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## A Metaphor For Global War

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# A Metaphor For Global War

## R. Ryan Brandys

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Why do we still have war?

The answer is very political.

The brilliant thing about politics is - they never tell anyone but insiders what those politics *are*.

Global politics is a lot like little-league baseball. At that age, kids are impressionable, so the coaches give the kids a speech before the big game. "We're the Tennessee Tigers! We're the best! We're going to go out there, and we're going to Beat those Burlington Bumblebees! Win! Win! Win!" It gets the competitive sensation pumping through the youngsters' minds, and motivates them to play their very best. Little Tommy scored a home run. He swung as hard as he could, not because his parents were proudly cheering in the stands, but because that pitcher and first baseman were really pissing him off.

You can reach an altitude where these competitive energies fall away. The Bumblebees' coach calls up the Tigers' coach to shoot the shit, and they go out for beers together after the game. The coaches know the competitiveness they foster isn't a real hatred. It might be real for the kids, but it's not real outside the youngster's social group. Coaches see the broader picture: we're all community members, promoting similar interest in a similar sport, so the competitiveness is a bluff.

World politics and war works in much the same way. When we got into the cold war with the USSR, it wasn't because we were going to go in there and nuke them. It was propaganda intended to get competition and nationalism to thrive. Even the ethnic and racial hatreds that prevail in our culture are founded on the principle of competition. This is the main reason that the Blacks hate the Jews - who hate the Saudis - who hate the Russians - who hate us Americans. And we hate the French now. It's the latest craze. And still a bluff.

For people with power, Nationalism is a bluff. If you're enormously wealthy, it doesn't matter what country you're from. You have houses all over the world. You have citizenship everywhere, and so you're immune to danger if your country is at war. You're like the little league coach. You use that hatred and competition to your advantage.

You meet up with your wealthy friends at the World Trade Organization and talk. "I know your country is at war with my country, but you're rich and I'm rich, so we're cool." You'll go out for a drink, do a business deal. You'll trade some oil for ownership of docks and ports. Americans will begin to wonder why our "enemies" control our international shipping.

Is China our enemy? Not if you work at the highest levels of Wal-Mart management, and you make 300% markups on foreign Tupperware. But if your job is getting outsourced, then yes, it's perfectly natural for you to "hate the gook who stole your job for 50 cents an hour."

That's the real danger with Multi-National Corporations. They operate at an altitude above war. When you're that rich, you don't care about your own people, you care about making and keeping the money you've got. There's profit in war, just ask Halliburton. There's profit in racial hatred, too. Just ask the guy who invented Freedom Fries.

What does the elitist jet-set care if the hatred is real, down here on the human level - where the death is real and so they cover coffins with flags.