

Hey, everybody ready for the third world war?

The idea of a world war came into popular imagination during the second major conflict of the twentieth century, 1939 to 1945. This was to differentiate it from the first conflict, from 1914 to 1918, which until then had been called “the great war” or “the war to end all wars”.

What you would call a world war depends on how large your world is. The ancient Greeks had a few world wars within their small world. There have been six major conflicts within the western historic frame that some historians call world wars.

All these world wars, including the two recent ones, have been about some previously dominant groups in western society finding themselves losing control and engaging in a last, berserk effort to get it back. They are never primarily about nations fighting each other over trade or territory.

The last and worst world war was about the old industrial capitalists trying to prevent the rise, not of communism, but the third way, the modern welfare state. There were fascists, socialists, and communists in every country. An alliance of monetarist capitalists and democratic socialists prevailed and we have long enjoyed the post war welfare state.

the monetarist order

After the war the new monetarist capitalists took over the global economy. At first they had no problem with gaining the consent of the ruled by providing a comprehensive welfare state.

After about 1970 there was a ‘crisis of profitability’, as economic growth reached its limits and slowed down, and the public became unruly. A new generation of monetary capitalists took over who decided the problem was ‘too much democracy’.

The essence of the monetarist system is private control of the means of issuing money. This means that for their system to work, the economy, or their share of it, must keep growing.

The supposed ‘red peril’ posed by communist states and communist movements justified the domination and impoverishment of weaker countries.

The conflict this engendered has sometimes been called the ‘cold war’ or ‘the third world war’. The delusion is that this was a global conflict with communism. The capitalist countries had no real problem with the communist states; they negotiated ‘spheres of influence’ with them.

Lately islamic fundamentalism has served as a straw man.

the return of the state

Now, after sixty years of waiting for a 'third world war', people have almost forgotten that idea. But now conditions are ripe for a real third world war. It is a war of the monetarists, usually and inaccurately called neo-conservatives or neo-liberals, against what they see as threatening to destroy their world.

The monetarists home base and last resort is the United States, but there are monetarists all over the world. The threat is amorphous, but seems to be based around increased local democracy in the world, and a trend toward state capitalism.

State capitalism is where the government, or some quasi-governmental agency, controls the issuance of money, not private institutions. This power is used to plan the economy by controlling what businesses receive low interest money. People are allowed to get rich as long as they do so in ways which are beneficial to society.

So production becomes organised to meet human needs, instead of the needs of capital. This has become anathema to the monetarists. The irony is that the great communist bogeymen, Russia and China, are now among the best examples of this new kind of capitalism. They are the hardest nuts for monetary 'global capital' to infiltrate and crack. Japan and Western Europe are becoming centres of state capitalism but are also evolving into true democracies.

the 'end timers'

Even as the monetarist elite in the United States becomes more extreme, isolated, and delusional, they concentrate greater wealth and power in their hands. They are suppressing democracy in their country. They have stolen the last two presidential elections. They have assassinated several potential opposition leaders. They have their democratic party opposition thoroughly intimidated and coopted. And of course, they did the "9-11" attack themselves.

Nothing is going to remove them except a popular revolt or coup d'etat. A big question is how the fingers of these "end times" religious maniacs will be kept away from the nuclear buttons when their final fall begins.

Iran

The American ruling elite are obsessed with Iran. War against Iran was prevented in April of 2006 by a 'revolt of the generals' in the pentagon. War will probably break out in the summer of 2007 once the troop 'surge' is complete.

The Iranians probably already have nuclear weapons. Hundreds of nukes are unaccounted for from the old Soviet arsenal, including portable 'suitcase' bombs. They have to be somewhere.

What the 'end timers' really want is to control Iran's oil, or at least to stop its production and the source of revenue for the Iranian elite. Part of their strategy is to control the world's oil supplies; not for their own use, but to keep everyone else's supply. They get their oil from sources closer to themselves, like Canada and Mexico.

chaos strategy

The end timers do not see themselves as losing; they think they are winning. It suits them that people see them as exhausting themselves, because then people think they will fall on their own and nothing has to be done to oppose them.

They do not care that the American army is being worn down in Iraq; they see the army as an obstacle and want to 'privatise' it. They have been building up a 'contract' army through 'security' firms like Blackwater.

They are proponents of 'chaos strategy'. This derives from 'chaos theory' in physics. If you throw an ordered system into chaos, the parts will eventually reorganise themselves around the strongest element, the 'pole of stability'.

The 'end timers' tested this in the Balkans; throw the situation into complete chaos, make clear that you are there and not going away until you have what you want, and eventually everyone falls into line with you. It is similar to the techniques used by sociopathic bullies to gain control of any situation.

They will love it when the American economy collapses into depression; they will see it as an opportunity to remake it to suit themselves. If they lose the white house in 2009, they will maintain relentless pressure as they did in the Clinton years, controlling from the outside.

the end this time

2007 will be a critical year. Much depends on how Russia and China react to the 'end timers' attack on Iran. They know what they are up

against, and they know they have to work together or fall separately. Europe and Japan are hovering between submission to the 'end timers' and joining the resistance.

Many academics theorise about a conflict between a Eurasian alliance and an American transoceanic power; control of the greatest land mass and populations versus control of the seas and of space. It is foolish to predict anything except that the 'end timers' must lose; what they want does not work and is abhorrent to humanity.

Assuming we survive, we will be in the age of state planned economies, without the mistakes of earlier planned economies. We now have models of control ranging from small, tight oligarchies to highly participatory democracies.

It will be interesting to see how it all plays out in the next few years. It could get quite chaotic. It could become an 'end time' for most of the planet's inhabitants.

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