

THE G-7, NATO AND PUTIN. IT WAS ABOUT CHINA.

All declining empires, propelled by their past triumphs, suffer from an over-inflated estimation of their current power and capacities. They end up humiliating, picking too many fights and assembling too many enemies. By the time they seek to correct this hubris, it is too late. USA se la vie.

This is what the above meetings represented. The first was to assemble a rag tag alliance against China, the second was to turn NATO into POTATO (Pacific Taiwanese Treaty Organisation) and the final meeting was to try to wean Russia away from China, or to correct the misstep of having earlier driven Russia into the arms of China. It was the last chance for the US to corner China. Thus in sum, the two weeks saw further preparations for war as the US sought to assemble a coalition of all those who love freedom, uphold rules and are proud of their political transparency. One wonders, if to avoid embarrassment, all the mirrors in Cornwall were covered over by aides in advance of their leader's arrival.

Our dangerous media.

Marx noted that the ruling ideas in society, are those of the ruling class. In its modern setting we can say that the official-fake news (ideas) is that of the ruling class. And whenever this monopoly of the official version of fake news is challenged by the faked fake news mob, the media go parabolic. The ruling class has always shaped the way their societies see the world. The main transmission belt has been their "free" press. You know the ones which are free because they are funded by advertising rather than state subsidies. What a cute deception, as though the state was not the political servant of the advertisers. I suppose star billing must go to the UK's BBC where viewers actually pay the **Bosses Broadcasting Corporation** to lie to them.

On all strategic matters the media line up behind their governments whose policies are intended to serve the national interest. I am always bemused when I turn to a Thesauruses to try and find the closest synonym to "national interest", only to discover that "capitalist interest" is never listed. Right now the dominant national interest in the USA and Britain is the containment of China and the elimination of the threat it poses to their economic hegemony.

The Cold War is well advanced. And the media are in full Cold War mode, with a hint of heat. According to a Pod Cast by Tariq Ali, the Western media's coverage of China is worse than during the cold war. Understandably so because the US never feared the USSR as an economic competitor. Now it sees its economic nemesis in China.

The birth of social media and the subsequent thinning out of reporters working for newspapers and TV has made a bad situation appalling. Those who remain are not the obstinate independent reporters. Rather they are the most sycophantic ones, the ones most likely to do their editors bidding without questioning their directives. This was patently obvious in Switzerland around the Biden and Putin conferences. Like baying hounds trained to respond to key words and without a brain between them they were oblivious to what really happened in the meeting, an attempt by the US to build bridges to Moscow or at least neutralize Moscow in relation to China. And the most hypocritical incident was their attack on Putin over his treatment of Navalny when one of their own is consistently ignored - Julian Assange who is rotting in a British prison.

China is demonized on all fronts. According to Western Media, China has no rules. What they forget to add is these same rules are being demolished in the Western World day by day. In Australia Jury Trial under the pretext of Covid has been abolished, in the USA universal suffrage is being rolled back further and further in Republican states, and in the UK the new Police Bill should be renamed the Chinese Police Bill with British Characteristics. In any case, what the USA is really objecting to is something else, it can no longer, like the British before it, rule the waves and the air. That is the only "rule" making imperialists believe in and seek to preserve.

True China is no Shangri La, but a ruthless capitalist state. Its attempt to homogenize the Uighurs in Xinjiang by imposing its own culture and norms on them, is oppressive and unacceptable, and ultimately will be counterproductive. But it is not genocide. Seems the West has copied the worst of Zionism. Cover your own crimes with brightly blazing words. At least China did not bomb Xinjiang back to the pre-internet age, at least it did not impose a cruel embargo on the country, at least it did not kill ten percent of the population over nearly 30 years as the US has done in Iraq and Afghanistan. At least China does not have Special Forces stationed in three quarters of the countries which make up our world, nor has it used countless drones thousands of times on three continents to kill its enemies at the cost of hundreds upon hundreds of innocent lives.

But it seems the obedient Western Press has starched fingers only capable of pointing in the direction of China. And this is dangerous. A press that reinforces aggressive foreign policy makes that policy more easily realizable. The condition for the success of any major foreign policy initiative is public support, and here the mesmerizing media is indispensable. In the nuclear age this obedience is suicidal.

The shambolic G7.

The US went to Cornwall, known for its beauty but also for its potential isolation from protestors, hoping to garner support for a fierce condemnation of China.

The G7 failed to cohere against China, and it failed the peoples of this world by re-promising promises. It will forever be remembered as the meeting which failed to come up with the 10 billion vaccines needed to end the pandemic globally. Readers may remember that at the start of the pandemic governments pledged to share and combine their efforts to create a vaccine. *"At the same time we will create the appropriate frameworks to strengthen our collective defences against threats to global health by: increasing and coordinating on global manufacturing capacity on all continents;"* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/13/carbis-bay-g7-summit-communicue/> What a far cry that was. Now all we got was aspirations and variants of aspirations each less transmissible. In Cornwall there was no mention of sharing intellectual properties, or of voiding patents in order to maximise vaccine production around the world. Big Pharma could have written the G7's lines. And as we are about to read, the G7 has already spent \$12 trillion on COVID support. 10 billion unpatented vaccines would cost no more than \$100 billion or less than 1% of what has already been spent. \$100 billion to prevent losses in the future that could amount to Trillions once more thanks to new variants. Seems these capitalists can see no further than the rim of their champagne flutes.

Turning to the economy. *"To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, we have provided unprecedented support to citizens and businesses, including to retain jobs and support incomes and keep businesses afloat, totalling over \$12 trillion including fiscal support and liquidity measures."* *"Once the recovery is firmly established, we need to ensure the long-term sustainability of public finances to enable us to*

respond to future crises and address longer-term structural challenges, including for the benefit of future generations.” “We share key priorities including protecting, supporting and creating decent jobs, and investing in quality infrastructure, innovation, training and skills and addressing inequalities.” Finally, “As leaders accountable to all our citizens, we are determined to ensure our plans for recovery build back better for all including by strengthening education and upskilling, and facilitating labour market participation and transitions to ‘level up’ our economies so that no geographic region or person, irrespective of their gender, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic status, is left behind.” The beauty of cut and paste is that you can knit together contradictory statements. So first they boast about the \$12 trillion the G7 spent. Then they talk about the fiscal tightening that will be needed to protect the future generations from this spending. However, this does not stop them setting out priorities which will expand the fiscal deficit by trillions once more, the so called “levelling up”, unless of course they are not serious about this spending. Finally they declare themselves to be accountable to their citizens.

Yes, the same leaders who put their citizens in jeopardy with their lack of preparedness, their health cuts, their promotion of poverty leading to poor health, who sought to profit from the pandemic, are putting themselves at the disposal of their citizens. Disposal is the correct word. If this is the best they can do, then these incompetents should be removed immediately. This is urgent. Not only did they fail the world before the pandemic, but they are repeating the same mistake by not taking pre-emptive global action to vaccinate the world. The definition of incompetence is thinking luck will rescue you.

When it comes to China they are at their hypocritical worst. *We stand united in our commitment to free and fair trade as foundational principles and objectives of the rules-based multilateral system. Securing supply chains.” “With regard to China, and competition in the global economy, we will continue to consult on collective approaches to challenging non-market policies and practices which undermine the fair and transparent operation of the global economy.”* So free and fair trade, means slapping embargoes on China, kicking out their investments, and doing everything possible to hobble China’s technological development. And these mealy-mouthed words were penned by countries like Germany who owe their recent fortunes to Chinese industrial development. It shows how morally corrupt the West really is. And to imply that the world economy was ever fair and transparent before China’s ascent, is to mythologize competition. It’s almost embarrassing to point out that the G7 took almost no action against the unfair competitive practices carried out by Tech companies under the heading, tax dodging. Oh, for the time when capitalism rewarded and honoured scientists and engineers rather than lawyers and accountants.

It is clear, that despite targeting China, the form of words used in the communique was more muted than the US wanted. It appears that the EU does not want to be drawn into the conflict between the US and China. Swapping 20th century roles with the US is in their interest. This time Europe can let China and the USA each bleed the other white, while they wait to swoop on the spoils. The epicentre of a future world war, unlike the first two, will not be in Europe.

When it comes to global warming, all we find are pious words and no global mobilisation. Instead the G7 looks forward *“to the establishment of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures and its recommendations. These initiatives will help mobilise the trillions of dollars of private sector finance needed, and reinforce government policy to meet our net zero commitments.”* Once more the self-interest of capital is lofted high, heralded as the saviour of both humanity’s problems as well the planet’s problems. It is as if the G7 leaders have emerged from a coma suffering amnesia. Who got the world into this lethal predicament, why it was the self-interest of the private sector who made trillions through their

reckless pollution of our planet. Now they want to rehabilitate these culprits and provide redemption. But expecting the private sector to use the trillions they made from trampling over the planet, to undo the damage they originally caused, is the kind of fable found in kid's books. These corporations and banks should suffer an exemplary retrospective environmental tax levied immediately in addition to a wealth tax on the richest members of the global community, not only to fund restorative work but to prevent them flying their jets, piloting their yachts, going into outer space and other wise disproportionately emitting carbon dioxide. But not a word from the G7 leaders on taxing pollution despite them being "accountable to their citizens".

And we should be aware of two more dangers. G7 governments have been bankrupted by the pandemic. The financial losses will make it harder not easier to save the planet. The \$12 trillion or \$20 trillion globally spent on the pandemic, would have gone a long way to greening this planet. Like the failure to have a decisive vaccination plan when it was needed, so too we will eventually find they have no adequate future greening plan. Secondly, vaccination nationalism does not auger well for the future of international co-operation. Every country for itself, despite the knowledge that the pandemic can only be beaten internationally by removing reservoirs of illness. However, rising sea levels like the pandemic, does not respect borders. But just as the dominant countries scrambled for and monopolised vaccine supplies for their own populations, "accountable as they were to their own citizens", so in the future it is unlikely there will be the kind of global mobilisation and co-ordination needed to reverse global warming.

NATO and Putin

China has revealed NATO for what it is, the military projection of foreign policy and not a defensive organisation. Forming one corner of the US defence department it in effect turned the Pentagon into the Polygon. The 20 leaders in Brussels took the opportunity to reaffirm the mission statement of NATO. "NATO is a defensive Alliance and will continue to strive for peace, security, and stability in the whole of the Euro-Atlantic area." So there you have it, defensive in nature and not operating in Asia. <https://nato.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/E73A47868F05B0362540EF23F30FEDED/E81EA59B63B6F5CE8BD4C707EBCCB890>

To date China has not threatened Europe, not even close, unless China's belt and road initiative is really a disguised tank track, an elaborate Ho Ching Min trail. Following the meeting, the top US general declared China did not have the capacity nor the willingness to invade Taiwan. This did not stop the NATO press release which followed the meeting adding China for the first time as a country of concern alongside Russia. "China's growing influence and international policies can present challenges that we need to address together as an Alliance. We will engage China with a view to defending the security interests of the Alliance." And while they were at it, a bit of rewriting of history was in order as well. "For more than twenty-five years, NATO has worked to build a partnership with Russia ... While NATO stands by its international commitments, Russia continues to breach the values, principles, trust," Bad old Russia, nothing about NATO lapping at the borders of Russia in breach of earlier promises together with bad new China for daring to challenge the existing order so carefully crafted by the West in the interest of its citizens!

The bad men of history are trolled out once more, Putin and Xi. Justification for military spending and alliances that have an economic, not a military purpose, the defence of western corporations and banks from rivals. Oh, the machinations of capitalist private property.

The importance of this tedious document, detailing all the threats posed to the alliance, bordering on the paranoid, is that it focuses attention onto China. The missing subscript of this document can be summed up as; contain Russia while diverting military resources against China. From now on the focus of NATO will be the Pacific Rim and not the undulating plains of Eurasia.

And so on to Switzerland where Biden could read the riot act to Putin and give him a public dressing down. One may wonder why Putin agreed to this. Or was it the case that Putin was smart enough to know that Biden came bearing hidden gifts. Concessions to wean Russia away from China.

Concessions that Putin could use to extract more from his unequal relationship with Xi. It is unlikely that Russia will realign itself with the West. Putin would be a fool to do that. Why tie oneself to a declining power when you have leverage with the rising power. No, both Putin and Xi would like to see the US squeezed out of Eurasia and the Pacific. This will enable bridge building with the EU and closer economic co-operation with China. Russia's vast energy and agricultural resources make a good fit with its neighbours, China and Europe. The US has little to offer. One big step towards squeezing out the US is to stop denominating trade between the two countries in dollars, a process well under way.

Conclusion.

Biden's trip to Europe provided little that benefitted humanity and much which threatens it. It was more about bullets than vaccines. It shows that even in the middle of one of the biggest crises any society has suffered, the G7 were a-counting profits rather than being accountable to their citizens and the planet on which they live. The G7 on show, revealed that capitalism has nothing to offer the world despite the professional script writers doing their best to disguise this.

Brian Green, 18th June 2021.