

THINK LIKE PUTIN, NOT LIKE McCLELLAN

How to Win the Battle Before Us

by Robert Ingraham

There is a difficulty which arises when the subject of human “genius” enters into a discussion. If one points to Albert Einstein, Alexander Hamilton, Krafft Ehrlicke, or others as examples of “genius,” for many, even among otherwise intelligent and insightful people, the topic under discussion suddenly becomes mysterious, unintelligible. The concept of “genius” takes on an other-worldly character, something beyond human comprehension, a subject not accessible to human deliberation.

Even the mere word “genius” evokes apprehension, panic, or blank incomprehension. People simply say, “I am not a genius, and these other god-like creatures whom you have named, who possess this great talent, are beyond my ability to comprehend. Genius may be fine and good, but I am just a practical person.”

This problem has worsened in recent decades, as the issue of creativity and genius has been deliberately obfuscated by the trans-Atlantic oligarchy. This is one of the reasons that rock stars or Silicon Valley digital coders are referred to as “geniuses” in today’s popular culture. In art and music, genius has become an utterly irrational concept, often connected to the introduction of something that is simply new, shocking, or different, no matter how degraded or linear in concept.

What has been lost is the true role of genius in transforming human soci-

ety, in intervening into human culture in a way that creates new potential “up-shifts” in thinking and unleashes new potencies for changing the directionality of future events. There is enormous power which lies dormant in the hearts and minds of human individuals, power which is located not in monetary greed or simple animal passions, but in the normally unaccessed creative qualities of mind that constitute the true nature of our species, of what it means to be human. This power, this potential, exists—to one degree or another—within the minds and souls of every single human being. Properly nourished, it will emerge. With some, it will become the driving force of their individual identity, for others less so; but all can partake in its ebullience, for it is that creative power which defines the term “human being.”



The seventh BRICS summit in Ufa, Russia, July 8-9, 2015. From left: Brazil President Dilma Roussef, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and South African President Jacob Zuma.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin (center, arm extended) participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Heads of State meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, June 24, 2016, marking its 15th anniversary.

I. The Manichaean Dilemma

There is a certain way in which one might describe the current strategic situation in the world. It goes something like this:

There are two competing tendencies. On the one side is to be found the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the ‘One Belt, One Road’ policy, and the nations allied with these efforts for global economic development. On the other side is the trans-Atlantic (British) imperial system, the collapsing London/Wall Street financial system and the military threat of NATO. These two adversaries are now engaged in a struggle for the future direction of human affairs. Humanity is at a fork in the road, faced with two alternative paths.

But is that really the best way to understand our current situation? Even more importantly, how does such an analysis, of an apparent struggle between good and evil, aid us in developing the means to win the fight before us in the weeks ahead?

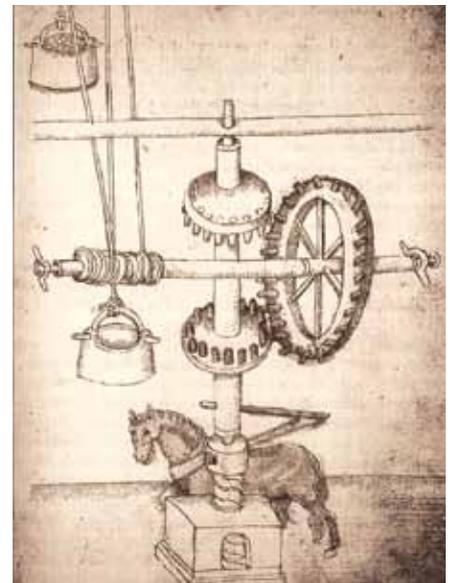
In posing the issue as one of “war versus economic

renaissance,” there are two problems. The first is that such a construct does not define a means whereby a victory might be won. The second is that such an approach is not coherent with either how the human mind works, nor how great breakthroughs have occurred in the past. Human history is not a stationary battle between good and evil, but rather the deployment of great “flanking” interventions which redefine the potential power for human advancement, interventions which create new possibilities, previously unimagined. This is true whether the arena is scientific progress, musical composition, a military battlefield, or a political struggle.

Take the case of Filippo Brunelleschi. When Brunelleschi began his work on the dome of the Florence Cathedral (*Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore*) in 1420, Europe was just beginning to recover from the dark age collapse of the 14th Century. Between 1322 and 1363, more than 70% of the population of Europe had died from disease and starvation, and life expectancy had dropped from 35 years to 17 years. European society, finance and culture were dominated by parasitical oli-



Filippo Brunelleschi made the breakthroughs that made possible the completion of the Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral and its dome, in Florence, Italy.



This hoist for lifting building materials was invented by Brunelleschi so the dome could be built, contributing to the successful implementation of Brunelleschi’s advances in physical science.

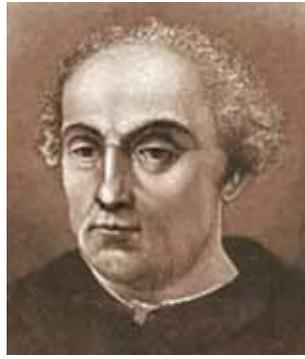
garchical families, centered in Venice and other locations. Illiteracy was the norm for the general population.

In taking on the challenge to construct a dome for the *Santa Maria del Fiore* Cathedral, a task which was considered impossible by the engineers and architects of that era, it fell upon Brunelleschi to do what had never been done before, to build a type of physical structure which had never been built before—a self-sustaining conical octagonal dome, without the use of a wooden infrastructure or outer buttresses. Brunelleschi’s design was denounced by almost everyone; he was called a “a buffoon and a babbler.” Yet, it was in the solutions that Brunelleschi discovered that we find the origins of modern physical science, and it was in the works of his protégé Paolo Toscanelli and Toscanelli’s friend Nicholas of Cusa that this approach to physical science was further developed, leading into Johannes Kepler’s examinations into the nature of the solar system.

Cusa’s insights into the nature of the human mind and its relationship with physical science are further explored in his *On Learned Ignorance* and *On God as Not-Other*, and it is, in particular, his notion of the “self-moving mind” which points the way towards victory in our current crisis of 2016.

Brunelleschi’s willful intervention transformed the potential for a revolutionary development within human society. It created scientific and cultural possibilities which had hitherto not existed, this at a time when the human condition appeared hopeless. Brunelleschi launched the Renaissance.

As Saint Augustine rigorously demonstrated, evil has no real positive existence; it is purely a negative phenomenon. Human creativity, properly understood and vigorously deployed, will always overcome the



Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli was a protégé of Brunelleschi.



Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa.



Johannes Kepler.



St. Augustine.

evil (entropic) forces or tendencies within society. It is the only force capable of doing so, for a creative intervention is not a fight *against* something; it is an action which brings into play a more powerful future potential within society. When evil appears to triumph over good, this is almost always because those who are opposing evil have allowed themselves to fight on a battlefield, whose rules and conduct are limited in scope and defined by the enemy.

II. Military Mistakes

General George McClellan has gone down in history books as a commander who suffered from timidity, who was afraid to attack. This characterization, however, does not adequately describe the nature of his failings.

Beginning in March of 1862, McClellan moved an army of 122,000 men to Fort Monroe, Virginia and initiated what became known as the Peninsula Campaign, which would last for five months. The intention was to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond. Despite outnumbering the opposing forces in men, artillery, ships, and supplies during every step of the campaign, McClellan’s efforts failed spectacularly.

McClellan was not simply timid. He was obsessed by the imagined power of his enemy. Fear and doubt ate at him. The most extreme example of this was early in the campaign, when he refused to attack Confederate forces holding the city of Yorktown. Instead he ordered a siege, which lasted three weeks. He spent almost all of the time building emplacements for scores of siege guns. He was convinced he was facing an enormous Confederate army, and he wrote to President Lincoln that he was outnumbered two-to-one. In reality, the



Library of Congress

President Abraham Lincoln confronting Gen. George McClellan at Antietam, Md. after McClellan refused to pursue Confederate General Lee after Lee's defeat at the Battle of Antietam.

Confederate forces holding Yorktown numbered 13,000, and they were very poorly supplied.

Through May and June, McClellan moved slowly up the Peninsula, fighting inconclusive battles at both Williamsburg and Seven Pines. The Union Army did not win either of those battles, but was able to advance simply because the outnumbered Confederates withdrew towards Richmond each time. By June 1, McClellan was on the outskirts of Richmond, but he again refused to attack Confederate lines, despite still having a two-to-one superiority in numbers.

Throughout these weeks, McClellan wrote feverishly to Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton, reporting that he was outnumbered, facing a Confederate Army of more than 200,000, when it was actually 55,000. He described non-existent Confederate troop movements and flanking operations, and he warned that his army was in danger of being annihilated.

Then, from June 25 to July 1, the Confederate Army launched a series of very-limited counterattacks, known as the Seven Days Battle. Despite suffering no major defeat, and actually having won several of the battles, McClellan ordered

a general retreat, pulling his army most of the way back down the Peninsula, where they sat, behind defensive positions, until Lincoln ordered their withdrawal in August.

McClellan was obsessed with the enemy, with the power—or imagined power—of the enemy, of what *they* might do, of how *they* might attack. His pre-occupation was in defending his army from attack. It was *set piece* warfare. McClellan's primary failure was that he based all of his actions on what the enemy was doing or what they might do, and he *reacted* to these hostile actions or possible actions.

Compare this with Douglas MacArthur, prior to the 1950 Inchon Landing in Korea. In the councils of war, prior to that amphibious invasion, MacArthur was alone, completely alone, in insisting on his invasion plan. Much like Brunelleschi in 1420, everyone disagreed with him. Later, after the great flanking attack succeeded, MacArthur stated that the moment he knew he was right about his invasion plan, was when everyone else opposed it, that if they all thought it couldn't work, then the North Koreans would think so too and wouldn't defend against it.

For MacArthur, the only consideration was "How do you win?" The only thing worth creating was a *Strategy for Victory*.



National Archives

General Douglas MacArthur (seated) observing the attack by his forces at the battle of Inchon, Korea, Sept. 15, 1950.

III. Vladimir Putin and Lyndon LaRouche

As this article is being written, Russian President Vladimir Putin has just arrived in Beijing, China for extensive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders. These meetings follow directly on the heels of the June 23-24 Tashkent summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), where Putin, Xi, Indian Prime Minister Modi and other Asian leaders met to discuss several pressing issues, including proposals for greatly enhanced collaboration between the SCO and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

These portentous discussions between the leaders of India, Russia, and China occur at a moment when worldwide strategic potentials are developing and changing at a breathtaking pace. Of all these developments, perhaps the most significant has been the continuing intervention that Vladimir Putin, together with Xi Jinping, is making into Europe. This includes Xi's June 17-24 seven-day Silk Road Tour, which included stops in both Serbia and Poland and the staggering breakthrough which took place at the June 16-18 conference of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. At that latter event, President Putin, in a way which evoked the historic memory of the "westernizer" Peter the Great, offered full partnership and participation for all of the European nations in the great economic and scientific opportunities which are being opened up by Russia, China, the SCO, the EEU, and the One Belt, One Road policy. The point was made strongly by Putin, in the form of an offer, that the unfolding economic renaissance is intended for all of Eurasia, not simply the Asian nations. European participation in the huge Eurasian projects, involving high-speed rail, nuclear power, and other technologies is not simply an economic program, but an idea, a concept, a potential, which once conveyed to the minds of Europeans, will work its way into all future political actions.

In his remarks to the St. Petersburg Economic Forum, Putin said:

As early as June we, along with our Chinese colleagues, are planning to start official talks on the formation of comprehensive trade and economic partnership in Eurasia with the participation of the European Union states and China. I expect



Press Information Bureau, Government of India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, at the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, June 24, 2016.

that this will become one of the first steps toward the formation of a major Eurasian partnership. . .

Friends, the project I have just mentioned—the greater Eurasia project—is, of course, open for Europe, and I am convinced that such cooperation may be mutually beneficial. Despite all of the well known problems in our relations, the European Union remains Russia's key trade and economic partner. It is our next-door neighbor, and we are not indifferent to what is happening in the lives of our neighbors, European countries, and the European economy.

Cracks and fissures in the London-Obama control over continental Europe are spreading and multiplying. How the successful Brexit vote will affect this process is not clear, but as the chaos and uncertainty spread, it is Putin and his allies who are in the driver's seat—and they are offering Europe a way out. The growing number of German and other leaders who have publicly condemned the recent NATO maneuvers on Russia's borders, together with the high level participation of European leaders in the St. Petersburg Forum, are merely indications of a much deeper and seismic reshaping of the political process now unfolding throughout Europe.



Xinhua/Li Gang

The successful launch, June 25, 2016, of China's Long March-7 carrier rocket from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center. It has been designed to be a workhorse for a planned Chinese space station.

Don't Make McClellan's Mistake

The continuing danger amidst all of this, is the still-ongoing occupation of the White House by Barack Obama, and the London-Washington push for a war confrontation with Russia. Nothing that is said in this article should be taken to minimize this threat. Obama is a killer and a very weak narcissistic personality. Under pressure, he is capable of anything. Nevertheless! Don't repeat McClellan's mistake. Don't be paralyzed by fear of Obama. Don't simply be "against" Obama, or "against" Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump.

Think, instead, of flanking attacks. Think of ways that will awaken new potentials, potentials both within the strategic sphere and within growing numbers of citizens.

The May 5, 2016 "Pray for Palmyra" concert given by the Mariinsky Symphony Orchestra, from St Petersburg, and led by Valery Gergiev, is just such a flank. The power of this concert was that it evoked the beauty of what human culture might be, of what the fight in Syria was *for*, not simply what it was *against*. In particular, the inclusion of the work by Bach was a pointed reminder to the people of Germany of those qualities which have been great in German history.

Perhaps the most powerful flank capable of orienting nations toward a different future is the growing col-

laboration between China and Russia on space exploration, an expanding effort which now also includes India and many other countries. This involves not only frontier work in science and technology, but also something much more. It was Krafft Ehricke who posited that once humanity begins to move into the solar system, begins to reach beyond the confines of our planet, that this will be the moment when the true nature of our species will begin to emerge. We will no longer be "earthlings"; rather, our mission, and our identity, will be defined by uncovering and mastering the principles which govern the galaxy.

Manhattan

Lyndon LaRouche's Manhattan Project, properly understood, is an outstanding flank. In one sense the Project was initiated to rebuild Mr. LaRouche's organization in the United States, to return it to its original intent, following the damage which was done after the George Bush imprisonment of Lyndon LaRouche and the aftermath of that imprisonment. Yet, a greater purpose, and a greater power, has been unleashed during the last twenty months. A new, fearlessly creative force has been unleashed within the United States through the combination of classical music choruses in three New York boroughs, the Saturday dialogues with Mr. LaRouche, and the recruitment of many individuals into this process.

The power of this process lies not in numbers, but in the fact that it operates outside and against the controlled cultural and political environment. And it tells people the truth. It pricks people's consciences; it provokes them to think; it refuse to play by the rules of the game; it gives people courage.

People both inside and outside of the United States are afraid of Barack Obama. But, ask yourself, outside of the immediate threat of Obama's nuclear arsenal, is



Schiller Institute/video grab

Manhattan Schiller Institute chorus participating in a musical tribute to Sylvia Olden Lee.

he really all that powerful? Can what he, Wall Street, and London represent, that can withstand the power of Beauty? Can they withstand the power of courageous Creative Intervention, of a properly understood flanking attack?

Putin has broken the trans-Atlantic rigged game. The rats holding us back are scurrying for cover. Why be afraid of them? If you are building a house, and a rat gets in the way, the best thing to do is step on the rat and keep building.

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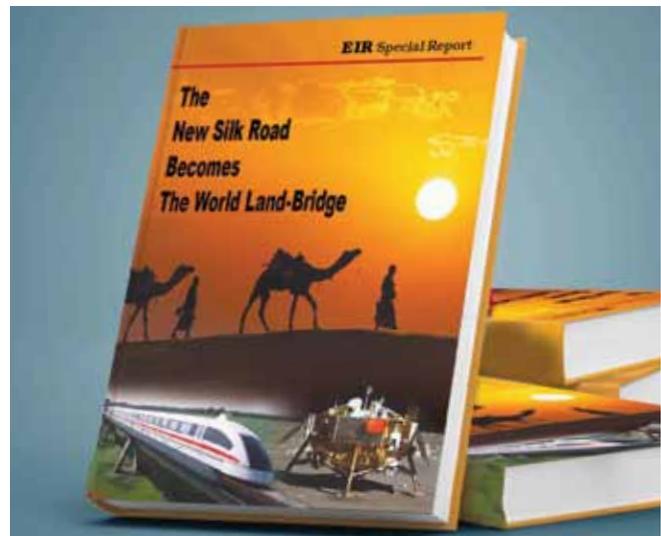
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