

What Putin's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine Reveals

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Russia's invasion of Ukraine exposes the fact that we humans in complex societies have not yet learned to control a fundamental trait of our species – our excessive, competitive pursuit of power and domination. By choosing to invade Ukraine without cause, offering a highly selective view of history, and fabricating excuses of his forces as unifiers and peace keepers, Putin's actions reveal the extreme risk of consolidating great power in the hands of autocratic leaders.

Putin is acting like a hyper dominant male in a bovine herd, who already has many more females than he can properly attend to, but who cannot resist trying to acquire females that belong to another herd.

The Putins of the world surround themselves with sycophants, who edit history and select the facts of current conditions to suit the "ruler's" skewed view of reality. And by controlling information access, purveying disinformation, and excluding dissent, these Putins gain and sustain absolute power, and "absolute power corrupts absolutely." Significantly, the Putins of the world are now organized to support one another, and their influence is metastasizing – Trump!

Representative democracy with all its egalitarian privileges has emerged very late in the history of complex societies. Various forms of autocracy were the norm for thousands of prior years, and authoritarianism is always lingering beneath the surface of democracies waiting to reassert itself.

If humans in the state of complex society want to get beyond the Putin problem, they have no viable choice but to unify their countries under a single, empowered global government that is capable of providing security for the independence of all nations while respecting the differences among them. If the majority of citizens of nations desire to come together or divide, that is an option, but take overs or divisions instigated from the outside can not be allowed. In short, there can be no empires created by force, manipulation, and suppression. In my view, it is only with the commitment to and implementation of a capable global government that the Putin problem can be overcome. Past experience demonstrates that we can hope, pray, protest, condemn and sanction until the "end of days," and still be unable to eliminate these Putins. We have had to confront Putins before – as at the onset of the devastating WWII. To address the issues raised by that war, we were only willing to create the impotent United Nations. When will we finally do the job? Hopefully before WWIII makes WWII look like a minor skirmish, and we – ourselves – bring about the "end of days."

By allowing weaponry capable of species extinction to remain under the control of individual countries headed by would-be emperors – often with “fragile” egos, complex society is at risk of destroying itself from the inside.

Putin is a symptom. Addressing and excluding the opportunity for the Putin “symptom” to persist is one of the most important challenges that modern humanity faces. The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine is a glaring example of what is a much more pervasive problem that humanity must solve if it is to persist long term in the state of complex society.