
Book Reviews

The future according to London

by Webster G. Tarpley

The Next War

by Caspar Weinberger and Peter Schweizer with an introduction by Lady Margaret Thatcher
Regnery Publishing, Washington D.C., 1996
364 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

One of the co-authors of this book is a former U.S. Secretary of Defense. He is now, as the public relations handout reminds us, Sir Caspar Weinberger, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Weinberger was the director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Nixon administration, when his zeal for austerity won him the nickname of "Cap the Knife." Weinberger, a lifelong Anglophile, Churchill fan, and communicant of the Church of England, was Reagan's Pentagon chief for seven years; his greatest moment came unquestionably in the wake of March 23, 1983, when Reagan endorsed the LaRouche concept for a system of ballistic missile defense based on lasers, electron beams, and other new physical principles, leading toward the replacement of Kissinger's bankrupt old Mutually Assured Destruction with a new strategic doctrine founded on Mutually Assured Survival and the futility of waging aggressive war. This became the Strategic Defense Initiative, which Weinberger championed against forces on Capitol Hill who were waging an ultimately successful campaign to strangle it by underfunding, including Senator Kennedy, who ridiculed the idea as "Star Wars" at that time.

Weinberger, along with his cronies and Pentagon subordinates Frank Carlucci and Colin Powell, was heavily implicated in George Bush's interagency guns-and-drugs bazaar that became known to the world ten years ago as Iran-Contra. At that time, Carlucci and Powell moved over to the National Security Council and showed themselves to be virtuosi of the art of the coverup, all for the benefit of Bush. When Weinberger left the government, he went to work for *Forbes* magazine, and thus became beholden to the wealthy geek who flickered across television sets during this year's Presidential primaries with his shameless program of making the world safe for plutocracy. Working for *Forbes* has done Weinberger

no good; during the Gulf crisis and war of 1990-91, Weinberger was one of the more rabid supporters of the Thatcher-Bush policy of war and genocide.

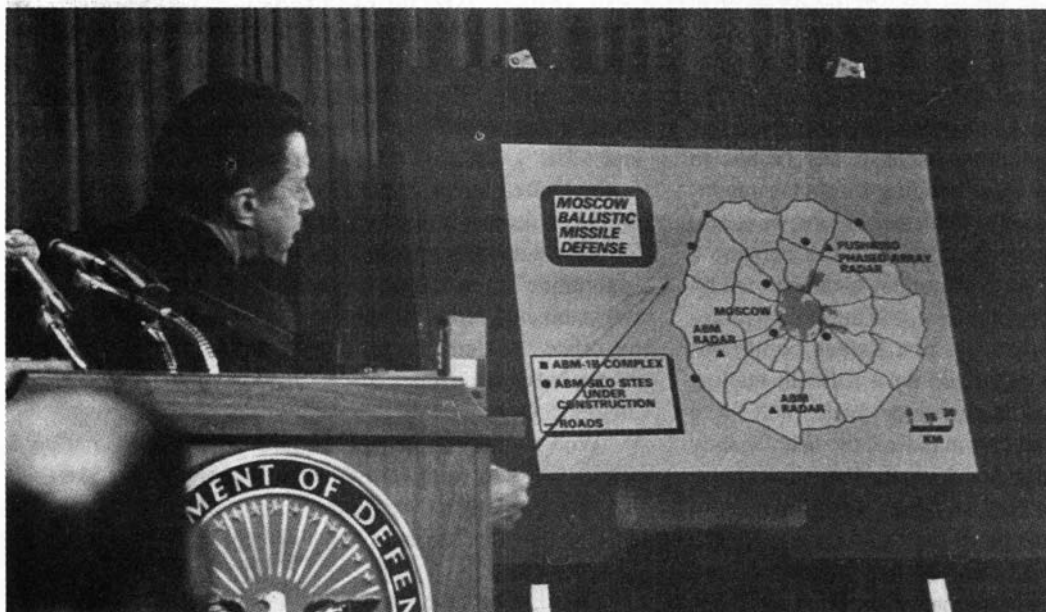
In 1992, Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh indicted Weinberger on four counts of false statements and perjury. The stage was set for a trial in which Bush was likely to be forced to testify, and which thus could have blown the lid off the Iran-Contra coverup. But on Christmas Eve 1992, Bush pardoned Weinberger before his case ever came to trial.

Since *The Next War* looks at first glance like a novel, it will be necessary before examining the contents of this book to dissipate any illusions that we are dealing here with a work of art. Emile Zola was among the first exponents of the realistic-naturalistic novel, which itself represented a step down from the art of Balzac. But Zola was still a very talented writer and a man of considerable moral character. The modern American realistic-naturalistic novel is a caricature of Zola, as we see in *Hotel*, *Airport*, and the other lamentable works of Arthur Hailey. Weinberger and Schweizer have sunk to a new level of bathos by producing what amounts to a caricature of Arthur Hailey.

Here we are beneath pulp naturalism. This, as Weinberger and Schweizer say, "is a collection of literary war games, developed in the spirit of the Pentagon's computerized scenarios. . . . This is not a novel. We make use of fictional characters to outline the type of tough strategic decisions that leaders are likely to wrestle with in the face of war. . . . You will find little of what novelists call 'character development' in this work or the level of detail associated with fiction." So, *caveat lector*, as Al Haig might say.

Warred upon by dark-skinned demons

Each of the five wars described is visited upon the United States by a swarthy papier-mâché demon of the type that boys in Fleet Street and Oxford Circus love to construct. The first aggressor is North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il, a degenerate post-communist butcher whose hobby is rubbing mystical stones from the tomb of the ancient King Wang Kong of Korea. Kim prepares an attack on the Republic of Korea, his southern neighbor, using the notorious tunnels that traverse the 1953 demilitarized zone (DMZ) while sending in commandos armed with anthrax bombs. Kim acts together with



Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger briefs the press on Soviet military power, in 1985. "His greatest moment came unquestionably in the wake of March 23, 1983, when Reagan endorsed the LaRouche concept for a system of ballistic missile defense based on lasers, electron beams, and other new physical principles."

Chinese General Hu, who assails Taiwan with warships, planes, and rockets while Kim attacks the U.S. and R.O.K. forces on the peninsula. When the U.S. fleet arrives from Singapore, China attacks the U.S. ships from the air. When the North Korean offensive bogs down, Kim fires a 50-kiloton nuclear warhead at the U.S. forces. The United States is joined in the war by Japan, Australia, and, incredibly enough, France. And of course "faithful Great Britain" is on hand with an infantry division and a carrier. When the tide threatens to turn against Kim, he prepares to unleash his entire atomic, bacteriological, and chemical arsenal against the U.S.-led coalition, but he is assassinated by his own military chief of staff. The Chinese enter the Korean battle with troops and a 75-kiloton nuclear missile that destroys the U.S. 2nd Armored Division. The United States retaliates with the nuclear destruction of a Chinese division, but U.S. President St. John is forced to accept a negotiated compromise peace because the U.S. forces are hollow and too weak to carry the war to China.

The second nightmare scenario depicts the demonic fundamentalist Iranian President Montazeri, who starts off wanting to use the oil weapon against the West. In reserve Montazeri holds a nuclear capability, provided by a group of ex-Soviet nuclear technicians now in Iran's employ. When his OPEC partners refuse to join in his extortion campaign, Montazeri fires a nuclear warning shot over the Iranian desert and then seizes Bahrain, and blocks the Strait of Hormuz. The next step is an ultimatum to Washington to get its forces out of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, backed up by a threat to nuke cities in western Europe. President St. John, hobbled by a lack of human intelligence and mis-advised by the appeasing Secretary of State, Vaughn Brown, pulls out the U.S. forces. Saudi Arabia is pounded by car bombs and gives in to Iran. U.S. air power finally strikes Iran, hoping to destroy its

few available warheads, but the Iranians target a missile on Rome which goes astray and destroys Monza, north of Milan. An Iranian terrorist drops an anthrax bomb on the New York Stock Exchange, and the Iranians ready a nuclear strike against Berlin. Finally, a nuclear-armed B-1 bomber knocks out the Iranian launchers, and the conflict subsides.

The third war is with Mexico, whose pro-U.S. President Lorenzo Zapata is assassinated in 1999, and is succeeded by Eduardo Francisco Ruiz, a charismatic university professor "trained by the Jesuits" and steeped in Nietzsche and Hegel. Ruiz may recall recent Mexican Presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, Brazil's "Lula" da Silva, or Danny Ortega of Nicaragua. Ruiz attempts a land reform and nationalizes banking and insurance, scaring off foreign investors and causing a severe depression, which sets off a mass exodus of 1 million refugees per month into the United States. Ruiz is also in the pay of drug gangs that are flooding the United States with narcotics. President St. John orders an invasion to topple Ruiz, figuring the GIs will be welcomed as saviors. Luckily for St. John, the Mexican Army dissolves, except for sporadic guerrilla warfare led by Ruiz, who flees and is never captured. The foreign minister forms a new government, and the narrative breaks off.

Wars with Russia and Japan

The scariest scenario is the Russian one. This time our demon is Russian President Aleksandr Dankovich Karashchuk, the new *Vozhd* [supreme leader] who emerges in the year 2000 in the aftermath of the disastrous failure of the western-backed "reform." Karashchuk is a Slavophile military populist, perhaps intended to suggest Gen. Aleksandr Lebed. Karashchuk's trump card is a Russian SDI called Magic Chain. Magic Chain turns out to be the old anti-missile

missiles Galosh and Gazelle, left over from the obsolete 1960s anti-ballistic missile defense of Moscow. Karashchuk mass-produces these old missiles and upgrades his Doghouse, Cat-house, and Henhouse radars. Karashchuk's scientists can detect U.S. submarines with bioluminescence, and he has an array of radio-frequency weapons ranging from tank-mounted to briefcase-mounted variants. With these secret weapons, Karashchuk invades Poland, which by now has become a member of NATO. The Polish government is slaughtered by *spetsnaz*, and Britain, France, Germany, and the United States pledge to intervene. But when the first French paratroops arrive in Poland, they are vaporized by a Russian nuclear attack. The French mobilize the *force de frappe* and fire a nuclear missile at a Russian command center near Nizhny Novgorod, but Magic Chain shoots down the French warhead. France backs down. Then Russia issues an ultimatum to Washington: Get out of Europe or face nuclear attack. The United States pulls back to Britain. Germany fights on for a time against Russian nuclear bombs and pilot-blinding lasers, but then capitulates. The United States is forced to pay reparations to Moscow. President St. John turns to his scientists for a "Manhattan project for strategic defense," which turns out to be the tired old canard of "brilliant pebbles"—the kinetic-kill vehicles so dear to the late Gen. Danny Graham—plus a few ground-based lasers used in tandem with space mirrors. It takes two years to start the deployment of this "Project Jedi," which the Russians obligingly fail to notice, despite the brilliant pebbles being dispensed from space shuttles. But Karashchuk finally figures out what is going on: Before the U.S. defenses are ready, he fires two ICBMs at the United States to see if President St. John is bluffing. At this point the narrative breaks off.

No Anglophile futurology would be complete without a new U.S.-Japanese war, and our staunch authors have not failed to provide one. The relevant demon this time is Japanese Prime Minister Ishiwara Kawara, leader of Japan during a "trade war with . . . the United States," with "heavy tariffs" placed on exports. A Middle East crisis causes fuel shortages, gas station lines, and closed factories. Strikes ensue, and a new depression which Kawara blames on foreigners. Kawara's plan is a new Southeast Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, solving Japan's raw materials import-dependency through the conquest of Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. It is the old 1941 war plan revived under conditions of *fin-de-siècle* U.S. strategic pullout. Taiwan is subdued with the help of computer viruses, logic bombs, and electromagnetic pulse devices. China is also attacked, and tries to retaliate with missiles launched from the Gobi Desert, but these are useless in the face of Tokyo's Theater Missile Defense systems. Australia struggles to improvise a nuclear force. Britain's "rich, deep historical ties" with Australia and New Zealand—otherwise known as colonialism—impel London to send in the Royal Navy. Then Japan attacks an American fleet coming from the Indian Ocean, and also

attacks Guam. The climax comes when Tokyo strikes the United States with computer viruses, logic bombs, and other cyberweapons. These shut down the New York Stock Exchange, the Fedwire system of the Federal Reserve Banks, and CHIPS (Clearing House Interbank Payment System). In the United States, Japan, and the rest of the world, a run on the banks and a stock market crash ensue, with President St. John declaring a bank holiday. St. John hits Japan with "calmative" chemical weapons. Kawara, thinking that he has re-established Japan's honor and superpower status, wants a negotiated settlement, but he is assassinated by a military clique intent on using nuclear weapons. Six U.S. cities are incinerated before the war ends with Japanese defeat.

Woe to the vanquished, but woe above all to the poor reader who has to plough through narrative prose like this:

The Chinese military commander General Hu "took a drag on his cigarette and blew a wisp of whitish-gray smoke over the table."

Or: U.S. official "George Determan drank the last drop of water in his plastic cup and then chewed on the ice cubes."

The evil Japanese Prime Minister Karawa "casually lit a cigarette"; after a few moments of reverie he "took a drag on his cigarette and stared off into a dark corner of his decidedly old-world study."

The worst offender is probably that Mexican villain Ruiz; before launching guerrilla warfare against the U.S. invasion, "Ruiz took a deep drag on his cigar, releasing the white-gray smoke which shrouded him. . . . Ruiz again pulled on his cigar. Turning angrily to his foreign minister, he blew a thick stream of smoke, embellished with contempt, at his face."

Writing like this already qualifies as at least a misdemeanor against humanity. The narrative is also heavily sprinkled with implausibilities and incongruities. But, mainly, it is a British wish-list of disasters that might befall America in its declining phase.

The real war is against the British

The scenarios are all in bad faith; they represent in themselves an exercise of British psychological warfare and black propaganda against the United States. Their goal is to obscure the four-cornered strategic geometry of the *fin-de-siècle* world, in which the British Empire, the United States, Russia, and China are monetarily left standing as great powers. The only rational U.S. strategy is to jettison illusions of the U.S.-U.K. "special relationship" and to align with Russia and China against the British, especially in the matter of a new world monetary system.

The demonology offered by Weinberger and Schweizer tries to set up a whole series of possible enemies, but pays no attention whatever to the real and present enemy, the British Empire, which is notoriously waging a "war and a half" against the United States. What hostile foreign power has been attempting via scandal and terrorism to overthrow the

government of the United States since about 1993? What hostile foreign power prevented a timely solution of the post-Yugoslav and the Rwanda-Burundi crises? What hostile foreign power helps foment the secessionist and subversive militias here at home? What hostile foreign power tried to goad the United States into a needless war with North Korea? What hostile foreign power is preparing to exploit the coming financial disintegration to make the United States the bankrupt thrall of the International Monetary Fund? In each case, the British.

The British plotted under Edward VII and after to start World War I, and then forced the United States to intervene to bail them out. During the 1920s, the U.S.-U.K. naval rivalry brought the two countries to the brink of war on two occasions, and resulted in naval restrictions that made the United States an inviting target for Britain's erstwhile ally, Japan. During World War II, the British attempted to maximize U.S. losses in the Pacific, where they were checkmated by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and in Europe, where they blocked a cross-channel invasion for years. Then it was the British who provoked the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Cold War, especially through the machinations of Averell Harriman. The Korean War was planned by the British to restore the balance of power in Asia, and featured the British Philby-Maclean-Burgess-Blunt-Rothschild spy ring, which stole the U.S. atomic secrets and encouraged Chinese intervention after North Korea had been defeated. In the Suez Crisis, the British almost provoked a nuclear war with their imbecilic adventurism, and demanded that the United States back them up. After the British eliminated Kennedy, they pressured the United States to undertake the Vietnam War. The British planned the 1990 Gulf crisis in minute detail, and the United States went into that war as the tail on the British kite. Today, the British are the greatest force for war and instability in the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia, northern Ireland, and so on.

Even in terms of the Weinberger scenarios: The most aggressively anti-American Iranian mullahs and Russian Slavophile populists are the ones backed by London. The worst Mexican extremists are the ones sponsored by MI-6. The problem in Japan revolves around Anglophile elements in the Imperial family and the financial community. This book thus leads its readers away from reality and into a realm of suicidal make-believe.

Why did the fall of the U.S.S.R. and the Warsaw Pact not lead to a pacified world, as many hoped it might? Instability has grown in Central and Eastern Europe, largely because of the Thatcher-Bush "shock therapy" of privatization, mass plant closures and firings, the abolition of subsidies and dirigism, de-industrialization, and growth of organized crime. Under this regime, the world will be increasingly full of threats for which there can be no military solution, no matter what the level of U.S. preparedness.

Weinberger and Schweizer in their own introduction marshal data about the decline of the U.S. force structure, with

one-half of the U.S. Army's 1990 combat power now liquidated. The Pentagon is spending less on new weapons systems than at any time in the last 40 years; the Navy will soon reach 346 ships, down from almost 600 in 1991. Tank procurement has stopped, and 33% of all military personnel will be cut by 1999. Total defense spending will dip below 3% of GDP in 1999, less than any year since 1940. Our disingenuous authors want to blame all that on Clinton. They need to be reminded that this was the logic of the defense build-down announced in December 1990 by Bush's defense secretary, Dick Cheney, which has relentlessly continued "on autopilot" through 1996. The increasingly hollow force of today is the direct result of the Reagan-Bush globalization which has never been reversed.

Praise from Nanny Thatcher

The introduction to this book has been provided by that old battle-axe of British imperialism, Lady Margaret Thatcher herself. The Iron Lady is full of praise for Sir Cap, whom she lauds as "my old friend—and one of Britain's greatest friends. . . ." Thatcher wants to obfuscate the fact that the end of the Cold War compels the United States radically to rethink its old categories of friend and foe: "There has been too much emphasis on the differences between the Cold War and post-Cold War periods," says Thatcher. For Thatcher, the 1990s have seen the decline of the threat from the mischievous Soviets and its supplanting by "Islamic extremists, ethnically driven terrorist groups, rogue states no longer disciplined by powerful patrons . . . alongside the age-old problem of the dictator in charge of an unstable, bankrupt, expansionist state along the lines of Saddam Hussein's Iraq." But Thatcher forgets to mention that most of this gallery of bogey-men is made up of agents or dupes of the British Secret Intelligence Service and City of London finance.

Thatcher, as always, is super-staunch and ready to fight to the last American. She laments in her introduction that "more effective action"—meaning, presumably, war—was not undertaken against North Korea, which she sees as the "main source" of the problem of nuclear proliferation. In reality, avoiding the armed clash with North Korea that the British were so anxious to arrange was probably the biggest single (unsung) accomplishment of the first Clinton administration.

This book's status as an exercise in British propaganda designed to dumb down the bloody Yanks, is underlined by the presence of co-author Peter Schweizer of that notorious nest of feudal reactionaries, the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. Schweizer is a graduate of Oxford University who runs with the New York Council on Foreign Relations crowd.

The end of the U.S.-Soviet rivalry has brought with it a powerful new process of degeneration in the military and intelligence circles of the old cold warriors. Their god is Mamon, in whose service they are willing to sell their own country down the river. The Anglophile Weinberger has not escaped this process.