

CUMULATIVE CONSEQUENCES

A basic principle of our reality, codified as Sir Issac Newton's 3rd law of motion, is that every action or force has an **equal and opposite** reaction.

While obvious in its application to the physical realm- *Rocket engines exert force downwards, thus rockets are propelled upwards*- is there any reason to believe that this law can't equally be applied to human interactions? The kinetic force of human emotion- the intentions and actions of society and culture.

The nearly Universal **Golden Rule** finds the principle of treating others as you want to be treated- the ethic of reciprocity - **a Moral Law**. The golden rule is steeped in empathy: The basic premise is, do unto others as you want done unto yourself, or at least, hope for others what you hope for yourself. Problematically, the rule assumes that you'll know what is best for others, even if their preferences may differ from your own. This can lead to misunderstanding and misapprehensions.

And of course conflicts can arise from these misapprehensions - opposing emotional forces that become political all too often have led to war.

I can only hope that it is accurate to say that nobody desires war. Anyone with an actual hunger for the destruction, and bloodshed of war is either outside of any basic understanding of the aspirations of humanity, or is at least sociopathic, amoral- or just plain deranged.

And yet... War planners, strategists, and warriors, if moral, need to believe in a legitimate purpose of their actions. Self defense, defense of principles, defense of ideals, defense of populations, the moral justification for warfare is always in terms of righteous defense. But, the professionals of defense must always plan on offensive options as a potentially necessary tool.

It is observably true that the development and accumulation of advanced military weaponry inevitably leads to its use, **and** a craven class of profiteers exploit the understandable human need for safety and fear of war as a justification for their very profitable industry.

The fear and experience of inevitable war is ingrained in our collective psyches. Through history, all of our ancestors have had some experience of its debilitating effect, The hunger, sickness, displacement, destruction, and indiscriminate death and suffering that war bring.

What war also inevitably brings is **chaos**, in Greek creation myths **Khaos** is the formless matter, the 'gap' created by the initial separation of heaven and earth- the beginnings that came out of complete disorder and confusion: today- **chaos is behavior so unpredictable as to appear random.**

As much as the experts would like us to believe, or try to convince themselves - once war is underway, predicting it's outcome is not possible. With war the inexplicable is manifest. Plans will fail, mistakes will be made, and accidents will happen. Who could have predicted that an assassination of a foreign leader, an internationally recognized criminal act, could lead to a plane full of innocent international travelers dying?

The belligerence that led to this mistake has long simmered. **In fact, the collateral damage of downed civilian aircraft isn't even new.** During the final stages of the Iran-Iraq War, (After Iraq invaded Iran in the Fall of 1980, in an attempt to replace Iran as the dominant Persian Gulf state) on July 3rd 1988 a scheduled passenger flight from **Tehran to Dubai** was shot down by a surface-to-air missile fired from the guided-missile cruiser **USS Vincennes**. The US Navy had deployed to protect oil taker traffic in the Persian Gulf, allied with our future nemesis, Iraq's **Saddam Hussein**. **The plane was destroyed and all 290 people on board were killed.** The jet was hit while flying over Iran's territorial waters, along the flight's usual route, shortly after departing Bandar Abbas International Airport. At first denying their responsibility for the attack, then claiming it as a defensive action against what they perceived as



an imminent attack by an Iranian F-14 (ironically, F-14's the US had supplied) the U.S. soon publicly regretted the mistaken target. Though the U.S. never admitted legal liability, it still agreed to pay \$61.8 million in compensation to the families of the Iranian victims.

That conflict has been compared to **World War I**, in terms of the tactics used, (WWI- a conflict precipitated by a political assassination that spiraled out of control, traumatizing a generation) including large-scale trench warfare with barbed wire stretched across fortified defensive lines, with manned machine gun posts and bayonet charges, extensive use of chemical weapons by Iraq, and, later, deliberate attacks on civilian targets. A special feature of the war can be seen in the Iranian cult of the martyr which had been developed in the years before the revolution. The discourses on martyrdom formulated in the Iranian Shiite context led to the tactics of **"human wave attacks"** and thus had a lasting impact on the dynamics of the war.

An estimated 500,000 Iraqi and Iranian soldiers died, with civilians in unknowable numbers. The end of that war resulted in neither reparations nor border changes.

Ergo- It was an utter waste of time, effort, and lives.

Iran, is considered our natural enemy because of their national aspirations. Surrounded by tens of thousands of easily hostile U.S. troops and their machines of war- what we perceive of as our sphere of influence is more rightfully theirs. No diplomacy towards normal relations is pursued because no outcome will ever meet U.S. standards. An interminable impasse is predictable here.

Intolerance + Belligerence = Hostility

The US has never been an innocent defensive player, in the conflicts of the middle east, but rather an irrational aggressor in pursuit of control and domination that can never happen. US policy is broken- a waste of effort and treasure that makes no safety or security for anyone.

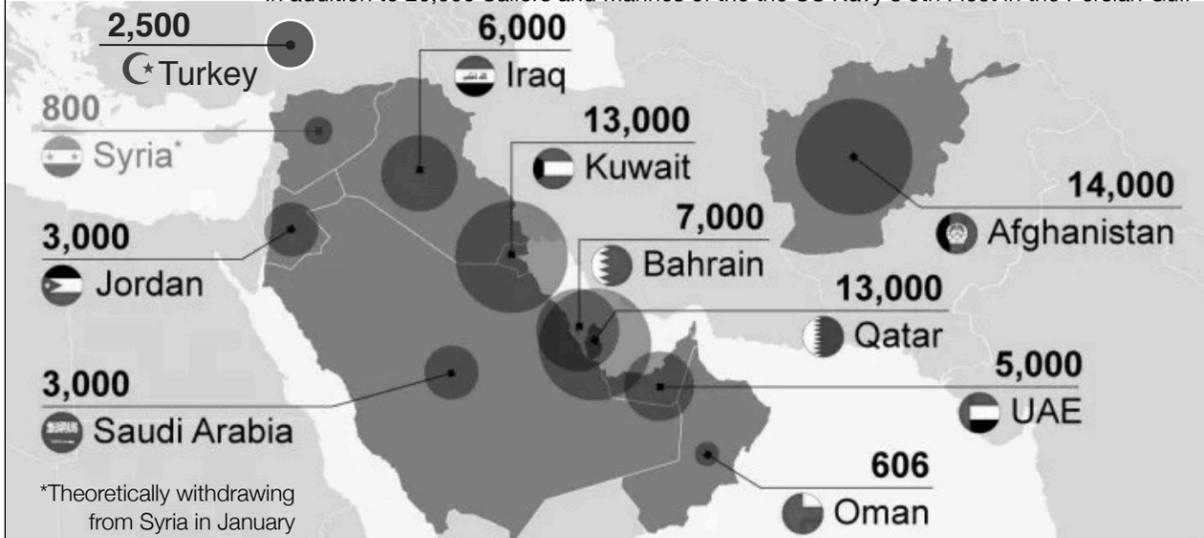
Though it is admittedly preferable that all conform to principles of humane justice, mutual safety, beneficial relationships, self determination and peace these can only ever be achievable if these admirable outcomes are actually pursued with good will, honesty, and the acceptance of cultural diversity. or as Talmudic Scholar, Hillel the Elder, put it over 2,000 years ago:

"What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow. This is the whole Law, all the rest is commentary. Now go and learn."

~ **Joshua Golden**

Estimated number of U.S. Troops Based in the Middle East.

In addition to 20,000 Sailors and Marines of the the US Navy's 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf



HAIKUS FROM HELL

Power outage

Cars lined up for gas.
No power for a whole week!
Our world falls apart.

No morning coffee?
What about the internet?
People will riot.

Credit cards won't work.
Banks and gas stations shut down.
People rush for cash.

When there's no more food
money becomes a bad joke
What will we do then?

Speed Freaks

Addicted to speed.
Worlds are destroyed in a blur.
Ignorance is death.

Who wants to go fast?
Those who race from here to there
Miss out on magic.

Birds and wild creatures
only to be seen by those
quiet who keep still.

But speeders will kill
everyone who dares to stand
or fly in their way.

Grace Woods



"Treat everyone you meet like God in drag."

*"When you are already in Detroit,
you don't have to take a bus to get there."*

~ **Ram Dass**

4/6/31- 12/22/19



*"I hate war as only a soldier who
has lived it can... Its brutality,
its futility, its stupidity."*

~ **Dwight Eisenhower.**



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or Box 493, Redway CA 95560,
(707) 923-4488

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