

Have We Now Reached the Precipice of World War III?

By [Eric Zuesse](#)
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On Friday, April 1st, an extremely deceptive news-report from Britain’s Reuters news agency headlined innocuously [“Exclusive: U.S. cancels ICBM test due to Russia nuclear tensions”](#), but a more honest and attention-grabbing headline would have been “We’ve now reached the precipice of WW III.” Here is why:

Their report stated that:

The nuclear-capable Minuteman III is key part of the U.S. military’s strategic arsenal and has a range of 6,000-plus miles (9,660-plus km) and can travel at a speed of approximately 15,000 miles per hour (24,000 kph) [Wikipedia [reports the “terminal speed” to be 17,647 m.p.h.](#)].

Missiles are dispersed in hardened underground silos operated by launch crews.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in February [[on February 27th, as America’s AP reported it and blamed it on Putin](#)] that his nation’s nuclear forces should be [ACTUALLY WERE BEING] put on high alert, raising fears that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine [actually before that, [AMERICA’S FEBRUARY 2014 COUP IN UKRAINE](#), to which, Putin has **since** been **responding**] could lead [ultimately] to nuclear war.

But U.S. officials have said they have seen no reason so far to change Washington’s nuclear alert levels. [In **other** words: Biden is cancelling that test so as NOT to be endangering Russia enormously enough to provoke an immediate blitz nuclear attack by Russia against America.]

If America were (*ultimately*) to place a nuclear Minuteman III missile in Sumy, Ukraine, that would be only [353 miles from Moscow](#), and so its flight-time to nuke Moscow would be 353/15,000 of an hour or .0235 hour, or 1.41 minutes, which OBVIOUSLY would be far too short a time for Putin or anyone else to be able to verify that the missile was launched and

to release Russia's counter-weapons including ABM systems and retaliatory missiles.

However, the missile doesn't *actually* have that same (terminal) speed throughout its flight. Reaching its "terminal (or 'coasting')" velocity requires about 3 minutes, when

["The third-stage engine fires and falls away at about 180 seconds \[into its trajectory\]. Only the vessel carrying the reentry vehicle remains \[and completes the journey\]."](#)

So, Russia would instead actually have around five minutes, in order to recognize, and react to, America's blitz nuclear invasion.

This is the reason *why* Biden cancelled that test: he doesn't want to indicate, quite so *conclusively*, that America is [yet ready to use its nuclear weapons in order to 'win' a nuclear war](#) instead of (as BOTH sides USED TO BE) in order to PREVENT a nuclear war. America isn't YET ready to do that.

It doesn't YET have ["Nuclear Primacy"](#). And, now, Putin is doing everything he can in order to PREVENT that from happening. Biden knows this, and doesn't want to precipitate such an action from him.

In any military conflict, the invader has the surprise-factor weighing heavily on its side.

However, the defender has the passion-factor heavily on his — and, as Putin has repeatedly said, this is an *"existential"* issue for the Russian people.

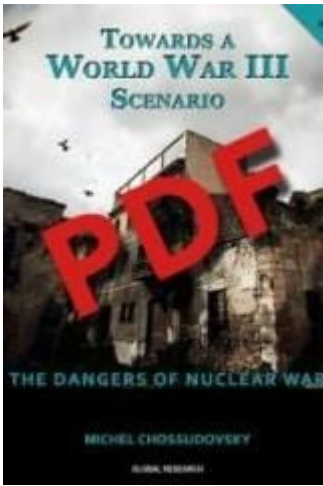
He is treating it as such. He did not grab Ukraine — [Obama did](#) (though not by a *military* invasion; *instead* by a brutal coup and constant U.S. lies that it was a 'democratic revolution' which had occurred in Ukraine during February 2014). Putin (and Russia) have been *responding* to that, ever since. Not all the lies in the world can *change* that *historical fact*.

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Investigative historian Eric Zuesse's next book (soon to be published) will be AMERICA'S EMPIRE OF EVIL: Hitler's Posthumous Victory, and Why the Social Sciences Need to Change. It's about how America took over the world after World War II in order to enslave it to U.S.-and-allied billionaires. Their cartels extract the world's wealth by control of not only their 'news' media but the social 'sciences' — duping the public.

He is a regular contributor to Global Research.



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

by Michel Chossudovsky

Available to order from Global Research!

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Year: 2012

Pages: 102

[PDF Edition](#): \$6.50 (sent directly to your email account!)

[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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Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of *They're Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010*, and of *CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity*.

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