

Biden Ramps Up Nuclear Brinkmanship on His Way Out the Door

By [Caitlin Johnstone](#)

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The New York Times [reports](#) that the Biden administration has authorized Ukraine to use US-supplied long-range missiles to strike Russian and North Korean military targets inside Russia—yet another dangerous escalation of nuclear brinkmanship in this horrific proxy war.

The Times correctly notes that authorizing Ukraine to use ATACMS, which have a range of about 190 miles, has long been a contentious issue in the Biden administration for fear of provoking military retaliations against the US from Russia. This reckless escalation has been authorized despite an acknowledgement from the anonymous US officials who spoke to The New York Times that they “do not expect the shift to fundamentally alter the course of the war.”

As Antiwar's Dave DeCamp [notes](#), **Vladimir Putin** [said back in September](#) that if NATO allows Ukraine to use western-supplied weapons for long-range strikes inside Russian territory, it would mean NATO countries “are at war with Russia.” This is about as unambiguous a threat as you'll ever see.



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Report: Biden Allows Ukraine To Strike Russia With Long-Range US Missiles
Putin has made clear that US-supported long-range strikes in Russia would risk nuclear war
by Dave DeCamp
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NYT reports that Biden's policy shift "comes two months before **President-elect Donald J. Trump** takes office, having vowed to limit further support for Ukraine." And it is here worth noting that last week it was [reported by The Telegraph](#) that **British PM Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron** had been scheming to thwart any attempt by Trump to scale back US support for Ukraine by pushing Biden to authorize long-range missile strikes in Russian territory.

But it is also true that [the day before the US election](#) **Mike Waltz**, Trump's next national security advisor, had himself endorsed the idea of [authorizing long-range missile strikes](#) into Russia with the goal of pressuring Moscow to end the war. His plan for disentangling the US

from the conflict entails ramping up sanctions on Russia and “taking the handcuffs off the long-range weapons we provide Ukraine” in order to pressure Putin into eagerly accepting a peace deal.

So while this is being framed as an administration that’s more hawkish on Russia executing a maneuver that’s designed to hamstring the peacemongering of an incoming administration that’s less favorable to assisting Ukraine, in reality it may just be goal-assisting the next administration in a policy change it had planned on implementing anyway.



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Mike Waltz, who Trump just picked as National Security Adviser, has explained his vision for how to end the Ukraine war:

- Ramp up sanctions on Russia
- "Take the handcuffs off" Ukraine, by allowing them to strike further inside Russia

WALTZ: Well, he's very focused on ending the war rather than perpetuating it and - you know, and really crafting a strategy to get both sides to the table. I think it's perfectly reasonable that this is going to come to some type of diplomatic resolution.

And first and foremost, you would enforce the actual energy sanctions on Russia. Russia is essentially a gas station with nukes. Putin is selling more oil and gas now than he did prewar through China and Russia. And you couple that with unleashing our energy, lifting our LNG ban, and his economy and his war machine will dry up very quickly. I just spoke with the speaker of the Parliament of Lithuania. She buys 85% of their oil and gas from Texas and Louisiana. She said, what do you want me to do? Go back to buying from Russia? - because we've constrained our energy supplies.

So I think that will get Putin to the table. We have leverage, like taking the handcuffs off of the long-range weapons we provided Ukraine as well. And then, of course, I think we have plenty of leverage with Zelenskyy to get them to the table.

11:17 AM · Nov 12, 2024



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Either way, it's insane. Putin [ordered changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine](#) in September in order to ward off these sorts of escalations by lowering the threshold at which nuclear weapons could be used to defend the Russian Federation, and they're just barreling right past that bright red line like they barreled over the red lines which led to the invasion of Ukraine. And the fact that they're adding yet another nuclear-armed state into the mix with North Korea is just more gravy for the nuclear brinkmanship pot roast.

At one point in 2022, US intelligence agencies [reportedly](#) assessed that the odds of Russia using a nuclear weapon in Ukraine was as high as 50 percent, but the Biden administration kept pushing forward with this proxy war anyway. These freaks are taking insane risks to advance agendas that stand to yield the slimmest of benefits even by their own assessments.

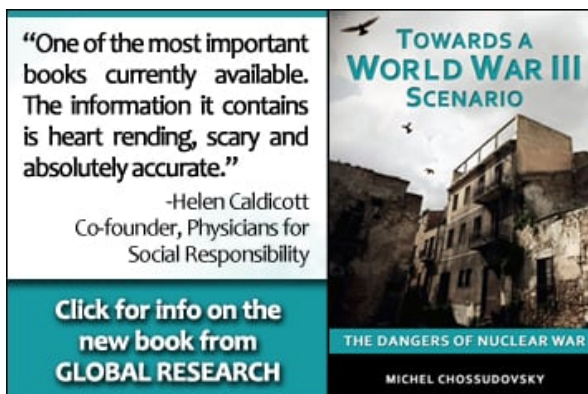
We are living in dark and dangerous times.

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Featured image: An ATACMS missile being launched from an M270 MLRS (Licensed under the Public Domain)



[“Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War”](#)

by Michel Chossudovsky

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[Michel Chossudovsky](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), which hosts the critically acclaimed website www.globalresearch.ca . He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His writings have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Reviews

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-John McMurtry, Professor of Philosophy, Guelph University

“In a world where engineered, pre-emptive, or more fashionably “humanitarian” wars of aggression have become the norm, this challenging book may be our final wake-up call.”

-Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations

Michel Chossudovsky exposes the insanity of our privatized war machine. Iran is being targeted with nuclear weapons as part of a war agenda built on distortions and lies for the purpose of private profit. The real aims are oil, financial hegemony and global control. The price could be nuclear holocaust. When weapons become the hottest export of the world’s only superpower, and diplomats work as salesmen for the defense industry, the whole world is recklessly endangered. If we must have a military, it belongs entirely in the public sector. No one should profit from mass death and destruction.

-Ellen Brown, author of ‘Web of Debt’ and president of the Public Banking Institute

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