



Is the Empire Falling?

Mostly from Johan Galtung's

The Fall of the US Empire – And Then What?

and some from his

Peace by Peaceful Means

Pictures and PowerPoint by Wally Myers

Dedication

To a country I love, the United States of America: You will swim so much better without that imperial albatross around your neck. Drown it before it drowns you, and let a thousand flowers blossom!

Johan Galtung (JG)

Most of the world loves Americans; but hates the foreign policy of empire.

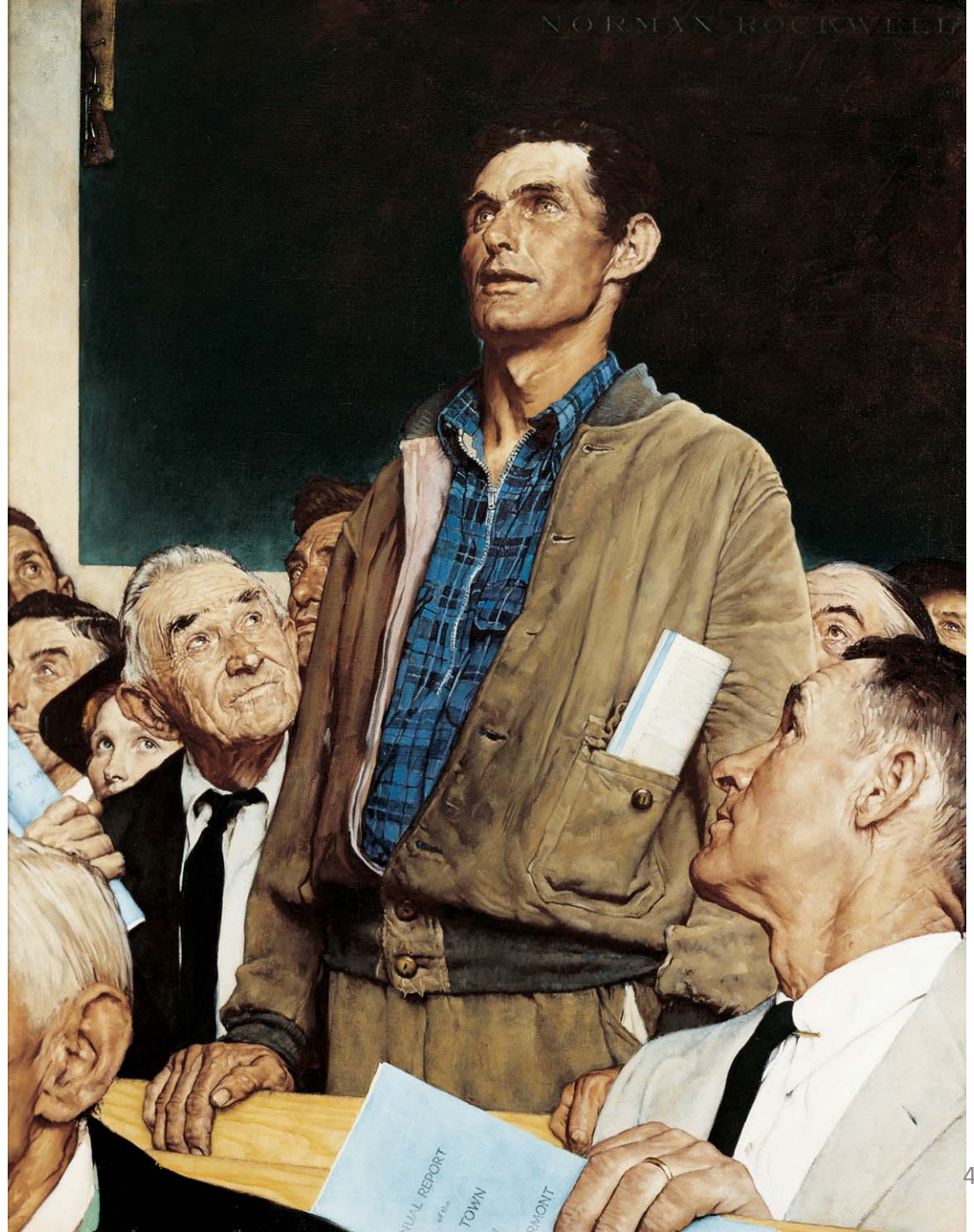


[July 2009 Confidence in Obama Lifts U.S. Image Around the World](#)

The World loves the American Character

Equality

Cooperation



Creativity

Hard Work

Generosity



The world does make a distinction
between the people and the empire.
Should we?

Definition:

An *empire* is a trans-border, culturally legitimized, Center-Periphery structure of unequal exchange:

1. **Economically**, between exploiters and exploited, causing misery;
2. **Militarily**, between killers and killed, causing death-suffering;
3. **Politically**, between controllers and controlled, causing repression;
4. **Culturally**, between programmers and programmed, causing alienation.

These insult basic human needs for **wellness-survival-freedom-identity**.

Character-Empire Matching Test

Wally Myers (WM)

Which character value violates which empire power?

a. Equality b. Cooperation c. Creativity d. Hard Work e. Generosity

An *empire* is a trans-border Center-Periphery structure.

The border is not geographical. The Center-Periphery border occurs on each power dimension.

<i>Center</i>	<i>Periphery</i>
Exploiters	Exploited
Killers	Killed
Controllers	Controlled
Programmers	Programmed

If you exploit, kill, control, or program others; then you are at the center of the empire. If you've been economically exploited, militarily injured, politically controlled, and/or culturally programmed, then you are on the periphery. You are a victim of imperialism.

The Foundation of American Values WM

All people are created equal, with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

- Since social elitism violates equality,
- Since military aggression violate life,
- Since political repression violates liberty,
- Since cultural alienation violates the pursuit of happiness,
- Since economic exploitation violates equality and the pursuit of happiness,

The Empire should not be called “The American Empire”; rather think of it as the

“The Un-Americanism Empire”.

The History of Empire in America WM

Colonized by the empires of Spain, France and England. The European culture of imperialism was transplanted in the Americas.

Within a few years of settlement, the corporate empire builders began conquering the native tribes.

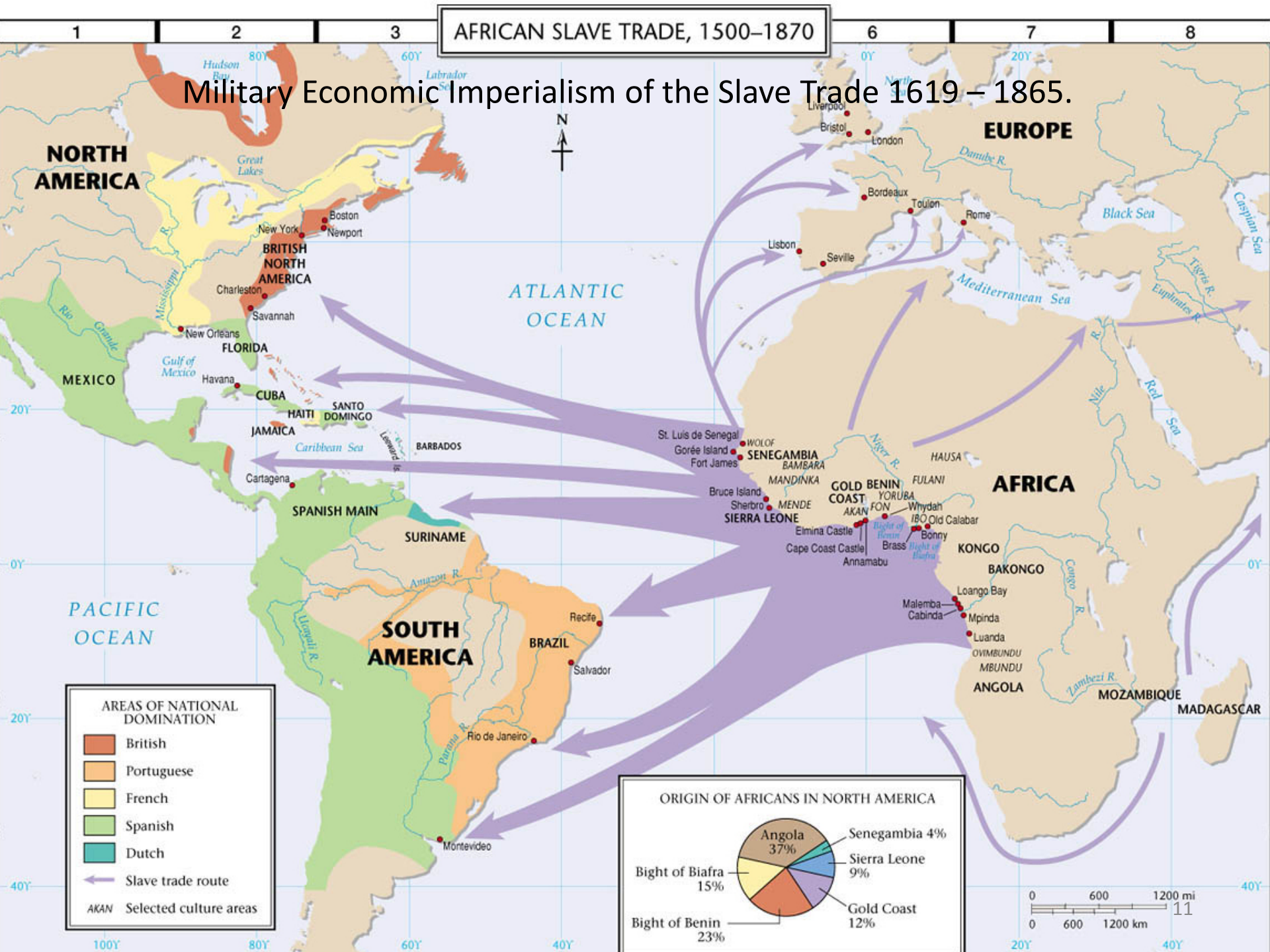
The Indian Wars
1609 – 1975.



*Manifest Destiny pictured as “American Progress”*¹⁰

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE, 1500–1870

Military Economic Imperialism of the Slave Trade 1619 – 1865.



From 1776 to 1945 US military interventions [averaged 1/year](#).

Examples: War of 1812, Mexican-American War, American Civil War, overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War, Boxer Rebellion, Central America, WW I

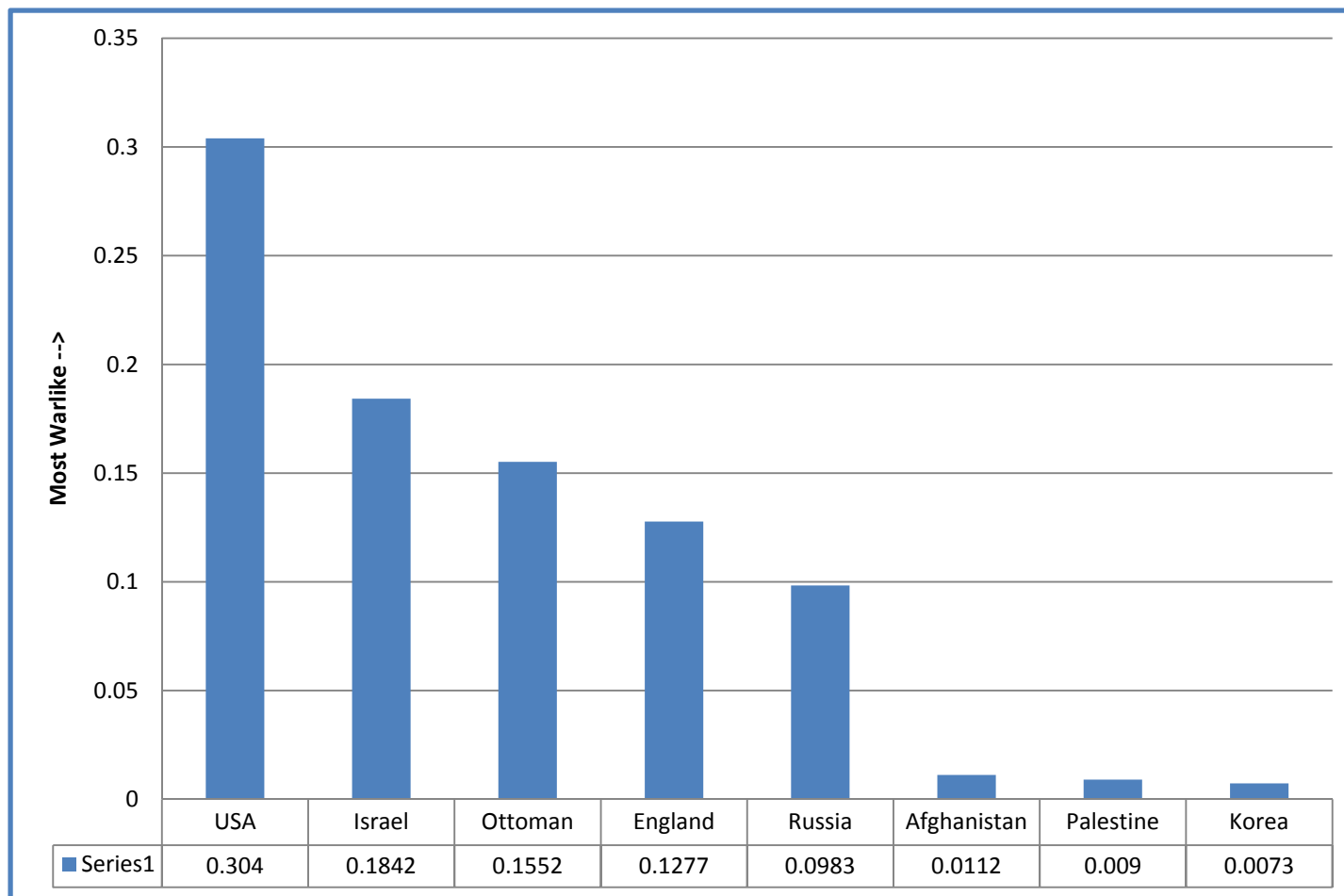
Between the end of WW II and 2000 **13-17 million killed** in overt actions by the Pentagon and covert actions by the CIA with open and covert support from US allies to keep the world safe for our economy.

Aggravated Political Violence by USA after WWII and before 2000

<i>Violence</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Interventions	67
Bombings	25
Attempted assassination of foreign leaders	35
Assistance with torture	11
Intervention in and prevention of elections	23

From Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower By: William Blum
For more detail see [A Brief History of U.S. Interventions](#) by William Blum

War Participation Index



The 2 most warlike countries make war on the three least warlike. What is this called?

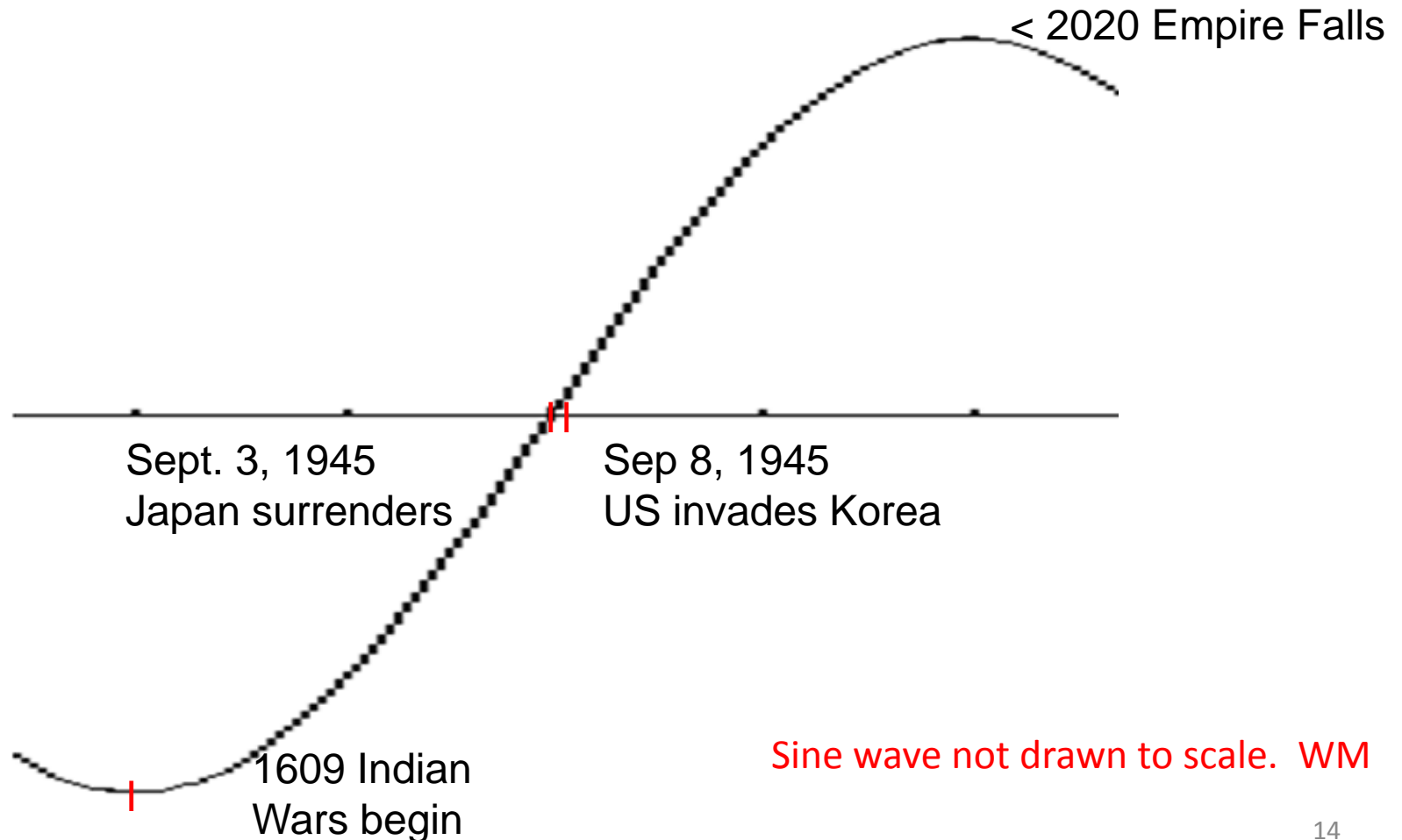
Information from Dictionary of Wars by George F. Kohn (Garden City, NJ: Anchor, 1987) was used by JG to calculate the War Participation Index (WPI)

Roughly: $WPI = \frac{\text{\# of wars}}{\text{\# of years existing}}$.

Precisely: $WPI = \frac{\text{\# of wars}}{1985 - \text{year of its first war}}$.

History of the Empire *of*

Cultural Dominance, Social Elitism , Economic Exploitation
Political Repression, and Military Aggression



The Turning Point of the Empire

The political turning point



On September 9, the day after the US invasion of Korea, at the Japanese surrender ceremony, General Hodge announced that the Japanese colonial government would remain intact, including its personnel and its governor-general.

The military turning point



Jeju protesters awaiting execution.

On April 3, 1948, the police on Jeju island fired on a demonstration commemorating the Korean struggle against Japanese rule. Outraged, the people of Jeju attacked 12 police stations. In the fighting under 100 policemen and civilians were killed. Rebels also burned polling centers for the upcoming election and attacked political opponents and their families. They then issued an appeal urging the local population to rise against the American military government.



**THE MAGIC IS GONE.
AND THE EMPIRE
WILL SOON FOLLOW.**

With military, economic and political power justified by myths and beliefs, but unsupported by faith, the magic starts unraveling. Power becomes secular. Action has to be justified by controversial economic-military-political rationality. Bargaining, bribery and intervention make it look like the mandate has been withdrawn and the Chosen have become the Un-chosen.

Will the Empire fall? Yes, all empires fall.

The Economics of Empire – a few profit and the many pay. WM

“The rulers of Great Britain have, for more than a century past, amused the people with the imagination that they possessed a great empire on the west side of the Atlantic. This empire, however, has hitherto existed in imagination only. It has hitherto been, not an empire, but the project of an empire; not a gold mine, but the project of a gold mine; a project which has cost, which continues to cost, and which, if pursued in the same way as it has been hitherto, is likely to cost, immense expense, without being likely to bring any profit; for **the effects of the monopoly of the colony trade, it has been shown, are, to the great body of the people, mere loss instead of profit.** It is surely now time that our rulers should either realize this golden dream, in which they have been indulging themselves, perhaps, as well as the people; or, that they should awake from it themselves, and endeavor to awaken the people. If the project (of Empire) cannot be completed, it ought to be given up.”

Adam Smith The Wealth of Nations 1776

The Militarism of Empire implodes when it turns against its own people. wm

"Corporations have taken over the government and turned it against its own people."

Ralph Nader



Kent State Massacre



The Militarization of Police

The Culture of Imperialism falls when people no longer believe in it.

The magic is gone.

Religious imperialism:

Chosen by God → Christianity vs.
Left to Satan → Islam

Information imperialism:

Propaganda vs. Truth WM

Social imperialism:

Elite class vs. Undeserving class

Economic imperialism:

Growth (by expansion vs. to wellness)

Political imperialism:

Plutocracy vs. Democracy

Military imperialism:

Peace (by victory vs. by nonviolence)



Pope Urban II declares a holy war against Islam.

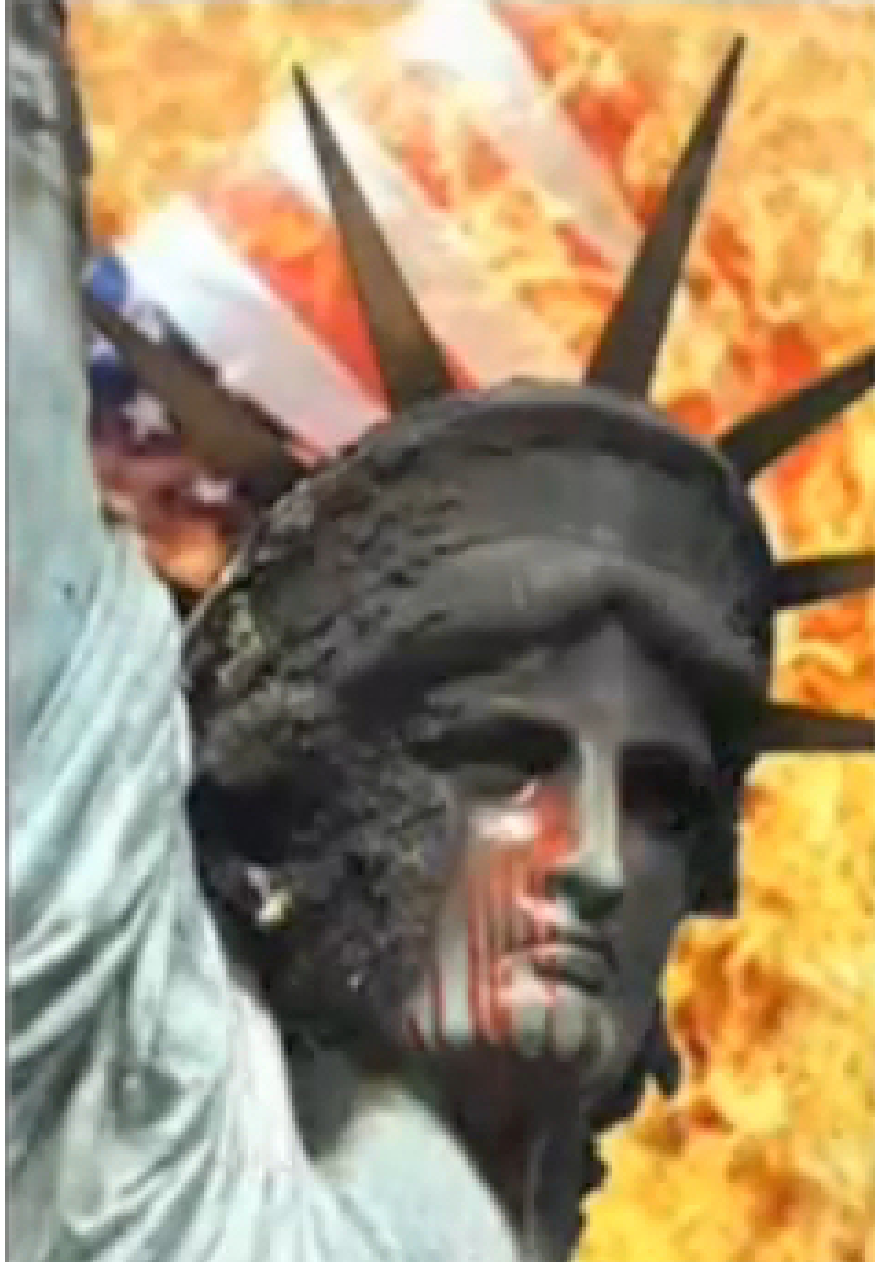
The elites lose control of the Social Empire because they become demoralized.

Ibn Khaldun in the late 1300's describes the stages in the demoralization of elites. WM

1. Through some great achievement and by popular support a person becomes an leader.
2. The leader pursues ease, and luxury.
3. The leader monopolizes glory by marginalizing his original supporters. He buys them off.
4. He expands his power by empowering people that he can control (yes men).
5. A family dynasty develops by accumulating power and money.
6. By the third generation The ruler becomes licentious, forgets the requirements of his position, and finds that the cost of his pleasures and the expense of buying the respect and loyalty he can no longer inspire have increased beyond his ability to pay.

7. He raises taxes but the more oppressive they become the less they yield.
8. Irregular methods of increasing revenue and exacting goods and services are attempted, but only make matters worse by disrupting economic activity.
9. Soldiers go unpaid, outlying regions establish their autonomy, and officials and court favorites usurp royal authority.
10. The corruption extends beyond court circles to the people at large, who become dependent on the government and enslaved by unnecessary and ever-multiplying desires that cause them to forget religion, morality, and even decency.
11. Attempts at reform at best delay the inevitable.
12. Unsettled conditions and overpopulation lead to famine and pestilence, and eventually the dynasty falls from power.

Imperial Control by Political Repression WM



“Here in America, we are waging a great and successful war. It is not alone a war against want and destitution and economic demoralization. It is more than that: It is a war for the survival of democracy.” *President Roosevelt, speaking after [The Business Coup](#) was thwarted by [Smedley Butler](#).*

[Coup d'Etat: Global Trade Agreements and the Displacement of Democracy](#)

Did the coup already happen?

Analysis of Empire

Definition:

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Cosmology of the Occident

Deep Assumptions about the Reality of the West

1. There is a **transcendental, absolute God** with awesome successors, e.g. the State.
2. The Culture has been **chosen** by God and/or by Nature to _____. There are strong Center-Periphery gradients, e.g. good vs. evil.
3. There is **atomistic, dichotomous (oppositional) thought**, black-white thinking, with deductive chains counteracting the unity-of-means-and-ends.
4. There is a strong tendency to **individualize and rank** human beings, breaking up the unity-of-man.
5. There is **arrogance** toward nature counteracting the unity-of-life.
6. There is **urgency**, the apocalypse now syndrome precluding the slow, patient building and enactment of structural and direct peace.

Religion of the Occident

Consequences of a Transcendental and Monotheistic God/Satan

A basic distinction can be made between a transcendental God outside us and an imminent god inside us, maybe inside all life. **Because of dualistic thinking with sharp dichotomies between good and evil**, there would also have to be something like an evil transcendental Satan corresponding to the good transcendental God. Heaven and Hell can also be reproduced on earth, as a foretaste or indication of the afterlife, Misery/luxury can be seen as preparation for Hell/Heaven – and social class as the finger of God.

God chooses	and leaves to Satan	thus creating
Human species	Animals, plants, nature	Speciesism, ecocide
Men	Women	Sexism, witch-burning
His people	The others	Nationalism, imperialism
Whites	Colored	Racism, colonialism
Upper classes	Lower classes	‘Classism’, exploitation
True believers	Heretics, pagans	‘Meritism’, inquisition

Building Heaven/Hell on Earth

Secularizing God – The State

Secularizing Religion - Nationalism

[The Apotheosis of Washington](#) WM

The three branches of God -> Government

Creator -> Legislative

Christ -> Executive

Spirit -> Judicial

WM

The three branches of Satan -> Government

Destroyer -> Military

Oppressor -> Hierarchy

Deceiver -> Propaganda

WM

Cultural Implications for Development

Guiding development is one, singular, universally valid Principle:

1. to realize the Rule of God, personally and socially in the religious version (with Clergy on top),
2. to realize the Rule of Growth, personally and socially, in the secular version (with Money on top).

Cultural Implications for Peace

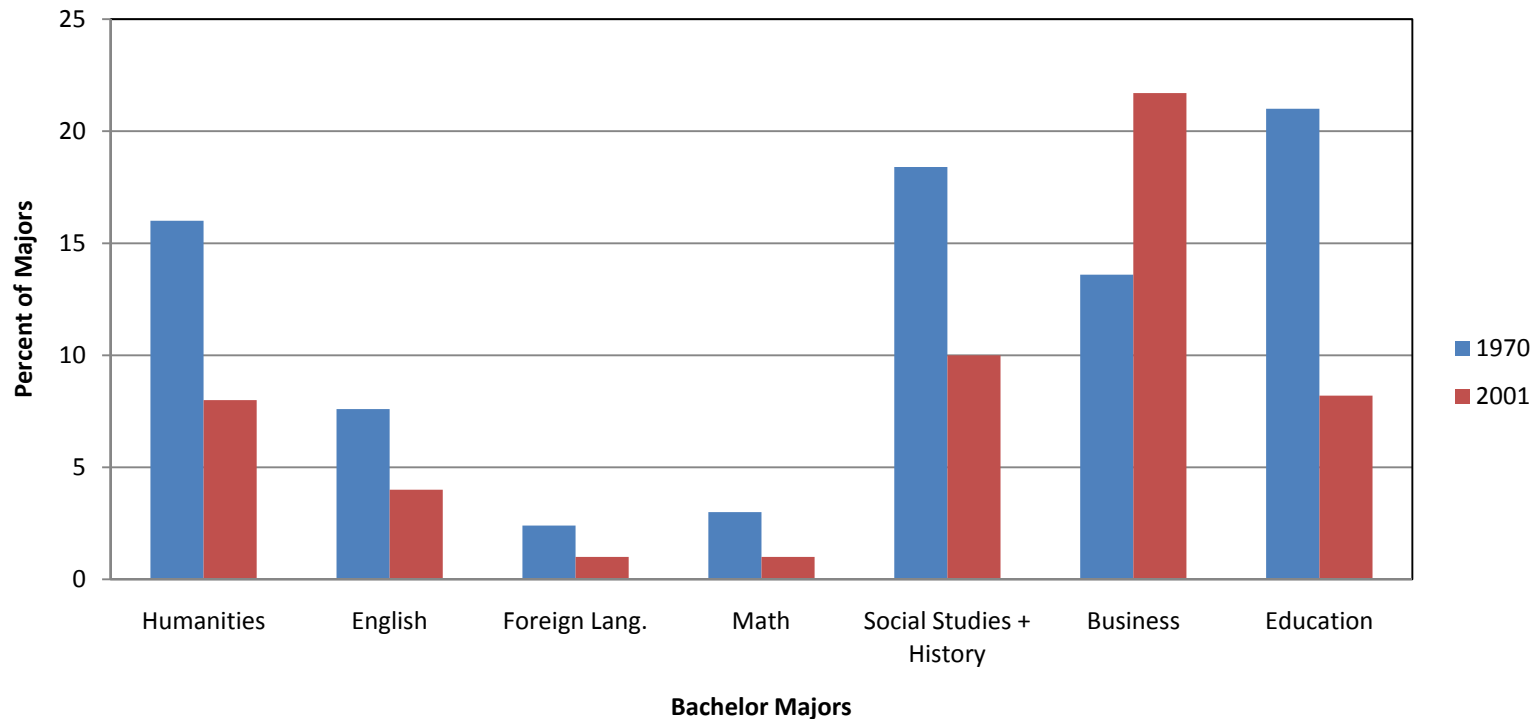
The Social Center consists of those people and societies that accept the guiding Principle; others, who do not accept the Principle, are on the Social Periphery and are Evil. Peace implies their elimination/incapacitation/marginalization, so that development can proceed unimpeded by evil forces.

Culture and Education

Our educational system, with departmentalized disciplines of economics, international relations, politics, religion, and humanities impedes the holistic thinking needed to understand the synergy arising from dynamic interdependence. Examples:

1. An inability to connect the dots.
2. An inability to see the forest for all the trees.

Changing Landscape in Higher Education



Culture and Corporate Media WM

“Under existing conditions, private capitalists inevitably control, directly or indirectly, in main sources of information (press, radio, education). It is thus extremely difficult, and indeed in most cases quite impossible, for the individual citizen to come to objective conclusions and to make intelligent use of his political rights.” *Albert Einstein*

In War is a Lie, David Swanson devotes a chapter to exposing the media lies about war.

1. Wars are not fought against evil.	7. Wars are not prolonged for the good of soldiers.
2. Wars are not launched in defense.	8. Wars are not fought on battlefields.
3. Wars are not waged out of generosity	9. Wars are not won, and they are not ended by enlarging them.
4. Wars are not unavoidable.	10. War news does not come from disinterested observers.
5. Warriors are not heroes.	11. War does not bring security and is not sustainable.
6. War makers do not have noble motives.	12. Wars are not legal. 13. Wars cannot be both planned and avoided

The Fall of Empires

Definition:

A “*contradiction*” is a conflict so deep that system change is needed for its resolution; hence imperial decline and fall as contradictions mature.

An empire is declining to the extent the four power abuses are weakening, and falling to the extent they vanish.

The Four Power Abuses

Identity by cultural alienation

Freedom by political repression

Survival by military aggression

Wellness by economic exploitation

The Contradictions from Cultural Alienation

Oldest Civilizations



Between US and the oldest civilizations

1. There are awakenings all over, with ancient cultures seeing themselves not as exotic museum cultures to be observed, but to be lived, with idioms, with sacred times and sacred places.
2. The destruction of artifacts from Sumer-Babylon in Iraq was seen as an effort to control Iraqis by destroying foci of identification.

Occident USA Christianity



Europe

Between US and European elite culture

The West sees a world with four geo-cultural Centers; USA, UK, France and Germany. France and Germany fight the present Anglo-Saxon cultural prevalence.



Islam

Between US Judeo-Christianity and Islam

1. Islam is expanding quickly, Christianity is not.
2. There is a Christian-Zionist fundamentalist alliance based on the idea that **Armageddon is near**, and that the first coming of the messiah and the second coming of Christ could be the same person.
3. From Judeo-Christianity the USA draws on Judaism for Chosen People-Promised Land, with the Israeli-US **sense of exceptionalism, of being above the Law, of self-righteousness**, and of no holds barred on brutality in warfare for their security.

Smithian Economics (the Cultural of Capitalism)

The Individualism Syndrome:

1. **Individualism** - The perspective is actor-, not structure-oriented. 2. **Private property** - one-to-one ownership relation between free actors and private properties. 3. **Freedom** - the right to own private property. 4. **Market** - deals between buyer demand and seller supply.

The Verticality Syndrome:

5. **Division of labor** - at individual and societal levels, with different tasks for different individuals and societies. 6. **Differential rewards** - to reward skill and risk-taking. 7. **Competition** - for better market deals as buyers or sellers, be they individuals, firms or countries. 8. **Monetization** - everything priced is up for sale, on the market, makes everything comparable – so that everything can be traded for everything, including ‘traded off’ for everything. 9. **Processing** (manufacturing) - imprinting culture and information on raw nature and raw human beings. 10. **Expansion** (growth) – increasing variety, quantity, market share, difference between inputs (raw material) and outputs (finished products).

Individualism Syndrome is weak on structural relations except for the market relations of deals between buyers and sellers. Collective ownership does not exist. What belongs to everybody belongs to nobody. The right to own and to use property to make more is basic, and is here referred to as freedom. **Materialism**

The verticality syndrome is division of labor which makes rank of the position ('job') the successor of rank by status ('birth'). Differential reward is one major mechanism behind the ranking or verticality, justified by differential risk-taking. **Feudalism**

The Morality of Money: In God We Trust. **WM**



The Economic Order: Feudalism based on how much you own. Social morality becomes market deals and exploitation is seen as opportunity. **WM**

The Contradictions from Economic Exploitation

Between real economy and finance economy

When domestic and global financial market turnover is high, whereas real economy growth is sluggish and distribution is low, there will be accumulation of liquidity high up searching for outlets. Luxury consumption and productive investment being limited, the outlet is buying and selling in the finance economy, also known as speculation.

The more linked to the US economy, the heavier its loss; the less linked, like Muslim countries protected by the Sharia banking rule of not lending more than 30% of the capital, the lower the loss.

real



finance

growth



distribution

nature



**production
distribution
consumption**

Between production-distribution-consumption and nature

The unilateral exit from the Kyoto Process because the Protocol impeded US economic growth, i.e. it was unacceptable to powerful corporations.

The Corpocracy – Economic Political Synergy

WM

The Danger Within

"I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country." **Thomas Jefferson, 3rd US president 1801-1809**

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country...corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war." **President Abraham Lincoln**

Corporations have taken over the government and turned it against its own people." **Ralph Nader**

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Undo other empires or imperial efforts; walk into their shoes.

The Spanish Empire 1898-1902, walking into their shoes.

The Ottoman Empire after WW1, by UK-France 1916-25, later USA.

The German Empire after WW1, by USA in the Pacific.

The Hapsburg Empire after WW1, Germany, Russia, and then USA.

The Nazi Empire after WW2, by the USA moving in, shaping Germany.

The Japanese Empire after WW2, by the USA moving in, shaping Japan.

The Italian Empire after WW2, they turned in time.

The Western colonial empires 1945-1975, the USA supporting decolonization, and then political control.

The Soviet Empire after the Cold War, the USA walking in.

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Support independence-autonomy movements in big countries.

China - support Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, Uygurs, and Mongols.

Russia – support all twenty non-Russian nations.

Russia – US tri-partition plan: European, Siberia, Far East Russia.

India – support Kashmir?, support Tamil Nadu?

Indonesia – Aceh, Malakas, Irian Jaya.

Nigeria – support Biafra etc.

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Support independence-revolutions in potential trouble spots.

Yugoslavia defeated in Krajina, B-i-H, Kosova, with bases, 1998-9.

Afghanistan defeated, the USA moving in, with bases, 2001.

Iraq defeated, the USA moving in, with bases, 2003, favoring Kurds.

Iran – support for Khuzestan? Azerbaijan?

Israel – support for Israel (almost) come what may.

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Oppose any regionalization independent of the USA.

EC-EU: support against Soviet Union, NATO membership for control.

CIS: extend NATP into old Soviet Union, “color revolutions”.

Latin America and the Caribbean: oppose, control, and use TIAP and OEA (Organizacion de los Estados Americanos).

African Union: control via NAPAD and Africom.

Islamic Community: control via big-rich members, Saudi, Egypt, Gulf Cooperation Council.

East Asian Community: control via Japan and China.

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Cripple the United Nations

Controlling the Security Council through veto.

Controlling UNGA against Uniting for Peace Resolutions.

Controlling by spying on delegations and arms-twisting.

Controlling the budget through 25% clause, non-payment, and the General Accounting Office (an arm of the US Congress).

Controlling the UN civil servants through short term contracts.

Showing who is in charge through material breach, illegality.

And, getting away with it all, because of all of the above.

The Political Strategies of the Un-American Empire

The Danger Abroad

Summary

Undo other empires or imperial efforts; walk into their shoes.

Support independence-autonomy movements in big countries.

Support independence-revolutions in potential trouble spots.

Oppose any regionalization independent of the USA.

Cripple the United Nations.

The Contradictions from Political Repression

UN



Between USA and the UN

USA uses veto in the Security Council most frequently and has close to a de facto economic veto by withholding or withdrawing support for programs not to their liking.

US economic clout on many UN members, like changing rate of interest for debts incurred according to voting pattern.

USA blocked a Uniting for Peace resolution to lift an issue that has gotten stuck in the UNSC into the General Assembly, which would have diverted the attack on Iraq with deep UN inspections.

Between USA and the EU

If EU gradually opens an association with Russia and membership for Turkey; the EU would grow to 750 million inhabitants. There would be a shift from unilateral imposition to multilateral negotiation and from debates to dominate to dialogue. The UN is the obvious world setting for both.

USA



EU

Contradictions from Social Elitism

Between state-corporate elites and working classes of unemployed and contract workers

Workers are kept in line by the threat of unemployment and by the inferiority of contract jobs to real position with security. State-corporate elites are better organized, make themselves non-substitutable, hire and fire from their own relatively safe positions, with the ultimate threat of outsourcing and automation ("flexibility", "modernization") settling issues.

A postmodern society can do with fewer workers but not fewer customers. Firing workers reduces their purchase power and indirectly fires customers.

The world middle class can hit the US Empire boycotting products like oil from Iraq, Boeing aircraft, US consumer-capital-financial goods.

minorities



WASP

state-corp elites



working class
unempl or contract

women



men

older generation



youth

Between older generation and youth, men and women, WASP and minorities.

*College students rise up against Viet Nam war. High school students are now informed and mobilized by the Internet and cell phones.

*By calling the repression of civil liberties "homeland security" drives women into the ranks of defending the home and the family.

*The Anglo-Saxon, Southern Baptist, militarized Deep South is in command. Chicanos, Hispanics, African-Americans may reach majority status by 2042. An alliance could out vote the current command structure.

Between myth and reality

The American Dream is only available on credit with debt burdens pushed onto the next generation. It is more of a threat than a promise. A ruined American Dream for individuals also ruins the Dream of America, i.e. faith in the mission. People all over the world believe in the US Republic but not the US Empire.

The less materialist human rights dreams of freedom were eroded by the Patriot Acts and other policies after 9/11.

A major reason for the non-attack on the USA after 9/11 may be that the USA is much better at destroying itself than outside terrorists could ever hope.

Contradictions from Military Aggression

Between US Eurasia hegemony and Russia-India-China

* The US approach has been through their fear of Muslims in Chechnya, Kashmir and Xinjiang. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established on 2001 for mutual defense. [See map.](#)

Between US and allies

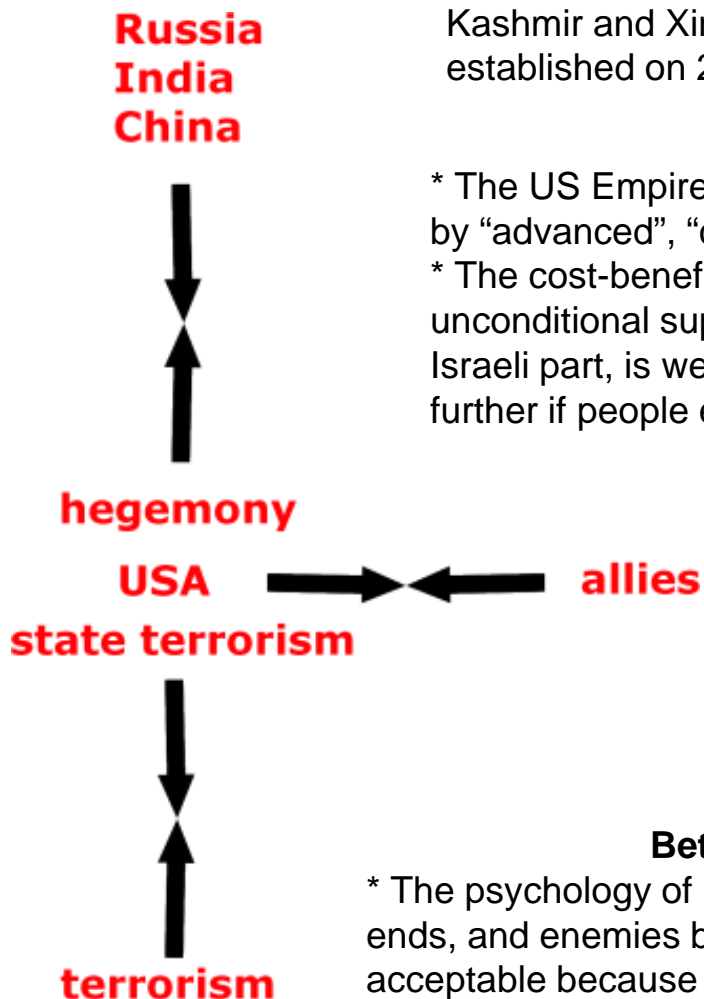
* The US Empire does not want to be seen as the US Empire, but as supported by “advanced”, “civilized” countries as against “evil”-“chaotic”-“terrorist” groups.
* The cost-benefit analysis of the countries varies. But the trend against unconditional support for the US Empire is growing where the Empire, with its Israeli part, is weakest: in the Middle East, and the contradiction will sharpen further if people exercise much more pressure, like economic boycotts.

Between the USA-lead NATO army and the EU army

* When countries of the EU fail to support the USA, they will fall victim to the dualist US logic: “because they are not entirely with us, hence that are against us.”
* The move will be in the direction of an EU Army for some members, building on the present Eurocorps, with command chains that neither end nor pass through Washington, except for exchange of information.

Between US state terrorism and terrorism

* The psychology of polarization whereby we judge friends by their legitimate ends, and enemies by their illegitimate means. Thus state terrorism is acceptable because it has a legitimate end, i.e. for the defeat of terrorism. While Muslim terrorism is deplored because it is an illegitimate means, i.e. act of killing innocent people.
* **War on Terrorism as a de facto war on Islam.** War in and on Iraq. War in and on Afghanistan. All unwinnable.



Predictions

What will fall: The four non-sustainable, unequal exchange patterns of empire: economic exploitation, military aggression, political repression, cultural dominance.

Why: They cause unbearable suffering, resentment, and resistance.

How: through the synergies in the synchronic maturation of numerous contradictions, followed by the demoralization of imperial elites.

When: Prediction – within 20 years counting from Year 2000;

Where: At its weakest point - the Middle East.

By whom: the demoralized imperialists, the suffering victims, the solitary, and by those who fight the US Empire to set up their own.

Against whom: the exploiters, killers, controllers, programmers, and others who support the US Empire because of perceived benefits.