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MGT 4230

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**1. How is the process of globalization affected specifically by the war in Ukraine?**

One of the phases of globalization began after World War II, in efforts to prevent another world war that ruins lives and (probably more importantly) the economy. This phase of globalization has made the world the most interconnected it has ever been. Through technological advances, most every country has some sort of tie to another country through business deals, production or trade. This concept of globalization has been extremely beneficial to many countries and economies around the world, seeing that it has prevented further world wars, and has supported mutually beneficial trade. However, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict beginning in February 2022 is considered the first majorly devastating war since the 1940s and has had vast economic effects. As we all know, many countries have placed economic sanctions on Russia to retaliate against their invasion of Ukraine. Because of this, globalization has been devastated by the war due to the heavy reliance on exports from Russia. Examples that follow: Zeihan starts to talk about some of the products that Russia exports that not many people are aware of or seem to care about right now, which includes wheat and fertilizer. Places such as South America, Southeast Asia, Sub Saharan Africa and Australia import almost all of their potash or fertilizer, which will cause famine in the next year. Additionally, Russia is first in global ranking of natural gas, second in crude oil and steel, and third in coal. As a result, it has

made many people rethink how “beneficial” globalization is. It has slowed down economic growth, made changes to supply chain structure, and caused inflation to surge.

## **2. What parallels do you see between this speech and the main themes of Revolt?**

Stating the obvious, both Revolt and Peter Zeihan have extensive information and insight on globalization and current events. Even though the information in Revolt is slightly older than that of Zeihan’s speech, they both speak a lot about globalization, or the lack thereof. One thing that I have noticed about the delivery of Zeihan and Revolt is that yes, there is a lot of information and it states facts supported by data, but both (Zeihan specifically) have a nice way of stating horrifying facts about the world, while maintaining tranquility in the audience. Whether the reader/audience realizes it afterwards, or the way he states it seems to be deceitful, Zeihan speaks about the end of the world, while delivering it in a charismatic, funny way. Additionally, I think that both Revolt and Zeihan speak about things that a lot of the mainstream media doesn’t touch on. Instead, mainstream media in the United States talks about how drag queens are dangerous, yet Zeihan is casually mentioning that there will be famine in the following years.... In my opinion, if more people were exposed to these sorts of information in both Revolt and the speech, there would be more preventative measures taken, or even a push to stop the extensive globalization. One thing that Revolt mentions is that the state that the world is currently in, is the fruit of the seeds planted in the post-war period after World War II. This relates to the current prominence of the status of other countries, that

is heavily mentioned in both pieces. The way that Russia is now, and their invasion of Ukraine comes from many of the tendencies that they had/planted back after World War II.

**3. Imagine you are the CEO of an international company that both produces and sells in Russia. Take us through your thinking at the outbreak of the war.**

When the war first broke out in February of 2022, without being in the place of a business owner, and as a student, I felt and noticed a global state of panic, regardless of your economic status. However, being put in the shoes of a business owner, I would be faced with all kinds of conflict. In my opinion, there are two major aspects to consider when assessing what to do: 1) how does this affect my company – my profits, sales, imports, exports, etc. and 2) how do my morals line up with continuing operations in Russia? Is this socially and morally acceptable? Then with the weigh in of all of the economic sanctions placed by the U.S and other nations across the world, where does my company stand? To address the first question, if my company is producing in Russia, we know that economic growth will be stunted, no question about it. Producing and selling in Russia, I will experience a decrease in my profits, in my sales, and a decrease in my ability to import and export (due to many of the sanctions). So, what would my simplified version of my thought process be? “What is the point of continuing production here?” Additionally, the halt and/or pulling of assets that other companies are doing in Russia could negatively impact my relationships with those respective companies, if I were to stay in Russia. Then, to address the second question, this one is a little more definite for me to understand and have an answer to. Socially and morally, as we have seen many

other companies do, cutting relations, and stopping or pausing sales in Russia would make more sense to me. This clarifies my thought process as the CEO, from the start of the invasion, I would be thinking of pulling out of production and sales in Russia, and turning to another country.

**4. Discuss one aspect of this presentation that you found most striking as it related to the future of business.**

One aspect of this presentation that I found extremely interesting was Zeihan's take on China, saying that it is their last decade. When he first said this, I thought with his sense of humor, he had to be joking. He was not. He states that China's Leader Xi Jinping has given himself more power than any other leader in the history of the world which has resulted in policy collapses. No one wants to bring him any information because they have no clue how he will somehow twist it in his head, and what decision he will make afterwards. We see this in two ways: power outages that started last March, and the other one is COVID. With regards to COVID, there is no natural immunity because they have enforced substantial lockdown policies, and their vaccines only worked for the first strand of COVID. Now, if they were to open back up again, Zeihan estimates there will be between 2-5 million deaths a month for the next 6 months. China has no form of a modern economy, and is experiencing a recession from COVID. This will keep happening until they have a successful vaccine. So now, China is faced with a health crisis, an energy crisis and a crisis with food supply, due to their sick pigs. How does this affect the rest of the world? With the lockdown of the export of pork, Zeihan states that we have now lost what we use to keep 8 billion people alive. This is so striking to me

because I didn't even realize that this was happening and how this is going to affect the U.S economy in the future.