

Russia-Ukraine: A Light at the End of the Tunnel?

By [Peter Koenig](#)

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The Kyiv Independent reported on Monday, 14 March, that Ukrainian President Zelenskyy had proposed meeting President Putin in Jerusalem. This is what Mr. Zelenskyy told foreign journalists on March 12. He had suggested to Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, to act as intermediary. See [this](#).

Latest reports from Russia – 16 March 2022 – indicate that since Biden called Putin a “war criminal” – there will very likely be no Putin-Zelenskyy meeting.

On 13 March 2022, RT reports Moscow and Kiev seem to be moving closer to an agreement, according to Leonid Slutsky, a member of the Russian negotiation team. He believes there has been “*significant progress*” in talks between Kiev and Moscow. It may soon lead the two sides in the conflict to sign an agreement.

Speaking to RT Arabic on Sunday, Slutsky – who also chairs the State Duma’s Committee on International Affairs – said, “*If we compare the positions of both delegations at the talks, at the very beginning and today, we see significant progress.*”

Confirming this statement, the chief Ukrainian negotiator said “*Russia was seeing the situation “much more adequately” than before. See [this](#).*

Despite blaming Russian shelling for preventing the safe passage of people – an accusation Russia vehemently denies – Ukraine has nonetheless apparently witnessed some progress in the negotiations, too.

Ukrainian presidential aide, Mikhail Podolyak, said in an interview with the Russian newspaper *Kommersant* that the two sides were approaching a compromise. He believes that the Russian side was “*already seeing things much more adequately,*” but noted that it would likely be some time before it “*fully, 100%, understands the situation it has got into.*”

Although these are the first positive signs of a possible de-escalation of the war in Ukraine and that a peaceful solution may be in reachable sight, early optimism, while more than welcome, ought to be dealt with cautiously.

Ukraine is unfortunately not alone in this conflict – and in the decision-making process. It is like a proxy war between the United States and Russia carried out on the grounds of Ukraine.

Today, 16 March, TeleSur reports that during today's negotiations, Ukraine rejected a Russian security condition, that Ukraine become a "neutral" state, like Sweden, or Austria.

Mikhail Podolyak said that "Ukraine is in a conflict with Russia. Therefore, the model for a future Ukraine can only be an Ukrainian solution, and only with a solid base of security from Russia. See [this](#).

As the world is watching, the western US-led empire is gradually becoming weaker and showing increasing signs of an imminent collapse. May the hope of a peaceful solution come through.

However, a falling empire may act like a dying beast, lashing out and around itself to bring down as many victims as possible – i.e. countries and societies in its reach. It may therefore be too soon to predict a peaceful outcome.

Yet, a nuclear conflict is unlikely. Simply because with today's nuclear technologies, an outcome is unpredictable. For example, since 28 of the 30 NATO bases are in Europe, it is very likely that the first Russian targets would be in Europe, potentially knocking out Europe for the third time in something over 100 years, by three World Wars that were not initiated in Europe – but frankly, for which Europe did not have the guts to say NO.

Backtracking in recent history, for the last almost eight years since the Minsk accord of 5 September 2014, Ukraine failed to implement the terms of the agreement; and eventually leading to Russian recognition of the Donbas republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. The German- and French-brokered protocol had been designed to regularize the status of those regions within the Ukrainian state.

Russia has now demanded that Ukraine officially declare itself a neutral country that will never join the US-led NATO military bloc.

Kiev insists the Russian offensive was completely unprovoked and, against all evidence to the contrary, has denied claims it was planning to retake the two Donbas republics by force. The 13,000 civilian deaths in Donbas during the last 8 years, caused by the Kiev army and Kiev-paid terror groups, speak for itself.

Ukrainian presidential advisor, Mr. Podolyak, sees any agreement between Kiev and Moscow as a "*multi-component*" accord. It should include provisions on the termination of the war, the terms and time schedule of the withdrawal of the Russian forces, the guaranteed terms of the peace agreement, and a detailed description of compensation mechanisms, he stressed, as recovery efforts would likely amount to "*billions of dollars*."

Even if such an agreement were to be reached to the satisfaction of both parties, Ukraine currently not being a sovereign country, but rather a nation under strict control of the US / EU and the NATO war-machine, an agreement reached between Russia and Ukraine may

simply not be endorsed by Washington.

Let's not forget, Washington's overall goal, since long, is to conquer Russia and her resources. Russia's landmass of 17.13 million km², by far the largest country in the world, is also rich in natural resources, the west covets. In addition of being the world's second largest producer and exporter of petrol and natural gas, Russia is also a major producer of cobalt, chrome, copper, gold, lead, manganese, nickel, platinum, tungsten, vanadium, and zinc - all materials the west primarily needs for its electronics - and war-industries.

Will the United States give up on Russia, under a Russia-Ukraine agreement which would most certainly contain the following:

- (i) No NATO ever in Ukraine,
- (ii) Ukraine to become a neutral country, and
- (iii) a denazification of Russia, and
- (iv) very possibly a request for NATO withdrawal to the geographic lines before 1997.

Besides, the US war-machine needs to be fed, as it feeds the US economy, contributing significantly to the US GDP - close to 60%, counting all war-related production and services industries.

Therefore, while at the outset a nuclear WWII Scenario may look unlikely, caution is in order.

The western socioeconomic decline is perceived also in Europe - especially by the people - most of whom do not agree with the current US-led EU aggression vis-à-vis the East, Russia and China.

They know, they are part of the contiguous Super-Continent Eurasia - 55 million km², 70% of the world's population and close to two thirds of the world's GDP. Therefore, the sooner they associate with the Continent where they belong to, the better.

Will the declining American empire peacefully accept - and opt for a multi-polar world instead of a Third World War.

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Peter Koenig is a geopolitical analyst and a former Senior Economist at the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), where he has worked for over 30 years on water and environment around the world. He lectures at universities in the US, Europe and South America. He writes regularly for online journals and is the author of [Implosion - An Economic Thriller about War, Environmental Destruction and Corporate Greed](#); and co-author of Cynthia McKinney's book "When China Sneezes: From the Coronavirus Lockdown to the Global Politico-Economic Crisis" (Clarity Press - November 1, 2020)

Peter is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG). He is also is a non-resident Senior Fellow of the Chongyang Institute of Renmin University, Beijing.

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