

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

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## **The Darkness Ahead: Where The Ukraine War Is Headed**

John Joseph Mearsheimer is an American political scientist and international relations scholar. He is best known for his theory of offensive realism. Mearsheimer belongs to the realist school of thought. He is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. What follows is a paper delivered on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 regarding the futility of the Ukraine War. Professor Mearsheimer is a West Point Graduate and served as an U.S. Air Force officer. He earned his PhD from Cornell University and his expertise in International Affairs is greatly needed in Washington, DC.

What Professor Mearsheimer brings to us is a realistic view of how the Luciferian forces influencing events in the Ukraine are driving genocide through ideological and illogical criteria. The essence of this insanity to destroy Russia is a manifestation of spiritual warfare at the deepest roots that occurred in 1054 AD and festering to the present day. The Vatican can never claim to be the Vicar of Christ so long as the Greek/Russian Orthodox Church is not under Rome’s control. They would assert the power of Satan and destroy the world before sharing spiritual authority!

This paper examines the likely trajectory of the Ukraine war moving forward.

I will address two main questions.

**First, is a meaningful peace agreement possible? My answer is no.** We are now in a war where both sides – Ukraine and the West on one side and Russia on the other – see each other as an existential threat that must be defeated. Given maximalist objectives all around, it is almost impossible to reach a workable peace treaty. Moreover, the two sides have irreconcilable differences regarding territory and Ukraine’s relationship with the West. The best possible outcome is a frozen conflict that could easily turn back into a hot war. The worst possible outcome is a nuclear war, which is unlikely but cannot be ruled out.

**Second, which side is likely to win the war? Russia will ultimately win the war, although it will not decisively defeat Ukraine.** In other words, it is not going to conquer all of Ukraine, which is necessary to achieve three of Moscow’s goals: overthrowing the

regime, demilitarizing the country, and severing Kyiv's security ties with the West. But it will end up annexing a large swath of Ukrainian territory, while turning Ukraine into a dysfunctional rump state. In other words, Russia will win an ugly victory.

Before I directly address these issues, three preliminary points are in order. For starters, I am attempting to predict the future, which is not easy to do, given that we live in an uncertain world. Thus, I am not arguing that I have *the* truth; in fact, some of my claims may be proved wrong. Furthermore, I am not saying what I would like to see happen. I am not rooting for one side or the other. I am simply telling you what I think will happen as the war moves forward. Finally, I am not justifying Russian behavior or the actions of any of the states involved in the conflict. I am just explaining their actions.

Now, let me turn to substance.

### **Where We Are Today**

To understand where the Ukraine war is headed, it is necessary to first assess the present situation. It is important to know how the three main actors – Russia, Ukraine, and the West – think about their threat environment and conceive their goals. When we talk about the West, however, we are talking mainly about the United States, since its European allies take their marching orders from Washington when it comes to Ukraine. It is also essential to understand the present situation on the battlefield. Let me start with Russia's threat environment and its goals.

### **Russia's Threat Environment**

It has been clear since April 2008 that Russian leaders across the board view the West's efforts to bring Ukraine into NATO and make it a Western bulwark on Russia's borders as an existential threat. Indeed, President Putin and his lieutenants repeatedly made this point in the months before the Russian invasion, when it was becoming clear to them that Ukraine was almost a de facto member of NATO.

Since the war began on 24 February 2022, the West has added another layer to that existential threat by adopting a new set of goals that Russian leaders cannot help but view as extremely threatening. I will say more about Western goals below but suffice it to say here that the West is determined to defeat Russia and knock it out of the ranks of the great powers, if not cause regime change or even trigger Russia to break apart like the Soviet Union did in 1991.

In a major address Putin delivered this past February (2023), he stressed that the West is a mortal threat to Russia. "During the years that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union," he said, "the West never stopped trying to set the post-Soviet states on fire and, most importantly, finish off Russia as the largest surviving portion of the historical reaches of our state. They encouraged international terrorists to assault us, provoked regional conflicts along the perimeter of our borders, ignored our interests and tried to contain and suppress our economy." He further emphasized that, "The Western elite make no secret of their goal, which is, I quote, 'Russia's strategic defeat.' What does

this mean to us? This means they plan to finish us once and for all.” Putin went on to say: “this represents an existential threat to our country.”

Russian leaders also see the regime in Kyiv as a threat to Russia, not just because it is closely allied with the West, but also because they see it as the offspring of the fascist Ukrainian forces that fought alongside Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union in World War II.

### **Russia’s Goals**

Russia must win this war, given that it believes that it is facing a threat to its survival. But what does victory look like? The ideal outcome before the war began in February 2022 was to turn Ukraine into a neutral state and settle the civil war in the Donbass that pitted the Ukrainian government against ethnic Russians and Russian speakers who wanted greater autonomy if not independence for their region. It appears that those goals were still realistic during the first month of the war and were in fact the basis of the negotiations in Istanbul between Kyiv and Moscow in March 2022.

If the Russians had achieved those goals back then, the present war would either have been prevented or ended quickly.

But a deal that satisfies Russia’s goals is no longer in the cards. Ukraine and NATO are joined at the hip for the foreseeable future, and neither is willing to accept Ukrainian neutrality. Furthermore, the regime in Kyiv is anathema to Russian leaders, who want it gone. They not only talk about “de-Nazifying” Ukraine, but also “demilitarizing” it, two goals that would presumably call for conquering all of Ukraine, compelling its military forces to surrender, and installing a friendly regime in Kyiv. A decisive victory of that sort is not likely to happen for a variety of reasons. The Russian army is not large enough for such a task, which would probably require at least two million men.

Indeed, the existing Russian army is having difficulty conquering all the Donbass. Moreover, the West would go to enormous lengths to prevent Russia from overrunning all of Ukraine. Finally, the Russians would end up occupying huge amounts of territory that is heavily populated with ethnic Ukrainians who loathe the Russians and would fiercely resist the occupation. Trying to conquer all of Ukraine and bend it to Moscow’s will, would surely end in disaster.

Rhetoric about de-Nazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine aside, Russia’s concrete goals involve conquering and annexing a large portion of Ukrainian territory, while simultaneously turning Ukraine into a dysfunctional rump state. As such, Ukraine’s ability to wage war against Russia would be greatly reduced and it would be unlikely to qualify for membership in either the EU or NATO. Moreover, a broken Ukraine would be especially vulnerable to Russian interference in its domestic politics. In short, Ukraine would not be a Western bastion on Russia’s border.

What would that dysfunctional rump state look like? Moscow has officially annexed Crimea and four other Ukrainian oblasts – Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporozhe

– which together represent about 23 percent of Ukraine’s total territory before the crisis broke out in February 2014. Russian leaders have emphasized that they have no intention of surrendering that territory, some of which Russia does not yet control. In fact, there is reason to think Russia will annex additional Ukrainian territory if it has the military capability to do so at a reasonable cost. It is difficult, however, to say how much additional Ukrainian territory Moscow will seek to annex, as Putin himself makes clear.

Russian thinking is likely to be influenced by three calculations. Moscow has a powerful incentive to conquer and permanently annex Ukrainian territory that is heavily populated with ethnic Russians and Russian speakers. It will want to protect them from the Ukrainian government – which has become hostile to all things Russian – and make sure there is no civil war anywhere in Ukraine like the one that took place in the Donbass between February 2014 and February 2022. At the same time, Russia will want to avoid controlling territory largely populated by hostile ethnic Ukrainians, which places significant limits on further Russian expansion. Finally, turning Ukraine into a dysfunctional rump state will require Moscow to take substantial amounts of Ukrainian territory so it is well-positioned to do significant damage to its economy. Controlling all of Ukraine’s coastline along the Black Sea, for example, would give Moscow significant economic leverage over Kyiv.

Those three calculations suggest that Russia is likely to attempt to annex the four oblasts – Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Odessa – that are immediately to the west of the four oblasts it has already annexed – Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporozhe. If that were to happen, Russia would control approximately 43 percent of Ukraine’s pre-2014 territory.

Dmitri Trenin, a leading Russian strategist estimates that Russian leaders would seek to take even more Ukrainian territory – pushing westward in northern Ukraine to the Dnieper River and taking the part of Kyiv that sits on the east bank of that river. He writes that “A logical next step” after taking all of Ukraine from Kharkiv to Odessa “would be to expand Russian control to all of Ukraine east of the Dnieper River, including the part of Kyiv that lies on the that river’s eastern bank. If that were to happen, the Ukrainian state would shrink to include only the central and western regions of the country.”

### **The West’s Threat Environment**

It might seem hard to believe now, but before the Ukraine crisis broke out in February 2014, Western leaders did not view Russia as a security threat. NATO leaders, for example, were talking with Russia’s president about “a new stage of cooperation towards a true strategic partnership” at the alliance’s 2010 Summit in Lisbon.

Unsurprisingly, NATO expansion before 2014 was not justified in terms of containing a dangerous Russia. In fact, it was Russian weakness that allowed the West to shove the first two tranches of NATO expansion in 1999 and 2004 down Moscow’s throat and then allowed the George W. Bush administration to think in 2008 that Russia could be forced to accept Georgia and Ukraine joining the alliance. But that assumption proved wrong

and when the Ukraine crisis broke out in 2014, the West suddenly began portraying Russia as a dangerous foe that had to be contained if not weakened.

Since the war started in February 2022, the West's perception of Russia has steadily escalated to the point where Moscow now appears to be seen as an existential threat. The United States and its NATO allies are deeply involved in Ukraine's war against Russia. Indeed, they are doing everything but pulling the triggers and pushing the buttons.

Moreover, they have made clear their unequivocal commitment to winning the war and maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty. Thus, losing the war would have hugely negative consequences for Washington and for NATO. America's reputation for competence and reliability would be badly damaged, which would affect how its allies as well as its adversaries – especially China – deal with the United States. Furthermore, virtually every European country in NATO believes that the alliance is an irreplaceable security umbrella. Thus, the possibility that NATO might be badly damaged – maybe even wrecked – if Russia wins in Ukraine is cause for profound concern among its members.

In addition, Western leaders frequently portray the Ukraine war as an integral part of a larger global struggle between autocracy and democracy that is Manichean at its core. On top of that, the future of the sacrosanct rules-based international order is said to depend on prevailing against Russia. As King Charles said this past March (2023), "The security of Europe as well as our democratic values are under threat."

Similarly, a resolution introduced in the U.S. Congress in April declares: "United States interests, European security, and the cause of international peace depend on ... Ukrainian victory."

A recent article in *The Washington Post*, captures how the West treats Russia as an existential threat: "Leaders of the more than 50 other countries backing Ukraine have couched their support as part of an apocalyptic battle for the future of democracy and the international rule of law against autocracy and aggression that the West cannot afford to lose."

### **The West's Goals**

As should be clear, the West is staunchly committed to defeating Russia. President Biden has repeatedly said that the United States is in this war to win. "Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia." It must end in "strategic failure." Washington, he emphasizes, will stay in the fight "for as long as it takes."

Specifically, the aim is to defeat Russia's army in Ukraine – erasing its territorial gains – and cripple its economy with lethal sanctions. If successful, Russia would be knocked out of the ranks of the great powers, weakening it to the point where it could not threaten to invade Ukraine again.

Western leaders have additional goals, which include regime change in Moscow, putting Putin on trial as a war criminal, and possibly breaking up Russia into smaller states.

At the same time, the West remains committed to bringing Ukraine into NATO, although there is disagreement within the alliance about when and how that will happen.

Jens Stoltenberg, the alliance's secretary general told a news conference in Kyiv in April (2023) that "NATO's position remains unchanged and that Ukraine will become a member of the alliance." At the same time, he emphasized that "The first step toward any membership of Ukraine to NATO is to ensure that Ukraine prevails, and that is why the U.S. and its partners have provided unprecedented support for Ukraine."

Given these goals, it is clear why Russia views the West as an existential threat.

### **Ukraine's Threat Environment and Goals**

There is no doubt that Ukraine faces an existential threat, given that Russia is bent on dismembering it and making sure that the surviving rump state is not only economically weak, but is neither a de facto nor a de jure member of NATO. There is also no question that Kyiv shares the West's goal of defeating and seriously weakening Russia, so that it can regain its lost territory and keep it under Ukrainian control forever. As President Zelensky recently told President Xi Jinping, "There can be no peace that is based on territorial compromises."

Ukrainian leaders naturally remain steadfastly committed to joining the EU and NATO and making Ukraine an integral part of the West.

In sum, the three key actors in the Ukraine war all believe they face an existential threat, which means each of them thinks it must win the war or else suffer terrible consequences.

### **The Battlefield Today**

Turning to events on the battlefield, the war has evolved into war of attrition where each side is principally concerned with bleeding the other side white, causing it to surrender. Of course, both sides are also concerned with capturing territory, but that goal is of secondary importance to wearing down the other side.

The Ukrainian military had the upper hand in the latter half of 2022, which allowed it to take back territory from Russia in the Kharkiv and Kherson regions. But Russia responded to those defeats by mobilizing 300,000 additional troops, reorganizing its army, shortening its front lines, and learning from its mistakes.

The locus of the fighting in 2023 has been in eastern Ukraine, mainly in the Donetsk and Zaporozhe regions. The Russians have had the upper hand this year, mainly because they have a substantial advantage in artillery, which is the most important weapon in attrition warfare.

Moscow's advantage was evident in the battle for Bakhmut, which ended when the Russians captured that city in late May (2023). Although it took Russian forces ten

months to take control of Bakhmut they inflicted huge casualties on Ukrainian forces with their artillery.

Shortly thereafter on 4 June, Ukraine launched its long-awaited counter-offensive at different locations in the Donetsk and Zaporozhe regions. The aim is to penetrate Russia's front lines of defense, deliver a staggering blow to Russian forces, and take back a substantial amount of Ukrainian territory that is now under Russian control. In essence, the aim is to duplicate Ukraine's successes in Kharkiv and Kherson in 2022.

Ukraine's army has made little progress so far in achieving those goals and instead is bogged down in deadly attrition battles with Russian forces. In 2022, Ukraine was successful in the Kharkiv and Kherson campaigns because its army was fighting against outnumbered and overextended Russian forces. That is not the case today: Ukraine is attacking into the face of well-prepared lines of Russian defense. But even if Ukrainian forces break through those defensive lines, Russian troops will quickly stabilize the front and the attrition battles will continue.

The Ukrainians are at a disadvantage in these encounters because the Russians have a significant firepower advantage.

### **Where We Are Headed**

Let me switch gears and move away from the present and talk about the future, starting with how events on the battlefield are likely to play out moving forward. As noted, I believe Russia will win the war, which means it will end up conquering and annexing substantial Ukrainian territory, leaving Ukraine as a dysfunctional rump state. If I am correct, this will be a grievous defeat for Ukraine and the West.

There is a silver lining in this outcome, however: a Russian victory markedly reduces the threat of nuclear war, as nuclear escalation is most likely to occur if Ukrainian forces are winning victories on the battlefield and threatening to take back all or most of the territories Kyiv has lost to Moscow. Russian leaders would surely think seriously about using nuclear weapons to rescue the situation. Of course, if I am wrong about where the war is headed and the Ukrainian military gains the upper hand and begins pushing Russian forces eastward, the likelihood of nuclear use would increase significantly, which is not to say it would be a certainty.

What is the basis of my claim that the Russians are likely to win the war?

The Ukraine war, as emphasized, is a war of attrition in which capturing and holding territory is of secondary importance. The aim in attrition warfare is to wear down the other side's forces to the point where it either quits the fight or is so weakened that it can no longer defend contested territory.

Who wins an attrition war is largely a function of three factors: the balance of resolve between the two sides; the population balance between them; and the casualty-exchange ratio. The Russians have a decisive advantage in population size and a

marked advantage in the casualty-exchange ratio; the two sides are evenly matched in terms of resolve.

Consider the balance of resolve. As noted, both Russia and Ukraine believe they are facing an existential threat, and naturally, both sides are fully committed to winning the war. Thus, it is hard to see any meaningful difference in their resolve. Regarding population size, Russia had approximately a 3.5:1 advantage before the war began in February 2022. Since then, the ratio has shifted noticeably in Russia's favor. About eight million Ukrainians have fled the country, subtracting from Ukraine's population. Roughly three million of those emigrants have gone to Russia, adding to its population. In addition, there are probably about four million other Ukrainian citizens living in the territories that Russia now controls, further shifting the population imbalance in Russia's favor. Putting those numbers together gives Russia approximately a 5:1 advantage in population size.

Finally, there is the casualty-exchange ratio, which has been a controversial issue since the war started in February 2022. The conventional wisdom in Ukraine and the West is that the casualty levels on both sides are either roughly equal or that the Russians have suffered greater casualties than the Ukrainians. The head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, Oleksiy Danilov, goes so far as to argue that the Russian lost 7.5 soldiers for every one Ukrainian soldier in the battle for Bakhmut.

These claims are wrong. Ukrainian forces have surely suffered much greater casualties than their Russian opponents for one reason: Russia has much more artillery than Ukraine.

In attrition warfare, artillery is the most important weapon on the battlefield. In the U.S. Army, artillery is widely known as the "king of battle," because it is principally responsible for killing and wounding the soldiers doing the fighting.

Thus, the balance of artillery matters enormously in a war of attrition. By almost every account, the Russians have somewhere between a 5:1 and a 10:1 advantage in artillery, which puts the Ukrainian army at a significant disadvantage on the battlefield.

*Ceteris paribus*, one would expect the casualty-exchange ratio to approximate the balance of artillery. Ergo, a casualty-exchange ratio on the order of 2:1 in Russia's favor is a conservative estimate.

One possible challenge to my analysis is to argue that Russia is the aggressor in this war, and the offender invariably suffers much higher casualty levels than the defender, especially if the attacking forces are engaged in broad frontal assaults, which is often said to be the Russian military's *modus operandi*.

After all, the offender is out in the open and on the move, while the defender is mainly fighting from fixed positions that provide substantial cover. This logic underpins the



famous 3:1 rule of thumb, which says that an attacking force needs at least three times as many soldiers as the defender to win a battle.

But there are problems with this line of argument when it is applied to the Ukraine war.

First, it is not just the Russians who have initiated offensive campaigns over the course of the war.

Indeed, the Ukrainians launched two major offensives last year that led to widely heralded victories: the Kharkiv offensive in September 2022 and the Kherson offensive between August and November 2022. Although the Ukrainians made substantial territorial gains in both campaigns, Russian artillery inflicted heavy casualties on the attacking forces. The Ukrainians just began another major offensive on 4 June against Russian forces that are more numerous and far better prepared than those the Ukrainians fought against in Kharkiv and Kherson.

Second, the distinction between offenders and defenders in a major battle is usually not black and white. When one army attacks another army, the defender invariably launches counterattacks. In other words, the defender transitions to the offense and the offender transitions to the defense. Over the course of a protracted battle, each side is likely to end up doing much attacking and counterattacking as well as defending fixed positions. This back and forth explains why the casualty-exchange ratios in US Civil War battles and WWI battles are often roughly equal, not favorable to the army that started out on the defensive. In fact, the army that strikes the first blow occasionally suffers less casualties than the target army.

In short, defense usually involves a lot of offense.

It is clear from Ukrainian and Western news accounts that Ukrainian forces frequently launch counterattacks against Russian forces. Consider this account in *The Washington Post* of the fighting earlier this year in Bakhmut: “There is this fluid motion going on.’ said a Ukrainian first lieutenant ... Russian attacks along the front allow their forces to advance a few hundred meters before being pushed back hours later. ‘It’s hard to distinguish exactly where the front line is because it moves like Jell-O,’ he said.” Given Russia’s massive artillery advantage, it seems reasonable to assume that the casualty-exchange ratio in these Ukrainian counterattacks favors the Russians – probably in a lopsided way.

Third, the Russians are not employing – at least not often – large-scale frontal assaults that aim to rapidly move forward and capture territory, but which would expose the attacking forces to withering fire from Ukrainian defenders. As General Sergey Surovikin explained in October 2022, when he was commanding the Russian forces in Ukraine, “We have a different strategy... We spare each soldier and are persistently grinding down the advancing enemy.”

In effect, Russian troops have adopted clever tactics that reduce their casualty levels.

Their favored tactic is to launch probing attacks against fixed Ukrainian positions with small infantry units, which causes Ukrainian forces to attack them with mortars and artillery.

That response allows the Russians to determine where the Ukrainian defenders and their artillery are located. The Russians then use their great advantage in artillery to pound their adversaries. Afterwards, packets of Russian infantry move forward again; and when they meet serious Ukrainian resistance, they repeat the process. These tactics help explain why Russia is making slow progress in capturing Ukrainian held territory.

One might think the West can go a long way toward evening out the casualty-exchange ratio by supplying Ukraine with many more artillery tubes and shells, thus eliminating Russia's significant advantage with this critically important weapon. That is not going to happen anytime soon, however, simply because neither the United States nor its allies have the industrial capacity necessary to mass produce artillery tubes and shells for Ukraine. Nor can they rapidly build that capacity.

The best the West can do – at least for the next year or so – is maintain the existing imbalance of artillery between Russia and Ukraine, but even that will be a difficult task.

Ukraine can do little to help remedy the problem, because its ability to manufacture weapons is limited. It is almost completely dependent on the West, not only for artillery, but for every type of major weapons system. Russia, on the other hand, had a formidable capability to manufacture weaponry going into the war, which has been ramped up since the fighting started. Putin recently said: "Our defense industry is gaining momentum every day. We have increased military production by 2.7 times during the last year. Our production of the most critical weapons has gone up ten times and keeps increasing. Plants are working in two or three shifts, and some are busy around the clock."

In short, given the sad state of Ukraine's industrial base, it is in no position to wage a war of attrition by itself. It can only do so with Western backing. But even then, it is doomed to lose.

There has been a recent development that further increases Russia's firepower advantage over Ukraine. For the first year of the war, Russian airpower had little influence on what happened in the ground war, mainly because Ukraine's air defenses were effective enough to keep Russian aircraft far away from most battlefields. But the Russians have seriously weakened Ukraine's air defenses, which now allows the Russian air force to strike Ukrainian ground forces on or directly behind the front lines.

In addition, Russia has developed the capability to equip its huge arsenal of 500 kg iron bombs with guidance kits that make them especially lethal.

In sum, the casualty-exchange ratio will continue to favor the Russians for the foreseeable future, which matters enormously in a war of attrition. In addition, Russia is much better positioned to wage attrition warfare because its population is far larger than Ukraine's. Kyiv's only hope for winning the war is for Moscow's resolve to collapse, but that is unlikely given that Russian leaders view the West as an existential danger.

### **Prospects for A Negotiated Peace Agreement**

There is a growing chorus of voices around the world calling for all sides in the Ukrainian war to embrace diplomacy and negotiate a lasting peace agreement. This is not going to happen, however. There are too many formidable obstacles to ending the war anytime soon, much less fashioning a deal that produces a durable peace. The best possible outcome is a frozen conflict, where both sides continue looking for opportunities to weaken the other side and where there is an ever-present danger of renewed fighting.

At the most general level, peace is not possible because each side views the other as a mortal threat that must be defeated on the battlefield. There is hardly any room for compromise with the other side in these circumstances. There are also two specific points of dispute between the warring parties that are unsolvable. One involves territory while the other concerns Ukrainian neutrality.

Almost all Ukrainians are deeply committed to getting back all their lost territory – including Crimea.

Who can blame them? But Russia has officially annexed Crimea, Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporozhe, and is firmly committed to keeping that territory. In fact, there is reason to think Moscow will annex more Ukrainian territory if it can.

The other Gordian knot concerns Ukraine's relationship with the West. For understandable reasons, Ukraine wants a security guarantee once the war ends, which only the West can provide. That means either de facto or de jure membership in NATO, since no other countries can protect Ukraine. Virtually all Russian leaders, however, demand a neutral Ukraine, which means no military ties with the West and thus no security umbrella for Kyiv. There is no way to square this circle.

There are two other obstacles to peace: nationalism, which has now morphed into hyper-nationalism, and the complete lack of trust on the Russian side.

Nationalism has been a powerful force in Ukraine for well over a century, and antagonism toward Russia has long been one of its core elements. The outbreak of the present conflict on 22 February 2014 fueled that hostility, prompting the Ukrainian parliament to pass a bill the following day that restricted the use of Russian and other minority languages, a move that helped precipitate the civil war in the Donbass.

Russia's annexation of Crimea shortly thereafter made a bad situation worse. Contrary to the conventional wisdom in the West, Putin understood that Ukraine was a separate

nation from Russia and that the conflict between the ethnic Russians and Russian-speakers living in the Donbass and the Ukrainian government was all about “the national question.”

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which directly pits the two countries against each other in a protracted and bloody war, has turned that nationalism into hyper-nationalism on both sides. Contempt and hatred of “the other” suffuses Russian and Ukrainian society, which creates powerful incentives to eliminate that threat – with violence if necessary. Examples abound. A prominent Kyiv weekly maintains that famous Russian authors like Mikhail Lermontov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Boris Pasternak are “killers, looters, and ignoramuses.”

Russian culture, says a prominent Ukrainian writer, represents “barbarism, murder, and destruction .... Such is the fate of the culture of the enemy.”

Predictably, the Ukrainian government is engaged in “de-Russification” or “decolonization,” which involves purging libraries of books by Russian authors, renaming streets that have names with links to Russia, pulling down statues of figures like Catherine the Great, banning Russian music produced after 1991, breaking ties between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, and minimizing use of the Russian language. Perhaps Ukraine’s attitude toward Russia is best summed up by Zelensky’s terse comment: “We will not forgive. We will not forget.”

Turning to the Russian side of the hill, Anatol Lieven reports that “every day on Russian TV you can see hate-filled ethnic insults directed at Ukrainians.”

Unsurprisingly, the Russians are working to Russify and erase Ukrainian culture in the areas that Moscow has annexed. These measures include issuing Russian passports, changing the curricula in schools, replacing the Ukrainian hryvnia with the Russian ruble, targeting libraries and museums, and renaming towns and cities.

Bakhmut, for example, is now Artemovsk and the Ukrainian language is no longer taught in schools in the Donetsk region.

Apparently, the Russians too will neither forgive nor forget.

The rise of hyper-nationalism is predictable in wartime, not only because governments rely heavily on nationalism to motivate their people to back their country to the hilt, but also because the death and destruction that come with war – especially protracted wars – pushes each side to dehumanize and hate the other. In the Ukraine case, the bitter conflict over national identity adds fuel to the fire.

Hyper-nationalism naturally makes it harder for each side to cooperate with the other and gives Russia reason to seize territory that is filled with ethnic Russians and Russian speakers. Presumably, many of them would prefer living under Russian control, given the animosity of the Ukrainian government toward all things Russian. In the process of

annexing these lands, the Russians are likely to expel large numbers of ethnic Ukrainians, mainly because of fear that they will rebel against Russian rule if they remain. These developments will further fuel hatred between Russians and Ukrainians, making compromise over territory practically impossible.

There is a final reason why a lasting peace agreement is not doable. Russian leaders do not trust either Ukraine or the West to negotiate in good faith, which is not to imply that Ukrainian and Western leaders trust their Russian counterparts. Lack of trust is evident on all sides, but it is especially acute on Moscow's part because of a recent set of revelations.

The source of the problem is what happened in the negotiations over the 2015 Minsk II Agreement, which was a framework for shutting down the conflict in the Donbass. French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel played the central role in designing that framework, although they consulted extensively with both Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. Those four individuals were also the key players in the subsequent negotiations. There is little doubt that Putin was committed to making Minsk work. But Hollande, Merkel, and Poroshenko – as well as Zelensky – have all made it clear that they were not interested in implementing Minsk, but instead saw it as an opportunity to buy time for Ukraine to build up its military so that it could deal with the insurrection in the Donbass. As Merkel told *Die Zeit*, it was “an attempt to give Ukraine time ... to become stronger.”

Similarly, Poroshenko said, “*Our goal was to, first, stop the threat, or at least to delay the war — to secure eight years to restore economic growth and create powerful armed forces.*”

Shortly after Merkel's *Die Zeit* interview in December 2022, Putin told a press conference: “*I thought the other participants of this agreement were at least honest, but no, it turns out they were also lying to us and only wanted to pump Ukraine with weapons and get it prepared for a military conflict.*” He went on to say that getting bamboozled by the West had caused him to pass up an opportunity to solve the Ukraine problem in more favorable circumstances for Russia: “*Apparently, we got our bearings too late, to be honest. Maybe we should have started all this [the military operation] earlier, but we just hoped that we would be able to solve it within the framework of the Minsk agreements.*” He then made it clear that the West's duplicity would complicate future negotiations: “*Trust is already almost at zero, but after such statements, how can we possibly negotiate? About what? Can we make any agreements with anybody and where are the guarantees?*”

In sum, there is hardly any chance the Ukraine war will end with a meaningful peace settlement. The war is instead likely to drag on for at least another year and eventually turn into a frozen conflict that might turn back into a shooting war.

## Consequences

The absence of a viable peace agreement will have a variety of terrible consequences. Relations between Russia and the West, for example, are likely to remain profoundly hostile and dangerous for the foreseeable future. Each side will continue demonizing the other while working hard to maximize the amount of pain and trouble it causes its rival. This situation will certainly prevail if the fighting continues; but even if the war turns into a frozen conflict, the level of hostility between the two sides is unlikely to change much.

Moscow will seek to exploit existing fissures between European countries, while also working to weaken the trans-Atlantic relationship as well as key European institutions like the EU and NATO. Given the damage the war has done to Europe's economy and continues to do, given the growing disenchantment in Europe with the prospect of a never-ending war in Ukraine, and given the differences between Europe and the United States regarding trade with China, Russian leaders should find fertile ground for causing trouble in the West.

This meddling will naturally reinforce Russophobia in Europe and the United States, making a bad situation worse.

The West, for its part, will maintain sanctions on Moscow and keep economic intercourse between the two sides to a minimum, all for the purpose of harming Russia's economy. Moreover, it will surely work with Ukraine to help generate insurgencies in the territories Russia took from Ukraine. At the same time, the United States and its allies will continue pursuing a hard-nosed containment policy toward Russia, which many believe will be enhanced by Finland and Sweden joining NATO and the deployment of significant NATO forces in eastern Europe.

Of course, the West will remain committed to bringing Georgia and Ukraine into NATO, even if that is unlikely to happen. Finally, U.S. and European elites are sure to retain their enthusiasm for fostering regime change in Moscow and putting Putin on trial for Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Not only will relations between Russia and the West remain poisonous moving forward, but they will also be dangerous, as there will be the ever-present possibility of nuclear escalation or a great-power war between Russia and the United States.

### **The Destruction of Ukraine**

Ukraine was in severe economic and demographic trouble before the war began last year.

The devastation inflicted on Ukraine since the Russian invasion is horrific. Surveying events during the war's first year, the World Bank declares that the invasion *"has dealt an unimaginable toll on the people of Ukraine and the country's economy, with activity contracting by a staggering 29.2 percent in 2022."* Unsurprisingly, Kyiv needs massive injections of foreign aid just to keep the government running, not to mention fighting the war. Furthermore, the World Bank estimates that damages exceed \$135 billion and that

roughly \$411 billion will be needed to rebuild Ukraine. Poverty, it reports, *“increased from 5.5 percent in 2021 to 24.1 percent in 2022, pushing 7.1 million more people into poverty and retracting 15 years of progress.”*

Cities have been destroyed, roughly 8 million Ukrainians have fled the country, and about 7 million are internally displaced. The United Nations has confirmed 8,490 civilian deaths, although it believes that the actual number is “considerably higher.”

And surely Ukraine has suffered well over 100,000 battlefield casualties.

Ukraine’s future looks bleak in the extreme. The war shows no signs of ending anytime soon, which means more destruction of infrastructure and housing, more destruction of towns and cities, more civilian and military deaths, and more damage to the economy. And not only is Ukraine likely to lose even more territory to Russia, but according to the European Commission, *“the war has set Ukraine on a path of irreversible demographic decline.”*

To make matters worse, the Russians will work overtime to keep rump Ukraine economically weak and politically unstable. The ongoing conflict is also likely to fuel corruption, which has long been an acute problem, and further strengthen extremist groups in Ukraine. It is hard to imagine Kyiv ever meeting the criteria necessary for joining either the EU or NATO.

### **US Policy toward China**

The Ukraine war is hindering the U.S. effort to contain China, which is of paramount importance for American security since China is a peer competitor while Russia is not.

Indeed, balance-of-power logic says that the United States should be allied with Russia against China and pivoting full force to East Asia. Instead, the war in Ukraine has pushed Beijing and Moscow close together, while providing China with a powerful incentive to make sure that Russia is not defeated and the United States remains tied down in Europe, impeding its efforts to pivot to East Asia.

### **Conclusion**

It should be apparent by now that the Ukraine war is an enormous disaster that is unlikely to end anytime soon and when it does, the result will not be a lasting peace. A few words are in order about how the West ended up in this dreadful situation.

The conventional wisdom about the war’s origins is that Putin launched an unprovoked attack on 24 February 2022, which was motivated by his grand plan to create a greater Russia. Ukraine, it is said, was the first country he intended to conquer and annex, but not the last. As I have said on numerous occasions, there is no evidence to support this line of argument, and indeed there is considerable evidence that directly contradicts it.

While there is no question Russia invaded Ukraine, the ultimate cause of the war was the West’s decision – and here we are talking mainly about the United States – to make

Ukraine a Western bulwark on Russia's border. The key element in that strategy was bringing Ukraine into NATO, a move that not only Putin, but the entire Russian foreign policy establishment, saw as an existential threat that had to be eliminated.

It is often forgotten that numerous American and European policymakers and strategists opposed NATO expansion from the start because they understood that the Russians would see it as a threat, and that the policy would eventually lead to disaster. The list of opponents includes George Kennan, both President Clinton's Secretary of Defense, William Perry, and his Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, Paul Nitze, Robert Gates, Robert McNamara, Richard Pipes, and Jack Matlock, just to name a few.

At the NATO summit in Bucharest In April 2008, both French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel opposed President George W. Bush's plan to bring Ukraine into the alliance. Merkel later said that her opposition was based on her belief that Putin would interpret it as a "declaration of war."

Of course, the opponents of NATO expansion were correct, but they lost the fight and NATO marched eastward, which eventually provoked the Russians to launch a preventive war. Had the United States and its allies not moved to bring Ukraine into NATO in April 2008, or had they been willing to accommodate Moscow's security concerns after the Ukraine crisis broke out in February 2014, there probably would be no war in Ukraine today and its borders would look like they did when it gained its independence in 1991. The West made a colossal blunder, which it and many others are not done paying for.

Should you doubt that a war with Russia is not in the future, you should be aware that Washington's Plan to Break Up Russia was revealed in November, 2022. Mike Whitney writing for the web page Global Research.com posted an in depth article on this very topic. The words of the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has re-affirmed this strategy several times in recent months.

**"The Western goal is to weaken, divide and ultimately destroy our nation. They are openly stating that, since they managed to break up the Soviet Union in 1991, now it's time to split Russia into many separate regions that will be at each other's throats."** Russian President Vladimir Putin.

*"Cheney 'wanted to see the dismantlement not only of the Soviet Union and the Russian empire but of Russia itself, so it could never again be a threat to the rest of the world.'...The West must complete the project that began in 1991 .... Until Moscow's empire is toppled, though, the region—and the world—will not be safe..."* (["Decolonize Russia"](#), The Atlantic

Washington's animus towards Russia has a long history dating back to 1918 when Woodrow Wilson deployed over 7,000 troops to Siberia as part of an Allied effort to roll back the gains of the Bolshevik Revolution. The activities of the American Expeditionary



Force, which remained in the country for 18 months, have long vanished from history books in the U.S., but Russians still point to the incident as yet another example of America's relentless intervention in the affairs of its neighbors. The fact is, Washington elites have always meddled in Russia's business despite Moscow's strong objections. In fact, a great number western elites not only think that Russia should be split-up into smaller geographical units, but that the Russian people should welcome such an outcome.

Western leaders in the Anglosphere are so consumed by hubris and their own blinkered sense of entitlement, they honestly believe that ordinary Russians would like to see their country splintered into bite-sized statelets that remain open to the voracious exploitation of the western oil giants, mining corporations and, of course, the Pentagon. Here's how Washington's geopolitical mastermind Zbigniew Brzezinski summed it up in an article in Foreign Affairs:

*"Given (Russia's) size and diversity, a decentralized political system and free-market economics would be most likely to unleash the creative potential of the Russian people and Russia's vast natural resources. A loosely confederated Russia — composed of a European Russia, a Siberian Republic, and a Far Eastern Republic — would also find it easier to cultivate closer economic relations with its neighbors. Each of the confederated entities would be able to tap its local creative potential, stifled for centuries by Moscow's heavy bureaucratic hand. In turn, a decentralized Russia would be less susceptible to imperial mobilization."* (Zbigniew Brzezinski, ["A Geostrategy for Eurasia"](#), Foreign Affairs, 1997)

The "loosely confederated Russia", that Brzezinski imagines, would be a toothless, dependent nation that could not defend its own borders or sovereignty. It would not be able to prevent more powerful countries from invading, occupying and establishing military bases on its soil. Nor would it be able to unify its disparate people beneath a single banner or pursue a positive "unified" vision for the future of the country. A confederal Russia –fragmented into a myriad of smaller parts– would allow the US to maintain its dominant role in the region without threat of challenge or interference. And that appears to be Brzezinski's real goal as he pointed out in this passage in his magnum opus *The Grand Chessboard*. Here's what he said:

*"For America, the chief geopolitical prize is Eurasia...and America's global primacy is directly dependent on how long and how effectively its preponderance on the Eurasian continent is sustained."* (["THE GRAND CHESSBOARD – American Primacy And It's Geostrategic Imperatives"](#), Zbigniew Brzezinski, page 30, Basic Books, 1997)

Brzezinski sums up U.S. imperial ambitions succinctly. Washington plans to establish its primacy in the world's most prosperous and populous region, Eurasia. And—in order to do so— Russia must be decimated and partitioned, its leaders must be toppled and replaced, and its vast resources must be transferred to the iron grip of global transnationals who will use them to perpetuate the flow of wealth from east to west. In

other words, Moscow must accept its humble role in the new order as America's de-facto Gas and Mining Company.

Washington has never really veered from its aim of obliterating the Russian state, in fact, the recently released National Security Strategy (NSS) along with a congressional report titled "Renewed Great Power Competition: Implications for Defense—Issues for Congress", confirm much of what we have said here, that the U.S. plans to crush any emerging opposition to its expansion into Central Asia in order to become the dominant player in that region. Here's an excerpt from the congressional report:

The U.S. goal of preventing the emergence of regional hegemony in Eurasia, though long-standing, is not written in stone—it is a policy choice reflecting two judgments: (1) that given the amount of people, resources, and economic activity in Eurasia, a regional hegemon in Eurasia would represent a concentration of power large enough to be able to threaten vital U.S. interests; and (2) that Eurasia is not dependably self-regulating in terms of preventing the emergence of regional hegemony, meaning that the countries of Eurasia cannot be counted on to be able to prevent, through their own actions, the emergence of regional hegemony, and may need assistance from one or more countries outside Eurasia to be able to do this dependably." (["Renewed Great Power Competition: Implications for Defense—Issues for Congress"](#), US Congress)

How different is this new iteration of official U.S. foreign policy than the so-called Wolfowitz Doctrine that was delivered prior to the War in Iraq. Here it is:

*"Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power."*

As you can see, there has been no meaningful change in the policy since Wolfowitz articulated his doctrine nearly 2 decades ago. The U.S. foreign policy establishment still resolutely asserts Washington's right to dominate Central Asia and to regard any competitor in the region as national security threat. This is further underscored by the fact that both Russia and China have been identified in the latest National Security Strategy as "strategic competitors" which is a deep-state euphemism for mortal enemies. Check out this excerpt from an article titled "*Partitioning Russia After World War III?*":

The end goal of the U.S. and NATO is to divide and pacify the world's biggest country, the Russian Federation, and to even establish a blanket of perpetual disorder (somalization) over its vast territory or, at a minimum, over a portion of Russia and the post-Soviet space...

The ultimate goal of the U.S. is to prevent any alternatives from emerging in Europe and Eurasia to Euro-Atlantic integration. This is why the destruction of Russia is one of its strategic objectives....

### Redrawing Eurasia: Washington's Maps of a Divided Russia

With the division of the Russian Federation, (the) article claims that any bipolar rivalry between Moscow and Washington would end after World War III. In a stark contradiction, it claims that only when Russia is destroyed will there be a genuine multipolar world, but also implies that the U.S. will be the most dominant global power even though Washington and the European Union will be weakened from the anticipated major war with the Russians." ("Partitioning Russia after World War 3", Global Research).



Washington's relations with Russia have always been contentious but that has more to do with Washington's geostrategic ambitions than any disruptive behavior on Moscow's part. Russia's only crime is that happens to occupy real estate in a part of the world the U.S. wants to control by any means necessary. When Hillary Clinton first announced U.S. plans to "pivot to Asia" most people thought it sounded like a reasonable scheme for shifting resources from the Middle East to Asia in order to increase U.S. participation in the world's fastest growing market. **They didn't realize at the time, that policymakers intended to goad Russia into a bloody ground-war in Ukraine to "weaken" Russia so that Washington could spread its military bases across the Eurasian landmass unopposed.** Nor did anyone foresee the lengths to which Washington would go to provoke, isolate and demonize Russia for the express purpose of removing its political leaders and splitting the country into multiple statelets. Here's Hillary making the case back in 2011:

*“Harnessing Asia’s growth and dynamism is central to American economic and strategic interests... Open markets in Asia provide the United States with unprecedented opportunities for investment, trade, and access to cutting-edge technology.....American firms (need) to tap into the vast and growing consumer base of Asia...*

*The region already generates more than half of global output and nearly half of global trade.... we are looking for opportunities to do even more business in Asia...and our investment opportunities in Asia’s dynamic markets.”([“America’s Pacific Century”](#), Secretary of State Hillary Clinton”, Foreign Policy Magazine, 2011)*

A careful reading of Clinton’s speech along with a review of the Wolfowitz Doctrine will help even the most obtuse reader to draw some obvious conclusions about the current conflict in Ukraine which has almost nothing to do with so-called “Russian aggression”, but everything to do with Washington’s plan to project power across Asia , control Russia’s massive oil and gas reserves, encircle China with military bases, and establish American domination at the epicenter of this century’s most prosperous market. Here’s Putin again:

*“In order to free itself from the latest web of challenges, they need to dismantle Russia as well as other states that choose a sovereign path of development, at all costs, to be able to further plunder other nations’ wealth and use it to patch their own holes. If this does not happen, I cannot rule out that they will try to trigger a collapse of the entire system, and blame everything on that, or, God forbid, decide to use the old formula of economic growth through war.”*

**U.S. foreign policy experts are shameless in their promotion of theories that threaten to trigger a direct military confrontation with Russia that could result in a nuclear exchange.**

In a recent “webinar for congressmen and women hosted on June 23 under the title “Decolonizing Russia.” The webinar, staffed by CIA operatives and right-wing nationalists from Ukraine and the Caucasus, effectively argued that Russia was a colonial empire that had to be broken up with the support of Washington.” (WSWS) The author explores the reasons why some experts want to brand Russia as “imperialist”? An article at the WSWS explains why:

*...“the claim that Russia is “imperialist” serves a vital political function: It provides a political cover for the imperialist aggression against Russia and the war aims of the imperialist powers.... It is this strategy which the pro-NATO pseudo-left covers up for with its clamor about “Russian imperialism.” The fostering of nationalist, regionalist and ethnic tensions has been a key component of imperialist war policy for decades.....*

Through a combination of NATO expansion, coups on its borders and military interventions in countries allied with Russia and China, the imperialist powers have systematically and relentlessly encircled Russia...

Indeed, if one reviews the history of the wars waged by U.S. imperialism over the past thirty years, the unfolding war for the carve-up of Russia and China appears like a brutal inevitability. Despite their reintegration into the world capitalist system, the imperialist powers have been barred by the ruling oligarchic regimes from directly plundering the vast resources of these countries. Vying for these resources between themselves, and driven by irresolvable domestic crises, they are now determined to change this.

... the draft resolution describes the basic aims of the U.S. war against Russia as follows: “the removal of the present regime in Russia, its replacement by an American-controlled puppet, and the breakup of Russia itself—in what is referred to as “*decolonizing Russia*”—into a dozen or more impotent statelets whose valuable resources will be owned and exploited by U.S. and European finance capital.” This passage is central for understanding both the unfolding conflict and the politics of the pro-NATO pseudo-left and their insistence that Russia is an “imperialist country.” ([“The historical and political principles of the socialist opposition to imperialist war and the Putin regime”](#), Clara Weiss, World Socialist Web Site)

As you can see, elite members of the foreign policy establishment are doggedly searching for new and more convincing justifications for a confrontation with Russia the ultimate purpose of which is to fragment the country paving the way for Washington’s strategic rebalancing or “*pivot*”. 20 years ago, during the Bush administration, politicians were not nearly as circumspect in their views about Russia. Former Vice President Dick Cheney, for example, made no attempt to conceal his utter contempt for Russia and was surprisingly candid about the policy he supported. Check out this excerpt from an article by Ben Norton:

Former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, a lead architect of the Iraq War, not only wanted to dismantle the Soviet Union; he also wanted to break up Russia itself, to prevent it from rising again as a significant political power.... Former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates wrote that, “*When the Soviet Union was collapsing in late 1991, Dick wanted to see the dismantlement not only of the Soviet Union and the Russian empire but of Russia itself, so it could never again be a threat.*”...

The fact that a figure at the helm of the U.S. government not-so-secretly sought the permanent dissolution of Russia as a country, and straightforwardly communicated this to colleagues like Robert Gates, partially explains the aggressive posturing Washington has taken toward the Russian Federation since the overthrow of the USSR.

The reality is that the U.S. empire will simply never allow Russia to challenge its unilateral domination of Eurasia, despite the fact that the government in Moscow restored capitalism. This is why it is not surprising that Washington has utterly ignored Russia’s security concerns, breaking its promise not to expand NATO “*once inch eastward*” after German reunification, surrounding Moscow with militarized adversary’s hell bent on destabilizing it.

Russian security services have published evidence that the United States supported Chechen separatists in their wars on the central Russian government. British academic John Laughland stressed in a 2004 article in *The Guardian*, titled “The Chechens’ American friends,” that several Chechen secessionist leaders were living in the West, and were even given grant money by the U.S. government. Laughland noted that the most important U.S.-based pro-Chechen secessionist group, the deceptively named American Committee for Peace in Chechnya (ACPC), listed as its members “*a rollcall of the most prominent neoconservatives who so enthusiastically support the ‘war on terror’*”:

They include Richard Perle, the notorious Pentagon adviser; Elliott Abrams of Iran-Contra fame; Kenneth Adelman, the former U.S. ambassador to the UN who egged on the invasion of Iraq by predicting it would be “a cakewalk”; Midge Decter, biographer of Donald Rumsfeld and a director of the rightwing Heritage Foundation; Frank Gaffney of the militarist Centre for Security Policy; Bruce Jackson, former U.S. military intelligence officer and one-time vice-president of Lockheed Martin, now president of the U.S. Committee on NATO; Michael Ledeen of the American Enterprise Institute, a former admirer of Italian fascism and now a leading proponent of regime change in Iran; and R James Woolsey, the former CIA director who is one of the leading cheerleaders behind George Bush’s plans to re-model the Muslim world along pro-U.S. lines.

The fact that far-right Salafi-jihadists made up a significant percentage of the Chechen insurgency didn’t bother these anti-Muslim neocons – just as Islamophobic “*War on Terror*” veterans had no problem supporting extremist head-chopping Takfiri Islamists in the subsequent US wars on Syria and Libya....

.... Victoria Nuland, the third-most powerful official in the Joe Biden administration’s State Department, served as Vice President Cheney’s principal deputy foreign policy adviser from 2003 to 2005. (She also helped to sponsor the violent coup in Ukraine in 2014 that toppled the democratically-elected government.) Like her mentor Cheney, Nuland is a hard-line neoconservative. The fact that he is a Republican and she works primarily in Democratic administrations is irrelevant; this hawkish foreign-policy consensus is completely bipartisan.

Nuland (a former member of the bipartisan board of directors of the NED) is also married to Robert Kagan, a patron saint of neoconservatism, and co-founder of the Project for the New American Century – the cozy home of the neocons in Washington, where he worked alongside Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and other top Bush administration officials. Kagan was a longtime Republican, but in 2016 he joined the Democrats and openly campaigned for Hillary Clinton for president.” ([“Ex VP Dick Cheney confirmed US goal is to break up Russia, not just USSR”](#), Ben Norton, Multipolarista)

U.S. foreign policy is now exclusively in the hands of a small group of neocon extremists who reject diplomacy outright and who genuinely believe that America’s strategic interests can only be achieved through a military conflict with Russia. That said, we can

say with some degree of certainty, that things are going to get a lot worse before they get better.

**Michael Whitney** is a renowned geopolitical and social analyst based in Washington State. He initiated his career as an independent citizen-journalist in 2002 with a commitment to honest journalism, social justice and World peace. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG).

I could cite many other sources that have a true appraisal of what the United States has in mind for a Russian state, but make no mistake about it; World War 3 is slated to take place on or about July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We are talking mere days from Victoria Nuland's statement made more than a month ago. War was planned for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 until plans did not go as planned. Ukraine has failed to achieve their so-called counter-attack against Russian forces. Since then Russia has destroyed German Leopard tanks and U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles as if they were nothing special.

Today, Friday, July 27, 2023 as part of an \$800 million arms package, President Joe Biden has approved the controversial inclusion of thousands of cluster munitions in the form of artillery shells that can be fired from the 155mm howitzers the United States has already provided Ukraine.

The M864 artillery shells contain 72 sub-munitions, or "bomblets," roughly the size of grenades, and instead of having a single impact point, they can blanket an area larger than four football fields. The cluster munitions, called DPICMs for "dual-purpose improved conventional munitions," will not only boost Ukraine's firepower as it attempts to breach minefields and clear dug-in Russian troops from their extensive trench network, but they will also compensate for Ukraine's shortage of conventional artillery rounds.

This is another step up in the weaponry being provided to the Nazi Ukraine regime and will certainly be met with stiff resistance by Vladimir Putin in this war of attrition. The Ukraine will eventually disappear from the picture in this client-state war. Since the U.S. funds the client-state of Ukraine, we can expect to be targets of Russian military down the road.

THE 'DUD RATE' PROBLEM: The reason that more than 120 countries have banned the weapon, and the U.S. has a law restricting their production, use, or transfer, is that what's known as the "dud rate," the percentage of submunitions that fail to detonate and therefore pose a long-term threat to both civilians and friendly troops on the battlefield.

The U.S. law specifies that to be used or exported, cluster munitions must have a "dud rate" that does not exceed 1%, but none of the bombs in the current stockpile meet that standard, the Pentagon admitted.

*"We have multiple variants of DPICMs in our stocks, and the ones that we are considering providing would not include older variants with dud rates that are higher*

*than 2.35%,” Ryder said. “We are aware of reports out there from several decades ago that indicate that certain 155 mm DPICMs have higher dud rates, so we would be carefully selecting rounds with lower dud rates for which we have recent testing data.”*

The Ukrainians point out that the weapons would be most employed in areas that have been heavily mined by Russian forces, so when the fighting stops, those areas would already have to be extensively de-mined.

State of the Nation has called this relentless war effort to provoke Russia into a war with NATO /U.S. “Operation Neocon”.

**OPERATION NEOCON  
UNRELENTINGLY PUSHING  
THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF  
A CIVILIZATION-ENDING NUCLEAR  
WORLD WAR III**

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# Operation Neocon

**Khazarian clique of war-profiteering and criminally insane psychopaths installed throughout the Biden administration are hellbent on triggering a nuclear World War III**

***Who doesn't know by now that the rabidly Russophobic, Khazarian-planted, Neocon Zionists strategically positioned within the Biden regime were put there specifically to wage war against Russia?***

Which is exactly by such an obviously drug-addled, demented and doddering fool like Joe Biden was assisted in election stealing his way to the White House. His Khazarian masters had one main qualification for the present Oval Office occupant—a highly compromised career political criminal who could offer no resistance to their warmongering agenda and slow motion genocide of the American people. As follows:

**OPERATION NEOCON** was only able to proceed with all deliberate speed because the Biden Crime Family was so easily bought, bribed and blackmailed to carry out any war profiteering initiative necessary to keep the Ukraine War going hot and heavy.





This is why the Neocons chose “Sleepy Creepy Joe Biden” to act as the front man for what is essentially a highly organized genocide of every fighting-age Ukrainian male. When there’s absolutely no conscience, Biden’s Khazarian handlers do not even need to compel or coerce him via the typical carrots and sticks.

Most significantly, when it’s time for the Neocon madmen to press the nuclear button, Biden won’t even know his authority was used to start a nuclear World War III.

Now the reader knows why Biden was set up to blatantly steal the 2020 election ... .. and why Trump was prohibited from his rightful second term.

Whereas Trump is a peacetime businessman first and MIC salesman second, Biden is all in with the **Khazarian Cabal**’s perpetual war economy, even if it means the total destruction of the American Republic. Because that’s what Biden has done—exposed these once United States to the full fury and ferocity of Russia’s highly advanced nuclear weaponry.

Only the Khazarian-controlled Neocons could ever perpetrate and cover-up such a crazy convoluted clusterf\*ck! Particularly an op that puts the fate of humanity in the nuclear crosshairs and future of planet Earth in great jeopardy.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The ever-warmongering Neocons (remember their *War on Terror*) are fiercely determined to conquer the Russian Motherland in its entirety. Via their devastating multi-century *Great Game*, the **Khazarian Cabal** has always had the goal of permanently ruling Russia in order to steal all of its vast wealth, especially its land, water and abundant natural resources. In point of fact, the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution was carried out by the Khazarians to turn Russia into an enormous slave colony. However, when the Western banksters tried to replace Soviet-style communism with their trademark predatory crony capitalism in 1990, President Putin and his fellow Patriots pulled off a stunning coup. And the rapacious Neocons will not rest until they have they exacted vengeance for this perceived betrayal. See: [\*\*PUTIN'S RUSSIA: Perfect Foil To The Anglo-American Axis And Their New World Order\*\*](#)

The crucial point here is that, after trying every means to goad Moscow into world war, the Neocons are set to launch a false flag nuclear attack in Ukraine in order to rally the NATO-aligned nations against Russia. Just as the **Khazarian Cabal** did by engineering the First and Second World Wars, they're once again pitting white Christian nations against white Christian nations so they can rule the entire planetary civilization, only this time out in the open. The Ukraine War was intended on transforming that country into a *Second Israel* since those historical territories of the Khazar Khaganate represent the ancestral homelands of the original **Khazarian Mafia**, which once raped, pillaged and plundered the whole region with wanton abandon. The ancient kingdom of the Rus' resoundingly defeated the Khazarians to end their criminal tyranny, and the vindictive Khazars swore revenge ever since. See: [\*\*THE FINAL WORLD WAR: Khazarians vs. the Rus' People\*\*](#)

The typical American is a skeptic disbelieving that war can't happen but the Bible tells us it will take place. Read Revelation chapters 8 and 9 and learn it does tell us it will happen. Bible prophecy is simply telling us history in advance, so don't doubt it.

First strike submarines, such as the USS Ohio rarely appear in sight on the ocean surface. These Trident subs live and breathe where few dare descend. They are controlled by jackals in Washington and the Pentagon. They hum through the deep waters ready to strike and destroy the world. Few hear them, almost none see them, most prefer not to know of them.

The United States alone has fourteen such submarines armed with Trident missiles constantly prowling the ocean depths, while the British have four. Named for the three-pronged weapon of the Greek and Roman sea gods, Poseidon and Neptune respectively, these submarine-launched ballistic missiles, manufactured by Lockheed Martin ("We deliver innovative solutions to the world's toughest challenges"), can destroy the world in a flash. Destroy it many times over.

While the United States has abrogated all treaties that offered some protection from their use and has declared their right of first use, it has consistently pushed toward a nuclear confrontation with Russia and China. Today – July 2023 – we stand on the precipice of nuclear annihilation as never before.

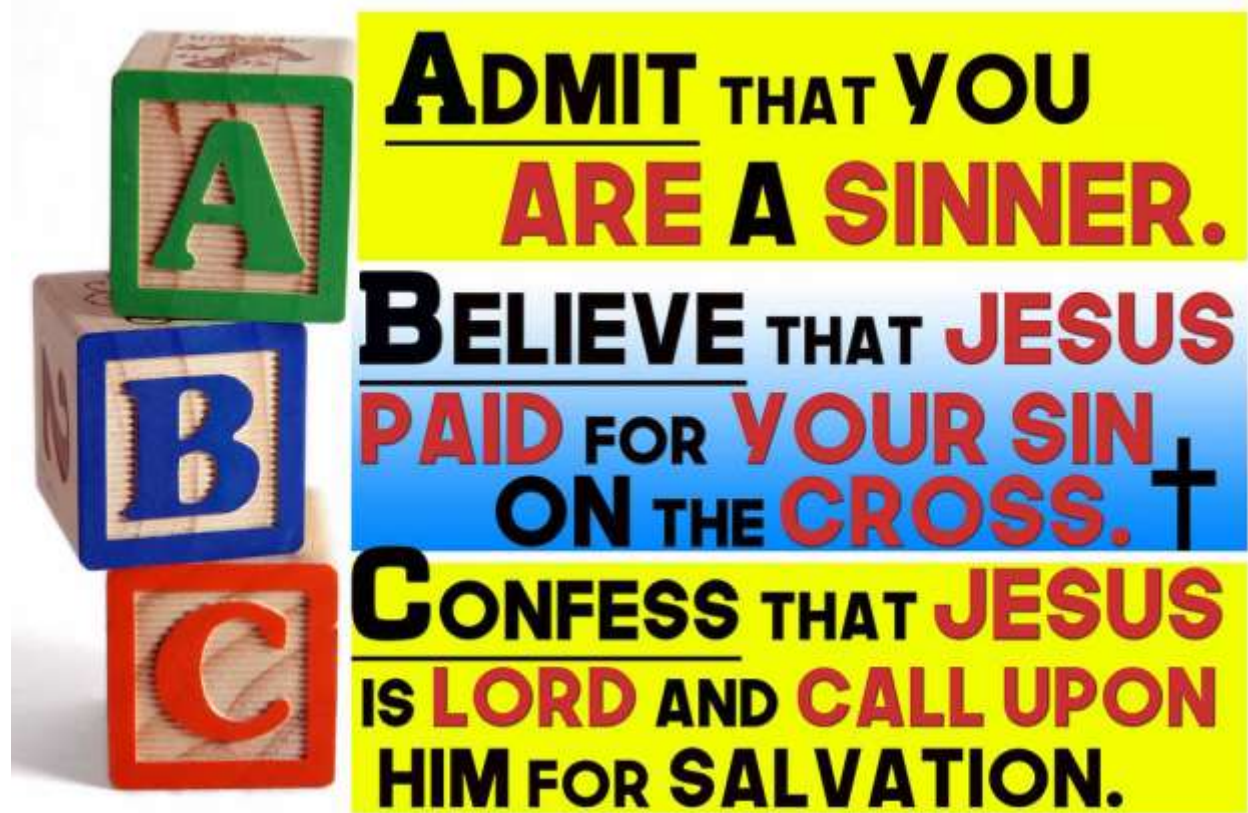
A single Trident submarine has 20 Trident missiles, each carrying 12 independently targeted warheads for a total of 240 warheads, with each warhead approximately 40 times more destructive than the Hiroshima bomb. Fourteen submarines X 240 equals 3,360 nuclear warheads X 40 equals 134,400 Hiroshimas. Such are the lessons of mathematics in absurd times.

With all the talk of a war with Russia beginning in a few days, it would seem that the Rapture of the Church is much closer now than later in the fall, and as the clock winds down, prepare your family and loved ones for leaving this place for better things in a few days. The late evangelist Hilton Sutton used to say often, *“When the bombs are descending, the saints will be ascending!”*

**The “Key” days are: 9<sup>th</sup> of Av on July 26<sup>th</sup> and Rosh HaShanah on September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

<p>Days to July 26<sup>th</sup> as of 7/8/23 – 18 Days Days to September 15<sup>th</sup> as of 7/8/23 – 69 Days</p>
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Praise God!



**ADMIT THAT YOU  
ARE A SINNER.**

**BELIEVE THAT JESUS  
PAID FOR YOUR SIN  
ON THE CROSS. †**

**CONFESS THAT JESUS  
IS LORD AND CALL UPON  
HIM FOR SALVATION.**

Blessings in the Precious Name of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Bob, [EvanTeachr@aol.com](mailto:EvanTeachr@aol.com)  
[www.pastorbobreid.com](http://www.pastorbobreid.com)