

Sometimes Bullies are the First to be Punched Out

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Nato is nothing but a multi-nation extortion racket. There never was any communism to defend against after Stalin, a lumpen proletariat counter-revolutionary, seized power, killed the Marxist leadership, and then ordered the International to forget about revolution and instead press for non-intervention – Russia was enough for him. But capitalism has a need for resources and people to freely invest and expand its capital in an endless process of accumulation.

It was because Russia was a closed anomaly with a risk that it might spread just because it served the needs of the masses better than Capital cared to that brought Nato into existence. And when nominal communism died, instead of declaring victory and disbanding, it continued to expand until it had its destructive tentacles everywhere to extract the wealth of nations for the enrichment of an exclusive gang of capitalists.

But the system is now old, decrepit, and even plain silly. Imagine the world, with all of its very evident problems, preserving a destructive system that has no purpose other than endless accumulation and the possession of all that is required for that purpose. Today we have a war going on in Europe because capital wants free access to all of Russia. In support of Ukraine Nato and partners have, besides providing military assistance, taken measures to cripple Russia's economy by excluding the country from world's dollar-based trading standard.

It's nothing new. Capitalists are deathly afraid of even small countries like Cuba because they have shown that by eliminating a parasitic ruling class it's possible for even very poor countries to create decent living conditions for its people. That country has been subjected to a vicious blockade, and then when it diminished the quality of life of its people, that fact was cited by the US as evidence of the failure of communism. The only failure that Cuba can be charged with is that it did nothing, in fact it actively resisted, the spread of communism which would have strengthened mutual support in challenging times.

The very special power the US has achieved is the capacity to accrue

huge debts (\$1.7 trillion 2021 budget deficit and \$859 billion trade deficit) is that having the dollar as the universal exchange medium other countries effectively support this country's debt by creating dollar IOU's which are held as a reserve in the central bank of the creditor nation.

But the world's big-bully nation may have gone too far and may soon be losing its financial privileges and then be forced to raise taxes and/or cut expenditures to balance its budget. The US monetary threat has begun to cause enough concern, even among allies like India and the Arab states that alternatives are being created. This country thought Russia's financial system would have collapsed almost immediately, but it has been able to make transactions by alternative means. It's very likely that as capitalism weakens the resentment caused by US privilege will force the US into standard procedures which will wreak havoc on the domestic economy.

Pfizer: Savior and Merchant of Death

'Congrats' to Pfizer for its record, never before achieved by a pharmaceutical company, \$36.8 billion profit last year. Many lives saved in the richer nations, and many lives lost in poorer countries denied a temporary emergency use right to cheaply manufacture the drug themselves. Instead patent rights and capitalist greed allowed a life saving drug, with research mostly paid for by taxpayers, to be marketed for profit rather than for the purpose for which it was developed.

The public no doubt benefited by the fact that Pfizer's Covid 19 drug was developed by relatively small German company owned by Pfizer. Canada recently ordered two of the company's products, the blood pressure drug Inderal and anti-smoking drug Chantix withdrawn from the market because they contained cancer-causing nitrosamines. Others were not pulled soon enough. The leukemia drug Mylotarg was on the market for 10 years before it was removed when found to have caused more deaths than it saved. But no worries for capitalists -- it's all profit.

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