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The First Quarter -- a Report on the 2025 World Situation

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Progress and Decay

Throughout the first quarter of the 21st century science has continued its spectacular advances in molecular physics and biology; a tendency that gained momentum in the final two decades of the 20th century, especially in the field of genetics. But the degenerative processes in society, economy and climate are making global civilization gravitate towards a “patchy” world where only a few resilient and well-run parts communicate while the rest are turning into chaotic wastelands.

Isolationism

Already during the Obama administration USA began reverting to isolationism. The shocking escalation of the Middle East Conflicts made the President go bipartisan with conservative Republican elements on the issue of non-intervention. The Union is becoming, with Canada and parts of Central America, a largely self-sustaining entity although fraught with internal strife. By now a shadow of its former self with respect to world power the *Union of the Americas* (UA) retains its defense capacity through a United Defense Zone that makes the realm more of

an impenetrable fortress than the world's judge and jury and keeper. The joke is that U(S)A lost the S as it began turning from a red supernova into a white dwarf.

The Post – US Domino Effect

This shift triggered dramatic changes around the world. China successfully occupied Taiwan. Japan, no longer counting on American protection, has gone nuclear both civilian and military as relations with China are deteriorating. The Dollar lost the position it had as a global standard currency, with no other currency in a position to replace it.

International trade is becoming just a fraction of what it used to be. Apart from a revival of trading by way of precious metals, other systems of bilateral and particularized currencies down to specified goods and internal services coupons, are cropping up everywhere. This is making international financial speculation near-impossible. "Trade is dead" and the dreams of globalization are becoming a thing of the past; the United Nations are hardly taken seriously these days.

Neo-Medieval Zones and Outfielders

In Europe the EU fell apart as several countries left the Euro system and reverted to national economies and former levels of sovereignty. Some of these, like the Mediterranean Fringe and former East European countries, are turning into ungovernable, neo-medieval (NM) realms run

by organized crime. The Ukraine is seen as the “Godfather Nation” of this NM-tumor. The country split in a Western and Eastern part around 2015, Russia gobbling up the Eastern part including the Crimean Peninsula. The remains degenerated into a neo-medieval zone of local war lords fighting each other. As the word “Ukrania” in Russian means “outfield” this has become the common name for rabble, criminals and people pertaining to NM zones in general; “outfielders.”

Alexander’s Nightmare

One historian, quibbling, has compared The United Kingdom to ancient Britannia somewhere between the withdrawal of Roman troops and the Saxon invasions. As for France and Germany, he continues, amid the ruins of the European Union they invite comparison to the Empire of Alexander the Great a couple of generations after his death.

The Middle East initiatives of the Bush administration could be likened to an attempt at once more “going Alexander” in the region, forcefully spreading the gospel of civilization. But the awful truth is that since the Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iran the entire Middle East has been one continuous, chaotic war-of-attrition zone; Alexander’s nightmare rather than his dream.

“Interesting Times”

Russia is still doing what it can to stay out of the fry, but is suffering waves of NM terrorist attacks at mass destruction level. Relations with Japan are bad, especially since the latter forcibly occupied “the northern territories” i. e. some of the Kurile islands that the Soviet Union possessed since 1945, knowing that Russia would be unable to deliver a measured, adequate response.

Africa is by and large becoming a write-off and its natural resources are fought over like in the era of the colonial wars. Tribal warfare, apparently pointless, is decimating the population.

The nations of the western Pacific and Oceania are increasingly suffering from extreme weather and mysterious waves of tsunamis, rumored to stem from the use of seismic weapons and even being part of a mass extermination program in order to reduce the world population. No concrete evidence of this has come to light yet, but many people “believe in it.” They also see African tribal warfare and even the Middle East butchery as part of this.

Most South American countries are sinking back into extreme poverty, brutal dictatorship and small-scale warfare.

Australia is largely intact but has, like the U(S)A, gone isolationist.

While China has abandoned the restrictive deterrent principle and is boosting its defense capabilities, especially since Japan went nuclear, the country is staying out of the general conflict zones, like waiting for the era of “The new Hundred Years’ War” to end, in order to move in and become the new and only superpower. Like the ancient Chinese curse goes: “May you live in interesting times.”

Survival Regions

Meanwhile certain well-defended regions and well-to-do small European countries are developing new, bilateral trade relations with their own, internal currencies. Some of these are *Spanish Catalonia, Belgian Flanders, the BASL (Bavaria-Austria-Switzerland-Lombardy-league) and Norway*. Some analysts discern the germ of a new European Order; indeed the blueprint for a “World of Regions” in this. The Romantic idea of “The National State” is considered outdated and has indeed become a menace to future world organization attempts. It must be discarded completely, it is held. This comes with a price though; considerable parts of the Earth, and the populations dwelling on them, must be temporarily given up in order for this new system to grow and safely establish itself. This is still on the list of totally unmentionable issues as far as professional politicians are concerned. So would also the collapse of the Empire have been to those Roman senators some 700-800 years ago.

Disunity and the Spirit

Now at the end of the first quarter of the 21st century the global situation is showing increasing resemblance to the character the world had from the 14th to the 17th century when ships were combined merchantmen and men-of-war, when huge corporations like the West and East India

Companies, with power to declare war and make peace, and mighty city-states and -federations like Venice, Geneva and the Hansa League were ruling their chosen parts of the globe.

But analysts are pointing out one radical difference from those bygone times; already decades past the point of no return, the human population is heading for a global bottleneck situation (an existential catastrophe where only very few individuals will survive), and the planet is getting increasingly honeycombed with fortified redoubts and long-term survival complexes. There is also, in connection with this, a growing understanding of the need to seize the day and actively change human nature by way of genetic engineering in order to strengthen the chances that the post-bottleneck humans will not only be physically tougher and more long lived but also of increased moral stamina; more untouchable than their all-too-human predecessors, in order to prevent recreating the very conditions that have brought us into our present predicament.

If there is any light at the end of the tunnel, this could be it. Like the 18th century philosopher Hegel phrased it: “The Spirit regains full consciousness of itself only in its uttermost state of disunity.”

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