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Warmongers United: “No Fly” Zones, “Humanitarian” Aid, and the Bi-Partisan Push for WWIII

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In an America where bipartisanship seemed dead and gone forever, it now seems ubiquitous. Whether Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, “liberals,” the Pentagon, ex-generals, or the media, most sides now seem to favor the U.S. government entering the Russia-Ukraine war, by any means necessary, including by means of economic-financial sanctions, “humanitarian” aid, arms shipments, oil import bans, and direct military intervention—even though the latter could easily trigger WWII and a nuclear exchange. All sides are locking arms, in the hope of resorting to arms.

Although WWIII may seem unlikely, at present, given that Ukraine isn’t a member of NATO, recall that we’ve all just witnessed, over the last two years, a similarly unlikely policy, imposed quickly, easily, and rashly: the science-denying, wealth-crushing, health-eroding Covid mandates, lockdowns, and lawlessness.¹ This was a domestic (civil) war, with American politicians and phobic regulators fighting innocent American citizens. There’s little to no evidence that the Russia-Ukraine war will materially threaten U.S. national security, or that U.S. entry into the war is in America’s self-interest; on the contrary, there’s evidence that U.S. involvement would weaken and harm America. These facts don’t excuse Russia’s actions, of course; at the least they should preclude U.S. policymakers from doing wrong.

Russia’s most recent initiation of force against Ukraine (it also annexed Crimea in 2014) is both brutish and morally wrong; in time, perhaps, it may even prove strategically self-defeating. We’ll see, before long. Russia’s only semi-legitimate complaint, in this current conflict, is that NATO has been expanding steadily eastward, towards Russia’s border, in the decades since the Cold War ended in 1991—and anti-Russia neighbor Ukraine has been vying to become a NATO member. NATO, the

Figure One

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Poll: Majority of wealthy Americans want US military involvement in European war



¹ See “Incarceration, Monetization, and Nationalization Can’t Preserve Our Health or Wealth,” in *The InterMarket Forecaster*, March 29, 2020, pp. 6-12; “The Great Lockdown: A Running Critique of Anti-Capitalist Covid Policies,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, May 11, 2020; “The Rule of Lawlessness: Democracy is Killing Nomocracy,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, July 14, 2020; “COVID-19: Facts versus Phobia,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, September 15, 2020; “A World Blinded by Non-Science, Hence Nonsense,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, December 31, 2020; “Despotism, America-Style: A Year of Lockdowns and Lawlessness,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, March 12, 2021; “COVID Crackdowns Continue: Is That Bullish?” *Investor Alert*, August 8, 2021.

military alliance formed after WWII (in 1949), aimed to deter the U.S.S.R. and its “satellites” (colonies) in Eastern Europe. NATO’s counterforce, the “Warsaw Pact,” was formed by the U.S.S.R. in 1955. The Cold War’s end should have ended both NATO and the Warsaw Pact, but NATO persisted, partly because it was the wish of what President Eisenhower called “the military industrial complex” in America, and partly because non-U.S. NATO members benefitted by mooching off U.S. taxpayers. For decades non-U.S. NATO nations have “outsourced” their military defense (on the cheap), permitting a vast expansion of their welfare states. Dependent NATO members have become less-than-sovereign entities, akin to permanent American colonies.

Historical context is necessary to glimpse why Russia might want to control Ukraine and why it might interpret NATO expansion as a threat (partly, because anti-Russia Ukraine wants to join). Besides the U.S.S.R., the Warsaw Pact (1955-1991) included Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. The Pact necessarily disbanded in 1991, when the U.S.S.R. dissolved, but NATO didn’t disband. Instead, NATO leaders promised Russia that it wouldn’t expand membership eastward.

But NATO *did* expand after 1991, incorporating many of the former Warsaw Pact nations. NATO had twelve founding members in 1949 (most importantly the U.S., Britain, France, Italy, and Canada) but thereafter it added Greece and Turkey (1952), West Germany (1955), Spain (1982), and East Germany (1990). Even though Russia proved to be no threat in the 1990s, NATO kept expanding, incorporating most of the former Warsaw Pact nations, first in 1999 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland), then in 2004 (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia), then in 2009 (Albania, Croatia). Ukraine has long wanted to join NATO, especially since Zelensky’s election in 2014; it has failed to attain NATO membership because Russia has objected and because Ukraine’s internal governance is terrible.

As part of its warmongering, the Biden Regime yesterday trashed the rights and liberties of Americans by declaring they could no longer import oil from Russia, which comprises a mere 3% of U.S. oil imports. In its place, the regime won’t reverse its prior policies and allow more oil production in America (which is down 11% from its peak in November 2019).² Instead it’ll accept more oil imports from the dictatorships in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.³ Unlike those horrid regimes, Russia is not a dictatorship; authoritarian Vladimir Putin has been elected four times in Russia (2000-2004-2012-2018), just as authoritarian Franklin Roosevelt was elected four times in America (1932-1936-1940-1944).

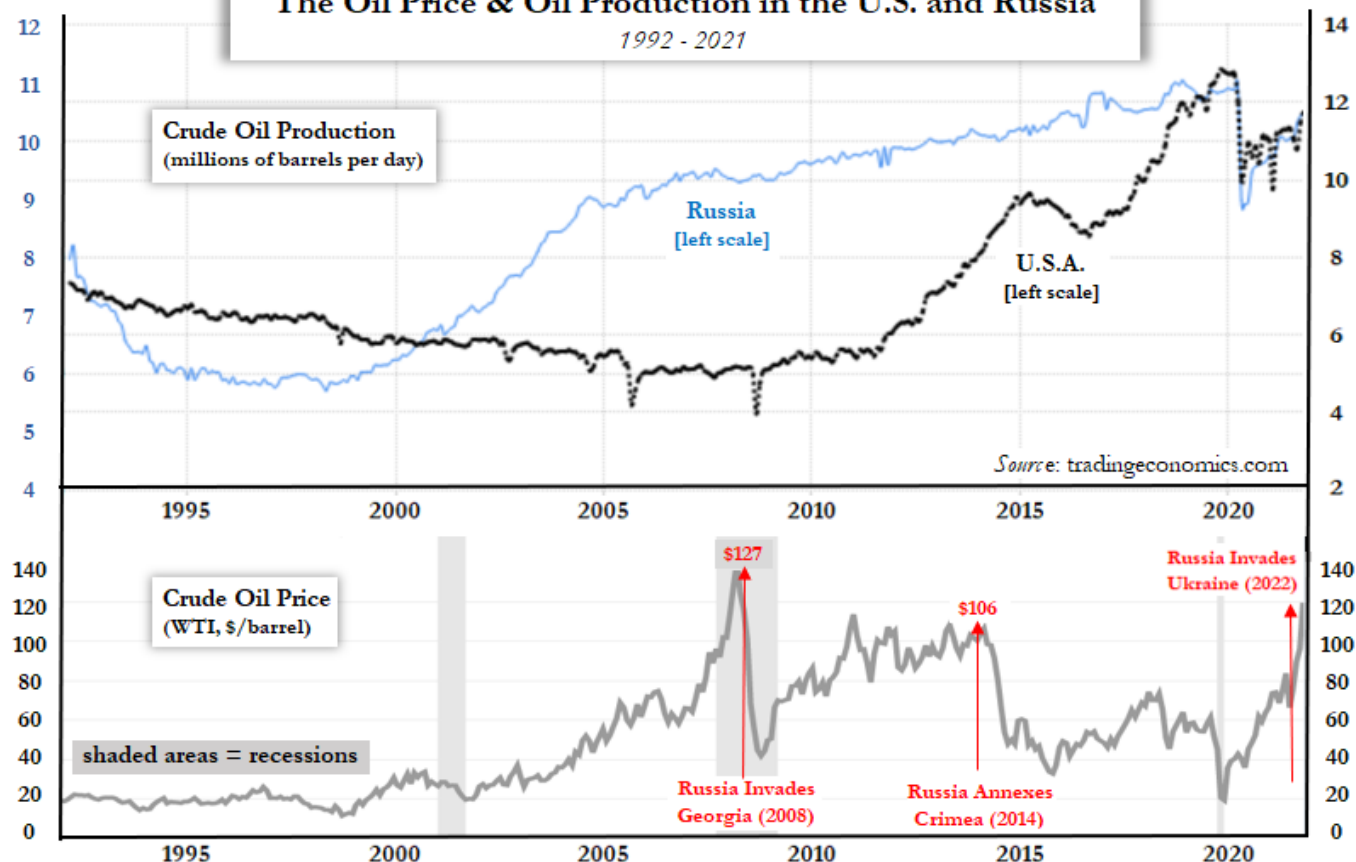
Russia may be an occasional foe of certain of its neighbors, but there’s no evidence that it’s a foe of the U.S. Moreover, neither Russia nor the U.S. has (yet) declared war on each other. Biden’s sole goal is to energize war sentiment and energize the war machine, to get the U.S. into WWII as fast as possible, to obscure his innumerable domestic sins and bail out his corrupt cronies in Ukraine.

Figure Two (page 3) shows that Russia’s oil output expanded significantly between 1998-2012, a period when U.S. output was declining, due mainly to environmentalist restrictions (and despite a rising oil price). During these fourteen years, U.S. imports of oil, including from Russia, necessarily increased. Russia benefited from the anti-capitalist “greens” in Europe, America and elsewhere. Notice that when the oil price hit very high levels in recent years—in 2008 (\$127/bl), 2014 (\$106/bl), and 2022 (\$131/bl)—Russia seems to have felt more emboldened (and more awash in cash, from oil exports) to invade nearby nations. The anti-fossil fuel gang is a closet ally of Putin’s Russia, since the gang loves seeing oil and gas prices high and rising, making their ridiculously costly wind and solar schemes seem relatively more affordable (even as they’re not more reliable or efficient).

² U.S. oil output peaked at 13.0 million barrels per day in November 2019; thereafter it declined steadily to a low of 9.7 million per day in May 2020 and averaged only 11.6 million per day last December. *Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration.*

³ *Freedom House* gives a score of 20 (out of 100, being the freest) to Russia, but only 16 to Iran, 14 to Venezuela, and 7 to Saudi Arabia. China scores 9, while Ukraine scores 61 and the U.S. scores 83. See also “Venezuela Asks Wall Street to Help Lift U.S. Sanctions So Oil Can Flow,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 3, 2022; “U.S. Officials Meet with Regime in Venezuela to Discuss Oil Exports to Replace Russia’s,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 6, 2022.

Figure Two
The Oil Price & Oil Production in the U.S. and Russia
1992 - 2021



Russia may be an occasional foe of certain of its neighbors, but there's simply no evidence to suggest that it's a foe of the U.S. Moreover, neither Russia nor the U.S. has (yet) declared war on each other. Biden's oil import ban is a hostile act and hints at *lending* NATO to Ukraine. In his declaration, he claimed that his purpose was "to keep pressure mounting on Putin and his war machine."⁴ He's doing no such thing—indeed, the opposite.

Biden's anti-energy agenda was boosting the oil price long before Putin's recent move, and that helped finance him; Russia can export its oil elsewhere (including China, who can re-export it); it can still get to the U.S. through other routes. Biden's sole goal is to energize the war machine, to get into WWII as fast as possible, to obscure his innumerable domestic sins and bail out his corrupt cronies in Ukraine.

Even more hostile is Secretary of State Blinken recent comment that NATO countries have a "green

light" (permission and encouragement from the U.S.) to send fighter jets to Ukraine, jets made in the U.S., to be sent by the U.S. to Poland, on the western border of Ukraine, to replace older, inferior (Russian-made) jets held in Poland. As Blinken put it, "we're talking with our Polish friends right now about what we might be able to do to backfill their needs if in fact they choose to provide these fighter jets to the Ukrainians. What can we do? How can we help to make sure that they get something to backfill the planes that they are handing over to the Ukrainians?"⁵

Blinken knows that Ukraine is not a NATO member, so this amounts to *a de facto extension of NATO into Ukraine*. But this has been going on already, for many years—the west arming Ukraine—and it's one of the main reasons Russia warned (then invaded) Ukraine.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham recently called for Russians to assassinate Putin; it is, he said "the only way this [invasion of Ukraine] ends."⁶ This opens the possi-

⁴ "Remarks by President Biden Announcing U.S. Ban on Imports of Russian Oil, Liquefied Natural Gas, and Coal," *The White House*, March 8, 2022.

⁵ "Blinken says NATO Countries Have 'Green Light' to Send Fighter Jets to Ukraine," *CBS News*, March 7, 2022.

bility that other leaders may urge Americans to target and assassinate prominent U.S. politicians and military people, such as Biden, Harris, Pelosi, Austin, Blinken, McConnell, and Graham.

Yesterday, the U.S. Congress and the White House began pushing a \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill that includes \$14 billion in aid and arms to Ukraine; both Democrats and Republicans support it,⁷ without a Congressional Declaration of War, as required by the U.S. Constitution. By one account, “lawmakers on Wednesday unveiled Ukraine aid package that took President Joe Biden’s request for weapons and training for Ukrainian forces and put it on steroids. Part of a sweeping \$1.5 trillion measure to fund the federal government, the \$14 billion package would buy \$3 billion in new weapons for Ukraine, instead of the \$1.5 billion in new weapons included in Biden’s \$10 billion request. It’s a win for Ukrainian President Zelensky, who pleaded with U.S. lawmakers in a Zoom call Saturday for more support as his country fights a Russian invasion.”⁸ This is the U.S. *getting directly involved* in the Russia-China war against Ukraine. Arms deliveries are typically accompanied by personnel who train recipients in their use. “Boots on the ground.” Whoops! Are we at war?

In our judgment, it’s highly likely that most of the weapons, jets, artillery, munitions, and aid sent to Ukraine by the U.S. and other states over the coming weeks and months—allegedly for deployment by conscripted Ukrainian amateurs and weak, overwhelmed, or defecting Ukrainian soldiers—will soon be controlled and used by the Russian army, against foes and civilians in Ukraine (including Americans). The U.S. military is not averse to doing this

kind of maniacal, self-defeating thing—even when it is in control, locally, with “boots on the ground,” as occurred in Afghanistan last summer, when the Pentagon not only lost its twenty-year war against the Taliban, but left behind \$83 billion in U.S. arms for the Taliban to use and possibly sell (to Russia, China, and other foes of America).⁹

NATO and the Biden Regime also now contemplate imposing a “no fly zone” over Ukraine, as advised recently by “27 ex-White House foreign policy experts, diplomats, and military commander,” “despite fears it will spark WWII.”¹⁰ These warmongers don’t “fear” WWII but yearn for it. Surely, they know (but won’t admit publicly) that there is, in fact, no such thing as a “no-fly zone.” It is a situation in which *only one air force occupies or dominates* the skies above a country, to the exclusion of

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other air forces, and it’s achieved, if necessary, by shooting at (and shooting down) alien air forces, including aircraft or anti-aircraft weapons observed *on the ground* at airports or airbases. To have a “no fly zone” is to go to war; it’s not a “peacekeeping mission.” If Ukraine’s skies are protected by Ukraine’s air force, that’s fine—it’s the rightful prerogative of any sovereign. But if it’s skies are to be protected by the U.S. air force, or by that of any NATO member (like Poland, Ukraine’s western neighbor), or by NATO itself, it is WWII—the U.S. and NATO against Russia-China. The latter duo is more likely to win because it’s more ruthlessly willing to use nuclear weapons. For more on this, see “Appendix: NATO

⁶ “Graham Calls on Russians to Assassinate Putin,” *Yahoo News*, March 4, 2022. Excerpt: “‘Somebody in Russia has to step up to the plate. Is there a Brutus in Russia? Is there a more successful Colonel Stauffenberg in the Russian military?’ Graham, R-S.C., asked” (on *Fox News TV*, *Hannity*).

⁷ By one account, “the Ukraine package ‘provides critically needed emergency assistance for our allies that are resisting Russian aggression in Ukraine without decreasing base defense funding by a single dollar,’ Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), said in a statement.” (“Biden’s Ukraine Aid Package is Getting Super-sized by Congress,” *Army Times*, March 9, 2022). Republican Shelby just assumes Ukraine is a U.S. “ally,” as if it’s a member of NATO, which it is *not*.

⁸ Joe Gould, “Biden’s Ukraine Aid Package is Getting Super-sized by Congress,” *Army Times*, March 9, 2022.

⁹ “Washington is Now the World’s Biggest Sponsor of Terrorism,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, August 31, 2021.

¹⁰ “27 Ex-White House Foreign Policy Experts, Diplomats and Military Commanders Urge Biden to Create a ‘Limited’ No-Fly Zone Over Ukraine to Protect Civilian Escape Routes, Despite Fears It Will Spark WWII,” *Daily Mail (U.K.)*, March 6, 2022. One main error in this headline is use of the word “despite,” because many of these people *want* the U.S. involved in WWII, if necessary, even to *instigate* it.

¹¹ This is what we described as “Scenario C” in our recent report (“The Russia-China Assault on Ukraine: Putin’s Motives and Three Possible Scenarios,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, February 28, 2022, p. 8). We classified this as “the least likely of the three scenarios, but the one most threatening and damaging to U.S./NATO interests.” See footnote 13 for Scenario A (“the most likely outcome and the one least harmful to U.S./NATO interests”).

Intervention in Ukraine Could Spark Nuclear War. Here's How It Could Happen" (pp 10-12).¹¹

Ex-comedian and current Ukraine president Zelensky, who taunted neighbor Russia but left his own nation without an adequate national defense, has lately begged NATO for protection; last week he even *denounced* NATO for not imposing the mis-named "no-fly zone"—which means, for not risking a WWII versus Russia-China. This child beggar is singularly unfit to rule Ukraine, or any other lesser political dominion. Precisely because Zelensky is unfit,

unprepared, pathetic, and needy, he is widely beloved in today's twisted world of "humanitarians." Were it not for these "bleeding hearts," who egg on the warmongers from a

safe distance, the world would suffer far less war and bloodshed.¹² Only two days ago Zelensky, the dazed and confused hot-head, the much-beloved man child, with bombs raining down on his cities and (soon, possibly, his own head), suddenly *reversed his prior positions* and declared that he had "cooled" to the idea of joining NATO.¹³

The "idea," he calls it. A really cool and swell idea! Here Zelensky admits to being 1) capricious, 2) feckless, and 3) irresponsibly eager (until now) to taunt Russia by flirting with NATO. This joker, this dunce, decided to have fun, to poke the Russian bear, play with fire, and to flirt with NATO (a formidable *military alliance aimed at Russia*). Now he and his people suffer the pain of bear claws. Who's to blame? Well done, play-actor; well done, clown.

A recent poll of Americans (Figure One, page 1) makes plain that the real pushers for WWII—which is what U.S. military involvement in Ukraine would trigger

(whether by the U.S. administering aid, delivering armaments, placing boots on the ground" or "jets in the air")—are the *richest* Americans. Go figure. The rich (or their firms, or investments) may profit from it, but poor and middle-class citizens in America want nothing to do with it. Unlike "the rich and powerful" (who are, typically, also the alleged "experts") they know the Russia-Ukraine war is no threat to American security—any more than was the Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, or its brief, minor incursion into Georgia in 2008, or its effective, proper suppression of Islamic terrorism in its republic of Chechnya in 2002.

Unlike the rich, the powerful, and the "experts," the poor and middle-class in America glimpse that U.S. involvement in Ukraine now will mean WWII before long; they know that's not in their self-interest, that they're the one's who'll be sacrificed, controlled, taxed, drafted, maimed, and killed—as directed by rich, powerful experts.

Unlike the rich, the powerful and the "experts," the poor and middle-class in America today seem to glimpse that U.S. involvement in Ukraine would risk WWII; they

sense that it's not in their self-interest, that they're the ones who will be sacrificed, controlled, taxed, drafted, maimed, and killed—as directed by rich and powerful experts.

The many apologists today for the feckless Zelensky, the former comedian and now Ukrainian president elected in 2019 with just 30% of the vote, ignore that he left his country unprotected, then taunted Russia with hints that Ukraine would join NATO (hints never dismissed by NATO). Today's Zelensky zombies say this is a false fear, a fake phobia contrived by Putin as an excuse to invade Ukraine. Well, what took him so long? Putin first assumed office in 2000; Ukraine has been doing this for decades. We've shown otherwise; the evidence is overwhelming; Zelensky is a NATO stooge, and NATO is a clear threat to Russia.¹⁴ Indeed, NATO knows this. U.S. officials know it too. A recent account puts it bluntly: "U.S. Government Knew NATO Expansion to Ukraine Would Force Russia to Intervene." William Burns, cur-

¹² "Zelensky Slams NATO Over Refusing to Implement No-Fly Zone Over Ukraine," *The Hill*, March 4, 2022.

¹³ "Ukraine's Zelensky Says He has 'Cooled' on Joining NATO and is Open to Discussions About Control of Russian-Backed Separatist Regions," *Yahoo News*, March 8, 2022. The second part of this concession is part of what we described as "Scenario A" in our recent report ("The Russia-China Assault on Ukraine: Putin's Motives and Three Possible Scenarios," *The Capitalist Advisor*, February 28, 2022, p. 8). See footnote 11 for Scenario C (the "least likely of the three scenarios, but the one most threatening and damaging to U.S./NATO interests").

¹⁴ "The Russia-China Assault on Ukraine: Putin's Motives and Three Possible Scenarios," *The Capitalist Advisor*, February 28, 2022.

¹⁵ Cited in Benjamin Norton, "U.S. Government Knew NATO Expansion to Ukraine Would Force Russia to Intervene," *Multipolarista*, February 27, 2022. Excerpt: "Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia William J. Burns, who is now CIA director, admitted in a classified 2008 embassy cable that NATO expansion to Ukraine crosses Moscow's security 'redlines' and 'could potentially split the country in two, leading to violence or even, some claim, civil war, which would force Russia to decide whether to intervene.'"

rent Director of the CIA and former ambassador to Russia (2005-2008), write this in a 2008 cable:

Ukraine and Georgia's NATO aspirations not only touch a raw nerve in Russia but engender serious concerns about the consequences for stability in the region. Not only does Russia perceive encirclement and efforts to undermine Russia's influence in the region, but also fears unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences which would seriously affect Russian security interests. Experts tell us that Russia is particularly worried that the strong divisions in Ukraine over NATO membership, with much of the ethnic-Russian community against membership, could lead to a major split, involving violence or at worst, civil war. In that eventuality, Russia would have to decide whether to intervene; a decision Russia does not want to have to face.¹⁵

Biden himself has a long record of warmongering, against U.S. national interests. In the early 1990s he was eager to get the U.S. involved in the wars associated with the splintering of Yugoslavia (1992-93); those wars, though tragic, posed no threat to U.S. security, none of the combatants were NATO members, and the U.S. didn't declare war (as required by the US Constitution), because it certainly could not have been justified after open debate and a Senate vote.¹⁶ In 1997, upon becoming ranking minority chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Biden openly admitted that *NATO expansion would constitute a U.S. military threat to Russia*. By one account,

In 1997, then-Senator Joe Biden (D-Del.) warned that the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would result in "vigorous and hostile" action by Russia in Europe. "I think the one place where the greatest consternation would be caused in the short term, for admission – having nothing to do with the merit and preparedness of the countries coming in – would be to admit the Baltic states now, in terms of NATO-Russian, US-Russian relations," Biden said during an event held by the Atlantic Council, NATO's de facto think tank. "And if there was ever anything that was going to tip the balance, were it to

be tipped, in terms of a vigorous and hostile reaction, I don't mean military, in Russia, it would be that," he continued, adding that Russia would be pushed into an alliance with China and even Iran. At the time of Biden's remarks, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were actively seeking to join NATO. They later did join NATO in 1999. Notably, ex-Russia ambassador William Burns – now Joe Biden's CIA director – admitted in a 2008 security cable leaked by WikiLeaks that NATO expansion to Ukraine would result in a war with Russia and a civil war in Ukraine."¹⁷

Nevertheless, NATO expanded eastward, toward Russia, after 1997. In 1999 it added the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland; in 2004 it added Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the three Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) that *border on Russia*. Thereafter, NATO added Albania and Croatia (2009), then Montenegro (2017), and North Macedonia (2020). That's a total of eight new NATO members since Biden (and dozens of others) conceded and warned that NATO expansion eastward would be militarily provocative towards Russia.

Even before this, in 1994, U.S. Democrat President Clinton refused to allow the Cold War to end with U.S. graciousness, magnanimity, and security. In the "Budapest Memorandum" (1994)—which was never debated or approved by the U.S. Senate as a treaty (as required by the U.S. Constitution), the U.S., U.K., and Russia agreed to *disarm Ukraine of its nuclear weapons* (at the time, third largest stockpile in the world, after the U.S. and Russia).¹⁸

The "deal" sent Ukraine's nuclear weapons to Russia, allegedly to be dismantled or destroyed; there was never any subsequent confirmation of this. The U.S. supposedly struck this "deal" to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons; in truth, the "deal" rendered Ukraine dependent on NATO for military protection. In the *decades* since 1994 Ukraine never built an adequate military, never much freed its economy to prosper, and didn't much reduce its corruption; consequently, it hasn't ever met the minimal hurdles needed to join NATO; yet this ex-

¹⁶ See "[Senate Foreign Relations Committee](#)," wherein the Biden campaign website in 2020 recounts that "Biden voted against authorization for the Gulf War in 1991, siding with 45 of the 55 Democratic senators, saying the U.S. was bearing almost all the burden in the anti-Iraq coalition. Biden became interested in the Yugoslav Wars after hearing about Serbian abuses during the Croatian War of Independence in 1991. Once the Bosnian War broke out, Biden was among the first to call for the 'lift and strike' policy of lifting the arms embargo, training Bosnian Muslims, supporting them with NATO air strikes, and investigating war crimes. The Bush administration and Clinton administration were both reluctant to implement the policy, fearing Balkan entanglement. In April 1993, Biden spent a week in the Balkans and held a tense three-hour meeting with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. Biden related that he had told Milosevic, 'I think you're a damn war criminal and you should be tried as one.' Biden wrote an amendment in 1992 to compel the Bush administration to arm the Bosnians." *None of the countries was in NATO*.

¹⁷ "Flashback '97: Sen. Biden Says NATO Expansion Would Spark War with Russia," [Your News](#), March 8, 2022.

¹⁸ "Why Ukraine Gave Up Its Nukes," [National Public Radio \(U.S. Government Radio\)](#), February 21, 2022. See also "Why did Ukraine Give Up Its Nuclear Weapons?" [Washington Times](#), March 7, 2022. Excerpt: In 1994 "Ukraine was bankrupt, and the people were desperate. The U.S. was pouring in aid, but it was not enough, so the decision was made to denuclearize Ukraine by the U.S. buying up the missiles and warheads for hundreds of millions of dollars." Thus *the U.S. spent taxpayer money buying nuclear weapons from Ukraine and giving them to Russia*.

In America this century, universal (“bi-partisan”) agreement on anything important has usually been a bad thing, an indicator of a policy disaster. Now we see near-universal agreement that America should enter the Russia-China war on Ukraine. What could possibly go wrong, when everyone agrees?

region of the U.S.S.R. gets implicit, shadow coverage.

As president, Clinton preferred that the Cold War be *extended*, not ended. He had many allies and fellow dupes in this foolish stance. By one account, Clinton “attempted to have his cake and eat it, too” by “expanding NATO and partnering with Russia at the same time, according to newly declassified U.S. documents published today by the National Security Archive.”¹⁹

No consider the sequence, in a broader context. For decades, starting with FDR in the 1930s (he formally recognized the U.S.S.R. in 1933, after it had been abusive for sixteen years) American Democrats excused a series of U.S.S.R. despots that make Putin today look no worse than FDR; they subsidized the U.S.S.R. when it caused famines, allied with it during WWII, and thereafter advised “coexistence” or “détente.” American Republicans led by Ronald Reagan mostly took the *opposite* side—and were *detested* by their foes as “neo-liberals.”²⁰

Nevertheless, the Reagan Republicans safely ended the Cold War, with the U.S. winning and the U.S.S.R. ending. Others, including most American Democrats (and some Republicans, like warmonger John McCain, who was hailed by Democrats as a “maverick”) *wanted global military conflict to persist*. They insisted that the U.S. should “police” the geo-political world—indeed, be its sole cop, subordinating all other cops. Russia in the 1990s was peaceful; it became less socialist; but it was all for naught.

Leftist Democrats hate nations that become less socialist, hence more peaceful, and prosperous; they prefer the opposite. That’s why they *loved* the Stalin-led Soviet Union (a mortal foe of the U.S. led by a mass murder) but *despised* Yeltsin and Putin, leaders of a non-threatening Russia with no latent desire to hurt America. After 1991, NATO commanders, warmongers, and jobless Cold

Warriors couldn’t stand the peace and quiet; they preferred action, mayhem, and carnage. Many missed the Cold War; some even preferred a hot war.

In 1994 Russia’s non-threatening, avuncular president, Boris Yeltsin, met with U.S. Presi-

dent Clinton at Budapest, only three years after the Reagan-Bush Republicans won the Cold War and the U.S.S.R. was dissolved. There he rightly “accused Clinton and other heads of state gathered for a summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe” of taking a “domineering” position. The U.S. was ‘trying to split [the] continent again’ through NATO expansion.” By this account, “the angry tone of Yeltsin’s speech echoed years later in his successor Vladimir Putin’s famous 2007 speech at the Munich security conference, though by then the list of Russian grievances went well beyond NATO expansion to such unilateral U.S. actions as withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the invasion of Iraq.”²¹ Putin’s 2007 speech is available today; given its importance, we republished it recently.²²

In America this century, universal (“bi-partisan”) agreement on anything important has usually been a bad thing, a leading indicator of a pending policy disaster.

- Recall that almost everyone agreed after 9/11 that there should be a “war on terrorism” (a war on a mere *tactic*, not on the well-known state sponsors of terrorism, like Iran and Saudi Arabia); the result: a disastrous two decade “war” that turned Iraq into another Iran and left the Taliban undefeated, with \$83 billion in American armaments, in Afghanistan.
- Recall that almost everyone agreed about a national *housing* policy, with the goal that every American should own a home, *even if they couldn’t afford it*; the result: Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the FHA, and the Fed subsidized a housing bubble that burst within a decade and caused a financial-economic meltdown in 2008-09.
- Recall that in 2010 almost everyone agreed that America should move still further toward a system of socialized medicine run by a state monopolist (“single payer”); the result: a still more costly and inefficient sys-

¹⁹ “NATO Expansion” The Budapest Blow Up of 1994,” [National Security Archive](#), November 24, 2021.

²⁰ Richard M. Salsman, “[Supply-Side Neoliberalism Sure Beats the Alternative](#),” American Institute for Economic Research, May 25, 2021.

²¹ Cited in “NATO Expansion” The Budapest Blow Up of 1994,” [National Security Archive](#), November 24, 2021.

²² See Appendix C: “Text of Putin’s 2007 Speech on Security Policy at the Munich Conference,” in “The Russia-China Assault on Ukraine: Putin’s Motives and Three Possible Scenarios,” *The Capitalist Advisor*, February 28, 2022, pp. 21-27.

tem (vetted even by Trump Republicans), a system no less costly and inefficient than what resulted after Medicare and Medicaid were imposed in 1965.

- Recall that for most of this century there's been a supposed "consensus" that first a *warming*, then a mere *change in global temperatures* ("climate change") will prove catastrophic for human life on Earth (typically projected twelve years ahead, on a rolling basis). Despite no solid evidence for this grim forecast, the result has been this: a sustained ideological-regulatory war on fossil fuels and even on nuclear energy (despite its lack of carbon emissions), which is anti-science, anti-capitalist, and anti-prosperity. The norm now is economic stagnation, and for some even "de-growth."

- Recall that in 2020-21 almost everyone agreed that for the first time ever, America public health officials should react to a virus by imposing lockdowns and decrees (except for criminals and well-funded domestic terrorist groups like BLM and Antifa); the result: widespread mayhem and carnage, with looting, torching, and murder in many cities, plus the wrecking of liberties, lives, and livelihoods, none of which discernably deterred the spread or lethality of the virus.

Now in 2022 we see a growing "consensus" that America should enter the Russia-China war on Ukraine, to rescue the latter from its own grave errors, while further bolstering, spreading, and deploying NATO. What could go wrong, when all agree to do something so wrong?

APPENDIX

NATO Intervention In Ukraine Could Spark Nuclear War. Here's How It Could Happen



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“**H**ow did we just kill a billion people?”

Over just three days, as I have done countless times over the last several years, a group of past and present senior U.S. government officials from both sides of the aisle gathered to wage a NATO-Russia war in a simulation at the end of 2019. In the course of what we called the NATO-Russia War of 2019, we estimated one billion people died. And if we aren't careful, what happened in a simulation could happen if a [NATO-Russia war](#) erupts over Ukraine.

In fact, in the simulation I mentioned above from 2019, in which Russia invades Ukraine in a similar way as it did over the last week or so, not only does NATO get sucked in unintentionally, but Russia eventually releases nuclear weapons in its desperation. The result is an eventual escalation of bigger and more dangerous nuclear weapons whereby over one billion lives are lost.

But before we start staring into the abyss, allow me to explain the goal of such simulations. NATO clearly would have a massive [conventional advantage](#) in any war with Moscow, ensuring that in a straight-up fight Putin would lose. However, Russia has stated [time](#) and [time again](#) it will use nuclear weapons to defend its territory and its regime if it feels mortally threatened. Our simulation always seems to ask: Can we ever defeat Russian President Vladimir Putin in an armed conflict over Ukraine or the Baltics and not [start](#) a nuclear war in the process?

So far, over at least several years, and with at least 100 different participants that all held different ideas about war and political allegiances, the answer is a flat out no.

Setting the Scene for War

The scenario the group decided to test back in late 2019 was similar to today: Russia decided to invade Ukraine under the excuse that it must defend Russian-speaking peoples that are being “oppressed” by Ukraine’s fascist government. In our scenario, we assumed Russia performs far more admirably than it does today but has more limited objectives, in that Moscow wants to connect Crimea to separatist regions in Eastern Ukraine that are under its effective control. We assumed that Russia does that quickly, achieving most of its military objectives in roughly four days.

But Ukraine does not give up so easily, just like in real life today. Ukrainian forces, after taking heavy losses, mount an impressive counterattack, whereby Russia loses over 100 tanks and over 2,500 soldiers. Images on social media show Russian armor ablaze, elite [Su-35 fighter jets](#) are shut down from the skies, and arms are now [flowing](#) in from the West in massive numbers.

Putin is outraged. He [thought](#) Ukraine would simply roll over, but he does not factor into his calculus the nearly decades-long training Kyiv received from the U.S. and NATO nor Ukraine’s military build-up for the last several years that was focused on this scenario.

Russia then decides that its limited military objectives were a mistake, and that all of Ukraine must be [“demilitarized.”](#) Moscow then launches a massive ballistic and cruise missile strike followed up by Russia’s air force launching its own [shock and awe](#) campaign, destroying a vast majority of Ukraine’s command and control structure, air force, air defense, and armored units in the process. At the same time, Russia starts surging troops to the borders of Ukraine in what looks like an imminent general invasion and occupation of the entire country.

The Spark

Here is where things take a turn for the worst. A Russian ballistic missile’s guidance system fails and crash-lands into NATO member Poland, killing 34 civilians as it tragically lands into a populated village along the Polish-Ukraine border. While the missile was not directed at Poland intentionally, pictures on social media show children crying for their mothers and bodies left unrecognizable, and demands for justice and revenge mount.

To its credit, Poland, which has its own tortured history with the Soviet Union and Russia, does its best to show restraint. While not responding with its own military, it leads an effort to see that Moscow pays a steep price for its aggression in Ukraine and actions, even unintentional, in Poland. Warsaw leads a diplomatic and economic boycott of Moscow resulting in Russia being [kicked out of SWIFT](#) as well as direct sanctions on Russian banks, similar to what we are seeing today.

In our scenario, Russia's reaction is also swift. Moscow decides to launch a massive [cyber attack](#) on Poland, having based cyber warriors all throughout NATO territory, using their geography and proxy servers to mask the origin of the attack. Russia, in just two hours, takes off-line Poland's entire electrical grid, banking sector, energy plants, and more — essentially taking Poland back to the stone age.

And this is where the nightmare begins. Even though attribution is hard to achieve, Poland appeals to NATO and starts to privately share its desire to invoke [Article 5](#) of the NATO Charter, declaring that an attack on one is an attack on the entire alliance. NATO is worried, as there is debate on how far to punish Russia while also feeling as if they do not have a clear military objective amongst the member states as some want to respond to what happened to Poland while others feel they must intervene militarily in Ukraine.

The Response

Here is where NATO surprises everyone. The alliance decides to set up a limited no-fly zone around the Ukrainian city of Lviv to protect innocent civilians and refugees that are trapped and have nowhere to go. Russia is warned: NATO is not intervening in the conflict, but will ensure that its planes and the airspace around Lviv are protected. NATO does make clear its jets will be in the skies above Ukraine, but will not operate from Ukrainian territory.

In Moscow, Putin now gets a sense that NATO is destined to intervene on Ukraine's side. Russia fears NATO will use this protected corridor as a base of operations to send ever more sophisticated weapons. And with its economy now in a tailspin due to sanctions, Putin feels the walls closing in him. Before NATO can impose its no-fly zone, Putin orders strikes on any remaining airfields and military assets around Lviv.

But here is where Putin miscalculates and sets the stage for a [NATO-Russia war](#). Putin orders another massive cyber attack on the Baltic states' military infrastructure, thinking that NATO will use the Baltics to stage an invasion of Russia.

This ends up being the last straw for NATO, which then decides direct intervention in Ukraine is necessary to push back against Russian aggression. Before even an announcement is made, Russian intelligence sees missile and troop movements that indicate an impending NATO attack and decide to strike first — with tactical nuclear weapons. NATO decides to respond in kind.

Russia then targets European cities with nuclear weapons, with NATO and America also responding in kind. What is left is nothing short of an apocalypse, with what we estimate is billion people dead.

No War Goes As Planned

In every scenario I have been a part of there is one common theme to all of them: When Vladimir Putin feels boxed in and feels Russia is directly threatened, usually from a mistake he makes on the battlefield, he decides to use whatever escalatory step he desires to try and make up for it.

While we may well soon see Ukraine and Russia find a diplomatic path out of this brutal war, both sides seem dug in. That means the chances for escalation like the above are high. And if Russia and NATO do become involved in direct conflict, Putin knows that in a conventional fight his regime would be defeated. That means Russia will choose nuclear war.

The only question in a NATO-Russia war seems obvious: how many millions or billions of people would die?

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