

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH IS TRAGEDY

Peace through Justice is the only way

Neville Chamberlain was the first to use the phrase 'Peace through Strength' in 1936. The idea behind it (in different phraseology) was first expressed in Roman times and in 1980 Ronald Reagan also used the phrase. Now Trump is using it: 'Peace through Strength'.

Well now, Chamberlain was not so successful, was he? But Reagan, you have to give it to him, did succeed. That gives hope.

However, what Trump is doing now, does not at all give hope. First off, I am still puzzled how it was even possible that the American people voted him into office? Every-body in the world knows and has seen on live-TV, that he really did try to steal the 2020 election. But here we are. He is there. America's first clear Coup-President.

This brings me to the next point. Despite the unsettling election of Donald Trump, I still do believe in liberal democracy. Not because it is perfect, but because it is better than all the other systems that have been tried. But what bothers me daily is, that I as a citizen of Bonaire, who could not vote, now do have to accept the consequences of the American people's mistake to elect Trump. I am forced now to watch what is going on at near visual distance in the Caribbean Sea, such as extrajudicial killings of alleged narco-traffickers and uncertain tensions with Venezuela.

Put differently, while the US more or less dictates what happens in our hemisphere, the great majority of this hemisphere's citizens have no say whatsoever in this. We can only watch, see and hope. Maybe all will turn out well. Maybe not. The citizens of this hemisphere are completely disenfranchised. But we are all directly affected.

What kind of democracy is that?

First conclusion: There can only be real democracy in the world, if all World-citizens can vote in the United States of the World elections. Wars will not end until there is some form of democratic World-government.

Now, how can we get there? Well, the disturbing but true answer is, that we first need a number of senseless wars.

Mind you, I don't like these wars. I do not propagate them. If I could, I would prevent or stop them. But when we look at history, there is a pattern. It was always after great systemic wars that the world made serious strides forward towards more just and peaceful circumstances.

Consider. During the 16th and 17th centuries there arose in Europe a new and strong morally driven reformative movement, which caused all kinds of religious and terri-torial wars which ended with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. In this Treaty new principles of state sovereignty, religious tolerance and a new balance of power were established.

At the end of the 18th century, the systemic wars known as the French and American



Revolutions caused tremendous havoc and loss of life. But it also produced the seed ideas of democracy with the rule of law, free and fair elections, separation of state powers, human rights, the abolition of slavery, the eradication of the nobility's privileges, as well as an independent and impartial judiciary.

Truly, a tremendous step forward towards justice and peace in the world.

Then followed the First systemic World War in 1914, which produced the League of Nations, the first attempt to assemble all the world's nations into a coherent global justice and peace promoting structure.

Then there was the second systemic World War. This produced the United Nations and the end of colonialism. An attempt was made also to guarantee

peace and security worldwide by the establishment of the UN Security Council, the main goal of which is to maintain international peace and security, acting as the UN's most powerful body that can issue binding resolutions, authorize peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, and even use military force to stop aggression or conflict.

However, this UN Security Council has a number of deadly shortcomings. This is due to the fact that it was the only compromise that could be reached in 1945.

At the time it was not possible to set it up properly. Its most serious flaw is that it does not have its own independent, impartial and credible UN Military Police Force to keep nations in line when they clearly violate international law, human rights or wage unjust wars. On top of that, five nations got veto-rights. They can block any UN-resolution they want. And they often do.

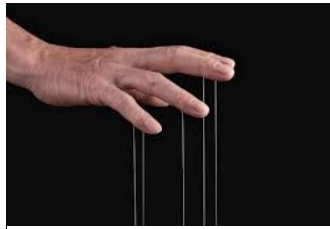
That is why the 'big five' can act with impunity internationally. They can wage wars, disregard human rights and annex whatever territories they want. Like Russia recently did in Chechnya, Georgia and now in Ukraine. And like the US did in Panama, Libya and is now threatening to do in Venezuela. And like China has been quietly doing for years now in the South China Sea.

No doubt France and Britain have also done similar things, but I can't remember any clear examples. At any rate, these two are not so important anymore. Their power has waned. In practical terms there are now just three inter-national legally veto-righted bullies left: US, Russia and China.

Is it not crystal clear that we need UN-Reform?

But it will be equally crystal clear that these bullies will not give up their bully-right easily. Something has to happen to make them realize that the world cannot go on this way.

That is where the required 'systemic war mechanism' kicks in. Again, I stress, I don't like this. I just report what I see. Not what I would like to see.



An Invisible Hand
pulling the strings ...

Now, where does this 'systemic war mechanism' come from? Who triggers it? Who or what monitors and restrains it, so that it cannot go too far and blow up the whole world in a huge blitz of atomic bomb explosions?

Who or what is behind all this?

I cannot answer this question, even if I knew the answer. But we can make a thought-experiment. Supposing there was an infinite all-knowing Intelligence that triggers and steers this mechanism. Now, if such an intelligence does exist, how would it operate this mechanism?

Well, maybe it could be done in the following manner.

First, it allows bully Russia to make the cruel mistake to invade Ukraine. Then after 4 years of intense fighting and 1.2 million casualties, Russia realizes that it has burnt its hands. Yes, they had some tiny bit of 'success', but Ukraine did burn their ass badly. So, with a face-saving solution Russia will soon be induced to stop and to retire quietly to lick its wounds, hoping that nobody will notice.

Then, secondly, the Intelligence behind the 'systemic war mechanism' allows the US to invade Venezuela. And what happens? The US also gets bogged down in a war of attrition, which they had no idea would be so hard. After a year or two, Russia mediates and explains to Trump that burning your ass hurts. Well, he had to find out the hard way ...

So, Trump pulls out and also licks his wounds. He doesn't show it. He loudly claims: 'It was a Perfect War. There has never been such a Big Beautiful War ever'. But behind the scenes, Pete Hegseth quietly takes off the 'Department of War' plaque that he had so proudly screwed on to the Pentagon's walls on November 13th, 2025. It was properly re-named 'Department of Defense' again.

The US has also come to its senses.

But while Trump was busy getting bogged down in Venezuela, China thought: ‘Now is my chance. Russia won’t object and the US is too busy in Venezuela. Let’s solve the Taiwan-problem’.

That’s when China attacks Taiwan ferociously. But just like the Ukrainians, the Taiwanese fight back hard. And Japan helps them. And after a hot war with enormous casualties on both sides, China gives in to pressure and stops. And rightly so. For although China has never abandoned its legal claims to Taiwan, how can anyone seriously maintain that it is right and just to invade a territory that has already been a de facto independent country for 80 odd years? And then try to force it with military power to ‘re-unite’ with the mainland?

This clearly is unjust. It is grotesque even.

So, after burning its fingers, China, too, learns its lesson, namely that it is better to act justly than to cling to mere paper ‘rights’.



United Nations SECURITY COUNCIL Chamber
Peace through Justice

Then it will be time for Justice and UN-Reform. All veto-rights must be scrapped and the new UN Security Council must be equipped with its own credible Military Police Force to enable it to solve serious problems wherever they might occur on the planet. The nations of the world should all disarm and instead contribute soldiers to this inter-national Military Police Force, which may only be deployed on

the basis of a truly democratically adopted UN Security Council resolution to solve serious problems such as the one in Venezuela now, where an illegitimate president unjustly holds power, whereas about 8 million people have fled the country.

In short, 'Peace through Strength' is bullshit. What the world needs now is 'Peace through Justice'. It is the only way forward.

To end on a funny note, consider this. The first two letters of the words 'peace' and 'strength' are 'pe' and 'st'. 'PEST', in other words. Destructive and unclean insects. However, the first two letters of 'Peace' and 'Justice' are 'pe' and 'ju'. 'PEJU', in other words. In Indonesian 'peju' means 'sperm'. Well, at least it is creative ...

The world needs creative solutions now.

Bonaire, 27 December 2025

Michiel Bijkerk