Choosing what to sacrifice and what to rage about - Elona Malerre

I'm not sure that western leaders were naïve or that they simply didn't/don't care. Naivete requires a certain innocence of belief. Certainly their information gave some indication – and did because they knew long before about the build-up of troops. Certain areas have always been designated by "great powers" as sacrificial to maintain the status quo. Ukraine, despite all the rhetoric you hear, is one of those areas, like much of Eastern Europe and Africa.

The US is in a state of change, and in decline. A lot of people blame ESG because it is under ESG guidelines that they can focus their anger. They may have "felt" some threat before but weren't able to verbalize why. Over the years huge numbers of jobs have gone overseas. Part of the reason some of those jobs may have gone overseas was because of ESG regulations (some of which contribute to production costs,) but more likely because of hard-core capitalism which only cares about maximum profits. People complained but they didn't take to the streets.

Later jobs were lost to people who normally got them because of environmental regulations or because there were quotas for diversity, or because of COVID. With social media and the rise of technology, everyone is free to share and vent their rage. It is the sharing of that rage and discontent that is breaking American prestige and power, but also the sheer demographics of the developing world and the leapfrogs they are making.