

Debunking Aggressor Russia's Arguments Against & Why Seized Russian Assets Should Be Used to Fund Reparations / Civil Damages for Ukraine

Argument 1: retaliatory (toothless) threats of seizure of Western assets in Russia

If ever there was economic weight to this argument it was lost in the first six months of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The smart money, and ethical Western businesses had moved out for the most part by then. Taking the hit on abandonment of assets there for BP came with a silver lining and sent up their share price, and hence its capitalization and liquidity may even have improved.

There were some considerate employers who struggled to abandon employees, and others who dawdled. Only to find the Kremlin aggressively forcing them to sell-up for nominal sums such as €1 for a brewery. The Kremlin's offers you can't refuse already happened. A stark example of which was the blatant seizure of civilian aircraft.

Oh, and let us not forget the theft of four oblasts plus Crimea from Ukraine. Theft of thousands of children, grain, farming equipment, steelmaking plant, and salt-mines. Plus, the gas and oil deposits under those territories of Ukraine, and its access to the sea within its own EEZ in the Sea of Azof and the Black Sea. Torture chambers, raping children in front of parents and parents in front of children, targeting and bombing of hospitals and buildings including one building specifically labelled with the word "CHILDREN".

And this brings us to the next argument advanced by this paragon of legal virtue Russia.

Argument 2: forfeiture and use of Russian assets as reparations would be illegal

Given how respectful of international law Russia is it's unfathomable how on the one bloody hand they breach every tenet of decency, and morality, in their vile, barbaric, and illegal invasion, in their attempted subjugation of the Ukrainian state and its innocent people. While on their other bloody hand, they seek the protection of property laws, and sovereign immunity.

In fact, there are many antecedents and precedents for the payment of reparations. Furthermore, all countries make laws, and as circumstances change those laws are refashioned to suit. There may sometimes arise conflicts of laws. However, the laws of nation states and international laws between states evolve to meet these challenges. This is why we have "lawmakers!"

Nation states are sovereign as with the nationalization of the Suez Canal, they can and do pass laws which may be unpopular with other states. Groups of states may cede powers to federal and or supranational entities. The USA and the EU are at different points on this scale, but on the scale they

both are. Military alliances, such as NATO and CSTO as well as civilian bodies such as WTO and the UN take from states powers that are passed to them. One such power being to wage war under the auspices of an alliance and even take orders from the military officers of another state within those structures.

Ergo, what it is legal to do and what is proscribed are powers that belong to the nation states, and the international organizations they chose to volunteer or delegate powers into. So that if for example the Ukraine Contact Group of nations pass laws internally, or use laws that already exist internally, or cede power to an external organization such as an International Sanctions Organization, then this would be the law. And Russia can go file a complaint form at the UN. See how well that goes.

Argument 3: the greedy banker's argument

This is a drum Russia will beat, and bankers who ride the gravy trains of ill-gotten gains, money laundering, and thefts of one form or another can be relied upon to take Russia's side. While their arguments are certainly morally dubious. Being primarily motivated by greed, bad actors assume we all are motivated the same way as themselves.

So, they say some version of this: "If we seize Russian money held in our bank. Then, the consequence will be that drug-lords, despots, sex-traffickers, and the kleptocracies and corrupt dictatorships of the world may no longer trust us to hold their money."

- And that's a bad thing?
- Do we even want to help them to profit from those activities at all anyway?
- Do we even want to dirty our hands with the proceeds of crimes against humanity?
- Are Western bankers so poor that they need to scrape around in the gutter by profiting from human-on-human predation?
- Those poor bankers.
- Who knew they were so desperate?

There are many good rhetorical arguments that can be made against these amoral and immoral positions and their juxtaposition relative to what most people believe, in real democracies.

But that's not even the half of it. Russia's de-dollarization campaign is a humiliating flop! Far from forcing the world to pay for oil in their worthless Rubles, Russia's de-dollarization efforts have backfired spectacularly. Russia is now the proud owner of a mountain of Indian Rupees. Which are difficult and expensive to trade out of India and hence not much use to Russia which needs liquidity to buy goods from the West. This farce has Russian propagandists on their TV channels suggesting that Russians could use up their Rupee mountain by taking vacations in India. When Prigozhin's home was raided they found piles of gold and US dollars. Not so much on the Rupees. Which speaks for itself.

A plain fact of life in World trade is that there's no substitute for easily tradable currencies which are run along the laisses fair but rational systems of the US Fed, and the EU. So, Russia is stuck with the US Dollar and may secretly yearn for re-dollarization of their mountain of Rupees for example. By its own hand in misguided de-dollarization efforts Russia has painted itself into a corner. Now they're

just plain stuck in that corner. Unless Russia and other rogue states and villains can find a parallel Universe where they can save their ill-gotten gains; and where their kleptocrats can live and want to live, which is as bankable for property ownership and as desirable as living and holding assets in London, Paris, Vienna, New York, or Berlin.

So that in the absence of the parallel Universe they would need, they really can't put their money into Rupees unless they want to buy goods from or retire to India. Rather than buying goods from the EU and retiring to the Sorbonne or Montecarlo.

Conclusions

It's okay to make Russia pay. It's just fine because they're out of line. Clearly in the wrong and scrambling around with their enablers and profiteering allies in the murky morality stakes of outdated banking practices. Which stems from less democratic, and more property worshipping times. With pernicious effects which are jarring to decent people in our times. Similarly, to the legal arguments which were also based on accepted principles of property law that were used to enable and perpetuate slavery. We need to remember that not all laws are just, some become outdated, and bad actors will always find clever lawyers to invent ways to misapply laws inappropriately to dress-up immoral and or illegal outcomes as being protected by law.

We can do better! Let us make the world a better place, in this most consequential and necessary evolution of the law. By fashioning laws fitting our values and fit for our time in history in this 21st Century! If not now, when will we next have good cause to be so motivated?

World Peace Is The Prize!

Strength will be given to the noblest of causes, World Peace! A greater, systemic propensity to produce World Peace itself will be one of the main consequences of creating an [International Sanctions Organization \(ISO\)](#). Empowered to impose civil-law like reparations / compensation-damages onto an aggressor state acting as Russia has.

An ISO will deter would be illegal aggressors from seizing territory from neighbors, damaging infrastructures, and the lives of innocent people.

Surely World leaders, and their peoples will want to entrench and strengthen World Peace, as their legacy for future generations. Surely also if we vacillate and fail in this regard now, then more wars, perhaps even a World War may result.

Please let us act together now, and not be persuaded to shy away from doing what we know is noble, good, and right in these difficult times.

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