



Trade Wars or Territorial Wars

- *The next global battle*

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The traditional understanding about the term “**WAR**” is that it involves a situation where there is state of armed conflict between states, government, societies and informal paramilitary groups such as mercenaries, insurgents and militants. It is generally characterized by extreme violence, aggression, destruction and mortality, using regular or irregular military forces. However, the same is only a typical understanding about war and is not conclusive understanding.

War is a state of fight for some cause. This statement would trigger your mind that we all face a war daily. You are absolutely correct. The war against time management, war against work-life balance, war against need and greed and many other types of wars each one of us face. But we don't adopt extreme measures unless it seems to excruciate us. Exactly same is the situations when it comes to nationwide political and economic situations.

A state faces difficulties on a day-to-day basis. It has its own way of handling difficulties based upon the leaders of the state. However, when extreme situations arrive, it needs to adopt strict measures to protect its integrity. This at its ultimate peak results into war situations to arise.

Scope of this essay:

- ▶ Meaning of Trade Wars and Territorial Wars
- ▶ Past instances and reasons for Trade Wars and Territorial Wars
- ▶ Current political and economic situations
- ▶ The next global battle – reasons for occurrence, sight of war and its impact
- ▶ Political and Economic situations post war

Meaning of Trade Wars and Territorial Wars:

Trade War

¹A trade war is an economic conflict resulting from extreme protectionism in which states raise or create tariffs or other trade barriers against each other in response to trade barriers created by the other party. Increased protection causes both nations' output compositions to move towards their autarky position.

Basically, in simple words, any situation where the trade between two geographical locations is restricted or intended to be reduced by pricing strategies because of economic or political conflicts between the controllers or governing bodies of the two geographical location amounts to a trade war.

Trade war can take various colours which includes increase in import tariffs rates to its lowest grade and can extend upto complete boycott in the most extreme scenario.

The intention of trade wars is to affect the economic conditions of the other party by effecting the export revenue of the other party in case the former party is other party's major customer and effect considerably the production capacity of the other party if the other party is dependent for raw materials of its major industry on the former party. The trade wars even if cold wars, it is capable of causing a kind of devastation which can definitely disrupt the stability of the biggest nations.

Territorial War

Territorial war means territorial dispute which is a disagreement over the possession / control of land between two or more territorial entities or over the possession or control of land, usually between a new state and the occupying power.

Territorial disputes are often related to the possession of natural resources such as rivers, fertile farmland, mineral or oil resources although the disputes can also be driven by culture, religion and ethnic nationalism.

⁺https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_war

Unlike the trade wars, territorial wars are undertaken to show the physical strengths of one party by overshadowing the other. Also, it is pertinent to note that apart from the physical strengths, it is also the economic strengths which plays a crucial factor for playing territorial wars since the immediate effects of these wars include disruption of trade and incurring huge expenditure which disrupts the economy of the country. Hence the economic capacity of the parties to hold on to the war conditions is a very important factor in territorial wars. Traditionally this capacity was measured in terms of the number of soldiers the kings had along with the food and necessity stock present with the kingdom. In the recent times, this level of ability to keep patience during wars has been measured by the artilleries possessed by the country and the level of dependence upon imports of the country.

Past instances and reasons for Trade Wars and Territorial Wars:

► Trade Wars

- Anglo-Dutch Wars (2nd half of 17th Century)²

The English and the Dutch were both participants in the Wars of Religion between the Catholic Habsburg Dynasty and the opposing Protestant states. At the same time, as the Age of Exploration dawned, the Dutch and English—influenced by mercantilism and linked by centuries of interaction with each other over fisheries, the textile industry and trade in the Baltic—both sought profits in the New World.

- Opium Wars (mid-19th century)³

The Opium Wars were two wars involving China and the British Empire over the British trade of opium and China's sovereignty. The clashes included the First Opium War (1839–1842) and the Second Opium War (1856–1860). The wars and events between them weakened the Qing dynasty and forced China to trade with the other parts of the world.

² <http://www.contemplator.com/history/dutchwar.html>

³ <http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/heroin/opiwar1.htm>

- Banana Wars (1898-1934)⁴

The Banana Wars began with injustices, corruption, lawless societies and labor abuse in Latin America. Banana workers began what was comparable to a civil rights movement in the tropical fruit trade. Warring tropical countries stemmed from maltreatment and abusive working conditions gave rise to one of the earliest and most militant labor movements in early Latin America. When high import duties on bananas were announced in 1913, consumer representatives together with the banana industry protested successfully. They claimed it was the most widely consumed fruit among the urban poor, thus contrasting it with the aristocratic traditions associated with the consumption of other tropical commodities such as tea, coffee, and chocolate. The discourse and corruption facing Latin American people and governments is what prompted the United States influence.

- Smoot–Hawley Tariff Act (1930)⁵

The Tariff Act of 1930, commonly known as the Smoot–Hawley Tariff or Hawley–Smoot Tariff, was an Act implementing protectionist trade policies sponsored by Senator Reed Smoot and Representative Willis C. Hawley and was signed into law on June 17, 1930. The act raised U.S. tariffs on over 20,000 imported goods. The tariffs under the act were the second-highest in the United States in 100 years, exceeded by a small margin by the Tariff of 1828. The Act and following retaliatory tariffs by America's trading partners were major factors of the reduction of American exports and imports by more than half during the Depression. Although economists disagree by how much, the consensus view among economists and economic historians is that "The passage of the Smoot–Hawley Tariff exacerbated the Great Depression."

- Anglo-Irish Trade War (1932–1938)⁶

The Anglo-Irish Trade War (also called the Economic War) was a retaliatory trade war between the Irish Free State and the United Kingdom from 1932 to 1938. The Irish

⁴ Langley, Lester D. (1983). *The Banana Wars: United States Intervention in the Caribbean, 1898–1934*

⁵ <https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2008/12/18/the-battle-of-smoot-hawley>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Irish_Trade_War

Government refused to continue reimbursing Britain with land annuities from financial loans granted to Irish tenant farmers to enable them to purchase lands under the Irish Land Acts in the late nineteenth century, a provision which had been part of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty. This resulted in the imposition of unilateral trade restrictions by both countries, causing severe damage to the Irish economy. The "war" had two main aspects, firstly Disputes surrounding the changing constitutional status of the Irish Free State vis-a-vis Britain and other one being Changes in Irish economic and fiscal policy following the Great Depression.

- Genetically modified food controversies (2010-2011)⁷

Genetically modified food controversies are disputes over the use of foods and other goods derived from genetically modified crops instead of conventional crops, and other uses of genetic engineering in food production. The disputes involve consumers, farmers, biotechnology companies, governmental regulators, non-governmental organizations, and scientists. The key areas of controversy related to genetically modified food (GM food or GMO food) are whether such food should be labeled, the role of government regulators, the objectivity of scientific research and publication, the effect of genetically modified crops on health and the environment, the effect on pesticide resistance, the impact of such crops for farmers, and the role of the crops in feeding the world population. In addition, products derived from GMO organisms play a role in the production of ethanol fuels and pharmaceuticals.

- Trump tariffs (2018)

The Trump tariffs are a series of tariffs imposed during the presidency of Donald Trump as part of his economic policy. In January 2018, Trump imposed tariffs on solar panels and washing machines of 30 to 50 percent. Later the same year he imposed tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) from most countries. On June 1, 2018, this was extended on the European Union, Canada, and Mexico. The only countries which remain exempted from the steel and aluminum tariffs are Australia and Argentina. Separately, on

⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetically_modified_food_controversies#International_trade

July 6, the Trump administration set a tariff of 25% on 818 categories of goods imported from China worth \$50 billion.

- China–United States trade war (2018–present)

China and the United States are engaged in a trade war as each country continues to dispute tariffs placed on goods traded between them. US President Donald Trump had promised in his campaign to fix China's "longtime abuse of the broken international system and unfair practices". The economic disputes occurred before China's entry to the World Trade Organization but former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama all failed to solve the problems. In April 2018, the United States filed a request for consultation to the World Trade Organization in regard to concerns that China was violating intellectual property rights. In adding various tariffs, the U.S. administration is relying partly on Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to prevent what it calls unfair trade practices and theft of intellectual property. This gives the president the authority to unilaterally impose fines or other penalties on a trading partner if it is deemed to be unfairly harming U.S. business interests, especially if it violated international trade agreements.

- India – Pakistan post Pulwama Attack (2019)⁸

India launches trade war on Pakistan over Pulwama attack whereby around 300 trucks carrying cement, one of Pakistan's major exports to India, were stuck at the Wagah border after duties were suddenly increased 200%. This made importing them very expensive or nearly impossible. Shipments of 170 containers by sea also came to a grinding halt.

The Indian market accounts for a quarter of Pakistan's total cement exports. In the last financial year, Pakistan sold India \$23 million worth of cement. Fruit and vegetable exporters will also bear the brunt of the reaction since they exported \$41 million in production.

⁸ <https://www.samaa.tv/news/2019/02/india-launches-trade-war-on-pakistan-over-pulwama-attack/>

► Territorial Wars⁹

- Abkhazia and South Ossetia

Both Abkhazia and South Ossetia are breakaway republics from Georgia in the Caucasus. The two little known territories have battled for independence from Georgia since the 1920s, but are still unsuccessful in their claims. As a result of the Russian Revolution in 1917, under the Soviet Union, Abkhazia and South Ossetia became part of Georgia as two autonomous republics. However, Abkhazia and South Ossetia declared independence from Soviet Georgia in 1923 and 1922 respectively, after wars in the 1920s. Further troubles started in the early 90s, during the demise of the Soviet Union, when Georgia declared independence from the USSR, and adopted its old constitution. The troubles eventually led to wars in 1992 and 2008. After the 2008 war, Russia officially recognized the countries as two, separate and individual states, and along with Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru and Vanuatu is one of the only countries to officially recognize the states.

- Kosovo

Yugoslavia has a long and interesting history, but we will be concentrating on the decline of the socialist state in the 1990s. During the demise, 5 new states were formed: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and FR Yugoslavia. FR Yugoslavia also contained the autonomous region of Kosovo. War broke out in 1998-99 when the “Kosovo Liberation Army” fought for independence against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. After the war, FR Yugoslavia relinquished all claims to Kosovo and accepted it as a UN controlled region. FR Yugoslavia then split into two individual states, Serbia and Montenegro, in 2006. Kosovo then declared independence from Serbia, on 17th February 2008, with its capital city as Pristina.

- West Sahara

It is one of the most sparsely populated territories in the world, mainly consisting of desert flatlands. The population is estimated at just over 500,000 – many of whom live in one city. Originally belonging to the Spanish Empire, it is now claimed by both Morocco

⁹<http://listverse.com/2011/09/02/top-10-controversial-territorial-disputes/>

and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, after the Madrid Accords, in 1975, when Spain agreed to end its presence in the area. The SADR controls 20-25% of the territory, with Morocco controlling the rest. 58 states officially recognize the SADR as the government of the Western Sahara, 22 have withdrawn their recognition and 12 have frozen it pending a UN referendum. The Arab league is the main and only support for Morocco's claim to the territory. The SADR joined the African Union in 1984, leading to the withdrawal of Morocco, making them the only African Nation not in the union.

- Gibraltar

The territory of Gibraltar has been fought over for years, due to its ideal position on the Gibraltar strait. The strait provides access to the Mediterranean and the Suez, and is of major importance for international shipping and trade. Military control of the strait currently lies jointly with the UK and Morocco, as opposed to Spain, even though Spain has significant military bases near the Strait. This decision was made by NATO and is thought to be because of the special relationship between the US and UK, and the status of Gibraltar as a "British Overseas Territory". An Anglo-Dutch force originally captured Gibraltar in 1704, during the War of the Spanish Succession. The territory subsequently ceded to Britain by Spain forever under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Since the territory was handed over, the Spanish have tried three times to recapture the town through sieges, but none were successful. It now holds a claim to the territory, although it still remains British. Referendums were held, in 1967 and 2002, to return Gibraltar to Spain, but 99% of the population voted to remain a British Territory on both occasions. No great tensions lie between Spain and the UK over the joint claim, but nonetheless, it remains an interesting political situation as Spain shows no signs of relinquishing the claim.

- Tibet

The sovereignty of Tibet is a controversial and complex situation, which calls for those involved to look as far back as the 13th century Yuan Dynasty. The People's Republic of China's view is that Tibet has been an indivisible part of China, by law, since the Yuan Dynasty. Ancient maps also support this claim, as do many other countries, therefore Tibet is widely accepted as an autonomous region of China. The USA, UK, EU and

France publicly accept Tibet as a part of China, along with many other countries. However, the UK only recently clarified its position saying: “Like every other EU member state, and the United States, we regard Tibet as part of the People’s Republic of China”. Until this announcement, the UK was the only country not to recognize China’s control of Tibet. The confusion results from the Chinese Invasion of Tibet in 1950, when the new communist government started the “Liberation of all Chinese territories”. Before the Invasion, the Government of Tibet had ruled the area, even though it was considered a Chinese territory, but after the war, the PRC incorporated Tibet into China with a 17-point agreement with the Dalai Lama. This agreement made Tibet an autonomous region under Chinese control. However, it is said that the Tibetan delegates were forced into signing the agreement (surrender under duress). The world, however, was reluctant to help Tibet as it was widely believed that Tibet and China would find a peaceful solution, with the help of India. Since the war, there have been many attempts to rebel against the PRC, but to no avail. Even with funding from the CIA, the resistance movement failed to retake control of Tibet. The Central Tibetan Administration remains in exile in India, ruled by the Dalai Lama, and there is no sign of Tibet gaining independence.

- Cyprus

The Ottoman Turks seized the island of Cyprus in 1571 but allowed the Greek culture to remain. The island was then leased to the UK in 1878, which then officially annexed Cyprus when the Ottoman Empire entered WWI on the German side. The 1923 treaty of Lausanne finally terminated any Turkish claims to the island. Tensions were high on the island as both Greek and Turkish Cypriots lived nearby. As a result, the British held onto the island longer than any of its other colonies, to try and keep the peace. In 1954, a Greek Cypriot resistance group, the EOKA, was set up to try to unify Cyprus with Greece. They launched attacks on the British and the Turks whilst fighting for independence. This resulted in a Turkish resistance group forming, leading to battles across the island. The British held onto the island until 1960, when the Republic of Cyprus declared independence. Even so, fighting between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots remained a daily occurrence, so much so that the UK, Greece and Turkey called for a NATO force to be sent in to keep the peace. In 1974, the new Greek military Junta

backed a coup organized by the EOKA from the Greek mainland to overthrow the current leader, Makarios, and take control of the island. They were successful and Makarios only survived after escaping the island on a British fighter jet. Turkey launched an air and sea invasion of the island in July, in response to the Greek led coup. Turkey claimed their intervention was justified under Article 2 of the Treaty of Guarantee, which calls on Greece, Turkey and Britain to ensure the independence of the island. By August of 1974, the government set up by the coup had collapsed, along with the Greek Military Junta. Makarios retook control of Cyprus, and the old Greek government re-took control of Greece. The Turks had captured the northern most 37% of the Island and set up the de facto state of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. As a result of the partition, NATO sent a peacekeeping force into a buffer zone to control the situation, but to this day peace has not been restored. Only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a state, and there are no signs of reunifying the island.

- Taiwan

The two countries share similar names, but the Republic of China (commonly referred to as Taiwan) declares independence from the People's Republic of China. Unlike Tibet however, Taiwan has some international support with its independence claim. Many suggest the ROC should be re-named the Republic of Taiwan, to cut links to China and push for complete international recognition. To put the complex history simply, pre-WWII, Taiwan belonged to Japan, and the Republic of China was the collective name for mainland China. Then, after WWII, Taiwan was surrendered to the ROC by Japan, but because of the civil war on mainland China between the communist People's Republic of China and the ROC, it was unclear to whom Taiwan belonged. The PRC took control of mainland China, but the island of Taiwan kept the name the Republic of China, as a separate state, declaring independence from the PRC. The USA is one of the main allies of Taiwan, providing them with aircraft and arms and recognizing them as a separate state from the PRC. The People's Republic of China claims that the ROC government is illegitimate and refuses to acknowledge its call for independence. However, The ROC – with its own constitution, independently elected president, and large army – views itself as an independent sovereign state. The PRC refuses to have diplomatic relations with any

nation that recognizes the ROC. As a result, there are only 23 states that have official diplomatic relations with the ROC. In practice, most countries view the ROC as an independent state and, as such, maintain unofficial relations with it. Taiwan remains, to this day, a partially recognized state, although unofficial relations exist with most countries, largely due to the PRC's refusal to have relations with any state who officially accepts Taiwan.

- Kashmir

The Kashmir conflict is a territorial conflict primarily between India and Pakistan, having started just after the partition of India in 1947. China has at times played a minor role. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir, including the Indo-Pakistani Wars of 1947 and 1965, as well as the Kargil War of 1999. The two countries have also been involved in several skirmishes over control of the Siachen Glacier. India claims the entire princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, and, as of 2010, administers approximately 43% of the region. It controls Jammu, the Kashmir Valley, Ladakh, and the Siachen Glacier. India's claims are contested by Pakistan, which administers approximately 37% of the region, namely Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. China currently administers the remaining 20% mostly uninhabited areas, the Shaksgam Valley, and the Aksai Chin region. The present conflict is in Kashmir Valley. The root of conflict between the Kashmiri insurgents and the Indian government is tied to a dispute over local autonomy and based on the demand for self-determination. In October 2015 Jammu and Kashmir High Court said that article 370 is "permanent" and Jammu and Kashmir did not merge with India the way other princely states merged but retained special status and limited sovereignty under Indian constitution.

After understanding background of several trade wars and territorial wars spread across the globe and occurring at various point of times, we would be in a proper position to understand and interpret the current political and economic situations. Also, we would understand which among these of situations could be the cause of the next global battle.

Current political and economic situations:

“Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed”¹⁰. This quote is a beautiful description of the relationship between politics and war. The present political situations in the world, in my view is a typical pre-war scenario, specially with growing terrorism and active terrorist activities taking place. The world economy is having various views upon the US-China trade war and the Pulwama attack. A series of retaliation and comments floating upon from both ends of the economy and other countries for and against India or Pakistan. Also, various talks running around the bush for implementing trade wars, actual wars and retaliations are said to be as largest after world war II.

Further, on economic front, there have been various predictions of massive business failures including bank failures. The theoretical risk-free mode of investments would be seeing the risk of default element. The explanation is simple and straightforward. Easy money acted as a tsunami, lifting both the demand and the supply side of the global economy to higher levels. From the perspective of global value chains, the wrangling of the trade giants is likely to have a domino effect beyond the countries and sectors targeted. Tariff increases penalize not only the assembler of a product, but also its suppliers along the chain which has an overall impact on the global economy.

These types of volatile economic conditions also to a large extent are an indicator of a war soon (as much near as possibly the timing difference between me writing this essay and the readers reading the same). The real test to be seen is that this war is a trade/ territorial war or a global war against a particular mindset viz war against terrorism, war against discrimination, etc.

It is very desirable if the war is neither a traditional trade war nor a territorial war but a peaceful war against the acts and practices that are detrimental to the human race. This kind of war while being into effect may practically also result in trade or territorial wars as well which would cause some loss of human life and property. However, nothing good has ever come for free. As per my understanding of the prevalent situations and as result of general oral discussions with the sample of population interviewed for answering this question, it is observed that the reforms are much

¹⁰By Mao Zedong

needed and would definitely arise. However, if some organizations are against such changes and are adamant on their point due to their own selfish motive, then such organizations shall be subsumed by Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest. Just for the sake of better understanding, let us analyze based upon an article in Economic Times on 4th March 2019 with headline "India shows how Afghanistan, Iran & China too suffer from Pak Terror". The article basically discusses that apart from India, countries like Afghanistan, Iran and China also suffer from state backed terrorist groups present in Pakistan. Without going to the truth about the facts and considering this just as an example, if the terrorist groups are actually backed up by the government of Pakistan, the international organizations in alliance with armies of various countries for the purpose of combating against the terrorist group may result into harm to Pakistan nation as a whole.

The next global battle:

After we now understand that the pre-stage of the next global battle has already begun, it to see how the real picture of the next global battle would show face. Seeing the current political and economic situations, the measures being taken by various states and the general mindset which is prevalent, it seems that the next global battle would be one with both trade and territorial wars playing their appropriate roles. The initial framework of the war would be laid down with the help of trade war making the party against which the war is initiated weak. This would be done by targeting on the macroeconomic factors of the other party.

In the further stages of the war, it is possible that the trade war measures would be coupled with some small territorial attacks somewhat similar what recently happened across the India-Pakistan border. These small attacks would be highly devastating for the already weakened party but would not have large impact on the stronger party. This policy is similar to the tactics which is used in the business environment to tackle a new entrant by a cash rich competitor. Here the rich competitor burns on the surplus cash it possesses to force the competitor to do the same or leave the market. While retaliating in the initial stages, the new entrant faces trouble as it does not possess equivalent cash surplus. This is the exact point where the cash rich business lures the small fish by a hefty amount and absorbs it to become a bigger fish in the pond. Off-course such

practice cannot be practiced when the new entrant itself has deep pockets (e.g. RIL's entry in telecom market by launching JIO).

In the final stage of the War when the targeted party is weak enough and already suffering from the effects for the first two stages, a stronger territorial war with a proper intention to devastate the opponent would result into the end of both - the opponent and the next global battle.

Political and Economic situations post war:

What impact will the next global battle will have? The answer to this question is something which depends upon how the war happens but based upon our discussion till now we could say that the opponent of the next global battle could be evil concepts like terrorism, division in the name of religion, caste or race, etc. End of such evil practices, however difficult it is, would bring about a fresh morning for humanity.

The political and economic situations after such a unique war would be a little disturbed one. However, this fast world would be in a situation to adapt to the changing situations. After all the most famous theory by Darwin i.e. "Survival of the fittest" has been held true along centuries and would also continue to hold true post the next global battle. It is truly said that "War does not determine who is right – only who is left"¹¹.

Economic situations specifically in such a situation would see more of a recovery stage in the business cycle with various new businesses that would be opened which we today can't even imagine that they could exist someday.

But not always everything does not go as per plan. If the prediction does not hold true and the tables turn topsy-turvy and the things do not go as straight as we are thinking it to be, the things could be very different. However, even in that state "Survival of the fittest" would indeed hold true. We need to be optimistic, but it is also necessary to be prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.

¹¹ by Bertrand Russell

In such situation where the world is seen to be in wrong hands (atleast as per current general thought process). This would seem to bring altogether a different generation of humans which could be selfish, highly competitive, least compassionate. However, nothing such has lasted for a long time since the very beginning of humanity, since the humans as a specie do not work only based upon the brains, they use their hearts as well to arrive to a decision.

Whatever side the war takes, whatever situations follow the war, the most important thing is to keep yourself alive. By yourself, I mean to say, your own value system should be intact and strong. No person or situation should be able to play with your moral decisions. If a person has a strong value system, then it is difficult for that the person to not be among the fittest.

Conclusion:

“Brave Men rejoice in adversity, just as brave soldiers triumph in war”¹². This quote brings about all-new perspective to war conditions to motivate us to be brave under all circumstances and to be on our toes to face each and every circumstance in life.

To be prepared for the war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace. Therefore, let's be prepared and motivated to face our daily wars with all our zeal and fight it bravely like the mightiest soldiers to conquer victory.

Disclaimer:

The above-mentioned views are purely based upon the research, survey and predictions and are not intended to provoke or invoke any war conditions between any nation or state in any part of the world. The readers are requested to have positive framework and interpret it as only an educational writing for informative purpose only. Any statement representing any prediction of future war is only an indication of possibility depending upon present circumstances and prediction of future. Actual happening of any war condition akin to the described wars does not prove any relation of author with any of the organizations responsible for invoking the war.

¹²by Lucius Annaeus Seneca

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