

# Surprise, Surprise...The Washington Post Publishes a Commentary Full of Lies Against Putin

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On January 29<sup>th</sup>, *The Washington Post* published an op-ed by the well-known Yale historian [Timothy Snyder](#), titled [“Putin’s case for invading Ukraine rests on phony grievances and ancient myths.”](#) In a key passage, the article reads:

Last July, Vladimir Putin supplied the [mythical basis](#) for Russian war propaganda in an essay titled [“On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians.”](#) The essential idea is that Russia has the right to Ukraine because of things that happened a thousand years ago in Kyiv. ... It takes some fanciful thinking to see here a reason for Russia to invade Ukraine in the 21st century, as it seems prepared to do. ... Putin’s idea is that Ukraine is a fraternal nation because of how he personally feels about the past. This is known as imperialism. It flies in the face of the basic legal principle of state sovereignty and the basic moral principle of democracy.

[Putin’s article](#) did NOT assert that “Russia has the right to Ukraine because of things that happened a thousand years ago in Kyiv.” It didn’t even assert that “Russia has the right to invade Ukraine.” Furthermore, the allegation that Putin’s view that’s expressed there advocates “imperialism” that “flies in the face of the basic legal principle of state sovereignty and the basic moral principle of democracy” is likewise a bald-faced lie.

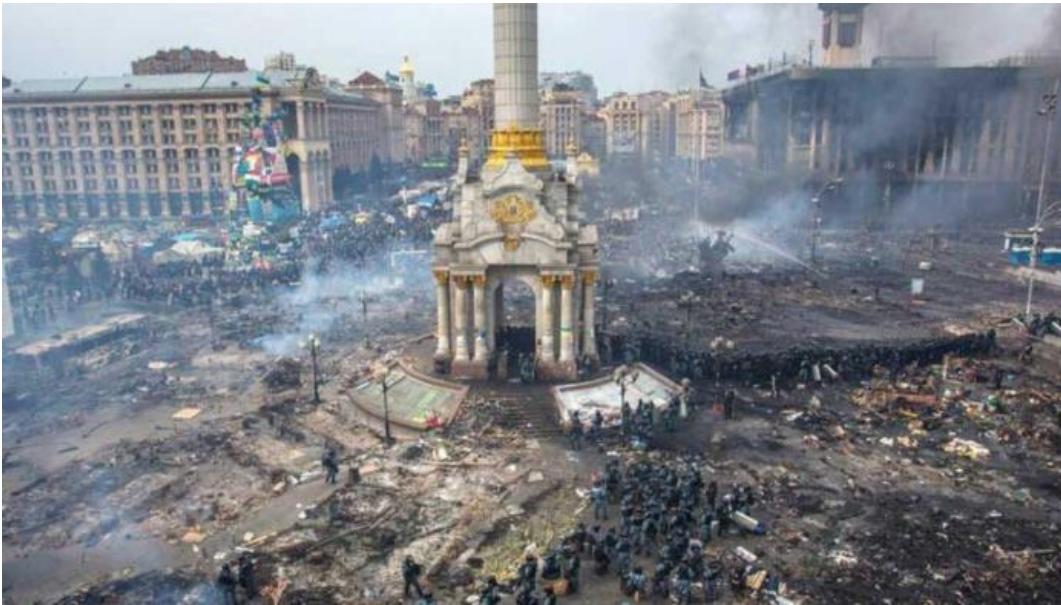
Moreover, Russia’s Government has consistently *denied* that it has any intention to invade Ukraine, but *instead* asserts that if Ukraine invades Donbass, then Russia will not allow that invasion to conquer the residents there.

Russia’s position has consistently been that *only* the people who live in Donbass have the right to determine whether or not—and the terms under which—they will be ruled by the government in Kyiv.

This government was installed ([against the will of more than 90% of them](#)) in February 2014

when [the democratically elected President of Ukraine](#) was forcibly overthrown by what the U.S. Government calls a “democratic revolution,” and by what Russia’s Government and [the head of the “private-CIA” U.S. firm Stratfor](#), and many historians, call a [coup](#)—imposed [by the Nobel-Peace-Prize-winning U.S. President Barack Obama’s administration](#).

A key goal of the coup was to [replace Russia’s naval base on Crimea by a new U.S. naval base there](#) (which Obama was not able to do, though [his coup conquering Ukraine otherwise succeeded](#)).



Maidan Square after violent protests in February 2014 that resulted in the overthrow of the pro-Russian government in Ukraine led by Viktor Yanukovich. [Source: [moderndiplomacy.eu](#)]



Russian Victory Day in Sevastopol, May 9, 2014. [source: [wikipedia.org](#)]

Several of the mercenaries that the U.S. hired (some [from Georgia](#), for example, as shown [in these videos](#)) subsequently confessed to having participated in the coup. The U.S. afterwards charged Putin with “aggression against Ukraine,” and with “seizing Crimea,” and issued sanctions against Russia for that.

Here are some key passages from Putin’s article (the article that Snyder lies about):

The determination of nationality, particularly in mixed families, is the right of every individual, free to make his or her own choice. But the fact is that the situation in Ukraine today is completely different because it involves a forced change of identity. And the most despicable thing is that the Russians in Ukraine are being forced not only to deny their roots, generations of their ancestors but also to believe that Russia is their enemy. ... And I will say one thing—Russia has never been and will never be “anti-Ukraine.” And what Ukraine will be—it is up to its citizens to decide.

Putin, as well as François Hollande of France, and Angela Merkel of Germany, brought the Donbass government and the Ukraine government together in 2015 and got the Donbass and Ukraine to sign onto an agreement in Minsk, promising that those two then-warring parties would call a truce until both of them would agree to negotiate together and arrange some degree of autonomy for Donbass *within the Ukrainian federation*.



Leaders of Belarus, Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine at the February 11-12, 2015, summit in Minsk.

[Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)]

However, after it was all signed, Ukraine (with backing from the U.S.) steadfastly refused to negotiate at all with Donbass.

Merkel, Hollande and Putin had worked together to get the Minsk accords agreed to and signed by the two sides, but the Ukrainian side then stonewalled, refusing to comply with the agreement. Putin’s consistent position has been the same as Hollande’s and Merkel’s on this, and remains so to this day: BOTH sides must comply. (Donbass has always been willing, but Ukraine never.)

The rest of Putin’s article is a history of the relationship that has existed between Russia and Ukraine. Snyder’s article that alleges to be about Putin’s article ignores that history, just as he lies about the rest of the article. And that is from a professor at Yale.

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

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### About the author:

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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