



THE FALLACY OF THE 'THUCYDIDES TRAP' AND THE MELIAN CHOICE OF EDWARD SNOWDEN

A Strategic Matter of Epistemological Warfare.

by Pierre Beaudry, January 6, 2014



FORWORD

Lyn warned about the war propaganda that the media are circulating systematically around the so-called "*Thucydides Trap*." The motive behind that warning is that this "*trap*" is a deception, because it is not what it has been said to be.

The truth of the matter is that the danger of thermonuclear war is very real, as long as Obama remains in office, because the real intention behind Obama and Obamacare is the Queen of England's population reduction policy and the real intention behind the Queen's population reduction policy is the destruction of creativity.

This means, therefore, that if you have been caught in a "*Thucydides Trap*," you have been fooled because you have been caught into a false trap of sense perception. The report has two sections:

INTRODUCTION: THE FALLACY OF THE "*THUCYDIDES TRAP*"

1. THE "*THUCYDIDES TRAP*" IS ACTUALLY THE MELIAN CHOICE
2. EDWARD SNOWDEN MADE THE RIGHT MELIAN CHOICE

INTRODUCTION: THE FALLACY OF THE “*THUCYDIDES TRAP*”

“There is hubris in the belief that war can be controlled. War punishes hubris. That’s actually worth remembering.”

General Martin E. Dempsey

Understanding the significance of the “*Thucydides Trap*” means that you can forecast the future by changing the past. On January 1, 2013, Lyn again warned that “if we do not pull Obama out of the Presidency *immediately* — in the immediate period ahead — we’re headed for a thermonuclear extermination!” Lyndon LaRouche, [*Beware the ‘Thucydides Trap.’*](#) LPAC, January 1, 2014) Lyn’s warning does not only mean that the danger of our species’ extermination is very real; it also signifies that by identifying and stopping the fallacy of the current drumbeat to World War III, we are actually putting an end to war in the future.

In an October 8, 2013 article published in [*The National Interest*](#), the director of the Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Graham Allison, warned of a potential war between the United States and China, referring to this conflict as a replay of the ancient Greek conflict between Athens and Sparta as the “*Thucydides Trap*.” In the interview, Allison said:

“The “Pax Pacifica” established by the U.S. after World War II has created a security and economic order in which the nations of the region, including China, have developed more successfully than at any time in their histories. Historians will remind us, however, that there is nothing unnatural about an increasingly powerful state demanding more say and greater sway in relations with nations that impact its interests.

“How we understand this challenge is critical. If I can put on my professor’s cap for a moment, how we conceptualize relations between the U.S. and China over the next decade will be decisive. To help leaders recognize the magnitude of the challenge, I have proposed the concept of Thucydides’s Trap. As Thucydides pointed out about the Peloponnesian War in 5th century BC Greece, when a rising power challenges a ruling power, expect big trouble. As he said famously, “It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this inspired in Sparta that made war inevitable.” In a study I have done of the last five hundred years, in eleven of fifteen such cases, the result has been war. The point is not to be fatalistic, but to recognize the powerful structural forces at work when there is a rapid change in the relative power balance. If American and Chinese leaders perform no better than their predecessors in Classical Greece or Europe a century ago, historians of the twenty-first century will cite Thucydides in explaining the catastrophe that follows.

“This means that in the years ahead, the biggest challenge for U.S.-China relations will not be the business of resolving one damned thing after another. It will be about each country developing a better understanding of how the other views the world, and about preparing themselves for the fact that massive adjustments of attitudes and actions will be required by both

sides in order to avoid war.” (Graham Allison, [An Interview with Graham Allison](#), The National Interest, October 8, 2013)

Allison’s comparison with Athens and Sparta is an explicit warning, but what is to be benefited from his warning is not clear. On the other hand, as Lyndon LaRouche did, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey, warned against the fallacy of the so-called “*Thucydides Trap*.” The point is that Thucydides was an oligarchical military man who gave the appearance that wars were merely the result of competing unequal forces, while in reality wars have always been waged for the purpose of human depopulation.

In other words, the so-called argument of *might makes right* that Thucydides advocated has never been the underlying motive for war. That is just a pretext, because the causes of war are not greed and ambition. The real motive for war has always been reduction of the human population for the benefit of maintaining oligarchism in power. On the contrary, the relationship between the United States and China is based on the American System of a Constitutional Republic, as advocated by Washington, John Quincy Adams, Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and John Kennedy; that is to say, based on the principle of collaboration between sovereign nation-states modeled on the principle of the *Advantage of the Other* as established by the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.

1. THE “*THUCYDIDES TRAP*” IS ACTUALLY THE MELIAN CHOICE



On January 1, 2014, Allison wrote an article in the same Washington based review, [The National Interest](#), entitled, [2014: Good Year for a Great War?](#) At that time, Allison was no longer speaking of avoiding military conflict between the United States and China; he was jumping a quantum leap ahead to World War III. Indeed, instead of promoting better understanding, Allison was now throwing the gauntlet to China, accusing it of being “ungrateful” for the “unprecedented peace and prosperity” that the United States provided that country during the last seven decades. Not only is this untrue, but it is also complete imperial arrogance. Unless I have misunderstood Allison’s hidden intentions, he is calling for Thermonuclear World War III. In which case, it is quite urgent that we have a closer look at the hidden epistemological implications of the “*Thucydides Trap*.”

Figure 1 Thucydides (460-395) (Royal Ontario Museum).

The underlying truth about wars, which is generally kept hidden from the general population, either wittingly or by ignorance, is that its strategic significance is never simply a matter of rivalry between two or more contending and uneven forces. The issue of war has always been a question of oligarchical population control; that is, human genocide. This doesn't mean that people won't use rivalry motives for the purpose of waging war; this means that rivalry motives are used as foils by the oligarchy for the purpose of bringing a population of dummies to the slaughter house. As the Greek poet Stasinos of Cyprus reported in his *Cypria* epic on the Trojan War, written during the first Olympiad in 776-72 BC:

“There was a time when the countless tribes of men, though wide-dispersed, oppressed the surface of the deep-bosomed Earth, and Zeus saw it and had pity, and in his wise heart resolved to relieve the all-nurturing Earth of men, by causing the great struggle of the Ilian war [Trojan War], that the load of death might empty the world. And so the heroes were slain in Troy, and the plan of Zeus came to pass. (Quoted from Hesiod by Theodore J. Andromidas, [War, the Oligarchy, and the Ancient Myth of Overpopulation](#), EIR, May 3, 2013)

The truth about the “*Thucydides Trap*” is located in the Melian choice between Zeus and Prometheus, and that is why population control is a strategic matter of epistemological warfare. As Lyn put it, the actual question behind all of this is: are you going to be a creative human being or are you going to be a practical man?

During a brief moment of respite in the middle of the 27 year Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), between Athens and Sparta, Thucydides introduced a fictitious dialogue in his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, which related to the invasion of the Island of Melos by Athens in 416 BC., in which he established the epistemological warfare condition under which the Melians had to choose between surviving as slaves, or be slaughtered like sheep. Melos was a small and defenseless city located just East of Sparta in the Aegean Sea which wanted to stay neutral and not help either side in the conflict. But Athens wanted Melos under their control and demanded that the Melians surrender their city and pay tribute to Athens or else their city would be razed to the ground. The offer that Athens made to the City of Melos in 416 BC was the same in principle as the one the European Union made to the Nation of Ukraine in 2013. The issue is a question of submission. In both cases, the governments rejected the offer because the peoples were about to be taken into slavery.

At the opening of the [Melian Dialogue](#), the Athenians made a straight-forward proposal to the Melian people in the form of an ultimatum, which was: either you abandon your independence, join the Delian League and pay tribute to Athens, or you will be destroyed completely. This being considered merely as a practical choice by the Athenians, it was a matter of principle for the Melians, who had no other recourse but to accept to choose between slavery and death, because they were the weaker party. As the dialogue shows:

“Melians: And how could it be just as good for us to be the slaves as for you to be the masters?”

“Athenians: You, by giving in, would save yourselves from disaster; we, by not destroying you, would be able to profit from you.” (Thucydides, [History of the Peloponnesian War](#), Penguin Books, London, 1954, p. 402)

There you have it, in black and white, the rule of conduct for the practical man. As anyone can see, this logic is incontrovertible, but also genetically subhuman. Why? Because, the argument reflects a complete hatred of human beings and is entirely consistent with the oligarchical state of mind of Zeus which demands respect in return for the benefits of his power over you. From the standpoint of Athens, there are no emotions involved in this choice, and for Thucydides, there is no reason to have any emotion; it is just a matter of determining how one is going to accept to live under the conditions set by a superior force. This is also the gamble that the British oligarchy, most emphatically Elizabeth II, is presently taking by pushing the United States to the brink of Thermonuclear World War III against Russia and China. Will Russia and China accept to be practical about it? That is what the whole strategic question comes down to.

However, although it is very real and it has terrifying consequences for the world, this argument is for the oligarchy purely a game of sense perception. It exists as long as someone is willing to believe that it is only the “appearance” of power that counts. As the next step in the dialogue demonstrates:

Melians: So you would not agree to our being neutral, friends instead of enemies, but allies of neither side?

Athenians: No, because it is not so much your hostility that injures us; it is rather the case that, if we were in friendly terms with you, our subjects would regard that as a sign of weakness in us, whereas your hatred is evidence of our power. (Ibidem)

Perception, perception, perception. This oligarchical outlook is nothing new. This is the gamble of sense perception that the rich and the powerful have always counted on, throughout history, in order to enslave the rest of humanity. The point to be made, however, is that unless you understand how and why this oligarchical state of mind intends to establish its rule on the basis of this fictitious perception game, you cannot understand the true significance of the “*Thucydides Trap*” and you don’t understand how society works, in reality.

Just read the [Melian Dialogue](#) and you will understand how the present ruling Anglo-Dutch oligarchy is ready and willing to risk everything in order to achieve their objective. That’s the gamble of the present world strategic situation. It is not a matter of justice; it is merely a matter of being practical about how you appear to be. As the Athenians put it:

“And we ask you on your side not to imagine that you will influence us by saying that you, though a colony of Sparta, have not joined Sparta in the war, or that you have never done us any harm. Instead we recommend that you should try to get what it is possible for you to get, taking into consideration what we both really do think; since you know as well as we do that, when these matters are discussed by practical people, the standard of justice depends on the equality of power to compel and that in fact the strong do what they have the power to do and the weak accept what they have to accept.” (Ibidem, p. 402)

The British-Dutch oligarch of today speaks and acts exactly as Thucydides described in his [Melian Dialogue](#). It is not a matter of principle, it’s not even a matter of being right or wrong; it is merely a question of accepting things the way they are, as if an accepted state of nature. That’s the way things are and there’s nothing you can do about it. However, as Lyn demonstrated, here is the rub:

“The root of the functional difference is an effect of the distinction of the creative human personality, as a type, from the willing slave. That is the core of the Promethean principle, the difference in principle of behavior of the child of Prometheus, as distinguished from the slave-mentalities which are to be associated with the notion of the qualities of the relatively systemically degraded victims of the contamination which is characteristic of the prevalent influence of the Zeus-influence.

“The essential functional distinction between the two contrasted *functional* types is what is often identified as ‘intellectual.’ The one is creative, or ‘intellectual,’ the other, is merely ‘practical.’ The root of that distinction can be defined as shown to be *precise*. However, the expression of the relative degree of distinction, which defines a greater degree between the ‘creative and the ‘merely practical,’ is the locality of the distinction of relatively free persons, from those who are conditioned to submission to behavior characteristic among slaves. Such is the rule-of-thumb sort of distinction of a mental state of serfdom, and that of a person identified as animal-like bondage as slaves.” (Lyndon LaRouche, [THE HISTORY JUST AHEAD](#), December 24, 2013.)

The truth of the matter is that the choice is not at all about two practical outcomes between Athenians and Melians; the choice is between the terrorism of the mind and freedom; that is, between being a slave of Zeus or being a creative Promethean. As a matter of fact, this option between creativity and slavery is not even a matter of choice for Thucydides. He cannot even conceive of this difference. For him, there is never any real choice. The strong has to impose his force and the weak has to acquiesce to what is imposed upon him. That’s all there is to it, because that’s the way things are.

The situation Americans are being confronted with, today, under President Obama’s rule, is precisely the same that confronted the Melian people. And that is why Obama has to go. You cannot dialogue with Obama any more than the Melians could dialogue with the Athenians. This is not even a matter of fair play or honor. There is a difference of species between the two outlooks, and there is not even the remote possibility that Obama could even see that difference. “Either you are practical and you submit, or else you will be destroyed.” That is Obama’s British rule of law. The “*Thucydides Trap*” is such that you are not even allowed to think of saving yourself by resisting, because even that hope has been taken from you. This is Obamacare. This is what Lyn called the “[oligarchical dictatorship](#).”

2. EDWARD SNOWDEN MADE THE RIGHT MILIAN CHOICE

"A child born today will grow up with no conception of privacy at all. They'll never know what it means to have a private moment to themselves, an unrecorded, unanalyzed thought. And that's a problem because privacy matters, privacy is what allows us to determine who we are and who we want to be."

[Edward Snowden, Christmas Message 2013](#)

What the American National Security Agency (NSA) and the British Government



Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) have brought to the world is a modern form of the Melian Choice, because the reason why these agencies have been gathering all of the information data and metadata is not for the purpose of preventing terrorism, nor is it for the purpose of spying on businesses, government institutions, or individuals worldwide. The intention is genocide.

Figure 2 Edward Snowden (The Guardian)

On December 18, 2013, former Guardian Newspaper (UK) reporter, [Glenn Greenwald](#), testified before a European Parliamentary Committee in order to make public the true intention behind the NSA and the GCHQ. Greenwald revealed to the world that by “collecting it all,” by “knowing it all”, and by “exploiting it all,” the aim of these British and American spying agencies was “to abolish privacy worldwide.” This is the Melian choice that Edward Snowden and Glenn Greenwald have been forced to make and that the rest of the world is now faced with in the immediate future ahead. Such a choice may appear to be an unfortunate consequence of the British-American spying action, but, in fact, the reason is to destroy what is left of human creativity on this planet and prepare mankind for a great genocidal purge, the greatest blood-letting purge in all of human history. The choice you are given is either live as a slave or be destroyed under the overpowering might of a new joint British-Dutch Empire.

Reality is that the underlying intention of the NSA and GCHQ is to commit genocide a hundred times greater than Hitler’s by reducing the human population by 6 billion individuals. However, for this plan to succeed, all of the creative people of our planet must be eliminated from the face of the Earth and the rest of society must be rendered completely impotent, that is, practical, because by suppressing the true means of countering the ruling oligarchical principle, the World Government must be able to control the rest of the population by maintaining it under constant fear. That is precisely what the Nazis did to the German people during World War II, and this is what President Obama and his NSA spying agency are currently doing to the peoples of the world. So, this is your Melian choice and this is what every military base is being indoctrinated with today, as Dempsey will concur.

The reason for this motivation is very easy to understand, because, if you have the power to enforce such police-state surveillance and prevent creative ideas from developing, you can also force the human species to accept population reduction from 7 to 1 billion, as the oligarchical followers of Queen

Elizabeth II are planning, without too much opposition. Like the German people were made to accept the elimination of 6 million Jews, during World War II, the world is presently being prepared to accept the genocide of 6 billion people on the world scale. That is the real intention behind the NSA and the GCHQ spying.

Snowden and Greenwald gave the right orientation by identifying courageously that the underlying purpose behind the electronic control of the planet was to eliminate creativity by establishing a *“society of conformity.”* This is precisely what the Melian choice is all about.

The truth behind this genocide must be in the hands of axiom busters everywhere around the planet; that is, in the hands of those who have the political and moral courage to prevent humanity from being turned into slaves of conformity. The choice, as Lyn has been saying, resides in understanding the conflict between [Zeus and Prometheus](#).

What Snowden and Greenwald have discovered in this fight against the NSA and the GCHQ is that the principle of creativity is the most precious principle to preserve and to give your life for, because this is the only true security for the future of mankind. You might die for the benefit of future generations, but there is not future for mankind if you accept to live as a practical slave. The two whistle blowers are also right in thinking that the NSA and GCHQ cannot succeed in destroying the creative power of mankind. They can generate great fears, and they have already done that, and they can even kill you, but this attack against the human mind can only help mankind to stand more firmly against tyranny. The NSA and GCHQ cannot win because they cannot have any effect against a man who decides for himself what the intention of his existence will be. And that quality of mind is superior to any police-state tactic.

After having exhausted all of the arguments in favor of not having to live their future existence as slaves of the Athenians, the Melians decided that the only alternative they had was the one that their enemy had given them from the start, and they chose to fight rather than to live in bondage. As a result, all of the males of military age were killed and all the women and children were sold as slaves. The [Melian Dialogue](#) may appear to the practical man as the ideal tool to force society into conformity, but that will not succeed.

The truth of the matter is that the Melians were victorious against the Athenians, because they decided to remain free, even in death. This is the choice that millions of Americans are presently confronted with under Obama and Obamacare. This is why Obama must be taken down, immediately. Don't fall into the fallacy of the *“Thucydides Trap.”* The real choice is never between two poor slob who don't know any better, the real choice is between creativity and slavery. So, the question comes down to this: “Would you risk death and be a son of Prometheus, or would you rather choose to stay alive and be a slave of Zeus?” The irony is that you have no choice but to choose.

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