

Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira

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US Hegemony, Proxy Wars, Terrorism  
and Humanitarian Catastrophes

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and Humanitarian Catastrophes

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*“In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended; its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force, of the people. The same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manners and of morals engendered by both. No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.”*

—James Madison, 4th president of the United States (1809–1817)<sup>1</sup>

*“Militarism, a common feature of breakdown and disintegration, is frequently effective in increasing a society’s command both over other the living societies and over the inanimate forces of nature.”*

—Arnold J. Toynbee.<sup>2</sup>

*“War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.”*

—General Smedley Darlington Butler.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>MADISON, James. “Political Observations”, April 20, 1795. In: \_\_\_\_\_. *Letters and Other Writings of James Madison*. vol. 4. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1865, p. 491.

<sup>2</sup>TOYNBEE, Arnold J. *A Study of History*. Abridgement of vols. I–VI. London/New York/Toronto: Geoffrey Cumberlege/Oxford University Press, 1951, p. 364.

<sup>3</sup>BUTLER, General Smedley Darlington. *War Is a Racket*. Dragon Nikolic (Editor), 2012, p. 1.

*To His Highness,  
Dom Duarte, Duke of Braganza,  
Head of the Royal House of Portugal,  
my friend.*

*And, as always, to Margot, my adored wife,  
whose care still keeps me on this earth,  
and Egas, our son, our pride.*

# Foreword: Erosion of US Democracy and International Disorder

The great disorder Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira writes about in this book is the disorder of international relations and the internal confusion in which the United States is immersed. It is the disorder mainly in Eastern Europe, particularly in Ukraine, and in the Middle East. Its main cause is the United States itself and the decay of democracy in that country. This superpower continues to export democracy to the rest of the world, however, even if this has to be done through war, while at the same time its own democracy, which after the Second World War was the most advanced in the world, declines internally.

And this notable historian of modernity tells us that democracy has indeed started to erode in the United States. No longer does it ensure the fundamental rights of individuals, arbitrarily detaining, torturing, or simply assassinating them if they are considered terrorists or enemies. The rationale for this is the “war on terror”; the real reasons are the great power’s determination to occupy the domestic market of other countries with its financing and direct investments and its reluctance in accepting the emergence of other powers that are not under its sphere of influence.

But Moniz Bandeira does not remain on the theoretical plane. On the contrary, he dives into practice quoting document after document and interview after interview, which he gathered to write *The Global Disorder*. For him, what happened in the United States was a process of “*mutazione dello Stato*” from democracy to oligarchy, the dictatorship of financial capital. This is linked to the increasing domestic inequality since the 1980s and the increasing competition from developing countries to become exporters of manufactured goods and services, particularly China and India. Instead of accepting a multipolar world, in which the United States would be the main actor for a long time, they adopted policies that make the world more insecure and chaotic.

São Paulo, Brazil  
March 2016

Luiz Carlos Bresser-Pereira

# Foreword: Learning from Contemporary History

Professor Moniz Bandeira has produced yet another great work. In his academic humility, he has asked me to write its foreword, which is understandable. I am part of its chain of thought and methodology.

The method is the heart of the matter, which in my view will necessarily include:

1. Having an in-depth knowledge of the relevant history
2. Learning the structuring and permanent lessons from it
3. Looking for the economic root of all causes
4. Developing the theory of imperialism, of dependence, and of war
5. Understanding pure geopolitics and the “geopolitics of interests”
6. Practicing the analysis of the contradictory
7. Being free, thinking freely, whatever the cost, wanting to go further.

This work goes looking for the roots of the contemporary global disorder. To a certain extent, it is a genealogical study, since the discovery of the causes of the unbalance follows a process equivalent to genetic decoding. The characteristics are not lost in the causality; they remain in the DNA of the effects. The brilliant and irreverent idea of unearthing American “fascism” through this method produces effects that would have been unthinkable. Neutral interests don’t exist, nor have they ever existed. And for interests moving billions of dollars, this is even more evident. The transnational capitalist dialectic has created not only NATO, but the Cold War. For what? It is laid out in this admirable work. What repercussions did these macro-processes have for individuals and social classes. This is also explained. How was the plutocracy structured based on this, domestically speaking, but especially in the international context? You’ll need to read what is written. This system is a system of circular causality, self-sustaining, continuous, and overwhelming. It led to the crisis of 2007/2008, which many had foreseen. And how did the “fascist” American DNA survive after September 11? What happened with the invasion of Iraq? And what about Guantanamo? How did the fascism-enabling facts defeat the safeguards and liberal ideals of the “founding fathers”?

In the dialectic logic, we need to understand the contradictory, i.e., the antitheses, or the threats to this system, hence the inevitability of the concerted reference to

Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China, faced with the expansion of NATO and the new shape of Western imperialism. This is why the debacles of the USSR, Ukraine, Georgia, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Africa are connected.

One of the points I stress mostly arises from the American ignorance regarding its opponents. This historic and repeated inability to understand others (friend and foe) anthropologically and sociologically was and remains one of the main Achilles' heels of the West in general and of the United States in particular. This inability leads it to make successive mistakes, for which the solution is to throw money (uselessly) at the problems it has created. Today, it calls on the private sector to pay for the war off the books and outside congress' control. The diplomats are the politicians underwriting agreements that are barely met.

The return to history, in the final parts of the book, makes all sense in this method. The method proposes the eternal return to critical history, geopolitics, and political theory. The difficulty lies in really doing this. Something professor Moniz Bandeira does masterfully.

This book represents another milestone in the explanation of the evil that is befalling us. And it creates the roots to see what awaits us.

I would like to thank my friend Moniz Bandeira for this sublime lesson, as well as for the lessons of resistance, of freedom, of strength, of struggle, of gallantry, nobility of spirit, of resistance against everything and everyone, "ça ira."

I want to congratulate Brazil for the work of this immortal scholar. Blessed is the nation with such a child.

Lisbon, Portugal  
February 2016

António C. A. de Sousa Lara

## Preface

*The World Disorder* is an offshoot of my other works *The Second Cold War* and *Formation of the American Empire*. Together they make up a *corpus*. I've always understood that political science, economics, and history intersect, one depending on the other, reciprocally influencing and blending with each other.

Since I've worked for the press when I was young and taught political communication as political scientist at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, I took it upon myself to confront and carefully cross-check the most diverse information, assessing the plausibility of events and scraping off the ideological varnish so often covering the news so as to manage and manipulate popular perceptions. This is why I applied the strictest rigor in the research for this work, just as in my other works, verifying all details of events in the press of the most diverse countries, reading statements and speeches from statesmen and official documents from several governmental and/or international bodies, sanding off the ideological manipulation, the false conscience (*falsches Bewusstsein*),<sup>4</sup> and taking, as Thucydides taught (Athens, 460 B.C.-Thrace, 398 B.C.?), that which is most clear, real, and truthful, stripped of its mythological dress.<sup>5</sup>

In the development of this work, I have obviously relied on the collaboration of many people, some of whom have asked me not to mention their names for safety reasons. Nevertheless, I must thank my friends, His Royal Highness Dom Duarte, Duke of Bragança; the ambassadors Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães, Frederico Meyer, and Cesário Melantonio; and the professors António de Sousa Lara, of the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSP) at the University of Lisbon, Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias, of the Department of African Studies and Anthropology at the University of Birmingham, Michael Löwy, of the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques (CNRS) in Paris, Tulio Vigevani, Professor Emeritus at the Universidade Estadual Paulista, Alberto Justo Sosa, founder and member of the

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<sup>4</sup>Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, 1981, pp. 26–27 and 40.

<sup>5</sup>Thucydides, 1952, pp. 104–195.

Comisión Directiva de AMERSUR ONG in Buenos Aires, Theotônio dos Santos, Coordinator of the Unesco Chair and Network—Universidad de las Naciones Unidas—on the global economy, Rio de Janeiro, and Gilberto Calcagnotto, sociologist, former researcher at GIGA—Institut für Lateinamerika-Studien, in Hamburg, and my right-hand man in Germany.

Their generous collaboration—information, suggestions, proofreading of texts, etc.—doesn't imply their absolute agreement or an acceptance of my comments and conclusions. For those, I alone am responsible.

## **Acknowledgement**

Author “Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira” died on November 10, 2017 in the age of 81 years after a long chronic illness. M. A. Gilberto Calcagnotto is the corresponding trustee and he can be reached in [calcagnottogilb@aol.com](mailto:calcagnottogilb@aol.com).

St. Leon-Rot, Germany  
February 2016

Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction: The United States, the Middle East, Syria, and Ukraine—A Dialectical Approach on Recent History . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The US Republic and Its Transformation into an Oligarchic Tyranny . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1	Nazi-Fascism and the Phenomenon of <i>Mutazione dello Stato</i> . . . . .	11
2.2	The Wall Street Plot Against Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Administration in 1933 . . . . .	12
2.3	The Accusation of General Smedley D. Butler and the McCormack-Dickstein Committee . . . . .	12
2.4	Big Business: The Prescott Bush Family and the Transfer of Resources to Hitler . . . . .	15
<b>3</b>	<b>The Military-Industrial Complex in the West and the Opposing Power Sphere in the East . . . . .</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1	Spheres of Influences After the Second World War: Free World Versus Iron Curtain . . . . .	21
3.2	NATO’s “To Keep the Americans In, the Russians Out and the Germans Down” . . . . .	22
3.3	McCarthyism and the Denunciation of the Military-Industrial Complex by Eisenhower . . . . .	24
3.4	Military Democracy and the Growth of Social Inequality in the United States . . . . .	25
<b>4</b>	<b>9/11 and the Accelerated Mutation of the American Republic . . . . .</b>	<b>35</b>
4.1	September 11: The Decay of Democracy and <i>Mutazione dello Stato</i> in the United States . . . . .	35
4.2	The War on Terror, the Patriot Act, and the Military Commission Act . . . . .	38
4.3	The Implementation of “White Fascism,” Without Black or Brown Shirts . . . . .	40

- 4.4 Torture: The Concentration Camp in Guantánamo and the Secret CIA Prisons (Black Sites) in Eastern Europe . . . . . 41
- 5 An Astonishing Continuity: From George W. Bush to Barack Obama . . . . . 47**
  - 5.1 Support for Right-Wing Catholic and Evangelical Organizations . . . . . 47
  - 5.2 Racism and Police Repression in the United States . . . . . 48
  - 5.3 The Weakening of George W. Bush’s Administration . . . . . 50
  - 5.4 Banks Electing Presidents in the United States . . . . . 51
  - 5.5 The “Perpetual Wartime Footing” of the Nobel Peace Prize Winner . . . . . 52
  - 5.6 The War on Terror as Overseas Contingency Operations . . . . . 53
  - 5.7 Selective Assassinations Through Drones . . . . . 54
- 6 A New US Strategy to Confront China’s and Russia’s Growing Military Power . . . . . 61**
  - 6.1 Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China as the Major Threats to the United States . . . . . 61
  - 6.2 The Catastrophic Consequences of a Nuclear Conflict . . . . . 63
  - 6.3 Russia’s Nuclear Might . . . . . 64
  - 6.4 NATO’s Expansion to Russia’s Borders . . . . . 69
  - 6.5 The Warning of George Kennan and Others Against the Expansion . . . . . 71
  - 6.6 George HW Bush’s Broken Promise to Mikhail S. Gorbachev During Germany’s Reunification . . . . . 75
- 7 From Soviet Union to Russian Oligarchic Power System and to Putin . . . . . 77**
  - 7.1 NATO’s Different Purposes, the Soviet Union’s Collapse, and the United States as Global Cop . . . . . 77
  - 7.2 Boris Yeltsin’s Russia: Privatization, Corruption, and International Buccaneer Capitalism . . . . . 78
  - 7.3 The Emergence of the Oligarchs as New Bourgeoisie . . . . . 79
  - 7.4 Confirmation of Trotsky’s Prediction . . . . . 82
  - 7.5 The Rise of Vladimir Putin and Russia’s Recovery . . . . . 83
- 8 The US/NATO Push Toward the East After the Collapse of the Soviet Union . . . . . 89**
  - 8.1 The Debacle of the Soviet Union, the “Greatest Geopolitical Catastrophe of the Twentieth Century” . . . . . 89
  - 8.2 US Dominance Through NATO and the Privilege of Printing Dollars as Reserve Currency . . . . . 89
  - 8.3 Minister Sergei Lavrov’s Warning on Ukraine, the Georgia Question and Russia’s Intervention in Defense of South Ossetia . . . . . 92

- 8.4 Killings, Chaos, and Humanitarian Disasters Persist in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Africa . . . . . 94
- 9 The Real Reasons of Washington’s Intervention in Libya . . . . . 99**
  - 9.1 Washington’s Ignorance About the Countries It Wanted to Invade . . . . . 99
  - 9.2 The Disintegration of the State in Libya and the Spread of Terrorism with Weapons Supplied by NATO . . . . . 101
  - 9.3 Banks Profit with the Funds Confiscated from Gaddafi . . . . . 103
  - 9.4 The Death of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens in Benghazi and Pentagon Support to Jihadists (Terrorists) in Syria . . . . . 104
  - 9.5 The Humanitarian Tragedy of the Refugees . . . . . 108
- 10 Geopolitical Lessons Learnt and Not Learnt: The Case of Syria . . . 113**
  - 10.1 The Plans for Intervention in Syria . . . . . 113
  - 10.2 Foreign Jihadists in the War Against Bashar al-Assad . . . . . 119
  - 10.3 Joe Biden’s Accusation: Turkey and the Gulf Countries Supporting the Islamic State . . . . . 121
  - 10.4 Prince Bandar al Sultan’s Mission in Moscow and President Vladimir Putin’s No . . . . . 122
  - 10.5 Gas Attack in Ghouta as Pretext for Intervention in Syria . . . . . 124
- 11 Chemical Weapons Attack in Ghouta as a Pretext for US Intervention . . . . . 127**
  - 11.1 Corporate Media, the News Produced by NGOs, and the Farce of the Chemical Weapons in Ghouta . . . . . 127
  - 11.2 Obama’s “Red Line” and the “Rat Line” to Introduce Weapons and Ammunition from Libya in Syria . . . . . 130
  - 11.3 The Training of Jihadists by Blackwater, the CIA, and Navy Seals . . . . . 131
  - 11.4 Putin’s Diplomatic Victories in Syria and Ukraine . . . . . 133
- 12 A New Piece in the Geopolitical Game: The Invention of Ukraine . . . . . 137**
  - 12.1 The Kievan Rus’: Varangian (Viking) Conquest Along the Dnieper River and Mixing with the East Slavs . . . . . 137
  - 12.2 Decomposition into Principalities . . . . . 138
  - 12.3 Ivan the Terrible and the Foundation of Rossiyskaya Imperiya . . . . . 139
  - 12.4 Mikhail F. Romanov as Tsar of All Russia and the Creation of the Imperial Black Sea Fleet by Peter the Great . . . . . 139
  - 12.5 The Story of Ivan Mazeppa . . . . . 140
  - 12.6 Catherine the Great and the Conquest of the Donbass (Novorossiia) . . . . . 141
  - 12.7 The Invention of Ukraine . . . . . 142

- 13 Lenin’s Incentive to Self-Determination and Ukrainian Nationalism . . . . . 149**
  - 13.1 Rosa Luxemburg’s Criticism of Lenin’s Nationalities Policy: An Independent Ukraine as Lenin’s “Pet Project” . . . . . 149
  - 13.2 Pogroms and Peasant Uprisings . . . . . 151
  - 13.3 The Victory of the Red Army . . . . . 151
  - 13.4 The Wehrmacht’s Invasion of the Soviet Union . . . . . 153
  - 13.5 Dekulakization and the Famine of 1931–1932 . . . . . 154
  - 13.6 Stepan Bandera, the Nazi Fifth Column, and the Shoah in Ukraine . . . . . 156
- 14 Ukraine as Soviet Republic and After: Focus on Donbass . . . . . 161**
  - 14.1 The Economic and Geopolitical Relevance of the Donbass: Coal and Iron Mines in the Novorossiysk Region . . . . . 161
  - 14.2 The Wehrmacht’s Defeat in Stalingrad . . . . . 163
  - 14.3 The Transfer of Crimea to Ukraine by Khrushchev . . . . . 165
  - 14.4 The Disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Economic Decline of Ukraine . . . . . 167
  - 14.5 Appropriation of Assets by the Oligarchs and the Emergence of Yulia Tymoshenko Through Money Laundering and Tax Evasion . . . . . 171
- 15 US Efforts to Drive a Wedge Between Ukraine and Russia . . . . . 173**
  - 15.1 Economic Decline of Ukraine, the 2008 Crisis, and the Threatening Collapse of Ukraine . . . . . 173
  - 15.2 Ukraine as a Geopolitical Pivot Country and Zbigniew Brzezinski’s Theory . . . . . 176
  - 15.3 The Entangled Issues of Crimea, Oil and Gas, and Nuclear Weapons . . . . . 177
  - 15.4 The Strategic Interdependence Between Ukraine and Russia . . . . . 179
- 16 Russia Opposes a New Orange Revolution in Ukraine . . . . . 181**
  - 16.1 Washington’s Expansionist Policy in Eurasia and the Attempt to Prevent Russia’s Resurgence . . . . . 181
  - 16.2 Kissinger’s Warning that Ukraine Would Never Be “a Foreign Country” to Russia . . . . . 183
  - 16.3 Gas Treaty of Kharkov and the Leasing of Sevastopol . . . . . 183
  - 16.4 Ukraine’s Flirt with the EU and the Inevitable Conflict with Russia . . . . . 185
  - 16.5 Washington’s US\$5 Billion Investment in Regime Change and George Soros and the Subversive NGOs . . . . . 190
- 17 The Ukrainian Shift Away from Russia and Putin’s Reaction . . . . . 197**
  - 17.1 The United States’ Geostrategic Interests in Ukraine Behind the Negotiations with the European Union and NATO Expansion . . . . . 197

- 17.2 Ukraine and Syria: Russia’s Keys to the Mediterranean . . . . . 201
- 17.3 Senators John McCain and Christopher Murphy as Agitators  
in Kiev and Victoria Nuland’s “Fuck the E.U.” . . . . . 202
- 17.4 The Fall of President Yanukovich, and the Rise of Arseniy  
Yatsenyuk and the Right Sector . . . . . 206
- 18 Crimea Back to Russia and Economic Sanctions Against Russia . . . 211**
  - 18.1 President Putin’s Countercoup: Crimea’s Reintegration into  
Russia with Popular Support . . . . . 211
  - 18.2 The Escalation of the Second Cold War and Russia’s Reclaimed  
Influence in the Black Sea . . . . . 213
  - 18.3 Kiev’s Lost Assets . . . . . 215
  - 18.4 The Shortsighted Sanctions Against Russia, Devaluation  
of the Ruble, and the Drop in Oil Price . . . . . 216
- 19 Ukrainian Regime Change, Civil War, and the USA-Russia Proxy  
War . . . . . 223**
  - 19.1 Warnings About the Sanctions Against Russia and Escalation  
of the Conflict in Ukraine . . . . . 223
  - 19.2 Fiasco of the Regime Change Policy . . . . . 224
  - 19.3 The Uprising in the Industrial Center, South, Southeast, and East  
of Ukraine: The Popular Republics of Novorossiya . . . . . 226
  - 19.4 Beginning of the Civil War and Russia’s Assistance  
to the Rebels . . . . . 228
  - 19.5 NATO Mobilization, IMF Funding, and Mercenaries  
of American Military Companies Mixed with Kiev Troops . . . 229
  - 19.6 Petro Poroshenko Elected President of Ukraine . . . . . 232
- 20 Ukrainian Separatists and the War in Donbass . . . . . 235**
  - 20.1 Petro Poroshenko’s Government and Ukraine’s National Guard  
Dominated by Neo-Nazis . . . . . 235
  - 20.2 Proclamation of the Popular Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk  
and Putin’s Moderate Position . . . . . 236
  - 20.3 Humanitarian Disaster: Massacre of Odessa, Devastation  
of Luhansk and the Donbass, Flow of Refugees, and Blockade  
of the Cities of the Donbass . . . . . 238
  - 20.4 The Tragedy of Flight MH17 and More Sanctions Against  
Russia . . . . . 241
  - 20.5 Humanitarian Aid from Russia . . . . . 246
- 21 The Ukrainian Government, the Rise of the Extreme Right,  
the Minsk Agreements, and the Persistence of Conflict . . . . . 249**
  - 21.1 Peace Plan in Ukraine and Cease-Fire Violations . . . . . 249
  - 21.2 NATO’s Military Aid to Kiev . . . . . 251
  - 21.3 The Battle in Debaltseve . . . . . 252
  - 21.4 The Minsk II Agreement . . . . . 255

- 21.5 American Influence in the Recovery of Nazism: Rehabilitation of Stepan Bandera and the Nazi Collaborators of the Second World War . . . . . 256
- 21.6 Shipment of Lethal Weapons and American Instructors to Ukraine While the Country Approaches a Financial Collapse . . . . . 258
- 22 Ukraine: The Same Political Environment as in the Middle East and North Africa . . . . . 263**
  - 22.1 Heightening International Contradictions: Assad’s Overthrow as Washington’s Central Objective Since 2006 and the Destruction of Libya’s State . . . . . 263
  - 22.2 The Warnings from Henry Kissinger and Senator Rand Paul and the Spread of Islamic Terror . . . . . 264
  - 22.3 General el-Sisi’s Coup in Egypt: The Crushing of the Muslim Brotherhood and Terrorists in the Sinai . . . . . 267
  - 22.4 The Arab Spring, Chaos, and Terror in Yemen . . . . . 268
  - 22.5 Indiscriminate Bombing by Saudi Arabia with Washington’s Backing . . . . . 269
  - 22.6 Chaos as the Predictable Result of US Foreign Policy . . . . . 271
  - 22.7 The Rise of the Islamic State . . . . . 273
- 23 Israel Under Right-Wing Government . . . . . 281**
  - 23.1 Gas Reserves in Gaza, Ḥamās’ Victory, and the IDF’s Massacre and Destruction of the Gaza Strip . . . . . 281
  - 23.2 Continuing Expansion of Settlements . . . . . 283
  - 23.3 The Elimination of Yasser Arafat Planned by Ariel Sharon and George W. Bush . . . . . 285
  - 23.4 The Dream of Eretz Yisrael . . . . . 288
  - 23.5 Yitzhak Rabin’s Assassination and the Push for Settlements Under Benjamin Netanyahu . . . . . 291
- 24 Netanyahu’s Occupation Policy and the Israel–Palestine War . . . . . 295**
  - 24.1 Maḥmūd ‘Abbās, the End of Sharon and the Rise of Ḥamās . . . . . 295
  - 24.2 Netanyahu, Jewish Settlements, and Undermining of the Palestinian State . . . . . 297
  - 24.3 Hamas/PLO Reconciliation and the Operation Protective Edge in Gaza . . . . . 302
  - 24.4 Jimmy Carter Against Netanyahu and Conflicts in the al-Aqsa Mosque . . . . . 308
  - 24.5 Obama/Netanyahu Disagreements and Pentagon’s Military Aid in 2016 . . . . . 312

**25 A New Cold War, a New Moscow–Beijing Axis, and the Decline of American Hegemony . . . . . 315**

25.1 John Q. Adams’ Warning . . . . . 315

25.2 Psychological and Economic Warfare, Demonization of Putin, and Nazism in Ukraine . . . . . 316

25.3 Oil from the Caspian Sea and Waning American Influence in Central Asia . . . . . 318

25.4 Russia’s Military Modernization, Defense Treaties, and Eurasian Economic Union . . . . . 320

25.5 Russia–China Cooperation, Nord Stream Pipeline, and Sanctions Against Russia . . . . . 323

25.6 China and Russia and the Creation of a New International Payment System . . . . . 325

25.7 American Hegemony and the Petrodollar Standard . . . . . 328

25.8 The Moscow–Beijing Axis and a New Dominant Currency in World Trade . . . . . 330

**26 Epilogue: US Military-Financial Oligarchy and the Exporting of “Democracy” through War and Terror . . . . . 333**

26.1 Mutazione Dello Stato . . . . . 336

26.2 Big Brother . . . . . 342

26.3 The Democracy of Chaos . . . . . 346

26.4 Proxy Wars . . . . . 349

26.5 Russia’s Intervention . . . . . 351

26.6 The Financial Resources of Terror . . . . . 356

26.7 Turkey . . . . . 358

26.8 The Great Game . . . . . 364

26.9 The Democratization of Terror . . . . . 367

**References . . . . . 375**

**Index . . . . . 449**

## About the Author

**Luiz Alberto Vianna de Moniz Bandeira**, Baron von São Marcos (by Portugal), graduated in juridical sciences and also holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of São Paulo. He was a professor at the *Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo*. In 1976, he received grants from, among other institutions, the Ford Foundation, to conduct research in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay on Brazil's historical role in the Rio de la Plata Basin. From 1977 through 1979, he extended this research project to the United States and Europe, thanks to a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Social Science Research Council and the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies in New York. He held the Chair of History of Brazilian Foreign Policy in the Department of History at the University of Brasília. He was awarded the Juca Pato Prize and named as Brazilian Intellectual of 2005 for the book *Formação do Império Americano (Da Guerra contra a Espanha à Guerra no Iraque)*. He was subsequently awarded an honorary doctorate by UniBrasil in Curitiba and by the Federal University of Bahia. Moniz Bandeira has been invited to lecture in many countries around the world. He was an Under-Secretary in Rio de Janeiro's State Government, being its representative in the federal capital, Brasília, from 1991 through 1994 and a cultural attaché at the Consulate-General of Brazil in Frankfurt am Main from 1996 through 2002. Luiz Alberto de Vianna Moniz Bandeira has been awarded, among others, the Cross of Merit by Germany and the Gran-Cross of Baron of Rio Branco, by Brazil. He died on November 10, 2017 after a long chronic illness at the age of 81 years in St. Leon-Rot/Germany, leaving not only his wife and his son, but also the whole scientific community. Nevertheless, he lives on in his more than 20 books analysing within a dialectical and historic approach current political developments worldwide.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction: The United States, the Middle East, Syria, and Ukraine—A Dialectical Approach on Recent History



*From there come the much-knowing maidens,  
three from the sea that lies under the tree:  
one was named Urdh,  
another Verdhandi  
—they carved in wood—and Skuld the third;  
they laid down the law, they chose lives  
for the children of men, people’s fates.*

“Völuspá (The Prophecy of the Seeress)” (“*Davon kommen Frauen, vielwissende, / Drei aus dem See dort unterm Wipfel. / Urdh heißt die eine, die andre Verdhandi: / Sie schnitten Stäbe; Skuld hieß die dritte. / Sie legten Lose, das Leben bestimmten sie / Den Geschlechtern der Menschen, das Schicksal verkündend.*”

“Völuspá (The Prophecy of the Seeress)” is part of the *Edda Mayor*, which gathers Scandinavian poems written in the tenth and eleventh centuries. “*Der Seherin Gesicht.*” *Die Edda—Götterdichtung Spruchweisheit Heldensängen der Germanen*. Munique: Dietrich Gelbe Reihe, 2004, p. 35. “*Valans Spådom.*” *Eddan—De Nordiska Guda—Och Hjältésångerna*. Stockholm: Norstedts Förlag, 1998, p. 8. The maidens are *Die Nornen*, the goddesses of destiny (*die Schicksalgottheiten*). In Germanic mythology (*West- und Nordgermanisch*) they appear in three personifications. *Urður* or *Udhr* or *Wyrd* is the *Norn* of what was, of everything that happened and is happening, and shapes what is to become, destiny. *Verðandi* or *Verdhandi*, becoming, is the *Norn* of what is, representing the present moment of change; and *Skuld* (Should) is the *Norn* of what should be, the future, the necessity. These three *Nornen* don’t represent, schematically, the past, the present and the future, as they are sometimes interpreted. They act as one.).

An ancestor of mine, the philosopher Antonio Ferrão Moniz de Aragão (1813–1887), who was a disciple of Auguste Comte (1798–1857) and one of the first to bring positivism to Brazil, wrote that “for an in-depth knowledge of history,

we must not be satisfied with the chronological classification of facts,” but “compare the sequence of events in different nations and the progress of civilization in every age.”<sup>1</sup> According to his teachings, “historical facts analyzed and understood this way can be placed in a vast system in which they are all connected to each other through all manner of relations, enabling us to lift ourselves to an even more important study, which is the explanation of these facts through the investigation of their causes. . . .”<sup>2</sup>

Capitalism—with its process of global accumulation and expansion—has cast a web over all industrialized, agricultural, precapitalist, and noncapitalist regions of the world, entangling them economically and politically in a global whole, in a system of communicating vessels. It made societies interdependent, despite and/or as a result of their varying degrees of progress and civilization. The world economy is therefore a higher reality, not a set, a sum, or a web of national economies. And political science needs to study the ontogeny of the state in the oppressive accumulation process of capitalist power, which not only negates itself through quantitative and qualitative mutations but also nullifies this negation in the course of history and the evolution of the world economy. This historical and dialectical approach is the only way to reach and understand the intimate nature of a social and political phenomenon (*Phänomen*), its essential and structural determination, and not merely its accidentality, the epiphenomena of circumstance (*Begleiterscheinungen*).

Coincidence does not exist. Causality, however, does. Facts occur for some cause that often is not known. They are linked in their evolution. And as in nature, some links intertwine but don’t generate another movement, that would cut the chain of necessity and prevent the determination of the infinite chain of history. This lesson comes from Titus Lucretius Carus (*ca.* 99 BC–*ca.* 55 BC), in his work *De Rerum Natura*.<sup>3</sup> As Hegel eloquently puts it, understanding the flow of events and their unfolding in the future requires, therefore, knowledge of the past, as the real substance of the present, in which possibilities and contingencies are emerging to suppress (*aufheben*) and preserve (*aufheben/aufbewahren*) the inherent contradictions of the historic process.<sup>4</sup> In Germanic and Nordic mythology, time is indivisible. The past remains alive and unfolds in the present, which flows continuously as mighty reality. Fernand Braudel understood very well that “l’histoire est une dialectique de la durée; par elle, grâce à elle, elle est étude du social, et donc de passé, et donc aussi du présent, l’un et l’autre inséparable.”<sup>5</sup>

Economic, social, and political phenomena result from quantitative and qualitative mutations, even when they appear spontaneous, emerging from multiple, complex, endless, linked, and intertwined causes. There is a reciprocal relationship of

<sup>1</sup>Antônio Ferrão Moniz de Aragão, 1871, p. 378 *passim*.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibidem*, p. 378.

<sup>3</sup>“*Denique si semper motu conectitur omnis/ et vetere exoritur < motus > novus ordine certo/nec declinando faciunt primordia motus/principium quoddam, quod fati foedera rumpat, ex infinito ne causam causa sequatur* [ . . . ].” Vrs—251–255, in: Don Fowler, 2002, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup>George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, 1990, pp. 198–203, 241–244.

<sup>5</sup>Fernand Braudel, 1969, pp. 104–105.

action and reaction between events, which is why we have to study them in all their ontological dimensions, from new and different angles. For history evolves ad infinitum, not in a straight line, but in a spiral, sometimes curving, folding on itself, and jumping to alternate lines. As the capitalist economy globalized ever further, intertwining and grouping all regions and countries, entangling them in one asymmetric, irregular, complex, and yet interdependent whole, social and political events have almost always been directly or indirectly interconnected. And the osmosis is even more pronounced in international politics, according to domestic conditions and the different structures of institutions and states, which changed with the evolution of productive forces.

The *putsch* that brought down President Viktor Yanukovych in Kiev on February 22, 2014, with the open support of the American State Department, occurred while the conflict in Syria was raging, after President Barack Obama took on the mantle of universal dictator, saying that President Bashar al-Assad “must step out,” “must go out.” The same thing he had told President Muammar Gaddafi before Libya was bombed and destroyed in 2011. Washington’s support to the coup in Ukraine and to the opposition in the armed struggle against Bashar al-Assad’s regime was not meant to establish a democracy in any of these two countries. President Viktor Yanukovych was legally and legitimately elected, and his government was not a dictatorship. Despite being dictatorial, president Bashar al-Assad’s regime was secular and constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms and women’s rights. But despite being distinct and far away from each other, these two events merged. Their background was the same.

After the debacle of the Soviet Union, the United States presented itself—with all the arrogance of its triumphalism of its god-given exceptionalism—as the one and only center of world power. And they didn’t treat “Russia seriously as a great power,” Professor Henry Kissinger remarked<sup>6</sup> in an interview to the magazine *The National Interest*, stressing that a “*new foreign-policy view*” had emerged in the *Republican party*, which “was more missionary; it emphasized that America had a mission to bring about democracy—if necessary, by the use of force,” with a kind of “intolerance toward opposition.”<sup>7</sup> This trend had characterized both the extreme right and the extreme left, “and they changed sides occasionally,” he added.

Democracy imposed by force will never be a real democracy but a *fake democracy* to be wielded by financial capital and big corporations. The ingredients of totalitarianism, which can almost always be traced back to Wall Street, therefore resemble those nurturing Germany’s *Nationalsozialismus* (Nazism) and expansionist drive under Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. And as Kissinger emphasized, since the defeat of Germany and Japan in 1945, the United States had fought in five wars,

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<sup>6</sup>Jacob Heilbrunn, “The Interview: Henry Kissinger.” *The National Interest*, September/October 2015. Available at <<http://nationalinterest.org/print/feature/the-interview-henry-kissinger-13,615>>.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibidem*.

“started with great enthusiasm,” but the “hawks” “did not prevail at the end.”<sup>8</sup> They lost all five. The problem—as Kissinger pointed out—stems from the United States’ refusal to learn from experience. Policy is essentially being made “by an ahistorical people,” since schools no longer teach history as a sequence of events but in terms of “themes without context” put in an “entirely new context.”<sup>9</sup>

After remarking that when you read Muslim battalions fighting in Ukraine “all sense of proportion was lost,” and when the journalist Jacob Heilbrunn observed “that’s a disaster, obviously,” professor Henry Kissinger replied: “To me, yes. It means that breaking Russia has become an objective.”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, the purpose of conservatives and the “hawks” of the Democratic Party, including President Obama, who got himself elected in a dove’s dress, was to actually break up Russia, starting with its Muslim periphery. This had been the old strategy of the geopolitical scholar Zbigniew Brzezinski, former adviser to President Jimmy Carter, who believed Islamic fundamentalism was an important ideological weapon not only to prevent communist influence from spreading in the Middle East, Africa, and the Indian Ocean but also to incite the Asian republics of the Soviet Union to revolt against the government in Moscow.<sup>11</sup> But President Obama could not even isolate Russia, a country of enormous geographic proportions and with huge reserves of natural resources, especially energy, a “*pivotal country*” in Eurasia.

The journalist Jacob Heilbrunn then pointed to “the return, at least in Washington, D.C., of the neo-conservatives and liberal ‘hawks’ determined to break the back of the Russian Government,” to which Henry Kissinger, whom he interviewed in July 2015, replied: “*Until they face the consequences.*”<sup>12</sup> The problem with the wars America had been waging since 1945, he argued, had been its inability to link strategy with what was possible in the internal scenario. “*The hawks did not prevail at the end*”—said Kissinger. And hence the fiascos were the consequence.

In 2014, President Putin knew perfectly well that Islamic units were involved in Ukraine and that special forces of the United States and other countries were training 400–1000 Chechens in the fields of Tunisia and Turkey, headed by the terrorists Omar al-Shishani, Saifullah al-Shishani, and Amir Muslim, Uzbeks, and other jihadists from the North Caucasus.<sup>13</sup> He declared he would fight the terrorists in Syria before he would have to fight them in Russia inside his own territory, once they

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<sup>8</sup>*Ibidem.*

<sup>9</sup>*Ibidem.*

<sup>10</sup>*Ibidem.*

<sup>11</sup>Zbigniew Brzezinski, 1986, p. 226; Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira, 2014, pp. 396–402.

<sup>12</sup>Jacob Heilbrunn, “The Interview: Henry Kissinger.” *The National Interest*, September/October 2015. Available at <<http://nationalinterest.org/print/feature/the-interview-henry-kissinger-13,615>>.

<sup>13</sup>Murad Batal al-Shishani, “Islamist North Caucasus Rebels Training a New Generation of Fighters in Syria.” *Terrorism Monitor*, v. 12, February 3, 2014. Available at: <[http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?cHash=ae2a2cd5f15746b0534e5bb000c9ceff&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=41927#.VolBKVJ0f\\_A-Guido\\_Steinberg](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?cHash=ae2a2cd5f15746b0534e5bb000c9ceff&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=41927#.VolBKVJ0f_A-Guido_Steinberg)>; Guido Steinberg, “A Chechen al-Qaeda? Caucasian Groups Further Internationalise the Syrian Struggle.” *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik: German Institute*

returned. And from its very beginning, the war in Syria had been a hybrid proxy war, with on the one side Syria, Russia, and—with boots on the ground—Iran and on the other Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, funding and arming the terrorists of the most diverse Sunni groups and nationalities, Da'ish (acronym for al-Dawla al-Islamiya fil Iraq wa al-Sham) or ISIS/ISIL (the English acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq) and al-Sham (Levant/Greater Syria),<sup>14</sup> a dissident group of al-Qa'ida, and with all the support (including logistics and intelligence) from the United States and its NATO vassals. Everything pointed to the fact that the neocons and liberal hawks, the *lobbies* of the war industry—represented by such senators as John McCain—and of financial capital, all nestled in Washington, pretended to expand the transnational war to the Islamic periphery of Russia.

Moscow had long realized the threat. In the reception of new ambassadors on November 26, 2015, President Putin said more than 100 thousand acts of terror were committed throughout the world in the 2000s and that its victims had been people of various nationalities and religions, with more than 32,000 victims in 67 countries only in 2014.<sup>15</sup> He then referred to the “*passive position*” of a number of governments, which were often in direct collusion with the terrorists, contributing to the rise of this “*terrible phenomenon*” known as the Islamic State. He added that such governments “not only cover up the terrorists, their illicit trafficking in oil, people, drugs, works of art and arms, but also benefit from it, making hundreds of millions, even billions of dollars.”<sup>16</sup> He repeated the accusation he had made during the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, by warning that it was “equally irresponsible to manipulate extremist groups to achieve political goals, hoping to get rid or eliminate them later.”<sup>17</sup>

And a few months later, the neocons and liberal hawks in Washington who had been so keen “to break the back of the Russian government” had to “face the consequences,” as Professor Kissinger had foreseen.<sup>18</sup> The Russian military intervention in Syria subverted the oblique game being played by the always disingenuous President Obama. It changed the balance of power in Syria and throughout the

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for International and Security Affairs (SWP). SWP Comments, June 30, 2014, pp. 1–7. Available at: <[https://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/comments/2014C31\\_sbg.pdf](https://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/comments/2014C31_sbg.pdf)>.

<sup>14</sup>Al-Sham, in Arabic, means the Levant/Greater Syria and was used during the Great Caliphate, in the seventh century, to define the entire region between the Mediterranean, the Euphrates, and Asia Minor, covering the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, and Egypt.

<sup>15</sup>“Presentation of foreign ambassador’s letters of credence: Vladimir Putin received letters of credence from 15 foreign ambassadors. By tradition, the ceremony marking the official start of the ambassador’s mission in the Russian Federation took place in the Grand Kremlin Palace’s Alexander Hall” President of Russia. The Kremlin, Moscow. November 26, 2015. Available at: <<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50786>>.

<sup>16</sup>*Ibidem*.

<sup>17</sup>“Vladimir Putin in the plenary meeting of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.” *New York, Presidential Executive Office* 2015. Available at: <<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50385>>.

<sup>18</sup>*Ibidem*.

Middle East, with Russia reemerging as a superpower in the international scenario vis-à-vis the United States and the European Union and in close political and economic alliance with China. A report from the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) published by the US Naval Institute reflected the shock and alarm within the American military world with the more advanced and modern Russian military naval and air power, demonstrated with the supersonic 3 M-14 T Kalibr NK (Klub-N) VLS cruise missiles fired from corvettes and destroyers in the Caspian Sea and from submarines in the Mediterranean against targets in Syria, flying over 900 miles (1448 km), as well as with the devastating air strikes by Sukhoi Su-34 s and other jets.<sup>19</sup> According to some analysts, the 3 M-14 T Kalibr NI missiles exceeded their American counterparts in technological capabilities.<sup>20</sup> And Gustav Gressel of the European Council on Foreign Relations noted that President Putin had demonstrated the rapid transformation promoted in the Russian armed forces both with the reintegration of Crimea and the intervention in Syria, making it more professional and agile, ready to fight, react, attack, and deploy abroad.<sup>21</sup>

With the attacks carried out with Russian fighter jets and naval units against the fortifications and installations from Da'ish or the Islamic State, the forces of the Syrian Arab Army and Iran could intensify their land offensive and reconquer a great part of the country's territory. In just 4 days—from December 25 to 29, 2015—the Russian air force used 164 sorties to shatter around 556 terrorist fortifications in the provinces of Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama, Homs, Damascus, Deir ez-Zor, and Raqqa.<sup>22</sup> Three important plateaus in Kabbani and Sirmaniyah also fell under the control of Assad's forces.<sup>23</sup> And Russia made progress deploying the more powerful

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<sup>19</sup>“Document Office of Naval Intelligence Report on Russian Navy: The following is the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) report, The Russian Navy: A Historic Transition. U.S. Naval Institute.” *USNI News.htm*, December 18, 2015. Available at <<http://news.usni.org/2015/12/18/document-office-of-naval-intelligence-report-on-russian-navy>>.

<sup>20</sup>Steven Lee Myers & Eric Schmitt, “Russian Military Uses Syria as Proving Ground, and West Takes Notice.” *The New York Times*, October 14, 2015. Available at: <[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/15/world/middleeast/russian-military-uses-syria-as-proving-ground-and-west-takes-notice.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/15/world/middleeast/russian-military-uses-syria-as-proving-ground-and-west-takes-notice.html?_r=0)>; Catrin Einhorn & Hannah Fairfield & Tim Wallace, “Russia Rearms for a New Era.” *The New York Times*, Thursday, December 24, 2015. Available at: <<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/24/world/asia/russiaarming.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>>.

<sup>21</sup>Gustav Gressel, “Russia’s post-Cold War borders. Russia’s Quiet Military Revolution, and What It Means For Europe.” *European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)*, 143, pp. 1–17. Available at: <[http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/Russias\\_Quiet\\_Military\\_Revolution.pdf](http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/Russias_Quiet_Military_Revolution.pdf)>; Catrin Einhorn & Hannah Fairfield & Tim Wallace, “Russia Rearms for a New Era.” *The New York Times*, Thursday, December 24, 2015. Available at: <<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/24/world/asia/russiaarming.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>>.

<sup>22</sup>“International Military Review—Syria-Iraq battlespace, Dec. 29, 2015.” *International Military Review*, December 29, 2015. Available at: <<http://southfront.org/international-military-review-syria-iraq-battlespace-dec-29-2015/>>.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibidem*.

S-400 s anti-aircraft/anti-missile defense system, installed in Khmeimim, encroaching ever further on the border between Syria and Turkey in order to prevent any other ambush from Ankara.

I am writing this introduction in the midst of political events that are still taking shape, transforming themselves as the clouds in the sky. The beheading of the Shiite cleric Sheik Nimr al-Nimr, along with 47 others accused of terrorism, on January 2, 2016, by the Wahhabi tyranny in Riyadh, was probably meant to escalate tensions in the Middle East, especially with Iran, to unforeseeable dimensions, at a time when Da'ish was losing ground in Syria and in Iraq, unable to crush the Houthis (Shiite sect) or occupy Sana'a, the capital, and the west of Yemen. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, declared that the execution in a single day of 47 prisoners, almost a third of the total number of death sentences (157) in 2015 in Saudi Arabia, and especially of Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr or any other individual who hadn't committed any crime, should be seen "*as most serious*" under the international law of human rights.<sup>24</sup>

Saudi Arabia is the most corrupt and despotic country in the Middle East, where the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association have been most drastically repressed, where any opinion contrary to Wahhabism is persecuted and where critics and peaceful dissidents are incarcerated and executed.<sup>25</sup> And this is the country that has allied itself with the United States, enjoying more than four decades of support for its pernicious policy to destroy all secular, although sometimes dictatorial, regimes in the region. Between October 2010 and October 2014, Washington signed more than US\$90 billion worth in contracts with the tyranny in Riyadh for the supply of aircraft and the most diverse weapon systems, according to the Congressional Research Service.<sup>26</sup> In *Timon of Athens*, William Shakespeare already wrote: "*Gold? yellow, glittering, precious gold? [...] Thus much of this will make black*

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<sup>24</sup>“Zeid deplors mass execution of 47 people in Saudi Arabia.” *United Nations of the Human Rights- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*. Geneva, January 3, 2016. Available at: <<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>>.

<sup>25</sup>“Arábia Saudita—Reino da Arábia Saudita—Chefe de Estado e de governo: Rei Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. 62.” *O Estado dos Direitos Humanos no Mundo: Anistia Internacional*. Informe 2014/15, pp. 63–64. Available at: <<https://anistia.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Informe-2014-2015-O-Estado-dos-Direitos-Humanos-no-Mundo.pdf>>.

<sup>26</sup>Christopher M. Blanchard (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs), “Saudi Arabia: Background and U.S. Relations.” *Congressional Research Service—Informing legislative debate since 2014*. September 8, 2015. 7-5700 [www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov) -RL33533. Available at: <<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33533.pdf>>. Accessed on January 8, 2014; Dan Lamothe, “How U.S. weapons will play a huge role in Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen.” *The Washington Post*, March 26, 2015. Available at: <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2015/03/26/how-u-s-weapons-will-play-a-large-role-in-saudi-arabias-war-in-yemen/>>; Natasha Mozgovaya, “U.S. Finalizes \$30 Billion Weapons Deal With Saudi Arabia: White House says agreement—under which 84 F-15 fighter jets will be sold to the kingdom, will help U.S. economy and strengthen regional security.” *Há’aretz*, December 29, 2011. Available at: <<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/u-s-finalizes-30-billion-weapons-deal-with-saudi-arabia-1.404461>>.

*white, foul fair, wrong right, base noble, old young, coward valiant.*<sup>27</sup> And so for Washington, the black gold—oil for arms—transformed the most despotic regime in the Middle East in its fairest and most exuberant democracy, where human rights were strictly followed. President Obama would never tell the king he “must step out,” “must go”, as he had done with Colonel Gaddafi and Bashar al-Assad. On the contrary, he armed him with the most modern war material produced in the United States. And Britain, France, and Germany did the same. But according to the assessment of the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), the German intelligence service, Saudi Arabia represented a risk of becoming the greatest destabilizing force in the Middle East.

The beheading of Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr occurred at a time when Iran was being integrated into the fuel markets with the lifting of sanctions by the United States and when Saudi Arabia, whose budget depended for 75% on oil revenues, was mired in a severe economic and financial crisis, with an alarming deficit of 14.5% of its GDP expected for 2016 due to the precipitous drop in the price of oil, forcing King Salmān ibn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz Al Sa’ūd to begin cutting all subsidies on electricity, water, and the construction of roads, buildings, and other infrastructure works.

There would be consequences, especially after angry mobs burned down the Saudi embassy in Iran, probably without the government trying to intervene, which served as justification for the Wahhabi tyranny in Riyadh to cut relations with the Shiite government in Tehran and align itself with the other Sunni countries. The execution of Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr, therefore, was possibly also meant to modify the economic and geopolitical confrontation, accentuating the secular sectarian nature—sunnis vs. shiites—to drive a wedge between Iran and other Muslim countries and hinder its participation in peace talks about Syria and Yemen. The provocation by the Saudi monarchy had begun when its fighter jets pounded the civilian population of Yemen and reached the Iranian embassy in Sana’a.<sup>28</sup>

But events are still unfolding, and we must rely on written and oral sources, on a corporate media that is not always reliable and prone to serve as a complement in modern warfare, using strategic communication offensives, serving as outlets for *psy-ops* (*psychological operations*), misinformation, and counter information, deliberately or semi-deliberately spreading subliminal lies or cover-ups emanating from intelligence services or other government bodies of obscure and ambiguous origins (activists, NGOs). At the heart of this phenomenon lie the distortion, manufacture, and falsification of facts—corrupting words like democracy—and the omission of news in order to manipulate public opinion and produce strategic effects.<sup>29</sup> News agencies today, therefore, almost always operate and reflect the psychology of the corporate, economic, and political interests of advertisers and governments, the

<sup>27</sup>William Shakespeare, 1975, p. 761.

<sup>28</sup>“Iran accuses Saudis of hitting Yemen embassy.” *BBC: Middle East*, January 7, 2016. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35251917>>.

<sup>29</sup>Nick Davies, 2008, pp. 214, 230–231, 241–243; Udo Ulfkotte, 2014, pp. 43–46, 146–150.

dominant position of the major industrial powers, influencing the press of other countries who buy their services.

The Meikite archbishop of Aleppo, Jean-Clément Jeanbart, during the Night of Witnesses organized each year by Aid to the Church in Need, said that “the European media have not ceased to suppress the daily news of those who are suffering in Syria and they have even justified what is happening in our country by using information without taking the trouble to verify it.” In addition, he told reporters that the West continued its silence about the atrocities committed by the armed opposition, while denigrating the Syrian government and its president. And he added: “Bashar al-Assad has many defects, but you have to realize he has many good points as well.” “Schools are free, hospitals too, mosques and churches pay no taxes, what government in the region does things like that? Be honest! Remember too that if we prefer today to support the government, it’s because we fear the installation of a Sunni theocracy that would deprive us of the right to live on our own lands.”<sup>30</sup> And according to the Apostolic Vicar of Aleppo, the Franciscan Georges Abou Khazen, appointed by Pope Francis, the people of the city saw the military operation by Russia as their salvation, “a real effort to fight terrorism and promote peace.”<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>Charlotte D’ornellas (Journaliste indépendante), “La sainte colère de l’archevêque d’Aleppo. Les médias européens n’ont cessé d’étouffer le quotidien de ceux qui souffrent en Syrie.” *Boulevard Voltaire*, Available at: <<http://www.bvoltaire.fr/charlottedornellas/sainte-colere-de-larcheveque-dalep,235328>>; *Idem*. “Aleppo, la collera del vescovo” *La Stampa*, February 3, 2016. Available at: <<http://www.lastampa.it/2016/02/03/blogs/san-pietro-e-dintomi/aleppo-la-collera-del-vescovo-kXa49OUOjrxEj6lr2CjsUI/pagina.html?zanpid=2132932023625905153/>>; *Idem*. “Aleppo, na ira de um Bispo” *Fratres in Unum.Com*—*Ecce quam bonum et quam incundum habitare fratres in unum*. February 11, 2016. By Marco Tosatti—*La Stampa* | Translation: Gercione Lima. Available at: <<http://fratresinunum.com/>>.

<sup>31</sup>Ruth Gledhill, “Russian action in Syria offers hope, claims Catholic bishop.” *Christian Today*, February 19, 2016. Available at: <<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/russian.action.in.syria.offers.hope.claims.catholic.bishop/80213.htm>>; “‘Russian operation in Syria is our salvation’—top Syrian Catholic bishop to RT.” *RT*, February 18, 2016. Available at: <<https://www.rt.com/news/332922-aleppo-bishop-russia-support/>>.

# Chapter 2

## The US Republic and Its Transformation into an Oligarchic Tyranny



### 2.1 Nazi-Fascism and the Phenomenon of *Mutazione dello Stato*

As a phenomenon, Nazi-Fascism is not peculiar to Italy and Germany. Under different forms, it threatened and spread to other European countries, such as Portugal and Spain, between the 1920s and the outbreak of Second World War (1939–1945).<sup>1</sup> What happened in these countries was similar to what Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527) called *mutazione dello stato* (*mutatio rerum, commutatio rei publicae*), when the *res publica*, a state, transforms itself into a tyranny in the name of freedom, with or without violence.<sup>2</sup> The political phenomenon of the twentieth century called Nazi-Fascism could and can occur in modern states when and where the oligarchy and financial capital are no longer capable of maintaining balance in society through the normal means of repression, disguised in the classical forms of democratic legality. Depending on the specific conditions of time and place, Nazi-Fascism will assume different characteristics and colors, but its essence will remain: a peculiar type of regime that places itself above society, sustained by a system of acts of force, with the atrophy of civil liberties and the institutionalization of the counterrevolution through a perpetual domestic and international war. The goal is to establish and/or maintain a world order subordinate to its national principles and interests, and favorable to its security and national prosperity.

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<sup>1</sup>Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira, 1969, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>“[...] *Mutazione che si fanno dalla vita libera alla tirannica, e per contrario, alcuna se ne faccia con sangue, alcuna senza* [...]” Niccolò Machiavelli, 2013, pp. 491–492; Hannah Arendt, 1965, pp. 35–36.

## 2.2 The Wall Street Plot Against Franklin D. Roosevelt's Administration in 1933

During the Great Depression, following the collapse of the Wall Street stock market on Black Friday in October 1929, certain financial and industrial groups conspired to fund and arm Army veterans, under the mantle of the American Legion. Their mission was to march on the White House, arrest Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–1945), and put an end to his New Deal policies.<sup>3</sup> This conspiracy involved 24 of America's richest and most powerful families, such as the Morgans, Robert Sterling Clark, the DuPonts, the Rockefellers, the Mellons, J. Howard Pew and Joseph Newton Pew of the company Sun Oil, Remington, Anaconda, Bethlehem, Goodyear, Bird's Eye, Maxwell House, Heinz Schol, and Prescott Bush. The goal was to install a fascist dictatorship inspired by Italy and Hitler's incipient project in Germany.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.3 The Accusation of General Smedley D. Butler and the McCormack-Dickstein Committee

The Wall Street Plot was aborted, however. Major General (r) Smedley Darlington Butler (1881–1940), who the big businessmen had tried to co-opt, denounced the conspiracy to the reporter Paul French of the *Philadelphia Record* and the *New York Evening Post*. And on March 20, 1934, the House of Representatives adopted Resolution 198, brought to the floor by the Democratic representatives John W. McCormack (Massachusetts) and Samuel Dickstein (New York), creating the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

During his testimony before the McCormack-Dickstein Committee, Major General Smedley D. Butler, twice awarded the Medal of Honor for separate acts of exceptional heroism, said that the fascist coup would rely on a private army of 500,000 veterans and other people and that it had been outlined by the businessmen Gerard C. MacGuire (1897–1935), attorney of the brokerage Grayson M-P. Murphy

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<sup>3</sup>The *New Deal* President Roosevelt promoted in order to recover the United States from the Great Depression, caused by the *crash* of 1929, consisted of economic and social reforms aimed at reducing and ending unemployment and poverty. Some of its main measures were the Social Security Act, the US Housing Authority, the Farm Security Administration, and the Fair Labor Standards Act, which set maximum working hours and minimum wages for most categories of workers.

<sup>4</sup>“McCormack-Dickstein Committee”. US House of Representatives, Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Investigation of Nazi Propaganda Activities and Investigation of Certain Other Propaganda Activities United States Congress. Available at: <<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/house/chapter-22-select-propaganda.html>>; Barbara Lamonica, “The Attempted Coup against FDR”. *PROBE*, March/April 1999 issue (Vol. 6 n° 3). Available at: <<http://www.ctka.net/pr399-fdr.html>>; Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., 2003, pp. 83–86.