

Thinking about war and related issues - the start of a ...

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It was not my intention to undertake a large thinking exercise about the Ukrainian conflict this week, but it seemed necessary to do so to assemble my thoughts.

The exercise began as a 'brain dump' onto a mind map, which grew somewhat, to the extent that I think it is appropriate to begin sharing this exercise, although work on the ideas is not yet complete.

I stress, this exercise has been written for my own benefit. It may well inform other videos and blogs. It was all about assembling my thoughts without seeking to be comprehensive or referenced. I may have missed things which appear evident to me. If I have, I apologise. Please understand, this is an example of a thinking process, not a finished product as such.

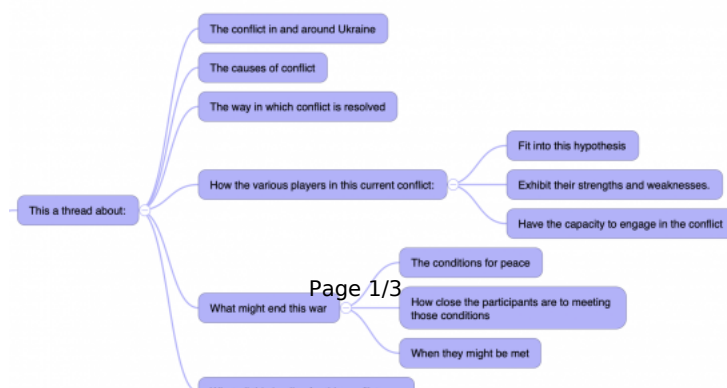
It is also intensely bullet point orientated, as mind mapping encourages.

I am sharing this thinking via screen shots of the MindMaps. To read them, work left to right, going from the topic to the highest of the topics that flow from it. When you have read all the topic's branches, move down to the next topic and repeat the process.

If you need to see a bigger version of a map, click on it and then click again, and it should go full screen.

Alternatively, and probably more easily, hold the Command or Control buttons on your computer and then hit the + button to enlarge your screen - which works well for me. I apologise for having no solution on a phone, but this will work on an iPad.

First, the scene is set:



This sequence is critical to understanding my whole approach to what i think war is about:



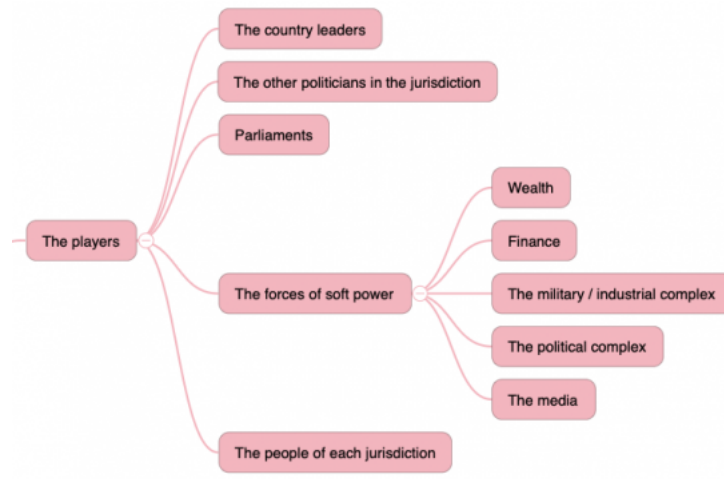
Next, these are the themes of the thread, only a few of which are dealt with in this post. The rest will follow, not necessarily today:



These are the countries and alliances I appraise in detail in a post that will follow:



These are the parties that have significant power to exercise within these jurisdictions, in my opinion. Note, I treat economic powers as having soft power:



And these are the political environments that I think exist in which to analyse what is happening:



This is all scene setting stuff, but is enough to consider for now.

Comments are welcome. I suspect I will be working on the more detailed analyses later today.

And if there are typos, c'est la vie.