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The EU never learns – except for the wrong lessons

The bloc's economic situation was dire even before the shocks of the Iran war, and yet it doubles down on supporting the US and Israel

Published 13 Mar, 2026 17:51 | Updated 14 Mar, 2026 06:14



By **Tarik Cyril Amar**, a historian from Germany working at Koç University, Istanbul, on Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe, the history of World War II, the cultural Cold War, and the politics of memory

@tarikcyrilamar
tarikcyrilamar.substack.com
 tarikcyrilamar.com



Some observers of the current EU 'elites', including this author, used to believe that their defining feature – apart from things such as complicity in genocide and wars of aggression with Israel and the US, bigoted xenophobia about Russia and China, and, of course, pervasive corruption – was an absolute inability to learn.

We must admit, we stand corrected: Those running the EU *are* able to

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FILE PHOTO: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen in Jerusalem, Israel, 12 May 2015 © Michael Kappeler / picture alliance via Getty Images

regress.

Case in point, their response to the fact that their US-Israeli masters have started a war to end if not strictly all then at least all (barely) affordable energy supplies to the EU's economies, while its major players are already limping along on a spectrum between walking-wounded (for instance, [France](#), [maybe](#)) to comatose ([Germany](#), [definitely](#)).

In Germany, still the largest single economy inside the EU, providing almost a fourth of the bloc's total GDP, industrial demand – orders from factories – fell [by over 11% in January](#). Such a decrease – really, collapse – in orders is [“drastic,” as German Manager Magazine notes](#). According to the Financial Times, this [“very weak”](#) start into the new year, puts preceding – and very modest – signs of a recovery from years of stagnation in doubt. Indeed. And all of that disappointing data was gathered [before the fallout of the Iran war had even started](#).

Regarding the latter, it will be severe. Even Berlin's Ministry of Economics admits that the risks stemming from the war's consequences, most of them still incoming, is substantial.

In general, the Eurozone – different from but covering most of the EU – is not in good shape either. According to Bloomberg, a very low and yet still over-optimistic Eurostat estimate of expansion by 0.3% for the last quarter of 2025 [has just been revised downward to 0.2%](#). But frankly, who cares at that level of misery?

And for the Eurozone as well, America and Israel's unprovoked war against Iran is likely to make things much worse. Philip Lane, chief economist of the European Central Bank (ECB), has confirmed that much to the Financial Times: An enduring decrease in oil and gas supplies from the Middle East can (read: will), he warns, bring about a [“substantial spike” in inflation and a “sharp drop in output.”](#)

And what is the EU leadership's response to this deeply depressing outlook for its economy and the European

learn. The real problem is their relentless compulsion to learn the wrong thing. We are not dealing with non-learners but anti-learners: where others progress from experience, they



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citizens depending on it? Let's not dream. It is true, *if* the resilience EU's 'elites' were in the business of protecting European interests and prosperity, they would, obviously, take a sharp turn against both the US and Israel (as well as London in case it were to stick to its special-poodle relationship with Washington).

Yet if the EU leadership had such priorities, it would long have turned against the US, for its blatant exploitation of its vassal regimes via, first, NATO over-expansion and, now, crippling overspending, for Ukraine proxy war outsourcing, and for devastating tariff warfare. It would also long have broken with Israel, for, to name only two compelling reasons, its genocide and serial wars of aggression that are both horrifically criminal and extremely destabilizing and damaging not *"only"* to the Middle East but the world as a whole and Europe in particular.

In short, the EU would not even be in the mess it is now if it actually took care of Europe. And, by the way, if it were not so craven but had opposed the US and Israel instead of pandering to them, perhaps it could even have contributed to preventing the current criminal war against Iran.

That, however, would not be the EU as it really is. In sordid reality, it is a second iteration of NATO, that is, an instrument of the US empire (notwithstanding showy and silly Greenland hysterics) and of international oligarchic structures. Ordinary Europeans matter only in so far as they are expected to vote – and think and speak – in line with EU 'elite' priorities, *and when they do not, they are made to.*

No wonder then that the utterly unelected and *legally extremely challenged* EU Commission head Ursula von der Leyen – really, the EU's despot and US viceroy rolled into one – demonstratively does not give a damn about the massive energy price shock that has already started hitting the fragile economies of EU-Europe.



Read more: A new war is threatening the Eurasian economy, and it's not Iran

With tanker ships on fire off the Strait of Hormuz, *oil surging over \$100 per barrel*, national reserves being dipped into, gas prices up by 50% in the EU, and, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), oil markets suffering *"the largest supply disruption in history,"* von der Leyen has had nothing to *offer but reverting to the tired – and less than successful – playbook of 2022*, originally put together when the Western-Russian proxy war via Ukraine escalated. Tinkering, again, with ineffective price caps, taxes and fees, electricity market structures and price distortions, renewables, and wasting money on subsidies (out of

FEATURE



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budgets that are already vastly overstretched) – that was about it. No wonder, several national governments have already [signaled their impatience](#) with what, in essence, is inactivity and non-strategy.

At least as important, though, was what von der Leyen took pains to rule out: [Returning to Russian supplies would be a “strategic blunder,”](#) the EU’s one-woman decider-in-chief declared. Instead, she insists, the EU must stay the course [and continue ridding itself of the last remnants of Russian gas and oil.](#) Clearly, von der Leyen is anxious that not everyone in the EU’s ‘elites’ is up to her level of ideological obstinacy and economic as well as geopolitical irrationality. *“Some,” she chided, “argue that we should abandon our long-term strategy and even go back to Russian fossil fuels.”* Perish the thought! As long as von der Leyen and her type run the EU, it will ruin itself before doing the obvious – making peace with Russia and rebuilding economic ties, including in the energy sector.

And there you have it: This is a leadership style not simply refusing to learn from experience but repeating the worst blunders of the past. The von der Leyen way of policy making – from sanctions (now on round 20, I believe) to pipelines – is akin to negative natural selection: Whatever does *not* work will be done again, and again, and again. The real question, it seems, is not if the EU *“elites”* will ever stop being perverse anti-learners, but whether – or when – they will lose control. Mismanaging the massive shock that the US and Israel have sent their way now may finally provoke enough backlash from below to send the von der Leyens packing. For Europe’s sake, let’s hope for the best, even if it’s delivered by the worst.

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OPINION

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B Bill P 3/14/2026 at 5:18 PM 0

JOKE OF THE DAY: Israel offers to manufacture Iron Dome in Germany

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B Bill P 3/14/2026 at 5:15 PM 0

JOKE OF THE DAY: Israel offers to manufacture Iron Dome in Germany

[Reply](#)

 CA GuerreroG 3/14/2026 at 4:16 PM 0

I am sure that woman asked Natanjahu about the 30.000 children and 30.000 women this criminal killed in Gaza. I will wash my hand right after I tough his hand. I never like that woman anyway.

[Reply](#)

J Jesse Billings 3/14/2026 at 5:00 PM ↑ 1

Netanyahu is a cold blooded murderer, there is no sugar coating it. We can only hope he is dealt harsh judgment here on earth before God gets to deal with him in the afterlife.

[Reply](#)

J Jesse Billings 3/14/2026 at 4:59 PM 1

I absolutely love that America and Isreal attack on Iran is labeled as «unprovoked aggression» lol. Isn't that what we were non stop brainwashed into believing was what russia did to ukraine. Oh how the tides have turned on the Almighty do no wrong west. I'm so ashamed to be an American in this day and age. The older I get, the more I realize our country is controlled by narcissistic murderers.

[Reply](#)


[reply](#)

 **Victor** 3/14/2026 at 4:23 PM

0

How could they learn if they have a never elected WoderLiar leading them?


[Reply](#)

 **Voyt Regnal** 3/14/2026 at 12:29 AM

3

Natan is the most ugly looking man I have ever seen. Elephant ears, potato nose and 'square peg' flatten skull 🤢

[Reply](#)

 **b keegan** 3/14/2026 at 3:02 AM ↕

1

A warthog's head.

[Reply](#)

 **CA GuerreroG** 3/14/2026 at 4:20 PM ↕

1

No soul or heart. He is a vampire who likes children and women dead from Gaza.


[Reply](#)

 **JL** 3/14/2026 at 5:54 AM

1

Western imperialists are stubborn because they have had their way with the world for about 500 years. They have been cursed for killing children and committing genocide.

[Reply](#)

 **CA GuerreroG** 3/14/2026 at 4:19 PM ↕

0

No wonder this horrible woman likes Natanjahu. Horrible people.


[Reply](#)

 **Claas Revelotius** 3/14/2026 at 8:45 AM

1

The EU is a criminal organisation without any legal mandate. Nobody ever mentions that. And Ursula von der Leyen should be in prison and hanged for the Corona crimes she committed, which have been crimes against humanity.


[Reply](#)

 **CA GuerreroG** 3/14/2026 at 4:17 PM ↕

0

Horrible woman just like Natanjahu. They should get married.


[Reply](#)

 **Sergei Xifre** 3/14/2026 at 3:08 PM

1

the art of shooting yourself in the foot 😊


[Reply](#)

 **Angel** 3/14/2026 at 11:40 AM

0

The entire Chinese Senior Leadership Team under President Xi does NOT have a SINGLE WOMAN in it.....

[Reply](#)

 **Daniel Mirot** 3/14/2026 at 11:34 AM

0

L'UE n'apprend jamais de ses erreurs. A démontrer puisqu'elle tend à pérenniser ses acquis pernicieux, ce depuis 1870. Il est toujours une der des ders à jouer et la France à éliminer. D'ailleurs, le IIIème Reich de même le Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (parti socialiste dit NAZI) existent toujours juridiquement. Le même monde dégénérés et transtgressiste pervers absolus aux penchants pédérastes, pédophiles, cannibales, adeptes des messes noires sacrificielles, tire toujours les ficelles qui agitent les pantins.

[Reply](#)

 **John-Albert Eadie** 3/14/2026 at 7:30 AM

1

For some reason the EU has been dumb about the Ukraine war all along. Corruption in their own ranks maybe.

[Reply](#)

 **Ralph Griebenow** 3/14/2026 at 7:28 AM

0

Actually there is method in their madness and the writing's on the wall. Financial instability, crippled but armaments driven recovery, shift to autarky, limiting trade (sanctions/tariffs), stifling global commerce, war to reset the economy through destruction of old capital, infrastructures and capital stock. Clean slate for reconstruction & modernization. Millions of the [over]population removed.

[Reply](#)

 **edwin gerger** 3/14/2026 at 7:06 AM

1

As far as I'm concerned, present EU and GERman leadership ain't deserving to exist.

[Reply](#)

R R jay (Are Jay) 3/14/2026 at 6:41 AM

1

EU leadership kept blind eyes to the facts and truth of our time . Because of this , it made them to travel on wrong side of history, end it is costing them tremendously .

[Reply](#)

K K McMaugh 3/14/2026 at 5:14 AM

2

We hope oil goes to \$200/bbl. It will crash the markets. The economy will be in a severe recession

[Reply](#)

J John Beauvais 3/14/2026 at 1:19 AM

2

Little Nazi pants loves Bibi. Look at her.

[Reply](#)

b b keegan 3/14/2026 at 3:01 AM ↕

0

I think he and zelensky give her a bit. She likes that type filthy despot slime.

[Reply](#)

B Blood Witch 3/13/2026 at 11:30 PM

-3

Russia spends way too much time worrying about the European economy and not enough time worrying about their own. Russias economy is in an infinitely worse state than Europes will ever be. If Europe has to pay more for energy until the US obliterates Russias middle eastern ally, then thats precisely what they will do, and theres nothing Russia can do about it. Russia is losing its war, it gets whacked by Ukraine almost every day recently and no longer has the means to even retaliate.

[Reply](#)

J John Beauvais 3/14/2026 at 1:24 AM ↕

0

Everything you say is backwards. You hate everything, huh? You ought to stop all that. You'll have a chance at life.

[Reply](#)

b b keegan 3/14/2026 at 2:58 AM ↕

0

You really should stop using whatever dope you are on your brains are scrambled. Stupid witch more likely.

[Reply](#)

Y Yukon Grizz 3/14/2026 at 1:25 AM

2

Ursala should be home washing floors. Something the only thing she is good at.

[Reply](#)

b b keegan 3/14/2026 at 2:55 AM

0

She couldn't do even that properly.

[Reply](#)

J John Beauvais 3/14/2026 at 1:32 AM

1

Bibi looks a bit like a Neanderthal from the side. Nazi pants Van der Lyin looks genuinely happy to hold his hand.

[Reply](#)

b b keegan 3/14/2026 at 2:54 AM

1

Two evil twisted creeps.

[Reply](#)

S Steve 3/14/2026 at 2:24 AM

3

They are not leaders they are traitors unelected traitors to the people they are supposed to serve

[Reply](#)

b b keegan 3/14/2026 at 2:53 AM

0

Total agree the EU is finished. A nothing in the world since Von Der Leyen and her stupid gang arrived.

[Reply](#)

r roger thorndike 3/13/2026 at 11:07 PM

0

Where IS Bibi these days?

[Reply](#)

Boredom Inc 3/14/2026 at 1:01 AM

0

Likely at the Pentagon directing US and Israelis forces into war! Potus Bibi

[Reply](#)

S Steve 3/14/2026 at 2:20 AM 

1

Most.likely toast.

[Reply](#)

J John Beauvais 3/14/2026 at 1:28 AM

4

Iran is heroic, the second nation to stand up to US/Israeli terrorists, state the facts to their faces, and fire back. Iran is another hero nation for me, to go along with Vietnam, Russia, China, and the DPRK.

[Reply](#)

Ahmed4 3/14/2026 at 1:24 AM



0

Coincidence I was just thinking about european unionist masochism contest: we the subjects hope the ritual seppuku will come soon. We badly need to get out of this state of plausibly deniable oppression.

[Reply](#)

M Matthew 3/14/2026 at 12:03 AM


1

As we speak, a cargo  in the Atlantic may well be quietly seeding mines that will slowly follow the clockwise currents and remain in the Atlantic for decades. Atlantic shipping may  for a long time. Trump has been pushed by a delusional Israel into jumping off a global cliff. The response is unpredictable. The CIA will certainly be befuddled. No one in the West is thinking about anything but the enemy body count and the number of Iran ships sunk. Adults need to take over before things get out of control.

Maddy

Las Vegas

[Reply](#)

J John Beauvais 3/14/2026 at 1:22 AM 

0

Seems like things are already out of control..A well-placed bullet could stop it cold, but nobody has the bolls.

[Reply](#)

animalbman@aol.com 3/14/2026 at 12:48 AM

7

The EU is run by crimminally insane lizards.

[Reply](#)


Covert 3/13/2026 at 10:53 PM

0

 COVER 3/13/2026 at 10:33 PM 0

EU 😞

[Reply](#)

 **Madrina** 3/13/2026 at 10:33 PM 0

The EU is a US proxy empire entity and it got the one number that Henry Kissinger always wanted. However, like any complex socio-economic system it is mainly controlled by an establishment system that is defined by entities and people benefiting from the current system – which means benefiting from being a US colony.

An empire's sole objectives is the Piketty Rent from access to cheap resources which require sub-market investment – about 5% p.a.


And an empire's establishment is not just the Hegemon's establishment, it is a complex socio-economic amorphous layer that is woven throughout the empire and in particular throughout its colonies.

[Reply](#)

 **Michel Fortin** 3/13/2026 at 10:15 PM 0

You cannot be this dumb .
People are getting rich on chaos.
So chaos continues.
There's no black and white
Its all grey.
Like them little grey men.
If you catch my drift.

[Reply](#)

 **RICHARD DAIGNEAULT** 3/13/2026 at 10:12 PM 4

The EU never learns

For many decades the EU has learned everything it knows from the US and in 250 years of Independence the US has not learned anything.
Its always doing the same thing and the same stupid mistakes.

[Reply](#)

 **NWO-end** 3/13/2026 at 9:13 PM 1

To learn ? They get orders from Antichrist pictured. EU is a Zionist institution mostly to clamp down on Germany.


[Reply](#)

 **GunZenBomZ** 3/13/2026 at 9:09 PM

1

Going to be a lot less Zionism in the world if the Israel apartheid Zionist regime uses illegal nuclear weapons against Iran. Sure, they will be hunted down world-wide after that for sure...

[Reply](#)

 **Diego Azeta** 3/13/2026 at 8:12 PM

3


It is a great anthropological mystery how these idiotic Europeans rose to dominate the world for 4½ centuries.

A: Gunpowder.

Q: But it was the Chinese who invented gunpowder.

A: Yes, but Europeans had the other volatile element: a humongous instinct to plunder and kill. Still do.


[Reply](#)

 **Dominic** 3/13/2026 at 8:03 PM

1

We can only hope the EU is destroyed once and for all, even though it will just let the US come in and take over it will at least stop the EU thinking they can take over the world because back in the 80-90s they were the most powerful trade bloc in the world

[Reply](#)

 **Arshad Ali** 3/13/2026 at 8:00 PM

3

It has to turn physical for these 'leaders' before things change — i.e., they have to share the same fate as Mussolini.

[Reply](#)


 **Jalid Hussein** 3/13/2026 at 7:59 PM

3

This ugly woman is worse a human than Netanyahu even.



[Reply](#)

 **lex104** 3/13/2026 at 7:56 PM

4

The gathered the Jews in camps to send them to Palestine exactly when the war ended, clearly it was

They gathered the Jews in camps to send them to Palestine exactly when the war ended, clearly it was all planned even before the war started 1939, how many millions died for that Israel? around 85 Millions 4% of the world's population and then the poor Palestinians getting it till now

Soviet Union – ~24–27 million

China – ~15–20 million

Germany – ~6.5–7.5 million

Poland – ~5.6–6 million

Japan – ~2.5–3.1 million

Yugoslavia – ~1–1.7 million

Romania – ~700 000–900 000

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Oil tanker attacked off Russian coast

Suspected Ukrainian drones have targeted multiple vessels carrying crude and LNG in the Black and Mediterranean Seas in recent months

Published 14 Mar, 2026 15:09 | Updated 14 Mar, 2026 16:10



The Maran Homer oil tanker. © marinetrtraffic

A Greek-flagged oil tanker was attacked by a “missile or a drone” off the Russian Black Sea coast, authorities in Athens have stated. Numerous ships carrying Russian oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) have been targeted by suspected Ukrainian drones in recent months.

Kiev has singled out Russian oil and gas infrastructure in the Black Sea and beyond as a priority target.

On Saturday, Greek Minister of Maritime Affairs Vassilis Kikilias revealed that the Maran Homer with

24 sailors on board had been struck not far from the Russian port of Novorossiysk earlier in the day.

He relayed that the crew included ten Greeks, 13 Filipinos and a Romanian, none of whom suffered injuries in the incident, as quoted by Greek media. According to the ministry, the oil tanker had left the port of Thessaloniki before it was hit by a “*missile or a drone (UAV)*” 14 nautical miles off the Russian coast.



Maran Tankers Management Inc, which owns the vessel, said that the Maran Homer was expecting to “*enter the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) Terminal... where it would receive a cargo of Kazakh crude oil.*” The attack only caused “*minor material damage to the deck and deck equipment.*”

Maritime Affairs Minister Kikilias described as “*unacceptable*” attacks on Greek-flagged and Greek-owned civilian ships, vowing to lodge a protest “*at the level of the European Council.*”

Last week, the Russia-flagged Arctic Metagaz LNG tanker was struck by Ukrainian unmanned boats in the central Mediterranean off the coast of Malta.

All 30 Russian crew members were rescued by Russian and Maltese emergency services.

Russian President Vladimir Putin characterized the incident as a “*terrorist attack.*”

In January, the Malta-flagged Matilda oil tanker was targeted by Ukrainian drones in the Black Sea, the Kazakh state-owned oil company KazMunayGas (KMG) reported. The ship had been commissioned to pick up cargo at the Russian port of Novorossiysk as part of the operations of the international Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC).

Last November, Ukrainian naval drones disrupted the work of the project, which is partially owned by US oil majors Chevron and ExxonMobil.

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