

# The Threat of Nuclear War

Does it exist? If so, who's to blame and what can be done?



As the title indicates, in this essay I will be answering the following question: do we face the possibility or likelihood of a nuclear war? If the answer to that question is no, we can turn our attention to other matters. But if the answer is yes, two other questions emerge out of necessity: who's to blame for it and what can be done? Naturally, one would prefer not blaming anyone, but the question of what can be done about the threat of nuclear war cannot be answered without addressing its cause.

My thesis is that we now face an imminent threat of nuclear war, meaning destruction of humanity, as a result of the reckless foreign policy of the United States and NATO, and as our governments are failing to do something about, we the people must. As these are claims many will find hard to believe, this essay is somewhat lengthy and goes into detail in order to support its claims.

I have written this essay because I fear for my own future and the future of humanity. By establishing beyond any reasonable doubt that we face the threat of destruction by nuclear war, I hope to call people to action. Given the urgency of the matter, I have not had sufficient time to edit the essay. It was also written as a kind of speech. Therefore, it won't be perfect in terms of grammar, structure or choice of words, but I believe the content and the message makes the essay worthwhile.

Note to reader:

In order to sort the more important sources and references from the less important, there are both footnotes and endnotes. The footnotes contain the most important sources.

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## What Nuclear War Means

The implications of a nuclear war are clearly stated in the article called “The Lethality of Nuclear Weapons” by scientist Steven Starr:

“Nuclear war has no winner. Beginning in 2006, several of the world’s leading climatologists (at Rutgers, UCLA, John Hopkins University, and the University of Colorado-Boulder) published a series of studies that evaluated the long-term environmental consequences of a nuclear war, including baseline scenarios fought with merely 1% of the explosive power in the US and/or Russian launch-ready nuclear arsenals. They concluded that the consequences of even a “small” nuclear war would include catastrophic disruptions of global climate and massive destruction of Earth’s protective ozone layer. These and more recent studies predict that global agriculture would be so negatively affected by such a war, a global famine would result, which would cause up to 2 billion people to starve to death.

These peer-reviewed studies – which were analysed by the best scientists in the world and found to be without error – also predict that a war fought with less than half of US or Russian strategic nuclear weapons would destroy the human race. In other words, a US-Russian nuclear war would create such extreme long-term damage to the global environment that it would leave the Earth uninhabitable for humans and most animal forms of life.

A recent article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, “Self-assured destruction: The climate impacts of nuclear war”, begins by stating:

“A nuclear war between Russia and the United States, even after the arsenal reductions planned under New START, could produce a nuclear winter. Hence, an attack by either side could be suicidal, resulting in self-assured destruction.”<sup>1</sup>

Conclusion: Nuclear war would mean the death of billions, but as it would surely be fought with more than 1% of the nuclear weapons, it would most likely mean the death of most of us, if not all of us. If you want to know more about the consequences of nuclear war you could visit the website [www.nucleardarkness.com](http://www.nucleardarkness.com).



Hardly any buildings in Hiroshima were left standing after the massive atomic bomb blast.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/05/30/lethality-nuclear-weapons/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3186815/The-nightmare-aftermath-Hiroshima-Parents-carry-burned-children-past-corpses-rubble-rare-photographs-taken-days-atomic-bomb-killed-140-000-people.html>

## The Lessons of the Past

We have in the past come dangerously close to nuclear war.<sup>3</sup> The US nuclear war plan from 1960, called the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), stated that if the US' first alert system had alerted a Soviet strike, the response would have been to deliver 3200 nuclear strikes to 1060 targets in the Soviet Union, China, and allied countries in Asia and Europe.<sup>4</sup> As demonstrated by many, notably in Eric Schlosser's book *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety*, this nuclear policy of high alert has proven dangerous as errors, both technical and human, may occur. Such errors could and can result in a full-scale nuclear war. David Wright, a physicist and co-director of the UCS Global Security Program, explains in an article how a failed computer chip could lead to nuclear war.<sup>5</sup>

The historical record provides many examples of errors that has almost lead to nuclear war. One of the most famous examples is the case of Soviet Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov. Just after midnight in 1983 the Soviet Union's early warning satellite system set off the alarm that 5 US nuclear missiles were headed for the Soviet Union. Col. Petrov was supposed to inform the Soviet leader, who would have 8 to 10 minutes to decide whether to launch in retaliation. Instead he decided it was a false alarm, which it was due to a technical failure. It is thanks to Petrov's decision we are alive to talk about it. Paul Craig Roberts, eminent journalist, economist and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under the Reagan administration, has noted that today, the US keeps 450 nuclear ICBMs on "hair-trigger alert", and that this should be regarded as a reason for fear and concern, not safety, both for the American and global population.

However, the closest historians estimate we have come to nuclear war is during the Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy himself believed there was a 50% chance of war at one point, an estimate political scientist Graham Allison regards as realistic.<sup>6</sup> In an article by Noam Chomsky, an American linguist, philosopher, historian and political activist, widely considered the most influential intellectual of our time, he introduces us to an account of the Cuban missile crisis different from the one known to most. The title of the article is "Cuban missile crisis: how the US played Russian roulette with nuclear war", and as the title suggests, he makes it perfectly clear that the US played little attention to humanity's survival in pursuit of its ambitions.<sup>6</sup>

*"Dobbs quotes Dino Brugioni, "a key member of the CIA team monitoring the Soviet missile build-up", who saw no way out except "war and complete destruction" as the clock moved to One Minute to Midnight – Dobbs' title. Kennedy's close associate, historian Arthur Schlesinger, described the events as "the most dangerous moment in human history". Defense Secretary Robert McNamara wondered aloud whether he "would live to see another Saturday night", and later recognized that "we lucked out" – barely ... In Retrospect: The two most crucial questions about the missile crisis are how it began, and how it ended. It began with Kennedy's terrorist attack against Cuba, with a threat of invasion in October 1962. It ended with the president's rejection of Russian offers that [Kennedy himself thought] would seem fair to a rational person, but were unthinkable because they would undermine the fundamental principle that the US has the unilateral right to deploy nuclear missiles anywhere, aimed at China or Russia or anyone else, and right on their borders; and the accompanying principle that Cuba had no right to have missiles for defense against what appeared to be an imminent US invasion. To establish these principles firmly, [the US thought] it was entirely proper to face a high risk of war of unimaginable destruction, and to reject simple, and admittedly fair, ways to end the threat."*

One would think that as we have stood upon the brink of destruction, we the peoples of the earth would do all in our power to avoid coming to the same edge, but in our laziness and neglect, we have been lead directly to the same brink of thermonuclear destruction.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBvESTkKGyK>

<sup>4</sup> <https://chomsky.info/20140405/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://blog.ucsusa.org/david-wright/how-could-a-failed-computer-chip-lead-to-nuclear-war>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/oct/15/cuban-missile-crisis-russian-roulette>

## NATO and US Foreign Policy

Let's start at the end of the cold war: 1991 saw the end of The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. Their counterpart, NATO, however, continued to exist. The official purpose of NATO was to protect a weakened Europe after World War II against the "Russian hordes", the Soviet Union that is. When the threat posed by the Soviet Union disappeared, NATO did not cease to exist, it expanded into the former territories of the USSR. This is quite revealing of the nature of the so-called "defensive alliance". Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has admitted 12 former Soviet bloc states.

This expansion broke the agreement and trust between Russia and USA that was established by the Gorbachev-Reagan negotiations. This trust was essential in reducing the chance of nuclear war between the superpowers. Although there was no final signed agreement that prohibited NATO eastward expansion, there was undoubtedly an underlying mutual understanding that NATO expansion towards the east was out of the question. Historical records confirm this and the German newsletter "Der Spiegel" has presented this data in one of its articles.<sup>7</sup>

And final signed agreement or not, one need only resort to logic. As Chomsky has pointed out, Gorbachev made an astonishing concession to the U.S: he allowed for a unified and militarized Germany to join NATO, a hostile military alliance. Just during the past century, Germany alone practically destroyed Russia several times. Now Gorbachev allows the main power in Europe to join a military alliance led by the United States. An amazing concession, but he insisted on a quid pro quo, and got it. He insisted that the US agreed, and they did, in their words, that "NATO would not expand one inch to the east." Gorbachev also proposed a nuclear weapons free zone from the arctic and down to the Mediterranean which would reduce the threat of conflict. This proposal was ignored, for there appears to be no mention of the US officially considering it, much less welcoming it.<sup>8</sup>

By examining some examples of NATO's activities we can discover much about the true nature it. Take the bombing of Yugoslavia as an example, which led to the independence of Kosovo. The 78 days long bombing campaign was done under the pretext of preventing Serbian authorities from carrying out a genocide of the Kosovar and Albanian population. As explained by Raju Thomas<sup>9</sup>, Professor of Political Science at Marquette University, NATO's actions violated several international laws. First and foremost, the bombing was in violation of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter that prohibits the use of force against a sovereign state where it has not committed aggression on other states. The Security Council did not sanction the use of force.

The so-called Rambouillet "Agreement" (there was no "agreement" by Serbia) is a violation of Articles 51 and 52 of the 1980 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties which forbids coercion and force to compel any state to sign a treaty or agreement. Serbia was asked to sign this "Agreement" through NATO bombs and missiles, anything but persuasion.

The Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (amended 1995) of the United Kingdom specifically states that "civilians shall not be the object of attack" (Schedule 5, Article 52.1) and that "civilians shall enjoy protection unless they take a direct part in hostilities" (Schedule 6, Article 13.3). Targeting the Serbian TV station at night when it was inhabited by civilians only constituted an intentional and premeditated attack on civilians.

These are the clearest and most important violations, but there are others that could be mentioned. Although the violations of international law were a problem, the real catch is that there was no genocide.<sup>b</sup> During the conflict, the NATO powers asserted that somewhere between 100,000

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/nato-s-eastward-expansion-did-the-west-break-its-promise-to-moscow-a-663315.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1QRnErqV3U>

<sup>9</sup> [http://balkania.tripod.com/resources/legal/thomas-nato\\_law.html](http://balkania.tripod.com/resources/legal/thomas-nato_law.html)

(according to US Defence Secretary William Cohen) and 500,000 (according to an April 1999 statement of the US State Department) Albanian Kosovars had been killed by Serb forces. As renowned journalist John Pilger has put forth:

*"When it was over, international police teams descended on Kosovo to exhume the victims. The FBI failed to find a single mass grave and went home. The Spanish forensic team did the same, its leader angrily denouncing "a semantic pirouette by the war propaganda machines." The final count of the dead in Kosovo was 2,788. This included combatants on both sides and Serbs and Roma murdered by the pro-NATO Kosovo Liberation Front. There was no genocide."*<sup>10</sup>

The president of Yugoslavia at that time, Slobodan Milošević, was put to trial in Hague before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, on the charges of war crimes including genocide and crimes against humanity in connection to the wars in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo.

Milosevic died of a heart attack in 2006 in his cell in The Hague. He died just two weeks after the Tribunal denied his request to undergo heart surgery in Russia. He was found dead in his cell less than 72 hours after his attorney delivered a letter to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which he said that he feared he was being poisoned. This year he was exonerated, meaning freed from blame, by the tribunal.<sup>11</sup> Make no mistake, Milosevic was a despicable person and politician by many standards, but how he and others were treated in Hague shows how the tribunal was used as a tool to legitimize NATO's actions.

Canada's former Ambassador to Yugoslavia, James Bissett said the US controlled the court, selected the judges, and had ordained Milosevic's guilt from the beginning, partly to absolve the Americans from the atrocities they themselves committed, and partly to punish him for his defiance of the US. Bissett claimed it was clear that the trial was completely political, that Milosevic could have easily defended himself against all the charges, but that the judges refused him the time and opportunity for a defence. The Canadian ambassador resigned over the issue.<sup>12</sup>

Noam Chomsky has provided a relatively detailed review of NATO's war over Kosovo which affirms that NATO's actions had nothing to do with concern for the lives at stake and that the decision to start bombing was not one out of necessity.<sup>13</sup> Many would say the real goal of the bombing of Serbia was to destabilize and destroy what was the last remaining socialist nation after the cold war, the very existence of socialist Yugoslavia was intolerable to the United States. George Szamuely, a Senior Research Fellow at the Global Policy Institute of London Metropolitan University, writes about the US' role in the destruction of Yugoslavia in his book *Bombs for Peace*.<sup>c</sup> And this is nothing new, just read the US State Department policy planning council's statement regarding Castro and Cuba:

*"The primary danger we face in Castro is ... in the impact the very existence of his regime has upon the leftist movement in many Latin American countries ... The simple fact is that Castro represents a successful defiance of the US, a negation of our whole hemispheric policy of almost a century and a half."*

It was this defiance of US domination that caused the US to plan an invasion of Cuba.

Then we have Afghanistan, invaded after the 9/11 attacks. The US invaded Iraq after the Taliban refused to handed over Osama Bin Laden until they were given evidence of his involvement in the 9/11 attacks. The FBI also had problems finding evidence linking Bin Laden to 9/11. Rex Tomb, Chief

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.telesurvtv.net/english/opinion/John-Pilger-Provoking-Nuclear-War-by-Media-20160823-0006.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/08/01/the-exoneration-of-milosevic-the-ictys-surprise-ruling/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.4thmedia.org/2013/04/slobodan-milosevic-and-the-international-criminal-court-of-justice/>  
<http://www.emperors-clothes.com/articles/bisset/bisset.htm>

<sup>13</sup> [https://chomsky.info/200005\\_\\_/](https://chomsky.info/200005__/)

of Investigative Publicity for the FBI, has said: “The reason why 9/11 is not mentioned on Osama Bin Laden’s Most Wanted page is because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11.”<sup>14</sup>

Iraq was invaded based on the accusation that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. In his recent book, *The Great War of Our Time*, former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell admits that the US claimed Saddam Hussein had chemical weapons, a biological weapons production capability, and that he was restarting his nuclear weapons program, and that they were wrong on all three of those counts.<sup>15</sup> But a lack of evidence didn’t stop the invasion.

In 2015, the Washington DC-based Physicians for Social Responsibility (PRS) released a landmark study over the death toll from 10 years of the “War on Terror” since the 9/11 attacks. The report concludes that 1.3 million people have died as a result of the interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.<sup>d</sup> And for what? The situation can hardly be described as better than before. In Iraq for example, the situation for women was much better before the invasion.<sup>16</sup>

When it comes to Libya, since the toppling of Gaddafi, the country has completely collapsed, spending years now drowning in instability, anarchy, fractured militia rule, sectarian conflict, and violent extremism.<sup>e</sup> Before the bombing, Libya was arguably one of Africa’s most prosperous democracies, and the UN was even preparing a report praising Libya for its human rights and democratic achievements.<sup>f</sup>

By its actions after the cold war, NATO has established itself as a destructive force subservient to the United States.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, NATO existence and expansion is in itself a problem, its eastward expansion leading to the encirclement of Russia only amplifies the problem. As the United States’ foreign policy of global domination dictates the actions of the alliance, NATO becomes what Noam Chomsky has described as a “US-run Intervention Force”.

Paul Craig Roberts has also provided great insight into the foreign policy of the United States. Citing him from his address to the 70th Anniversary of the Yalta Conference from 2015, he stated that:

*“The neoconservative doctrine of US world supremacy is most clearly and concisely stated by Paul Wolfowitz, a leading neoconservative who has held many high positions: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Director of Policy Planning US Department of State, Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador to Indonesia, Undersecretary of Defence for Policy, Deputy Secretary of Defence, President of the World Bank. In 1992 Paul Wolfowitz stated the neoconservative doctrine of American world supremacy:*

*“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 defence strategy and requires that we endeavour to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power.”*

*For clarification, a “hostile power” is a country with an independent policy (Russia, China, Iran, and formerly Saddam Hussein, Gaddafi, Assad)”<sup>g</sup>*

Roberts’ remark that the definition of hostile power as a nation capable of exercising an independent policy has been repeatedly confirmed by the US and NATO’s actions.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article13664.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/michael-morell-apologizes-colin-powell-about-cia-pre-iraq-war-wmd-evidence/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article42194.htm>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/03/18/opinion/iraq-war-women-salbi/index.html>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.antiwar.com/blog/2013/12/10/nato-is-about-us-control-washington-targets-turkey/>

<https://www.rt.com/news/us-europe-nsa-snowden-549/>

## The Ukrainian Crisis

Towards the end of February 2014, Ukraine's President Yanukovich made a decision not to join the EU and chose instead to sign a treaty and multibillion-dollar loan with Russia. This sparked protests in Ukraine, both democratic and violent, which ended with a coup d'état where the democratically elected President was ousted and attempted murdered.

The 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013, at the International Business Conference at Ukraine in Washington, US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland announced that:

*"Since the declaration of Ukrainian independence in 1991, the United States supported the Ukrainians in the development of democratic institutions and skills in promoting civil society and a good form of government - all that is necessary to achieve the objectives of Ukraine's European. We have invested more than 5 billion dollars to help Ukraine to achieve these and other goals."*<sup>18</sup>

Amidst the obligatory political discourse about promoting and developing democracy, there is a very crucial fact. A year before the coup d'état, the US admitted having invested more than 5 billion dollars to promote change in Ukraine.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, the internet site [www.ZeroHedge.com](http://www.ZeroHedge.com) posted a leaked telephone conversation in which Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and US envoy to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt, discussed **Washington's** choice for who will head the next Ukrainian government.<sup>19</sup> Discussing Washington's choice, not the people of Ukraine's choice, but Washington's. In apparent frustration with the EU, Nuland at one point exclaims "Fuck the EU". The conversation is undoubtedly authentic as the US has not declared it a fake and Mrs. Nuland has apologized to the EU. Pressed on whether the call was authentic, US State Department's spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: "I didn't say it was inauthentic."<sup>h</sup> Instead of calling it a fake, they turned to blame Russia for playing a role in the leak.

However, the question of where the more than 5 billion dollars went still remains. As some sources suggest, it is probable that certain amounts of the money were used to pay protesters to take part in the demonstrations.<sup>20</sup> A portion of it must also have gone to the military training of the leading protestors. Training that taught them how to break the formation and lines of the policemen who were sent to stop the violent protests.<sup>i</sup> A Russian documentary about the events in Ukraine and Crimea also demonstrates that the perpetrators of the coup were well trained.<sup>21</sup> The US also invested heavily in NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that advocated regime change.<sup>22</sup> Even George Friedman, Founder and CEO of Stratfor, the 'Shadow CIA' firm, said this about the overthrow of Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich: "It really was the most blatant coup in history."<sup>23</sup>

US Senator John McCain was sent to Kiev to declare his endorsement of the protests. McCain took to the stage in Independence Square to encourage the Ukrainian protesters with promises of American support. By funding and organising protests, as well as sending a senator to support regime change, the US showed no respect whatsoever for the sovereignty of Ukraine.

And the sniper attack that caused around 50 casualties, killing both policemen and protestors alike, were of course blamed on President Yanukovich despite any solid evidence. The claim that Yanukovich allowed his forces to target civilians has been used as the main argument by western governments and media to assert Yanukovich's illegitimacy as president. Despite this, several

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article37599.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-02-06/fuck-eu-us-state-department-blasts-europe-revealed-alleged-mastermind-behind-ukraine>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2014/02/18/us-and-eu-are-paying-ukrainian-rioters-and-protesters/>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=cea\\_1427295035](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=cea_1427295035)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.sott.net/article/292842-Euromaidan-Anatomy-of-a-Washington-backed-coup-d-etat>

<http://www.boilingfrogspost.com/2014/01/07/us-ngo-uncovered-in-ukraine-protests/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2014/12/head-stratfor-private-cia-says-overthrow-yanukovich-blatant-coup-history.html>



journalists, investigators and a 70-page academic study have found that it was the far-right opposition, not Yanukovich, that was responsible for the sniper attack.<sup>j</sup>

However, what should have ended with the signed agreement between Yanukovich and the opposition leaders, continued as the right wing extremists seized power in Kiev and started attacking the Russian speaking population in Ukraine, especially in the eastern provinces. This raises an important question; did Washington lose control of the situation when the right sector violently seized power or was this planned and supported? There are indications that imply that the latter is the case.<sup>k</sup>

The right wing sector is not simply composed of nationalists; many are neo-nazis. The current Speaker of Parliament is Andriy Parubiy, in 1991 he founded the Social-National Party of Ukraine, now known as Svoboda, together with Oleh Tyahnybok, another coup leader and the present leader of the Svoboda party. The name Social-National Party is an allusion to Adolf Hitler's National Socialistic Nazi Party. This interpretation has been confirmed by Der Spiegel, Germany's leading weekly news magazine.<sup>l</sup>

The EU, which in 2012 expressed concerns regarding the racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic views of the Svoboda party, has now signed a treaty of political association with a country where the second highest political position is held by the very person who founded the party they criticized. One can also note that the Azov Battalion, which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported have committed many violations of human rights including mass looting, rape, use of torture and abduction of journalists, has been incorporated into the National Guard of Ukraine.<sup>24</sup>

An article at the website of the campaign "Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance in Ukraine"<sup>m</sup> states that many of the leading figures of the extremist right sector have been given high positions in the new government:

*"In the process of electing the leading members of the different commissions, some of the most prominent neo-nazis in the Rada have been awarded positions by the dominant 5 party government coalition. Thus, neo-Nazi Ihor Mosiychuk, who has a record of a criminal conviction, has been elected the first deputy head of the parliamentary committee in charge of the law enforcement. The chairman of the parliamentary committee on national security and defence is Sergey Pashinski, the man who was famously caught during the Maidan protests with a sniper rifle. The first deputy chairman of the committee is Simon Semchenko from the Donbas Battalion. Also deputy chairs of the committee are the Aidar Battalion Sergey Melnychuk, the leader of the Right Sector Dmytro Yarosh and the leader of Patriot of Ukraine (and Azov Regiment) Andrey Biletsky."*<sup>25</sup>

There is massive evidence of the horrors committed by the Ukrainians and their new government.<sup>26</sup> The Odessa massacre of 2014 was one of the most grotesque examples, when on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 48 civilians were brutally murdered and 200 injured by Ukrainian nationalists.<sup>27</sup>

These acts should be condemned and sanctioned. Instead, it is Russia that is largely being condemned for the "annexation" of Crimea as well as for allegedly supporting the eastern provinces (Donetsk and Luhansk) that have resisted the new Ukrainian government, declared their independence and sought to be re-joined with Russia.

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<sup>24</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azov\\_Battalion#Human\\_rights\\_violations\\_and\\_war\\_crimes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azov_Battalion#Human_rights_violations_and_war_crimes)

<sup>25</sup> <https://ukraineantifascistsolidarity.wordpress.com/2014/12/14/the-far-right-in-the-new-ukrainian-parliament/>

<sup>26</sup> [http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/\\$FILE/White%20Book%2011.2013-03.2014.pdf](http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/$FILE/White%20Book%2011.2013-03.2014.pdf)

[http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/\\$FILE/White%20Book%2004.2014-06.2014.pdf](http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/$FILE/White%20Book%2004.2014-06.2014.pdf)

[http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/\\$FILE/White%20Book%2007.2014-11.2014.pdf](http://archive.mid.ru/bdomp/ns-dgpcn.nsf/03c344d01162d351442579510044415b/38fa8597760acc2144257ccf002beeb8/$FILE/White%20Book%2007.2014-11.2014.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> <http://nsnbc.me/2014/05/10/odessa-massacre-detail-investigation/>

## Crimean Secession

When it comes to the question of the Crimean referendum and secession to Russia, one cannot deem the secession illegitimate without providing evidence of the legitimacy of the interim government in Kiev. The new authorities in Kiev seized power by force and ousted the democratically elected president Yanukovich, and as the armed and organized right sector had taken control, any vote from the parliament to remove Yanukovich becomes irrelevant as they were compelled by force to heed the demands of the right sector.<sup>n</sup>

According to the 2001 census, both Donetsk and Luhansk have a Russian speaking majority of about 70% and native Russians constitute slightly less than 40% of the population.<sup>o</sup> The day after the new parliament voted to dismiss President Viktor Yanukovich, it voted with 86% in favour of a proposal to repeal the law “On the principles of the state language policy” from 2012.<sup>p</sup> The law allowed the country’s regions to use more official languages in addition to Ukrainian if they were spoken by over 10 percent of the local population. Thirteen out of Ukraine’s 27 regions, primarily in Eastern Ukraine, then adopted Russian as a second official language. Two Western regions introduced Romanian and Hungarian as official languages.

The repeal bill was considered a mistake by many, including the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the foreign ministers of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Greece.<sup>q</sup> It is obvious why the repeal of such a law was problematic. The law was supported by the Yanukovich’s governing “Party of regions” and opposed by the parties in opposition. The right sector terrorizing and persecuting the Russian speaking population is one thing, having the parliament vote with 86% in favour of repealing a law that gave the Russian and other languages heightened status and rights, clearly doesn’t send a very warm and welcoming message to the provinces fighting the new regime. As of now, the repeal of the bill has yet to be signed by Poroshenko, the new President.

The actions of the new authorities in Ukraine gave the inhabitants of Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea good reason to believe that the new authorities could not provide them with sufficient security and did not have their interests at heart.

From a geopolitical perspective, Russia actions were perfectly predictable and natural. Even high profile Americans have recognized that Russia’s concerns about NATO are valid. In his memoirs Former US Defence Secretary Robert Gates wrote:

*“NATO expansion was a political act, not a carefully considered military commitment, thus undermining the purpose of the alliance and recklessly ignoring what the Russians considered their own vital national interests.”*<sup>28</sup>

In March 2014, Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote that “Ukraine should not join NATO,” and that “demonization of Vladimir Putin is not a policy; it is an alibi for the absence of one.”<sup>29</sup>

He also stated in an interview with Der Spiegel that:

*“Putin spent tens of billions of dollars on the Winter Olympics in Sochi. The theme of the Olympics was that Russia is a progressive state tied to the West through its culture and, therefore, it presumably wants to be part of it. So it doesn’t make any sense that a week after the close of the Olympics, Putin would take Crimea and start a war over Ukraine.”*<sup>r</sup>

Furthermore, Crimea is historically Russian, it was a part of Russia from 1783 until 1954, when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev attached it to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic as a «goodwill gesture to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukraine's merger with tsarist Russia.”<sup>s</sup> It has Russia’s only warm-water

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<sup>28</sup> <http://warontherocks.com/2016/05/exceptionalism-or-expansionism-the-american-dream-abroad/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://russia-insider.com/en/groundhog-day-german-msm-keeps-repeating-anti-putin-propoganda/ri12042>

port, Sevastopol, the home of Russia's fleet, and the peninsula has enormous strategic significance. Considering NATO's encirclement of Russia and the situation in Ukraine, it was both a natural and predictable move by Putin to allow Crimea to be reunified with Russia, for both humanitarian and military reasons.

Regarding the referendum, although there is some evidence suggesting the voting process was unfair, there isn't nearly enough to question the outcome of the referendum.<sup>t</sup> Contrary to popular belief, there were international observers at referendum, these included members of the European Union's parliament, as well as MPs from various European nations, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia and Poland, and they found the referendum to be free and fair.

The declared result of the referendum in Crimea was about 96,5% voting in favour of joining the Russian federation and about 2,5% voting in favour of restoring the 1992 Ukrainian constitution. The voter turnout was 83.1%.<sup>u</sup> Even with a margin of error of 20% it would have made no difference, and there is no evidence to support such a claim.

However, even if one believed that the referendum was fraudulent or unfair, there is still the report from The Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan American think tank based in Washington, D.C. The report from the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014, roughly eight weeks after the referendum, states that:

*"For their part, Crimeans seem content with their annexation by Russia. Overwhelming majorities say the March 16th referendum was free and fair (91%) and that the government in Kyiv ought to recognize the results of the vote (88%) ... When asked separately about Russia's influence on their territory, Crimeans are unequivocal in describing Moscow's impact as positive (92%)."*

The poll also states that only 21% of people in Eastern Ukraine and 7% of people in Crimea say they trust Kyiv to guarantee personal freedoms.<sup>v</sup>

What the West is currently saying is that the 91% of Crimeans who think the referendum was free and fair, are wrong, and that they do not have a right for self-determination.

Let us examine the differences between the case of Kosovo and Crimea. Kosovo's independence was brought by a 78-day long bombing campaign under a later proven false pretext, was there a referendum? No, but one can concede that there had been violent conflict between the Serbs and Kosovars. Crimea on the other hand, when faced with an anti-Russian semi-fascist new government in Kiev that was attacking the Russian population, declared its independence and secession to Russia after a referendum in which over 95% voted to re-join Russia and more than 90% are happy with the outcome.

As of 8 July 2016, the Republic of Kosovo has received 113 diplomatic recognitions as an independent state, and less than 10 countries recognize Crimea as a federal subject of Russia. In chapter 1 of the United Nations Charter, called "Purposes and Principles", it is written:

*The Purposes of the United Nations are:*

*2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace*

Why cannot what have been applied to Kosovo, also apply to Crimea? To top the hypocrisy, Obama declared in his Executive Order from March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, that support for the Crimean self-determination "constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat." That doesn't make any sense. What kind national security and foreign policy do the United States have that compels them to regard Crimean secession as an extraordinary threat worthy of having the president declare national emergency?

Today, the situation in Eastern Ukraine remains unresolved and there has been a continued armed conflict between the breakout republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the Ukrainian authorities. This is happening despite the Minsk Protocol that called for an immediate bilateral ceasefire. There are many reasons to believe the conflict could escalate.<sup>30</sup> Just recently, Russia's Federal Security Service allegedly stopped a planned Ukrainian terrorist attack in Crimea.<sup>w</sup>

## The Great "Russian Aggression" and the State of the Media

There are of course the allegations and accusations of an imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine. Even NATO member Germany has expressed concerns over NATO's aggressive stance on Ukraine.<sup>x</sup> In 2014, alarmed at the anti-Russian hysteria and the prospects of a new Cold War, eight US intelligence veterans took the unusual step of sending a memo to Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, challenging the reliability of Ukrainian and US media claims about a Russian "invasion."<sup>31</sup>

Here are some excerpts from the memo:

*"You need to know, for example, that accusations of a major Russian "invasion" of Ukraine appear not to be supported by reliable intelligence. Rather, the "intelligence" seems to be of the same dubious, politically "fixed" kind used 12 years ago to "justify" the US-led attack on Iraq ... We saw no credible evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq then; we see no credible evidence of a Russian invasion now ... the images released by NATO on Aug. 28 provide a very flimsy basis on which to charge Russia with invading Ukraine. Sadly, they bear a strong resemblance to the images shown by Colin Powell at the UN on Feb. 5, 2003, that, likewise, proved nothing. (Photos used to justify the war against Iraq.)"*

The memo says that according to reports, Ukrainian forces were at one point taking heavy casualties, losing ground and forced to regroup after successful advances from the separatist opposition.

*"Ten days later, as they became encircled and/or retreated, a ready-made excuse for this was to be found in the "Russian invasion." That is precisely when the fuzzy photos were released by NATO and reporters like the New York Times' Michael Gordon were set loose to spread the word that "the Russians are coming." (Michael Gordon was one of the most egregious propagandists promoting the war on Iraq.)"*

What the US intelligence veterans are speaking of is the "Russian aggression" that western corporate media has been repeating incessantly since it was first decided that Russia would be subjected to a demonizing propaganda. Stephen Frand Cohen, American scholar and professor at Princeton University and New York University, has described the anti-Russian trend in American media as a "tsunami of shamefully unprofessional and politically inflammatory articles."<sup>32</sup>

Udo Ulfkotte, former editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine, one of Germany's largest newspapers, revealed in his bestseller *Bought Journalists*, that he and many other journalists were secretly on the payroll of the CIA and the German secret service, spinning the news in a way that was positive for the United States and bad for its opponents.<sup>y</sup>

When he was asked about these "bought journalists" in an interview, he answered:

*"We're talking about puppets on a string, journalists who write or say whatever their masters tell them to say or write. If you see how the mainstream media is reporting about the Ukraine conflict and if you know what's really*

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<sup>30</sup> <http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2014/09/02/our-cold-war-with-russia-could-turn-hot/>  
<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/08/13/pers-a13.html>

<sup>31</sup> <https://consortiumnews.com/2014/09/01/warning-merkel-on-russian-invasion-intel/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article37635.htm>

going on, you get the picture. The masters in the background are pushing for war with Russia and western journalists are putting on their helmets."

When asked about the situation of the bought journalists, of whom he had named many, he answered:

"No German mainstream journalist is allowed to report about the book. Otherwise he or she will be sacked. So we have a bestseller now that no German journalist is allowed to write or talk about. More shocking: We have respected journalists who seem to have gone deep sea diving for a long time ... The respected Frankfurter Allgemeine just announced they will fire 200 employees, because they're losing subscribers very rapidly and in high numbers. But they don't sue me. They know that I have evidence on everything."

With this in mind it should be no surprise to you to hear that in the 1950s, the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) launched a secret campaign to infiltrate the media, it was called "Operation Mockingbird". Very disturbing revelations came to light during the 1975 Church Committee Hearings when CIA officials admitted that the CIA had been submitting articles with false information to news organizations in an attempt to sway the news.<sup>2</sup>

Former CIA and NSA Director Michael Hayden has openly admitted that asking "an editor or publisher to scotch a particularly egregious story" was a big part of his job at both the CIA and NSA. "Those calls I made to slow, scotch, or amend a pending story were worth making," he says.<sup>33</sup>

## Demonization and Lies



Ever since the coup d'état in Ukraine, Russia and its president Vladimir Putin has been the main target of western propaganda. Before the Ukrainian crisis, the target was president Assad of Syria. In 2013, Assad was accused of being behind a chemical attack on the civilian population in Ghouta. In a speech

<sup>33</sup>[http://www.salon.com/2016/03/01/debating\\_glenn\\_greenwald\\_was\\_like\\_looking\\_the\\_devil\\_in\\_the\\_eye\\_ex\\_nsa\\_chief\\_michael\\_hayden\\_details\\_distaste\\_for\\_media\\_in\\_new\\_book/](http://www.salon.com/2016/03/01/debating_glenn_greenwald_was_like_looking_the_devil_in_the_eye_ex_nsa_chief_michael_hayden_details_distaste_for_media_in_new_book/)

to the British Parliament, one of its members George Galloway, when referring to the accusations against the Assad regime, said the following:

*“Not that they’re not bad enough to do it, Mr. Speaker, everybody knows they are bad enough to do it. The question is: are they mad enough to do it? To launch a chemical weapons attack in Damascus on the very day that a United Nations chemical weapons inspection team arrives in Damascus, must be a new definition of madness.”*

He is not the only one to question the allegations against Assad.<sup>34</sup> There is a blog on the internet dedicated to analysing all evidence relating to the chemical attack, and it concludes that “the only plausible scenario that fits the evidence is an attack by opposition forces.” You may read the blog yourself, it goes into great detail and provides you not merely with opinions and allegations, but with facts, so that you can analyse it yourself.<sup>34</sup>

Despite not having sufficient evidence to blame anyone, western media instantly put the blame on the Assad regime. The entire portrayal of the so called “civil war” in Syria by western media has been an embarrassment. There are two sources I urge you to look into, these would give you a very different view of the situation in Syria. US Senator Richard Black and Janice Kortkamp’s discussion about the situation in Syria<sup>35</sup> and the press briefing by US Peace Council that had recently returned from Syria.<sup>36</sup> In both cases they emphasize that it is not a civil war, but a foreign invasion.

Alfred Marder, who is the President of the **US** Peace Council firstly acknowledged that the American peace and anti-war movement has been in a state of confusion about Syria and that this has caused division within the movement. He explained that the domestic tactic used by the US government to sway US public opinion is to demonise the leader of whatever country the US is targeting.

In his words: “Whether it’s Noriega, Hussein, Gaddafi, or Assad, there’s a definite pattern here.” He said the story the US people have been told about President Assad and Syria have been purposefully false. Concerning the reporting he said: “this is not accidental. This is designed to confuse people’s opinions on these Leaders.”

If you still think there is a shred of integrity in the mainstream western media, just listen to this: the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, as the UK House of Commons vote on possible military intervention in Syria was underway, BBC News at Ten broadcast a report which claimed that a Syrian fighter jet had dropped an incendiary bomb on the playground of an Aleppo school. The day after, the BBC showed the documentary called “Saving Syria’s Children” which claim to show the aftermath of this incendiary bomb attack on a school in Syria. This sounds terrible and all, the only problem is: there is massive evidence that suggests the whole thing was “largely, if not entirely, staged”. We know for a fact that they edited what was said to be “napalm”, to become “chemical weapon”<sup>37</sup>. If not, there must have been several takes of the scene, which makes it far worse.

The evidence includes bad acting, conflicting and contradictory accounts, implausible demeanours of alleged victims, questions to the authenticity of the alleged burns to victims by experienced doctors, apparent choreographed behaviour, unconvincing injuries and testimonies, two or more takes of scenes that BBC portrayed as a live action piece with casualties being rushed in.<sup>37</sup> A thorough analysis can be found at [www.bbcpanoramasavingsyriaschildren.wordpress.com](http://www.bbcpanoramasavingsyriaschildren.wordpress.com).

In any case, the reason the US has attacked Syria has nothing to do with a desire to protect the Syrian population. Nor for that matter does any of their actions in the Middle East have anything to do with

<sup>34</sup> <http://whoghouta.blogspot.no/2013/11/the-conclusion.html> & <http://whoghouta.blogspot.no/>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.fort-russ.com/2016/07/us-senator-we-have-never-done-anything.html>

<sup>36</sup> <http://theduran.com/must-see-video-us-peace-council-returns-syria-county-fighting-invasion-most-powerful-country-world/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc-RmAVK8Pg>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtivadbNrXk>

helping people. Their actions in the Middle East are driven by a plan to destroy and destabilize countries and regimes that aren't vassals and may pose a threat in a distant fictional future. In an interview in 2007, Former General and Supreme Allied Commander of NATO Wesley Clark revealed this plan he discovered in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. In his words the plan was to "take out seven countries in five years, starting with Iraq, and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and, finishing off, Iran."<sup>38</sup>

As distinguished economist and historian William Engdahl, author of *A Century of War and Myths, Lies and Oil Wars*, has found, the chief motive of the many Anglo-American interventions in the Middle East is to control the region's oil and gas. You can find a free PDF-version of *A Century of War* on the internet.<sup>39</sup>

However, I'm not saying every action of every individual or organization is done with the wrong intentions, of course not, I'm sure many are trying to help, but the **underlying** reason for the military presence and the continuing interventions have nothing to do with concern for the population in the Middle East, nothing.<sup>cc</sup> If that was the case, the US would not turn a blind eye to NATO member Turkey's blatant role in helping the terrorist organization<sup>dd</sup>, it would also stop supporting and sending arms to Saudi Arabia<sup>40</sup>, the leading proponent of Islamic extremism in the Middle East.<sup>ee</sup>

Regarding 9/11, I will not force my own beliefs on you, but I will mention a few things: I have never met a person who has actually read about 9/11 that actually believes the official story. Who they think was behind varies, but none of them believe the official story is true. There are many documentaries about 9/11, but the Italian-made "Zero: An Investigation Into 9/11" from 2008 is the most comprehensive and conclusive documentary yet made.<sup>41</sup> When it comes to books there is *9/11: The Big Lie* by Thierry Meyssan, *The Big Wedding: 9/11, the Whistle Blowers, and the Cover-up* by Sander Hicks and *Inside Job: Unmasking the 9/11 Conspiracies* by Jim Marrs.

Then you have the report in Europhysicsnews, the magazine of the European Physical Society, that states that "the evidence points overwhelmingly to the conclusion that all three buildings were destroyed by controlled demolition."<sup>42</sup> The study is the work of Steven Jones, former full professor of physics at Brigham Young University, Robert Korol, a professor emeritus of civil engineering at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, Anthony Szamboti, a mechanical design engineer with over 25 years of structural design experience in the aerospace and communications industries, and Ted Walter, the director of strategy and development for Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, a non-profit organization that today represents more than 2,500 architects and engineers.<sup>ff</sup>

You also have the University of Alaska that has launched its own academic 9/11 investigation.<sup>43</sup> Lastly, I suggest you read the article "9/11 After 13 years"<sup>44</sup> and watch C-SPAN's interview with Richard Gage, founder of the Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth organization.<sup>45</sup> If you find it hard to believe that the US could murder about 3000 of its own people in New York, just remember the deaths of 500 000 Iraqi children that the US sanctions on Iraq caused.<sup>46</sup> When former US Secretary of State Madeline

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7NsXFnzJGw>

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/we-re-going-to-take-out-7-countries-in-5-years-iraq-syria-lebanon-libya-somalia-sudan-iran/5166>

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.takeoverworld.info/pdf/Engdahl\\_Century\\_of\\_War\\_book.pdf](http://www.takeoverworld.info/pdf/Engdahl_Century_of_War_book.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.salon.com/2016/01/06/saudi\\_arabia\\_funds\\_and\\_exports\\_islamic\\_extremism\\_the\\_truth\\_behind\\_the\\_toxic\\_u\\_s\\_relationship\\_with\\_the\\_theocratic\\_nation/](http://www.salon.com/2016/01/06/saudi_arabia_funds_and_exports_islamic_extremism_the_truth_behind_the_toxic_u_s_relationship_with_the_theocratic_nation/)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/yemen-civilian-deaths-saudi-arabia-us-senate-arms-weapons-saudis/>

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gETF0\\_SOXcg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gETF0_SOXcg)

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.europhysicsnews.org/articles/eprn/pdf/2016/04/eprn2016-47-4.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.express.co.uk/news/weird/682256/Were-9-11-towers-blown-up-by-bombs-University-probes-if-planes-REALLY-were-responsible>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/09/10/911-13-years-paul-craig-roberts/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zbv2SvBEc#t=23>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-children-of-iraq-was-the-price-worth-it/30760>

Albright was asked on US television if she thought that the death of half a million Iraqi children was a price worth paying, Albright replied: "This is a very hard choice, but we think the price is worth it."<sup>47</sup>

When former Governor Bill Richardson was asked the same question, he answered: "Well, I stand behind the sanctions. I believe that they successfully contained Saddam Hussein. I believe that the sanctions were an instrument of our policy" and when pushed to say if he thought the children's death toll was worth it, he replied: "Well, I believe our policy was correct, yes."<sup>88</sup>

You might be surprised to know that the CIA helped Saddam's party seize power in 1963<sup>hh</sup> and that the US supported his regime<sup>ii</sup>, even when Saddam Hussein was carrying out chemical weapons attacks on Iranian troops in 1988.<sup>48</sup> In 2012, Madeline Albright was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama despite her complicity in crimes against humanity.<sup>49</sup>

This long list of lies goes on and on, but there is one more important case. The Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17, that was shot down in 2014. Just after the shoot-down, US Secretary of State John Kerry and the media instantly put the blame on Russia. In Kerry's words:

*"We know the trajectory. We know where it came from. We know the timing ... It's pretty clear that this is a system that was transferred from Russia into the hands of separatists. We know with confidence, with confidence, that the Ukrainians did not have such a system anywhere near the vicinity at that point and time so it obviously points a very clear finger at the separatists."*<sup>jj</sup>

This is the same John Kerry that heralded that Assad "used chemical weapons against his own people". Is it not a bit strange then, that Putin, being directly and indirectly accused, has called for an independent expert examination? He stated that the investigation of MH-17 requires "a fully representative group of experts to be working at the site under the guidance of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the relevant international commission."<sup>kk</sup>

However, the Netherlands lead the investigation because the flight departed from the Netherlands, and due to the large number of Dutch nationals who died in the crash. As have been pointed out by many, the Dutch-led investigation into the downing of MH-17 relies heavily on information provided by the Ukrainian security service and operates primarily from a field office in Kiev.<sup>50</sup> This is happening despite the fact that Ukraine should be a principal suspect in the mystery of who was responsible for killing 298 people.

Award-winning journalist Robert Parry has written many articles about the MH-17 downing and has pointed out that:

*"Dutch intelligence, which as part of NATO would have access to sensitive overhead surveillance and other relevant data, reported that the only anti-aircraft weapons in eastern Ukraine capable of bringing down MH-17 at 33,000 feet belonged to the Ukrainian government."*<sup>ll</sup>

Moscow even pointed out that Washington had a satellite over the area during the time the airliner was shot down and has asked the US to make public the evidence it possesses. When they were allowed to speak, the US intelligence officials said that Russia was responsible for "creating the conditions" that led to the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17", but that they did not know

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<http://www.globalissues.org/article/105/effects-of-sanctions>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RM0uvgHKZe8>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2402174/CIA-helped-Saddam-Hussein-make-chemical-weapons-attack-Iran-1988-Ronald-Reagan.html>

<http://english.khamenei.ir/news/2168/20-things-the-U-S-did-to-help-Saddam-against-Iran>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/2005/12/10/madeleine-albright-and-us-foreign-policy/>

<sup>50</sup> <https://consortiumnews.com/2016/06/05/mh-17-probe-relies-on-ukraine-for-evidence/>



who fired the missile or whether any Russian operatives were present at the missile launch. They were not certain that the missile crew was trained in Russia.<sup>51</sup>

In other words, they had no evidence with which to blame Russia. Fact of the matter is that most conclusions from independent parties suggest that the Ukrainian government was behind the downing, either wilfully or accidentally.<sup>mm</sup> An article by Malaysia's flagship English-language newspaper, New Straits Times, charged the US- and European-backed Ukrainian regime in Kiev with shooting down the passenger plane. The US and European media have buried this remarkable report, which refutes the wave of allegations against Russia.

The New Straits Times article, titled "US analysts conclude MH17 downed by aircraft," lays out evidence that Ukrainian fighter aircraft attacked the jetliner with first a missile, then with bursts of 30-millimeter machine gun fire from both sides of MH17. The Russian army has already presented detailed radar and satellite data showing a Ukrainian Sukhoi-25 fighter jet tailing MH17 shortly before the jetliner crashed. The Kiev regime denied of course that its fighters were airborne in the area.

The article also states:

*"Intelligence analysts in the United States have already concluded that Malaysia flight MH17 was shot down by an air-to-air missile, and that the Ukrainian government had had something to do with it. This supports an emerging theory postulated by local investigators that the Boeing 777-200 was crippled by an air-to-air missile and finished off with cannon fire from a jet that had been shadowing it as it plummeted to earth."*<sup>52</sup>

All this shows the lengths to which the people in power are willing to go in order to provoke conflict. That one government accuses another of being responsible for the shoot-down of a civilian aircraft resulting in 298 deaths, is very alarming. That we are talking about the United States and Russia makes it even more alarming. Any reasonable politician would wait until he or she had solid evidence before accusing somebody, but as we see there is a shortage of reasonable politicians in the world.

## The Prospects of Nuclear War

Full scale nuclear confrontation has in the past been avoided by the balance of power that existed between the US and the Soviet Union. This balance of power is commonly known as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD): The idea is that if both countries possess nuclear forces capable of responding to a first strike, thus causing the complete annihilation of both the attacker and the defender, there would be no desire or incentive to provoke conflict or nuclear war.

In 2002 the United States changed their nuclear weapons doctrine to allow a pre-emptive first strike.<sup>nn</sup> This means that if the US feel sufficiently threatened, or if the president so desire, they reserve the right to be first to use nuclear weapons. The US and Israel are the only countries to have this policy. The same year, the US unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

The ABM Treaty, signed in 1972, prohibits the use of defensive systems that might give an advantage to one side in a nuclear war. By not allowing any side to get an advantage in a potential nuclear war, the principle of Mutually Assured Destruction is guaranteed, thus preventing any desire to start a nuclear war. The ABM Treaty, through its guarantee of nuclear balance, was the cornerstone of global security.

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<sup>51</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10984739/MH17-no-link-to-Kremlin-in-plane-downing-US-intelligence.html>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.nst.com.my/news/2015/09/us-analysts-conclude-mh17-downed-aircraft>

So, what is the situation now? The United States are deploying anti-ballistic shields in both Poland and Romania. The official purpose of the defence system is to defend Europe against a nuclear attack from Iran, terrorists or another “rogue state”. This is a lie, the National Intelligence Report released by all 16 US intelligent agencies stated that Iran abandoned more than a decade ago its interest in nuclear weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors on the ground in Iran consistently report that there is no evidence of any diversion of enriched uranium to a weapons program.<sup>50</sup>

The anti-ballistic shields have now changed the balance of power in such a way that Russia feel threatened. That missile shields comprise a first-strike weapon is a standard interpretation of missile defence on both sides. Russia has every reason to regard them as a threat because they would in theory give the US an advantage in a nuclear war. Many believe that the revised nuclear doctrine and the Missile Shields both indicate that the United States is actively planning a nuclear first strike on Russia, and possibly China.<sup>53</sup> Bruce Gagnon from Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space has even stated that US war planning for Russia and China “has been going on for some years.”<sup>54</sup>

As the US is deploying ABMs and massing forces on Russia’s border, one is almost compelled to think that the US believes it can actually win a nuclear war.<sup>55</sup> This is a crazy fantasy. Russia is developing supersonic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads, thus rendering the anti-missile shield useless.<sup>56</sup> The only purpose the missile shield serves is to give Europe a false sensation of safety, but the truth is that they only put Europe in the crosshairs, which Putin stated clearly in an effort to make Europe realize the dangers it puts itself in.<sup>57</sup>

When speaking about the ABM system in Romania, Putin also said that: “they can be rearmed with 2400km-range offensive missiles even today, and it can be done by simply switching the software, so that even the Romanians themselves won’t know.”<sup>58</sup> This means that the so-called defensive missiles, could easily be replaced with long-range offensive, nuclear armed missiles, which directly threaten Russia’s national security.

Many are alarmed as the situation is growing ever more dangerous. In a unanimous decision at their 84th annual conference, the United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution condemning President Barack Obama’s war games in Eastern Europe. Over 1400 mayors in the United States signed the resolution that stated:

*“The Obama administration has ... reduced the US nuclear stockpile less than any post-Cold War presidency ... The largest NATO war games in decades, involving 14,000 US troops, and activation of US missile defences in Eastern Europe are fueling growing tensions between nuclear-armed giants.”*<sup>55</sup>

There is also an article in Le Monde Diplomatique, by professor of Peace and World Security Studies, Michael T. Klare, called “Sleepwalking into a big war”.<sup>56</sup> In the article he points to many indications that suggest the major governments are preparing for a big war. He compares the situation today with that before the first world war and stresses that the assumption of the possibility of war and the preparation for it is more likely to precipitate than discourage the outbreak of conflict.

An article at the greenvillepost.com called “Frontline Poland: A Tale of the “Eastern Flank”” accurately describes Poland’s role in the new Cold War.<sup>57</sup> The arming of Poland<sup>58</sup> to serve as the sacrificial victim for a pre-emptive or subsequent Russian response to NATO aggression, makes one think of Poland’s fate during the second world war. Poland is being turned into a front buffer battlefield that will be

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/06/03/ready-nuclear-war-paul-craig-roberts/>

<http://www.inspiretochangeworld.com/2015/10/rt-reveals-u-s-plan-for-nuclear-first-strike-attack-on-russia-and-china-in-2016/>

<sup>54</sup> <http://inserbia.info/today/2014/08/mh17-and-uss-preemptive-first-strike/>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.defenddemocracy.press/1400-us-mayors-just-slammed-white-house-risking-nuclear-war-russia/>

<sup>56</sup> <http://mondediplo.com/2016/09/02war>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.greenvillepost.com/2016/08/26/frontline-poland-a-tale-of-the-eastern-flank/>

completely obliterated in the case of nuclear war. It has nothing to gain from its subservience to NATO and the US.

Poland's "arming for deterrence" is nothing other than an "arming for (self-)destruction." Just like Wahhabi clerics blessing their suicide bombers and promising them eternal rewards, so are the US and NATO promising Poland that it can only be saved by sacrificing itself.

There are of course Poles who realize the danger they are being put in, but the protests are being suppressed and dissidents jailed. The best example of this political repression is the case of Mateusz Piskorski, the leader of the Polish political party Zmiana ("Change"). On May 16th, he issued a warning on his blog that NATO's newly deployed Very High Readiness Joint Task Force was going to "pacify" protests and opposition groups. Two days later, on May 18th, armed agents of the Internal Security Agency raided Zmiana's office and its activists' homes and arrested and imprisoned Piskorski while a media campaign hurled the ridiculous charges that he was a "Russian, Chinese, and/or Iraqi spy." To this day he remains in isolation in prison, from where he has stressed in two urgent letters<sup>uu</sup> that Poland is being converted into a launch pad and target for WWII.

Polish authorities aren't alone in their treatment of dissidents, in 2014, journalist and former European Parliament member, Giulietto Chiesa of Italy, was kicked out of Estonia and called Russian 'agent of influence'. The 74-year-old politician arrived in the Baltic country to give a speech entitled, "Should Europe be afraid of Russia?" to the members of a local media club. This was apparently too much for the Estonian authorities to tolerate.<sup>58</sup>

Not only has the United States expanded NATO to the borders of Russia, deployed ABM-systems, issued various threats, forced Europe to impose economic sanctions on Russia, but Obama recently announced that he had committed more than \$1 trillion over the next several decades to modernize and further entrenching the nuclear arsenal into permanence, potentially sparking a dangerous new arms race.<sup>vv</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2014 the 113th Congress, Second Session, introduced a bill, S.2277 called the "Russian Aggression Prevention Act of 2014". "Senate Bill Preps for War with Russia"<sup>59</sup> and "Legislating the Way to World War 3?"<sup>60</sup> are two articles that describe the consequences of this bill, but here is Paul Craig Roberts' interpretation:

*"The existence of "Russian aggression" is assumed, not demonstrated. Neither Breedlove [then NATO General] nor the senators make any reference to Russian war plans for an attack on Europe or any other countries. There are no references to Russian position papers and documents setting forth a Russian expansionist ideology ... Senate bill 2277 consists of three titles: "Reinvigorating the NATO Alliance," "Deterring Further Russian Aggression in Europe," and "Hardening Ukraine and other European and Eurasian States Against Russian Aggression ... However you look at this, it comprises a declaration of war. Moreover, these provocative and expensive moves are presented as necessary to counter Russian aggression for which there is no evidence." <sup>61</sup>*

It is also worth noting that many believe the global economy and international monetary system is heading towards collapse.<sup>www</sup> When the international monetary system collapsed in 1914 and 1939, world wars followed.

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<sup>58</sup> <https://www.rt.com/news/215339-chiesa-arrest-estonia-italy/>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/08/04/senate-bill-preps-for-war-with-russia/>

<sup>60</sup> <http://journal-neo.org/2014/07/19/legislating-the-way-to-world-war-3/>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/07/24/washington-escalating-orchestrated-ukrainian-crisis-war-paul-craig-roberts/>

## Who is Pushing the Escalation?

It is not only the behaviour of the media that demonstrates the difference between Moscow and Washington when it comes to nuclear war, the actions and statements of their leaders makes it quite clear who the aggressor is. In the west, our leaders speak of countering a Russian aggression and protecting us, but in reality the only aggression to be seen is that coming from the US and NATO, which is now massing forces on Russia's borders. Putin, on the other hand, has constantly expressed that Russia wants to cooperate and has warned NATO of the consequences of their actions.

When speaking of the consequences of deploying the missile shields, Putin said:

*"We've been repeating like a mantra that we will be forced to respond... Nobody wants to hear us. Nobody wants to conduct negotiations with us."*<sup>62</sup>

Russia's warnings continue to fall on deaf ears, and at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum this year, when speaking to a group of western journalists, Putin made it very clear the we are all heading in the wrong direction.

*"We know year by year what is going to happen, and they know we know. It is only you that they tell these fables and you buy it and spread it to the citizens of your countries. Your people do not feel a sense of impending danger, this is what worries me. How do you not understand that the world is being pulled in an irreversible direction? That is the problem. But they pretend that nothing is going on. I don't even know how to get through to you people anymore."*<sup>63</sup>

These are not the words of an aggressor. Obama on the other hand, is prolonging sanctions on Russia against the interests of Europe while using a constant aggressive rhetoric, never emphasizing the need for talk and cooperation with Russia, but imposing sanctions and demonizing whenever he can. The latest example of his ever more aggressive rhetoric was his comparison of Putin to Saddam Hussein. When asked about Trump's respect for Putin, Obama answered:

*"When the interviewer asks him [Trump], 'why do you support this guy [Putin]?' He says, 'He is a strong guy. Look, he's got an 82 percent poll rating.' Well, yes, Saddam Hussein had a 90 percent poll rating. If you control the media and you've taken away everybody's civil liberties, and you jail dissidents, that's what happens."*<sup>xx</sup>

This is an outrageous statement, not only because it is insulting and guaranteed to further deteriorate the relationship between the US and Russia, but also due to its extreme level of hypocrisy.

When considering Obama's statements, it is important to bear in mind his achievements: he has been continuously at war longer than any other American president in US history, he has taken military action in a total of seven countries — Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen — without the authorization of Congress<sup>64</sup>, he has launched a vicious drone warfare campaign that has caused over 2400 deaths, many of which are civilians (in Pakistan alone it is estimated that between 168 and 200 were children)<sup>65</sup>, he has allowed the murder of American citizens without due process<sup>66</sup> and permitted the launch of NSA's surveillance program that transformed the US into what can only be described as a surveillance state.<sup>yy</sup>

During the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2014, US Special Operations forces (SOF) had been deployed to 133 countries – roughly 70 percent of the nations on the planet with missions ranging from kill or capture night raids to training exercises.<sup>zz</sup> Now, one would think that this would be

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-europe-shield-idUSKCN0YI2ER>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqD8lIdIMRo> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BVSAEJbF00>  
<http://www.fort-russ.com/2016/07/putins-warning-full-speech-2016.html>

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/revoke-obamas-nobel-peace-prize>

<sup>65</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/obama-drone-program-anniversary\\_n\\_4654825.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/obama-drone-program-anniversary_n_4654825.html)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176110/tomgram:\\_mattea\\_kramer\\_the\\_grief\\_of\\_others\\_and\\_the\\_boasts\\_of\\_candidates/](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176110/tomgram:_mattea_kramer_the_grief_of_others_and_the_boasts_of_candidates/)

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.worldcantwait.net/index.php/home-mainmenu-289/6265-confirmed-obama-authorizes-assassination-of-us-citizen>

sufficient to ridicule Obama's statement, but there's more. His argument includes three things that he suggests Saddam Hussein and Putin have done in order for them to get a high approval rating: 1. "you control the media" 2. "you've taken away everybody's civil liberties" 3. "you jail dissidents".

Let's analyse the first, "you control the media". In the United States, 90% of the media is controlled by six mega-corporations.<sup>67</sup> A poll from this year conducted by Gallup, an American research-based company famous for their polls, found that only 20% of Americans have confidence in the media.<sup>aaa</sup> Obama is now just two steps away from comparing himself to Saddam Hussein.

2. "You've taken away everybody's civil liberties", I doubt I have to elaborate on this issue, but I could mention the fact that the United States has a very active torture program<sup>68</sup> and that the US has not only a larger percentage of its citizens in prison than any other country on earth, but also the largest absolute number of prisoners. The US actually has more of its citizens in prison than "authoritarian" China which has a population four times larger than the US. It is important to bear in mind that after the 9/11 attacks, the people of the United States has had many of their civil liberties stripped away and the principle and practice of rule of law, meaning equality before law, has been abandoned. Constitutional rights lawyer and celebrated journalist Glenn Greenwald has written about this in his book *With Liberty and Justice for Some*.<sup>bbb</sup>

3. "you jail dissidents". Anonymous hacker Jeremy Hammond, sentenced to 10 years in prison for hacking into Stratfor, a shady private security and intelligence company.<sup>ccc</sup> Journalist Matthew Keys, sentenced to 2 years for helping Anonymous edit a headline.<sup>ddd</sup> Journalist Barret Brown, sentenced to 5 years for sharing documents revealed by the hack on HBGary, another private security and intelligence company.<sup>eee</sup> These are some of the cases of dissidents being jailed in the US. These are mostly dissidents who provide the public with information that ought to be available to them in the first place, or dissidents who engage in what is called hacktivism.

One of the things revealed by the leaks is that the US use covert means of infiltrating and discrediting dissident movements. A document leaked by WikiLeaks shows us how HBGary Federal, among other companies, planned campaigns of disinformation and infiltration in order to counter what they had called the "WikiLeaks Threat".<sup>69</sup> The leaks provided by Edward Snowden also reveals "how western intelligence agencies are attempting to manipulate and control online discourse with extreme tactics of deception and reputation-destruction."<sup>70</sup>

Now that we have debunked Obama's statement, a paradox emerges: Obama has clearly done all of the three things he claims lead to a good poll rating, yet his approval rating is no more than around 50%.<sup>fff</sup> Reports suggest he has even less support than Assad in Syria.<sup>ggg</sup> What we are left with is a president of the US who can barely claim he represent the majority of its population, yet he is criticizing others for their lack of democracy. Before criticizing others democracies, maybe the US government should investigate its own current state of democracy. There is plenty to look into.<sup>71</sup> A recent study from Princeton University concluded that the US was not a democracy, but in fact an oligarchy.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/12/11/cia-torture-report/>

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article40428.htm>

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/torture-never-stopped-under-obama/17204>

<sup>69</sup> [https://wikileaks.org/IMG/pdf/WikiLeaks\\_Response\\_v6.pdf](https://wikileaks.org/IMG/pdf/WikiLeaks_Response_v6.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> <https://theintercept.com/2014/02/24/jtrig-manipulation/>

<sup>71</sup> <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/watch-computer-programmer-testifies-oath-coded-computers-rig-elections/>

<http://www.anonews.co/us-elections-illegitimate/>

<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/election-fraud-rico-lawsuit-alleging-widespread-e-vote-rigging-dnc-primaries-derail-clinton-nomination/>

<sup>72</sup> [https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens\\_and\\_page\\_2014\\_-\\_testing\\_theories\\_of\\_american\\_politics.doc.pdf](https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens_and_page_2014_-_testing_theories_of_american_politics.doc.pdf)

Here are some things Hillary Clinton, the candidate Obama strongly supports, said in a speech this year:

*"If there's one core belief that has guided and inspired me every step of the way, it is this. The United States is an exceptional nation. I believe we are still Lincoln's last, best hope of Earth ... And part of what makes America an exceptional nation, is that we are also an indispensable nation. In fact, we are the indispensable nation. People all over the world look to us and follow our lead. My friends, we are so lucky to be Americans. It is an extraordinary blessing. It's why so many people, from so many places, want to be Americans too ... You may wonder how anyone could disagree. But, in fact, my opponent in this race has said very clearly that he thinks American exceptionalism is insulting to the rest of the world. In fact, when Vladimir Putin, of all people, criticized American exceptionalism, my opponent agreed with him, saying, and I quote, "if you're in Russia, you don't want to hear that America is exceptional." Well maybe you don't want to hear it, but that doesn't mean it's not true ... So no matter how hard it gets, no matter how great the challenge, America must lead."*<sup>hhh</sup>

In that very same speech she also said:

*"Russia even hacked into the Democratic National Committee, maybe even some state election systems. So, we've got to step up our game. Make sure we are well defended and able to take the fight to those who go after us. As President, I will make it clear, that the United States will treat cyber-attacks just like any other attack. We will be ready with serious political, economic and military responses."*<sup>73</sup>

To give you the context: The Democratic National Committee was hacked and the emails that were leaked revealed that the DNC had been coordinating with the Clinton campaign and major media figures to both build up Hillary Clinton and trash Bernie Sanders, all while claiming neutrality to the public.<sup>74</sup> DNC chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned as a result of the incriminating evidence.<sup>iii</sup> In order to divert the attention away from the fact that the DNC **gave** the nomination to Hillary, Russia was blamed for the hacking, again. And needless to say: Russia was blamed without any evidence. NSA whistleblower William Binney claimed it was an US intelligence worker.<sup>jjj</sup>

So what she is essentially saying is that, as president, she would be ready with "serious political, economic and **military** responses" to cyber-attacks that she can't possibly prove Russia is responsible for. Military responses to alleged cyber-attacks? This seems beyond crazy for any rational human being, but it is nothing new coming from Hillary Clinton. She compared Putin's decision to allow the reunification with Crimea with "what Hitler did back in the 30s."

She is the candidate with one of the dirtiest records, if not the dirtiest record, in the history of US presidential elections.<sup>kkk</sup> The nonpartisan Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) placed Clinton at the top of its worst ethics violators of 2015 list.<sup>lll</sup> The claim that Hillary would make a good president because of all her experience is so fantastically stupid that it is comparable to say that Israel should be appointed Head of the UN Legal Committee. Yes, Israel has experience with international law, but its experience consists mainly of breaking it, just as Hillary's experience as a politician consists mainly of corruption.<sup>75</sup> As it turns out, Israel has been appointed Head of the UN Legal Committee.<sup>mmmm</sup>

In any case, a vote for Hillary is a vote for the very embodiment of corruption, cronyism and warmongering.<sup>nnn</sup> It is not a matter of suspicion, there are books: *Clinton Cash* by Peter Schweizer, who has gone to Oxford and is now the President of the Government Accountability Institute, *Partners in Crime: The Clintons' Scheme to Monetize the White House for Personal Profit*, a book by Jerome R. Corsi who received his PhD in Political Science from Harvard University, *The Clintons' War on Women*, by seasoned political operative and pundit Roger Stone and political researcher and historian Robert

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<sup>73</sup> <http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2016/09/01/speech-hillary-hawk-spreads-wings/>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.anonews.co/leaked-emails-dnc/>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyp11MYuKDY>

*Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich*, by Peter Schweizer, Harper, 2015

Morrow. The point is that the Clintons' supreme corruption is not a conspiracy theory. For many, it a well-established fact.

Only a profoundly uninformed or misinformed person would ever consider voting for her. Trump on the other hand, has said: "I will do everything within my power never to be in a position where we have to use nuclear [weapons] because that's a whole different ballgame ... I'd be the last one to use the nuclear weapon."<sup>oo</sup> Although Trump is no perfect candidate, his approach to US foreign policy alone makes him a far better choice than Hillary.<sup>76</sup> His stance on climate change is a problem, although I doubt his position is unchangeable. As for Hillary on climate change, she would never any take serious action that would harm the financial interests of her friends and donors. The US presidential elections are set to be held the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, and God help us if Hillary is elected President.

## Nuclear War is just a Few Steps Away

There is an article at [www.strategic-culture.org](http://www.strategic-culture.org) called "The Disturbing Signs of Global Conflict Continue to Gather Pace".<sup>77</sup> You should read it, but I will use some of the material here.

Here are some headlines that shows that even the mainstream media has started reporting the threat of nuclear war:

- Britain's Daily Telegraph: Here's how World War Three could start tomorrow
- America's New York Times simply entitled: "World War Three"
- Canada's Global Research: World War III in The Pipeline? US and European Allies Threaten Russia
- Australia News Network: World War 3 Update: US Warns China at G20 Summit
- Russia's RT: China & Russia's G20 message: Confrontation with West not our desire
- Iran – Press TV: World War III a coin flip if Hillary elected
- Germany Der Spiegel: War against Russia
- Reuters: Why nuclear war looks inevitable
- New York Magazine: Barack Obama (Probably) Won't Rule Out Initiating a Nuclear War
- Morning News USA: WW3 Alert: UK Ready for Nuclear Attack, NATO Positions Troops Against Russia

The Global Peace Index of 2016 states that there are now only 10 countries in the world that are actually free from conflict.<sup>ppp</sup>

According to Jim Rickards, the CIA's Asymmetric Warfare Advisor, the probability of a new global conflict is rising every day. In a startling interview from last year he revealed that all 16 US Intelligence Agencies have begun to prepare for World War III.<sup>78</sup> Rickards is predicting the fall of the dollar with the result of "an extended period of global anarchy".

Russia feel so threatened by the West that it is now building huge nuclear bunkers around Moscow and elsewhere in order to protect itself and its citizens in the case of nuclear war.<sup>qqq</sup> Even The Pope believes the start of World War Three is underway – "To be clear, when I speak about war, I speak about real war. Not a war of religion. There is a war of interests. There is a war for money. There is a war for natural resources. There is a war for domination of peoples", Pope Francis said.

The internationally recognized Doomsday Clock is a design that warns the public about how close we are to destroying our world with dangerous technologies of our own making. The closer the clock is to midnight, the closer the experts and scientists estimate we are to destroying our world. In 2016, the

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<sup>76</sup> <http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2016/08/25/trump-vs-hillary-a-summation-paul-craig-roberts/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCabT\\_O0YSM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCabT_O0YSM) To nuance the crooked image of Trump the media has been giving people.

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2016/09/10/disturbing-signs-global-conflict-continue-gather-pace.html>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAyhqE15WRQ>

time of the clock is at 23.57 – just 120 seconds left. The current position of the Doomsday Clock is the closest it has been since 1984 and is actually a few clicks closer to reaching a global extinction event for humans than in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis.<sup>79</sup> The crisis that Kennedy thought had a 50% chance of resulting in nuclear war.

Handelsblatt, Germany's Wall Street Journal, wrote in an editorial:

*"The American tendency to move from verbal escalation to military escalation—the isolation, demonization, and attacking of enemies—has not proven effective. The last successful major military action the US conducted was the Normandy landing [in 1944]. Everything else – Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan – was a clear failure. Moving NATO units towards the Polish border with Russia and thinking about arming Ukraine is a continuation of relying on military means in the absence of diplomacy."*<sup>80</sup>

Former Pentagon chief and author of *My Journey at the Nuclear Brink*, William Perry, says in an interview that he thinks the risk of nuclear catastrophe is greater than it was during the Cold War.<sup>81</sup> In the interview he also said:

*"I myself witnessed false alarms three times when we barely avoided nuclear confrontation. Each time I thought it could be the last day of my life."*

*"It's imperative for both the US and Russian governments to find a way to repair this bad relationship. The US and Russia [must] set up a joint working group to reduce the danger of nuclear terrorism."*

I think we can all agree that the US and Russian governments need to start cooperating, but this is difficult when the efforts to cooperate come mainly from one side, not both. In a press conference in December 2014, Putin said the following:

*"If the question is whether we want law-based relations, the answer is yes, but only if our national economic and security interests are absolutely respected ... We want to develop normal relations in the security sphere, in fighting terrorism. We will work together on nuclear non-proliferation. We will work together on other threats, including drugs, organised crime and grave infections, such as Ebola. We will do all this jointly, and we will cooperate in the economic sphere, if our partners want this."*<sup>82</sup>

In another interview he said:

*"The US is a superpower, and possibly the only superpower today. We accept this. We would like to cooperate with the US."*<sup>83</sup>

When answering questions at the Valdai International Discussion Club in late 2014, Putin stated:

*"As for the question of taking our interests into account, we would love to see people like you [US journalists] in charge at the US State Department. Perhaps this would do something to help turn the situation around. If this does not happen, I ask you to get the message across to our partners, the US President, Secretary of State and other officials, that we do not want or seek any confrontation ... We will never forget how Russia helped the United States to obtain independence, and we will never forget our cooperation and alliance during World War I and World War II. I personally believe that the strategic interests of the US and Russia are essentially the same, we must focus on this interrelationship."*<sup>84</sup>

In 2013, Putin wrote an article in the New York Times called "A Plea for Caution from Russia" in which he calls for a more cautious and thought through approach to the Syrian conflict.<sup>82</sup> Again, these are not the words of an aggressor. Then we have Obama, he is calling for further sanctions and more troops in eastern Europe while deploying anti-ballistic missile shields that directly threaten Russian national security. Author and investigative historian Eric Zuesse pointed out in an article that:

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<sup>79</sup> <http://thebulletin.org/timeline>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.handelsblatt.com/meinung/kommentare/essay-in-englisch-the-west-on-the-wrong-path/10308406.html>

<sup>81</sup> [http://rbth.com/international/2016/07/11/ex-pentagon-chief-risk-of-nuclear-catastrophe-is-greater-than-in-cold-war\\_610547](http://rbth.com/international/2016/07/11/ex-pentagon-chief-risk-of-nuclear-catastrophe-is-greater-than-in-cold-war_610547)

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/12/opinion/putin-plea-for-caution-from-russia-on-syria.html?pagewanted=all>



*“In his National Security Strategy 2015, he (Obama) uses the term “aggression” 18 times, and 17 of them are referring specifically to only one country as “aggressive”: Russia. However, not once does he say there what the “aggression” consisted of: what its target was, or what it itself was. He’s vague there on everything except his own target: Russia.”*<sup>83</sup>

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO until 2014 and now a fierce advocate of American exceptionalism, is perhaps the best exemplar of the dangerous fools that have been or are the leading figures in NATO, although general Philip Breedlove has been a strong competitor.<sup>84</sup> Rasmussen lives in an alternate reality<sup>85</sup>, a reality in which every action taken by NATO has been for the better, a reality in which in his words “we need a global policeman, and that policeman should be the United States. We don’t have any other ... It’s the destiny of the world’s only superpower to exercise determined leadership.”<sup>uuu</sup> In this reality, what we are witnessing right now, is that “all these autocrats, they are actually challenging the American-led world order.” Rasmussen’s departure from reality was well established in his quite revealing interview last year with Al Jazeera.<sup>86</sup>

In 2014 he made sure NATO deployed a “spearhead” force in Eastern Europe, comprised of several thousand troops which allows NATO to “deal swiftly and firmly with any threat.”<sup>vvv</sup> In a recent article, he called President Putin an “autocrat,” while adding that “Russia is obsessed with rebuilding the empire the Soviet Union lost.”<sup>www</sup> By making statements like these, which are found everywhere and never rely on evidence, the tensions with Russia increase, and consequently, so does the possibility of nuclear war.

George Lee Butler, former US Air Force general and commander of US nuclear forces, says that we have so far avoided a “nuclear holocaust by some combination of skill, luck and divine intervention—probably the latter in greatest proportion.”<sup>87</sup> If nothing is done, we can hardly expect a combination of skill, luck and divine intervention will keep us alive much longer.

I believe that based on what have been provided of information; it has become clear beyond any reasonable doubt that we now face the threat of destruction by nuclear war. It is also obvious to see who is responsible for the situation. Even if half of the information I have presented was false, it would make no difference, the conclusions would be the same. Now, only the last and most crucial question remains:

What can be done? As it seems our governments are doing nothing about the threat of nuclear war, the people must take action. But if that is going to have any chance of succeeding, people need to be informed about the dangers they face. I have written this essay to raise awareness, and I beg you to share it and spread the word. If enough people know about the threat of nuclear war, we can take action to do something about it. Non-violent demonstrations, go on strikes, anything. But if we do nothing, and people remain ignorant, all may be lost. We have a choice:



<sup>83</sup> <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2015/02/entire-case-sanctions-russia-pure-lies.html>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2016/07/02/treason-former-nato-commander-breedsoves-hacked-emails-pure-strangelove/>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.sott.net/article/326226-The-alternate-reality-of-NATO-secretary-general-Anders-Fogh-Rasmussen>  
<http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2014/09/02/warning-world-washington-nato-eu-vassals-insane-paul-craig-roberts-2/>

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu43miZNfvc>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.wagingpeace.org/general-lee-butler/>  
<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/22821>

## Endnotes

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- <sup>a</sup> <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/10660-in-hiroshimas-shadow>
- <sup>b</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/1999/10/22/genocide-in-kosovo/>  
<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/1999/11/koso-n09.html>  
<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/62/092.html>  
<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article7439.htm>
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