

2022 Mar 29 Slavoj Zizek: World War III has already begun

In this typically far-ranging (not to say incoherent) dialectical discourse, Zizek touches not only on what at first appears to be the main topic, war in Ukraine, but climate change, Hegel's servant-master analogy, abstract vs concrete freedom/liberty, realpolitik, artists and war, Plato, Sartre, China-Korea-Taiwan, etc.

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"The problem with artists and thinkers is that they, too, can lay the foundation for war. Recall William Butler Yeats's apt verse: "I have spread my dreams under your feet, / Tread softly because you tread on my dreams" . . . Recall that the same Yeats continuously flirted with Fascism, going so far as to voice his approval of Germany's anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws in August 1938.

Plato's reputation suffers because of his claim that poets should be thrown out of the city. Yet this is rather sensible advice, judging from the experience of recent decades, when the pretext for ethnic cleansing has been prepared by poets and "thinkers" like Putin's house ideologue, Aleksandr Dugin. There is no longer ethnic cleansing without poetry, because we live in an era that is supposedly post-ideological."

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