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SPEAKERS

Chris Jordan



Chris Jordan 00:15

Coming from the city of the weird exploring topics from the esoteric and unexplored, two dimensions or no. Shining a light of truth from the darkest corners of our reality. Welcome to the curious realm. Well hello, everybody. Hello Hello welcome to episode 13. And Happy Mardi Gras everybody. Happy Mardi Gras. Listen up on tone relay to all of you out there in Mardi Gras land and in the the home of my heart Mamu Louisiana, the home of Cajun music out there. Hope all you guys had a great Mardi Gras hope it was nice and cold the money the way that Mardi Gras is supposed to be while you're out there chasing dim chickens, and everything else. Mardi Gras say folks make sure to mask up while you're around strangers inside, all that kind of good stuff. In tonight's episode, I am so excited to get into this because we will be talking with our good friend, Dr. Richard B. Spence, who spent years teaching at the University of Idaho. In the realm of Russian US intelligence relations, he will be our guest in the first part of the show, discussing the history of the Ukraine and Russia and what what that is all about kind of how we got to this situation that we're in now. And then in the second part of the episode, we will be talking with a friend of mine who actively lives in the Kiev area. Anton shulkie, who codes and works for Duda kind of a WordPress type platform, go out and check that out, folks. But he is giving us kind of a boots on the ground report of what it is like over there and spending a few hours a day in a shelter. And our interview was cut short actively because of shelling. So he was like oh, you hear that in the background. I gotta go. We're gonna go we're gonna hop into the shelter. Probably the wildest interview and interview I've ever had. So stay tuned for that. So much more. Whenever we come back from our commercial break we'll be having Anton on. While you're online, checking this out, folks, make sure to stop by the curious realm. That is where you can find everything. Curious realm, including the store all of our great stuff over there, as well as our new Ukraine page. Curious room comm forward slash Ukraine will take you there. And I'm trying to find more authorized feeds that are allowed to be shared, things like that. But this is actually a live feed that we will be popping up sporadically throughout the night. Our good friend Dr. John Hall directed me to this and I put it up and quoted the people and you know, this is their official links so any views will actively be going to them. But stop on by and check that out. That is a great view from the inside of what is actively going on in the Kiev area. From here on out, folks. So stop on by and check that out. Also that we have our News of the Week. News of the Week comes to you from our Facebook group, the curious realm Facebook group over here plenty of stuff in there out of the daily mail.uk Ukraine war Belarus

dictator stands in front of battle map on live TV. That's that's pretty brazen to be announcing battle plans on live TV. news.cornell.edu tells us that the Zeno Effect has been verified Adams will not move while you watch them. That's out of the Cornell Chronicle. out of phys.org earthworms have the potential to replace the use of synthetic fertilizers. I don't know to me that kind of makes perfect sense of Futurism calm and MIT Tea startup is drilling 12 miles into the earth to suck out energy. And out of social on TechCrunch, Facebook and Instagram cut the reach of Russian state media. It has been. That is just some of the news of the week there. Stop on by join the Facebook group. Join the conversation, folks. That is just some of the stuff going on there. Right now. There are tons more articles, tons more stuff. Welcome back. Our guest Richard B. Spence, author of secret agent 666, as well as author of the book Wall Street and the Russian Revolution. How're you doing today, Professor?



05:47

I'm doing pretty well, Christopher. Thanks for having me on the show.



Chris Jordan 05:51

Absolutely. Welcome back. When whenever I was considering this topic and talking about it and actively doing a show about it, I was like, you know, I need to get somebody that. We as we said in our pre show conversation, whenever I called you we could hear saying conjecture and divine things all day long. The more important thing is, how did we get here? That's often I think the lesson that is forgotten is how we got here. You know, how did we get to the situation of Russia invading Ukraine? Even as I said in our pre show conversation this there with with the Crimean absorption in 2014, that kind of set the stage for this? How did we even intelligence wise, miss out on what seemed to be pretty big red flags?



06:46

So I mean, the crime, the Crimean referendum in 2014? Well, let me start off by saying that, you know, you get some really action packed stuff coming up in that latter part of the show. So I guess I'm going to give the kind of, you know, boring academic introduction to things. But pay attention to history class, we'll see what we can do. Well, let me touch on the 2014 thing now, but then I want to take it a little bit further than that. Actually, if you go back to 2014. In the SoCal Crimean crisis, it was widely covered in the press, they it was no secret that this didn't happen in the middle of the night, everybody knew about it. There was a while, you know, you get into nationalities, within sub nationalities, and the basic thing of it, argument back and forth. But the reality was that from an ethnic standpoint, cramped, Crimea, was overwhelmingly Russian, it wasn't Ukrainian. And partly as Ukraine began to veer, and Maria are more into a Ukrainian state, people who didn't feel all that Ukrainian. You know, you wake up one morning and find here, Ukrainian. Many of them, I don't know, hot percentage, but a significant number of them began to feel uncomfortable, and one of their way out of it in the same way that Ukraine would have his way out of the USSR. And every former colonial country is one of these way out of the Empire. So there's also one can argue over to what degree Moscow instigated the Russian nationalist sentiment in Crimea, or that it was already there. But there had to be something you could stir up for there to be anything to it. So there was a movement that develops there was a declaration of independence. And then there was a vote, was it a fair

vote? I don't know. I didn't count them. But there was a referendum taken this way, these things are done internationally. And the majority of Crimea is an amorous voted to join Russia. And then I was accepted by the Russian Duma. So it's, there was a process that took place and all of this is, is there within the media. And in fact, there were sanctions levied against Russia that are still in place, that are involved in that that's it's never really been internationally recognized. It's, it's what you call, you know, a fait accompli, you know, it's de facto. But still, most of I don't think the United States, for instance, formally recognizes me as part of Russia, but a you know, it is so, but the bigger question is Ukraine, it's not just about Crimea is one of those things. So, you know, I got a limited amount of time. So let me take things very briefly, all the way back to the ninth century, please. Not the eighth, not the 10th, but the ninth century. So the ninth century is basically the beginning of a period it's when essentially the idea of a of a Russian or Eastern Slavic culture begins to emerge and what you get in the in the area that now forms part of what's Russia and Ukraine and Belarus in that all that area. There was a there was a you know, it's not as country it's a kind of political entity, which meant it was a loose knit quarreling Federation of principalities. Some tribes called key Haven, roofs, not Russia, roofs, and it all sort of coalesced in in the ninth century. And that's also when the it converted to Orthodox Christianity. And that which, you know, arguably sort of brought it into the the European fold. But so notice this is called Cavan rousse. And the reason it's called the TAs and rousse period is that is that Kiev, Kiev, whatever you want to call it, McCabe's away. I'm used to saying it, so I'm going to keep saying it that way. Yes. Who has the the center of it was the religious and economic capital of this kind of loose knit Federation of quarreling principalities. So that's where in that culture is the root of both modern Russia and Ukraine. So they are born out of the same keyhaven rousse culture? I don't think you get a whole lot of argument on that. Now, they're their only thing else. But, you know, there was this common point. But here's, here's one of the the Christian, you know, the real issue that exists right now. I mean, what's the war all about? And if you could boil it down on the Russian side, is, you know, certainly the Russian nationalist side, which heavily backs this war, is that the Ukraine is not now nor has ever been a separate nation, not a separate people that is a variation is a regional variant of a greater Russian people. So that modern Russians and Ukrainians are all part of an Eastern Slavic Orthodox Christian culture that goes back to Kiev and rousse.



11:46

And, on the other hand, the Ukrainian nationalist argument and basically is the Ukraine is not now nor has it ever been, a the same thing as Russia, that it is always existed as some kind of separate entity. And that, again, both of those positions are very sort of black and white ways of seeing it that Ukraine is simply a subset of Russia know that Ukraine is and always has been something separate from Russia. So this is where you can get people arguing over without, you know, Cawood Rousses culture was predominantly Russia. No, it was predominantly Ukraine. Well, it wasn't either one of them. Because, you know, hey, it's the ninth century. So there was no such thing. If you go back to if you go back to the period of caveman roots, which lasts all the way up to the 13th century. So it's around for a while. So we're, we're talking about, you know, sort of the middle middle ages, I guess, that there's, while both modern Ukrainian and Russian cultures, you know, derive from that. Neither of those cultures existed in that form back then. I mean, there's simply the word there was any such thing as Russians and Ukrainians, there were a variety of different, you know, Christianized, Eastern Slavic people probably speak in a whole number of different dialects having different customs. And they lived in this sort of loose, ramshackle thing called Kevin Rose that got destroyed by the Mongols. Okay. So that then issues on the next phase, and this is where I think things get important. So he even Russo's this kind of, you know, mix this sort of alchemical stew out of which Russia and

Ukraine, but they did, you can't really prove that either one that existed as a concept as an idea back at that time. So what happened is that the Mongol show up, middle of 13th century, burn the hell out of everything burned he after the ground burned most of the other cities. And the lands that had been part of key avian roofs had been part of that earlier, East Slavic civilization are divided. The western portions, which would include Ukraine and Belarus, fall under the control of Poland, mean first, they fall under control to something called the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which I'm not going to explain and then the left of Lithuania get sort of ignored by Poland. But what's really going to happen is that those areas are going to spend the next 300 to 400 years under Polish rule. And that means a lot of influence from God. And the poles, by the way, are Roman Catholics. So the the Slavic peoples living in what would be Ukraine are still Orthodox Christians, they still are today. That's one of the things they have they still share in common with Russians, whether either one wants to admit it, but that they still have, but the Poles were in some way, even though they were Catholics, they were religiously different. There was also a fair amount of influence. So you know, an argument has been made. I don't swear to it. I'm not a linguist. But one of the ways to understand many of the differences probably between modern Ukrainian and Russian is that Ukrainian was subjected to centuries of Polish linguistic influence, which means that we're past from Polish and Ukrainian, maybe elements of pronunciation anyway, you know a lot of water went into the bridge. Now meanwhile to the east of an area that around what was called the blood Deemer Sousa doll area. You had other eastern principalities have given roots that had fallen under the domination of the Mongols. The Mongols later turned into a thing called the Golden Horde, which is a lot more interesting that it actually sounds more interesting that actually is, and also they were Muslims. So the Ukraine ends up by Polish entered into the rule of Polish Catholic. The Russians interpreted the domination of Islamic Mongols, which still left the area, there was no mass conversion of those people. And the Russians weren't under Mongol domination as long but what would become the Russians the Muscovy, I spent about 200 to 250 years under the political and economic domination of the Mongols. So one of the things those two different experiences did is that they had a profoundly, you know, you were living for centuries under the control and influences of different cultures.



16:15

So, on the other hand, the Mongols didn't rule, Muscovy, and those Eastern principalities directly, they left Russian rulers in charge. And that's basically how Moscow grew grew, because the prince Moscow was sort of, you know, actually, initially he sucked up to the Mongols. And we beat up other Russian princes for them, to keep them in line. And in doing so his power grew. Whereas in the principalities controlled by Poland, they were under the control of the Polish state, there is the sort of the Polish nobility tended to replace whatever sort of nobility was there before, so they would become the Ukrainian population, or basically just subject peasants under Polish landlords. So that brings us back to this whole question about where we know where the term Ukraine comes from. And even whether it's Ukraine, or the Ukraine, for that argument. So it's Ukraine in either Ukrainian or Russian because there are no articles in those languages? In other words, you don't talk it? There's no, yeah, you simply don't have those? And how do they figure out what's a and that? Well, they do so. So there's no article so it makes absolutely no sense, although the way that that term will be translated into English, as is the Borderlands. So it's one of those areas that it wasn't for the term refers to, he's in a country and it doesn't refer to people. So in other words, there was never really, really until he entered the 20th century, any particular historical tribe or a nation of people called Ukrainians. Because Ukraine was just a zone when it referred to a kind of front a step frontier,

between the lands that were controlled by Poland or you know, some, you know, or one of the former principalities, basically where they were Christian Slavs, and then the open steps to the south, down to the Black Sea that were controlled by the tars.



18:26

So that whole area so you know, those lands didn't really extend to the Black Sea because those those in Erie called the wild steps. And this was a kind of, you know, I was like a Comanche frontier alright, you know, the Tatar is it would raid Becca yet Cossacks who are Christian Slav Land Pirates fighting the.rs you. But he referred to an area, it didn't refer to people that it was there was never some tribe of people called Ukrainians. Because Ukraine was simply this area. So that was a term that would later become much later become attached to a, a nation. But the thing to keep in mind, he said, historically, it's not the name of a nation. And it's not the name of a people. It's, you know, like so many countries, it's a kind of euphemism that people pick up. So polish that the Russian Empire doesn't really get control, they start to gain control of Ukraine in wars with Poland. So here again, you know, we make history very quick. The Muscovite state grows, it eventually throws off, you know, by 1450 or so it has thrown off the control of the Tata ORs and defeated them. It becomes an increasingly powerful state by gobbling up other Russian principalities until it's the only one and then it ceases its mission to what is called the recovery of the Russian lands, which means to reconquer the territories of for that former key Evan Ross, from the awful hand of the Catholic poles and Lithuanians. So that begins this This centuries of warfare between Russia and Poland, and it goes back and forth and back and forth. But in the middle of the 17th century, in 1667, if you want the exact year, the Russians, we would have their wars against Poland. And they impose a peace treaty on Poland that forces the poles to surrender large chunks of that area that would later become Ukraine, including Kiev. And this is when the Russians for the first occupy Kiev. And there have been other things going on. There was a huge peasant rebellion that preceded that and, you know, you get arguments as to whether or not the Russians instigated the rebellion or the rebels, you know, were asked the Russians for help and the Russians came and it in his whole life. I mean, again, in the 17th century, I'd argue that the real concept even as sort of Russian and Ukrainian identity is doesn't really exist. I'm not sure that most peasants had any particular idea what they were other than the fact that they were Orthodox Christians. That's generally how people identify themselves. So the thing is, is that what we can't do, this is one of the the people that this is, for instance, is what nationalists generally do. I'm not saying that nationalism is bad, but I'm saying that nationalists are generally short sighted propagandists in promoting their own national religion. And what they do is they consistently apply current definitions to the past where they simply didn't exist. You know, in the same way that you can't go back to the 12th century and talk about somebody being English in a modern sense, or even French, those those sort of identities, took time to kind of coalesce. So what you had was version states sort of became independent, it became self conscious, it began to absorb he had also had this doctrine to being the third row and its job was to recover the lands of Kiev and roofs and to recover it to restore Orthodox Christian rule over Orthodox Christians, because in their view, you know, Catholics, really Orthodox Christians was just well wrong. So the polls sometimes had their way that that war, there was one brief period that they actually, you know, we're about to conquer Muscovy, but that didn't work on there after the war going against them. And so finally, in the late 1700s, and let me put it this way, around the same time of the American Revolution, Catherine, the great the Empress of Russia, which has continued to expand and expand, basically, along with the Prussians and the Austrians partitions the Polish state out of existence. All the lands of Poland are divided up between those three empire with Russia taking overwhelmingly the largest

amount, and taking almost all of the areas that comprised you know, what you could call the modern Ukraine remember, it's not Ukraine that but it will most of those lands were comprised in the area that Catherine the Great acquired.



23:01

And Catherine the gradient also did something else, you know, those wild steps that area that along the Black Sea there was pretty much uninhabited? Well, the other thing she did was she conquered the Tatar. She put the nomads out of business. But here again, is one of these things is often overlooked. Those areas were unsettled and unpopulated, and she didn't move people from what we now call Ukraine, just on the other side of the border, she moved in peasants from Central Russia from Muscovy. And so she heavily populated that area with Russians. So so that's one of the things you still see today is that the South, the Black Sea regions, areas like the Donbass that Russians migrated into for work and Crimea are significantly to predominantly pro Russian in their sentiment and identity. So there's something like roughly 100 different fingers around a quarter of the Ukrainian population before war, going back to really the the 1990s viewed itself as ethnically Russian. In other words, they don't even say where Ukrainians were Russians living in Ukraine. Absolutely. So there is keep in mind a significant minority which existed but that's that's how that came about. That's why That's if you look at the somebody who's interested in doing look at the electoral maps of Ukraine go look at the different elections they have. And there was almost always some sort of pro Moscow and anti Moscow candidate. And look how the vote turns out and you will see like a line you will see the the north and the west of Ukraine will vote one way the South in the east will vote completely the opposite. So there is a and but that's the reason why these divisions exist. I mean, why Ukraine itself has a separatist movement. Why it has rusted Russian minorities has to do with history. You know, they're there. I've seen some Ukrainians argue that No, no, the Russians only came there because the Soviets move the man everything we can believe everything in the communist at this point, who of course also. But anyway, but so we can blame we can blame everything on the commies but no there there was a there was a a isthmus mosaic in what would become Ukraine all the way back to the 18th century. But again, I point out that if Russia you know, if a Russian chauvinist basically argues that, wow, we've always controlled grain, it's always been part of Russia until the poet's took it away for 20. No, no, no, you know, the Russian state had no control of of most of Ukraine, really until the late 18th century. That is not much more than 200 years ago. Now, another little interesting detail is under the rule of the czars from Katherine, the grade all the way up to Nicholas the second in 1917. If you look at a map of Czarist Russia, and so we should do the one if you look at the provinces of Czarist Russia, if you look closely, and you will notice that there is not a single province, which is called Ukraine, there is no Ukraine. In the map of the Russian Empire of is ours, it does not exist again, as other than a geographic expression. It's still, you know, now referred to the area, sort of the southern area now along the Black Sea. But there's there's no province, but when we come to Ukraine is composed of provinces, but excuse me, none of them are called Ukraine, nor in the official ethnic count of the czarist empire, are there any people called Ukrainians? Well, because there's no Ukraine, they're generally actually they're generally just referred to like Russians as Orthodox Christians, that's pretty much the way you were outed in the census. But the other term which was used was, you know, Molossia, little Russians, okay. And the area of Ukraine was sometimes were called to his motto Molossia, little Russia or lesser Russia, which you can imagine that modern Ukrainian nationalists really hate. Because, you know, if you don't want to be called a Russian, you're really going to get your knickers in a bunch if you're called a little Russian. So but that was one of the things that shows

you is that it shows you that in the view of the czarist empire, Ukrainians war basically just a regional variation of Russian but that didn't mean she didn't come in. So when does modern Ukrainian nationalism come along?

 27:35

Well, here's the thing about nationalisms and nationalisms are, are different from ethnicity. So ethnicity is something which is usually you know, based upon heredity, ethnicity usually involves biology and language. Nationality doesn't have to involve either one of those. And let me give you something, which is an example that I think a lot of people overlook. When we talk about nationality. The United States and Canada share much of their history and institutions and roughly origins in common. Not true. There are exceptions, southwestern United States is much more Hispanic, you don't have that in Canada. And then of course, we got Quebec. Okay. Which raises the whole question, are French Canadians just a variant of Canadian or are they something separate? Are they Quebec Wah? There's a question there. But at any rate, if you look at the US and Canada, they're almost alike, aren't they? Generally people,

 Chris Jordan 28:35

even deeper than that, today, Mardi Gras, like not many people realize that the Cajun people are a mix of the Acadians, who were actively exiled from French Canada, the Acadia region just above main, and mixed with the indigenous Indian people in Louisiana. And that's specifically where the Cajuns came from.

 29:01

So So Cajun is a good example of ethnicity. Exactly. And it is based upon heredity, experience, but language this idea, but when you get to Alright, so what? Well, Americans, broadly speaking, I was just making sweeping brush here, and Canadians are pretty much this a Martian wouldn't be able to tell them apart Woody.

 Chris Jordan 29:24

Yeah, absolutely.

 29:25

I mean, I mean, the emitter, particularly, I may be influenced by the fact that I live out west and therefore the Canada I'm, you know, used to visiting or is Alberta and British Columbia. And I mean, if you go from Washington into British Columbia, you have not gone to another planet. It's the same place, you know, just the gases sold and different things and they have kilometers, but other than that it's the same. Now, on the other hand, is it fair to say that there is a separate Canadian national identity as opposed to Americans

 Chris Jordan 30:01

I would say most definitely, most definitely, definitely.

 30:05


Some people might be iffy on it, but for the most part, Canadians think they're Canadians. Why do they think they're Canadians? Do they think they're Canadians? Because they're different from the Americans who live across the border? No. Basically, it's because they've been born in a place called Canada. And they've been told all their life that they're Canadians. Yeah. Okay. And the one thing that the way, you know, Canadians may or may not like this, but a Canadian told me this is the one thing that makes you a Canadian, is that you're not an American. Yeah, that's pretty much it. Yeah. It's not that you're not like them, you know, speak the same language they do you both shop Walmart, you both listen to country music, have guns in the car, racket or pickup. The point is, is that you're a Canadian, which you identify as being something different. And if you think about it, that is the flimsiest thing. But but it's powerful. Because the thing about national identities is that they're religious. They're secular.

 Chris Jordan 31:02

Really? Yes. Yes.

 31:04


I mean, think for a minute, what makes an American an American? I mean, really, you know?

 Chris Jordan 31:09

Well, I just had the discussion the other day with with a documentary crew about the mentality of the true believer. Be it be religious, be it nationalism, be it be it Illuminati is trying to harvest your adrenal Chrome and rule the world? Doesn't really matter, Doc, it's it's the fact that it is a mentality that builds that whether it's nationalism, whether it's religion, whether it's this the religion of science, you know, I'm one wanting to doubt or poopoo hypotheses from other people, you know, that, that I think that that is a big, big issue the whole world over, whether it be political or not?

 32:01


Well, it's a thing, you know, this is a topic for some other time and probably some other show. But you know, what human beings do with anything is that they turn it into a religion, they take anything, they turn national identity into a religion, they turn sports into a religion, they turn atheism into a religion, yes. Okay. Atheism, therefore, you know, becomes a, rather than rather than simply being contemptuous indifference, which is what you assume it might be. Instead, it becomes a kind of active hostility, campaigning against the thing that you believe doesn't exist, which is kind of weird. Yeah. So which

 Chris Jordan 32:38

means you now have to embody what you actively believe doesn't exist. Yeah. So that you can spin it up.

 32:47


So human beings turn everything into some form of religion. And nationalism becomes the same sort of same sort of thing. And if you look at American I mean, really, American national identity is certainly if it ever was it is no longer based upon any particular ethnicity. And there are all kinds of definable ethnicities that the Census divides you by ethnicity, you choose, you know, when you check that box, you know, whatever it may be, whatever the box of your choice, you are identifying as an ethnicity, but you're not identifying as a nation, because what makes you an American citizen, really, is you all pay taxes to the same central government, and they issue your passports. But speaking English doesn't make you an American being any particular color origin doesn't make you an American, nothing makes you an American, other than being the political subject of the United States. Yeah, that's it.

 Chris Jordan 33:41

Yes. Yeah.

 33:44

And that's, you know, it. You know, it's one of those things that seems to work is sort of held things together. It's interesting as to whether that's a concept which is free, you know, we'll see how that holds up, historically, whether you can eventually maintain that, but


 Chris Jordan 34:01

I think it's an infrastructure the whole way around, whether you're talking nationalism, and, you know, this is coming, folks from somebody who I was a seminarian, Dr. Like, I studied to be a priest to wear a collar, but I am here to tell you if if you're not have an open mind and willing to accept another thought form. You yourself are the weak link.

 34:31

Yeah, I mean, so the question comes down, what is national identity really about? It's, it's usually something which is based on a made up history. And it's one of the things you have to have there was there was a fellow I will say, who I heard talking the other day, you know, if I wasn't listening to this period, he was going well, you know, what, you know, what is this sort of defines Ukrainian nationalism and we know so what what is the national identity and he goes, Well, national identity is The shared vision of a common future, the paraphrase as it comes


down to? And I think that's completely because I missed it. I think that's completely backward. No, it's the shared version of version of a common past. Yes. Because you can only envision some kind of national future out of some sort of past. And if you don't have a real past, you know, and the issue is, is if you fish around in the past, and you look for Russia, or you look for crane, Ukraine or other places, it's really not until recently that you actually find them. Yeah. So I think as I was going to mention the MO, the concept of the modern Ukrainian state really dates from the mid 19th century and nothing within do a country with the name Ukraine on it comes into existence until the early 20th century, and then only briefly,

 Chris Jordan 35:47

and even then, not until the actual fall of the USSR.

 35:52


Well, there was when Russia collapsed within the Russian Revolution in 1917. Between you had Ukrainian nationalists who showed up right after the fall of the Tsar, and they basically demanded the creation of Ukrainian army units. And this, this is really when you begin to talk about a Ukrainian nation and then they demanded autonomy within the empire. And then during the Russian Civil War that followed, there was Ukrainian national government that kind of came and went, in fact, there were really two or three different short lived Ukrainian states. And I wouldn't understand in this case that I'm not trying to be little or denigrate Ukrainian nationals of Ukrainian state, but that's just the way it works. Yeah, right. The Ukrainian People's Republic lasted a couple of months at best, the Ukrainian People's Republic, which was backed up by the Germans lasted a few more months. And then and then they you know, they ever superstore got beat by the Bolsheviks. All right,

 Chris Jordan 36:50

yeah. Even right here, it's from 1917 to 1922. Like, that's for us, folks, just to put it into terms for you. That's a presidential term.

 37:04


So you know, it was a, it was a chaotic time. And there was, you know, there's that there was this thing that called itself the Ukrainian People's Republic, and it had a small army, and it would ally with this or that. But it was it wasn't a you weren't able to actually create a sustaining Ukrainian state. And so really, you know, Ukraine as a functional independence entity in a modern sense, does indeed come into being with a break of the USSR in 1991. And then what people had to do people who wanted this, this shared Ukrainian identity needed to create that identity from things out of the past. And, you know, that usually means arguing that there was something that there was a self conscious Ukrainian national identity back, I don't know, the 1415 1617 century. But, you know, really, nobody had much of one back then. But it it brings it down is that national identities are things that people make up their narratives. They're a plotline. Sure, they're a script.

 Chris Jordan 38:08

Yeah. Prime a prime example would be Thanksgiving. You know, like, that is part of our national identity. But when you actively go to what, until recent times, and until you come to like the last maybe decade and some very enlightened school districts, do you get the actual history of what happened? With the with the settlers at the first Thanksgiving? Until then, like when I grew up, hey, man, it was it was peanuts, Thanksgiving, and everybody was friends, and they helped us live and, like, forget the bounty on people's heads that existed, you know, like, like, never mind that

 38:58

was put it this way. None of those pilgrims sitting around. Thanksgiving tables had any concept of themselves as Americans as abs, they were religious dissidents. They were above all else. What do they view themselves as true Christians? And they were English. There was subjects of the King were going over reluctantly, and they had left this place because things were too hot for him back home. Yeah, they were not Americans. They had no concept of being Americans. They had no concept of what America was. So well today in our national mythology, we embrace Thanksgiving is this kind of, you know, bonding element, you know, national holiday. That's not what it was. Absolutely. The Puritans wouldn't want anything to do with most of us. Yeah,

 Chris Jordan 39:41

I wouldn't even say that we had a national identity till a good 25 years after 1776. You can Yeah, because we still we still had the whiskey rebel, the Whiskey Rebellion that happened which was basically like a miniature civil war before the Civil War. You know, like we don't we don't have a natural identity for a good clip, and then we kind of destroy it and rebuild. That's what the whole Reconstruction period is about is the revealing of our identity as we know it. Now,

 40:16

this takes us into a completely different rabbit holes. No, no, no. But, but the whole thing is that, arguably, okay, this is this is an argument, that's fact that there was, but there was, arguably, at the root of the Civil War, is the Southern concept or the widespread sentiment in itself, that they had a different culture and a different national identity? Yep. Yep. And that, you know, the opposite of that are the Yankees and therefore what are we we are not Yankees. And and we wish a we wish to have a separate existence with our peculiar institutions? Because we don't recognize a common identity.

 Chris Jordan 40:58

Yeah. Yeah. So



41:01

so so these types of things, go identities are things that doesn't mean that identities aren't real. But the thing to keep in mind is that they're, they're invented and they're changeable. That's right, and began because national identities are like religious beliefs, there also are things that people can be converted to, or converted away from. So if you, you know, put enough stuff in the public school system somewhere to convince people that well, here's a couple of other historical examples in in the middle of the 19th century, Germany and Italy, which have been composed of a number of different states for as long as they existed, unified into the Kingdom of Italy in the German Empire, the first time that really anything called Italy as a state and Germany as a political failure exists. So one of the things that you had to do one of the things that public officials realized, let's say within Germany, is that we have to have a sense Germanized, everybody, because what we've got are Protestants and Catholics, and we've got a variance and Prussians and they ain't the same. And Ryan Linders. And so LeSean, you know, and semi Lithuanians from East Prussia, and Hanoverian merchants, and we now have to take all these people who, for centuries have never been unified, and have really been no more than kind of shared a common folk culture and different dialects of the same language. We now have to turn them into German,



Chris Jordan 42:32

we now got to put them all in the same sausage casing. And



42:35

yeah, and the way to do that, is that we do it to the schools. Yeah, we make sure that the German this and German history as we want to invent it, Intel, it will be taught to everyone so that they will all be convinced they will come out of school believing that they are Germans, before the being Bavarians or anything else, the same thing and in Italy, I mean, Italy, you'd have to know Italy, but you are going to try to combine Sicilians with Melanie's from the north, people from Milan urbanists from Atlanta are going to be combined with with Sicilians. And, you know, they would vaguely speak the same language. And other than that, they didn't have a whole hell of a lot in common. But again, the concept was to, and by the way, that has never been, particularly if you look at Italy, that has never been accomplished. Northern Italy is extremely different from Southern Italy, not as different as it used to be. But if you go from one end of the country to the other, you will, you will see great differences. And Claire has a very clear sense of being from the south or B. In fact, if you look closely, you'll find out that most of Northern Italy has unofficially declared its independence as the country of Donea. And why? Because they don't want to be combined in the same country with those stinking southerners anymore as they see it. Right. Yeah, that's it. They think that Southern Italy is just full of a bunch of people who and I'm not saying that this is the way they are. It's full of adventure. We don't work who feed off the public to get all the money from Rome, probably used to vote communists, and are probably in the mafia. Okay, so we don't want anything to do with them. And you know, the southerners tend to view the northerners, his feet intellectual snobs.




Chris Jordan 44:19

Yeah, I think you're better than I did. Well, and it's interesting, though, different than then our

mean, I think you're better than I did. Well, and it's interesting, though, different than then our regional differences here in America, like I lived in the Northeast, and, my my lord, I can tell you that some of the rhetoric that I heard in the Northeast was no different than what I have heard from deep deep southerners well directed toward other people.

 44:49


Those those differences are there I mean, you know, you can even get little things. I was a thing recently where for for some reason, the topic of Jesse James came out And it was it was basically the discussion is Jesse James is one of the great outlaws of the Old West. Now you got to keep in mind I was born in California, I live in Idaho I am, you know, actually come from people who lived in the West before that. So that's that's kind of the center of the world for me. You know, as I guess it's like New Yorker see everything from Manhattan. I guess I see everything from sort of west of the Rockies somehow. So I listened to that I go, Jesse James was simply Old West. You know, he was in Missouri and Tennessee and Kentucky. Okay. See, from my standpoint is not the west until you get over the Rocky Mountains. Okay. Even Denver is questionable. It's right on the cusp of the Midwest. But Missouri, wild west. You know, that's that's just seems that just seems to be our Yeah. And, but that's a tiny little thing. But it does sort of sort of indicate that there's this kind of mental picture idea of, of what the West constitutes that I have, which is very different from what these people say probably maybe many other people have. But I don't think I'm alone in that.

 Chris Jordan 46:09

Well, no, no, absolutely not. And that's just it, like, and I was born in 1975. We are basically right now living like every movie from my childhood doctor. Like, what? Whether it's Rambo or or Red Dawn, what have you like we're in the middle of a war games? Like, you know, you're talking about Putin having his nuclear arsenal on on alert status right now.

 46:40

I mean, here's, here's one of these basic factors, you have to think of who has the biggest nuclear arsenal in the world? Not us. Russia? Yeah. Russia. Yeah. I mean, yeah, we're close. Second, we're,

 Chris Jordan 46:50

ours is far more accurate. But I think they were much more concerned with just a slave of destruction.

 46:58

Well, I mean, that's one of those things. Because nobody has really tried that. Have they?





Chris Jordan 47:05

No, no, I mean, it's just it's so much of this. And that, that's one reason why I wanted to have you on is because you you taught a course in Russian US intelligence relations for almost 20 years, man. Like, if there's anybody that I want to talk about this Ukraine thing with, it's you. Because even right now, when you're talking about the standards of warfare, my next guest folks, just so you know, was not on via Starlink. He was not on via like wireless satellite Wi Fi, he had hard line connection. He had power in his house, and he lives in Kiev. So under under just standard, quote, battle plan, if you're trying to invade a place, you normally cut the communications man, you normally have the power and and you know, even even going to our Ukraine feed like their city lights on. Now, granted, most of the lights are turned off due to air raid and things like that. But there are phylon city lights on and other parts of Keith. So



48:23

well, you know, that comes down to questions in some cases that, you know, particularly if you're planning to assume ownership of something, how much damage do you want to do in acquiring it? Yeah. Because every you know, you destroy Kiev's power plants. Sure. And then you take you, then you're gonna have to rebuild those power plants. Yeah. So if you're to try to do it without without taking those, those factors out. You know, if I was going to just, you know, briefly some of what I've said, so far, is it here roughly what I this is how I think we got to the present situation, is that what some people might call nationalist zealots? I'll simply say, a defined wing of nationalism, both Russian and Ukrainian. Those people who have defined a particular identity in history have taken control of the situation. And that's why I think it's important to keep in mind is that the Russian situation is not being personally determined by by Putin. Okay, Putin becomes a symbol for a lot of things. But there there is there is a I don't know how big it is, I don't know whether it's a majority consensus or significant but there are a lot of people in Russia who believe in this idea of a unified Russian people in which Ukraine does is really is historically inseparable from some sort of patrimony and they are determined to bring about the manifestation of their shared vision to the future based upon their imaginary vision of the past and in the Ukrainians I have exactly the same thing who were determined to manifest their version of the future based upon their imaginary version of the past. And and that that's really that's, that's fundamentally what's a conflict. Okay? It's not Putin in Zelinsky it's not Putin. It's not just this. Yeah. I mean, if anybody's interested in this could look at some of the, of the speeches that, you know, in the Russian Duma, the parliament, there are people who stand up and say all kinds of things intelligent, idiotic, just like an art Congress. And I mean, they're one of the things that Putin was being pushed on is that you have to do something, you have to do something you can't let these Republic's down. I mean, he was being told over and over again the other day, the Don't boss Republic has to be protected. And you know, the Ukrainians are going to attack them and try to recover them. But we have to defend our fellow Russians, we have to defend the greater idea,



Chris Jordan 50:52

more forbid, shrapnel hand on land on polling. You know, like, you want to talk about something white enough? And that's, that's what I think a lot of people really don't realize is, yeah, just how close that is. You know, but I don't think that he is, I think that like you're saying there is a cadre of people who for years have been much much like before Hitler. There were people that were trying to reunite the German states, you know, and Germany and to expand

your and I think right now that very much there is there has been for a long time. I mean, since Trotsky, things like that the the concept of reuniting mother, Russia, bringing Mother Russia back together, you know, and that was before, like, when, before Putin was even in the KGB. There were people call him for this. To be that now, Ukraine is an independent state, and they used to be part of Mother Russia.



52:07

Well, it's, you know, the Soviets would have said, well, we were never mother, Russia, even though in a way we were, but you really had, you know, the czarist Empire gave away a gateway to the Soviet Empire, which had its own state religion of communism. And when that religion sort of, you know, fizzled out, or whatever it was, it happened in the late 1980s. And early 1990s, one of the things that Russia has had to find, one of the things they've done is, again, to have to resurrect this idea of the glorious Russian past and to be unified Russian state going back to Kiev and rousse, I mean, keep in mind, they've had to redefine who they are. And one of the things and it's an interesting thing to keep in mind that in the in the Soviet Union, or even in the in the bigger Russian Empire, ethnic Russians, per se, we're only about half the population. So in the so you know, in the Soviet period, the Russian language, Russian culture, Russians, mostly, for the most part, tended to dominate everything, because there are more than the word anybody there everybody else. But they're only about half the population. So when you talk about Soviet, you're again, talking about Ukrainians, Bella, Russians, Armenians, Georgia, the yada, yada, yada. But when the USSR broke up, the area that became the Russian Federation, then became a state, which was more than 85%, Russia, it became a national state. Instead of being an empire in which Russians were simply the largest ethnic component, it now became a national state in which Russians comprise the vast majority of the population and therefore, much more became their country. And they began to increasingly get the idea of being Russians, you know, not as so not Soviets, not Orthodox Christians, not subjects of the Tsar, but being Russians. And the other thing is that in Ukraine, and even in some degree in the Baltic States and elsewhere, there were 20 million Russians who lived in what were called the near abroad. That is your ethnic kinsmen says Now you this was the most important thing, your ethnic kinsmen, we're living across these artificial Soviet created boundaries. I mean, after all, when you talk about the sacrosanct narrative, character of Soviet era boundaries, you're talking about boundaries created by those pesky communists, right? Remember, can't do anything right. But nevertheless, somehow, you know, the borders, which they often created to exacerbate political there was there was a reason why often in Soviet republics, they'd always include elements occupied by other ethnic groups, so there'd always be some smaller groups to play off against whatever the local majority was, was always playing people off against each other. But I think that's You know, this is a situation we have and how is all this going to turn out? If anybody's saying, you know, I don't know, hey, you know, does



Chris Jordan 55:05

anybody else you okay? You You are very, very much like me in the fact that you do not like to play groundhog and Pernot prognosticator. Now you you like to look at facts and distill facts distill history, things like that. And and thank you so much for coming on. Because I think I think that this, this gives people a much deeper understanding of what is going on and why in that region and what the motivations are now granted, once again, as as of yet, um, and much like our guests coming up will say, like, Putin has achieved nothing as of yet he ain't going

anywhere. If you think that this thing is over, despite peace talks right now, or anything like that, no way, no how he has, well, he is militarily achieved nothing. And he will not leave without achieving something



56:06

from the Russian snare, the only way this, this is going to violate my rule and prognosticate. I just say this is going to happen, though, what is going to happen? Either this situation on the Russian side, you either have to escalate it substantially, or you have to de escalate it substantially. Exactly. You cannot stay in the middle. Yeah, so you've either got to call it reserves poor and more troops



Chris Jordan 56:27

roll down or pull out entirely,



56:31

you know, no more, you know, no more Mr. Nice Guy. More, no more, you know, somebody was a pussyfooting around, which to some degree I think they've been doing, I think they thought it was gonna be a lot easier. And they just sort of waltzed in and thought, you know, everything's gonna sort of collapse in five minutes at all surrender. Most of them didn't. But you've now got a, you know, the Ukrainian army effectively can't maneuver. And so he's essentially holed up in the cities. I mean, that's the safest place to be get into the cities where, you know, you got lots of civilian infrastructure. And you've got, you know, you can you can draw the opponent into street fighting. And that simply seems the safest way to do so you got the situation, or the Russians basically increasingly going around investing cities. So that's where we'll find out what happens with that.



Chris Jordan 57:19

Yeah, yeah, precisely.



57:22

Anyway,



Chris Jordan 57:23

I can't thank you, once again, enough for coming on. Doctor, before we let you go. I mean, I found you through the Great Courses series, which is now getting ready to go under another name one dream, or be affiliated with them. But if you get a chance, folks, if you're an Amazon user, go by and check out great courses, the real history of secret societies is absolutely amazing. That is a and it was like 27 hours. I love nothing more than just giving you the

microphone, doctor and letting you go. Because you you are a 20 plus year lecturer on topics like this. That's why I wanted to have you on because I knew you could come in. And literally what you did in the last hour, just summing everything up from the ninth century to now and answer a few questions like quite literally, because once again, we could hearsay, we could conjecture, things like that. But it's really more about understanding the history, what it is how we got here, and how do we not repeat it? That's

 58:36

Well, again, I think you were having me on and you know, thanks for the Thanks for the kind words of that I do have some experience or ringing people on things and you know, being told that you got an hour, you got 20 minutes or whatever, and trying to cram as much in as you can. Well imagine the 20 minute version of this. Yeah. So anyway, there's but there's a huge amount. I mean, I gave you basically nothing, I was painting everything as broad brushstrokes as I possibly could. So if you're interested, there's so much more that you can learn about this. I mean, you if you never knew that there was this thing called the Polish Commonwealth, that was one of the biggest countries in Europe for centuries. Hey, you can read up on that. So I think anyway, I'm glad you had me on and you know, thanks for the plug about, about great courses, which everybody where they

 Chris Jordan 59:23

can go because you have some new stuff coming out. You have some other stuff out with wondrous. Um, you also have of course, Secret Agent 666, which I have here you have Wall Street and the Russian Revolution, which I have in Kindle format. So it'll be hard to it'll be hard to get that one autographed whenever I meet you eventually, one day.

 59:46

Well, yeah, I've got another book on called Trust No One, sort of a study of a spy named Sidney Riley, which I'd like to rewrite in so many ways. But all of those are available on Amazon. So you can go to Amazon find My books there. Again, the great courses are the real history of secret societies. There's another one called crimes of the century a selective history of infamy. Which if you're into, you know, murders ranging from Killer French maids to the assassination of Trotsky, you can take a look at that. And I am just wrapping up work now. He won't be out for some months, probably depending on my schedule of the secrets of the occult. So there you go.

 Chris Jordan 1:00:28

I got to have you back on about that. Okay, absolutely. The occult is, is it it's a love Nish for me? Well, I mean, I spent probably the first six months of COVID just sitting down and reading alchemical texts, things like that. It's just such a fascinating area of study once you delve into it, and the the realm that you have spent, even in secret agent 666 Going into the the world of the occult and espionage tied together during that absolutely phenomenal work. So I cannot wait to see what you've done with this.



1:01:16

One more than anything else, or when you're that great courses in wondering are there they're basically the same thing. But the easiest way you can find my stuff is just look for great courses and my name, but also under strictly the wind Reum brand WNDRIU M. I also participated recently in a series for wondering of a 10 part episode called The Secret World of espionage. So if you're interested in if you want to kind of one on one perimeter espionage, you know, apart from all the crap you see in the movies, that's something you might want to take a look at. Any rate, Christopher, it has been great. I hope things go well for the rest of the show. My regards to your next guest and to everybody out there. And thank you.



Chris Jordan 1:02:02

Absolutely. Once again, thank you so much for your time. Dr. Spence, I will definitely be in touch. Take care, and we'll have you on again very soon. Good night. All right. Good night. Wow. Subject always amazing to have Dr. Spence on once again, somebody who spent a good 20 years and was was a actual tenured professor of history teaching a class on us Russian intelligence relations. Really, really cool stuff. Once again, I could sit here and here saying conjecture, things like that. I prefer to learn the history behind things and figure out how we got to where we are and what we can do to prevent it from happening in the future. Right now. Just just looking at this. Thank you so much, John Hall for tuning in tonight. Yeah. Absolutely amazing guest his book about Alister Crowley and his involvement in the world of espionage is absolutely awesome, as well as his book on Wall Street and the Russian Revolution. Just really, really relevant story stuff. And when when you start looking at these things, considering these things, folks, you really do have to have an open mind. And when you're like here in a minute, after a commercial break, we will be joined by Anton shulkie. Who is actively in the Ukraine. He is He is in Kiev, not necessarily a crazy active part, but oddly enough, he has an emergency shelter and during the show had to run to his emergency shelter because they started shelling locally, where he was at least outbound shelling. So more than likely anti aircraft fire something like that. But we will be getting into that with Anton shoki here in just a minute right after these messages folks, thank you so much for tuning in as always. With the rise in attention to the health benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids include CBD drew him science has become one of the premier providers of full spectrum CBD and CBD related products using a proprietary spy Djuric process through him science extracts maximum benefit from the whole hemp plant buds, leaves, stems, seeds, even roots. Every part of the plant is used and then reused to formulate a rich Complex Profile of CBD, CBD derivatives and terpenes guaranteed to provide the relief and benefits you need daily. Visit true him science.com To experience the best CBD oils, edibles and topicals on the market today and use code jerious Seven to save 7% off your entire purchase of \$50 or more and get to 25 milligram CBD cookies or brownies free that website again is drew him science.com and the code is curious seven. Have you considered starting a podcast? Looking for a way to make your business a voice of authority in an industry? Then podcast Connect is the solution for you. Whether starting a podcast for yourself, your brand, business school, church, or just plain fun. Podcast Cadette is here to help you navigate the waters of the podcast industry specializing in one on one consultation and training with industry professionals in fields ranging from podcast technology and editing, to distribution monetization and even social media strategy. Podcast Cadet tailors their services to the specific needs of you and your podcast. Do you already have a podcast and trying to find ways to engage and grow your audience? Sign up for your podcast Cadet audit today. And let us help

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 1:10:33

I wish I would win on that close to front, honestly. Yeah. But I'm doing fine. I'm doing fine. Yeah. All the circumstances we are in Yeah. Very, very well. Thank you.

 Chris Jordan 1:10:47

Yeah. And, you know, in the first part of the show, we had a history professor Richard B spends on talking about Russian Ukrainian history and kind of some of the things that have I guess, led up to this craziness from Russia right now saying that they're like, reclaiming Russia I guess and what what used to be part of Russia what what has what Have things been like over there for you your family I know on social media, you have been sharing pictures of yourself every few days in your makeshift shelter that you have over there. But we're where you are right now life is still at least somewhat normal you've had curfews things like that but let's let's get into what things have been like and how this has impacted your family and and those that you know that are closer to the action

 1:11:49

Oh always alive change completely. Justice and probably will never be the same again. We get in you it's the for today we're getting us used to it if I might say but we were very very lucky. There is no shooting no sharing no moment where I am like I do here I do here and the aircraft

fire from time to time I'm not military experts. So I think it is one aircraft fire so and as probably eat we do we did have a curfew. We do have caffeine every night every night now but we did have a long entry from Saturday I think from 6:35pm Till today till Monday to moldy 8am And after that everyone went to get shopping my wife was in a queue for two hours but shops are still full of food even cheap food is basically going cheap alone live food like flour, sugar and as the breath is a problem because of his breath you have to produce a problem not not not that it doesn't is no such a thing you can find but you have to be like it but otherwise just couple of this I was trying to kind of go business as usual and everything but it's very very difficult to do now because you basically lose when you're watching news news from front which is source absolutely if somebody will say it's a few months ago absolutely ridiculous now exactly. So I'm just trying to not I don't want to remember it but he can't get get he can go away even all this all movable second vols or an animation now I can kind of feel what people feel I don't really want

 Chris Jordan 1:13:59

you know Yeah, it's it's got to be more than a stressful situation like you said there even though there is not active shelling where you are even to even to hear the regularity of fire in the distance. You know that that that is that is something that will put you on edge pretty quick.

 1:14:24

Oh, so voice I think you think okay, it might come here because it's just says it has to stop and this doesn't look like it's good. So and Weasley. Putin is very determined to get key for I don't know, I I think so. Always again, no, no, no, that it looks like that. So far. I don't think it was the real struggle for Kiev. But it might soon so this is this is this is very boring

 Chris Jordan 1:15:10

you know you you say boring but

 1:15:12

I said I said I said roaring

 Chris Jordan 1:15:15

Oh worry worry.

 1:15:18

It was very boring. Boring a here so far in terms of nobody kill anyone around around me. So which is very nice, but it's very we are very worried that it might change.

 Chris Jordan 1:15:33

Yeah, yeah and that's just yet this is a situation that could turn on a dime when it started there was no real, quote inkling of invasion it was like hey, we're coming over here to do some military exercises. And as of yesterday, Putin put his nuclear arsenal on high alert you know, all kinds of strange things the whole action of this happening in granted there there have been rumblings for years about something like this but at the same time the fact that it just out now happen almost out of nowhere the fact that the the Ukrainian army has been able to hold its own the way that it has it has has been absolutely phenomenal.

 1:16:26

Yeah tools I think Ukrainian army and Territorial Army which is basically volunteers holding their ground and I don't think anyone besides themselves of course expected doing them well when we were seeing is out of blue and everything it's not really true the war started in 2014 and been here results from since then what eight years that war wasn't in key and we kind of now I I realize how wrong I was because what was there on don't bus Okay, 2014 15 was a real combat after that. It was just just seeing there was still life were lost every almost every day. But we kind of I kind of didn't didn't care because it's okay, it's just always there. But today is here and always I will my lesson but I hope everyone will learn lesson but not my way. I don't want you where you are or where everyone who is listening. But right now who is here and probably somewhere else. This is the probably the hardest to open a voice everywhere you can one is he can change your mind. Can you understand before that you us? Absolutely stupid to do because you know what just was war was always there. Who cares? Because this is this is my lesson so far.

 Chris Jordan 1:18:07

Yeah. Yeah. And that that is a that is a very good cautionary tale and time to share. Because once again, I think I think everybody the world over kind of takes for granted the the situation in which they live and and even the comforts in which they live. You know, even the fact of you being under curfew and not being able to go to stores regularly having to wait in queue for two, three, sometimes numerous hours for regular supplies. I mean, good Lord, look at what happened over here in the States when COVID hit. Now. Now imagine if we were going through something like what you guys are going through like it would be it would be madness in the streets.

 1:18:55

Well, you did justice a long time ago. And always. You mean we don't remember that? Of course. And we wouldn't remember today. Yeah.

 Chris Jordan 1:19:09

Yeah. Yeah, precisely. It would be. It would be a hard situation for most Americans, I think to go through this and I'm sure it's hard situation for every Ukrainian going through. Right. Sure. You

through this and I'm sure it's hard situation for every Ukrainian going through. Right. Sure. You know, and and kudos to you. Kudos to your minister prime over there for bucking up and actually putting on armor himself. That is that is a president your president sorry. Um, yeah, like that is that is absolutely amazing. I can't say that our president would do the same. You know, well, I mean, would be pretty doubtful. They have a lot of bunkers for him. All over the place.

 1:19:57


Well, isn't he is a very different cat. So it's a different story with plenty of question to our President always, and his rating was fairly low before this. And now it's like a triple like 90% support him. And it's probably probably a very typical thing for nation in a war. But, but he's the fantastic fantastically well. So hopefully it stays this way.

 Chris Jordan 1:20:34

Yeah, exactly. And hopefully, not only does the does the morale of the Ukrainian people stay up amidst all this, but hopefully we can, we can find some way to, I guess, be able to build more bridges, to be able to talk more across lines, about these kinds of situations, and really be there for each other as nations and people. It's interesting even now, like when COVID first started in Taiwan, I did quite a few episodes where we had COVID check ins from people around the world. And it's interesting now to have the connectivity that we have to even even right now as over across the river and down the road from you. There's shelling and artillery going on, we are able to have are able to have an internet conversation.

 1:21:35

Which which is which is surprised me as well. We do have electricity into absolutely everything. So so far, absolutely. Everything is intact. Which does surprise me. Well, it's a good school surprise. I wouldn't say it this way. But it does surprise me. Because when I heard about Elon Musk, and his satellites, something moving moving here to help us my guess, is not something we usually get really fixed with 15 minutes or a couple of days, probably months, months and everything's so when everything works, and it's fantastic. And you know, I think we've had more panic in the show when COVID started. Went to shove today. As I said, we'll be staying in a queue for a couple of hours. And with no panic, no panic, no fight in the end, no anything. So which is makes me even a little bit of brown ourselves. So what I wish we wouldn't have this kind of change.

 Chris Jordan 1:22:46

Yeah, yeah. Well, in a if change is going to happen if things are going to happen it it's one thing if they happen in a in a slow and steady process. It's another thing to have people rolling over bridges overnight. You know, um, like I said this, this was something that really just popped up out of nowhere when it happened. And the the response of the Ukrainian people to it has been absolutely phenomenal. It's been great to see that y'all were able to rally as fast as

you were, and prepare yourselves as best as you did. Yes. Now, um, what what Have things been like for your family? Things like that. Anton, what are what are y'all looking at? Over the next over the next week or so?



1:23:46

We don't we leave why they. So today was a good day so far. We went to show we got our supplies, we will not show the wound. And so who are no sirens either, but they usually at nighttime. So yeah, this is we're not doing it for a week. Yeah,



Chris Jordan 1:24:09

yeah. And even right now, I've been popping up every now and then there's a live feed that somebody sent me from cube. And it's it's really interesting to sit and watch the live feeds going on there. And to know that right now, like you said things, things are quiet. Things things are on the quiet side. So hopefully, things are starting to kind of simmer down a little bit. Like I said a minute ago there was there were talks of truce talks, ceasefire, all kinds of things. So hopefully, that can be the case as as stuff moves forward over the next few days.



1:24:52

I personally don't have the tools still know what we would be fantastic. If it was If it would, but yeah, well, we'll see how it goes.



Chris Jordan 1:25:04

What would make you say that it won't stop now?



1:25:09

I don't want to step in some kind of political ologists or expert in international or military experts. I think none of not so far would unit pheasant achieve has achieved absolutely nothing. Not any big city been taken including Kiev and Amin didn't collapse so so nothing has happened. So why would these two just four days they probably they don't I don't think over there can you hear me get here as Distant? Distant fire Yes, sir. Okay, we probably will go to the shelter. So just just to finish it. Yeah. Nothing has been achieved from their point of view and the absolute issues is a might achieve it. So I do I don't see why is it is so much. Okay.



Chris Jordan 1:26:11

You shelter. Take care. Thank you so much for checking in with this. Anton. We'll have to we'll have to check in with you periodically and make sure things are going well. Take care and cheers. All right. Wow. What? So So absolutely incredible, folks. Thank you so much, Anton. That is absolutely amazing of you to come on. Please, please do be safe out there. Man, I

cannot express to you what it is to actively hear a live fire going on outside. And I'm gonna I'm gonna pop up those those videos again real quick. From the live stream from Kiev. Just to see if we can see anything popping off or anything like that before we let you go, folks, but that wow, wow. New experiences all the time. First time I've ever heard artillery fire over the other end of my episode. So stay safe out there. Anton. Please, please. Whatever you do, make sure to take care of yourself. Take care of your family. Thank you so much for taking the time to come on. Thank you so much to everybody. As always for tuning in. Make sure to stop by like subscribe, check out the website. Curious realm.com is where you want to go for everything curious realm.com forward slash five seas all amazing live feed every week provided by Thank you so much. You guys. Thank you so much for everybody. Take care of yourselves take care of each other. Remember? Thank you for tuning into this episode of The Curious realm. Stay tuned for more guests, forbidden topics and hidden truths. Download the official curious realm app and view the knowledge vaults on our website curious realm.com Follow us on social media by searching curious realm. Curious realm is available on your favorite podcast services as well as YouTube, Roku, Amazon Fire and Apple TV through the APR TV app. Available on all app Martians. Curious realm as a proud member of the HC universal network family of podcasts. For more great content for to become a sponsor of curious realm or other podcasts. Visit HC universal network.com today. Thanks for listening. Stay curious. And remember the other side is watching