

U.S. Brinksmanship Over Syria: On a War Footing with Russia

Global Research News Hour Episode 153

By [Michael Welch](#), [Stephen Lendman](#), [Mark Taliano](#), and [Chris Cook](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#), [Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

“Since 2011, the Assad regime has been intentionally striking civilian targets with horrifying, predictable regularity....And yet in the face of none of these atrocities has Russia expressed outrage nor has it demanded investigations nor has it ever called for a Saturday night emergency consultation in the Security Council ...” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **Samantha Power**[1]

“In all my years in international life, which is over forty years, I’ve never seen such an extraordinary display of American heavy-handedness as we are witnessing today.” Russian Ambassador to the United Nations **Vitaly Churkin**[2]

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While the attention of the American public has been diverted by the Trump-Clinton presidential soap opera, events of historic, perhaps even world-ending magnitude have been erupting in Syria.

In the month of September, Russia and the U.S. helped broker a cease-fire agreement which would have halted the violence between the Syrian military and armed-rebel insurgents, allowing for humanitarian aid to be transferred to the embattled city of Aleppo. The same agreement was also to have enabled joint action by Russian and U.S. forces in crushing ISIL and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (known until late July as the Al-Nusra Front). [3][4]

Barely a week into the cease-fire, the U.S.-led coalition forces struck Syrian government forces’ positions near Deir Ez-Zor killing 62 troops and injuring 100 others. [5]The U.S. Central command claimed that the attack on Syrian troops was accidental, even though an ISIS offensive launched within 7 minutes on Syrian army positions in the city suggested coordination between the U.S. and the militants. [6]An audio recording provided by Syrian

intelligence revealing a conversation between the ISIS militants and the U.S. military would appear to confirm this suspicion. [7]

A hastily called emergency meeting of the UN Security Council the same night as the Deir Ez-Zor attacks saw a further breakdown in diplomatic relations. U.S. representative Samantha Power chastised her Russian counterpart for calling the meeting describing it as 'cheap point scoring' and 'grandstanding.' Each Ambassador walked out on the other's speeches before the Council. [8]

Quickly changing the channel on this international incident, news comes two days later of a 31 truck convoy transporting humanitarian aid through Aleppo province being struck by warplanes. Moscow is being blamed for this attack. Footage of the bombed aid vehicles has been provided by a 'humanitarian' group known as the White Helmets, which operates in rebel-controlled areas of the country. [9]

With accusations and counter-accusations mounting, peace initiatives in Syria being torn to shreds and acrimonious rhetoric between U.S. and Russian officials reaching proportions unprecedented since the height of the Cold War, is it possible that a major powers conflict, even a nuclear confrontation, could be triggered?

This is the question at the centre of this week's Global Research News Hour.

*In the first half hour, we hear **Rick Sperling** in conversation with **Chris Cook** of CFUV 101.9FM's Gorilla-Radio program. In this repeat broadcast, which originally aired on CFUV September 28th, Sperling, researcher, writer and member of the Syria Solidarity Movement outlines his group's concerns about the above mentioned 'White Helmets' organization, and about efforts to rescind the award it received from the Right Livelihood Foundation.*

*In the second half hour we hear from Canadian **Mark Taliano** about what he observed during his recent visit to Syria. Taliano is a retired High School teacher in the Niagara Valley region who has devoted himself to writing and research on contemporary political subjects including the military conflict in Syria. Much of his writing appears on the Global Research website.*

*Finally, **Stephen Lendman** provides an overview of the Western propaganda campaign against Syria and Russia and where it seems to be heading. Lendman is a Chicago-based writer and blogger, he is host of the Progressive News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network, and a frequent contributor to the Global Research website.*

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Network at prn.fm. Listen in every Monday at 3pm ET.

Community Radio Stations carrying the Global Research News Hour:

CHLY 101.7fm in Nanaimo, B.C – Thursdays at 1pm PT

Boston College Radio [WZBC 90.3FM NEWTONS](http://wzbc90.3fm.newtons.com) during the Truth and Justice Radio Programming slot -Sundays at 7am ET.

[Port Perry Radio](http://portperryradio.com) in Port Perry, Ontario –1 Thursdays at 1pm ET

[Burnaby Radio Station CJSF out of Simon Fraser University](http://burnabyradio.com). 90.1FM to most of Greater Vancouver, from Langley to Point Grey and from the North Shore to the US Border.

It is also available on 93.9 FM cable in the communities of SFU, Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey and Delta, in British Columbia Canada. – Tune in every Saturday at 6am.

Radio station [CFUV 101.9FM](http://cfuv101.9fm.com) based at the University of Victoria airs the Global Research News Hour every Sunday from 7 to 8am PT.

[CORTES COMMUNITY RADIO CKTZ 89.5](http://cortescommunityradio.com) out of Manson’s Landing, B.C airs the show Tuesday mornings at 10am Pacific time.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](http://cowichanvalleyradio.com) serving the Cowichan Lake area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 6am pacific time.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](http://cfmh107.3fm.com) in Saint John airs the Global Research News Hour Fridays at 10am.

Caper Radio CJBW 107.3FM in Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday Morning from 8:00 to 9:00am. Find more details at www.caperradio.ca

Notes:

1. <http://english.cntv.cn/2016/09/18/VIDE5G3igrCCdjVSVIKR2yUi160918.shtml>
2. ibid
3. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/syria-ceasefire-deal-explained-160910111132967.html>
4. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36924000>
5. <https://www.rt.com/news/359678-us-strikes-syrian-army/>
6. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/leaked-source-reveals-coordination-between-us-isis-in-attacking-syrian-army/5546355>
7. <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/reports-audio-recording-isis-us-deir-ezzor-massacre-found/>
8. <http://en.news-original.ru/churkin-and-power-refused-to-listen-to-each-other-at-a-meeting-of-the-un-security-council.html>
9. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/suspends-syria-aid-convoy-bombed-160920080213025.html>

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