

The Hydra Problem



One suggestion regarding a very-many-headed problem in our world

M. J. Dudziak ¹

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“Hydra Problem” is my term for the problem that is very visibly showing itself for decades and very demonstrably intensified throughout the Middle of our World – Israel-Palestine-Gaza, Syria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, DRC, Kurdistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran. From the outset, I make the claim that until we “connect all the dots” we will never see the shape of what is the complete, comprehensive, unified, interconnected One Problem, and until we do that, we will never be able to solve any one part of it decisively. (Another way of looking at things is this way: you cannot patch a leaking boat that is made of such a flimsy material (patches of wood and leather and other fabrics) such that every time you find and patch one leak, the impact of you and others walking around, working, putting pressure here and there, causes two or three or ten other leaks to spring and patches to break.)

Part of the inspiration for writing this essay comes from the excellent teleconference in which I was a silent participant this morning. The event, “Shaping the Future Global: A Conversation with Peace Makers and Educators in Israel, Palestine and Gaza who are all working for peace,” was organized and sponsored by Verge Multimedia (<http://vergemm.com>) and produced by Verge Multimedia’s founder, Steven Zuckerman. I give my strongest endorsement and affirmation to everything that I have heard and read from this forum and circle. However, I want to state clearly that the views expressed herein, to the extent that they may bother anyone or be viewed as being erroneous, poorly reasoned or otherwise with flaws, are entirely my responsibility and I do not attribute my ideas (or their errors) to anyone else, period.

¹ M. J. Dudziak, PhD <http://ecoaduna.org>, <http://instinnovstudy.org>

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I will go straight to my point, but I will take a little time in getting to the part that probably every reader wants “right away” – namely, “How to Do It Effectively.” Clearly, there is no simple, crisp, 1-2-3 “Answer” coming from myself or anyone. But there is a twist or turn in thinking and action that I have to offer, and it is expressed in this essay, after just a few pages. If you are in a big hurry, skip down to the picture of the clock at “one minute to midnight.”

Our Hydra Problem is planetary-encompassing, race-encompassing, species-encompassing, and it does not have one center, one cause, one head, one solution that any government or coalition of governments, corporations, NGOs or coalitions is going to solve. The solution ultimately is about “dollars and euros and pounds, and roubles, rials, yen and yuán as well” – but not in the way most people everywhere think about these things. Give me ten times all the assets of governments and NGOs and factions that are working either for or against peace in the Middle East and I will give you not a real, substantive, sustainable Solution but just a new set of patches.

The real and lasting solution involves masses of people exerting control over mass-economies. This control does not require billions of dollars and euros. It does require sustained, coherent, focused, consistent Action that affects the economies of the world. This is attainable, feasible, do-able, and for the same reasons and with the same tools as have been used by forces of conflict, dissension, strife and violence to create and sustain the present and fatal-if-untreated Hydra Problem.

The solutions will never come from governments, nor from special interest groups and cliques and cartels that are essentially the same as what we term “governments” and in most cases (a) more powerful and (b) in control of various governments – e.g., large multi-national corporations, conglomerates and consortia.

The solutions will also not come from celebrities and big-name, “Davos” type leaders, nor from “TED” narcissists, nor from, well, most of what is splashed and glued and stapled into peoples’ minds through the mass-media, and particularly through the comprehensive, 7x24xglobal process of how information is disseminated and distributed on both TV and the Web.

The solutions will come from Very Large Numbers of People doing ACTION that is concretely and decisively ECONOMICAL in its impact and effects. Solutions to major problems that involve – inseparably – all the factors of water, food, shelter, energy, health, security, relaxation, peace of mind, happiness, will not be achieved without Control of Our Economy. Let me rephrase that – Control of our personal, family, community, “group” (whatever that is for different people) day-to-day economic activity between and among each other.

Economics IS what groups of people – societies – DO. We exchange things of value in order to fulfill needs and desires. Production and Trade of goods and services is what enables economics. Control of production and trade is how economics can be managed in order to attain objectives such as a cessation of the killing, maiming, scarring and disrupting of infants, children, sons and daughters, wives, husbands, whole families and clans, Everywhere. The only solution is one that is fundamentally ECONOMICAL and involving – simultaneously and globally - PRODUCTION, SUPPLY, DEMAND, and CONSUMPTION.

I do not need to reiterate the list of the most evident and visible places. I do not need to add more to that list. My world map in my home has a red sticky-dot on most of the known, current, active or simmering locations of violent

conflict (including “non-lethal” but equally destructive; e.g., human slavery and trafficking, herding of refugees into camps). There is now a wide, nearly continuous red band stretching all the way around the middle (but not only) of the globe, wherever there are people. Wherever there are humans living in some form of society, doing an Economy from day to day, 7x24, their work, their lives – but not in their own control.

We can talk about conferences, dialogs, and meetings. We can prepare resolutions, reports, recommendations. We can struggle to squeeze in something about peace, reason, sanity, into some relatively obscure modes of the world’s media, through websites, portals, webcasts, and maybe, just maybe, there might be a few minutes’ coverage on Al Jazeera or RT or NPR or even, once in a blue moon, on BBC.

But what will stop the bombs and rockets, and also the rapes, the tortures, the threats, and the fueling and reinforcing of fear and insecurity and hate, is going to come when very large masses of people do something that has never been done before but which is also something that was not possible before.

No, not a massive army – no “Children’s Crusade” nonsense.

No, not a massive worldwide “demonstration for peace” at 12-noon GMT some wondrous day when the planets are in the right conjunction.

No, not a massive concert in Hyde Park attended virtually by even millions.

No, not even if every one of Zuckerberg’s mythical billion Facebook users all send a Tweet all at the same time as a prayer for peace.

I called this a Hydra Problem and that means “many heads” and “you cannot go after just one head at a time” because for every one you cut off you get two new ones growing back. (If this is not a good description of the whole situation for (in particular) the past century in the Greater Middle East, then I don’t know what.)

I said that the only solution is one that is fundamentally ECONOMIC and involving PRODUCTION, SUPPLY, DEMAND, and CONSUMPTION. How we do this is by massive and comprehensive near-total disruption of the Economic Process – the Financial Machine - of those who are feeding the fires of violence, conflict, hate and war, and who are precisely those who can put down and turn off the processes by which all of these worsening conflicts and confrontations are occurring nonstop presently.

This is not a matter for would-be cyberwarriors or any other “disrupters” in the old-fashioned, outmoded, “conventional” sense. This is not a matter for “non-violent civil disobedience” nor for hackers or attackers of any sort. Remember the Hydra. Cut off one small head, and find two or four or twenty growing back in its place.

There can be a hundred “Operation Wall Street” protests, a “Million-Person March”, a thousand ships, trains, and planes laden with military ordnance and supplies blocked from starting off from the factories and ports, a massive “denial of service” or a blitzkrieg of Stuxnet and Shamoon botnet attacks. Uh-uh. Not the Answer. A definitely big “Not.” There will only be reaction, recovery, and reinvigorated renewal of the same things we all want to stop.

Do any of the “reactive” measures that people have tried, both passive and active, both non-violent and legal as well as all that are not – do any of them work or do any of them show even the slightest credibility for working now, when the situation is far worse, the odds far worse, the criticality far more severe?

I am strongly of the opinion that they have not and will not work. We need to “pull the plug” in a manner that is impactful enough, sustained enough, that the forces for division, hate and war will simply not be able to “sit it out” and laugh mockingly about how ineffectual are all those (take your pick: pacifists, intellectuals, humanists, academics, etc.). When they see Something Entirely Different from all that has been tried up until now, then they will learn Fear and Insecurity of an entirely new flavor, a new dimension, and they will not be capable of responding with “business as usual” (including, “response-by-ignoring-and-brushing-off-as-usual”).

Look at the “clock”, People! This is not the clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, which is still left set (too far back, in my opinion) at 5 minutes to midnight. This is more like it, and we don’t need a single nuclear weapon to be detonated anywhere to do ourselves in at the rate we are going.



HOW TO DO IT EFFECTIVELY, Part 1

I do not claim to have even 1% of “the answers.” I begin by laying out one person’s thoughts – mine, for how to achieve the massive attainment of massive economic control in such a manner that enables the masses of people who want peaceful, busy, meaningful, gainful, productive, happy lives and not an endless living in stress and violence.

In-Person Communication, Convincing and Organizing – necessary and absolutely essential

Everything we need to do can make use of and be amplified, made faster, easier, vaster, by the internet, by all the social networks and web media, but there is no getting around the need to be talking face-to-face and by other visual, vocal, direct person-to-person means.

And this is what needs to be communicated.

We all consume and use. We drink, eat, consume fuels and other forms of energy. We clothe ourselves, we decorate ourselves. We travel. We work at jobs (if we can!). We entertain. We do our best to make ends meet and take care of essentials and necessities and then we want to relax, have leisure, have fun, and fulfill our desires, whatever and all that they may be. This is the reality of being alive (not just being “human”).

Economy = one nice seven-letter word that encompasses all of the last paragraph. And within it we can talk about supply and demand of goods and services of all types, and the production, distribution, and consumption thereof.

WE are Seven Billion Consumers. YOU know what you consume – what you need, what you want, what you buy, what you use.

Every single person has the Power over what they consume. Every single Person. Each person reading this, each person you know, each person that that person knows – and so on. Pretty soon you are into the Millions. Pretty soon you are into the Hundreds of Millions. And we still haven't exhausted any one of those persons with respect to their voices, feet, fingers at the keyboard, or all of the other ways WE can Communicate and thereby CONTROL.

THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD IS IN YOUR MIND, VOICE, HANDS, AND FEET

RIGHT NOW

ABSOLUTELY RIGHT NOW – YOU – EACH OF US – FULLY EMPOWERED

There are said to be well over 100 Million (100,000,000) AK-47 assault rifles operable today across the globe. That's about one AK-47 for every 70 human beings. Think of it. Certainly there is the capacity, in principle, for all of us to kill off most of the world's population just by conventional weapons – no nukes required.

The “power” that “comes out of the barrel of a gun” to borrow from one of the world's most heinous mass-killers, Mao Tse-tung, is seemingly so great, and yet – Yet! I claim and you will surely agree that there is a much stronger, vaster, more sustainable, and truly irresistible Power that comes from the Willful and Determined Action of People who are United by a common drive and needs.

Once it is all focused, just like a laser, to point into one ACTION.

I told you that I did not have “finished” answers, plans, and that this is all the beginnings of some sort of Action Plan. So don't expect what is not possible to come from any one person. But here is a scenario that can be taken and considered. Let's see what comes of it.

In two days is the famous American obsessive-compulsive greed-a-thon known as “Black Friday,” The ultimate shopping day, now moved up to begin even on the morning of Thanksgiving Day, and with some people literally camping out at the entrances of Wal-Marts and other “superstores” since this past weekend.

I hereby propose,

WHITE MONDAY

White for clearing the slate, for wiping away all of the dirt, the crap, the worse, off our collective tables.

When, exactly? Where? How?

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As soon as possible, obviously, but also, obviously, it will take some time, to “do it right.”

As for “Where?” – Worldwide. Everywhere.

As for “How?” – Simple. With your abilities and powers that you have right now, and it does not cost a penny. It takes only your Will. Your decision to be a part of the Solution and no longer a sustainer of the Problem.

White Monday is not a one-minute-of-silent-prayer event. White Monday is not one hour of striking and stopping work. White Monday is not one day of marching in the streets, filling the squares, chanting songs and slogans, waving banners, lighting torches, hurling bottles or rocks or worse.

WHITE MONDAY is the FIRST DAY of TAKING CONTROL OF OUR ECONOMIES so totally, so completely, so effectively, that we BRING THE BRINGERS OF WAR AND HATE TO STAND BEFORE US POWERLESS.

How long can you do “without”?

Without what, you ask?

Without going to any store for anything, with tiny exceptions, and without doing any business whatsoever with those companies who are Part of the Making and Sustaining of the Problem.

Without using any more energy, any type of fuel, than is absolutely, minimally necessary.

Without going to work, wherever and whatever that is, if the place for whom one works is Part of the Problem or supportive, directly or indirectly, of those that are the Makers and sustainers of the Problem.

Without spending one cent, one dollar or euro or yen, on anything that is not absolutely necessary, and going completely out of the way, within reason, to find and do business with Only those who are Part of the Solution and not the Others.

This has to be Total and Across-the-Board. From the moment of waking to the moment of going to sleep.

It means NO watching ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CNN. At All. Period. Not their news. Not their sports. Not their sitcoms.

It means NO buying a single thing from Amazon.com. Period.

It means NO using Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Discover, Capital One. Period.

It means PUNCHING YOUR FIST ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE GUT OF THE MAKERS AND SUSTAINERS OF THE PROBLEM.

It means spending every possible moment of your time communicating to others and getting them onboard.

It means working together with all sorts of other people for Alternative Economic Activities which include actual trade, service, barter, novel credit, and novel doing-with and doing-without.

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It means making a conscious, intelligent, innovative Effort to Live Your Life and Be Happy without the dependence and slavery in the prison of those who are the Makers and Sustainers of the Problem.

It means eating less. Trust me – you can do this, if you are busy, energized and fulfilled.

It means driving less.

It means buying less – of everything. Everything. Just think of the impact of a 25% reduction in sales of clothing in the USA and EU for one week.

If we are to achieve Success at Saving Our World From Ourselves, then we Must Empower Ourselves by Discipline and Self-Sacrifice and Endure, as if we were in a city under siege.

Because that is exactly how it is, People. We are all in a gulag-city that is surrounded and under siege.

This is called Earth and we have only to look at what is going on in Gaza, Syria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, New Jersey, California, Virginia, Russia, China, North Korea ...

OPEN YOUR EYES.

TAKE YOUR HANDS OUT OF THE HANDCUFFS YOU HAVE SLIPPED AROUND YOUR WRISTS.

TAKE OFF THE GAG YOU HAVE STUFFED IN YOUR MOUTH.

UNDO THE ROPES YOU HAVE TIED AROUND YOUR ANKLES.

ACTION = ENERGY

ENERGY = POWER

POWER = MOVEMENT

MOVEMENT = CHANGE

CHANGE = rEVOLUTION

Sincerely,

MJD

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