

“THE EMERGING LAW OF THE GUN”

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Russian President Vladimir Putin
annexes the Crimea in gross violation
of international law.

what should America do, if anything?

some suggest doing nothing.

some assert we cannot do anything.

others *feel the consequences of letting
such aggression stand will be serious.*

Former Secretary of State Condi Rice explains her view, “When America steps back and there is a vacuum trouble will fill that vacuum”.

She further asked “What are we signaling that America is no longer ready to stand in the defense of freedom?”

Former Congressman Ron Paul: “What’s the big deal”

- Portraying the secession of Crimea as no different than the effort of Venice to leave Italy. He asserted that such action is allowed under Article I of the UN Charter.
- After all he concluded in a March 17, 2014 USA Today essay, “Why does the U.S. care which flag will be hoisted on a small piece of land thousands of miles away?”

Nicolai Petro of the Nation magazine on March 14, 2014

- Blames the crisis largely on the current government in Ukraine (and its ally the United States).
- He said Kiev did not listen to Crimean grievances, claiming that as President Putin explained, “meaningful steps [by Kiev] in this direction...would indicate that the socio-political situation in the country is normalizing”
- Removes any rationale for Russian intervention

West Wing Reports....

- “It is time to stop fighting Cold War demons” and instead fight poverty and low job growth here at home.”
- The author, Paul Brandus, then argued simultaneously that:
“We cannot stop Putin anyway.”

Russian President Putin

- “America has come to believe in their exceptionalism and their sense of being chosen” ...o the point where they have adopted the rule of the gun...”

What Has Russia Been Doing?

- Russian special forces and military forces have been infiltrating Ukraine territory for some time, as Moscow had previously done in the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia which they claim are not occupied territories but independent states.

What is Deterrence?

- But to deter such actions and successfully navigate crises requires a previous history of smart decisions that give a nation diplomatic leverage.
- That includes a belief by your adversaries that you will give effect to diplomacy by backing it with military force.
- When a nation says up front that no force will be used, the credibility of that nation's diplomacy is diminished.

What Didn't We Do?

- One critical long term strategy is to adopt an energy policy that makes sense. America's energy policy since the oil embargo of October 16, 1973 is largely contained in the 1975 energy conservation act.
- It did promote some coal production
- Had no beneficial impact on the production of transportation fuels.
- Primarily pushed energy savings such as average fuel economy standards

Prisoners of 1975

- The 1975 legislation was framed by an assumption of declining US oil and gas reserves and parallel rapid domestic consumption increases from economic and population growth.

Energy Policy 2014

- Cutting net oil imports to zero would create 5 million new jobs and act as a \$500 billion annual stimulus package for the US economy, says Robert Zubrin in a January 16, 2012 National Review essay “How to Reduce Oil Prices”.
- Build the Keystone pipeline—now in review for what appears to be a projected 70 months or nearly twice as long as it took America to win World War II!

The Marx Brothers

- The pipeline could then transport Canadian tar sands more safely to our Gulf Coast refineries that could then back out Venezuelan crude. This could help put an end to cheap oil for the Chavezistas as well as the billions in heavily subsidized oil for the pair of Marx brothers in Cuba and Nicaragua
- Here we get a possible trifecta: the Castro, Ortega and Caracas klepto-regimes can be brought down along with their drug running, their affiliation with terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and their partnership with the mullahs in Iran, as former Costa Rican Ambassador Jaime Daremblum testified about in late 2011 before a House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Accelerate LNG

- We could also approve en bloc and accelerate the future process for most of the 50 American and Canadian LNG export terminals currently proposed or estimated to be proposed in the near future. This would dramatically increase our capability to export natural gas to our European friends and allies, including those states such as the Baltic, Ukraine, Germany and Poland,

Does International Law Matter?

- International law if it means anything only exists if the Western Powers and its allies are strong enough to enforce it. Rogue nation leaders—including Russia as well as China, Iran, Syria and North Korea— are watching and drawing their own conclusions.
- Now German Chancellor Merkel has said Mr. Putin has lost touch with reality. Our Secretary of State has said Putin is living and acting as if this was the 19th century.
- All that may be true but to Moscow it does not yet make any difference.

Liberty is Infectious

- As Russian expert Steve Blank, now Senior Fellow with the American Foreign Policy Council, and Dr. Pavel Baev, the Research Director and Professor at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), told me, if nations formerly part of the Soviet Union fall into the western sphere—specifically adopting to some degree the rule of law, due process, transparent government and free markets—the Russian kleptocracy is in mortal danger.

Putin's Crime Family Rules

- What Putin wants is relatively simple: from the “near abroad” and former SU regions it to make things safe for the plundering of the whole for an elite few.
- *This is an organized state crime family*
- *Russia* is simply masquerading as a state, albeit a state with thousands of nuclear weapons, which Putin has threatened to use against the US and its allies fifteen times since 2009.

We Are Stuck....

- As has been noted, London's stock market needs Russian cash. The French shipyard in Nazaire is dependent upon the Russian purchase of the warship being built there. And Germany gets a significant portion of its energy (oil and gas) from Russia.
- So we find ourselves literally "over a barrel" because past mini-steps sold as integrating Russia into the "world's economy" has ended up making the "world" impotent to challenge Russia's rules—which are, put bluntly, the law of the jungle.

The Narrative of the Drive By Media

THE NARRATIVE

- In this case the dominant media narrative has been a combination of: (1) Who cares about Crimea, (2) Russia deserved to take it anyway; and (3) It's all our fault anyway.

DRIVES THE STORY UNDERGROUND

- Part of this is an unstated strategy to downplay the negative consequences of Putin's practices. And the failure of our "Reset" policy.

Mr David Brooks-NY Times

- “It’s frankly naïve to believe that the world’s problems can be conquered through conflict-free cooperation and that the menaces to civilization, whether in the form of Putin or Iran, can be simply not faced. It’s the utopian belief that politics and conflict are optional”.
- But.....He asserts the new American reality is “certainly not Reaganism”, military power does not defeat tyranny and promote democracy. We have to be disabused of the quaint idea that people might have that military power works...

THEN...NOW

- Then: decontrol oil prices, which cost Moscow \$15 billion every two years
- Then: Get Saudi oil production up to 9mbd from 2mbd
- Now, Open up ANWR and US coastal oil/gas production, and approve all pending nearly 20 gas terminal deals;
- Now, Increase US oil and gas production by at least 3 million barrels per day (MBPD);

I have a Pen and a Phone...

- Then: Provide Aid to Solidarity
- Then: Fire the Air Traffic Controllers——
- Then: Aid the Afghan Mujahedeen
- Now: Aid to the civil defense, military and counter terrorist sectors of the Baltic nations, Poland and Ukraine
- Now: Approve Keystone (Get tough with your political base);
- Now: Sign a SOFA with Kabul;

Missiles....

- Then: Procured and deployed the INF missiles
- Expand significantly the US deployed ballistic missile defenses in Europe including Patriot, Aegis and Aegis Ashore, THAAD as well as advanced radars and sensors

Defense Spending....

- Then: Increased defense spending in 1981-6;
- the economy through regulatory and tax reform between 1983-88
- Create 19.3 million net new jobs 1983-89
- Stop defense sequestration
- Adopt major tax, regulatory and welfare/entitlement reform
- Growth at 3.5% vs. 1.7% means \$70,000 per year in extra income for a child born today

Missile Defense Priorities

- Deploy Aegis Ashore in Romania and Poland
- Deploy 4 Patriot Batteries at Ft Bliss (with interceptors)
- Add sensors and radars
- Integrated across services and across countries
- Add & Expand Israel capability
- Add missile defense and air defense capability to all NATO ships
- 2 stage GBI/Fast Navy Ashore or East Coast Defense for long range threat—south faced radar
- Iran says they can reach Diego Garcia (2000k vs. 4300k)