

Beware of Strategic Accidents

Greetings! Thursday August 14, 2025

In President Trump's historic one-on-one meeting with Vladimir Putin in Alaska, he should ask Putin whether he had any involvement in the "strategic accident" that took down the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Baltimore is strategically located between America's most important cities New York and Washington -- in the middle of the night, the bridge collapsed. President Biden did not launch an investigation to its cause and American media moved on to other topics dismissing all potential sabotage as "conspiracy theories."

Russia's Putin has both the Motive and the Means to retaliate against countries who back Ukraine to join NATO and the war against Russia. While Trump and Europe may want to be stern with Putin, Trump should investigate the real origin of all the "strategic accidents" — ships knocking down bridges, arson attacks on factories and potentially wildfires, airplane crashes, and cyberattacks. Trump should use the meeting to get the "inside-scoop" on what really happened. This would help Trump more fully understand Putin's military strategy. As the US Commander-in-Chief, Trump needs to fully understand the potential blowback to the US if he imposes "severe consequences."

Trump should make a deal with Putin to ensure that the US and European mainland does not suffer through sabotage.

In the late 1990s, I helped build the US Air Force Strategy software for DARPA and learned that a military's first objective when going to war is to "destroy and degrade the infrastructure." Given the tensions between Putin and Biden, Putin had the motivation to retaliate against Biden's actions against the NordStream pipeline and enormous defense contributions to the Ukraine in a war against Russia.

Having worked in Russia for the US defense industry, I urge Western leaders to stop underestimating Putin and his ability to retaliate against what he views as NATO aggression.

Russia is still a great power and Putin does not want NATO on his doorstep — just as the US, UK, and France would not want Russian troops on their borders. Putin excelled as a KGB agent, so it makes sense that sabotage and spies are part of his arsenal — not just the air and ground military actions, which are widely reported. Putin's retaliation may sabotage the countries that support Ukraine's NATO inclusion. And they are finally admitting that the recent arson attacks on UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer are **potentially linked to Russia.**

Having earned my Master's in National Security Policy at Harvard, there is not yet been a term to describe "Strategic Accidents" and their potential use in military operations in plain sight, yet of unidentified origin. Thus I will attempt to define what I mean by "Strategic Accident." I define a strategic accident as the attack or damage or destruction of infrastructure or critical persons from an undetermined source that stands to benefit from this "accident." Agents of the CIA, KGB, and other clandestine national military organizations are highly trained to engineer "Strategic Accidents" to advance their leaders' military objectives while covering up the origin of the disaster.

A 'Strategic Accident' at Heathrow: the UK and Europe's Biggest Airport

It was recently confirmed by the BBC that Putin's spy network was active in the UK, which featured two Bulgarian nationals who had spied for Russia. After the mysterious death of Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin in August 2023, Putin gained direct access to even more mercenaries who could easily start a strategic fire at Europe's busiest airport. I don't think it is a coincidence that this historical failure occurred right after UK Prime Minister Starmer pledged military support for Ukraine and a day after Prince William rode in a NATO tank near the Russian border.

On the eve of Prince William's NATO visit to Estonia, the UK's largest airport was **closed due to a fire:** Energy Secretary Ed Miliband stated that, **"The grid has never seen an event like this" and noted that its impact was an "unprecedented" and "catastrophic" shutdown to Europe's busiest airport.**

Prince William visits Estonia to support UK troops fighting Russia

March 21 2025



Photo Credit: BBC

Unprecedented fire closes Heathrow

March 20 2025



Photo Credit: Birmingham Live

Military Objectives and the Strategic Importance of Airfields and Infrastructure

When I worked with DARPA, I dealt directly with the JFACC — Joint Forces Air Component Command — to understand how it conducted military campaign planning and worked with PhDs in Artificial Intelligence on how we could use AI and other technologies to reimagine war planning for the 21st century. I learned that the first air military objective is often to bomb enemy airfields. It is thus eerie that the UK's biggest airfield experienced unprecedented failure on the eve of Prince William's visit in support of NATO for Ukraine and against Russia.

I also worked with former Naval Admiral John Poindexter on Total Information Awareness to help increase communication between the intelligence services, in the '90s there was a focus on connecting the dots to anticipate events like 9/11. Unfortunately, Artificial intelligence and humans have yet to be able to forecast and identify the threats that exist today. In addition, I was one of the few to publicly warn about Covid's impact and Putin's impending invasion when the vast majority of pundits in the major news outlets and at financial institutions dismissed these concerns.

Spain's President Pedro Sánchez Signs Deal with Ukrainian President Zelensky



Photo Credit: La Moncloa

Spain and Portugal hit by major power outage April 28 2025



Photo Credit: CNN

Strategic Accidents in USA?: The Curious Collapse of the Baltimore Bridge

Last year, the landmark Francis Scott Key Bridge near Baltimore, located between America's most important cities, Washington DC and New York City, collapsed due to a seemingly freak accident involving a container ship. On March 26, 2025, the temporarily-leased Singapore-registered container ship *Dali* set sail just after midnight, lost power at 1:24 with smoke rising. The ship's lights went on as the ship changed its course before losing power again and **collided into the pillar of one of America's largest bridges, collapsing it**. This led to the closure of the Port of Baltimore, which is the largest importer and exporter of vehicles in the US — most of which come from Germany.

Within hours of the accident, President Biden shut down any speculation that the crash was intentional, announcing, "Everything so far indicates that this was a terrible accident. At this time, we have no other indication — no other reason to believe there was any intentional act here." Biden did not announce a federal investigation into the cause of the bridge collapse, as is often the case in such large

accidents. Insurance claims were estimated at \$2 billion. The Francis Scott Key Bridge is the second-longest US truss bridge and is located between the US capital and New York City.

Perhaps Biden did not want to open up the possibility that the bridge collapse was Putin's retaliation for Biden having authorized the blow-up of the NordStream pipeline between Germany and Russia, as explained by Columbia University professor Jeffrey Sachs. Perhaps this was the case, or perhaps not. We will never know for sure. After losing power and knocking over the strategic Baltimore bridge, the *Dali* simply returned to China for repairs.

Francis Scott Key Bridge: the 2nd-Longest US Truss Bridge



Photo Credit: Wikipedia

Key Bridge Collapsed After Being Hit by Unregistered Cargo Ship March 26 2024



Photo Credit: Rand

AI and Most Pundits Fail to Identify Strategic Accidents and Global Inflection Points

Artificial intelligence and humans have consistently shown that they cannot forecast and identify **the threats that exist today**. In contrast, I have been able to connect these **Global Inflection Points before others, such as:**

- **Putin's invasion of Ukraine:** I warned that Putin would invade Ukraine after the Olympics, potentially kicking off World War III, when most pundits proclaimed Putin was just bluffing.
- **Covid crash:** I called my clients in early February 2020 to warn that Covid was a Black Swan that could crash economies; we sold out of real estate positions and invested in Covid winners Zoom, Moderna, and Chewy. I published this article, and received feedback that Goldman Sachs leaders believed that Covid fears were overblown.

Western politicians need to understand that Putin can and will retaliate through spies and sabotage to what he views as NATO aggression. Unfortunately, too often Western leaders and pundits lack substantial knowledge of Russia, National Security Policy, and any intuition that enables them to connect seemingly disparate dots until the data is overwhelming and it is too late. In contrast, I lived and worked in Russia in the early '90s and worked for a US defense contractor in the late '90s, I earned a Master's from Harvard in National Security Policy and International Economic Development in the 2000s, worked on Wall Street and then London for the leading Russian and emerging markets bank advising JPMorgan, Blackrock, and hedge funds on IPOs and investments in Russia when it invaded Georgia in 2008, and later advised the multinational mining firm Rio Tinto on global scenarios and economic and financial uncertainties across China, India, and the globe in the 2010s.

Most Western pundits were sitting at their desks during this time and don't have the international experience and knowledge to accurately understand global events — nor the willingness to publish outside voices of those that had such warnings. See how even world-renowned government advisor and Colombia Professor Jeffrey Sachs was yanked from Bloomberg air once he explained Biden's probable role in authorizing the decimation of the NordStream pipeline between Germany and Russia.

It is at our nation's peril if we do not listen and heed the warnings of those that do have such experience and insight. Imagine if you and your company had advance warning of the Covid crash and had been able to prepare for this unprecedented event?

The global strategic order is in vast flux not seen since World War II.

My Jewish grandfather was in the eye of the storms leading to this great conflagration and he survived and thrived not just by being aware of the global threats but by responding and navigating them. In 1917, my grandfather Mikhael Yoelson was a student at Russia's best university, Moscow State University, when the Bolsheviks effectively overthrew the Russian czar and implemented communism. My grandfather escaped Russia and the communist revolution to find himself a stateless Jewish immigrant in France. In Paris, he charmed my Austrian-Jewish grandmother to marry and bear my father Marc Joelson born in Paris in 1934. As Hitler took power and annexed more countries, my grandfather took heed of the risks and crafted an escape plan for my family. My grandfather, now named Michel Joelson, secured export visas to escape Paris as the Nazis took over the city, escaping through Portugal on the Serpa Pinto to board with a German spy and safely land on Ellis Island. Many other Jews and at-risk Europeans did not understand Hitler's evil ambitions, or chose to bury their heads in the sand. Those people perished at Auschwitz and elsewhere.

My grandfather, in contrast, planned and sent his family to the relative safety of America and, while it was not easy as penniless immigrants, was able to build a successful life. My father renamed, Mark Joelson, arrived in the US as a 7-year-old who soon lost his grandmother to cancer. He struggled as a young refugee, but was able to study and earn a place at Harvard College and then Harvard Law to become an international lawyer. My grandfather started as a porter and then a factory worker in a wood factory in Indiana and rose to become a CEO of the company, retiring in Miami, and buying a pink Cadillac and a penthouse suite.

Don't dismiss global threats. Read up on World War II, Russian, Chinese, and other histories to better understand the global forces at play and to respond in a knowledgeable and thoughtful way.

Happy to hear your thoughts and feedback! Please contact me with any comments at maya@metapointadvisors.com or mmjoelson@gmail.com.

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Maya is a Harvard-trained economist who leverages her two decades of top-level experience across Wall Street, the City of London, emerging markets, and advanced technology to devise investment strategies for her clients. She advised the CEO and Board of Rio Tinto on macroeconomic and geopolitical concerns. Maya founded Meta Point Advisors after several years as a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch. Maya's clients benefit from her ability to provide savvy active management without the cumbersome costs and structure of mutual funds. She has been quoted in ***The Wall Street Journal***, ***Barron's***, and the **World Economic Forum**.

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