

## Our New Maginot Line

Nuclear weapons have effectively contained warfare between the major countries of the world since WWII, but they did nothing to contain the world's weapons industries. The ensuing pressure has been building to the point that the world's military industrial complex has built a doomsday machine every bit as capable of destroying this civilization as our nukes. The world's military forces now have so much ability to destroy infrastructure that any major war would be the immediate end of this civilization, but under the nuclear umbrella they're grinding it away bit by bit. Even if they never fired a nuke, the world's military forces have exceeded MADness [mutual assured destruction]. Unlike WWII and other previous wars, we no longer have the resource base nor the clean environment to absorb the pollution that it takes to rebuild what our military can destroy. The massive destruction of infrastructure around the world is not being rebuilt. The immense production of CO2 that it took to make all that concrete cannot be done again, we're running out of good concrete sand, and we cannot continue to destroy the carbon sink of what little is left of the world's forests. There's nothing for refugees to go back to.

Ever since WWII, the primary cause of homeless refugees throughout the world has been the world's air forces, followed closely by ground warfare, but in the last few decades they've been overtaken by climate change. Now, the destruction of Ukraine and Gaza has brought the world's militaries back into the lead. War is steadily grinding the infrastructure that this civilization depends on into rubble, and there will come a tipping point.

We pissed a trillion dollars down a rat hole developing and deploying the F35. It's just another part of our Maginot Line to Putin's internet propaganda and Solar Winds Blitzkrieg, China's cyber, surveillance, and economic war, the world's autocrats control of the media, social media's severe crippling of a large portion of our kids, and above all, climate change. Along with the rest of the global military buildup, it's pushing us into a dangerous cold war with China, and a not so cold war with Russia. Putin's propaganda just took out our American democracy without firing a shot.

In the past, the primary purpose of the fighter plane was about protecting our bombers and destroying theirs, and strafing and bombing ground and naval targets. The F35 can kick ass in a dogfight and it's seriously sneaky, but contemporary missile technology, ground to air technology, and drone technology has rendered much of our conventional bomber fleet and fighter jet fleet obsolete. For the most part, the dogfight is a relic from the past. It's all over before they clear the horizon. The F35 is actually a small, fast, stealth bomber and missile platform that's quite capable of defending itself. It's the best thing we've ever come up with to create poverty and misery.

China has all the blueprints for the F35, although it might take them years to catch up. Their current copy of the F35 isn't all that good. All around the world, just about anyone with enough cash that we deem to be our friend at the moment can buy them. If China doesn't find a way to jam them, or see past their stealth, they'll build something to compete with them, and the arms race will spiral up one more round. In an all-out war, after the F35s are disabled by the destruction of satellite communication and GPS systems, or their tech support, or ganged up on, or downed with ground to air missiles, or left without runways, or left with nothing to fight for after our infrastructure is bombed into oblivion, or the nukes fly; if there are any left it'll be the A10s, the dozens of different lower tech fighters, and the drones that get it done. Our fighter jet fleet is immense. We have a hundred times as many serviceable planes mothballed out back as we have pilots. Our ancient ICBM system that was the backbone of nuclear deterrence can't be hacked precisely because it's not high tech, although most of it is non-functional after all these years. Subs are currently our nuclear umbrella, but the winds of change are blowing, and umbrellas don't do well in the wind.

We've drastically over-invested in applying high tech to fundamentally obsolete systems, and drastically under-invested in the tools of cyber war and the low tech systems that are secure from it. It's left us quite vulnerable. The high tech systems we've let ourselves depend on are quite fragile.

For the money spent on the F35, we could have hired a million soldiers at \$50,000 a year for 20 years. We could have expanded our obviously deficient munitions factories. We could have hired a million white hackers to overcome the world's autocrats' control of the media. The F35 might be useful for destroying a city, or taking out industrial and military infrastructure, or hitting tanks in open country, but we already have lots ground based weapons and planes that can do that, and it's no match to an A10 or a fleet of drones for close in ground support. How many next generation A10s could we build and maintain for the price of an F35? With that much money we could build a million swarms of drones that would render ground warfare obsolete. What would the money spent on the F35 get us in the new ground based air defense systems that are rendering air forces obsolete?

It didn't do us a damn bit of good in Afghanistan. It didn't do us a damn bit of good while Vladimir Putin pulverized Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and now Ukraine; burdening the world with many millions of permanent refugees, since almost none of it is being rebuilt. It was instrumental in destroying Gaza, giving the world a few million more homeless refugees. It's useless against submarines. It's useless for protecting our electrical grid from cyber-attack, terrorist attack, or the inevitable direct hit by a coronal mass ejection, or dealing with the slow bleed of constant ransomware attacks, or the disinformation on the internet that's seriously undermining democracies all around the world, or protecting the free press from being assassinated and imprisoned all around the world, or a missile hidden in a ship that takes out a major bridge, or a bomb in a shipping container that closes a major port or closes the Suez or the Panama canal, or an RPG that takes out an LNG tanker, or any number of ways a country could be brought to its knees.

The US invasion of Vietnam, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, the US invasion of Afghanistan, the US invasion of Iraq, the multilateral destruction of Libya, the Russian destruction of Syria, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and now Israel's destruction of Gaza clearly show that an air force can no longer win; they can only create the poverty that breeds more war, famine, and disease throughout the world. Almost none of what they've destroyed in the last 50 years is being rebuilt.

The F35 is just one more part of our real enemies; climate change, famine, pollution, and cyber war. The US is losing the cyber war big-time. Putin has so duped the sheeple of the US that the president and his lackeys are openly supporting his assault of Ukraine, and brazenly false Russian propaganda is directly quoted in the halls of congress. The US military is still the single greatest source of pollution on the planet, and China and Russia are rapidly catching up. What would a trillion dollars have accomplished invested in clean energy technology instead of something whose sole purpose is poverty and death? What would Afghanistan look like if we had invested in their standard of living instead of a war that we lost that drove them into poverty and depravity? What will Israel do now that they've surrounded themselves with a new wave of poverty and hatred?

We can out-spend the Russian military until they have nothing left to fight with but nukes, and we can sanction their economy until Russia falls apart like the Soviet Union fell apart, but that won't work with China. They can out-spend the rest of the world, including the US and they're quietly buying the world, including the US and Russia. While they both rule by control of the media, Putin is just a street thug at heart, but Xi actually believes in the righteousness of his governance. He's much crazier than Putin, and a much greater threat to the world's democracies.

The greatest threats to democracy and this entire civilization are climate change, environmental poisoning, the cultural and genetic de-evolution of birth control, and the internet's massive propaganda and surveillance machine with its ability to control the media and con a very gullible populace. Instead of dealing with it, we spent a trillion dollars on a fancy joyride for a few jet jockeys.