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*See Appendix DE&A – Disruption Events, Inactive Constructural Elements & Apostasy*  
*See Appendix GT – Emergent Government Titles*  
*See Appendix IP – Interventions Reference Sheet*

*“Broadly speaking, I would define the two camps as governing versus anti-governing. Ideologically, each camp shares many of the same principles. However, the difference in strategy is vast, to the point of total divergence. The governing conservatives actually want to, as the term suggests, govern. They want to win elections and affect public policy through available means. I emphasize the word ‘available’ because it’s the crucial distinction from the anti-governing crowd. The latter just wants what they want, with little to no regard for how things actually work.*

*Both camps are willing to ‘fight in the trenches,’ but to wholly different effects. The governing conservatives want to secure public policy consistent with their principles and values. The anti-governing crowd wants the cathartic affirmation of ‘being right,’ a feeling mostly secured through retweets, likes, and internet memes.... In lieu of statesmen, the intraparty contest has been between two types of impotents, those who get elected and accomplish nothing, and those who accomplish nothing because they can’t get elected. Neither proves particularly useful. We need a new breed.”*

– Walter Hudson, [pjmedia.com](http://pjmedia.com), October 10, 2016

**Immoderate Unhappiness:** *Is vs. ought.* Frustration, apathy and general ignorance lead people to “just want(s) what they want, with little to no regard for how things actually work” (*ut supra*). Frustration is our biggest enemy, impatience is its agent provocateur. This is just another long way of classifying certain parts of the electorate as juvenile or childish; as impatience, ignorance and inexperience are not considered virtuous in Western Civilization. When enough of the electorate or those who have a say, fall into this category, combined with other political circumstances, the result may be what is now called a populist movement or populist uprising, both of which terms are slightly derogatory in the current media. Frustration, apathy and general ignorance, populist movements and uprisings are common human factors the Concierge could consider in use of Intervention Potentials and storytelling in GGDM. Some group will *always be* ☹.

- ✓ “‘Immoderate people tend to view the world in black and white, as uniformly bad or good, and they are unable to appreciate positions in the middle,’ said Aurelian Craiutu, a political-science professor at Indiana University... ‘No doubt on health care, the final outcome will be something in the middle,’ Craiutu said. Trump’s ‘inability to appreciate that is a sign of immoderation. There are moments in history, where we are fighting against Hitler or Stalin, when that works. But there are certain issues, such as health care, where compromise is part of the democratic process.’” – David Nakamura (quoting Aurelian Craiutu), “Trump’s Penchant for Extremes worked on the campaign trail but hinders his White House,” *Washington Post*, July 19, 2017.

Their .012 Reich (12 actual years divided by the promised 1,000 years) crumbling around them and having met with complete futility for their radical ideology, the lower order officers of the Third Reich engaged in a flurry of vengeance killings in the last two or three months before the surrender. They, in addition to killing as many Jews as they could find, took out their frustration by killing political prisoners and dissidents, whom they blamed for their loss (particularly those of the Red Orchestra and members of the Confessing Church) without even the pretext of proceedings or due process (by drumhead court-martials or simply by orders, after the destruction of the People’s Court during an air-raid in February 1945). Many also committed suicide to avoid accountability or because they could not endure their own bitter futility.<sup>1</sup>

- ✓ “I hope that people can stay focused enough to realize that we need to make this an aberration and not our reality.” – John Meacham, Morning Joe, June 18, 2020.<sup>2</sup>

*“Man is a religious animal,’ Mark Twain once said, and while some claim that America is becoming a more secular nation, we never become less religious. We just trade formal religions for informal ones, politics being chief among the faiths in the latter category. When we view our presidents as either messiahs or anti-Christ, and when we believe that election results will yield either utopia or Armageddon, politics has become our religion, our preferred parties have become our creed, and those of differing persuasions have become the heretics whose blasphemy must not be tolerated.*

*So it shouldn’t come as a surprise when political sectarians sidestep actual discourse and pull the Peanuts football trick to score some cheap points against their rival zealots. It also shouldn’t come as a surprise when those who are invited to partake in the supposed interfaith dialogue refuse to play a game they know is rigged against them.”*

– Hans Fiene, “The Peanuts Football Trick Explains Why Conservatives Keep Quiet About White Supremacy,” August 16, 2017<sup>3,4</sup>

**A House Divided:** A disrupted Government Title cannot be used to *activate* a Power and will not receive *an Act or Scene*. When a Government Title is disrupted, it may be either restored or abandoned. A disrupted Social or Estate Government Title may automatically be restored by activation of the Order Power for the purpose of Government Formation when:

- 1) The Government Title would not automatically become *disrupted* as of the beginning of the turn it is restored. This amounts to an ‘instant’ extra Conflict Check.
- 2) There is sufficient open space to legally place the Government Title in the Public Space (positions should avoid placing new pieces in the empty space).
- 3) The position currently has less than five undisrupted Government Titles.
- 4) And no new Government Titles have been added since the Title to be restored was disrupted (restoration of other Titles do not count as ‘adding new Titles’).

If the Order Power is activated to restore a disrupted Social or Estate Government Title and it cannot be restored for whatever reason, the Power activation is wasted (thus positions may attempt many times to restore a disrupted Title). When a restored Government Title is placed in the Public Space, the position may, but is not required to (unless by a violation of the Structural Government Title), shift any number of Pathways to the restored Government Title, with possible adverse consequences if items occupying Monads need to be moved or lost.

Automatic restoration by activation of the Order Power for the Purpose of Government Formation *does not apply* to disrupted Structural Titles which has a different criteria, see World Powers Fall, 3 Government Titles, p. 617, *supra*.

- ✓ “When Americans think of public policy in terms of scoring wins or losses, dumpster fires like the last two Obamacare repeal efforts are inevitable. ... GOP legislators know that their base isn’t interested in the mumbo-jumbo of actual health care experts. These voters are not interested in analysis, or extended debate. They don’t care who’s in favor of it or who’s against it, or for what reason. They’ve been told that Obamacare – which they hate – would be repealed, and the Affordable Care Act

- which they like – would be improved. If that sounds strange, remember that a third of all voters and about a quarter of GOP voters don't realize these are the same things, and that's the rub. No amount of expert testimony is going to change anyone's mind about Obamacare. What the most vocal and angry part of the Republican base wants is a repeal of this thing called 'Obamacare' because it is a political symbol and because President Trump promised them it would be repealed, totally and completely, on day one of his administration. What that would mean is as much a mystery to those angry voters as it is to many of the senators who supported that repeal.”
- Tom Nichols, “Health Care Fail: GOP caves to ignorant voters who want revenge, not facts,” USA Today, September 29, 2017.

➤ This Old House: Restoration with a capital “R” is a term commonly used by historians for this exact process, the reversion of rule to the previous elites or authorities. Historical restoration examples include the Kenmu Restoration and Meiji Restoration in Japan, the European Restoration (post-Napoleonic, there are many sub-Restorations under this umbrella), and the Restoration of 1660 (Charles II of England). The term, with a capital “R,” can also be used doctrinally in organized religion. In fantasy fiction, the historical-fantasy writer, Katherine Kurtz, prominently featured the Haldane Restoration, where normal humans overthrew an entrenched Deryni (humans with genetic magic and psychic powers) invaders’ monarchy and peerage, and placed an heir to the last human king on the throne.

- ✓ Restoration is also used to refer to a resurgent period of a tottering state, e.g., the Komnenian Restoration of the Byzantine Empire beginning with the reign of Alexios I ten years after the disastrous defeat at Manzikart. The Komnenian Restoration did not involve either reversion to a previous form of government, or previous dynasty (e.g., the Bourbon Restoration) or elite ruling group, but rather, the restoration of the Byzantine Empire to vitality and viability. The Pechenegs were the first victims, in typical Byzantine fashion, Alexios convinced the Cumans to turn on the Pechenegs; they destroyed the Pechenegs and then he drove the Cumans back across the Danube. Such a restoration may occur in GGDM, but is not the use of the term here.

➤ Three Kingdoms: A disrupted Government Title may not be abandoned unless its holder is maintaining at least three undisrupted Government Titles. This can result in a quagmire if positions do not choose and act carefully. New Social or Estate Government Titles may be added while another Title of any kind is disrupted.

A new Structural Title may be added only if the current Structural Title is disrupted. However, a position may never have two *undisrupted* Structural Titles at the same time. Adding any new Government Title, of course, will prevent the restoration of any of the currently disrupted Government Titles and they are then considered abandoned, unless there are not currently three undisrupted Titles (*ut supra*).

Consider what events and conditions would need to occur to restore any of the monarchies that were toppled by popular revolutions, wars, and historical shifts of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Curiously, there is a political party in France (Alliance Royale) that is still seeking to restore the monarchy and Prince, Jean d’Orléans, Duke of Vendôme, with aspirations of continuing the royal line to a day the monarchy might return. How serious are they?

However, it's always a matter of conditions: Consider the ‘managed democracy’ trajectory of Russia<sup>5</sup> – Russia is effectively a nuclear-armed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Roman *Principate*:

- ✓ “One of Russia’s most influential business magnates on Wednesday said the country has become a ‘quasi-monarchy’ – a sign of how President Vladimir V. Putin’s move this week to clear the way to rule until 2036 has changed the landscape of Russian politics. Not that the magnate, Konstantin Malofeev, was complaining. A nationalist financier with Kremlin connections and his own TV channel, Mr. Malofeev has spent decades agitating for a restoration of royal rule. In an interview with The New York Times, he said that after this week’s flurry of events, he had never been closer to his goal. ‘The quasi-monarchy that we basically now have is a very good thing,’ Mr. Malofeev said at his ornate office on Moscow’s Garden Ring. Referring to Mr. Putin, he went on: ‘If we were now to start calling him emperor, not president, then we wouldn’t have to change much in the Constitution.’...”

The message in the pro-Kremlin news media Wednesday was that Mr. Putin had chosen a democratic path to preserving stability in Russia by keeping himself in power. Mr. Putin emphasized that the amendment allowing him to run again would need to be approved by the Constitutional Court and by a nationwide vote. The April 22 plebiscite had already been scheduled as a vote on other, less consequential constitutional amendments that Mr. Putin introduced earlier this year. ... Success in the plebiscite and in the Constitutional Court appears assured, however, given the Kremlin’s control of the judiciary and the electoral system.” – Anton Troianovski, “A New ‘Emperor’: Russia Girds for 16 More Years of Putin,” New York Times, March 11, 2020.

- The Ends of the Circle: A disrupted Government Title that has been abandoned previously may only be subsequently re-added as a ‘new’ Government Title *at the discretion of the Concierge*. Positions will not generally be allowed to abandon disrupted Government Titles and then add them again later as a new Government Title. It is not impossible that this could happen, but improbable. In considering the issue, the Concierge will look at the current conditions, the story arc of the game, and the amount of time elapsed since the Government Title in question was abandoned. The addition of the previously abandoned Title may be related to other events, such as a Reformation or local revolt.
  - ✓ “If we beat the King ninety and nine times yet he is king still, and so will his posterity be after him; but if the King beat us once, we shall be all hanged, and our posterity be made slaves.” – Earl of Manchester, English Civil War (1642-1651).
    - The Earl of Manchester is historically recorded as having expressed this sentiment, but it is also included as dialogue in the 1970 movie Cromwell, where the Earl is erroneously shown sitting in the House of Commons. Cromwell replied, “Then why are we fighting this war?”

It is likely that the leaders of the American Revolution were familiar with this statement, as have all revolutionary leaders for the last three centuries. One solution to the problem is to execute the king, which they did in 1649. The French followed suit in 1792, the Russians in 1918, a century years ago:

- ✓ “The Tsar’s family was a victim of the principle that form the very axis of monarchy: dynastic inheritance” – Leon Trotsky.<sup>6</sup>
- ✓ Cromwell remains a ‘great Englishman’ because he refused what Napoleon could not: A Crown. At least as a formality. All the window dressing and trappings were there.

*“According to elite-focused theories of regime transitions, democracies remain stable when they are in a ‘self-enforcing equilibrium,’ meaning when all major political actors favor the status quo because it serves their own interests as they see them.”*

– Hubert Tworzecki and Radosław Markowski, “Why is Poland’s Law and Justice Party trying to rein in the judiciary,” *The Washington Post*, July 26, 2017

**Shattered States:** The 1990 board game, *Shattered States*, by Karstan Engleman and David Spencer, posits a future civil war between regional warlord factions of the United States following detonation of a nuclear weapon in Washington, D.C. by a terrorist during the State of the Union address. The game ends with no winner if the United States cannot be “reunited” in five to eight years (since this is a wargame that means military victory over rivals): *the memory and vision of the United States, and hope of restoration will begin to fade from the common memory as regional warlords carve out new polities*. I believe this idea was floating around in the 1970s and 1980s, as I have seen it once or twice in other literature from the late Cold War period.

- ✓ *Shattered States* should not be confused with the similar 2005 video game, *Shattered Union*. But this time, it is a nuclear weapon detonated in Washington, D.C. during the Inaugural Ball in 2012. Wonder where they got that idea?

What happened when the last Western Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustulus (of questionable legitimacy) was deposed by the Goth leader and Roman army officer Flavius Odoacer in 476 A.D.? Odoacer and the Senate of Rome placed the imperial insignia and emblems on a ship and sent them to Constantinople. The Eastern Roman Emperor Zeno, who had his own problems, granted Odoacer a meaningless title (*patrician*) and didn’t press the issue and the Senate of Rome proclaimed Odoacer King of Italy.

- ✓ “Odoacer advanced on Ravenna, capturing the city and the young emperor after the short and decisive Battle of Ravenna. Romulus was compelled to abdicate the throne on 4 September 476. This act has been cited as the end of the Western Roman Empire, although Romulus’ deposition did not cause any significant *disruption* at the time. *Rome had already lost its hegemony over the provinces*, Germanic peoples dominated the Roman army, and Germanic generals like Odoacer had long been the real powers behind the throne. Italy would suffer far greater devastation in the next century when Emperor Justinian I reconquered it in the Gothic War.” – from Wikipedia article, “Romulus Augustulus,” December 9, 2018 (emphasis added *for GGDM game terms purposes*).

When the last living, generally accepted, previous Western Roman emperor, Julius Nepos (predecessor to Romulus Augustulus), was assassinated in 480 A.D., nobody cared and no one sought to revive the Western Roman Empire at that point. Roman Emperor was a meaningless title, cursed with the weight of history, outmoded in the new age, no one was willing to fight for it or even to place a claim. Romulus Augustulus may have outlived Odoacer by more than 20 years (no one is sure when he died, how or where, no one cared), but never sought to reclaim the throne. Thus, the Western empire faded to black.

- ✓ However, Emperor Zeno persuaded the Ostrogoths to enter Italy in 489 A.D. and dispose of Odoacer, while they were fighting, the Burgundians started raiding, then the

Visigoths joined with the Ostrogoths against Odoacer. The various tribes and factions slugged it out until peace was negotiated by the Bishop of Ravenna in 493 A.D. Then the Ostrogoth leader killed Odoacer while they had dinner, and massacred his family and the rest of his army. The Ostrogoths then ruled Italy.

- ✓ Later Eastern Roman Emperors warred against the Ostrogoths from 535-554 A.D., the Ostrogoths were effectively destroyed and lost their politico-ethnic identity and suffered social collapse (like the Samnites after the Social War in 90 B.C.<sup>7</sup>), and the Byzantines reconquered (and depopulated) the Italian Peninsula temporarily, but lost most Italian territory to new invaders (e.g., Lombards in 568); the Byzantines held onto footholds here and there for a few centuries.
  - The word “byzantine” (not capitalized) comes down to us with a Machiavellian meaning for good reason. See also Manzikert discussion in 2 Construction, p. 671, *supra*.<sup>8</sup>
- The Last POTUS: A 16-year old was appointed President of the United States by his father, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, the final Capital of the United States of America. The U.S. Constitution long irrelevant, the appointment was confirmed by a single-candidate election held in western Pennsylvania, parts of eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, southwestern New York, and some neighborhoods in Chicago and Cleveland; the rest of the United States being permanently lost to the Federal Government. Shortly thereafter, the Pittsburgh militia was defeated by mutinous migrant mercenaries in the service of the U.S. Army, stationed at the church across from Castle Village, at the Battle of Carrick.

The mutineers overran the headquarters at the Carrick Super-Mall (the largest remaining mall in North America) and fought their way up the broad hillside over sprawling hillside cemeteries – Carrick is where people have long gone to be buried – and over house-lined terrace streets to the top of Brownsville Road and Arlington Avenue. The Mayor in command and President were captured. The President of the United States resigned and his fate is unknown to history; allegedly he lived for a while in West Virginia under the supervision of the Duke and is said to have wandered away into the mountains. Afterward, there are no further Presidents of the United States; the world moved on. The U.S. Senate, meeting in the library of the former Duquesne University (now “Capitol Hill”), proclaimed the victorious mercenary general as King of Pittsburgh and Ohio and his four sons as Prince of New York, Duke of West Virginia, Captain of Cleveland and Mayor of Chicago.

- ✓ “At 127 years of age, Stewart Adler, the last living citizen of the former United States of America, is invited to his hometown university to speak about his once-great nation’s fall into a state of complete and total societal and economic collapse. But more interestingly he describes its transformation back into a new and very different country.” – J.A. Willoughby, author summary of “Promised Land” (2014) on Goodreads.
- ✓ See also the 2006 television series, *Jericho*, which ran for two seasons, and the third and fourth seasons have been published as official novels. These are examples where the Structural Government Title of the United States of America would be disrupted and/or abandoned.

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*“The Tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time by the blood of patriots and tyrants.” – Thomas Jefferson*

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*“The winds of change blow straight into the face of time.”*  
 – Scorpions, “Winds of Change” (1990) <sup>9</sup>

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**Winds of Change:** If Thomas Jefferson were alive today, he would be on the FBI Terrorist Watchlist.

A position may attempt to *voluntarily* change any number of its Social and/or Estate Government Titles by activation of the Order Power for that purpose once for each proposed change. The ‘cabinet’ of Government Titles may be voluntarily changed by either adding a new Government Title and/or removing an undisrupted Government Title (like shuffling ministers and portfolios). At the end of any Regular Turn where there is a change in Social and/or Estate Titles, the position may not have more than four undisrupted Social and/or Estate Titles combined, and must have at least two undisrupted Social and/or Estate Titles in any combination (the min-max).<sup>10</sup>

Change or disruption of a Government Title may cause loss of Proficiencies on the Public Space. See, *And the Cradle Will Rock*, 3 Culture, p. 382, *supra*.

- ✓ “So the pendulum swings, now violently, now slowly; and every institution not only carries within it the seeds of its own dissolution, but prepares the way for its most hated rival.” – Dean William Ralph Inge, “Democracy and the Future,” *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 129, March 1922, p. 290 (available for free on Google Books).

Though Dean Inge was speaking of Western democracies, he was, of course, well aware of the demise of Roman/Classic Antiquity and polytheism, and it follows, might have also been speaking of Christianity as well. He continues:

- ✓ “The Church began by renouncing the world and ended by subjugating it. In the first century, it cursed the Babylon which sits on seven hills; a few centuries later, we find it firmly seated on the same eminence. The law of cycles, or, more accurately, of the swinging pendulum, is in fact, so generally valid, that no historian can afford to neglect it...”<sup>11</sup> *Id.*
- **The New Order:** A new Social or Estate Title may be added by activating the Order Power for that purpose when less than four undisrupted Social and/or Estate Titles are currently held. Prior to adding a new Social or Estate Title, the conditions for Legitimacy of the new Government Title must be met and there must be a sufficient space to legally place the new Title in the Public Space, in accordance with the rules governing the current Structural Title, *even if it is disrupted*. Adding a new Social or Estate Title means that a new social identity/philosophy is emerging and/or a new group is asserting its will to obtain a share of the power; in any event, the existing groups lose some power and prestige in the process.

The existing Titles and the groups they represent, despite their internal bickering, have a vested interest as a group in maintaining the *status quo*. Therefore, the chance of successfully adding a new Government Title on any turn is 100% minus 25% for each current undisrupted Social and Estate Government Title. Note that there can only be four total Estate



and/or Social Titles in each position, therefore, the minimum chance of adding a new Social or Estate Title is 25%, if the position had three undisrupted Social or Estate Titles already. The Structural Title has no effect on the process of adding a new Social or Estate Title.

- ✓ Note that, per the preceding section (*ut supra*, p. 638), adding a new Social or Estate Title will cause any *currently disrupted* Social or Estate titles to be abandoned.
  - ✓ The change of government described in these rules is not of the trivial sort that happens every few years, it's not a matter of a new executive being elected, or forming a new coalition, or a confidence vote. It is more akin to the centuries-long process where monarchies around the world were replaced by 'modern' states.
- A New Place, Old Face: Upon successfully adding a new Social or Estate Title, the Title must be immediately placed in the Public Space consistent with the Structural Title requirements, and must be done in such a way as to not cause the immediate disruption of any other Title. Thus, there must be sufficient Public Space to place the new Title, and this requires some foresight. The placement of the new Title cannot be delayed. When the Title is placed, new Pathways from the colonies may be formed if necessary, moving aside or losing items from the Public Space. New Titles are automatically legitimate on the turn they are placed ('the honeymoon'). The Concierge and players will cooperate in placement of new Titles.
- ✓ Mr. Putin, in an interview, has called the collapse of the Soviet Union, to paraphrase, 'the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.' This goes far in explaining much of what has happened in the last 10 years in relation to Russia. There are, of course, many who disagree, but those who live in Russia have to keep very quiet.
- The Corridors of Power: Abandonment of an undisrupted Social or Estate Title (not to be confused with abandonment of a disrupted Title, *ut supra*) is not an automatic event, there are always those who have a vested interest in the *status quo* and when the majority of the civilization has this vested interest, and the rest are mostly silent, there is no force for change.

The chance of successfully removing a currently undisrupted Social or Estate Title is 10% plus 20% for each currently failed Conflict Check for that Title. Thus, it is easy to remove a Title that is near disruption, and difficult to remove a Title that is solidly legitimate. It is possible for players to engineer the demise of a Social or Estate Title toward removal or disruption by making moves that intentionally cause the Title to fail Conflict Checks; however, this could also harm the position and has its own cost, so it should not be assumed that positions would or should intentionally disrupt their own Titles.<sup>12</sup>

- ✓ There is a curious dynamic here; Social or Estate titles that have only one Conflict Check on the Magna Carta are easiest to disrupt, but hardest to remove voluntarily: There is a maximum 10% chance of success in voluntary removal, but if it fails the sole Conflict Check, it instantly becomes disrupted! Thus Social or Estate titles with one Conflict Check seem to represent single issue, radical, and momentarily popular movements. Single Conflict Check Social and Estate Titles are good for positions that want to keep stirring the pot during the game.
- ✓ Simon de Montfort's problem was twofold: 1) Holding the king and his relatives hostage did not grant legitimacy and 2) His parliamentary reforms – inviting lower ranking lords into parliament – were seen by his allies as diluting their power privilege.

- **Stain Removal:** When an attempt to remove a Social or Estate Title is successful, the Government Title is removed from the Public Space and abandoned (i.e. it is not disrupted and cannot be restored) at the end of the turn. As previously, this may cause loss of Pathways and the necessity of immediately forming new Pathways from colonies to the government, including movement or loss of items on the Public Space as necessary to form the Pathway.
  - ✓ “It turned out to be an unforgiving landscape – threatened by Russia, plundered by oligarchs, plagued by indecisive leaders and overrun by outsiders hoping to make a quick buck off the chaos.” – Glenn Thrush and Kenneth P. Vogel, “What Joe Biden Actually Did in Ukraine,” New York Times, November 10, 2019.
- **Perestroika Will Destroy Ya!:**<sup>13</sup> In addition to the cost of Order Power activations and forming new Pathways, adding a new or voluntarily abandoning an *undisrupted* Social or Estate Title will also assess one Intervention Potential Plus (IP+) against the position (there’s always someone who has a problem with the change).<sup>14</sup>
  - ✓ “[Kathryn Dunn] Tenpas says changes in key posts cause a domino effect, with deputies she didn’t even track in this research moving on. Tenpas argues all those staffing changes have consequences, especially ones at the top. ‘Turnover creates disruptions, it creates inefficiencies, it affects the morale. If you see people around you getting fired at a very high level, there’s a lot of angst about that,’ she says.” – Tamara Keith, “Turnover in Trump’s White House is ‘Record Setting,’ and it isn’t even close,” NPR, January 19, 2018 [citing Dr. Kathryn Dunn Tenpas, senior fellow at Brookings Institution].

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*“There are plenty of Marxist-Leninist textbooks about taking power; but there are none about giving it up.”*

– Victor Sebestyen, [Revolution 1989: The Fall of the Soviet Empire](#) (2009)

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**The Day I Became History:** The publication of GMT’s 2012 card-driven boardgame, 1989: Dawn of Freedom, made me feel like history.

I suddenly realized how long it had been since those events of which I still have living memory. I am part of the last cohort of the Cold War. That day, I became history; the world now belongs to the millennials and post-millennials. I have never played the game; I haven’t seen it in several years, I recall it being played maybe twice at the monthly game club.

- ✓ One of my personal memories is of watching the evening news broadcast of the U.N. relief agencies driving through Romania in early 1990 after the revolution that overthrew the government of Nicolae Ceaușescu. The convoys drove through towns, handing out soap, water, and other essentials. Mainly soap. Every house, every building – I could see the houses used to be covered in white siding – were black from industrial soot. The mud in the streets was black from industrial soot, as was the rain water. Everything was black and filthy and the captive population was living in it, the sky was dark, overcast. As I asked in Nothing to Offer, 1 Colleges, p. 454, *supra*, at what point does sovereignty equate to holding an entire population hostage?

And then there were the crowded orphanage nurseries ... due to the official policy promoting explosive population growth. I remember this for two reasons, the rapid

fall of the Warsaw Block and the Soviet Union was something I thought I'd see when I was 50 or 70 years old (that is, about now 2020), so the revolutions of 1989 were a very important event to me, and secondly, I was simply appalled by the images I saw and the irresponsibility in the name of ideology, ambition, and a personality cult.

**1989:** What was most amazing about the revolutions of 1989 was that they were mostly non-violent, in most cases, the police refused or delayed firing on the protesters and/or the army defected to the protesters side, no one – even those whose position, wealth, and lifestyle gave them a vested interest in maintaining *status quo* – was willing to kill to preserve an old and discredited ideology or the personality cult of a national leader. Absent police and military physical force or legitimized violence, the stand-off between the politically active part of the populace and the established government was a symmetrical conflict.

In most places, after Solidarity won in Poland – the Polish Round Table discussions served as a good model for others – the Soviet puppet regimes melted away; the process usually started with resignation of the current Communist old baldheaded, pudgy head of state, appointment of a younger, more liberal, charismatic Communist head of state, followed by the rapid collapse of the one-party system and deletion of the provision from the Constitution.

The exceptions to this were Romania where Nicolae Ceaușescu was executed along with his wife on December 25, 1989, after violent overthrow when the army went over to the protestor's side, and, of course, Yugoslavia. In Yugoslavia, which was a federation (likely, a Justice Jackson-esque 'quasi-state') and never a member of the Warsaw Pact, leaders who sought to succeed from the federation stoked ethno-nationalist sentiments (see John R. Schindler bottom feature quote, 4 Order, p. 577, *supra*) that exploded into the 1990s conflicts whose fires have been hard to put out – for example, incidents of Ultras racism at soccer games in southern Europe.

➤ Venezuela 2019: The situation in Venezuela since the death of Hugo Chavez is instructive on this point, especially the spiraling national, economic, and cultural crisis of 2017 to the present. It seems to me that as a group, the highest officials of the Maduro government (like the people in the 1953 Robert Sheckley short story "Fool's Mate") are caught in a bind: The situation is unsustainable and getting worse, it cannot go on interminably (and may end the same way as the short story: irrationally). But through their conflicting concerns, fears, loyalties, suspicions, they cannot find a non-violent way out as a group.

In April 2019, in a potential senior ministry coup to overthrow President Nicolás Maduro that failed to materialize, guarantees of amnesty were not sufficient (Anthony Faiola, "How a plot filled with intrigue and betrayal failed to oust Venezuela's president," Washington Post, May 3, 2019)<sup>15</sup> to persuade the potential plotters to denounce Maduro and the spy chief fled the country afterward. The police have refused to detain or arrest the opposition leader (the 'acting president' Juan Guaidó), but have fired on demonstrators, killing some.

Venezuela is not the first nor will it be the last, this is likely the situation (more or less, with different details) in many such cases, and thus, *'abandoned' titles are not fully sent into the night until a new title is added.* Likely, whatever happens in the Venezuela situation, "socialism" is dead as a title in that society.

- ✓ The crisis in Venezuela appears superficially similar to the situation in Poland in 1989, and that situation was resolved with the famous Poland Round Table Talks (February 6 to April 5, 1989) that encouraged ripple effect revolutions across Eastern

Europe. The parties there were cooperatively trying to defuse the situation and find a way out; no such cooperation appears in Venezuela where two men claim to be president.

- ✓ It is also likely that some of the loyalist who were in the plot were Maduro spies and that the opposition is using the media reporting of the failed coup to sow doubts among Maduro's government. Both of these possibilities can be addressed in GGDM by News Events, 2 Dreamtime, *supra*, Special Operations, *infra*, possibly even Thesis Statements, see Disputations, 2 Reformation, p. 1391, *infra*, might do the trick.

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*“President Trump on Monday accused Democrats who did not clap during his State of the Union address of being un-American and even treasonous. His remarks came in a rambling, discursive speech at a factory in Ohio, during which he celebrated his revival of the American economy as the stock market plummeted by more than 1,000 points.”*

– Mark Landler, “Trump Accuses Democrats of ‘Treason’ Amid Market Rout,” *New York Times*, February 5, 2018

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**Treason Everywhere:** What did he think after the 2020 SOTU...? The way in which a person uses the word ‘treason’ is indicative of their state of mind: Nicolae Ceaușescu, the leader of Romania, accused Vasile Milea, the Defense Minister, of treason because he did not order the police to fire on the protestors. Thus, in the mind of Nicolae Ceaușescu, *the protestors were the enemy of the state* (by definition of “treason”), *as if they were a foreign invading army*. When Vasile Milea committed suicide, the army believed he had been executed by the government and went over to the protestors’ side; it was over at that point for Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife, Elena, who was also the First Deputy Prime Minister of Romania. Elena Ceaușescu would be an interesting subject for a feature biopic film; there are already some biographies published.

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*“Plutarch says very finely, that a man should not allow himself to hate even his enemies, because, says he, if you indulge this passion in some occasions, it will rise of itself in others; if you hate your enemies, you will contract such a venomous habit of mind, as by degrees will break out upon those who are your friends, or those who are indifferent to you.*

*I might here observe how admirably this precept of morality (which derives the malignity of hatred from the passion itself, and not from its object) answers to that great rule which was dictated to the world about an hundred years before this philosopher wrote; but instead of that, I shall only take notice, with a real grief of heart, that the minds of many good men among us appear soured with party-principles, and alienated from one another in such a manner, as seems to me altogether inconsistent with the dictates either of reason or religion. Zeal for a public cause is apt to breed passions in the hearts of virtuous persons, to which the regard of their own private interest would never have betrayed them.”*

– Joseph Addison, “Mischiefs of Party Spirit” (1711) <sup>16</sup>

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Endnotes.

<sup>1</sup> Citation: “I was born in Austria in 1947, shortly after the Second World War. Growing up, I was surrounded by broken men, men who came home from the war filled with shrapnel and guilt, men who were misled into a losing ideology. And I can tell you that this ghost that you idolize spent the rest of their lives living in shame. And right now, they’re resting in hell.” – Arnold Schwarzenegger, video message to Donald Trump (available on YouTube), attn: news, posted on Global News (Canada), by Chris Jancelewicz with related article and quotes, August 18, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Citation: See also GGDM cover page regarding controlling reality.

<sup>3</sup> Citation: “I’ve been thinking more deeply about what the relationship is between Christian faith and political life. I had drawn much more of a separation between politics and faith in my past, and I need to rethink that. I certainly don’t want to do what mainstream Christianity has done and make politics indistinguishable from faith – especially on the left, and now on the right. But is there a way to talk about our nation’s issues that is not merely partisan, but raises questions of ethics and morality and ideals?” – Mark Galli, interview by Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs, “Christianity Today Editor Laments ‘Ethical Naïveté’ of Trump Backers,” *The New York Times*, January 2, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Commentary & Citation: David Rosenhan performed a “Peanuts football trick” in a similar fashion that infuriated the mental health profession, but proved his point rather well:

- ✓ “The staff was informed that at some time during the following three months, one or more pseudopatients would attempt to be admitted into the psychiatric hospital. Each staff member was asked to rate each patient who presented himself at admissions or on the ward according to the likelihood that the patient was a pseudopatient. A 10-point scale was used, with a 1 and 2 reflecting high confidence that the patient was a pseudopatient. Judgments were obtained on 193 patients who were admitted for psychiatric treatment. All staff who had had sustained contact with or primary responsibility for the patient – attendants, nurses, psychiatrists, physicians, and psychologists – were asked to make judgments. Forty-one patients were alleged, with high confidence, to be pseudopatients by at least one member of the staff. Twenty-three were considered suspect by at least one psychiatrist. Nineteen were suspected by one psychiatrist and one other staff member. Actually, no genuine pseudopatient (at least from my group) presented himself during this period. The experiment is instructive. It indicates that the tendency to designate sane people as insane can be reversed when the stakes (in this case, prestige and diagnostic acumen) are high. But what can be said of the 19 people who were suspected of being ‘sane’ by one psychiatrist and another staff member? Were these people truly ‘sane’ or was it rather the case that in the course of avoiding the Type 2 error the staff tended to make more errors of the first sort – calling the crazy ‘sane’? There is no way of knowing. But one thing is certain: any diagnostic process that lends itself too readily to massive errors of this sort cannot be a very reliable one.” – David L. Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places,” *Science*, Vol. 179 (Jan. 1973), pp. 250-258.

<sup>5</sup> Commentary: The people of Russia had a rare opportunity for self-determination, but allowed themselves to be bamboozled that ‘democracy’ was dangerous and chaos (the similar argument that the Soviets used) and that managed democracy (muzzled Caucasian Shepard Dog style) led by a bitter ex-KGB officer – another word for autocracy as it turned out – was better. The choices they have made will be inherited by their children. And humanity.

<sup>6</sup> Commentary: I believe that my entire 4th grade class watched the 1971 British movie *Nicholas and Alexandria* on a big screen at a small art association theatre across the street from my elementary school. It may have been split into two afternoons. I was interested in the movie (I didn’t get to watch many movies at that time), probably more interested than my classmates, but I also recall having difficulty staying awake.

<sup>7</sup> Citation: The Wikipedia article, “Social War (91–88 BC)” notes: “By the 2nd century BC the Italian allies contributed between one half and two-thirds of the soldiers in Roman armies. Rome also had virtual control over the allies’ foreign policy, including their interaction with one another. Aside from the Second Punic War, where Hannibal had limited success in turning some Italian communities against Rome, for the most part the Italian communities were content to remain as client states of Rome in return for local autonomy. The Romans’ policy of land distribution had led to great inequality of land-ownership and wealth. This led to the ‘Italic people declining little by little into pauperism and paucity of numbers without any hope of remedy.’ A number of political proposals had attempted to address the growing discrepancy whereby Italians made a significant contribution to Rome’s military force, while receiving disproportionately small shares of land and citizenship rights.”

- ✓ Captured October 17, 2018, quoting Greek-Roman historian Appian of Alexandria (95-165 A.D.) from his book, *Civil Wars*. As his copyright has expired, © his works are available online in various places.

<sup>8</sup> Citation: “Zambelli, if you start outmaneuvering yourself to no purpose, we’ll be here all night.” – Pope Alexander III, Becket (1964).

<sup>9</sup> **Commentary:** This anthem will always have a special meaning to those who remember the Cold War and the summer of 1989. It seems most fitting that it was written by a West German band after they performed at the Moscow Peace Festival, August 12 and 13, 1989 and during the summer of the German Unification (October 1990).

<sup>10</sup> **Citation & Commentary:** “Rouhani, 69, suggested there was a generational element to the unrest, which appears to have been spearheaded by under-25s. ‘We cannot pick a lifestyle and tell two generations after us to live like that. It is impossible... The views of the young generation about life and the world is different than ours,’ he said.” – Bozorgmehr Sharafedin, “In a jab at rivals, Rouhani says Iran protest about more than the economy,” Reuters News Agency, January 8, 2018.

- ✓ In the subtext of this statement, Rouhani was also perhaps criticizing Wahhabism and the colossal tragic absurdity that the Islamic State forcibly inflicted upon Islam.
- ✓ “But the nuclear deal didn’t provide the ... regime with the means or motivation to expand its regional aggression. The government is overextended, which has taken a toll on average [Citizens], and is now animating the demonstrations. There’s a lot going on in the country that has nothing to do with the nuclear deal, including the desire of many [Citizens] for a modern state and a government that isn’t corrupt, oppressive or preoccupied with meddling in the affairs of its neighbors.” – Y.J. Fischer, formerly of the US State Dept., Washington Post, January 4, 2018.

<sup>11</sup> **Commentary:** And there the quote must end, because what follows is both irrelevant and disagreeable. This is the tricky part of quoting others; Dean Inge was a good mind, and an eloquent writer – of his time – and while I respect his opinions *in his time*, I very much disagree with some of his subsequent assertions; he and I are of different eras, different opinions. If you want to see what he said beyond the end of the quote, it’s free to read on Google Books.

- ✓ Probably someone else may do the same to me someday. Perhaps this is what we call a topical truth function? We all cherry-pick; after thoughts have been chewed over and over by succeeding generations of writers and thinkers, what remains is the rough pit of thoughts that might be regarded as human truths.
- ✓ See the Inge Process, 5 Diplomacy, p. 1161, *infra*.

<sup>12</sup> **Citation:** “First, having played Zarek for the past four years I would like to say that never did I play this character as a villain nor did I think he was one and I still feel that way. After paying the price of 25 years in prison for standing up for human rights and seeing both his family, friends and cohorts killed by a suppressive government on his home planet he had every right to distrust the powers that be on Galactica that seemed to think that only they had the right to make decisions for the people. And since Zarek was blocked illegally by Roslin and Adama at every turn including from winning a fair election he had to resort to any leverage he could gain to assert some kind of voice in what had become an almost dictatorial government run by Adama and Roslin, who looked with disdain upon the council of the 12 and did pretty much what they wanted without consensus of the people....

Did everyone forgot what democracy is about or do we just shut our eyes when the government no longer listens to the democratically elected representatives of the people just because we love the characters. And by the way I love both these actors and the character they play too the fact is they broke as many laws as they claim Zarek did. The truth is from everything I’ve read and from all the scripts I played it was clear to me that Zarek’s actions were always about making a positive difference which is what his whole life was about. My god he paid with 25 years in prison for it and with his life....

The government of Adama and Roslin as much as we love these character broke every constitutional rule or law to stay in power and to assert their will, regardless of their positive motivations they had destroyed a true democracy on the Galactica and yet Zarek is looked upon as the power hungry bad guy because he was one of the few to stand up and challenge them.... In truth Zarek, Adama and Roslin all wanted power for the same reason, to make a positive difference but Zarek still idealistically believed that the government should always be accountable to the people represented in this show by the council of the 12.” – Richard Hatch comments (authenticated by the blogger) reprinted in “Richard Hatch speaks out about Battlestar Galactica’s Tom Zarek,” February 9, 2009, found at: [http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/entertainment\\_tv/2009/02/battlestar-galactica-tom-zarek-richard-hatch.html](http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/entertainment_tv/2009/02/battlestar-galactica-tom-zarek-richard-hatch.html).

<sup>13</sup> **Citation:** Historical irony in translation: “Paranoia, they destroy ya!” – The Kinks, “Destroyer” (1981) often misheard as, “Paranoia will destroy ya!” (which works just as well) because of the way it is sung.

<sup>14</sup> **Citation:** Dr. Paul T. Mason, Jr., Duquesne University Dept. of History: ‘When there is going to be violence, when violence is certain, the side that controls when and where it occurs has the advantage,’ part of a lecture about partisan riots in Paris during the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror.

<sup>15</sup> **Citation:** See also Megan Specia, “What Is Happening in Venezuela and Why It Matters,” New York Times, May 1, 2019.

<sup>16</sup> **Citation:** “Is our partisanship more or less reflexive, as opposed to reflective, which is what partisanship should be?” – John Meacham, Morning Joe, CNN, June 16, 2020.