

Goodman...

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But instead, they have been shaken from their comforts. They no longer believe that the absurdity of any war, even a "comic opera" war, is a defense against it. They no longer regard the finality of nuclear war as some perverse protection. They have less faith today in leaders and more anxiety about wars that escalate through madness, misjudgment, mistake, woodenheadedness.

It was no surprise that "Ground Zero" week was begun by a recovered "authority," Roger Molander. A former nuclear strategist on the National Security Council, he discovered firsthand how little expertise there was.

The people above him who were supposed to be thinking about The Big Questions looked to him for answers. Reluctantly, with all too clear a sense of his limitations, Molander became the authority. He asked himself the question first posed by a White House science adviser, "Where are the grown-ups?"

"There was too much opportunity for machine error, for human error, for errors in judgments. Nuclear war," he writes now, "could occur far more easily than people in the White House, in Congress and in the country at large seem to realize."

He asks us to consider what we already know in some unconscious way. We can't soothe ourselves with the notion that "grown-ups" have everything under

control. We have to remember how easily presidents and prime ministers are reduced to childhood games: tug-of-war, follow the leader, tit for tat, button, button, who's got the button?

This is what distinguishes this emerging anti-nuclear movement, what fuels it. The people who came to Ground Zero looking for community and information and action, question the omniscience of authority and accept the possibility of technological accident and human frailty.

They seem less impressed by the idea that nuclear war would come through deliberate aggression, World War II style. They seem more impressed by the vision of holocaust through blundering, posturing, escalation, World War I style. The Falkland Islands could be our Sarajevo.

With any luck, war can still be avoided in the place Samuel Johnson once described as "an island thrown aside from human use." With luck, we may see the peace that comes when tired or frightened or thoughtful people sit down to discuss the shape of the table.

But the Atlantic has been full of reminders about the alternatives. How quickly war can break out, how stubbornly it can escalate through miscalculation, ego, woodenheadedness.

There is no time to negotiate when missiles are in the air.

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Letters...

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extensive war strategy when the islands are isolated distances away from Britain's own geographical area and sphere of interest.

The British have always been the world's greatest and foremost imperialists. Their whole history is one of enslaving and exploiting foreign lands and peoples. There remains no land on earth Britain has not monopolized for its advantages and designs. I appreciate the fact that one country has the courage to confront the British menace

The British would like to rule the whole world if they were not restrained by the fact that other people happen to inhabit the earth. The British invaded India and claimed it as a British colony and feudal state until the Hindus expelled them forever from India. The British would have us falsely believe the whole world belongs rightfully to them.

Needless to say, the British have made themselves an inconvenience to other cultures that do not wish to be dominated or intimidated by the British. This fact has been proven in America, Africa, Indo-China and ultimately Palestine. Britain's claim over the Malvinas Islands is no different than its injustice perpetrated against other peoples over the centuries.

No, I don't believe the British have any moral and political rights to the Malvinas Islands. What one has taken by force and conquest is thus taken by force and con-

quest. This situation is no different; the principle remains: Destiny holds no guarantees and bestows no promises to any people and nation on earth.

Alex Wolf



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