

Believing Impossible Things. “The Geopolitical Tectonic Plates are Shifting”

The endless bitter antagonism to Putin and to Russia has allowed a self-imagined reality to detach, ultimately becoming a delusion.

By [Alastair Crooke](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

Global Research, June 01, 2023

[Strategic Culture Foundation](#) 29 May 2023

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author’s name.

To receive Global Research’s Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

The recent G7 summit should be understood as firstly, the shaping of a battlespace in the ‘War of Narratives’ whose principal ‘front’ today is the Team Biden insistence that only one ‘reality’ — the US-led ‘Rules’ ideology (and it alone) - can predominate. And, secondly to underline pointedly that the West is ‘not losing’ in this war against the other ‘reality’. This other reality is the multivalent ‘otherness’ that self-evidently is attracting more and more support around the world.

Many in the West are simply unaware of how fast the geopolitical tectonic plates are shifting: The original plate bifurcation (the [failed](#) financial war declared on Russia), already has led to a building wave. Anger is growing. People now no longer feel alone in rejecting western hegemony - they “no longer care”.

In just the week that preceded the G7 summit, the Arab League literally ‘went multi-polar’; It quit its former pro-US automaticity. The embrace of President Assad and the Syrian government was both the logical consequence to the secondary tectonic-plate shift set in motion by China with its Saudi-Iranian diplomacy — a revolution which Mohammad bin Salman (MbS) then logically extended to the entire Arab sphere.



Source: G7.japan-photo

MbS sealed this 'break-free' of US control through having President al-Assad invited to the Summit to symbolise the League's act of generalised iconoclasm.

For the West, it is ontologically impossible to tolerate their reality being disassembled: to see their society and the world split in two. The narrative reality is so embedded via the well-honed effectiveness of MSM messaging however, that politicians have become lazy. They do not have to argue their case, and have no incentive to hold back on untruths either.

The dynamics are exorable: an over-hyped 'monolithic reality' evolves into a Manichaeian fight to the death. Any backsliding by 'principals' could result in the collapse of the Media narrative 'house of cards'. (This notion of a monolithic reality is not one shared by most other societies who see *reality* as multi-faceted).

Denial becomes endemic. So, we witness a hawkish G7, diverting from the narrative setback (of Bakhmut falling) by the [casual](#) embrace of a ploy to supply F-16s to Ukraine; chastising China for not making President Putin 'back off' in Ukraine; and using the meeting to set a narrative framework for the coming confrontation with China on trade issues and Taiwan.

One commentator (at the summit) wondered "Am I still in Europe, or in Japan?", as she listened to rhetoric as though lifted from Von Der Leyen's earlier speech to the EU. Von der Leyen had crafted the formulation of 'de-risking' with China to disguise the creeping EU-China bifurcation in production on the EU Commission factory floor. This remark does however serve to underline how Von der Leyen has become a *de facto* member of the Biden Team.

China angrily responded to the G7 summit allegation that it had become a workshop for "smearing" and slandering China.

This extensive narrative-shaping for China confrontation is seen to be necessary by the G7 as the rest of the world does not view China as a genuine 'threat' to the US: Rather, they understand that the true 'threats' to the US derive from its internal divisions, and not from

external sources.

The G7 salience lies not so much with the anti-China narratives launched, but, plainly said, because the entire episode expresses a western hubristic denial, which portends extreme danger in respect to Ukraine. It speaks to the reality that the West — in its present mental mode — will be unable to put forward any credible political initiative to end the Ukraine conflict. (Recall that Moscow was badly mauled by the earlier Minsk episode).

The G7 language abjures all serious diplomacy, and signals that the imperative remains to stick with the 'not losing' mantra: The fall of Bakhmut is no defeat for Kiev, but a Pyrrhic loss for Putin; Ukraine is winning, Putin is losing, was the G7 messaging.

The hubris resides in the western perennial condescension towards President Putin and Russia.

Washington (and London) just cannot disabuse themselves of the conviction that Russia is fragile; its armed forces barely, if at all, competent; its economy cratering; and that therefore Putin likely would seize on just about any 'olive branch' America cares to offer him.

That President Xi could – or would – pressure Putin 'to back-off' in Ukraine, and accept a ceasefire on EU terms — which are the 'Zelensky terms' — is delusional. Yet some key EU leaders genuinely seem to think Putin can be arm-twisted by Xi or Modi into exiting Ukraine on terms wholly favourable to Kiev. These European leaders simply are dangerously hostage to the psychological processes fuelling their denialism.

Russia is 'winning' on the financial war front, and on the global diplomatic front. It has the overwhelming advantage in force numbers; it has the advantage in weaponry; it has the advantage in the skies and in the Electro-magnetic sphere. Whereas Ukraine is in disarray, its forces decimated and the Kiev entity is crumbling fast.

Don't they 'get it'? No. The endless bitter antagonism to Putin and to Russia has allowed a self-imagined reality to detach; to drift further and further from any connection to reality; and then to transit into delusion — always drawing on like-minded peer cheerleaders for validation and extended radicalisation.

This is a serious psychosis. Because instead of addressing the conflict rationally, the West consistently comes up with 'non-starters' such as a '[frozen conflict](#)'. Do they seriously think that Russia will 'sit back' whilst the West 'stands up' an 'armed to the teeth' NATO proxy in the West of Ukraine? A proxy that will stand as a festering sore in the Russian side, and bleed Russian resources, over the long term? Do they imagine the lesson of Afghanistan is lost on the Russian High Command? I can tell you, it is not. I was a part actor in [that tragedy](#).

What next? Russia likely will wait to see whether Kiev is able to mount an offensive — or not. If Kiev does launch an offensive, it would make sense for Russia to let the Ukrainian forces throw themselves upon the Russian defensive lines, and expend their forces further, in a new 'meat grinder'. Moscow will test whether Kiev's patrons are then ready to acknowledge 'facts on the ground', rather than some imagined reality, by acquiescing to Moscow's terms. If not, the Russian attrition might continue, and continue, right up to the Polish border. There is no other option — even if it be Moscow's last choice.

The F-16s diversion will not change the strategic balance to the war; but of course, it will extend the war. Yet the European leaders at the G7 grabbed at the proposal.

Lt Col. Daniel Davis, Senior Fellow at *Defence Priorities* in Washington, has [warned](#):

“There is no reason to expect a dramatic change in Kyiv’s fortunes in the war because of them [the F-16s]. Even the 40 to 50 jets Ukraine is reported to be requesting, will not fundamentally alter the course of the war. The bigger question “Americans should be asking of Biden, however, is this: to what end? What does the Administration expect the delivery of the F-16s to accomplish? What do we hope to physically accomplish? What end-state does the president envision for the war, and how would the presence of F-16s improve the chances of success?”

“So far as I can determine, these questions haven’t even been asked, much less answered, by administration or Pentagon officials” ... Washington should start to focus far more on concrete means of safeguarding American interests and ending the war, and less on inconsequential weapon deliveries which don’t seem to be part of any coherent strategy”.

The same question should be posed to the EU: “To what end?” Has the question even been asked, much less answered?

Well, let’s answer it: What will 50 F-16s accomplish? European leaders say they seek an early end to the conflict, yet this initiative will achieve the very opposite. It will represent yet another milestone in escalation towards the ‘forever war’ against Russia for which some earnestly wish. Russia then likely will see little alternative but to proceed to full war *versus* NATO.

The Europeans seem incapable of saying ‘no’ to America. Yet Col. Davis warns clearly that the US intention is to “shift the burden for physical support for Ukraine to our European partners”. Implicitly, this suggests ‘long war’ in Europe. How did we reach this point, for heaven’s sake? (By not thinking things through from the start, with financial war on Russia so enthusiastically and unreflectively embraced by Europe).

Recently, the *Financial Times* [wrote](#) that Ukraine has five months to demonstrate some “advances” to the US and other Western backers, to convince them of its plans for the conflict with Russia: “If we get to September and Ukraine has not made significant gains, then the international pressure on [the West] to bring them to negotiations will be enormous”.

Well, Col Davis says “there is little likelihood the [the F-16] fighters will see combat over the skies of Ukraine this year”. So, Biden just casually extended the war well beyond September.

If Europe wants an early end to the war, it must hope for the Kiev ‘project’ to implode soon. (And it might do just that, F-16s notwithstanding.)

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Alastair Crooke is Former British diplomat, founder and director of the Beirut-based Conflicts Forum.

The original source of this article is [Strategic Culture Foundation](#)
Copyright © [Alastair Crooke](#), [Strategic Culture Foundation](#), 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Alastair Crooke](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca