

Sri Aurobindo and the Mother on War and Peace

On September 2, 1945, Sri Aurobindo wrote:

It is not [the present human civilisation] which has to be saved; it is the world that has to be saved, and that will surely be done, though it may not be so easily or so soon as some wish or imagine or in the way that they imagine. **The present civilisation must surely change, but whether by a destruction or a new construction on the basis of a greater truth, is the issue.** The Mother has left the question hanging and I can only do the same.
[Letters on Himself and the Ashram]

On July 24, 1963, Satprem asked the Mother:

Is it still hanging?

The Mother laughed but did not reply.

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From the *Arya* (1914–1921)



No real peace can be till the heart of man deserves peace; the law of Vishnu cannot prevail till the debt to Rudra is paid. To turn aside then and preach to a still unevolved mankind the law of love and oneness? Teachers of the law of love and oneness there must be, for by that way must come the ultimate salvation. But not till the Time-Spirit in man is ready, can the inner and ultimate prevail over the outer and immediate reality. Christ and Buddha have come and gone, but it is Rudra who still holds the world in the hollow of his hand. [*Essays on the Gita*]

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From the *Arya* (1914–1921)

1/2: We will use only soul-force and never destroy by war or any even defensive employment of physical violence? Good, though until soul-force is effective, the Asuric force in men and nations tramples down, breaks, slaughters, burns, pollutes, as we see it doing today, but then at its ease and unhindered, **and you have perhaps caused as much destruction of life by your abstinence as others by resort to violence....**

But even soul-force, when it is effective, destroys. Only those who have used it with eyes open, know how much more terrible and destructive it is than the sword and the cannon; and only those who do not limit their view to the act and its immediate results, can see how tremendous are its after-effects, how much is eventually destroyed and with that much all the life that depended on it and fed upon it. **Evil cannot perish without the destruction of much that lives by the evil....** [*Essays on the Gita*]

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From the *Arya* (1914–1921)

2/2: Moreover, every time we use soul-force we raise a great force of Karma against our adversary, the after-movements of which we have no power to control.... The very quiescence and passivity of the spiritual man under violence and aggression awakens the tremendous forces of the world to a retributive action; and **it may even be more merciful to stay in their path, though by force, those who represent evil than to allow them to trample on until they call down on themselves a worse destruction than we would ever think of inflicting.** It is not enough that our own hands should remain clean and our souls unstained for the law of strife and destruction to die out of the world; that which is its root must first disappear out of humanity. **Much less will mere immobility and inertia unwilling to use or incapable of using any kind of resistance to evil, abrogate the law.** [*Essays on the Gita*]

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From the *Arya* (1914–1921)

So long as war does not become psychologically impossible, it will remain or, if banished for a while, return. War itself, it is hoped, will end war.... The whole confused sanguinary madness of the thing ... will reach such colossal proportions that the human race will fling the monstrosity behind it in weariness and disgust. But weariness and disgust, horror and pity ... last only while the lesson is fresh.... A long peace, even a certain organisation of peace may conceivably result, but so long as the heart of man remains what it is, the peace will come to an end, the organisation will break down under the stress of human passions. **War is no longer, perhaps, a biological necessity, but it is still a psychological necessity; what is within us, must manifest itself outside.** [*War and Self-Determination*]

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

[The War] is a struggle for an ideal that has to establish itself on earth in the life of humanity, for a Truth that has yet to realise itself fully and against a darkness and falsehood that are trying to overwhelm the earth and mankind in the immediate future.... It is no use concentrating on the defects or mistakes of nations...; what matters is on what side they have ranged themselves in the struggle. It is a struggle for the liberty of mankind to develop, for conditions in which men have freedom and room to think and act according to the light in them and grow in the Truth, grow in the Spirit. **There cannot be the slightest doubt that if one side wins, there will be an end of all such freedom and hope of light and truth and the work that has to be done will be subjected to conditions which would make it humanly impossible;** there will be a reign of falsehood and darkness, a cruel oppression and degradation for most of the human race such as people in this country do not dream of and cannot yet at all realise. [1942, *Autobiographical Notes*]

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

What we have to see is on which side men and nations put themselves; if they put themselves on the right side, they at once make themselves instruments of the Divine purpose in spite of all defects, errors, wrong movements and actions which are common to human nature and all human collectivities. The victory of one side would keep the path open for the evolutionary forces: **the victory of the other side would drag back humanity, degrade it horribly and might lead even, at the worst, to its eventual failure as a race, as others in the past evolution failed and perished.** That is the whole question and all other considerations are either irrelevant or of a minor importance. The Allies at least have stood for human values, though they may often act against their own best ideals (human beings always do that); Hitler stands for diabolical values or for human values exaggerated in the wrong way until they become diabolical. [1943, *Autobiographical Notes*]

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

1/4: The struggle that is going on ... is in fact **a clash between two world-forces which are contending for the control of the whole future of humanity**. One force seeks to destroy the past civilisation and substitute a new one; but **this new civilisation is in substance a reversion to the old principles of dominant Force and a rigid external order and denies the established values, social, political, ethical, spiritual, altogether....** The other Force is that of the evolutionary tendencies which have been directing the course of humanity for some time past and, till recently, seemed destined to shape its future.... Among the greater values it had developed stood the very things against which the new Force is most aggressive, the liberty of the individual, national liberty, freedom of thought, political and social freedom with an increasing bent towards equality, complete religious liberty, the humanitarian principle with all its consequences....

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

2/4: The only material force that now stands between [the two Forces] is the obstinate and heroic resistance of Great Britain and her fixed determination to fight the battle to the end.... **If there were defeat and the strength of Britain and her colonies were to go down before the totalitarian nations**, all Europe, Africa and Asia would be doomed to domination by three or four Powers all anti-democratic and all pushing for expansion, powers with regimes and theories of life which take no account of liberty of any kind; **the surviving democracies would perish, nor would any free government with free institutions be any longer possible anywhere.... [India's] chance of gaining the liberty which is now so close to her would disappear for a long time to come.** On the contrary, if the victory goes to Britain, the situation will be reversed, the progressive evolutionary forces will triumph and the field will lie open for the fulfilment of the tendencies which were making India's full control of her own life a certainty of the near future....

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

3/4: Nations which tried to isolate themselves in a self-regarding neutrality have paid the penalty of their blindness and the others who still maintain that attitude are likely sooner or later to share the same fate....

If the totalitarian Powers win, there will indeed be a new world-order,—it may be in the end, a unification; but it will be **a new order of naked brute Force, repression and exploitation, and for the people of Asia and Africa a subjection worse than anything they had experienced before....** Not only Europe, Asia and Africa, but distant America with all her power and resources is no longer safe, and she has shown that she knows it; she has felt the peril and is arming herself in haste to meet it....

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From Sri Aurobindo's Letters during World War II (1939–1945)

4/4: War is physically an evil, a calamity... but it is sometimes necessary to face it rather than invite or undergo a worse evil, a greater calamity. One can hold that, **so long as life and mankind are what they are, there can be such a thing as a righteous war,—*dharmya yuddha*. No doubt, in a spiritualised life of humanity or in a perfect civilisation there would be no room for war or violence....**

But mankind is psychologically and materially still far from this ideal state. To bring it to that state needs either an immediate spiritual change of which there is no present evidence or a change of mentality and habits which the victory of the totalitarian idea and its system would render impossible. [1940, *Autobiographical Notes*]

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From the 1950 Postscript chapter to *The Ideal of Human Unity*

Having pointed out that The League of Nations was constituted after the first World War to prevent a second World War, and that the United Nations was constituted after the second World War to prevent a third, Sri Aurobindo calls attention to the UN's Achilles heel:

1/2 A strong surviving element of oligarchy remained in the preponderant place assigned to the five great Powers in the Security Council and was clinched by the device of the veto....

A third attempt, the substitution of a differently constituted body, could only come if this institution collapsed as the result of a new catastrophe.... A third still more disastrous war with a prospect of the use of weapons ... whose far-spread use might bring down civilisation with a crash and whose effects might tend towards something like extermination on a large scale, looms in prospect....

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From the 1950 Postscript chapter to *The Ideal of Human Unity*

2/2 If the third war which is regarded by many if not by most as inevitable does come, **it is likely to precipitate as inevitably a further step and perhaps the final outcome of this great world-endeavour** [towards Human Unity]. Nature uses such means, apparently opposed and dangerous to her intended purpose, to bring about the fruition of that purpose. **As in the practice of the spiritual science and art of Yoga one has to raise up the psychological possibilities which are there in the nature and stand in the way of its spiritual perfection and fulfilment** so as to eliminate them, even, it may be, the sleeping possibilities which might arise in future to break the work that has been done, **so too Nature acts with the world-forces that meet her on her way**, not only calling up those which will assist her but raising too, so as to finish with them, those that she knows to be the normal or even the unavoidable obstacles which cannot but start up to impede her secret will....

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From a Note written by Sri Aurobindo in the third person

[W]hen it appeared as if Hitler would crush all the forces opposed to him and Nazism dominate the world, he began to intervene. He declared himself publicly on the side of the Allies, made some financial contributions in answer to the appeal for funds and encouraged those who sought his advice to enter the army or share in the war effort. Inwardly, **he put his spiritual force behind the Allies from the moment of Dunkirk** when everybody was expecting the immediate fall of England and the definite triumph of Hitler, and **he had the satisfaction of seeing the rush of German victory almost immediately arrested and the tide of war begin to turn in the opposite direction....**

[Later he] intervened with his spiritual force against the Japanese aggression ... and **had the satisfaction of seeing the tide of Japanese victory, which had till then swept everything before it, changed immediately into a tide of rapid, crushing and finally immense and overwhelming defeat.** [1946, revised 1948]

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Once settled in Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo at first thought to return to politics after completing his yoga in a year or two. Yet soon "the magnitude of the spiritual work set before him became more and more clear to him, and he saw that the concentration of all his energies on it was necessary," he wrote in the same note. In a 1923 talk, he explained:

You must know that this [yoga] is not a simple affair at all. It is not a revolt against the British Government.... It is, in fact, **a revolt against the whole universal Nature**.... There will be tremendous forces that will attack you and you have constantly to go on making the right choice and giving consent to the working of the Higher Truth and thereby prove your strength.

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At the beginning of the war, public opinion in India was so anti-British that many hoped for a German victory. Yet here was Sri Aurobindo, whom the British Viceroy had called the most dangerous man in India, stating that "the victory of Great Britain in this war is not only to the interest of the whole of humanity including India, but necessary for the safeguarding of its future."

Unsurprisingly, some of his disciples were confused. They had not understood that in this "revolt against the whole universal Nature," Great Britain and Sri Aurobindo were on the same side. Hence the following letter:

You have said that you have begun to doubt whether it was the Mother's war and ask me to make you feel again that it is. I affirm again to you most strongly that **this is the Mother's war....** (1942)

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*A disciple once made some critical remarks about Sri Aurobindo's contribution to the War Fund. Asked by the Mother whether he has read what Sri Aurobindo had written about the Nazi danger, he replied: "Yes, Mother, I have. But have not the British done anything wrong to India?" (Today we refer to such arguments as **whataboutism**.)*

The Mother's reply:

We never said that they had not, nor do we say that in the future they will not do so any more. But today the question is not that; don't you understand it? **When you see your neighbour's house on fire, and yet you do not go to help to put it out because he has done wrong to you, you risk the burning of your own house and the loss of your own life.** Do you not see the difference between the forces that are fighting for the Divine and those for the Asuras?

*[from Nirodbaran, *Twelve Years with Sri Aurobindo*]*

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Story time! *Before there was anything, there was the One. Space, time and matter came into being when the One decided to exteriorize itself, so as to know itself objectively. To this end, the One took on four great aspects: Light (Consciousness), Ananda (Love), Life, and Truth. And "just to see what will happen," each aspect was given the freedom to act as it pleases.*

What happened was that each came to think of the power invested in it as its own independent power. And so, they turned into the four great Asuras of a tradition which, according to the Mother, predates both the Vedic and the Chaldean (the Cabala):*

Light or Consciousness became Darkness and Inconscience. Love and Ananda became Hatred and Suffering, and Truth became Falsehood, and Life became Death" [The Mother, Q&A, June 16, 1954].

* "This story is as real as our stories of historical periods. Of course, it's not the only way of seeing, but it is just as legitimate a way as the others, and in any event, it recognizes the concrete reality of all these divine beings." [*Mother's Agenda*, November 4, 1958]

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The Lord of Falsehood

It was not by choice that I met all the four Asuras—it was a decision of the Supreme. The first one, whom religions call Satan [the Asura of Darkness and Inconscience], was converted and is still at work. The second [the Asura of Hatred and Suffering] annulled himself in the Supreme. The third was the Lord of Death. And the fourth was the Lord of Falsehood; **Paul Richard** was an emanation, a vibhuti as they say in India, of this Asura. **Theon** was the vibhuti of the Lord of Death.

[*Mother's Agenda*, November 5, 1961]

*Max Theon and his wife Alma (especially Alma) were proficient occultists. In 1906 and again in 1907, the Mother spent several months with them in their villa in Tlemcen, Algeria. The gentleman of interest to us here is the **Lord of Falsehood**, for "it is he who sets all wars in motion" [Mother's Agenda, March 26, 1959].*

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The Lord of Falsehood

Mirra (as the Mother was then called) married Paul Richard in 1911. The ostensible reason for the marriage was that, after divorcing his Dutch wife, Richard wanted the custody of their three children, but to do so he had to be legally married, so he asked her to marry him, and she said yes.

I have always been totally indifferent to these things. Anyway, when I met him **I knew who he was and I decided to convert him.** [MA, November 5, 1961]

In the same conversation, the Mother stressed that her relationship with Richard was on an occult plane and thus difficult to touch upon.

What happened was far more exciting than any novel imaginable.... He isn't dead and he's still terribly dangerous because of what's behind him.... **It wasn't the struggle of a man against a god, but the struggle of a god against a god....**

Richard died in the United States in 1967, unconverted.

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The Lord of Falsehood

In May 1940, Sri Aurobindo conversed with a small group of disciples. When Purani mentioned Hitler's declaration that the war has to be finished and peace agreed upon before August 15, Sri Aurobindo's birthday, Sri Aurobindo replied:

SA: That is the sign that he is the enemy of our work. And from the values concerned in the conflict it should be quite clear that what is behind him is the Asuric, the Titanic power.

P: It is strange how he takes his decisions.

SA: It is not he who takes the decisions. **The Being behind him decides**.... [It] is a very powerful Being. Have you read Paul Richard's *Lord of the Nations*?... He was in communion with this Being and the plans and methods he has written of in the book are the same as those carried out now. He said there that the present civilisation was to be destroyed, but really it is the destruction of the whole human civilisation that is aimed at, and already in Germany Hitler has done it: there is no civilisation left there. What reigns there is barbarism supported by physical science.

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The Lord of Falsehood

Sri Aurobindo adds that Hitler's relation to this Being was "not merely an influence but a possession, even perhaps an incarnation," and that the case of Stalin was similar.

In her Agenda of November 5, 1961 the Mother recalls:

Throughout the war Sri Aurobindo and I were in such a CONSTANT tension that it completely interrupted the yoga. **And that is why the war started in the first place—to stop the Work.**

At that time there was an extraordinary descent of the Supermind; it was coming like that (massive gesture), a descent! Exactly in '39. Then the war broke out and stopped everything cold. For had we personally continued [the work of transformation], we were not sure of having enough time to finish it before "the other one" crushed the earth to a pulp, setting the whole Affair back ... centuries. The FIRST thing to be done was stop the action of the Lord of Nations.

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The Lord of Falsehood

In her Questions and Answers, the Mother recounts that the Lord of Nations appeared to Hitler "in silver armour, with a silver helmet and golden plume" in "a light so dazzling that hardly could the eyes see and bear that blaze." And it was "not even the Lord of the Nations in its origin, it was an emanation of the Lord of the Nations" albeit "a very powerful emanation."

He is indeed the biggest obstacle in the universe—this constant negation of the truth.... Besides, here (on earth), those who see him, see him as an absolutely marvellous, splendid being.... He appears formidable, luminous, powerful, very impressive.... He proclaims himself **the Lord of the Nations**.... He is evidently, at the source, the supreme organiser of these last two wars.... **And he knows that his end will come**—naturally, he will try to make it as late as possible. And he declared that he would destroy all he could before being destroyed.... **We may expect all possible catastrophes.** [Q&A, November 25, 1953]

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*On August 23, 1939, Foreign Ministers von Ribbentrop and Molotov signed the Hitler–Stalin Pact. It specified that Poland would be carved up between Germany and USSR, and that Germany would facilitate Stalin’s desire to take over Latvia, Estonia, Bessarabia, and parts of Finland. Soviet grain, oil and raw materials would flow into Germany, and in return German industrial output would be delivered to the Soviet Union. For either side, the Nazi-Soviet Pact was a means to an end. For Stalin, the end was to spread communism and to sovietize the world. For Hitler, it was to seize the fertile lands to the east of Germany, to capture the Caucasus oilfields, and to establish Nazi world domination. In 1939 the Red Army was not ready for war, nor was the German army ready to fight on two fronts (East and West). Having assumed that Hitler would not strike until after Great Britain had surrendered, Stalin was shocked when, on June 22, 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union. Code named **Operation Barbarossa**, this invasion has frequently been described as **an epic strategic blunder. So why did Hitler invade the Soviet Union when he did?** Historians have been grappling with this question ever since the end of World War II.*

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The Lord of Falsehood

... So why did Hitler invade the Soviet Union when he did? Here is why, in the Mother's words:

During the last war I had some dealings with him again, but not through Richard—directly.... And I knew when they [Hitler and the Lord of Falsehood] were going to meet (because after all, he's my son! That was the funniest part of it); and on one occasion I substituted myself for him, became Hitler's god and advised him to attack Russia.

Two days later he attacked Russia. But upon leaving the "meeting" I encountered the other one [the real Asura] just as he was arriving! He was furious and asked me why I had done that. "It's none of your business," I said, "it's what had to be done." "You will see," he replied, "**I KNOW, I know you will destroy me, but before being destroyed I will wreak just as much havoc as I can, you can be sure of that.**"
[*Mother's Agenda*, November 5, 1961]

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The Mother's War redux?

Michael Sawkiw is Vice President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Director of the Ukrainian National Information Service, the UCCA's public affairs bureau in Washington, DC. On August 11, 2022, he said [Kremlin File podcast (August 11, 2022)]:

We think of the war that is happening right now in Ukraine or the war that has been going on for a decade plus in Syria as a kinetic war. But it's not just a kinetic war. It's not just about a tank versus a tank, a rifle versus a rifle. The engagement of Russian imperialism through **their networks of disinformation** is profound.... Colloquially saying, this is a battle of good versus evil. There's no way of mincing words here.... You have to begin with the context of how this war began. **This war began three days prior to February 24. On February 21, when the illustrious dictator of Russia came out with his narrative.** And his narrative was that we [Russia] will carry out this denazification operation in Ukraine—denazification of a country that has a Jewish President....

February 21 is, of course, the Mother's birthday.

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The Mother's war redux?

Three comments:

1. Disinformation is false information deliberately spread to deceive. The word is a loan translation of the Russian word "dezinformatsiya." Stalin is said to have coined the term, giving it a French-sounding name to claim it has a Western origin. Use of disinformation as a Soviet tactical weapon began with a "special disinformation office" in 1923, when it became a tactic used in the Soviet political warfare called "active measures." [<https://encyclopedia.pub/entry/29164>]

2. The narrative in question is Putin's televised "Address concerning the events in Ukraine" of February 21, 2022. In Russian schools, lessons on "critical thinking" teach that the President's pronouncements are to be treated as the most reliable source. A regional school authority, faced with questions from parents, issued the guidance that "Vladimir Putin's speech on February 21, 2022" is "the main historical revelation of recent years and a major guide to our own times.

[<https://snyder.substack.com/p/how-to-talk-about-the-war>]

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3. Denazification. *President Zelenskyi, responding to Putin's narrative: "How can you call us Nazis when we gave millions of lives in the Second World War?" During this war, more Ukrainian soldiers died than Americans, British, and Frenchmen combined. Zelenskyi: "Tell it to my grandfather, who fought in the Soviet infantry and died as a colonel in independent Ukraine." He does not mention that his grandfather's father and much of his family were murdered in the Holocaust.*

Today, the far right gets imperceptible percentages of the Ukrainian vote and plays no role in government. (Compare this with the increasing political influence of the Russian-backed far right in the US and many Western European countries.)

Quoting Yale historian Timothy Snyder:

Russia has just issued **a genocide handbook for its war on Ukraine.**

The Russian official press agency *RIA Novosti* published last Sunday [April 3, 2022] an explicit program for the complete elimination of the Ukrainian nation as such. [<https://ria.ru/20220403/ukraina-1781469605.html>] ...

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3. Denazification (ctd.)

[Snyder ctd.] According to the handbook, the establishment of a Ukrainian state thirty years ago was the “Nazification of Ukraine.”...

Putin’s regime talks of “Nazis” not because it opposes the extreme right ... but as a rhetorical device to justify unprovoked war and genocidal policies. Putin’s regime *is* the extreme right. It is the world center of fascism....

The handbook grants, with no hesitation, that there is no evidence that Nazism, as generally understood, is important in Ukraine. It operates within the special Russian definition of “Nazi”: a Nazi is a Ukrainian who refuses to admit being a Russian.

[To recognize the “Nazism” in question] one must be able to ... decode the affinity for Ukrainian culture or for the European Union as “Nazism.”

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3. Denazification (ctd.)

[Snyder ctd.] If "Nazi" has been assigned the meaning "Ukrainian who refuses to be Russian" then it conveniently follows that no Russian can be a Nazi. Since for the Kremlin being a Nazi has nothing to do with fascist ideology, swastika-like symbols, big lies, rallies, rhetoric of cleansings, aggressive wars, abductions of elites, mass deportations, and the mass killing of civilians, Russians can do all of these things without ever having to ask if they themselves are on the wrong side of the historical ledger.

The Russian handbook is one of the most openly genocidal documents I have ever seen.... It postulates that the "majority of the population" of Ukraine are Nazis, which is to say Ukrainians.... So more than twenty million people are to be killed or sent to work in "labor camps" to expurgate their guilt for not loving Russia. Survivors are to be subject to "re-education." Children will be raised to be Russian. The name "Ukraine" will disappear.

[<https://snyder.substack.com/p/russias-genocide-handbook>]

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Returning to Michael Sawkiw's remarks of August 11, 2022:

Denazification, in my eyes, **can only be seen as one instance or one of the first stages of genocide**. There **are ten stages of genocide** that we know. *Classification* is the first. You go to *symbolization*, you go to *discrimination*, you go to *dehumanization*, you go to *organization*, you go to *polarization*, you go to *preparation*, you go to *persecution*, you go to *extermination*, and then you go to *denial*.

Frankly speaking, all ten of those stages are happening right now in Ukraine [as] the western world has seen as Bucha, Irpin and other places were liberated by the Ukrainians.... There are opportunities to set the record straight. And setting the record straight, frankly speaking, is the designation, or should be the designation of Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism.

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Supermind, Overmind, and the 24th of November 1926

To make sense of an important letter by Sri Aurobindo, to be quoted below, we need to know something about the difference between the terms "supermind" and "overmind," or between the states of consciousness they denote.

The term "overmind" first occurred in the Record of Yoga, in an entry of October 29, 1927, nearly a year after the turning point in Sri Aurobindo's yoga on November 24, 1926, whereupon he went into seclusion for the rest of his life. "In the Supermind," he wrote,

there are no divisions, oppositions or separated aspects as in Mind whose principle is division of Knowledge into parts and setting each part against another. Overmind approaches this at its top and is often mistaken for Supermind, but it cannot reach it—except by uplifting and transformation. [Letters on Yoga I, 146]

This uplifting and transformation was the work Sri Aurobindo set out to accomplish when he went into seclusion after 1926.

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Supermind and Overmind

I have often said that Brahman relates to the world in three ways:

- *as a substance (sat) it constitutes the world,*
- *as a consciousness (chit) it contains it,*
- *and as an infinite quality/delight (ānanda) it experiences and expresses itself in it.*

In the Supermind, however, these three relations are one. The scission between them is a creation of the Overmind:

[Overmind] divides Sat, Chit and Ananda, so that they become three separate aspects different from each other. In the Reality there is no separateness, the three aspects are so fused into each other, so inseparably one that they are a single undivided reality.... In fact "fused together" even is a wrong phrase, because there they were never separated so that they have to be fused. [*Letters on Yoga I*, 156]

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Supermind and Overmind

There are several statements by the Mother to the effect that the Overmind "has up to the present governed our world" [Questions and Answers 1929–1931, p. 173].

[T]ill now the whole physical, material world, the whole earth ... has been ruled by forces and the consciousness that come from what Sri Aurobindo calls the Overmind.... [N]ow the time for the "rule" of the Overmind is coming to its end and is going to be replaced by the rule of the Supermind. [Questions and Answers 1953, p. 282–83]

*The rule of the Overmind has, arguably, come to an end when the **first** supramental manifestation took place on February 29, 1956. (In her Agenda of May 29, 1965, the Mother explained her insistence on the qualifier "first.")*

And this brings me to the aforementioned letter. Asked whether there will be catastrophes when the Supermind descends, Sri Aurobindo answered:

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There need not be. There will necessarily be great changes but they are not bound to be catastrophic. **When there is a strong pressure from Overmind forces for change, then there are likely to be catastrophes because of the resistance and clash of forces. The supramental has a greater, in its fullness a complete mastery of things and power of harmonisation which can overcome resistance by other means than dramatic struggle and violence.**

[*Letters on Yoga I*, 292–93]

What this tells me is that the supramental manifestation could bring humanity closer to the abyss than it has ever been. For, unlike the Overmind forces, the supramental Force can always prevent humanity from falling into it.

*Once the Supermind takes charge, humanity may **appear** closer to the brink than it ever was—an appearance that may well be required to produce a necessary change—without there being a **real** danger of it's being pushed over the brink.*

Sri Aurobindo and the Mother on War and Peace

Some important resources on Russian disinformation

- Timothy Snyder: *The Making of Modern Ukraine* (Yale History Course: 23 Lectures) — <https://bit.ly/Snyder-Ukraine>
- *EUvsDisinfo* (A flagship project of the European Union. Identifies, analyses, and raises awareness of disinformation in its different forms.)
 - Twelve myths about Russia's war in Ukraine exposed:
<https://bit.ly/twelve-myths>
 - Myths selected by country(Russia, Ukraine):
<https://bit.ly/russian-myths-about-ukraine>
- *Russian Media Monitor* by Julia Davis ("I watch Russian state TV, so you don't have to") — <https://bit.ly/rmm-davis>
- Pekka Kallioniemi's *Vatnik soup* — <https://bit.ly/vatnik-soup>
According to Wikipedia, a vatnik is "a jingoistic follower of propaganda from the Russian government." Pekka was awarded the Diplomatic Star of Lithuania for doing a great job fighting against disinformation (along with Jessica Berlin and Benjamin Tallis).
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