

Megalomaniac Aspirations to Revive Empire Days Should Be Obstructed Early

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Survival is a key factor in evolution of individuals and species. Based on his developed brain, cognitive abilities, advanced technology as well as educational, health, and creational skills, *Homo sapiens* is considered the top developed species in the animal kingdom. Thus, it is expected that the leading species would do everything possible to secure its survival and abolish threats on its existence (refs. 1-6). However, and quite amazing, humanity has driven itself lately to a dangerous corner, enabling irrational people lead and jeopardize its future (ref. 7).

PUTATIVE MOTIVES UNDERLYING MEGALOMANIAC ASPIRATIONS

At the end of WWII, humanity was practically divided between East and West (e.g., Communism vs Capitalism; Warsaw pact vs NATO; Russia vs USA). This division had developed into a 'cold war' between the two blocks, that despite a short reassess during the leadership of Russia by Mikhail Gorbachev, renewed even more vigorously soon after. Clearly, such a dangerous political situation depended on the leaders of both blocks, with most blame falling on the stagnated politicians of the Russian Politburo (refs. 7, 8), particularly the leading figure, Vladimir Putin, whose aspirations rested most likely on (1) memories of the great days of the Russian empire; (2) the very large territory of Russia, a deterring factor to any conquest enthusiasm; (3) Russia's submissive residents that are unable to resist; and (4) frightening of the rest of the world about a possible nuclear retaliation in case of intervention.

Except for the Russians, two other regimes have shown in recent years megalomaniac aspirations to resume their empire days. One is the Iranian regime led by the Ayatollahs with Ali Khamenei, a murderous dictator serving as the leader (ref. 9). Without a serious reason for his aggression against the Persian-Gulf principalities, and to repress the public criticism on his corrupted regime and incompetent economic lead, Khamenei redirected the opposing public critique toward Israel (serving as a 'scapegoat') by raising ridiculous claims that the holy Al Aqsa mosk in Jerusalem is endangered. To substantiate his offensive, he further claimed his support in the Palestinian fight against Israel and in their aspiration to throw all Jews out of the holy land. Notably, both his claims lack any real basis, since the Al Aqsa mosk is well protected, like all holy monuments in Israel, by the police and IDF; is maintained by the Jordanian Wakf religious organization; and is available for Muslims' prayers. In parallel, the support in the Palestinian claims is based on a fake demand of ownership. Israel (previously named Judea) has clearly existed as home of the Jews thousands of years prior to the rise of Islam or the infiltration of Bedouins from the south and refugees from Arabic countries (the origin of the current Palestinians) to the vacuum in Israel resulting from the Jewish exile by the Romans. In

addition, the affiliation of the Jews to their Israeli homeland since the days of Abraham was recognized even in Sura 5 verse 21 of the Qur'an, and approved by the United Nations in 1947 (refs. 10, 11). Interestingly, it was Cyrus the Great (of the Achaemenid dynasty), the establisher of the Persian empire in 550 B.C., who enabled the return of the Jews to their homeland from their first exile in Babylon. At their height, the Persians controlled a vast territory (large portions of Mesopotamia, the Levant, Cyprus, Central Asia, part of Northern Arabia and Libya, that nowadays would include Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Turkey, the Balkan Peninsula, parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan, extending as far as the Indus river valley), and allowed considerable freedom in the conquered territories. The Persian empire existed only 200 years, when defeated by Alexander the Great from Macedonia.

An additional international problem that has recently intensified is that of Turkey. Their president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Arduan), a fanatic Muslim with an obsessive desire to obliterate the Kurds, an ethnic population settling on the junctions between Turkey and North Syria and between Syria and Iraq (constituting the ancient Kurdistan). The Turkish aspiration to eradicate the Kurds resembles in a way the cruel deportation and mass killing of the Armenians (the Armenian Genocide) by the Ottoman empire (led by Turkey) during 1915-1916, and human rights violation of stateless Roma/Gypsy people. In parallel, Arduan is very aggressive toward Israel with purported religious claims that resemble those of Khamenei (ref. 12). Like in the case of Iran, Israel has become a target for hatred as a way to suppress the public awareness to Arduans' failures in the economic administration of Turkey, in attempts to become a member in the European community, and in his religious initiative to enforce the Sharia rules over Turkey as commenced by the Taliban in Afghanistan. His problematic leadership is particularly distressing after many years of freedom and liberal way of life ever since the reformations by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923. Both Iranian and Turkish leaders wish to exploit the messy political international situation and broaden their territorial control over neighboring countries. These aspirations based on a blown-up ego, fanatic religious excuses and memories of the great days of the Persian and Ottoman empires seem like ideas of twisted minds of old leaders nearing the end of their career, but eager to leave a historical impact (ref. 7). Despite their disappointing leadership, both leaders are protected from dismissal using an iron fist. Khamenei is protected by three layers of security: The Revolutionary Guard Corps; the regular Iranian army; and the Basij Militia (a military reserve) also responsible for law enforcement and religious policing. Arduan is secured in Turkey by the army and police following a massive purging of prominent political, military, academic, and intellectual figures, as well as leading members of the justice and court systems. In comparison to Persia, the great days of Turkey began much later, approximately at 1300 CE, with the rise of the Ottoman empire that controlled at its height a vast territory spanning regions of Southeastern Europe (presently Turkey, parts of Greece, the Balkans, Hungary, parts of Ukraine), the Middle East (Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and most of the Arabian Peninsula), as well as North Africa (as far as Algeria) for more than 600 years until defeated at the end of WWI (1918 CE) by the British empire.

Despite the illogical aspirations of Khamenei and Arduan, the main risks to humanity are presently provoked by the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin and his Politburo supporters (e.g., Sergei Lavrov), threatening to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and its Western supporters. Undoubtedly, scientifically ignorant leaders ready to sacrifice their people (more

than half a million Russian soldiers have died in the invasion of Ukraine) and risk humanity, in order to fulfil their political and economic aspirations, must be removed from chair before it is too late. Importantly, the colonial aspirations of the Russian regime and their desire to revive the empire days (clearly written on the T-shirt of Sergey Lavrov in the Trump-Putin recent meeting) may not be limited to the war against Ukraine, as it might just be the initial step in a larger colonial plan. Besides a problematic ego, desire of power, and scientific ignorance, the political benefits for Khamenei and Arduan derived from their military offensives are questionable. Each of them rules a very large country with considerable resources and thus the main reasoning for their aspirations are either silly religious excuses and cover-up of their political and economic failures, while almost neglecting the risks to humanity. The Russian offensive, clearly contradicts Gorbachev's intentions and dissolution of the Soviet Union into numerous countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Estonia, and Ukraine). In parallel to the end of colonial occupations by Western European countries (Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, The Netherlands) at the Middle-East, Far-East and Africa), Gorbachev's endeavor created a new stable world order that better be maintained. Although, religious or ethnic intolerance leading to military confrontations between fanatic populations may always breakup (e.g., India vs Pakistan; Israel vs neighboring Arabic countries; Armenia vs Azerbaijan; China vs Taiwan), humanity should find a way to abolish such military clashes and minimize the superfluous risks.

CURRENT 'HOT SPOTS' THAT MAY ENFLAME A WORLD WAR

Rather than striving toward a safer world united in a mission to avoid global risks and extinction, the political situation has actually deteriorated as indicated by the aggressive declarations of a number of inconsiderate leaders. The utmost example of such insane leadership was that of Hitler and the Germans during WWII with aspirations of conquering the world, and obliteration of entire populations. As we may learn from the human history, the rise and fall of empires, territorial conquests and other megalomaniac aspirations have always been temporary. In fact, all empires finally collapsed with the rise of a new superpower that took over and changed the world order. Amazingly, mankind had not learnt the lesson and global trend that endangers the world still continues. It seems however, that none of the current risky leader aspirations are justified considering the enormous dangers to humanity.

Russia's Offensive Against Ukraine

Despite the fact that Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, and Kiev was considered part of the 'Russian heart' (Kievan Russ was the previous name of the Russian empire), things changed after WWII, particularly following Gorbachev's resignation from presidency at the end of 1991 (after completion of his Perestroika and Glasnost reforms), and the vote of the Soviet parliament to dissolve the union. This historic vote satisfied the objectives of various republics seeking independence, liberalism, developing economy, and build-up of international connections with the West. Although Ukraine did not endanger 'Big Russia', the Politburo and Putin could not tolerate the decline in Russia's international status, and while seeking the great days of the empire (refs. 8, 13), attacked Ukraine, previously considered the 'Grain Barn' of the Soviet Union, and rich in minerals (e.g., coal, Gas, iron, still, manganese, titanium, lithium, copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel, cobalt, uranium) important in various industries. As Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal, Putin assumed an easy conquest on his way to restore the Soviet empire. However, the Ukraine people have shown intense resistance and so despite the

enormous number of casualties, the war still continues (more than two years). This war endangers the entire world due to Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and its supporters (US and Europe). It seems that this risk would diminish only by Putin's removal from chair, and probably further division of Russia to several countries according to the ethnicity of its mixed populations. Undoubtedly, such an approach would require military defeat of Russia by the West (ref. 13).

Iran's Aspirations in the Middle East and Aggression Toward Israel

The only rational in the Iranian offensive against neighboring countries could probably be their rich oil treasures. Yet, Iran itself is rich in oil and so the hidden Iranian objective is probably to control more of the world oil reserves and its price. Moreover, the Iranian offensive against Israel is based on a ridiculous religious excuse as well as standing by the Palestinians in their fake demands over Israel (refs. 10, 11). Notably, prior to the Ayatollah's regime, Iran benefited (economically and militarily) from very good relations with Israel, and therefore, the aggression of the Ayatollahs intended to redirect the public attention from their corrupted regime and deteriorated economy, a trick used by Arabic leaders for many years (e.g., Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt, Hafez Al-Assad in Syria; Abdullah I in Jordan; Saddam Hussein in Iraq). The obsessive Iranian drive to develop military nuclear abilities endangers the world and led to the recent attempt of Israel and the US to destroy the nuclear plants.

Turkey's Aggression Against the Kurds and Now Against Israel

Turkey is a very large country bridging Europe with Asia, and with high developing potential. Indeed, besides being a member in NATO, Turkey's industry (e.g., electrical appliances, cars) and agricultural products are quite active, and could potentially raise the Turkish economy, life standards, and European status if handled by decent leadership. Yet, the Turkish political situation had actually deteriorated due mostly to the religious initiative of Arduan and his obsessive decision to obliterate the Kurds and destroy Israel. In fact, his obsession against the Kurds lost recently its basis with the disintegration of the PKK (Kurds' underground organization fighting for independence and return to the Kurdistan homeland). The continuous attempts to obliterate the Kurds, exposed Arduan's hidden aim to increase Turkey's influence in the Middle East by territorial expansion into Syria. In regard to the obsession toward Israel, Arduan's reasoning is similar to that of Khamenei, namely, preserve his leadership and remove the public attention from his rotten regime and economic decline (refs. 7, 12). A putative resolution to this problem requires his removal from chair and return to the liberal days established long ago by Atatürk.

The Danger Provoked by North-Korea

The Kim family took control over North-Korea in 1948. Kim Il-sung was the founder and when he died in 1994, he was succeeded by his cruel son, Kim Jong-il, until 2011, when replaced by Kim Jong-un. Not only that the Kim dynasty has established a suppressive dictatorship, they have developed nuclear abilities and close relations with China, to deter any international interruption. Despite the poor economy and life standards, North Korea supports military endeavors of evil regimes like that of Iran or Russia, contributing to the risk of a world war by threatening the West and South Korea with their nuclear abilities. It seems that the dangers provoked by North Korea would decline only upon a military defeat and unification with South-Korea, that may also minimize the evil Chinese influence.

The Chinese Aggression

China has reached a superpower position due most likely to its enormous development in world economy and industry, population of approximately a billion and a half citizens, cheap manpower, and military development including advanced space research and technology (ref. 14). Although the Chinese colonial aspirations were limited thus far to Tibet and Hongkong, they have recently intensified their pressure toward Taiwan, that is supported by the United States. Should they attempt to conquer Taiwan, a clash between the two superpowers might easily enflame a world war.

The Continuous Israeli-Arabic Conflict

Upon the re-establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, the Arab countries did not accept the UN decision and with the aim to destroy the reviving state, seven Arabic countries invaded Israel. Fortunately, the fresh Israeli citizens withstood all Arabic aggressive attempts, but paid a high life toll. Lately, with Muslims spread all over the world and encouraged by the October Seven massacre of Israelis by Hamas terrorists, the pressure of the Arabs on Israel increased worldwide demanding the Israeli homeland for the Palestinians, a totally fake demand (refs. 10, 11). Two years passed and a war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, still continues and fifty kidnapped individuals (live and dead) are still held in underground tunnels by Hamas. Iran exploited the chaotic situation to attack Israel shooting hundreds of missiles, that fortunately were intercepted. In response, Israel and the US retaliated and destroyed several nuclear plants in Iran as well as exterminated several high Iranian officials. Now, as Iran seeks revenge, while continuing its nuclear plan, the risk of a regional escalation that may expand to a world war between East and West, has increased.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

The inability of humanity to restrict megalomaniac aspirations of inconsiderate, often ignorant, leaders raises a red sign, actually a serious warning about the forthcoming future of mankind. The intolerance between populations, widespread religious superstitions (refs. 15, 16), racism, bloody competition over resources, and industrialized ruin of our planet have intensified in recent years, and was accompanied by obliteration of millions of human, animal and plant lives. Amazingly, rather than invest major efforts in restoration of the damages to Nature, that is crucial for maintenance of life on Earth (refs. 1, 6, 17), the self-destructive initiatives just intensify. Evidently, there is a wide gap between technological destructive means developed by humanity and the cognitive perception of crucial requirements to preserve life on Earth. The inability of humanity to unite and cooperate on this matter, as well as the lack of means enabling intergalactic voyages and difficulties in identifying another life-supporting planet (for evacuation of humanity in case of need; (ref. 18) increase the probability of our extinction, and so a peaceful utopic world dominated by *Homo sapiens* would most likely remain an unfulfilled dream. The measures required to postpone the forthcoming evil future require, among a number of issues, the removal of megalomaniac leaders from chair, disillusionment from religious superstitions, while relying on science as the basis of development rather than to pray/grovel to an alleged God (refs. 15, 16).

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