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Victory in Ukraine is a Complete Russian Withdrawal

- But Where Does That Leave the Good Guys?

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Yet - Putin may be the best friend Western Society has...

Russia straddles the top of the world between Europe and Asia. and while it borders on China and shares access to the Pacific ocean with Japan and Korea, historically it has been more European than Asian. Its geo-political, cultural and naval focus is on the West. Moscow's recent history has focused on expansion into Europe and a desire for a warm water port with direct access to the Atlantic.

Russia has to date been unable to maintain a permanent foothold in Central and Western Europe, and therein lies many of the territorial expansion problems that Russia still presents to the world.

During the time Poland was a captive member of the Soviet Bloc, it afforded the USSR Southern Baltic access. With the fall of the Soviet Union, Polish ports were no longer subject to Russian control, and Russia also lost its Baltic Sea ports located in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It accesses the Baltic only through icy

St. Petersburg and by way of an Allied treaty, the special Kaliningrad region, which was ceded to Russia by Germany; but is separated from Russia by Lithuania - now a member of the EU and NATO. Russia also needs the Black sea for trade and naval capabilities, and even though it had a long term agreement to maintain its fleet in Crimea - immediately after the Maidan instigated change of Ukraine's government, Moscow did not hesitate to invade Crimea and guarantee complete control of its Black Sea ports on Crimea, which secured access to the Azov Sea that feeds into the heart of Western Russia.

The world's focus is now on Russia's continuing invasion of Ukraine; but this focus is much too shallow. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is only the most recent of Russia's recent invasions into territory that was formerly part of the USSR. Each of the invaded countries had distinct cultural and historic identities prior to their being subjugated by the USSR, and from the day these countries were taken over by the USSR they were never content with Soviet rule, which compelled Moscow to rule with an iron fist.

In the course of Russia's expansionist history it has been involved in dozens of local wars. Often times, even though Russia did not completely conquer an invaded country, Russia gained more territory. As we are seeing by the fierce Ukrainian resistance to the Russian invasion, there is a bitter resentment and hatred for Russia, a holdover from brutal Soviet domination. The engendered animosity of the dominated populations has never bothered Moscow, and Moscow never had any compunction about severely oppressing and murdering all opposition to its rule.

As is common in Eastern Europe and in Caucasian countries, ethnic, tribal, religious and cultural distinctions has historically led to conflicts, wars, and shifting boundaries; not always consistent with the desires of the inhabitants. Chechnya's territorial past has been fluid since the 1200's. But, what is considered contemporary Chechnya, along with several other former Soviet

Republics, began with the collapse of the USSR in 1989. The USSR originally incorporated most of its Southwestern Soviet "republics" into the USSR in the 1920's.

The most notable fighting in the recent past, post Soviet dissolution, was in Chechnya. After the breakup of the USSR, like several of the other former Soviet States, mostly Muslim Southern Chechnya declared independence and fought against Soviet domination for years. After the Second Chechen War, and the complete leveling of Grozny in 2000 - Russia once again established control over the southern part of the country, proclaiming it as part of Russia. The UN called Grozny the most destroyed city on Earth, which serves as a demonstration of the lengths to which Russia will go to take territory. The brutishness that is occurring in Ukraine should be no surprise to anyone who has paid attention to Russia's military doctrine.

Among other countries subjugated in the 1920's and then released after the fall of the USSR was Ukraine. If President Zelensky's remarks are true to his position, that Russian forces must withdraw to their positions before the February 24th invasion to pave the way for any peace deal to be put on a nationwide referendum, then Ukraine will have to take the offensive against Russia. But, as Zelensky has said, the fighting in the Southeast may not be easy. Attacking Russia in the Southeast will be the only way Russia will be driven back to the pre-invasion lines. This is Zelensky's position, not the EU's or NATO's.

Driving Russia back to pre-February lines is really not enough to guarantee peace. Russia must be driven out of all of Ukraine, including Crimea, nothing less. Otherwise Ukraine and its neighbors will never be safe from future attack. Finland and Sweden have already been warned to stay out of NATO, much in the same way that Ukraine was warned. And, Finland shares a border with Russia, part of which used to be Finland.

It is possible to drive Russia out of Ukraine; but, it will take time and it will depend upon several things happening at once.

Much also depends upon just how complicit the US and certain others were in green lighting Putin's attack on Ukraine. This goes far beyond just calling Biden stupid and weak, but looking at the intentions of those guiding Biden. The evaluation must include the very strong probability that both the horrific pullout in Afghanistan, which armed Pakistan and its cadre of terrorists to a degree never seen before, and how much of a "minor incursion" the White House and the EU were prepared to allow Russia in Ukraine.

Recent events in the US must also be factored into global events. The United States' economy is being intentionally weakened by induced inflation, and burdened by the cost of processing and supporting the influx of millions of illegal aliens, who are, regardless of anything else, shifting the cultural basis of the USA into something that cannot support traditional republican values; and while giving billions of dollars of military hardware and humanitarian aid to Ukraine may be the right moral and strategic thing to do, the US, which is struggling to help its own citizens, can ill afford these new costs, as the military hardware will have to be replaced as quickly as possible. This cost is in addition to the supplies wasted by being left in Afghanistan, which has had the effect of strengthening our declared enemies. Biden is also depleting the US strategic oil reserves, at a moment in time when there is an ongoing major military conflict in the world, and we are already importing oil to meet our domestic needs. A lack of reserve oil would not bode well for the US were we to become engaged in a large scale war. Additionally, in real Dollars, adjusting for inflation, military spending, especially naval spending for the maintenance and the construction of new ships, is less than stated. Within five years the US will be no match in a two ocean fight. As the US Navy is reduced in size, China's navy, and the Navies of the New Alliance are growing.

Russia took over Crimea just after Obama took over the White House, a fact that must be also considered when looking at Russia's continuing destabilization of Donetsk and Luhansk, and its eventual invasion of Ukraine.

Had NATO decided to take action against Russia when it surrounded Ukraine with two fully mechanized Armies, NATO could have inserted two of its armies into Ukraine, placed its ships and a couple of hundred planes in strategic positions to thwart any invasion, before Moscow made its move.

One would have to come to some absurd conclusion about Putin initiating an advance into Ukraine had NATO stepped in and blocked him.

The final cost of a preventive intervention would have been much less in blood and treasure for Ukraine and NATO. But, as of this writing, the EU and the US are still ramping up sanctions, which is demonstrative of the lack of intent to stop Russia in its tracks as quickly as possible; considering that sanctions will not work, because they have never worked. Sanctions did not work against the Japanese in 1941. It was a most sure step towards an eventual war. It is obvious that some vested interests are benefiting tremendously with the Ukrainian invasion. While no one is asking energy companies to lose money, it is noteworthy that Western energy companies are showing record profits at the same time that consumers are suffering with oil, gas and gasoline prices.

Illegally seizing the yachts of super wealthy Russians will do very little in comparison to blowing up Russian oil fields and military equipment production factories. Stealing every Russian super yacht will not prevent Russian warships in the Black Sea from shelling Odessa and Mariupol. If NATO wants to stop the shelling of Ukrainian cities by Russia's Black sea fleet they need to help Ukraine sink Russian warships, not seize unarmed pleasure boats.

As early as May 15, 2018, Tom Rogan wrote in the *Washington Examiner*, that "Ukraine should blow up Putin's Crimea Bridge." If this was true in 2018, it is more true in 2022. If Ukraine is to remain intact and further Russian aggression is to be stopped, Ukraine must attempt to blow the main sections of the Crimea bridge and simultaneously use Harpoon or the newer Naval Strike Missiles against Russia's fleet, make a drive into Mariupol from the North, and secure the airport at Kherson, cutting off Russia's supply lines into Crimea. Those actions are very doable - how effectively they can be done, depends upon how much military strength Ukraine can muster, including air power, which they may not get if those controlling Biden are still opposed to a "complete" Ukrainian victory.

Complete victories, though, have not been sought by the West beginning with the fall of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Instead of utilizing the defeat of Germany and Japan in a way to strengthen the West, the west caved to China and Russia in such a way as to lead to the situation we have today. Rather than maintaining strong militaries after WW2, the West greatly over-demilitarized in the name of being at peace. The ill-preparedness of the US at the beginning of the Korean War cost thousands of American and Korean deaths. And, the solution to the Korean Police Action was a pre-cursor to Vietnam. And, Vietnam was a precursor to events in the Middle East, and so on.

The difference between most of the Western Powers today and Russia is that Russia is intent upon expanding its territorial boundaries and is not afraid of being labeled a predator. As the childhood expression goes, "Sticks and stone may break my bones, but names will never harm me." And, so it goes with Russia. The only thing that will stop Russia is military force.

The future security of the West depends upon whether or not those being threatened are willing to take preventative actions while the window of opportunity is open. To assume that Putin will stop after he has consolidated his gains in Ukraine, is to deny the obvious. For the West to chance their security on

allowing a nation in their midst to be destroyed only because Ukraine had not yet joined the EU or NATO, demonstrates a propensity to hide behind polite rules in the midst of a war being waged by someone who has attacked them in the past and is already threatening them once again.

The security and peace of Europe depends upon the willingness of countries victimized by Russia to admit to the harm done to them by Russia. Speeches about civility are of no avail in the midst of a fight. Civility in this instance is more reflective of weakness and a lack of determination than of morality and righteousness.

Exemplary of the nebulous statements describing Western solidarity with the Ukrainian people, are statements made by US Secretary of State Blinken when meeting with the PM of Moldova, a former soviet Republic. Blinken praised Moldova's European aspirations, saying "Moldova has chosen the path to democracy, a more inclusive economy, a closer relationship with the countries and institutions of Europe, and the United States supports Moldova in those efforts grounded in our respect for the neutrality that's enshrined in the constitution."

There was no mention of the fact that Russia has 1,500 troops in Moldova, stationed in the disputed territory of Transnistria, a breakaway territory that borders Ukraine. The statements made to Moldova carry less weight than the written guarantees of Ukrainian territorial integrity promised in the <u>Budapest Memorandum</u> signed by the United States, England, Northern Ireland and Russia. Maybe Joe Biden can garner support for diplomacy ending the Ukraine War by going out to Dulles Airport and holding up a copy of the Budapest Memorandum just as Neville Chamberlain held up the Munich Agreement at Heston Airport after his meeting with Adolph Hitler.

Just as Hitler was already planning his invasion of Europe as he met with Chamberlain, there is no reason to believe that Putin has not made plans for the taking of Transnistria, considering he is pressing ahead with the consolidation of the gains he made in the Donbass and Crimea. Vladimir Putin is now poised to close in on Odessa if he chooses to do so. To accomplish his goal, he will have to flatten Odessa prior to an invasion, just as he has done in Grozny and Mariupol.

While selected history prefers to ignore Imperial Russia's aggression during the 19th Century and Soviet aggression at the onset of WW2, that aggression has resulted in the political battles that began after the war and continue today. In August 1939, Russia made a deal with NAZI Germany to spilt Poland. Not only did they take half of Poland, but when they invaded Poland they committed brutal atrocities against the Polish people. After the war, Poland remained under the Soviet boot until the fall of the USSR. As far as Poland is concerned there is no distinction between Moscow's control, be it from the USSR or Russia. As Russia advanced into Ukraine and required additional air power, Poland was about to hand over MIG fighters to Ukraine, but was stopped by Joe Biden; the reason for which is obvious. The Globalists behind Biden are not supportive of guaranteeing Ukraine's absolute territorial integrity; "territorial integrity" is not a phrase that flows off the lips of NATO's leaders, a narrative that has been noticeably absent since before the recent invasion. As regards Poland's support for Ukraine, one must assume that Poland's long term memory of Russia's aggression is very much on their minds, having to look back only as far as 1989; and the sting of Russian wounds still hurts.

The attack on Poland was only one of Russia's several attacks on Western Countries in the 20th Century. Just one month after Russia invaded Poland in September 1939, it <u>invaded Finland</u>. In the Winter War of 1939 Russia attacked and <u>stole a good chunk of Finnish</u> land. The Finns put up stupendous resistance for as long as they could, but eventually they were overwhelmed by 10 to 1 odds in military strength; and with only some support from Sweden and no help from the Allies, except for tears and accolades about their bravery, Russia, the largest

country on the planet, moved Russia's borders further west with land it took from Finland.

With no help from the West, in the spirit of "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," Finland attempted to reclaim their land in 1941 by allying with Hitler, who was attacking Russia from the South. With Hitler's defeat, Finland was left out to dry by the Allies and was at Russia's mercy. Russia ignored its earlier attack on Finland, and only referencing Finland's attack on Russia they made claims for restitution for having been attacked.

While Russian hostilities against Scandinavia are in the past, the history of Russia creating Finland by ripping it from Sweden in 1808, and the Winter War of 1939, are still part of Scandinavian history. And, Russia is still a strong threat that always seems prepared to once again pounce. The invasion of Ukraine has heightened this awareness and made the Finns very uncomfortable. As a result of the invasion of Ukraine, both Sweden and Finland have had very recent discussions about their defense capabilities.

Neither Finland nor its neighbor Sweden are <u>members</u> of NATO, and both have been warned by Putin not to join. But the Ukraine War has had the effect of giving them an impetus to join. Very recently Russia sent jets into Swedish airspace and intentionally rolled its planes to show that they were carrying nuclear weapons. Rather than shooting the planes down, the Swedes filed a formal complaint of some sort.

Militarily speaking, Finland, with the support of Sweden, and with supplies from NATO, could move on Russia all the way to Murmansk.

Across the Black Sea, the <u>Georgia</u> Government, to the disapproval of its citizens, appears to have accepted Russia as its master; aggravated by the invasion of Ukraine the discontent has grown, and Georgians are calling for aid to Ukraine.

Georgia could be quickly supplied by NATO, and could attack Russian forces in the Abkhazia region of Georgia, which Putin stole in 2008 after invading the region. The move in Georgia would tie up a good deal of Russian military. This would be the best time for such a move with the ongoing war in Ukraine. Of course Georgia would have to blow the Roksky Tunnel in South Ossetia - so as to prevent Russian reinforcements from coming through easily. Since South Ossetia was also stolen in 2008, there would be no reason not to follow the blowing up of the tunnel with attacks on Russian forces there.

While Russia is fighting Ukraine and Georgia - a Finnish front and a Polish front would force Putin into a larger war, which possibly, might draw other Russian allies into the fray; but it would ultimately quench Putin's expansionist dreams.

All of the possible military moves is speculation, considering that NATO is not much more than a paper tiger, in spite of the reality that Georgia, Finland and Poland each has a bad history with Russia, and each knows that there is a serious threat of a future Russian invasion.

If Russia is not thrown back from Crimea and Mariupol, there is the very strong possibility that its forces will continue on to Odessa and then enter Transnistria, putting it forces right up against Moldova, another one of the USSR's former Republics. In March 2022, Moldova requested admission into the EU, but has not yet asked for admission into NATO. So, without NATO membership, there is no reason that Putin wouldn't decide to move on Moldova, which has a long history with Russia.

What the Western countries know, but will not come to terms with, is that Russia will continue to have designs on any country that was in anyway a part of either the Russian Empire or the Soviet Union or the Eastern Bloc.

Were NATO and the West truly interested in stopping Russian aggression, they would be giving Ukraine the support necessary to overwhelm the Russian military in several offensive military actions. And, although NATO would be doing it without direct involvement, Russia would know who is helping these countries, just as they know who is helping Ukraine because of public statements about military supplies NATO members are sending to Ukraine.

Some strong language from the West that any use of nuclear weapons, will bring an unlimited retaliation that will effectively destroy Russia for the next fifty years, might also be of some help; and while confrontational - at last glance, there is a substantial war already going on, and Russia has already made threats to use nuclear weapons.

All of the above scenarios depend upon whether or not European leaders actually understand the full ramifications of the war raging in Ukraine, and that it most probably is just a precursor to more actions by the New Alliance of China, Russia, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Nicaragua, The Philippines the newly strengthened terrorist state of Afghanistan, Libya - and very possibility Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan. While these countries may not have solid socio/political ties, they all share a desire to break from the yoke of Western hegemony, especially the hegemony of undependable American policies, the stultifying European Union and its Woke demands, the US Dollar and the Petro Dollar; and as a group, their economic capabilities afford them the opportunity to break away - especially at this moment in time when the United States is divided and being led by a pro-Globalist administration. Europe is just as feeble because of its social priorities overriding its security needs, and because it has allowed into its countries a hostile potential fifth column Muslim population, capable of creating mass social upheavals, destabilizing their society and deflecting government determination to defend traditional Western Culture.

While Putin may be a monster and an international pariah, he has vocalized strong opposition to the Globalist / Woke agenda that has opened cracks in Western Culture. One need only look at the recent events in Hungary to understand Putin's appeal.

Nationalists, like Viktor Orban in Hungary, are labeled NAZI fascists, just as Donald Trump was labeled a NAZI, when he wasn't being labeled a Commie stooge. On the one hand, Hungary has condemned Russia's attacks on Ukraine, and is offering humanitarian aid and accepting refugees; but standing on an anti-Globalist agenda the government has refused to stop dealing with Russia, or supply weapons to Ukraine, or limit their energy transactions to Petro-Dollars; and in fact Hungary has agreed to purchase energy in Rubles, which puts those deals outside of the Petro-Dollar system. But the dilemma for Western Society is that while the collapse of the Petro Dollar is bad for the US, it is good for the Globalists.

The situation in Ukraine in 2014 was somewhat similar to what is transpiring in Hungary today. Then president Viktor Yanukovych was a nationalist and a centrist vis a vis EU / Russian cooperation. Still, his failure to fully support EU membership made the Globalists uncomfortable. As corrupt as he probably was in his family's business dealings, his main goal for Ukraine was to produce a healthy economy and keep Ukraine independent, and although he did not want Ukraine to join either NATO or the CSTO, though he did keep Ukraine working alongside NATO. His crime was his last minute refusal to move forward with the European Union Association Agreement, believing the terms of the deal would impose upon Ukraine demands such as unbridled immigration and limits on certain aspects of Ukrainian manufacturing, etc. The street protests and the ensuing Maidan Revolution, were reflective of a typical Colour Revolution orchestrated by the US Department of State, the CIA and several NGO's - some admittedly supported by George Soros.

Russia's <u>attack on Crimea</u> came immediately after the February 18th Maidan Revolution, when Ukraine was in a weakened position internally.

At a time when Nationalism is automatically labeled "NAZI" by the Globalist press, it has to be remembered that the UK has recently left the EU because of some of the same policies and strictures that Yanukovych and Hungary's Viktor Orban resisted.

In one sense Putin is saving traditional Western Society; and in destroying him the West is being handed over to the EU / Globalists

The Globalists work both sides of the street. Their ultimate goal is to replace the US with another power. China is currently being used as a center for the production of profits, and being groomed as the probable heir to American hegemony, although China may not have the same global military appetite as the US. Only time will tell who is the replacement for the US - or even if it is one nation or a group of nations. In some way getting the US and Europe involved in Ukraine, ultimately hurts "the West."

So, while the West has allowed its values to be diminished to a degree that has wrecked the cultural fabric of their societies, Putin has stood up to the Globalists and the Woke agenda and has created superficial but effective socio / political alliances with unlikely allies.

The sudden desire for several nations to join the EU and NATO as a result of Russia's invasion has had the effect of pushing them into the jaws of the Globalist monster.

While this is not 1939 - the West is facing a dynamic very similar to the 1939 dynamic. Countries that have very different socio-political-religious foundations are united in their opposition to Western Control. If the West does not act now to

push Russia back, regardless of the relative unimportance of Ukraine's territorial integrity to any other country - Western Civilization is destined to recede into history as a failed culture.