

**THE INTERNATIONAL BULLY HAS BEEN
SHOWN TO HAVE A DARK SIDE**

Throughout the history of the world, bullies, be they individuals or nations, all had one thing in common: They either actually were physically stronger than their existing or prospective opponents; or, alternatively, they had the appearance of being materially stronger.

Undeniably, substantial physical attributes, known to be much greater than those of would-be challengers, have, always, represented material power, psychological or actual, over the opposition.

In short, to be trite: Size has, always, mattered when it comes to the game of being a successful bully.

But things are changing and material size is, now, only one of the many factors to be considered if an individual or a sovereign state wants to be a successful bully on the world stage.

In the words of the Greek philosopher, Gorgias (485-380 BC), persuasive words have power (*dunamis*) that is equivalent to that of the gods and as strong as physical force ... The effect of speech on the soul to the effect of drugs on the body:

‘Just as different drugs draw forth different humors from the body – some putting a stop to disease, others to life – so too with words: Some cause pain, others joy, some strike fear, some stir the audience to boldness, some benumb and bewitch the soul with evil persuasion.’

In today’s world, sadly, the United States of America exemplifies, to a very great extent, the words of this lesser-known, Greek philosopher who lived more than 2,400 years ago.

In days of yore, it was the British Empire – ‘*on which the sun never sets*’ – that, with its mighty naval force and its many well-trained armies, was the world’s best and biggest bully.

The tide has turned for the British Empire, replaced by the US, the world’s largest single economy which has funded, over the years, the most-powerful army, navy and air force to which the world has ever been witness.

If ‘*Might is Right*’ were not a hackneyed expression of today, the US would have coined it, no doubt.

In the words of Mr George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, who planned to band together an international coalition in order to attack Iraq and to depose President Saddam Hussein, in an address to a Joint Session of The Congress on September 20, 2001, said: ‘*Either you are with us (the United States), or you are with the terrorists.*’

Of course, President Bush probably learned this sentence from reading the Bible where, at Matthew 12:30, Jesus said:

‘Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.’

Caught With The Trousers, Down To The Ankles

The US, today, is caught in a quandary from which it cannot extricate itself, easily ... if at all.

In the past, due to the country's vast financial wealth and incomparable military force, it had been able to force its will on most nations of the world.

As with the British Empire of the 17th Century, however, the days of the US, being the world's best bully, may well be numbered.

The events of the past few years have made it very evident that, for a great length of time, progressive US Administrations have been engaged in double-talk that sounded somewhat plausible to the average citizen of the country, as well as to many of the country's friends and neighbours.

Double-talk is a language that appears to be earnest and meaningful, but, in fact, it is a mixture of sense and nonsense. The word derives from the book, '*Nineteen Eighty-Four*', written by George Orwell on or about April 4, 1984.

Double-talk differs from doublespeak in that the latter is a language that is employed with the idea to deceive, usually through concealment or misrepresentation of the truth.

For the most part, the US of today is unlikely to comprehend the difference between double-talk and doublespeak – because it uses them, conjointly, whenever it is deemed necessary so to do.

The revelations of Mr Edward Snowden, a former, National Security Agency analyst of the US, with regard to the spying activities of the US Government, have caused ripples throughout most of the Western World and a goodly part of the Eastern World, too.

Now, Mr Snowden, without question, has committed a nefarious felony because he has acted contrary to US law, but many people, around the world, it seems, are applauding this young man who has successfully taken refuge in The Russian Federation where its Governmental Administration is about as dictatorial and draconian as one can imagine.

President Barack Hussein Obama took extreme umbrage when the Russian President, Mr Vladimir Putin, refused to comply to determined, multiple advances by highly placed officials of the US Government for The Russian Federation to refuse to grant asylum to Mr Snowden who, at the time, was in Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, unable to leave because, among other things, the US Government had cancelled his passport.

With Russia's refusal to abide by the '*requests*' of the US Government, The Russian Federation was described by the White House as being, as far as the US Government was concerned, a willing collaborator with Mr Snowden and his criminal activities '*after the fact*' – an accessory who harbors, conceals or aides in the concealment of the principle felon after the felonious act(s) have been committed.

President Vladimir Putin just giggled at the very suggestions of the Whitehouse, thumbing his nose at the US Government and, especially, at President Obama for whom he does not hold in very high esteem.

That which Mr Snowden had managed to do was, indirectly, to make transparent to the world of the duplicity of the US Government, today's and yesteryear's.

Mr Snowden backed up his allegations with documentation of the US Government's covert activities in cyber spying, not just on nations and their leaders, but even to the extent of monitoring emails and telephonic communications and, even, the conversations, conducted on the private mobile telephone of Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel.

All the double-talk and doublespeak, flowing out of the Whitehouse with regard to the public revelations that were made possible by Mr Snowden, appeared to have little to no impact, round the world.

Except, of course, by the legal community of the US that stated that Mr Snowden was a perfidious felon

who must be brought to book for his crimes against his country.

Throughout this crisis, the US Government has advertised its usual show of humble sincerity along the lines that it is the Government's position, always, to safeguard the country and its population by whatever legal means that are available.

'Legal means'? In which jurisdiction?

Trust In Me ... And God

The multiple revelations of Mr Snowden, inter alia, have caused the world to think more than twice as to whether or not it can trust the US to the extent that it did in years past.

The Whitehouse has, always, managed to have its friends and neighbours accept the legitimacy of any and all of its acts, mostly spelled out in the name of justice and/or security of the US and its citizens, for and on behalf of those who advocate peace and freedom for all, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

The US Government tends, whenever possible, to hide behind the honourable ideals of its Founding Fathers, enshrined in such remarkable documents as The Declaration of Independence and The Bill of Rights, the last-mentioned, being the collective name for the first ten amendments to The United States Constitution.

How often one has heard, repeatedly, the immortal words of Mr Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, who, in a speech that he penned and delivered at Gettysburg on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863 said:

'Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.'

The ideals upon which the US was born in 1776 are attractive, to be sure, and because of their attractiveness, most Western countries have accepted much of that which has issued forth from the Whitehouse without very much in the way of challenge.

But things may, very well, change, thanks to the felonious acts of Mr Snowden.

For a number of the leaders of the free world, on finding the statements and/or actions of the US to have been outright double-talk with more than a smidgen of doublespeak, they have been forced to disregard that which they had just come to realise because, if they want to be in the good graces of Washington, it is in their best interests to do that which Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson did at The Battle of Copenhagen of 1801: Put the telescope to the blind eye.

To be seen as a friend of the US Government, its partners have to accept the good with the bad, without showing any material reservation.

The immense financial power of the US, along with its massive military might, is daunting for many sovereign states and so it is deemed that it is not wise to bite the hand that feeds one.

The Russian Federation is a thorn in Washington's side, today, however: It is perceived by the Whitehouse as being a prospective challenger to the throne of international bully, extraordinaire.

Washington, also, views the People's Republic of China as being another of tomorrow's prospective challengers to the throne upon which successive US presidents sit.

Due to the vast wealth of the People's Republic of China – which is growing, very materially, monthly – the Obama Administration has adopted the stance to try to allay any and all fears of the government of the most-populous country in the world that its intentions are honourable.

The 'carrot' that Washington is holding out are repeated statements to suggest, obliquely, that the US views the Middle Kingdom as being its future partner, both economically and politically, for many years to come.

At the same time, when a suitable situation arises, Washington continues to test the 'waters' of the Government of the People's Republic of China in order to learn of its temperature.

The world order of today was effectively engineered by the US and it is underwritten by the matériel power within this country, with its leaders, constantly making mention of the country's political philosophy, claiming that it is based on the belief in progress, the essential goodness of the human race, the autonomy of the individual and for the protection of political and civil liberties.

In order to reinforce, constantly, its preeminence in the world order, the US must continuously promote the concept of the world 'family', with the US as the strong father figure with an untiring duty of fidelity to the entire family.

Force, alone, cannot always be used in order for Washington to obtain its goals, those covert as well as those overt, especially with regard to The Russian Federation and/or the People's Republic of China, and so, from time to time, the Whitehouse must fall back on double-talk, doublespeak, or consider manufacturing some other, pseudo-philosophical claptrap.

The many very embarrassing revelations of Mr Snowden have tended to put the US on its back foot and the country can no longer spout the same double-speak claims that it did in days of yore.

It is just possible that the world is witnessing the beginnings of the North American Empire's slow decline from international power.

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