

WAR FOR LAND – Dr. Robert D. Hosken

In the C.E (“Common Era” – it’s considered ignorant and bigoted to say “A.D” – *Anno Domini* in Latin, which means “in the year of our Lord”), it is nevertheless important to realize that modern thinking is still permeated with the Christian ethic of loving your enemies and doing good to those who hate you. This ethic is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but is often paid only lipservice, as in calling the spy and war bureaus the departments of “State” and “Defense.”

Various reasons (rationalizations) are given, but the most basic reason for war is to seize the land and its wealth that belong to another country or nation. “The white man’s burden” or “The land of our ancestors” or “Making the world safe for Democracy” or “Lebensraum” or “Denazification” or “Manifest Destiny” or the “fulfillment of Bible prophecy” – all of these reasons have been used to justify land grabs. Ancient Israel once extended up into Lebanon and Syria, and included the territory of Gath (now Gaza) inhabited by the Philistines (now Palestinians). Israel’s leaders, not bothered by Christian ethics, claim that the current war in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria fulfill God’s command to exterminate those people and fulfill Bible prophecies such as in Jeremiah chapter 47. If we believe that the Bible is true, then we must conclude that the “C.E.” age of grace is wrapping up.

Other examples: the U.S. of today is the result of wars with the British, the French, the Spanish, and native Indian tribes. These are all normalized by the signing of peace treaties at the end, in which the loser gives up claims to some or all its land. After a war with European powers, the U.S. acquired Florida from Spain in 1819. Texas and southern California were annexed and became states in 1845 after wars with Mexico. Northern California had been settled by Russians along with Alaska, which was acquired from Russia peacefully (of all things!) for \$7.2 million in 1867. After the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines became U.S. protectorates in 1898.

We hardly need to mention the many wars in Europe to establish and expand kingdoms and empires – the German, Dutch, French, British, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian empires to name a few. Ukraine had slipped out from Russian control after World War One. The outcome of that war broke up not only the Russian Empire but also the British, French, Dutch, and German colonies in Africa and Asia. But in 1932-1933 Stalin’s “Holodomor” (literally “starvation plague”) killed 5 million Ukrainians to bring that area back under Russia’s new Soviet empire, resettling the Donbas, the eastern part, with Russians. Now one of Russia’s excuses for its invasion of Ukraine in 2014 is “to protect native Russian speakers” (who were not native to Ukraine three generations ago). In 1938-39 Hitler invaded Austria, then Czechoslovakia, then Poland, which precipitated World War Two.

The horrific nature of those wars and all modern warfare includes “total war” – the mass killing of whole civilian populations along with enemy combatants, using methods such as nuclear weapons, poison gas, napalm, land mines, thousands of bomblets in each artillery shell, and gas-air bombs that suck the oxygen out of the atmosphere, causing masses of people to suffocate. This is all justified by calling them “enemy co-belligerents” for co-operating with their own country’s soldiers.

But what would be more natural than for civilians to side with their own fighters in a conflict? Would not the Spanish and Mexican settlers in Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California have offered support and shelter to their soldiers? Would not an army make use of secret agents, guerrilla fighters, and partisans all purporting to be civilians, to pave the way for an invasion? Consider the millions upon millions of illegal immigrants coming into the U.S.A.: we know that some of them are foreign agents, but we simply don’t know how many others are. What if this is an elaborate plan to infiltrate our country with trained guerrilla fighters in order to foment an insurrection? Mexico doubtless has many citizens who hold a grudge with the U.S. for seizing so much of its former territory. Could a morally, demographically, and economically weakened U.S. withstand such an attack from within?