# Boycott Holland
# &
# Solve the 2025 world crisis

***Prevent another world war***

***The world crisis of 2025 and its solution***

***Live up to FDR, Keynes and Tinbergen***

*Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus*

NB. The writing of this booklet was finished by coincidence just on the day when Israel bombed Iran.

1st edition

https://thomascool.eu/Papers/BHSWC/Index.html

With thanks to M.H., A.B., J.K., F.K. and E.I.F..

References without brackets (like 1990) are in footnotes.
References in brackets (like (1990)) refer to the literature section.

Books and papers are generally available as PDF on the website thomascool.eu.

Cover https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Yalta_Conference_(Churchill,_Roosevelt,_Stalin)_(B%26W).jpg



June 14 2025 (e)



ISBN 9789403812281
Published by Samuel van Houten Genootschap, using Bookmundo.

JEL A00, P16 D70, H56, E22, E24, E58, E62
NUR 689, 781, 789, 754, 823

**Disclaimer**

Thomas Colignatus is the name in science of Thomas Cool, econometrician (Groningen 1982) and teacher of mathematics (Leiden 2008) in Scheveningen, Holland. See thomascool.eu or orcid.org/0000-0002-2724-6647.

This booklet reports on research. It also takes a stand against facism. Thus it can also be seen as a political pamphlet, and it is signed in person and with the science name.

The boycottholland weblog may on occasion also try at satire, to lighten the mood. See e.g. boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/08/31/the-house-of-orange-claims-russia.

# Prologue

1917-1945 had the threat of communism and nazism.

In his 1941 *State of the Union*, Franklin Delano Roosevelt listed four fundamental freedoms that people everywhere in the world ought to have:

1. Freedom of speech and expression
2. Freedom of worship
3. Freedom from want
4. Freedom from fear.

For *freedom from want* John Maynard Keynes and Jan Tinbergen provided the economic theory and empirical analysis. Technology and trade increase prosperity. Unemployment and poverty come from wrong policies. Since 1972 there are the *Limits to Growth* and the threat from climate change, see Sections 24, 25 and 59.

In 2025 the threat to freedom and democracy comes from the USA by president Donald Trump, backed by conservative money and billionaire libertarians – in itself a strange combination. Please note: Also a billionaire can be a decent person.

There is chaos about what to do. This pamphlet identifies climate change, the Ukraine war, and democracy in the USA, UK and France as key issues. For China, see Section 36.

We start with the hopeful bits and close on the brutality of war.

This booklet discusses crucial points for freedom and democracy. We state the facts and invite you to think of your own principled response. We hope that you react like FDR, Keynes and Tinbergen. Since we take a stand this is still a political pamphlet.

The US Congress wrongly adopts the partisan view of neglecting who in their districts did not vote for them. A proponent of democracy would propose to change the US electoral system into Equal or Proportional Representation (EPR) and then redo the elections, before Trump might consider what he is doing now.

For the new economic analysis see Colignatus (2011) DRGTPE, (2012) CSBH, (2013) MGMW, with video and sheets in (2013a). For Dutch readers, see Hulst e.a. (1998) en Cool & Hulst (2003).

While the USA is mentioned often, this booklet applies for all countries that want democracy and its four freedoms.

# 1. Introduction

We distinguish parts “What to strive for” and “What to avoid”. Each page gives a short discussion of an element. For this small booklet it is more important to identify the elements than to work out their details. The literature list and internet links provide for more extensive discussion and our proofs. The third and final part suggests a solution approach for the Ukraine war.

A new age of prosperity is possible. The econometric base of this analysis is provided by Colignatus (2011, 2012, 2006, 2013), with abbreviations DRGTPE, CSBH, PENAFC, MGMW.

It is important to respect the knowledge of experts. On social issues this holds for economics, political science, history and law. On climate change this holds for physics, chemistry and biology.

The elements that we identify in this pamphlet thus actually are issues for the experts. These elements tend to be lacking in the discussion in the world, and for which the experts have not been invited enough to clarify their findings.

The core element is that democracy is under threat. We cannot avoid the conclusion that the world, with all the expertise that it has, still hasn’t been able to keep democracy safe. There is something amiss in how our institutions apply the knowledge that we have gained since the days of FDR, Keynes and Tinbergen.

Overall, the influence of expertise must be strengthened.

- The Trias Politica structure of democracy, with the separation of powers in the Legislative, Executive and Judidiciary branches, is deficient, and democracy must be extended with an epistemic branch, with an *Economic Supreme Court* for macro-economics and a *National Assembly of Science & Learning* for the other fields. Thus, for each nation apart. They can guide their nations towards world government.
- Scholarship in the humanities shows too little experience and respect for empirical science and its methodology. Thus, students should first get (something close to) a BSc in a field of science before specialising in the humanities.
- Mathematics should be clear of itself. When students fail then the didactics of mathematics must be adapted.

# 2. Scanning the Future 1990-2015

In 1992, the Dutch Central Planning Bureau (CPB) published a long run study 1990-2015, in English *"Scanning the Future"* and in Dutch *"Nederland in Drievoud".* [1]

Colignatus was at the CPB since 1982 and had helped to create the multisector Athena model. He was also involved in 1989 creating the first long run "technical path" using the Athena model. Four scenarios come about by allowing the USA and EU to separately have lower or higher growth.

Around 1990, now 35 years ago, there was already a sound understanding of the climate crisis. *It is important to realise this*.

Climate policy since then stagnated for 25 years. When weather patterns changed and caused havoc, people finally got worried, which gave the Paris Agreement of 2015. [2] Policy making still misrepresents information. The climate is one of the arguments for an Economic Supreme Court instead of a CPB, see Section 14.

In 1989/1990 Colignatus pointed to the problem that unemployment in the "technical path" remained high over the whole period of 25 years, while unemployment at best should be a medium run problem. CPB-colleagues Van Schaaijk (1983) and Bakhoven (1988) [3] had had relevant analyses on unemployment, see DRGTPE. Colignatus inferred that there could well be problems in the modeling itself. When economic policy was based upon advice with erroneous modeling then, after years of wrong policies, the data would not provide the required feedback for correcting the modeling errors.

This pamphlet looks first at the analysis on unemployment and poverty before considering the other elements.

[1] https://www.cpb.nl/publicatie/scanning-future-een-lange-termijn-scenariostudie-van-de-nederlandse-economie-1990-2015

[2] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement

[3] See also the interview by Pieter Broertjes in de Volkskrant 1988-10-13. https://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Context/1988-10-13-Anton-Bakhoven-VK.png

# 3. The international order and rule of law

There are two often conflicting doctrines.

First, there is the inevitable geopolitics of major powers, a form of "natural law", with *Si vis pacem para bellum*. See Section 48 for a quote of Harrison (2022) about the rise and fall of empires. There are the "realists" like formerly Henri Kissinger and nowadays John Mearsheimer: [4]

> *"Realism emphasizes that there is no higher authority in the international system that can come to your rescue if you are in serious trouble and that you cannot depend on other states to come to your aid in the crunch. (…) In such a world, the best way to survive is to have a state of your own and make sure that state has a lot of military power. This is what we realists call a self-help world."*

Secondly, there is international law, see Ernst Hirsch Ballin (2022). This second doctrine wants to contain the first, quite like Hart (1961) "*The concept of Law*". Sometimes the world manages to have UN forces maintaining peace. The world's majority still is larger than the USA, China and Russia.

We can only try to find working compromises in the doctrines.

Discussions can be confusing when law and rules are discussed while hiding the underlying issues of power, or when geopolitics is discussed without including international arrangements.

We may point to the UN Security Council resolution 2774 (2025-02-24) on the Ukraine war, that reiterates the UN's purpose of peace, and that calls for a swift end to the Ukraine war and a lasting peace. [5] [6] It implies that the Russian Federation must acknowledge that this is more than a "special military operation", and that the other members of the Council can assist the parties towards a settlement within international law.

Trump broke in upon international law by not handling the peace within the confines of the UN Security Council, but *by offering the Ukraine to Russia directly* (except for minor details).

[4] https://mearsheimer.substack.com/p/why-i-am-a-realist

[5] https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2774(2025)

[6] https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16005.doc.htm

# 4. Mahbubani's view from Singapore

Kishore Mahbubani was chair of the UN Security Council in 2001 and 2002 and is a member of the AAAS.

Mahbubani (2025) suggests: (1) The EU should announce its willingness to quit NATO, even while perhaps actually not doing so. (2) Work out a new grand strategic bargain with Russia. (3) Work out a strategic compact with China. He reminds the EU:

> *"The Europeans foolishly believed that a slavish loyalty to American geopolitical priorities would lead to rich geopolitical dividends for them. Instead, they have been kicked in the face."*

These are indeed points to consider. Of relevance is also Shidore's 2025 interview with Mahbubani, [7] again pointing to the future rise of Africa. This [8] is on the lack of a strategy.

There is the Mahbubani 2015 interview with Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) on 2015-03-27, in particular minutes 30-40. [9] LKY points to revanchist feelings in China following the opium war of 1856 and the slow recovery, giving rise to Sun Yat-sen. China had vehement internal problems with the civil war 1927-1949+, the Great Leap Forward 1958-1962 and the Cultural Revolution 1966-1978 till the rise of Deng Xiaoping. The generation of Xi Jinping has a memory of these vehement internal sufferings and opted for a peaceful recovery, with the astounding results that we see now. LKY warns that grandchildren who grew up with much welfare may not listen to their grandparents, and may fall for revanchism. It suffices to respect China, but it is always useful to be reminded of the consequences of disrespect.

The EU cannot seriously say to China that the future lies in the rule based world, when the EU allows the USA to treat China with the tariffs as Trump is doing. With the world united with China, the USA could accept that it is inadmissible that Trump breached the rule based order by not submitting his case to the WTO.

---

[7] Shidore 2025, Quincy institute, "Living the Asian Century: A Book Conversation with Kishore Mahbubani", and this excerpt: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ugIn8SYr3c

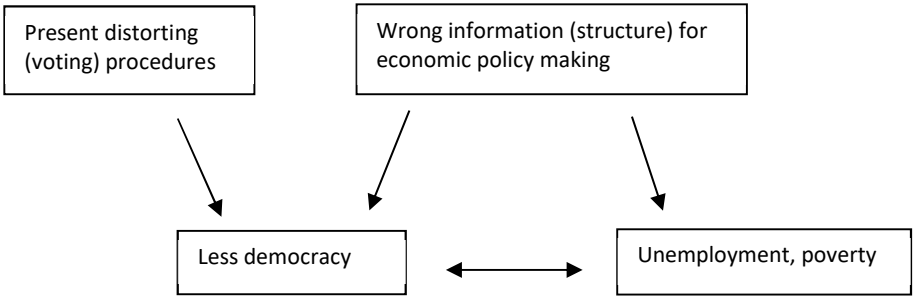
[8] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4COv3rcvJg

[9] Mahbuban 2015, "LKY School 5th anniversary Q&A session with Mr Lee Kuan Yew", https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYBAHLSN_lI

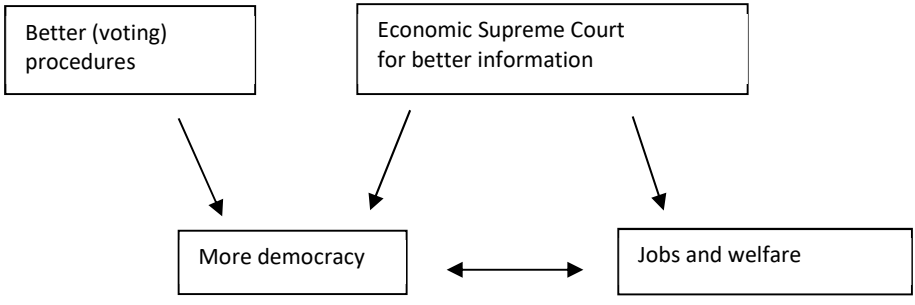
**Part 1. What to strive for**

Climate change and the solution approach to unemployment and poverty were known in 1990.

*NOT THIS*




*BUT THIS*




Section 5 – 6: It can be done and let us do it
Section 7 – 11: An economic analysis that was new in 1990
Section 14 – 16: An Economic Supreme Court
Section 18 – 25: Money, credit and climate, with a carbon tax
Section 26 – 30: Repair "political science" on DR vs EPR
Section 31 – 33: Much better didactics in mathematics
Section 34 – 36: Systems for enquiry and resolution

# 5. Neoclassical versus neoliberal economics

In 1945-1965 the world had relative prosperity with full employment, low inflation and high growth. The combination of classical economics (free markets) and Keynesian thinking (on government stewardship) was called the "neoclassical synthesis".

Then came the Vietnam war, and then stagflation, which is the dismal combination of unemployment, inflation and low growth. The neoclassical economists back then had no answer to this challenge. Jimmy Carter appointed Paul Volcker to the US FED. He raised the rate of interest, causing even more unemployment. [10] Carter lost the elections, and Ronald Reagan ran a programme of neoliberalism, with deregulations, privatisations and tax reductions for the higher incomes, that all caused rising inequality. Actually he ran a large deficit which was a Keynesian measure. Ideology prevented this honest recognition. [11]

Most economic historians regard the 1945-1965 period as special because of the general mood just after World War 2. They stopped analysing it. This booklet looks at underlying structural properties and identifies those that can be reproduced. Many authors overlooked the changes in the tax system and the minimum wage. Tax exemption was adapted for inflation only. The living wage naturally increases with both inflation and the rise in general welfare. Hence the challenge to employment at the bottom of the labour market rose in accellerated manner. The USA accepted more poverty for the working poor. European countries chose for higher minimum wages, but thus with larger tax voids (see Section 7), and a welfare system with higher benefits for the unemployed.

What is key is the combination of liberty and science. Alongside the freedom to think and act, there are also intellectual and scientific integrity. The change from neoclassical to neoliberal policies was rather more driven by ideology and money than from science. See Section 14 for an Economic Supreme Court.

[10] https://www.statista.com/statistics/1338105/volcker-shock-interest-rates-unemployment-inflation/

[11] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2012/02/21/the-keynesian-years-1981-2007

# 6. Helping the world's really poor

J.K. Galbraith (1999:153-154):

> *"The universal cause of poverty is a shortage of money among those experiencing it. The obvious – indeed, the only relevant – cure is money, a safety net protecting all from deprivation. A rich country can afford an effective minimum income to keep its citizens above the poverty line. This, along with low-cost housing, is essential. Nothing, however, is more resisted. That there will be abuse by the poor – meaning a resort by some to leisure – must be accepted. For the wives and offspring of the affluent, even for college professors, leisure is tolerable, often good. Never for the poor; they must be forced to work. The War on Poverty did useful things, but it ignored the most fundamental response to the problem."*

Holland made the better choice by indeed providing a safety net, called "*Bijstand*". A single person may get EUR 1345 per month or EUR 16,145 per year. [12] However, people receiving it are rather locked into that position of meagre existence. They are only seldomly allowed to work a bit on the side to earn a bit more, because such is deemed unfair competition, even though the hourly wage would be the same, and this little bit of additional work is the only increase what they can get.

Tech billionaires like Peter Thiel, Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, and Jeff Bezos [13] tend to be libertarian and in favour of an unconditional basic income (UBI). Part of their reasoning is that technological progress may cause mass unemployment, so that such UBI would be required to maintain social cohesion.

A UBI would hold for all persons. However, a value at a living wage would be costly, while a low value would not be enough. Why involve all people when it only affects a minority ? A managed system is better since we can design rules that work. [14]

[12] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/bijstand/vraag-en-antwoord/wat-zijn-mijn-rechten-en-plichten-in-de-bijstand

[13] ABC, "Trump has tapped an unprecedented 13 billionaires for his administration. Here's who they are", abcnews.go.com/US/trump-tapped-unprecedented-13-billionaires-top-administration-roles/story?id=116872968

[14] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/05/22/more-proof-on-basic-income-cult-behaviour/

# 7. A bridge must first carry its own weight before it can carry a load – The notion of the tax void

The US federal minimum wage (MW) is $7.25 per hour. When working 40 hours for 52 weeks and thus 2080 hours, the annual MW income of the single worker is $15,080. The standard deduction in 2025 is $15,000, [15] giving a taxable income of $80 that is subject to income tax of 10%. The EITC of this taxable income is $11. By spending the net income, this person would pay the State's sales tax, estimated at 2%. [16] There is also the FICA for social security and medicare, of 7.65% for both employee and employer alike. [17] There can also be a State income tax. [18] Some States have set their minimum wages higher though. [19]

Cohen Stuart A.J. (1889, 1967) was an early student of taxation. For tax exemption he gave the following analogy: *A bridge must first carry its own weight before it can carry a load.* Thus, a person must first provide in his living before he can be taxed. Essential goods should be exempt from sales taxes too, at least for a minimum use. For a carbon or $CO_2$ tax, one would find ways to exempt its minimally required use for heating and transport.

The tax void is the productivity range between the *net MW income* and the *gross MW cost*. For the MW of $15,080 the net MW income would be after the FICA of 7.65% and the sales tax of 2%, giving $13,625. The gross MW cost would be after the employer FICA of 7.65%, or $16,234. The range between these is $2609. In this range, workers might work at the same net MW income, but these workers don't have the productivity of the minimum wage, thus are unemployed. The tax (incl. FICA) in this range is only on paper, not collected and thus void. [20]

| *Minimum wage* | *Net income* | *Gross costs* | *Tax void* |
|---|---|---|---|
| $15,080 | $13,625 | $16,234 | $2609 |

[15] www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-releases-tax-inflation-adjustments-for-tax-year-2025
[16] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales_taxes_in_the_United_States
[17] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/living_wage.asp
[18] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_income_tax
[19] https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/minimum-wage/state
[20] Colignatus (2009), https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/14812

## 8. A living wage

The US federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour is generally thought to be too low. For free market contracters to the US government, there was a regulation that their minimum wage would be $17.75 per hour. This is now being abolished by Trump. [21] Instead, given the size of the public sector, its lowest salaries rather should be exempt of tax and FICA.

Research by MIT [22] indicates that a living wage in New York in 2025 for a single worker without children would rather be annually $68,338, or $32.85 per hour (with rounding error). Cornell [23] allows variety in upstate or downstate NY, with for 2023 an average of $21.46 per hour. Remarkable, the average income in the USA would rather be around $40,000.

Said annual income of $68,338 has explicit taxes of $12,200, which is some 22% of net income. Other items like housing and medical expenses come with implicit taxes carried over by the providers. The annual expense on food of $6,801 may be mostly exempt from a NY sales tax though.

These data suggest that the USA can be advised to set its tax exemption (standard deduction) for the single worker rather in the range of $25 to $50 thousand, with the effect that gross wages and product prices can be reduced.

Also, sales taxes are still cascading. It would be more neutral when they are replaced by a Value Added Tax (VAT). Still, also VAT has no exemption, and thus is best kept at around 1% for statistical purposes and partly for the management of the business cycle. A major instrument are excise taxes, relevant for alcohol, tabacco, carbon and such, for which one can create compensations for use at the minimum income level.

---

[21] https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trump-just-cut-the-minimum-wage-for-hundreds-of-thousands-of-private-sector-workers/

[22] https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/36061

[23] https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/carow/carow-policy/what-living-wage

# 9. Marginal tax rates

A driving force in economic thinking is that the marginal tax rate must be low, so that higher income earners have incentives to exert themselves. The idea is that effort must pay.

Consider Anna earning $100,000 per year. She may work harder to earn an additional $5,000. Assume a marginal tax rate of 50% on that additional income, so that the net proceeds are only $2,500. Anna may find this insufficient and forget about it. (Still, it is not only her own effort but also opportunity by society.)

However, when all rates within the tax system are indexed with the same rate of annual change, for example for inflation and the general rise of productivity, then there arises a "dynamic marginal tax rate" that does not differ from the average tax rate.

Let $\Delta Y = Y - Y[-1]$ be the change in nominal national income *Y.*

Let $\Delta T = T - T[-1]$ be the change in nominal tax revenues *T.*

The dynamic marginal tax rate is $DMR = \Delta T / \Delta Y$.

Let the nominal balanced growth rate be $\Delta Y / Y[-1]$.

When nominal taxes grow with the same rate, then the dynamic marginal tax rate is the same as the average tax rate.

$$\Delta T / T_{-1} = \Delta Y / Y_{-1} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Delta T / \Delta Y = T_{-1} / Y_{-1}$$

This can also hold for individuals under common conditions. If exemption is $50,000 and the rate is 50%, then Anna with $100,000 pays a tax of 50% of $50,000, or $25,000, or on average 25 / 100 = 25%. If nominal growth is 5%, that happens to be the same as the change from $100,000 to $105,000, then the new tax exemption would be $52,500 and the tax would be 50% ($105,000 - $52,500) = $26,250. The extra tax is $1,250. The average $26,250 / $105,000 = 25% again. The statutory rate of 50% translates here into a lower dynamic marginal rate of 25%.

| Income (a) | 100,000 | 105,000 |
|---|---|---|
| Exemption | 50,000 | 52,500 |
| Taxable income | 50,000 | 52,500 |
| Tax at 50% (b) | 25,000 | 26.250 |
| Dynamic marginal = average (b/a) | 25% | 25% |

# 10. Stagflation and the shift of the Phillipscurve

The relation between unemployment and wage inflation is called the Phillipscurve. [24] At low unemployment, wage demands will be high. At high unemployment, wage demands will be low. An upward shift of this curve gives a worsening of the trade-off, and with lower growth this results into stagflation.

Assume that the net minimum wage cannot be lowered because of living requirements. At the same time there are still workers with productivity below the gross minimum wage costs. An option is to accept their unemployment. In Europe they would generally be given a benefit.

When unemployment concentrates at the low productivity workers, then the higher productivity workers may feel that they themselves have less risk of unemployment, and then demand higher wages, that will translate in higher prices and thus inflation. Thus there will be both unemployment and inflation, and the Phillipscurve will shift upward.

This is what generally happened in 1965-2025, and explains stagflation. Much unemployment of lower productivity workers has been hidden in European welfare systems. The USA accepted more inequality and working poor.

An alternative is to design subsidies so that sub-minimum wage productivity workers can still find suitable employment at the minimum wage. The latter may be cheaper but requires the willingness and competence of the Department of Labour to handle subsidies. There may be complaints by higher productivity workers that they are being replaced by others with subsidies. This is actually the intention. The risk of unemployment then is shifted towards the higher productivity workers, and they will be more cautious in demanding higher wages. In that case the Phillipscurve is shifted downwards again.

For the growth-aspect in stagflation, we consider investments. We should no longer expect the high growth rates of 1945-1965 that came from basic industries like steel and chemical plants.

[24] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillips_curve

# 11. National investment banks

One of the best interpretations of Keynes's "General Theory" has been given by Flanning and O Mahony (1998, 2000) on the entrepreneur economy. [25] Keynes focuses on what the economy at a particular moment actually produces, which he calls "effective demand". What is produced, is determined by the entrepreneurs, who are guided by what they expect to sell. Most fickle are their expectations about what to invest for expanding their production. For this he refers to the "animal spirits", which term derived from the medieval distinction between dead matter, plants, and creatures with a "spiritus animalis", with Latin "animus" meaning mind. [26] Money saving is only money hoarding, the real savings are the investments, like the grains put aside for sowing next year again. In earlier times the choices might have been somewhat simpler, in that the entrepreneurial investments were also all the savings. In the modern economy, bank loans must be secured for new factory investments. Subsequently, there are the banking community and the role of the government in which the rate of interest is one of the instruments.

In the time of Keynes and Tinbergen it was already a big step that the government was advised to support investments in infrastructure like (rail)roads, harbours and the like.

There is a mixed record of government involvement in other kinds of projects. The Dutch government supported shipbuilding while the Dutch shipyards could not compete with Asia. Such failures counted more than the successes, and the notion of an industrial policy using government subsidies was shelved.

DARPA in the USA has been hugely successful by creating an environment that allowed the rise of the tech billionaires. Google, Facebook, SpaceX and the like, all had early links with defence contracting.

The logical conclusion in CSBH is that the modern economy needs National Investment Banks. *The task is to make it work.*

[25] https://www.connellfanning.com

[26] https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=animus&fromdoc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0059

## 12. Pensions and sovereign wealth funds

The world suffers from a savings imbalance. [27] See Section 23. Also consider Tinbergen's 0.7% norm of development aid. [28]

Financial analysis tends to show that investments in a market index fund have a better combination of risk and return (CAPM). A youngster could borrow money to invest in the somewhat riskier index fund and thus leverage for a net return. Pension funds work like this. Some sovereign wealth funds are financial success stories. While Holland mostly consumed its natural gas proceeds, and politicians created a welfare state also for political popularity, Norway put its fossil earnings into its wealth fund NBIM. Singapore did not have such a natural resource but still had its pension payments, whence CIG and Temasek.

ABP is the pension fund for Dutch government employees. It manages about EUR 500 billion. Once it had its own department for investment decisions, but its staff judged that they did not earn enough, so they got themselves privatised into APG, and, while earning financial market salaries, they generally have the same kind of advice, namely to allocate funds to BlackRock, that subsequently can ravage Dutch markets for short term profit.

When a pensioner has paid premiums for 40 years, and retires, and discovers that the money has been used to destroy nature, with supposedly financial success but material disaster, then the pensioner may feel that something has gone amiss, but will be generally too late to do anything about it. See Section 24.

A government would consider that it might not matter much if pensions are paid from company profits or from tax receipts since the latter also spread risk over the whole economy. Pension funds already are the main lenders for government borrowing. Governments could offer bills indexed on inflation and real economic growth, so that pension funds have less risk and may be less dependent upon the stock market. National Investment Banks then would heed environmental sustainability.

[27] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gii959E8f4o
[28] https://eur.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/tb_mans/id/13177/

# 13. The scientific methodology of simple models

Richard Murphy in a vlog of 2025-05-06 denounces neoliberal economics as based on absurd assumptions and fantasies. [29] His vlog is informative for non-economists because he mentions the kind of assumptions that are being made by both *neoclassical* and *neoliberal* economics. He is at risk of throwing away the baby with the bathwater however because we actually may require neoclassical economics that makes many of the same assumptions as neoliberalism. Murphy however is correct that neoclassical economics also requires the extension with elements of modern monetary theory (MMT), see Section 18.

If you are politically neoliberal, then you require neoliberal economics, but be honest about inequality and the road to dictatorship. If your goals for society are democratic and thus with a more equal distribution of income and power, then you require neoclassical economics with some MMT and the theoretical changes in DRGTPE and CSBH.

The real issue is the methodology of science. For proper economic advice, economics may make simplifying assumptions in order to model reality. In this booklet we touch upon some very simplifying assumptions, while in practice there will be the big models with the large databases (perhaps still not big enough). The simple models must capture the reasoning behind the advice.

Sometimes the big models may generate outcomes that cause surprise and that require closer analysis. In such cases there often will be found a rationale that again is relatively simple compared to the workings of the big model.

After WW2 there was a greater role for economic advice. One might conclude it didn't work so that it better be abolished again. The proper conclusion is that the advice wasn't independent enough. The economic scientists who advise government should *really* be shielded from political pressure while still remain within democracy. This must not be some "technocracy". [30]

[29] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYyalJMXROw

[30] https://www.routledge.com/The-Technocratic-Challenge-to-Democracy/Bertsou-Caramani/p/book/9781032237831

## 14. An Economic Supreme Court

Germany in 1918-1924 had hyperinflation partly due to printing too much money. The USA had the Great Depression in 1929-1940 partly by printing not enough money (i.e. hyperdeflation).

John Maynard Keynes in the UK, Jan Tinbergen in Holland, and Harlan McCracken [31] in the USA already proposed active fiscal policy in the 1930s. They were not listened to in quick enough fashion. It required a war before the academia, politicians and bureaucracies opened their minds or were replaced, see Skidelsky (1975: 89 & 102-103).

> *"In his biography of Keynes, Sir Roy Harrod reports a widely acclaimed speech delivered by his subject to the House of Lords in 1946, the year of his death. 'But Keynes had been talking in this style ... for some twenty-seven years. Why had his words not been listened to .... ?' (...) Unemployment as a problem in economic theory may have been sufficient to produce a revolution in the discipline; unemployment was not a sufficient problem to society to produce a revolution in political ideas. If it was not the prolonged experience of mass unemployment that finally broke the hold of nineteenth-century ideas, what was it ? A strong case can be made out for war. 'Normal' life could coexist with unemployment; it could not with modern war."*

After WW2 nations accepted a more active advisory role for economics. The USA got a Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) within the executive office and bound to the president's policy. [32] Holland got its Central Planning Bureau (CPB) subsumed under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. [33] CPB formally is at a distance to the Ministry but they regularly appoint a person from a Ministry as director – which implies dependence, see Section 64.

There is too much influence by politics upon economic advice. DRGTPE has a theorem on the role of information and a draft constitutional amendment for an Economic Supreme Court within democracy. (Again: not to be confused with technocracy.)

[31] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/10/26/thomas-robert-malthus-visiting-maastricht

[32] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Economic_Advisers

[33] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureau_for_Economic_Policy_Analysis

## 15. A path towards world government

When countries adopt each their own Economic Supreme Court, then those ESCs can communicate in scientific manner, and guide those countries towards world government.

History has shown how villages joined up into cities, cities in provinces, those into countries, and those again in federations.

The principle of subsidiarity is that only those issues are regulated at the higher level that cannot be regulated at the lower level. The issues at some level of government can be of an entirely different kind than those at another level.

If everyone hates dictatorship except for the dictators themselves, and if oligarchy is no great model given the experience with the aristocracies of the past, [34] then we may take an example in the Dutch revolution of the Union of Utrecht 1579, [35] the Act of Abjuration of The Hague 1581, [36] and the American declaration of independence of 1776. [37] Brilliant is Grapperhaus (1989) on the history of taxation, liberty and property. Check the tax and customs musea. [38]

Specialisation depends upon the extent of the market and tax base. The separation of powers in legislative, executive and judiciary branches allows for checks and balances w.r.t. the application of those powers. Extend with elections, a free press, education, health care, laws on labour and enterprise, etcetera.

With this historical development it is only natural that the globe develops some form of world government. [39]

At issue is only how the world organises this path to what form. Advice is useful from all sciences and from all countries. However, political economy is the science of the management of the state, and thus there is a special role for an Economic Supreme Court per country. Subsequently, see Section 25 on world money.

---

[34] The French Revolution got rid of the French aristocracy, and Napoleon did so for Europe except for England and Russia.

[35] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_Utrecht

[36] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Act_of_Abjuration

[37] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence

[38] https://www.customsmuseums.org/

[39] https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/10-principles-peace-21st-century

# 16. The European Union and economic imbalance

Germany and Holland have a low wage policy that exports their unemployment to France and Southern Europe. This causes a major imbalance within the EU. France and Southern Europe tend to see a choice between more poverty or budget deficits. When Germany and Holland complain that France and Southern Europe should exercise more fiscal responsibility, then they forget that they themselves are the main causal factor. A discussion is in this 1996 paper, [40] DRGTPE p149-155, and here on H.J. Witteveen. [41]

Economies have sectors that are exposed or sheltered against foreign competition. The exposed sectors tend to be commodity based and more competitive with higher productivity workers. The sheltered sectors have more services with less uniformity and thus less scope for competition and also with lower productivity workers. The unemployment due to the minimum wage and tax void (see Section 7) tends to be in the sheltered sector. The German and Dutch low wage policy is blind to the tax void, and opts for other measures. The wage costs remain too high for the sheltered sector (still causing unemployment), and too low for the exposed sector (stimulating exports).

In the past, the surplusses on the external accounts by Germany and Holland caused their exchange rates to rise. This frustrated their low wage policies, whence Germany and Holland agreed with the creation of the Euro, with fixed internal exchange rates. Trade statistics still show the export surplusses. There is an official rule that those should not be too large. However, in practice the problem persists, with the cause more hidden.

A discussion by Peter Bofinger, Servaas Storm, [42] Heiner Flassbeck and Costas Lapavitsas generated chaos for their readers, but not for who knows about the tax void. [43] [44]

[40] https://ideas.repec.org/p/wpa/wuwpgt/9608001.html
[41] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2014-05-21-Comments-on-Valedictory-Lecture-by-Witteveen.html
[42] Nowadays a co-author with Thomas Ferguson, see Section 30.
[43] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2017/05/13/disinformation-and-trauma-at-tu-delft
[44] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/from-trauma-at-tu-delft-to-collapse-of-the-euro/

# 17. Classical liberalism and social liberalism

Classical liberalism is found in the ideas of Adam Smith (1723-1790), John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) and the British statesman William Gladstone (1809-1898). In the German world there are Gustav von Schmoller (1838-1917) of the historical school and Carl Menger (1840-1921) of the marginal revolution.

German "Staatswissenschaft" is in English "political economy". This concerns the theory and practice of the management of the state. Originally the state resided in the sovereign ("L'état c'est moi.") but this was replaced by a vague notion of general welfare (perhaps a (weighted) sum or product of all utility functions ?).

While there are philosophical and political aspects in this notion of liberalism, the endeavour of political economy is scientific, see the ever larger reliance upon mathematics and statistics, and eventually econometrics – started by Frisch and Tinbergen.

John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) and Friedrich Hayek (1899-1992) might be characterised, the first as a social liberal, and the second as more of the classical kind, in their selection of research topics, focus of interest, and policy advice given. In Skidelsky's biography of Keynes, Hayek is reduced from a critic of Keynes to someone whom Keynes, exasparated from lack of progress in communication, took along to go and buy old books. This review [45] holds that Hayek pointed to imbalances in the structure of employment that could not be cured by Keynes's general stimulus: this misrepresents Keynes's view that such imbalances obviously require attention, and that is up to discussion to leave them free or do something about them.

See Section 5 for neoliberalism, Section 40 for libertarianism.

Hayek proposed to replace Central Banking by "free banking", with each bank a currency of its own. Buiter (2025:12) reflects on the Project 2025 *Mandate For Leadership* proposal on p735+ that Hayek's proposal of "free banking" would be adopted. [46] Note though that Trump did not get a full mandate, see Section 46.

[45] https://www.adamsmith.org/blog/thinkpieces/review-keynes-hayek-the-clash-that-defined-modern-economics

[46] https://static.heritage.org/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf

# 18. The Central Bank, gold and money

The following has a theoretical base in Colignatus (2013), *"Money as gold versus money as water"* (MGMW), that also relies upon Colignatus (2012) (CSBH). This paper combines neoclassical monetary policy with a stronger base in fiat money.

The story of Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz with the yellow brick road is a parable on the gold standard. [47] At least we might agree that there is a story to tell, with naïve Dorothy representing the American people. The story nowadays is that of fiat money.

The Bretton Woods conference after the end of WW2 accepted the US dollar as the world reserve anchor. A core agreement was to fix exchange rates to the dollar. Officially the dollar was related to gold so that there was still a figment of some gold standard, [48] but participants like Keynes knew that the true link was to the US dollar. On August 15 1971 Richard Nixon indeed closed the US gold window, and the world changed to fiat money, and soon to more flexible exchange rates too. [49]

Money is legal tender, which means that one can pay taxes and debt with it, and that the recipient cannot refuse it. This is the origin of the value of fiat money. The Central Bank would have the authority to create money. Seigniorage is the profit of creating money, i.e. the value in circulation minus the cost of production. There is also "debt seigniorage" that consists of the creation out of thin air of debt at a rate of interest, with the cost of collecting the interest and repayment or collateral.

Next to fiat money there is "Modern Monetary Theory" (MMT). Mankiw (2020) is skeptic. There is no generally received textbook or model on this yet. A relevant discussion in Dutch using the IS-LM framework is by Jacobs (2021ab). (A caveat is: monetary financing of government expenditure should be $dG = (dM) / P$. Jacobs doesn't mention the deflator, with a dimension mismatch. His Phillipscurve with $Y^*$ and $P^*$ defines stagflation away.)

[47] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_interpretations_of_The_Wonderful_Wizard_of_Oz
[48] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335908221_Do_Old_Habits_Die_Hard_Central_Banks_and_the_Bretton_Woods_Gold_Puzzle
[49] https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/nixon-shock

# 19. Ownership of the Central Bank

The MGMW paper in the former section assumes that the government owns the Central Bank (CB). Willem Buiter (2025) holds this too. The CB can print money that the government can spend, and this gives no debt, other than the debt of the government to the CB that is owned by the government. This is how the Dutch CB operated before it joined the Eurosystem.

The US Treasury still has the function and power to print money. For the US Federal Reserve System this is okay. Better though this should reside with the Central Bank that is owned by the government. The US government apparently has little use of its seigniorage. It is more common to borrow funds from the US FED at a rate of interest.

The FED board is a federal body, but the member banks are privately owned. Thus the Treasury subsidizes the banks by allowing them "debt seigniorage" and paying interest on it. One magic trick of the Wizard of Oz is that the USA still haven't fully nationalised the FED like happened in Europe. When Nixon closed the gold window, the USA should have revised its banking structure as well. The key advice to the USA thus is to nationalise the FED, cancel the "debt" (what the government owes to the FED that it owns), and reorganise the banking system. Banks would hold reserves at the FED, in relation to their deposts, and otherwise would not be allowed to function. They would hardly receive an interest on these reserves, because they would basically pay the FED for the security of their reserves.

In the EU and the Eurosystem, [50] most Central Banks are nationalised, albeit that nations gave more control to the Central Bankers in the Eurosystem. It is useful to remember the trick by the two Mario's. [51] The current structure of the ECB still has the effect of a gold standard, in that governments borrow funds in euros but cannot create euros themselves anymore. See MGMW for some suggestions about structural reform.

[50] See Buiter (2025) and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurosystem

[51] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/03/28/a-dangerous-trick-by-the-two-marios/

# 20. The rate of interest and inflation

The neoclassical policy by the Central Bank is to set the rate of interest in order to influence inflation and unemployment, cf. the Taylor rule. [52] To reduce inflation, the Central Bank might allow for more unemployment, see Section 10 on the Phillipscurve. Writers on MMT tend to argue [53] that full employment can be attained by spending fiat money e.g. for subsidies, and that inflation can be contained by taxation, so that there is little role for the Central Bank other than checking whether banks comply to the regulations. There are more instruments for control of prices and wages. Holland has a tripartite council (SER) for negotiations on wages, between unions of employers and employees and independent members (often professors). Dr Sjef de Jong (2006) advised to include consumers. The influence of the rate of interest in inflation control might be overrated.

Still, the rate of interest would not be set by fiscal policy. There still is the Central Bank that could target (or set) a particular nominal rate or the wider yield curve. The ECB has the objective of price stability, but it has a target of 2% inflaton while MGMW (former page) argues that it should be 0%. When there is deflation, a fall of prices, then people might expect prices to drop even further, and this reduction of demand would tend to increase unemployment. However, both fiscal policy, with taxes and outlays, and the National Investment Banks can maintain full employment. With the proper set of instruments for policy making, price stability can be at true 0%. This gives a stabler ratio between income and bonds, which pension funds will use, see Section 12. PM. The relation between the return on assets and GDP growth is not strict. [54]

Jacobs (2021) (see above) tests IS-LM on monetary financing, as suggested by MMT. The effect on inflation is not quite explicit yet. He rightly warns that price flexibility makes money neutral in the long run, but Keynes warned that by then we are all dead.

[52] Bernanke (2015) and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taylor_rule
[53] E.g. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_Employment_Abandoned
[54] https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2005/01/2005a_bpea_baker.pdf

# 21. Monetary policy

J.K. Galbraith was a literary economist and no econometrician. Still, he made sure that his arguments remained within the common sense of more technical findings. It is a pleasure to quote him on occasion.

Galbraith (1975) *"Money. Whence it came, Where it went"*, in his *Afterword*, mentions six imperatives.

(1) *"The perverse unusefulness of monetary policy and the frustrations and danger from relying on it."* This fits MMT, see the former sections. Galbraith's proof lies in the disasters of monetary policy in 1900-1974 and in how this was superceded by better methods for inflation control during WW2 and up to 1965, until the deficit due to Vietnam broke the mold.

(2) Use the national budget to balance the economy. There can be separate rules on expenditures versus taxation.

(3) Use direct wage and price controls where market power is inevitable.

(4) Manage the income distribution. The management of the economy is no mere technical and socially neutral issue. Thus, develop a view on income inequality and discuss this in democratic manner.

(5) Plan for the supply and conservation of important goods and services, like e.g. food, energy, housing, since it would be unwise to leave these to the market.

(6) Create stability for international currencies.

After Galbraith's book in 1975, stagflation worsened. Jimmy Carter appointed Paul Volcker in 1979, see Section 5. It is unclear why Carter in 1979 did not heed Galbraith's 1975 advice (and thus lost the elections). Volcker claimed that he followed Milton Friedman's theory of controlling the stock of money, but actually he raised the rate of interest and thereby created the large unemployment to bring down wages and inflation. Galbraith (1975:305) on monetary policy:

> *"Only the enemies of capitalism will hope that, in the future, this small, perverse and unpredictable lever will be a major instrument in economic management."*

# 22. The effective lower bound (ELB)

Willem Buiter (2025) is an important text. Unfortunately, he also advises to abolish paper money and use interest-bearing retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) that can also use a negative rate of interest. The rate of interest on paper money is zero. Keynes referred to this as the “liquidity trap”. The current term is the effective lower bound (ELB). On a deposit account, banks may already charge a fee for safekeeping of your money, which is like a negative rate of interest. At the same time, they use deposits for lending at higher rates, and earn on this too.

During an economic recession, a negative rate will stimulate people to spend their money rather than simply lose it. Buiter supports this argument by the Taylor rule. Bernanke (2015) rightly warns that the latter is a rule of thumb, and should not be used as a robot. (His Figure 2 shows quite a match though, as he states himself too.) Overall the macro-economic purpose should beter not be abused to justify a micro-economic instrument.

In the Middle Ages you had to hoard your own coins and valuables. Some proposals for financial reform try to replicate the insecurities of this past. Preferably, the banking system uses our knowledge and skill to provide for more social welfare. People want stable money and have this kept safely. Thus the inflation target of 2 better is replaced by 0, as said. Paper money can be a backup for when the digital system fails. Thus maintain the ELB.

A stable money account would be a human right. The Central Bank would create deposit accounts at the CB or subsidiaries for use by private agents. Each account comes with an inflation compensation account (ICA). The CB compensates inflation on the normal account by a payment on the ICA. You can transfer a positive value on the ICA to your normal account. When there is deflation (e.g. deliberate to compensate for earlier inflation) then the CB records subtractions in the ICA. If the ICA has a negative value, then this first must turn positive again (e.g. by CB deposits because of later inflation) before you can take money from it. If commercial banks want to compete with the stable money account at the CB then they might offer a higher rate.

# 23. The stock market

David Luenberger (1998) "Investment science" is a modern classic about the stock market. A key lesson is that risk may be mitigated by investing in index funds. Arnoud Boot 2023 of the University of Amsterdam sees a new risk from there: [55]

> *"Millions of people in western societies have recently become investors in financial markets. The number of brokerage accounts has mushroomed, and sizable numbers of people invest indirectly via their pension funds. This has gone hand in hand with the growth in passive index investing concentrated in a few large asset managers, particularly Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street. The question is how concentration in the asset-management industry and investor preferences for passive, low-cost index investing affect financial markets' functioning in allocating societal resources. Index investing seems at odds with price discovery for individual securities, and concentration lowers the number of independent voices in financial markets. [Think of S&P, Fitch and Moody's.] Similarly, asset managers may rely on specialized proxy advisory firms for voting advice. That activity is a duopoly, which could further reduce independent voices and price discovery. As these trends seem unstoppable, what do they entail for the future?"*

Boot also holds [56] that the value of assets is no longer in line with the real economy. Thus assets are inflated much more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Central Banks used Quantitative Easing (QE) to save financial institutes from collapse following the 2007+ and euro crises. They kicked the can down the road. The low rate of interest was also to allow banks to improve their balance sheets, but this also inflated house prices, and caused borrowing to invest in stocks and raising their prices.

Boot has no solution other than "more competition". Let us first have an Economic Supreme Court for a better discussion theatre.

---

[55] https://www.arnoudboot.nl/files/files/Boot%202023%20-%20The%20Future%20of%20Financial%20Markets%20-%20International%20Banker%20Autumn.pdf

[56] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by5sIANRbhM&t=302s

# 24. The environment and climate change

John Hicks, a recipient of the Nobel Prize in economics, defined income as maintaining one's capital. When a home-owner increases his or her mortgage and eats up the house then this is not income. This definition of income reflects an accounting practice that apparently started in Venice 1494 where merchants wanted to know whether they really made a profit.

National statistical bureaux calculate national income NI or GDP under the assumption that markets are working and that prices reflect consumer preferences. A numerical change from 100 to 105 is meaningless, unless it can be related to the idea that this would be an improvement in terms of preferences. But we do not know for sure that markets are working and prices are right. It is also reasonable to assume that some markets don't work, notably on environmental sustainability including climate change. For the United Nations, Jan Tinbergen, also a recipient of the Nobel Prize in economics, and Roefie Hueting (1991) defined environmentally sustainable national income (eSNI) as the national income that maintains environmental sustainability. This notion is based upon the 1987 Brundtland Report that expressed a world preference for (environmental) sustainability.

Due to blockages in the economy, the observed prices are distorted. A model can be used to impose the proper prices and estimate the economic reactions. Calculating eSNI is not too difficult, since the basic material on the environment already is collected, and since there are already national economic models.

The difference eΔ = GDP - eSNI gives the distance for a national economy towards environmental sustainability. The indicator can be used to check the impact of policies and investments.

Hueting & De Boer (2019) present both the theory and some model calculations for The Netherlands. A review is by Gerry Greaves (2020). Colignatus (2020c) translates to Ecosystem Services. Colignatus (2020ab) discusses advances and setbacks in the reception of eSNI. Scott Bessent (2025) wrongly argues that the IMF and World Bank have "mission creep" by looking at the environment. Their mission uses the notion of "national income".

## 25. Fiat world money that can use a carbon tax

MGMW (2013, above) mentioned the option of world money but did not further develop this. There now is a suggestion for money that can use a carbon tax. [57] Fixing money to some material standard (like gold) creates inflexibility. Thus world money must be fiat money. Section 18 clarified that fiat money derives its value from the fact that it is the only accepted way to pay a tax. Fiat world money thus requires a world government (WGov) with the ability to tax the inhabitants, companies or nations. Thus WGov not only has to agree on the tax structure but also on the ability to collect it, and also on how to spend it. See the brilliant book by Grapperhaus (1989) on the link between liberty, property and taxation in European history, already mentioned in Section 15. Bitcoin better is phased out. [58]

National governments will be hesitant to surrender their tax base to a fiddling world government. However, the Paris Agreement of 2015 is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. *"Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.""* [59]

Liu, Chen and Xiao (2022) already proposed a word currency on carbon emissions. This is linked to emissions and not fiat money. It is restricted to who participates within an Emissions Trading System (ETS), and see the drawbacks of an ETS in Section 59. Instead, a great majority of economists advises a carbon tax. [60]

While nations will be hesitant to surrender their tax base in general, they might agree to surrender the carbon tax base, first because it would also bind other nations to the Paris Agreement, and secondly it allows fiat world money, which has great value for mankind as well.

---

[57] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2025/06/05/world-money-based-upon-a-carbon-tax

[58] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2024/06/11/blocking-bitcoins-greek-electricity-chain

[59] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement

[60] https://www.carbontax.org/economists/

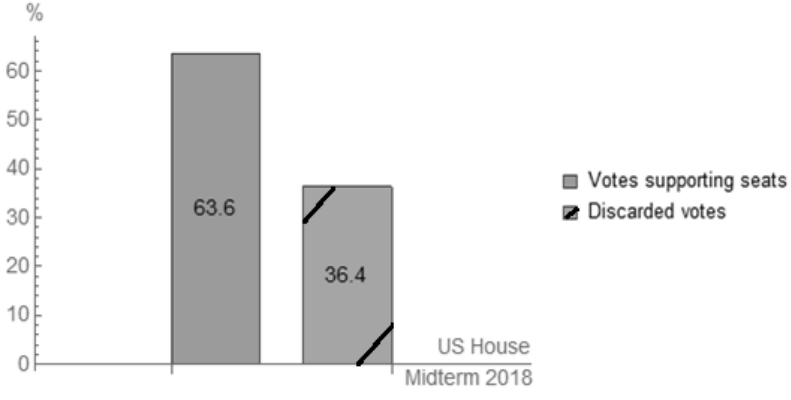
# 26. Equal or proportional vs district representation

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 21 reads:

1. *Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*
2. *Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.*
3. *The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.*

Point 1 is a *human right* and not a *district right*. Thus a voter has the right to give a mandate to a representative of his or her own choice, and not as the outcome of some contest within a district.

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Holland have equal or proportional representation (EPR). Not all proportional methods are quite as equal as could be. Norway allows for some deviation because of the less populated areas in the far North. The USA, UK and France have district representation (DR). These countries are proto-democratic, still stuck in medieval contests. They missed out from the movement in early 1900 towards more democracy. Below figure concerns the 2018 US midterm "contest-election" for the House of Congress. Only 63.6% of the votes supported a seat. 36.4% of the votes did not support a seat, and those votes thus were discarded. More than a third of US voters have taxation without representation. See mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/84482.



# 27. When political science isn't science yet

The histories why the USA, UK and France did not change to EPR are rather particular to these nations themselves. A common phenomenon is that a party in power will not want to change the DR system that gave it power. However, a main reason appears to be that the "political science on electoral systems" is no science yet, but still stuck in the humanities, with vague definitions. When the USA, UK and France had had consistent advice from their professors in political science, especially after the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that DR was in conflict with the article 21 sub 1 – and that DR voters are being robbed from their human right, and that EPR is the proper implementation of this human right – then eventually the voters and their politicians would have made the change. Instead, the professors allowed for the legal confusion that a district winner would "represent" all its voters, mistaking single seat elections with multiple seat elections. They developed some fallacies why the DR system would be better than EPR. One such fallacy is that DR enhances accountability: namely if it only requires most votes to win a district, then it might be easier for the district to change. This is obviously false when a party in power "divides and rules" to serve its voters instead of the whole district as it should do.

Carey & Hix (2011) try to present the best argument for DR and to find a "sweet spot" of what would be the best number of seats for a district. Refuting this best argument *proves* that the whole field is still no science, see mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/84482.

Taylor et al. (2014) "*A different democracy*" defend *American Exceptionalism.* They do so by neglecting the very issue. [61]

Shugart & Taagepera (2017) is much more scientific with the reverse estimating votes from seats, but they still regard DR and EPR seats as equivalent, while these are essentially different.

Scientists and "political scientists" can set up a buddy system to resolve the issue, see Colignatus (2020d). Colignatus (2025a) suggests annual elections of 1/3 or 1/4 of the seats.

[61] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2018/11/24/comparing-with-a-different-democracy

## 28. How to change from DR to EPR

In 2011, the UK had a Referendum on the Alternative Vote method. [62] In *Mathematics Teaching* [63] [64] Colignatus discussed that voters in the voting booth cannot do the negotiations that should happen in parliament. The party list system is best. Nick Clegg and misguided reformists organised a wrong referendum.

In 2022, over 200 democracy scholars wrote to the US Congress *"our winner-take-all system (…) is essentially broken".* [65] They asked Congress to end single-winner Congressional Districts and *"to adopt inclusive, multi-member districts with more proportional representation"*.

The scholars appear to be much in confusion. [66] [67]

- When something is "essentially broken" then you don't just write to Congress but you call for a national strike till democracy is fixed again. The scholars are not credible.
- They apparently haven't decided yet upon what would be their best alternative. They allow Congress a multitude of options so that the politicians and voters who have hardly studied the issue are sent into the swamp.
- Some of the more vocal advocacy groups [68] propose that voters in the voting booth would use ranking systems. This would cause confusion however. Less vocal scholars have not denounced the silliness of such approaches. The chaos gives the impression that the "essentially broken" system would be replaced by something even less effective.
- They are still stuck on the notions of districts, perhaps searching for a "sweet spot" of a best number of seats per district. It would make more sense to drop this notion, and go for EPR, using the party list system as is used in Holland. See the example spreadsheet in footnote 67.

[62] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenkins_Commission_(UK)
[63] http://www.atm.org.uk/Mathematics-Teaching-Journal-Archive/3921
[64] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/VTFD/2010-05-27-Wrt-Referendum-on-PR.html
[65] https://www.fixourhouse.org/an-open-letter-to-congress
[66] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2024/08/22/confusion-in-the-usa-about-switching-to-epr
[67] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2024/10/07/confusion-in-the-usa-continued/
[68] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_reform_in_the_United_States

## 29. A President appointed by the House

When there are separate elections for the Congress and the President, then each has its own *legal* electoral mandate. This tends to create conflicts, legal and political, even when the Congress majority and the President are of the same party.

With the separation of powers, there would not be a dominant power, because there are different functions of equal relevance. Still, Congress has legislative power and establishes the budget, so the President has only executive power here. The President also must represent all Americans, and not only the party that advanced his candidacy.

Donald Trump appears to be a very partisan President. He has called upon emergency while there was no emergency. Basically the USA is in a constitutional crisis, except that Congress appears to be partisan and subservient to the President, so that the issue of principle does not come to the surface.

The writers of the US Constitution must have reasoned that if the Congress and President had separate functions, then they would also require separate elections by the voters. This can seem to be an acceptable view in 1787. Experience since then has shown that this actually is a grave error. See the discussion about the "imperial presidency" – also a title of a book by Arthur Schlesinger 1973. [69] It is advisable that the USA changes to a ceremonial presidency and an executive prime minister, both appointed by the House. This is the European model.

Namely Germany, the UK and Holland assign the executive power to the prime minister, who is appointed by the House. If the prime minister oversteps his or her bounds, there would be no constitutional crisis, since the House can take a vote of no-confidence, after which another prime minister can be appointed, perhaps after new elections. The Head of State in these countries has a ceremonial and ombudsman function, in the UK and Holland still a monarch, and in Germany a President also appointed by parliament. Unlucky France has the US model.

[69] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_presidency

## 30. Other challenges for democracy in the USA

There are many more challenges for democracy in the USA. Some are similar as in other nations. One would think that such challenges must be tackled over time by the internal workings of those systems.

However, the current challenge to democracy is by facism in the USA. Thus it is important to specify the following points.

- There is Thomas Ferguson's "*Golden Rule*" 1995 about money-driven political systems. [70] US politicians may rather adopt the policy of the financier than the voters, and use the campaign contributions to produce spin to get elected.
- Voter registration in Holland is automatically by the city of residence. The inefficiency of the US system can only be deliberate. Greg Palast 2025 points to manipulations in the 2024 "contest-elections" that Congress does not look into. [71]
- There is James Galbraith's "*Predator State*" 2009 about unbridled neoliberalism. [72]
- There is Aaron Good's "*American Exception: Empire and the Deep State*" (thesis and book in 2022) with his analysis of the breakdown of US democracy. [73] [74] Remarkable is the lack of oversight in Congress of the CIA, with the CIA working towards a "US empire" regardless of the Republican or Democratic party. [75] The whole world is victim to this.
- There is Jeffrey Sachs [76] e.g. with his book club. [77]
- There is Mearsheimer & Walt 2007 on the US Israel lobby. [78]
- This letter [79] should've stated that *what Trump does* is fascist.

[70] https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/G/bo3624792.html
[71] https://www.gregpalast.com/the-voting-trickery-that-elected-trump/
[72] https://www.amazon.com/Predator-State-Conservatives-Abandoned-Liberals/dp/1416576215#
[73] https://www.amazon.com/American-Exception-Empire-Deep-State/dp/1510769137
[74] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXvuOG33zLs
[75] https://sdgacademylibrary.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Conversation%20with%20James%20and%20Tom%20Risen%2C%20The%20Last%20Honest%20Man/1_7vhh4tvl
[76] https://www.jeffsachs.org/
[77] https://www.bookclubwithjeffreysachs.org/
[78] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Israel_Lobby_and_U.S._Foreign_Policy
[79] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jun/13/nobel-laureates-fascism

# 31. Education in mathematics

Mathematics should be clear by itself. Its definitions should be appealing to intuitions. Practice in math is required to become familiar with the notions and their implications, but one should not do exercises without knowing what one is doing. Professional mathematics is a field of its own but the common citizen would be served by what is taught in the schools.

Mathematics developed in a historically rather crooked way, far less clear than it can be presented nowadays. Compare the Roman numerals I, II, III, IV, … and the Indian-Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 … We still pronounce 19 as "nineteen" and 21 as "twenty one", thus in a different writing order. This is confusing for children who still must learn to read and write. Better are "ten and nine" and "two ten and one". [80] [81]

Mathematicians are trained for abstraction. When they meet real life pupils, then they experience cognitive dissonance, and stick to the crooked way how math developed historically.

MathEd has its math wars because of such cognitive dissonants. Mathematicians do no empirical research. Psychometricians lack training in the didactics of mathematics. It is all a disaster and affront to humanity and science, see Colignatus (2018a). Pupils are burdened needless, and many proceed in life with impaired thinking, perhaps even self-hate and destructive wishes. This calls for a reform of math education from early life onwards. Didactics and MathEd can be redesigned and greatly improved, see Colignatus (2011b, 2015) and its review by Gill (2012).

Sergey Karaganov wants to crush the moral spine of Western elites. [82] Well, partly correct: we can observe that much research in the humanities, at least as far as Colignatus has been able to check, suffers from a sound base in logic, math, statistics, and scientific methodology. Students should first get (something close to) a BSc (not just math) before proceeding in the humanities. Consider C.P. Snow "*Two cultures*" 1959 again.

[80] https://zenodo.org/records/1418480
[81] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/NiceNumbers/Index.html
[82] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergey_Karaganov

# 32. Education, education, education

The US Dept. of Education presents a difficult policy issue.

> *"In the first 100 days of the Trump-Vance Administration, the U.S. Department of Education has advanced President Trump's goal to return education to states by empowering parents to make decisions in their child's education and removing bureaucratic barriers to educational choice."* [83]

Such an issue is difficult to judge upon.

A factor in this decision may be that 6-7% of kids are diagnosed to have ADHD, and boys twice as often than girls (9% vs 4.5%). [84] It may well be that educators are deficient on this.

Billionaire libertarian Peter Thiel funded the senatorial campaign of JD Vance. Eric Weinstein, [85] a former managing director of Thiel Capital, has lambasted the educational incompetence w.r.t. neurodiversity, calling this "edugenic harm", in particular in his own case. [86] While very negative on the primary and secondary system, he still got a PhD in math from Harvard, on a model used in physics. Weinstein points to student debts and predatory teaching: *"Teachers are the greatest threat to democracy."* He might consider helping on MathEd. [87]

Weinstein has more remarkable views, which come with uncertainty what to think of this. Here [88] after three hours (3:19:06) he discusses JD Vance, and evaluates that Vance is really concerned about the working poor, see here Sections 6 and 7. The Hillbillies had a form of white slavery in the 20th century, with Pinkerton control. Country singer Pete Seeger (1919-2014) was originally a union organiser. [89] [90] These people would have been neglected by the Democratic Party, see Section 58.

---

[83] www.ed.gov/about/initiatives/president-trumps-first-100-days-education-america
[84] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attention_deficit_hyperactivity_disorder
[85] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Weinstein
[86] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq_PzQFgbPw
[87] https://zenodo.org/records/291974
[88] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYRYXhU4kxM&t=11946s
[89] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Seeger
[90] https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/28/pete-seeger-labor-movement-impact/4957731/

# 33. University challenge

Section 27 had the suggestion of a buddy system for "political scientists" and natural scientists. The latter originally concerned physics. However, it appeared that two such "buddies" made an error, [91] namely Derek Muller, physics educator, in his Veritasium vlog in 2024, following the advice of Eric Maskin, Nobel Prize in economics recipient. Consider the 2000 US Presidential contest-election between Bush, Gore and Nader. After a Supreme Court ruling on a ballot recount, Bush won. If there had been a runoff contest-election, many voters for Nader would have helped Gore winning. The mathematics behind this issue is crucial. Even the runoff method can have deficiencies, see Colignatus (2014) and Section 60 on Arrow's theorem. Better is that the President is appointed by the House, see Section 29.

It causes the question, however, whether something is amiss with physics. Sabine Hossenfelder [92] [93] and Eric Weinstein [94] agree that there is a problem with fundamental physics that "has made no progress for the last 50 years". Hossenfelder refers to her 2018 book *"Lost in math".* She holds that scientific methodology is abused. A researcher may hypothesize something and hope that it might be tested and perhaps falsified by an experiment. However, such ideas like String Theory would be untestable, resulting in a dead-end-street, but with physicists still pounding at it. Weinstein observes that the US DoD has kept researchers away from further working on the atomic bomb, and suggests that they fear worse risks, thus stagnating the field deliberately. Hossenfelder (min 6:30) disagrees with him on this, and looks for the cause in how research is being funded. Both speculate that other fields are at risk of stagnation too.

Universities may consider watching "*Why fools rule*" about Machiavelli [95] and see what academic training can do about this.

---

[91] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2025/02/09/veritasiums-2024-mistake-on-arrows-theorem/

[92] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQVF0Yu7X24

[93] Overcriticism by Dave Farina https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70vYj1KPyT4

[94] Minute 43 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYRYXhU4kxM

[95] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ix4nKNDKhTQ

## 34. Enquiries by parliament

This booklet offers various suggestions that may be controversial at first. These suggestions have been formulated here in rather general terms, while it often are the details that matter for most people. A good method towards implementation would be to have enquiries by parliament about the issues.

- Parliaments have the resources for extensive enquiry.
- The various political views will be heard.
- The deliberations will be public with further discussion in the media.
- The parliamentarians will tend to focus on practical application for lawmaking.

A parliamentarian enquiry may still lead nowhere if the suggestion under consideration has been formulated too vague. Thus it is important to be aware that the main suggestions mentioned here have been based upon research in political economy since 1980.

We should keep Galbraith (1963:13) in mind:

> *"However, it is possible that our greatest danger, in these days of massive introspection, is from our terrible solemnity. For this is a serious source of inflexibility. Change and new evidence have a way of making previous convictions seem odd, even ridiculous. The reasonably relaxed man can accept correction without too grievous loss of dignity. But the solemn man cannot. He may have heard that the truth will set him free. But he rightly senses that it might also make him seem silly."*

The US govt has an official historian. [96] This booklet points to the need for greater discipline also in this field.

[96] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_the_Historian

## 35. The Truth Commission of South Africa

This booklet provides crucial facts and identifies possibly best approaches towards resolution of main world problems.

It is up to humanity and its nations to actually resolve these issues.

With so much social division and strife, the model of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as used in South Africa may help out. [97] [98]

The oligarchs of predatory capitalism might be few and hide behind their dispersed corporations and laywers. It may be unlikely that e.g. Warren Buffett, hailed as a wise investor, might be willing to participate in the role of the villain in a TRC about the practices of the companies that he invested in. (He might.) Still, the South African model has worked on occasion.

In Section 33 we pointed to the problematic situation at colleges and universities. It is a suggestion that colleges and universities empower their alumni by setting up working paper archives in which their alumni still can contribute. [99] A vast store of experience that the alumni gathered in the real world is still untapped, and can become available for recording, discussion and policy improvement.

Link this up with the "two cultures" mentioned in Section 31. Charlotte Kilpatrick holds that Elon Musk is proof for the need of degrees in humanities. [100] Musk got a BSc economics and a BA physics. A good economics education already links up to the humanities. Rather, present media are like echo chambers. Alumni archives and TRCs could enhance the needed judgement.

[97] https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/

[98] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth_and_Reconciliation_Commission_(South_Africa)

[99] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/let-higher-education-he-create-working-paper-archives-wpa-for-alumni/

[100] https://www.newstatesman.com/thestaggers/2022/11/elon-musk-proof-people-humanities-degrees

# 36. How China might gradually adopt democracy

China is ruled by the CCP. See this interview [101] by Robinson 2025 with Dikötter. Apparently, the gap between coastal and land-locked China compares to a form of apartheid. Dikötter's rule of thumb is that 25% of China might fear an uprising by 75% of China. His advised policy is a Kennan style of containment, with the hope that the CCP rule collapses due to internal forces like the USSR. This suggestion is less attractive, see the collapse of the USSR, and the threat of the use of nuclear arms nowadays.

China has been planning its economy. China may also plan for the Dutch style of democracy, instead of USA proto-democracy.

China has five administrative levels of local government: [102] *"the provincial (province, autonomous region, municipality, and special administrative region), prefecture, county, township, and village".* Let each level take 4 years to start practicing democracy. Thus the village (neighbourhood) starts with elections for 1-4 years and continues henceforth. The township joins in for 5-8+, the county for 9-12+, the prefecture for 13-16+ and the province for 17-20+. Given the complexity of provinces, it could be advisable to have another term of four years before the step to the national level is made. Then from year 25 onwards there can be an elected parliament, that can draw upon parties and candidates that have gained experience in the workings of democracy (in western style) for 24 years at the local levels.

While building up democracy from the bottom up, this is accompanied with the rule of law and freedom of the press relevant for those levels, while only for the national level from year 25 onwards. At the same time the local levels should have their Economic Courts. From the start there must be an Economic Supreme Court at the national level for the required integration.

This can be announced as an iron clad path that the CCP will adhere to for the next 25 years, as a contract between the party and the population. Thus, uncertainties can be managed.

[101] Robinson 2025, Interview with Frank Dikötter, "Empire of Illusion: Frank Dikötter on Why China Isn't a Superpower", https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goEU7C1xmis
[102] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_China

## Part 2. What to avoid

Avoid fake news – but what news would be fake ?

Our only guide is *critical enquiry.* We best have friends and colleagues who are committed to critical enquiry too.

This booklet identifies the following very critical topics.

## 37. The world's really rich

Much attention in the media is for rich individuals but more important can be the big companies, in which the rich collaborate to enhance their wealth and power.

Wim Naudé (2025) warned about the world's really rich:

> *"The real threat is not Big Tech, but established oligarchies that have long undermined democracy — oligarchies in oil, food, finance, and weapons. What we are seeing after Trump's election victory is not the rise and conquest of democracy by Big Tech, but the capitulation of Big Tech to the existing oligarchies."*
>
> *"First, there are the food barons: the ABCD refers to Archer-Daniels-Midland Company, Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus, which control about 90% of the global grain trade. (…) Another industry, much more powerful than Big Tech, consists of financial investment firms dominated by just three firms, BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street. They control more than 40% of all public companies in the US. State Street alone had assets of $4.13 trillion in 2023—more than Germany's total GDP."*
>
> *"Then there are the defense contractors who thrive on permanent war and salivate at the thought of Mark Rutte's call for "NATO to spend more": Lockheed Martin, RTX Corp, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, General Dynamics, BAE Systems, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Airbus, HII, Thales, Leidos, Amentum, Booz Allen Hamilton, Rheinmetall AG, Dassault Aviation, Elbit Systems, Rolls-Royce, Honeywell, and others. They profit from total global military spending, which now exceeds US$2.2 trillion. This is almost twice as much as Amazon, Apple, Alphabet (Google), and Microsoft earn combined. No wonder Big Tech is submitting to the military-industrial complex, with the aim of profiting from the permanent war economy — with Ukraine turning into an "AI war lab."*
>
> *"The top 10 oil producers will have raked in $2.5 trillion in revenue by 2024."*

Democracies have been succumbing to these pressures and must overcome them, for otherwise our freedoms will be lost.

## 38. The shackles of culture

Avoid the shackles of culture. A modicum is unavoidable but do not turn it into something absolute and holy.

Geert Hofstede (1928-2020) has 6 dimensions. [103] Emmanuel Todd studied family structures and inheritance laws. Families can be authoritarian or liberal. Inheritance can be equal or unequal. This gives a 2 x 2 table and a remarkable European map. [104]

The Roman empire split into two parts. The West turned into Roman catholism, and later protestantism too. The East turned into Byzantium and orthodox christianity. It still divides Europe. Belisarius (505-565 AD) from Byzantium destroyed much of the Western Roman empire in North Africa so that Islam after 600 AD had a free walk. When Byzantium itself was conquered in 1453, its priests and scholars fled to Italy and Russia. In Italy they caused the Renaissance. In Moscow the czar (Caesar) was crowned as the standard bearer of the Roman empire.

The Vikings spread into East and West too. In the East they founded Kyiv and in the West they settled on the coasts of Western Europe. William the Conqueror, descendant of Rollo, gained the English throne in 1066. Richard Miniter [105] points to the English Civil Wars 1642-1652 and subcultures fleeing to America— East Anglia *puritans* to New England; the *hierarchical* Cavalier from southwest England to Virginia and the US South; the West Midlands to the US middle States; and English-Scots to the (proto-*libertarian*) Appalachian borderlands. We end up with Vikings in America and Russia fighting each other again.

Russell Shorto 2005 discussed the Dutch colony on Manhattan 1624-1667 for its impact on the US melting pot, commerce and tolerance. The rivalry between Holland and England ended when William III and Mary II boarded some 460 ships with 40,000 men from Holland and conquered England for the Glorious Revolution of 1688, bringing along inventions like the Amsterdam Bank and Bourse. Cultures from the whole world shape the USA.

---

[103] geerthofstede.com/culture-geert-hofstede-gert-jan-hofstede/6d-model-of-national-culture
[104] boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/05/17/colour-coding-conventions-on-europe/
[105] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-hj5uwclmk&t=2262s

# 39. Exultation of cultural differences

Avoid the exultation of cultural differences into extremes.

Ethics is about behaviour. Deontology is about explicit external rules. Virtue ethics emphasizes personal character, and allows for the pragmatic application and deviations from rules, based upon one's integrity, training and experience. Examples are science ethics, business ethics, professional ethics, warrior ethics. The two approaches may be questioned: behaviour can be judged by its utility and the consequences with respect to goals.

Political thinkers are free to shop in the philosophy of ethics. Some create memes that propagate horrible chaos. Consider a death cult with baptism by blood, the exultation of martyrdom, and the hunt of scapegoats to purify a creed.

Theologian Ethelbert Stauffer (1902-1979) [106] denounced the eternal damnation of hell, and he allowed all people a purgatory so that all souls could be saved for heaven. Scholarly correct is his discovery: *"He showed that the Easter liturgy does not follow the Gospel but the funerary ritual of Julius Caesar […] and that the Clementia Caesaris was the pre-Christian forerunner of Christ's forgiveness."* Francesco Carotta shows that the Divus Iulius and Roman *divine emperor cult* was turned into Christianity. [107] [108]

There is Stauffer's 1933 analysis on Christian martyrdom, with disciples as soldiers, and Jezus a guiding example as the sacrificial lamb. Martyrdom is never a good idea, so don't abolish hell yet.

Sadly, Stauffer was sympathetic to some nazi views.

Peter Thiel [109] refers to his teacher René Girard at Stanford with the scapegoat theory. [110] Judaism replaced human sacrifice by scapegoats. When "Christ was innocently sacrificed for our sins", then scapegoating became morally unacceptable, holds Girard. It is still a lapse from animals back to human sacrifice, causing the martyrs who offer themselves, innocent or not. It lacks balance.

---

[106] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethelbert_Stauffer
[107] https://uitgeverijaspekt.nl/product/jesus-was-ceasar & https://www.divusiulius.de
[108] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/SMOJ/Index.html
[109] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=918qslcfwfY&t=460s
[110] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren%C3%A9_Girard

# 40. Libertarianism

Libertarianism is a radical choice of individual liberty over social intervention. It is a philosophy and political view, and compares to homeopathy, astrology, scientology, political theology. [111] An eye-opener might be the failure of the Prospera enclave, see 2oceansvibe (2025). [112] [113] Peter Thiel 2009: *"I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible."* [114]

If your creed is libertarian, then you hold that abolition of rules and regulations is good whatever the consequences, because the abolition creates some mythical "freedom". For a proper evaluation of such abolition, scientific economists would have to step in to identify the costs and benefits concerning what people really want. The scam in libertarianism is that these cult members often sell their creed as if it were a branch of economics, as if it has been proven by economics that abolition of rules and regulations would all by itself improve social welfare.

Libertarianism relates to Ayn Rand. [115] A first notion is that FED chairman Alan Greenspan turned out to be a libertarian and that his "intuitions" were a causal factor in the 2007+ crisis. This crisis was for many Americans so devastating that some compare it for them to the Great Depression, though other Americans, more rich and mighty, recovered and wanted to quickly forget about it. A second notion is that Michael Shermer, formerly also influenced by Ayn Rand and now at *Skeptic Magazine*, speaks about *The unlikeliest cult in history,* [116] because the professed rationalism of Randism should have prevented cult behaviour.

Thom Hartmann 2020 shows that Trump's policies on covid 19, libertarian in kind, killed people. [117] Check Jeffrey Sachs here. [118]

---

[111] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfbndRTlsg4

[112] 2oceansvibe, "Libertarian Paradise Or Billionaire Playground Gone Bust ? The Spectacular Fall Of Próspera", 2025-02-20

[113] https://www.vice.com/en/article/tech-billionaires-launch-fund-to-create-new-libertarian-societies-balaji/

[114] https://www.cato-unbound.org/2009/04/13/peter-thiel/education-libertarian/

[115] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/05/29/the-fun-of-the-fringe/

[116] http://www.skeptic.com/reading_room/the-unlikeliest-cult-in-history/

[117] https://thetriallawyermagazine.com/2020/12/libertarian-policies/

[118] https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/32/2/173/6535575

# 41. Trump's fascism masking as libertarianism

Sam Kahn holds that Trump is rather libertarian than fascist. [119]

> *"It's unusual to have a single figure, Donald Trump, dominate the political life of a country for a decade — and for nobody, really, to have any clear definition of his core political philosophy. For much of that decade, Democrats claimed that they had it figured out: that Trump was an authoritarian strongman, even a fascist. Kamala Harris flung the F-word in the lead-up to the 2024 election; close to a majority of voters didn't buy it."*
>
> *"In reality, Trump might be the most radically libertarian commander-in-chief in US history. This, contrary to the fears of #Resistance liberals who created an entire cottage industry devoted to fighting Trumpian dictatorship; contrary, too, to the dreams of populists, "post-liberals," and others in the so-called New Right who imagined that Trump would reconcile American conservatism with the state and promote the use of government power for Right-wing ends."*
>
> *"(…) In May, he spoke at the Libertarian Party National Convention — the "first president in history" to do so, as he boasted. His address, in which he attempted to stake his libertarian credentials, was remarkably on-message: "I will be a true friend to libertarians in the White House, (…)"*
>
> *"Trump's penchant for pulling all attention toward himself is reminiscent of a Mussolini type and thus seems to foreshadow an authoritarian takeover. But real authoritarianism takes work that Trump is uninvested in — and a state he's unwilling to fund. He has a businessman's revulsion for taxes and regulations. The other aspects of his worldview, including ones that seem to contradict his aversion to the state, amount to tactical maneuvring in service of his deeper pro-business agenda. That puts him in the libertarian camp, whether the libertarians themselves like it or not."*

However, libertarianism is only a loosely defined ideology. Abolition of all rights and leaving everything free, creates the law of the jungle, which in the end causes fascism. The said cottage industry doesn't present an alternative: Hence this booklet.

[119] https://unherd.com/2025/01/is-trump-the-most-libertarian-president-ever/

## 42. The Trump tariff war

All can see the damage that Donald Trump did when he imposed tariffs. As a non-economist he thought to know it better than what 99% of economists would have advised. Alternatively said, he chose to appoint advisers who would confirm his view on the matter. He avoided discussion and transparency. The US Constitution actually specifies that it is Congress and not the President that decides over tariffs. Trump solved this by referring to an emergency, while there was no emergency. The mendacity and the subservience of Congress are breathtaking.

Perhaps some high tariffs might cause some industries to locate (back) to the USA, but those would be automated and create few jobs. Companies will see a risk that the tariffs could be lifted again by a new president, so that it is better to wait and let customers bear the burden in the mean time.

China had the advantage of both open access to research at the US universities and its own model of industrial implementation. Thus China took the lead in solar panels, electrical vehicles and fifth generation phones. Tariffs were not the proper economic tool for resolving Trump's stated goal about its industrial base. See Section 11 on National Investment Banks.

That is, if we are to believe Trump's excuse that he really wants to restore the US industrial base. It may wel be that the real agenda is different, and more in line with the ideology of the billionaire libertarians, who want to break up government. Potentially they also want to create a pool of cheap labour, of people without any job and willing to do whatever it takes, like joining the US military for a showdown with China, Mexico and Canada, or a home guard for hunting down the scapegoats of dissenting voices against dictatorship. [120]

James Galbraith analyses Trump's political aims with the tariffs. [121] His argument is weak on US democracy. He is silent on "political science on electoral systems", that has disinformed US voters since the adoption of the 1948 UN Human Right 21 sub 1.

[120] https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/11/trump-military-force-plotting
[121] https://www.thenation.com/article/economy/political-economy-trumpism-europe/

## 43. Trump's fascism masking as chaos

What Trump says about reindustrialisation is partly a pretext for the ideological insistence by his libertarian backers who want to destroy the government, see Section 40.

There is professor Patrick Deneen, often mentioned by Christian conservatives, with his thesis that liberalism failed, but who apparently fails to observe that the USA only is a proto-democracy that closed its mind on social liberalism. [122]

There is also the cult around Curtis Yarvin [123] with a bizarre ideology, stuffed with inconsistencies. [124] [125] See Section 39.

Within an electoral system of equal or proportional representation, these currents would translate into political parties so that the discussion would be transparant. Now all such currents are behind the scenes, and often one can only guess what policy clique has what motive.

The chaos is enlarged by the Republican tricks like emergency law, or counting a calendar year as a legal day, which is an abuse of law, but apparently with political motives. [126]

Trump and this Congress have been legally "elected". Many people therefore want to acquiesce to Trump's policy. These consenters reason that, even with these sadly mistaken architects behind Trump, their policy would have gained a mandate. This is not quite true, and thus false, since a legal mandate is not a political mandate, and the law might be misguided, see Section 46. Also, a president is a chairman who should also care for minorities, not just implement the winners' agenda. Congress should guard against an abuse of power.

Overall, it is better to revise the way that the US president is chosen, see Section 29. [127]

---

[122] Dutch: thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Politiek/Artikelen/SociaalLiberalisme.html

[123] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtis_Yarvin

[124] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRq14ZBYwus

[125] https://www.thenerdreich.com/

[126] Hunter Savery and Daniel Hillburn, "House majority rules: When a 'calendar day' isn't what it seems", Roll Call 2025-03-18, https://rollcall.com/2025/03/18/house-majority-rules-when-a-calendar-day-isnt-what-it-seems/

[127] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2024/10/07/confusion-in-the-usa-continued

# 44. Donald John Trump and James David Vance

Avoid Trump and Vance. Impeach them for *"Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors"*. [128] [129]

The Supreme Court granted immunity against criminal law while executing the office. [130] This does not apply to treason or the civil abuse of emergency law when there is no emergency.

The separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches is infringed upon when a President has influence over individual legislators and their positions. Trump is vindictive and can politically attack a fellow-Republican who merely does a proper job but who can be framed as disloyal. Trump's relations with financiers can be used against dissenters. Musk threatened who would get out of line that he would finance alternative candidates. The Capitol Police guards the personal safety of Congress members and their families in case of need, but the CP Board is small and it might follow political directives, potentially to the effect that dissenters would no longer be protected against Trump fanatics like on January 6 2021.

It might seem strange that foreigners argue on US impeachment. Meddling by foreigners in internal affairs of another country may be counterproductive. However, the USA is in extreme chaos. Not enough Americans see the threat of fascism and the ongoing loss of freedom and democracy. Yes, the support for Trump is dwindling. But he hasn't been impeached yet while the evidence and need for impeachment is huge.

A majority in House and Senate might feel that Trump has not committed treason to the USA yet. Dick Berlijn is a former chief of the Dutch Defence Staff, [131] and judged that Trump committed treason to NATO (and thus the USA) when he on 2025-03-05 stopped the Ukraine from using intelligence. [132] Nout Wellink is a former president of the Dutch Central Bank and former director

[128] https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R46013
[129] https://www.usa.gov/impeachment
[130] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trump_v._United_States
[131] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Berlijn
[132] Dick Berlijn 2025-03-07 https://x.com/DickBerlijn/status/1898089987138003154

of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), [133] and he judged Trump to be an "economic and political terrorist", [134] not only in relations with other countries but also for the USA itself.

The evidence for impeachment is as follows.

In the New Yorker 2021, Jeannie Suk Gersen wrote: [135]

> *"For years, Carlton F. W. Larson, a treason scholar and law professor at the University of California, Davis, has swatted away loose treason accusations by both Donald Trump and his critics. Though the term is popularly used to describe all kinds of political betrayals, the Constitution defines treason as one of two distinct, specific acts: "levying War" against the United States or "adhering to their Enemies, giving them* ***Aid and Comfort****." Colluding with Russia, a foreign adversary but not an enemy, is not treason, nor is bribing Ukraine to investigate a political rival. Ordering the military to abandon Kurdish allies in Syria, effectively strengthening ISIS, is not treason, either—though that is getting warmer. During Trump's Presidency, Larson told me, his colleagues teased him by asking, "Is it treason yet?" He always said no. But the insurrection of January 6th changed his answer, at least with regard to Trump's followers who attacked the Capitol in an attempt to stop Congress's certification of the election. "It's very clear that would have been seen as 'levying war,' " he said."*

The January 6 2021 attack on the Capitol was ground for the 2nd trial of impeachment of Trump. [136] The majorities in House and Senate agreed that Trump took part in the insurrection: House 232 yes, 197 no, Senate 57 yes, 43 no. There was no 2/3 majority in the Senate required for impeachment. The votes in the Senate on February 13 seem to have been ambiguous since Trump had already been replaced by Biden. Some senators might have thought that the case was no longer relevant. This deficiency could be remedied by reopening the case.

---

[133] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nout_Wellink

[134] Nout Wellink 2025-04-27 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxl73dHNdvM

[135] https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/did-donald-trump-and-his-supporters-commit-treason

[136] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_impeachment_of_Donald_Trump

Robert Reich in 2023 uttered his frustration that Trump committed insurrection and should have been barred from running again. [137] This is another issue.

- Though impeachment did not succeed, the majorities in House and Senate still agreed that Trump was an insurrectionist. Thus it would be logical that he should have been barred in 2021 from ever running again.
- See this discussion by Mark Graber in the *Conversation.* [138] Citizens are named "insurrectionists". This term is not for foreign enemies. Both have the same rule on participation: *"In short, treason is treason, and a person either engages in treason or does not. There are no degrees of treason."*
- Then see the 2024 deficient decision [139] by the US Supreme Court. Judges spoke of *"an oathbreaking insurrectionist"* and then neglected that insurrection has no degrees, like treason has no degrees. (If they took their norm in the 2/3 majority for impeachment then the term "insurrectionist" should not have applied. Thus, the simple majority was sufficient.)

Subsequently:

(1) Reopen the impeachment for the 2021-01-06 uprising.

(1a) Reopening differs from *ne bis idem*. The latter is a notion in common law, but the Congressional handling of impeachment on "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors" concerns the management of the state.

> *"Whereas judicial precedent drives the prevailing understanding of many provisions of the Constitution, impeachment is essentially a political process that is largely unreviewable by the Judicial Branch. As such, the historical practice of impeachment proceedings, rather than judicial decisions, informs our understanding of the Constitution's meaning in this area."* [140]

[137] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/24/trump-treason-constitution-election-republicans-robert-reich

[138] https://theconversation.com/why-treason-is-a-key-topic-in-trumps-14th-amendment-appeal-to-the-supreme-court-221460

[139] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/05/trump-supreme-court-insurrection-ruling-election

[140] https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/artII-S4-4-1/ALDE_00000690/

(1b) New evidence about 2021-01-06 was recovered in the later hearings in the House (with vice-chair Liz Cheney). [141]

(1c) New evidence has been provided by the pardoning by Trump of the insurrectionists. Trump has the right to pardon, which means that recipients cannot be touched, but there still is *Trump's given reason for the pardons*:

> *"ends a grave national injustice".* [142]

Congress can have a view and verdict about this reason too.

(1c1) Pardoning an insurrectionist is also supporting the insurrection. (Compare pardoning who killed JFK.)

(1c2) Since the US already has a system for the rule of law w.r.t. justice and injustice, the presidential second-guessing of "injustice" in his pardoning for nearly 1600 cases amounts to undermining the workings of the independent judicial branch, and should not be seen as the execution of clemency but can only be seen as part of the insurrection (and abuse of the pardon).

(1d) Vance can be impeached because of the 2021-01-06 insurrection too, since he supported many such pardons, and has not criticised the insurrection itself.

(1e) It must also be mentioned that Trump in 2025 wanted an advice on using the 1807 insurrection act, to use it for security on the Southern border. [143] Trump already considered this law in his first term also w.r.t. 2021-01-06. There have been suggestions for making the law more robust against such abuse. [144] Congress can also ponder that the president considered this law while there was no ground to do so – except for creating an uprising himself.

(2) Trump invoked emergencies where there were none, and he signed a string of presidential decrees based upon such fake emergencies. Vance has been complicit in agreeing with this, and not protesting against it.

---

[141] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_hearings_of_the_United_States_House_Select_Committee_on_the_January_6_Attack

[142] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/granting-pardons-and-commutation-of-sentences-for-certain-offenses-relating-to-the-events-at-or-near-the-united-states-capitol-on-january-6-2021/

[143] https://edition.cnn.com/2025/04/18/politics/pentagon-dhs-wont-recommend-insurrection-act/index.html

[144] https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/how-fix-insurrection-act

Congress allowed the administration to proceed, but it may well be that legislators were afraid of blocking Trump, say on tariffs, because he might take revenge. When Trump and Vance can be removed altogether, then legislators may feel safe that the threat of personal repercusions can be mitigated.

NB 1. An argument to allow Trump to abuse the emergency argument for tariffs is that this "only" concerns his method of negotiation. Trump may have learned these mafioso tactics from his laywer Roy Cohn. [145] He opens with a rather impossible demand, allows you to show subservience with a high counter-offer that you might just manage, or show that you have better cards, and then he might accept your offer or go for the kill. Members of Congress might reason that Congress has no role other than ratification when countries "voluntarily" agree on trade deals. It is said that Americans play poker, Europeans play chess, and the Chinese go. Still, it is not just a method of negotiation. Congress has been sidelined on policy making itself, and might also have thoughts about international relations.

NB 2. The governor of California has started a lawsuit against abuse of the emergency law. [146] This will most likely fail since the supervision of such execution is up to Congress. The Court of International Trade (in Manhattan) however had a verdict. [147]

(3) The $Trump crypto currency is bribery. There now is another crypto deal. [148] There are other questions about how Trump has arranged how his finances are managed while he has a public office. [149] Trump's own form of bribery might seem less striking against the backdrop of his policy of allowing for more bribery in general. [150] [151]

---

[145] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Cohn

[146] https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/04/16/governor-newsom-files-lawsuit-to-end-president-trumps-tariffs/

[147] https://www.reuters.com/business/us-ruling-that-trump-tariffs-are-unlawful-stirs-relief-uncertainty-2025-05-29/

[148] https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/how-trump-family-took-over-crypto-firm-it-raised-hundreds-millions-2025-03-31/

[149] https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-business-ethics-white-paper-foreign-deals-golf-hotels-260a4343d52bb21614f04cfded7fd19a

[150] https://www.axios.com/2025/04/13/trump-redefines-fraud-corruption

[151] https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c391ml9x878o

# 45. Regarding the US Constitution as sacred

In US Government classes, young Americans are indoctrinated to revere the US Constitution of 1788 [152] as something sacred. Given US history, there is much to say for this reverence but we should not forget that the Founding Fathers were quite critical themselves too. With an experience of 237 years of world history and an explosion in scientific knowledge, we can tally for example (not mentioning all problems that caused amendments):

- There already had been the first experiment of the Articles of Confederation of 1777. There was a willingness to learn from experience, and then make this new US Constitution.
- The US Constitution originally allowed for slavery.
- The US Constitution did not prevent the 1861 Civil War.
- There were numerous financial crashes before a federal reserve system was devised, that still is quite dubious.
- The women's right to vote came nationally only in 1920.
- There was the Great Depression, and David Kennedy (1999) *"Freedom from fear*" shows that Huey Long might have set the road to fascism, had FDR not met this challenge. This sets very high standards for a president vis à vis the system.
- While the US was victorious in WW 1 & 2, unfortunately there was government dishonesty with wars in Vietnam and Iraq and e.g. the Iran-Contra affair. Since the 1960s there is serious concern about the *imperial presidency*. [153]
- In 2018 we see that more than a third of US voters have taxation without representation, [154] see Section 26.

Science is supposed to inform, not to indoctrinate. US Government classes might have a degree of unavoidable indoctrination, to induce students to accept the rules of the game, so that they can function in society, and so that they can exercise their democratic rights because others accept those rights too. The bias of "political science", that is no science yet, see Section 27, however creates an inordinate imbalance.

[152] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_States
[153] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Presidency
[154] http://thomascool.eu/Papers/SocialWelfare/2018-11-13-USA-Midterm.pdf

## 46. Giving false status

Avoid giving false status in general. For example, do not speak about "elections" in DR with First Past The Post (FPTP). These are contests rather than elections. A compromise term is "(half) elections" or better "contest-elections".

President Donald Trump didn't get a full mandate in the 2024 contest-elections. The 2024 US House contest-elections show 50.6% for the Republicans and 47.8% for the Democrats. [155] Trump got 49.80% and thus got the "popular vote", [156] i.e. more than Harris at 48.32%, but Trump was still shy of 50% + 1. Many votes for RFK jr with 0.49% might go to Trump in a run-off, though. However, a run-off might increase voter turnout.

Overall, the contest-elections were under the rule of DR, while the votes likely would have been different under the rule of EPR. See voter registration in Section 30. Also, a president exists for all citizens, and not only for who voted for him or her.

The Weimar republic had equal or proportional representation (EPR), following the advice by, amongst others, Max Weber. There is an argument that Hitler would have been stopped by district representation (DR). This is false. PR actually delayed Hitler's advance. He attained power by imprisoning communist delegates after the Reichstag fire. [157]

After WW1, the USA held off the League of Nations, depriving the world of a tool to counter rising fascism and WW2. The false status in this case was that the League got too low a status.

Thom Hartmann 2024 discusses Zuckerberg's rather libertarian views. [158] After the January 6 2021 uprising, Zuckerberg restricted Trump on Facebook but eventually Trump was not impeached or convicted, and Zuckerberg made amends. It seems too soon.

[155] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections#Alabama
[156] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_United_States_presidential_election#Results
[157] Lorraine Boissoneault, https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/true-story-reichstag-fire-and-nazis-rise-power-180962240/
[158] https://hartmannreport.com/p/zuckerberg-says-hes-a-libertarian-708

# 47. Selling your land cheaply

Farmers may be distraught that they cannot sell their products due to the Trump tariff war or a general world in distress. In dire straits, they might consider selling their farms.

Perhaps some billionaires are willing to buy up their lands.

There is already a scheme in California by Flannery LLC. [159] [160] Apparently it is related to "California Forever" with CEO Jan Sramek. [161] One plan is to develop a "walkable city", i.e. better than the suburbs that require the use of a car that contributes to obsesity. A company city would have special restrictions on democracy however. Underlying ideas apparently are in the 2009 book "*Racing towards excellence. Demystifying the Inside Track to Academic, Career and Financial Outperformance*", by Kahn, Sramek, and Davies. [162]

One is reminded of Galbraith (1963:15):

> *"One [… article …] to my pleasant surprise brought more comment than anything of comparable length I have ever written. That was the treatise on farming an abandoned farm. For weeks after it appeared I was deluged with suggestions, criticisms, and also invitations from similar farm operators (or non-operators) from all over the Eastern United States. I was left with the impression that the care and management of derelict land is a major avocation (often disguised as a vocation) of the American people. The United States Department of Agriculture should have a division devoted to it. Perhaps it might be created as a kind of memorial to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to whom all who love abandoned farms will be forever in debt."*

Catherine Austin Fitts [163] warns for land grab tactics, also for lands that are owned by the US Government itself. [164]

---

[159] https://www.youtube.com/shorts/UK1KhrWhKdU
[160] https://substack.perfectunion.us/about
[161] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Forever
[162] https://capitalism.columbia.edu/content/racing-towards-excellence
[163] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Austin_Fitts
[164] https://solari.com/plunder-capitalism-land-grab-tactics/

## 48. The rise and fall of empires

The rise and fall of empires is a dimension. Historian Harrison (2022) [165] discusses this dimension, and concludes (translated into English from the Dutch translation p368):

> *"Something we can say with certainty is that all empires are ultimately based on military power and the will to use it to expand and consolidate an empire. This is true whether it is a large connected empire, like the Mongol Empire, or a fragmented conglomeration of realms, like the British one. Without military power, all superpowers collapse, even the culturally and economically successful ones. (...) So the most important imperial lesson of history is that the great powers must be able to adapt to the military conditions that are decisive in any given situation. Military power must keep pace with technology and with the collective bellicose potential of neighbouring countries. It matters little whether emperors and sultans wallow in excesses of decadence and squander taxpayers' money on palaces and mausoleums if, at the same time, they have at their disposal a large and loyal army and an up-to-date arsenal of weapons. (...) The majority of all fallen empires only went down, as far as the sources allow us to judge, because the enemies were stronger."*

This does not bode well for the EU. The USA promised NATO partners after 1945 that the USA would provide the nuclear shield. The USA paid those partners not to develop nuclear weapons themselves, like farmers can be paid not to grow maize, see Robben 2025. [166] Decolonisation gave US businesses ample access to raw materials, possibly bribing local elites. The USA built its empire and presented itself as the world's policeman. Trump wants the world to begin paying for this police, while at the same time this police is giving Ukraine to Putin – which is a violation of the international rule of law because Ukrainian sovereignty and borders are no longer respected, see Patrick 2025. [167]

---

[165] Dick Harrison, translated title: "Fallen empires", 2022, Omnibook 2024

[166] Robben (2025), "How the U.S. Kept Europe's Armies Small — On Purpose", https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYFpiwyTXcU

[167] Patrick, "The Death of the World America Made. Donald Trump's war on multilateralism is misguided and dangerous," 2025-02-19. carnegieendowment.org /emissary/2025/02/trump-executive-order-treaties-organizations ?lang=en

# 49. Speculating about China and Russia

This booklet contains some comments w.r.t. China and Russia but the reader must be warned that our knowledge about these countries and their histories and cultures is very limited. Experts and natives themselves may also feel that they lack adequate knowledge about the thoughts and acts of these peoples over time. Let it be said that we aspire at common sense.

On China, Henri van Praag (1958) was informative for our understanding of Confucius, Laozi and Mencius. While Confucius emphasizes order, there is also the assumption that members of the household or state also know their proper place in the whole. Laozi would allow for more individual desires and free will, and thus more dynamics than Confucius, though there still is the value of harmony also with nature. Thus Chinese philosophy recognises some tension between the management of the state and individual liberty.

For Russia, consider the vlogs by Elvira Bary, e.g. on the propaganda machine, on Russia that the West cannot see, and on the influence of Byzantium. [168]

Remember that the USA can do propaganda too. G.W. Bush invented weapons of mass destruction as an excuse to invade Iraq and get the oil. Bush jr in 2001 unilaterally ended the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABTM) with the “excuse” of terrorism. Bush jr pledged in Bucharest in 2008 that Ukraine could join NATO in due course, and thus broke the spirit of détente that his father showed at the German Reunification, see Section 50.

Informative is Sergey Karaganov. [169] It helps that Elvira Bary has informed us that Russians can be very blunt. The texts by Karaganov are rather strong, like his wish “to break the moral spine of the Western elites”, see Section 31. In a discussion, Mearsheimer mentions errors in American policy making, while Karaganov only needs to agree. [170] Mearsheimer is a geopolitical realist, and not inclined to emphasize the brutality of the war.

[168] www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyXfbM-kTP8, v=zloxmro41Bo&t=3s, v=qa67P4rNqBg
[169] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergey_Karaganov and https://karaganov.ru/en/
[170] https://mearsheimer.substack.com/p/sergey-karaganov-vs-jjm

# 50. Falsifying history on “not one inch eastward”

In 1989-1990, G.H.W. Bush & Baker, Kohl & Genscher, and Gorbachev & Shevardnadze negotiated about the German reunification. [171] If the DDR joined the BRD, then NATO would expand eastward. [172] [173] See Mearsheimer (2014). The best report is by Pavel Palazhchenko (2019), Gorbachev’s interpreter. Page 455 cites Baker to Gorbachev on 1990-02-09:

> *“We understand that it is important not only for the Soviet Union but also for other European countries to have **guarantees** that if the United States continues to be present in Germany within the framework of NATO, there will be no expansion of NATO jurisdiction or military presence one inch in the Eastern direction.”* (emphasis added)

The context concerned German reunification, while the Warsaw pact still existed. Baker’s statement should be taken within this context. [174] Both the reunification and Baker’s words reflect a spirit of détente. Thus:

1. The *legal* result was the 2+4 reunification agreement. [175]
2. On *content* and *legally*, the USSR blocked nuclear arms and non-German troops from moving eastward onto the DDR territory. This was the **guarantee** that Baker spoke about.
3. This blocking for Germany forms a **(legal) precedent**.

This settles the issue. NATO expansion beyond the DDR area was not in scope. There was no *promise* but a *precedent*.
The following is additional, also out of respect for Gorbachev. [176] Palazhchenko p458 quotes Gorbachev:

---

[171] https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2017-12-12/nato-expansion-what-gorbachev-heard-western-leaders-early
[172] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Controversy_regarding_the_legitimacy_of_eastward_NATO_expansion
[173] An interview with Jack Matlock: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPp-ZpyDXdk
[174] On page 457: *"Therefore, the two things – Gorbachev’s defense of his foreign policy decisions during the final years of the Soviet Union and his evaluation of the subsequent NATO enlargement process and Russia’s response to it – should be treated separately, instead of being conflated as is often done in by interviewers and commentators."*
[175] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Final_Settlement_with_Respect_to_Germany
[176] Appendix 5 thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/2025-05-12-Colignatus-world-situation.pdf

> *"Proposing then … some kind of a "legally binding agreement" on NATO's non-extension to Eastern Europe, as my critics are now demanding in hindsight, would have been absurd and ludicrous. We would have been accused of ruining the Warsaw Treaty with our own hands."*

After the German reunification, eastward expansions came up again. Palazhchenko p458 quotes Gorbachev:

> *"Russia was fully entitled to demand observance not just of the letter but also of the spirit of those agreements. The decision, taken a few years later, to enlarge NATO was a step toward undermining trust that had emerged in the process of ending the Cold War. Russia had to draw appropriate conclusions from that."*

See also Gorbachev in 2009: [177]

> *"Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has criticized NATO's eastward expansion and the failure by Western powers to keep their promise not to deploy military bases near Russia's borders. Gorbachev said in an interview with Germany's Bild newspaper published on Thursday that Western Germany, the United States and other powers had pledged after Germany's reunification in 1990 that "NATO would not move a centimeter to the east." Gorbachev said the Americans had failed to fulfill the promise and the Germans had also turned a blind eye."*

The latter does not distinguish sharply enough between "Western Germany (BRD) *before* reunification" and "the BRD *after* the reunification". It however validly refers to the precedent established in 1990. The term "promise" is too strong, but the earlier reference to the "spirit of those agreements" is correct.

We must also distinguish these two elements:

- The Ukraine may make its independent decision, perhaps wish to join NATO. Also Putin grants Ukraine this right.
- What Ukraine wants is not so relevant. The USA would block joining, given the earlier non-expansion precedent. Putin expects this from the USA. Another way than NATO must be found, see the Budapest Memorandum of 1994.

[177] In 2009: https://www.gorby.ru/en/presscenter/publication/show_26613/

# 51. Accusing scientists of fellow-traveling

Bush jr's 2008 mistake is underlined by geopolitical analyst John Mearsheimer (2014), [178] and by economist Jeffrey Sachs. [179] Mearsheimer's analysis belongs to geopolitics 101 and is a criticism of US policy making by the US State Department and CIA.

Some authors depict this analysis as fellow-traveling with Russia. Doing so is a *category mistake*. This is like turning a protest against police brutality into fellow-traveling with criminals. Mearsheimer does not hold that Russia would be justified under international law to invade Ukraine. He has a wider criticism of too little Congressional oversight of the US State Department, like on the Iran-Contra affair, see Section 30.

Observe that Putin's war against Ukraine is needlessly brutal and that he is wanted by the International Criminal Court.

When a critic isn't a scientist, then this critic can indeed be a fellow-traveler. Correct criticism by a fellow-traveler does not imply that the criticism is invalid. The condition of being a scientist remains special and binds the criticism.

| *Criticism by critic C* | *Category mistake on criticism* | *Correct for a scientist* |
|---|---|---|
| *Bush jr broke the spirit of the deal by Bush sr* | C is a fellow-traveler of Putin | C evaluates the facts impartially |
| *US State Dept and CIA have too little oversight* | C is a fellow-traveler of the enemies of the USA | C evaluates the facts impartially |
| *There is police brutality against X* | C is a fellow traveler of X, which is bad of C, if X is a criminal, and probably good of C, if X is innocent | C evaluates the facts impartially.<br>This is good of C for all who are at risk of police brutality (you ?) |

[178] https://www.youtube.com/shorts/iXMCgBpaKVg ?feature=share

[179] Sachs, lecture to EU Parliament, 2025-03-01. https://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=tgJfTU809qY

## 52. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

The meaning of nuclear deterrence and *mutually assured destruction* (MAD) is that when one party reports that the other is getting too close, *that the other party withdraws.* [180]

This happened in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when Russia put missiles in Cuba, and JFK told Nikita Khrushchev that this was unacceptable.

Who ***does not*** withdraw, and tries to back it up with conventional weapons, risks the nuclear option.

The latter is what G.W. Bush did in 2008 by promising that Ukraine and Georgia could eventually join NATO.

For Bush it was no problem that the nukes would fall on Europe.

Angela Merkel protested to Bush, but eventually agreed. [181]

Vladimir Putin, invited, told all involved that the Russian Federation did not accept this. This [182] is a report (in Dutch) on Dutch television by Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, then secretary-general of NATO. He states that Putin got "more radical", while a shopkeeper doesn't become "more radical" when he gives you a slap on the wrist when you take money from the till.

Putin refers to this NATO expansion as his *casus belli*. In the MAD context, this suffices. Check wat Jens Stoltenberg said. [183]

Putin refers to the German Reunification, with its precedent and spirit of the negotiations, see Section 50. Inaccurately, he uses the term "promise" and confuses "Germany before" and "Germany after" reunification. Whatever one may think about an underlying motive to do so, it is still wise to accept the precedent given by the 2+4 reunification treaty, so that the truth cannot be used against you, even if it would only be used as a pretext.

When Karaganov fulminates about the "moral spine of Western elites" he has in mind that Western policy makers no longer seem to fear nuclear missiles, or even comprehend the idea of MAD.

---

[180] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mScpHTIi-kM

[181] https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/ukraine-how-merkel-prevented-ukraine-s-nato-membership-a-der-spiegel-reconstruction-a-c7f03472-2a21-4e4e-b905-8e45f1fad542

[182] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1viyoSnv-e0

[183] https://mearsheimer.substack.com/p/jens-stoltenberg-putins-puppet

## 53. A war of attrition or a tactical nuclear missile

Trump accused Zelenskyy of gambling with WW3. [184] Did Trump deduce this himself or did the DoD tell him ?

Steven Pifer 2024 downplays Putin's use of tactical nuclear arms. [185] The "reasoning" is *that Putin has been referring to nukes in veiled terms for three years, but hasn't actually used them*. This "reasoning" is crooked at the level of kindergarten. Pifer:

> *"Moscow wants the West to think so. But such nuclear use would be fraught with political and military peril for Russia. Putin has accepted his ostracism from the West. Russian nuclear use against a non-nuclear weapon state would play badly in Beijing and New Delhi and likely make Putin a global pariah. "*

When a war of attrition increases the costs to Russia, also in the loss of soldiers, then Putin can point to the existential threat of NATO missiles at the Russian border – compare the Cuban Missiles Crisis. China and India [186] might well comprehend this. Putin only needs to wait for a moment when he can announce that the last straw broke the camel's back.

Pifer's "*Putin has accepted his ostracism from the West"* is a figment of his own imagination. It is unclear what this means, what its proof is, and what the relevant implications might be.

Putin would not use a nuclear tactical missile on the regions that he has conquered or wants to conquer. He could target the supply lines from the west, say around Lviv, where he also has observed the (Stephan Bandera) nazi collaborators from WW2.

Pifer has unconvincing texts about NATO expansion. Compare his texts [187] [188] with Section 50 on Gorbachev above. Pifer turns the Russian term "promise" into a legal argument, while the Russian view, check Gorbachev, is that there is a geopolitical concern, with a legal precedent on German Reunification, and a

[184] Oval Office 2025-02-28 minute 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_kTNIYsFnQ
[185] www.brookings.edu/articles/how-credible-is-russias-evolving-nuclear-doctrine
[186] Jeffrey Sachs on India: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xog51PNd1vw
[187] www.brookings.edu/articles/did-nato-promise-not-to-enlarge-gorbachev-says-no
[188] https://www.brookings.edu/articles/one-more-time-its-not-about-nato/

spirit of détente that has been broken. Pifer complains that Russia, already at war in Ukraine, did not send nuclear missiles into Finland, when it applied for NATO membership but hadn't been accepted yet (so that article 5 did not apply yet). *Pifer's advice is that Russia apparently must use nukes before the USA should take this threat seriously.* Pifer's advice is in direct conflict with MAD, see Section 52. This attitude is selfserving to the USA, by giving a justification for G.W. Bush's 2008 violation of the spirit of détente by legally promising Ukraine NATO membership. If Pifer had been interested in peace, he could have advised that Ukraine indeed could not join NATO and that the USA and Russia should look for other security arrangements.

Imperial historian Harrison's book ends in 2022 just when things get exciting. We can find some of his views from Swedish, with then Google Translate into English. [189] Harrison expects skirmishes to continue until the end of Putin's life, in a war of attrition with inexhaustible cannon fodder. In a few points:

- *"But the United States lacked the economic and military potential to endure in the long term. The new American empire that began under George W. Bush was a short-term triumph."* Can Bush be blamed for imperial overreach ?
- *"As long as Putin leads Russia, the Russian Empire will continue to be a warring, dangerous empire."* Really ? [190]
- *"No one in NATO - certainly not the United States - would dare to intervene with anything other than possibly arms deliveries in Ukraine. Putin saw this nakedness, a chance to recreate a Russian empire, and he took it. Putin acted in accordance with a long Russian tradition."* Another aim may look like this too.
- *"Dick Harrison, however, doubts that Putin would dare to carry out an attack on Northern Europe."* No tradition ?
- *"If Russia falls now, at least it won't fall for reasons like the last few times. But there is a small Achilles heel and that is Putin himself."* There would be no successors in tradition ?

This view does not focus on peace. It seems more likely to result in Russia eventually deploying its tactical nuclear weapons.

[189] Jessica Morney 2024-05-22 https://yle.fi/a/7-10057106
[190] See the discussion on a possible peace in Part 3.

## 54. False history on the Ukraine war

The former section looked at Pifer, who had been involved at the "Russian desk" and gave crooked advice on how to evaluate the Ukraine war. There is also the valuable book by imperial historian Harrison (2022) on the rise and fall of empires. When he considers actual geopolitics then he however is too fast on his conclusions. It may be that Russia has a tradition of conquest (overcoming Mongolian domination) but this does not by itself imply that Putin would have the same mindset, even when considering how brutal the Ukraine war has been. (Vietnam was brutal too, and some in the USA killed JFK to remove him.)

We were much amazed by the vlog by "Sarcasmitron". [191] The 4 videos seem remarkably accurate on the history of the Ukraine war. For example, Clinton took effort to get Yeltsin to agree on Poland joining NATO. After ample consideration, this vlog causes questions, and one is the obscurity of the author.

The vlog correctly suggests that Putin had other options than invading Ukraine in 2022. However, the vlog lacks subtlety on this. Since Putin already had taken the Crimea in 2014, the vlog holds that this blocked the Ukraine from joining NATO. This neglects Putin's view that the Crimea no longer belonged to Ukraine, so that what remained of Ukraine still could join NATO.

In video 2 minute 22:50 we see Victoria Nuland of the US Embassy trying to co-ordinate the protest at Maidan. [192] Jeffrey Sachs testifies that soon after Maidan he was called there by the new prime minister Yatsensuk. He was also shown Maidan and told (by an American officer, in another video) that the US had paid protesters to come there. [193] "Sarcasmitron" holds that the Maidan protest was spontaneous. Perhaps the other "colour revolutions" were so but it doesn't seem likely for Maidan. Videos 3 & 4 criticise Mearsheimer without proof, and argue that Putin follows a version of Lyndon LaRouche's cult. This is not likely.

[191] https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcfqP0PtWDcGKIHGTTbVlpTyUZNL8gjnH
[192] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exJ024Zdzdk&list=PLcfqP0PtWDcGKIHGTTbVlpTyUZNL8gjnH&index=2
[193] https://www.youtube.com/shorts/JLnq_wqvago

## 55. When sanctions do not work

EUR 210 billion of Russian assets are frozen in the Euroclear system. Belgian prime minister Bart de Wever recognises that seizing them would be regarded by Russia as an act of war. [194] [195]

Let us maintain the sanctions against Russia and its allies.

They need not be effective though.

Peter van Bergeijk 1995 already argued that sanctions generally do not work. [196] He reviewed the Russian-Ukrainian case in 2022. [197] The elites find ways around sanctions while the true burden falls upon the common population that starts to lack the means for opposition.

Likely the sanctions have been counterproductive.

James Galbraith 2022 argues: "*Sanctions were, in this sense, a gift to the Russian state and war effort.*" [198]

A similar case is that the EU had a hard time to agree on sanctions on Russian gas. The CIA solved this by blowing up Nord Stream. [199] The German economy merely had to deal with it.

Perhaps a fellow-traveler of Putin might argue to keep the sanctions, and an opponent of Putin should suggest to lift them.

Lifting these sanctions however opens a can of worms. Lifting them probably is best seen as obvious after a peace deal (and not as part of such a deal)

Some hesitation are about the shadow fleet. [200] This booklet covers already quite a range of topics. When the peace proposal in Part 3 works out, this problem about the shadow fleet is also resolved.

---

[194] https://www.politico.eu/article/seizing-russian-frozen-assets-act-of-war-belgian-pm-bart-de-wever/

[195] https://www.brusselstimes.com/economics/1621447/de-wever-warns-against-uk-seizing-frozen-russian-assets

[196] https://repub.eur.nl/pub/21535/impact%20of%20economic%20sanctions.pdf

[197] https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4058559

[198] https://ideas.repec.org/a/elg/rokejn/v12y2024i3p408-422.html

[199] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nord_Stream

[200] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_shadow_fleet

## 56. An AI Armageddon perhaps already in 2027 ?

There is a scenario that Artificial Intelligence might already become dangerous to mankind in 2027. [201] [202]

See this Open Letter, signed by Geoffrey Hinton and Yuval Noah Harari. [203] Will AI write a letter to its own defence ?

Max Tegmark suggests to test potential AI systems for their danger. [204] He draws the analogy of a risk analysis of atomic bombs before actually detonating one.
Sabine Hossenfelder discusses AI worms. [205] They might recognise hidden messages that you would not see. While they would be unable to distinguish data from instructions, they may still follow the latter.

The suggestion that AI could not become conscious because it would hit the Kurt Gödel incompleteness theorem, is nonsense. For a tool it is not necessary to be conscious to run amok. (The theorem only holds for systems without selfreference. Once selfreference is in the system, Gödel's approach reduces to the Liar Paradox, and for two-valued logic thus to inconsistency. Three-valued logic allows to implement selfreference with consistency, and the Gödeliar is nonsense, see Colignatus (2011a) and a review by Gill (2008).)

We should consider a world ban on further developments of AI. The present AI already allow for much economic development, and can be used for research on future research paths on AI. The problem is implementation. How can we prevent that there is a lab in some hidden place where fanatics create their AI ? This is a challenge, and must be overcome.

---

[201] https://ai-2027.com/
[202] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMwjKyAPR34
[203] https://aisafetypath.org
[204] https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/may/10/ai-firms-urged-to-calculate-existential-threat-amid-fears-it-could-escape-human-control
[205] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY7_ufxh_Rk

# 57. Israel and Gaza

Avoid this war. In 1995, there was scope for a peace agreement between Yitzak Rabin of Israel and Yasser Arafat of the PLO. Rabin was assassinated by a radical Jew who was opposed to the peace process. [206] It is not rational that the process towards peace stopped. This needs clarification.

For Dutch TV, Arjen Lubach reviewed the history of the conflict. [207] He is catalogued as a comedian but often he presents the facts to the same effect. He did not quite explain why the peace process stopped.

Arabs and Jews are both catalogued as semitic peoples and language groups. The problem of Israel and Gaza is one of history and politics. The WW2 holocaust is a lesson for all.

There is a distinction between the Jewish faith and zionism. Within the Jewish faith, Jerusalem can be a holy city even when it would not be the capital of Israel. It are zionists who conflate the two, for whatever political reasons they have.

Mearsheimer and Walt 2007 criticised the Israel lobby in the USA. [208] In 2025 Mearsheimer suggests that Netanyahu dictates US policy, and that Trump, with already enough to do, lets him. Trump's comments on a Gaza Riviera are appalling. [209]

Israel has proportional representation. Netanyahu formed a majority coalition with the more extremist parties. Even in proportional representation, democracy does not imply that a majority would be an excuse to neglect the minority opposition.

Obviously, Hamas must release the hostages. It is disconcerting that so few of the Palestinians speak out against Hamas.

The ICC has an arrest warrant for Netanyahu. [210] In early June 2025 there are 55,000 deaths in Gaza, and Netanyahu has a genocidal policy. In the Ukraine war there are 200,000 deaths.

---

[206] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Yitzhak_Rabin
[207] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMqq-dWCAd0
[208] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Israel_Lobby_and_U.S._Foreign_Policy
[209] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump%27s_Gaza_Strip_proposal
[210] https://www.icc-cpi.int/defendant/netanyahu

# 58. Larry Summers blocked Obama's promise

Barack Hussein Obama was President of the USA in 2009-2017.

Unfortunately, he came into office just when the 2007+ economic crisis with the collapse of Lehman was still unfolding.

With Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and director of the National Economic Council Larry Summers as his advisors, Obama managed a stimulus package of $787 bn to tackle the crisis.

Unfortunately, Geithner and Summers are neoliberal economists with close links to banking. Their background helped them in knowing their peers, but with too little criticism. During the Clinton years, Summers had participated in the further deregulation of the US financial system, even in the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act. This firewall between commercial banking (focused on transactions and small savings) and investment banking (focused on risk taking), was removed, which was a causal factor in the 2007+ crisis. [211]

Thus the political promise of Obama was rather frustrated by not only this crisis but also his choice for a neoliberal entourage.

Colignatus (2012) CSBH has this cover text, and see Section 64:

*"The cause of the economic crisis lies in democracy. Our governments obstruct economic co-ordination. Next to "Greek statistics" there is censorship of economic science in Holland.*

*Our democracy relies on the checks and balances of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches of government. These allow too much room for politicians to manipulate information. The solution is an Economic Supreme Court (ESC) based in science. European countries do not have to transfer sovereignty to Brussels but politicians have to transfer power to their national ESC.*

*The current problems in finance, banking and national debt are only symptoms. The underlying economic problem is stagflation, i.e. a dismal combination of unemployment and inflation. In 1980-2007 governments tried to solve stagflation by deregulating (financial) markets. With new regulations the underlying stagflation rears its ugly head again."*

[211] https://www.newsweek.com/lehmans-failure-marks-end-banking-era-88653

# 59. The carbon emissions trading system

The Trias Politica political systems do not have Economic Supreme Courts. Governments' statements on climate change have been rather untrustworthy in general.

Warnings about global warming were unheeded for too long. The price of carbon has been too low to develop new technologies with more urgency. Carbon taxes for a single country were economically suicidal.

The political situation changed when the climate started to change indeed, and when the world population began to suffer from irregularities and extremes in the weather.

When Western governments could no longer avoid the issue, carbon lobbyists caused systems of emission trading. These systems seem to use economic theory, with demand and supply, but actually they are a smoke and mirrors show. For, the worst pollutants had been given grandfather rights, so they received another source for profits.

Instead, many, if not most, economists advise a carbon tax. Low incomes can be compensated for the living cost of carbon.

Technologies are being developed and the world can levy a carbon tax, as is urgently required. A tariff can be imposed on imports from countries that do not impose a carbon tax.

There is the perverse effect that the carbon companies want to deplete their resources out of fear that those might lose value later when sustainable energy sources have been developed. Those resources thus are better nationalised and locked out, while it can be estimated what part might still remain with the carbon companies for sustainable exploitation.

Would it be unavoidable for low income countries to still use carbon ? Development aid might be used as a subsidy to compensate for the carbon tax. However, such subsidies better be given for sustainable energy sources. The compensation to individuals with low incomes still would apply, but should not be applied to whole countries.

# 60. Confusion on Arrow's "impossibility theorem"

Kenneth Arrow in his thesis of 1951 presented an "impossibility theorem", proving that a short list of axioms resulted into a contradiction. He also argued that these axioms would pertain to preference aggregation (like using voting procedures), and that the axioms would be rational and morally desirable. Thus he created the conundrum that we would want such rules for democracy while such democracy would also be impossible. [212]

Arrow's argument appears to be confused. However, the mathematics was correct and came with high status, so that his confusion spread out into intellectual circles since 1951. Some people argued that if democracy was impossible then the world should opt for benign dictatorship – with the dictator deciding upon what would be benign. In 1972 Arrow was awarded with the Nobel Prize in economics. In 2024 the website of Veritasium continued the confusion. [213]

Colignatus (1997) [214] (originally CPB 1990) shows that, while the mathematics is correct, Arrow's interpretation confuses *voting scores* and *decisions* about those scores. Regard e.g. three proposals *A, B* and *C.* Voting may result in scores that show a cycle. Voting on *A* and *B,* then *A* may have more votes. Write this as $A > B$. Voting on *B* and *C,* then we may find $B > C$. Voting on *C* and *A,* then we may find $C > A$. Then $A > B > C > A$. Voting scores can be intransitive. For rational decision making we require transitivity. Arrow finds an inconsistency. However, overseeing the process we rather conclude that there is a deadlock, so that there actually is an indifference $A \sim B \sim C$. The deadlock can be resolved by additional means, like negotiations.

Arrow's theorem is an argument to avoid referenda, since questions can be misleading, and voters in the ballot box cannot negotiate. The theorem would support equal or proportional representation, with parties that can negotiate in parliament.

[212] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrow%27s_impossibility_theorem
[213] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2025/02/09/veritasiums-2024-mistake-on-arrows-theorem/
[214] See also presentation sheets https://zenodo.org/records/1269392

# 61. Confusion on migration

Galbraith (1979) observed that a major solution for mass poverty has always been migration. When Europeans got more free from their landlords, they moved to cities or other countries, like to the Americas. Now that the world has become more crowded, migration seems to be more of an issue.

In his work on unemployment and poverty, Colignatus has stated summarily that migration is not actually an issue, whence he has largely neglected it. In his analysis, the poor regions of the world can be developed from poverty, and then there will be little reason to migrate. People generally prefer to remain with their family and friends in the local environment, except for perhaps some degree of Wanderlust. The analysis in DRGTPE with the later extension of the national investment banks in CSBH allow for the development from poverty in all regions in the world.

Some argue that when incomes are raised only a bit, then this additional income is used to travel to the richer countries. There must be a continued perspective on growth indeed.

For example, the population in Africa is forecasted to grow from 1.5 billion in 2025 to 2.5 billion in 2050. They are mostly young people. If women can be encouraged to delay having their first child not at age 15 but at age 30+ then this would have a sizeable impact. [215] [216] This requires policies like old age pensions, so that people would rely less on children for their old age. See Section 4 for Mahbubani's advice to the EU to collaborate with China to assist Africa in its development.

Drivers for migration are environmental disasters, disease, [217] war, bad economic policies such as obstacles to free enterprise, lack of law and property registration, etcetera. These are strong push factors. Blocking migration is hard. In the USA, a bipartisan bill was rejected by Republicans, [218] and Trump blamed Biden.

---

[215] https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/97447/

[216] https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26185187/

[217] Planetary health: https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/32/2/173/6535575

[218] https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/may/23/senate-democrats-immigration-border-bill

## 62. Confusion on Brexit

Brexit isn't much of a world issue, but this pamphlet might also be read in the UK. For Brexit, Colignatus discussed that it had an underlying cause in confusion, see this LSE blog, [219] the weblog [220] and Dutch. [221] The question in the referendum did not meet the minimum requirements for a statistical survey. Voters were forced to let their gut speak on issues that were better dealt with in the House of Commons. Unfortunately, the British have a district voting system, which polarised the country, so that frightened politicians passed the buck to the populist palliative of the referendum.

The main problem appeared to be "political science on electoral systems" that appears to be no science like physics or econometrics, but is still in the preliminary stage of the humanities, where traditional thinking and terminology from the colloquial language are used instead of sharp definitions and hard data. The proof of this dismal state is given by Colignatus (2018). An accessible discussion is here. [222] A solution approach is a buddy system of "political scientists" and real scientists, see Colignatus (2020d). See Section 27.

The present best course for the UK seems to be to change from DR to EPR with the party list system, adopt an Economic Supreme Court, adopt a constitution anyway (with a mostly ceremonial Head of State, actually two: both the king and an elected President, like in the past Roman consuls, so that the royalty can fade out over time), and then reconsider the relationship with the EU. In the mean time, the UK may benefit from the economic analysis presented it this booklet. [223]

[219] https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/59896-2/ (with thanks to YouGov for data)
[220] Colignatus, more years, https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/?s=Brexit
[221] https://www.mejudice.nl/artikelen/detail/brexit-heeft-een-onderliggende-oorzaak-in-verwarring
[222] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2018/11/24/comparing-with-a-different-democracy/
[223] See also https://www.libdemvoice.org/dont-tax-sweat-an-independent-view-from-thomas-colignatus-18646.html

## 63. Confusion on Mark Rutte

Donald Trump has a destructive magnetic teflon quality. He himself calls it the "Trump derangement syndrome". [224] People get attracted to him, let themselves be used, are discarded once they are no longer useful, in particular because of some scandal, and Trump proceeds untarnished from any scandal. Subsequently someone else offers himself or herself to be used. In the mean time, the scandal is destructive for social welfare. One feels somewhat sorry for Trump because a life like this could be very lonely. But Trump still has Melania – unless she also … His former attorney Michael Cohen, ditched as well, calls this cult-behaviour, thus with Trump having the charisma of a cult leader. [225]

NATO chief Mark Rutte has the same quality.

Rutte has a degree in history. As Dutch PM he ran the country as a fan of Margaret Thatcher. Neither are economists. [226]

There are four Rutte cabinets. Each time, the political parties that joined him got gutted. After Rutte left for NATO also his own party VVD was gutted by Wilders (PVV). In the end all parties were happy to see him off. TV shows made fun of his ability to smile big, dodging questions and not remembering critical issues.

A prime example is Rutte II. [227] Diederik Samsom (PvdA) had run a campaign against Rutte (VVD), and thereby collected enough votes, and then formed … this cabinet with Rutte. When this cabinet ended, Samsom got flowers on the way out. [228] See this record of its neoliberal economics. [229] For sure, in Dutch politics, parties must form coalitions. Samsom's mistake was not to try to contain Rutte by forming a wider coalition.

Rutte may now gut NATO, or gut the EU by the NATO budgets.

---

[224] www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jun/09/elon-musk-trump-fight-ai-movies

[225] https://www.businessinsider.nl/michael-cohen-says-those-who-stick-by-trump-do-so-because-were-stupid-and-we-fell-into-the-cult-of-donald-j-trump/

[226] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2013-09-02-Schoo-Lezing-Rutte.html

[227] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Rutte_cabinet

[228] https://www.nu.nl/politiek/4365007/diederik-samsom-krijgt-staande-ovatie-in-kamer-bij-afscheid.html

[229] https://www.parlement.com/id/vkc7exteowvr/cijfers_kabinet_rutte_ii_2012_2017

# 64. Censorship of science at the Dutch CPB

Avoid censorship of science – except for perhaps dire secrets about atomic bombs and the like. Section 58 mentioned the censorship of economic science by the Dutch government, specifically by the directorate of the Dutch Central Planning Bureau (CPB) since 1989/1990.

Section 2 mentioned the comments that Colignatus made at the CPB w.r.t. the long run study 1990-2015. CPB director Gerrit Zalm, later a minister of Finance, apparently did not appreciate such comments, as Colignatus was informed by his department head. When Colignatus asked what was happening here, he found himself removed to a separate room, blocked from the CDC mainframe and publication line, and eventually dismissed with falsehoods.

Censorship only ends when it has been lifted, and thus it continues to this day. What the censorship entails, is somewhat a mystery, because it is being censored. This pamphlet indicates what the analysis could concern, but there are still elements missing, like a proper scientific report with its modeling, statistical analysis and computer scenarios. When such a report would exist then other economic scientists can study it and inform the public about their evaluation. Since this is still lacking, this pamphlet only merits a judgement like: *"Potentially interesting, but where is the proof ?"* Add to this, that there doesn't exist an actual report yet, because the directorate forbade Colignatus to use the mainframe CDC computer for his modeling, and restricted his activities to reading and writing. What are being censored are Colignatus's thoughts and his expertise of applying and adapting a CPB-model, and a possibility for him to discuss the findings with the colleagues, perhaps convincing them or revising from their comments. Lifting the censorship thus entails that Colignatus is allowed to work at the CPB again, learn about the current model, implement the modifications that follow from his analysis, discuss the findings with the present colleagues so that there is a common understanding about what it involves, write up the findings, and

publish this in the series of research memoranda "under the name of the author". The logo of the publication is important too, since the CPB is an advisory body for the Dutch government. Members of parliament might take notice when a researcher at CPB might be critical of some aspects of government policy making.

Apparently Dutch society cannot resolve this censorship of science. Hence the best advice to the world is to start boycotting Holland till that censorship is lifted.

See https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/about/

PM 1. Colignatus makes his ongoing work available as books and working papers, so that economic peers have access to this material, in the hope that the censorship can be lifted so that the full analysis can be published.

One should be aware that Colignatus generally doesn't publish parts of his analysis in economic journals that do "peer review". One of his experiences was that a peer review criticised his submission with the very same argument that was in the submission itself. Perhaps the peer did not like the protest against censorship, and resorted to such rhetorical trick. There is also this problem: when part of the analysis would be published in a "peer review journal" and then be evaluated by the Dutch government for its possible execution, then the evaluation would be done by the same CPB that is doing the censoring.

Thus it is rather unavoidable to let the world suffer the misery till the censorship of science is lilfted and the analysis can be properly completed by Colignatus at the CPB and published there. [230] However, an exception publication in a journal was Colignatus (2020c), on the topic of environmentally Sustainable National Income (eSNI) (as defined by Tinbergen & Hueting).

PM 2. "Peer review" need not be really peer review, while proper peer review only arises after publication. [231] There are also the commercial science publishers who profit from putting research behind paywalls. Colignatus suggests that institutes of

[230] For Dutch readers, see e.g.: https://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Advies/2025-05-27-Aan-kamercommissies-BiZa-BuZa-OCW-EZ.pdf

[231] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5sRYsMjiAQ

higher education create open access working paper archives at their institutes for use by alumni, so that the actual peer review process can start from there, without the need for expensive publishers. [232] (Self-publishing is called the "vanity press", but it are rather publishers like Elsevier who sell "status".)

PM 3. Gerrit Zalm had been (non-scientific) director of the policy making department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (AEP EZ), before he was appointed at the (supposedly) scientific CPB, first as deputy director and then as director, with a protest by the internal staff participation council. At EZ he had misrepresented Bakhoven's analysis to minster Rudolf de Korte. [233] After Zalm's coming to CPB, Bakhoven left the CPB. A few years after Colignatus was dismissed, Van Schaaijk left the bureau too. In an interview with NRC he spoke of a "golden cage", which is no proper qualification for an institute of science.

Section 13 stated that the argument for an Economic Supreme Court must not be confused with "technocracy". (Said book [234] apparently doesn't refer to DRGTPE and the CPB censorship.) The ESC remains embedded within representatitve democracy. Parliament still takes the decisions on values and policy, and the ESC checks the quality of information. The advice to boycott Holland has always been on the censorship. It is upon Dutch democracy to further decide once the censorship has been lifted.

PM 4. The censorship might indicate a more generally closed Dutch mind. It may also be a that a scientist protesting against censorship is not much listened to in general. The following has been taken from Appendix 3 in this Advice to the EU. [235]

In MeJudice 2018 about the Brexit referendum, [236] Colignatus pointed to the interim report of the Dutch State Committee on the Parliamentary System, also known as the Remkes Committee:

[232] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/let-higher-education-he-create-working-paper-archives-wpa-for-alumni/
[233] https://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/wil-de-echte-gerrit-zalm-opstaan.html
[234] https://www.routledge.com/The-Technocratic-Challenge-to-Democracy/Bertsou-Caramani/p/book/9781032237831
[235] https://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/2025-05-12-Colignatus-world-situation.pdf
[236] https://www.mejudice.nl/artikelen/detail/brexit-heeft-een-onderliggende-oorzaak-in-verwarring

*"In the political science literature, there is the following confusion about this (see Colignatus, 2018b). The Ostrogorski Paradox holds that a parliamentarian majority can differ from a majority in the electorate (see Groenewegen, 2009). One suggestion among political scientists is that this can be solved with referenda (see the State Commission on the Parliamentary System, 2018). However, this forgets Arrow's Paradox, which holds that more than three options can lead to cycles. The correct diagnosis is that neglected majorities can be expressed through competition by the entry of new parties. For that, EPR is better than DR. Democracy always comes with paradoxes, but a paradox is only a seeming contradiction. "*

The Remkes final report came out in December 2018. [237] Using the PDF search, one can check that the Ostrogorski paradox (in favour of referenda) is often mentioned but Arrow's theorem (in favour of representative democracy) is not mentioned at all. Parliament is then misinformed. Political scientists Ruud Koole and Tom van der Meer (members of the Remkes Committee) have infringed on science and advice to parliament.

Colignatus 2020 restated the warning regarding the Ostrogorski paradox and Arrow's theorem here in Dutch. [238] The House passed a bill for a corrective referendum on 2025-01-21, and this is now before the Senate. [239] [240]

What is geopolitically relevant here about political science on electoral systems, is now also directly relevant for a possible deterioration of Dutch democracy.

[237] State Commission on the Parliamentary System, December 2018, "Low thresholds, high dykes", https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/blg-867564.pdf

[238] https://boycotholland.wordpress.com/2020/01/04/de-ostrogorski-paradox-en-de-dwaling-van-het-referendum/

[239] https://www.parlement.com/id/vmk3iiyocrsq/nieuws/tweede_kamer_stemt_in_met

[240] https://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Brieven/2025-06-03-brief-Colignatus-aan-Senaat-over-referenda-tenzesde.pdf

## Part 3. Towards a solution at the UN of the Ukraine war

The following Sections suggest an approach for solving the Ukraine war.

This is essentially a question for the UN Security Council. [241]

The text derives from an advice to the EU.

The USA is in much political, economic and social chaos and is best put into containment.

Namely, Trump in the USA apparently wants to undermine the UN and return to a multipolar world, and use this to eventually restore a hegemonic American Empire. Trump-USA appears to be a fascist anomaly. [242] [243]

The world already had the horrors of WWs 1 and 2.

NB. The writing of this booklet was finished by coincidence just on the day when Israel bombed Iran.

[241] "The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions." https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en

[242] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jun/13/nobel-laureates-fascism

[243] https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/19/trump-us-autocracy-authoritarianism

## 65. The UN Security Council

The superpowers still sit on the UN Security Council. [244] *This is not a meaningless fact.* Section 3 mentions the UN Security Council resolution 2774 on Ukraine.

James Galbraith 2025 sees the world as multipolar already, [245] with the UN only a varnish of civilised diplomacy: *"Do it our way or else."* This is too quick. Even if it were true then it would still make sense to try to return to the multilateral rule based world (even imperfect as it was under the earlier American Empire).

Imperial historian Harrison (2022), quoted in Section 48, does not give a history of the international rule based system, but such history exists too, see Hirsch Ballin (2022).

The true problem is, see the evidence in this pamphlet, that Trump is a fascist anomaly in US history, even with such rich US history on money and politics. FDR succeeded in holding off Huey Long, but the circumstances are less fortunate now.

- This situation of anomaly thus must be treated as such.
- The USA is in political, economic and social chaos, and better be contained.
- The veto power of the USA in the Council is irrelevant, when the Council oversees negotiations that result into an agreement between Russia, Ukraine, EU and China.
- Priority should be given to the risk of the use of nuclear weapons on European soil – and its precedent.
- A Russian complaint is that the West shows Russiaphobia. The answer to this is that it actually is tyrannophobia.
- For Trump's trade war: national income can stand a dent – with policies of national unity to protect low incomes.

PM. For Trump's stated goal for the tariffs, see Sections 40 – 42 (a claimed libertarian who imposes tariffs), and also James Galbraith 2025a. [246]

[244] https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/current-members
[245] Recommended: https://voxeurop.eu/en/europe-model-brics-multipolar-world
[246] https://www.thenation.com/article/economy/political-economy-trumpism-europe/

# 66. The EU, China and Russia without the USA

Should the EU accept that Trump gives Ukraine to Putin, after which it will become a dictatorship like Belarus, such that millions of Ukrainians flee to the EU and so that the remaining Ukrainian army will then be directed towards Europe ?

What is more important strategically: the war in Ukraine or the trade war that Trump is unleashing, or threatening to unleash, if the world does not give him his way ?

The EU can suffer the damage from the US tariffs even when this might cost 20% or more of production (growth) over the next years. (Even with the impulse of 5% for NATO, see Section 69.)

Importantly, though, if the EU doesn't support Trump's policies would he then withdraw NATO support for EU countries ? However, it is not in the interest of the USA to be alone "against" China and Russia, and that the EU would become very dependent upon China or Russia. Thus the USA will not leave NATO.

Russia gives three options for Ukraine: (1) Russia wins by conventional means, (2) Russia deploys tactical nuclear weapons, (3) Ukraine surrenders on Russian terms, leaving room for details.

The advice for the EU is: There is also option (4): a role for the EU, China and Russia in the UN Security Council, and temporise the role of the USA that is in social, economic and political chaos. The USA cannot veto anything when a deal is brokered that does not require any voting.

The EU has learned from its past wars and consistently opts for democracy and the rule of law, so that this is predictable for all countries. The EU expects and relies upon protection under the NATO umbrella and best agrees with Russia what greater defence is possible for the EU without being seen as a threat to Russia. Within the framework of the UN, Ukraine can be a neutral free country, with both Russia and Ukraine best in EFTA / EEA.

The USA must accept its containment and temporary exclusion since it would not want to lose the EU. The EU can offer the USA democratic and social liberal ways to resolve its internal chaos, in particular by changing its proto-democratic electoral system into proper democracy, see Section 26 on UN Human Right 21 sub 1.

## 67. Reasons for Russia to consider this approach

Might Putin drop the war ? If the EU drops NATO membership for the Ukraine and opens trade, he just might. Russia and the EU may realise that they were both bamboozled by G.W. Bush. It is not inconceivable that Putin sees room to return to his very old intentions, when he first took office as president of the Russian Federation, namely regarding peace and security and economic cooperation, even with his offer to Clinton that Russia would join NATO too. The EU should explore this option for peace, and talk with Russia, instead of not doing so (and sitting in Kyiv to make a call with Trump).

Russia may recognise the benefits of a peace treaty with the EU and Zelenskyy's Ukraine. Relevant insights also for Russia are:

- Trump is no stable partner, neither for Russia. When Trump gets a grudge he wants retaliation.
- The billionaire libertarians are no good to Russia's future. [247]
- Russian exports to the EU of carbon fuels can resume under the conditions of a carbon tax, see Section 25.
- Both Russia and Ukraine can join the EFTA / EEA, so that trade between Russia and Ukraine could resume. Ukraine would not join the EU since this has a security arrangement itself.
- There can be temporary agreements on security under the UN, and later a broader Eurasian security treaty within the OSCE with the next US president, whose name will presumably not be Vance, see Section 44.
- Putin is 72 years of age and may worry about making mistakes when he grows older. Thus he may choose to steer Russia back to safery, with Glasnost and Perestroika over the next 25 years, towards freedom and welfare like in the West.
- For Crimea, one could think of a UN protectorate and for the other areas a federalisation as in Belgium. This could be hard to accept for Russia since it has started to integrate those regions into Russia. It removes a bone of contention though.
- Russia might not want to become a vassal state of China.

[247] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2025/03/22/billionaire-libertarians-want-to-buy-up-russia/

# 68. The brutal Ukraine war and the EU response

This pamphlet might have started with the observations:

- Putin is waging a brutal war. [248] There is an ICC arrest warrant.
- *Trump is silent about the latter* (perhaps wisely since he must keep a channel of communication), and prefers to blame Zelenskyy or Biden for being the cause of the war, rather than Bush jr or Putin.

For this pamphlet it was better to start with the positive path towards peace and its rewards, rather than this misery.

In mid-February 2025, Trump indicated that NATO membership for Ukraine was out of the question. He also regarded lost territories as lost. He basically gave Ukraine to Russia. The first is sound, the second is against the UN Charter. Thirdly Ukraine should not be turned into Belarus. Thus Trump has partly the correct position – but for the wrong reasons of his financial backers who want access to Russia's resources even if Ukraine would become like Belarus.

The EU still insists on NATO membership for Ukraine. This is ill-advised of the EU. The Ukraine had already been drawn into a proxy war for the USA, and if the EU joins up with Ukraine while the USA drops out, this would eventually still lead to the Russian use of nuclear arms on European soil, see Section 53.

There is a tension here: China is invited to urge Russia to work towards peace, but China might have an interest of turning Russia into a vassal state, and then refuse a role as peace broker. However, a reading of China's foreign policy, like on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), [249] is that China is more interested in the multilateral international order than in the multipolar order that Trump apparently wants to recreate (that is, as an intermediate step towards restoration of US hegemony). As Mahbubani suggested, the EU can collaborate with China on Africa.

The approach in Sections 65 – 67 should be given a chance.

---

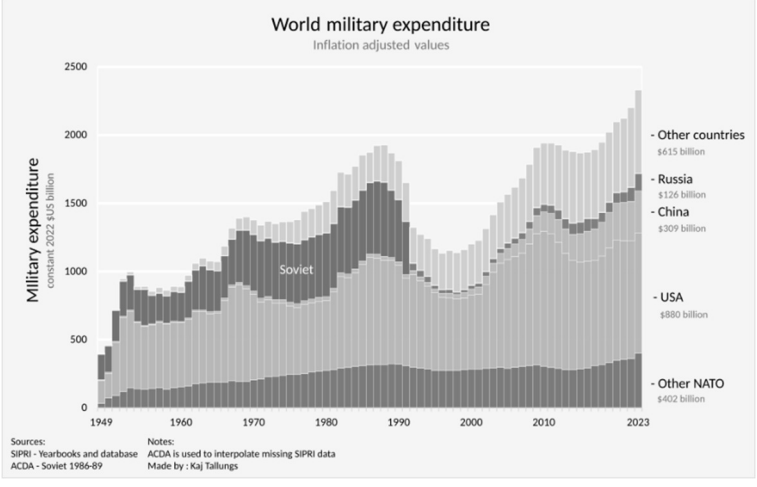
[248] https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/apr/14/same-river-twice-sofi-oksanen-review-putin-war-on-women

[249] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belt_and_Road_Initiative

# 69. The NATO budget from 2% to 5% of GDP

Trump wants NATO members to increase their budget from the 2014 guideline of 2% to 5% of GDP. In 2024 the main 23 of the 32 members had over 2%. [250] Rutte proposes to raise rates gradually over 7 years, with a diference between 3.5% on proper defence and 1.5% on infrastructure. [251] The USA now has 3.4% on proper defence. Other NATO members were not supposed in the past to spend as much, see Section 48. The UK (2.3%) and France (2.1%) maintained their nuclear force. Germany (2.1%) wasn't allowed to develop its own nuclear defence.

NATO expenditure in 2024 is $1,474 billion (Table 2 in said footnote). Russia is reported to spend $150 billion (7%), [252] with dubious "purchasing power parity" of dollars on soldiers and missiles. The graph at wikipedia uses data from the US State Department ACDA and Swedish SIPRI. [253] There would be 623,000 Russian troops in Ukraine. [254] The Russian capacity is 5 million troops with military training. Peace is better, see Section 3.




[250] Graphs 2 and 4 in www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2024/6/pdf/240617-def-exp-2024-en.pdf

[251] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/05/us-very-close-to-raising-defence-spending-pete-hegseth

[252] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Armed_Forces

[253] commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:U.S_-_China_-_Russia,_Military_Spending.svg

[254] www.cfr.org/in-brief/comparing-size-and-capabilities-russian-and-ukrainian-militaries

## 70. The EU and the American public

The framework of this pamphlet remains the long-standing good relationship between the EU and the USA.

Countries commonly do not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs. However, Americans could understand that the EU wants to be heard about what the US administration is doing. The EU would do well to speak directly with the American public about what is wrong with Trump's policies – compare the BBC programme *Question time*. EU citizens can send US friends links of EU websites where there is no *fake news*, with good English or subtitles. When Americans complain about NATO contributions, see the answers in Sections 48 and 69.

On electoral systems, the correct path is through science, e.g. the *International Science Council.* Its president-elect is Robbert Dijkgraaf, a physics professor from Amsterdam, and former head of the Princeton *Institute of Advanced Studies* (IAS), who as president of the Dutch *Academy of Sciences* and *Minister of Education and Sciences* did not do anything about the censorship of science by the directorate of the Dutch CPB, see Section 64.

It is recommended that the EU promotes that scientists internationally study the malpractice regarding the "*political science on electoral systems*", [255] logically confirm Colignatus's diagnosis, and inform the public in the USA, UK and France, so that their electoral system better be changed (which in the USA can be done without changing the US Constitution) and so that new elections with equal or proportional representation [256] can be had. For US voters, that message best comes from their own academies and universities. These can be invited to do so by their EU counterparts. France and the UK could lead by example. Germany should abolish the electoral threshold of 5%, which now keeps 10% of voters out of the Bundestag. Countries should of course decide for themselves what to do, but it is against the integrity of science to deprive voters of the correct information.

[255] Colignatus (2018), https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/84482/

[256] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2024/10/07/confusion-in-the-usa-continued/

## Epilogue

For developments after 2025-06-14 see the weblog. [257]

Let the world focus on the really relevant problems. These are (i) the climate crisis, (ii) the war in Ukraine because of the risk of nuclear weapons and such precedent, and (iii) to persuade countries that have a proto-democratic electoral system with districts, such as the USA, UK, France and India, to abandon this and move, like Sweden and the Netherlands in the early 1900s, to equal or proportional representation. Also, (iv) the Trias Politica structure best be extended into a Tessera Politica, namely with an Economic Supreme Court (ESC), as an epistemic branch that checks upon the quality of economic information.

After 1944 the USA let the dollar become the main international reserve currency. It is advisable to create a World Central Bank with a fiat world currency that can use a carbon tax.

A key point is that the EU consistently opts for democracy and the rule of law, so that this is predictable for all countries.

The proposed containment of Trump-USA (option 4 in Section 66) is not for cowards. The lesser role for the USA in the EU, and the EU's critical dialogue with voters in the USA will not cause the USA to leave NATO, because then Trump-USA would be completely alone "against" China and Russia. This gives the EU room to act in a way that the current US administration may find unpleasant, as the EU will not succumb to Trump's bullying. It will require talks by EU foreign ministers with China and Russia without the USA to get the proper parameters, end the Ukraine war, and reopen trade relations.

Tariffs are conceivable when a country has unfair trade practices, and this can then be discussed within the World Trade Organisation (WTO). For reindustrialisation, as Trump claims for the USA, tariffs are counterproductive because such new industries can remain addicted to the tariffs. A good instrument are National Investment Banks, see CSBH 2012.

[257] https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/

The USA hasn't been able to deal with the challenge of the Trump anomaly. [258] [259] This already started before Trump's first term and continued during the Biden years. Biden had a proposal for immigration, that was rather close to the Republican wishes, but Trump had Congress block it, so that the problem persisted and later was blamed on Biden. [260] Some call this politics while it remains irresponsible and manipulative. Before the US contest-elections of 2024 Trump stated that he did not adopt "project 2025". Now, many Americans are in "shock and awe" of its barrage. The US Congress has been ineffective on president Trump and now also Vance.

Trump's actions are undemocratic, not only authoritarian but the proper term is fascism. Trump has a legal but *not* a properly democratic mandate for what he is doing. He has marginally less than 50% of the vote, and even then he would have to consider voters who did not vote for him. It is government of the people, by the people for the people: with "people" and not "Trump".

After Trump's deliberate humiliation of Zelenskyy at the White House on 2025-02-28, the world was shocked. The EU's EUR 800 bn package and Germany's EUR 500 bn budget increase came quickly. Trump's brief withholding of operational support to the Ukrainian military on 2025-03-05 was a second shock, and many considered it a betrayal to NATO. [261] Anyone who gives in to such a bully and traitor apparently wishes to become a doormat.

The USA Congress should impeach Trump and Vance and make the world safe for democracy, see Section 44. House Speaker Mike Johnson [262] is next in line and is complicit (after the fact) on January 6 2021 (calling the convictions into question), [263] and best is first replaced as Speaker before Trump and Vance are

[258] https://brightlinewatch.org/our-work/

[259] https://newuniversityinexileconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Levitskyl-Ziblatt-How-Democracies-Die-2018-1.pdf

[260] https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/4458612-history-confirms-republicans-rejected-a-once-in-a-lifetime-immigration-opportunity/

[261] Iva Venneman, translated title, "US no longer sharing intelligence with Ukraine: 'Nothing but a blackmail tool', de Volkskrant 2025-03-05

[262] https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/nov/04/mike-johnson-theocrat-house-speaker-christian-trump

[263] https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Y8lLCWIJkdU

impeached. The ramifications of restoring proper government in the USA are complex but in the end Americans would choose for democracy and not for facism and mob rule.

In the final days of composing this booklet we discovered the Civilisation videos by Jiang Xueqin. He has a degree in English literature of Yale, got involved in proposals for improving education in China, and got intrigued by using history and game theory [264] to try predict developments. Having viewed a selection we infer that all 60 videos would be remarkable but let us mention #60 on the decline and fall of the American empire, [265] #59 on Stalin, [266] #53 on Dostoevsky and Putin's reasons to invade Ukraine, [267] and #49 on the Dutch golden age, the rise of the middle class, and the development of the art market. [268]

The latter rings a bell rather loudly. This pamphlet mentions human culture and a new age of prosperity, with skills and jobs, job security, safe stable money, proper democracy. Our discussion has been rather mundane, with economics as the dismal science. We have mostly looked at economics, democracy, climate change and geopolitics, which are tough topics in a period of war and rising fascism. Instead, a main message of this booklet rather is that we work to live instead of live to work. Our governments should allow for more time for the arts and their education. People, students and definitely children would rather enjoy to make music, dance and paint, do gardening, and what have you, rather than worry about survival, the next pay day and the risk of WW3. Let the United Nations set up discussion rounds in town halls to facilitate time for the arts. Once the diplomats create more time for supporting the creation and enjoyment of art then they will slowly realise that social welfare as a common goal is self-evident and that other things are somewhat less relevant, though they must be properly taken care of.

[264] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mScpHTIi-kM
[265] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gH4PvIni5E
[266] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtqfIjK1GAc
[267] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rALqcPWuH0
[268] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ8P-FZHWnQ

## Literature

*Wikipedia is a portal and no source.*


Bakhoven, A. (1988), “Een marktgerichte oplossing voor het werkloosheids-probleem”, Economisch Statistische Berichten January 13, esb.nu/een-marktgerichte-oplossing-voor-het-werkloosheidsprobleem

Bernanke, Ben S. (2015), “The Taylor Rule: A Benchmark for Monetary Policy.” Brookings Commentary. Online article, 28 April 2015, https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-taylor-rule-a-benchmark-for-monetary-policy

Bessent, Scott (2025), “Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent Remarks before the Institute of International Finance”, https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0094 and video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsyNHd5Ce3c

Buiter, W (2025), “DP19947 Central Banks as Fiscal and Financial Agents of the State”, CEPR Discussion Paper No. 19947. CEPR Press, Paris & London. https://cepr.org/publications/dp19947

Carey, J. M., & Hix, S. (2011), "The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems", American Journal of Political Science, 55(2), 383-397, Open Source onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2010.00495.x/full and personal.lse.ac.uk/hix/Working_Papers/Carey-Hix-AJPS2011.pdf

Cohen Stuart A.J. (1889, 1967) “On Progressive Taxation”, in: Musgrave R.A. and Peacock A.T. (eds.) Classics in the Theory of Public Finance, New York: St Martin's Press, pp. 48–71.

Colignatus, Thomas (1997), “The solution to Arrow’s difficulty in social welfare”, econpapers.repec.org/paper/wpawuwpgt/9707001.htm

Colignatus, Thomas (2006), “The Political Economy of the Netherlands Antilles and the Future of the Caribbean”, Samuel van Houten Genootschap . Referred to as PENAFC

Colignatus, Thomas (2009), “A win-win measure out of the crisis: A graphical discussion of the tax void”, https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/14812

Colignatus, Thomas (2011), “Definition & Reality in the General Theory of Political Economy”, 3rd edition, Samuel van Houten Genootschap. Referred to as DRGTPE

Colignatus, Thomas (2011a), “A logic of exceptions”, 2nd edition, Thomas Cool Consultancy & Econometrics

Colignatus, Thomas (2011b, 2015) “Elegance with substance”, 2nd edition, https://zenodo.org/records/291974

Colignatus, Thomas (2012), “Common Sense: Boycott Holland”, mijnbestseller.nl. Referred to as CSBH

Colignatus, Thomas (2013), “Money as gold versus money as water”, (MGMW) real-world economics review, issue no. 64, https://www.paecon.net/PAEReview/issue64/Colignatus64.pdf

Colignatus, Thomas (2013a), video and sheets
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxhQ1Sdk1nY
https://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/2013-11-17-Colignatus-CCC.pdf
Colignatus, Thomas (2014), "Voting Theory for Democracy", 4th Edition, Thomas Cool Consultancy & Econometrics
Colignatus, Thomas (2018), "One woman, one vote. Though not in the USA, UK and France", mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/84482
Colignatus, Thomas (2018a) "The Math War between traditional and "realistic" mathematics education and its research", https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/88810/
Colignatus, Thomas (2018b), "Democratie met en door Wetenschap ", https://thomascool.eu/Papers/DMDW/Index.html
Colignatus, Thomas (2020a), "The Tinbergen & Hueting Approach in the Economics of National Accounts and Ecological Survival", draft, https://thomascool.eu/Papers/THAENAES/Index.html
Colignatus, Thomas (2020b), "Forum Theory & A National Assembly of Science and Learning", FT&NASL, 2nd edition, mijnbestseller.nl, https://thomascool.eu/Papers/FT&NASL/Index.html
Colignatus, Thomas (2020c), "National accounts in the anthropocene: Hueting's environmental functions and environmentally sustainable national income: Translation and relevance for ecosystem services", Ecosystem Services, Volume 43, June 2020, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2020.101094
Colignatus, Thomas (2020d), "A Buddy-system of Physicists and Political Scientists", https://engage.aps.org/fps/resources/newsletters/newsletter-archives/january-2020
Colignatus, Thomas (2025), "Advice for the EU: The war in Ukraine is more important than Trump's trade war. Strengthen international democracy and rule of law, negotiate with China and Russia", https://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/2025-05-12-Colignatus-world-situation.pdf
Colignatus, Thomas (2025a), "Getting democracy in EU, USA, Russia and China", boycottholland.wordpress.com/2025/03/09/getting-democracy-in-eu-usa-russia-and-china/
Cool, Thomas, and Hans Hulst, (2003), "De ontketende kiezer", Rozenberg Publishers / Thela Thesis, ISBN 90 5170 694 4, https://thomascool.eu/SvHG/DOK/DOK-Aankondiging.html
Flanning C. and D. O Mahony (1998, 2000), "The general theory of profit equilibrium. Keynes and the entrepreneur economy", MacMillan
Galbraith, John Kenneth (1960, 1963), "The liberal hour", Hamish Hamilton, resp. Pelican Books
Galbraith, John Kenneth (1970), "The Nature of Mass Poverty", HUP
Galbraith, John Kenneth (1975), "Money. Whence it came, Where it wenst", Houghton Mifflin Company
Galbraith, John Kenneth (1999), "Name-dropping from F.D.R. on", Houghton Mifflin Company

Gill, Richard (2008), review of ALOE, http://www.nieuwarchief.nl/serie5/pdf/naw5-2008-09-3-217.pdf

Gill, Richard (2012), review of EwS and CotP, p66, http://www.nieuwarchief.nl/serie5/pdf/naw5-2012-13-1-064.pdf

Grapperhaus, Ferdinand (1989), "Taxes, Liberty and Property. The Role of Taxation in Democratization and National Unity 511 - 1787", De Walburg Pers – Kluwer ISBN 13: 9789060116654; Dutch "Belasting, vrijheid en eigendom. Hoe belastingheffing leidde tot meer zeggenschap voor burgers en meer eenheid tussen staten 511-1787", Walburg Pers

Greaves, Gerry (2020), "Book Review: National Accounts and Environmentally Sustainable National Income by Roefie Hueting and Bart de Boer", https://steadystate.org/book-review-national-accounts-and-environmentally-sustainable-national-income-by-roefie-hueting-and-bart-de-boer/

Harrison, Dick (2022, 2024) translated title: "Fallen empires". Original Swedish "Imperiernas fall", 2022; Dutch "Gevallen grootmachten", Omnibook 2024

Hart, H.L.A. (1961), "The Concept of Law", OUP

Hirsch Ballin, Ernst (2022), "Peace and Justice" https://repository.tilburguniversity.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/1f0931b2-a1e9-4b56-8d15-62aa4df42bb7/content

Hueting, Roefie & Bart de Boer (2019), "National Accounts & environmentally Susstainable National Income", Eburon, https://esni-hueting.info/EN/NA-eSNI/index.html (PDF online)

Hulst, Hans, and Auke Hulst m.m.v. Thomas Cool (1998), "Werkloosheid en armoede, de oplossing die werkt", Thesis Publishers, ISBN 90 5170 447, thomascool.eu/SvHG/Hulst/Persaankondiging.html

Jacobs, Bas (2021ab), "Moderne Monetaire Theorie door de Lens van het IS-LM-Model", Economisch Statistische Berichten, 106, (4796), 180-183. https://jacobs73.home.xs4all.nl/MMT_Jacobs.pdf and https://jacobs73.home.xs4all.nl/MMT_Jacobs_Appendix.pdf

Jong, J.H.Th. (Sjef) (2006), "Voer voor economen : van mercantilisme tot poldermodel : naar de dagboeken, annalen en fantasmorgana's van het Genootschap Monopsonie", Dickens Museum [S.l.], Kamer voor consumenten- en burgerbelangen

Kennedy, David M. (1999), "Freedom from fear: The American people in Depression and War, 1929-1945", Oxford UP

Liu, Qiao, Zefeng Chen, Sylvia Xiaolin Xiao (2022), "A theory of carbon currency", Fundamental Research, Volume 2, Issue 3, 2022, Pages 375-383, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fmre.2022.02.007.

Luenberger, D.G. (1998), "Investment science", OUP

Mahbubani, Kishore (2025), "It's Time for Europe to Do the Unthinkable", https://mahbubani.net/its-time-for-europe-to-do-the-unthinkable

Mankiw, N. Gregory (2020), "A Skeptic's Guide to Modern Monetary Theory", AEA Papers vol. 110, May 2020 (pp. 141–44)

Mearsheimer, John (2014), “Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West’s Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin”, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 93, No. 5 (sept/oct), pp. 77-84, 85-89 (13 pages) [269]
https://www.mearsheimer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Why-the-Ukraine-Crisis-Is.pdf
See also the reaction by McFaul and Mearsheimer’s rejoinder: https://www.mearsheimer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Moscows-Choice.pdf

Naudé, Win (2025), “Big Tech is niet de echte vloek: de oligarchieën in olie, voedsel, financiën en wapens zijn veel gevaarlijker”, https://www.bnnvara.nl/joop/artikelen/big-tech-is-niet-de-echte-vloek-de-oligarchieen-in-olie-voedsel-financien-en-wapens-zijn-veel-gevaarlijker

Palazhchenko, Pavel (2019), “Mikhail Gorbachev and the NATO Enlargement Debate: Then and Now”, chapter 19 in D.S. Hamilton & K. Spohr eds. “Exiting the Cold War, Entering a New World”, Washington, DC: Foreign Policy Institute/Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University SAIS 2019,
https://transatlanticrelations.org/publications/exiting-the-cold-war-entering-a-new-world/ (download the full book there or chapter 19: https://transatlanticrelations.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/19-Palazhchenko.pdf )

Praag, Henri van (1959), “Spiegel der Chinese beschaving”, Phoenix

Schaaijk, M. van (1983), “Loondifferentiatie en werkloosheid”, (“Wage differentiation and unemployment“), Economisch Statistische Berichten September 21, https://esb.nu/loondifferentiatie-en-werkloosheid/

Shugart, Matthew S.; Rein Taagepera (2017), “Votes from seats”, CUP

Skidelsky, Robert (1975), “The reception of the Keynesian revolution”, in Milo Keynes, “Essays on John Maynard Keynes”, CUP

Taylor, Steven; Matthew Shugart, Arend Lijphart & Bernard Grofman (2014), “A different democracy”, Yale

Tinbergen, Jan & Roefie Hueting (1991), ”GNP and Market Prices: Wrong Signals for Sustainable Economic Success that Mask Environmental Destruction,” In: R. Goodland, H. Daly, S. El Serafy and B. von Droste zu Hulshoff (eds.), “Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development: Building on Brundtland”, Ch 4: 51-57. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, 1991.
https://esni-hueting.info/EN/Publications/1991-Tinbergen-Hueting-GNP-and-market-prices.pdf

[269] See also criticism and rejoinder “they challenge my claims about the West's role": https://www.mearsheimer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Moscows-Choice.pdf