Right now, the Americans are philosophically and, maybe even economically, kaput. So what happens next? I am a firm believer in the Phoenix. Historically, empires have eventually crumbled and never come back - the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire, etc. I think the British have not yet totally accepted that the British Empire, "over which the sun never set", is obsolete. Nevertheless, the British Empire per se no longer exists. There is a British Commonwealth and, to some extent, therefore, there continues to be an "empire" but that's only a facade, a relic.

So, King Trump has arrived and wants to save the world, or at least remake it in his own image and dreams? He did say that the Iranian government had better not attack the protesters or he would come to their rescue. Hopeful yet ignorant, the Iranian population rose up and protested against the government. The government military machinery then killed several thousand of their own people. But, Trump was nowhere to be found. Once again, he was the TACO (Trump Always Chickens Out) kid.

So, now what should happen? No matter how one slices the cake, the Iranian regime is evil, and that will continue to be so until they are defeated resoundingly. The current American garbage feigning to be a government is not able to conquer the Iranian military. Trump will not agree to that statement, but it is true. The Israelis have more balls than the Americans and, therefore, will continue the battle because they really want to annihilate the current Iranian regime.

Winston Churchill once said, “When you’re going through hell, keep going,” - it’s one of my favourite quotes. So Trump is having a hard time and, as a true coward, is looking for a way out of the garbage situation he created. Therefore, because the going is now tough, the Americans will capitulate rather than "keep going". That's unfortunate because the Iranians are now more powerful due to their ability to blockade the Strait of Hormuz. They are also wealthier because the price of oil has increased

significantly, and they are benefiting from that. They have also shown they can withstand the supposedly powerful Army attacking them.

If I were to advise the current American government, I would remind them of Churchill's quotation. No matter how tough the Iranians are proving to be, there is no option for the Americans now but to "keep going".

It will be very bloody, and most of the world will disagree with the "keep going "approach. But in my opinion, the Americans have dug a hole for themselves. They can just turn around and go away or "keep going."

The phoenix I mentioned above might arise because the USA could become the first empire in history to reincarnate. How will that happen? The USA has a combination of diversity and a large population that allows it to rise again. This diversity means that a number of highly competent individuals of various racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds will work together to make it happen. However, before that happens, the USA will have to sink to the bottom before the rejuvenation happens. They are pretty close to the Rubicon now. Will they cross it to lead their nation to a better life? Certainly, not with the current bunch of crap at the helm. But there is a possibility that it could happen, as explained above.

Keep smiling and have a big bowl of popcorn next to you as you watch the near future unfold,

---

Glen,

Thank you for your lengthy reaction. I always respect your opinion and have re-read your last missive a couple of times.

I am suggesting that the Americans, who are currently caught in a quagmire of the consequences of sheer ineptitude, have a

fateful choice to make. A realistic choice, not a pessimistic nor optimistic one, is in my opinion black and white. They can either "keep going" or hightail it out of the area with their tail between their legs. Let's not over-philosophize the situation by taking Churchill's comment out of context and, therefore, implying its uselessness in this situation. Lisa, as she was experiencing the last months of her life had that churchillian saying affixed to her refrigerator. I'm not sure if by doing so, it gave her solace and/or strength but, nevertheless, she had it there and we kept looking at it even after her passing.

Rightly or wrongly, I think something should be done about the current Iranian regime - which is seemingly nastier than the previous one whose leader was killed the first day of the war. To not do anything but just wait for time to take its toll is a non-starter for me. It's just not fair to the population which wants to rid itself of this theocracy and have paid a frightful price for attempting to foment change, to not get any help from us.

One could simply suggest that their fight is not our problem so let them do what needs to be done to generate the change they want. That's a logical conclusion/decision of ours. So be it.

But, at the risk of appearing like a warmonger, I see/feel a need to help somebody who needs help and has asked for succour. They thought they would get it from Trump who said he would come to help them if the regime assassinated its people. Tens of thousands were killed but Trump was nowhere in sight (the TACO kid). They were let down and, as a result, I don't think they will rise up rebelling in the near future - unless somebody comes to help them.

Meanwhile, the nuclear arsenal is somewhere near Isfahan. Kerry & Obama did a wonderful job in addressing this challenge but Trump tore up the agreement which the Iranians had agreed to.

So, what happens now? I see no option but to "keep going". We shouldn't be in this mess but we are. I don't think it's an option to not do anything. But, admittedly, to do so will result in bloodshed.

"*A stitch in time saves nine*". It's now later than should be the case but "*better late then never".* Hopefully, the Europeans, Canada and several Asian countries can combine to oust the Iranian regime. We do not have the right to let somebody wallowing in quicksand to "fend for themselves". But, that would be the case if the Americans simply walk away from this very unfortunate situation and nobody else stopped in to do something.

If a majority of the Americans do not support the war against Iran, so be it. I hope the non-Americans help the Ukrainians to the hilt and, at the same time, find the fortitude to do something about the Iranian regime.

The Taiwan situation is another headache but, in the end, China will win that one. Hopefully, the Taiwanese will find a way to generate a relationship with Beijing that is not too painful.

I really do think the USA is currently in a political and moral morass. Additionally , while their economic frailty hasn't appeared yet, I believe it will do so in the near future. 40+ trillion $$ in debt and ??$$ in unfunded liabilities has to implode at some point. I think the "day of reckoning" is staring us in the face.

Yes, as you've said. there are many Americans who are decent hard working and tax-paying people. But, no matter how one slices the cake, their "system" allowed for Trump and his acolytes to become the reigning government. It's absolutely no longer true that there is a separation of powers - three distinct and independent branches: the legislative (Congress), the

executive (the administration/President), and the judicial (the court system). One only has to witness what has been happening in Washington recently, to understand that this philosophy is non-existent at this point.

Finally, I'm very much aware that one cannot bomb to effectuate regime change - and such has been enunciated by most. However, one could create a military situation that would give the population hope and a popular uprising could come to the fore. If so, then, regime change could take place.

Wow, what a 'mell of a hess'!

Keep smiling,
Gerry