



Leaders Nearing the End of Their Career May Endanger Humanity

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LOSS OF RATIONALE

Older leaders have regularly been recognized along human history as reasonable, cautious, and loyal to their duty to unite the citizens, care for national prosperity, and lead the population safely through dangerous times and evil occasions. Interestingly, such characteristics usually typify also leaders of animal herds, emphasizing the importance of experience, confidence, and leadership. However, humans also share with the other mammals' traits like aggression and violent instincts that were important at the time for survival. One prominent trait is exemplified in the propensity for violence using force to solve conflicts and various disputes. To our disappointment and despite advancements in moral and ethical rules across human civilizations, these aggressive traits still govern, as evident by the numerous incidents of hostility between people (even upon disagreement over parking), tribes (e.g., Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda, Africa), and nations (e.g., endless wars over territories, religion, and resources). Much more bothering are those leaders who have adopted the aggressive line and are readily using force to achieve their political, military, and economic covets. At young age or in their mid-age, their aggression may raise aspirations of conquering neighboring countries to seize their resources (e.g., the rise of empires like ancient Egypt, Aram, Babilonia, Persia, Greece, Rome, Carthage, the Ottoman and British empires, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union). When these leaders get older, the manifestation of their aggression usually requires support of the regime, of the army and police, and often the entire population (e.g., the fascistic Nazis). When the aggressive leader is surrounded by a protecting army unit and a nation-wide control system, he can deliver decisions that may seem insane to others (e.g., Joseph Stalin in Russia, Adolf Hitler in Germany, Kim Jong Un in North Korea, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey, Iranian Ayatollahs, Taliban leadership in Afghanistan, Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel). Unfortunately, we have approached an era of extreme dangers to humanity resulting from ruin of the balance with nature (leading to environmental and climax catastrophes), vulnerability to cosmic dangers (e.g., asteroids, detrimental irradiation; ref. 1), and now also threats of leaders to use mass-destructive weapons (nuclear, biological; ref. 2). Despite the logical anticipation that the most developed species on Earth, *Homo sapiens*, would do an utmost attempt to minimize the dangers, especially the recent risky threats, in fact very little is done, and nationalism, violence, and competition over resources constantly intensify (ref. 3). With this background and in light of the increasing uncertainties, it is naive to trust that all humans are totally devoted to preservation of our species and planet Earth (does a 'shaheed' care about the life of others after his death?). This enigma is particularly upsetting when the fate of humanity is in the hands of irresponsible extremists (individuals and regimes) ready to die in fighting over resources and maintenance of power and ego. Their 'shaheed'-like logic may differ from that of the public as they are ready to sacrifice themselves and wipe off the entire world. The uncontrolled

aspirations of leaders nearing the end of their career are especially dangerous, because they may lack altruistic or logical desire to protect humanity (e.g., Vladimir Putin and members of his Politburo, Kim Jong Un in North Korea). Therefore, not only that removal of these leaders from power is critical, any hesitance or 'let's wait and see' strategy of most other world leaders is unbearable.

LEADERS THAT ENDANGER HUMANITY NOWADAYS

Vladimir Putin and the Russian Regime

Being the largest country in the world (geographical size considerably greater than entire Europe), along with economical failure of the socialistic way of life, raised territorial aspirations to occupy surrounding countries and seize their resources (establishment of the Soviet Union). However, poor economical handling and scanty wealth compelled disintegration (Perestroika and Glasnost; Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980's), while seeking an end to the cold war with the West and attempts to improve the economy and life conditions of the suffering population. However, this reform succeeded only in part and weakened Russia raising rigorous opposition of a few Politburo members including Vladimir Putin. Nowadays, after 24 years of ruling (president or prime minister), Putin decided to return to the 'great days' of the 'Soviet empire' by reoccupation of regions around Russia (e.g., Crimea, Ukraine, and possibly Moldova, and then perhaps the Baltic countries, and even Poland). Luckily, the Russians met a strong resistance of the Ukraine army supported by the West, which thus far blocked their offense. It is possible that his putative illness along with the failure of fast conquest of Ukraine, and the pressure by other leaders (e.g., Lavrov, Medvedev) prompted Putin toward threats of using nuclear weapons, an undoubtedly risky situation for the entire world (ref. 4).

Jinping Xi in China

The Chinese empire was established in 221 BC by the Qin dynasty and lasted approximately two millennia. The large size, enormous population, recent scientific development and successful economy have driven the Chinese leadership toward colonialist aspirations and reconsideration of their international impact. Part of these aspirations pertain to surrounding countries they consider to be Chinese territories (e.g., Tibet, Taiwan) and space control (including the Moon). With increasing wealth, international impact, and military power (including nuclear), the Chinese fortified their arrogant approach and evaded any restrictions as recently reflected on the irresponsible handling of the Corona crisis and attempts to destroy the Western economy (ref. 2). The current president, Jinping Xi, has shown that he is not afraid of the United States and is quite determined nowadays to occupy Taiwan by force (as indicated by the numerous military provocations at the Taiwan border). Thus, their increasing influence on the world economy, enormous military force, and nuclear potential convinced the Chinese leadership that they are unbeatable, and so they continue walking on the edge with nuclear threats against the West.

Kim Jong Un in North Korea

The separation between North and South Korea following the Korea war (1950-1953), created a radical communist dictatorship of the Kim family, supported by China. Despite the poor economic condition and lack of beneficial relations with the rest of the world (ignoring globalization), they have developed nuclear capabilities, that prompted the present leadership to threaten the world should the pressure by the West increase. The declarations and behavior

of Kim Jong Un typify 'shaheed-like' behavior, which undoubtedly endangers nearby countries (e.g., South Korea, Japan) and the entire world.

Ali Khamenei in Iran

The takeover of Iran's leadership in 1979 by a group of radical Shia Islamists (Ayatollahs) led by Ruhollah Khomeini changed the life of all citizens by enforcing Islamic unbearable rules that oppressed particularly women. The religious pressure and new rules deteriorated the life standards and minimized Iran's wealth derived from the rich oil fields. The bad economic conditions along with the fanatic iron fist of the Iranian regime instigated aspirations to occupy surrounding countries and exploit their resources, and was part of the reasons to the war with Iraq (1980-1988), and involvement in terror acts through the entire Middle-East region. To secure their country and guarantee its international impact, the Iranians seek nuclear capabilities. However, the obsessive declarations of their leadership to destroy the state of Israel as well as take control over surrounding oil-manufacturing countries, endanger the entire Middle-East region (ref. 5)

Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel

This peculiar example reveals a leader prosecuted for fraud and breach of trust, who decides to demolish the judicial system to escape from verdict and destroy the country that prosecuted him. To achieve his aim, he used his skills to separate the population into religious and non-religious poles, and by exploiting the ignorance and decisive support of the 'Mizrachi tribes' and their deep hatred to the 'Ashkenaze tribes', he established a coalition of extremists acting fiercely toward a political revolution to change the democratic infrastructure of Israel into a dictatorship-like regime. Not only that this revolution hurts the Israeli economy, security, and social relationships, the actions of the political extremists and religious fanatics (members of the coalition) affected the *status quo* among Jews, Christians, and Muslims (provoking religious conflicts), damaged the relations with the United States, as well as expedited military adventures, such as attempts to neutralize the Iranian aspirations to develop nuclear capability. Overall, the Netanyahu case demonstrates how a 'change of skin' of an older leader (named in Israel 'crime-minister') nearing his end of career endangers his country and increases the risk of a regional war.

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