

**Károly Kiss:**

## **Faces of America – From the New Jerusalem to Imperialist Interventions**

(Atlanticists' Delusion)

I wonder a lot why Western Europe does not understand the essence of the Russo-Ukrainian war, that it is really a war of the Americans against the Russians, where the unfortunate Ukrainians are used as tools, and why Western Europe is lining up behind America. I came to the conclusion that the Western world does not understand the essence of the American system, and sees in it only the almost unlimited enforcement of individual freedoms. Since Jefferson and the other founding fathers stated in the 1776 Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, man is endowed by his creator with unalienable rights which cannot be renounced, and among these rights are the right to life and liberty, and the right to to the pursuit of happiness", the United States is the standard bearer of personal rights and freedoms. The American system is a model of individual freedom. Nowhere else are there such unlimited opportunities for the realization of individual desires and the development of individual abilities, in this regard America is the top. All this is complemented by the individualistic tradition, America is an individualistic country. This produces amazing results, whether it is managers, financiers, scientists and artists, or athletes. Also the independence, the autonomy of communities, schools, universities, social organizations. churches is very strong.

Yes, it is an individualistic society, with strong local and institutional democracy, where social security and safety nets are not imposed on you; it's up to you to take care of yourself in your old age, or in case you get sick, whether you need union protection if you have a dispute with your employer. I also like this, it does not consider the individual as a dependent person, unable to take care of himself, in need of social support, but as a self-aware individual who takes responsibility for himself.<sup>1</sup> This is why America offers the best opportunities for talented people to assert themselves; the best scientists create here and the greatest scientific achievements are made here, the most famous universities (Harvard, Yale, UCLA, etc.) are located here, the highest level of technology is here and the best films are made here. Here is Silicon Valley, the home of information technology, and here is Hollywood. Here are the world's biggest banks and most famous companies.

Western Europe (or perhaps the whole world) admires this unlimited individual freedom. This is why Yuval Noah Harari (who has written brilliant volumes of historical essays in recent years) sees Russia's war in Ukraine as an attack on the free world.

But there are also dark sides of America that are hidden by the glow of individual freedom. It is fair to ask whether is America still a democracy? Decades ago, when watching the Jockey

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<sup>1</sup> This is how Margaret Tahtcher thought when she came to power in 1979 and launched her conservative revolution to deal with the "culture of dependency".

series, I got stuck on a scene: Jockey scolded a representative like a guinea pig for supporting a motion that did not serve their interests (that of the oil producers'). Reproaching that "the representative was paid not for that". The situation has changed since then: there is no upper limit for the financial support of representative candidates. In other words: the financiers buy representatives for themselves. However, someone who does not appear in the media with sufficient weight, does not have enough money for advertising and media appearances will not become a representative. What is democracy anyhow? .... However, these representatives do not get their authority from the people, the election is formal.


"Of the people, by the people, for the people"? Lincoln is turning in his grave... America is not a democracy, America is a plutocracy, ruled by money capital. The result: In America, not only the individual enjoys broad freedoms; banks, investment funds, and large companies also do almost what they want. They determine the States' foreign policy and foreign economic relations. All of this is primarily achieved through media influence and media control. It is mostly the courts that try to enforce the constitutional framework.

Robert Reich was Secretary of Labor during the Clinton presidency and a government adviser in previous and subsequent administrations. In his book (*The System – Who Rigged It and How We Fix It*), published in 2020, he describes how the electoral system is distorted by unlimited campaign financing opportunities, and in the economy, the interests of shareholders overshadow all other interests. The possibility of buying one's own shares gives you the opportunity to manipulate the price of shares, the stock market is distorted. Material inequalities are skyrocketing, and there is no social policy to mitigate them. The book disillusiones us from the illusion – for those who still have it – that America is an example of where we should heading for.<sup>2</sup>

A high price must be paid for the idea of a free society. Guns are free, mentally deranged people are free to shoot others. It is free not to contract health insurance, and because of this, Americans are free to expose themselves to the possibility that if they do not have enough savings for their old age, they will be dependent on the "welfare" which is for everyone and provides only the most basic emergency services. It is free not to organize strong unions, and thus employers are free to fire redundant or unsuitable workers at will. (It must be admitted, this greatly advances economic competitiveness.) Without social insurance, you may get through the unemployment period without unemployment benefits. If we were irresponsible, we are free to live on the streets as homeless people. Although drug use is illegal, in a society dominated by a lack of social cohesion and extreme individualism, the downtrodden find a way to get it. Thus, more than 100,000 people may die of drug overdoses every year. (The number of suicides by veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress is almost the same.) The wonderful bay of Los Angeles, Venice Beach, which used to be a famous tourist attraction, is now avoided by foreigners because it has become a place for drug addicts and the homeless.

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<sup>2</sup> See Katalin Botos' review of the book in *The Future of Our Offsprings: (See foot next page)*

 [Demokrácia-e még Amerika?.pdf](#)

America is controlled by big business, large financial institutions and the military industrial complex. America's wars are not motivated by the spread and protection of democracy, but by the interests of these ruling circles. The following figures speak for themselves: America produces 25 percent of the world's GDP, its share in world military spending is 36 percent, and 42 percent in arms exports... It takes a great deal of narrow-mindedness not to see this, and behind America's foreign policy and wars – especially since the collapse of communism – to see the protection of democracies. During the Cold War era, America's wars were aimed at preventing the spread of communism. But since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the transformation of the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe, these wars have served imperial interests.

There is also a *sense of mission* behind them. The settlers, who left feudal Europe and restrictions behind them and created a new, free country, were rightly proud of their new homeland. "The Americans didn't just want to break with Europe, they wanted to create a new society capable of producing a new kind of humanity. They wanted to establish *the new Promised Land*, which could become the model of the universal Republic." ... "In 1668, William Stoughton exclaimed: >God has sifted a whole nation to send a chosen seed into the desert!<

For George Washington, the United States was *a New Jerusalem* >conceived by Providence to become the stage on which it may attain its true greatness.< Thomas Jefferson defines her community as a >universal nation that follows universal ideals.< John Adams speaks of a pure and virtuous republic, >whose destiny is to govern the globe and to inculcate human perfection.<<sup>3</sup> This sense of mission<sup>4</sup> – initially legitimate – seems to prevail even today, when America makes armed interventions in the most diverse countries of the world, if the developments do not go according to its taste. – America feels entitled to force dictatorial or perhaps just paternalistic regimes pursuing policies that are not friendly towards it, to occupy them, to teach them a lesson. And it will do it without further ado if his economic interests so desire.

In the half century following World War II, America was the defender of democracy, as communist dictatorships ruled in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China (as well as in a few other countries). The wars he fought at that time (mainly the Korean one, then the Vietnam one) could be seen as those he fought to stop the spread of communism), but the later ones (e.g. in Iraq and then in Afghanistan) were more of an imperial nature. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the transformation of the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe, it was no longer possible to refer to a communist threat, the protection of democracy was only a cover, an imperial interest. Today's atlanticists are stuck in the Cold War era. Their point of departure is that America is the world's largest democracy and the defender of democracies, so whatever America does, we must rally behind it.

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<sup>3</sup> Alain de Benoist: Amerika. In: Molnár Tamás: Amerikanológia. MMA Kiadó, 2022, Budapest.

<sup>4</sup> It was overshadowed by the systematic extermination of ten million North American Indians and the slavery, which was finally abolished only in 1846.

Of course you can say that Russia is an autocracy and China is still communist. But an autocracy is not the same as a communist system. Its mission, its violent expansion, arose from the essence of communism. ("... and the world will become international, by tomorrow!"). But this is not characteristic of autocracies. And the fact that China has remained "communist" only means that the central leadership keeps the processes under control and does not allow either market spontaneity or the excessive influence of money capital to prevail in important areas.

So, in perspective, we can even consider China as a model to follow... (I know, this is a harsh statement, but if we compare it to the opposite poles: American plutocracy and Western European degeneracy, and if we had to choose, it would be China!) – Although it is here we, Hungarians have our own!

We must treat America's fight against terrorism separately, which was a retaliation for the attack on the American twin towers on September 11, 2001, which resulted in nearly 3,000 deaths. George W. Bush ordered the War on Terror, which involved attacks and military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Somalia, and Yemen. The number of direct and indirect death casualties of the military operations there is between 3.6 and 3.7 million. At least 937,000 people died directly during the fightings, including 387,000 civilians. On the American side, the loss is 7,000 soldiers. Also, on average, an American veteran commits suicide every hour as a result of post-traumatic stress. Here is the result of *Pax Americana*: 4.6 million dead. (The death toll of the eight-year Vietnam War is estimated at between 800,000 and 3 million, and 58,000 American soldiers died.)

It is almost incomprehensible that the eyes of the Western Europeans are so blinded by the glitter of American freedom that they do not see the dark sides of the system, the millions of victims of its wars. The media takes care of that. Today, everything is decided on the screens of TV channels and smartphones. The big financial institutions, the military industrial complex, the investment funds, the big aces of information technology shape the public consciousness through their control and management of the media. Instead of the former generation of politicians, they put media celebrities at the head of individual governments.

Göd, July 26, 2024.