HERE WE GO AGAIN

Posted on January 25, 2022 by Eddie

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings,Â who cannot save.
Category: Observations

I was born in the late nineteen fifties and, although it had ended more than a decade earlier, my childhood was shaped by the Second World War. As kids we would run through the streets firing imaginary machine guns in endless games of Germans and British. When making gun noises in the streets became too uncool for a ten year old, I started making Airfix kits and Messerschmits and Spitfires hanging on threads from my bedroom ceilings fought dogfights in the breeze.

By the early 1980s, it was future wars that concerned me more than past ones. The threat of nuclear war hung over the country. The government distributed pamphlets telling us how to "Protect and Survive", though many of us preferred the notion of "Protest and Survive" and we marched in our thousands to protest the presence of US nuclear armed cruise missiles in our towns and villages.

Then came 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the threat of war, nuclear or conventional receded. Even China began to see the light on capitalism and the world was becoming united in one globalised system that made any future major conflict unthinkable. There might be some localised conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, but nothing too big or dangerous.

Except it didn't work out like that.

We are living through what may be the most dangerous time in the last forty years. Conflict looks possible - likely even - in Ukraine and that could easily spill over into the rest of Europe. The Chinese and Americans are brushing up against each other in the Pacific and conflict over Taiwan looks inevitable, sooner or later.

The First World War was the war to end all wars and the end of the Cold War was due to usher in a Millenial age of peace and prosperity, yet here we are again; sabres rattling.

So, why the gloomy navel gazing?

Simply this; we can't trust politicians or political systems. We need them to regulate our society and to ensure that things go well, but they have distinct limits. I don't care whether you are on the right or the left or somewhere in the middle; if you are looking to a particular politician or to a particular party or system to save the world (or just your country) you will be disappointed.

This is nothing new; Psalm 146 says it better than I do.

[1Â] Praise theÂ Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

[2] I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

[3] Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

[4] When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

[5] Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

[6] He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in themâ€"
he remains faithful forever.

[7] He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,

[8] the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

[9] The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

[10] The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise theÂ Lord.

Of course, we - his people - have to put this into practice and live it out.