

So. Good news bad news.

Significant, but not yet critical gamma radiation spikes in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone since the Russian takeover of the complex yesterday. Hard to say exactly why, likely the soil being stirred up by the tanks rolling through. (map below, red dots = not good).

Bombs falling in Kyiv in residential areas. Our neighborhood, most neighborhoods, unaffected so far. Ukrainian forces shot down Russian bomber, civilian deaths.

Ukrainian 4th Rapid Response Brigade (trained by USMC, Semper Fi!) took back from Russian control an airport just north of Kyiv. Russians still hunting a suitable airport they can use for major troop/supply incursions.

Family is tired but well, considering. Inna, our oldest, better grasps the implications and is on edge. Boyrs, 2 years younger, is glad for the days off school. Liliya is a rock. Me? I didn't survive Covid in a Kyiv hospital just to be taken out by the likes of that homunculus in Moscow. We're packed. If we ever get back into our flat.

Russian airborne landing in northern Kyiv neighborhood, a 15-minute subway ride from us. Ukrainian National Guard is fighting like hell.

Now, for the commentary and a request. Call your representatives. Ukraine is a flawed nation, but it is making a serious attempt to deal with its problems for the past 8 years now. It has, by large majorities, rejected the Soviet model of corruption that continues in Russia. It deserves better than this.

Why you should care: Because Russia won't stop here. Russia is a mafia state, with a Godfather and his lieutenants. It is a crime syndicate run by men with no moral sense. None. When I was serving in Ternopil, I had occasion to hear the confession of an SBU General (KGB). For six days, I listened to this man, body riddled with cancer, as he sought absolution.

The point: Putin's worldview is the worldview shared by that general, the KGB worldview. Your life, the lives of your loved ones, are insignificant. Particularly if they get in the way of pure exercises of power and control.

I am not crazy, paranoid, or seeking fame. If my just under 30 years of living in this part of the world means anything, trust this: there are true agents of evil at work, lurking in search of whom they might devour.

Today, it's Ukraine. A nation that just wants to be like us. To live in a place where life, family, business, faith, and intellect are not objects of manipulation for the moneyed class.

This is no Marxist manifesto - this is human nature. Ukrainians want for their kids the same things you want for yours.

Putin and his ilk couldn't care less.

What you can do of an earthly nature: Ukraine is outmanned, outgunned. Contact your congressmen, your MPs, your leadership and tell them to push for the Establishment of a No-Fly Zone over Ukraine. Before it's too late.

Our boys are showing, over and over, that they can take the Russian force on, despite its superiority in numbers and firepower. But Ukraine lacks the air presence to sustain this.

And so, here we are. We're hanging in. Your words of encouragement are a gift beyond measure.

Sirens going off again. Back into the pit.

Peace from Kyiv