

The Very Long Game

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Back when I started writing professionally, I was warned repeatedly of the dangers of “writer mind” and “writer think.”

In context this was warning me about creating fantasies about what editors were doing, thinking or plotting behind my back. I think so at least, because all older writers had this bizarre idea that we, younger writers, took every little sign of disfavor, or stupidity on the publisher’s side as meaning they hated us and were out to destroy us.

I remember an older colleague thinking so and making fun of me “oh, it’s because he hates you and wants to destroy your career” when I was very upset at an editor blowing off his meeting with me. Which struck me as bizarre, as my main upset was that I couldn’t leave the hotel lobby until I was sure this guy wasn’t going to show up later and be mad at me. In retrospect, given connections, I wonder if colleague knew something? Ah well, it doesn’t matter.

I didn’t need that warning. In fact, honestly, I probably should have been a little more paranoid. But I’m not good at hidden stuff or people who are friends to my face while stabbing me in the back. In fact, it usually takes a 2×4 with rusty nails in it to convey something not stated in voice. No, I’m not on the spectrum. Probably. I mean maybe on the very low end of the spectrum for science fiction. I’m just kind of impatient with implications and hints and such. You know, it’s probably PTSD from four years in an all-girls high school. It will do it to you.

Anyway, the point is that’s not the “writer mind” that causes a problem. And TBF the second kind of writer mind has infected practically everyone. Yesterday I had to talk a friend down from “the Republic is gone and now we’re going to be an empire.” Because of course we know how Rome went, and tada! we’re Rome. Btw, “The US is Rome in the decadence” was a stupid (very stupid) agit prop tidbit of the SovUnion which for some reason Americans ate with a spoon. Sure, there are some similar trends, because we’re human and when humans are relatively rich, the same vices surface, but yeah no. Actually the USSR was close to that, including the fact that the ‘decadence’ really only affected the upper classes.

In fact, the USSR was closer to the Roman Empire than we are or will ever be, because, you know, they were a parasitical society only able to survive by continuously invading/looting others.

And this is the same with the supposed “American Empire.” Yes, the founding fathers tried to mold us on an idealized Roman Republic. Sort of kind of, because English common law fell in, etc. So Rome ended up being mostly smell, not real.

But we are not Rome. Even accounting for the difference in times, Americans are not Imperialists (And Romans were from the start, even in the Republic.) Hell, Americans aren’t even colonialists. Not in the sense of going and conquering other lands and occupying them. We more tend to go, break things, rebuild, and then

leave.

As for an American Empire.... well, socialism always requires expansionism. But expansionism only works if the other countries can FEED and provide for the motherland. Right now? After covidioy? we couldn't find even a continent that could feed and provide for Americans a tenth as well as we live now. An Empire. 5 minutes, tops.

But people think in stories. And in patterns. And mostly the patterns are on superficial things. Like "Well, the founders studied Rome and used structures kind of like."

This is a problem right now, as we all know — who know real history — how free societies fell to communism. And we're running along with it, and falling in despair.

The left meanwhile is all about these scripts, and they really really really don't understand the differences between societies, the differences between technologies and/or that people have agency at all.

So of course, they think they're now in power forever, having frauded themselves in.

But of course, that's not how any of this works.

Last week, during our cannon ball run across the country (again) we stopped at Hutchinson KS for the cosmosphere. This (grumble) detour was the price owed to younger son for going with us and helping us drive. Okay, he didn't demand it, but we did it because it makes him all happy. (Parents are weird, okay?)

The cosmosphere is kind of like church to him, which meant he spent a lot of time reading everything and laying down on the floor to see under exhibits.

Meanwhile I walked around and thought, a lot.

Do you know that the Nazis lasted less than a dozen years? Yes, communist regimes lasted longer, but that was because they had support, witting and unwitting from the US. No? well, guys, we FED the USSR. Without it, the starvation would have been EPIC as would have the revolt. As for China, bah, we've been allowing them to get away with murder for decades. Allowing them to rob us blind. And even then, all they can maintain is luxurious living for the tiny elites, while the majority of the population live lives that would make our medieval peasants scream.

Totalitarianism is by nature parasitic. It can't survive unless it has something to leech off of. The idiot left thinks the US can go socialist and retain all its wealth, which means "it can feed world communism." That's why they've worked so hard to capture us.

Remember what I said? They think people have no agency. They also think wealth is kind of magical and flows to certain areas.

If the US goes full on socialist (and they're going to try) most of the world starves and we have nowhere to leech off of, even now, much less then. Prognosis "The left dies screaming." My guess is within two to three years because these things always take longer than we expect.

And yeah, the rebuild will be a dangerous time, and a pure bitch, but it will happen. We're not imperialists, but we've rebuilt a lot of countries. We can do it.

However, everyone is running around convinced of the script that gives communists a 1000 year reign. It's not true. It's writer/reader mind. Snap out of it. And prepare for the years of pure suckage ahead. And for the rebuild which will also hurt like living hell.

I won't see the other side of this, but G-d willing a lot of you will, and so will your kids and grandkids.

Be not afraid.

Oh, and on the Cosmosphere: Man's journey to space has been a mess. And it might not have happened without the horrors of the Nazis.

Grandma would say "G-d writes straight upon crooked lines." However, speaking more secularly, there is this: humans are curious apes and as a species we colonize. Heck, all life forms on Earth colonize or die.

Space? we will get there. And our descendants will be more numberless than the sands in the sea and cover every planet that's habitable and some that shouldn't be.

It's just going to take a while, and have a lot of setbacks. And some of the ways things happen will be counterintuitive. But we will get there. Because we're stubborn apes.

Again, I might not see it, but my descendants will.

Be not afraid. Go light a candle. Go work. All is not lost. We will survive this. Liberty will live on, despite all attempts to snuff it out. And humans will live and strive and thrive.

Now stop reading my babble and go work.