Russian Invasion to Finland Starting?

Finnish government believes that Russia is buying real estate from Finland in order to use these miserable plots for its forthcoming “invasion”.

Should I make a comment about this? Is it a joke? Maybe it is a joke.

Why on earth would Russia — one of the world’s biggest superpowers — achieve by “invading” your totally miserable worthless piece of s—?

What interest would Russia have in such a plan? Are there natural resources in Finland?

No.

What is there?

Anybody who has been in Finland knows that there is absolutely nothing there. There are no natural resources, no valuable infrastructure, no real military power, farming is at starvation levels, climate is horrible, there’s no gold, diamonds, or any type of richness, no oil or gas, the plot has no strategic value at present, people speak a language that nobody understands, there are not even terrorists, there is very few people, most of the very old; and most of it is covered by boring worthless forests that Russia has all over its own land and much more, and most of the year it is covered in deep impenetrable snow. It is completely, utterly insignificant plot of land that nobody is interested in to the slightest.

But yeah, remember, you tried to invade Soviet Union with the help of Hitler, don’t you remember? After your Nazi invasion was halted, it was decided – fortunately – to not to surrender you to Stalin, in the Paris Peace Conference. The fact is, you, too, tried an invasion and failed. It is Russia that should be concerned about possible Finnish invasion, and your use of Russian real estate should be regarded as possible “mobilization centers”. Perhaps Sweden should be concerned too, because, after all, you have also been totally owned by swedes.

Or are you so moronic to think that it’s still World War II, and that Europe is about to be divided into the communist and capitalists blocks? Is this what it is about? You live that era still? Let me just say that the rest of the world has moved on, and there are other, more relevant concerns, in which you specifically play no important role.

And let’s think this. Suppose Russia would be planning to “invade” your insignificant plot of forgotten forests and abandoned villages. Let’s play this completely moronic insanity scenario for a moment. Do you in our delusional mind think that some s— real estate would make a difference here? What do you think? Russia would invade you in a day, real estate or no real estate. Heck, I think even Denmark could invade Finland in a day; if not in a day, in a week then. Russia would just fire a few missiles. It’d be over.

Actually, not even missiles would be needed. Putin would just stop the flow of gas. You’d freeze to death the next day.

Of course, Russia would achieve nothing, absolutely nothing by doing that. It is a completely insane scenario that only completely lunatic human being could contemplate.
I believe that this story, which is distributed in international news media, must be a hoax. It cannot be true. You aren’t that stupid. It’s a joke of some kind. It’s much like the another hoax story that there are right-wing “citizen groups” patrolling in the empty villages, or the one which claimed that you have sold your life-and-death critical infrastructure, your energy grid monopoly, to for-profit investors in Australia – and now the electricity bills are, surprising, increasing.

At any rate, I have this “theory” about my own country. All nation-states and cultures have some essential characteristics. According to my theory, Finns and Finland has a narcissistic disorder above all. On one hand we so much believe in our own epic excellence that we think Russia would want to invade our worthless plot; yet at the same time we know, deep inside our unconscious minds, that we suck. See, we know – I know because I have lived there and I am a Finn – that we have a serious, handicapping inferiority complex too. So megalomania + stupidity + inferiority complex = narcissism. That’s what Finland is.

But I have also some very good news! Russia will not, by all likelihood, invade Finland.
Negative Interest Rates and Capital Controls

World leaders decided at Davos, in desperation, to adopt a negative interest rate regimen that is simply completely unprecedented in world history. The idea is all over the media, and is either being pushed for the general public by means of propaganda, or is already in place (for example, in Japan and here in Denmark).

At the same time, if you follow the news, there is a major push to abandon 500€ bills and $100 bills, and to move towards cashless society. The negative interest rate insanity and cashless society are connected to each other, however. It’s all part of the same monstrosity.

See, if your bank would take 2% of your money when you deposit it, would you deposit your money into the bank?

No, you wouldn’t. You would be our own bank and keep the money. When we deposited some money here in Denmark, the bank offered us 0% interest. Yes, you got it right. That raises some fundamental philosophical concerns I have never encountered before in my life. Why would we give you our money if you pay 0%? If they had offered -1%, we would have kept the money to ourselves.

So the negative interest rate regimen – in addition to being completely insane, against any economics theory I know of, and never attempted before – would not work. People would withdraw their cash.

That is, they would withdraw their cash if there were cash. That’s why, in order to impose negative interest rates, you have to ban cash. All you can do, in such a world, is to move abstract numbers from one bank into another, and whichever bank it goes, 2% will be siphoned off. So our wealth would be trapped inside the system, free to be exploited in whichever way.

Why would anybody want this? This is the only option central banks and their trillionaire masters have left to save the global economy from the epic meltdown they very well know is coming. The theory is that in such a wicked world, money would again start moving into consumer spending, more debt would be created, and banks would be in control of everything.

Therefore, there will now be a huge push towards negative interest rates and cashless society, but it is not clear if the economic devastation arrives first and nullifies these plans. It is completely unclear if the plan could succeed even if the collapse is postponed; I believe it cannot succeed, people will not go with this totally alien idea that they couldn’t hold cash. Thus, instead of banning cash, what we’ll get, I predict, are capital controls. That means simply that, instead of banning cash outright, banks and the government would only let you withdraw, say, 100€/day. This is what they have done in Cyprus and Greece, for example. It’s probably coming to you in the near future.
What's going on in the economy

The world is in a recession. Chinese imports and exports collapsed 20%, and Japanese economy contracted 1.4%. The Baltic Dry Index is at its all time lows. In the US, a record number of people use food stamps. The stock markets collapsed. Never before has the whole world been in such a massive debt bubble. Yet, suddenly, the collapse come into a halt. What happened?

What happened was that the President of the ECB, Mario Draghi, came out with the message that the ECB will – against its previous declarations – continue printing 60 billion funny money euros per month out of thin air, as I predicted. They will also, together with Fed, consider introducing and increasing negative interest rates. And finally, mainstream media now distributes the idea that governments, such as the government of Italy and Finland, should be allowed to borrow money unrestricted. When corporate mainstream media starts to distribute an idea, you can bet it has been decided behind the scenes and now has to be sold to the public.

So the catastrophic problem of impossibly high debt burden in a recession economy will be solved, you guessed it, by taking more debt.

I speculate that the world powers decided at Davos to plot our way out of this problem by hyperinflation.

Notice how, just after this meeting, the Japanese central bank introduced negative interest rates, against their own declarations not to do so. Notice also how the Fed chairwoman, Janet Yellen, started to talk about negative rates.

The system works as follows. Central banks have printed funny money out of the blue now for years, trillions of euros and dollars, yet the economy is in recession. Where is all that money? The money lives inside the virtual reality of financial institutions who either store it there, or use it to speculate. It does not go into real economy, which is shrinking and has very few real investments opportunities left.

See, real people, unlike the banks, have to pay their debts: they are not too big to fail, instead, they are too small to be considered at all. So they try to pay debts and survive on food stamps, and when people pay their debts, that money literally disappears, which results in a contraction and recession (*I explain this mechanisms at the end of this post). The idea now is to try to use governments to pump some of that money into real economy. In short, let governments finally borrow without restrictions. No more austerity. You can see that austerity did not work for Greece, which is only contracting.

What this means, if it succeeds, is that funny money will finally reach real people who might not pay back their debts (not likely) but start to spend it, and when trillions upon trillions of euros and dollars reach consumers in a shrinking real economy, the result is hyperinflation of the likes we now see in some developing countries. Hyperinflation not only destroys salaries and savings, but also wipes out debt. It means that all money, savings, salaries, debts, turns into toilet paper.

It is not at all certain that this master plan will succeed; it is possible, as I wrote in another post, that the financial system collapses before that. It only takes one big bank to collapse. Negative interest rates, recession, bankruptcies, and impossible debt burden will harm banks, who cannot earn money if they cannot charge interest. The shrinking economy also means that their loans are not performing, for example, in Italy 20% of the loans are non-performing, meaning that the banks do not receive any payments. Without the funny money policy, these banks would be dead by now. Commodity price crash means that many energy loans will not be performing.
Not many people realize how utterly crazy all this is, and totally unprecedented in the world history. In its own insane way this makes the current events all the more interesting.

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Let me explain very briefly how the funny money mechanism works. When you take a loan from a bank, that money is created out of thin air. It is not “borrowed” from somebody else; instead, it is just created. The numbers are typed into a computer and money comes into existence. In a very abstract sense that money is borrowed from your future, because you promise to pay it back later. This means that when you take a loan, there will be more money in the world; it comes “from the future”. When you pay back your loan, the reverse happens. It does not occur that some other person gets his or her money “back from you”. Instead, the money you use to pay your debts disappears, like matter and anti-matter in a collision. Remember, when you borrow, you take money from the future; and when that future moment arrives, it disappears “into your past”. There it went, into a worm hole. Hey, that’s time travel. What mediates this time travel are the interest rates. Now, when you pay back your debt, money disappears from the system, which is contraction and recession: less money in the world. That’s why more debt is not a solution for too much debt. Central banks constitute an exception to this because they can print money endlessly, which is what they are doing.
Millennials will be slaughtered

Washington’s goal in Syria is to remove Assad. See, Assad “must go”. That is the reason why they created, funded, and supported ISIS. ISIS is a proxy army for Washington, supported by Saudi-Arabia and Turkey. It is not an independent terrorist organization. Washington almost succeeded in destroying Syria, like they did in Iraq and Libya, if only Russia would not have intervened this time. But this time Russia did intervene to prevent the massacre. ISIS is retreating as we speak.

What’s happening right at this moment is that Saudi-Arabia and Turkey are preparing a ground invasion into Syria. There are Saudi-Arabian troops now in Turkey. What do you think they are doing there? What is Saudi-Arabia doing there?

This means Russia/Iran/Syria and US/Saudi-Arabia/Turkey/NATO are finally setting themselves up against each other. NATO’s troops and military is being amassed to the borders of Russia. US naval forces are moving to Mediterranean. Washington will never let Russia to succeed. ISIS is their proxy army; it is their creation, it is there to let “Assad go” and to destroy Syria. They are taking us into war, a war between Russia/Iran/China/Syria at one side, US/Saudi-Arabia/Turkey/NATO at the other, with European countries joining in, in their own totally pathetic way. A war between nuclear powers is in the cards, so it will be a nuclear war. This is complete and total madness, all over again.

History is about to repeat itself. From prosperity into greed an hubris, and then into total destruction and human suffering at the extreme. We are pathetic.

Last wars were created for my grandparents. This war is created for you millennials. You will be slaughtered. It is your guts, brains and limbs that will be splattered. So I beg you, do not let things go into this way. Resist by all means; do not go into this war that it created for you. Do not take up arms this time.

Read a bit history and see what this means. You will see that what’s happening now is exactly what took place 1914 when the First World War was created. The two big coalitions are in place, they are arming to the teeth, they are confronting each other in one place, where a slightest incident will ignite total war and all hell will break loose and then nothing can be rolled back; it will be total destruction to the very end. The event, like the present one, was predated by a decade of bloodletting in a smaller scale (in the Balkans). These smaller events will inevitable culminate in a situation in which the big coalitions face each other; their interests will clash. This is now finally shaping up in Syria.

So, I beg you, do not believe the lies. Nobody is attacking or threatening you. There are no terrorists or terrorist attacks that will threaten you to justify total war; it is all made up to convince you to give your life for greed and hubris. It is you, if you take up arms, that become the terrorist of mass proportions. It is you that will destroy your own and your children’s future.

Do not let them draft you into this bloodletting. They will come up with reasons and false flag threats to convince you to go into the war. There will be military mobilizations, emergency laws and yellow/red/purple alerts to scare you. But save yourself, your friends, your parents, relatives, and your own children. Do not go into this abyss, I beg you, do not go there. It is you who they will want to kill, not me, or the architects of this cult of mass violence. We will die only afterwards, slowly, in the nuclear holocaust when it’s all over.

There is a very significant resistance already. Internet is providing a channel that was not there when the generations before you (my grandparents) were cheated into endless bloodletting and
destruction, sheep to be slaughtered, one hundred years ago almost to the date. Do not become that sheep. Do not believe the mainstream media, which will be delighted to see your guts and brains splattered in a CNN live broadcast.

If you don’t go into this war, nobody will, and it can perhaps be prevented. There is significant resistance already. Join that resistance. I beg you again, join the resistance and do not draft into this madness.
Economic planning and Finland’s GDP

Recently there was an article in an international newspaper citing the fact that the worst performing economy in Europe is not Greece, Italy, or Portugal.

Finland is.

Yet this country was supposed to be one of the best economies of Europe. What’s going on?

To understand what’s going on, you must first realize that Finland is culturally a “planned economy”. A planned economy is one in which much of the economic activities are planned in advance, in a top-down manner, much like it was in the Soviet Union.

Let’s take the higher education, as I have personal experience with that. If you remember, a megaplan was concocted some ten years ago that was aimed at organizing higher education differently, and to produce the “new Harvard”. There was a mysterious top-down political ideology, an idea emerging somewhere from the depths of the huge government juggernaut, which dictated that this is what’s going to happen. To force the top-down structure on the resistant population, a towering amount of money was poured into the system to kill any resistance. Yet, the megaplan achieved nothing. No new Harvard emerged. Nothing.

Yet, the same cycle repeats! At this time, though, there is no more money. Instead of letting people – those who work at the grassroots of higher education – to pursue what agrees with their profession’s values and their own innovative ideas, people are simultaneously laid off from autonomous academic jobs and directed towards doing research on few government-sponsored “state-of-the-art” projects (Finnish term “kärkihanke”, top initiative, which apparently has replaced “huippu”, excellence). That’s planned economy: the government dictates what you do. You literally risk being unemployed if you don’t follow the central plan.

The Finns don’t even recognize that there’s an alternative: to let people try to do their best as individuals. Why not?

Enormous government apparatus and their bureaucrats (think of the likes of Tekes and Academy of Finland) distribute government-generated cash in exchange of following top-down ideas, “key strategic initiatives” and what not. There exists simply an amazing amount of government organizations with boring-looking and repetitive titles (Sitra, Pitra, Valta, Katla, Tetla, VTT, KTT, Hutla, Tekes, Pekes, Humk, Hamk, Kota, Mota, Hota) all which guide people’s incentives according to central planning and few “strategic key initiatives”. It’s all supported by levying a gigantic tax on the very small population, more than 50%, which finally kills all individual initiatives if some still remains.

In schools and daycare, everybody is provided by the same food, produced by the same gigantic Hell’s Kitchen, which has a centrally planned menu. It is an eye-opening experience to see something like a daycare in another country where children are not “planned” according to inflexible top-down diktats. Instead, they just all play together and do what they want. Food is provided by the parents.

There now exists a project to reorganize the whole Finnish health sector (“SOTE uudistus”). How? By means of a nation-wide megaplan by centralizing it into even bigger monster units? I think people already understand that nothing will change. One central plan will be replaced by another, only bigger.
In an earlier blog, I explained how in my field only few scientific hypotheses are allowed by the central plan; there are huge swaths of scientific hypotheses that are rejected on nationalist grounds but accepted by the wider international scientific community. Yet the government-sponsored research produces literally nothing but paper education.

Work is distributed at large by means of formal education, on which the government of course holds a monopoly position. This, in turn, produces enormous government apparatus to produce paper education. My guess is that Finland has the most gigantic education apparatus in the whole world when measured against the population size/GDP. Am I wrong?

This is the fundamental, cultural reason why the Finnish labor market is so inflexible. All benefits and salaries are decided on a top-down basis, based on political ideology and paper education. For example, when the higher education was reorganized, huge salary increases took place everywhere inside the apparatus to kill any resistance to the political ideology. Are these salaries justified economically? By results? They were justified politically to implement a central plan, which produced nothing useful.

That’s how the Finns want it.

It’s like the Matrix, into which everybody is plugged in. When you live in the country, when you live inside the system, it’s very hard to see. Those who unplug become depressed, alcoholic, alienated, marginal. Half a million are unemployed; half a million use psych drugs to live at the margins of the Matrix. For all of you, keep in mind it’s not your own fault; it’s the Matrix.

How is the Matrix sustained? In a planned economy, the planning and its implementation on the population is typically sustained by few government-sponsored industries. For example, you can produce one type of car, say Lada. Or your entire economy might be specialized in producing corn. Sounds familiar?

In Finland, the key economies were mobile phones (Nokia), paper, ships, and a few others. The whole population’s daily life was planned around the key industries, for example, the researchers of all disciplines from biology to psychology were forced to teach and study mobile phone related stuff. It produced nothing. The contrary happened: the “planned industry” was killed off.

Think about it. When it became obvious that the few key centrally planned industries were going to fail, as they always do, the instinctive reaction of Finns was to look for another key industry. Perhaps we are an “Angry Bird nation”? Therefore, quickly establish ways to channel money to Angry Bird research, erect Angry Bird centers, establishing gaming-related Ph.D programs, a many, many key strategic initiatives. In short, force everybody into that. So it’s the mentality, the culture of Finland, which drives people towards planned economies.

And that’s where we are today. There is a planned economy in full thrust, but with nothing much left to fuel it.

By instinct, the Finns want a planned paper society, but they can’t have it anymore. Planned economies do not survive.

True, a planned economy has its positive sides. For those who work inside the gigantic planning apparatus, its very lucrative. They control everything, fund themselves by forced taxation, occasionally raising their own salaries.
The system produces bliss. When the whole economy is planned, people can retire into a blissful passivity. If you drop out of the Matrix, you can still compensate the cynicism by excessive drinking and substance abuse.

Finally, when everything is organized by top-down rules, nobody is responsible of anything. You can very literally make no mistakes there. In my experience, that’s huge factor in the Finnish mentality. The Finns, by instinct, want to “externalize” any responsibility to the central authority. That’s why there are so many rules.

That’s why the prevailing mood in Finland is cynicism. Nothing can be done anyway; everything is controlled by a central authority; don’t even try. All individual incentives are doomed from the start. Just let it go.

The right wing government, which aims for privatization, only made things worse. That’s because privatization and planned economy are not opposites.

Privatization is a means to achieve more quality at the expense of equality. It achieves more quality, because private businesses have to attract customers who use their own free will; it gives away equality, because you can access the goods only if you have money. The opposite of this is “more equality at the expense of quality”, that is, heavy income redistribution by means of government taxation, which is basically the Nordic welfare state model. But guys: the welfare system is not planned economy. The planned economy is a peculiar addition, a Finnish way.

The welfare system is ultimately about income redistribution, while the planned economy is about power. Think about the difference between an insurance and an army. An insurance is a premium (tax) we pay to survive hardship (sickness, unemployment, old age); an army is total control for the sake of achieving a single goal. Finnish welfare system is like an insurance by means of an army. Everybody is provided certain basic rights in exchange of total lack of control and individual incentives.

So what the right wing government tried, and tries, to do in Finland is of course “privatization under planned economy”, exactly what has happened in the US. It directs businesses, such as armament industries, by means of huge government ideologies (“War on Terror”), subsidies and government contracts. The difference is that in Finland, taxes amount to more than 50% — more than in any other country, I think — so that the planned private/public economy truly becomes a monster behemoth that controls all aspects of life. Imagine if you tax Americans more than 50% and put it all into munitions.

There is some debate whether Finland should simply borrow more money. Putting more money into a planned economy results only in more planning.

The new government wants to reduce bureaucracy. Yet, the last thing a planned economy will do is to plan its own demise. It will always plan its own survival, and only increases the bureaucracy.

My view is that the country can only survive if the Matrix is unplugged.

Because, if you think about this, when Finns succeed, its always some new, individual incentive, that produces something truly new, right?

It’s never planned by the government.
Finland, Greece and the EU

Several 500 euro banknotes and coins are adjacent. Symbolic photo for wealth. Euro coin balancing on stack with background of banknotes.

I have deep understanding of neither economics nor geopolitics. Yet, something is happening in both arenas that interests me very much.

The story began when Greece, with the help of an American investment bank, hid some of its debts in 2001 in order to join the euro (see here). When the debt reappeared, instead of writing it off as a loss to the investors (which would have been the reasonable thing to do), the EU technocrats, defending the interests of savers and finance, used taxpayers’ money to bail out the investors and to impose austerity conditions to the debtor, with the predictable result that the Greek economy collapsed.

Why was this done, you might ask. It was done because the interests of those who have money (savers, investors and the 1%) were favored over those who don’t have any (the young, unemployed and poor). The idea is to bailout investors, rip off taxpayers, and then privatize and sell off Greece’s national assets and loot the country.

But then, instead of accepting the austerity conditions in exchange for more money, the Syriza Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras surrendered the fate of his country to a national referendum, in which the Greek people overwhelmingly denied the deal. Subsequently, Tsipras came with another, less draconian deal, which is now discussed by the EU elite.

The EU elite would very much like to accept the deal, for reasons I’ll explain shortly.

But they can’t. In the recent parliamentary elections in Finland, the second largest party, True Finns (“Perussuomalaiset”), which constitutes one third of the current government coalition, agreed not to transfer any more tax money to Greece. So the current government in Finland, it seems to me, cannot accept any further deal with Tsipras in which Finnish tax money is poured into Greece. Finland is of course not alone in expressing such sentiments.

What makes this interesting to me is the following observation. If you were in Finland during the late 2014 and early 2015, you’d remember how the population was bombarded on a daily basis with an intense anti-Russian propaganda. Absurd claims were presented about Putin and Russia, even if there were no evidence whatsoever of any kind of aggression, invasion, wrongdoing or evil intention. No evidence, none. Remember, the Ukrainian “color revolution”, or coup, in which an ultra right-wing Nazi government overtook the democratically elected government, was orchestrated by Washington, not Russia.

At any rate, the propaganda distributed by the Finnish press emerged from Washington, which demonizes Russia for its own purposes, as it did with Iraq (remember the weapons of mass destruction?), Iran (everybody agrees that Iran has no nuclear weapons program), Syria (chemical weapons?), Libya (now in ruins, causing a huge refugee problem in southern Europe) and dozen of other countries that stand on its way. Washington now has its eyes on Russia, because it wants to create war in Europe. This would prevent China, Russia and EU, or the BRICS countries at large, to form an economic block that would (I’d say will) rival its own declining dollar hegemony.

Fortunately for us in Europe, Germans have had enough war with Russia.

Now, if Greece were kicked out of euro/EU, it would most likely fall on Putin’s sphere of influence.
That would be good for Greece, but very bad for Washington and NATO. So Washington is doing everything in its power to have its European vassals to agree with whatever conditions were presented by Greece. And that’s why the EU elite came up with a positive evaluation of the new Greece debt package, and that’s why you’ll soon hear much of the press and the political elite in Finland to sing to the same tune.

It is here that the nationalist and populist political currents, in Finland above all, come to play. What this means is that the Finnish government, its True Finns party above all, now suddenly finds itself between the Washington war behemoth and its geopolitical goals.

What will happen next is anybody’s guess. Stay tuned.
Unplugging the Matrix

“This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill – the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill – you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes.” (Morpheus, Matrix, 1999)

Finland is in a serious economic and cultural decline. Something must happen to arrest the downward spiral before the country becomes insolvent. Now that the parliamentary elections are over, everybody’s focus is on what must be done. It is my view however that the seeds of the crisis were planted many years ago, and the story might be similar in other countries now heading for trouble. My basic thesis is that, when the new millennium arrived, Finns started to live inside a Matrix.

So let me try to explain. When the new millennium dawned, an idea was spawned in Finland that it represents the most advanced country in the world in the domain of ”new economies”: sciences, information technology, software development, and all technology-related fields. I experienced the change personally, and I think that the year 2000 might have been the most marked in terms of the changed attitudes.

High aspirations are good. But there is a point when delusions and hubris substitute aspirations.

Imagine that, instead of aspiring to become the number one country in information technology, Finns would have embarked on the mission to become the number one country in olive farming. Technically, if all resources were put into developing olive farming, it could happen. Technically it could. But the climate is too harsh for prosperous olive farming no matter how many tax euros one diverts into the business.

The idea that Finland could become the number one country in information technology is no different from the idea that it can become prosperous in olive farming. It was invented out of the blue. Are there many people buying and using, by their free will, software developed by Finnish engineers? Were there? Isn’t software development actually moving into countries like . . . India? Why on earth to . . . Finland? What special skills or advantages do Finns have that could push them ahead of others? What happened to Nokia? Is the Finnish higher education, research and development based on raw competence, experience and skill, or is it based on corruption – networks of good fellows, friends, relatives, lovers? Is Finnish science exceptionally good in comparison to, say, Swedish science?

Is there anything at all to support the notion that Finns would be exceptionally good in information technology, science, or software development? Were they good in the past? Were Microsoft, Apple or IBM Finnish corporations?

Immense amounts of resources were put into the mission regardless. The whole population was plugged into the Matrix. They were made to believe in collective nonsense. And when a socialist state like Finland creates delusional ideologies, almost everybody has to plug in. With 50% taxation, there is very little freedom. Either work for the government, or lure the government to buy your product.

I lived many years inside this Matrix and could tell more than a few amusing stories of the horrors that took place. But I will spare the reader. Still, many people had an eerie feeling that something was wrong. Like Morpheus in the film said, ”What you know you can’t explain, but you feel it. You’ve felt it your entire life, that there’s something wrong with the world. You don’t know what it is, but it’s there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad.” People were frustrated, confused
and bitter, since every euro that was moved into nonsense was a lost opportunity elsewhere.

And the issue is not just money. It is also about what happened to Finland’s best minds, creative individuals, and new innovations. Any human being who is forced into nonsense is a lost opportunity for the society.

Once you unplug from the Matrix, however, there is no going back. The reality becomes uglier, but at least you can see the reality for what it is. What I saw few years ago when I unplugged was what most Finns understand very well today. Finnish industries are not competitive. There was no successful, competitive software development after all. Unemployment, debt burden and general hopelessness are mounting at an alarming rate. Nokia disappeared, and entirely for its own incompetence. The university and its associated research and development institutions produce virtually nothing of real value in many fields. It’s an empty shell, full of corruption and self-congratulation.

There is a danger that the mistake will be repeated. Some years ago, there was a computer game written in Finland that become popular. It was a nice game, but one among the others. Newspapers were filled with enthusiasm. Finland was to become the new mecca for computer game development. Again, they were the best in the world. There was an article stating that people have started to migrate to Finland to learn game programming. Many are the departments and research institutions that already have research centers dedicated to games, and many are the Ph.D. Programs and research initiatives requiring botanists to develop games.

I actually know something about computer games. I used to play a lot. And let me just tell you the truth. Finland has no competitive edge what comes to computer game development. Most games are made somewhere else. If you don’t believe me, check who made Minecraft, one of the most successful games in the annals of computer gaming.

Don’t plug yourself into the Matrix again. What you need is unplugging. "You have to let it all go, Neo. Fear, doubt, and disbelief. Free your mind.”
Denmark, Danish and the Danes

As I have pointed out in a couple of earlier posts, some years ago we decided to try other opportunities and emigrate from Finland, where we raised three children and lived together ten years. After looking at several options, we ended up first with Denmark. And now, at present writing, I have just spend my first days in this tiny country, in preparation of my family’s arrival, and would like to put some of my first observations on record. Again, this is not going to be Finnish syntax, but who really cares about Finnish syntax.

On the positive side of things, it has been remarkably easy to communicate, interact, and make contact with all the people I’ve met thus far. Danes are friendly, but not in a superficial way. They are helpful, but not invasive. Everybody has been happy, yet surely within realistic proportions. I’d also say they have been considerate. So far, I have always felt to be in the same ”wavelength” with the people I’ve interacted with, which is much to say given my wavelength problems. I have been slightly surprised about this. It is interesting to see if this observation will be challenged later on. Are there many trolls, like there are in Finland?

In addition, when we got into a little trouble with the train (which, I supposed, broke down?), instantly as the Danes recognized that I am a foreigner much help was forthcoming, but again, not in an invasive way. In the same train, there occurred a man of odors, a creature you’d encounter in many numbers in my home country. Strangely, as the Danes were starting to feel uncomfortable, I felt like home. In the same wagon, the toilet door jammed, which caused mild amusement. Three people were required to close the door when a Dane decided it’s time to have a relief. I followed the process with interest.

The Danes seem to have a mildly schizoid relation with us expats. I count this as neither positive or negative thing in and itself, but something of a curiosity. They behave in a very welcoming manner, and there’s all kinds of considerations for us foreigners coming to work here: workshops, lectures, books, spouse programs, international offices, tax incentives, you name it. All this gives the appearance that they maintain a positive outlook on us and understand that it’s not always easy going. But then I have the feeling, which might turn out to be wrong, of course, that all this welcoming-ness is there to compensate for the fact that entering or embedding into the Danish society might be hard. The country does not appear to constitute any sort of cultural ”melting pot”. It looks homogeneous and perhaps a little closed entity. Due to my Finnish background I don’t see this to become a problem, though; it is just what I thought about.

I talked about Finland with a couple of my new acquaintances, and they view Finland, correctly, as somewhat marginal, distant and cold Nordic country. One Dane asked me if Finland is more part of the Russia than Scandinavia. I have always felt that must be the case.

On the negative side of things I must count the language. I thought that I could do with my Swedish. How wrong I was. I don’t understand a word that they say in TV. It is almost as if they would swallow the consonants in order to produce gibberish, emerging, as it sounds, deeply from within their throats. Or, rather, it is as if their speech would occasionally ”sink” into their throats, as if they were vomiting, and then bounce back. The realization then dawned on me that I, too, would have to try to learn this language. How it could be possible I don’t know. I take it as an interesting challenge.

I discovered that Danes sell Ibuprofen only in 200 mg pills (in Finland, we’d get 500 mg kick-ass dosages in red super fast kick-ass pills), but they have booze in supermarkets (in Finland, wine and booze is sold by government monopoly only). I went to see Danish fashion but wasn’t particularly impressed: all men’s cloth items looked the same, and very conservative. Perhaps Danish men don’t
want to wear an ultra-fashionable "gay" look, as the Swedes allegedly do. Dining was enjoyable, though. The prices were not very high in comparison with what I have used to in Finland.

Speaking of dining, the Danes seem particularly trusting. For example, I saw an open door in a restaurant and went inside, in the hopes of getting some lunch. But there was nobody, absolutely nobody. I sat for a moment, looking around and taking notes of the silent place. It was pretty awkward. Then a young woman came, and was scared to death that I was sitting there. Turns out the restaurant was closed. Why the main entrance was so welcoming if the establishment was closed and there was nobody to check what I might have been doing?

Are there any major differences between Denmark and Finland, or Danes and Finns? No doubt there are, but these few days didn’t reveal many. That was another surprise. Part of the Finnish culture is to be an awkward troll. I am anxious to see if that is part of the Danish culture as well. Another thing that interest me is how rationally the Danes have organized their society, or do they, too, live in Matrix like Finns? A great deal of a country’s culture is revealed by their TV programs. This is something I will pay particular attention once we really settle down. If only it were easier to understand…