

Russia versus NATO's Gladio 2.0: "Turkish Jihad" from China to Syria

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To understand what is happening on the geopolitical global scene today, you have to understand what has been happening on that same scene for the last 100 years, because it hasn't really changed much. The US Empire has been the world's only (and 'greatest') superpower since at least the end of the Second World War. Once the Empire had achieved that position, it was determined to keep it. The USSR was supposed to have been destroyed as a result of the 1939-45 war, but Russian ingenuity and hardiness, and Stalin's surprising independent streak, forced the Empire to accept a division of the world between 'East' and 'West'. As soon as the lines were drawn, however, the Empire sent its agents out to continue and complete the process of global conquest.

Apart from the few overt US military forays (Korea, Vietnam, the odd turkey shoot in Latin America) the Empire relied primarily on covert operations to expand its control. In Western Europe - a prized piece on the 'grand chessboard' - the US Empire established '**stay-behind**' networks made up of paramilitary groups from various backgrounds and espousing right-wing, fascistic ideologies. The rationale for 'mining' Europe with weapons caches and nutjobs trained in sabotage and bloody mayhem was that, in the event of a Soviet invasion and occupation of Europe, 'resistance fighters' would form the West's front-line in the coming war with the Soviets.



Not an empire though

These groups were created and funded as part of the Truman Doctrine, which pledged to "support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures". A Soviet invasion was never on the cards, of course, and thus this 'support' took the form of CIA funding, training and arming of minority groups that used extreme violence to 'correct' any European political or social drifts towards 'the left', or anything that opposed the Empire's interests. In their spare time, many of these groups involved themselves in arms- and drug-smuggling and other racketeering, much of it also under the control of the CIA and other Western intel agencies.

This aspect of the Truman Doctrine was the beginning, in earnest, of the US National Security State's *covert* foreign policy, which has comprised the bulk of all US foreign policy over the past 70 years. Most of the details of that foreign policy has not only been kept from the American people, but from most American politicians also. In December 1947, United States National Security Council (NSC) Directive 4-A "*secretly authorised the CIA to conduct these officially non-existent programs and to administer them*" in such a way that "**removed the U.S. Congress and public from any debate over whether to undertake psychological warfare abroad.**"



© Time Magazine

A Time cover from 1979. Russia is the menacing bear. Islam, represented by the crescent symbol, would be distorted into 'global jihad' to become the new anti-ideology against which the West will pretend to 'crusade' in order to 'defend Western civilization'. In actuality, the West will spread the black flag of jihad in order to maintain a permanent war footing and thus 'contain' Russia and any other threat to its hegemony.

Yes, the 'Cold War' ended in 1991, but the hegemonic drive to 'contain' Russia (and China) did not. With the Berlin Wall coming down and Russia 'joining the community of civilized nations', world peace was in danger of breaking out. Coincidentally (or not), Operation *Gladio* received some public attention that same year when a number of parliamentary investigations across western Europe verified its existence, threatening the whole sordid scam with widespread exposure, but it was quickly buried by the first US invasion of Iraq. Rather than being dismantled because its *raison d'être* had become obsolete, the *Gladio* networks during the 1990s were taken to the next level.

A 'communist plot to take over the world' could no longer be held up as the ideological battering ram with which to keep Europe and Russia apart (and justify US imperial expansion all over the planet), so a new 'anti-ideology' was needed. Up to that point,

Western intel agencies had coached paramilitary groups to don 'leftist colors' and conduct subversive activities – bombings, assassinations, disrupting elections – in order to sway public opinion in favor of anti-Communist (specifically, *anti-Russian*), nationalist, law-and-order, Washington-aligned parties and governments.

Going forward, they would extend and develop the successful 1980s *mujahideen* project in Afghanistan to recruit, train, arm and fund paramilitaries in 'jihadi garb', then guide them towards committing (or being associated with) terrorist atrocities carried out under the black flag of 'Global Jihadism', rather than the red flag of Russian Communism. Where the first version was limited in scope because 'communism' was associated with an increasingly smaller number of countries, *Gladio 2.0* blew the field wide open because Islam is present in, and could be spread to, a far larger geographic area; a geographic area that included Russia and former Soviet Republics in the heart of the '[World Island](#)'.

Turkey: A wholly-owned subsidiary of the CIA since 1945

The seamless transition from *Gladio* to *Gladio 2.0* is best illustrated by NATO member Turkey, which has the edge over other NATO members in this new Western intelligence 'game' because it has a large Muslim population *and* is strategically situated to contain Russian access to, and influence in, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Turkish branch of covert CIA *Gladio* operations began on September 27th 1952, when the [Tactical Mobilization Group](#) (STK) (special operations department of the Turkish military) was created with the consent of Brigadier-General Daniş Karabelen of Turkey's National Defense Supreme Council. Karabelen was one of sixteen soldiers (including [Alparslan Türkeş](#)) who had been [sent to the United States in 1948](#) for training in special warfare (assassinations, bombings etc.) During their training several were directly recruited into the CIA.

In 1965 these same men formed the core of Turkey's [Special Warfare Department, which replaced the STK](#). During the 1970s, the Special Warfare Department was run by General [Kemal Yamak](#). In his memoirs, Yamak stated that the United States had set aside around \$1m for weapons for the group. This CIA organisation within Turkey was effectively a parallel government or 'deep state', and it was only when Yamak asked then Prime Minister [Bülent Ecevit](#) for more cash for his operations that Ecevit actually became aware of the operation's existence. Not wanting to expose to his fellow ministers that Turkey had no real sovereignty to speak of, Ecevit suggested that the organization seek support from Europe. So Yamak contacted generals from the United Kingdom and France, from whom he received a positive response.

In 1992 this Special Warfare Department was renamed the "Special Forces Command", although it remains largely controlled by the CIA to this day.

Concurrently with this complete subversion of Turkey's *military* hierarchy, the [CIA also began funding Turkey's civilian intelligence agency – the 'National Intelligence Organization'](#) – in which it maintained a cadre of moles, [as acknowledged in 1977](#) by its former deputy director – and CIA recruit – Sabahattin Savasman.



A map of 'Turkic peoples', a diverse collection of ethnicities spanning central Eurasia, is very useful for predicting the focus of US foreign policy

Having infiltrated the Turkish civilian and military intelligence establishments, the CIA then sought to co-opt Turkish political and civilian life also. In the 1960s, under US direction, one of the above-mentioned 16 soldiers, Alparslan Turkes, established the 'civilian' *Associations for Struggling with Communism*, and funded the far-right [National Movement Party](#) (MHP). The National Movement Party **espoused a fanatical pan-Turkic ideology that called for reclaiming large sections of the Soviet Union under the flag of a reborn Turkish empire**. This ideology was, of course, perfectly matched with the US 'cold war' ideology aimed at attacking the Soviet Union, and the CIA clearly were interested in promoting it, although their job was relatively easy given that Turkes and his cohorts had also been enthusiastic supporters of Hitler during World War II, who had also [attempted to undermine Soviet unity under the flag of Pan-Turkism](#).

The paramilitary wing of the MHP (today the third largest political party in Turkey) is called [the 'Grey Wolves'](#). In the 1960s, Turkes established over 100 camps across Turkey where members received ideological and paramilitary training from CIA agents, [including one former Nazi SS member](#). This system was analogous to the [hundreds of 'madrassas' established](#) with CIA money for the training of jihadi extremists in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Often masquerading as 'cultural' or 'sports' organizations, the Grey Wolves in Turkey carried out [shootings and bombings against left-wing and liberal activists, journalists, judges, Kurds and anyone else](#) who was deemed a threat to US control over Turkey. Over 6,000 people were killed.



The flag of 'East Turkestan' (Xinjiang, Western China)

Working with the CIA-controlled National Intelligence Organization, the Grey Wolves were also involved in several *coup d'états* in Turkey and at least one foreign attempted *coup* in Azerbaijan in 1995. It was immediately after this 1995 *coup* that Azerbaijan was 'opened up' to Western capital and, [in the words of investigative journalist Greg Palast](#), became the 'Republic of BP' (British Petroleum). The Grey Wolves also fought against Russian soldiers as proxy forces for NATO in both Chechen wars, and 15,000 'Grey Wolves' fought on the side of Azerbaijan in the [Nagorno-Karabakh War](#) (1988 - 94) against Armenia (another US proxy war designed to provoke Russia).

With their fanatical 'pan-Turkic' ideology, the Grey Wolves have, more recently, been put to good CIA use in the farthest reaches of their 'Turkish empire'. In recent years, the *Eastern Turkestan Grey Wolf Party* has sprung up in China's western province of Xinjiang, supposedly in support of the Turkic-speaking Uyghur ethnic minority, some of whom have apparently been encouraged to embrace 'jihad'. On March 1st, 2014, eight of these Uyghurs hacked 33 people to death at a train station in the southern Chinese city of Kunming. The perpetrators were found with a hand-painted East Turkestan flag and said that they had [wanted to go abroad to engage in 'jihad'](#), but with no papers to leave China they decided to go on a domestic killing spree instead.



Vehicles pass by a digital billboard showing the sketch of a man suspected to be the Bangkok bomber in central Bangkok on August 22, 2015

In July this year the Thai government stopped over 100 Uyghurs on their way to wage glorious 'CIA-had' in Syria (via Turkey), and sent them back to China. The US State Department [was very annoyed](#) - so annoyed, in fact, that in August a bomb exploded at a shrine in Bangkok, killing 20 people, mostly ethnic Chinese holiday-makers. The [key suspect fled to Turkey](#). An accomplice to the bomber was arrested and found to be carrying 11 Turkish passports. **The bombing is now suspected to have been carried out by the Grey Wolves** in retaliation for Thailand's previous deportation of Uyghur terrorist suspects back to China instead of allowing them to travel to Turkey, and then Syria.

On the feel-good, peace-loving humanitarian front, the US government has gone 'all in' to create and financially support (via the NED) the [World Uyghur Congress](#) (in 2004), a political (rather than military) tool designed specifically to put pressure on the Chinese government.

But **the Kunming and Bangkok attacks are likely to be just a small taste of what is to come**. This is why Russia is attempting to strangle the creature in its cradle in Syria. And this is why Russia conducted [the largest military exercises seen since the Cold War](#) -

100,000 soldiers across 6,000km of southern Russia – held in September just days before Putin started bombing the hell out of terrorists in Syria, and simulating **“an international threat coming from central Asia.”**

There is substantial evidence of a major US/NATO operation to traffic Chinese Uyghur fighters from Xinjiang to Turkey, and then Syria, and back again to bring ‘jihad’ to western China. [According to Al Mayadeen](#), a Beirut-based satellite news service, abandoned villages in northern Syria have recently been filling up with the families of Muslim Chinese Uyghurs. These Uyghurs, claims the report, are entering the country, along with their wives and children, to fight alongside Al Nusra Front (formerly known as Al Qaeda) and ISIS/Daesh against the Syrian government. In addition to providing a cadre of battle-trained fighters to ship back to China, the influx of ‘Turkic’ Uyghurs into northern Syria is very likely an attempt by the Turkish government to populate the area with ‘Turks’ in advance of potential ‘peace talks’ on the likely future break-up of Syria.

With that little bit of background, let’s take a look at an image of the individual who [appeared on camera in the immediate aftermath of the shoot-down of the Russian Su-24](#), the same man who [claimed that he and his friends had shot at and killed the Russian pilot](#), and were also responsible for the attack on the Russian rescue helicopter with a US-supplied TOW anti-tank missile that killed another Russian marine:



Alparslan Celik (center with blue beret) – ‘Grey Wolf’

His name is Alparslan Celik; he’s standing in front of the flag of ‘East Turkestan’ and is giving the signature ‘Grey Wolves’ hand salute. He’s not Syrian, he’s not even a Syrian Turkman; **he’s just Turkish, the son of a former MHP mayor of an eastern Turkish town.**



With that said, here are a few (perhaps rhetorical) questions:

- Was it just a coincidence that members of this long-term, NATO-sponsored, pan-Turkic paramilitary group, with direct connections to recent Turkish-linked terrorist atrocities in China and Thailand, were in the right place at the right time to kill the Russian pilot after he ejected?
- Was it just a coincidence that, within a couple of hours, Fox News and CNN reporters were there on the scene to interview this Turkish 'Grey Wolf' and broadcast him gloating about the murder of the Russian pilot, in doing so pushing Turkish/Russian relations past the point of no return?
- Is it just a coincidence that this is the second time in the last 18 months that a non-EU country on Russia's border has seen its relationship with Russia destroyed over the shoot-down of a plane ([MH17](#), previously) and promises of entry into the EU?
- Can it really be seen as a coincidence that, just a few days before the Turkish PM was scheduled to go to Brussels to talk about getting a €3billion hand out for dealing with Syrian refugees and fast-tracking the long-sought-after Turkish entry into the 'elite' EU club, someone shoots down a Russian bomber from Turkey, forcing the Turkish government to 'own' it and thereby destroying their relationship with Russia?

I suppose not. Everyone has to pick a side, it seems, and some people need a little encouragement.

Comment: See also: [NATO Orders Stool-Pigeon Turkey to Shoot Down Russian Jet](#)
[SOTT Talk Radio #91: NATO's Secret Armies in Europe - Interview with Daniele Ganser](#)

[Geopolitics of Empire: Mackinder's Heartland Theory and the Containment of Russia](#)

[The Rise of Russia and the 'End of the World'](#)

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