

Levinson Productivity Systems, P.C.

Official Statement on Ukraine December 24 2022

(1) War is a Dysfunctional Anachronism

It is the position of Levinson Productivity Systems PC that modern industry allows the creation of far more wealth and affluence than any rational person or government can possibly expect to gain from war. Henry Ford, who tried unsuccessfully to mediate an end to the First World War in 1915, pointed this out roughly a hundred years ago. Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke, whose profession was war, wrote in the nineteenth century that no indemnities or territorial gains could make up for the human costs of war. Sir Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, said after Waterloo (1815), "...to win such a battle as this of Waterloo, at the expense of so many gallant friends, could only be termed a heavy misfortune *but for the result to the public.*" Even the victors were not better off for having fought, although they would have been worse off had they not fought.

The last time a country was collectively better off for having fought a war (for the dead and wounded are never better off) was probably in 1905, when Japan made territorial gains at the expense of the Russian Empire. The First World War had no winners; Britain, France, Italy, and the United States just lost less than Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Russia. The outcome of this war also created the background for an even worse conflict twenty-one years later. Nobody was better off for having fought the Second World War, although the civilized world would have obviously been worse off had it not fought and defeated the Axis. The Second World War did not resolve the problem of Soviet and now Russian Federation aggression noting that the USSR was the only Axis partner (as of 1939) to emerge from the war on the winning side and with the same government that played a major role in starting the war still in power.

(2) Peaceful Nations Must Remain Armed

This depiction of war as a dysfunctional anachronism, and the worst imaginable waste of human lives and resources, is by no means advocacy of pacifism or disarmament, unilateral or otherwise. While Henry Ford, who tried to shut down the First World War in 1915, was depicted as a pacifist, he wrote in *Today and Tomorrow* (1926), "To arm the bandits of the world and disarm its law-abiding citizens is not the way to stop international holdups. Counseling the decent citizen to disarm himself as an example to the thug indicates unfounded confidence in the thug's susceptibility to Christian example. It is just a pious fiction."

Count Moltke wrote similarly, "The best of men cannot live in peace if such does not suit his bad neighbor" and "...only the sword keeps other swords in their scabbards." (Hughes, Daniel, 1993. *Moltke on the Art of War*, pp. 23 and 30). Moltke added the following in his speech to the Reichstag (1880), and it is to be noted that he predicted the ineffectiveness of the League of Nations and the United Nations prior to the creation of either. Emphasis is mine.

"Who can deny that Europe groans under the weight of an armed peace? It is mutual distrust which keeps the nations in arms against each other. If this distrust can in any way be removed, it will be rather through an understanding between government and government than through other means, such for instance as the Babylonian confusion of international fraternity, *international parliaments*, and other suggested means of like nature. Gentlemen, all nations are equally in need of peace, and *I am convinced that all nations will maintain peace as long as they are strong enough to command it.*"

Treaties subsequent to the purported War to End All Wars, including the Kellogg-Briand treaty that outlawed war, proved Ford and Moltke correct. George S. Patton Jr. wrote in 1917, and was proven right roughly twenty-two years later,

They will disband their armies
When this great strife is won
And trust again to pacifists
To guard for them their home.
They will return to futility
As quickly as before
Though Truth and History vainly shout
"THERE IS NO END TO WAR"

This article at the U.S. State Department (<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/kellogg>) points out that Germany, Italy, and Japan (the Axis) were all original signatories to the Kellogg-Briand Treaty, which turned out to be a scrap of paper. The Soviet Union, which also helped start the Second World War, signed the Kellogg-Briand treaty in 1929 and violated it by invading Poland ten years later. The Washington Treaty, which sought to prevent naval arms races by limiting battleship construction, resulted in the conversion of incomplete battle cruisers into aircraft carriers. Two of these (IJN Kaga, IJN Akagi) helped bomb Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Germany signed yet another scrap of paper with the United Kingdom in 1938, which Neville Chamberlain depicted as "peace in our time," and then violated it within the year (<https://historylearning.com/world-war-two/causes-of-ww2/scrap-of-paper/>). Vladimir Putin proved the Russian Federation's guarantee of Ukraine's security in exchange for Ukraine's agreement to disarm the nuclear weapons it inherited from the USSR to be yet another worthless scrap of paper. Putin's unprovoked invasion of a neighboring country, and his threats to use nuclear weapons for purposes other than self-defense, proves the Non-Proliferation Treaty to be a scrap of paper. The NPT says in part,

"Recalling that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, *States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State...*"

The People's Republic of China's violation of its guarantee of Hong Kong's autonomy, and its threats to Taiwan, Japan, the United States, and, most recently, Australia underscore even further the need of the world's peaceful nations to have more rather than fewer weapons.

(3) Manufacturing is the Backbone of Military Power

The Second World War proved unequivocally that manufacturing is the foundation of military power so it is vital that the United States not tolerate any further transfer of manufacturing capability to a likely aggressor like the PRC. The United States should instead reshore as much manufacturing capability as possible, and Ford and his contemporaries proved more than a hundred years ago that efficiency makes high wages entirely compatible with high profits and low prices. The American consumer needs to adopt a zero tolerance position for price tags suitable for the outputs of high wage labor on often-shoddy imports from low-wage countries.

(4) The Civilized World Must Support Ukraine

The civilized world figured out long ago that self-defense against an aggressor is the only valid reason to fight a war. It is therefore astounding and appalling that Vladimir Putin, whose country possesses modern industries and abundant resources, perpetrated an unprovoked violent assault on another country in a manner and on a scale last seen in 1939 when his country along with Germany (as then governed) invaded Poland.

As stated by Sir Winston Churchill when the United Kingdom faced the same kind of evil during the Second World War, "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job." Volodymyr Zelenskyy said similarly that he needs ammunition and not a ride. It is accordingly the Company's position that the civilized world should support Ukraine with money, weapons, humanitarian aid, and also economic sanctions against the Russian Federation.

Levinson Productivity Systems by

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