

Shale Gas Fracking and America's Proxy War against Russia: Joe Biden Promotes Fracking On Ukraine Trip

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During his two-day visit this week to Kiev, Ukraine, Vice President Joe Biden unfurled President Barack Obama's "[U.S. Crisis Support Package for Ukraine](#)."

A key part of the package involves promoting the deployment of [hydraulic fracturing \("fracking"\)](#) in Ukraine. [Dean Neu](#), professor of accounting at York University in Toronto, describes this phenomenon in his book "[Doing Missionary Work](#)." And in this case, it involves the U.S. acting as a modern-day missionary to spread the gospel of fracking to further its own interests.

With the ongoing Russian occupation of Crimea serving as the backdrop for the trip, Biden made Vladimir Putin's Russia and its dominance of the global gas market one of the centerpieces of a key speech he gave while in Kiev.

"And as you attempt to pursue energy security, there's no reason why you cannot be energy secure. I mean there isn't. It will take time. It takes some difficult decisions, but it's collectively within your power and the power of Europe and the United States," [Biden](#) said.

"And we stand ready to assist you in reaching that. Imagine where you'd be today if you were able to tell Russia: Keep your gas. It would be a very different world you'd be facing today."

The [U.S. oil and gas industry has long lobbied to "weaponize" its fracking prowess](#) to fend off Russian global gas market dominance. It's done so primarily in two ways.

One way: by transforming the U.S. State Department into a global promoter of fracking via its [Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement Program](#) (formerly the [Global Shale Gas Initiative](#)), which is a [key, albeit less talked about, part of President Obama's "Climate Action Plan."](#)

The other way: by exporting U.S. fracked gas to the global market, namely EU countries currently heavily dependent on Russia's gas spigot.

In this sense, the crisis in Ukraine — as Naomi Klein pointed out in a recent article — has [merely served as a "shock doctrine" excuse](#) to push through plans that were already long in the making. In other words, it's "[old wine in a new bottle](#)."

Gas “Support Package” Details

[Within the energy security section of the aid package](#), the White House promises in “the coming weeks, expert teams from several U.S. government agencies will travel to the region to help Ukraine meet immediate and longer term energy needs.”

That section contains three main things the U.S. will do to ensure U.S. oil and gas companies continue to profit during this geopolitical stand-off.

1) Help with pipelines and securing access to gas at the midstream level of production.

“Today, a U.S. interagency expert team arrived in Kyiv to help Ukraine secure reverse flows of natural gas from its European neighbors,” [the White House fact sheet explains](#). “Reverse flows of natural gas will provide Ukraine with additional immediate sources of energy.”

2) Technical assistance to help boost conventional gas production in Ukraine. That is, gas obtained *not* from fracking and horizontal drilling, but via traditional vertical drilling.

As the White House explains, “U.S. technical experts will join with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and others in May to help Ukraine develop a public-private investment initiative to increase conventional gas production from existing fields to boost domestic energy supply.”

3) Shale gas missionary work.

“A technical team will also engage the government on measures that will help the Ukrainian government ensure swift and environmentally sustainable implementation of contracts signed in 2013 for shale gas development,” [says the White House](#).

ExxonMobil Teaching Russia Fracking

Ironically, as the U.S. government teams up with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to teach Ukraine fracking in order to wean the country off of Russian gas, U.S.-based “[private empire](#)” [ExxonMobil](#) is doing the same work in Russia to help the country tap into its shale oil and gas bounty.

[Among its myriad partnerships](#) with the Russian oil and gas industry, [ExxonMobil](#) has [signed a joint venture in December 2013 with state-owned company Rosneft](#) to help it tap the massive Bazhenov Shale basin.

“The JV will implement a pilot work program in order to assess and determine the technical possibility of developing the...Bazhenov formation...in Western Siberia,” [reads a Rosneft press release](#). “The plan is to perform the pilot work program within 2013-2015 timeframe.”

[Forbes has reported the Bazhenov is roughly 80 times the size](#) of the [Bakken Shale](#), already the biggest field by a long shot in the U.S. and one [visible from outer space](#).

Climate Change Taboo

Traditionally, missionaries do charity work in service to humanity. But [the enormous climate impact of fracking](#) — given [the climate change math](#) — calls those doing the Lord’s work in the shale gas sphere into question.

So in the case of the U.S. government and Ukraine, the concept of missionary work has been flipped on its head.

That is, the most profitable companies on the face of the planet — both in the U.S. *and in Russia* — are set to profit at the expense of everyone else, including the stability of earth's climate system.

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