

**Brazil Camp Meeting, 24-27 March 2022**  
**Parminder Biant #1 (3-26-2022)**  
**10 Years of Asymmetric Russian Warfare**

Let's open with the word of prayer:

Holy God, We, thank you for your continued goodness and watch care over us. Help us to remember how to address you correctly. As human beings we have many relationships. Parenthood is only one of them. As we address you as our God, our Lord and our Saviour, may we understand the true import of what that means. Guide us and direct us through this camp-meeting so that through the words of the teachers and the thoughts of the congregation, not only your name but your character would be glorified. Help us to speak the truth for the times in which we live. We thank you for the great privilege of being in this Movement. But with that privilege we know there comes responsibility. Within our sphere of influence, may each of us exercise that responsibility wisely. Help us to understand what it really means to redeem the time. I ask and pray in the precious name of Jesus. Amen

Since the last time we spoke, the last time I presented, there have been significant changes that have occurred in the world. So many things have happened since we've last spoken together. I guess the most significant thing that's occurred is the invasion of Ukraine and I know that many of us, probably all of us, are watching our computers or the TV, to understand everything that's going on.

Now, I don't know if what's happened has taken you by surprise. We now know that we're in a new dispensation. It can be identified in different ways depending upon the model that you're using. But as we consider Daniel 11, verses 40 to 45, and the war between the King of the North and the King of the South, our understanding is that we are now in the dispensation of the death of the King of the South.

Now maybe the things that are occurring, that are precipitating that death, have caught you by surprise. Maybe you were not expecting things to happen in this way. In the movement we have spoken about information wars and hot wars. And if you have listened to the news media over the last month, if you've been watching the TV or YouTube, you know that things are hot. By hot, I mean there is a real, physical war going on, and that may have taken you by surprise.

What I want to do in the first part of this presentation is go through a question-and-answer interview. This was an interview by a western journalist of a Russian filmmaker. This Russian filmmaker doesn't have sympathies with Vladimir Putin's perspective, but he does understand

his mindset. And I think in the context of what is happening today the perspective of this Russian filmmaker is insightful.

So, I'm going to try to paraphrase this Q and A, so I hope everybody's going to be able to keep up with me.

The person who's been interviewed, his name is Maxim Pozdorovkin. This Russian, this person was born in Russia but I believe he now lives in the United States. He was educated in the United States and he has produced several well-received important documentaries. So, let's go into the interview; the question and answers:

Question #1: You've been very vocal in your work, that there has been a whole narrative about America. Now this narrative about America has been playing out in the Russian media and most Americans aren't aware of what is being aired in the Russian media. Can you explain what is happening in Russia?

So, the questioner is asking the following: there are things happening in Russia but most Americans are not aware of what is going on there.

Answer: I don't think Americans fully understand what has been fed to the Russians about the United States. Not only the United States but the West in general. Not just today but over the past decade. There has been an information war. A totally one-sided information war. And it has been waged so fully, so artfully, that it's made a lot of what's happening now pre-emptively possible.

So, I'll rephrase that because some translators may not understand what that means. So, this information warfare is one-sided, and it's been prosecuted or waged by the Russians very carefully. And it's made what is going on today, the Ukrainian war, possible. He says pre-emptively possible, which means that it took the previous ten years of propaganda to bring us to this point. To make it possible. What this information war boils down to is the following:

So, this is the Russian narrative that has been fed to the people of Russia for the past ten years. Without these ten years of information warfare, Russia would not have been able to go to war now.

Quoting again: The west is completely against us and trying to stifle and destroy our way of life. This is the message. It's a simple message. But the Russian people have been told this over and over again in so many different ways.

So, let's summarize. The questioner asked, what has been going on in Russia because most Americans don't have any idea what's been going on? And the interviewee says the following: there has been a consistent message over the last ten years, the message is this simple, the

West is completely against us, trying to stifle and destroy our way of life, and this message has been given in different ways to the Russian people.

Question #2: Can you give some examples?

Answer: The Western sanctions back in 2014 over the war in the Donbas, you remember that? That was an attempt to destroy the Russian way of life. Another example is the backlash to the Russian disinformation campaign in the US election. So, in 2016 there was a United States election and people in the west blamed Russia for that, saying there was a disinformation campaign. This was an attempt to destroy the Russian way of life. Example 3: the Russian doping punishments at the Olympics. It is the same thing. You name it, if it has involved Russia and the West, it's always the West trying to destroy the Russian way of life, when in reality of course, most of the time most Americans don't even spend much time thinking about Russians.

Let's summarise answer #2. He's asked to give examples of the attacks by the West and he gives three examples. The 2014 war in the Donbas, which is the eastern part of Ukraine, the 2016 interference in the US election, and the accusations of Russian athletes taking drugs in connection to the Olympics. These are three examples of many where the West looks at Russia and says Russia is a bad country, Russians are bad people. Their way of life is corrupt. That is the Russian narrative. And then he finishes by saying, of course most Americans don't even think that much about Russia.

Question #3: And does Trump fit neatly into this narrative, into this story?

The answer is yes, but why? It's because Trump was, I'm going to say it this way, this is me, Trump was the first American leader of recent times, who wasn't trying to destroy the Russian way of life. And this becomes significant with respect to the timing of this Ukrainian war. Simply put, Trump was a friend of the Russian people. This is the Russian narrative, the Russian perspective. Why? Because Trump was not trying to destroy the Russian way of life.

Question #4: So, in their eyes, the Russian eyes, is that what caused the US backlash to him?

So, I'll rephrase the question, is this why the American establishment was against Trump, because Trump was not against Russia?

Answer: Yes, that was the one and the only reason they were against him.

Now remember, this is a Q and A. The person who is answering, he's not giving his perspective, he's giving the Russian people's perspective. He's explaining the Russian information war, the Russian messaging that's been given to the Russian people. The only reason the Americans got rid of Trump was because Trump was honest and straightforward

about the Russian people. So, they see him, they view him, as an honest broker, a decent person. And it's not difficult to go from that position to identify him as a Republican and to see that the Democratic party, and before Biden, Clinton, and to see them as being the arch-enemies of the Russian people. And when we say the Russian people what we mean is the Russian way of life.

We need to understand that the reason that this war is happening in Ukraine, which has been going on for a long time now, is because the Russians are protecting their way of life. It's a survival for their very existence. Now you may think that's extreme but is that not exactly what prophecy teaches?

Question #5. So, based upon all that we have just discussed, about what the interviewee has said about the Russian way of thinking, the questioner asks, what effect does this have? Like you said, it's not like the United States or Europe has done much from a western perspective, to feed this narrative.

So, from a western perspective, the questioner is suggesting, what's the real problem? It all seems rather extreme. So, the question was, what effect does this have? This mindset that has been fed to the Russian people? Even though it's not true because everyone in the West knows that they're not really that bothered about Russians.

So, I hope we will understand what the phrase or the term shadow boxing means? Well, we all know what is boxing. When you box, you of course fight with a real person, a real opponent. So, there's a phrase that you can box with an imaginary person. It's like boxing with your shadow. It looks like there's someone there who's fighting with you but it's not real.

So, the answer to Question #5: What's the effect of all this propaganda that the Russian government is giving to the Russian people?

Answer #5: It's true. The Russian media has been totally shadow boxing for years. No one was fighting back.

So, the real person is the Russians, the shadow is the West. That's the parable. But it doesn't really matter. If you ingrained this message of victimhood so completely, what it does is when there's any kind of aggressive move by Putin, the people in Russia do not see it as an act of aggression. How do they see it? They see it as an act of defence. They see it as them standing up for their way of life.

So, let me just rephrase what the answer says for question five. What is the effect of all of this? The effect is that when Russia stands up and fights, in the current situation destroying or trying to annihilate Ukraine, they see this as a response to what the West is doing. This is not an aggressive act by Putin, which means that Putin is not doing anything evil, the war is

legitimate. He may have invaded the Ukraine but it's a defensive act. What is he defending? He's defending the Russian way of life.

Now you have heard in the news increasingly over the past week or two weeks, the thought or the idea of the use of nuclear weapons. Now, you might think, that is crazy, the mindset of using nuclear weapons, even tactical nuclear weapons, is ridiculous. It's silly. But from their perspective, the nuclear threat that they possess computes, it makes sense to them.

Now I'm not trying to call Putin an animal in the next statement but many Western journalists have used this imagery. When you corner a wild animal, when you put them into a corner and restrain them so they've got no option of escape, they will do whatever is necessary to protect and save themselves, even if it means self-destruction. We call that flight or fight. Flight meaning to run. In previous studies we have called this the fast brain response. And that's why the threat or the possible use of nuclear weapons isn't a crazy idea for them because if you are a Russian and you have a way of life, a way of thinking, as people in the past have said in the West, give me life and liberty. Give me life or liberty.

So, people would prefer to die than to have their freedoms taken from them. And you and I are saying, what freedoms are we taking from you? We are making your lives better. We are giving you all the riches that the West has to offer. But Russians don't see it that way because they have been fed a story (we might call it propagand, we might call it information war) that the West is trying to infiltrate the Russian way of life. Now I have to admit, I have no idea of what the Russian way of life is, in the sense of what their aspirations, what their desires are, that they are different to ours. But they are at a place that if you're prepared to destroy them as a people, the only thing that they can resort to is the nuclear threat. Because everyone knows they cannot win a conventional war.

So, after all the mistakes that the Russian military have made and we're all aware of that, you can see why this is now being discussed.

We'll go back to Question five. What effect does this have? And the effect is that Russia will do what is ever necessary to protect itself. What Vladimir Putin is doing is not an act of aggression towards Ukraine. That is a wrong way of seeing it. What is going on, is this is a defence of the Russian way of life.

So, Question #6: In Russia, this is not seen as sabre-rattling. So, sabre-rattling is when two warriors, two soldiers stand in front of each other, two gang members, they look at each other and they shake their weapons at one another, threatening, but they don't do anything. They just threaten one another without taking any action. That's what sabre rattling is. It's similar to the concept we discussed about shadow boxing.

So, the Russians, their position is the following: These are not idle threats, this is not sabre rattling, but rather... look what you made me do? Remember, this is based upon what you just said, the Russians are not making idle threats, they're not rattling their swords. They're going to say, looking at the West, look what you made me do?

This is a rhetorical question, answer #six: Exactly! The Russian narrative is the following: we don't want to take the nuclear option, we know it's crazy, but what choice do we have? You try to destroy our way of life, that is called slavery. You tried to make us slaves, slaves of the West, and we would rather have death than slavery. That is the Russian narrative. And all of this mindset today that the Russians have has been carefully crafted and nurtured over the past decade. We might call it Russian propaganda or the information war.

Question #7. Now you may think that there's intergenerational things going on in Russia. You know all of this applies to old people, not the young ones, because in the West we know that there's a generation gap. Old people, like me, don't think like young people like you. So, Question seven is going to ask this issue, this point.

Question #7: In your research how broadly does this apply to Russian society? Many Americans, have the feeling, perhaps naively, that there's a generational split in Russia, in parenthesis, like there is in the West. An older audience that remembers the Cold War and is more likely to watch State TV, might think this way, but a younger generation that doesn't remember the Cold War, and is tech savvy (understand and use technology), they won't be persuaded to see things the Russian way. Technology and the open internet must play a role here, mustn't it? (Now, we all know that Russia doesn't have a truly open internet).

So, let's try and summarise Question #7. You've told us what's happened over the last decade. The Russian people have been brainwashed. But surely not all of them? We have technology today. We have our phones, we have our computers, we have the internet, which is something that young people have fully accepted and integrated into their life. Not like the old people who are stuck in their old ways and just watch the state or government TV. So, is there an intergenerational divide in Russia? That's the question.

Answer: I think that depends on the level of wilful agency people have.

So, when he says wilful agency, it means how much effort they make, how much information they have? How organised they are. For some younger Russians, yes, they understand and see things differently. But it's getting so much harder to get this information, this Western perspective. You really have to make an effort; you really have to take action. Now, you know that there are independent Russian media outlets and they've now essentially been closed down. Now there were these outlets and if you made the effort to watch them, which was relatively easy in the past, you could get a different perspective, but those have now

essentially all been closed down. So, there were independent news services which gave a different perspective of the war have been shut down.

So, if you want to know what's going on you have to know where to look. You can't go to any site and assume that you're going to get good information. The other thing that you need to be able to do now is to use a VPN. Now VPN stands for virtual (which means not real) private network and essentially what this does is it hides where your physical presence is. So, you can go on the internet and you can tell the internet that you're actually in another country, from the country that you're actually in. So, if I'm here in Europe, I can trick the internet and make it think that I'm in Africa, as an example. And it's country specific, not just continents. So, you can have a virtual, which means pretend, private network.

So, if you're in Russia and you want to use Western news services, you can't, because now they've been blocked by the Russian government. So, when you log on to the internet you trick the internet and pretend that you are in Germany and now you can visit all the websites that you want to. Now VPNs are not complicated to use but most people either don't know what they are or they're scared of them. They don't trust them. You have to know what you are doing. The people need to know how they work, where to find them, but there are lots of people who are scared to use them just in case they get found out. People used to be able to use radio but now they have been shut down as well or the owners of those TV and radio stations have pre-emptively shut themselves down. We're all familiar with the new censorship laws that are now enforced in Russia.

So, the question was, surely all the young people in Russia have not been conned? Have not been duped? And the answer is, it's not that straightforward. And the summary of all of that is that the stratification of Russian society is not like the West. It's more homogenized than our society. It's more together, more cohesive. It's not like the young people are doing their thing and the older people are doing theirs, especially when it comes to the Russian way of life.

Question #8: All of these TV radio internet sites have either been forced to close or have voluntarily closed because of the censorship laws. Question: is that a sign that the Russian information war isn't working? If you are so good at Russian propaganda, why do you need to shut down these independent news outlets? Why don't they counter them and resist them?

Answer: I think you're a bit naïve. This is exactly what you should be doing. You, being the Russian government. Think of it as a boat which has got some leaks. All you're doing is plugging or blocking the leaks, the holes in the boat. The propaganda has been working for the majority of people. But for the few that it hasn't been working for, we need to close them down and that's why those independent news outlets have been closed basically.

So, the summary of all of this is that it's not only a problem for older people, it's a problem for younger people.

Question #9: So where did the tech companies fit into all of this? Companies such as Facebook and Twitter? Now all of them have been restricted in Russia. They've all been cut off. What about YouTube? Why is YouTube still on? Can YouTube be used to help give true and balanced information?

Answer: YouTube is problematic for Putin because unlike the other platforms, it works both ways. The Russian censorship agency can't just turn YouTube off. And the reason is because Russian propaganda uses YouTube very effectively for its own means, its own end. And what the censorship agency can't do is switch off certain channels and keep other channels open. They don't have that control of YouTube. So, for the moment, YouTube is one of the leaks, one of the holes in the boat that they can't plug, because they currently think there's more benefit to having YouTube than it being negative.

Question #10: So, the idea of creating a full media blackout isn't so simple. Remember, information warfare isn't that straightforward. You can't defend against every weapon.

Answer: Yes, I agree.

A term that Elder Tess has used frequently, referring to a game, is "whack a mole". A mole is an animal that lives under the earth, makes tunnels and pops its head up in fields or in your gardens. And the idea is that if you close one hole it just pops out of another hole. And there's a game that is based upon this reality. You try to destroy something at one point and it just pops up somewhere else. So, the answer is that, yes, this information warfare is a losing game. You shut down one information sphere in one place and it pops up somewhere else. But each time you do that it becomes harder. It becomes harder for the person seeking true information. Often, we will put Russian, China, North Korea, all in the same category, but they're not all the same. Russia will never become like North Korea, which is basically completely isolated from the world. But it's getting closer to the north Korean model but will never be like that.

Question #11: Does this filling the news desert, which means that there's no news, filling it with propaganda, does it work?

So, if you imagine a desert that doesn't have anything, no news, you're going to fill this desert with propaganda. Does this methodology work if people don't have bread to eat? Or their sons are not coming home from the Ukrainian war? So, in Russia your sons are dying in Ukraine and there's no bread in the shops. That's already started, you're all familiar with that. Now, wouldn't that reality that's going on in Russia, wouldn't that begin to change people's



mindsets? So, we might call it sanctions and military attrition. Attrition means the wasting away of your military.

Answer: I believe that 90% of people in Russia feel themselves as victims and they just stick to their broad ideological viewpoint. They're not changing their view of things, which are deeply ingrained, just because life is harder. They don't connect the two. They don't connect there's no bread and our children are not coming home because they've been killed. They don't see those as being created by the Russian government, by Putin. They say, this is the price that we have to pay for our freedoms and our rights.

Question #12: Or do they blame the West for all of this?

You all know the answer. Yes, this is what Putin is doing.

You have all heard the phrase, you've all heard him say, that sanctions are an act of war against the Russian people. So, he sees a Stinger missile in the same category as a sanction. So, if we say, we don't want to buy your gas anymore, he says, that's an act of war not an economic decision. When you begin to see things this way, you begin to understand what the Russian mindset is.

So, what he is doing is he's connecting people's hardships with the narrative of the invasion. And the invasion is the result of the attacks of the West. The attack on the Russian way of life.

We'll just answer one last question and then we'll finish off in our next presentation.

Question #13: Will harsh economic sanctions make ordinary Russians call for an end to the war?

Answer: No. What a lot of people may want in tough times is the opposite. They want a display of strength against the West, and this is what Putin and the State media are ready to serve them.

So, as we close now, we haven't quite finished the questions, we've only got a couple left but we'll do them in our next study. Why have I chosen to talk about this in this presentation? Because I want us to understand not only how Putin but how the majority of the Russian people think. Now we know what prophecy teaches but I want us to understand because perhaps we haven't thought about this seriously enough. We, like most of the people in the West have ignored Russia. We've not understood Russia, and therefore, we don't understand the seriousness and the complexities of this war and how difficult the death of the King of the South will be. It's not going to be as clean cut, as sanitized, as we may have imagined. The pain that we are going to experience in the bringing down of the King of the South is likely to be much worse than you ever anticipated. Not because of the weapons of destruction, not

because the weaponry is so sophisticated today, but because of the power of information. And this work has been going on for years in Russia. And it's only now that we are really beginning to see the affects and the power of information warfare.

It's naïve to think that this is just a fight with Vladimir Putin, one person, or his cronies, the people that are next to him. This is much broader, much wider. We have the whole Russian people who think and believe what he does. And this may come as a rude awakening to us. It's going to be interesting in the coming days, weeks and months how the King of the South will come to his end, because it may not be as straight forward as we think. And it may be more personal, more painful, than you would have realized. We are not just observers but we are actors in this war. Let's pray:

Holy God, as we see what is happening in Ukraine today, as we see the struggle over spheres of influence, we have not yet begun to realize or to experience the pain, the difficulty and the decisions we may have to make personally. As we see the power of information being wielded before our eyes, as we see the struggle that is going on in Russia, help us to realise and to understand how the truth can mould and change a human being. The flexibility of the human brain is a wonder, it's beautiful. But it's a double-edged sword and it can be used to destroy people as well as uplift them. May we hear your voice speaking to us. May people hear your voice speaking through us, as we live through the most momentous events in recent history, the death of the King of the South.

In Jesus' name, AMEN