By Viktor Shenderovich (Google-translated Facebook post, 03.05.2025)

"Republican" commentators on my previous post are, of course, right: I am not objective. Ovations in the US Congress during the President's speech are a tradition. It would be interesting, of course, to compare the frequency and decibels, but this is already entertainment for Americanists.

And I'd better try to formulate once again why I have such an uneven breath for the new owner of the White House.

You know - this has almost nothing to do with the political coordinate system.

Those who are curious can easily find out what exactly, for years on end, I wrote about the dangerous practices of victorious "political correctness" - social demagogy, "cancel culture", percentage norms, the abolition of the presumption of innocence and the substitution of meanings.

At the last turn, during the times of monuments to Floyd and the hunt for Kevin Spacey, I was banned by a dozen American acquaintances as a Trumpist (racist, sexist, etc.). And on the new turn, against the background of leftist support for Hamas and other collective guttiereshes - I took Trump's second coming to the White House, I must admit, even with some relief: let it be anything, just not this demagogic crap.

It seems that this was not only my logic: voting for Trump was obviously a protest. It was a clear response to the fact that the "leftists" did not learn any lessons from his first victory, eight years ago, and at the first opportunity continued to sing their old tune with increasing force.

Well, they succeeded: this time there was not even intrigue. The vote was AGAINST THEM.

From the very beginning, Trump looked like an evil medicine for a very advanced disease - and in this capacity he was quite desirable to many, and not only to his fans.

Yet (based on the impressions of the first one and a half months of treatment) the dosage now seems to be prescribed not by the doctor, but by the medicine itself, which has obviously acquired a taste for it. And the overdose seems obvious not only to me.

This, I repeat, is primarily not about politics itself (here, however funny it may sound, "all is not so univocal" indeed), but about style and new horizons of ethics. About the legitimization of lies and rudeness. About the outright enjoyment of the right of the strong, about demonstrative contempt for generally accepted moral standards.

You see, certain things are to be never done - no matter what. Not by the left, not by the right, not by the semimiddle. You may not insult not only Prince Harry's wife - you may not insult anyone. And if this gives pleasure to your electorate - so much the worse for the country in which this electorate won.

You cannot publicly humiliate a person who is dependent on you. You cannot lie and, when caught in a lie, not apologize and not bear responsibility. You cannot so openly measure someone else's blood with money. All this is simply indecent.

This does not mean that the previous occupants of the White House were models of ethical behavior - no way! The cynicism of their concept of "safe" grinding Russia against Ukraine, and Ukraine against Russia - will, I hope, receive its historical assessment.

But the demonstrative, for the whole world, abolition of elementary rules of decency, the legitimization of unpunished lies, brutal rudeness and political Darwinism - can have the most tragic and long-term consequences for the whole world. It seems they already have.

The world always returns to normal, wrote Stanislaw Jerzy Lec - the question is whose norm it is. If the ethical norm that Trump demonstrates in the first weeks of his second presidency becomes generally accepted, this thing will be stronger than Goethe's Faust. Stylistic differences, as Andrey Sinyavsky warned, are a quite essence-bearing thing...

And Freud described the process of the onset of madness this way - not "went crazy and took off his pants in public", but exactly the opposite: took off his pants in public and then went crazy! From impunity. From a sudden happy realization that this is allowed.

So before our eyes - from impunity - Putin has gone crazy, in a matter of years having turned from a quiet St. Petersburg corrupt official into a daredevil messiah. Today, America is being tested for normality, and judging by first impressions, things are quite alarming.

And - in response to overseas claims from the comments - no, this is not your internal affair, no! It's not Lesotho: the whole world is shaking from the new American norms of international behavior.

And the quality of the "rare earth" deal and the political prospects of Trump kissing Putin as a US tool in the trade war with China is a completely different topic.

By Dmitry Chernyshev (Google-translated Facebook post, 03.01,2025)

The official White House account accompanied the video of Zelensky's departure with a mocking caption: "He showed disrespect for the United States of America in their cherished Oval Office. He can return when he is ready for peace."

Trump, like any narcissistic as hole, has huge problems with empathy. He cannot put himself in other people's shoes. I will try to explain the situation using an example that he would understand.

The problem is that America has never had a war in which it would be inferior to its enemy by tens of times in all respects. Since the Korean War, the Americans have always fought with total air superiority. Since the Civil War, America has not known what war is on its own territory. We have already been transported to the past, let's now try to look into the future.

Imagine Trump starting trade wars, introducing monstrous tarifs and thus finishing off the country's economy. Then he accepts Putin's proposal and cuts the defense budget in half. Then he cuts the military industry - why are we spending monstrous money on war, we are businessmen, we have agreed on everything. He sells rusty aircraft carriers for scrap metal to India. After all, we have reliable international guarantees. China is militarizing all this time and suddenly, with a lightning strike, seizes Taiwan. Welcome back to your native harbor. The world actually turns a blind eye to this - well, in all fairness, China has legitimate claims. This is its original territory. But now there will be peace.

At this time, elections are taking place in the United States, in which Jim Carrey wins by a wide margin, having successfully starred in the remake of "House of Cards" before this, in which he played the president. America has had one great president from actors, let there be a second.

But China does not calm down after the capture of Taiwan, it enters into a union with Mexico and begins to finance the Mexican guerrilla movement in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California - these are the original Mexican lands, illegally torn away from a proud and freedom-loving people. The Zapatista Army of National Liberation under the command of Colonel El Tirador crosses the border and captures Los Angeles without a fight. A war begins, in which hundreds of thousands of Mexican migrant workers under the command of Chinese officers take an active part. American patriots desperately hold Los Angeles International Airport for six months. The press is full of stories about the oppression of Mexicans and the ban on teaching in Spanish.

And then, at the end of winter, the invasion begins - thousands of trans-

port ships land a multi-million Chinese army on the West Coast. China surpasses America in all respects by an order of magnitude. Fraternal Canada sends a batch of grenade launchers, bulletproof vests and first aid kits. The sky is dominated by the Chinese Jian-13. Desperate pleas to the allies to close the sky remain unanswered. All military experts predict an inevitable victory for China - the forces are too unequal. Great Britain offers Jim Carrey asylum. But he refuses to leave and begins to organize resistance.

And so the terrible war continues for three years. Chinese missiles reach any American city. Washington is constantly bombed. More than seventy million refugees. Millions of casualties are wounded at the front. The West Coast, along with Alaska and Hawaii, are lost. The aging and flabby Chairman Xi, who has long been called Xi++ because of his excess weight and twice-cancelled elections, holds a referendum in the occupied territories, changes the Constitution and includes the entire West Coast in the Celestial Empire. The threat of a naval landing in Florida remains.

The Chinese occupation army rushes forward regardless of losses. It destroys everything in its path. It is building huge concentration camps behind itself. Phoenix, Las Vegas and Portland are wiped off the face of the Earth. Almost all US power plants are destroyed. People are saving themselves from the cold with stoves and generators. Help from allies is coming, but sometimes there are interruptions. But there is also good news - planes from allies are starting to arrive. China's economy is choking and working at the limit, sanctions are slowly but surely finishing it off. There is no Chinese fleet left in the American (Mexican) Gulf. Ameircans manage to land troops near Shenzhen, which ties down colossal Chinese forces. The state of Idaho is recaptured. The forces at the front are almost equal.

And at this time, elections are taking place in the European Union, in which the far-right Louis Le Pen (the grandson) wins. He openly gives the Nazi salute in the Elysee Palace and promises to end the war in one day. Let's be realistic: it is impossible to defeat China, we need to stop the war along the front lines. And here's another bill for our military supplies. And let America's mineral wealth be ours too. Jim Carrey is desperately trying to explain that tens of millions of Americans remain under the Chinese, and cannot be abandoned to C++. That shells, drones, planes and combat space stations are needed. But the Europeans arrogantly try to lecture the comedian and speak to him in the tone of Don Corleone: "You come and ask me for something, but you ask without respect. You can come back when you are ready for peace."

Got it?

Letter to Donald Trump from Lech Walesa, former President of Poland, trade union activist, leader of Solidarity, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and other former political prisoners, Solidarity activists. (Google-translated Facebook post, 03.03.2025)

Dear Mr. President,

We watched the account of your conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky with horror and disgust. Your expectations of respect and gratitude for the material aid provided by the United States to Ukraine, which is fighting against Russia, we find offensive. Gratitude is owed to the heroic Ukrainian soldiers who are shedding blood in defense of the values of the free world. It is they who, for over 11 years, have been dying on the front lines in the name of these values and the independence of their homeland, attacked by Putin's Russia.

We do not understand how the leader of a country that is a symbol of the free world can fail to see this.

Our horror was also provoked by the fact that the atmosphere in the Oval Office during this conversation reminded us of the one we remember well from interrogations by the Security Service and from courtrooms in communist trials. Prosecutors and judges, acting on the orders of the all-powerful communist political police, also explained to us that they held all the cards, and we held none. They demanded that we cease our activities, arguing that thousands of innocent people were suffering because of us. They deprived us of freedom and civil rights because we refused to cooperate with the regime and did not show it gratitude. We are shocked that you treated President Volodymyr Zelensky in a similar manner.

The history of the 20th century shows that every time the United States sought to distance itself from democratic values and its European allies, it ended in a threat to itself. President Woodrow Wilson understood this when he decided to enter the United States into World War I in 1917. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt understood this when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he decided that the war to defend America would be fought not only in the Pacific but also in Europe, in alliance with the countries attacked by the Third Reich.

We remember that without President Ronald Reagan and American financial engagement, it would not have been possible to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union. President Reagan was aware that in Soviet Russia and the countries it had conquered, millions of enslaved people were suffering, including thousands of political prisoners who paid with their freedom for their sacrifice in defense of democratic values. His greatness lay, among other things, in the fact that he did not hesitate to call the USSR the "Evil Empire" and waged a determined fight against it. We won, and today a statue of President Ronald Reagan stands in Warsaw, opposite the U.S. Embassy.

Mr. President, material aid—military and financial—cannot be an equivalent for the blood shed in the name of the independence and freedom of Ukraine, Europe, and the entire free world. Human life is priceless; its value cannot be measured in money. Gratitude is owed to those who sacrifice their blood and freedom. For us, the people of "Solidarity," former political prisoners of the communist regime serving Soviet Russia, this is obvious.

We appeal to the United States to fulfill the guarantees it provided, along with the United Kingdom, in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which explicitly committed to defending the territorial integrity of Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons. These guarantees are unconditional: there is not a single word in them about treating such aid as an economic exchange.