2014](#)

The OJ Simpson and MA 17 juries

If people do not want to believe, they simply do not believe. People do not want to believe the Russians had anything to do with the downing of MA17. In the same way, a jury acquitted OJ because they just did not want to believe overwhelming evidence of his guilt.

The thing that amazes me is that people whom I assume to be rational, the libertarian right including Rand Paul, continued to repeat arguments on behalf of Moscow. They ask, "Where is the proof that the separatists (always "separatists," not "Russian-sponsored aggressors" or "terrorists") downed MA 17?" They want a smoking gun.

The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming. The Russians had surface-to-air missiles capable of bringing down highflying aircraft. They brought down three in the week before MA 17. After MA 17, there was a guilty pause, after which it resumed, bringing down two Ukrainian Sukhoi planes flying at over 20,000 feet.

Ukrainians intercepted and released telephone chatter captured at the time amongst separatists, indicating that they had shot down an airplane. Igor Strelkov penned a triumphant war cry on Twitter, saying: 'We warned you – do not fly in "our sky", only to retract it when it turned out to be a civilian aircraft. The spin was first that it was a "rush to judgment," then "why are you taking so long?"

The Russians have advanced, and then not supported, a number of other theories. I haven't deeply researched the all of them, but there was one theory that the Ukrainians were trying to shoot down Vladimir Putin's airplane. Another theory is that MA17 was down by cannon fire from a Ukrainian air force Sukhoi fighter. They produced photographs showing cannon damage to some wreckage and they redacted Wikipedia to raise the operating ceiling of the Sukhoi aircraft to 33,000 feet. Then it all changed back, and the arguments have been forgotten.

The terrorists/separatists denied investigators access to the black boxes for a couple weeks. They denied international investigators access to the crash site. They did not control looting of the bodies – an indignity which horrifies the West, but is endemic among steppe raiders such as the Cossacks and Chechens that Putin has smuggled into Ukraine as mercenaries. Ukrainians decry their presence; Moscow ignores the claims.

Conversely, the Ukrainians had no weapons, no motive, and no history of taking such unprincipled action at a state level.

The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming. The terrorists had the means – anti-aircraft missiles, which they repeatedly use before and after. The fact that they are unprincipled mercenaries under the command of Russian citizens is undisputed. The connection of those Russian citizens to Russia's intelligence services and military is likewise undisputed. They had a strong motive, to protect their fighters on Ukrainian territory. They acted guilty, inventing any number of subterfuges to cover up the crime. The fact that it is not enough to convince people is strong evidence that these people really, really do not want to be convinced. The question then is, why not?

The most benign explanation is that some conservatives believe that Russia offers a better system of government and life itself than that of the corrupt, decadent West. Many think that the West is so far gone in its endorsement of homosexuality, libertinism and self-indulgence that it will never be able to return to its traditions. Moreover, conservatives claim that white people in the West are allowing themselves to be inundated by massive immigration from the third world and a regime of political correctness that dictates that the white man is always in the wrong.

In this instance, the case against the west is quite strong. Whites, men, gentiles and straight people are constantly accused of crimes against which they are powerless to mount a defense. Heading the list are anti-Semitism, racism and sexism. We are constantly on the defense against every imaginable group of self-styled

victims. They seem to invent themselves weekly, and we are always, somehow, the putative aggressors. Or, "microaggressors," an expression which means that we are guilty despite our lack of intent or even awareness.

It is the notion that the Russia offers a better alternative that doesn't stand up very well under investigation. While it is true that the Russians are not given to homosexuality, at least not overtly, Russia is hardly a bastion of healthy families. The Russians tend to be depressed and inclined toward alcohol instead of having children. The intellectual climate is stifling; freedom of the press, never strong, is rapidly being extinguished. Intellectuals are fleeing to the West, leaving behind the unimaginative masses that have little in the way of education, job prospects or children. It is not Russia, but rather central Europe, notably Western Ukraine and Poland, where there is a margin of optimism, where marriage seems to be thriving and the birthrate rising.

The notion that Russia offers a better system of government is false. A stronger case can be made that Russia will be the last redoubt of the white man, though it is a frightening thought to consider. The idea appeals to the European nationalist parties and American advocates of the white man's interest such as Pat Buchanan and Jared Taylor.

The third and least honorable reason I offer for the support of the Russians is financial. Many of the libertarian pundits such as Paul Craig Roberts are supported by reader contributions. They are forever shaking their tin cup in their readers' faces. No doubt there are some of them who can be bought, and Russia is expert at identifying such vulnerabilities. Getting in bed with Moscow also saves a writer the effort of actually, well, writing. Moscow does it for them.

Many European politicians such as Helmut Schmidt are Russia's paid lobbyists. Schmidt, for example, came out immediately in defense of Russia's seizure of Crimea.

Russian aggression stands to make tons of money for investors. It is no secret that the Western financial system is on the brink of collapse. The central banks are printing money at ever increasing rates, incurring debt that can never be repaid. It is a house of cards that is bound to fall. Fortunes are to be made timing its fall. In particular, people who invest in hard assets such as gold can expect to be richly rewarded when the bubble breaks. On the other hand, it takes money for a leveraged player to stay in the game, and the central banks have had surprising success in prolonging the charade, propping up their currencies and stock markets and depressing the price of precious metals. When rooting for Russia, gold bugs like Paul Craig Roberts are simply talking their own book.

Ukraine a bystander to this drama. The tragedy is that the people of Ukraine genuinely deserve the West's moral support. They are the people rose up against a corrupt oligarchy. As much as both Russia and the United States would like to pretend otherwise, Maidan was a genuine popular uprising of people fed up with Vladimir Putin's puppet, Viktor Yanukovich. Ukrainians, tired of centuries of domination and abuse by Russia, expressed their disgust by chasing the bum out. Uncharacteristically, they rallied as one people to support a new president, Poroschenko. Ukraine is united as never before to confront Russian aggression. This has to be frustrating to investors itching for the collapse of the West so they can collect on their bets on gold.

It is absolutely unconscionable to throw the Ukrainian people to the wolves just to make a little money, but that appears to be what the most strident conservatives in the West are doing. Shame on them. It makes me want to renounce my lifelong conservatism. Far better to be patient and allow truly conservative, traditional people like the Ukrainians to develop their own way, combining traditional values and representative government with a proud and uncompromised ethnic heritage.

For now our hopes lie with the West, whose regime of sanctions and moralizing appears to be surprisingly effective in containing Russian aggression in Ukraine. However, if and when the Russian threat is blunted, Ukraine has to remember to remain true to itself and not fall into the thrall of the West. That way also lies

danger. As always in its long history, Ukraine is between a rock and a hard place. Let us pray for the faith and fortitude that has carried the country through past disasters.

ANCIEN The Pitch.docx 06/27/2011

Why would parts of Ukraine want to join Russia?

I Googled "reasons to join Russia" and "why Donbas wants to join Russia" In Russian, "почему донбасс хочет в Россию"

There does not seem to be an answer! The best reason I can come up with is "to avoid being killed by the Russians."

The only list I found was in justification of the referendum in Crimea. The five strongest points were:

1. Everyone basically supports it anyway.
2. Only "right-wing radicals" are opposed.
3. The business investment environment in Russia is far superior to Ukraine.
4. Observers from Hungary, Serbia and Greece are cool with the referendum.
5. Moscow is extremely generous and already giving humanitarian aid to Crimea.

These would be weak even if they had been true, but they after the referendum it is clear that they are transparently false. Business activity has plummeted, unemployment and prices have risen, and individual liberties have disappeared. The indigenous Tatars have been ruthlessly suppressed.

The reasons not to join Russia have been known for centuries. Custine noted 175 years ago in "Letters from Russia" that "Deceit is built into every stratum of Russian society," and "Russia's lack of creativity dooms them to be perpetual imitators" – if not thieves, and "Russians do not know how to exercise freedom; they seek a strong master." Russians have been trying for centuries, without success, to force Europeans to be like themselves. Europe has always, in the end, prevailed. It is wary.

The Donbass, the borderland dividing Russia and Europe proper, was a curious place even before Maidan. It was the center of Ukrainian economic activity and the homeland of the president and many ruling oligarchs. Yet, it was at the same time a mined-out, deteriorating rust belt of depressed, drug- and alcohol-addicted men with the worst health, life expectancy and attitudes in the country. As in America, such dropouts are easily led to blame "the man." The Kremlin helpfully pointed out, via Russian-controlled television, that "the man" was embodied by Ukrainian-speaking Fascists in Kiev.

The targets of this propaganda could not recognize that Kiev is overwhelmingly Russia-speaking, and that the last Fascists were dispatched in 1945. Some bought it.

Putin is playing a weak hand. There is no advantage (aside from not getting shot by Russians) to abandon Ukraine. Putin does not wrap himself in any ideology such as communism or even religion. He has only the use of force.

Putin began his attack using "little green men," unprincipled Cossack and Chechyan mercenaries. They are, however, few. If he is going to conquer and occupy Ukraine, it must be by a conscript army. The Soviet Union fell when conscript armies and puppet politicians refused to impose Moscow's will through force of arms.

Russia has little industry; the income stream it uses to pay soldiers and placate civilians comes from natural resources. Sanctions, and the direct economic damage done by Putin's wars have eroded that income stream. He will not have the money to impose his political will on unwilling peoples in the long term. Let us hope that not too many die as that fact makes itself apparent.

ANCIEN The Russian and Ukrainian languages in Ukraine.docx 03/25/2014

The Russian and Ukrainian languages in Ukraine

"You're in Ukraine! Why don't you speak Ukrainian?" is a question that catches you up short when you first arrive in Kiev and try your stumbling Russian. You soon learn that native Ukrainians never ask that question. It is only members of the Ukrainian diaspora returned from Canada and the United States, or busybodies working for the United States government.

There are several practical reasons for speaking Russian in Ukraine. Although Ukrainian is the official language, whether or not the government likes it, Russian is the language of business. The business press is almost all written in Russian. Almost any business negotiation in Kyiv is done in Russian. Most scientific, medical, and even cult and new age literature is written in Russian.

The Yanukovich government is certainly not promoting Ukrainian. Yanukovich himself speaks the language poorly; he didn't learn it until it was clear that the presidency was in his reach and he would have to. His predecessor, Victor Yushchenko, has a diaspora wife and had strong backing from the United States. He promoted the Ukrainian language as a way of aligning Ukraine with the West. Yanukovich does not aspire to membership in NATO, and doesn't even seem to be very interested in European Union membership. He's happy enough to let the two languages coexist, and many suspect he really prefers Russian.

Ukrainian was traditionally considered a peasant language. The memory of this is painful to Ukrainian speakers, but it is a fact. Whereas Russian literature has a fairly deep history, Ukrainian literature didn't get started until well into the 19th century. Those authors, Taras Shevchenko and Lesi Ukrainka are much feted today, making many appearances and statues and on the currency, but the body of Russian literature is a lot richer than that of Ukrainian literature.

For most of the 20th century the Soviet Union was one of the major forces in world politics, science, engineering and education. Everything they wrote was of course in Russian, and the scholars who were educated during the Soviet period still work in the Russian language. As a language of affairs, Ukrainian will never be in the same league as Russian.

Ukrainian is the dominant language in only one of the 10 biggest cities in the country – Lviv, the heart of Western Ukraine. Lviv has been an off-again on-again part of Ukraine itself. Within the lifetime of old people it has been under the dominance of Austria-Hungary, Poland, the Soviet Union, Germany, and Ukraine. Although the people are proudly Ukrainian, Lviv is more distinctive than any other city in the country. In other words, it is part of it but it seems more to belong to its own world. In appearance Lviv is a central European city, while the other major cities in Ukraine are quite clearly Eastern European, from the block style Soviet architecture to the onion domed Orthodox cathedrals everywhere.

Russian was the lingua franca throughout the Soviet empire. It is still extremely useful in a few countries such as Belarus and Kazakhstan. The older generation still speaks Russian in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the other former satellite countries. No other country ever troubled itself to learn Ukrainian. While the value of Russian is constantly declining, it is being replaced by English as the international language of business and travel. It may not be worth your trouble to learn Russian, but Ukrainian is certainly not the alternative. Increasingly, you can get along adequately with just English. The question is not whether Ukrainian will become irrelevant – to all but the diehards, it already is – but whether Russian itself will become irrelevant. The process of globalization is forcing English on everybody. Young professionals in Kyiv see English as an essential part of their education, and the essential tool for communication and international travel and business.

As an aside to polyglots, German, French, Italian and Spanish are almost worthless here. You will notice that there are a few curious cognates that may save you a little bit of work. Ukrainian word for onion is similar to Spanish; the Russians stole the French words for sidewalk, obstetrician and a few other concepts; the Ukrainian and German words for bacon, ham, and taste are fairly similar. However, nobody in Ukraine speaks any of these European languages natively. Anything they know they learned in school, and they almost invariably speak English better than their European languages.

It is a good thing I am writing this blog anonymously, because this is the kind of post that will inevitably generate a lot of hate mail. I can put up with it. I have heard a lot of invective in response to these arguments, but I have yet to get any substantive rebuttal. If you can write some, please educate me.

ANCIEN The squeeze.docx 11/08/2013

How much can they squeeze Ukraine?

China is now demanding repayment of a \$3 billion advance to Ukraine against to the delivery of commodities. Russia is demanding back payment for gas amounting to \$16 billion dollars. These two authoritarian regimes are putting increased pressure on Ukraine. Putin actively undermined the demonstrators at Maidan. When that failed, he took the fleeing Yanukovich and in short order annexed Crimea. This demonstrated the West's inability to oppose him on his own turf. Russian propaganda, sadly echoed by many conservatives in the West such as Paul Craig Roberts, attempts to justify seizing Crimea.

Among other things, propagandists are denying the legitimacy of Yanukovich's ouster as President. They claim that he was freely elected. That was not exactly the case. There was, as always in Ukraine, a great deal of actual fraud during the election itself, and of course Russia spent a massive amount on propaganda and dirty tricks to sway the election. One cannot, however, claim that the United States was clean either. We can only say that the Russians were more effective. The electorate here, like every place, is relatively simpleminded. They could be bought. Yanukovich won a supposedly fair election. He then proceeded to do as he had done throughout his career, plunder his constituents. After three years, the country rose up in rebellion. It was rather like the French Revolution. When the tyranny becomes unbearable, you do away with your masters.

Needless to say, just as in the French Revolution, the neighboring autocrats – Putin above all - are worried about the emergence of freely elected governments. The West has its own concerns. The authoritarian, bureaucratic regimes of Western Europe are hardly democratic, although they call themselves that. The problems with democracy have been described by a number of authors, among them Trenton Fervor in *The Myth of American Democracy* and Frenchman Alain Benoist with "*The problems of democracy.*" They would rather not see something in the form of a democracy emerge unless they can somehow shape and control it. If it turned out to be truly representative and free of debt, *quel horreur!*

On March 20 Europe extended to Ukraine the first step toward joining the EU, a partnership agreement. This is simple. It doesn't cost them anything and it makes a statement against Russia. On the other hand, have been slow in coming up with money to bail Ukraine out.

It's increasingly clear that Europe and the US themselves are bankrupt. They had really nothing but newly printed money to offer, and their citizens are skeptical of their ability to help abroad when things are falling apart at home. A background issue is that Ukraine is really not part of modern Europe and is not likely to be. They maintain traditional values in the face of the hypermodern values of Europe and do not show much appetite for change.

While Europe is in fear of the Russians, they are perhaps in fear of an alternative to the European model of authoritarian bureaucratic socialism, the welfare state. Ukraine thus represents an anomaly in the modern world. A modern, educated country that has shown a genuine desire for democracy. A modern, educated

country that is still economically backward because it has suffered under years of oppressive governments. One might add that Ukraine has developed a culture that hinders economic development. The Ukrainians still generally lack the level of trust needed to come together into associations such as the joint stock company which enabled the Great Britain and the Netherlands first to become rich about three centuries ago. However, the Maidan demonstrations which overthrew their corrupt government were a major manifestation of the mutual trust that comes of desperation. Maybe there is hope.

All of Ukraine's open warfare scenarios are vastly asymmetric. In a conventional war between Russia and Ukraine, Russia would hold all of the advantages. They have a bigger, better funded, more experienced, more modern, and better equipped military. Ukraine could not put up a resistance by itself.

If the west were to arm Ukraine, the country could well suffer the same kind of debacle as Georgia. There, the Russians captured a lot of expensive Western hardware after a very minor struggle. Ukrainians could not be trained how to use hardware in time to use new equipment, and the United States could not afford or provide enough hardware to make a difference in a realistic frame of time. Therefore, the only condition under which Ukraine could even consider engaging the Russians would be with the guarantee of substantial NATO and US support. Given the United States' recent track record, they would be wise not to believe any such promises even if these parties were to make them. The West simply does not have the stomach for war.

At the end of the day, Ukraine has only passive defenses available. Invading Ukraine would totally rupture relations with the West. Completing its snatch of South Ossetia from Georgia in 2008 caused some ripples. Taking Crimea has made a major dent in diplomatic and trade relations. Further dismemberment of Ukraine would severely curtail trade and force the lazy Europeans to look elsewhere for energy. Western public opinion is the first passive defense.

Moreover, even with the benefit of full information control, the Soviets were never able to bring the Western Ukrainians to heel. They do not like anything that smacks of Russia. There is no fifth column to support Russia if they were to invade. The world would see them for the brutal conquerors that they are, and the Ukrainians could be expected to fight them every step of the way. The Russians would face a hard choice: seal the borders to both trade and information, as in Soviet times, and force all of Russia into self-sufficiency, or suffer insurgencies, smuggling, and all the ills that already beset the unwilling Russian fiefdoms of Chechnya and Dagestan. Call this second passive defense the hedgehog defense. The victory would not be worth cost.

Ukraine has to recognize that if Russia wanted to invade, they would make a pretext and do it. The only thing restraining them is what it would do to their standing with the rest of the world. Ukraine should not act out of fear; if the Russians are coming, they cannot be stopped, but they probably won't. In that case the first priority should be laying the foundation for a healthy country, starting with proper institutions such as honest courts, free elections and a logical delegation of power. They should not roll over in the face of Russian and Chinese demands for payment. Money isn't the issue.

[ANCIEN The_Man.docx 04/11/2014](#)

What my children learned in school.

My son, born in 1982, living in a wealthy neighborhood and attending expensive private schools, nursed a litany of complaints about "the man". From about the age of 12 or 13 he would go on long riffs about how he was going to be independent and never work for "the man." This incidentally, and not coincidentally, was offered as an excuse for not applying himself fully in school. I argued with him, asking "Who exactly is this 'man' that you don't want to work for? What exactly is the oppressive system that you want to avoid?" He didn't have answers to these questions, but the fact that I would even ask them clearly identified me with "the man." Never clarifying his position, he steadfastly maintained his complaints.

A similar thing happened with my daughters. Again, about the eighth grade, the youngest was coming home from school with a long litany of woes of the things that the patriarchy had done to women. Though I probed, I could never get her to relate these historical wrongs to anything that my daughters had experienced in their lives. In fact, an examination of the men in their extended family revealed a bunch of milquetoasts, men who carried out the will of their women rather faithfully. I have to confess that I was the least pliable of the men, but I put up with much more than I wanted to. At any rate, these points also could not be argued. My daughters made a virtue of ignorance. They had the great disadvantage of not having learned much, which can be expected of teenagers. They also had the disadvantage of having learned that they could get by without listening much, and without showing much respect. They employed those two to the fullest, assuming that my better arguments owed only to my sophistry. Their beliefs in the patriarchy went largely unchallenged, except by me, and remain fervently held and to this day.

There is a twofold result of all this. First, and lamentable, is that the children don't talk to me. I'm that old fossil white man who just doesn't understand it. I suppose I could tolerate that if they were otherwise successful. However these attitudes toward life, the belief that somehow they in their hyper-privileged childhood had been beset by slues of evil people and held back did in fact hold them back. Rather than striving to form solid relationships with somebody of the opposite sex, a hard thing even when you set your mind to it, the girls decided that men were evil and they didn't even want to bother. And they have not bothered much to make their relationships work, and not surprisingly, said relationships are not successful. Even when they later decided that they might want a steady lover or a husband, they simply don't know how to do it.

By the same refusal to engage a supposedly corrupt system, my son and younger daughter have not learned how to work for "the man." Or rather, they find themselves working for "the man" in the form of government, at low level positions where they get no respect.

It's interesting to me that people who say that they will not work for "the man" envision a fat, piggy eyed capitalist who is out to exploit his workers. In no way are they prepared to transfer that concept to the state, the real "man" in today's society. It appears that they are employed by other bureaucrats who are motivated only by their own advancement, with little care for the common people whose problems they are supposed to solve. My son is employed by the state directly or indirectly as a drug counselor, although he's quite fond of them himself and has run into problems on this account. I hear that my daughter is going to be working attempting to resettle African immigrants in Scandinavia, another noble liberal cause. I hope she doesn't get mugged or raped in the process. And she's getting no respect and no particular money, working for "the man," who is certainly not the one envisioned by John Gault or Horatio Alger but rather more Joseph Stalin. I doubt it's in any better form.

I had heard the whole litany of man's unfairness to man when I was a student. This was 1960-62, in a very liberal college. It was in the songs that we sang: "I am the man the very fat man the waters the workers beer;" "This land is my land, this land is your land." The pervasive message was that it was capitalists who held the working man down. An objective view of history would say that at that point in time, 1960, the workingman had it better in the United States than he had ever had it in any country at any time in history. The claims of oppression were rather totally misplaced. In fact, was the workers in the Soviet Union who were being held down and had a lack of freedom. It was the same sort of a big lie, playing on the ignorance, altruism and herd instinct of otherwise smart young kids.

My experience with my own education and those of my grown children gives me a profound respect for the power of educators and peers to shape a child. 19th century teachers of Americans in one-room schoolhouses and British public school children advanced Western Civilization to the far corners of the world. The Marxist-schooled teachers of the late 20th Century have led the retreat. I have sought out one of the world's backwaters where tradition is still respected, and where I can home school my new family as I see fit. There are many ways for it to go wrong, but experience tells me that a crap shoot is far better than the guaranteed loss with the establishment educational system.

ANCIEN There is an impending crisis.docx 02/05/2015

There is an impending crisis. Every writer seems to agree on that much. Depending on their party affiliation, they argue either that it's all Bush's fault, and the current administration is holding it at bay, or things were going well until Obama started to screw it up.

Nonetheless, the discussion seems to be all about crisis. We have an unbridgeable gap in the annual deficit – about \$5,000 per taxpayer difference between federal income and expense. Six years of finagling by the Federal Reserve have not fixed anything, despite extensive promises to the contrary. They have not lowered unemployment, they have not brought the economy back up.

There are some indications of hope. The stock market is hitting all-time highs, although the conjecture that it is due mainly to the government's meddling, so-called public open market operations, are very widespread. Nevertheless, people who understand the game are making a lot of money. The same can be said about real estate, into which the Federal Reserve is pumping \$85 billion a month. This is supposed to be making housing affordable, and providing jobs in the construction industry. Once again, the consensus even among liberals is that most of this money is flowing to those who are intelligent enough and have the resources to game the system. The common man is falling behind.

Here we come to a question of different views of the crisis, and this stems from different philosophies of life and taking different things into consideration as one measures the current crisis.

The most narrow view of the crisis asks simple questions. Do people have enough to eat? Do they have a roof over their heads? The answer to this is generally, yes. Not that their lives are perfect, but they are not vulnerable to starvation and extreme want.

The next broader question would be about how the people's situations are improving. How do they feel about themselves? Are they making progress? Here the answers turn more negative. Fewer and fewer people have meaningful jobs. People graduate from college and do not have the opportunity to work using anything of the knowledge they may have obtained, and they continue to live with their parents. The very value of the knowledge they obtained is in question, as the standards at colleges continue to slip.

The workplace is becoming more and more automated. Vast amounts of work are now done domestically by robots or overseas by cheap labor. The United States manufacturing labor force, and soon other elements of the labor force as well such as distribution, are being automated, leaving people not much to do. It's the number of people not working that continues to rise. In addition to the official unemployment number, which everybody agrees is highly manipulated, there are so-called "discouraged workers" who have stopped looking. They are not doing anything for me, at least not in the sense of anything legal whereby they might pay taxes, but they are not counted as unemployed. The federal government is sponsoring student loans which keep people off the job market well into their 20s. There are also legions of people on disability insurance. Altogether, the number of working-age people who are barely working or not working at all – students, disabled, long-term unemployed and non-taxpaying employees – is three quarters as great as the number of actual taxpayers. Considering retirees and students as well, we find that slightly over a third of the country is working. Such a figure is a wonderful testament to our productivity, but a sad portent of where we are headed.

The numbers of non-workers are growing dramatically as the generations that were conditioned to a life of work – boomers and their predecessors – give way to those who were not. The biggest growth in jobs has been among those close to retirement age. They know how to work, they are probably good at it, and they can't afford to retire. Labor force participation is languishing among those from whom we should expect the most, men 25-54 years old. They have been pushed aside and have given up. Don't expect them to change

lifetime habits as they replace the retiring boomers. Nope – the already sad ratio of doers to diddlers will get even worse.

Probably come down to then is this. Western societies are certainly rich enough to feed everybody. We have well-developed agriculture. They are rich enough to provide everybody with automobiles. Automobiles are a drug on the market – very cheap to produce, cheap to own. We are rich enough even to provide housing for everybody. We have a housing stock that is really too large, meaning that it is not a question of housing everybody, but a question of allocation.

Is the question of allocation of wealth that is becoming more serious. While there may be enough to satisfy everybody's needs, the fact is that people are not willing to keep.

We need to as the pool of retirees, people start their lifetime of labor and are no longer working and are looking to the promises of government to support them in their old age.

ANCIEN This is the quiet face of a panic.docx 03/07/2015

This is the quiet face of a panic. The dollar value of the Ukrainian hryvnya, which Yanukovich had propped up at the cost of running the nation's reserves down to a dangerous level, has fallen by a third. It is sinking two or three percent per day. The buy-sell spread, about 3% in normal times, has jumped to 10% (12.20-13.60). The same has happened with gold; the spread is about 8%. If you want dollars, you are limited to \$1,100 and have to wait forty minutes to get it.


Holding on, hoping for things to improve, is not the best course. Anybody who has been through a currency crisis knows that currency controls come early. If you can still get it whatever the cost, take the money and run.

At some cost to the ruble exchange rate, Putin has destroyed the Ukrainian hryvnya. He has to look at this as one of the costs of war. There is no doubt that Russia is at war with Ukraine. These upstart peasants in "Little Russia" had the effrontery to throw out his hand-picked puppet, Yanukovich. Moreover, they are even showing signs of wanting a real democracy. They must be squashed!

Russia has broken its contracts and is demanding an outrageous price for its natural gas. The Ukrainian government is so far refusing to cave, demanding in exchange at least some compensation for the assets Russia seized in Crimea. It is not clear whether or not the IMF will come through with a loan, and who would benefit if they did. It appears that the proceeds would be used to pay off Russia, leaving Ukraine nothing but more debt.

The rating agencies are betting that Ukraine will default. Probably a good call, and not a bad idea. Default by a country like Argentina is an indication of an inability to manage its affairs. A default by Ukraine is no more than evidence of the extreme pressure placed by Russia, and the thievery of the pro-Russian despots who have controlled the country.

Even Argentina, despite several defaults over the past three decades, has seemed to be able to find new suckers to buy its national debt. Ukraine, pushed so forceably into its first default, may not suffer as badly. Moreover, given that the whole world order appears on the verge of collapse in the first place, the lack of good credit may not matter. There may not be money available in any case.

<p>Three paradoxes at the heart of the collapse of modern civilization</p>	
<p>Mankind's genius for illogic is a fascinating topic of modern research. We find something attractive about both horns of a paradox and fail to register that our beliefs are irreconcilably conflicted.</p>	
<p>We believe in evolution and democracy. We believe in the individual's right to self-fulfilment, but are concerned at the same time for the welfare of future generations. We celebrate equality, while our runaway technology magnifies the distance between the haves and have-nots, or rather, the cans and the can-nots, by leaps and bounds. Embracing both sides of these irreconcilable paradoxes, we are sinking into a quagmire.</p>	
<p>We believe in evolution. Progressives proudly sport Darwin fish bumper stickers and ridicule the bumpkins who believe we are products of a divine Creator.</p>	
	
<p>We believe in democracy – government by the people – which in turn posits the fundamental equality of all people. We fail, however, to grasp that both humans and human institutions are subject to evolution. Evolution rewards inequality - the survival of the fittest. Our attempts to embrace both sides of this dichotomy are killing us.</p>	
<p>Democracy, because it treats all citizens as equals, has been forced into the position of positing that all people are in fact equal. The founding fathers certainly knew better. They constructed an elaborate structure to ensure that the common man's voice and opinion were filtered through those of his betters via a system of republican government.</p>	
<p>The tiered system of enfranchisement has been under attack since its inception. It is always to some politician's benefit to bring in more voters, and the case can always be made that it is mean-spirited to exclude them. In the US the voting franchise was broadened to include men without property, then</p>	

<p>minorities, then women, then mere teenagers, and lately ex-convicts and illegal aliens. The right to vote has been similarly expanded in almost every world democracy.</p>	
<p>Two things have invariably been true. First, there have always been capable people among the disenfranchised. But second, the average level of civic involvement of the voting public has gone down with each expansion. A few criminals and illegal aliens will be well-informed and civically involved voters – but not many.</p>	
<p>Expansions cannot be reversed. Because politicians must attract votes from every enfranchised group across the spectrum, they cannot offend any by pointing out obvious differences. Instead, they find it easier to regard unequal outcomes among individuals sexes and races as evidence of discrimination. Discrimination is the only politically acceptable explanation.</p>	
<p>Democracy has also institutionalized altruism. On the principle that we are all equal, misfortunes are construed as naught but bad turns of fate which could befall any of us. No citizen must be allowed to suffer from hunger, ill health, unemployment or any other preventable condition. Certainly the children of such unfortunates are not to blame for their plight. It is the responsibility of a democratic society to support them, and to go out of its way to "level the playing field." To question such altruism as unsustainable is called heartless. Voices that do are virulently suppressed.</p>	
<p>On the other hand evolution, as defined by Darwin, is the survival of the fittest. It is the process whereby individual differences, about which Darwin went on a length, lead to the differential ability to leave surviving progeny. That is how evolution works. The individuals, the groups, the gene pools which are most successful are the ones which survive and leave progeny and the others become extinct. The fundamental premise is exactly the opposite of democracy: all people are different.</p>	
<p>Genes and cultures coevolve. We nordic types developed altruistic behavior – and genes – because tribes that altruistically supported their members outcompeted others. Ditto the intelligent, hard-working and scholarly East Asians, and the verbally and financially adept Jews. Hundreds of human societies have come and gone over the five millennia of recorded human history. Every group bore more</p>	

<p>children than could survive. The strongest did survive, displacing the weaker. So it continued until the Industrial Revolution and beyond, and the rise of modern democracies. The World Wars of the twentieth century were clashes of titans, competitions between the most successful products of human evolution.</p>	
<p>The horrific bloodshed of those wars gave mankind pause. Moreover, the communications and transportation technologies that these dominant peoples had created reduced the distances between peoples. Western people recoiled at the human price of strife among peoples – that another war could result in the annihilation of all mankind. Now that they could more easily visit and communicate with others, they also developed an appreciation for the humanity of other peoples. The human brain is not very nuanced. We reclassified the global "other" from "not like us – unfriendly" to "like us - friend," from barbarian to equal. That rough computation is also wrong, the consequences of which are playing out today.</p>	
	<p>Evolution is working more than ever in today's mating process. The best and brightest of both sexes are selected and thrown together in elite universities and technology companies. When they marry and bear children – if they do so – those children stand to inherit brains enough to succeed in the technological society their parents are building.</p> <p>Unfortunately, however, the elite become enamored of the things they can do with the money they make, and the very process of making it, to the exclusion of having children. Childbearing is left to the less capable strata of society. Since that feckless lot cannot be entrusted with the responsibility, bureaucrats ever on the lookout for justifications of their existence have taken over more and more responsibility for child rearing. The rising generation, less capable from birth, is conditioned to depend on government largess for everything in life. Democracy dictates that they be allowed to vote for that government, which of course they do. They vote themselves more and more of both handouts and government.</p>

<p>The conflict between the democratic dream of equality and the Darwinian observation that differences among people and peoples are natural, that they enlarge themselves, is severe and irreconcilable.</p>	
<p><u>Genotype vs. phenotype.</u></p>	
<p>Richard Dawkins famously wrote in "The Selfish Gene" that the phenotype – living, breathing animals, the creatures we see, including human beings – are only the gene's vehicles for reproducing themselves. We are here to reproduce. Yet Western thought, starting with the Greeks and cresting with the Enlightenment, celebrates the individual and gives no consideration to the gene pool to which he belongs. Humanity is gored as well on the horns of this paradox</p>	
<p>Enlightenment values celebrate the phenotype. It enshrines the individual's search for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."</p>	
<p>The obvious conclusion is that fertility depends a great deal on one's social arrangements. American, and all Western social arrangements have changed, and our fertility has as well. The question for me is how to reverse this for my descendents. I cannot roll back the political and social tides that have so drastically affected urban society around me.</p>	
<p>We see some examples. Successful groups today include the Amish, Muslims, Orthodox Jews, the Hutterites, and the Mormons. The Gypsies, whatever else might be said of them, are evolutionarily successful – they have large families. What can we learn from them? Is it possible to remain thoroughly modern, enlightened men and still have a culture that encourages fertility?</p>	
<p>It appears that these two principles are at loggerheads. Procreation taxes the individual in the interests of his offspring. It taxes the phenotype to the advantage of the genotype. All of Enlightenment thinking, however, favors the phenotype and takes the propagation of the genotype for granted. Though the flaws in this line of thought were obvious to Malthus in the early 19th century, it was not until the 20th century, when the secular, democratic ideas of the Enlightenment swept down through all layers of society, that the reality became clear.</p>	
<p>Intelligence and technology. The world is</p>	

<u>Religion vs atheism</u>	

ANCIEN Traditional science and the British and American electoral systems have confirmed.docx 06/27/2011

Traditional science and the British and American electorates have confirmed: White men are not evil. We deserve credit for some stuff, like, Western Civilization.

After decades of provocation, we are finally voting to hang onto what is ours. More to follow soon from Italy, France, Austria, Netherlands, Germany.....

Those who don't like us hanging onto our homelands and cultures are welcome to move to the lands of the cultures of your choice. Please practice the civilizing magic of social justice in Syria, Somalia or somewhere else.

And please stop bleating on Facebook and elsewhere. You lost. You will continue to lose. Get used to it.

ANCIEN Ukraine and global warming.docx 08/28/2013

Ukraine and global warming

Ukraine is probably the best place to be as global warming sets in. I say this in the face of all of the vast uncertainty that surrounds global warming. Let me investigate the global warming story, and then Ukraine's place in it.

The official global warming website is the United Nations International Panel on Climate Control, or IPCC, www.IPCC.ch. The UN has attempted to aggregate climate science from all over the world into a single set of conclusions. They have working committees to assess a) whether or not global warming is real, and what causes it, b) what are the likely impacts on the world, and c) what policies should the world adopt to do something about it.

In each of these three areas they filter the information upward. They start out with thousands of papers written by scientists all over the world, they conduct what they call "metastudies" to summarize the results and extract the general trends, and then they produce executive summaries, which are shorter and in simpler language, to distribute to the press.

Of course the process is political. Many of the scientists working on global warming have their own strong opinions, and in general those opinions get stronger as you move up the chain through meta-studies and executive summaries. What is supposed to be impartial science is certainly open to charges of bias. The same skew occurs across the three working groups. The scientists concerned with the reality of global warming are fairly fact-based. The ones who are attempting to project the impact of global warming are truly working in the realm of the unknown, not tethered by facts, and they tend to come up with scary hypotheses of gloom and doom. Which, we have to admit, may be true. However, they cannot be proven. Lastly, the working group on what to do about it advocates policy. They come up with policy instruments such as the Kyoto accords and the Copenhagen accords. The tendency has been to come up with grand plans which appeal to Greens all over the world but don't have a prayer of success at the level of national politics.

You are reading about Ukraine and probably don't care to go any deeper into this, but if you do, there are three serious books I would recommend: *Whole Earth Discipline*, by Stewart Brand, a longtime Green with excellent credentials and great ideas; *A Vast Machine*, which talks about how scientists know what they know; and *Global Warming Gridlock* which talks about the political problems of doing something about it. All of the authors believe that global warming is real, but they are humble about how much we actually know and how much we can accomplish through the political processes as they are. Brand is easy to read, the other two are more deeply scientific.

The conclusion I draw, on which I am making my own life decisions, is that global warming is real, we are not going to be able to come to a consensus to slow it down before human activity has more than doubled the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and probably raised temperatures by two or three degrees Celsius.

At the same time, the Earth's population continues to grow, but that rate of growth is slowing down. We have about 7 billion people today and the best wild guess is that the population may peak at about 9 billion. Jared Taylor writes that white people account for 17% of the Earth's population and only 7% of the births. The Chinese and Japanese are doing a similarly poor job of reproducing themselves.

This is important. North Americans, Japanese and Europeans have stopped increasing their energy usage for the most part. We are the biggest part of the problem, but a shrinking percentage. The Chinese and Indians will continue to demand more energy on a per capita basis, but at least the Chinese are reining in their population growth. The biggest traditional energy hogs are slowly reducing their appetite, although certainly not fast enough to prevent significantly more global warming.

Adopting this projection as a baseline, what should a person do? In general, you don't want to live in places that are already hot and dry. They are likely to get hotter and dryer. You don't want to depend on water that has to flow from such places. You don't want to live in a low-lying area, because the oceans are likely to rise. The IPCC working group on the effects of global warming probably has as good a projection as anybody as to what's going to happen. They have region by region, and often country by country projections.

Ukraine has incredibly fertile land. If you don't know anything else about the place, you have probably heard that. 54% of the country is arable, and a lot of it is its famously rich "Black Earth." Contrast this with the United States which is only 18% arable, and in which the land is generally not as good. Ukraine's history of rotten government has given it a big reserve. The land was not used efficiently under the collective farms in Soviet times, and efficiency has generally gone down since then. There are a few large agricultural companies who are doing wonderful things, but they work against handicaps. They cannot own the land outright, and the present government continues to meddle with agricultural policy, strongly discouraging investment in making things better. The result continues to be a vast bank of underused agricultural resources.

Geography is also in Ukraine's favor. It is a relatively northerly country, on a latitude similar to Montréal and Paris. If it warms up, it will open the northern part of the country to more extensive agriculture, probably offsetting any losses in the southern part. All of Ukraine's rivers flow south. The prediction is that global warming will make Russia more temperate and probably increase rainfall and Russia. A lot of that water will flow south through Ukraine, available for agriculture. By the way, very little of Ukraine's agriculture is currently irrigated. Another underutilized resource that can be exploited in the future.

Ukraine's population density is fairly low. It has 45 million people, give or take. This is about 1/6 the population of the United States, living on about 1/12 the land. It has about 25% more arable land per capita than the US. Unlike the US, it has not strained its aquifers or overtaxed the fertility of the land. Bad policy has been generally benign, though to be sure there is a fair amount of industrial pollution.

My conclusion, therefore, is that Ukraine will be one of the best positioned countries in the world when and if global warming becomes a reality. Another advantage is that it does not have rapacious neighbors. If global warming is real, Russia will experience a bonanza similar to that of Ukraine. None of Ukraine's other neighbors are very populous or very militant. Ukraine has a fighting chance of defending its riches against military invasion and illegal immigration. All this is speculation, but I can't speculate on a better place to sit out the storm of global warming when and if it arrives.

ANCIEN UKRAINE GOVERNMENT BUDGET.docx 08/30/2013

ANCIEN Ukraine IMF borrowing.docx 08/29/2013

The German Advisory Group recommends that Ukraine step up its efforts to get a standby agreement from the IMF. Is this in the people's best interests, that of Ukraine's government, or Europe's?

Countries borrow far too often. A country should borrow for the same reasons a corporation does. A young company can make a higher return on borrowed money than the interest they pay. A similar argument could have been made for countries that were reconstructing after the Second World War. Germany, Japan, and much of Western Europe took advantage of American capital to rebound. But those days are gone. Economies are mature and populations are declining. Borrowing to improve the economy seldom makes sense anymore.

Two parties, however, almost always benefit from international loans. The lenders are guaranteed a return on their money, and the politicians who do the borrowing get credit for spending it during their term of office while it is their successors who are saddled with repaying it. Ukraine borrowed heavily to finance construction for Euro 2012. Government officials were able to dole out contracts; contractors made money; everybody had a good time, and the Ukrainian people are left to pay the tab over the next couple of decades.

There is no free lunch. Lenders demand to be repaid. The only way to avoid repayment is to go broke, like Argentina does every few years, or to convince the world that your situation is so hopeless that they have to forgive your debt, as African countries frequently do. A country that does this finds it difficult to ever borrow again, even for routine purposes such as financing world trade.

The interests of the people are usually at odds with the interests of government. Every set of politicians wants to postpone problems as long as possible. Yanukovich does not want to raise the retirement age. It would be politically unpopular. He does not want to raise rates on domestic natural gas. It would again be unpopular. Both of these measures were stipulated by the IMF in its 2010 standby loan agreement. Failure to follow through resulted in the IMF's canceling that loan.

Rather than reduce expenditures, Yanukovich could raise revenues. He has already squeezed small business about as hard as he can. His tax police are notorious. The other alternative, collecting a fair tax on the income of oligarchs, especially by limiting their ability to recognize profits offshore, would cost him the support of his monied backers.

Now we find the Germans recommending an easy way out – take money from the IMF to finance the deficit. No! It is a poison pill, enough of one that the IMF has enemies worldwide. The IMF would dictate legislation, as it attempted to do in 2010. Getting IMF support would mean courting the governments of America and Europe. Yanukovich is already attempting to placate them by abandoning the Rada's principled stands on other issues, such as unwanted refugees and gender orientation. And, at the end of the day, Ukraine will have to find some way to raise taxes to pay for (1) pensions and gas, which will still be there, (2) principal payments on the loans,

and (3) interest on the loans. To allow Yanukovich to solve his short-term problems with an IMF loan only leads to larger problems for his successor.

Ukraine currently owes about \$67 billion to the Russians. It is in the process of paying off the \$15 billion in IMF loans rather quickly. While it is not advisable to be in anybody's debt, it seems better to serve one master than two. Moreover, Russia does not appear to be making any demands for uncomfortable changes in social policy. They want to force Ukraine into their customs union, and to dictate economic terms, but they seem willing to let Ukraine remain Ukraine.

The best course of action would be to follow mother's advice and "take your medicine." There are hard decisions to be made balancing the budget. There is absolutely nothing to suggest that the decisions will be easier in the future. The citizens of Ukraine should demand that the government solve today's problems today, even if it means taxing the oligarchs. In the meantime, it will be better as far as debt goes to deal with the devil they know, Russia, rather than subject itself to the IMF as well.

ANCIEN Ukraine.docx 05/22/2012

Ukraine	Response to an article by John Derbyshire	
The Ukraine – Ukraine . No articles.	Slavic languages are like Latin in that they have no articles. Thus it could be either. Ukrainians chose to be called simply "Ukraine" without "The," much like the Chinese expressed a preference for "Beijing" over "Peking."	
Comment at your peril. Will offend somebody. Will be wrong.	John noted that one comments at one's peril. You will always offend somebody. He omits the second caveat. You will always be wrong, at least in some measure.	
Holodomor	It is wrong to attribute this fight to memories of the Holodomor, Nazis, the grandeur of the former USSR, gas pipelines or strategic defense. Ukrainians don't forget, but they are motivated to get rid of a crude, stupid tyrant who has ruined the economy.	
Haven't forgotten or forgiven.		
Is Russia an Asiatic despotism or European state? Music, art, science, math. Ukraine participated.		
Eastern part more authoritatian.	Derbyshire repeats the textbook claim that the Russophile East is more authoritarian, etc. etc. The whole country rose up against this blockhead, this bungler. More in the West than the East. Try as he might to stir up pro-Russian sentiment in the East, Putin could not manage. The West attributes far too much intelligence and power to Putin. Putin screwed up big time. His vasilation on the \$15 billion loan was seen for what it was: crude manipulation. They resented it. Russian agents provocateurs sent to stir up trouble representing	

	<p>themselves as overzealous, violent protesters could not even speak Ukrainian and did not know local politics and geography. The grand Soviet spymaster was dramatically inept. He belongs in Foggy Bottom.</p>	
	<p>Ukraine is indeed corrupt. I draw a distinction between wholesale and retail corruption. At the retail level you pay traffic fines on the spot; you bribe people to get your electricity hooked up. It is an honorable system. The bribes are seldom excessive, and people stay bribed. They come through.</p> <p>At the wholesale level the oligarchs steal state assets outright, and boldly, through legislation and murky privatizations. The oligarchs are permitted to recognize all of their profits offshore, leaving the bulk of the tax burden on the middle class. The parliament passes disruptive and expensive tax laws on a whim. They modified the constitution, centralizing all power.</p> <p>Don't look too closely, but Obama has done many of the same things in the US. With a bit more finesse, but in substance the same, and by the same non-transparent processes.</p>	
John comments at his peril.		
Ukrainian spoken in west		
Kiev in center. Great name in European history.		
Corrupt. Transparency intl 144 out of 175. Cameroon, CAR, Iran Nigria		
President is Russian. No – he is Ukranian.	<p>Yanukovych is Russian speaking but not Russian. He is a twice-convicted small town hoodlum who rose through the system by virtue of his willingness to do anything in service of his masters. His amorality. Read "Abuse of Power – Corruption in the office of the President."</p>	
Suspension of deal – no, failure to do it. Flat broke just like everybody else.	<p>There never was a deal for ascension into Europe. Both Europe and Yanukovych were coy about it. Finally, the Europeans were ready to go but not Yanukovych. John mentions two problems: Putin and Timushenko. The third problem, a major one, is that the Europeans did not like the ham-fisted way in which Yanukovych was stealing, making his dentist son an overnight billionaire, and wanted some transparency that he could not have handled.</p>	
2 problems – Putin		
EU insists on Timushenko		
Putin bought off gov't		

Protests, overreaction		
Nationalists looked to EU. US did try to get involved. Opposition can be bought over the counter.	John is right that the US had no options. Money, weapons, loaning electronic intelligence etc. simply wasn't useful. Ditto for the inept EU. Not above, ditto for the Russians. This was Ukraine's battle to fight. They did, and they won.	
Normal European country. Putin's turf. US choices limited. EU is paper tiger.	Sic semper tyrannis. Now, when will people of the West have the cojones to overthrow their corrupt governments?	

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Sic semper tyrannis. Now, when will people of the West have the cojones to overthrow their corrupt governments?

ANCIEN Ukrainian Business Acumen.docx 03/30/2014

Ukrainian Business Acumen

Churlish President Yanukovich has imprisoned Ukraine's blonde-coifed apotheosis, Yulia Tymoshenko. The beautiful, fiery lady with the crown of braids ran a close second to him in the 2010 elections.

The story is fully Ukrainian. Though she is guilty of many crimes, he framed her for the one that convicted her. They both know it, all of Ukraine knows it, and nobody is surprised. The West is not shocked, just thoroughly disgusted. Ukraine has shot itself in the foot. Again.

Ukraine has mastered the art of Lose-Lose negotiation. They are their own worst enemy in almost every situation. They can snatch defeat from the jaws of any potential victory. In the "crime" for which she sits imprisoned, Yulia negotiated an unfavorable gas deal with Putin in January 2009. Their countries had played a kind of Russian roulette, holding Western Europe hostage.

Russia exports gas to Europe via Ukrainian pipelines. They also sold it to Ukraine, at below-market rates, a practice dating back to the collapse of the USSR. Ukraine is entitled to use some gas to power pumps and compressors along the way. Russia accused Ukraine of siphoning off gas supposedly used for compressors – apparently true – and of not paying its bills – and shut off the gas in the middle of winter. Europe froze and blamed those damned Ukrainians. Tymoshenko negotiated her bad deal and eventually wound up in prison. Who benefitted? The legislator-gas tycoons whose shell company rakes off a sizeable percentage of Russia's sales to Ukraine. All other parties – Europe, Ukrainian and Russian citizens, and most of all, credibility, lose in a big way.

I see it in everyday life. The small, convenient and thriving grocery in my building, where the locals fired up with their morning vodka, closed abruptly in 2009. It sat empty until this year. Cavernous old buildings, architectural marvels, sit empty throughout central Kiev. There are more public service than paying advertisements in the metro. Outdoor advertising space sits empty for months. Nobody seems to understand the relationship between time and money, or know how to make a deal.

Ukrainians in negotiation resemble rams in rut. They bellow ferociously and go at each other with all they have. They open with an absurd, maximal position and refuse to budge. Their positions often have no relation whatsoever to their actual bargaining leverage. A taxi will quote 100 hryvnya for a 30 hryvnya trip, oblivious to the fact that there are three other taxis at the stand, and a bus stop as well. My landlady is claiming the whole of my \$1,500 rental deposit for holes in the walls and damage to furniture dating from Soviet times, ignoring the fact that she has no leverage at all. If I run out the deposit by staying, she can do nothing and has nothing.

A woman for whom I did some editing, and incidentally never offered the help I needed, came back six months later with a ferocious claim of her money back, that I had cheated her because the job was less than perfect. She had no leverage, just bluster.

ANCIEN Vladimir Putin is not anybody.docx 05/09/2014

Vladimir Putin is not anybody's image of a Rotarian. That may be part of his undoing.

The takeover of Crimea was executed in a crude, 19th-century manner. The technique was reminiscent of the way Russia, the Ottomans, and the Austro Hungarians built their empires centuries back. In those days, before widespread trade and communication, individual regions in the hinterlands of Eastern Europe tended to be isolated and self-sufficient. The formula was simple: conquer them, integrate them, and demand tribute.

It is no longer so simple. Crimea's economy depends on tourists – mostly from Ukraine. It depends on the export of wine – mostly to Ukraine. People in Crimea have enjoyed close and essential connections with the rest of Ukraine. Banks, accountancies, and trade groups operate at a national or multinational level. Putin's rough seizure of Crimea disrupted all sorts of connections. The citizens of Crimea have been well connected to Ukraine by roads, railroads, airlines, telephone and the Internet. As free people, they have had the freedom to associate in voluntary organizations, the kind that have characterized the United States since its inception.

This fact came home to me when I attended a Rotary meeting in Kiev last week. There are five Rotary clubs in Crimea. Their members are businessmen and professionals who travel a lot. They have close personal relationships with many of the members of the Kiev clubs. People at the meeting told about their conversations, by telephone or by Internet, with Crimea and club members after the Russian takeover. They are scared. They do not yet know what it means whether businesses, the value of their property, the education that their children will receive and so forth, but the portents are not good. People who are young and mobile are looking for job opportunities anyplace else, starting with Kiev. Those with deeper connections feel trapped.

What can Putin do? It is impossible to seal off all communication between Crimea and the rest of Ukraine. Without travel and communication, it would regress to the status of a medieval duchy occupying an arid peninsula isolated from the mainland. On the other hand, if communications remain open, one can be sure that the Rotarians in Crimea will let their brother and in the rest of the world know exactly what is happening. There is no way that the business was Ukraine will approach its former levels anytime soon. Putin has only bad choices. He can let the Crimeans suffer and bellyache. He can push Russia further into debt, supplying subsidies to Crimea to make up for lost business. In the extreme, he could push to conquer the rest of Ukraine. Then he would have the same kind of problem, except with 45 million people instead of merely two million.

The volunteer spirit is one of the things that sets Ukraine apart from Russia. Kiev has six Toastmasters clubs; in all of Ukraine there are ten. Tiny Moldova has a thriving club. Russia, on the other hand, has only three and they are struggling. The Rotary club in Lviv recently celebrated its 75th birthday, not counting a long hiatus under communism. Rotary appears stronger in Ukraine than Russia; its spirit of mutual support and international brotherhood seems quite at odds with Putin's view of the world.

I look forward to closely following developments in Russian occupied Crimea. I am sure I will hear stories personally from my Russian speaking friends, and I may be able to follow a few on Facebook. I will not be alone. This simple spread of knowledge, facilitated by friendships develop in business and voluntary organizations, is the kind of threat that Putin cannot contain. It undermined the Arab dictatorships, it undid Yanukovych here in Ukraine, and I have to imagine it will undo Putin himself.

M2016- vocab.doc 10/20/2020

ANCIEN We criticize liberals for allowing explanations to serve as excuses for bad behavior.docx 03/18/2014

We criticize liberals for allowing explanations to serve as excuses for bad behavior. What an irony that the conservatives are doing exactly that with Russia. They explained that Russia has always felt the need for buffers. There are no natural boundaries between Russia and the West. The mountains, the big rivers to keep invaders away from mother Russia. The only thing that fence them is distance. For that reason they have always felt the need for buffers states. And, they are in the process of attempting to reestablish buffers states that belong to the Soviet Union: Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

That's well and good as an explanation of Russia's bullying behavior toward those nations. I don't think it excuses it in any way. We certainly didn't accept Hitler's excuses when he made similar expressions about annexing Austria and the Sudetenland.

A bully will always have excuses for his actions. And if the world accepts the excuses, he will go right on being a bully. It is admirable that some in Europe are standing up to Russia at least in the sense of offering economic sanctions to content in an attempt to force them to think twice about their actions. Obama has also imposed economic sanctions, although largely symbolic, and his engaged in some really stupid rhetoric, arm flapping, that only emphasizes how powerless the United States is to stop prudent from doing what he is doing.

Nevertheless, as mentioned above, there are no natural barriers between Europe and Russia. Russia is like the farmer whose interests are modest. All he wants is all the land adjoining his. The land adjoining Russia will always be somewhere to the west of Russia, until you get to the Atlantic. There is nothing significant in the way of natural barriers.

The West should be nervous. Russia is engulfing Ukraine and breathing hard on the Baltics. Should they swallow Ukraine, they will be knocking on the door of former satellites that border Ukraine: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova and Romania. Throughout its history, Russia has never been a comfortable neighbor. There was constant strife with the Muslim nations to their south and Europe to the West. There can never be a stable system of buffer states. Wherever Russia ends, there it is, in all its ominous glory.

I reluctantly endorse the West's reaction to Putin. The objective of our diplomacy is to give your adversary no convenient alternatives, and Putin has certainly succeeded in this. A military response by the West would not have been wise. The West simply does not have military assets in a position to strike back at Russia, and more importantly, if they brought war to Ukraine it would certainly have involved vast civilian casualties, which is a worse outcome than conceding part of the land to Russia.

The alternative, acceding to Russia's bullying, will only invite more aggression. Therefore, the economic sanctions as they have imposed, while perhaps ineffective, are the best that the west can do. It has strongly censured Russia.

Russia appears to have successfully circumvented this censure, strengthening its ties with China and the Stans. In my belief we need to be patient. Russia's interests are not aligned with China's. In China won't put up with the same kind of bullying that is effective against Western democracies. Once China is dependent on Russian gas, one can imagine that they will not as easily cave to Russian pressure as have a soft democracies in the West. Moreover, the pipelines to China have yet to be built.

It is said that Russia is always both stronger and weaker than it appears to be. That's certainly the case here. Russia appears to be strong by virtue of their military presence in Eastern Europe. It cannot easily be countered by NATO or anybody else. It is weak, however, in that the Russian economy is entirely dependent on natural resource exports. They have until now been able to play off one customer against another. They may force Europe to take a united stand against them, to unite and negotiate together, and to look for alternative sources of energy. The obvious ones are liquefied natural gas, from the gulf states, which is already underway. They can reactivate nuclear power, which is at least under discussion although it has not yet happened. They can exploit their shale oil, and explore and extend their exploration for conventional fuels.

Russia is also vulnerable and that they have depended on Western technology in their petroleum exploration sector. The refusal of Western companies to do business with Russia might make sense. Russia has not treated Shell or Exxon especially well. This latest push in Ukraine may be enough to convince the Western oil companies, who possess the expertise required to expand Russia's production simply not to invest there.

The Soviet Union collapsed of its own weight, without force of arms. Russia contains the seeds of its own destruction. It will take patience, and it will involve considerable discomfort, but the best alternative seems to be to wait.

ANCIEN What might possibly be good in this crisis.docx 08/06/2014

What might possibly be good in this crisis?

Putin has flexed his muscles. He has shown Western threats to be hollow. We can send the fleet hither and yon, and talk of sanctions, but we can't do much to inflict economic damage on Russia.

Time to resort to a time-proven strategy. Let them do themselves in. The Russians have a long history of self-defeating strategies. Tell McCain and Nuland to go home to their bunkers, and wait. Send a note to the armaments industry that the US military budget, 39% of the world total, hasn't won any wars and doesn't even seem to prevent provocations from uppity Islamists and now Russians. It's time to try something else. Actually, the massive, peaceful protests of Maidan appear to me to be the wave of the future.

The Russians took Crimea with their typical subtlety – none at all. They grabbed it, and it is theirs. They had a historical claim. Crimea had only been annexed to Ukraine in 1954, long after the 1922 establishment of the Ukrainian SSR under the Soviets. Ever since it has been designated as an "Autonomous Republic" and maintained its ethnic Russian majority. Russian media predominated, and it carried pro-Russian propaganda. A fair percentage of the population was known to have Russian sympathies.

The mechanics of the takeover were crude. Invade the place with soldiers without insignia, take over the legislature by force, and declare an election. Print the ballots themselves, with no favorable option, select their own poll observers, and count the ballots themselves. Surprise, surprise! They got a Stalinesque 97% of the vote. The Russians clearly didn't trust the people of Crimea enough to allow an honest election.

The Crimean Tatars have been a model Muslim minority, but Muslim nonetheless. Fertile, and different. Stalin deported them en masse to the hinterlands of the USSR in 1944. Many of them died of the hardship, and their lands were stolen by the time they returned. The question of restitution has been an ongoing issue for the Ukrainian government. Now it is Russia's problem – and the Tatars make up an eighth of the population. One hears that they have friends in Dagestan and Chechnya.

Will the Russians go for more? There are good reasons not to. Crimea is an isolated peninsula. If Russia were to invade Ukraine, they would have no pretext other than "protecting ethnic Russians," which is awfully thin. Half the country speaks Russian, but they have no love for Russia. Can anybody conceive of Great Britain invading Ireland on the pretext of "protecting the English" just because English is the dominant language in Ireland?

Google "[Ukraine Holodomor map](#)" and you find that the people Stalin starved to death in 1932 were mostly Russian speakers. My wife's grandparents among them. There is no love lost between the Russophone Ukrainians and Russians. Almost all of my friends here in Kiev speak Russian natively, and they loathe the Russians. The language issue is blown out of proportion. Except for the far west, the country is amazingly bilingual – more so than Canada and Belgium, about on a par with Switzerland.

Going west from the Russian border, the first geographical barrier one encounters is the Dnieper River, which bisects the country. Downtown Kiev is on the right bank. I live on the left bank. Accept my assurances that I and my neighbors, while we speak the language, have no desire to be Russian. Putin would be stretching his resources very thin to occupy so much hostile population.

World economies, especially those of the USSR, were highly regional at the time of the last world war. They were largely self-sufficient, and poor. Now, Europe buys most of Russia's exports. Ukraine exports food, machinery and software to Russia and Europe. The economic impact of war, in percentage terms, would be greater now for all participants. One can ask if the Russians would still swoon over Putin without a shirt when their standard of living had fallen by half on account of his wars.

Russia doesn't have much industry. The economy depends on natural resources exports. The West has hitherto been too lazy to look for alternatives. Should they be moved to do so, they could reactivate their nuclear facilities and bring shale gas online more quickly. They could also turn down the thermostats. Does anybody remember the privations the English and Germans put up with in WWII? If Europe showed that level of grit today, the Russians would be out of business tomorrow.

This demonstration of Russian disregard for world opinion is almost certain to cool any ardor for investing in Russia. BP and other western companies have been burned already in joint ventures intended to modernize Russia's natural resources industries. They are unlikely to sign up for more. Pay close attention to how Shell and others holding drilling leases of the coast of Crimea are treated.

Unlike the case in the wars of the last century, the world will be quite able to observe the treatment of homeowners and businesspeople under the new Russian regime. They have to be engaged in a fight for the hearts and minds of the Crimean people. This will limit their scope of action. It will almost certainly be quite costly, as they have to make whole a Crimean economy which was largely dependent on Ukrainian trade and tourism. Assuming that Crimeans retain the Internet, Russian missteps in integrating these lost "brothers" will be highly visible.

Putin seems to have been excessively concerned about Ukraine joining NATO. They took a hard look at NATO about 2007. What did it offer? A high financial commitment to modern weapons which would have been useful for fighting the Russians. A wonderful way to bleed the country dry and lose its young men in service of western interests. They passed.

Putin was also concerned about Ukraine joining the EU. Again, it seems far-fetched. The EU would have made uncomfortable demands on Ukraine with respect to opening its borders and

accepting all kinds of diversity which are distasteful to the Slavic palate. EU non-governmental organs are very busy here beating the drums for gay rights and ethnic minorities, but it should be clear to everybody that the Ukrainians are just not that concerned. They are happy with things as they are, thank you, and the Ukrainians would generally support Putin's positions with respect to homosexuality and Muslims. If Putin had just left well enough alone, he might not have been disappointed with the result.

The loss of Crimea represents the loss of two million Russian speaking voters whose political sympathies generally lay with Russia. It is almost certain to scare and alienate many Ukrainian voters who were not so sure before. While Ukraine will have a pluralistic government, one can expect it to be at least marginally more pro-Western.

Writing as a libertarian, it appears to me that Ukraine is more likely to remain free from the dictates of political correctness – diversity and all that – as they follow their own natural inclinations and avoid alliances with the EU which might goad Putin into further action. This might not be all bad. Putin into further action. This might not be all bad.

ANCIEN Who was really responsible for the downing of flight MH17.docx 03/05/2014

Who was really responsible for the downing of flight MH17? Let's take a look at the facts...

As SCG News explains...

On July 17th, 2014 two major events took place: Malaysian flight MH17 was downed over eastern Ukraine, presumably by a missile, and Israel began a ground invasion of Gaza. Israel's invasion was granted an almost complete media blackout. The MH17 tragedy, however, got full coverage, and was immediately propagandized. (This in spite of the fact that far more civilians have been killed by Israel's bombardment of Gaza over the past few weeks.)

The U.S. government and the western media pinned the responsibility for the MH17 tragedy on Russia within minutes, long before investigators had time to even arrive at the scene, much less provide any actual conclusions. Then came an all out information war, with lies, omissions and disinformation coming from all sides.

The geopolitical implications of this event should not be underestimated. If this was ever in doubt, the fact that Obama just sent military advisers to Ukraine to help Kiev in its assault against the east should make it very clear. Depending on how much mileage Washington can get out of it, the downing of flight MH17 could end up being extremely pivotal.

Anyone who knows their history, knows that media coverage of events like these often lay the psychological groundwork for war. Consider the sinking of the Lusitania for example on 5/7/1915 (or the murder archduke Ferdinand in 1914). These combined with the Zimmermann Telegram (which was dispatched on 1/16/1917) pushed US public opinion over the tipping point, and on 4/6/1917 the United States declared war on Germany.

It is worth noting that though the U.S. denied it at the time, later diving expeditions revealed that the Lusitania was indeed smuggling war munitions at the time that was sunk (as Germany had asserted from the beginning). Of course, by the time the truth was known it was far too late for the 116,000 Americans who were killed in that conflict.

So who was REALLY responsible for the downing of flight MH17?

ANCIEN Whos who.docx 10/23/2014

Who's who

Sergiy Kurchenko Disgraced teenage billionaire
Sergei Taruta Now in Donetsk
Igor Kolomoisky Dnepropetrovsk
Arseni Yatsenyuk Prime Minister
Oleksandr Turchynov Acting President
Kluyev brothers Family from donetsk

Andriy Parubiy, the new head of the National Security and Defense Council,

U.S. / EU APPROVED BASEBALL BAT UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT. (Svoboda Party is the Nazi Party of Ukraine).
Picture: Senior U.S. Senator John McCain and Oleh Tyanybok, Nazi Party Leader (Svoboda Party).

Oleksandr Sych (Александр Сыч). Deputy Prime Minister. Member of the Freedom Party (Svoboda/Свобода).

Serhiy Kvit (Сергей Квит). Education Minister. Member of the Freedom Party (Svoboda/Свобода).

Andriy Mokhnyk (Андрей Мохник). Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Member of the Freedom Party Svoboda/Свобода).

Ihor Shvaika (Игорь Швайка). Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food.
Member of the Freedom Party (Svoboda/Свобода)

Dmytro Boulatov (Дмитрий Булатов) . Ministry of Youth and Sports
Member of the Ukrainian National Self-Defence (UNA-UNSO)

Oleh Makhnitsky (Олег Махницкий). Prosecutor General of Ukraine
Member of the Freedom Party (Svoboda/Свобода). Member of the Ukrainian National Self-Defence (UNA-UNSO).

ANCIEN Why are we here speech.docx 10/18/2014

Why are we here? If you think about it, this amounts to two questions. How did we get here, and what should we do now that we are here?

A couple hundred years ago the answers to both were easy. God created us and put us here to rule the earth. We are here to fulfill God's will which includes making more Christians to follow in our footsteps. It was a very successful formula. Christians filled Europe, North America and South America. The Muslims believe the same thing and they're still doing a good job of filling Asia and Africa with more Muslims.

The God explanation was not good enough for scientific man. It left some important questions unanswered. Darwinism did a better job.

Darwin's explanation, based on evolution, is pretty simple. We are here because our parents had children. They got here because their parents had children. And that chain goes back 1 billion years –

successful animals begetting children who also had children. Along the way we improved ourselves. The animals who survived from one generation to the next were a bit smarter, bigger, and faster. That's survival of the fittest. The slow, weak and stupid didn't have as many surviving offspring.

Humans within the last 200,000 years acquired language, and with that we acquired a sense of morality. That has been a two-edged sword.

On the one hand, we were able to grow into larger groups than monkeys. Monkeys know how to behave in their own troops, more or less, but it is limited to about 150 monkeys. With language people were able to come together into clans, tribes and nations. They were able to work together to hold onto their territory and they were able to conquer other territories. Survival of the fittest again.

My wife Oksana asks why people can't be nicer to each other. When I look at her blue eyes and tall frame, I say, "Sweetheart, if your Viking ancestors had been nice people they would've gotten wiped out and you wouldn't be here." We are the product of survival of the fittest. We're here because our ancestors were tougher and nastier than the other peoples around, and they were the tribes who survived.

When we believed in Christ, we were told what to do now that we were here. We now look around and say there's no guidance. We arrive without a user's manual. What do we do now that we're here?

For many people, life is to enjoy. They do what they want – drinking, drugs, recreational sex and video games. They don't have children, but they don't care.

Other people get carried away with the morality question. They have extended the idea of altruism, supporting their family, tribe and nation, to the whole world. They are kind to everybody, even animals. This turns survival of the fittest on its head: other tribes and nations don't see it that way.

Both choices mess up evolution. Survival of the fittest only works if you have kids. People whose lifestyle is based on enjoying themselves don't have many kids. The ones who proclaim a universal morality think it is immoral to loose more human vermin on the world. They think our tribe is too successful. They want to change the rules to hold us back and help others. They also don't have many kids.

There is no God-given answer, but there is an answer that works. You can be sure that the people who are around in fifty years will come from families that had children. I predict that today's generation of lifestyle addicts and one-worlders is a phase that will have passed. The world will once again belong to people who believe in having kids. I want my grandchildren to be among them. How about you?

[ANCIEN Why are we here.docx 10/21/2014](#)

Why are we here? How did we get here? What should we do now that we are here?

These are separate questions, but related. If we do not see the relationship, we may find ourselves no longer here.

Religion used to provide the answers to both. We are here because God put us here. What are we supposed to do? Be and multiply, so there are more of us here. It worked out pretty well. Christians and Muslims populated the earth with believers.. The Muslims still believe that stuff. Their numbers are growing.

The first is the easier question. Most people have given up religious explanations in favor of Darwin. We are the descendents of a bunch of apes who had the knack of surviving generation after generation in the hostile African savanna. Apes who learned how to use tools and fire, eventually developing language, and at long last started treating each other more or less nicely and wearing trousers.

The two questions are related. We do look at them together, we run the risk of no longer being here?.

However, successful it was, the God explanation simply isn't credible in light of science. People have put the God hypothesis to the test and found it wanting. God doesn't explain fossils very well. God doesn't explain human behavior as we see it. God doesn't do a good job of explaining things like homosexuality. Our society gave up on God.

We gave up God in favor of Darwin. Evolution does a better job of explaining how we got here. We are here because we are the modern instantiation of a billion year old chain of self replicators. We are here because our ancestors were successful in remaining here long enough to reproduce.

The chain of heredity is made up of DNA, the stuff of life. DNA varies within the gene pool of interbreeding animals. New mutations appear and the mix changes slightly from generation to generation.

DNA establishes our genotype – the chemical instructions passed on and recombined in sexual reproduction to define how we are made. What gets made, the people created according to that DNA template, are the phenotype. As Richard Dawkins explained in his landmark 1975 "The Selfish Gene," the phenotype is just the genes' mechanism for reproducing themselves. Genes themselves can survive through countless generations. We mortal humans are no more than their vehicle during a single generation in their chain of immortality. The "fitness" of the phenotype made according to the instructions of our genotype determines the probability of our successfully reproducing ourselves and passing on those genes.

Having dispensed with religion as an explanation of why we are here and instructions for what to do now that we are here, we are left with nothing. We're here because we're here. And that has given us vast freedom, which we have exploited. How to occupy our time has been a subject of contemplation since the days of Socrates.

The Greeks proposed the ideal of self improvement: we are here to achieve our maximum human potential. That philosophy has gained strength, especially since the Enlightenment, after which the focus has been mostly on the individual.

Much of the Greeks' advice was beneficial to the genotype, but by only accident. They counseled us how to people to get along with one another. They talked about civic responsibility, and about how children should be raised. These emphasized building strong men, who in turn would build strong societies.

There has always been a tension between the interests of the individual and the interests of the society. It's an undercurrent when we consider taxes. Why do I have to pay them? Why must I obey traffic laws when nobody's watching? It becomes more of an issue in wartime. There is nothing in it for the phenotype who puts his life on the line. They balk. Generations of warmongers devised jingoistic, patriotic rhetoric to inspire people, and cruel means of compulsion to force people to fight their wars. Their rhetoric usually focuses on the well-being of the nation. But, why should an individual give a damn about his nation, much less give his life for it?

Standing within the group has been a concern for all social animals, most notably our monkey ancestors. A monkey's survival depends on the success of his troop, and his breeding success depends on his standing within the group.

Recent mutations brought language, self-awareness, conscience into the human genome, and with them, morality. These have vastly expanded our sense of group.

These were simply not questions for our simian ancestors, and they seem to be questions of different levels of importance for different tribes of man. One thing is certain. The ethical sphere, as defined by Arthur Keith, is wider among some societies and others. Among European societies the altruism that enabled tribes to congeal as nations has expanded to embrace all of humanity. In fact, the animal-rights people expanded to all living things. Meanwhile, and the rest of the world, the Chinese seem to be pretty content to look out for Chinese and the Muslims look out for other Muslims and expressly and have and express a desire not only and express a desire to eliminate nonbelievers, which would be us, so that they might dominate the earth.

Getting back to our individualism, with no imperative as to how we should move forward here, we can use our time however we want. We can satisfy the ancient philosophers wife self-improvement, bringing our bodies and minds to peak condition. We can likewise endlessly indulge ourselves in sex, hetero's hetero we like, although gaze seems to give you more of it. We can build your appetite for food, entertainment, or anything else our heart desires. Look at today's society, the lifestyle pages so that his favor, is a good indication of people that different kinds of people are involved are attracted to all of the above. Paragraph return to the first question, here, returning to the first part of the first week here, as we are at the end of a long chain accessible self replicators. Wintertime has a to do with being six self rep. Ironically, even people who indulge in the very active for create a offspring sex partner effect the classical age, the last world's last major attempt at full rationality, ended in collapse. As Ferdinand mounted rights, they became so enamored of their individual freedoms that they did not reproduce themselves. Instead, another religion, Christianity, which did encourage reproduction swept through civilization. The people who did not adapt adopt Christianity, who continued in their old and self-indulgent ways, simply did not reproduce themselves.

The only logically consistent position in is to have children and perpetuate your genome. Either that, or do what few moderns do in America, support your relatives so that your genome lives so lives on through close relations, people that you know. But let's assume that you don't have relatives

Then all of the things that people who don't have children get concerned with, such as the environment, global warming, species extinctions and immigration and the feet of the downtrodden really are none of their business. They and their progeny will not live in the world that they are trying to improve. They might as well simply give up and enjoy themselves. However, that is contrary to one of our inborn traits, the need to do something. They need to feel important. So these people answer the irrational need for self-importance, for self-realization, by attempting to tweak the world that my children will live in.

I think the my standards much simpler. I want to have children. Once again, I'm not hearing any divine voice in my ear when I do that. I simply do it in the realization that I'm part of a chain of heredity and if I don't do my part I won't have progeny. I'm pretty fond of myself, and I think that the world should be populated by people like me. And egotistical stance. What else is there?

Why do they pursue their quixotic goals? They are answering some primordial religious instinct, the desire to serve some unknown God. There also elevating their own sense of self-worth, among other things by assuming a stance of superiority over us plain old breeders who have such pedestrian objectives is simply raising

children. They of course have a great benefit over us in that raising children requires a great deal of time in quite a bit of money. The superior sorts who don't bother to have children have a lot more resource to throw into the question of mucking with our lives than we do mucking with theirs. This is evident by the amount of noise that they will raise with the accusations that we are interfering with their way of life. It's really quite the opposite, but we don't have time we don't have time or energy to fight the battles. Sides at their battles so many battle fronts it's hard to keep track.

Religion is a product of evolution. People who had religious beliefs were more successful at procreating. The two notable successes of our euro are Christians and Muslims. They have simply reproduce themselves better than the classic societies which they succeeded. It seems to work better than the animist religions of the Indians, although there is certainly other factors at work sites religion.

One might note that the Chinese system, and the Japanese which place great emphasis on ancestors and on one's obligation to carry on the work of the ancestors has been even more effective. In any case, there is a sense that the individual has an obligation, whether to the gods, or whether to their ancestors, to keep the game going. When this belief falters, as it has in modern Japan, men and women discover that they really don't like each other. This is very much the case and well documented in modern Japan. Without the pressure to get together and fulfill social obligations, men and women simply do not meet and marry.

[ANCIEN Why are we here1.docx 07/04/2011](#)

[ANCIEN Why come to Ukraine to look for a woman.docx 06/21/2016](#)

Why come to Ukraine to look for a woman?

Ukraine is a long ways from home, and there are women all over the world. Why would you come here? The short answer is that the women believe in romance, want to marry, and want to have kids. In other words, they are pretty much pre-feminist. If commitment is not what you are looking for, probably better not to bother. So let's start off with what you don't want.

Ukrainian girls are beautiful, but there are beautiful girls in every country. If all you want is to make love to a beautiful woman, it is certainly cheaper to find somebody wherever you are. I am certainly not telling you anything that you don't already know when I say that the Internet has been a great boon to commercial sex. If you Google the word escort and your city name you can certainly come up with whatever you need to satisfy your desires without blowing a lot of money on airfare.

The same goes for casual affairs. Western girls drink from the cup of Cosmopolitan magazine. They have been conditioned to think that they deserve to be as sexually liberated as men. The consequence is that it's not terribly difficult to get them in bed, but harder to get them into a relationship, and sometimes quite hard to get them to commit to a relationship. Even if you are in a relationship, it seems that they are constantly suspicious and upset about this or that. They question whether you are doing your part, whether you are committed, whether you are working hard enough that your job, whether you are serious about life... the list goes on. It is hard to find somebody who will take you for what you are. But if you can be satisfied with a string of shallow affairs, the United States and Western Europe are the place to be. Women are by and large scared to venture into deeper water than that.

I should add that even in the realm of casual affairs, Ukraine does offer some advantages. Your money goes further, and the competition is thinner. For a given amount of disposable income, you may be cavorting meaninglessly with younger and more attractive women here.

Obviously, men and women get together to satisfy their individual wants and needs. This leads to the unanswerable question of What Women Want. God knows that every man has spent a lot of time wondering about the answer to this one! It is clear that there is not a single answer, but there do seem to be some patterns worth discussing.

Women want financial security. One of the problems in the United States and Western Europe is that they have it on their own. They don't need you to provide it. In fact, they may be uninterested in you unless you can significantly improve their material lot. This can be hard to do if they are to have a good job – they sometimes take themselves out of the relationship market by virtue of their own success. Even if you do form a relationship, it can be a bit uneasy sense she knows that she can easily quit whenever she wants because she really needs nothing material from you.

Just being a Westerner makes you attractive from a financial perspective. The odds are that you have an income well above the Ukrainian national average of just \$6000, which itself is quite a ways above entry-level wages for young woman. Girls here are pretty self-reliant. If you can help them move to the West, most of them are confident that they can take care of finding work and making money on their own. If you wind up having kids, and she doesn't work, at least not full-time, a Ukrainian woman will probably be content with what you can afford on your Western salary.

Women want to be amused. This is a challenge for a guy – you have to offer a superior alternative to the television. This is kind of hard to do on a full-time basis. In order for it to succeed, you and she have to invest some time in learning how to make conversation. Back in the olden days boys and girls started dating in their mid teens. There was a powerful incentive to learn how to talk to girls, because you wouldn't get so much as a kiss if you couldn't somehow charm them. The modern world has turned everything on its head. They may hook up with you and have sex without having exchanged two words. Cutting right to the bottom line like that doesn't give you much practice to develop your conversational skills, and thus doesn't give you much practice in building the foundation for a relationship. It is an advantage to look for women in a country in which relationships tend to develop the old-fashioned way.

Most women want to be loved and appreciated. This is a skill it also requires practice. That practice is hard to acquire an environment in which a women may sue you for sexual harassment if you so much as mention that you like their new hairdo. Of course, Western women sometimes do appreciate compliments. The problem is that it is difficult to guess when they will accept them, and if you guess wrong they can make your life miserable and even severely damage your academic or professional career. It is a considerable advantage to practice your charms in a country where the worst that can happen is that a woman thinks you are a creep and makes a polite excuse to head to the powder room. Leaving the lawyers out of it does wonders for building a climate in which romance can thrive. If you can sincerely tell a woman that you love her, and appreciate the fact that she does the same, you could well be looking at a lifetime of relative bliss. Getting to that point in a relationship is easier almost anywhere in the world outside of America.

Most women want children, probably even in America. Quite a few guys do as well. In traditional societies people have children because, well, among other things they do not know how not to. Also, in traditional societies, children may be an economic asset. In places with no retirement plans, who else will take care of you in your old age?

Nobody argues that children are a good financial bet in the modern world. They cost a fortune, from the obstetrician to make sure that mom gets every possible test and vitamins during pregnancy, to the high-tech delivery with a doctor standing by for any eventuality, to the monthly pediatrician visit and the unscheduled visits to make sure that every sniffle is not some deadly pneumonia. Then come the upscale clothes to show that you value your kids, the move to a house in a pricey suburb so they can get a decent education, summer camps, the orthodontists, the speech therapists and shrinks, and all this capped by an expensive college

education that prepares them to go forth into the world as a philosopher. Or not – you may wind up nurturing them in the parental nest for years to come.

Children are an expensive proposition for any responsible parent, and the return on investment in the form of grandchildren or even gratitude is uncertain at best. In the face of this daunting prospect, if ego or some religious conviction drives you to think it is worthwhile to have children to perpetuate the family name or to have somebody to talk to in your old age, it only makes sense to be careful in choosing the partner with whom you are going to raise those kids. Ukrainian women shine in this area.

Ukrainian women want children. They are for the most part close to their own mothers, and those mothers want grandchildren. The old folks have few enough pleasures in life. They don't go on cruises and European vacations, and they don't play bridge, learn Italian cuisine or take ballroom dancing lessons. What they do is to grow vegetables in their dachas and spoil their grandchildren.

There is a long tradition of getting married young and starting families early. Until 1862 most Ukrainians were slaves to the big landholders – they could be bought and sold just like slaves in America. Education was not even a consideration. Children were a primary objective... many hands to work the fields. Marriages were generally arranged, and generally early. In the Soviet Union everybody was guaranteed a job of some sort, so once again there wasn't any vast benefit to be gained in putting off starting a family. The upshot is that a lot of women in their 20s and 30s are getting heat not only from their mothers, but from their grandmothers about getting on with life, getting married and having kids.

This mentality is markedly different from that in the West. A college-level American woman will consider having a family once she has everything else in place: an education, a good job, a car, and often her own house. Somewhere along the line she probably wants to work in scuba diving and a year in Europe before she ties herself down with family commitments. Children are not a top consideration for the average college girl these days, but rather one of those things that might, in the Sweet by and by, come to pass.

Motherhood is a large commitment. A guy is better off pairing up with a woman who really wants it rather than one who accepts, with resignation, that it is finally time to do it. Incidentally, biology has remained stubbornly unchanged. The female body is best able to bear children when she is in her 20s. You are ahead of the game if you find somebody who wants to start a family in her 20s rather than mid-30s. Part of nature's happy conspiracy to promote fertility is that girls in their 20s, and especially Ukrainian girls, tend to be beautiful.

Ukrainian women are more realistic about the marriage market than Western women. They are more likely to know what they want, and to have a realistic opinion about what they have to offer. Basically, they offer youth and beauty, useful household skills, and love and affection in exchange for financial security, companionship, and love and affection in return. They really appreciated if this package comes with sobriety – it seems as though half the young women that you meet here have already spent time married to alcoholics.

In general, women in Ukraine aren't as fussy about a man's age. It is true that on the Russian language dating sites they generally say that they want a man no more than five years older than they are. On the other hand, it is not at all unusual to meet a Westerner in Kiev whose wife is 25 years or more younger than he is. There are several plausible explanations for this disconnect. First, the Western guy may be sufficiently well-heeled that other issues are secondary. Again, Western guys with a certain amount of money take good care of themselves. We go to the gym, we bicycle a lot, we swim, we go out dancing and so on. A male Ivy League graduate of 60 is statistically in the prime of his life, with 30 years of comfortable living ahead of him. A male Ukrainian of 60 is statistically pushing up daisies – life expectancy is only 59.

There is genuine affection in every such mixed Ukrainian – Western, May-December romance I know in Kiev. Ukrainian women are romantic. They generally believe in marriage and want to make it work. Every couple that I know will engage in conversation as a pair. They talk easily with each other and, as a couple, with friends. This

is quite different than Latin or Oriental wives, who see their role as taking care of their husbands, but are much less likely to get involved in conversation. In a Latin fiesta or a Vietnamese New Year's celebration you see the women gather together to cook and the men gather together to drink and talk. Among Ukrainians the sexes mix more easily, men and women. Loving a man means being a full part of his life.

Ukrainian women are like Orientals and Latins in one characteristic: they don't trust their husbands competence until it is proven. They go into marriage expecting that their husbands will not clean up the kitchen, wipe the toilet after themselves, go grocery shopping, remember birthdays or stay sober. Maybe they won't even be faithful. Those are the compromises that are understood when you get married. American girls, on the other hand, expect perfection and tend to be livid when they don't get it.

Sometime early in your marriage, therefore, you will butt heads with your Ukrainian bride. It essentially a test of power – who wears the pants in the family? The issue could be where to vacation, whether to get a new apartment, or how to cook.

Just like in every relationship, a smart guy will back down on the little stuff. I forgot to put the toilet seat down? Fine, I apologize. You had to take the garbage out yesterday morning? I'm sorry, dear. But you will have to take a stand on a big thing every now and again. Once you assure her that you know what you are doing, she will probably be all the more happy to relinquish the responsibility for decision-making. As in everything concerning women, you walk a fine line. She wants you to be considerate and accommodating, but she doesn't want you to be a wimp. You figure it out – there aren't any road signs.

I should add a caution that all Ukrainians negotiate quite differently than Americans, and it can come as a shock. Whereas an American goes into a negotiation looking for some sort of common ground, Ukrainian comes in with maximal demands which are presented as nonnegotiable. It just about bowls you over – it will look like there is no room for compromise. If you look at my website, you will see my somewhat humorous accounts of such negotiations with the Ukrainian customs service, landlords and others. See Geert Hofstede, "Cultures and Organizations," for a bit of an insight.

So, you may have a huge fight about something that you don't understand, and everything appears lost. Give it time. The chances are better than 50-50 that the entire brouhaha will be forgotten in a few days and never mentioned again. I have cordial relationships with people who have come after me hammer and tongs for supposed underperformance on a translation job, disagreements over the prerogative of a volunteer organization president to use club money for private travel, and defending a club treasurer against my insistence that we perform an audit. Somehow, despite all, we remain friends.

Sweet are the uses of adversity. Knowing that you will probably be viciously attacked at some time, you don't have to think about how to break up with a girl. When she starts a huge row, you have the option simply not to make up. I did this a couple years ago. When we split our words were unequivocal– it was over, over, over! I didn't call her, and within a week she was calling to drop hints and in a month she was almost stalking me. I was very glad not to have broken up in the usual way of making graceful excuses – it would have been almost impossible to get out of it.

[ANCIEN Why Ukrainian bosses treat employees the way they do.docx](#)

12/01/2011

Why Ukrainian bosses treat employees the way they do

Ukrainian bosses are usually unpleasant to work for. They treat employees with no respect, they reject suggestions from employees, they often fail to pay them for months on end, and uniformly fail to give them the social benefits provided by law, especially pensions. How can they get away with it?

The major reason is that employees are not the key to wealth. The owners of the biggest industries in Ukraine generally acquire them through privatization of state-owned assets. These privatizations have almost all been murky deals among the cronies who share power. In Ukraine, acquiring wealth depends a lot more on who you know than what you can do.

There is not much trust in Ukraine. Therefore these deals take place among families and clans. The clan now in power is from Donetsk, Eastern Ukraine. Most of the positions of power in government are dominated by friends of the president, and friends of friends. They take care of their own. The last several privatizations – Ukrainian international airlines, the telephone company, the digital television monopoly, the grain export monopoly, to name for that have taken place in the last year and a half under Yanukovich – have all been so far from transparent that there was no attempt made even to hide the self-dealing. Even the lies that cover them were so transparent nobody would believe them.

Therefore, in general, wealth is earned from rents – monopolies wrested from the government – rather than competitive activity. Since competition is not much of a factor, there is no premium put on building an effective management team. Outperforming competitors is not a requirement.

The most important person in the business as the bookkeeper. The tax authorities are extremely intrusive, performing an inordinate number of audits of very minute details. On the other hand, the loopholes are very large, and the importance of good connections in the government is very great. There is a rule of thumb that if they Ukrainian company shows a profit, they should fire the bookkeeper. The objective is never to have a taxable profit. Instead, they use shell companies in offshore tax havens, often in Cyprus, the Caribbean Islands, and elsewhere to accrue the profits. They need accountants to make sure that all of the money transfers will pass muster with Ukrainian authorities.

Of all the organs of the Ukrainian government, the customs system seems to be the most corrupt. It is so bad that each successive government pretty much accepts the system as it is without trying to change it. Exactly why is not clear. Presumably, customs has a substantial cash flow from bribes and other questionable sources that they can dole out as a slush fund to keep inquiring politicians at bay. One of the functions of customs is to certify goods for export so the value added tax can be reimbursed to the exporter. This is a very uncertain process. Favored companies get their value added tax reimbursed quickly, whereas companies without a good relationship with the government may have many months of arrears do them in value added tax. This results in significant cash flow difficulties for even the biggest companies, such as steel giant Arcelor-Mittal.

Getting back to the subject of employees, one sees that money is made by connections, not by clever employees. Since much of the business will not stand the light of day, employees are often not informed about how the business operates. Typically, only top management and the accountants understand the financial system. Financial results reported to the government and to investors are often vague, with a lack of detail in large categories of income and expense.

The Soviet system trained people much like it produced goods: according to a central plan. A central planner would decide that they needed a fixed number of teachers and a fixed number of doctors every year. These quotas would be passed down to the pedagogical and medical universities, which in turn would admit the requisite number of students and teach them. Since getting a medical degree, in particular, was an entrée to a prestigious career, there was often quite a bit of bribery involved in getting accepted to medical school. Likewise, since the professors were poorly paid, bribery worked fairly well for graduating and passing medical exams. Throughout the system there is no great incentive for the professors to stay up to date on

developments in their field. The material which they teach can quite easily be out of date, and poorly taught at that.

For this reason the mere possession of a medical degree does not ensure the doctor knows what he is doing. Doctors find employment throughout the system at the very poor wages offered by government. Better doctors are recognized by their peers and by patients. It is customary within the public system to secure the services of one of the better doctors by paying a bribe.

There are many private clinics throughout the country. Some of them are staffed by totally independent doctors, but many of them employ moonlighting doctors from the public system. This private market is competitive. A patient hopes that the private clinic knows enough to screen doctors coming from the public system for competence. Quite often a private clinic will send a private patient for treatment in a public facility. This can be an embarrassment. The public facility often has run down buildings and less than modern equipment. Still, when the private patient shows up at the scheduled time for the appointment, he jumps the queue of public patients and gets to see the doctor right away. The impression is that the doctor usually knows what he is doing, and probably gets adequate results despite the antiquated equipment.

But enough about doctors. This is talking about Ukrainian employers, and why they treat employees of badly.

There are a number of Slavic cultural themes which one can trace from czarist times to the present. These are:

The overall organization of society, from a czar down through nobility to bureaucrats and functionaries, small merchants and peasants. The peasants made up the bulk of society into czarist times. In Soviet times they worked on collective farms. Prior to the revolution they had been small landholders and sharecroppers, and prior to 1862 most of them were serfs, slaves to the large landholders.

There is a deep spirituality coupled with a fatalistic acceptance of things the way they are. Ukrainian people are less likely to envision a better life for themselves. They accept what is given.

The educational system, mentioned above, was better under the Soviets than had been historically. It is sinking back to its historical mediocrity. Since the captains of industry do not depend on their employees to make them rich, they are not terribly interested in the formation of their employees. The budget for education has been significantly cut under the Yanukovich government.

A related issue is that the legislature is entirely in the hands of the wealthy. They have been able to manipulate the electoral process to the point that the only people who appear on the ballot are wealthy businessmen and friends of wealthy businessmen. This has been true of all parties. The common man, therefore, is not represented in government. There are endless numbers of political shows on television, which gives the illusion of informing the voter, but in the end the choice is between or among parties which are controlled by oligarchs.

The result of this control is that legislation seldom favors the poor. Ukraine's government gave in to IMF demands that it cut its pension expenses. It did so by raising pension ages and it allows inflation to nibble away at the value of the pensions people are receiving, currently a minimum of about \$115 a month. They passed a tax reform bill in December of 2010 which increased the taxation and the reporting burden on small businesses, but which left the glaring loopholes in place for the rich, most notably the ability to move profits offshore. Likewise, education and public health seemed to have low priority.

[ANCIEN Women in Eddie's first six weeks.docx 06/27/2011](#)

I've spent the last six weeks in the world of women. There are no men here in the baby care profession.

First let me give you a cast of characters.
Lyudmila Petrovna, the
The midwife, Olga Yaroslavna
The first pediatrician, brought by Olga: Elena Viktorovna
The government pediatrician Katerina Mikhaelovna
The government nurse Svetlana Vasilovna
The government neurologist - jaundice
The gynecologist -
The physical therapist – nursing advisor Valentina
Mother-in-law Nadia

What these women have in common is an absolute certainty. Of course, the certainties do not agree with each other. Elena Viktorovna was absolutely certain that Oksana could not eat any kind of meat besides rabbit. We bought rabbit. We don't like rabbit. We went back to beef, pork and fish and the baby seems healthy enough. Her latest prognosis that Eddie's crying was certainly because of his stomach. We can't change Eddie's diet, so it comes around to Oksana. She got Oksana concerned that there was too much milk in her diet?! Yeah, right. My diagnosis is that he's a baby. Babies cry. If he isn't hungry, isn't wet and it doesn't go on forever, just try to amuse him and if that doesn't do the trick, live with it for a while. By and by he'll get tired of it – get hungry or go to sleep. Of course another of these medical ladies was absolutely certain that Oksana absolutely should drink milk. We have two litres of it sitting in the freezer, waiting for a decision.

There is a fair body of opinion that Oksana should not eat anything with strong flavor such as pepper. That point of view still governs. Another view held that she should not eat any foods from the cabbage family, such as cauliflower and broccoli. That stricture held for long enough for Nadia to make two different kinds of golubsti, stuffed Bell peppers for Oksana and stuffed cabbage for the rest of us. However, broccoli tastes good and we started to make small exceptions, and then larger ones. By the way, it delights me how much common sense there is on the Internet, including candor about what medicine just doesn't know. Oksana is getting suspicious. She thinks it wasn't Al Gore who invented the Internet, but yours truly.

One thing upon which the ladies all agree is that Eddie needs a daily herbal bath. The primary ingredient appears to be sage, although it also has some chamomile in it. It is a ritual. First we make a large pot of herbal essence – a couple of cups of dry herbs and about a gallon of water. Besides the primary ingredient of sage, there is something called agrimony or beggartick, and chamomile. Prior to the bath Oksana scrubs the bathtub with soda to make sure it is totally disinfected. Then we fill it with water of the proper temperature, and then we pour the herbal mixture through a sieve into the bathtub. The bathtub is fairly full – she leads Eddie around swimming. He loves it. The final part of the ritual is for daddy to pour about a half gallon of cold water into one end of the tub. Oksana pulls him very quickly through that cold water and up into a receiving blanket, which has to cover his head or daddy gets a complaint, after which she heads right to the changing table to get him



properly bundled.

The receiving blankets are a ritual all of their own. They are cotton rectangles, just under three feet square, the thin ones cut from cotton sheeting and that the ones a light flannel. I think they might better be called

swaddling clothes. Eddie wears them just about all the time. Underneath there may be a Pamper, or a cloth diaper, or nothing at all. However, he is almost always wrapped in two of these things, which are called pelyonki. There is a special way of wrapping them, with the baby's arms folded in at his side so he can't move. When properly folded, he looks just like a matryoshka doll. Surprisingly, although his arms struggle against being bound up like that, he doesn't cry. He does, however, get free unless you have tied it up right.



When Nadia was here we went through about 25 pelyonki a day. For reasons which escape me they all have to be ironed, and I am the principal ironer. Now that she is gone were down to about half that – my backlog as I write is nine of them to be ironed.

I like the Chinese cloth diapers that we got from eBay. There is a thick terry cloth pad that goes inside to catch the poop and pee. The covers are woven polyester on the outside and cotton flannel on the inside. Oksana thinks that Pampers breath better. I argue that they have a solid plastic layer – unbreathable – whereas the polyester has to breath a bit because it is woven. In any case, I have to remember to ask when he is handed to me to hold for a while. Often I'll feel a flash of warmth on my stomach as I am cuddling him close – no diaper, and no warning of same.

This regime is bound to change in a couple of months. He has to start to crawl, and he can't do it when he's wrapped like this. So, I imagine we will be moving to a more traditional arrangement of diapers all the time and rompers or place suits over them.

Eddie has been a bit of a colicky baby. When he is awake he is usually eating or crying or thinking about crying. We do everything in our power to try to keep him quiet. We changed the position in which we hold him, we talk to him, we sing to him, and we bounce him up and down. None of it works for more than a little while. The only way we get an extended period of peace is when Oksana is feeding him or he is sleeping. Often he will go to sleep after eating, but the only surefire way to get him to snooze is to take him for a walk.

Most mothers in Ukraine favor baby buggies. It is an article of faith that the baby needs a couple of hours of fresh air per day, even in winter. Mom takes the kid out, lets him go to sleep in his pram, then she sits down and reads a book on a park bench until they are ready to go home. What I don't see these young mothers getting together to gab. This is surprising – in the United States young mothers hang out together to swap notes all the time. There used to networking in school and in business, and they eagerly carry this practice into this novel realm of nurturing babies.

A very few mothers here carry their babies in slings. Even fewer fathers take the kid out at all. I am a rarity in that I often take any out for extended walks in his sling. It gives me a great deal more range than would a baby buggy. They know me pretty well in the local supermarkets and farmers market, and I have taken Eddie with me for a few beers in the evening. In general, however, we just walk the streets of Kiev so he can get the evening air. There are several art galleries within half a mile of our apartment. I have resolved to take advantage of our daytime walks to see all of the cultural stuff I have not yet taken in.

Nadia was skeptical about the baby sling. She insisted that it would give Eddie a curved spine. It was the better part of the week before practicality won out. If they were going to get the baby to quiet down, he had to go out with daddy, and if daddy was going to take him it was going to be in the sling. Part of the deal, however, was to

wrap him in a blanket such that his face was not visible. Local custom is not to show the baby to anybody until he has been baptized, and to get him baptized at about 40 days. I suppose after that point if somebody breathes on him and gives him a terminal disease, at least his little soul will find its way to heaven.

Getting Eddie baptized was a big part of Nadia's agenda. Fortunately, Oksana had been singing in the choir of an Orthodox Church before Eddie arrived. Nadia had been going to the same church to worship, so they knew who to talk to. The Thursday before Nadia left she set up the baptism ceremony for two in the afternoon.

Oksana and Nadia surprised me by suggesting we take a bus to the church. I had no hesitation taking Eddie out among strangers, but their willingness to do so was unexpected. We got to the church at about quarter of two just-in-time to catch the conclusion of a wedding. It is a little log cabin chapel off in a corner of Pushkin Park, apparently there primarily for weddings and baptisms. It was cozy inside with the usual oriental assortment of oriental rugs, all well-worn, with random patterns. It was dark – they don't put too many windows in these cabins. In the middle was what looked like a huge cauldron. Actually, the baptismal font. They filled it with hot water. The baptismal ceremony was rather like an Orthodox Church ceremony, a vast river of words flowing to quickly to understand – Oksana told me it was in Russian, but it was even too fast for her to pick it all up.

Eddie and Nadia, the godmother, were the primary participants. The midst the chanting the two of them crossed themselves fairly frequently. As they approached the high point of the ceremony the priest, carrying Eddie, led Nadia three times counterclockwise around the baptismal font. Then after a bit more ritual he tested the water to be sure it was right, had Oksana and Nadia strip Eddie bare, and proceeded to pull him through the water of the font three times. It is supposed to be baptism by immersion, but the way it worked out was that he simply pulled Eddie's body pretty much through the water and then poured a handful over his head. Remarkably, Eddie was pretty calm through the whole thing. After the baptismal font, the priest took him out of sight behind the altar and then emerged through another door after a few seconds. I don't know what he did, but he had taken a pair of scissors to cut a bit of Eddie's hair early in the ceremony; when it was over nobody knew where the hair went. When it was all done he gave Eddie back to Nadia and Oksana, who very very quickly wrapped him in two or three pelyonki and put him in his blanket.

At the priest's suggestion, we had a taxi waiting for us. We all bundled in, Eddie just as he was, and we went home. It wasn't until we were home that I noticed that Eddie had come out of the deal with some kind of a crucifix around his neck.

ANCIEN Working in Ukraine.docx 06/30/2016

Working in Ukraine

There is a vast difference between being sent to Ukraine to work and coming to Ukraine to work. When they send you, the assumption is that it is a hardship. They pay you a Western salary plus benefits such as housing, travel, and education for your kids. It is a sweet deal. When you come here to work, the pickings are slim.

Language skills are essential if you plan to work in Ukraine. The Eastern Slavic languages, Russian and Ukrainian, are generally considered to be among the most difficult to learn. Only Chinese is harder, and that is because of its written language. Eastern Slavic languages are grammatically complex. They require that you master more different sounds than Western European languages. They have relatively few cognates with Western European languages, which means that you have to learn a whole new vocabulary. Lastly, it takes quite a while to train your brain to read the Cyrillic alphabet with anywhere near the speed that she read Western European languages using the Latin alphabet. If you plan to get sent to Ukraine to work, an advance knowledge of language is a tremendous plus.

Language education is not easy, but it is widely available in America. Most people will be able to find night courses in Russian at some local university. You can study it from tapes as well. Rosetta Stone will give you a

start. The Pimsleur series of CDs is much more extensive. Complete it and you will be able to talk to the taxi driver when you get off the plane, though you will still be disappointingly far from mastering the language.

A young person can get somebody else to pay for language education. An American can come here with the Peace Corps and learn Ukrainian language and culture while teaching. State Department language instruction is pretty good. Most Peace Corps volunteers learn Ukrainian quite well, for deployment to Western Ukraine. As long as you pick up some Russian on your own in addition to the Ukrainian, not terribly difficult, you will find yourself in a fairly good position to apply for jobs in Ukraine which pay Western salaries.

Religious missionaries, especially Mormons, do a pretty good job of picking up the language. It seems that you find former missionaries doing business all over the world.

If you can get hired on with a Western law firm, investment company, computer firm, fast moving consumer goods firm, agricultural training firm or something of the like you can do pretty well. A lot of the country managers owe their positions to their language skills as much as anything else.

The private English-language schools offer a special niche. They recruit experienced schoolteachers every year through job fairs in the United States. If you're lucky enough to be hired overseas and sent here, the package can be pretty good, up to perhaps \$80,000 per year plus housing and travel. The schools like to hire couples both of whom teach. It makes for a stable arrangement, and it cuts on their relocation and support costs. Most teachers do not learn the local languages. They live in their own cloistered world, and many of them don't have much interaction with the broader Ukrainian community.

If you come to Ukraine and look for a job, however, the tables are turned. The pickings are slim, even if you have some language skills. Those same private schools will hire you, but for approximately half as much as they would pay you if they had hired you in the States and brought you over. Of course they also will not pay for your housing and travel, since you are already here. It doesn't make sense, but that's how it works.

Teaching English is most common job for Americans and Englishmen who come to Ukraine. You generally earn a starvation wage, \$20 per hour give or take, working perhaps 20 hours a week. It is enough money to pay for a modest apartment. No way to get rich, and not even very attractive for meeting a local woman and getting married.

Foreigners perform several other types of jobs. Some work in journalism, both print and television. A few are involved in international real estate. Some of them have their own businesses such as fashion design, publishing, pizzerias and the like. A few have made quite a bit of money, though in my experience they were the pioneers who got here in the mid-90s. I know a lot of people who arrived in the last decade and have tried to get things going, but nobody who has struck it rich.

If you come here to work there are some formidable hurdles to jump with regard to visas, residency permits, work permits and the like. Here again, it is far easier to be sent by an employer than to try to fight the system on your own. Take a look at the separate piece I have written on how to stay in Ukraine once you decide you like it.

In summary, Ukraine is a wonderful place to come, especially at somebody else's invitation. A knowledge of the language is a tremendous asset. Some companies will pay you well for your language skills, and the combination of a good income and the ability to speak a language gives you access to a society of wonderful women, which for many Westerners is the most outstanding feature of the country.

ANCIEN Lots of people wrote this week to ask how I am. x.docx 06/23/2016

Lots of people wrote this week to ask how I am. I was gathering my thoughts in this piece, overtaken by events as the government seems to have collapsed just as I finished writing this piece.

The short answer is that we are doing, and were doing just fine.

My problem at the moment there is a two-year-old who is jealous that I'm talking to voice recorder, and is interrupting me. I have sent you a map. Let me put it in words. We are across the river from the center of the city where all the fighting is going on. The river is about half a mile wide, and we are 3 miles away. As I think I've written before, we are in a real backwater, a rural enclave surrounded by the city. We are more than a mile from any big buildings in any direction. We're cut off from vehicular traffic on the west by the river, and on the north and the east by a railroad. This has been a problem in general, because we have to go three miles south in order to connect with civilization. In this instance that looks like a pretty good situation. Nobody is coming here to look for us.

Our major vulnerability is electricity. We use well water and a septic system. It all operates on the power grid. However, if the electricity goes out other people will have a much worse time than we do. Where people live in apartments, between 10 and 20 stories high, they absolutely depend on their elevators. If the electricity goes, there would be an awful lot of immobilized grandmothers, and great general outrage against the government that shut it off. Also, we have a barbecue and a kerosene heater so which comes to worse we will survive. We lost power for stretches of up to the day throughout the winter and got along okay.

The Metro did not work for four days. Nothing wrong with the Metro. The excuse is that they wanted to avert terrorist threats. The real reason was quite obvious. Protesters used the Metro to get around the city, and the administration wants to immobilize people. To that end they have also periodically blocked roads, shut down the gas stations, and yesterday they shut down the banks. I don't know what that would do; make it harder for people to buy sandbags? Except for the branches in the center of town, mine is open again today. Yesterday I changed money at 8.92 hryvnya/dollar; it is a bit lower today.

It appears to me that the major effect was to bring the economy to a standstill. I have two housemates, and Yurii and Polina. Yurii he wasn't able to get to work yesterday. Paulina went, and she said is only about half the office was there, and they didn't get much done. Everybody was glued to their streaming video on Internet.

You are concerned about me. Let me tell you about the guy I was concerned about. Michael Bedwell is a 79-year-old Englishman who lives at the corner of Khrushchevskovo and Khreschatik streets, right behind the Dniepro hotel. That's right on European square, the absolute center of the fighting. He is across from the Ukraine house, the museum being used as a medical facility to treat injured demonstrators.

Michael had trouble getting in and out of his house. He says that he faces intense interrogation by the police every time he goes home. However, given that he is an older foreigner, they don't take them to be much of a terrorist and they let him go. In any case, Michael has been living in this apartment since he got back to town to weeks ago from a trip to Burma. I told him that he should get the hell out, come live with us. He said yes, in due time. He's coming over today, ironically, after the threat is over.

Michael experienced the London blitz a few years back. He was in the Navy and is a hard guy to faze. That may explain some of my attitude as well. I lived in the cities of Danang in Saigon for four years during the Vietnam War. When I first flew in in 1968 I remember being somewhat apprehensive as I looked out of the windows of the 707 that I would be seeing anti-aircraft rockets coming up to greet me. However, in the four years I was there nobody ever shot at me. There were a few explosions around me, but no gunfire that could have gotten me. I became kind of used to what one must do living in a war zone. And that's how I feel right now.

One of the things to think about in this standoff is how limited the president's options have been. His major force is the better equipped Berkut, the special police. These are his bully boys. They number only about 4000. They are trained riot police, and their major tactic is the Roman one called the turtle. They move forward in a phalanx with their heavy shields in front of them and break through the crowd. So they advance and retreat as a group. This avoids bloodshed, and it will clear an area when it works. However that doesn't hold up fairly well against really determined line of defense, and he is not very good for occupying ground. There are not enough of them to really take over.

The other widely deployed force are called titushkis. These are ne'er-do-wells, young men who are recruited from the bars the fight clubs in the streets of the of the villages, which is the political stronghold of the president. They are paid about \$30/day to cause trouble. They have been a fixture in this administration. In this case they have been brought in by the busload. There are supposedly three busloads in one hotel about 5 miles from here.

There was another interesting story about a busload that was waylaid in the town of Cherkassy, about a hundred miles south of Kiev. The residents of Cherkassy saw that it was a busfull of young men headed toward Kiev and they simply immobilized the bus. They somehow stopped it, took the wheels off and left it right there with these young men in it. In another story from yesterday, a bus full of young men was observed on the outskirts of Kiev. Locals stopped the bus, forced the young men out, made them wade into a knee-deep pond barefoot, took the \$30 plus whatever other money they had, gave them back \$5 apiece and told them to get the hell out of town. Which they did.

I may have mentioned that there are condemned houses in the path of the future metro a half mile from where we live. Occupied by Gypsies, if at all. As Oksana and I were out walking this morning a guy in a small SUV stopped to tell us that titushki were going looking for places to stay, and the neighborhood was organizing to resist them. He asked if there were any abandoned houses on our block; we said, no.

Housemate Yurii bicycled through the center yesterday to get his car. The metro wasn't working. He says he saw more than 100 titushki on his way, less than a mile from the center. They were carrying sticks, but mostly just goofing. Taking cell-phone pictures of each other and so on. He biked through them without incident. He said there were people on the sidewalks. It wasn't like a gang war or anything.

Friend Mark says there were a lot of titushki in Poznaky where he lives. There they broke store windows, burned cars and just raised hell. His neighbors formed an ad-hoc association of more than 100 men to patrol the streets and keep them at bay. They cornered one guy such that he had no option but to run across the ice-covered river. He went in. There was a firetruck right there, by pure chance, and they pulled him out and took him away.

I find these incidents very illustrative. People throughout the country are disgusted by what's going on, and they will take measures to thwart this government. It also shows a proclivity to avoid violence. On hearing the instance of the immobilized bus, I pictured them setting fire to it and killing the thugs as a warning to others not to get involved. They did not do that. Nor did the young men spill out of the bus in a panic and look for a fight.

I feel that restraint has characterized this entire confrontation. Significantly, it ended the day after government forces started shooting Kalishnikovs indiscriminately into the crowd. Several ranking officials deserted the president's Party of Regions, and the government collapsed. The wonder is not that 100 people were killed, but that it was so few. There were many thousands of people on both sides. The government certainly had the resources to arm their people, and the civilians are not totally unarmed despite a European no guns policy. Despite all, the use of firearms has been quite limited. So it is kind of a kabuki battle, or an old Chinese warlord battle going back and forth back and forth with a lot of symbolic movement, but not a vast amount of real violence.

Which brings me to another topic, that of the media. The media don't have any very exciting wars going on at the moment. It's true, if you want to look for bodies you have to go no further than any city in Africa and you'll find quite a few. They are still cutting each other up butcher shop style in Congo and Rwanda and places like that. That's not news. It's news when Europeans are going at each other. So however restrained the violence here, it's the best they've got, and the media played to the hilt.

Media attention puts pressure on the European and United States governments to do something. They really have nothing to do. I see both as spent forces, well overextended by their own budgetary problems, their involvement in the Middle East and elsewhere, and ineffective in any case. Moreover, as we learned from the intercepted telephone call with the lovely language that are that are American girls use these days, the United States government just doesn't know what to do. The message that I took from this intercepted phone call was how impotent the United States is in the face of all this. We only know the leading players with party affiliations. We don't know the people on the streets. There was no talk of how to get money to these leaders to these party leaders because that's not really what they need. They need supporters they need cohesion. And that was what Nuland talked about – her perception of who needs to be in charge. Incidentally, I agree with her. The fact that she and I agreed means nothing, because the leaders themselves don't listen to either of us. Now that it appears the issue will be resolved in the Rada (parliament) these elected faction leaders become more important. I hope they can work it out. I don't see much role for the US to help. Maybe they can come up with the \$15 billion that Russia seems to have withdrawn.

It does not appear to me that the United States could have swayed things much by smuggling in armaments, and if they did they would escalate the violence and put themselves in very bad odor. The same is true of Russia, which with its long border with Ukraine could do so more easily. I don't think that we want to get into a contest with Russia's in attempting to arm one of their neighbors. You may remember that such a strategy didn't turn out very well in Georgia a couple years back. I don't think that the United States can contribute very much in the way of intelligence gathering either. And there's nothing much that electronic intelligence can pick up that Ukrainians cannot gather on their own. Something that the United States doesn't know, and nobody else knows either, is how the situation will play out, knowing the intentions are of each of the players. It is a truly murky situation. It's one that would call for good human intelligence and diplomacy. The United States is not proven itself to be terribly adept at either of these.

One of the observations to take from the situation is how poorly the Russians have done. For instance, an activist kidnapped a couple of weeks back and held for 10 days or so before being released. He was severely questioned while in captivity. However, the questions revealed that his captors didn't know much at all about the situation. Finally they way they let him go after he gave some nonsensical answers. There was another instance in which a somebody turned up claiming to have been a Western Ukrainian activist who incited all sorts of violence. He was widely interviewed on TV talking about the atrocities that the activists were perpetrating. But he spoke with a very identifiable Russian accent. So finally the interviewer, a few minutes into the interview asked "where are you from" and he said Rivne, a Western province. So interviewer asked, "okay and what's the capital of Rivne?" There is a city named Rivne and he said Rivne. But as any Ukrainian would know, the capital of a Rivne Oblast is Lutsk. It's hard to believe that the Russian their level of spy tradecraft had sunk so far from Soviet standards to commit an error so obvious.

The bottom line. Although the United States and Russia, and presumably the Europeans would apparently like to be involved, they simply don't have tools that are useful. Money is not going to be tremendously effective, bringing weapons into the system would not be, and they don't have much to give them the way of diplomacy and intelligence. I think that they are both consigned to letting it play out among the Ukrainians. That's me is the best solution, the only thing that will result in the in anything permanent or meaningful.

I've been an advocate of a theory of government, or rather technologies of government. The monarchy system ran its course course in the 18th century. We witnessed the end of the warlord system in Vietnam: the

communist system was simply more effective way of organizing and motivating people than what we supported in South Vietnam. Of course we attempted to put a patina of democracy over the warlord system, but it didn't fool anybody. We lost.

What we see in Ukraine is a strong man, thuggish system. It is a legacy of the Soviets, which is itself descended from the Mongols, a strongman rule, always from the top down. This government is not effective because it cannot delegate that authority effectively. In the warlord system you don't really trust your subordinates because if you give them too much power they will displace you. You have a tendency to appoint people around you on the basis of loyalty rather than ability.

This president is not a very smart man. He has surrounded himself with people who do not cast him in a bad light. In other words, some fairly dull tools. They are simply not effective at getting things done. Every action they undertake appears to be rather ham-fisted. Their thefts are blatant, crude and very destructive for what they realize out of it. The measures that government took to attempt control those insurrection were also crude, inclined to irritate people and inconvenience them, but not to deter them.

A president such as Yanukovich could formerly survive by keeping people divided, ignorant and propagandized. However, that simply does not work in Internet age. Kiev is full of young professionals who are well-educated and well connected and reasonably well-informed. They simply look at him as an embarrassment. Yanukovich supposedly does not even have a computer in his office. He doesn't know about the times. It is not know about the people he is governing. This disconnect weakens him a great deal. People simply don't have respect for him and if they don't respect him, they don't fear him.

What will be the successor government? Western democracy is not that attractive of a model. People here envy the affluence of the West, but there's not much in the political system that they really would adopt. They observe the paralysis of the financial systems, the banking system, and the wide unemployment. They don't want that. They look at the political correctness, and the enforced diversity, and they don't like that either.

People in Ukraine are socially very conservative. And even among the young the educated young people that I know, there aren't any people who advocate homosexuality. They advocate tolerance for homosexuality, but they still look at it as a perversion. One that they will put up with – but a perversion nonetheless. So they look at the West as being relatively sick, wealthy as it may be. So I don't think that there's a widespread aspiration to emulate the Western democracies. One hopes that Ukraine will select a government that is consistent with the needs of the country.

The governments of the West are no longer suited to the needs of their populations. Our representative democracy evolved in an era of much smaller more homogeneous populations, better educated populations, and one must add, populations that were on the average, smarter. With the influx of immigrants and the lowering of educational standards, the dysgenetic breeding whereby the smartest people don't have kids and the dumb ones do, a representative democracy doesn't work. We simply don't have voters of the caliber to demand high levels of honesty and accountability among their representatives. So the smart guys are taking over, and the small guy is getting squeezed. If you can't figure out what kind of mortgage you can afford, or that you can't afford that new iGadget, the banks will eat you alive. It is happening throughout the West. People are unhappy, angry, but they don't know exactly what to do.

I see a change happening here in Ukraine, with needed improvement coming with the departure of the oligarchs. Unfortunately I also see a collapse coming in the West, as the elites have arrogated most of the financial power for themselves become less and less responsive to the people. They will eventually take so much that they are they foment a rebellion and are done in by their greed. The argument that Ukraine's government was "democratically elected" didn't save it. The process was scarcely any worse than the supposed democracy by which the US elects legislators who do not represent the people. I don't expect that the patina of democracy will long save the unrepresentative representatives in Western governments.

Every country in the West is running a budget deficit, most of which appear to be beyond any hope of control. They are printing fiat money at an increasingly great rate. There is debate as to whether this will result in inflation or deflation. I side with the people who expect inflation, because increasing the money supply has always ultimately ended in reducing the buying power of each individual unit of currency. Whatever the reason, the money they get spread it gets distributed to the through the banks to the wealthy, and increasingly benefits the wealthy at the expense of the hoi polloi. The people may not be smart enough to explain why, but they know that they are being screwed. No salary increases, no meaningful interest on their savings, patently manipulated financial markets, and vast increases in the cost of education, food and other necessary expenses.

This is the sea change. The people of the Former Soviet Union are intelligent, educated, and finally well enough informed to demand a more transparent, representative government. Conversely, the countries of the West are being dumbed down by policies that encourage immigration and the fertility of the less intelligent. They are no longer capable of sustaining representative government, and are increasingly governed by elites who make only cursory, sporadic and symbolic gestures in acknowledgement of a democracy which in fact disappeared long ago. We can pray that nationalist parties in Europe may take their countries out of the European Union and the Euro, renounce their debt, dismiss their immigrants and resume their fertility. These actions seem highly unlikely. The best bet for Western civilization appears to be with countries such as Ukraine whose despots have protected them by making them unattractive targets for immigrants, debt and gender confusion. As Eastern Europe establishes democracies, one hopes that they take a hard look at what failed in the West and avoid our mistakes. They must maintain the ethnic integrity which assures a high level of social capital. They must avoid policies that permit people to avoid the responsibilities of work and family. They must continue to raise their children to be proud of who they are, to be like their parents. However irrational belief may appear to Richard Dawkins or Sam Harris, a solid grounding in Christianity supports all of the foregoing. They should retain that as well.

ANCIEN Yanukovych has carried the day.docx 02/25/2014

Europe's Time has not yet come

Yanukovych has carried the day, and you Ukraine will stay out of Europe for the moment. Two cheers.

Joining Europe today would be tantamount to marrying a syphilitic old cripple with creditors hounding at the door. Although still relatively rich, it is geriatric and shot through with disease. Worst of all, it would willingly pass those diseases on to Ukraine. They are an addiction to debt, and unwillingness to deal with unwanted immigrants, and a failure to support traditional values at the core of family life.

The momentary pleasures that might come from visa free travel and the consumer goods are not worth permanent damage to society. Immigration is an irreversible process, as the nationalist parties of Europe are pointing out with increased vehemence. Most Dutch, French and Swedes don't want or like the Muslims among them, but within the framework of their democracies there is no way to get rid of them. Ukraine doesn't have them, doesn't need them, and should not accept advice to accept them, which has failed so miserably in Europe.

Ukraine has its own problems with families. People don't marry, and married couples don't have kids because they don't think they can afford it. Men drink. Nonetheless, the family unit remains strong. People are devoted to their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and especially children. The hyper-individualistic, hedonistic, atomistic European philosophy that celebrates individual sexual gratification as its only value has not yet conquered Ukraine. No need to invite it!

Europe is lurching from crisis to crisis, governments reciprocally believing each others' lies about their solvency and the claims that levels of employment, productivity and so forth might return to normal. It won't happen. Official unemployment rates are approaching 30% in Mediterranean countries. Debt to GDP is over 100% in most countries, and growing everywhere. Their budget deficits, now merely alarming, will skyrocket when the bankers' manipulations that are holding interest rates artificially low become unsustainable. Meanwhile, Ukraine's debt to GDP is under 40%,

with per capita debt a manageable \$3,000. Far better to live within its means than re-initiate an addiction to IMF money. Ukraine has survived a thousand years of hard times; it can tolerate a few more.

As long as Europe radiates the reflections of past grandeur, it presumes to strike a tough bargain with Ukraine with regard to internal reforms, finances and the like. Ukraine certainly does need to change, but under the present government it obviously will not, despite whatever promises are made. It is better to wait.

In just over a year Ukraine will have presidential elections. In that time Europe may have collapsed; if not, it will certainly still be teetering. Yanukovich may have damaged himself sufficiently over this issue to lose the election to a candidate capable of making real change.

Failure to join the European Union now will appear, in hindsight, to have been providential. The right time will come. It is not now.

ANCIEN You readers are kind not to call me for hypocrisy.docx 03/03/2014

You readers are kind not to call me for hypocrisy. I go on at length about the dangers posed by foreigners and immigrants and minorities here in Ukraine and in the West. I am of course a foreigner, an immigrant, and a minority myself.

That status has provided me with some interesting insights which I would like to share. First of all, you may ask, how do I fit these categories? I am an older straight white conservative American male. That's enough adjectives for this purpose. The contexts in which I have been situated during my life are where I lived: Berkeley, Washington DC and Bethesda Maryland, Vietnam, Germany, Buenos Aires, and now Kiev; institutions of higher education: Reed College in Portland, Oregon, Berkeley and The University of Maryland. Apply any combination of the adjectives which describe me to these settings, and I have been a minority in all cases.

There are several adjectives which one often ascribes to minorities. Despised, shunned and envied would be three. Yes, I have certainly been all of those things. The worst examples were in the more liberal contexts that I just named in the United States: firstly, Reed College, Washington DC and Bethesda, and the University of Maryland. They really don't like conservative straight white men, especially those who argue back. Most on the left would rather hammer an opponent with slogans and slurs rather than argue the merits of any given issue.

That's enough on the experience of being a minority within my own country. In any foreign country there is some level of resentment of Americans. In Vietnam, and again now in Kiev, I am somewhat resented because I am fairly well-to-do and have an attractive wife. I experienced some of the same kind of resentment at a lower level in Germany and even in the United States. Envy is a part of the human condition.

Americans as a group are resented for more substantive reasons. In Germany and in Japan they were resented because they posed a real threat to the communities. American soldiers tended to commit crimes at a level distressing to the orderly Japanese and Germans. Moreover, both nations recognized the black American soldiers were quite a bit more prone to commit crime than white ones. The black soldiers complained that they were discriminated against by shopkeepers taxi drivers and prostitutes alike. This was entirely true. It was a natural reaction their experience with the blacks.

Such a reaction did not originate with American blacks. The French forces which preceded us in Vietnam were also integrated. They left evidence in the form of mixed race children. And the American black soldiers in Vietnam were greeted from the beginning with the same exaggerated level of suspicion in Vietnam as they met in Japan and Germany. The Vietnamese experience with Blacks had paralleled that of other nations. Whereas

some Vietnamese offered the opinion that mixed raced children of white Americans were strengthening their racial stock, a line which they probably learned from the French, no Vietnamese would have made that claim about mixed raced children with black soldiers.

American retirees in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and elsewhere they form their own communities. A great many never learn to speak Spanish. They are insular, though generally not unkindly disposed to the locals. At any rate, their wealth and separation leads to a certain level of resentment among the local populations who are not as well situated.

My point, using the example of us Americans ourselves overseas, is that any hopes that we will integrate fully with the local peoples generally remain unrealized. Most Americans don't integrate, as most other immigrants everywhere in the world don't fully integrate.

The reasons they fail to assimilate are fairly consistent. Two strong reasons are a lack of aptitude to learn the local language, and to acquire the same level of education as the locals. There's also the matter of cultural differences in acceptable behavior, and tolerable levels of crime. I will conclude below that no country has an obligation under anybody's moral scheme to open its doors to all comers. Every country has a right to its own sovereign integrity, and Ukraine should exercise it. I advocate that Ukraine maintain its ethnic homogeneity, that it defend itself against immigrant minorities. How do I square that with being an immigrant minority myself?

Ukraine made it difficult for me to immigrate. I had to marry a local, and wait for years. There was supposedly a mechanism whereby I could have gained immigrant status by investing \$100,000, but I no lawyer could never figure out how to do it. I am glad. If it was difficult for me, it will difficult for everybody, as I believe that it should be.

Nonetheless, there are some minorities here: the permanent long-standing ethnic minorities such as one finds in any European country. Ours include Hungarians, Tartars, Armenians, Gypsies and Jews, among others. All are fairly well tolerated.

None of the minorities are numerous enough that there are large enclaves in which they speak only their own language. Ukrainian and Russian are the two languages that get you around in Ukraine, and everybody speaks them. The Gypsies in my neighborhood could not survive without some combination of the two. Likewise the Tartars, of whom there are perhaps a half million in Crimea, all speak Russian to get by.

Therefore, by some combination of native intellect, curiosity, and pure need, everybody speaks one of the national languages. There are no unassimilated pockets of immigrants. There may be grandmothers and grandfathers who came with their families and don't learn to speak the language, but anybody in childhood or of working age pretty much learns it.

I will make one exception to this general rule: English speaking people. God has favored us in many ways. One of them is that people throughout the world want to speak English, and they spare us the obligation of learning to speak their languages. Of the Americans and the Englishman that I know here in Ukraine, only a distinct minority speak the local languages. Almost all of those who do learned them through the Peace Corps or early in their student days. With the exception of myself, who started studying Russian as a retiree and I still hasn't mastered it. So the Lord looks out for small children and wayward Americans, but otherwise one has to have the local language to get by here.

I will add another thought on the minorities. Most of the minorities here are not terribly readily identifiable by their faces. The Central Asians who sell fruits in the bazaars are distinct –in their dress, their occupation, and to the locals, distinct in their accents. They do however speak fairly good Ukrainian/Russian and their faces are not that different. This is unlike the United States, in which Hispanics and especially blacks are very

distinguishable by both speech and appearance.

While there are a few blacks here, there are not enough that they can form ethnic enclaves. There is a collection of 20 or so who run a used clothes bazaar in the Shuluyavska area of Kiev. One understands that the police keep a pretty close eye on them. They speak African dialects among themselves but pretty good Ukrainian to their customers. And they are not at all aggressive, as blacks can be elsewhere. They are deferential to whites, as well they should be, because if they were not they would suffer for it.

There is also a smattering of mulattos in the population. The Soviet Union as a gesture of magnanimity extended university education student black Africans. Obviously, the best and the brightest came. Patrice Lumumba's Congo was well represented. And while they were here, they did as visiting firemen always do, got acquainted with the locals. The result was a smattering of mixed children who grew up as Ukrainians. They are visibly different, but they were socialized in an entirely Ukrainian society, and whatever temperamental characteristics they might have inherited from their fathers are suppressed. They act like good Slavic people. You see them with their fair skinned Slavic friends as if there were no difference whatsoever to be remarked. And they behave like their Slavic friends.

One can observe the same thing in certain sectors of American society. One of my grown daughters had a half black friend, who came on sleepovers fairly often. Mother would characterize father with the stereotypical adjectives about blacks – fun-loving, good-looking, and not very reliable. The daughter inherited from temperamental characteristics mostly from mother, but quite a bit of charm and good looks from father. She became a successful woman, if not an intellectual star.

I served on the school boards of two private schools in the Washington DC area, and substitute taught in several others. The admissions processes in the schools was a more highly guarded secret than Obama's SAT scores. We had a certain number of black students. And we awarded a certain amount of scholarship money. Though I was the treasurer of to the schools, I was certainly never told to whom the scholarship money was going. It was obvious, but they did not want me to ask, and I did not want to push the matter. Nor did I ask the academic qualifications of the scholarship recipients. As a substitute teacher I observed the blacks' performance in class, and as a parent I observed the intellectual prowess of my children's black schoolmates. It was not impressive. But it was incumbent on me to remain quiet and I did.

The percentage of minority students in the private schools never exceeded about 15 or 20%. In other words, there was never the opportunity for a black culture to form within the schools. One sometimes saw black culture in individual classes. The first year that I served as a classroom teacher I was given the hard case students, who included mostly scholarship kids, and even in this small group of about five kids confined to one class they managed to form a bad attitude club and generally reject the notion that they might do school work. I did the best I could with it, went along with it, but I'll have to observe that the schools could not have allowed any substantial number of such students in ordinary classes without disrupting the entire institution. I was charged with them precisely to keep them out of the other classes where their attitudes and their inability to learn would've been a drag on everybody else's achievement.

A community which observes diversity through having such as the above-mentioned Ukrainian mulattos, or the young woman I wrote about in the United States, or a Barack Obama in its midst seems to get along quite well. Diversity only becomes a problem when the minorities don't act like the host majority: they retain their own temperaments and cultures in defiance of their hosts.

If five Somali families were to live in my neighborhood, I'm quite sure that they would learn to speak Ukrainian and they would not practice female genital mutilation. If there were 500 families here, I expect the opposite would be the case. Therefore diversity seems to be something that appears to work, and even appears attractive when the numbers are small. There comes, however, a tipping point at which it appears no longer to be such a good idea. Societies which reach that tipping point find that they have a devilishly difficult time

turning back. Many people will have become intellectually committed to the project of diversity, and refuse to see the problems. And in any case, precedents, laws, and other practices will have been put in place which favor diversity. It is a self-reinforcing mechanism. Once you get a little diversity, the thing spirals out of control and you soon get a lot. My advice to the Ukrainians is, don't get started. Don't be seduced by the fact that the little bit that already exists does not look that bad. Only look to the West and see where it inevitably leads.

Ukraine appears finally to have achieved some real, if shaky, independence twenty years after the fall of the Soviet Union. It has to be strong in defending itself against the Soviet Union's successor state, Putin's Russia, and against Europe's seductions. Ukraine needs to reflect on the fact that it was their solidarity as a people that enabled them to coalesce and to overthrow their dictator, and to observe the impending collapse of the west. Ukraine is well off with the population it has. It needs to strongly defend the status quo. No immigration!

Straight white guys like Putin because he appears to supports them. It is a sham, but an appealing sham. Western government don't offer a very attractive alternative. 05/16/2014

I attended a lecture last night by Timothy Snyder. His theme was the way in which Putin is systematically undermining the European Union. Thesis is that Russia has no way of surpassing Europe's present productivity, but they can bring it down by supporting the various nationalist parties such as Front National, UKIP, Jobbik, Golden Dawn, Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands etc.

Snyder is baffled at why nationalists should support Putin. The answer seems obvioius to me. Putin supports the white guy. Or appears to.

The European establishment, like the Obama government, goes out of its way to invite, sponsor and support third-world immigrants, legal and illegal. They permit them to attend school, vote, and participate in society despite their inability and unwillingness to belong to or financially support that society. Western governments are printing money with abandon, without a care for the day when this game no longer works. Despite the fact that the white populations – taxpayers – grow fewer and stupider with each passing year, they encourage sexual practices guaranteed not to replenish the population.

The Europeans and Americans shamelessly spy on their own people. My Ukrainian housemate told me how Putin forced the founder of vkontakte, the Russian social media site, out of the company because he refused to compromise passwords. I countered with the story of how the NSA did the same to Silent Circle and Lavabit, and is hounding Edward Snowden and Glenn Greenwald for publicizing that among other facts.

Russia has no history of free speech. The United States did, but try now talking honestly about race, sexuality, gender differences, government spying or any other matter of importance. They will shut you up and get you fired in a heartbeat. Bottom line, if we're going to be subject to a dictatorship in any case, maybe one that appears to like straight white men isn't so bad.

Friday, March 4th, 2005
2:25 pm

My "critical left" professor of "Alternative Education" did educate me

Steve Klees, my "critical left" professor, is an OK guy. Here's the story. I was admitted to U of Md. on Jan 25, 2004, the day before the semester began. Most classes were booked and besides, the tradeoff you make for free tuition as a "Golden ID" student is last shot at the open courses. Fair enough. Anyhow, I signed up for "Alternative Education" expecting it would be an eye-opener. It was.

My major papers for the course dealt with the Movimento Sem Terra, or Landless Rural Workers Movement of Brazil, the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, Mexico, and Chile's school voucher program. The first two have, as you might suppose, only a tenuous connection with education. Nonetheless, it was interesting to learn that the Brazilian state governments work with the MST to bring something as close as possible to normal classroom education to their impromptu camps. The MST tactic is to move in en masse and squat on "underutilized" rural land, kind of daring the landowner to kick them off and generating huge volumes of publicity when somebody gets hurt. It seems to work. Anyhow, the traditionally socialist state of Paraíba especially has been especially kind to them.

For what it's worth, the Zapatistas appear to be a very hollow organization, cranking out propaganda by the carload but having nothing to show for ten years in the saddle except one Potemkin-village type high school and a couple of elementary schools. And a huge cadre drawn from the predictable Left, Europe especially, coming in to teach, donate, yada yada. And in Chile, kind of perversely, the voucher schools have drawn middle-class kids out of public schools, leaving the left-center governments with more funding for those who truly need it. Those would be the urban slum kids and the Mapuche Indians. You can't say that vouchers work, but you can say that rather perversely they promote the interests of the Left. Anyhow my efforts earned me an A in Steve's class.

The most interesting contretemps we had was during the demonstrations at the World Bank conference last Spring. Most of the class was hoping for a little action, the kind that Seattle experienced in the WTO demonstrations of 1999. I offered the opinion that the police know an awful lot about riot/demonstration control these days. Not bloody likely. The mayor of Seattle was a soft-headed leftie who had refused to take the measures his police told him were necessary. And he paid the price. The most radical of the feminists, Sandee, uttered some words about Fascist pigs. I said, no, cops just do what the public who hired them wants: keep peace and protect property.

I visited Paris in the early '70s and saw the Champs Elysées trashed by Danny the Red and the soixante-huitards. People got hurt. Business got hurt. The vaches learned to prevent that stuff. Sandee came back that it served the capitalists right. She shed no tears over broken plate glass. I responded again that it is not always business that suffered. Courtesy of the National Guard, I also got to see the Watts Riots of 1965. I saw them burning down their own town. Steve jumped in to correct me. "They" did not burn down "their" town. Some rightfully angry people set fire to some things. Parts of Watts just happened to catch fire.

So it went for a semester. I said repeatedly that blame isn't the answer. They can't blame all the problems of the world on straight white conservative WASP American males. What is needed is a tragic worldview. This is the human condition. All people, my kind included, react to the world as they find it. We are not saints but neither are we devils. We just try to get along. Their response was that they weren't blaming me at all. As they went merrily along blaming people just like me for all of humanity's ills.

Next installment is the feminists. My tale there is not as interesting, and my assessment not as kind.
(Comment on this)

2:25 pm

My feminist professors handled me with cold efficiency

I can dismiss the style of the two female professors from whom I took courses in Educational Policy and Leadership rather quickly. They tolerated my contributions in class. They kind of had to. I have a great deal of life's experience and was pretty much on target, and the other students in class recognized as much. It would have been awkward to shut me up.

On the other hand, nobody sees written assignments. They managed to be simply impossible to please. I just could never get the tables right in my papers for Dr. Perna. One paper I got back from Dr. Rice had six critical comments on the title sentence, including the fact that I had not cited any footnotes for it. The work I got back from both professors ran red with varicose veins of criticism. For perusal by objective observers, I have posted one of those notorious B papers on my site, www.grahamseibert.com/IndianPaper.doc

Dr. Rice was a disappointment. She is a fairly bright lady who teaches a good class. Our conversations were generally quite satisfying. I learned quite a bit from her. I had expected her to treat me fairly.

Dr. Perna is another story. To put it charitably, she should never have been allowed to teach a statistics course. Does not know a logarithm from a standard deviation. She harps perennially on the "wage gap" between men and women. That seems to be the focus of her scholarly effort. She got a paper accepted for publication. She has surrounded herself with a coterie of young women of like mind. Together they had the votes to name her "faculty mentor of the year" or something similar. She was just accepted for tenure.

It is bias. On the other hand, it is also grad school. A "B" is all you need and I don't want to make a reputation as a troublemaker. I learned some stuff from them, among which was the fact that I needed to find a department in which I would be more comfortable. That I have done. Sunday, January 23rd, 2005
10:46 am

Jim Kahan

A high point of our 40th Reed reunion last year was seeing Jim Kahan again. He and I wasted countless hours playing bridge in the Winch Social Room and BSing on low limbs of the lovely trees in the lawn.

My politics trouble Jim, though not to the point of totally rupturing our friendship. I'm sure his response to the question "Are you or have you ever been a member of the Republican Party" is absolutely safe. However, were he to be asked if had ever known one, he would have to concede he does. Speaking from that role I can assure all you readers that his liberal bona fides are 100% intact. On that score you need have no concern.

Let me suppose that every one of you reading this was vastly disappointed, even shocked, by the outcome of the recent election. How, you must ask, can the American people be so stupid, backwards, vengeful, prejudiced, arrogant and superstitious as to put W back in the White House? I would like to modestly propose that you talk to some of them. They are not hard to find -- whole communities live out towards Pendleton and Sisters. A brave few even in Washington D.C.

Reentering academia as a PhD candidate after 40 years has been a shock to me. Opinion on campus is not only very predictable but impressively uninformed. Everybody is against Bush, the war, No Child Left Behind and privatizing Social Security. Among many other things. These positions are held so unreflectively that their supporters have no practice mounting a defense of them. The comebacks are largely ad hominem. If you support NCLB you are a bigot. Period. Social Security? You have no compassion for the poor. Period. There is no nuance. No admission that there are two sides to the issue. No concession, for instance, that the U.N. has proven too compromised to have ever supported a war against Saddam, even as the Bushies do belatedly concede that there were no WMD.

I'm no moral hero. I joined the Guard to get out of the draft, and went to Vietnam as a civilian to get out of the Guard. But also, also in some measure, to probe the truth of the claims I was hearing from anti-war protesters on the Berkeley campus. As should come as no surprise to students of history, the truth lay in the middle between Dean Rusk and Jane Fonda. The North Vietnamese were ruthless aggressors. On the other hand it was none of our business. I think history will make more or less the same decision regarding Iraq. How many of you read Foreign Affairs magazine? The Jan/Feb issue has several well-considered articles on the subject. Pros and cons. If all you have to offer is an doctrinaire diatribe of the cons, I don't want to spend time talking about it with you.

My advice to Jim is that he talk on academic freedom. The ability to say what you believe to be true and to pursue research the results of which may be controversial. It is not healthy when a Larry Summers is shouted down for making statements he believes to be true about the distribution of human talent, or Jim Kahan can be shouted down merely for his association with Rand. You may disagree, but you owe it to yourselves to listen and make the effort to compose reasoned arguments against their positions.

You are already familiar with the consequence of failing to do so. More George Bush. However inarticulate he is, the voters found he had a more consistent argument than John Kerry. You need to sharpen your skills making the liberal case. No way to do it but to listen to the other points of view and invest the effort in composing convincing counterarguments.