

The coming proxy war to be fought inside the United States has an alternative

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The Confederate States of America (CSA), Some States' Reasons for Leaving

The Confederate States of America was the secession of seven states from the Union... by the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 six other states also had joined them to form the CSA.¹

Secession can be defined as "a group in a portion of the territory [...] attempt[s] to create a new state [...], leaving behind the original state in reduced form."² "Plebiscitary (or voluntarist) [...] secession is a] unilateral secession in the absence of injustice and [...] does] not require that the members of the seceding group share any characteristic other than the desire to form their own state."²

Critically, secession dissolves military alliances
between the larger government and those seceding
from it.³

The seceding states had many reasons for seceding none-the-less, for example:

*--- Georgia in its Declaration of Secession dated Tuesday, January 29, 1861 ---*⁴

In reference to the Constitution:

"We know [...the oppositions] treachery; we know the shallow pretenses under which they daily disregard its plainest obligations. If we submit to them it will be our fault and not theirs. The people of Georgia have ever been willing to stand by this bargain, this contract; they have never sought to evade any of its obligations; they have never hitherto sought to establish any new government; they have struggled to maintain the ancient right of themselves and the human race through and by that Constitution. But they know the value of parchment rights in treacherous hands, and therefore they refuse to commit their own to the rulers whom the North offers us."⁴

In reference to the general animus from the North:

"The faithless conduct of our adversaries is not confined to such acts as might aggrandize themselves or their section of the Union. They are content if they can only injure us."⁴

In direct reference to leaving the Union:

"[...B]ecause their avowed purpose is to subvert our society and subject us not only to the loss of our property but the destruction of ourselves, our wives, and our children, and the desolation of our homes, our altars, and our firesides. To avoid these evils we resume the powers which our

fathers delegated to the Government of the United States, and henceforth will seek new safeguards for our liberty, equality, security, and tranquility."⁴

"It would appear difficult to employ language freer from ambiguity".⁴

*--- Mississippi in its Declaration of Secession ---*⁴

In reference to the Union:

"It has enlisted its press, its pulpit and its schools against us, until the whole popular mind of the North is excited and inflamed with prejudice. It has broken every compact into which it has entered for our security. It has given indubitable evidence of its design to [...] destroy our social system. It knows no relenting or hesitation in its purposes; it stops not in its march of aggression, and leaves us no room to hope for cessation or for pause. It has [...] destroyed the last expectation of living together in friendship and brotherhood. Utter subjugation awaits us in the Union, if we should consent longer to remain in it. It is not a matter of choice, but of necessity. [...] For far less cause than this, our fathers separated from the Crown of England."⁴

The Departing

To depart can mean a few different things. For the purpose of this article to depart will mean: to go away, leave, and/or depart from a regular course.⁵ In addition, for the purposes of this article those wishing to depart will be referred to as the departers or similar.

The decline in social status, power positions, and livability standards (real or perceived) of the departing, and a belief that they are losing this country “piece by piece”⁶ and along with it their very identity⁷ and even meaning, means that keeping things the way they are amounts to little more than dropping large volumes of liquid fuel accelerant from an aircraft meant to drop, instead, large amounts of water or suppressant, onto a forest fire. There is a boiling pot raging out there in the hearts of some folks and for some reason there are people who believe the solution is adding more energy to the pot; something has to give.

The frustration of many in the United States is visibly bubbling over. Recently the right in the U.S. said: “Don’t tell us to apologize for our anti-Muslim slurs. After all, we speak for the great mass of voters who make up the GOP base!”⁸ Whether that is the case or not, they certainly speak

for many people in this country, and for many potential departers as well. The thing that many people may have difficulty understanding, is that while this kind of statement does not speak for a lot of people in this country, those very same people would, none-the-less, prefer to depart the Union and go to an autonomous region with folks that it does speak for than remain part of a U.S. that just doesn't look or act like the America they grew up in, know, love, and support. There are just fewer and fewer shared truths to bind us all together, and without them "the center cannot hold"⁹.

This author bets that if you ask one thousand potential departers why they want to depart, they will likely each have five to ten reasons why they want to depart, but three or fewer, probably zero, reasons why they would be willing to remain part of the U.S. as it is. That is a lot of motive to leave, and precious little to stay. For those who also have the means to pick up and move to an autonomous region, it then all just comes down to opportunity.

Identity fusion is a deep sense of belonging to a group generally, and of relating to the group members specifically, that can motivate those who hold these feelings to act in ways that are personally costly but which advance the group in some perceived way.¹⁰ The irrevocability principle states that "once people become highly fused with the group [...], people will tend to remain fused."⁷ Many, if not most, of those wishing to depart appear unquestionably fused and certain to remain that way.

Irreconcilable Differences

Any good marriage counselor will admit to themselves and the couple they are working with when the differences between the couple are insurmountable and the marriage is no longer salvageable. That is what this article is an attempt to do, to *suggest* to the U.S. federal government and to the departers (you know who you are) that they are simply no longer compatible, that their differences are irreconcilable, and that they need to work on a separation plan that is suitable. Such a plan should be pursued energetically and with a dogged persistence, because with each year that goes by the likelihood of an unnecessary violent conflict between the two parties increases, as should be obvious by now.^{11, 12}

Guerrilla War

Guerrilla war is Spanish for “little war”.¹³ Little war here means only war not fought between multiple States in full open combat style, often because of the asymmetric power positions between the combatants, but rather small scale hit and run attacks, ambushes, supply-line disruption, etc., meant to wear down and demoralize an enemy.¹⁴

The famous guerrilla fighter Che Guevara, when asked why the guerrilla fights, responded as follows: “Why does the guerrilla fighter fight? We must come to the inevitable conclusion that the guerrilla fighter is a social reformer, that he takes up arms responding to the angry protest of the people against their oppressors [...]”.¹⁴

The FBI may be able to seriously affect the violent section of those wishing but not able to depart, but there will always be replacements. Considering the enormity of the issue at hand, the relatively small number of agents available to deal with it, and the problems the FBI has to deal with internally,¹⁵ it will be an uphill battle for the Bureau to say the very least! The flip side of this action, of course, is that seeing young departers dying or being locked up at the hands of federal agents will light a fire under the departers’ support structure and drive them to further action and richer support.¹⁶

War, of course, isn’t just bullets and bombs, winning hearts and minds is critical to receiving assistance of all kinds from the populace, and to keeping the people on your side and not your enemy’s. Sinn Féin, the public relations arm of the Provisional-IRA “succeeded by prioritizing public support and exercising mastery of propaganda.”¹⁶

Effectively managing propaganda, supply chains, communications channels, etc., may be expertise not readily available to all those wishing to depart, who will thus be required to bring in outside assistance.

Proxy War

If Russia were to send active members of the Russian military to help any group in the United States wishing to depart, that may very well be, or at least perceived to be, open armed conflict.¹⁷ On the other hand, if a group of departers hires a Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) in a private transaction, and the PMSC in turn employs former Spetsnaz and GRU members as trainers, then it is pure commercial fare and not armed conflict at all. After training with former

Spetsnaz operators, the departers can train with former GRU operatives for ‘winning hearts and minds’ propaganda training in the same fashion.¹⁸ With those groups who wish to depart hiring PMSC from Russia, other PMSC companies from countless other countries can be expected to follow suit. The foundations of a proxy war being laid down.

For any decent-sized city, propagandists can conjure a local identity to be layered on top of the departer identity. These individual local units, collectively representing a union of intent, will each agree to a non-compete status among themselves, and can collectively ally themselves with a central directing force. As the character Cyrus asked the many separate gangs of New York City in the film *The Warriors* (1979), "Can you dig it?!"¹⁹

When local militias need assistance in their freedom fighting endeavors, look no further than international ‘aid organizations’ to provide humanitarian assistance, PMSC’s to provide commercially available military and security support, NGOs to provide a little bit of everything, and even other governments, and their intelligence communities, will more than happy to provide assistance wherever and whenever plausible denial is available (which, for the clever, is most places and most times).

Civil War

General open hostilities i.e. full-blown battles between military’s is what awaits this country if one or more states attempts to secede using the military force available to the State.²⁰ Given the general mood today in the United States, if one State makes the move and officially secedes it will likely snowball into many states seceding and banding together against the United States federal government and its military. At that point, the seceding States will have all the funding and military assistance they could want, as country after country does everything in their power to aid the seceders in their ‘freedom fighting’ endeavors and their attempts to diminish or overthrow the power of the United States in the world order.

A civil war in the U.S. will be “like 31 flavors, something for everyone”²¹ e.g., identity, meaning, revenge, gain of prestige (guerrillas as rock-stars), gain of material goods (shootin’ & lootin’), the opportunity to 'set things right' so to speak, and so on. However, anyone thinking of such a state as some type of anarchic utopia wherein exists "each a license to all", would be well advised to recall Hobbes description of life in such a state: "continuall feare [sic], and danger of violent death; And the life of man, solitary, poore [sic], nasty, brutish, and short."²²

At this stage, plausible deniability for governments providing support is most relevant as it pertains to the threat of nuclear retaliation against a country by the United States for active participation in a war against the U.S. If what is provided from other governments is assistance only (funding, training, and conventional weapons), then that outcome can hopefully be avoided. Otherwise it will almost certainly kick off a nuclear exchange that will be next to impossible to stop once it starts.

A Viable Alternative to Guerrilla, Proxy, and Civil War, Autonomous Region(s)

As autonomous regions allow for an area to have its own identity and rules,²³ identity fused people living in an autonomous region can be a very strong asset to America, as opposed to a secessionist liability. Much of the complaint of those wishing to depart is that they have lost their identity and have to live by rules with which they are increasingly unwilling to live; an autonomous region would solve both of these problems. Counter-intuitively, autonomous regions can provide unity through separation.

Within an autonomous region, the inhabitants possess a unique identity and rule set,²³ which should help to bring calm and stability to all of CONUS (Continental United States), while also maintaining military alliances across CONUS to insure a unified stance against outside aggressors.

It will be interesting to see what form of government the departers choose for their autonomous region(s), e.g., democratic free-market capitalism, some form of socialism with an all for one and one for all mentality, or possibly even a government practicing full centralized-planning and control in a communist style system. While communism seems unlikely, at this point anything is possible. With identity fusion and the Spanish trolley problem¹⁰, if the departers are fused and willing to die for one another, then perhaps they will be willing to financially support one another with a semi-socialist system of government.

China & Russia, Waiting in the Wings

The U.S. federal government and its military may have to fight in an open civil war plus a two-front war with peers/near-peers all simultaneously, an untenable situation which has two likely outcomes, either the peace that the U.S. sues for and eventually wins will be crap compared to what

it could win if it fights as a unified country with autonomous regions, or the U.S. finds itself militarily challenged to the point that it decides to engage in limited nuclear war. Whether or not that limited war could be kept limited is anyone's guess, particularly as AI systems may interpret the detonation of multiple nuclear weapons in an unanticipated way.²⁵ While AI systems likely can't fire nuclear weapons on their own anywhere in the world just yet, they will provide direction to those who do, i.e., a human may still be needed to 'turn their key' but it's a computer telling them to do it.

Keep in mind that in a civil war, or even a guerrilla or proxy war, local, state, and federal law enforcement will be utterly overwhelmed with booby trapped explosives at every turn,²⁶ open hostilities in the streets with belt-fed machine guns and rpg's (rocket propelled grenades) being utilized,²⁷ creative communication methods being used in an electromagnetic-communications contested environment, and the use of UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), e.g., as explosive delivery vehicles, radio jamming units, and for the sabotage of critical infrastructure^{28, 30}. The whole thing is a disaster in the making, and likely a problem for which United States law enforcement as a whole simply wasn't set up to deal with. Which, of course, is where the military comes in, but then the U.S. is back to its military fighting a guerrilla/proxy/civil war and a one/two-front war with peers/near-peers, all simultaneously.

If Nothing Gives

If there is no secession and no autonomous region, then a possible outcome, in sequence, is:

- 1) Guerrilla war – Provisional-IRA style (hit & run attacks, sabotage, propaganda, etc.), covert funding and supplies (cash and military equipment moves across borders just like drugs)²⁷, plus training from PMSC paid for with the covert funding.
- 2) Proxy war - more overt support from outside governments, but still not outright belligerency.¹⁷
- 3) Civil war - the facade dissolves, open armed conflict between the U.S. federal government's military and those wishing to depart begins.¹⁷
- 4) The carving begins - When outside government(s), from whom the departers have accepted training, funding, and supplies, decide(s) the time is right to invade a weakened, dis-unified, and chaotic U.S., or at least a portion of it, the departers are ready to fight FOR the invading forces, not against them.

Mutual Survival

A return to the pre-internet stability of the United States during Cold War 1.0, i.e., before the fall of the Berlin wall, is not currently possible. Even the relative stability of Cold War 2.0, i.e., the time between the fall of the Berlin wall and 2014 seems equally out of grasp. 2014 introduced the world to the ‘little green men’ and the attendant Cold War 3.0 full-spectrum MOOTW (Military Operations Other Than War), and MOOTW is the name of the game for the foreseeable future.

For all the talk of the U.S. being a melting pot, the fact is that, be it race, political affiliation, gun rights, individuals’ reproductive rights, or just about anything else, we don’t seem to be that good at melting together generally²⁹; find a difference and we’ll focus on it. Most of the time, we melt much less than most of us are comfortable admitting. The differences between us in this country have become so great, and the mechanisms for drawing it all back toward the center have, it appears, been shattered. Another choice is for us to be honest with ourselves and each other and stop trying to be something we are not, i.e., good at melting together as a total collective, and instead remember that for many people, good fences make good neighbors. Almost inescapably, we can either accept those fences or we can all just be part of a non-melting melting pot that is threatening to melt straight into the ground.

Of course, many people will choose to be a part of the remaining United States. The autonomous region(s) simply allows those wishing to forge a new state of existence with people they identify with to do so and allows us all to remain together as a country, separated yet joined.

America cannot fight China/Russia and a civil war simultaneously. If we allow for autonomy and mutual defense, and we get to it now, we *may* be trained, ready, and unified in time for the next ‘large State’ wars, as opposed to belligerent, distrustful, and divided.

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