Iranian Council For Defending The Truth

Iranian Council for Defending the Truth
Report on the

Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

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How do ICDT international experts characterize The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict?

In this report, Iranian Council for Defending the Truth publishes its international experts' views and opinions on The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict.

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Ukrainian Crisis and Western Double Standards Politics

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Ukraine is just a field of conflict between Russia and the collective West that used Ukraine against Russia in a political sense for the last 8 years after the organized coup in February 2014. But NATO is afraid to be involved in direct conflict with Russia and use rhetoric only. From a geopolitical point of view, Ukraine is not a subject, it is an object. Russian interest is to have a security buffer zone close to the borders. But the president of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensly promised to join NATO and to develop nuclear weapons. The West was (and still) interested to use Ukraine as anti-Russian asset.

It is not war, but military operation directed to demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. Because the red line was crossed by Ukraine just last week (fire on Donbass citizens), Moscow decided to support recently recognized Donetsk Peoples Republic and Lugansk Peoples Republic and protect civilians from attacks of the Ukrainian military and paramilitary Neonazi groups.

In December Russia proposed to the US and NATO to discuss the security situation in Europe and find a solution. They rejected Russian proposals. It has other meaning too. If the West doesn't understand the language of diplomacy and power politics only, Russia does this option. Personally, I think that the best time was 8 years ago just after the coup when at least 1/3 of the Ukrainian population rejected the new Neonazi regime. But better to do it later than never.

There was a chance to avoid conflict, but Ukrainian leadership did not follow the Minsk agreement and attacks in Donbass were continued. Russian proposes to find a new frame of security rejected. Of course, any military conflict is a tragedy but from Russian opinion, it is better to finish this situation of confrontation now than wait some years and get worse and bloodier war with nuclear weapons. I really hope that the operation will end as soon as possible.

Russian prime-minister Mishustin told that Russia is ready for the sanction, mutually; counter-sanctions from Russia also will be imposed. Now oil and gas prices growing up and it is good both for Russia and countries dealing with the export of such resources. It is bad for the economy of the US. Russian business working abroad will

be affected. But it opens doors for more cooperation with other countries from the anti-US blocks.

I think the Ukraine conflict is a sign of the transition era to new world order. Indeed, it is very clear that the US policy of sticks and carrots not works anymore. Eurasian alliance is more visible and Russia ready to support more countries who want to be free from Western dominance and hegemony. Multipolarity is rising and as any historical shift we see some perturbations.

These days, there are some speculations about China's possible attempt to reunification by attacking Taiwan. But, I would say the Taiwan case is very different, as well as the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India or the Sahel in North Africa. Perception of the Ukrainian crisis from most people based on Eurocentric vision, they think if something happened in Europe it will impact the whole world.

But why do they not care about Iraq and Libya, Palestine and other regions? Most of the European countries supported the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 and recognized separatist Kosovo-Helsinki agreement about the political borders of Europe was destroyed. Now the same voices who supported attacks on Yugoslavia, Libya and Iraq tell about the borders and sovereignty of Ukraine. Double standards politics, is not?

Ukrainian Crisis and Revising the European Security Architecture

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The conflict isn't a Russian-Ukrainian one per se because it's actually the Russian Armed Forces fighting against US-backed Ukrainian fascists who seized power following the spree of urban terrorism from 2013-2014 popularly described as "EuroMaidan" by the West. It also isn't a territorial one like many wrongly believe but is really the result of the undeclared US-provoked missile crisis in Europe that Washington refused to resolve through diplomatic means following Moscow's security guarantee requests from late December.

The eastward expansion of NATO, deployment of "anti-missile systems" and strike weapons near Russia's border, and the US' withdrawal from arms control pacts like the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and Open Skies Treaty all served to erode Russia's nuclear second-strike capabilities. The end goal is to place it in a perpetual position of nuclear blackmail. President Putin warned about this during his expanded meeting with the Defense Ministry Board on 21 December as well as his addresses to the Russian people on 21 February and 24 February.

He claimed that NATO was plotting to strike Russia from Ukraine in the coming future after hinting that it first sought to neutralize his country's nuclear second-strike capabilities in order to ensure the success of this World War II-like surprise attack. In his own words from Thursday morning's speech, "If we look at the sequence of events and the incoming reports, the showdown between Russia and these forces cannot be avoided. It is only a matter of time. They are getting ready and waiting for the right moment…We cannot stay idle and passively observe these developments."

With this in mind, Russia's aims are to essentially ensure the integrity of its national security red lines, which involves revising the European security architecture in such a way that its legitimate interests are finally respected. That grand strategic goal might not be attainable right away, but Russia already succeeded in destroying NATO's secret military infrastructure in Ukraine from which it planned to attack the Eurasian Great Power following the neutralization of its nuclear second-strike capabilities. In other words, President Putin didn't spark World War III, he literally just averted it.

Russia's special operation in Ukraine can only be described as a "tragedy" insofar that it was avoidable had the US respected Russia's security guarantee requests and encouraged Kiev to comply with the UNSC-backed Minsk Accords, but Moscow's military moves are legitimate in the interests of self-defense and are aimed at averting NATO's surprise attack that President Putin warned Thursday morning "cannot be avoided". The US has no mutual security obligations to Ukraine, but that country still didn't expect it and its Western allies to withdraw their military forces in the run-up to Russia's campaign. That was the wisest decision though since they would have otherwise opened themselves up to a nuclear attack by Russia in self-defense exactly as President Putin warned when telling others on Thursday morning not to interfere with his country's military operations in Ukraine.

NATO's long-term plans were to use Ukraine as a launching pad from which to attack and possibly even invade Russia after first neutralizing its nuclear second-strike capabilities. Its short-term plans in response to Russia's special operation there might be to have Ukrainian President Zelensky declare the independence of Western Ukraine in order for that territory to immediately enter into a military alliance with NATO or ask for incorporation into Poland like had previously happened in the past after World War I. That would result in the partition of Ukraine and place part of its territory under that anti-Russian military bloc's nuclear umbrella.

President Putin already reassured his compatriots that the government has been preparing for more anti-Russian sanctions for years and therefore has a plan in place for responding to that scenario. The economy will be immediately impacted but the country is expected to manage the consequences over the medium and long terms. It has enormous reserves of foreign currency and gold, and the National Wealth Fund is pretty large as well. Russia is also expected to rely on China for financial support if need be, though it might not come to that.

There are some stories about China nowadays. The Communist Party of China (CPC), which is what the Chinese government calls the ruling party, has made it abundantly clear countless times in the past that Taiwan's reunification with the mainland will come at a time of its choosing. There presently aren't any credible indications that this will happen in the immediate future, though of course anything can always transpire. Other countries involved in territorial disputes like India and Pakistan also don't seem ready to militarily resolve them at this point in time either.

The Multipolar World Order began to unfold around 2008 according to some estimates but the existing order can more accurately be described as "bi-multipolarity" according to influential Indian thinker Sanjaya Baru. He explained that the American and Chinese superpowers are the top actors in the current world system, below which are a group of Great Powers like Russia, India, Japan, and the EU, among others. Baru predicts that the Bi-Multipolar World Order will be characterized by the flexibly changing relationships between the superpowers and Great Powers as well as between those Great Powers themselves. The smaller- and medium-sized countries below them will basically become objects of the competition between those above them in the international bi-multipolar hierarchy.

The Ukraine Crisis; Costly Western Game in the Territory of Eurasia

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Introduction

Although the current situation in Ukraine can be considered as a regional crisis in the territory of Eurasia, it is clear that its multiple consequences will affect all actors in the international system. The West, primarily the United States, is largely responsible for what is currently happening on Ukrainian soil. Although an erosive conflict may have tactical benefits for the West, it will be fraught with unpleasant strategic consequences: Complete destruction of Ukraine's social and economic infrastructure, intensification of Ukraine's radicalization, growing risks including transition to nuclear level, threatening gradual erosion of Western unity, and the prospect of a global economic slide into a new cycle of crisis. These are just some of the consequences.

The goal of the United States and Europe since the beginning of the Ukraine crisis has been to impose a geopolitical defeat on Russia. The strategy for achieving this goal is also clear; as the conflict continued, Moscow had to be militarily, economically and politically trapped in Ukraine. Today, almost three months after the start of the military crisis in Ukraine, it is becoming increasingly clear that Western calculations have been erroneous, with the West's comprehensive strengthening of the Ukrainian government and the consequences of the military conflict.

The Prospect of a Slump in the Global Economy

The negative economic impact of the Ukraine crisis is now far beyond the borders of direct participants in the conflict. In early March, world oil prices reached $ 130 per barrel. (Ryan Dezember, Kenny Jimenez, 2022) And any increase of $ 10 per barrel, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), would mean a 0.5 percent slowdown in the global economy per year. (The Impact of Higher Oil Prices on the Global Economy, 2000)

According to the IMF, the events that have been taking place in Ukraine since February 24, 2022, have become one of the main factors hindering the recovery of the global economy after the crisis caused by the pandemic. IMF was forced to cut its forecast for economic growth this year to 143 countries, which together account for 86 per-

cent of global GDP. Food insecurity will become a serious concern in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa and some Latin American countries. Perhaps this event, along with inflation in the United States reaching a 40-year high and in the UK a 30-year high, could shed light on the importance of the issue for the West. (Giles, 2022)

The announcement of a political stance by Western leaders has called into question the construction and operation of previously agreed energy transfer projects, which are likely to come at a cost to the West. Given European demand, rising hydrocarbon prices require large-scale and long-term investments in fossil fuels, not just oil and gas but even coal. According to the CEO of BASF , the world's largest chemical producer, Germany imported 55% of its natural gas from Russia, which plunged the country into its most catastrophic economic crisis since the end of World War II. (Greyerz, 2022)

The economies of EU countries in the wake of the Ukraine crisis may face a combination of recession and record inflation. At present, there is a significant increase in the level of consumer prices, which has exceeded last year's figure by seven and a half percent, and this trend will continue if the previous positions are emphasized. (Евросоюзу предсказали стагфляцию из-за кризиса на Украине, 2022)

The Crisis in Ukraine, the Beginning of a Chain of Crises

The conflict in Eurasia seems to have become a catalyst for escalating crisis in other parts of the world. It could influence Turkey's decision to launch military operations in northern Iraq, indirectly help escalate the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, and encourage the North Korean leadership to resume missile tests, with far-reaching consequences. A military focus in Europe on geostrategic regions with significant Russian military and political presence, such as in the Middle East and North Africa, will have fragile consequences. (The Impact of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine in the Middle East and North Africa, 2022) There are many reasons to believe that in the following months we will see an intensification of regional and domestic political crises. (Ghitis, 2022)

This conflict has had a clear negative impact on the negotiation process of the Vienna talks, as well as the consultations between Russia and the United States on strategic stability and the control of strategic offensive weapons. Ultimately, the radicalization of Ukraine itself is a major threat that, in addition to Russia, will target countries that have pursued a strategy of silence and "disgusting blindness" in the wake of the "revival of neo-Nazism" in Ukraine. (Нарышкин заявил, что очаг неонацизма на Украине несет угрозу для всей Европы, 2022)

Supporting the Third Actor, a Repetitive American Game

For the past eight years since the Crimean crisis, Ukraine has been militarily and ideologically supplied by NATO. The United States and the North Atlantic Alliance have extensive experience training and equipping armed forces in third actors. (Алкснис, 2022) However, this experience has a certain historical memory, and to refer to a part of it, we can refer to certain conditions that occurred in the Middle East in 1980-1988. US decision to help Baghdad in the early days of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980-1988 came after US intelligence warned that Iraq was on the verge of invading Iran. The Reagan administration secretly decided to provide top-secret information to Iraq in the spring of 1982, while also allowing the sale of US-made weapons to Baghdad in a successful attempt to help Saddam Hussein. Former intelligence officials and the State Department have blamed the support on preventing Iraq from imminent defeat in the war with Iran. (Hersh, 1992)

Successive support for Saddam led to Iraq conducting meaningless military operations after the end of the war, most notably in the invasion of Kuwait. Finally, the United States intended to realize the existence of a radical in the Middle East when the terrorist threat leads to a catastrophe in the heart of the country. Finally, under Bush administration, US forces began their military operations in Iraq: "This is the beginning of a large-scale, coordinated campaign. An initial attempt to "destroy" the Iraqi leadership by air strikes failed, paving the way for a ground invasion." (Timeline The Iraq War, n.d.)

Regardless of the review of the cost of the military operations in Iraq and the emphasis on endangering the lives of millions of Iraqis over the past two decades, today, if US efforts to support Ukraine continue to stop Russia, Saddam Hussein's fate will be repeated in Ukraine. The difference is that this time the threat will be to the citizens of European countries.

Domestic Dissatisfaction, the Cost of American Role-playing across Borders

By default, Washington's $ 40 billion aid package to Kyiv is certainly significant, but it certainly could not be without significant side effects for US and European populations. US economy can no longer afford the costs of such an irresponsible policy, and its continuation undermines the very stability of the Western system that citizens feel. Attempts to blame what is happening on "Putin's invasion" have not been very successful, and most Americans blame the authorities for the deteriorating socio-economic and financial situation. Under this circumstance, injecting large sums of money into a corrupt and threatening country on the other side of the world can turn into a host of unpleasant surprises in the homes of Westerners. The first case occurred two days ago, when Senator Rand Paul blocked the $ 40 billion bill and called for the appointment of an inspector general to oversee budget allocation, saying: "We can't save Ukraine by destroying the US economy." (Алкснис, 2022)

Conclusion

The Ukraine crisis was intensified by the United States and its NATO allies with the aim of stopping Russia within its borders. US role playing thousands of miles away from its borders in the territory of Eurasia has led to huge costs, first for the US and then for its allies, and this trend will intensify if the current trend of Western support for Ukraine continues. In addition, the continuing military crisis in Ukraine will lead to series of crises around the world, examples of which are examined in this report.

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The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict and Russian National Consciousness

Denis Korkodinov

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The Russian-Ukrainian military conflict of 2022 awakened the national consciousness of Russian society, thanks to which a grandiose and most effective national movement arose in the pro-Russian camp. It is dominated by supporters of the "Russian world" - people who admire the successes of Russian politics. The leaders of the ideology of the "Russian world", in this case, play the main role in shaping the historical narrative about the perception of Moscow's victory over the "Kyiv regime". The recognition by Russia of the independence of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics, like a bolt from the blue, made the entire international community startle and, like a whirlwind, led to an absolute transformation of the existing geopolitical system.

The project for the liberation of Donbass, which has occupied the minds of the Russian leadership over the past 8 years, has deservedly acquired a unique significance in the public mind. Moreover, it is quite logical to conclude that the image of a victorious military "liberation" campaign has become a fundamental element in the process of formation of national identity. On the other hand, the conflict taking place before our eyes invariably affects the modernization of Russia's official state ideology. These circumstances, in turn, are reflected in the process of the historical role of Moscow, for which the "holy war, people's war" has always acted as a climax.

Thus, the recognition of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics and the ensuing Russian military campaign against the "Kiev regime" shaped the Russian political and cultural elite's understanding of the unique role of Russian President Vladimir Putin on the world stage. At the same time, the decisive influence on the views and moods of the Russian political establishment and the growth of national self-consciousness is exerted by the expulsion of the Ukrainian army from the territory of Donbass. In addition, the leading element in the perception of the Russian society of the conflict with the "Kiev regime" was the image of a decisive rebuff to the aggressor, a just liberation struggle.

A new stage in the development of the regional security system, which began on February 22, 2022, marked a fundamental change in the priorities of Russian policy, its focus on the manifestation of military force. The characteristic features of this policy are the rejection of traditional tools of "dip-

lomatic dialogue", the ability to turn to the country's armed forces, and attempts to rethink on their basis the possibility of using nuclear weapons if Russia encounters a whole range of "extraordinary threats".

Meanwhile, already at the very beginning of the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, a negative trend in the perception of Russia is emerging among US supporters. Such negative perceptions have developed, first of all, due to a lack of understanding of Russian political reality, as well as due to fear of huge Russia and its military potential. As a result, the image of "aggressive" Russia as a destabilizing political entity posing a threat to the entire civilized world was formed in the international public consciousness, including the American one. And the more active Moscow's foreign policy became, the sharper assessments come from the lips of American proxies.

The overthrow of the legitimate president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych, the "Ukrainian Maidan", the burning of people in the Odessa House of Trade Unions became a kind of "epiphany" for Moscow, when hopes for peaceful negotiations with the "Kiev regime" were destroyed. At that moment, the image of Ukraine after 2014 acquired demonic outlines for Russian society. The current Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky, once a TV clown, has turned out to be an enemy of the Russian Kremlin, and Kiev has become the epicenter of Eastern European terrorism. This was one of the main reasons for the recognition of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics. Ukrainian pressure on the Donbass in Russia has come to be seen as a manifestation of national humiliation, as a result of which the ongoing Russian military campaign against the "Kyiv regime" has begun to be seen as a convincing example of courage.

For this reason alone, Russia is unlikely to stop its military operations on the borders of Donbass. Moscow's goal is to overthrow all representatives of the Ukrainian authorities who seized power in Kiev in 2014. The Russian army will certainly reach Kiev, which will be an occasion to hang the Russian state flag on the doors of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the residence of Vladimir Zelensky.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is a political strategist. He would never start a military operation or a long-term diplomatic game without being absolutely sure of his own victory, despite the fact that it is his victory that will testify to the victory of the entire Russian state. The military operation of Moscow on the territory of Donbass was calculated by a whole team of countries (Russia, Belarus) for 8 years. Each section of the directions of the Russian army's offensive was checked in detail on the ground with the assistance of Russian agents operating in Ukraine.

In addition, we should not forget that after 2014, the Kremlin found itself at the disposal of many Ukrainian political and military specialists, including the team of the ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who took an active part in planning the military operation. In this regard, all the nuances of the military confrontation were taken into account by Moscow, which, nevertheless, until the last moment hoped that the "Kyiv regime" would show civility and desire for a constructive dialogue.

However, when, at the initiative of Vladimir Zelensky, all diplomatic and political tools to improve relations between the countries were exhausted, the Kremlin was faced with a difficult choice: either start a military operation first, or wait for the moment when Kyiv starts a military operation on Russian territory. Under such conditions, Vladimir Putin made the only right decision: to force Kyiv to peace through military force.

Of course, Vladimir Putin put a lot on the map of the military conflict: his reputation, his political future, his independence. However, as I have already pointed out, the Russian leader would never have started a conflict if he was not absolutely sure that he would win and that there was no other way to ensure the security of our state.

Vladimir Putin is well aware that economic sanctions against Russia are temporary. Neither the United States nor European countries in the conditions of geopolitical reality will be able to do without Russia, because almost all energy, financial, transport, strategic international projects are somehow connected with our state. In this regard, the economic sanctions imposed against our country will inevitably have a negative impact on those states that initiated these sanctions. For this reason alone, the period for the implementation of sanctions measures is very limited. Economic sanctions will be lifted as soon as there is a threat of a global ca-

tastrophe. And this threat can arise very quickly.

Furthermore, we must not forget that the international community, no matter how it treats Russia, is interested in raw materials. So, for example, it was in Afghanistan. Before the Afghan revolution on August 15, 2021, most Western countries considered the Taliban militants to be outright terrorists and unanimously did not want to have any relationship with them. However, this was a lie. As soon as the Afghan Taliban seized the central power in the country, first of all, the European countries and the United States secretly began to negotiate with them on cooperation, since the Taliban controlled significant reserves of vital raw materials, the need for which in the international arena is excessively high.

The same will happen with Russia. Regardless of the presence of Russian troops in the Donbas, the US and the European Union will develop relations with Moscow and will be forced to maintain friendship with Vladimir Putin, if only on the grounds that there are a lot of foreign resources on Russian territory that the US and European countries need. And if these countries want to access these resources, they will need to engage in a constructive dialogue with Vladimir Putin.

Kiev was asked to strictly comply with the Minsk agreements, which provide for the preservation of the status quo and oblige countries not to take military action against each other. Among other things, the negotiation process, permanently implemented between Ukraine and Russia, involved the search for compromise solutions that had to meet the only goal - to maintain peace between countries and not create conditions for a nuclear apocalypse. However, Kyiv refused to comply with all restrictive measures and embarked on the path of war, thereby canceling Russia's obligations not to use military force to enforce peace.

The Joe Biden administration openly provoked Kyiv into a war with Moscow. And, perhaps, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, if he had not been pressured by the White House, could have established a dialogue with Vladimir Putin. But the Ukrainian leader was too weak. He fell into absolute dependence on the American dictate, which created the casus belli for the world apocalypse. However, there is still an opportunity to prevent a catastrophe. To do this, the parties to the conflict need to learn, first of all, to negotiate with each other and understand each other.

The Ukraine Conflict: A Life or Death Struggle for Russia

Scott Bennett

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Russia's superior military tactics capabilities and weapon systems and trained personnel are taking control of Ukraine and eliminating the NATO US British backed mercenary's that were completely inept and incapable of challenging Russia. However, one of the most interesting developments has been the NATO-U.S.-British European Union reaction to Russia's military victory. In essence what we've seen is the West completely coming apart and hysterically engaging in futile propaganda and suicidal economic sanctions that will essentially do tremendous harm to the population and industries of Europe and the United States instead.

Historically, Russia has been experiencing U.S. driven economic sanctions and hardships for the last 10 years, and as a result its leaders and people have developed the strength of character and focus and self-reliance that has made it able to withstand these pressures.

Contrarily, the NATO and European nations have never been exposed to such hardships and will most likely fall into a sense of shock and panic as they begin to feel the sting of sanctions and subsequent material scarcity. This will lead to an emotional collapse of Europe and NATO nations as their people become painfully aware of the ruin and hardship their own government leaders are subjecting them to, and the vanity and foolishness of these policies.

The European and NATO citizenry will then begin to become increasingly hostile against their own governments for forcing these hardships on the room people and this aggression and hostility towards their own government leaders will motivate the citizens to seek and elect new leaders who will in turn declare their intent to end this conflict and reconnect with Russia and disconnect from the United States NATO (UK) dominated control.

Russia may even quicken this political metamorphosis of the West by developing a new coalition of oil producing of nations involving Venezuela, Iran, Russia, and others. This would form an alternative to OPEC which would quickly weaken and nullify the Saudi Arabian oil industry. This would instantly quicken the Saudi's departure from the Petro-dollar, and direct it to peace negotiations with Yemen and Iran.

Saudi Arabia realizes its survival is on the line, and is therefore open to any new arrangements that would enable its political sustainability and economic life. Since the Saudi political regime is very susceptible to disintegration as a result of any new oil coalitions that Russia may put together, it may even agree to become neutral and not provide oil to fuel the endless war machine of the West, if given guarantees of non-intervention from Iran and Russia.

Additionally Russia could create non-hostility agreements with individual European nations and essentially checkmate and disintegrate NATO and the European Union from within and return it to its original design which was a non-economic union that simply recognized and allowed easy travel between European peoples and nations.

It is claimed that Russia's Achilles heel might be its economy as, the West is preparing large-scale sanctions against Russia; but Russia is very capable of withstanding the economic sanctions because it has been experiencing hardship and pressure imposed upon them by the United States for the last 10 years. This has been part of a broader economic war that has also now combined a military proxy war, an information war of propaganda from the media, and a diplomatic war from political circles at the United Nations, the European Union, an America and Great Britain which have been constantly harassing criticizing and negatively characterizing Russia.

However Russia has developed a very thick political skin and immune system, and now has a resolve and a determination to endure. In essence Russia sees this is a life or death struggle that it cannot acquiesce to, surrender or bow down to, or retreat from. Russia now realizes the West has no good intentions for friendship, nor does it want tolerance or mutual existence but a rather has a diabolical obsession for containment and eventual cannibalization of Russia. This is most relatively seen in its DNA biological weapons factories that the United States in the United Kingdom and Israel were helping plant in Ukraine.

Russia knew many years prior that the United States agenda was to develop biological chemical weapons technology in factories that had planted in Ukraine and use those factories to develop strains of biological germ warfare that could be delivered into the Russian ethnic DNA and ultimately create tremendous damage among the population. This is nothing less than a crime of human against humanity and must be seen and judged and prosecuted as an act of genocide and all persons and agencies and governments associated with this terrible act must be brought to international justice as they will be by God himself one day.

Ukraine Caught in the Middle of Lies and Western Propaganda

Sonja van den Ende

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The conflict in Ukraine has been going on since 2014, after the coup détat from the US, EU and NATO. In 2014 the Western states conducted a coup, to replace the Ukrainian government with a "puppet" government, their aim was to come closer to the Russian border and eventually replace the Russian government. Since 2014, the CIA in cooperation with Western Intelligence services is backing up the many neonazi groups, like the Right Sektor or Svobod a in Ukraine. They have the same ideology as the former Nazi SS (Schutz Staffel) battalions and even though the West is claiming they are a minority group, this is not the case, certainly not in Western Ukraine. The Russian minority, the Jews, Muslims and Gypsies are their target of discrimination and violence on a daily basis.

The violence erupted on Maidan in Kiev and on 2 May 2014 in Odessa, when these neonazi's burnt down the union house, with at least 30 or more people inside, mainly from the Russian minority, they were burned alive. Over the years, the violence got more extreme, in Donbass, the Ukrainian army, which consist of many radicals, killed many civilians, the West is and was quiet about it, they blamed Russia over and over again, with baseless lies, like the MH17, the Skripal's and the Navalny poison case.

Finally, it boiled over and Russia, as President Putin said in a televised speech, said enough is enough and started the clean-up operation. Surprisingly, for the West, it started beside the Donbass, in Kyiv as well, to get rid of the Western puppet regime under the leadership of a comic figure, first, there was the chocolate Oligarch Porochenko, he was replaced by the comedian Zelensky, who is a laughingstock. The current President of the US Joe Biden and his drug addicted son Hunter Biden do have some "dirty" business in Ukraine being shareholders and Hunter is on the board of Ukraine's largest gas company Burisma.

Quickly the West condemned President Putin, playing it on the person, like what they did with Syria's President Assad or Libya's President Gadaffi and the best example is former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Let Western press and civilians believe they are all evil dictators, to justify their own "dirty wars", which killed thousands across the Middle East, now they are trying the

same script in Ukraine, which will not work, as it didn't work in Syria. Russia has no intention of occupying Ukraine, as did it not have in Syria. Russia wants peace, quiet and prosperity for its neighbor and foremost no NATO and EU on the border of Russia. The only way this can be done is the cleanup operation, which the West calls war, to eliminate and unarm the neonazi's and destroy their ideology.

The Western world, meaning in this case of Europe, will not be the same after this operation, their lies are out in the open, and people in Western Europe are starting to see the reality that they are fooled over and over again and dragged into conflicts, which isn't their conflict. They see how the once democratic Western world has turned into a totalitarian block, the COVID pandemic was used for political purposes. These days there are still many uprisings in Germany, France and other parts of Europe. On 24 February, when the military operation started, Russia received documentation from employees of Ukrainian bio laboratories, which stated the urgent destruction of especially dangerous pathogens of plague, anthrax, tularemia, cholera and other deadly diseases. More evidence will be presented in the coming weeks or months about the "dirty and dangerous" business of the US and its allies, showing their real ugly face of imperialism.

The people in the West will finally realize that they are ruled by an "ugly" regime, saying they want democracy, but in reality, they are a murderous regime, who killed many people around the world, since WWII ended and Russia is now the only one who can stop this madness. The unipolar world is and will be gone, the US and its Western allies know by now, that a multipolar world has emerged, as President Putin has stated in his speech, in 2007, in Munich, at the Security Conference. The US and Western allies' hegemony has come to an end. People should also realize that the Russians are presenting (these days) the real European way of life.

The West's only answer so far is sanctions, as they did with many countries around the world. They succeeded many times, but not with Russia. Russia is already facing sanctions since 2015, but it didn't hit the economy as bad, as the Western world thought it would. They developed their own products, like milk, cheese, fish and flowers have become large profitable industries in Russia. If you walk through the streets of Moscow, you will find a prosperous, efficient society, the population well educated, a moral people, which Western European society is lacking, due to many uneducated so-called refugees, a high crime rate and a destructive LGBT policy, the West is a collapsing block. Russia will be capable of replacing the "wealth" of the West, as it has done already for a long time, by taking away the "wealth" of its own oligarchs, of whom many of them fled and got asylum in the UK.

The West has a bad reputation and no credibility at all, when it comes to promises, to help their so-called friends, or to help the countries on which they imposed a color revolution. A good example is Afghanistan, they waged war for 30 years, fighting the Taliban, but on the other hand, they helped the Taliban and led "good " people like Ashraf Ghani, to flee the country, because the US themselves lost and fled. But there are many other examples, the Kurds for instance; the US led them to be killed by DAESH in Syria and Iraq. Or the Shia majority in Iraq, George Bush Sr. Promised to protect them from the forces of Saddam Hussein, after the Gulf war, but they were brutally murdered.

They also betray their longest allies, countries like Germany (Nord stream II) Turkey, France and Saudi Arabia. One can ask why? Partly because the US and EU have had for many years a "hardcore" capitalistic system, in contrast to China and Russia, where the government stands above capitalism. This Western model of capitalism doesn't care about people, only about money and profit. But this system is bankrupt and the West is eagerly trying to create a new model, a technocratic, transhuman system, which is doomed to fail, people in Europe don't want a system like that. It's also the end of Western mankind.

Many analysts think that the Ukrainian conflict is a quagmire from the US, in other words, a trap, for Russia and eventually will destroy Russia. But as I mentioned above, the lack of trust from the US towards their allies is part of the downfall of the Western world. The US and its allies are not to be trusted, they don't know the meaning of promise, which is essential in geopolitical relations, at

least some sort of trust must be there. Russia has become the imaginary "enemy" of the Western elite and their "false" media and marionettes, called politicians.

Russian politicians and many Russian civilians are well aware of it and distrust the Western world for many years. Russia will succeed, because the West again has failed, by not really backing-up Ukraine's puppet leader Zelensky, by refusing a NATO no-fly zone, saying it might trigger WWIII, but they know Russia will not start WWIII. As I firmly believe, this operation might be the "liberation" of Europe, to get rid of a regime, which ruled too long and murdered too much, in the name of democracy.

The US (and EU) thought that by conducting a coup détat in 2014 in Ukraine, they would finally get rid off what they call the Russian "regime", under the leadership of Putin and restore a unipolar world, but failed to do so, simply because of lack and understanding of the Eastern mentality, their determination, their love and passion for their country and religion. All these things are a minority issue in the Western world, as they encountered in Syria already. Many times the Western world tried to invade Russia they didn't succeed and they never will.

For Russians, their country (for many) is more important than "hard-core" capitalism. The EU and the US wanted to make Ukraine another client state, where cheap labor can be exploited and a buffer state against Russia. Their propaganda is failing and their utmost despicable act is to censor everything from Russia, their media, remove companies, so basically from the West, so much for their "imaginary" democratic system, press freedom and democratic values.

Ukraine Crisis and Concern over the Future of the World Order

Dr. Glen M Duerr

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In some respects, the Ukraine conflict is the result of not being able to solve a gordian knot. Ukraine has a distinct language, history, and culture, so, like many recognized nations in the world, has a state to protect its interests. Russia has been invaded from the west on five occasions in its history from Poland/Lithuania in 160 to Hitler in 1941 and, under Putin, sees securing this area of the northern plains of Europe as paramount to its security. The expansion of NATO has certainly caused Putin real concern. Having said this, there are no countries in eastern Europe that want to attack Russia and no-one in the United States has an appetite to take on Russia, so this is a war without any real basis.

Each country joined NATO as a means of securing its own territory and trying to obtain the economic benefits of gaining EU membership (which usually occurs after NATO membership). Putin has violated international law and engaged in illegal actions rife with human rights abuses. History will remember him poorly for his militarism and gross violations of humanity, among many other problems caused by his rule.

It is hard to state exactly why Putin does anything on the world stage, but I think he views Ukraine as an important element in security. Putin has clearly been preparing for this invasion for some time, amassing over 100,000 troops on the border since November, conducting joint military exercises with Belarus as a cover during the February Winter Olympics, and amassing a reported $630 billion war chest to offset anticipated western sanctions. Russia's normal, major quadrennial military exercises are generally more predictable and while Putin has amassed troops on Ukraine's borders every four years, he withdraws them quickly. The sustained build-up gave significant signals of a looming war.

Ukraine is a member of the Partnership for Peace initiative but has not moved forward to the Membership Action Plan stage, which would later allow them to join NATO. Ultimately, there is a real concern among NATO countries that adding Ukraine would be too much of a provocation for Vladimir Putin. Even though Ukraine has been discussed as a possible future member since President George W. Bush's first term, Ukraine has not moved forward.

Having said this, several NATO countries have partnered with Ukraine in more overt ways. Some governments have provided significant aid, including lethal military aid. But, no country has taken major steps to bring Ukraine closer to the NATO fold.

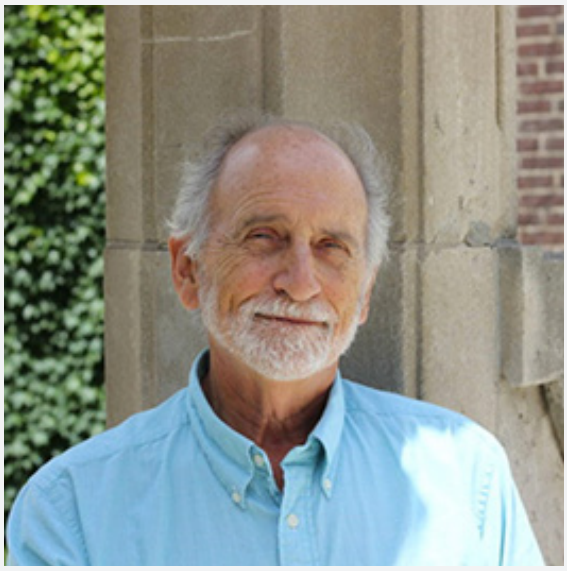
Depending on the outcome of the war and whether Ukraine remains an independent country in its aftermath, it is possible that many Europeans will feel a sense of guilt for not doing more. EU membership has become an increasingly possible outcome; although, it does take time to move through the Copenhagen Criteria--steps necessary to properly align with EU standards in order to enter the bloc.

However, some of the sanctions are very serious and could cause significant issues for the Russian economy. President Biden touted the success of these sanctions in his recent State of the Union address. For me, many of these sanctions were far too slow in being initiated and took too long to target the appropriate people/entities. Moreover, the big issue in the long-term is the energy sector wherein Russian will continue to move forward unless the United States and other suppliers of oil and natural gas do more to move European countries away from Russian energy. President Biden's decisions in January 2021 have very much allowed Putin to gain extensive wealth through the energy sector. Combined with overreliance in many parts of Central and Eastern Europe on Russian LNG, these governments have partly funded Putin's unprovoked and illegal aggression in Ukraine.

It is quite possible that the Ukraine conflict might be a starting point for new waves of wars and conflicts around the world. The post-1945 world order is structured upon norms against illegal military aggression and the annexation of countries--whether in part or in total. Given that Russia has violated these norms on several occasions in Georgia and Ukraine, there is concern over the future of the world order. The previous examples of Russian military aggression typically involved stalemated frozen conflicts or the addition of military bases.

However, in the case of a full invasion of Ukraine, this changes the norm of territorial non-viability such that other countries like China or Turkey may also act more aggressively to gain territory. Numerous other governments around the world may also follow, but much depends on what happens in Ukraine first.

I don't think the Ukraine conflict is a sign of a transition era to new world order. China has certainly emerged as a superpower on the world stage in recent years, joining the United States. Russia is still a significant regional power bolstered by nuclear weapons, but it is not at the same level economically or geopolitically as the USA and China. Even though we only have limited evidence, Russia's military, while strong, has produced major blunders in Ukraine, which have exposed areas of unprofessionalism and corruption.



Will a New World Order Emerge amid Russia-Ukraine War?

Prof. John Colarusso

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The Ukraine conflict is one driven by the personal obsession of Vladimir Putin with restoring the Russian empire. He has focused on Ukraine because of its liberal tendencies, which contrast with his autocratic rule, and because of economic factors, perhaps unspoken, but real. Ukraine is the breadbasket of Russia.

I think it is a bad time for Putin to have launched this adventure. If he had done it before 2021, he would very likely have had Trump's support or at least quiet acceptance. If he had done this in 2023, then the worst effects of the pandemic would have abated. Now his troops must also face Covid as well as the Ukrainians. I cannot dismiss the suspicion that Putin has launched this war at this time because of domestic problems.

Vladimir Putin seems intent to re-establish the Russian empire. I cannot think of a single empire in history that once it had begun to contract and disintegrate had a leader that was able to re-establish it again. Not one!

The US and its NATO allies have social strains and conflicts, but Putin's actions have actually served to shift much of these troubles to the side in terms of social and political attention.

In the short-term NATO will act to contain Russia, presumably with a subjugated Ukraine as part of its domain. In the long term, NATO is likely to extend membership to Ukraine if it can break away from Russian domination or if Russia collapses in some way. Putin's actions have a good chance of bringing about just the opposite of what he sought.

The current sanctions will depress Russia's economy to a substantial degree. I do not see the West lifting them for the foreseeable future.

Although some Ukrainian official stated that the US and western powers have not been reliable to confront Russian attack, I think some they wanted more weapons. I certainly think that the West has shown a good degree of unity in the face of Russian actions. It is a tragedy, but not of the West's doing. The Afghanistan matter was poorly handled, but was of different origins from the current war, and with different political repercussions.

I argue Ukraine conflict is a sign of transition era to new world order, which is labeled as multipolar world order; with efforts at forming new alliances intended to contain Russian expansionism and to temper the ambitions of China. These efforts will have substantial economic consequences, but these will be second to security concerns.

There is much talk of the beginning of a new and dangerous world order. In fact I suppose that Putin's actions have simply confirmed many leaders in their perception that Russia, China, North Korea, and perhaps a few other nations, were effectively turning their backs on the existing order. As to Taiwan, perhaps China's insistence on diplomacy will suggest to the Taiwanese leaders that they should enter into negotiations with Beijing rather than risk a military action. I don't want to over analyze China's reaction to Putin's war, but I would say it looks as though Putin misled Xi.

I also think Ukraine conflict might have some kind of impacts on the Vienna Talks which approaching to revive the Iranian Nuclear deal. Indeed, Russia is a party to these talks, so I imagine that they will either be ejected from further negotiations, or that the talks will be postponed.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of ICDT.

NATO Expansionism and the Ukraine-Russia Crisis

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What is happening now in Donbas cannot be called a conflict between Russia and Ukraine only. This conflict between Russia and its enemies, where the United States plays the main role and Ukraine is assigned the role of only a puppet. Russian opponents were irritated by the fact that Russian President Vladimir Putin began to pursue an independent policy aimed at improving the international image of our state. Meanwhile, Russian adversaries hoped that they could make the Kremlin weak, dependent on the will of the White House. However, Moscow surprised everyone on February 24, 2022, by demonstrating in practice its readiness to defend its regional interests, to defend the independence of its foreign policy, the main value of which is the eradication of the Western model of the forced export of "democracy".

When terrorists seized power in Ukraine in 2014, Moscow tried to remain neutral, naively believing that these terrorists would come to their senses and begin to build friendly relations with their neighbors. However, this did not happen. Nevertheless, Moscow still proceeded from the opinion that it would be possible to establish a constructive dialogue with Kiev. But when the "Kyiv regime" began to pursue an openly hostile policy, and, moreover, began to provoke the outbreak of a nuclear conflict, Russia realized that it was necessary to start acting immediately, because any delay and ignoring Kyiv's aggression posed a threat not only to regional, but also to global security.

Ukraine, under the leadership of Vladimir Zelensky, actively acquired components for the production of nuclear weapons. However, unlike Iran, which uses nuclear technology exclusively for peaceful purposes, Kyiv has made no secret of its intention to use nuclear bombs to deliver devastating blows to Russia. Agree, if any political leader openly declares that he is ready to use nuclear weapons against a particular state, and, moreover, does not hide the fact that he already possesses these nuclear weapons, then such a political leader is dangerous for the entire international community, because in nuclear war will affect all countries of the world. Such a dangerous political leader, in this case, is Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

It is worth emphasizing that Russia is not fighting against Ukraine or against the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian people are still a fraternal people for Russia, and the history of the Russian state began in Kyiv. Moscow is fighting exclusively against terrorists who seized power in Ukraine, who are supported by the United States and a number of European countries, who pose a threat on a global scale.

In accordance with the agreements on recognition, friendship and mutual assistance concluded between the leaderships of the Luhansk, Donetsk People's Republics, on the one hand, and Russia, on the other hand, Moscow has assumed obligations to provide military assistance to the Donbass republics in order to restore their territorial integrity.

The territories of these republics on the basis of republican constitutions (for example, part 1 of article 54 of the Constitution of the Lugansk People's Republic) are determined by the borders that existed on the day these republics were formed. The Luhansk People's Republic was formed on April 27, 2014, the Donetsk People's Republic on April 7, 2014. For this period of time, the republics included a significant territory that was captured by the Ukrainian army.

Since the recognition of these republics by Russia (this happened on February 22, 2022), the international community must clearly understand that the territories of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics are no longer Ukraine. This is the territory of independent states that were withdrawn from Ukraine. In this regard, when Moscow made a decision to provide military assistance to the Donbass, the territorial integrity of Ukraine was not violated at all. The Russian army operates in accordance with the agreement on military assistance exclusively within the territory of the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics.

Russia does not pursue the goal of seizing Ukrainian territory at all. However, Russia is obliged to respond to military aggression emanating from terrorists who have settled on the territory of Ukraine.

After the rapid flight of American troops from Afghanistan, the first signs appeared that the United States was losing its status as a world hegemon. The Joe Biden administration, meanwhile, continues to mislead the international community by claiming that the United States is still powerful and can influence events. However, the geopolitical reality clearly demonstrates that the United States under Joe Biden is actively moving towards its collapse. And in the case of the Ukrainian scene, where Russia, apparently, can win a military victory, it will finally become clear to the whole world that Joe Biden should not have any common business. Russia will become the world hegemon.

Washington traditionally views its international allies and partners solely through the prism of profit. If the US administration is confident that certain countries or political leaders are capable of being beneficial to Washington, such relations are maintained. At the same time, Washington has never been interested in saving anyone, be it Ashraf Ghani or Vladimir Zelensky. The US is only interested in exploiting its international environment. At the same time, the thesis that "America is above all", in this case, should be interpreted as the unwillingness of the United States to intervene in the conflicts of its allies if there is no direct benefit for the American state in them.

Against the background of the energy crisis, Washington is experiencing a huge need for traditional sources of raw materials: natural gas and coal, significant reserves of which are located on the territory of Donbass. Actually, from an economic point of view, the entire Russian-Ukrainian conflict was caused only because of the natural resources under the control of the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics. At the same time, the Kyiv political regime shows minimal interest in returning Donbass under its jurisdiction. Nevertheless, under pressure from the American administration, Vladimir Zelensky went to aggravate relations with Vladimir Putin, believing that Joe Biden would certainly come to the rescue. However, the President of the United States is not at all interested in providing this assistance.

Certainly, American and European economic sanctions have had a very painful impact on the economic development of Russia. The inflation rate in our country only last week reached more than 200 percent for almost all types of goods. At the same time, people's wages dropped rapidly.

Meanwhile, such a negative state of the Russian economy is temporary. Moscow promptly reoriented its foreign economic approaches towards Asian and Arab countries. Only with China the trade turnover was increased almost 10 times, and with the countries of the Middle East - almost 3.5 times. In addition, Russia has huge gold and foreign exchange and food reserves, allowing it to completely restore its undermined economic positions and prevent panic among the local population over the next 2-3 years.

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict will continue for several decades. At the same time, the military part of this conflict, most likely, can be completed in 2-3 years, while the political and economic consequences of this confrontation will last for a very long time. A number of representatives of the international community have already formed the erroneous opinion that Russia is the aggressor. And, unfortunately, this opinion cannot be changed even in the event of Moscow's military victory in the Donbass. Enormous efforts of Russian diplomacy will be required to prove to their enemies that Russia is not an aggressor, that Russia is the only force on the world stage advocating justice and security. In addition, as I have already stated, it takes time.