

## Clues From the Ukraine Crisis<sup>1</sup>

### The Foundation of Unity

**Homeland Territory** The foundation of unity is in the protection of the sovereign territory in which the united people live. Ukrainians are united under the leadership of their president, [Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#), a person whose career has been blessed because of his sensitivity to people's feelings. The invaders are encountering substantial resistance from the elderly and the youth without regard to formal military status.

The people are defending their homeland with their lives. They have experienced liberty, and they will fight to the death to defend it. Their unity has inspired an astounding support from the next network level of sovereign states. That next level could be identified in many ways ranging from other democracies to all the sovereign states on the planet Earth. Within that range there are at least three networks that are candidates.

One such network is the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, NATO. It is prioritized in relevance because there were at least two critical political conditions called for by President Putin's negotiations with United States leading up to his unprovoked start of the biggest European wartime action since World War II. One was a legally binding guarantee that Ukraine would not be admitted to NATO. The other was the removal of elements of American military strength from Europe. Some of this is discussed in the prologue to the latest revision of the [overview booklet](#), IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?

That discussion is incorporated by reference. It starts on page xxii using the side heading of **The Newest Crisis** and runs until page xxvii. The paragraph headings are as follows: **The Last Week in February; Our Domestic Significance;** and **President Putin's Behavior.**

The prepared text of President Biden's *State the Union* message on March 1 included the following excerpts provided in boxes, with our review comments after the box.

Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought to shake the foundations of the free world thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over.

---

<sup>1</sup> This item is in part a review of a portion of President Biden's first *State of The Union* message. It is also an excerpt from what will be the sixth chapter (A Bit Beyond the First Year) of the third part (*Resilience and Regression of Democracy*) of ***Strategic Guidance Towards Improving Outcomes***.

The strategic guidance treatise also serves as an [appendix](#) to the overview [booklet](#), IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! Do YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY? All of this is authored by the personhood of the Declaration Era Educational Press ([DEEP](#)). The DEEP enterprise is designed to be a nonpartisan educational endeavor to be gifted to a nonprofit organization, as soon as it becomes self-supporting and appropriate Board of Directors is assembled.

The appendix is designed to provide periodic updates of unfolding events. The ***Clues From the Ukrainian Crisis*** is the first part of the chapter. The balance of the chapter will be posted as an update to the appendix. The succeeding chapters this year will focus on the report of the Select Committee investigating the January 6 assault on the Capitol and the outcome of the midterm elections. The readership is invited to provide and share their comments.

Instead he met a wall of strength he never imagined. He met the Ukrainian people. From President Zelenskyy to every Ukrainian, their fearlessness, their courage, their determination, inspires the world. Groups of citizens blocking tanks with their bodies. Everyone from students to retirees teachers turned soldiers defending their homeland.

This is leading to our discussion of scale of unity rising to networks of sovereign states, and unity of a diversity of political interests with sovereign states that value democracy.

Let each of us here tonight in this Chamber send an unmistakable signal to Ukraine and to the world. Please rise if you are able and show that, yes, we the United States of America stand with the Ukrainian people.

Elected representatives to the House of Representatives and the Senate, of both major parties, rose in support of Ukrainian people. It shows some existence of unity in the foreign policy relevance that is in some measure already indicated by the electorate.

In some measure, the founding fathers expected a Senate leadership that would go beyond simply responding to the masses; and would delve deeper to understand the implications choices. The tribalism has eroded the reality of expecting senatorial behavior to better judge the common good. The process is contaminated with personal political interests overriding the common good, especially in placing political interests above the nation's interests. Observance of the oath of office to follow the Constitution has been eroded.

The electorate needs a better education. That includes an understanding of the relevance of global behavior and/or enough savvy to understand if their elected representatives are capable of doing the right thing, and motivated to do so by their commitment to the common good.

Putin's latest attack on Ukraine was premeditated and unprovoked. He rejected repeated efforts at diplomacy. He thought the West and NATO wouldn't respond. And he thought he could divide us at home. Putin was wrong. We were ready.

Bipartisan applause showed across the aisle unity on this matter.

Here is what we did. We prepared extensively and carefully. We spent months building a coalition of other freedom-loving nations from Europe and the Americas to Asia and Africa to confront Putin. I spent countless hours unifying our European allies. We shared with the world in advance what we knew Putin was planning and precisely how he would try to falsely justify his aggression.

We countered Russia's lies with truth. And now that he has acted the free world is holding him accountable. Along with twenty-seven members of the European Union including France, Germany, Italy, as well as countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and many others, even Switzerland.

That statement is intended to include linking NATO as a critical next level of networks of global democracies. Some Republican leadership may reconsider their support of the previous administration's position regarding NATO. Former President Trump was right in asking them to increase their allocation to defense spending to come closer to a fair share. Now they plan to do so.

As a global leader we had a track record of allocating more than our proportionate share (on a variety of measures) for the common good of that democratic effort; but we enjoyed the role of leadership that went along with it. We were better able to afford contributions to our common interest, and were wise to do so. Time horizons are critical in understanding the development of social capital [at

some point a link discussing social capital will be provided.] that contributes to the common. That calls for taking a long view of the consequences of current conditions.

The model we have been using on the DEEP website is an organic analogy from the human body to the societal body. We have been enhancing that model by application of two critical concepts dealing with real estate and urban development, that is also amenable to the application of the organic model. The two critical concepts of fixity of location and long-term investment. Fixity of location is relevant because of the territorial nature for sovereign states. The long-term investment concept takes us beyond dealing what we know now to our understanding of reasonable expectations of long-term outcomes.

Since we have become accustomed to linear reasoning that deals with science relationships, we have difficulty in understanding changes in relationships as systems evolve. Although there are some powerful models, such as agent-based models, that explore outcomes with changing assumptions, the best that we can do most of the time is to consider patterns.

History does not repeat itself, but it does indicate that patterns of the past provide clues for outcomes of the future. Strategically, we do best with our choices if we use a variation of the minimax strategy that deals with the extent of the downside that we will find acceptable. The process then calls for maximization of benefits within that constraint.

Obviously, different people in different societal organizations, have different judgments as to what they will accept as the downside in pursuit of their goals. This is helpful for us in understanding the behavior of President Putin in his leadership of Russia and the behavior of President Zelensky. It is also helpful with understanding the behavior of the people in the country.

The people of Ukraine are united in their protection of their territory that has afforded them the benefits of democracy. They shifted from a previous administration with about a 70% vote for the new leadership. The people of Russia are divided on what their leader President Putin calls a *special military operation*. A great many believe his propaganda. However, a great many are protesting with the message of *no war*. Putin has undercut the freedom of the press that existed by massive arrests and the promise a fifteen-year sentences for those who contradict what he pretends to be the truth.

**Our Common Purpose.** We now have to deal with the more costly approach of curing the problem than preventing it. Former President Trump's accepting President Putin's lies over US intelligence was a costly contributor to emboldening the Russian autocrat, President Putin.

The first impeachment of former President Trump dealt with a telephone conversation in which Trump was attempting to extort a favor from Ukraine president, Zelensky. In the Senate trial, the failure to even allow expert testimony from a witness of the alleged *quid pro quo* request encouraged the then president to pursue his reelection, presumably at any cost.

The failure to convict him of the trial of the second impeachment removed the opportunity for a second senatorial action that would prohibit him from holding federal office in the future. The point here is that Trump as an admirer of Putin is still a significant threat to the survival of American Democracy.

A further point here is that, as previously noted, there was support for President Biden's remarks of support of Ukraine with congressional representatives of both parties rising in applause to support America's position favoring another democracy under threat by an autocrat who has been undermining the West in the fear of democracy becoming favored by the Russian populace.

Later in the State of the Union message, President Biden was supporting some components as standalone items that Republican representatives supported, plus other policies that were more favored by Republicans than at least by some Democrats, yet there was an absence of Republican applause for

the policies that their the constituents favored. There will be more discussion of this in the context of the scale of unity.

Returning now to the discussion of our president’s comments, he continued as indicated in the box that follows.

We are inflicting pain on Russia, and supporting the people of Ukraine. Putin is now isolated from the world more than ever. Together with our allies – we are right now enforcing powerful economic sanctions. We are cutting off Russia’s largest banks from the international financial system. Preventing Russia’s central bank from defending the Russian Ruble making Putin’s \$630 Billion “war fund” worthless. We are choking off Russia’s access to technology that will sap its economic strength and weaken its military for years to come.

Tonight I say to the Russian oligarchs and corrupt leaders who have bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime no more. The U.S. Department of Justice is assembling a dedicated task force to go after the crimes of Russian oligarchs. We are joining with our European allies to find and seize your yachts your luxury apartments your private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains.

And tonight I am announcing that we will join our allies in closing off American air space to all Russian flights – further isolating Russia – and adding an additional squeeze –on their economy. The Ruble has lost 30% of its value. The Russian stock market has lost 40% of its value and trading remains suspended. Russia’s economy is reeling and Putin alone is to blame.

President Biden was not prepared to provide a no-fly zone for Ukraine. For a long time, American presidents have been picking up on responsibilities that Congress should have legislated. Perhaps, Congress should consider legislating the request for a no-fly zone called for by the Ukrainian president. We shall return to that shortly.

**Our Global Leadership Role.** Our global leadership role grew in the post-World War II era, but it was eroded starting at least a few decades ago. For the Democrats it was forsaking blue-collar workers beginning in the last quarter of the twentieth century, leading to what became known as *the Rust Belt*. That is discussed in a subsection of the third chapter (*A Historical Perspective*) of trilogy’s first book ([\*Common Sense Revisited: America’s Third Revolution\*](#)). The major section is *Economic Evolution in America’s Political Structure*. The subsection is *Returning to Political Evolution*. The excerpt is in the box that follows.

**Returning to Political Evolution.** Returning to political evolution, but now in the 20th century’s fourth-quarter, we have public policy undergoing a significant transition, especially with political parties. More of this will be discussed in the next chapter, but as a prelude to the next section which is focused on the *Internet and Cultural Evolution*, consider a very brief discussion of transitions occurring in both major political parties.

As to the Democratic Party, by the early 1970s, there was great attention to workers gaining opportunity from the shift in the structure of production moving from consumer goods benefiting from further productivity increases enabled by the innovations contributing to the rise of American growth especially the preceding quarter of a century. That shift was to members of the workforce who through education and training in the previous quarter of a century were now working with white-collar skills in contrast to the dominant skills of blue-collar workers. These “knowledge workers” were “engineers, scientists, and analysts who wore white [65] collars and tapped away at desktop computers and technology firms,

universities, consulting firms and banks [see page 693 of Jill Lepore's *These Truths: A History of the United States*]. xv ...

... The commonality of interests that fostered an evolution in the role of government to recover from the Great Depression, to join with the Allies in winning World War II, and to design public policy for the Post-WWII era had worked well. What we shall see in this chapter, and beyond, is that the Democrats lost their dominance in the decades that followed, and enough of the Republican leadership, in and out of government, placed party above country using the lust for power to dominate the era that followed.

More of the Republican leadership is discussed in the next chapter; but, a comment on its courting blue-collar workers is about to be noted. Returning to the shift in strategy by the Democratic Party, as discussed by Lepore [page 693, op. cit.], she notes that the Democratic Party "...was willfully kicking its base out from under it. Since the rise of Williams Jennings Bryan 1896, the Democratic Party had been the party of labor. But early in the 1970s while Republican Party was courting blue-collar white men, especially men who had lost the manufacturing jobs, the Democratic Party..." The paragraph continues and includes the previous quote referring to "knowledge workers."

A discussion of the [internal revolutions of the Republican Party](#) is on the web. They relate to the quote from the box "What we shall see in this chapter, and beyond, is that the Democrats lost their dominance in the decades that followed, and enough of the Republican leadership, in and out of government, placed party above country using the lust for power to dominate the era that followed.

The linked posting on the web is titled [The Fourth Republican Revolution](#) has some discussion of the leadership of former president Donald Trump as constituting the fourth Republican Revolution. The box that follows contains a couple of paragraphs about what is discussed as the fourth Republican Revolution.

### **The Trumpian Takeover of the Republican Party**

The Trumpian takeover of the Republican Party may be viewed the fourth Republican Revolution. We may not have needed another clue, but there was one on Friday, July 31, 2020, in the form of the New York Times op-ed item titled "We Created the G.O.P Demise." It is authored by Stuart Stevens whose book, *It Was All A Lie: How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump*, is scheduled for publication this coming Wednesday, August 5, 2020. However, there are ample reviews already available; one of which is exceptionally lengthy. But we need not rely on the Stevens presentation. We have just discussed the power pursuit dimensions of the Gingrich led Republican Revolution (see pages 15 and 16). [20]

In some respects, the Trumpian takeover of the Republican Party through the nomination process in which Trump attacked his fellow Republicans, is simply an adoption of the playbook of Newt Gingrich as discussed in *The Gingrich Led Republican Revolution*. In other respects, in concept, it "is a continuation of winning at any cost." In the latter case, instead of it being the political party winning any cost, it appears that in the case is about Donald Trump, as an individual, winning at any cost. That certainly appears to be the objective of his behavior as president of United States. And, as of the time that this is being drafted, one may make the case that his failure to properly pursue the interests of the nation in the case of the pandemic, because he prioritizes his reelection, is in some measure at the cost of the premature death of over 100,000 Americans.

One may argue that the voting public made an electoral decision in November 2020 that was the start of a shift back to global leadership. An indication of that as transition back to global leadership is indicated by the continuation of excerpts from President Biden's message on the state of the nation. It is related to what amounts to a further discussion of economic warfare.

Together with our allies we are providing support to the Ukrainians in their fight for freedom. Military assistance. Economic assistance. Humanitarian assistance. We are giving more than \$1 Billion in direct assistance to Ukraine. And we will continue to aid the Ukrainian people as they defend their country and to help ease their suffering.

Let me be clear, our forces are not engaged and will not engage in conflict with Russian forces in Ukraine. Our forces are not going to Europe to fight in Ukraine, but to defend our NATO Allies – in the event that Putin decides to keep moving west. For that purpose we've mobilized American ground forces, air squadrons, and ship deployments to protect NATO countries including Poland, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. As I have made crystal clear the United States and our Allies will defend every inch of territory of NATO countries with the full force of our collective power. And we remain clear-eyed.

Now the readership may wish to consider that a Russian success in Ukraine would embolden them to proceed against some NATO members who in an earlier time were part of the Soviet Union. The disasters of our attempts in Afghanistan and Iraq of fostering democracy certainly act as a deterrent to us engaging in another venture in building democracy abroad. Ukraine already has the democracy, so we are being drawn into its defense as a global leader of democracy assisting in the resilience of what may go down in history as one of the bravest democracies. We are discussing assistance to a democratic sovereign state, not the creation of a new democracy.

Our failures in the twentieth century foreign ventures in pursuit of democracy are not an encouragement to foreign involvement. Maybe we just don't understand the process by which democracies may be created so as to flourish. Add to that, maybe we need a better understanding of why and how empires fail and sovereign states regress.

Possibly, this may be a time to consider that the rise of the West in the last two and one-half centuries is in danger of decline. Certainly, totalitarian regimes have been attacking democracy and they have a goal of undermining spread of democracy. If Russia is successful in controlling Ukraine there is no reason to believe that Putin would not continue his rebuilding Russian leadership to some semblance of the former Soviet Union.

That would extend to doing battle with countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union who are now part of NATO. Based upon NATO's position of not embracing the option of pursuing a no-fly zone, as well as our position, you can expect that once Russia recovers from its being crippled by the economic sanctions, if Putin is still in charge, he will resume his empire building.

Consider that the possibility that the West is being shortsighted by not instituting the no-fly zone requested by Ukraine President Zelensky; at least with a modified no-fly zone covering only geographic areas not occupied by Russian military. As will be discussed shortly in considering off ramps and adaptation, "*Russia Has Suffered a Crushing Moral Defeat*" and *Ukraine War Brings Moral Clarity*.

NATO is organized as a defense organization. The big question is what does it take for NATO to recognize the clear and present danger to their membership that a few decades ago was part of the Soviet Union; and there is an autocrat with aspirations unencumbered by morality. The pattern Putin is pursuing has a commonality similar to that of Adolf Hitler, almost a century ago.

There is a strong case that there is some form of warfare in the near future with the totalitarian leader of Russia in defending European democracies. Putin thinks that it is already underway. NATO keeps thinking it will go away.

Consider the possibility that NATO would make Ukraine an honorary member of the alliance in recognition of its commitment to defend its democracy, and a failure of Ukraine to survive as a sovereign state would be a clear and present danger, not only to some of its numbers but to the future of democracy.

Considering the pattern of events unfolding, especially if Putin obtains control of Ukraine, it would be no surprise that China would seek to reunify Taiwan with mainland China.

### **Offramps Evaporated**

**Early In Negotiations.** Early in the American negotiations with the Russians regarding Ukraine, President Biden spoke of deterrence in the form of sanctions being proportionate to the extent of violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine. Biden, in his senatorial days, exhibited expertise in understanding the opposition, especially from across the aisle. Compromise in democracy is an essential element because the foundation is pluralism. Dealing with autocrats is a different proposition.

When Joseph Biden, as vice president, had a meeting with Vladimir Putin, it was reported that Biden believed that Putin had no soul. Even so, it was not surprising then, that when negotiations were proceeding, Biden was talking about proportionate responses with sanctions for violations of the integrity of Ukraine sovereignty, possibly referring to the separatists and the potential for what was referring to as a couple of Peoples Republics. This was potentially implied in Biden's "original statement that related to an extent of action compromising the sovereignty of the Ukraine." The quotation is from the overview booklet's prologue. The key paragraph is on page xxiv. It is from the subsection titled *Our Domestic Significance*, and is as follows:

President Biden got some backlash after his original statement that related to an extent of action compromising the sovereignty of the Ukraine. Even after his [Biden's] clarification, President Putin was not deterred; and proceeded with a full-scale attack on a sovereign state. As this is being drafted on February 27, Putin has gotten some surprises.

Compromise with autocrats present a problem of appeasement. In the same prologue, a couple of pages later (on page xxvi) we have a short paragraph as follows:

**President Putin's Behavior.** The pundits can have a field day in trying to understand Putin's thinking. Some have said that he's gone off the rails. Others just point to his miscalculations. The expectation was that Kyiv would fall in a matter of days.

Considering the patterns of behavior by totalitarian leaders, and particularly the Putin case of his pattern of doubling down when he encounters resistance, it becomes especially risky to have a trust in behavior, especially because the evolution of events in which his miscalculations have been more problems that he was prepared to handle; even though he had thought that he had made adequate preparation.

Earlier in the appendix of which this is to become a part, there is a substantial discussion about if we knew then that we know now. As it happens, this is the then in which we should know that Putin will not give up his ambition to restore power to Russia and leave a legacy for himself as a hero.

He has taken the path of destroying a legacy that he could have achieved. That is likely to happen because the environment is changing and his reasoning is outdated, because relationships that changed. They have changed because the West's unity on humanity may move at a rapid pace.

**Unity on Humanity.** The West's unity on humanity has altered the balance of power. The visual presentations seen on television have impacted the vast majority of Americans to the extent that they favor a policy of a no-fly zone as requested by Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky. They may not grasp the escalation risks and/or the potential long-term consequences of not defending their liberty being endangered.

Since the beginning of March, there have been a couple of op-ed pieces that might support the absence of an offramp in which Putin could declare a victory. It looks like Putin's recognition of two new *People's Republics* is off the table as a negotiated settlement. The memory of appeasement is still vivid.

The discussion of the two op-ed pieces previously identified (*Russia Has Suffered a Crushing Moral Defeat* and *Ukraine War Brings Moral Clarity*) was under consideration for drafting on Saturday, March 5. The first is from the *New York Times* on Wednesday, March 3. It is titled "*Russia Has Suffered a Crushing Moral Defeat.*" It is authored by Alexey Kovalev who is identified as "the investigations editor of Meduza, independent Russian news outlet." The city of origination is identified as Moscow.

The first cited op-ed piece (the one authored by Alexey Kovalev) opens as follows: "Shock and shame. That is the response of many Russians to the sight of rockets and artillery shells hitting Ukrainian tower blocks that in their concrete uniformity could easily be in Moscow."

The success of that humanity pursuit as a matter of global unity could well take a generation or two. The Ukrainian crisis may be accelerating the process as may be the doubling down of Putin.

The op-ed piece continues making a series of points. They include (1) "And it being done in our name." (2) "We may be far from a large-scale antiwar movement, but the seeds have been sown." (3) "They [the soldiers] were told by their commanders there were going to Ukrainian border to take part logistical drill, only to find themselves at war."

It goes on to discuss dissent efforts to contain the inhumanity of an invasion that is "a visceral horror." Additionally, the author notes the existence of a petition with over one million signatures condemning the war. The concluding paragraph starts with "A mass Antiwar movement still a little off." It concludes the paragraph with the following: "As the country continues to bomb and terrify Ukraine, more and more Russians may wake up to something only a few dare to say publicly: That Mr. Putin is an existential danger not only to themselves but also to the world. And he must be stopped."

The second op-ed piece, the one authored by Aaron Rhodes, has its opening the sentence as follows: "Russia's war against Ukraine could restore Western societal appreciation for freedom and democracy." The paragraph continues with a viewpoint of the right side of the aisle the second and concluding sentence as follows: these principles have been eroding for decades by leftist ideology in the war a lot for philosophical fads.

The rest of the article not only deals with human rights, but introduces Putin's relationship with the religious right. The fourth paragraph starts off as follows: "Western Christian conservative once looked to Mr. Putin as a savior of Christendom, but that romance has soured. The columnist goes on to quote a work by journalist Marcia Gessen in which she "revealed Mr. Putin as a merciless leader whose brutal policies in Chechnya and elsewhere are at odds with Christian faith."

The article continues with a discussion of the Cold War indicated the differences between liberal democracies totalitarian regimes in the arena of individual freedom. Although the article develops the political position of the right in the context of religious faith, it provides another force leading to unity across the aisle. What is unfolding is a unity at the global level for versions of democracy that will fight back by undermining accounts of autocratic regimes.



Now as this is being drafted in the wee small hours of March 8, yesterday's op-ed piece by Thomas L Friedman is up for discussion. It is titled *The Cancellation of Mother Russia Is Underway*. The key point is in its opening paragraph. The key sentence is as follows: "There is only one country might have the power to stop it now and it's not the United States. It's China." The "it" refers to "... The future of Europe and the world at large.

The article focuses on weapons in a globalized world that has made China a key player. China depends upon the global economy and Russia is being isolated. The op-ed piece discusses the globalization of moral outrage of employees and customers pressuring their companies isolate Russia.

The key paragraph for this reviewer is as follows: "Putin was a total ignoramus about the world he was living in, and so he bet the farm in the twenty-first century casino of globalization, where in the end, the house always wins - or there is no house left.

### **American Unity at The Core**

**The Not Yet Written.** This third part of *Clues From the Ukraine Crisis* has yet to be written. The outline below shows what is planned for the series of paragraph headings.

- The Foundation of Unity
  - Homeland Territory
  - Our Common Purpose
  - Our Global Leadership Role
- Offramps Evaporated
  - Early In Negotiations
  - Unity on Humanity
- American Unity at the Core
  - The Great Experiment
  - Legislative Opportunity
  - Republican Reform

**Preliminary Thoughts.** The across the aisle support for the president's approach to the Ukraine crisis provided a substantial unity because of the common ground in both parties for national security. The common ground for domestic programs was notably lacking in applause from the right side of the aisle.

We need to do a better job in across the aisle efforts to make substantial progress in demonstrating the success of pluralism as a key element in the success of *The Great American Experiment*. The voting public, according to a publicized poll, with 75% in favor of our support of a no-fly zone. The progress in modifying the exceptions on our energy resource purchases did not take long. Progress, it is achieved, in some sort of our enforcing a no-fly zone is not likely to proceed rapidly. If Ukraine is about to fall under Putin's control, the NATO membership formerly part of the Soviet Union will have their level of consciousness raised as to their clear and present danger.

The complexity of global restructuring, assuming a continued isolation of Russia as a terrorist organization under the leadership of Putin, will involve a great deal of uncertainty as to the time it will take for Russia to rebuild. The present strategy only works once the depression is no longer dependent on free trade that includes free societies.

Congress has a legislative opportunity to call Putin's bluff by imposing some sort of no-fly zone. He knows he cannot win the war with USA. That's why he was trying to negotiate our lessening our

presence in his part of the world. He is not likely willing to die for his cause, and he is intent on some sort of a legacy that would record him as a hero.

He will be looking for an offramp; and is rapidly losing the opportunity. The people of Russia may provide him with an unwelcomed one. There may be options we can't envision. We have a history of four [Republican Revolutions](#), and we might try for a [fifth one](#) to restore the unity for our common purpose of a free society. Hopefully, one that would empower our willingness to defend our democracy, domestically and foreign, somewhat inspired by the bravery of the people of Ukraine. Also, it would also require a greater unity in the Democratic Party, and a lot more independent voters without ties to a party. And revision process facilitating ranked choice voting. All of that is just the start. For more take a look at [Our Common Purpose](#).

We have learned not to try to go abroad to create democracy, in part because we had not provided a good example domestically. We learned that in confusing protection from terrorism led by Osama bin Laden with trying to build a democratic state in Afghanistan where that wasn't feasible. From there we went to the Iraq adventure that wound up fostering terrorism. We could have helped Israel in dealing with Iran earlier in this century; but that's another story.

When we make enough progress in rebuilding our democracy, we will have the courage to be more effective in dealing with [The Cause of All Mankind](#). In the meantime, the personhood of this educational effort will try to finish up the chapter and continue with the development of third part of the appendix.

**Progress Underway**. What follows is the prologue to the appendix's third part, *Resilience and Regression of Democracy*.

Part Three's Prologue:  
**Resilience and Regression of Democracy**

**The Context**

The resilience of democracy is being DEMONSTRATED by the bravery of Ukrainian people under the leadership of their president, [Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#). **It is being supported by the free world war led by the United States of America, among other members of NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty organization) and some unaligned free world countries known for their neutrality. At the time of this draft is being started, two days after President Joe Biden delivered his State of the Union message to Congress, the American people, and the rest of the world, Ukraine is surviving.

This third part of the [appendix \(Strategic Guidance to Improving Outcomes\)](#) to the DEEP (Declaration Era Educational Press) [overview booklet](#) (IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?) that has been using the COVID-19 pandemic as an analogical model for understanding a multiplicity of crises facing American Democracy. Of particular concern is the divisiveness that was fostered under the leadership of Donald Trump's leading our country on the road to becoming an autocracy. That threat is not over; and it is part of what has contributed to the regression of our democracy.

As discussed earlier in this appendix, the Biden administration in its first year, led our nation in a transition of strategy for dealing with COVID-19 pandemic from containment to protection. So far, this second year appears to be the year of transition of dealing with COVID-19 as an endemic rather than a pandemic. We will continue with updates on public policy and response to the coronavirus in an attempt to achieve some semblance of a new normal.

Last year's emergent crisis, the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, was a repair job of the twenty-year occupancy that attempted to foster a democracy in a country totally unprepared for

developing one. This year's emergent crisis for our nation is the support of a successful democracy under superb leadership fighting for its life against the Russian administration under the leadership of attempt to prevent democracy in Russia will fail given enough time. The irony is that he may be accelerating it.

Apparently, the evolution of that Russian administration, created in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union, has not learned from its ten-year debacle of attempting to strengthen control over Afghanistan. That country's current leader, President Putin, had started a war (that he euphemistically calls a *special military operation*). It was an unprovoked invasion of the sovereign country, Ukraine.

By happenstance, that shifted our discussion to include foreign political events as part of the case study to better understand the resilience and regression of democracy as a form of societal organization. We are still focusing on an analogical model for understanding a multiplicity of crises facing American Democracy, especially the regression we have been experiencing in recent decades in the pursuit of the ideals regulated Declaration of Independence.

### **The Commentary**

The commentary in this chapter is focused on clues provided by President Biden as to his pursuit of public policy as indicated by his State of the Union message on March 1. We are looking to increase our understanding of the processes that generate a societal organization, especially a democracy, and strategies designed to facilitate its survival.

It appears that Western civilization is in the midst of a major transition going beyond the Enlightenment era that focused on reason. The advancement is a blending of humanistic concerns into reasoning with morality playing an increasing role. The process heavily involves feelings. Some of our discussion is sparked by the visual presentations of the results of Russian attacks intended to terrorize the population. It puts Russia's President Putin in the classification of being a terrorist.

This chapter is structured in three parts. The first is about the foundation of unity that is essential for societal strength. It uses the Ukrainian example to discuss democratic resilience. The website is focused on the evolutionary process that made progress for two centuries, and then eroded. We are looking to learn from the resilience in Ukraine that will assist us in understanding the ingredients for our own resilience to the forces that have been taking us on the path to an autocracy.

The second part is focused upon our president's adjustments to his build back better program. It goes beyond his articulation of doable components. It goes to some implications for political structure that would counter the tribalism that is eroding the nation's unity. The Putin invasion of Ukraine contributes to an understanding of the potential of development of domestic unity.

The third part is a discussion of evolution of processes dealing with the basic problems strategically. It starts with a discussion of the pandemic case illustration the role of individual choice for consistency with common purpose. The concept is clarified in the demonstration of territorial case existing in the survival of Ukraine as a democracy. And it carries forward the focus on the political case.

It is going to take at least a couple more chapters to deal with the rest of the second year. The plan at this stage is for the seventh chapter focused on investigative results of the House of Representatives Select Committee of January 6, along with whatever has evolved with the Department of Justice investigations.

The eighth chapter will discuss the outcome of the midterm elections in the context of our pursuit of understanding the events impacting our resilience as a democracy.