

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Nuclear War Anyone? ‘No Tanks’

Jan. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The reality that won’t be addressed at the Jan. 20 Ramstein meeting is that Russia has mobilized a serious military force, has

secured their positions across the board, and can afford to clean out the remaining occupied portions of the Donetsk region at their own pace. The “Western alliance” can huff and puff over Ukraine militarily defeating Russia, or even just try to push Russia back somewhere, hoping to earn a bargaining chip in a future negotiation that will put Russia in its place in the “rules-based” civilized West—but they are playing with a naked hand, in a morally and economically bankrupt system.

Perhaps the latter option, risking nuclear war for a bargaining chip, appears only semi-crazy, when compared to the off-the-wall crazies—those who, having played too many video games, steeped themselves into one too many Wagnerian operas, or fantasized over God rewarding them for bringing on Armageddon, allow nothing to disrupt their fantasies short of nuclear warheads settling the issue.

So, at Ramstein, ten tanks or a hundred tanks have no military reality for any so-called Kiev offensive. The game is to keep Europe held hostage that much longer, importantly not engaging in any real issues of energy, economics, living standards and, yes, security arrangements that recognize the right of sovereign nations to exist.

The ever-present danger is that the real crazies amongst those in Kiev, in London, and in Washington, as their bluff is called, haven’t had their hands removed from the buttons.

Study two cases of concern to the “forever war” gang. Germany’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz appointed Boris Pistorius as his new Defense Minister, and Scholz is reported to have set as a condition that Germany will not send its tanks to Ukraine unless the U.S. sends its Abrams tanks. So, the mobilization for Europe to unite in the symbolic “tank coalition” might be stalled. And everyone knows that the U.S. tanks, with massive logistical issues with fuel consumption and major training issues, have no practical use in Ukraine. The last 24 hours have seen an assault on Germany to fall into line, particularly coming from the British, the U.S., and Poland.

In Kiev, Oleksei Arestovych, the non-staff advisor to Andriy Yermak, President Zelenskyy's Head of the Presidential Office, announced his resignation, after he had caused a firestorm on the "Russia bombed the Dnipro apartment" narrative, the latest trigger for a Western avalanche of weaponry. He let slip that Ukraine had shot down the Russian missile, which was redirected away from its target and into the residential building. After resigning two days ago, he gave an interview, intentionally making the Obvious point that Kiev was stupidly nasty to its own population, turning its own Russian-speaking citizens into enemies, and could never hold the loyalty of whole sections of the country with such an idiotic approach. No one should make Arestovych into a hero, but his remarks create the possibility that an outbreak of public sanity might come into play. Of course, the Myrotvoret's "Murder, Inc." gang immediately placed Arestovych on their hit list.

Finally, consider the reaction to Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, when he hit the nail on the head, stating that the ideology of the Nazi "Final Solution" is no different than the ideology of the present West's "Final Solution" for dismantling Russia and wiping it off the face of the Earth. It is deliberate, it is ugly, and, before counting up numbers, one might recall that somewhere around 26-27 millions Russians died in opposing Hitler. But, predictably, reactions from the U.S., from Canada, and from Israel show that some find it outrageous to even attempt to wrap their minds around such an idea. In such strategic miscalculations are genocides and more genocides born.

Better to deliberate over something appropriate, something capable of ending such horror stories, in Helga Zepp-LaRouche's [Ten Principles for a New International Security and Development Architecture](#).

And for today's birthday of the American poet, patriot, and intelligence officer, Edgar Poe, may we appreciate the ironic touch: If you'd prefer we not engage in a thermonuclear conflagration, just say, "No tanks."

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday January 20, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

***New York Times* Pushes White House To Escalate War on Crimea with No Risk**

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *New York Times* weighed in yesterday with their article, “[U.S. Warms to Helping Ukraine Target Crimea](#),” putting the push on the Biden White House to stop their nervous Nelly concerns about pushing a nuclear power into a corner. It states:

“After months of discussions with Ukrainian officials, the Biden administration is finally starting to concede that Kiev may need the power to strike the Russian sanctuary, even if such a move increases the risk of escalation, according to several U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive debate. The moderation in position has come about as the Biden administration has come to believe that if the Ukrainian military can show Russia that its control of Crimea can be threatened, that would strengthen Kiev’s position in any future negotiations.”

Translation: The U.S. has no chip to negotiate with, so it will risk a thermonuclear confrontation in order to manufacture one.

The *New York Times* reviews the currently popular “tank coalition” issue—with European tanks and American Bradley personnel carriers, mounted with guided missiles, the Ukrainians can take back Zaporozhye and the Mariupol area of the Donbass, depriving the Russians of a “land bridge” to Crimea. “The Bradleys, along with British tanks and the armored combat vehicles that France and Germany have agreed to send, could be the vanguard of an armored force that Ukraine could employ in a counteroffensive this winter or spring, government and independent analysts say.”

But Biden is nervous about Kiev using long-range missiles, with the aim of provoking a full-scale, direct Russia-NATO brawl—which the leadership in Kiev have been scheming to do. In step the amiable British. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly came to Washington on Jan. 17, to deal with such sensibilities. “We think now is the right time to intensify our support for Ukraine.” He came with the British Defense Ministry latest appraisal: “A major Ukrainian breakthrough in Zaporizhzhia [Zaporozhye] would seriously challenge the viability of Russia’s ‘land bridge.’ ” But their intelligence shows that unfortunately, in recent weeks, Russia has bolstered defensive fortifications in central Zaporozhye. So, just because we want Ukraine’s offensive to succeed, “preliminary attacks could include hitting targets in nearby Crimea.” So, long-range missiles would have to be called into play.

The *New York Times* admits: “Ukrainian officials ... see little choice but to target Crimea and put it in jeopardy, a senior U.S. official said, noting that the issue has come up at recent high-level meetings at the White House. Still, Crimea can’t be taken—and such a move could drive Mr. Putin to retaliate with an escalatory response. But, officials said, their assessment now is that Russia needs to believe that Crimea is at risk, in part to strengthen Ukraine’s position in any future negotiations. By demonstrating an ability to strike in Crimea, American officials say, Ukraine could show that Russian control is not established.”

Evelyn Farkas, the top Pentagon official for Ukraine during the Obama administration, is next cited: “Without Crimea, the whole thing falls apart.” So, the risk of adventure now has to be explained away. Frederick B. Hodges, the former top U.S. Army commander in Europe, observes: “It feels to me like increasingly, the administration is recognizing that the threat of Russian escalation is perhaps not what they thought it was earlier.”

How is that? Well, we’ve pushed the Russians and found out that they’ve not launched a nuclear warhead. Dara Massicot, a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation, explains: “There is more clarity on their tolerance for damage and attacks. Crimea has already been hit many

times without a massive escalation from the Kremlin.” The argument is that we’ve taken the measure of the Russians and know what we’re dealing with.

Here the willful delusion of the *New York Times* and its faction rears its ugly head. When Russia’s security concerns were ignored, did it not launch the special military operation on Feb. 24, 2022? When the bridge to Crimea was targeted for a terror attack, did Russia not end its forbearance and, instead, begin hitting Ukrainian infrastructure targets? How do such “strategic thinkers” determine that Russia and Putin merely bluff?

Caitlin Johnstone Roasts *New York Times*’s Reckless Dance with Nuclear War

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Today Caitlin Johnstone’s “[U.S. May Help Ukraine Launch An Offensive On Crimea](#)” “tore into the Jan. 18 *New York Times* article, “U.S. Warms to Helping Ukraine Target Crimea,” with a voice of morality and maturity tragically missing from Western warriors.

First she cites Responsible Statecraft’s Anatol Lieven from October, who wrote that, if “Ukraine goes on to try to reconquer Crimea, which the overwhelming majority of Russians regard as simply Russian territory, the chances of an escalation to nuclear war become extremely high.”

Then she hones in on the specious argument that, since Russia has not resorted to nuclear weapons up to now, the West can up the ante with a military assault against Crimea. Not only are the logic and facts wrong, but Crimea is “the reddest of all of Russia’s red lines in this standoff...”

She concludes with appropriate and righteous anger: “Any assertion that Russia will not use nukes under such-and-such a circumstance must squarely address this question: ‘Are you willing to gamble the life of every terrestrial organism on that claim being true?’ If you can’t answer this question, your claim isn’t serious or valid. Are U.S. officials willing to bet the life of every terrestrial organism that the course of action they’re considering won’t trigger a chain of events leading to the end of the world? This needs to be addressed fully, head-on, with all the weight it entails,

because otherwise they're just not weighing the risks responsibly. And something tells me that they are not.”

Boris Johnson Argues, Ukraine Will Win—with No Risk of Nuclear Confrontation

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was chosen by the Kiev regime's notorious Center for Countering Disinformation, to counter concerns that a drive for full military victory over Russia would involve a nuclear confrontation. The CCD quoted BoJo in his Jan. 18 video interview with an entity called “European Pravda,” explaining: “Now we aren't talking about a nuclear confrontation between NATO and russia.” Sic CCD's conception of spelling. To continue: “All we want is to give our friends the opportunity to defend and to repel the forces that have invaded them.... The probability of a nuclear attack was low, we sent a clear argument to putin and he heard it.” Johnson at this point displays a third finger, with a schoolboy's inadequate effort not to smile.

While BoJo first qualified that he believes Ukraine will seize all of the Donbass and Crimea, he then stated: “For now, we will help you return Mariupol, Melitopol, Berdyansk and the entire land corridor.... There is no alternative to Ukraine's military success.... We must support Ukraine with everything we can until Ukraine drives putin's invaders out of its land. Ukraine should get help, maximum support with weapons, to end this terrible conflict as quickly as possible,” CCD quotes him as saying.

This does represent the British drive to convince the Biden administration that only nervous Nellies think that the next round of escalation could incur any risk of nuclear confrontation—not that it would merely wipe out the human species: Such a confrontation will annihilate life on Earth.

U.S., NATO Put the Squeeze on Germany To Supply Leopard Tanks for Kiev

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—The pressure is intense on Germany to agree to send its own Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, and/or let other European countries send the Leopard 2 tanks they got from Germany. Reports on

today's meeting between U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and newly appointed German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, made that clear, amidst complaints from other NATO members and allies that Germany is "stalling" on making the decision. News agencies reported that Austin spent his meeting with Pistorius "throwing his weight around" to get him to agree to have the Leopard 2 tanks sent.

Speaking yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chancellor Olaf Scholz was quite open: Germany will not act on whether to allow sending these tanks to Ukraine unless the U.S. acts in tandem.

In its article blaring that the U.S. and Germany are "heading for a showdown" over tanks for Ukraine, NBC News warns that the success of the Jan. 20 Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting in Germany at the U.S. Ramstein Air Base will depend on whether "it can bring the heavy tanks," which, NBC claims, "could shift the war's momentum in 2023."

To add to the pressure, today representatives of nine countries issued a joint statement, called the [Tallinn Pledge](#), announcing that they "collectively commit to pursuing delivery of an unprecedented set of donations, including main battle tanks, heavy artillery air defense, ammunition and infantry fighting vehicles in Ukraine's defense." The statement followed a meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, of the defense ministers of Britain, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, and representatives from Denmark, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Slovakia. It is likely that U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace was the instigator of the meeting.

UKRAINE

Medvedev Briefs NATO That Nuclear Powers Don't Lose Wars If Their Survival Is at Stake

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)— Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council [Dmitry Medvedev](#) threw cold water on statements at the World Economic Forum in Davos that in order to have peace, Russia must lose in its military operation in Ukraine. According to a machine translation of his Russian original, Dmitry wrote: "Tomorrow, at NATO's Ramstein base, the

great military leaders will discuss new tactics and strategies, as well as the supply of new heavy weapons and strike systems to Ukraine. And this was right after the forum in Davos, where underdeveloped political party-goers repeated like a mantra: ‘To achieve peace, Russia must lose.’

“And it never occurs to any of the poor to draw the following elementary conclusion from this: the loss of a nuclear power in a conventional war can provoke the outbreak of a nuclear war. *The nuclear powers did not lose major conflicts on which their fate depends.*

“But this should be obvious to anyone. Even to a Western politician who has retained at least some trace of intelligence,” he concluded. [Emphasis in original] The coverage in TASS points out that both U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley will be attending the so-called “Ukraine Defense Contact Group” meeting at Ramstein Air Base.

Earlier, on January 17, Medvedev cast [Poland](#)’s drive for a “tank coalition” at Davos as a back door to partitioning Ukraine, as being “long-awaited” in Warsaw. He was referring to the “Eastern Borderlands” controlled by Poland between the 20th century world wars, which included four regions of modern Ukraine—Lviv, Volyn, Ivano-Frankovsk, and Tarnopol. He suggested that tanks were not needed for such a plot: “But in this case one shouldn’t create a coalition, but instead, draw up a collective document, about the surrender of the rotten Kiev regime, in order to save people’s lives. And about the future configuration of what remains of Ukraine.”

Poland’s President Duda Rants at Davos, Missiles Now or Ukraine Loses

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 18, Polish President Andrzej Duda pleaded for more deliveries of heavy weapons and ammunition to Ukraine, saying the country may not continue to exist otherwise, reported Reuters.

“I am afraid that now, maybe in a few months, maybe weeks, there will be a decisive moment of this war. And this moment is the answer to the question: if Ukraine will survive or not,” Duda told the gathering. The weapons that the U.S. and its allies have provided to Kiev are not enough to stave off a possible pending offensive by Russian forces, he said, so “it is critically important to send additional military support now.” Duda insisted that missiles and modern tanks are the most important, and that Ukraine needs help because it “wants to become part of the Western community,” notably the EU and NATO.

Poland’s Prime Minister Pressures Germany on 100 Tanks for Kiev

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki was interviewed on Polsat television last night to crank up the pressure on Germany, as part of Poland’s drive for a “tank coalition” to arm Ukraine against Russia. Morawiecki is aiming to put together, urgently, an assortment of 100 tanks to keep Ukraine fighting against an expected Russian offensive, “probably,” he said, as early as February. Poland is offering 14 Leopard 2 tanks, for which it needs permission from Germany since the Leopard is German made, and is otherwise calling upon Germany, France, Finland, and Denmark.

In the past, he has labeled Germany as among the “least proactive” European countries, on his “tank coalition” drive. In his interview last night, he also weighed in on Germany’s new Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, as being tied with former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder—who had been a board member of Gazprom and chairman of the Nord Stream pipeline company, after leaving the chancery—and possibly not enthusiastic enough about the “tank coalition.” But he proffered giving Pistorius the benefit of the doubt, insisting that Warsaw expects to get Berlin’s permission on the tanks quickly—but Poland could also “do the right thing on our own.”

What Happens If a Ukrainian Official States a Simple Truth?

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Shortly after resigning yesterday as a non-staff advisor to Ukraine Presidential Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak, a brief video

of an undated interview with [Oleksiy Arestovych](#) was posted on Twitter, with a scathing attack on the Kiev regime's demonization of Ukraine's Russian-speaking population.

In the three-minute video segment, Arestovych argues that the government's "threats, fines and condemnations" of Russian-speakers simply undermines Ukraine. "This is crazy... they will go to Russia, or they will make Russia come here. And then what? Who is the idiot in this situation?" The interview appears to be connected to something with the name "UkraineHumanRightsAbuses" of an individual who goes by "Fearless John" or Juan Sinmiedo.

Arestovych continued: "We say that all Russians are bad and there are no good Russians, but how do the ethnic Russians in Ukraine hear us? Or Russian speakers? What do they hear? You are the enemy." We create a "hidden opposition to Ukraine, because Ukrainians behave like complete assholes with their own citizens...."

Then he launched into Zelenskyy's recent attacks upon the thousand-year-old Ukrainian Orthodox Church: "Zelenskyy declared war on Christianity. This is when the Security Service of Ukraine entered the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra and other places...." where the church was not allowed to celebrate Christmas services on Jan. 7.

He concluded that we turn people "into Russian agents.... You have to be a complete [expletive deleted] on the state level, in order to first pass such [language] laws.... When a citizen or a person knows that the state will punish him if he communicates in the language of his mother, he will never be completely loyal to such a state." He asked: "Does the state want to shoot citizens?" If that is the case, "it will not hold the territory."

It did not take the [Myrotvorets](#) kill list more than a few hours to add Arestovych's name to their target list. They claim that in his "aggression against Ukraine," Arestovych "engaged in activities that undermined the morale of the armed forces, harmed Ukraine's defense capability, and damaged the reputation of Ukraine's public institutions."

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

U.S. Bumped Into Its \$31.4 Trillion Debt Ceiling Today

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—For the record, today was the day that the United States officially ran smack into its debt ceiling of \$31.4 trillion.

Admittedly, the U.S. Treasury Department has developed an assortment of tricks, called “extraordinary measures,” to keep the debate over what to do going until approximately June of this year. At that point, Wile E. Coyote is scheduled to look down and realize there’s nothing underneath him.

The 1995 brawl over the debt ceiling was \$26.5 trillion ago. Then, the \$4.9 trillion debt was officially less than 65% of the reported GDP. Today, it is at 120% of a greatly inflated GDP. It took the first 16 years to add another \$11 trillion, when in 2011 Standard & Poor’s downgraded the U.S. credit rating from AAA to AA+.

In 2013, Congress stopped raising the debt ceiling, having invented the ruse of simply suspending it. The ceiling was reimposed recently, with another \$15.5 trillion having been added over the last dozen years, almost doubling the national debt. That’s over \$1,000 billion per year. Having a debate over such an unredeemable debt, while more and more of the world moves out of the dollar, may keep some folks up at night.

U.S. Refuses Tanks for Ukraine; Will Germany Follow Suit?

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—The U.S. administration is not ready to supply Abrams tanks to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, according to a statement by Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl. After returning from a visit to Ukraine, Kahl was quoted by Reuters as saying, “I just don’t think we’re there yet. The Abrams tank is a very complicated piece of equipment. It’s expensive. It’s hard to train on. It has a jet engine.”

When asked about the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* report on Jan. 18 that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will not allow the delivery of either their own Leopard 2 tanks, or those provided to third countries, to Kiev until the U.S. supplies it with the Abrams tanks, Kahl responded: “I think if there is a concern about being alone in providing this capability, that shouldn’t be a

concern.... But at the end of the day, you know, the German government is going to make a sovereign decision.” Reuters noted the possible impasse.

NEW WORLD PARADIGM

Russia and Central Asia Republics Collaborate on Natural Gas Union

Jan. 19, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russia and Kazakhstan moved one step closer to the “trilateral gas union” discussed by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Russian President Vladimir Putin in November. Russia’s Gazprom announced yesterday, as reported by TASS: “A working meeting between Alexey Miller, Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee, and Roman Sklyar, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, took place today. The parties discussed their current and prospective interaction. The roadmap for cooperation in the gas sector was signed at the meeting by Alexey Miller and Roman Sklyar.” As discussed in Putin and Tokayev’s Nov. 28 Kremlin meeting, the third member of the union is Uzbekistan, which is a major provider of natural gas to China, along with some export to Afghanistan.

Energy was also a topic of a phone conversation between Turkmenistan’s President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and Putin on Jan. 17. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will visit President Berdimuhamedov next week.