

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Beyond Hyperbole and Parody: Can We Stop the Failed Imperial State of Perfidious Albion from Launching Thermonuclear War?
- Ritter Exposes NATO Training To Wage Nuclear War against Russia
- British Defense Secretary Wallace Tells Parliament of an Air Incident with Russia over Black Sea
- Liz Truss Announces Her Resignation, Provokes Calls for General Elections
- Erdogan Ready To Broker Russia-Ukraine Talks
- Is Seeing Zelenskyy Worth Dying For? German President Steinmeier Doesn't Think So
- France Is Becoming the New Face of Chaos
- Millions Skipping Meals in Britain
- Eroding Western Alliance: Will Congress End Support for Ukraine?
- Rep. Paul Gosar Insists, End Our Proxy War against Russia
- Will German Nuclear Plants Run Beyond Scholz's April Deadline?

EDITORIAL

Beyond Hyperbole and Parody: Can We Stop the Failed Imperial State of Perfidious Albion from Launching Thermonuclear War?

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—“That Was The Week That Was” was the title of an early-1960s British comedy show and political satire, part of that era's “British Invasion” cultural counter-offensive against the United States. Without her knowledge, the here-and-gone British Prime Minister, Liz “Nuke 'Em” Truss was involuntarily and inexorably maneuvered and cast

in a one-episode “reality show” remake of that series in the past seven days. British broadcaster Piers Morgan provided an autopsy on the short-lived “Truss Turn,” saying, “it is literally impossible to exaggerate the scale of the bedlam that this government has unleashed on our country in the last six weeks ... these useless clowns have basically ravaged our country.”

So, faced with the threat of Truss’s energetic stupidity to the imperial state, and the need to shift policy in the wake of the failure of “financial nuclear war” against Russia and China, and the threat of the financial collapse of the City of London itself, the wheels of the machinery of “parliamentary democracy” in Great Britain, the country without a written constitution, began to turn. In the way often depicted in another, 1980s British series, “Yes, Minister/Yes, Prime Minister,” British “governance” often involves a process of despotic power-shifting and manipulation designed to be undetectable to the victim, including the erstwhile “head of government.” A “self-coup” can even occur “right out in the open,” as this one has, with a Seneca-like commentary seasoned by what some sadists term “the British sense of humor.” Referring, two days ago, to the fact that the biography of Liz Truss, *Out of the Blue*, was due to soon be released, Labour Party Leader Sir Keir Rodney Starmer, said, “A book is being written about the Prime Minister’s time in office. Apparently it’s going to be out by Christmas. Is that the release date or the title?”

Liz Truss who had declared her readiness to torch the entire human race in a thermonuclear holocaust for the greater glory of the Anglosphere, did not realize that she was “the wicker woman”—the one that was to be torched. Truss, who managed to alienate first, her opponents, and then her allies in record time, has earned the distinction of being the fastest-ever-dismissed prime minister in history. She takes her place in the pantheon of the Madeleine Albright school of imperial diplomacy, whose “Olympian” members have no qualms about saying things like this:

Lesley Stahl: We have heard that half a million [Iraqi] children have died. I mean, that is more children than died in Hiroshima.... And, you know, is the price worth it?

Madeleine Albright: “I think that is a very hard choice, but the price, we think, the price is worth it.”

Truss has made it clear that she thought “the price of thermonuclear war” was worth it, and that “I think it’s an important duty of the Prime Minister and I’m ready to do that.” The dismissal of Truss solves nothing for Britain in the realms of financial and economic collapse, social unrest, public health threats, or the military-strategic debacle unfolding in Ukraine. It does, however, indicate how the principle of Nemesis can suddenly manifest itself as “the noose in the house of the hanged.”

During this 60th anniversary of the “Thirteen Days” of the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 16-29, 1962), [Scott Ritter](#), writing in *Consortium News* after an appearance on an American radio show with Independent candidate for New York’s U.S. Senate seat Diane Sare, pointed out that President Joe “Biden got it all wrong” when talking about the potential for nuclear conflict. “The risk isn’t that Russia would start a pre-emptive nuclear war over Ukraine,” Ritter warned. “The risk is that America would.” This, Ritter argues, stems from the doctrine of preventive war adopted by the Cheney/G.W. Bush administration in 2002. Despite Biden’s expressed intentions to assert that “ ‘the sole purpose of our nuclear arsenal should be to deter—and, if necessary, retaliate against—a nuclear attack,’ ” no such change in policy has been adopted, and the opposite, previous policy prevails. Twenty years ago, Oct. 7, 2002, one year after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and just months before the March 2003 war on Iraq, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace stated: “In the war on terror, the Bush administration has enunciated the Bush Doctrine, which, among other things, affirms the legitimacy of an American preventive strike and emphasizes the notion that ‘If you are not with us, you are against us.’ U.S. foreign policy, therefore, is no longer just about the Truman Doctrine (containment) or about the Reagan Doctrine (supporting freedom fighters), but about shedding the multilateralism favored by the Clinton administration and pursuing a more active, unilateral approach.” It was in this period that the “Prompt Global Strike” policy of a

first-strike thermonuclear attack against Russia, China, etc. was adopted by the United States—not later, as some might suggest.

According to the February 2007, “Report to Congress Global Strike Plan” from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, “Section 1032 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136) provides that the Secretary of Defense shall establish an integrated plan for developing, deploying, and sustaining a prompt global strike capability in the Armed Forces, to be updated annually through 2006. The first Global Strike Report to Congress was a classified document submitted in June 2004.” This means that the policy for a thermonuclear first strike was being devised and drafted during 2003, when the United States fought a preventive war against Saddam Hussein on a premise that the Cheney/Bush administration knew to be false—the “weapons of mass destruction” fraud.

In the present, devolving strategic-tactical situation, with no change in American posture, Ritter contends that “nuclear weapons are but another tool in the military’s toolbox, to be used as and when needed, including occasions where the destruction of battlefield targets for the simple purpose of gaining an operational advantage is the objective.”

There are serious reasons, therefore, to be highly concerned about the recent unanimous “sense of the United States Senate” resolution which declares that “Russia is a terrorist state.” After its passage, Senator Lindsey Graham said to the Biden administration: “You have the complete unanimous support of the United States Senate to label Russia a state sponsor of terrorism. Do it.” If one looks at the original motivation for the Bush Doctrine—protecting the United States against a terrorist attack—*now* consider, in the context of the present “slouching towards Armageddon” of NATO and the Anglosphere, the actual meaning of that resolution being followed. Look at it from the vantage point of Russia or China’s militaries: How would you now read Madeleine Albright protégé Condoleezza Rice’s famous 2002 remark, “We don’t want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud” in the context of the “sense of the U.S. Senate”

resolution? Would you consider that there was indeed an increasing, if not an imminent danger to you, of thermonuclear war being initiated by the United States?

This should make it clear—perhaps terrifyingly clear—why the campaign of LaRouche Independent Diane Sare for the United States Senate takes on such an immediate importance. One talk show, referring to Sare, said a few days ago, “Somebody was talking about the woman running against Chuck Schumer, Diane Sare. I gotta tell ya—She’s running independent—.... I would like her to come on. I’d love to talk to her! On her platform she wants to crush the global fascist digital dictatorship. YES! Come on! I’m on board with that. She says ‘How is it that Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jack Dorsey are allowed to deny the President of the United States, Donald Trump, a platform to address the American People? Many leaders from around the world are shocked that this extreme form of censorship is occurring in the United States, including Mexican President López Obrador, whom you can watch here.’ And they have clips of it. I’m interested in this candidate, and thanks for bringing it to my attention.”

Diane Sare may well be being excluded from any face-to-face confrontation with the 42-years-in-the Senate political establishment fixture Schumer, precisely so that a public discussion on the actual, imminent danger of thermonuclear war cannot be heard anywhere in America. With less than three weeks before the election, and perhaps days away from something momentous occurring in the field of war, what would happen, internationally, if that wall of containment were breached? The actions of a few, as seen in recent days, can catalyze the many, for good or ill.

One thing is certain—the old order is gone, to be replaced by something else. Its loudest and most boorish of servants will be “gone in 60 seconds” once ideology meets the reality of physical economy. The LaRouche Organization has been prepared for this moment. The LaRouche movement operates from the realization that, so far as geopolitics is concerned, “that was the world that was.” For a new, better world to be realized, it will take supplanting this clear and present danger with a new paradigm, the

conception that motivates the upcoming October 27 conference of the Schiller Institute: “[For World Peace: Stop the Danger of Nuclear War.](#)” This will be the Second Seminar of Current and Former Elected Officials of the World. The conference, organized by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, is the best possible way to render geopolitics, and the wars that it demands “impotent and obsolete,” and we invite you to join that effort.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday October 21, 2022: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Ritter Exposes NATO Training To Wage Nuclear War against Russia

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—Scott Ritter took the warnings that he had issued during his appearance with Diane Sare on Cynthia Pooler’s “[Issues That Matter](#)” YouTube channel, about NATO’s Steadfast Noon nuclear-sharing exercise, to a column, “[Nuclear High Noon in Europe](#),” in *Consortium News*, posted yesterday. “Given that NATO’s nuclear umbrella extends exclusively over Europe, the indisputable fact is that Steadfast Noon is nothing more than NATO training to wage nuclear war against Russia,” he says at the outset.

Indeed, how could it be otherwise?

Ritter points out that, despite all of the insane rhetoric coming out of Washington, Brussels, and Kiev (of which he provides a timeline), there has been absolutely no talk coming out of the Kremlin about using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. In fact, Russian officials have made numerous statements to the contrary, that Russian nuclear doctrine is very specific on the conditions in which Russia would use nuclear weapons, and those conditions don’t, and won’t exist in Ukraine.

Biden, Ritter says, “got it all wrong” when talking about the potential for nuclear conflict. “The risk isn’t that Russia would start a pre-emptive nuclear war over Ukraine,” Ritter warns. “The risk is that America would.”

This, Ritter argues, stems from the doctrine of preemption adopted by the G.W. Bush administration in 2002, which has still not been repudiated. Biden came into office promising to enshrine in U.S. nuclear doctrine a “sole purpose policy,” under which, Ritter quotes Bush that “the sole purpose of our nuclear arsenal should be to deter—and, if necessary, retaliate against—a nuclear attack.” But that change still hasn’t been made; therefore, the U.S. military has to rely on previously issued doctrine, the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review being the most recent such document.

Under the Bush doctrine, current “nuclear weapons are but another tool in the military’s toolbox, to be used as and when needed, including occasions where the destruction of battlefield targets for the simple purpose of gaining an operational advantage is the objective,” Ritter writes.

Ritter doesn’t mention it, but this fits in with the mantra of “integrated deterrence” of Lloyd Austin, which is no longer about deterring nuclear war but about employing a “whole of government” approach, of which nuclear weapons are a component, to deterring “bad behavior” by the designated enemies of the United States, behavior such as an invasion of Taiwan by the P.R.C.

“As this article is being written, U.S. nuclear-capable B-52 bombers are flying to Europe from their U.S. bases, where they will practice delivering nuclear weapons against a Russian target,” Ritter writes. “Dozens more aircraft, flying from Volkel Air Force Base in the Netherlands (home to an arsenal of U.S. B-61 nuclear bombs), will practice employing NATO nuclear weapons against...Russia. Russia has responded to the NATO nuclear drill by going forward with its own annual nuclear exercise, ‘Grom’ (Thunder). These drills will involve the large-scale maneuver of Russia’s strategic nuclear forces, including live missile launches. In a statement of neon-lighted hypocrisy, a U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, ‘Russian nuclear rhetoric and its decision to proceed with this exercise while at war with Ukraine is irresponsible. Brandishing nuclear weapons to coerce the United States and its allies is irresponsible.’”

Ritter insists: “Now is the time for maturity, sanity...restraint. A sage leader would have recognized the possibility of misperception on the part of Russia when NATO, a mere week after being encouraged by the Ukrainian President to initiate a preemptive nuclear strike on Russia, carries out a major exercise where NATO practices dropping nuclear bombs on Russia. A sober leader would have postponed these drills and encouraged similar action from Russia regarding its nuclear exercises. Instead, America gets an unscripted, off-the-cuff reference to a nuclear Armageddon from a narcissistic egomaniac who uses the horror of nuclear annihilation as a fund-raising mantra.”

British Defense Secretary Wallace Tells Parliament of an Air Incident with Russia over Black Sea

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace testified before the Parliament today. While he had just returned from an unscheduled visit to Washington, the only information released about his testimony was a report of an incident last month, in which a Russian aircraft allegedly “released a missile” near an unarmed Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft on routine patrol over the Black Sea. He said the RAF Rivet Joint aircraft had been shadowed by two Russian armed SU-27 jets on Sept. 29. Wallace said the event was a “potentially dangerous engagement,” but not a “deliberate escalation.” He said it is not unusual for planes to shadow one another. The issue was that “one of the SU-27 aircraft released a missile in the vicinity of the RAF Rivet Joint beyond visual range.” Nonetheless the patrol was completed and the RAF aircraft returned to its base.

Wallace said he then communicated his concerns directly to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu. An investigation by Russian authorities determined the incident to have been a “technical malfunction,” which Wallace accepted.

Wallace could be leaving office within one week following the resignation, announced today, of Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Liz Truss Announces Her Resignation, Provokes Calls for General Elections

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—British Prime Minister Liz Truss announced her resignation this afternoon, Oct. 20, after holding a meeting with the Conservative Party’s so-called 1922 Committee.

Reading her letter of resignation at a press conference in front of 10 Downing Street, she said: “I recognize ... given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party. I have therefore spoken to His Majesty The King to notify him that I am resigning as Leader of the Conservative Party.”

She will step down after a week-long emergency contest among Tory MPs and party members as to who will replace her. Now, after Britain has just undergone the shortest-serving Prime Minister in its parliamentary history, and following the nearly-equally disastrous fiasco of the last days of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, there have been calls for general elections from all the opposition party leaders, including Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the Scottish National Party, who wrote on her Twitter account, “There are no words to describe this utter shambles adequately. It’s beyond hyperbole—& parody....”

Leader of the Liberal Democrats Ed Davey wrote on his Twitter account, “We don’t need another Conservative Prime Minister lurching from crisis to crisis. We need a general election now and the Conservatives out of power.”

Leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer issued a longer statement, also demanding an immediate general election. In part he wrote, “After 12 years of Tory failure, the British people deserve so much better than this revolving door of chaos....”

There is little doubt that a general election would lead to a Tory defeat, and there has been much speculation in the last days that a new election would put Labour Party Leader Keir Starmer into No. 10 Downing Street. Unfortunately, on the issue of Russia, Starmer has been a team player.

As of now, the 1922 Committee, the Conservative Party's body that chooses the party leader, will now deliberate on how to proceed in choosing a new leader by Oct. 31.

Erdogan Ready To Broker Russia-Ukraine Talks

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a telephone discussion on Oct. 19 that Türkiye is ready to make any and all contributions needed to end the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war through talks. Erdogan called on Zelenskyy to keep the vision for a diplomatic solution alive under all circumstances.

Their phone call should be viewed in the context of recent telephone calls and Oct. 13 meeting in Astana between President Erdogan and Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

Is Seeing Zelenskyy Worth Dying For? German President Steinmeier Doesn't Think So

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—The German daily *Bild* reports that German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier canceled his visit to Kiev, scheduled for today, for security reasons. The paper added that the decision was received with dissatisfaction, and even resentment, by the Kiev regime.

“While the Federal President is canceling his visit, lots of foreign diplomats and guests want to be present in the [Ukrainian] capital right now,” a spokesperson for the Kiev government told *Bild*.

Bild also reported that Germany's Federal Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Interior, and security agencies recommended that Steinmeier avoid visiting Kiev. The decision to cancel the visit was made on Oct. 18.

In fact, in mid-April, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had refused to receive Steinmeier, who had at that time wanted to visit Kiev, alleging that he was “too soft” on Russia.

COLLAPSING WESTERN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

France Is Becoming the New Face of Chaos

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—After a weekend that likely saw over 100,000 protesting the skyrocketing costs of living across the country, France continues to buckle. Thousands more came out for protests across the country on Oct. 18, and were met with a brutal response from police. Many videos of aggressive police behavior can be found on Twitter, with many commenting how these make the Iranian protests look tame.

Add to this the nationally coordinated strikes being conducted, involving transportation workers, teachers, hospital workers, and others. One poll found that one in three French citizens was prepared to strike or protest in the coming weeks.

This is having significant implications for the country. Regional rail traffic is down 50%, due to the strikes, and long-distance trains are also being affected. Strikes by oil and gas workers have led to more than 60% of France's refining capacity being shuttered, and 25% of gas stations out of fuel. Even the nuclear industry is facing a crisis as its workers strike, and protesters have blockaded some of the reactors. With the strain on oil and gas in Europe, France has committed to substantial increases in its nuclear electricity generation, apparently by restarting some unused reactors, but this is now being put in doubt. France's national electrical grid operator, RTE, said Oct. 18 that "a prolonged social movement would have heavy consequences for the key part of the winter," according to Reuters.

Millions Skipping Meals in Britain

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—With a runaway cost of living, a survey by the organization "Which?" revealed that millions of people in the U.K. are skipping meals. The survey found that almost half of all consumers are finding it harder to eat healthily now as compared to before the crisis, and that up to 78% of those find it very difficult to cope financially. It found that around 9% of all those surveyed said they find it "very difficult to get by"—and half of those people say their household is skipping meals,

reported the *Guardian*. A quarter of those who said they find the current situation “quite difficult” are also skipping meals.

In a parallel development the Food Foundation charity has found that more people have gone hungry than during the chaotic first weeks of the Covid lockdown and that hunger levels have more than doubled since January, and that nearly 10 million adults and 4 million children were unable to eat regular meals in the last month.

UNITED STATES

Eroding Western Alliance: Will Congress End Support for Ukraine?

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—In a widely discussed interview with Punchbowl News on Oct. 18, Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said that if the Republicans win the midterm elections in November, they are not going to continue writing a “blank check” to Ukraine. “I think people are gonna be sitting in a recession and they’re not going to write a blank check to Ukraine. They just won’t do it,” he said. “And then there’s the things [the Biden administration] is not doing domestically. Not doing [sic] the border and people begin to weigh that. Ukraine is important, but at the same time it can’t be the only thing they do and it can’t be a blank check,” McCarthy added.

With only this modest statement, shock waves were sent throughout Washington, causing many leading members of the Republican Party to come out in defense of Ukraine. Among them, Adam Kinzinger, the unhinged anti-Trump congressman from Illinois, who responded by saying of McCarthy, “You’re giving aid and comfort to the enemy, intentionally or unintentionally.” He went on that “there are a lot of people, frankly, in the world that are worried about what a Republican majority could do.” Top war-hawk Liz Cheney called McCarthy’s comments “disgraceful,” and even Mike Pence weighed in to urge that Congress continue to give funds to Ukraine.

This follows a growing trend of Republican Congress members who have voted against further aid to Ukraine and are speaking out about the tens of billions given to fight a war, while Americans are suffering with high gas prices and other difficulties at home. While these are clearly insufficient and not coming from a genuine desire to resolve the conflict, it does indicate just how fragile the Western alliance is, even in the United States.

Not surprisingly, Ukraine has reacted even more strongly—they know that if the U.S. stops its support, Ukraine has no chance of continuing NATO's war against Russia. David Arakhamia, the head of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's party in parliament, told the City of London daily, *Financial Times*, "We were shocked to hear these comments of Mr. McCarthy, honestly." He added that he had met with McCarthy recently and that the Congressman had "assured that bipartisan support of Ukraine in its war with Russia will remain a top priority even if they win in the elections."

Rep. Paul Gosar Insists, End Our Proxy War against Russia

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—Rep Paul Gosar (R-AZ), who has publicly attacked Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation hit list, issued strong statements on Twitter yesterday and today about the growing danger of nuclear war. Today he tweeted "America's military strength is to deter conflict to promote peace, not escalate international conflicts. Biden's decision to participate in nuclear drills is another pro-war policy which endangers all."

That followed a tweet he made Oct. 19: "The Biden proxy war in Ukraine has pitted nuclear nations against one another. Now we are the closest to nuclear conflict since the Cold War, which even Biden admits. The decision to increase tensions with nuclear exercises this week harms prospects for peace."

Further, on Oct. 17, Gosar tweeted: "Neocons and the radical left are joining hands as they sleepwalk our nation into World War Three. This madness must end for the sake of the entire world."

Gosar accompanied his Oct. 19 tweet with an [Oct. 15 letter to President Biden](#) that he wrote with the same theme, strongly criticizing him for bringing the U.S. “the closest it has been to a nuclear conflict since the Cold War.” Gosar blamed “heightened nuclear rhetoric” from American, NATO, and Russian officials, and urged Biden to cancel the NATO Steadfast Noon nuclear training exercises. He continued, writing that American assistance to Ukraine in the form of weapons, munitions and equipment means we are “fighting a proxy war with a nuclear power.” He again called for a cancellation of exercises: “it is time for cooler heads to prevail,” and emphasized that if the U.S. took this step of de-escalation, it “could open discussions for peace in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.”

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Will German Nuclear Plants Run Beyond Scholz’s April Deadline?

Oct. 20 (EIRNS)—An acute coalition crisis over deeper disagreements between the Greens, who wanted only two nuclear power plants to remain operating until April 15, and the Free Democrats, who have insisted for keeping all three remaining nuclear power plants going until the spring of 2024, was “solved” by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who made use of his special guideline jurisdiction to decree that all three plants will be allowed run until April 15, 2023. The Scholz administration was otherwise maintaining the idiotic nuclear exit set for Dec. 31, 2022, of the Angela Merkel CDU government. The decree has been swallowed by the Greens for the moment, because they do not want to endanger the present government coalition. But, since the Green caucus in the Bundestag does not feel bound to accept Scholz’s decree, new obstacles to political sabotage cannot be ruled out.

Scholz’s decision met with criticism from German industry, which is arguing for keeping the power plants running until after the winter of 2023-24. “We must do everything we can to expand the supply of energy, which remains scarce, and thus mitigate the explosion in energy prices—this also applies with a view to the winter of 2023-24,” said the president of the

Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) Peter Adrian, speaking to *Rheinische Post*. “Therefore, it would be wise to prepare for continued operation with new fuel rods.” The government has so far opposed new fuel rods.

Wolfgang Kubicki, vice chairman of the Free Democrats, argues that the nuclear power plant phase-out in Germany is far from decided, even by the deadline of April 15, 2023. He told the *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* that the new phase-out date for the remaining three nuclear power plants cannot be viewed as a foregone conclusion: “I am sure we will discuss it again in the spring of next year. ... If we need them, they must continue to run, if not, then they should also be taken off the grid.” He further said that “laws allow them to be changed at any time. If it turns out in the spring that we need nuclear power for price and grid stability, then a majority in the German Bundestag will extend its [nuclear’s] lifetime by one year.” However, he said, it is not a battle “that we have to fight today.” The Free Democrats have called for keeping nuclear power plants operating into the spring of 2024, and maybe beyond.