

War Fever Is in the Air, as the West Confuses Russia with Nazi Germany

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The ‘war hysteria’ which has taken over our airwaves in the West of late in relation to tensions on Ukraine’s border, is like a Hollywood style movie, being entirely scripted, produced, directed and acted in by the West. It bears no resemblance to the real actions and words of Russia and its representatives. The US is starring in its own drama, with the lines between fantasy and reality increasingly blurred.

News presenters, completely ignorant of the facts, question equally incompetent experts as to ‘what should we be doing about Russia?’ to which they are told ‘we need to send Putin a message that we won’t tolerate an invasion’. Nobody bothers to question the evidence for a Russian invasion of Ukraine, or make the very obvious point of why the largest country in the world would need any more territory.

In line with the dramatic nature of current events, the rhetoric being bandied around is equally outrageous: comparisons of Joe Biden with Neville Chamberlain; Russia with Nazi Germany and incredulously, Vladimir Putin with Adolf Hitler. Not are such equivalences wrong, but they are offensive in the extreme given the number of Russian lives which were lost in the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two. Need we be reminded that Adolf Hitler was an evil, egotistical maniac, intent on world domination by what he thought was his superior ‘Aryan’ race at the expense of those he thought were lesser human beings or ‘untermenschen’ (e.g. Jews and Russians)? He was intent on invading Russia in order to create ‘lebensraum’ (living space) for the expanding German population.

How anyone can possibly draw any comparisons with the current crisis is beyond my comprehension. But it speaks volumes about the lack of historical knowledge amongst leading politicians and military figures in the West these days. Hardly surprising given the one major historical topic at British schools up and down the country for decades now has been World War Two. Students may not be able to point to Russia or Ukraine on a map, but they will be familiar with Chamberlain’s ‘appeasement’ of Hitler. As such, the word resonates with the general population today and is now recklessly being applied to current

events.

The West has something of a guilt complex about British PM Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolf Hitler prior to WW2. Allowed to invade the Rhineland in 1936, Hitler invaded Austria before pledging to Chamberlain in the Munich agreement of 1938 he would go no further than the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. Hitler violated this agreement and took over the rest of the country the following year.

To view current events through the prism of Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler is entirely flawed. On the contrary, the West's years of sanctions against Russia, cyber and info war campaigns, provocations in the Black Sea, and continued military buildup on Russia's border can hardly constitute a policy of 'appeasement'.

If we are to draw parallels between the current crisis on the Ukraine border and WW2 we should compare the Neo-Nazi ideology which dominates Ukrainian nationalism with that of Nazi Germany. The repression of [minority languages](#), including Russian; the [censorship of the media](#); [assassinations of journalists](#); persecution of [opposition politicians](#) and obsession with a Russian 'enemy' are all symptoms of a nation, sadly, rotten at its core.

Aside from that, the two geopolitical scenarios have nothing in common. Putin is not intent on world domination; if he was, why was Donbas not annexed years ago? If the President really wanted more territory he could have tried a bit harder over twenty years, surely? The only instances to date when Russia has intervened militarily outside its borders in the last few years have been to protect Russian-speaking civilians (like in South Ossetia in 2008) and to aid sovereign states to defend themselves against uprisings (Syria, and more lately Kazakhstan).

Ironically the only country that fits the description of imperialist aggressor is the US, which has invaded [countless](#) sovereign nations since its inception. Russia has valid security concerns regarding Nato forces encroaching on its eastern border; concerns which it explicitly set out recently in a document provided to the West, but which we are hearing little about just now in the midst of war-hysteria.

Indeed for all the talk of 'What does Putin want?', it couldn't be clearer what Russia wants.

The list of demands presented to the US last year was clear: no Nato membership for

Ukraine and a Nato withdrawal from the Baltic states and Eastern Europe. Russia views the Nato presence on its borders as aggressive, in the same way as the US would not tolerate Russian missiles on Cuba.

The Russian government has in fact set out its [foreignpolicy objectives](#) for years now, published on its website. Putin and Foreign Ministry representatives give regular, detailed interviews on Russia's position, but they are rarely acknowledged by western politicians and media. Russia has never made any secret of its geostrategic goals - the problem is that the West does not listen. Even President Biden in a recent press conference suggested that President Putin would make decisions based on 'what side of the bed' he gets up from in the morning. This demonstrates a complete lack of analysis and appreciation of the type of character of the Russian President. Far from making impulsive decisions, he is clearly a man who takes his time to think things through properly.

Despite US and UK warnings of an invasion being 'imminent' with troops poised to intervene

if necessary, other European countries have not been so ready to engage in such posturing. Germany has been much more reticent, refusing to participate by arming Ukraine and denying the Royal Air Force airspace to fly weapons to Kiev. Croatia has even said it will [withdraw its Nato troops](#) from Eastern Europe if a conflict between Ukraine and Russia were to ensue. Given the serious risk of escalation, such cautious behaviour can only be welcomed.

Indeed, in the current climate the rhetoric ought to be dialled down significantly in the West. This isn't Hollywood; there is a real chance for miscalculation and for war to break out between Russia and the West. Inflammatory comparisons of Russia with

Nazi Germany are therefore reckless in the extreme and only seek to heighten tensions. Yet with western populations and their governments largely ignorant about Russia and the history of the region, I sadly don't expect any diffusion to the current levels of war hysteria.

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