TFTC 404

**Marty:** [00:00:00] Alive. What is a freak? Such boy Marty here sitting down with Constantine kissing, uh, who made a splash earlier this year with, I guess it wasn't a lecture, it was more of an oration, a monologue at Oxford talking about woke culture and the com context of climate change and why young individuals shouldn't fall prey to, to the mindset, the DOR mindset that the world's gonna end and should instead think differently.

And that, um, led me to your CK Constantine, where you're really talking about alternative ways to, to view the world. And that's really what I wanted to talk about. It seems like a lot of the conversation in the mainstream is these binary choices that we have are, are perceived to have as a society. I think you frame it as, uh, the current thing versus going against the current thing.

But I really like your attempt to try to shake people out of that binary mindset and have us thinking about [00:01:00] alternative views, alternative systems, alternative ways of doing things. Um, I mean, that was a long preamble to the conversation, but I, I guess what personally for you really drove you to realize this, this binary frame that the mainstream's trying to force the world into, uh, and got you thinking about alternative

**Konstantin:** systems.

I think I'm a bit of a disagreeable asshole, so if I can disagree with somebody, I usually will. And I think that's kind of how I end up in, in the middle of a lot of things. I kind of go, well, you guys are sort of making sense, but there's also quite a lot of BS in that. and you guys are sort of making sense, but there's quite a lot of BS in that.

And, and so I often find that, you know, I I, I tend not to go along with the crowd. I don't mind going along with the crowd when I think the crowd's right. Um, and that is actually something that a lot of people have trouble now with as well, because they're like, well, I, I'm the sort of person that doesn't go along with crowds, so I can never go along with a crowd, even if, you know, they, they're taking me [00:02:00] to a safe place as opposed to off the cliff.

Um, so yeah, I think that's more than anything where that comes from for me. I just, I, I am, I try to be very, uh, careful about going along with other people's ideas of what I should do because, uh, I really learned from a young age though it was important to think for myself. Yeah, same.

**Marty:** I think that, uh, I mean, not saying that I think exactly like you or think for myself in the way that you did, but that was one thing my mom beat into us growing up.

Be a leader, not a follower. Like think differently. Think about things from different perspectives. And I guess for you, like talking about like the context of the world, it's pretty chaotic in the world right now. Um, again, you have climate hysterics, you have woke culture permeating, uh, a lot of the western hemisphere, and it, it seems like people are very confused right now, especially coming out of the last three years with covid lockdowns and a restructuring of the economy and a lot of [00:03:00] authoritarianism around the world.

What are, what are some of like the first principles that you anchor to in trying to view what's going on in the world and how you view it? .

**Konstantin:** Well, I mean, it's interesting that you bring up Covid and author terrorism. Cause I was just, I was talking to someone else, uh, uh, an hour ago about Covid. And to me that really, I find that very scary because this guy I was talking to, he was saying, well, look, you know, what happened was really undemocratic and they introduced in his country, in Australia, they had quarantine camps.

And in the UK we had mandatory vaccination and all of these things. And he was like, that was undemocratic. And I was saying to him, no, that it's worse. Much worse than that. It wasn't undemocratic, it was illiberal. , but it wasn't undemocratic. It was exactly what the majority of the people wanted. Uh, the majority of the people, uh, in the uk, I dunno what the polling would've been like in the us but there there was a huge, uh, percentage of people here in the UK who, who just, they, you know, they, they lost the plot.

They got really [00:04:00] scared, they panicked. They made the government panic. The media forced the government to panic and there was a massive overreaction and they had absolutely no problem with it. They had no problem with it. And so the scary thing to me isn't that we are sort of, you know, living in some kind of undemocratic world in which the evil elites are telling us what to think, which some people are persuaded by.

I don't believe that at all. I think the problem is a lot of people are willing to give away far too much safety, uh, far too much freedom. Rather, a lot of people are willing to give away far too much freedom to get, uh, a promise of safety, uh, from a government that is therefore incentivized to keep promising them safety and is therefore incentivized to keep taking away their freedom.

**Marty:** that's the MEMA govern me harder. Daddy is coming to mind right

**Konstantin:** now. Yeah, exactly. And we live in societies, which turns out, you know, I mean people have known this throughout the ages, but we, our generation and and younger had the opportunity to forget about that when the, when the proverbial hits the fan, [00:05:00] you know, people, people go revert to type.

And it turns out quite a lot of people, uh, revert to authoritarianism mentally whenever things go bad. Yeah, no, and

**Marty:** it certainly happened here in the States too. Especially in the beginning, early 2020. Yeah. People were, , I think myself included, at least in the early days. Like, all right, two weeks to flatten the curve.

That sounds like a good idea. It's just batten

**Konstantin:** down the hatch. Was that I was right there. Absolutely. Uh, this is, people are having a go at me now going, oh, you know, you, you are this guy who, you know, keeps talking about covid author terrorism. Well, but you, you know, in the first few weeks you were fine with it.

Yeah, I was fine with it for three weeks cuz I, you know, we, we needed to find out what the hell was going on. Uh, but once you know what's going on, that's the point at which you've gotta start acting rationally again. And that was my issue with it, you know? Um, so I know it happened in America as well. Um, the good thing about America, uh, is that you guys have different states and so if you don't like the states policies that you're in, you can pack [00:06:00] up and move in the uk.

What are we gonna do? ?

**Marty:** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I'm an example of that. I live in Texas now. I was living in New York. And it was partly driven by, all right, I think Texas is gonna respect my, my freedom's a bit better than the state of New York is right now. So let's get the family up

**Konstantin:** and get down there. Oh man, it was incredible.

We went on a trip to America last year, and we saw this with our own eyes because we went from, uh, the East coast, New York, Washington, uh, to Texas and then to Nashville, and then to la And it was like, it was like being in different countries, man. Like when we were in Austin, I didn't see a person wearing a mask for the entire time that we were there.

When we got to la, literally everybody was wearing a mask at the airport. Like everybody. And if you've got a, a, a, like a, a taxi, uh, I can't remember what your system is. We have, uh, we call it Uber here. Um, in, in, in Austin or [00:07:00] in a bunch of other places. No one cared if you were wearing a mask. This was last year.

um, in LA they were still making you wear a mask, you know? Yeah. So it was like completely different countries. And my point is, it's great to be able to choose what, what you want. And if you are a govern, harder me, govern me harder daddy kind of person, then you can go to a, govern me, govern you harder state, like California, and have a great time.

Um, but if you want a bit more freedom, then you can do what you've done and and, and move to a place that actually respects it. Yeah.

**Marty:** No, and I think that's a trend that's only gonna get more, uh, prominent here in the United States. The states beginning to assert their autonomy from the federal government, um mm-hmm.

in many ways it happened with Covid. Uh, like I mentioned, this is a Bitcoin podcast here in the United States. Bitcoin mining is a massive political talking point now, and you're seeing individual states say, Hey, mining's cool here. Others saying like New York saying, uh, we don't want Bitcoin mining here.

I think that's just gonna keep extending into other parts of [00:08:00] the social discussions that we have. Florida, with the, uh, pulling the, uh, particular sex education materials out of the public schooling system. Something like that is happening in Texas as well. That's something that gives me great hope for the United States, uh, especially in a world that seems a bit, uh, pessimistic right now.

Particularly when you think of the, the trends that are gaining prominence. Oh, well they have, they were gaining prominence for a time, but I do think things like ESG and Woo culture are beginning to, to erode a bit as people get fed up. Cuz at the end of the day, pe like. , economic and social reality comes into play

**Konstantin:** and well, right, but the economic and social and military reality is very difficult as well, right?

So you've got, um, maybe people taking, uh, life a bit more seriously and they maybe not, don't have quite as much time for, you know, weird protests on college campuses or whatever, when there's real stuff going on in the world. Um, on [00:09:00] the one hand, on the other hand, I think we, you're right, we're in a, we're in a kind of pivotal time.

I think the future of the next 50 years is gonna be shaped in the next 10. You know what I mean? It's kind of like World War ii, like World War II finishes, and that kind of sets, sets the template for the next 60, 70 years. I think we're, we're looking at something like that at the moment.

**Marty:** What are you, what are you looking at particularly in terms of areas where things are gonna be,

**Konstantin:** well, I mean, the geopolitical landscape is becoming completely reshaped, right?

As we speak, uh, both in Russia and in China, and therefore around the world, um, economically, I mean, the idea modern monetary theory, uh, summed up in a simple way. The idea that we can continue to borrow money from our grandchildren, uh, endlessly. Uh, that's it's sustainable for a while, but eventually [00:10:00] that's gonna end.

And, um, people all very clever people keep telling me, you know, politicians and economists and they, they've all got an explanation of how this makes perfect sense. And, you know, a country like Britain can run a, a national debt that it's greater than its GDP and can continue to pile more debt with a massive budget deficit.

Uh, and everything's gonna be. Uh, everything's gonna be absolutely fine. There's not gonna be any problems. Uh, and they're all very clever and they know more about economics than I do, and, and they know more about finance than I do. And, and, and that's all very w very, very, very, uh, nice. But, um, no, no, no, that, that's not, that's, that's not how the real world works.

Uh, there's no such thing as a free lunch. At some point, whatever is going on there, uh, that's gonna have to be addressed one way or another. And if we keep burying our head in the sand, I mean, the problem is just the, the, the, when it, when that bubble gets burst, it's going to burst in, in the [00:11:00] most spectacular way.

If we allow this to continue,

**Marty:** well, it may be bursting as we speak, particularly here in the United States.

**Konstantin:** There's a reassuring thought, , ,

**Marty:** I mean, what's going on now with these, this banking crisis that started probably a couple weeks ago, but really accelerated towards the end. of last week can continue

**Konstantin:** today.

Yeah. I think there's only one part of it, man. Sorry to interrupt, Martin. But the banking is one part of it, like a financial crisis and a coming to Jesus moment on the issue of debt. These are very different things, you know, and we've all been living way beyond our means for decades now, and we are refusing to recognize that, in my opinion.

You know, and we, we basically, our response to 2008 when a financial crisis turned into a global recession, uh, was to empty the medicine cupboard, right? We took all the medicine, we had interest rates, neg real interest rates were negative emergency level interest rates for like a decade. Uh, [00:12:00] just, just, you know, threw everything at it.

Well, okay, cool. Now, now, now it's coming around again. What are you gonna do? Oh, they're just

**Marty:** gonna print obscene amounts of money, and that's what I mean, what's going on in the United States now. I record a podcast about it earlier this morning, uh, with a gentleman named Parker Lewis has really been following the Fed policy in its effect on the banking sector for like 15 years now.

And mm-hmm , it is a bit intertwined in the sense that like the, the government has mandated that the banks have to hold a certain amount of treasuries. And as we're going through this crisis now, uh, people may have said, oh, you can never see this coming. But if you look at the mechanics of it, like the Fed's gonna jack up interest rates, which lowers the value of the collateral that you're forced to hold on your balance sheet.

And then as you have to sell that out to service withdrawals, you have to mark down that as a loss and it's created this cascading effect. But again, yeah, ipl completely agree. Like the Keynesian brain rot [00:13:00] thought of debt is just money we owe ourselves completely disregards future generations. Like no debt is money that our children and grandchildren owe us or owe them.

**Konstantin:** Oh, we owe to them. Yes, we owe to them. We're borrowing it from them without their consent. And what's more is it obviously affects, uh, you know, we are, we're like a problem gambler now. No. You know, there will come a point where people don't wanna lend us money , you know, uh, one way or another. Or we were not prepared to lend it to ourselves.

Or people don't wanna buy a currency because like the, these, these things that we are doing, they're not consequence free. Otherwise, why wouldn't we endlessly print any amount of money? Like, why should I pay any tax ever again if we can just print money and it has no consequences. That's why they keep telling us we can print an endless amount of money and everything's gonna be fine.

Right? A hundred percent of gdp, no problem. 200%, whatever. Like, we can keep going. Apparently this is what they keep telling us. We can, we can keep this going. Why do I need to pay my [00:14:00] taxes? Then why don't you just print my share of the national tax and, and spend it if there's no consequence to printing money.

Well,

**Marty:** taxes are just the humiliation ritual part of it. , ,

**Konstantin:** we're gonna fuck you from both ways. I can tell you're a Bitcoin

**Marty:** uh, you're a bit skeptical of Bitcoin, is that correct, or?

**Konstantin:** Um, I, I, I, I, I'm not, uh, I'm not skeptical of the technology and it's potential for use. Uh, I'm very skeptical of the marketing around it. Mm-hmm. , um, you know, uh, the moment a a system of doing business becomes ideological, you know, it shouldn't, it should not be ideological.

Like, you know, if, if, um, a physicist, generally speaking is not gonna be ideological about their branch of physics, they wanna know the. as opposed to prove their point. Do you know what I mean? Yep. [00:15:00] And when, when I see so much ideology around, like, it's almost like a whole worldview around Bitcoin and the way it's marketed by some people, you know, yet another hot girl in a crop top talking to the camera about, Hey guys, you need to buy Bitcoin.

I'm like, Jesus, get that thing away from me. You know? So, um, that's what I'm skeptical about. As for the technology, I mean, people say it's a great way to, to, for people in, in poorer countries to do business in a volatile blah, blah, blah. I mean, I spent a lot of time in, in poorer countries, places like Armenia and Ukraine, until the war and stuff like that.

Nobody there is really using Bitcoin to do transactions in, you know, I'm not saying it's not possible. It is possible and some people do, but so, uh, but uh, it's an era that I was, uh, bookmarked by saying at the beginning, I dunno anything about it. And at the end by saying I really dunno anything about it, but people keep asking me.

So I keep giving them some kind of answer.

**Marty:** Yeah, I didn't, I I, uh, I [00:16:00] think I caught you on Pop's podcast. Yeah. Talking about it.

**Konstantin:** Um, yeah. And I did say to him repeatedly, a, I'm gonna trigger you and your audience and b , I dunno what I'm talking about. I don't think

**Marty:** you're gonna trigger anybody by saying that.

And I think that's Yeah. Very fair assessment. Um, depending on who is explaining Bitcoin, it can come off a bit scammy.

**Konstantin:** Um, well, right. And, and this is one of the things I've been thinking a lot about outside of the concept of Bitcoin itself, is like, because our experience now is our experience of the world is so fragmented compared to how it was 20 years ago.

Right. 20 years ago. I mean, probably not the case in America, but in the UK we had five TV channels. Right. And most of the stuff you would see, you'd be watching together with. almost everybody else. Do you know what I mean? Yep. There'd be a, a popular program on at 7:00 PM and you'd watch that and everybody would watch that.

And so when you have social [00:17:00] media and the internet and the huge explosion and content, what we even mean by a word is different. Like what I mean by Bitcoin is gonna be completely different to what you mean by Bitcoin. Because our experience, we just have a completely different window into that room from a different angle.

And you and I are seeing very different things. I might be seeing some fluff in the corner where you are seeing a big sofa or a big couch in the middle. Right? And, and so our perspective of it is, is really shaped by the fact that our, uh, of. Experience of the world is so fragmented now that we probably don't have a common one.

You know? So to me, Bitcoin is the hot girl on Twitter, you know, selling Bitcoin to you, it's a system of exchange or what, or, or a medium of exchange or whatever else that there's gonna revolutionize the world. And so that's why I don't really have a strong opinion on it because it's not an area that I've studied that well.

**Marty:** Yeah, I think the lens, the anchoring lens that really gets people in this fragmented world on the same page is [00:18:00] just actually like interacting with it, spinning up a wallet, sending Bitcoin, holding it. Cause when you do that, you recognize that you have 12 or 24 words that represent your wealth. And you use those words to make your Bitcoin appear in another wallet.

And that's like an aha moment. And that experience, uh, is uniform across the world. Instead of having a fragmented sort of, uh, explanation of Bitcoin from many different mediums, from many different people, . Um, but yeah, I think, I mean, considering what's going on now in the banking crisis, uh, people talk about number go up, Bitcoin's gonna be millions of dollars.

But what is really important is just having access to your money, whether it goes up or down, which people woke up Friday morning with tens of millions of dollars in this bank they thought was solvent and didn't have access to it. Where if you have Bitcoin and you have it in your wallet and you have the, the private key backed up, like nobody can stop you from

**Konstantin:** accident.

I mean, yeah, sure. But, uh, I, look, I have Bitcoin, I it, I, I have Bitcoin, [00:19:00] uh, and I'm, you know, waiting for it to explode cuz I already made the mistake once I bought it when it was, I think I bought half a Bitcoin, uh, for $400 and then I bought another half a Bitcoin for $500. And then a few years later when it had gone up to, I dunno, maybe my, my whole Bitcoin was worth about, $2,000 or something like that.

It was those sort of numbers. I was like, oh wow, this is like doubled in value. Okay, let's sell it. And then now it's, well then it was worth whatever it was worth. And now, anyway, my point is we have some, uh, bitcoin on my YouTube channel that people paid us for advertising with, that's been sitting in a, in a Bitcoin wallet and it was worth $2,000 a year ago.

Now it's worth $800. So, you know, this idea that bitcoins this brilliant store of value, it has not been my experience, uh, you know, necessarily. No, I could, I mean,

**Marty:** yeah, it's about [00:20:00] you get the whole spiel. It's time in the market, not timing the market and

**Konstantin:** all that. Yeah, yeah. But, but if, if you actually need the money that you've got in there, right?

Like you, you are potentially gonna, you know, let's say I'm saving up to buy a house, which, which is what I'm doing, right. I'm not gonna save it up in Bitcoin for that reason. Yeah. I could see it. It's,

**Marty:** uh, , I had that experience as well. Yeah. We do a lot of bad deals in Bitcoin here. Uh, took in a lot of ad money at the end of 2021 when the price was around 50 K.

Right. And, uh, unless you were selling that right away or locking in half of that, you, I, I have watched it depreciating value pretty significantly. Yeah. But, um, yeah, no, it's, but when you, when you put it in the context of the alternative, which is the system that we're describing that is just printing money, putting us further and further into debt, um, it is a nice asset that brings peace of mind in the long term at least.

But yeah, [00:21:00] agreed. There's gonna be sh a shit ton of price volatility year and year out until, until people wake up and understand that , the incumbent system's completely messed up. Hmm. Yeah. But I mean, I feel like it's all tan tangential too. Like we have these. problems in the banking sector with the national debt here in the United States and the uk And then you have like the social fray as well.

And people are getting driven to both sides of the spectrum. And that's one thing I worry about and why I really like the framing that you put forth, which is like current thing versus supposing the current thing. It's like figuring out the other thing in the middle where people can meet and put their efforts behind to actually affect change in the world.

Cause what I worry about is people get driven to both sides of the spectrum and you have a very aggressive reaction from one side against the other and you get Weimar Germany, like, um, situations, world War two, [00:22:00] two, like situations.

**Konstantin:** Yeah. It seems like well, we're hopefully too far and too comfortable now to have to have an actual, uh, that, you know, communist versus fascists, uh, battling out on the streets, although, you know, Uh, you do see some of, some, some, some things people could point to, particularly in America in terms of, you know, far left groups and far right groups getting together and fighting and whatever.

Uh, but I, I'd hope that that remains a fringe thing. Uh, but you're right. I mean, the, the, the main reason I think to be concerned about that polarization is it prevents us from having a cohesive, uniting vision of who we are. Uh, and that makes us very vulnerable to people who would quite like to throw the west of its pedestal.

Um, you know, this is, a lot of people don't understand, uh, this about the conflict in Ukraine. It's, it's really fundamentally about. The attempt to reshape geopolitics. And I, I've translated many of [00:23:00] Putin's speeches on my ck uh, and summarize them in a way that's easier to read for Western people. And this, he talks about it in every speech.

He, he wants America out of Eastern Europe. He wants America, uh, to stop being the single dominant geopolitical force in the world. He wants what he calls a multipolar world. Um, and, uh, if we continue to, you know, sit around and argue about what a woman is , we, we are kind of exposing ourselves to, uh, you know, we are not using our time as well as we could be in advancing our civilizational mission, which is to make sure that our people thrive in the world.

That we are strong, that we are capable, that we are able to, uh, defend our values, uh, you know, all of those things. Uh, if we take IR of the ball, we're opening the door to other people.

**Marty:** Yeah, I mean, Putin. Explicitly leans into that too. Like look over there. They're confused about [00:24:00] gender ideology.

**Konstantin:** Yeah, exactly.

Exactly. And, and he's mainly doing that, in my opinion, to, uh, he's doing two things. He's pandering to people in the west who are frustrated at those things as I am by the way, and as I'm sure you are, uh, you know, the gender ideology being the extremes, versions of gender, ideology being pushed on the way that they're being pushed.

Uh, and so he's trying to win allies over in the west by going, look, look at this thing that you don't like. I don't like it either. Um, and he's pandering to people in Russia who want to, uh, to think of the West as this, like L G B T, qi, whatever, which obviously they hate. Um, and um, you know, he's trying to sort of present the west as decadent, which to some extent I'd agree with it has been.

Uh, to people who just, you know, they, um, there's, there's this, uh, word for, for Europe in Russian that these, some of these, [00:25:00] uh, Putin, uh, fanboy, like this throwout, which is gay ropa, like Europe, y ropa is the Russian word for Europe. Gay Ropa. You understand? . Yeah. Um, so like, it's, it's, it fits neatly into the narratives of both of those groups and he's trying to play to them both at the same time.

Yeah.

**Marty:** And yeah, and sort of engender support from Westerners. Like, Hey, this stuff's crazy. Putin even recognizes it. Like, is he a stronger leader? Undermine, I mean, well, that's the other thing too, is particularly in the United States, I'm sure you feel this way in the UK too, but like, just looking at the political class and the quote unquote leaders we have representing us on the geopolitical stage as a millennial, looking at these people can't even put together coherent se sentences anymore, um, and have no connection with reality or, um, the underpinning sort of angst that exists between millennials and Gen Zs.[00:26:00]

Uh, it, it's really disheartening. It's like, I, I think I look at Biden, I look at across the spectrum, or there's Biden on the left, or somebody like Mitch McConnell on the right and others, I'm like, I don't think you guys align with me at all. And it is really discomforting to me to think that you represent me on the global stage.

**Konstantin:** Yeah, no, it's interesting. And, you know, one of the things increasingly, I'm starting to realize, I, I, I just turned 40 a few months ago, and like we have people working on trigonometry who are like 17 and I've kind of, up until this point, sort of thought of myself as a young person, and then you meet people.

and talk to people who are like, 17, 18, 20, and you go, whoa, this is like a whole other generation. Like they've got their own challenges. Uh, they're very think about things differently to us, approach things in a different way. So imagine someone like Joe Biden, like we, [00:27:00] we are two generations away from him, right?

So there's no way, like there's no way he understands the problems of Gen Z or the problems of millennials or whatever. Uh, and, and look it was ever, thus, of course, uh, it was ever thus, but yeah, I know what you mean. Yeah.

**Marty:** And I guess that's the thing I wonder about moving forward is how does that exchange of power or exchange of influence happen?

Um, like how do we get the power out of the hands of the, the, the boomers? And I don't, I hate to like, like put people in like classes and say like, it's their problem, but it. It seems like they're living in it in a mindset,

**Konstantin:** listen, we're gonna be boomers someday. So you watch your mouth . I

**Marty:** know, exactly. But it seems, and there's good boomers out there.

I've, I've met a lot of them, but the ones in power seem to severely underestimate the potential , like the millennials and Gen Zs. Many people, [00:28:00] uh, many individuals within those demographics have to affect change. It seems like they're just putting their, their foot on the, on the brake to not let it happen.

Um,

**Konstantin:** yeah. But, but I also think it's a large extent, you know, the millennials fault as well, you know? Mm-hmm. like, uh, we getting to the, we're getting to the age now. Certainly I feel like I am, like we, we should be influencing the way things are and not enough of us are, because not enough of us, you know, have built things and, and created things, and achieved things that we should have been.

I think that's also true. You know, too many millennials spend their time moping about going, oh, my life is so hard. Well, sure, yeah. It's hot. It's hot. Yeah. Uh, but I, I don't think it's as hard as my 96 year old grandmother in Ukraine who lived through the Nazi occupation and the whole of de more, and the gulags and sts Purs, uh, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, and now another invasion by Vladimir Putin.

Don't think our lives were as hard as that. Right. [00:29:00] So maybe there's an opportunity for us to take some responsibility and to go, okay, what are we gonna do now? You know, and I think, uh, for, for millennials, uh, w you know, that that's part of, you know, we're kind of, uh, I'm just about a millennial, but there, there is a, you know, I feel like a, a slightly a generation that hasn't fulfilled this potential potentially, you know?

Agreed.

**Marty:** I think a lot of millennials are complacent and distracting me. Going back to. , the preamble at the beginning of this conversation about like climate change, like climate change and LARPing about that particular subject has become a lot of people's personalities where they don't understand reality.

Uh, and the fact that you can virtue signal and say, oh, I care about the climate, but that is consequences at the end of the day. I mean, particularly in the energy sector, we've really driven the narrative that we need to, uh, transform our energy sector into this renewable [00:30:00] safe haven. But that's proving to actually, uh, deteriorate the, the quality and the stability of our energy systems.

**Konstantin:** Surprise. Yeah. and, well, the Biden approved some kind of all drilling thing. I haven't had a chance to read up on it properly, but there was some kind of all, all drilling approved today in America. So, uh, reality is coming home. Yeah. Up in

**Marty:** Alaska, I believe they're finally gonna let them drill. Yeah. Up in that area of the country.

But no, I mean, it's, I mean, when you look at Europe and Trump tried to warn Germany like, Hey, you're becoming heavily dependent on Vladimir Putin's natural gas. Like you should try to restructure your energy sector so you don't become beholden to 'em. They laughed at 'em. And less than three years later, uh, that problem became very apparent to all of Europe.

Yep. Absolutely. Yeah. And so what do you, what do you think's like the most effective way to break out of that binary thinking and [00:31:00] start pushing people towards these alternative ways of viewing the world and alternative solutions? Were just engendering. A feeling of, of urgency and action in people?

**Konstantin:** Well, I don't know that it is the feeling of urgency that I want to encouraging people.

It's actually, uh, at this moment in time, I think everybody just needs to be encouraged to have a, a feeling of self-restraint rather than urgency. When people are feel that something is urgent, they start running around doing crazy shit. We talked about covid. I mean, people had a lot of senses of urgency about that.

Mm-hmm. didn't do us any good. What I think people need to do is slow down, uh, and look around and go, is screaming and shouting about things changing the world. Is it, is it, look, look around since 20 15, 20 16, Brexit, Trump, you know, you take you through a whole litany of things. What we've done is we've massively increased the amount of hostility that both sides have towards [00:32:00] each other.

Have the results been what you wanted? Right, because I don't, I don't think they have. They haven't been what I wanted. Uh, and so do we carry on doing this? Do we carry on getting angry at each other and going, no, no, no, they're really the, the evil ones. Or do we try and have a, a, a more sensible conversation?

And the, the, the dynamic of the cultural conversation is massively in favor of anger and hate. And, uh, I'm not pretending that single-handedly by talking in a more constructive way on this podcast, we're, we're gonna change that. But I'm just trying to model that and be that myself and have conversations with people from that place.

It's increasingly why I use Twitter lesson less because like the version of me that comes out on Twitter, because of the way Twitter changes your brain is not the version of me that I would like to be most of the time. , [00:33:00] you know, I open Twitter, I'm very tempted to troll someone, uh, take a dump on them, point out how they, they mess something up, how stupid they are, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Um, and I, and I don't know that that's the best way to achieve the things I want to achieve. So, uh, I'm just trying to be more constructive and think about, um, you know, what are the things that keep people can unite around? What are the things that can bring people together? That's why, you know, I started out as a standup comedian who became very alarmed at all this woke stuff that was going on in comedy, because comedy being like a cultural industry that all the cultural trends get there first.

So it was like before society got there almost, and I was like, whoa, what's happened here? Um, and so I became known as someone who was very against woke culture, which I am. Uh, but I, I don't know that the way to oppose that is the increasingly sort of, . I'm [00:34:00] a, I'm a victim now. Anti woke movement. You know, I've been oppressed.

Now I, you know, they, they, you know, the, as the saying that libs are transing the kids or whatever it is, like, you know, there's, there's libs running around your neighborhood, just like grabbing kids off the street and taking them off to a, to a trans reassignment, uh, clinic. I don't think that's happening either.

You know what I mean? So there's this, a lot of this building up of victimhood on both sides. Um, even, you know, and I say that as someone who thinks, you know, we talked, we alluded to, to trans thing briefly, like that's a problem. The teaching of sexualized material to children in schools is a problem and doesn't need dealing with.

Um, but my view is the way that that issue gets dealt with is by convincing the majority of people that this is something that is happening and that they should care about it. Because that's all that it really takes. Like we had a case here in, in the UK where a transgender rapist. or [00:35:00] rapist who claimed they were transgender after they were caught, uh, claimed to be a woman and ended up in a woman's prison, right?

And when the, and when the public found out about this, they were like, whoa, we don't support this. And actually, the country, the the country, the part of the UK that happened in Scotland, the leader of Scotland soon resigned soon afterwards. I'm not saying it was entirely down to that, but that was part of it, right?

So you have to convince the overwhelming majority of people, uh, who are pretty much on, on this side of the conversation anyway, because they haven't been indoctrinated in all this crazy stuff. They're just normal people who've got kids and jobs and lives to live in. They're not really into the culture war, you know?

Um, we just gotta show them A, that it's happening and b uh, persuade them that they should, they should basically take action, uh, or speak up about it or whatever, in a calm way. Uh, in order to change these things, right? Um, instead of just building anger and resentment. And, uh, it's so funny to [00:36:00] me, uh, whenever I make this critique of this, the anti woke, uh, you know, people are always like, we must fight fire with fire.

And I'm like, that generally speaking isn't how you fight fire. Like the fire brigades do not turn up to your house with a bucket of gasoline and some matches. You know what I mean? Yeah. Well, that, that's not how you do it. Uh, even the metaphor doesn't work. So I just think, um, the, the, the solution to all of this is in the media space, which is what we are the new media, right?

Uh, is to have conversations in a way that's that's gonna, that's gonna bring people back from the. , you know, that's gonna not make them feel, you know, there, there are YouTubers who, who get millions of views and I, they show up on my thing and it's every day. It's like World War III or like Biden about to destroy America, or, you know, the, the MAGA is, you know, like all, all that stuff from left and right.

Uh, and [00:37:00] I've, you know, I, I, I don't live in America, but it doesn't seem to be, to me on, on the brink of imminent collapse. I'm not saying you guys don't have problems, but it seems to me like you're gonna be okay for the next couple of weeks. Do you see what I'm saying? Like, we shouldn't exaggerate too much.

The extent to which these cultural problems, um, are as, as dangerous as we think now, long term. I absolutely think the trend of wokeness is, is a problem. And if allowed to run unchecked, you, you, you will do huge damage to, um, to, to the west, which to me is very important. And I've wrote a whole book about it.

But the way to, to prevent that from happening is to check it calmly and gently, uh, firmly, but gently at the same time. Right? Yeah. And, and to start to, to talk about sensibly about what the potential positive solutions might be, we've gotta have a, a positive vision of the future, and I haven't given you any, any parts of that because that's a conversation that we still need to [00:38:00] have as a society.

Uh, one of the problems we've had is that over the last 10 to 15 years, like all the things that you used to be able to say are objectively good things, even though not everybody would be expected to participate in them, like having family and having children, right. That used to be a thing that we all understood as like it's a good thing to have.

Not everybody has to. , it's okay. Mm-hmm. not, people shouldn't be forced to have a family. Some people are gay and they might not want to adopt kids or, or, or whatever, right. Some people just might not want to have kids, even if they're stressed. Some people may not want to be in a relationship. That's all fine.

But generally speaking, for most people, having a family is good. Right? That's something that we used to be able to say, well, now if you say that, you are automatically like a conservative, cuz you, you think people, most people are gonna wanna have children. Well, guess what? They, they, they are gonna wanna have children.

Right? That's, and they should, and it's good if they do, it's okay. And it's good if someone doesn't, if that's the right decision for them. But that's something that I actually think we [00:39:00] should be able to say and lots of other things like that where we've become so afraid of the marginal case. We refuse to say the bigger picture thing, which is, you know, people living in, in healthier relationships is good.

Men and women need each other. Uh, having kids and family, family is gonna be a good thing for most people and so on and so forth. There's a whole bunch of these things, um, that we could talk about, um, that it used to be possible to say. Now they almost have to be one back or reframed or reframed for people to go, oh, that's a great new idea.

Let people have family . It's not a new idea, but, but that's the sort of thing I'm talking about.

**Marty:** Yeah. Being physically fit, living a healthy lifestyle. Right.

**Konstantin:** it's fundamental. Being responsible financially with your money and the government being responsible with its money. Like these are all pretty uncontroversial things until about two minutes ago.

Yeah.

**Marty:** No, and then getting back to like Twitter and the mediums through which people. this information. Like it's very, they're very high [00:40:00] leverage tools for a very small subset of the population. So I think that's another thing that really disrupts the conversation that people have globally is you have like a small minority of people leveraging this technology that makes their voice seem louder than it actually is, or makes it seem like there's more people who agree with them on this.

**Konstantin:** Yeah, I think that's definitely true as well. Yeah.

**Marty:** Yeah. And it's, it's, I think that's one thing people are definitely becoming more attuned to, and that's why alternative media, like your show, this show others are beginning to proliferate. Um, or you're seeing on both ends, like the, the vitriol and the, the, those against the current thing.

And those for the current thing are existing in alternative media platforms as well, like bringing it back to comedy. That was actually one thing that really, um, became apparent to me during the Covid lockdowns and there, there was that. Series of YouTube videos about mass psychosis that was going [00:41:00] around.

And basically the first described the problem and applied it to what was happening in 2020 and 2021. And then the second one was like, all right, what is the solution for getting out of this? And comedy is actually one of the solutions, like bringing a bit of levity to the situation and lightly, um, making fun of those in power, pushing you down these, these authoritarian paths.

And I think everybody connects with comedy and making things funny, can make a subject approachable. And then, um, give somebody a perspective where they're willing to change their mind and say, oh, maybe this is a little bit

**Konstantin:** crazy. It's so funny you say that, man, because during the pandemic, um, our show really exploded.

And that's because three or four nights a week at the time, we do a show. So our channel is an interview channel. Um, we do interviews with interesting people, but also my, myself and my co-host Francis, four nights a week, then three nights a week now we, we do a show, a show called Trigonometry Raw, and that is basically me and him [00:42:00] joking about whatever's going on.

The most outrageous jokes. We do all the crazy accents from around the world. Like we get people from India sending us rupees to get us to do their accent. Uh, people from the Middle East, Italy, America, obviously all parts, and, and Canada, Brazil, like everywhere. And we do terrible accents, uh, and make jokes and take the piss as we say.

And we did that throughout the pandemic. And the most common thing people say to us if they come up to us in the street, uh, is you got me through the. Because people needed that relief. People needed to be able to laugh, uh, at the terrible things that were happening, uh, both in terms of the disease and the pandemic and the fact that people were dying and all the rest of it, but also the massive overreaction that we saw from governments in the West as well.

Uh, and uh, yeah, I'm really pleased that we were two people out of, I'm sure there were many people doing this, but it did, it felt like it still wasn't enough, uh, you know, mo mocking and [00:43:00] criticizing the, the people who were doing it. Yeah.

**Marty:** Because at the end of the day, I think what it does is it highlights that the people making these decisions are fallible human beings as well.

People like to hold 'em on this pedestal and think of them as omni shit beings that can make the right decisions on our behalf. But once you use a bit of comedy to highlight some of the missteps they've taken and some of the contradictions of logic that exist with their decisions, really like, oh, maybe these people are just humans too.

And if that's the case, , uh, maybe us individuals could affect change as well. Yeah,

**Konstantin:** yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

**Marty:** So what, uh, what's on the top of your mind right now in terms of what's going on in the world? Obviously woke culture is big, but, uh, I, I saw you had a discussion with peers, Mor Morgan, about the migrant situation in the uk.

Obviously Rishi Sunk has taken up, uh, the Prime Minister role there, [00:44:00] unelected way. What are, what are your thoughts like Rishi sort of being just planted as the prime minister of, of

**Konstantin:** uk Well, it's, it's the system that we have. We have a parliamentary system, so we don't elect prime ministers, uh, in the way that you elect presidents.

We elect the party and then they have their own process for how they, uh, choose the, the leader. Um, so you know that that's a regular thing. It's happened to both sides. The last time there was a left-wing government, a labor government, Uh, it was Tony Blair and then he handed over to Gordon Brown and there was no election, and the moment there wasn't an election he lost.

So, um, that, that's pretty standard for our country. I'm not a huge fan of Russia, sun Ag, but, um, you know, in terms of what's top of my mind, I mean, there's so many things. I think, um, I'm following the war in Ukraine very closely because I just, like I said, I think at the beginning we're in a bit of a pivotal time that is gonna set the direction of travel for the next 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years.

Uh, and I think that's kind of be gonna, by the end of this [00:45:00] decade, we're gonna know the direction of travel, or at least we will be on the direction of travel, whether we know it or not will be a different thing. Um, so that's kind of what I'm looking at is how is that all gonna end? Because that's the one big unanswered question for me in the world right now.

Um, on world culture, I feel like we are starting to make progress. Actually, I think, uh, two things are happening. Number one, uh, , well, many things are happening, but one of them is, uh, some people are, are getting tired of all this work crap, um, being shoved down their throat as they increasingly encounter it.

The second thing is people are becoming more aware of it going on because it's infiltrating their workplaces and their colleges and their schools, their kids' schools, et cetera. Uh, the third thing is Gen Z are probably, uh, I mean the women, not so much, but the, the, the young men, the Gen Z men, they're not woke at all.

Men. Oh, I've noticed this as well. They're not woke at all. Yeah. So the girls, you know, girls are [00:46:00] girls and they all go along with be nice and compassionate and kind and whatever, uh, for a while. But, uh, you know, the young men are not work. So there's a rebellion brewing against all of that, which is natural.

It's what happens. It, it happens in comedy and music and everything. Everything goes in cycles. You go this way, then you go that way. . So I feel like we're making decent progress. Doesn't mean we've won, or, you know, this isn't a problem anymore. I think it still is, but I think we're making, uh, good progress on that, or at least in slowing down that.

Um, yeah, so, so the war in Ukraine for me is the big, big unanswered question. And of course, uh, you know, with what we've seen this week, is this banking crisis gonna be huge? I don't know personally, I, I don't have an opinion on that. Uh, but more broadly, as we've already talked about, I think we are sitting on a, on a time bomb economically, and when that goes off, we'll have to see what happens as well.

So those two things, I think.

**Marty:** Yeah, it seems like, uh, the banking crisis is serious to the point where the Fed is gonna have to [00:47:00] step in and print a bunch of money they arguably did yesterday. Really? Yeah. Um, okay. You can make the argument, the quantitative easing five started yesterday. Okay. Which, and people are beginning to say that there's no way they raise rates next month.

So it seems like that that fed pivot that everybody's been talking about is probably here. Um, because again, the, the setup of the capital requirements, it's forcing people to sell these treasuries, which is obviously driving their price down, which is making everybody's capital requirements below what they're supposed to be.

So the Fed has to step in there. But I, I mean, I do wanna talk about Ukraine too, because as an American has been a big headline here in the United States, particularly over the last year as taxpayers have been sending over tens of billions of dollars, well over a hundred billion dollars now, month in and month out.

And we're asking like, what, what is the, the value of these dollars? How are they being spent? What are we [00:48:00] getting in return? And there's obviously, uh, differing views amongst individual Americans. I tend. To view this as a proxy war, I, I would rather not be engaged in or supporting it and would like both parties to come to the table to have some sort of talks.

But, um, it doesn't seem like our political classes is really, um, gonna try to do that. They seem pretty keen keenon, uh, supporting the war, uh, the best they can.

**Konstantin:** Yeah. Uh, I, uh, I'm not a fan of framing as supporting the war because I, I don't think that's what they're supporting. Uh, this is, I'm afraid one of those where I, I go along, uh, or some people think I go along with the crowd.

Mm-hmm. , uh, I don't, I just happen to know about this part of the world from a personal perspective. And so I, I have a different view on, on what's going on to, uh, most people. Um, uh, it's not for me ever to, to tell the American taxpayers what they should be spending and money on, but I, I [00:49:00] would say that the American taxpayers get an an exceptionally good deal for their money right now.

Exceptionally good deal. Uh, and that is because, uh, the United States is degrading the military, uh, of its primary strategic adversary, uh, without, uh, a single American life lost. Uh, and at a cost of a fraction of your defense budget, the entire purpose of which is to deter Russia and China. So you're getting a very good deal, in my opinion.

And by the way, you know, uh, you can call it a proxy war, but the, the reality is that is that the Ukrainians are in the process of attempting to achieve sovereignty. , uh, for their country. Um, and that to me is a very American thing to support. I mean, if you think about the origins of your country, this is kind of like the Ukrainian 1776 moment.

And in the same way that, um, for America to become independent and needed help from the French, I know you guys don't like to talk about it , [00:50:00] uh, but, but I'm afraid you did. Right? Um, you know, the, the reality is that ex, you know, all sorts of revolutions and independence movements in the past have relied on foreign assistance.

Um, so from my perspective, the most important thing is what do the Ukrainians want? Like if, if America, you know, I was debating somebody the other day on this and he was like, well, if Ukrainians stop fighting, the Americans would keep the war going. And I'm like, , like how the Americans aren't over there fighting.

It's the Ukrainians who are going, we want our country. We wanna defend our country. Please help us if you want to. Right. . And a lot of people, you know, the, I know that there are many people who think along your lines in America, and it's a point of view. I completely respect because, you know, as a taxpayer you're allowed to say, I want my money to be spent.

Well, like, that's, that's totally reasonable. Um, but f you know, from my perspective, uh, it's, uh, it's strategically a very sound thing for, [00:51:00] for, for the West to be doing. Because if you look at the ideology that motivates Putin, uh, it's very clear that his, uh, sense is that America should not be present on the Eurasian continent like America.

He wants America out of Europe entire. . He talked in his last speech about how he wants to, um, un so the, the United States is evil and wrong because it's undoing the post World War II geopolitical order. Well, what does that mean? The post World War II geopolitical order is yar, where the, the great powers basically decide the, the Soviet Union, because of its contribution to winning World War ii, gets to dominate and subjugate the entirety of Eastern and central Europe up to and including East Germany.

Right? So if, if you wanna let Putin restore that order, that's what you'd like to do. That's why, you know, you talked about [00:52:00] Germany exposing itself to Russian blackmail because of energy. Why do you think, why do you think Putin wants to, why do you think, uh, Gohar, Schroder, uh, former Chancellor of Germany is on the board of some gigantic Russian oil company?

There's even a word for this, Schroder. , it's the infiltration of a country's elite by a foreign power who wants to subvert them for their own ends. Like Putin has spent the last 20 years consolidating power within Russia and attempting to rebuild not the Soviet Union, but the Russian Empire. Right?

That's why he hates Lennon, because he gave away portions of the, the Russian Empire in order to achieve peace and, uh, in the Bretzel to street in 1917. So no, 1918, wherever it was. . And so, um, to me, while I understand that a hundred billion is a lot of money, and I'm sure it sounds like a lot of money to the American taxpayer, uh, I, I think from an American, purely an American point of view, forget Ukraine, forget [00:53:00] morality, forget all of that.

Uh, it's, it's a very sound investment. And then you add to that, uh, the fact that you are, you know, the moral case to me is very strong, uh, which is, this is a country that wants to, to have its independence from, uh, Russia. And, uh, Russia won't let it be independent, uh, because, uh, it perceives this as, you know, Russian land basically.

Um, so, uh, that's why we are where we are. And look, uh, in addition to the financial side of it, you know, there's, there's no doubt that having this conflict going on, uh, increases the risk of some kind of road to nuclear escalation. Now, do I think we have a serious risk of nuclear escalation now? No, I don't.

I don't, but the fact is it's above zero. It's always above zero, but now it's above zero plus. So that's a factor. And we, that's why, you know, people should be very careful and very sensible and, you know, idiots like Lindsay Graham running around going, you know, sending in the preemptive [00:54:00] straight, send an airborne or whatever.

Yeah. Like, you know, these people are insane. But actually the West has been pretty smart, in my opinion, about the way it's handled it. Uh, I know a lot of people are saying now in hindsight, you know, we should have given them the tanks from the beginning. We shouldn't given them the APCs from the beginning.

Well, nobody, it is kind of like covid in the first three weeks. Nobody knew what the hell was going on. And a lot of people were rightly concerned as like, you know, what if Putin's just gone a bit? , you know, you, you give them a, you give them some tanks and then he's like nukes Ukraine. We've seen over time with a careful strategy.

I've given them a bit of this, given 'em a bit of that, given em a bit of this, and you've never really pushed hard across a line in some kind of major way that would give him a reason to escalate. You know? Um, it's been very smart from the west of my opinion. Uh, so yeah, uh, that's kind of my take on Ukraine.

I understand that a lot of people feel differently. Uh, but, you know, uh, that's, it's an issue, uh, which I feel quite [00:55:00] strongly about, particularly because people spread a lot of. Like an awful lot of lies about Ukraine. You know, this idea that Ukraine is full of Nazis or you know, Zelensky is some kind of Jewish Nazi or all of this Nazi crap, like every country in Eastern Europe.

I say this is someone who's Jewish. By the way, every country in Eastern Europe has a small fringe of anti-Semites. On the far right, there's probably about as many uh, Nazis in the American military as there are on the Ukrainian one. You know, every army in the world has some people who are, who are minded in that way, and it's been frustrating for me to have to talk about all this stuff.

You know, people go, oh, America's got Biolabs in Ukraine. Yeah. Do you know who built them? The Soviet Union. . And the reason that America came in in the nineties is they were like, this small country has biological, we uh, biological labs. These bio labs, we best have someone responsible looking after them.

It's the same reason that Ukraine was forced by America, Britain, uh, and uh, Russia to give away its nuclear weapons back to Russia cuz you don't [00:56:00] want small countries having these sort of facilities that are not under control. You see what I'm saying? Again, by the way, that treaty in 1994, uh, those countries, America, Russia, and, uh, Britain, guaranteed Ukraine's independence.

That's the min, the Ukraine, the Minka agreement, correct? No, no. The minka agreement was in 2014. That was called the Budapest memorandum. The Budapest Memor, yeah. The MI agreement was in 2014 after what happened then. So it's a complicated issue, but I think I've given you my take on it. No,

**Marty:** and it's a very interesting take and a fresh perspective on this subject, on this show particularly.

Um, it's been a lot of people talking proxy war, and I think another thing that. Really makes Americans, and I'll just speak for myself, particularly apprehensive about getting involved in this war, is just my whole life. Whether it be the war in Iraq, Afghanistan, it always seems like the US government and the intelligence apparatus have these ulterior motives where, again, I, I totally feel for the plate of the Ukrainian [00:57:00] citizens and the Ukrainian people.

When I see like the US government and CIA getting involved, I'm like, these motherfuckers have some ulterior motive

**Konstantin:** that, um, well I hear you man, and I oppose the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, and by the way, I oppose them for exactly the same reason that I oppose Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

That this is kind of where I think people sometimes, uh, get a bit, you know, people go in a weird direction for me because if you oppose the war in Iraq, you've gotta oppose the, the invasion of Ukraine by lema Putin, like what America did to Iraq is exactly what Putin is doing to Ukraine. . Do you see what I'm saying?

Mm-hmm. . Yeah. And so I, I understand people's concerns about, you know, all my life, I've just seen conflicts, but this is different. This isn't your country going and invading another country. This is your country giving military support to a country that's been invaded. That's the difference here. Do you see what I mean?

And look, as I saw, as I said to you about the French helping you guys during the, the American War of Independence, foreign powers will always [00:58:00] get involved in these conflicts. That that's just how it works. And so the fact that America is helping, I can see why that would trouble some people, but it's inevitable.

I mean, you think that the, the people who are, who started this conflict in 2014 I in in Eastern, you think there were actual Ukrainians who actually cared about rejoining the brilliant. state? No, it was a small fringe funded by Russia, uh, in order to create the agitation and the separatist movement that, that they saw in the east of Ukraine in 2014.

These people would never have done anything if they didn't know for a hundred percent that they have Russia's support. So in that sense, you could call it a proxy war from both sides. Both sides are funding the people that they like in this conflict. Uh, that's what, that's that's what it is, man. I mean, yeah.

The Ukrainians wanna fight. They wanna defend their country and for me, what matters is what they want. Yeah.

**Marty:** Um, due to Bitcoin being global, having built out a strong network [00:59:00] around the world of people in the industry that I, I know quite well. Um, I have a few friends in the Baltics and in Latvia, and they very much align with what you're saying.

Shout to Maddi, ms. Anxious over there, . Um,

**Konstantin:** well, everybody in that part of the world is aligned with what I'm saying to a large extent, and that's because. Like, they know that they get it, they've lived through it before they get it. And you could think of a country like Latvia. I mean, people, uh, I was talking to my good friend Eric Weinstein the other day, and he, he's just been on Joe Rogan and he was saying, well, you know, we let Latvia and Estonia join.

And that was the start of it. And that's really, well you becau and his argument is, well, it's because these countries, you know, they were part of the Soviet Union and Putin could never let that happen. How did these countries become part of the Soviet Union? This is the bit that they don't teach you in history for some reason, right.

Nor neither Russian nor in America. Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, uh, were taken over by the Soviet Union in agreement with Nazi Germany in [01:00:00] 1939. They split Eastern Europe and actually people go with Germany started World War ii. That's not what happened. That's not what happened. Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland at the same time.

and they split all of Eastern Europe between them. And so the area that we now call Western Ukraine was actually Eastern Poland at one point, and the Soviets took it. From Paul, from NEP polls slaughter thousands of their people at exactly the same time as Germany. And they did the same thing in Latvia, Estonia, and Lithia.

They came in, they took out anyone who opposed them, killed off the local elites and replaced them with their own puppets. Right. So it's not like these are historically Russian lands. Exactly. These are just countries that the Soviet Union came and took over, killed the people who opposed it and, and pressed it by force.

Um, and so the Latvians, the est, Australians, Lithuanians, they know what happens when Russia gets strong. And when Russia has a leader who's managed to consolidate power, it's always gonna look [01:01:00] westwards. And that's why, you know, uh, as generous as your country has been, and it has been very generous. Um, in percentage terms, do you know which countries are the countries that are providing the most aid in percentage terms of their G D P, I mean, uh, that are providing the greatest aid to Ukraine?

Well, it's Lavia and Lithuania, uh, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Poland. You know what these countries have in common? A border with Russia. What do you think? They know that we don't. Yeah. No,

**Marty:** it's, um, yeah, no, uh, yes, I agree. I think, uh, Matthew Mak, who lives, uh, in Riga in Lafayette, I, I think this is exactly how you would describe it.

I was actually over in Riga late last year talking to a lot of people from, uh, Estonia, um, Lithuania, Latvia, and yeah, there seems to be like a, a band of Baltic, uh, brothers getting together and saying like, we're not letting this happen again. [01:02:00] Then yeah, again, bring it back to the American church. For me, it's like, God, it's so far away.

I don't want Russia to get strong. I want, I hate all these politicians, and it's just like, fuck, are we just throwing

**Konstantin:** gas on the. . Yeah, no, I, I understand. And uh, when there's not a lot of trust in the political leaders in the political system, as there is not, uh, then people are bound to think in that way.

And look, obviously just like the Russian intelligence services, the c i a gets up to a lot of shit everybody does. Right. Uh, so I, I just think the, this is very different to the other conflicts that you mentioned earlier, and I think people sometimes forget that. And like I said, I understand, you know, why would we want to risk any sort of even raising the risk of nuclear war by even not, not, not, not 0.1% for a fight somewhere where I've never been far, far away on the other side of the world.

I understand that sentiment, [01:03:00] but I think if, if, if you elect people to think a bit more strategically for you as they must. on behalf of your country. That's something they, they can't just let, let go. Because you're gonna remember the world is watching. The world's watching. This isn't just about Ukraine, this is also about Taiwan, and it's about all sorts of other people going, let's see what we can get away with.

Let's see what we can do. Oh, the Russians can do this. Okay, what can we do? You know, clearly the Americans are weak. Clearly they're not able to, to be as strong as they've been in the past. You know, look at how they pulled out of Afghanistan. Right? Embarrassing. Now, Russia, what else? What else? What else can we get away with?

Well, people

**Marty:** forget, I mean, it got overshadowed by Covid, but Hong Kong right before, um, the world went into lockdown in 2020. Yeah, that was taken pretty easily.

**Konstantin:** Well, the, that's kind of the British, you know, the, I mean, look, Hong Kong's a difficult one for me [01:04:00] because on the one hand, I have many friends from Hong Kong, and I completely understand that people in Hong Kong have got used to a different life.

And, uh, the, the, you know, they think about the world, the way we do, the Proli Pro, individual rights Pro, all of that sort of stuff. Uh, and I, you know, I completely get that. On the other hand, if you look at the history of that place, I mean, it is in China, taken from them by force, by the British at, at the, you know, at the barrel on the, the barrel of a gun or whatever, whatever the term is.

So the British had to give her back at some point, and when they did, this was always gonna happen. So the best I think we could have done is get people out who, who didn't want to be there, which, you know, we've taken a lot of people in Britain as refugees from Hong Kong. Was it a hundred year lease or something like that?

Yeah, it was, and in it wasn't given freely, you know what I mean? Mm-hmm. , like, it's not like the Chinese suddenly went, Hey, let's find some people on the other side of the world who we can give a piece of our land to. Yeah. [01:05:00] No, it's all, it's very messy man history. It's very complex. It's a messy thing. Yeah.

It's, it's not a good guys, bad guys. It, it is more complicated than that. Yeah.

**Marty:** Yeah. That's why, and again, putting in the context of like not trusting the political leaders and just being completely jaded from, uh, being a 31 year old who grew up and saw all the bullshit from my government, particularly, that's why I like Bitcoin and focusing my energy on that because instead of screaming and trying to get involved in something very complex that I may not understand, understand Bitcoin and do think it's an actionable solution to the problems that exist in the monetary world specifically.

And I think. If you picked the problems there, uh, it can begin having positive ripple effects in other parts of this. Oh,

**Konstantin:** a hundred percent, man. I mean, I, I'm not saying specifically about Bitcoin, but if we addressed a lot of the economics things, the economic problems we're having, it would change the culture.

I mean, a [01:06:00] very obvious example of this is, uh, if housing is expensive or as it is in Britain, extortionately priced, and young people can't buy a house or a flat, an apartment, you call it, uh, and they can't pair up and they can't have kids, they are not gonna be rooted in reality to a large extent. They're gonna be living seven to a flat share, uh, on their phones, and they're not gonna do the things that you do in life to become grounded to the real world, like being in a relationship, having kids, or, you know, feeling like you have a stake in your.

right? That's what home ownership does to to, to a large number of people. This is like an asset. You, you're gonna pay it off. And, you know, 25 years from now, if you behave yourself and you do things right, you're gonna have a thing that's worth, you know, a million dollars or half a million dollars or $300,000 or a hundred thousand, whatever, right?

That's a very grounding thing. But if you have a problem, like we're do in the UK where you've got a housing crisis and young people [01:07:00] can't get on the property ladder at all, and they're caught in a rent trap where they're paying masses of amounts of rent so they can never save up enough to buy their own home, then you are gonna create a generation of people who, who don't have any investment in their own society.

And if you don't have a massal society, why would you act in a constructive way? Why wouldn't you run rampant and riot and destroy and burn things and whatever? So, uh, economics matters, man. I agree with you. Yeah. It turned

**Marty:** nihilism. If, uh, if you don't have the prospects of a better future, I mean, we see that here.

Yeah. In the United States. There's some crazy sta I think it's like 25% millennials and their twenties still live with their parents and Yeah. Uh, and then you have this dating culture. I mean, you mentioned like Gen Z is definitely beginning too, uh, rebel against that culture, but I, I know, I, I feel lucky.

It's who I've been married for six years now with a couple of kids, but I know there's a lot of [01:08:00] people my age that are still stuck in that, that dating market and getting these apps just swiping left and just dating for the fun of it and looking at it from an outsider looking at it, it's like very nihilistic, uh, does

**Konstantin:** not seem like it's, it's a very shallow and transactional world, isn't it?

Like, yes. You know, for the fun of it. Uh, fun is fun and that's all that it is, but it's not fulfilling. No. You know, um, and so you, you could argue that your single friends who are going around going and doing that, they're having a lot of fun and maybe more fun than you, but the, they're not gonna be as fulfilled no.

By that process. And I'm not saying that as a theoretical, you know, someone who's been married for 20 years, I got married at 20, but, uh, I just have friends who do that, and I look around at, at them. And it, the, the truth is that almost all of them would like to move to, uh, a permanent loving, long-term relationship in which they can [01:09:00] experience the, the full joys of that.

Um, but they don't, and part of the reasons, the economic part is cultural part is, you know, people are increasingly, uh, unwilling to commit themselves to things. Um, so the culture is very important as well. Agreed.

**Marty:** No, like you said, you're 40, but you're still full young. I, I think that's another thing people don't really realize is like it goes by, very quick.

I can't believe I'm in my thirties, but like older you get the faster it seems to go

**Konstantin:** in one day where a lot of these, it goes, it goes quick when you have kids as you and I do. Uh, cuz like my son is 10 months old. I mean, he feels to me like he was born about three days ago, you know? Yeah. But it's been nearly a year.

**Marty:** No, my, my, my oldest is three now, and he is beginning to ask like complex questions and , he's very tall. What is Bitcoin? Yeah, it's, it's the money of the future son. .

**Konstantin:** You're not gonna have a piggy bank. See that? His ideology, like I said, . . [01:10:00] Is it, is it though? Yeah. Why is that? No, not necessarily. No. It could, it could be.

No, you're right. It could be just a factual statement about the future of the future. Uh, currency could be Bitcoin. I think it's gonna be, maybe that

**Marty:** is ideological. I do have fixed the money, fixed the world

**Konstantin:** in the invites right outside. That doesn't have to be Bitcoin. And that I agree with by the way.

Yeah. Well,

**Marty:** I don't wanna take too much though. I know it's getting late where you are. I really appreciate you hopping on and talk about all this stuff cuz I do think, again, the framework you're trying to put out there from which to, to approach these varying subjects and not get stuck in a binary mindset is very important.

I think it's very constructive to actually finding solutions and helping people take a step back and not scream at things and actually try to get things

**Konstantin:** done. I appreciate that man. And you know, one olive branch I'll, I'll extend, uh, given that I've been, uh, you know, mocking Bitcoin, this whole interview is, it's funny that I actually, whenever I talk to people who have [01:11:00] into Bitcoin, they are really into this mindset.

That's what I found for sure. Like they have a constructive mindset. That's one thing I've definitely noticed, um, that it's a clear correlation to me from the people I speak to, like the people who are really into Bitcoin. They're really into like, how do we, how do we get the future that we want? As opposed to, oh, the world's shit, and we must cry about it.

You know what I mean? Like, I, I definitely notice that for sure.

**Marty:** Yeah. No, it's cool. Next time you go to Austin, you gotta stop by the studio. Absolutely, man. A lot of cool, uh, intersections between, uh, the Bitcoin world and things like regenerative farming and different ways of schooling. There's a lot of, uh, there's like a lot of sub-verticals popping out.

Um, yeah. As well to, to really bring home, like solutions that people want. Like, awesome man schooling. If you don't want your kid to get indoctrinated and sexualized at a young age, just go create a different school. There's a lot of people taking action there as well. Yeah.

**Konstantin:** That's awesome. [01:12:00] Love it. All right, well,

**Marty:** uh, appreciate you coming on.

Where can people find your book more about you, your sub. .

**Konstantin:** Uh, so a book is an immigrant's love letter to the West. Uh, my YouTube show is called Trigonometry as in t as in like gun trigger. The, the, the people from Texas will know what I'm talking about . Um, and, uh, my CK is just search constant and kissing ck.

I'm on, I'm on Twitter and all social media at Constant and Awesome.

**Marty:** Well, I hope you enjoy the rest of your night. Thank you for the conversation and uh, yeah, next time you come to Texas, let me know.

**Konstantin:** I appreciate it. My brother will do. Take care, have yourselves a great day. All right, peace and love freaks.

**Marty:** Take care.