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Trends. When Russian Weakness Equates to Strength: Money Laundering, Chechnya, and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Is the world becoming ever more "global?" Is this "global" world becoming ever more interdependent and enmeshed? If so, an epiphenomenal trend is the ever-increasing strength of the nationally weak--more specifically the equation of weakness as strength by weakness protecting a country from various sanctions at the hands of others. Examples of the weakness as strength equation include threats to others of a country's unsafe and unreliable nuclear reactors, fragile governments whose breakdown might precipitate destabilizing population transfers, problematic economies whose meltdown might initiate economic disasters elsewhere. Political or economic pressures applied to such countries at the hands of others might result in unfortunate, unacceptable, even intolerable consequences--for the appliers.

For example, Russian economic weakness precludes serious sanctions against it. This precluding is courtesy of the potential consequences of population destabilization, unauthorized possession or employment of nuclear weapons assets, nuclear reactor disaster, and national economic disaster sparking an international one among others. Problems with money laundering, politico-military policy towards Chechnya, and already existing proliferation of weapons technologies and other assets fester.

Some observers believe that the meek shall inherit the earth. If weakness is meekness, than they may also destroy it. (See Bugental, D.B., & Lewis, J.C. (1999). The paradoxical misuse of power by those who see themselves as powerless: How does it happen? *Journal of Social Issues*, 55, 51-64; Haleta, L.L. (1996). Student perceptions of teachers' use of language: The effects of powerful and powerless language on impression formation and uncertainty. *Communication Education*, 45, 16-28; Levy, D.A., Collins, B.E., & Nail, P.R. (1998). A new model of interpersonal influence characteristics. *Journal of Social Behavior*, 13, 715-733; Pieranunzi, V.R. (1997). The lived experience of power and powerlessness in psychiatric nursing: A Heideggerian hermeneutical analysis, *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, 11, 155-162; Psychopolitical effects of globalization on power: When weakness becomes strength. (February 28, 1997). *IBPP*, 1(14).) (Keywords: Chechnya, Money Laundering, Proliferation, Russia, Weapons of Mass Destruction, WMD.)