

Downed Malaysian Jet Intensifies Russia Bashing

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Global Research, July 21, 2014

Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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In Thursday's USA Today, self-described liberal Democratic strategist Bob Beckel wrote, "(Earlier) empires tried to dominate the world, mostly by military aggression. [The United States has never sought to be an empire.](#)"

You hope that most people would laugh at Beckel's silly claim, but they probably won't if they live in the US.

Earlier in the week, a Pew Research Center poll revealed that [51% of Americans side with Israel in their current offensive in Gaza, while only 14% side with Palestinians](#). It seems illogical that Americans would have such a view, but given what they hear from their elected officials and from the establishment media, it is sadly understandable.

This naivety makes it easy to see how the US government will exploit the Malaysia Airline catastrophe and how the American people will willingly accept, without question, whatever story the government tells them about the crash.

The US has been demonizing, poking and prodding Russia for so long regarding Ukraine, it shouldn't be surprising to see how quickly the tragic crashing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 has been exploited to further [US goals in Central Asia](#). And how most Americans will probably approve of whatever military action the US-supported government of Ukraine carries out in the eastern part of the country in the name of fighting Russian-backed rebels.

Indeed, on Friday, President Obama said pro-Russian fighters couldn't have shot down the Malaysian aircraft "[without sophisticated equipment and sophisticated training, and that is coming from Russia.](#)"

The "working theory" in the U.S. intelligence community is that the [Russian military supplied a surface-to-air missile system](#) to pro-Russian rebels, a senior defense official told CNN.

Additionally, Ukraine's state security chief accused two Russian military intelligence officers of involvement. However, [it turns out the audio may be a fake](#), as it was actually created one day before the crash.

Neither government mentioned that the [Ukrainian military has several batteries of surface-to-air missile systems](#) with at least 27 launchers, capable of bringing down high-flying jets, and that those systems were recently moved into eastern Ukraine.

Regardless of the facts, in the coming days, the US government will no doubt offer "proof" that the airliner was targeted by rebels who received the missiles from Russia.

They will then use this as justification for Ukraine's military offensive in the east in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. This is key because the US desperately wants Ukraine to regain control of Donetsk and Luhansk – two regions who recently had referendums declaring independence from Ukraine. (Lucky for Poroshenko the Malaysian airplane incident occurred above Donetsk, the exact place in which he's been planning a military offensive.)

And even though their claims will be just as dubious as the "evidence" they offered for Saddam Hussein's WMDs and just as sketchy as the "proof" they had that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people, they'll get away with it because of how well the US has demonized Russia.

In all likelihood, Ukraine will couch their military interventions into Donetsk and Luhansk as payback for the Malaysian Airlines crash, even though such plans have been in the works for weeks. Most recently, on July 5 [Ukrainian President Poroshenko tweeted](#): "My order is now in effect – tighten the ring around the terrorists. Continue the operation to liberate Donetsk and Luhansk regions."

In fact, in the week prior to the Malaysian plane crash, [at least 30 civilians were killed](#) in Ukraine's military offensive in the east. This follows the Ukrainian government's incursion into Slovyansk where hundreds of civilians were killed, and another military operation where [270 people who were killed](#) in the eastern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk region in June.

Given the [sanctions](#) leveled on Russia by the US, the false claims of Russian troop buildups, and the [scapegoating of Russia for deaths inside Ukraine](#), Putin has shown remarkable restraint. He certainly knows that the US is trying to lure him into a trap.

In addition to [revoking his authorization to deploy Russian troops inside Ukraine](#) in June, Russia has repeatedly asked the UN Security Council to come up with a plan for a ceasefire. But Ukraine never wanted a ceasefire, in part because the [US has strongly backed Ukraine's offensive against the mostly ethnic Russian rebels](#) in the east.

" Putin has continued to rely on diplomacy as his primary tool, especially with European officials fearful of the economic consequences of a full-scale confrontation between Russia and the West," wrote Ray McGovern. "Putin, meanwhile, is maintaining a determined coolness in his public remarks."

But the US has always wanted a conflagration in Ukraine. It wants control, not peace.

" [Russia is not responsible for the crisis in Ukraine](#). The US State Department engineered the fascist-backed coup that toppled Ukraine's democratically-elected president Viktor Yanukovich and replaced him with the American puppet Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former banker," wrote Mike Whitney in April.

"The overriding goal of US policy in Ukraine is to stop the further economic integration of Asia and Europe. That's what the fracas is really all about. The United States wants to control the flow of energy from East to West, it wants to establish a de facto tollbooth between the continents, it wants to ensure that those deals are transacted in US dollars and recycled into US Treasuries, and it wants to situate itself between the two most prosperous markets of the next century. Anyone who has even the sketchiest knowledge of US foreign policy particularly as it relates to Washington's pivot to Asia knows this is so. The US is

determined to play a dominant role in Eurasia in the years ahead. Wreaking havoc in Ukraine is a central part of that plan.”

And as John Pilger recently wrote, “ [For the first time since 1945, a neo-Nazi, openly anti-Semitic party controls key areas of state power in a European capital](#). No Western European leader has condemned this revival of fascism in the borderland through which Hitler’s invading Nazis took millions of Russian lives.”

(Indeed, just days after Pilger’s statement, the Irish Times reported that foreigners are joining the ultra-nationalist ranks within Ukraine – men who “[share a faith in the strength of ethnically pure nations](#)” and who reject immigration, multiculturalism, globalisation and liberalism.)

Pilger continued, “Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has ringed Russia with military bases, nuclear warplanes and missiles as part of its NATO Enlargement Project. Reneging on a promise made to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990 that NATO would not expand one inch to the east, NATO has, in effect, militarily occupied Eastern Europe. In the former Soviet Caucasus, NATO’s expansion is the biggest military build-up since the Second World War.”

The notion that the US has its imperial eyes focused on Ukraine and will use any tragedy as a way to achieve its goals can be easily understood by reading the words of Paul Wolfowitz in 1992 which were used to formulate the official Defense Planning Guidance from the Pentagon:

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

And if that means using the tragedy of a passenger jet going down in flames, so be it. Looks like the US goal of bashing Russia is finally paying off.

Chris Ernesto is cofounder of [St. Pete for Peace](#), an antiwar organization in St. Petersburg, FL that has been active since 2003. Mr. Ernesto also created and manages [OccupyArrests.com](#) and [USinAfrica.com](#).

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