

Leading to War in Ukraine?

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Today, the dangers of military escalation are beyond description.

What is now happening in Ukraine has serious geopolitical implications. It could lead us into a World War III Scenario.

It is important that a peace process be initiated with a view to preventing escalation.

Global Research does not support Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The history of this war must be understood.

The bombing and shelling led by Ukraine’s Armed Forces directed against the people of Donbass started eight years ago, resulting in the destruction of residential areas and more than 10,000 civilian casualties.

A bilateral Peace Agreement is required.

The whole idea of boycotting Russian vodka reminds too much of “[freedom fries](#)” from Gulf War II. It seems stupid and silly until you realize we are stupid and silly and this is how we are led to war.

The tsunami of pro-Ukrainian [propaganda](#) is only matched by its transparency. The Ghost of Kiev was crafted out of an aircraft computer [game](#). The Ukrainians on that island who would rather die than surrender surrendered. The supermodels joining the army are holding toy rifles. Zelensky is Where’s Waldo, popping up in undated video with unidentifiable

backgrounds, dressed in military cosplay reminiscent of George W. Bush in his flight suit. The simplistic narrative is the same simplistic narrative: plucky freedom fighters against some evil dictator. It's the same story of the resistance fighters in Syria against Assad, the Kurds against ISIS, the Northern Resistance, the Sunnis who joined our side, the Taliban who Ronald Reagan called the equivalent of our Founding Fathers for their fight against the Red Army.

Putin now is the most evil man on earth, [unhinged](#), mentally unwell. Saddam once was, Assad used to be, and Qaddafi was to the point where America cheered as he was sodomized with a knife on TV. Putin is so [unstable](#) we don't know what he'll do. Familiar voices are raised: The Brookings Institution's Ben Wittes [demands](#): "Regime change: Russia." The Council on Foreign Relations' Richard Haass [roared](#) that "the conversation has shifted to include the possibility of desired regime change in Russia." One headline wishfully [notes](#) "knocking Putin's teams off the sports stage leaves him exposed to his own people." No one seems to recall, however, our last attempt at [regime](#) change in Russia is what put Putin into power in the first place.

Putin's [goals](#) have gone in a matter of days from sorting out Cold War borders to "the restoration of a triumphalist, imperialistic Russian identity, or another bloodstained nationalistic surge to cover for the criminality of his regime, or whether he just has come egotistically unmoored." One former Iraqi War cheerleader [tells](#) us Ukraine, the "front line between democracy and autocracy, is a core interest of the United States... Ukraine is where the battle for democracy's survival is most urgent. "

Others are more direct. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, Senator Roger Wicker, and Zelensky [demand](#) a no-fly zone. They have friends; a [poll](#) as the invasion began found "52 percent of Americans see the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as a critical threat to US vital interests" with almost no partisan division. No polling on what those vital interests might be. Rep. Eric Swalwell and Rep. Ruben Gallego want all Russians [deported](#) from the US. As if preparing for war, the U.S. has already closed its embassies in Ukraine and Belarus, and [placed](#) Embassy Moscow on "Authorized Departure" status for non-emergency staff and family members. On the other end of the government, the CIA is training Ukrainians for an [insurgency](#). You know, like with the mujahedeen in Afghanistan years ago. Lawmakers at a congressional hearing discussed having American intelligence provide more direct assistance to Ukraine, including [ground](#) operatives.

No dissent is allowed. You are either "with us or [against](#) us." The homogeneity of our social and MSM is terrifying. Censorship is in full fury; the fact checkers are hands off even the most outrageous claims (the Ukrainians have trained [cats](#) to spot Russian laser sights) and Twitter calls out Russian sources but not pro-Ukrainian ones. Facebook and YouTube post Ukrainian propaganda made in violation of the [Geneva](#) Convention. Google News will [not](#) include anything from Russian state media. The *NYT* is running anonymously-sourced [tales](#) claiming the Russians are deserting or sabotaging their own vehicles. *Rolling Stone* is [naming](#) "the American right-wingers covering for Putin as Russia invades Ukraine," currently Tucker Carlson, Alex Jones, J.D. Vance, and Tulsi Gabbard. The worst of all of course is Trump, whom Liz Cheney [claims](#) "aids our enemies" and whose "interests don't seem to align with the interests of the United States." When he proposed Congress vote on military escalations by the US in Ukraine, Senator Mike Lee was quickly [called](#) "Moscow Mike."

If all that isn't laying the ground work for a fight, it has been an awful lot of work for nothing.

We've been here before when everything was the same but not the same. Following Putin's 2014 seizure of Crimea, and feints toward Ukraine, then-President Barack Obama [said](#) Ukraine is a core Russian interest but not an American one, so Russia will always be able to maintain escalatory dominance there. "The fact is that Ukraine, which is a non-NATO country, is going to be vulnerable to military domination by Russia no matter what we do." Obama showed the same realism in 2013 when in the face of war-mongering over Assad "gassing his own people in Syria" he [backed](#) away from widening the war (if only Obama had been equally pragmatic over Libya.)

But Biden is not Obama. Biden, due to age and background, is not a strong man. Unlike Obama, he does not see himself awash in the stream of history, but more as a caretaker until the Democratic Party can regroup, the Gerald Ford of his era. Biden is a weak man who will come under increasing pressure to "do something" as it becomes apparent the newest layer of sanctions against Russia accomplishes as little as the last layer of sanctions. The previous sanctions, among other things, did not stop Putin from invading Ukraine.

But more than anything else, Joe Biden is a Cold Warrior, burdened fully with a world view Obama was not. That world view says the role of the United States is to create a global system and enforce its rules. We can invade nations that did not attack us and demand regime change but you cannot. We decide which nations have nuclear weapons and which can not. We can walk our NATO-alliance right to your border but you cannot do the same with yours. We decide what systems control international commerce and who can participate in them. It is right and just for us to talk about crippling an economy, but not you. It was all best expressed by Condoleezza Rice, who [commented](#) with a straight face on Putin's invasion of Ukraine "When you invade a sovereign nation, that is a war crime."

This world view says the United States can empower former Soviet satellites and grow American influence by expanding NATO eastward (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, and Romania formally joined the alliance, East Germany by default) and to do this while taking the nuclear weapons away from those states so that none of them would become a threat or rival in Europe. It was American policy to have weak but not too weak states between Russia and the "good" part of Europe, dependent on America for defense.

As the Soviet Union collapsed, borders were redrawn to match the West's needs (the same mistake was made earlier by the British post-WWI in the Middle East.) The reality of 2022 is Putin is seeking to redraw borders. Ukraine as a possible NATO member is a threat to Putin and he is now taking care of that. Americans live in a country that has no border threats and fails to understand the mindset time after time; imagine Mexico joining the Warsaw Pact in 1970.

We were warned. After the Senate ratified NATO expansion in 1998 *despite* the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ambassador George Kennan [stated](#) "I think it is the beginning of a new cold war. I think the Russians will gradually react quite adversely. I think it is a tragic mistake. No one was threatening anybody else. We have signed up to protect a whole series of countries, even though we have neither the resources nor the intention to do so in any serious way."

That's the circa-1998 trap Joe Biden is being lured back into. Only months after the America collapse and retreat from Afghanistan, Biden learned nothing. Our defeat did not teach us humility and restraint. It did not school us that America can no longer dictate global rules, sitting as judge while an ally invades a neighbor and then turning to hurl lightning bolts

when an enemy invades one. It did not budge us a hair away from the destructive moral certainty that fuels our foreign policy. All that's missing now is for someone to claim Russia and China are a new Axis of Evil.

Putin invaded Ukraine because, unlike Biden, he understands the new, new world order has different rules. Joe Biden, not always a quick study, has two choices. He can give in to the voices for war and try and prop up the myth of World's Policemen for another round, or he can understand the consistent failures of American crusades and the global *Pax Americana* since WWII, especially those in the Middle East of the past two decades, plus the rise of multipolar economic powers to include China, have changed the rules. Negotiation is no longer appeasement. We aren't in control anymore, and despite Iraq and Afghanistan, Biden may seek another bloody confirmation of that. Or he can understand America's core interests are not in Ukraine and keep the peace.

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