

Unrelated to Carroll County but I wanted to say something about Ukraine's suffering under Putin. No one seems willing to state the obvious and express that something should have done long ago about Vladimir Putin's crimes or his dictatorship over a democracy.

Putin started as a KGB agent for counterintelligence in Dresden. From the beginning his career was focused on paranoia and conspiracies. After the fall of the Soviet Union he was appointed first as the head of the FSB (which replaced the KGB) and then as Prime Minister. After Yeltsin stepped down, he was then appointed the President to replace him. An appointment Yeltsin would later regret.

Putin held on to the presidency by election fraud of the highest degree including acts like : stuffing election boxes, pre-filling ballots, hiding ballots for his staff to fill out in bathrooms. After his term limits ran out, he had the laws changed so he could be named Prime Minister again. During this time, he framed and removed the president Menedev. After jailing Menedev and he seems to have disappeared, Putin had the laws changed again to hold another term of presidency. Ever since Putin has been the President (Pro Se or De Facto whatever) of Russia without ever really been elected once.

He has successfully destroyed Russian Democracy by controlling elections and putting his people in key appointments. Backed by wealthy elite class that he created, Putin has the backing to disrupt economic systems.

During his rule he has suppressed opposition by assassinations, the hammer of overwhelming military might and control over media. He has killed hundreds of school children using the military to fight Chechen dissenters. Several people have been poisoned right in the streets of London by his FSB agents using Polonium. And no one has yet to hold him accountable for such flagrant daylight murders. Several dissenters and journalists have also been poisoned and some survived.

Several years ago he invaded the sovereign territory of Ukraine and occupied the peninsula of Crimea in southern Ukraine. He claimed to be liberating Russians. When in truth they were Russian-speaking Ukrainians. It is a fascist dictatorial view that language equals ethnicity. In World War II Italy, language was used to identify who were Italians and who were Slovs. And many people were discriminated against for speaking the 'wrong' language irrespective of their actual origins. Many Ukrainians speak Russian because it was forced on them in the 1930's.

The invasion of Crimea was clearly a pretext for the current invasion. Yet at the time no one did anything about it or even barely spoke out. This action was to support the Eastern Ukraine invasion and aid in surrounding Kiev. This invasion has not turned out to be easy as he may have first thought.

Currently there are Russian troops in Moldova, West of the Southern Ukraine near Crimea. Putin has invaded two countries to surround Western Ukraine and Kiev. And now he marches on to the coast of the Black Sea and Mariupol. He pretty much wants to conquer everything east of the Dnipro River that divides Ukraine in half.

His war crimes don't just stop at Ukrainian victims. He has his own military forces digging foxholes near Chernobyl and doesn't understand why his officers are getting sick and dying.

[Since he is now digging around a nuclear wasteland, I am done trying to understand or chronicle his war crimes or stupidity. I will no longer edit this part or maybe the rest.]

Sanctions are no deterrent to Putin. Russia is part of an independent banking system (BRICS; Brazil, Russia, India, China, Singapore) and has financial deals with China, even if Europe stops buying Russian energy. There is no way to 'hit him in the wallet' when the communist, non-aligned world will still do business with him. Banning Russian Imports and seizing yachts does nothing when there are other sources of revenue and the oligarchs can just buy new boats.

Here's an idea, how about outright piracy. Let's accept Russian goods and just not pay for them. We'll tell Putin the check is in the mail. Hijack his oil pipelines and sell them to Europe at a steep discount (say 90%).

Calls for him to be assassinated or removed from office is no longer a wacky or bizarre idea. His own flights of fantasy show that he is not and never was a valid world leader. Russia should be removed from the UN or any other international governing body. The people need to revolt and elect a new leader, the Russian military needs to arrest him and take him to the Hague for the ICC.

Putin still thinks of the Ukraine as part of Russia and his desire to be Czar/Tsar of a new Russian Empire.

Communist Russia overthrew their Czar once before, they can do it again.