The Westernization of the Pacific and the Inevitable Collapse of Hegemony

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By Frank Dumon

> In a media climate saturated with Western propaganda and strategic myopia, rare moments of clarity provide a necessary counterbalance. A recent, in-depth twenty-one-minute conversation between veteran journalist George Galloway and incisive analyst and educator KJ Noh offers such a moment. The interview dissects the precarious, near-war situation on the Korean peninsula and paints an unvarnished picture of the systematic 'Ukrainianization' of the Pacific. For those who know the history of the region, and for those who recognize the patterns of Western imperialist expansion, the message is unmistakable: we narrowly avoided a catastrophic war, and preparations for the next one are proceeding full steam ahead.

This article serves not merely as a recap of that conversation, but as an extensive, critical evaluation of the geopolitical reality in East Asia. It reveals the endless aggression of the West and the role of local 'Quislings'—collaborators who sacrifice their own people and region at the altar of a dying American hegemony. From the pseudo-sovereignty of South Korea to the tragic return of US military bases in the Philippines, and from the resilience of North Korea to the technological sovereignty of China: this is an analysis of a world balancing on the edge of the abyss, pushed by an

elite that can no longer face or refuses to see reality.

South Korea: A Sovereign State in Name, An American Colony in Practice

One of the most revealing yet rarely discussed facts in Western mainstream media is the lack of actual sovereignty of South Korea. Professor KJ Noh rightly points out that the South Korean army, with an impressive but misleading strength of 3.6 million personnel, is under direct operational control of the United States. This is not a historical footnote; it is the current reality. The United States holds 'Operational Control' (OPCON) over the South Korean armed forces. In practice, this means that Washington, with a literal 'snap of the fingers', can ignite a war in which South Korea will serve as the first victim and the primary battlefield.

This dynamic became painfully clear during last year's provocations under the current South Korean president Yoon Suk-yeol. Sending drones into North Korea was not an act of independent national defense, but a reckless escalation that seamlessly aligned with the strategic objectives of the American 'deep state'. A counterattack from the North would have immediately transferred full operational control to the US, plunging the region into full-scale war. We missed a bullet by millimeters.

The presence of think tanks and publications such as **38 North**, which claim that North Korea "has no options left" and will therefore start a war, is a classic example of projection and the creation of a self-fulfilling prophecy. As Noh sharply analyzes, the claim that North Korea has no options is, in reality, an admission by American strategists: they have blocked the diplomatic path, escalated sanctions to inhuman levels, and backed North Korea into a corner where self-defense is the only remaining option. The West creates the crisis to then sell the 'solution': further militarization and submission.

North Korea: The Myth of the 'Failed State' and the Reality of Resilience

The Western propaganda machine has worked for decades to portray North Korea as a bizarre, poor, and isolated 'hermit kingdom'. The reality, however, is significantly more complex and historically nuanced. Until the late 1970s, North Korea was economically more prosperous and industrially advanced than South Korea, which at the time was considered by many, including Western observers, as a failed state kept afloat only by massive American injections. The famous 'Korean miracle' spoken of in the 1960s originally referred to the North, not the South.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent relentless Western sanctions brought the country to the brink of the abyss. Yet, unlike many other states that succumbed under such pressure, North Korea never surrendered its sovereignty. The country held on to its educational system, its technological development, and its support for sovereign movements in the Global South. The current economic revival, recognized even by capitalist publications like the **Financial Times** and **The Economist**, is no coincidence nor solely the result of Chinese aid. It is the direct result of a disciplined, socialist development model that prioritizes national independence over integration into a predatory global financial system.

Western commentators now try to dismiss this success as mere dependence on China, but this is an intellectually dishonest simplification. North Korea has a synergistic relationship with its neighbors, but it remains an independent player with its own proven development strategy. Recognizing this reality is a thorn in the side of a West that believes only liberal democracies and free markets can flourish.

The 'Ukrainianization' of the Pacific: A Blueprint for Conflict

The term 'Ukrainianization' is not an accidental metaphor; it is a descriptive term for a concrete geopolitical process exported by the United States. The pattern is now painfully recognizable: identify a strategically located country, install or support a willing local leadership, build a network of military bases, conduct joint military exercises that provoke the neighbor, and create the legal and cognitive infrastructure to legitimize conflict.

This process is currently in full swing in the Pacific, with Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines as the primary pawns. The massive buildup of forces, repeated 'rehearsals' (exercises), and rhetoric of threat are not signs of deterrence, but of preparation. It is the classic 'security dilemma' dynamics, deliberately staged by Washington to destabilize the region and contain China.

> The United States treats these Asian nations not as equal partners, but as battering rams. Just as Ukraine was used to weaken Russia without a single American soldier on the front lines, the Philippines, Japan, and South Korea are now being prepared to absorb the first blows of a conflict with China. Local populations pay the price, while strategists in Washington and London calculate risks from the safety of their own distant headquarters.

The Philippines: The New Battlefield and the Return of the Quislings

The situation in the Philippines is perhaps the most tragic and disturbing illustration of this process. For those who know the country's history, the current course is a horrific reversal of the progress made after the fall of the dictatorship. In 1991, after decades of resistance against the Marcos regime and specifically after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, the Philippine Senate historically voted to close US military bases. The closure of **Clark Air Base** and **Subic Naval Base** was a victory for Philippine sovereignty and a direct reflection of the will of the people, who had suffered for decades under the ecological and social consequences of the US military presence.

Today, we see the return of those same bases, facilitated by a government rightly labeled by KJ Noh as a **'Quisling' dictatorship**. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. follows in his father's footsteps, not as an independent leader, but as a proxy for American interests. The United States currently has access to at least nine military bases in the Philippines, which are being loaded with advanced missile systems and logistical infrastructure.

The reopening of Clark and Subic is not a local security issue; it is an essential part of the American 'Air-Sea Battle' doctrine. The goal is twofold: first, to create a blockade in the South China Sea, a vital lifeline through which billions of dollars in trade and ten million barrels of oil flow daily. Second, to facilitate a 'blinding decapitation attack' deep into the Chinese hinterland. The Philippines are being used as the ideal springboard for a war that the Filipino people do not want, against a neighbor with which it is historically and economically connected. History will not forgive this current leadership; they are trading the future of their nation for the fleeting favor of an empire that will ultimately drop them as soon as the first missiles fly.

China: Sovereignty, Technology, and the Limits of the American Empire

The madness of American strategy becomes truly clear when one objectively evaluates the capabilities of the intended target, China. China is not the Ukraine of 2014, nor is it a weak, dependent economy. It is the largest economy in the world (measured by purchasing power parity), the world's largest manufacturer, and possesses the largest navy. But more importantly, as analysts like Ben Norton correctly note, China is sovereign at virtually every critical level.

China has territorial sovereignty, but also technological sovereignty, digital sovereignty, financial sovereignty (through reduced dependence on the US dollar), and is moving rapidly towards energy independence. The country possesses one of the most advanced 'Anti-Access/Area Denial' (A2/AD) systems in the world, a network of precision missiles and defense systems that makes any attempt at a conventional

invasion or blockade a suicide mission for the attacker.

The Western obsession with China 'stealing intellectual property' is a projection of their own fear. The reality is that China leads in 57 of the 63 critical, advanced technologies. One cannot steal technology from the future; one can only develop it through investment in education, research, and long-term vision. China is led by engineers and scientists; the United States is led by lawyers, lobbyists, and failed businessmen. In a technological and industrial race, the outcome of this demographic and governance gap is inevitable.

The most absurd evidence of American paranoia is the attack on academic freedom. Recent sanctions against institutions such as Fudan University – one of China's most liberal and internationally oriented universities, full of academics trained in the West – are strategic suicide. By intimidating Chinese researchers in the US, accusing them of espionage, or worse, as in the tragic case of Dan Hua Wang, letting them die under suspicious circumstances, the West locks itself out. They try to close off the 'knowledge commons', but in practice, they only accelerate China's drive towards complete self-sufficiency. It is a policy that is not only immoral but fundamentally counterproductive.

The 'Grizzly Beer Fallacy' and the Moral Bankruptcy of the West



Why does a weakened, internally divided, and debt-plagued United States seek an existential war with a superpower like China? KJ Noh introduces a striking metaphor here: the 'Grizzly Beer Fallacy'. About six percent of adults in the US believe they can defeat a grizzly bear with their bare hands. This is the level of strategic madness that characterizes the current American 'deep state'.

The ruling elite is so deeply intertwined with the idea of uncontested hegemony that they consider the downfall of the world an acceptable price for maintaining their power. It is a form of ultimate cynicism. They know they can barely defeat a medium power like Iran or Russia (in a proxy war), let alone a peer competitor like China. Yet they continue with escalation, driven by a combination of historical arrogance, institutional inertia, and a moral void.

This dynamic is not new to those who study the history of Western imperialism in Asia. From the French colonial war in Indochina to the American destruction of Vietnam, and

now the attempt to smother the rise of an independent Asia, the pattern remains the same: aggression, followed by denial, followed by the search for a new scapegoat. But the world of 2026 is not the world of 1950 or 1965. The Global South is no longer willing to pay the bill for Western mistakes.

Conclusion: The Necessity of Realism and the Rejection of Illusion

The interview between George Galloway and KJ Noh is a wake-up call, but it is a warning that Western policymakers will likely ignore until it is too late. The 'Ukrainianization' of the Pacific is not an abstract theory; it is a physical reality being built with concrete, steel, and missiles in the Philippines, in Japan, and in South Korea.

For observers, journalists, and citizens in Europe, it is crucial to understand and name this dynamic. We must stop regurgitating press releases from the Pentagon and the State Department. We must name the local 'Quislings' for what they are: traitors to their own people who are turning the region into a hotspot for the profit of a foreign power. And we must recognize the resilience and right to self-determination of countries like North Korea and China, not as ideological enemies, but as sovereign entities claiming a legitimate place in a multipolar world.

The price of the illusion that the West can maintain its dominance forever through military intimidation will ultimately be paid by the ordinary population of the Pacific. It is up to us to break that illusion, face the facts, and resist the war machine that, with a finger on the trigger, waits for the slightest excuse to set the world on fire. History will judge those who remained silent, and those who, despite the pressure, continued to speak the truth.

Coming soon online: The Unbreakable Bond: The Synergy between China and North Korea and the Quiet Rise of a Sovereign Economy