A FEST OF ARROGANCE OF (FAKE) SUPERIORITY

Chris Alexander Assistant Professor (Technology Enhanced Learning/TESOL) Head of the Distance Learning IT Unit, University of Nicosia

If you're into plants, you've got to read the article 'The Intelligent Plant' by Michael Pollan—it's a fascinating read. And, if you have time, you've also got to listen to Michael Pollan's seventeen-minute TED Conference presentation in which he suggests, jokingly, that corn, in a cunning bid for world habitat domination, might be manipulating 'its presumably far more intelligent' corn-consuming humans into expanding its habitat and into eliminating its competitors.

I suppose an interesting follow-up question to Pollan's discussion might be whether it is unethical to manipulate someone else into doing what you want, if that someone else, at the same time, in a fest of arrogance of (fake) superiority, is manipulating you into doing what he or she wants. And I suppose another interesting follow-up question to Pollan's discussion might be whether a fest of arrogance of (fake) superiority could at times apply to American foreign policy.

And on that note, let's move to the US Assistant Secretary of State's (Victoria Nuland) 'all-smiles' exigent visit to Cyprus which took place on 20 April 2016³; according to the Cyprus Mail's rather upbeat account, Nuland was 'very happy to be back in Cyprus' and reiterated 'her country's support for the ongoing negotiation process in Cyprus'. Nonetheless, Helmer⁴ (2016, April 26) paints quite a different picture of Nuland's Cyprus visit. Helmer asserts that a well-informed Cypriot source reports Nuland 'was in Cyprus to pre-empt any likelihood of future deepening in relations with Russia'. Helmer (2016) also notes Nuland apparently tried to push through a plan for 'camouflaging the Turkish forces in Northern Cyprus as a NATO partnership for peace'.

So what's really going on? Is America trying to support Cyprus or is it just being a bully? Well we may never know; however, other things—seem to be—in point of fact, much clearer.

America has sadly been experiencing massive economic decline⁵ for some time now, and its world-reserve currency status, which has been buttressed by endless wars or the threat of endless wars, is at grave risk⁶ too. Thanks to the alternative media, millions of people are also increasingly beginning to understand the scam⁷ of their monetary system. Millions of people are also becoming more aware of disadvantages of the EU and US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), whose negotiations were 'carried out mostly in secret' (Williams: 2015)⁸. And, millions of people are just losing yet more faith in a US that claims to be

fighting ISIS (aka Daesh or ISIL), yet apparently may have been involved duplicitously in creating, arming and funding it⁹.

A lot of other policies seem to be being implemented very speedily too e.g. the push for a negative interest rate policy (NIRP)¹⁰, the drive for a cashless society¹¹, the enactment of the new EU bail-in laws¹², or increased NSA Surveillance against US citizens¹³. Such events suggest the neo-con globalist elites must surely be beginning to panic. The stakes are very high for them too: what if for instance the US population en mass finally decided that the 'velvet-gloved, technologically-savvy, militarized iron fist of friendly fascism' (Whitehead: 2016) ¹⁴ just wasn't for them?

Other countries might be sensing a fall of American hegemony is on the cards and have become more emboldened too; take those Russian-jet impressively-low simulated-attack fly-overs of the USS Donald Cook in the Baltic Sea¹⁵ (which occurred just over a week before Victoria Nuland's visit to Cyprus), or take that skilfully-close Russian interceptor 50-foot fly-by of an American reconnaissance aircraft in the Baltic Sea¹⁶ (which occurred just under a week before Victoria Nuland's visit to Cyprus), or take Beijing's ominous 'be careful' threat to Washington over the South China Sea¹⁷ in early April 2016, or take Saudi Arabia's threat to the US that it would liquidate its Treasury holdings if Congress probed 9/11 attacks¹⁸ in mid-April 2016, or take Iran's early-May-2016 threat to shut down the Strait of Hormuz in reaction to new US proposed legislation regarding 'seeking a stronger response to Tehran's provocative actions against the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf'19, or take France saying no to the TTIP20 in early May 2016 (the French probably didn't want to have to eat US GMOs too!).

And, take (according to Schortgen 2016²¹ article on a well-known alternative media site) the Iran and Cyprus apparent announcement on 28 April 2016 (just over a week after the Nuland visit) that 'they are seeking new banking and trade agreements with Russia which would expand their sphere of Eurasian Economic Cooperation'; if Schortgen is correct, this would be very interesting, as it would partly resonate with Russia's suggestion to the EU in January 2015 to drop TTIP and embrace the Eurasian Union²², but Eurasian Economic Cooperation might also lead to tensions rising with the US, assuming Helmer 2016 assertions are correct.

Well, it appears we may be approaching a very dangerous tectonic-shift-point moment in human history. It is the moment hubris could lead to third-world²³ Zimbabwe-ism in the US. It is the moment hubris could lead to the unimaginable *quick-trigger nuclear-first-strike draw* (and, I would wager that the Russian bear will undoubtedly take the necessary steps to defend her Mother Russia²⁴ ferociously). It is the moment hubris could lead to a rise of fascism, to a scourge of hopelessness, and to a culling of the innocent and misquided. And, this is the moment human uniqueness

must triumph over any attempts to transition in a new more oppressive global reality.

Pollan M (2012 Docomb

² Pollan, M (2008, February 7) A plant's-eye view https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQPN1003z8I

 $\underline{\text{http://cyprus-mail.com/2016/04/20/nuland-expresses-us-support-for-cyprus-peace-process/}}$

 $\frac{http://thee conomic collapse blog.com/archives/58-facts-about-the-u-s-economy-from-2015-that-are-almost-too-crazy-to-believe}{}$

⁶ Black, S. (, 2016, January 4) Is 2016 the year of the dollar collapse? Retrieved from https://www.sovereignman.com/trends/is-2016-the-year-of-the-dollar-collapse-18505/
⁷ Maloney, M. [YouTube]. (2013, October 15). [Video file] The Biggest Scam In The History Of Mankind - Who Owns The Federal Reserve? Hidden Secrets of Money 4]

Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFDe5kUUyT0.

8 Williams, L (2015, October 15) What is TTIP? And six reasons why the answer should scare you. Retrieved from

http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/what-is-ttip-and-six-reasons-why-the-answer-should-scare-you-9779688.html

- ⁹ Fantina, R. (2015, December 29) ISIS: The 'Enemy' the US Created, Armed, and Funded. Retrieved from http://theantimedia.org/isis-the-enemy-the-us-created-armed-and-funded/
- Randow, J. and Kennedy, S. (2016, March 18) Negative Interest Rates Less Than Zero. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/negative-interest-rates
- ¹¹ Zerohedge. (2016, March 6) Why The 'Cashless Society' Has Become The New Wet Dream Of Governments And Central Bankers Secular Investor on Retrieved from http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-03-06/why-cashless-society-has-become-new-wet-dream-governments-and-central-bankers
- 12 Snyder, M. (2015, December 28) The New Bank Bail-In System Goes Into Effect In Europe

http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/january-1-2016-the-new-bank-bail-in-system-goes-into-effect-in-europe

Krieger, M (2016, March 11) War on Terror Turns Inward – NSA Surveillance Will Be Used Against American Citizens. Retrieved from

http://libertyblitzkrieg.com/2016/03/11/war-on-terror-turns-inward-nsa-surveillance-will-be-used-against-american-citizens/

¹⁴ Whitehead, J. (2016, March 21) Fascism, American Style. Retrieved from https://www.rutherford.org/publications resources/john whiteheads commentary/fascis <a href="mailto:mai

¹⁵ Myers, M. (2016, April 28) This is why the Navy didn't shoot down Russian jets Navy Times. Retrieved from http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/2016/04/13/why-navy-didnt-shoot-down-russian-jets/83000858/

¹⁶ Tatum, S. and Starr, B. (2016, April 18) Russia denies wrongdoing after jet barrelrolls over U.S. aircraft Retrieved from

http://edition.cnn.com/2016/04/16/politics/russian-jet-barrel-rolled-us-aircraft/

¹ Pollan, M. (2013, December 23) The Intelligent Plant. Retrieved from http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/12/23/the-intelligent-plant

³ Nuland, V. (2016, April 20) Nuland expresses US support for Cyprus peace process. Retrieved from

⁴ Helmer, J. (2016, April 26) Nuland Instructs Cyprus To Cut Russian Ties and Accept Turkish Troops. Retrieved from http://russia-insider.com/en/nuland-tells-cyprus-cut-russian-ties/ri14076

⁵ Snyder, M. (2015, December 23) 58 Facts About The U.S. Economy From 2015 That Are Almost Too Crazy To Believe. Retrieved from

¹⁷Sputnik (2016, April 4) Beijing's Ominous Threat to Washington Over South China Sea: 'Be Careful'. Retrieved from http://sputniknews.com/asia/20160401/1037304454/china- <u>us-cold-war-threat</u>.html.

¹⁸ Mazzetti, M (2016, April 15) Saudi Arabia Warns of Economic Fallout if Congress Passes 9/11 Bill. Retrieved from

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/16/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-warns-ofeconomicfallout-if-congress-passes-9-11-

bill.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-

 $\frac{\text{column-region\®ion=top-news\&WT.nav=top-news\&}\ r=0}{\text{19 Jennifer Griffin, J. and Tomlinson, L. (2016, May 07) Iran lashes out, threatens to shut}}$ Strait of Hormuz over GOP rep's bill. Retrieved from

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/05/07/iran-lashes-out-threatens-to-shut-straithormuz-over-gop-reps-bill.html

²⁰ Zerohedge (2016, March 3) "The TTIP Is Doomed" - France Threatens To Reject Obama's Huge Transatlantic Trade Deal. Retrieved from

http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-05-03/ttip-doomed-france-threatens-reject-<u>obamas-huge-transatlantic-trade-deal</u>
²¹ Schortgen, K (2016, April 28) Russia looks to bring Cyprus and Iran into Eurasian

economic fold. Retrieved http://www.roquemoney.net/stories/2016/4/28/russia-looks-tobring-cyprus-and-iran-into-eurasian-economic-fold

FortRuss (2016, January 9) Russia to EU: Dump the TTIP and embrace the Eurasian Union Retrieved from https://off-quardian.org/2016/01/09/russia-to-eu-dump-the-ttip- and-embrace-the-eurasian-union/

³ Roberts, P.C. (2015, October 29) US On Road To Third World http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2015/10/29/us-on-road-to-third-world-paul-craigroberts/

²⁴ Escobar, P. (2015, December 15) You Want War? Russia is Ready for War. Retrieved from http://sputniknews.com/columnists/20151215/1031786484/russia-readywar.html#ixzz482NCtELC