War

William H. Lloyd, Jr., DBA, MBA, CPA, CGMA

Commonwealth University

 In November, I was sitting at the kitchen table with my daughter, her boyfriend, and my wife and the news was on. The coverage was about the war in Ukraine. Then the coverage turned to the war in the middle east, which caused my daughter to pose the question: “Why is there so much war?” My wife responded: “Well honey, that is a complex question”. I thought, “yes, that is a complex question”. I thought some more and some more and concluded that it is not a complex question. The reason is simple: The rise of evil in the world.

 When I say the rise of evil, I mean the rise of Totalitarianism in the world. When I say Totalitarianism, I mean in all its forms: Communism, Fascism, Terrorism, and religious Fundamentalism. These are “isms”. They are like cancer. They grow and destroy the body and it must be treated. Cancer cannot be ignored because it has no boundaries; it simply grows and overtakes the system causing death. I will talk about the cure for this cancer later.

 I think God abhors war. I believe that God wants us to live in peace and love, but God lets man be man. History shows war after war after war. We see conflict, fighting, death, destruction, devastation, violence, murder, and rape; we see man at his worst. War is an abomination. It involves the destruction of property worth trillions of dollars and the killing of millions of people. How can that be good? So, I am a pacifist, but I am also a realist. Evil exists. Evil is real. There are dark souls. There are evil people. That cancer that I just talked about, well, it is evil and must be confronted. Sometimes, you must fight.

 If asked, most people would say they would like to live in peace, yet that is not what we as human beings have chosen. We are spiritual beings trying to be human. So, if the preference is to live in peace why have we consistently chosen war? This goes to the nature of man and why we fight. I think war can be categorized into three buckets:

1. The fight for freedom from tyranny, communism, fascism, and terrorism.
2. Territorial disputes
3. Religious wars

I think most wars can be placed into one of those three buckets. Yes, the buckets can overlap. However, that does not get to the nature of man. There are souls that are light and souls that are dark. Basically, good and evil. Light souls thrive in peace and love. Dark souls thrive in chaos and destruction. If there is evil, there will be war. So, Alexa, the reason there is so much war is that there is a rise in evil throughout the world.

 On February 25, 2022, I made the comment to a colleague that WWWIII had just started.

Why did I say that? Because the day before, Russia invaded Ukraine. That was my brightline, my line-in-the-sand. The event was so significant that I consider it the start of WWWIII. I know that is not what the rest of the world thinks, but if you consider how North Korea, Iran, and to some extent China, have come to the aid of Russia it indicates a coalition of forces. If you look at the way the west has gotten behind Ukraine, there is an indication of a collation of forces. This is true until recently. Trump and the MAGA Republicans have killed the supplemental Ukraine aid. This is not who America is. We support our allies; we do not leave them hanging out to dry. This is an existential fight for Democracy. Russia is the cancer and must be confronted. You can confront them now or later, but you will have to confront them at some point. We need to fully support Ukraine. This situation highlights another problem in America, the rise of fascism.

 In the 1930s, Fascism was romanticized and grew throughout Europe. In the United States intellectuals argued for the case of fascism. That was true until we learned what Fascism truly was and what it represented; this is clearly observed by the extermination of six million jews by the Nazis during the holocaust. Well, Fascism is back in the United States. If you want to see what Fascism looks like go and visit Auschwitz.  Occasionally, you will hear someone use the term Fascism, but not to the extent needed. We are in dangerous times nationally and internationally. Some of the indications that there is a rise of fascism in the United States are the rise of antisemitism coupled with the rise of propaganda and disinformation. The Nazis used propaganda to disinform the German people as to what they were doing. There is so much propaganda and disinformation in the United States today. The American public is being lied to and misled.

 The vehicle through which Fascism is being nurtured is through MAGA and Donald Trump. The rise of MAGA in the United States mirrors that of the rise of the NAZI party in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. MAGA Republicans are destroying this county and Democracy. Look at who Donald Trump is. He is a narcistic sociopath who wants to create an Authoritarian state in America. He has been indicted on 88 counts. He has been found guilty of committing sexual assault. He is a crook, a criminal, a fraudster, a snake oil salesman, and a liar.

Yet, the Republican party will select him as their Presidential nominee. It makes no sense. It is illogical. It is not rational. However, for Republicans this is not a rational process. This is cult like behavior and Donald Trump is the leader of that cult. Donald Trump is as dangerous as Hitler was. I mean, the man quotes Hitler and thinks he was a pretty good guy. Wake up America! Liz Cheney is right when she says that America is sleepwalking into Authoritarianism.

 On the topic of war, Let’s discuss the current civil war going on in the United States. January 6th is my brightline. I think that what happened was an attempt to over through the American government. It signifies the result of years of ongoing dissatisfaction. Much like the dissatisfaction the German people felt in the 1930s. Our society is fragmented over issues like abortion, guns, and immigration. There is an attack on individual rights in this country and we are heading towards fascism. If Donald Trump is reelected President, it will result in the destruction of Democracy in this country.

 In summary, I want to make clear several points. We are in the middle of international and national war. Democracy is in danger in this country and in the world. We are currently losing these wars. We are not supporting Ukraine and that is wrong and dangerous and goes against who we are as a country. That is not the soul of this country. If the election was held tomorrow, there is a strong probability that Donald Trump would win. If that happens, Democracy dies in America. I often think that if there is a God, and there is, that God would not allow Donald Trump to be President again. Then I realize this is the same God that watched as six million Jews were exterminated during the holocaust. History shows us that sometimes-evil wins. Evil wins when good men and women do nothing. This is a time in history when we are called to action in whatever form that may take.