

*A collection of essays with unique insights on the profound issues of the day (and some not-so-profound issues), offering a highly individualistic mix of Right and Left ideas, of conservative, libertarian, and revolutionary radical views.*

**Searching for Truth in the Empire of Lies:  
An Evolution of Political and Societal Perspectives  
During the Decline of America and its Empire  
By A.J. Smuskiewicz**

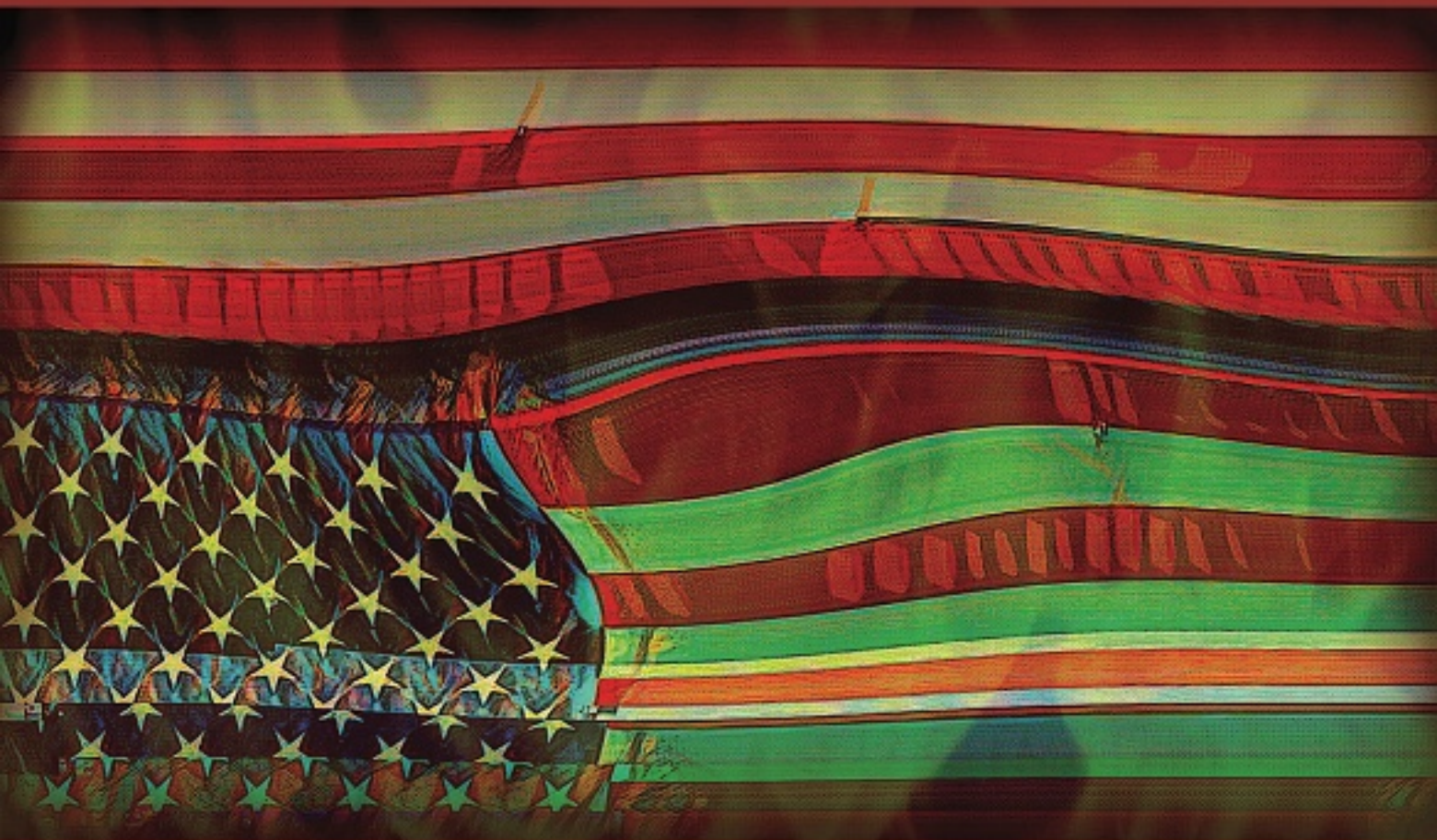
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# SEARCHING FOR TRUTH IN THE EMPIRE OF LIES

AN EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVES  
DURING THE DECLINE OF AMERICA AND ITS EMPIRE



A.J. SMUSKIEWICZ

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## Introduction

This book features a collection of my writings on political, scientific, societal, cultural, musical, and personal issues—and other diverse matters—from 2014 to 2024. During this ten-year period, I evolved from a generally conservative, mind-my-own-business type of guy who was mainly concerned about his freelance writing work to an outspoken political dissident advocating for revolutionary societal and governmental change in America. The writings reveal the thoughts and feelings of an always-independent-minded, brutally honest individual searching and probing for meaning and truth during the confusing, chaotic, tragically historic times of the early 21st century—a period increasingly drenched in ubiquitous and insidious government-corporate propaganda as dark stormy clouds of authoritarianism grow and spread all around us.

From urban violence and lawlessness to COVID crackdowns and mandates to blatant media dishonesty to social media censorship to politicized prosecutions to fraudulent elections to cultural perversions to reckless foreign wars to the worsening struggles of daily living... It has all seemingly hit the fan simultaneously or in rapid succession.

I came to gradually realize that almost everything I had been taught and thought I knew about America amounted to lies. I observed the U.S. government revealing its true authoritarian, fascistic nature in its corrupt partnership and merger with giant corporations. And I observed the American people revealing themselves to be weak, easily manipulated, compliant zombie sheep, even as more and more of their freedoms are stripped away. And I observed the combination of these factors fueling the reckless, insane warmongering around the globe that is threatening to push us all into a new world war.

It eventually became clear to me that a corrupted America and its waning global empire are in the midst of a dramatic suicidal decline and fall. The “Empire of Lies,” as Russian President Vladimir Putin has called the United States and the West, is finally being exposed for the whole world to see.

Therefore, these writings document the evolving political and societal perspectives of one observant American citizen as the American decline has become more obvious and as it progresses toward the precipitous cliff. The writings represent my rejection of the lies and my dogged search for some kind of truth.

One key revelation is this: It’s not about right vs left or conservative vs liberal anymore. Those are outdated concepts that the elites use to try to divide us. The real truth is that it is about top vs bottom today. The elite government/corporate/globalist authoritarian bastards at the top who want to take our freedoms away vs the vast numbers of all the rest of us regular people at the bottom. Regular folks on the right and left and in the middle need to come together to resist and fight against all the lies.

Yes, some of my opinions have changed over the years from those I expressed in my various writings, but I am publishing the essays here as I originally wrote them, with only a few minor edits. You will surely detect my changes in views as you read through the essays. *[I have added several Editor’s Notes in italicized brackets to clarify certain altered views or to make other points.]*

Please understand that the writings in this book are not all doom and gloom! There is also plenty of levity, irreverence, fun, and humor—though some of it may be rather dark humor.

I hope you will enjoy your reading. And perhaps you may learn a few things and become inspired to think more boldly for yourself and to speak out yourself against the Empire of Lies.

Peace!

A.J. Smuskiewicz  
Lockport, Illinois  
May 2024

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Intellectual Conservative, August 9, 2022

## **A NEW DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

A hypothetical declaration for your consideration:

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for people to dissolve the political bonds that have connected them to a government, and to establish a new government to which the laws of Nature and God entitle them, they should declare the causes that impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their well-being and happiness.

When a long train of abuses and oppressions reveals a government design to reduce the people to living under authoritarianism and despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future well-being and security. Such has been the patient suffering of the people of the corrupted United States of America, and such is now the necessity that constrains them to alter their system of government. The history of the present U.S. government over the past few decades is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of a corrupt and evil tyranny over the people.

This tyranny has been growing for many years, but the abuse of power has now reached the point of being completely intolerable and unacceptable. This is evidenced by such recent actions as the unconstitutional restrictions on liberty during the COVID pandemic, the purposeful destruction of the U.S. economy to promote false political doctrines, the fraudulent 2020 presidential election and the continued subversion of the electoral process, the persecution of January 6 protestors, the arrests and prosecutions of supporters and associates of former President Donald Trump, and—in the most flagrant abuse of power yet—the illegal FBI raid on the former president’s home in Florida for purely political reasons.

The federal government—including leaders of both major political parties—has persisted in carrying out these horrendous assaults on the people, along with its dishonorable partners in many state and local governments, large private corporations, the media, academia, and other established elite institutions. All of these institutions represent serious problems that the people urgently need to address. However, the present declaration is limited to addressing abuses and oppressions committed

by the federal government, with the confidence that once those abuses and oppressions are corrected, the rest of the problems will become much easier to solve.

With all of these points in mind, let the following facts about the current U.S. federal government be submitted to the world:

It has repeatedly ignored, selectively applied, and violated the principles of the U.S. Constitution to advance its authoritarian, undemocratic, politicized agendas.

It has assumed numerous unconstitutional powers over the lives and activities of the people, as recently highlighted during the COVID pandemic.

It has subverted the constitutional rights and powers of the individual states, forcing federal powers and policies upon them through coercive means.

It has stifled free speech and independent thought (in collaboration with its powerful corporate partners), through such actions as the censoring of public commentary on the Internet and the forced firings of people who disagree with its COVID policies.

It has turned almost all of the free press into an enormous, powerful tool of government propaganda.

It has effectively transferred government power from democratically elected representatives to unelected “Deep State” bureaucrats and officials at countless government agencies.

It has, both literally and figuratively, weaponized the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service to persecute political opponents and dissidents, such as through the harassment and prosecutions of Trump and his supporters and the dramatically increased and abusive powers of tax authorities.

It has perverted and corrupted the private business sector through such coercive anti-American methods as the ESG (environmental, social, governance) agenda.

It has purposely sabotaged critically important sectors of the U.S. economy, such as the fossil fuel and agriculture industries.

It has selectively enforced basic laws and refused to prosecute many violent criminals, often on the basis of political considerations, greatly jeopardizing public safety.

It has provoked societal divisions among the people by stoking hatred and resentment based on race, religion, and other personal characteristics.

It has corrupted the public education system, such as by forcing children to be subjected to political propaganda, lies about science and history, and sexual perversions.

It has surrendered the sovereignty and best interests of the United States to foreign countries and global institutions, including China, the World Health Organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the World Economic Forum.

It has refused to enforce the integrity of U.S. borders, allowing an ongoing foreign invasion that endangers the people through crime, narcotics, and other threats.

It has repeatedly provoked and waged pointless and wasteful foreign wars, sacrificing both the wealth and lives of the American people to advance the greedy interests of the military-industrial complex and to expand the powers of the ruling globalist cabal.

And—most devastatingly—it has deeply corrupted both the judicial and electoral systems (as demonstrated by the fraudulent 2020 presidential election and the continuing efforts to corrupt

election integrity and persecute the January 6 protestors), effectively neutering the only legal options that the people have to challenge and change the corrupted system and to address their grave grievances.

Because of all these oppressions, the United States is no longer the functioning democratic republic that was established by the U.S. Constitution. The elite authoritarians that have entrenched themselves in power have succeeded in their goal of destroying that republic.

In every stage of these oppressions, we the people have sought corrections through the established legal methods, such as elections, protests, petitions, and court actions. However, our repeated efforts have been answered only by repeated injury. A political leader, whose character is thus marked by every act that may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Therefore, we the people of the United States of America solemnly pronounce that we can no longer recognize the legitimacy of the corrupted, lawless United States federal government. Nor can we any longer retain allegiance to this government.

Furthermore, we declare that—if this corrupted federal government cannot be changed, corrected, and cleansed through the established legal electoral or judicial processes—we nullify its authority and support its removal through insurrection, revolution, secession, or any other available option.

And we support the replacement of the discarded corrupted, lawless government with a new, law-abiding, free, and independent government entity that is strictly bound by the principles of the original U.S. Constitution and its subsequent legal amendments. This new government shall have full power to carry out all activities that independent states have a right to.

And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the righteousness of our cause in the eyes of Nature and God, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

The Unz Review, April 12, 2024

## **Imagine No War: With the World on the Brink of WWII, Perhaps It's Time to Realize We Are All Brothers**

I remember, from when I was studying biology at the University of Illinois in the early 1980s, a genetics professor talking to our class about Jews and Palestinians. I recall him sharing his view with us that the conflict between these two groups of people—each violently fighting for their perceived religious, cultural, and biological identities—was illogical, because, biologically speaking, they are identical people.

This professor was apparently referring specifically to those Jews with a purely Middle Eastern genetic heritage, as opposed to those with substantial European genetics. His expressed view was obviously an oversimplification of the complex genetic and historic backgrounds of both groups of people. Nevertheless, it is true that scientific analyses have identified strong genetic similarities between modern-day Jewish people and modern-day Palestinians, as well as certain other Middle Eastern people.

So, in a sense, the seemingly endless and worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict really amounts to brother fighting and killing brother.

Of course, the same kind of genetic similarities exist between many groups of people that have been in conflict in the past or that are in conflict today. Ukrainians and Russians. English, Irish, and Scots. Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans. North and South in the American Civil War. Needless to say, all people are ultimately related to one another, and we all have our genetic roots in Africa. We are all ultimately brothers and sisters.

That sounds all nice, warm, fuzzy, and groovy. But so what. Being related to some guy doesn't mean you can't hate him—or even want to kill him. Plenty of real brothers and sisters and other family members can't stand each other. So, what the hell is my point in even bringing up all this genetic stuff?

War is a waste

My point is to suggest that people might benefit from some deeper reflection—besides just picking a side to support—regarding the situations in Gaza and Ukraine and all the other horrible wars and ugly hatreds that are dominating world events these days, threatening to throw us all into World War III. For example, I support the Russians and the Palestinians in the current raging conflicts. But that support exists at only one level of my consciousness and intellectual reasoning—at a level where I choose sides among warring parties based on my understanding of the recent



geopolitical events that have led up to particular conflicts, including my perception of what factors constitute the ethically “right” or “just” side of the argument.

However, at a deeper level of my consciousness and intellectual reasoning, I am aware of the dishonesty and stupidity of choosing any side in any war, and I am aware that all wars are immoral exercises in folly and absurdity. The only real beneficiaries are politicians and weapons makers. The great masses of regular people on both sides of any conflict always have to pay the price. The unlucky individuals who get killed or come home from the pointless war with mangled bodies and fucked-up minds pay the biggest price. Furthermore, whatever outcomes result from a war, no matter which side “wins,” serve mainly to lay the groundwork for future conflicts and more wars.

Eventually—with any war—no one will remember, and many lies will be told about, how or why the fighting started, what was actually accomplished through the fighting, and who actually won or lost. While I have been closely following the events in Ukraine and Gaza, I also decided to reread one of my favorite books—Gwynne Dyer’s *War*, originally published in 1985.

A couple paragraphs from Dyer’s book that I think really stand out and that should be kept in mind by any enthusiastic supporter of any side in any war are the following. Dyer placed these paragraphs after a description of the ancient Egyptian-Canaanite-Syrian battle of Megiddo (Armageddon):

Yet all the effort and sacrifice entailed in fighting wars—each of which seems so important at the time—doesn’t actually lead anywhere. In the end, it is virtually canceled out. The only thing that makes the battle of Megiddo important to us is the fact that we know about it. It is hard to feel any real sense of regret about the men who lost their lives on that day, because they would have been dead for over 3,400 years now anyway. It is impossible to care much about who won the battle, because both sides lived long ago and far away, and most of what they cared for—their family and friends, their language, their religion, their personal and political hopes and fears—has vanished utterly. This is not at all the way we feel about the Normandy invasion of 1944, but if history goes on long enough, the day will come when Megiddo and Normandy will seem on a par: equally futile and equally meaningless.

Naturally, we resist and resent that conclusion with all our strength. That war of 3,400 years ago was obviously a mere power struggle with no moral justification, whereas any war our nation becomes involved in today will be just and necessary. The soldiers who were killed on the battlefield of Megiddo died in vain, but if today’s generation of young men have to die on the Central Front in Europe, it will decide the moral fate of mankind forever. The man in the ranks of Thutmose III’s army of Armageddon was deluded about the importance of his death, but the man in a Chieftain tank (or a T-62) in Germany today is not. And I am the Queen of Sheba.

## Crazy about war

Within the past few years, it seems like the entire world has gone crazy about war. Gaza and Ukraine have recently received the overwhelming share of media attention, but as explained by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), violent conflict is raging all over the place. The following text is from the organization's January 2024 update:

Conflict [meaning war or other violent conflict] is now widespread and pervasive: 12% more conflict occurred in 2023 compared to 2022, and ACLED records an increase of over 40% compared to 2020. One in six people live in an actively conflicted area. In 234 countries and territories covered by ACLED, the majority—168—saw at least one incident of conflict in 2023. Over 147,000 conflict events are recorded, and at least 167,800 fatalities....

Conflict rates exist on a spectrum, and some level of conflict occurs in almost every country. The highest levels are found in the 50 countries highlighted in the Index list. These countries are categorized as 'extreme,' 'high,' or 'turbulent.' These top 50 ranked countries account for 97% of all conflict events recorded for the past 12 months. The extremely violent countries account for 40% of all conflict....

Of those countries with extreme violence, two are in Africa (Nigeria and Sudan), and Sudan continues to get worse as mass killings are a key feature of that conflict. Three countries are in the Middle East (Palestine, Yemen, and Syria), underscoring the depth of problems that persist in the region across decades. Myanmar is the sole Asian country with extreme violence, but it remains the most difficult conflict case in the world. Finally, four of the 10 extremely violent places are in Latin America (Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Haiti); barring Haiti, all are also considered relatively stable democracies and market economies despite being riddled with gangs, contested authorities, corruption, and violence against civilians. There are no large, traditional wars in these countries, but multiple, deadly, pervasive small conflicts.

These small conflicts and their characteristics continue to be the most persistent feature of instability across developing and more-developed countries. A key feature of these conflicts is the number of armed groups, and their agendas: several thousand militias and gangs operate across these conflicts, and their goals are often local authority and control. They do not seek to govern, speak for maligned or excluded groups, or transform the political system to be more democratic, fair, or representative. They are locked into a contest for power, where violence is the most effective tool available to them....

The world is getting far more violent in recent years: conflict event rates have increased by over 40% from 2020 through 2023; and increased 12% in 2023 from 2022 rates. But 2020 was a relatively less violent year compared to 2018-2019, when wars in both Afghanistan and Syria raged. Compared to those years, the increase in 2023 is still significant at an average of 20%.

## Normalization of insanity

War and other political-religious violence is always horrible, inhumane, and evil—regardless of whatever justifications are proclaimed by any side. The primary insane and immoral feature that characterizes all wars is this: Human beings are killing and maiming other human beings because some powerful or influential political or religious leaders told them to do so. In wars, men are not typically compelled to go fight and kill other men because they were personally wronged in any way. The individual Russian soldier was most likely not personally harmed by the particular Ukrainian soldiers that he is killing. And if that Russian had met those particular Ukrainians under normal, peaceful conditions, he might have struck up friendships with them and went out together to drink beers or pick up chicks.

But the soldiers on a battlefield have been whipped into hysterical frenzies by being fed propaganda by their governments. They have been psychologically manipulated into such irrational, abnormal, pathological mental conditions that they will proudly and “bravely” slaughter their brothers on the battlefield—brothers that their governments or other authorities have convinced them to view as enemies. The soldiers, if they possessed their normal peacetime levels of sanity, would recoil in horror at the idea of killing other men, especially strangers that they never even met before. But in wartime, they willingly let go of that sanity and turn into murderous insane savages, because they have been ordered to do so by authority figures, who tell them that it is their patriotic duty to kill.

War is the normalization of insanity. Temporary insanity. Then when the soldiers return to their normal civilian lives, if they are fortunate enough to survive the brutal horror of war, they suddenly have to act sane again and go back to remembering that murder is bad. No wonder so many veterans have permanent psychological damage.

## War as a sport

I have always been strongly anti-war, though, like most everyone else, whenever a conflict breaks out somewhere in the world, I find myself rooting for one side or the other if the conflict, for some reason, interests me. So, I root for the Russians in Ukraine. I root for the Palestinians in Gaza. I convince myself that the side I pick is the “right” side.

Deep in the recesses of my brain, however, I intellectually know that both sides are wrong. I know that, morally and ethically speaking, killing is always wrong—unless it’s an individual-to-individual case of personal self-defense. If a scary armed guy breaks into my house to rob or kill me, I have an ethical right to shoot him to defend my life and property. That would be a logical action in such a dangerous personal confrontation.

But I pick a side in a distant war, far from my home, like it’s the fucking World Series or Super Bowl, though, truth be told, the results of those distant wars are totally irrelevant and meaningless to my life in a small town in the Midwestern United States. Totally meaningless, other than the fact that my tax money is being wasted on the wars. It’s almost a sick form of entertainment for me and other Americans, who have not known war on our own lands in 160 years. It’s like war porn. Check

the latest news headlines and listen to my preferred commentators to see how my side is doing on the battlefield. So exciting! I should feel ashamed about it, if I'm honest with myself.

When Carter reinstated registration for the draft (or Selective Service) in 1980, I was 20 years old and I registered under protest, by writing "under protest" on the registration form. Like anyone in the Selective Service System gave a shit what I thought about it. Fortunately, I never had to go fight in a war. If I had been born earlier and been forced to deal with the Vietnam-era draft, I'm sure I would have become a draft resister. Perhaps one of those guys who had to flee to Canada. No way would I have gone to Vietnam.

I reject the military at every level. I do not support American wars or politicians who push wars. Historically speaking, the only wars that this country fought that were arguably ethically justified were the Revolutionary War and World War II. All the others were unjustified imperialist adventures or other forms of waste or unnecessary nonsense. Furthermore, I do not honor veterans or consider them "heroes." Other than the WWII vets (perhaps), none of them fought for "freedom" or "democracy." Rather, they fought for big greedy corporate interests. At best, vets might be considered hapless victims and unfortunate pawns in the evil, selfish games of the military-industrial-political complex.

I feel terribly sorry for the guys who got sucked into the military, especially those guys with the crippled bodies and missing limbs that I see in the TV commercials for Wounded Warrior and other veterans-help organizations. Those commercials make me intensely hate the politicians that sent those poor guys off to fight in the pointless wars. Somebody should make those goddamn politicians suffer the same fate.

The only American war that I might support is one in which the country was directly invaded by a hostile, malevolent foreign power. It would have to be a matter of genuine national self-defense. But, considering the seemingly hopeless cultural and societal rot in which the U.S. is mired these days, I would probably be tempted to support the foreign invader.

Indigenous is irrelevant

Returning to the Palestinian-Israeli matter, that cycle of war seems to be endless. As long as both sides cling to their firm beliefs that they are the true indigenous people of the land, based on their understandings of religion and history, the conflict will continue generation after generation. I was recently a guest on Kevin Barrett's Truth Jihad podcast, discussing a wide range of issues. One of the issues that came up was the matter of who are the real indigenous people of Palestine. Kevin asserted that there is no question that the Palestinians are the real indigenous people of the land. I did not disagree, but I raised the point that the Jews will never agree to that interpretation of history no matter how much evidence might be presented, because they will point to the Bible and claim that God gave the land to people of their religion thousands of years ago.

Frankly, I don't give a damn who the indigenous or original people of Palestine were. In scientific reality, they constituted a culture of people that is long gone and long dead. They weren't Palestinians or Israelis. They weren't Jews or Muslims. According to archaeologists, the first people

who lived in the land that is now Palestine/Israel, more than 11,500 years ago, belonged to a now-extinct hunter-gatherer culture called the Natufian.

But at the point in history where humanity is today, indigenouness is irrelevant anyway. If indigenouness is so important, all the white people—and all other non-aboriginal people—should get the hell out of North and South America and Australia immediately. But I don't hear any serious argument calling for that. There are realities on the ground today that simply have to be taken into consideration in any proposed solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Any "solution" that calls for wiping out either Jews or Palestinians from the land is not realistic.

The most frequently heard proposed "solution" for decades has been the "two-state" solution, which would mean establishing an independent Muslim/Arab-dominated state for Palestinians alongside the Jewish-dominated state of Israel. I don't think that will ever work, because each side views the other too suspiciously and hatefully, and each side would continue to be obsessed with security concerns about their neighbor.

It's like the old joke about women. Can't live with them (can't have two states). Can't live without them (can't wipe out the other group). The problem seems impossible to solve. There seems to be no solution in this crazy world that we have created—a world in which people insist on dividing themselves into groups based on religious, cultural, and national identities.

### Imagine a different world

It's a sad, depressing reality, but we can still use our imagination to think "outside the box" of that self-imposed reality. It's a reality that we created. If it's not working right, maybe it's time we created a new reality. What if we could, to paraphrase John Lennon, imagine no religion, imagine no countries... Nothing to kill or die for... Imagine all the people living life in peace.

I have often thought that the most logical solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dilemma would be the elimination of the current Jewish state of Israel, the abandonment of the idea of a separate Palestinian state, and the establishment of a brand new state with absolutely no religious ties and no religious/cultural preferences/references at all. It would be a completely secular state in which all human beings have the exact same rights, with fully equal distribution of resources, opportunities, and power.

People would be free to practice any religion or cultural habits of their preference, but there would be zero government involvement in religion or other traditional cultural matters. The government would simply take care of the usual necessary government administrative business and totally avoid making any reference or having any connection to any religion. Whoever wants to live in the land could live there, with genuine equality protected for all. And anyone who started stirring up religious or cultural division—whether on the Jewish or Palestinian side—would be prosecuted for a crime. This land would not be called by the inflammatory names of Israel or Palestine. Need to come up with a new, neutral name. Peaceland?

It would be a system designed to allow Palestinians, Jews, and anybody else to live on the shared land in peace, as the brothers and sister that they really are. Stop all the fighting, all the divisiveness, and all the God bullshit already, and just be human beings.

That would be logical, rational, and humanistic, at least in my analysis. Unfortunately, people are often more emotional than logical. And that emotion keeps them clinging to old tribal ideas regardless of how many people get killed or live in misery as a consequence of that outdated tribalism. Needless to say, there are also strong financial motivations among certain stakeholders in keeping the mindless tribalism and divisiveness going.

Nevertheless, if you want a true, permanent solution to the problem, I think that's the only one. No matter how unrealistic it might seem, it's still the only logical, lasting solution. But making it real would require lots of people to give up some of their longtime cherished notions about both themselves and their "enemies."

Disgusted by warmongering

The same type of reasoning could be applied to most of the other conflicts raging around the world. For example, Russians and Ukrainians are brothers with deep historical connections, and they should not be fighting and killing each other, goddamn it! The main reason they are fighting is because of the outside pushing of the American Empire, the profit motive of the American military-industrial complex, the power motive of corrupt Ukrainian politicians, and the propaganda and brainwashing on both sides of the conflict. In addition, I suspect that Russia, like the United States, has its own military-industrial complex that is profiting mightily from the prolonging of this stupid war.

War is the dumbest, most irrational of all human endeavors. Religion is probably the second dumbest and second most irrational endeavor. I have absolutely no use for either. I would prefer that humans throw both in the trash bin of history and work together to build new societies based on logic, humanism, brotherliness, cooperation, and peace.

You may say that I'm a dreamer. But I am extremely disgusted with all the wars and warmongering in the news. The leaders of the world have gone insane in their apparent lust for World War III. Perhaps I'm a dreamer, but at least I'm not insane like them.

And I will continue to imagine a world without war.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ9aDGKz1yE>

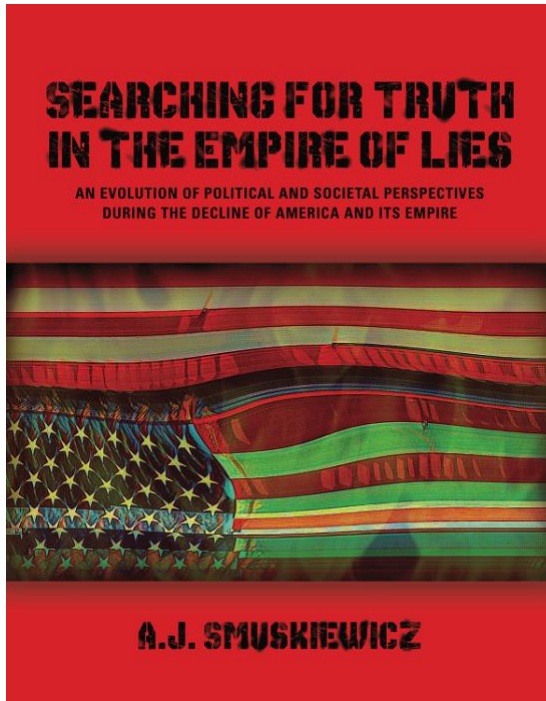
## About this Book and the Author

Over the past several years, since the mid-2010s, America and Americans have gone through astonishing, unprecedented political, geopolitical, societal, and cultural changes. BLM, Antifa, transgenders, diversity equity inclusion, Trump derangement syndrome, rigged elections, an “insurrection,” COVID crackdowns, vaccine mandates, assaults on free speech, political persecutions and prosecutions, mainstream media propaganda, the merger of state and corporate power, and reckless involvement in foreign wars that threaten to launch World War III.

These events raise serious doubts about the sanity of the U.S. and Western elites who are driving the changes, and they point to the precipitous decline of America and its “Empire of Lies,” as Vladimir Putin has labeled it.

Chicago-based freelance educational writer and political commentator A.J. Smuskiewicz has carefully observed it all. He has evaluated, re-evaluated, and documented his evolving perspectives on the national and international chaos in this collection of essays, compiled from his published works during the momentous period of 2014 to 2024. The essays offer his unique, distinctly personal insights on the profound issues of the day (and some not-so-profound issues), with an unusual, highly individualistic mix of Right and Left ideas, of conservative, libertarian, and revolutionary radical views.

Smuskiewicz compiled this collection as America was in the midst of another wild and weird election season—with one candidate facing possible imprisonment, a second candidate apparently struggling with dementia, and a third candidate posing a threat to both. Where could America and the world be headed? These essays will help to give you the background knowledge and frame of reference you need to understand and deal with whatever the hell is going to happen in this Empire of Lies.



*A collection of essays with unique insights on the profound issues of the day (and some not-so-profound issues), offering a highly individualistic mix of Right and Left ideas, of conservative, libertarian, and revolutionary radical views.*

**Searching for Truth in the Empire of Lies:  
An Evolution of Political and Societal Perspectives  
During the Decline of America and its Empire**

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