

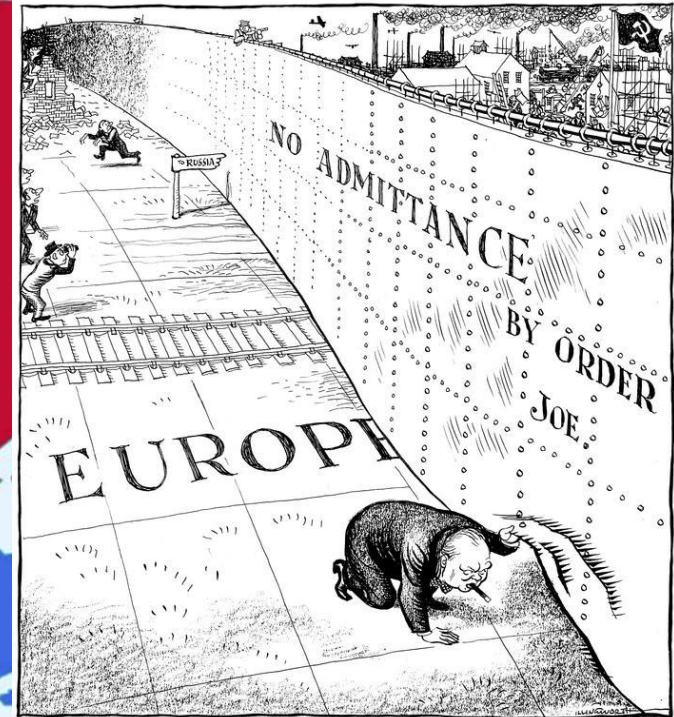
Power Hungry Putin, the Second Cold War, & a Looming Third World War



Christian Persecution and Perseverance

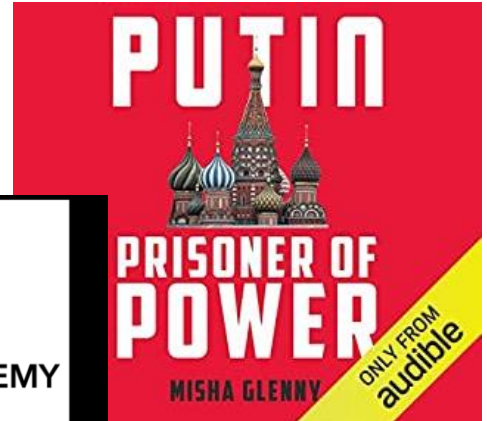
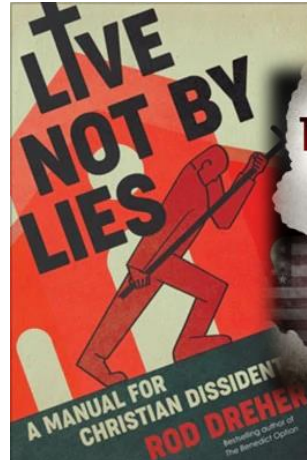
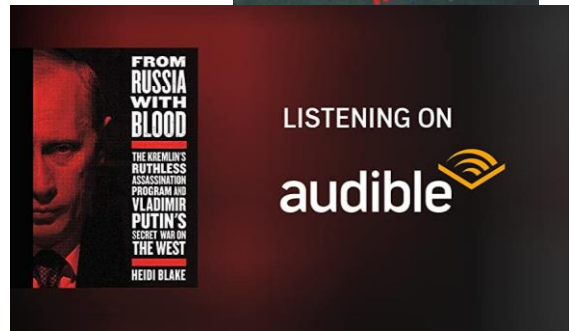
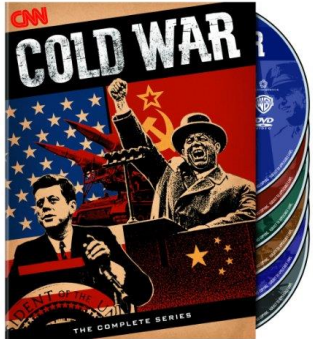
From Behind the Iron Curtain

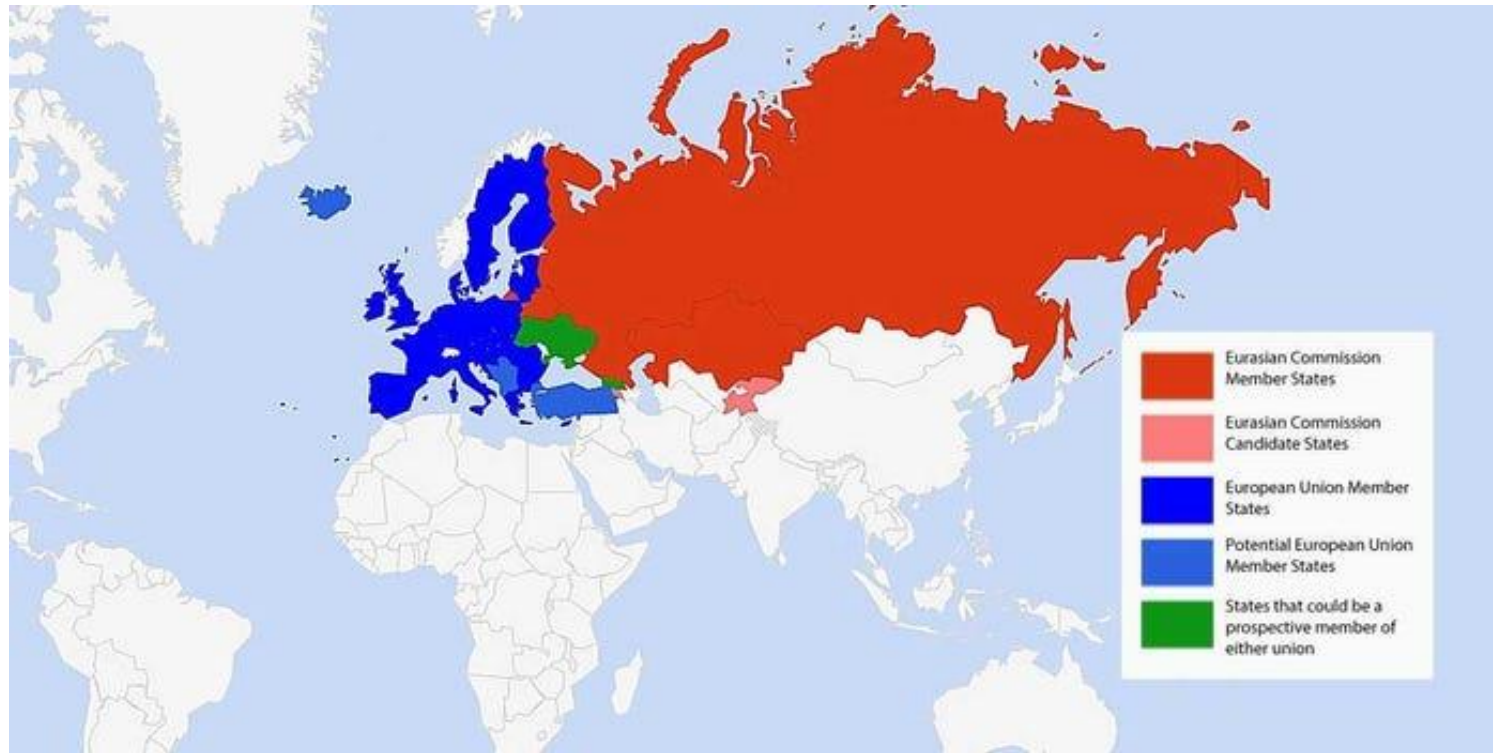
THE IRON CURTAIN



Main Sources

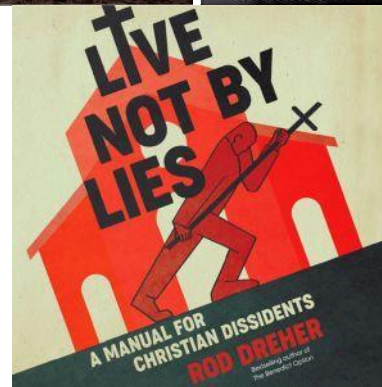
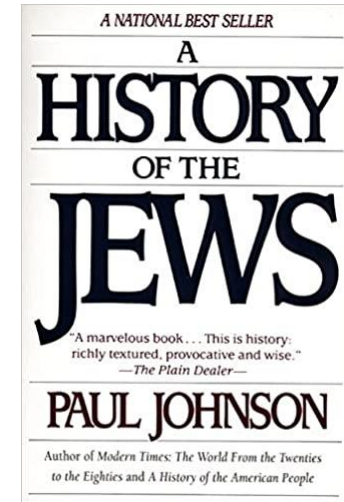
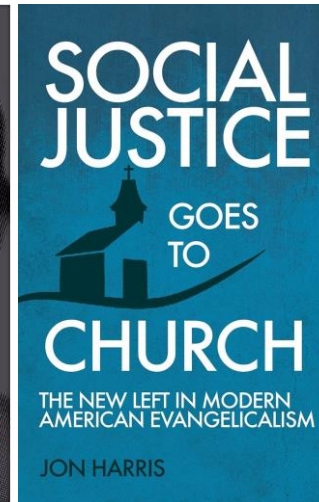
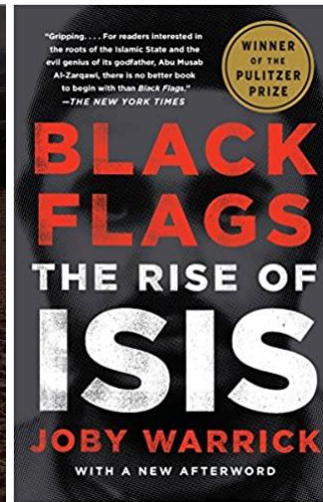
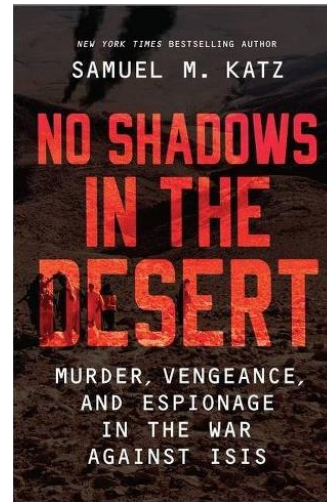
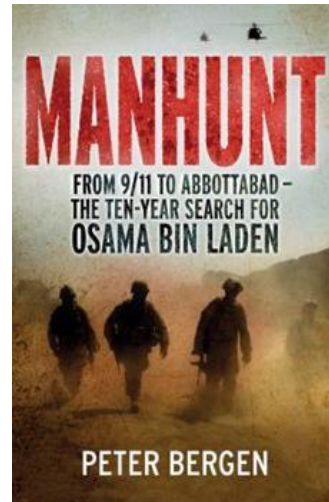
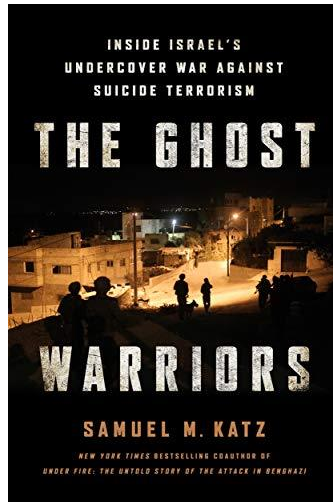
(Not Including Countless Articles)

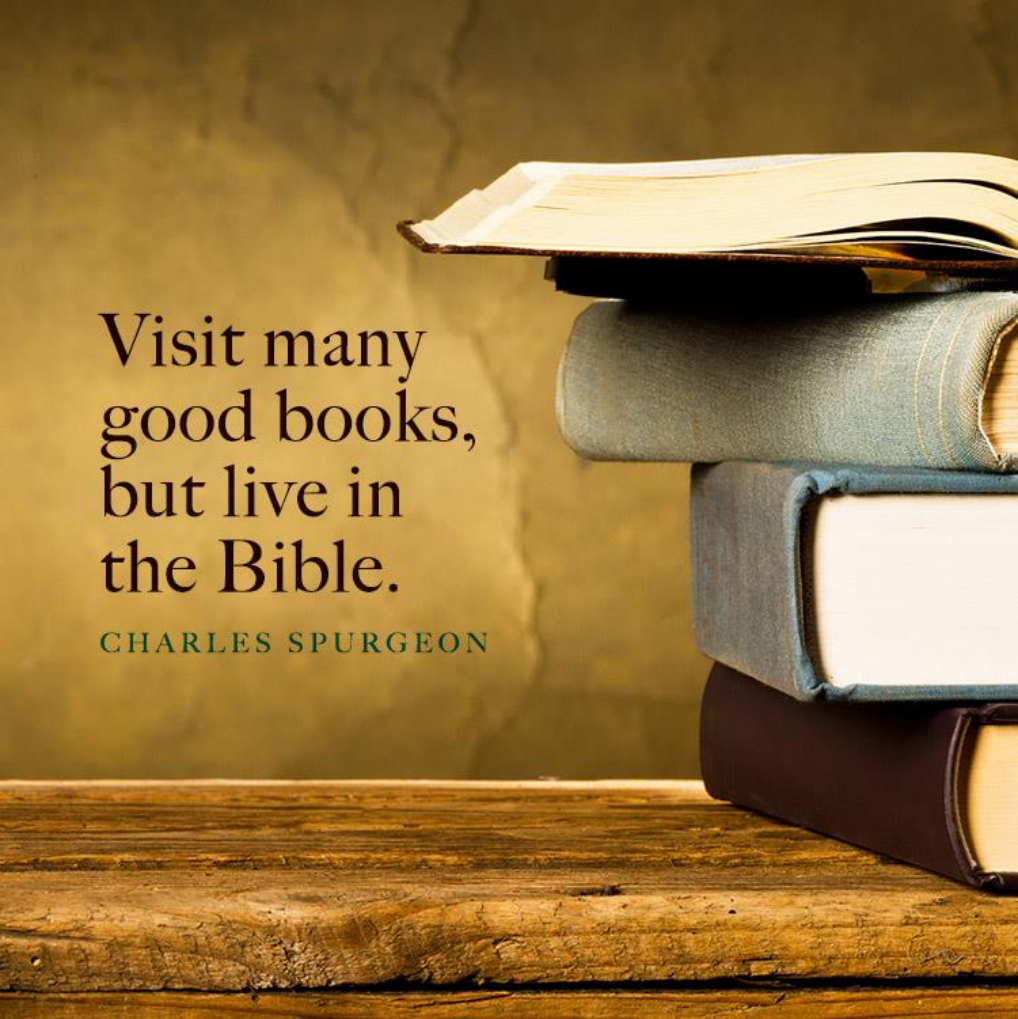




One geo-political expert recently noted,
“Russia without Ukraine is a country. Russia with Ukraine is an empire.”

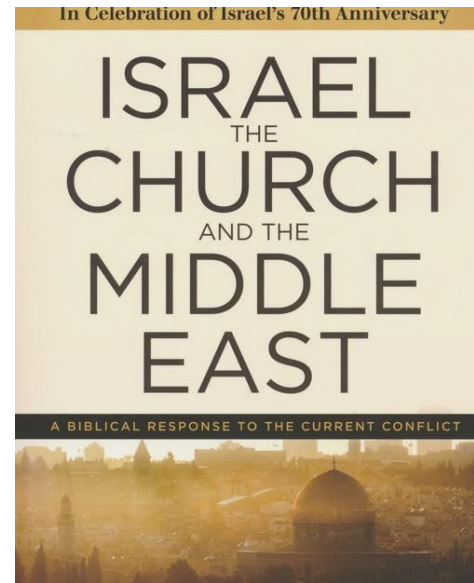
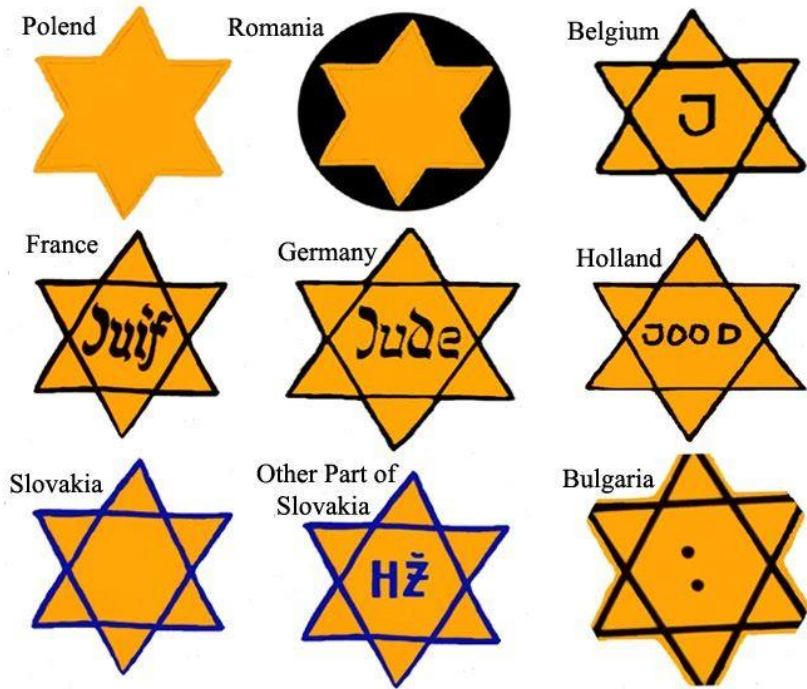
Road Trips and Audible Books



A stack of four books is shown on a rustic wooden surface. The top book is open, showing its pages. The books have different covers: a light blue textured cover, a white cover, a blue cover, and a dark brown cover. The background is a textured, light brown wall. The text is positioned to the left of the books.

Visit many
good books,
but live in
the Bible.

CHARLES SPURGEON

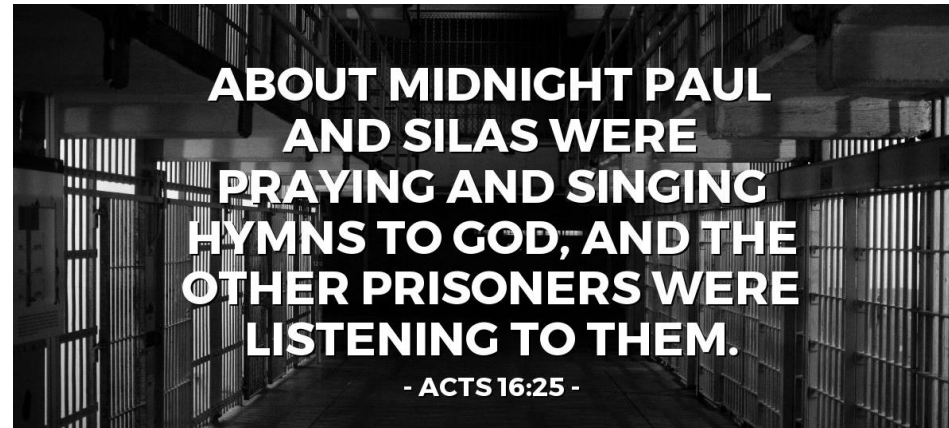


AD 66- 2018

******* When studying dark periods of history
or while watching heartbreaking news,
Christians need to sing and pray! (*Acts 16:25; Psalm 34*) *******

The LORD Almighty Reigns- Psalm 93:

Paul and Silas set a tremendous example!



9 Application Principles:

Remember these biblical truths as you listen today
and as you watch the news...

- 1) When studying (or going through) particularly dark periods of history, Christians need to sing, pray, and meet!
(Acts 2:42; 16:25).

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- 3) Joyfully embrace the biblical doctrine of God's absolute sovereignty. "*The sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the child of God rests his head at night, giving perfect peace!*" – Spurgeon. Psalm 93: "*The Lord Reigns!*" Think back on our "*Jesus and the Storms of Life*" sermon (John 6) and the "*Grieving, yet very much, Believing!*" message (John 11).
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4) With that said, remember "Divine Sovereignty does not lessen or eliminate human culpability and human responsibility." *Believer-* Jesus still weeps over Israel's rejection of God's salvation/Messiah! Don't become *callous* or *indifferent* to suffering and grief (especially that of others) under the banner of "accepting God's providence!" Note our RUTH sermon series.

Unbeliever- Jesus handpicked Judas, knowing He was a religious pretender; (yet Judas willfully betrayed the Son of God and now suffers the wages of his sin; Matthew 26:24).

Related Biblical Principles

5) How long, O LORD, how long? is often a fair/good question- (note Psalm 13; 94; Habakkuk; Revelation 6:10) There will be hell to pay for every unrepentant sin committed by every unbeliever who has ever lived! Galatians 6:7, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap.*" (See Romans 2:3-11; Psalm 73:16-17; Revelation 20:11-15). God's perfect justice and holy wrath are on full display in the doctrine of hell. One cannot address the problem of evil and ignore either Calvary's cross or Hell. Ecclesiastes 12:14, "*God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*"

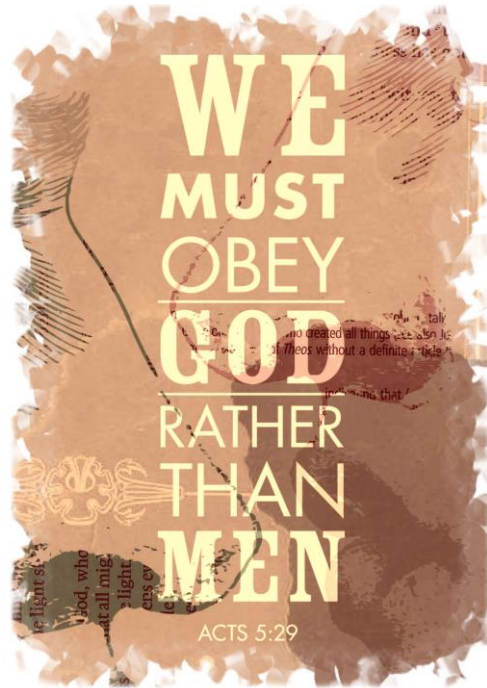
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- 6) Humans are body/soul creatures. Both matter, but one is more precious and more important. May God help us to keep the main things the main things. Evangelism is primary (Mark 8:35-37; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 26:18; Rom. 10:15-17)! Christian humanitarian efforts (caring for widows/orphans/war refugees/the poor/oppressed) are noble (and in a sinful world are needed quite frequently). Just remember, "*What profits a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his eternal soul.*" Unbelievers can generously donate food and blankets but only Christians can lovingly present the life-saving Gospel message and pray in Jesus' name!

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- 7) There is such a thing as a just war (note Romans 13). Sometimes God chooses to rewrite the map through Providence. Removing godless tyrants from the face of the earth (Pharaoh, Nero, Hitler, Stalin, etc).

With that said, 8) **The government is limited in its delegated authority (from God above) and is not God!** Absolute obedience must only be given to God.



9) The more sinful men turns their back on God, the more violence and bloodshed will fill our streets! “Repent and be saved from this perverse generation” is the message the lost world needs to hear!

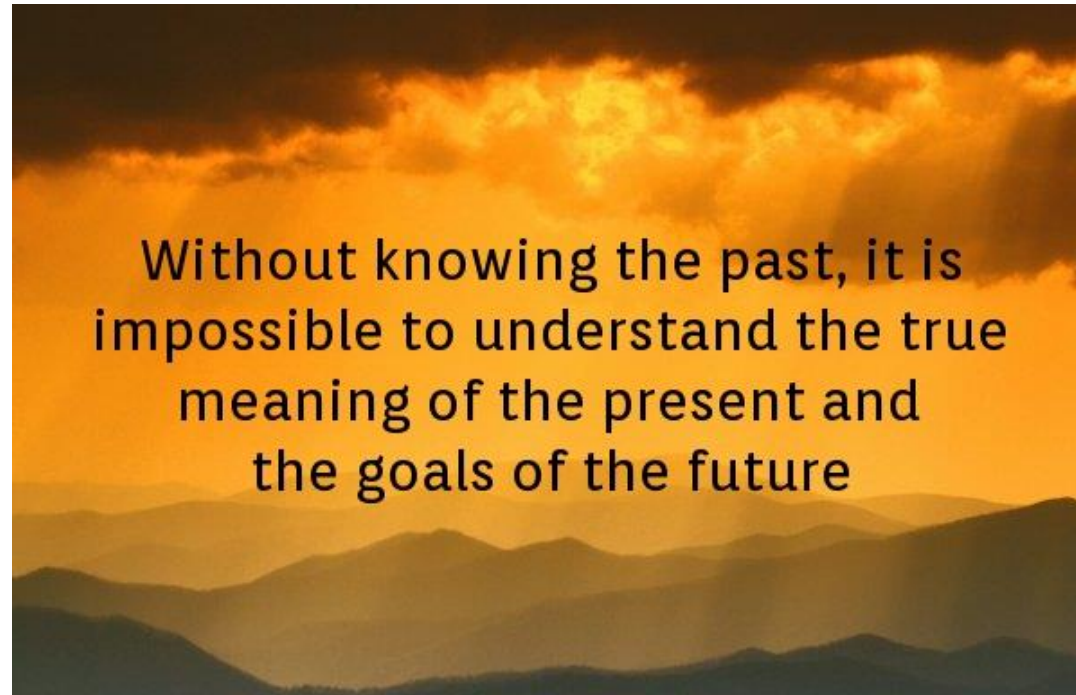
⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (**Gen 6:5**)

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. (**Gen 6:11**)

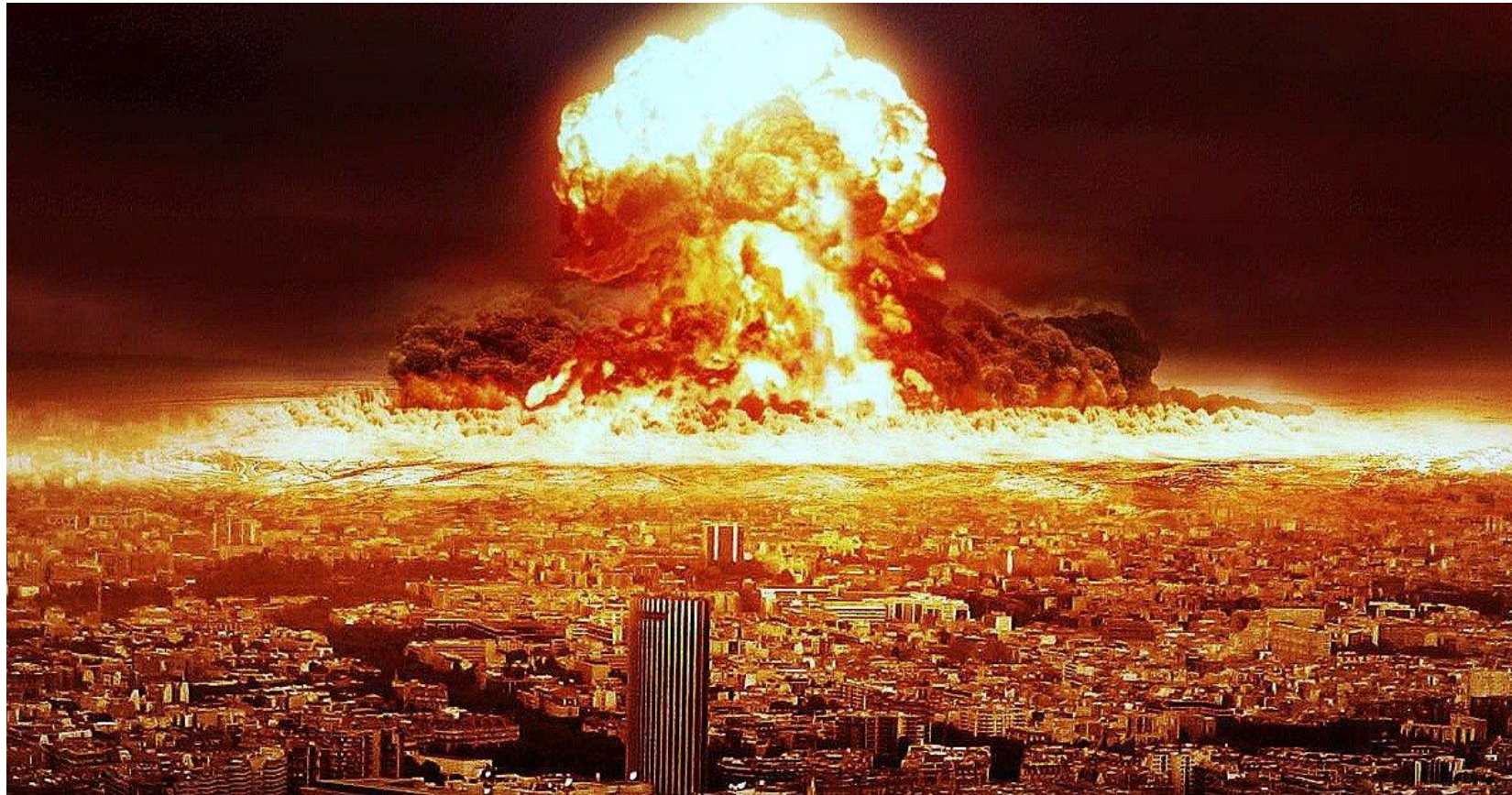
¹³ Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. "Make for yourself an ark (**Gen 6:13-14a**)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. (**2 Peter 3:9f**)

It is nearly impossible to understand what is happening in Europe/Ukraine/Russia today without understanding the past. “Context, context, context.”



Establishing the Broader Context:
Post World War II
and the Nuclear Shadow



“Spoils go to the victor”(s);
Hence the race to Berlin during WW II.

After WW II, Europe was basically divided in half... West and East (1945f). Two superpowers emerged (the United States and the Soviet Union).

Stalin promoted Karl Marx’s vision for “income distribution and a classless State led society.” In poverty ridden soil the utopian seed of Communism spread throughout the world.. Leading to untold suffering.



During the Cold War, the USA & USSR were rival superpowers who competed to spread their ideology



Key Dates and Major Events during the Cold War

The Soviet Union sought to dominate America/the West in Two Areas: 1) Military (Arms Race) and 2) Space (Race). The Soviets did this at the expense of their national economy. A weak economy/widespread poverty/unrest contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Here are a few key dates/events during *the Cold War*.

1946- Stalin's hostile speech re: communism vs. capitalism.
(Stalin's brutal reign, 1922-1953. Churchill's "Iron curtain" speech).

1947- Truman establishes official "containment" of Communism/Totalitarianism policy. (Truman Doctrine/ Marshall Plan-16 nations sign up/ Rio Pact). West/East conflict understood. Both sides spy on each other increasingly.

1950-53- the Korean War.

1954- Soviet KGB established.

1954- Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gives Ukraine a gift: **Crimea**.

1959- Communist Castro takes over Cuba.

1961- "Bay of Pigs" invasion; Berlin border is closed/ Infamous Berlin Wall.



Key Dates and Major Events during the Cold War

1962- Cuban Missile Crisis (October)

1965- U.S. dispatches 200,000 troops to Vietnam.

1968- Soviet Red Army crushes Czech revolt.

1969- Apollo 11 lands on the moon.

1973- Egypt and Syria attack Israel; Egypt requests Soviet aid.

1979- Shah of Iran overthrown; Iranian Hostage Crisis.

1985- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader. *To reverse stagnation and widespread unrest, Gorbachev promotes two programs: 1) "Glasnost" (transparency/more freedoms) and "Perestroika" (semi-Capitalistic with some private ownership of businesses).*

Key Dates and Major Events during the Cold War



1986-87 Presidents Reagan (US) and Gorbachev (Soviet U) agree to Nuclear Missile “Disarmament” in Europe.

1989- Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan (U.S. backed the Mujahedin).

1989- Poland, Hungary become independent (former Satellite states of the Evil Empire).

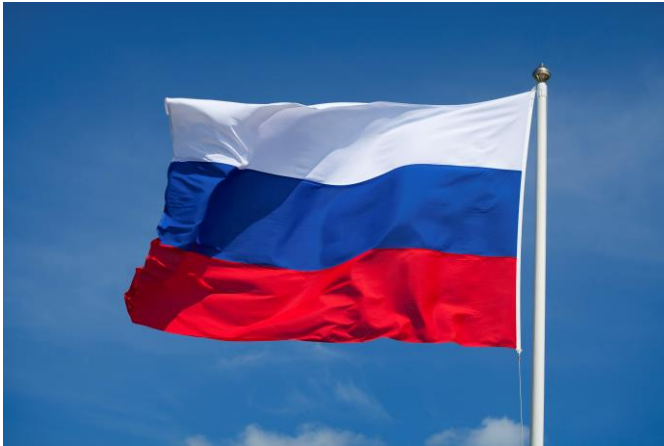
1989- The Berlin Wall is demolished! “Victory for democracy and freedom.”

1989- Key Communist governments fall in Czech, Bulgaria and Romania. The Soviet Union continues its decline!



1991- The Collapse of the Soviet Union. (US defeats “the Evil Empire”); The Cold War ends.

Despite many reforms (and an attempted Communist coup) Gorbachev’s policies did not improve conditions *quickly enough*. **December 25, 1991-** “Mikhail Gorbachev stepped down, yielding to Boris Yeltsin, who raised the flag of the Russian federation over the Kremlin.” American/Western Capitalism prevailed over Eastern Communism. Democracy and Freedom prevailed over Communism/Totalitarianism (1st Cold War).



12/25/91- Gorbachev's Farewell Address

In a remarkable moment of candor, Mikhail Gorbachev...endorsed the central message of Winston Churchill's speech in his farewell address on Christmas day, 1991. *"The Cold War, 'the totalitarian system,' 'the mad militarization' that 'crippled our economy, public attitudes and morals' — it all has come to an end, and there is no turning back. 'I consider it vitally important to preserve the democratic achievements which have been attained in the last few years,' Gorbachev said. 'We have paid with all our history and tragic experience for these democratic achievements, and they are not to be abandoned, whatever the circumstances, and whatever the pretexts.'"* **If only.**

From- <https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/03/churchills-prophetic-warning-an-iron-curtain-has-descended/>

1991- When the USSR collapsed, 15 independent states emerged.

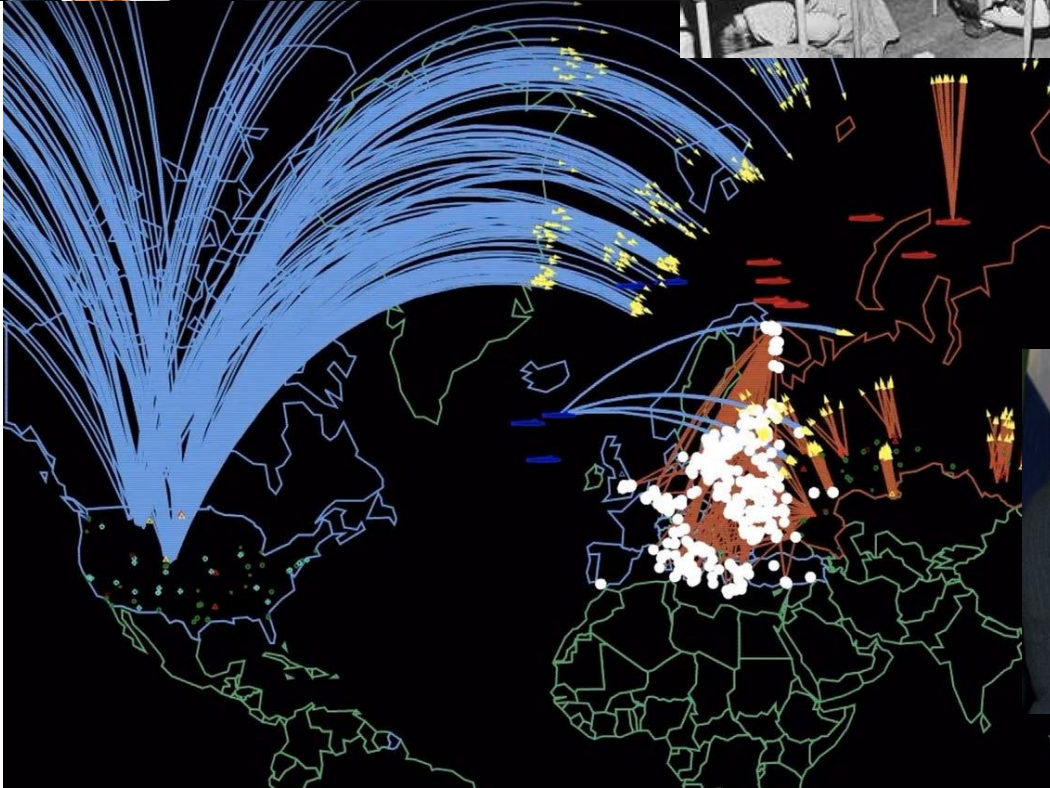
Putin firmly believes this was/is a shameful tragedy!!

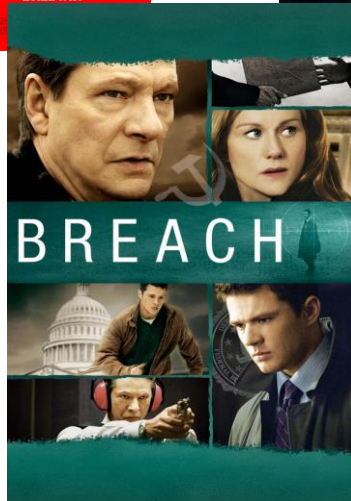
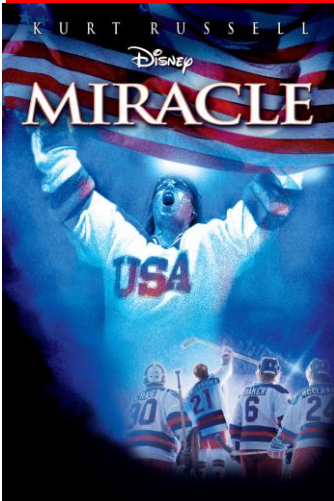
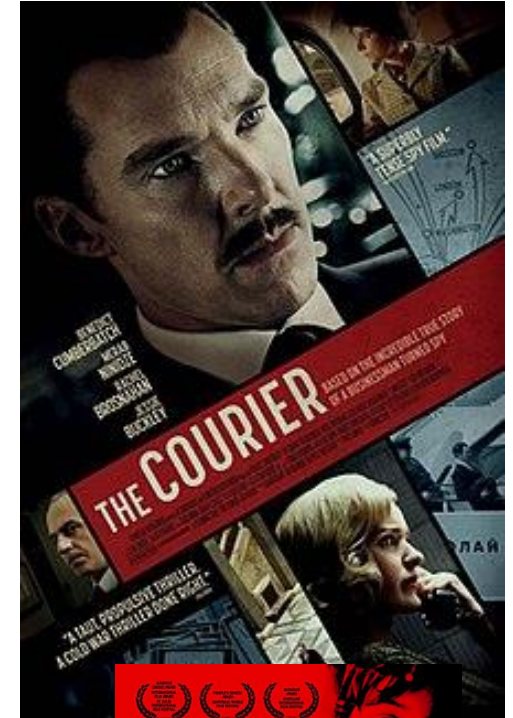
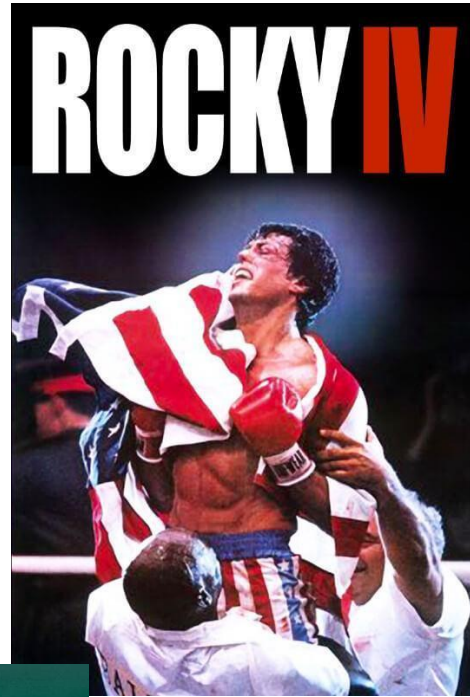
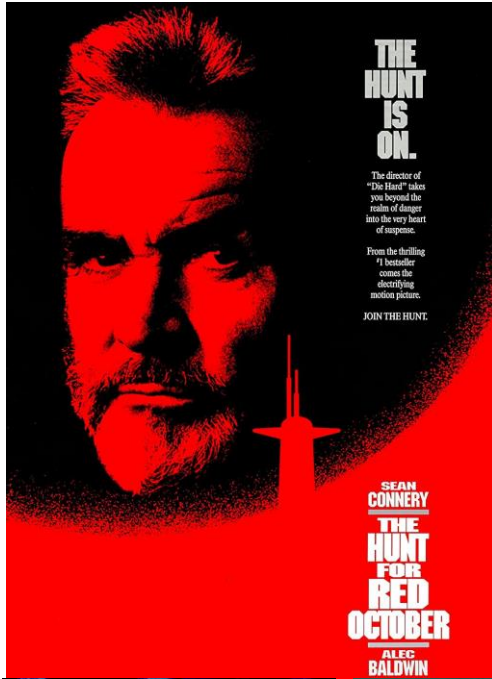




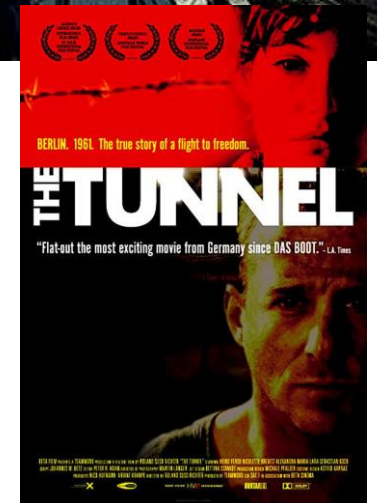
Here's my strategy on the Cold War:
we win, they lose.

— Ronald Reagan —





Related "Cold War" Era Movies



THE COLD WAR

WHAT WE SAW



DW