UKRAINE'S UNNAMED WAR: BEFORE THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF 2022

By Jesse Driscoll, PhD

Jesse Driscoll is Associate Professor of Political Science and the Faculty Chair of the Global Leadership Institute at the School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California San Diego.

He is the author of numerous academic articles as well as Warlords and Coalition Politics in Post-Soviet States (Cambridge, 2015) and Doing Global Fieldwork (Columbia, 2021).

He is an area specialist in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Russian-speaking world. Driscoll has a secondary interest in political behavior, observer effects in social inquiry, and the ongoing task of cultivating ethical best practices for responsible data collection from active conflict zones.

He leverages new technologies and experimental techniques to track public opinion by populations that reside in violent places, including in Somalia, Ukraine, and Georgia. Driscoll has a PhD in political science from Stanford University.

The author will discuss his new book, UKRAINE'S UNNAMED WAR: BEFORE THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF 2022 (Dominique Arel and Jesse Driscoll, Cambridge University Press). The book is a timely and concise account of the roots of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, explaining how the 2013–14 violent protests on Maidan unleashed seditionist movements in Crimea and Eastern Donbas, but not elsewhere in Eastern Ukraine. The author analyzes why no political solution was found for 7 years prior to this catastrophic Russian attack.
The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego Independent Scholars.

SDIS strives to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, for its members and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include free public lectures and cooperative educational projects with other organizations. SDIS members enjoy a variety of regular discussion groups, presently via Zoom.

SDIS, established in 1982, was instrumental in the founding of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, an organization that unites eight similar organizations and has international membership.

For more information see https://sdscholars.org or contact sdisask@gmail.com
**BIOSCIENCES GROUP**

1:00 p.m.--- Friday --- January 13 --- via Zoom

At its last meeting, the Biosciences Group continued its exploration of sleep and its functions. The focus was on conventional dreaming during rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep as compared to lucid dreaming. During a lucid dream, the dreamer knows that he/she is dreaming and sometimes can exhibit control over the dream’s trajectory.

At 1:00 on Friday, January 13, the group will discuss psychoactive drugs that are currently being tested as treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and various neurological disorders. Since some of these drugs, such as MDMA (ecstasy) and LSD, are currently illegal for recreational use, the topic is controversial and should provoke a spirited discussion.

For the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Dorothy Parker or sdisask@gmail.com.

Dorothy Parker

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**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

3 p.m.— Thursday — February 16 — via Zoom

On Thursday, November 17 at 3 pm, Diana Withee shared a chapter of her work in progress on the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch, whose works from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries continue to amaze and haunt viewers today. A copy of the chapter was sent to all members of the group, along with a chapter-by-chapter outline, an introduction to the work, and copies of the specific paintings to which she referred.

After the respondent’s short discussion of the chapter, Diana spoke about the book she is writing about Bosch, how she wanted to give readers a sense of the painter, whose life has not been well documented, and also presented her key to unlocking the identity of one of the central figures in the painting on which this chapter was written, a figure that has previously been construed erroneously as the Anti-Christ. Group members offered various questions regarding the different Bosch paintings with which they were familiar and how these might figure in the projected book.

At the next Works in Progress meeting on February 16, Michael Seidel will present his translation from German to English of the memoir of Vally Wallenstein, a woman of Jewish ancestry who was hidden within Germany during all of World War II by a group of brave Germans who included Michael’s mother. Vally’s memoir first describes her life in Germany before the rise of the Nazis and then chronicles the many hardships, dangerous situations and lucky escapes that allowed her to survive during the Nazi period. To make this fascinating story available to a wider audience, Michael would like to edit his manuscript somewhat and prepare it for listing on Amazon.

Ken Krauss and Dorothy Parker
PHYSICAL SCIENCES GROUP

2 p.m. — Wednesday — January 4 — via Zoom

Our last meeting was on Wed. Dec. 21 at 2:00pm. At that meeting and those immediately before that, we continued our studies of Quantum Field Theory using the Peskin and Schroder text. We continued with chapter 4, and developed critical expressions that allow scattering predictions of the field equations to be expressed in terms of Feynman Diagrams.

Using the case of the scalar field solutions of the Klein Gordon (KG) equation, and imposing an interaction Hamiltonian that is just proportional to the fourth power of the KG field, we were able to express the transition amplitudes in terms of a series of Time Ordered multiple products of the field at different space time points. Then, we proved Wick's Theorem, which allows us to express the Time Ordered products in terms of a series of products of the Feynman propagator. These directly relate to the various Feynman Diagrams for the Klein Gordon interaction system.

At our meeting on Jan. 4 we will develop the S matrix formalism, and also extend our work to the interaction of the Dirac fields via a Yukawa interaction with the Klein Gordon Field, and eventually, with the electromagnetic fields. This leads to an understanding of what is called quantum electrodynamics, the interaction of charged particles such as electrons, positrons, quarks and other particles via the electromagnetic field.

Using Feynman Diagrams for this system we can calculate scattering cross sections and decay rate for a whole range of processes. Eventually, we will do the same for the strong and weak interactions.

We continue to zoom meet every two weeks on Wed. at 2:00 pm. If anyone would like to inquire about Physical Sciences Group please contact Alvin Halpern—alvin.halpern@gmail.com.

Alvin Halpern

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COLLOQUY CAFE

1:30 p.m.— Wednesday, January 18 —— via Zoom

January’s meeting will be Wednesday the 18th at our usual 1:30.

A small attendance at the November 16 meeting did not dampen enthusiasm for the discussion of “marriage”, the subject for the day. Its benefits, surprises, obligations legal and moral, and its stages were all addressed, as were its changes over historical periods. Because of the holiday activities of many otherwise loyal members and the usual 3rd Wednesday’s closeness to Christmas, the December meeting was cancelled.

Recent political developments made “elections” a natural choice for the first topic to be examined in the new year.

Gerry Horwitz
Our January meeting is Wednesday, January 4 at 10 am to see *For Me and My Gal*, a 1942 release starring Judy Garland in her first grown-up role, and introducing Gene Kelly, who had recently appeared as a two-timing opportunist in *Pal Joey* on Broadway.

Both Garland and director Busby Berkley, along with Garland's acting coach, Stella Adler (who would become a major force at the Actor's Studio in New York a decade later), encouraged Hal Wallis to hire Kelly despite the objections of the higher-ups at MGM.

Kelly was so convincing as a heel that preview audiences rejected the film, which was reshot to make his character, who maims his hand to dodge the draft, into a remorseful hero, of whom audiences could gladly approve.

This was perhaps the last major Hollywood musical filmed in black and white and contains some wonderful performances by Garland and Kelly, as well as George Murphy and Hungarian operetta star Marta Eggerth, who would appear again with Garland in *Meet Lily Mars*.

We watched *Immortal Beloved* in December and were all left with feeling fortunate to have seen it. This 1994 film is loosely based on happenings after the death of Ludwig Beethoven, with frequent flashbacks.

Beethoven's will left his estate to his "immortal beloved", without specifying who that person was. This film tells of the search by his biographer for that woman. The movie's Director, Bernard Rose, a non-historian, was convinced that he had solved her identity and named Beethoven's sister-in-law. Scholars dispute this conclusion and so the mystery continues.

The film is a musical feast. Parts of over a dozen Beethoven works (as well as a section of The Thieving Magpie by Rossini that wasn't included on the CD release) were included, with Symphony No 9, Ode to Joy, being the most prominent.

**Barbara Heckler and Ken Kraus**
INSIDE POLITICS

10 a.m. — Second Saturday--January 14 — via Zoom

Happy New Year, Members of the SDIS Inside Politics Zoom Study Group!

We begin the year 2023 with our first meeting on Saturday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m., which is also combined with my Second Saturday political discussion group. As I am typing this report, the new Republican House of Representatives is scheduled to convene tomorrow morning to elect a new Speaker of the House. California Congressman Kevin McCarthy is favored to win the election as Speaker, but as of this morning he does not yet have the sufficient number of votes, 218, to be elected Speaker.

There are currently five GOP Congressman who have publicly pledged never to vote for McCarthy for Speaker, more than enough to deny McCarthy the job. And there are currently no other House Republicans who have expressed interest in running for Speaker. Under the House rules, House Committees cannot be formed and the new members of the House cannot be sworn in until a Speaker has been selected.

Compounding the chaos which could develop on the House floor tomorrow morning is the House rule that the Speaker is not required to be a current member of the House of Representatives. There has not been more than one ballot for Speaker of the House for over one hundred years. How all of this political intrigue is resolved will be discussed at our first meeting of the new year on January 14.

Another topic sure to be discussed at our first meeting is the election of New York GOP congressman George Santos. The New York Times has recently disclosed that while running for Congress, Santos falsified his resume in several important respects. He lied about attending and graduating from Baruch College, working for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, owning several homes, being Jewish, and that his parents were survivors of the Holocaust and 9/11.

Also now in question is where Santo was able to obtain the 700 Thousand Dollars he claimed to have loaned himself to conduct his campaign. Democrats are demanding that the GOP refuse to seat Campos or to expel him if he is seated, and Santos is now under investigation by several Federal, State, and Local government agencies. One problem: if lying were a crime, many congress-persons would be out of a job. We will certainly discuss the Santos scandal during our first meeting of the year on January 14.

If you have any interest in discussing the hot political issues of the day, and do not already receive the Agenda and Zoom Link for our class, please let me know and I will be sure you receive these two documents prior to every one of our monthly meetings on the Second Saturday of every month.

Al Korobkin, akorbk1@san.rr.com
READING EXPERIENCE

10 a.m. — Third Monday — January 16 --- via Zoom

The third Monday morning of the month, beginning the new year on January 16, will focus on The Damnation of Theron Ware, fourth and last in our current series “Little-Known Authors.”

Written in the last years of the nineteenth century, the novel’s author, Harold Frederic, was a journalist whose plot and development here are reminiscent of the works of Sinclair Lewis, although “reminiscent” is perhaps inaccurate because Lewis, although well-known today and widely read in his time, wrote 20 and 30 years after Frederic.

December’s discussion examined The Royal Road to Romance by Richard Halliburton, well-known during his years of daring and adventurous travel, the 1930s and ’40s, has faded from attention. Spurning the offers of his wealthy parents to finance his travels in luxurious fashion, Halliburton chose to rely solely on his own instincts and talents to pay for his often primitive means in accomplishing his unusual choices.

Gerry Horwitz

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### January 2023
SDIS meetings and events listed are via Zoom

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