

## Spiral Dynamics and the Ukraine – Paul Zuiker

What the conflict in Ukraine reveals most significantly is not the aggression of Putin. Putin and his oligarchic clique are indeed a Red band of robbers, but that is not unique in the world. You can say the same about other autocratic regimes that still abound such as China, North Korea, Belarus, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia etc. etc.

What I think is essentially at play here is a clash between the **Blue/Red** and **Green/Orange** value systems. And it is precisely with this colour sequence.

**Blue/Red** is the value system of the Cold War in which a Red military deterrent force secures the Blue ideological systems of capitalism and communism respectively. In the Monroe Doctrine, the East and West agreed to give each other control and military presence in the East and West hemispheres. In this context, it was unacceptable to the Americans for the Russians to place missiles in Cuba in 1962, and in this context, it is unacceptable for the Russians that, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the NATO and Western spheres of influence expanded over the Russian buffer states of ex-Warsaw Pact countries. And now this is happening even in what is considered the birthplace of Russian culture, in Ukraine. Ukraine is for the Russians what Kosovo was/is for the Serbs: the cradle of their culture. It hurts enormously to have to lose that, especially to your enemy (that were the Muslims for Serbia and is the West for Russia). In fact, Putin is acting no differently than the Americans did under Kennedy at the time of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. They demanded with military pressure that Cuba should not become an extension of the Warsaw Pact on America's border. Putin does not tolerate NATO advancing to the east. This is no surprise to the West; he has always been clear about that.

What makes the Ukraine crisis unique, in my view, is that it breaks with the Monroe Doctrine and does so on the basis of a dominant Green principle: the right of citizens to their own safe homeland in which they themselves democratically determine what happens there. The creation of a European continent built on the sovereignty of its own people, on guaranteed livelihoods (both military and economic), respecting cultural diversity on the basis of common shared values, a continent where peoples live together in peace, harmony and prosperity. Orange (our economic interests and strength) is now being made subservient to this. The West is prepared to make big Orange sacrifices for these Green ideals and even risks its own safety, by standing up for a country with which it has no Blue legal obligation (Article 5 of NATO) but for which it feels a (Green) moral European obligation. For the first time a true solidary Green reaction in the West in line with the text of the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven (which is seen as the unofficial anthem of the EU): *Alle Menschen werden Brüder*. The concept of being European suddenly takes on a meaning that it had as an ideal, but never before was lived and experienced in such a way. Until now, Green solidarity (think of the immigration flows) always broke down in the own interest of an obstructing country that submitted a veto. There has never been consensus on a Green principle, and Putin always made skilful use of this discord (divide and rule!) in order to bend the game to his will.

This is the big breakthrough that is happening now, for the first time in history Green is dominating world politics.

It is also unique that Green is now considered more important than Orange. Until now, Orange (and not Green) has dominated in the West: Orange has also made it possible, for example, for the Red clan around Putin to enrich themselves and infiltrate Western systems. As long as we were able to get a piece of the pie (like oligarchs who provided money to football clubs).

So Green dominates and what is Green super-allergic to, indeed, the Red behavior of Putin and his clan: Their use of brute military force, the repression of the population, the violation of human rights, the sacrifice of civilians and soldiers for their own benefit, enriching themselves at the expense of the collective (think of Putin's palace of 1 billion euro) etc. etc. Green is now taking care of Red, using Orange (economic sanctions) as its main weapon, supported by Blue (international law), and a moderate Red (supplying some weapons to Ukraine) and of course Green (mobilizing the hearts and minds of the world community).

For Putin, a horror scenario is now unfolding. He has become the pariah of the Green/Orange world, his country is isolated on the world stage, the Russian economy is broken. He is caught up in a hopeless war. Even if he would achieve his military goals, but what then? How does he plan to keep 44 million enraged Ukrainians under his thumb? And how will his own people react to this when they can buy almost nothing because of the raging inflation, when their pensions have evaporated, when they are excluded from all international entertainment and sporting events. Putin cannot even give his people 'bread and circuses', which was already seen as essential for dictators in the Roman Empire to maintain themselves.

Seen from this perspective, Putin has already lost the war. The greatest danger is to what extent he is prepared to drag his people and also the world into his trap by deploying nuclear weapons. Let us hope that after all there is still some common sense in him or in the tiny group that surrounds him.