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Viewsletter

MASS, SPACE AND TIME

The So Very Little We Know: Man Has Much To Learn

It is well accepted, today, that mass, space and time are related to one another.

It is one of the essential rules that has been found, tested, and fully accepted in respect of aspects of the universe, thanks to the work of Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Scientists, today, are attempting to discover much more of that which must be the rules of the universe — for they must exist, it is well accepted.

Today, it is well known that the collapse of formerly giant stars in the universe, for one reason or another, is one or more of the reasons for the creation of black holes in regions of space.

A black hole is defined as being regions in space that gravity, just beneath its surface — named formerly as 'event horizon,' is sufficiently strong that nothing — not even light — can escape.

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At the centre of a black hole — it has been given the nomenclature, 'singularity,' — but scientists, the world over, have little information of this point, being infinitively small and infinitively dense.

Scientists are well aware that they know very little about the universe, how stars are created and, seemingly, how stars 'die,' and why and how, try as they may, it might be many billions of eons for them ever to learn how giant stars were — and are — created — as we know them, today — and what, if any, there are life forms — as we know them in man's thinking, today — on some or the many millions of stars, about which they know absolutely nothing.

Many of the aspects, mentioned above — and there must be many more aspects, of course — might be likened to that which many world-be loquacious scientists and economists try to make seemingly determinations which, to some degree, seem to have quintessential aspects, whereas that which they make claims that, to a very great degree, are, at best, garrulous.

The following are some of the aspects about which man acknowledges in that which are thought to be today's great pool of man's simplicity knowledge, compared to that of the empty void of the universe yet to be understood.

Part Ten

BETTER TO LIVE, RATHER THAN TO DIE

During the Administration of the former President of The United States of America, Mr President Joe Biden, he was, always, seen as having been a questionable gentleman to hold the reigns of power of the most-important country of the world.

It was only too obvious that, during his reign, this aged gentleman had made a great number of mistakes while sitting in the Office of the White House.

At the ages of between 80 years and 82 years, it was very obvious that he was not, exactly, fit for his position: He, very often, could not even remember his way when alighting from his helicopter to the door of the office of The White House.

The incumbent President, Democrat Joe Biden, initially ran for re-election as the Party's presumptive nominee, facing little opposition and, thusly, easily defeated Representative Dean Phillips of Minnesota, during the Democratic Primaries.

However, that which was broadly considered a very poor debate performance in June 2024, intensified concerns about his age and his physical and mental health, and many other unfortunate, repulsive considerations – such as forgetting the names of important personages who were the then known rulers of their countries – led to calls within his Democratic Party for him to leave the race.

After President Joe Biden succumbed to extreme pressure from a material percentage of the members of The Democratic Party, and Mr Donald Trump, on being elected as the President of The United States of America, the incoming President of the most-powerful country of the world was not loathe to criticise, in large part, the acts and/or failures to act, at all, when required so to do, in respect of the former Joe Biden's Administration.

President Donald Trump's rise to power and enduring political appeal had been fuelled, in large part, by his depiction of The United States of America as having been something of a failure: Exhausted; weak; and, to some extent, ruined.

In a characteristic act of self-contradiction, however, President Donald Trump's foreign policy was seen as being based on a significant over-estimation of American power.

President Donald Trump and his advisers seemed to believe that, despite the country's allegedly parlous condition, unilateral action on Washington's part could still force others to capitulate and submit to American terms when required so to do.

But since the end of World War II, American power had been rooted mostly in cooperation, not on coercion.

The Trump Administration seemed to ignore that history normally takes for granted that all the benefits that a cooperative approach could yield, and that it could not envision a future in which other countries opt out of the existing United States-led international order, or, inter alia, construct a new one that would be antagonistic to American interests.

The political scientist, Mr Michael Beckley, had stated, definitively, that The United States of America had become '*a rogue superpower, neither internationalist nor isolationist, but aggressive, powerful, and increasingly out for itself.*'

Be that as it might, the determinations of this political scientist were seen, in a word, as not being, exactly, accurate.

Mr Michael Beckley's suggestive definition, of the acts of many of the attempted '*methodologies*' of The United States of America, were incomplete.

This was because, amongst other things, it does not fully capture the extent to which American dominance could be undercut, or constricted by others.

A number of individuals, whom have (some) power at home, speculated as to what degree The United States of America might withdraw from its present leading role in the world.

But a more pressing question might be:

'What if the rest of the world beats Washington to the punch, so to speak, withdrawing from the cooperative U.S.-led order that had been the bedrock of American power?'

Some suggestions might counter that even people, having been in positions of power of their allies, as well as neutral countries, they do not like the way in which President Donald Trump exercises his very considerable power.

They have little choice, however, and are forced to bow to it, at this juncture, now, but shall accommodate themselves to it in the longer term, placating The United States of America as much as possible, while hedging only when absolutely necessary.

After all, such personages might, clearly, come to loathe and, even, distrust certain determinations of The United States of America, but not as much as they might already loathe and distrust The People's Republic of China, The Russia Federation, as well as would be other American rivals.

In this view, President Donald Trump was seemingly keen to continue to create – and, often, recreate when the President required – today, along with subtle changes that might come to find its way along the President's crossroads, would it be the worst possible hegemon – except for all the other possible candidates.

Even if other countries wanted to close their books, preferring to make the determination to leave the U.S.-led order, or work around Washington, they do not have the ability to do so, individually or collectively.

They might yearn for the days of a more internationalist, an open, cooperative United States of America that yearns to shape, or to reshape, a (reasonable) world order.

But, for the present, they would have to learn to live with a more nationalistic individual, one who is oftentimes demanding, who sits in the White House, the person who determines the sway of The United States of America, come what might.

THE US DOLLAR REMAINS ON TOP OF THE CURRENCY MOUNTAIN

On Tuesday, July 1, 2025, The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) announced that the US dollar '*saw its worst first half of the year since 1973.*'

Be that as it may, the US dollar continued to be the largest asset held in the world's Central Bank Reserves.

Clearly, no matter as to that which some people might suggest, the US dollar continues to be the most-important Reserve Currency in the entire world.

And it is quite likely that the US dollar shall continue to hold onto its present position, regardless of suggestions to the contrary: It remains at its pinnacle of strength, worldwide.

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The following is the first paragraph of the July 1, 2025, CFR, under the heading: ‘*Top of the Agenda:*’

‘The dollar saw its worst first half of the year since 1973 amid uncertainty about U.S. trade and fiscal policy.

‘Since January, the dollar’s value declined more than 10 percent compared to other major currencies.

‘It maintains a position of dominance in the world economy, but analysts say the slide reflects concerns over issues including U.S. tariff hikes and the national debt – both of which are on display in Washington this week.

‘The (U.S.) Senate worked overnight last night (Monday, June 30) to try to pass a tax and spending bill that the Congressional Budget Office estimates would add almost \$3.3 trillion to U.S. deficits over a decade, while the White House is holding tariff talks.’

In respect of trade talks, the CFR made the point that some countries were continuing to try to suggest ameliorations before US tariff determined to increases, which were scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

The CFR was not at all shy to state that only The People’s Republic of China and The United Kingdom had reached acceptable bilateral trade agreements.

The CFR went as far as to make the following points:

- *‘Indian negotiators extended a visit to Washington in recent days in an effort to bridge disagreements on sectors such as agriculture, unnamed Indian officials told multiple news outlets.*
- *‘As Japan’s top trade negotiator returned from the United States yesterday, President Donald Trump criticized Tokyo’s negotiating stance regarding rice on social media and said he was considering “sending them a letter” stating U.S. policy; in an interview televised Sunday, Trump said his planned letter to Japan would denote “the end of the trade deal”.’*

Under the heading, ‘***Across the Globe,***’ the CFR made mention of the following factors:

‘Syria sanctions removed. Trump signed an executive order yesterday terminating many sanctions on Syria. It also directed agencies to review the country’s listing as a state sponsor of terrorism and the terrorist designation on the rebel group that ousted former leader Bashar al-Assad. Trump met with Syria’s interim president – also the former leader of the rebel group – Ahmed al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia six weeks ago.

‘EU-Ukraine trade deal. The European Union (EU) and Ukraine reached a preliminary deal to replace a special duty-free agreement implemented after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. That arrangement supported Ukrainian agriculture sales but prompted farmer protests in member countries including Poland. The new deal returns to a quota system for more sensitive Ukrainian products such as sugar and maize. Ukraine pledged to open its markets and align with EU farm production standards.

‘Thai PM suspended. Thailand’s Constitutional Court voted 7–2 to suspend Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra following a petition from lawmakers that accused her of breaching ethical standards over a leaked phone call. During the call, she criticized a Thai military commander while discussing a border dispute with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen. Paetongtarn apologized and said she had been trying to “maintain our sovereignty.”

‘Plan to tax air travel. Countries including Barbados, France, Kenya, and Spain yesterday said they intend to tax premium-class flights and private jets to fund work to address climate change. The announcement opened a UN (United Nations) summit on how to pay for global economic development that last convened a decade ago. As many countries are cutting back on official bilateral development aid, some advocate for taxing polluting industries directly as an alternative.

‘Study on USAID cuts. A global team of researchers has estimated that (the) Trump administration cuts to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) could cause more than 14 million deaths around the world by 2030. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in the past said many of the agency’s operations did not serve U.S. “core national interests.” The State Department did not immediately comment to multiple news outlets about the study.

‘Probe into MS-13. A deal to send migrants to El Salvador could have undercut ongoing U.S. efforts to dismantle the gang MS-13, according to a New York Times report. Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele sent Washington a list of detained MS-13 leaders (that) he wanted send back to El Salvador as part of the deal. U.S. prosecutors are now trying to drop charges against an MS-13 leader, citing “foreign policy considerations.” The White House pushed back on “any suggestion” that Trump “isn’t successfully eradicating terrorist criminal gangs.” The U.S. attorney’s office that brought cases against MS-13 did not comment.

‘Lithuania-Philippines ties. The two countries agreed to step up defense cooperation, their defense ministers said in Manila yesterday. Lithuania’s defense minister cited the fact that both faced challenges from “shadow fleets by some big countries” in the South China Sea and Baltic Sea. Manila has sought to widen its defense relationships in response to China’s maritime territorial claims nearby.’

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