

# TARGET

## Intelligence Report

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### THE EMPERORS IN OUR MIDST

Since time immemorial, for the most part, countries and territories have been ruled by kings, emperors, and appointed and self-appointed dictators.

The French Revolution of May 5, 1789, saw the end of the monarchy of Louis XVI, King of France, and his appointed Executive, leading to the official pronouncement of country as the Première République.

From 1789 until 1799, France and its colonies went through a period of political upheaval, followed, in its wake, by social upheaval.

Today, 231 years after the political events that had its roots in Paris, France, and 11 years prior to the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the world has witnessed the inauguration of that which might rightly be named, either de facto or de jure, the investiture of three new emperors.

The names, as well as their many questionable actions, of late, of the three '*emperors*' are well known, round the world, much to the chagrin and consternation of the tens of millions of the human populations of freedom-loving countries, such as The United States of America, the United Kingdom and nearly all the 27 nations that constitute the European Union.

They are Mr Xi Jin Ping (习近平), President of the **P**eople's **R**epublic of **C**hina (**PRC**) since 2013, Mr Kim Jong Un (金正恩), the Supreme Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since December 17, 2011, and Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of The Russian Federation since 2012.

All the above '*emperors*' of three very powerful nations of the earth, in terms of their military might, will remain at the head of their power bases, probably until their deaths, the way that things stand, today.

In the case of President Xi Jin Ping, his august position is for life.

This is the first time in the recent history of the country that a President was '*crowned*' to stay at his post until he died.

The ‘*crowning*’ of President Xi Jin Ping transpired by virtue of the overwhelming standing ovations that he received, in January 2018, of the full members of The National People’s Congress of the PRC, comprising 2,980 delegates.

At that historical gathering, President Xi Jin Ping was proclaimed Life President of the country, comprising a human population of more than 1.35 billion, men, women and children.

About the military might of country, The People’s Liberation Army is estimated to comprise approximately two million active troops, consisting about 1.20 million Ground Personnel, 235,000 Navy Personnel, about 20,000 Marines, 400,000 Air Force Personnel, 100,000 Rocket Forces, 175,000 Strategic Support Forces, and about 660,000 People’s Armed Police.

In the case of Mr Kim Jong Un, he was the second child of Mr Kim Jong Il, the Second Supreme Leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, who reigned for 17 years until his death on December 17, 2011.

Mr Kim Jong Un, at the age of 29 years, was proclaimed ‘*The Great Successor*’ to Mr Kim Jong Il on the country’s State television on the same day of the death of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Il.

With an estimated human population of about 26 million people, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea boasts of having 1.20 million active troops, inducted into the Korean People’s Army, and an estimated force of 200,000 Public Security members.

The country’s weaponry comprises, in the main, ageing weapon systems, acquired from The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, now renamed, The Russian Federation, as well as from the PRC.

In the case of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the qualified voting population of The Russian Federation voted for him to remain at his post as President of the country, and, in addition, agreed to a wide-sweeping Referendum, delivered (and generally believed to have been penned by him, in part or in whole) by the President, himself, in a speech to The Federal Assembly on January 15, 2020, thus reforming The Constitution of country to the wording, to his liking, of that which can only be considered his unique Doctrine of Predestination.

This Referendum legally empowered President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin to run again for two more six-year Presidential terms, if he so chose so to do, at which time, he would be 79 years old.

The human population of The Russian Federation is thought to be about 145 million, men, women and children. The country’s military might is estimated at 900,000 active-duty troops, about 340,000 Federal National Guard Troops, and 200,000 Federal Security Service members.

Without question, President Xi Jin Ping, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin are, all, very able politicians: They all seem to be in concurrence in respect of the proverb: ‘*Where there’s a will, there’s a way.*’

When faced with that which may appear, to other mortal men, unassailable obstacles in their paths, they always seem to find solutions to the problems, one way or another.

There can be little doubt in the minds of right-thinking people of the Western World that President Donald John Trump, of The United States of America, must be very envious of the above-mentioned '*emperors*' because, inter alia, not one of them has had to concern himself of the existence of a savage, leftist political party, consistently trying to unseat him: President Donald John Trump has been beset, during his first term in office – and his last term – of certain members of The Democratic Party, snapping at his heels in an effort to usurp his legal powers.

It is now a matter of 51 days before President Donald John Trump must exit, forever, from the White House, the seat of power of the President Elect of The United States of America.

### **Cardinal Armand Jean de Plessis, Duke of Richelieu**

Cardinal Armand Jean du Plessis, Duke of Richelieu (September 9, 1585 – December 4, 1642), commonly referred to as, simply, Cardinal Richelieu, is credited with having been instrumental in destroying, among other things, the rural influence of the French nobility.

Cardinal Richelieu, in his day, was credited as being one of the master-spirits of mankind who, for good or for evil, communicated their impress onto successive generations.

He possessed, during his lifetime, in perhaps the highest degree that quality without which no ability can effect any lasting influence on human affairs; with which, hardly anything is impossible to genius and activity – moral courage and unflinching determination.

Cardinal Richelieu was never a courtier, nor a slavish minister to any member of a political administrator of France, no matter that which was an administrator's rank.

His object of affection and devotion was Louis XIV, King of France, history has recorded.

Louis XIV was not loath to claim that he was himself, the State: He loved France better than the monarchy.

The anarchy of feudal weakness was the great evil, as Louis XIV he saw it; it afflicted the French society of his day; and, it was to remedy the plague that Louis XIV is said to have so strenuously laboured.

To effect the objects of Louis XIV, it required the persevering efforts, inter alia, of Cardinal Richelieu who firmly supported the Executive of the day.

Cardinal Richelieu was known to have favoured commerce and trade, as affording the best counterpoise to feudal nobility; and, it gave greater security to justice and more impartial regularity to the law, as the only means of restraining their excesses.

Cardinal Richelieu was indifferent to religious controversies – when they interfered with political designs of the day.

He was well aware of the practical security for independence on the part of the Crown.

This was to be found in the flourishing state of the Crown's finances and, to that end, Cardinal Richelieu exerted diligence in augmenting the public revenue.

To his undying credit, Cardinal Richelieu swept away all appointments for life, whether to the government of castles or the direction of provinces; and, he rendered all offices under the Crown of such brief tenure that they were effectually under the control of the Government.

The rapid changes, orchestrated by Cardinal Richelieu, directly and indirectly, were so vast as to inducing, as they did, a total alteration in the powers of Government, the structure of society, and the future destinies of the country.

The changes could not have been brought about without strenuous resistance on the part of the repositories of authority, and the persons, benefitting by the existing regime.

Cardinal Richelieu's entire success was such that his Administration appeared in the transformation of France, in a single lifetime, from a feudal confederacy, with a nominal liege-lord at Paris, to a compact and absolute monarchy, with the real powers, vested in the sovereign.

The changes that Cardinal Richelieu introduced proved fatal to the power of the nobles of France: Days of ascendancy to greater and ever-richer heights were but figments in the imaginations of many of those, born to assume that they were entitled to enjoy the pleasures of nobility ... for life.

The nobles found themselves destitute of all influence over the peasantry on their estates.

Times had changed; and time continued to embrace change; and, those nobles who could not change with the times, eventually, found themselves left impecunious.

Cardinal Richelieu laid the foundations, and constructed the entire supports of the edifice; but it was Louis XIV who embellished the exterior, and erected the entablatures of the Corinthian columns that fascinated the beholder on his approach.

This genius of centuries past encouraged the triumph of art; and, science enlarged – of genius transcendent as well as eloquence unequalled in this period of the history of France.

The measures, introduced and then spurred on by Cardinal Richelieu, went much further, however.

His policy conferred on the French Government of his day, not merely the firmness of a compact, but the debasing influence of an absolute monarchy.

Cardinal Richelieu was known to express his belief in the maxim: *L'état, c'est moi* (I, myself, am the nation).

Perhaps this maxim may appear to be more than a little pretentious, by today's standards, but in his day, this maxim expressed the entire ideas and ideals of government by which he, also, was regulated.

He not only excluded the people from all share in the administration of affairs, but he rendered them insensible to that exclusion.

Today, where are the men and women, enshrouded in the quality and texture of the cloak that Cardinal Richelieu traditionally wore with nobility, but continuing to maintain sagacity and humility?

The influence of despotism can never permanently extinguish the light of reason.

One may veil the corruption of despotism beneath the splendour of military glory; in vain, one might encourage science, and reward art, and seek to turn the flood of genius into the narrow channels of regulated ambition.

The vigour of thought, however, shall always outstrip the fetters of power; the energy of civilisation shall, in due course, break the bonds of slavery.

In the progress of time, man shall awaken to a consciousness of his importance; the restrictions of feudal manners, past and present, revolting to men of letters, enlightened as they are by the progress of knowledge; the chains of servitude insupportable to those who feel the rising ambition of freedom.

In the words of Mr Blaise Pascal (June 19, 1623 – August 19, 1662), a French mathematician, being but one of his many accomplishments, probably the greatest of which was being the founder of the Philosophy of Mathematics:

*‘It is a terrible thing to reflect on the effect of rank: It gives a child, newly born, a degree of consideration, which half a century of labour and virtue could not procure.’*

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