

## SLEEPWALKERS 2026

On April 8, 2026, the president of a country that emerged from former European colonies only 250 years ago after a bloody civil war, threatened to destroy a culture within one night that is around 5000 years old.

This was a highly personal threat – on social media, without a mandate from the parliament, responsible for empowering wars and without warning allies.

The world has remained silent on this threat, which is unique in world history, comparable only to Hitler's announcement of the extermination of the Jews in Europe. And the Jewish (!) State of Israel kept silent too. How can the survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants remain silent about it?

Neither the Secretary-General of the United Nations, nor the German (!) President of the General Assembly of this body or the members of the Security Council have reacted to this monstrosity.

The US-Congress kept silent too, apart from Senator *Lisa Murkowski*, stating:

*"The President's threat that a whole civilization will die tonight, cannot be excused away as an attempt to gain leverage in negotiations with Iran. This type of rhetoric is an affront to the ideals, our nation has sought to uphold and promote around the world for nearly 250 years. It undermines our long-standing role as a global beacon of freedom and directly endangers Americans both abroad and at home."*

The heads of states and governments around the world had fallen silent – because they did not want to believe what they read or heard and they could not think of an answer to it, or because they have long since ceased to take seriously the author of this announcement of the greatest war crime in the history of our planet.

Both are of great concern:

The announcement of the annihilation of a nation of 90 million and its history in one night is inconceivable without the use of nuclear weapons. It is left to the president of the United States in the 21st century to announce what his predecessor first ordered in the 20th century: the use of nuclear weapons against the civilian population. There was and is no justification under international law for either case.

This rhetoric of the supposedly most powerful man in the world ends forever the diplomatic format of nuclear deterrence that has given us many decades of peace in Europe, thus making the world even more insecure.

In this increasingly uncertain world, historical comparisons are being made:

- Will the situation before the Second World War be repeated, this time with the warmonger and aggressor Russia?
- Or are we approaching the year 1914 again, in which, all those involved, saw the danger but did nothing about it? Perhaps this time because we do not want to admit that the seemingly eternal guarantor of freedom and the rule of law has become a serious threat to world peace?

Christopher Clark ends his book "The Sleepwalkers" (2012) with the sentence:

*"The protagonists of 1914 were sleepwalkers, watchful, but unseen, haunted by dreams, yet blind to the reality of the horror, they were about to bring into the world."*