

The Education of Nations... in Securing Peace and Avoiding War

January 2020 onwards

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(*de jure by the Court of history since 24 February 2022*)
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Open Letter for Public Noticeboards (by email and post)

Rt Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Deputy Prime Minister
H. M. Government Cabinet Office

11 September 2023.

Dear Sir,

Re: National Risk Register 2023 – An Existential Threat is Missing from Your Matrix

You are right. The NRR23 is playing a vital role in the process of building towards an even brighter future – ‘brighter than a thousand suns’, due to factual omission without good reason.

An updated version of a parable told to people 2,000 years ago illustrates the point: ‘A man created a green and pleasant land, and leased it to elected stewards, and went to another country for a long time. When the season was ripe, he sent a servant to the stewards in order that they might render to him a share of the fruits of their labours but the stewards in court rejected the general desirability of peace over war and, therefore, the fruits of peaceful means of conflict resolution. Next he sent more servants back; yet again in court they were beaten and the principle of peace rejected in favour of a military alliance. And he sent still for the third time a servant but the court also threw this case out without referring to the premise of peace or the dishonest behaviour of the stewards. Then the creator of the vineyard said, “What shall I do? I will send my beloved son’s kingdom; perhaps they will respect that.” But when the stewards saw his kingdom, they discussed it among themselves and said, ‘This is the heir; let us destroy his kingdom so this green and pleasant land may be ours.’ So they threw his kingdom out of the country and killed the prospects for peace and security. What then will the creator of the green and pleasant land do to them? He will come and remove those stewards and give the country to others.’ When they heard this, they said, ‘Heaven forbid!’ But the Lord’s ignoble servant looked at them and said, ‘What then does this text mean:

“The case that the lawyers rejected has become the cornerstone for peace and security. This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvellous in our eyes”?’

.../cont’d

My Purpose:

To forewarn the public one more time that the world is heading for another Great Power war.

As in 1920, the reason is the failure of political institutions to apply ‘an irenic perspective’ even-handedly. Post-Cold War, the term was first defined in English charity law on 9 October 1998, drawing on a United States case of 1917, and affirmed by the Court of Appeal on 28 June 2000.

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Yet God has put a deceitful spirit into the hearts and minds of government officials, especially the English Law Officers, that the gullible public may be misled and their peace and security put at risk.* For the invasion of Ukraine by Russia is the first acute risk you mention in your Foreword to NRR23 and an 'Attack against a NATO ally or UK-deployed forces, which meets the Article 5 threshold' has a risk summary but is not included in the matrix on pages 15-16 and makes no reference to nuclear war. The digital platform states that 'The position on the matrix is held at a higher classification.' However, you and your officials know that there is no national security justification for this because the threat of rapid escalation of any NATO-Russia war to the strategic nuclear level is obvious on open data.

Your National Risk Register 2023 is deliberately seeking (via experts) to mislead the public who are facing a potentially existential risk, rather than a catastrophic one. As my open letter to H.M. Attorney General dated 28 June 2023 claimed, we are sleepwalking into the third nuclear detonation in war.

No other way out exists except the application of an irenic perspective which you, your government and Parliament have rejected since at least the ending of the Cold War. If, instead of a change of heart and mind, the unspeakable horrors of a strategic nuclear exchange are unleashed upon the world then you all know what to expect when the Judge of this world comes and shall surely call you to account.

Yours faithfully,



Peter M. Southwood

* See Jer. 20: 7, 10; 1 K. 22: 19-23; and Ezek. 14: 9. (NRSV)

Note

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References

- National Risk Register: 2023 Edition (H.M. Government Cabinet Office, c.3 August 2023) downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2023>
- Explore the information on the digital platform:
<https://access-national-risk-register.service.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/risk-themes/conflict-and-instability>
- The updated parable is related to three true-life legal cases fully referenced on my website. See, especially, Article nos 1 and 2 of 18 January and 6 March 2019 respectively at:

<https://www.directionofconflict.org/what-we-do>

Additionally, the letter to H.M. Attorney General dated 28 June 2023 is available at:

<https://www.directionofconflict.org/news>