

A chessboard with various pieces: a large ship, a smaller ship, a drone, a jet, and a fighter jet.

THE GLOBAL CHESSBOARD

NEW PIECES IN PLAY
FROM THE ARCTIC TO THE
SOUTH CHINA SEA

Professor Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen



THE MIDDLE EAST: NEW POWER RELATIONSHIPS, NEW ECONOMY



The war has left the Revolutionary Guard in control in Iran; the result will probably be the militarisation of Iran's foreign policy and further domestic repression.

The Gulf countries will be looking for security arrangements to replace the UK and US – both have proven unpredictable partners. It is possible that Israel and Saudi Arabia will join forces (form a formal alliance?).

Israel is now the dominant military power in the region, with an imperial approach to its neighbours.

The US has proved its independence from Middle Eastern oil, while China and Europe have shown their dependence. Expect Europe and China to re-evaluate their policies.

While 45 million people are at risk of starvation because of the blockage of the Hormuz Strait, the impetus for biofertilizers and green energy has become even stronger.

USA: MOVE FAST AND BREAK THINGS



Population growth: The United States is one of the few countries that will continue to see a growing population. White, non-Hispanic Americans will fall below 40% in the 2040s.

Americans no longer see the point of the EU and NATO: The US has grown too powerful for its allies and no longer wishes to be the world's policeman.

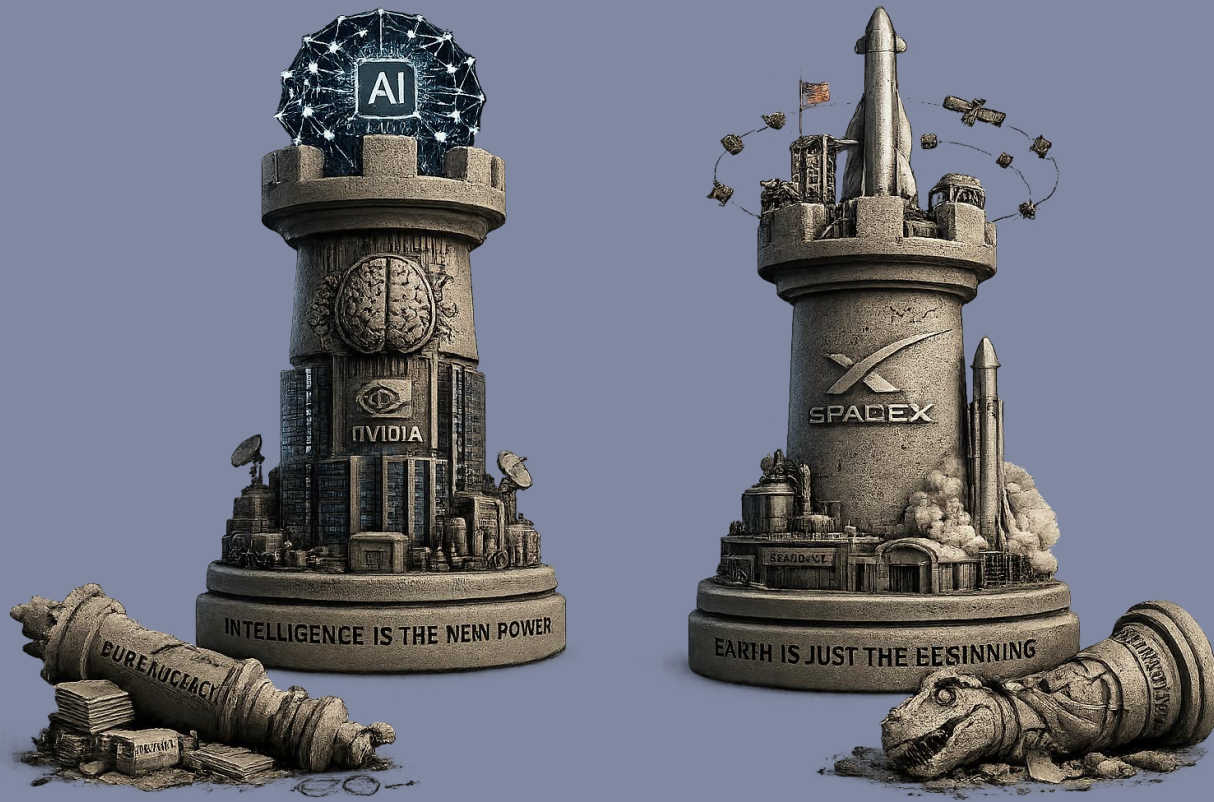
"Move fast and break things": President Trump is dismantling Roosevelt's welfare state in alliance with the tech industry.

We are home alone with the Russians: The US will leave Europeans to manage the end of the war in Ukraine.

Geopolitical "insidertrading" seems to become a substantial element in US foreign policy.

How can we remain allies with the new America?

INNOVATION POWER: DEMOGRAPHY, ROBOTICS AND AI



Workforce: economic growth based on increasing number of competent people of working age. That group (18-65) will increase in only eight countries (including a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, India and the US).

In China, population will be reduced to 1960s level by 2100 (from 1.4 billion in 2024 to 650 mio in 2100).

In the absence of factory workers, care professionals or soldiers, robotics will be key to future economic growth, public care – and warfare.

AI, neuro-technologies, energy transition etc is about making up for the lack of people.

CHINA: THE PARTY BELIEVES IN THE FUTURE



The party believes in the future: In a single generation, China has achieved the greatest rise in prosperity any nation has experienced since the Industrial Revolution in 19th-century Britain.

China is red, not green: China seeks independence from Middle Eastern oil, but aims to dominate Africa – solar panels and electric vehicles serve both objectives.

The world's largest navy: China's army numbers 965,000 soldiers, while the Chinese navy has grown to 100 major warships, including two aircraft carriers.

First we take Taiwan: China is building an alliance with Russia and the BRICS nations.

China will seek to dominate Asia, but other Asian nations will not allow it, conflict in Asia is almost inevitable.

The East is grey: China's population will decline from 1.4 bn to 650 million. Since the Covid crisis, the economy has not performed well. Has China run out of steam? And might that be good news?

RUSSIA: LAST CHANCE FOR GREAT POWER



Energy accounts for 17 percent of Russia's GDP and is the country's largest source of export revenue.

Russia will use whatever power it still possesses to weaken or destroy NATO, and, if possible, the EU.

V. Putin: "But there is only one thing history never forgives: indifference and inconsistency, weakness and complacency – which is especially true today, at this turning point in history, when the entire world is undergoing rapid change."

Russia is at war with us, even though we have not yet realised that we are at war with them.

Will Europe be able to do business with Mr Putin's successor?

EUROPE: HOME ALONE AND IN AN INNOVATION CRISIS



The war in Ukraine is the first 'European war' since 1941. The war will shape the new Europe.

A European naval force for the Strait of Hormuz. Are we still cleaning up after the Americans?

Demographics are placing Europe under pressure (politically and economically).

Europe is in a competitiveness crisis. In 1989, the EU accounted for 25 per cent of the global economy, whereas by 2023 Europeans represented only 17 per cent.

Europeans have no choice but to adapt to a world order no longer based on American power.

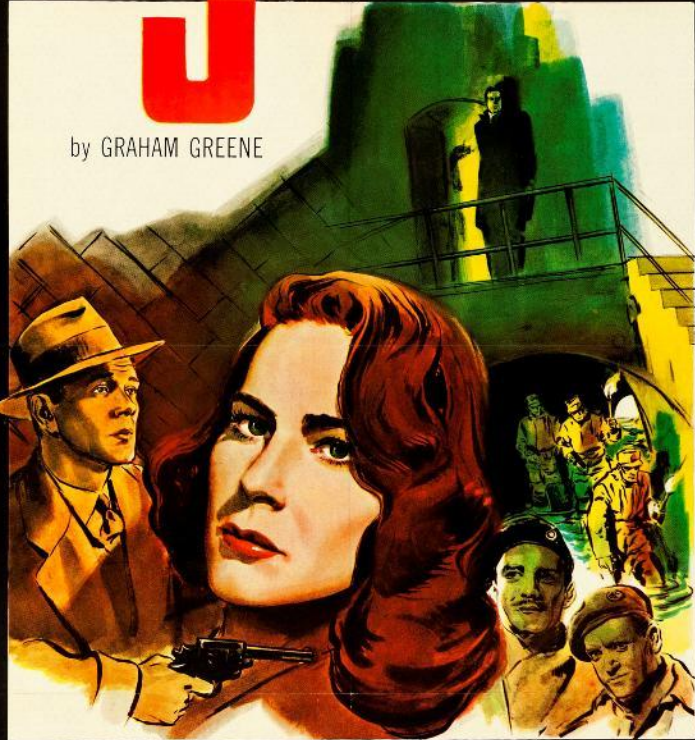
Yet, it is the European great powers, rather than the European Commission, that are setting the new agenda.

The UK, France and Germany are all in, or might soon enter, political crisis.

DAVID O. SELZNICK and ALEXANDER KORDA
PRESENT

THE 3RD MAN

by GRAHAM GREENE



STARRING JOSEPH COTTEN · VALLI
ORSON WELLES · TREVOR HOWARD
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY CAROL REED
A SELZNICK RELEASE

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THE CASE FOR OPTIMISM

"Like the fella says, in Italy for 30 years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder, and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love - they had 500 years of democracy and peace, and what did that produce? The cuckoo clock."

A 3D rendered scene featuring several objects on a checkered floor. In the top left is a dark grey ship with a central tower. In the top right is a light grey keyboard. In the center is a small, light grey drone with four propellers. In the bottom left is a dark grey propeller airplane. In the bottom right is a dark grey jet fighter. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in white on the left side.

THANK YOU

Professor Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen