

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Lessons from Buffalo: Chickens Coming Home To Roost?

May 16 (EIRNS)—Tens of billions of dollars are being poured into Ukraine to extend a bloody conflict that will continue to claim the lives of (primarily) Ukrainians and Russians, based on the idea that eventually a

Ukrainian “victory” can be secured over Russia. But where are that money and the weapons it is used to purchase going? Perhaps we have just seen an aspect of its effects in racist murderer Payton Gendron, who killed ten people in Buffalo over the weekend. What’s the connection? (See *EIR Daily Alert*, for May 16, 2022, “[Diane Sare](#) on the Nazi Killings in Buffalo and the U.S. Support for Nazis in Ukraine”)

Gendron’s 180-page manifesto begins with the Sonnenrad symbol used also by the Azov group and references Brenton Tarrant as Gendron’s greatest inspiration. Tarrant killed 51 Muslim worshippers at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2019 in an attack that he livestreamed. His viewpoint was picked up by the neo-Nazi Azov grouping in Ukraine, which distributed a racist, ethno-nationalist manifesto. In 2019, American lawmakers sent a letter to the State Department, noting that “The link between Azov and acts of terror in America is clear.” The 2017 events in Charlottesville included several members of the Rise Above Movement, whose leader described Azov as an inspiration. In 2018, the Congress denounced Azov, banning the government from providing any “arms, training or other assistance.”

But now tens of billions of dollars of military equipment are flooding into Ukraine. Where are these weapons going? No one knows. Sen. Rand Paul’s efforts to include an Inspector General have been denounced, and were defeated in an 81-11 cloture vote on Monday to advance the \$40 billion on Ukrainian “aid.”

The premeditated murders in Buffalo should cause a rethinking of policy towards Ukraine.

But instead, it can predictably be expected to be blamed on some combination of guns, Republicans, social media, and the “Great Replacement Theory.”

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul—who could inquire into why law enforcement in her state let Gendron fall off the radar—has instead made the false claim that “We will protect the right to free speech, but there is a limit ... hate speech is not protected.” There is no question that hate speech

(which no one is adequately capable of defining) is protected under the First Amendment.

While Hochul held social media responsible, the legacy media were absolutely mum to the connections to the Azov forces being sent arms in Ukraine!

Defeating the ideology that animated the Buffalo killer requires not censorship, but an actual discussion about a *future*. Where is the future of the United States, the trans-Atlantic, NATO?

Are perpetual wars with Russia and China—enforced through bans on dissenting outlooks—are these wars to become the enduring legacy of the so-called democracies of the West? Is green depopulation a *mission*?

No! The security, growth, and well-being of the people of this planet require a new paradigm of international relations, economic growth, and of culture, based on the universal capability of human beings to discover fundamental principles and use them socially to transform our relationship to the universe.

The pursuit of such a mission, with cooperation between the U.S., Russia, China, India and others, is the only path to durable survival on this planet.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday May 17, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Nina Jankowicz, the Integrity Initiative, and the British Foreign Office

May 16 (EIRNS)—The bizarre head of Biden's frightening Disinformation Governance Board claimed earlier this month that there is no such thing as a deep state; the idea that "there is this secret cabal here in Washington

working to undermine the American people couldn't be further from the truth.”

But Jankowicz herself is a product of the [Integrity Initiative](#), founded in 2015 through the U.K.-funded NGO known as the Institute for Statecraft. The Integrity Initiative had what Darren Beattie accurately calls “a precociously fashionable motto”: “Defending Democracy Against Disinformation.”

The Integrity Initiative coordinated its activity through what it called “clusters” of “well-informed people from the political, military, academic, journalistic and think-tank spheres.” These clusters would have the mission of tracking “disinformation” and to “inform decision-makers and other interested parties about what is happening.”

In reviewing leaked Integrity Initiative documents, Beattie noted the presence of Nina Jankowicz in a 2018 leak, which names her as a member of the “inner core” of the Integrity Initiative’s U.K. Cluster. Another member of the “inner core” of the U.K. cluster dealing with Russia was Anne Applebaum, who played a role in the Hunter Biden laptop coverup.

(About that laptop, disinformation maven Jankowicz tweeted in October 2020 that “Biden notes 50 former natsec officials and 5 former CIA heads believe the laptop is a Russian influence op.”)

Another member of the U.K. Inner Core Russia cluster, Ben Nimmo, used to work for the Digital Forensics Research Lab, a subsidiary of the Atlantic Council—a think tank funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, NATO, and the U.S. State Department. He now works at Facebook and describes his role as “helping to lead global threat intelligence strategy against influence operations.”

(This background provides better context to understand the hysterical responses to Elon Musk’s threat to purchase Twitter.)

Ever since the leaks of Integrity Initiative material began in November 2018, it has essentially closed up shop, wiping its web page, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

The parent to the Integrity Initiative, the Institute for Statecraft, is Chris Donnelly. He spent 12 years as an advisor to four consecutive NATO secretaries general.

The idea that censorship is occurring under the auspices of private companies exercising their First Amendment rights to choose what to allow is shown to be absurd. Government influence—including in particular *U.K.* government influence—is an enormous and growing factor in the operation of social media companies and the legacy media.

A victory for free expression and the ability to *think* requires a defeat of the Disinformation-Industrial Complex.

Industrial Economy in Schumer's State Is Crashing

May 16 (EIRNS)—For the second month in the past three, the [Empire State Manufacturing Survey](#), which measures the industrial activity of the economies of New York State and surroundings (the survey also includes parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts) showed a dramatic contraction. The Survey's index for May was at -11.6, an economic shrinkage unexpected by analysts who on average predicted a 15-point expansion reading. The largest contractions were in shipments of manufactured goods (-15) and in new orders for them (-8.8). There was no need to ask questions about "prices paid," however, that part of the index was in drastic expansion at 72.3!

So New York State's economy is pumping out inflation full blast, while industry and industrial employment shrinks. The popular discontent is finding a higher moral channel in the petition drive putting independent Diane Sare on the ballot for U.S. Senate after the state legislature thought it had made that impossible.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

NBC Prepares Americans for Direct U.S. War with China

May 16 (EIRNS)—NBC's "Meet the Press" has just released a terrifying segment of a war game conducted by the Center for a New American

Security (CNAS) simulated a direct U.S. hot war with China. “The year is 2027,” opens the show’s teaser. “China is poised to attack Taiwan. Which side would prevail? Would China attack the U.S. mainland? Could nuclear war break out?”

CNAS is funded by the Pentagon and top military contractors such as Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and Lockheed Martin, as well as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. CNAS co-founder Michèle Flournoy, who now serves as the Chair of its Board of Directors, argued in 2020 that the U.S. needed to develop “the capacity to credibly threaten to sink all of China’s military vessels, submarines, and merchant ships in the South China Sea within 72 hours,” reports [Caitlin Johnstone](#).

The CEO of CNAS, Richard Fontaine, has enthused about how a prolonged conflict in Ukraine would serve long-term interests vis-à-vis China: “The war in Ukraine could end up being bad for the pivot [to Asia] in the short-term, but good in the long-term,” he said. “If Russia emerges from this conflict as a weakened version of itself, and Germany makes good on its defense spending pledges, both trends could allow the U.S. to focus more on the Indo-Pacific in the long run.”

The war game shown by NBC includes the “Red Team” (China) following up on Taiwanese islands and Taipei itself with strikes on U.S. forces in Japan, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The U.S. “Blue Team” envisioned U.S. forces from the Philippines engaging in an air battle with Chinese air force planes.

A mass media company has partnered with a Pentagon-funded think tank to normalize the idea of direct military conflict between the U.S. and China.

“This is headed somewhere very, very bad,” concludes Johnstone, in her coverage of the TV program. “Hopefully humanity wakes up in time to stop these lunatics from driving us off a precipice from which there is no return.”

U.S. Has No Idea Where Weapons It Is Supplying to Ukraine Are Actually Going

May 16 (EIRNS)—How much assurance is there that weapons being supplied to Ukraine won't end up in places where they're not supposed to be? According to a May 14 report in the *Washington Post*, not much. What remains unclear is Washington's ability to keep track of the powerful weapons as they enter one of the [largest trafficking hubs](#) in Europe. Ukraine's illicit arms market has ballooned since Russia's initial invasion in 2014, buttressed by a surplus of loose weapons and limited controls on their use. "It's just impossible to keep track of not only where they're all going and who is using them, but how they are being used," said Rachel Stohl, an arms-control expert and vice president at the Stimson Center.

The State Department claims that it is thoroughly vetting the Ukrainian units that are receiving the weapons and that it is forcing the Kyiv regime to sign end-user agreements to prevent their retransfer but, the *Post* notes, the means of enforcing such contracts are relatively weak—and made even weaker by Washington's own mixed history of compliance, as recently as last month. The reference is to Russian-built helicopters that the U.S. originally purchased in 2010 to send to Afghanistan but are now being supplied to Ukraine, instead, in violation of the end user certificates signed by the U.S. The *Post* cites a Pentagon spokesman denouncing Russia's denunciation of this U.S. violation, in effect, by claiming that Russia is trying to distract attention from its (alleged) bigger criminal violation.

Arms experts cited by the *Post* say that while U.S. support of the Kyiv regime is justified, the violation of weapons contracts chips away at the foundations of counter-proliferation efforts.

"Breaking of those end-use agreements is a serious threat to the underlying, but weak, capacity for countries to control how weapons are used," said Jeff Abramson, an expert on conventional arms transfers at the Arms Control Association.

Weeks after the Russian military operation on Ukraine began on Feb. 24, a group of interagency officials in the Biden administration met with

outside arms-control experts to discuss the risk of small-arms proliferation in the conflict. According to Stohl, who attended one of the meetings, U.S. officials offered assurances about vetting Ukrainian security forces and addressing reports of unauthorized transfer—but were short details on how the vetting or monitoring happens. “It does not inspire much confidence,” said Stohl.

As has happened in every conflict where the U.S. has flooded in weapons, we can probably expect that significant amounts of small arms, as well as anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles that the U.S. is supplying to Ukraine will emerge in other conflicts as well as feed armed gangs inside of Ukraine who care little about the legal niceties of such things.

The flap in the U.S. Senate over Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul’s demand that an accounting mechanism be included in the \$40 billion Ukraine arms package shows that there’s little concern about the implications of the massive transfer of weapons to the Kyiv regime there as well. “We expect to invoke cloture—hopefully by a significant margin—on the motion to proceed on Monday, which would set us up to approve the supplemental on Wednesday,” McConnell told reporters on a conference call from Stockholm after visiting the Ukrainian capital on March 14, reported Reuters.

NATO Foreign Ministers Meet in Berlin

May 16 (EIRNS)—NATO foreign ministers met over the weekend in Berlin and apparently emerged fully committed to the suicidal path of further confrontation against Russia. “Last night, Finland and Sweden updated ministers on their possible applications for NATO membership,” NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a joint press conference with Annalena Baerbock. “It is up to them to decide if they want to join NATO. We will respect whatever decision they make, because all sovereign nations have the right to choose their own path.” Ukraine was otherwise the top agenda item, with Stoltenberg claiming that the war is not going well for Moscow and that “Russia is not achieving its strategic objectives.”

“Ukraine can win this war. Ukrainians are bravely defending their homeland,” Stoltenberg solemnly declared. “To help them do so, Allies have committed and delivered security assistance to Ukraine worth billions of dollars, and over the years, NATO and Allies have trained tens of thousands of Ukrainian forces. All of this is making a real difference on the battlefield every day.”

Stoltenberg promised that the alliance will speed up its own processes in order to put Finnish and Swedish membership on a fast track. “We will try to speed up that process as much as possible,” he said. “Many Allies have stated that they will find fast tracks as, for instance, Germany has indicated that this can go quite fast.” As for security guarantees ahead of final approval, he said: “We will look into ways to provide security assurances including by increasing NATO presence in the region, in the Baltic region, in and around Finland and Sweden, of course in close consultation and ... an agreement with Finland and Sweden.”

Turkey remains a question mark in all of this, but Stoltenberg expressed confidence that Ankara’s concerns about the two countries joining NATO could be addressed. “Turkey is an important Ally,” Stoltenberg said. “Turkey has expressed some concerns and, as we always do in NATO when there are concerns, when there are questions, we sit down. And I’m confident that we will be able to find common ground and agreement, consensus on how to move on on the membership issue.” He indicated that he had been in contact with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu who was an attendance in Berlin. “And I expect that we will be able to follow up quickly if Finland and Sweden apply for a membership,” he said.

Professor Rizzi: We Forgot the Lessons of Westphalia

May 16 (EIRNS)—Prof. Ivan Rizzi, chairman of the Istituto di Alti Studi Strategici e Politici (IASSP, Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies) in Milan, Italy gave an exclusive interview to *EIR*, in which he, among other things, warned that the world seems to have forgotten the lessons of the Peace of Westphalia. Here is a short excerpt:

“The Peace of Westphalia, 1648, inaugurated modern Europe. Though distant, that treaty still speaks to us. Law confined within the borders of each country becomes international code, legitimate interests and advantages of different nation-states are recognized, the principle of non-interference—*cuius regio eius religio*—allows dialogue and exchanges. But it took 30 years of massacres to realize that no one would prevail and a bloodless Europe.

“Today three generations spared from war have only witnessed the evanescence of the spectacle of distant wars.

“Topicality can only be anti-tragical, the possibility that this conflict may affect our lives is removed with ease by de-emphasizing attention and apprehension.

“Are we bored with peace?”

“Western administrations arrange co-belligerence in defense of Ukraine. The media agitate the multitudes. Preparations are made. Strategies and alliance systems are prepared. War industries that will replace mature industries are prepared. The game of antagonistic simulation that neglects the precautionary principle is prepared. The mobilization of sentiments is prepared. The outcome for the post-truth of a ‘just war’ is being prepared. Here again is ‘A terrible love of war’ evoked by James Hillman. The unconscious, for years humbled by triumphant digital acceleration, returns with its slow conscious grip.

“Historical memory has never worked. Wars of the past are no longer feared, nor peace is learned.

“If terminal warfare is posited as impossible, possible warfare—such as the current one—is not yet delegable to drones and the remote but demands men, exactly young men, our meager and very precious Generation Z and perhaps Y in case of forced replacement. They will be the ones to tremble first, to risk not-being (in Ukraine the number of military dead and wounded again exceeds that of civilians). Those who are bored with peace should take note.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

American Diesel Users Directly Paying for Europe's Cutoff from Russian Oil

May 16 (EIRNS)—Just as the European Commission plans that nations with more natural gas stored will ration it and give it to other countries and go into shortage themselves, U.S. truck drivers, airlines, farmers and other diesel users are facing rationing of diesel fuel because of America's hurried oil and also diesel fuel shipments to Europe. The logistics firm FreightWaves on May 12 reported "three very large trucking fleets" preparing for diesel pumps at fuel stations to run dry across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions this summer.

Typical is a message on May 5 for truck fleet operators, from the diesel depot network Love's: "Dear fleet customers, Due to historically low supply, diesel availability in the Eastern U.S. ... your drivers could start to see the effects of these supply issues in the coming days. We expect to have [Love's] locations experiencing temporary, intermittent diesel outages." One fleet operator passed on: "Attention to all drivers: Hearing from Love's that they expect diesel shortages to hit some of their Eastern U.S. stores in the coming week."

Diesel fuel wholesale inflation is at 275% over the year through April 2022 in the United States. The Department of Energy said on May 13 that inventories of diesel on the East Coast are at their lowest level since 1990, in absolute volume, with trucking demand much higher now than three decades ago. The average retail price across the United States on May 12 was \$5.56/gallon, up by 53 cents/gallon or 10% in April alone.

Consequently, in physical terms less freight is moving (at least by truck) in May than in March and April, according to FreightWaves, and this is completely opposite to the normal upsurge in freight volume, particularly foods, in spring and early summer.

And this is with only about half of Russian oil exports to Europe cut off, 1.5 million out of 3 million barrels per day. That has been done by "self-

sanctioning” by large numbers of importers in Europe, including oil majors, with official EU boycotting of Russian oil still six months away.

Major Nordic Energy Company Says Europe Will Run Out of Natural Gas

May 16 (EIRNS)—The Norway-headquartered energy multinational Rystad Energy published an assessment May 15 that if the European Union target of reducing dependence on Russian natural gas by 66% by the end of this year is achieved, European countries will have gas storage far too low for the winter as of Nov. 1. Liquefied natural gas (LNG), whether from the United States or from North Africa, will not prevent winter heating and electricity shortages, according to Rystad.

“There simply is not enough LNG around to meet demand. In the short term, this will make for a hard winter in Europe,” wrote Rystad’s senior analyst on natural gas and LNG. There will be a boom in LNG, the company says, but it will come too late to supply Europe in the winter of 2022-23, if even in that of 2023-24. The result will be “sustained supply deficit, high, prices, extreme volatility, ... and heightened LNG geopolitics.”

In more detail, Rystad said that if Russian gas was phased out by November the European storage at that time would be only 35% full, and completely depleted by Christmas time, and that natural gas prices would then triple from their current elevated levels. “Replacing a significant portion of [Russian exports] will be exceedingly difficult, with far-reaching consequences for Europe’s population.” The company foresaw “industrial curtailments,” and if the winter is severe, “not even the residential sector would be safe.”

Meanwhile, in a sign that companies remain far more sane and practical than the European Commission, Bloomberg News on May 15 carried a report from a source “familiar with Gazprombank” that 20 European companies have opened accounts there to pay in rubles to import Russian natural gas. It said 14 more companies have asked for the paperwork to pay in rubles—a procedure officially sanctioned by the EU Commission.

East German Economy Threatened by Planned Ban on Oil from Russia

May 16 (EIRNS)—In an attempt to sell his support for a total ban on oil imports from Russia, German Economics Minister Robert Habeck (Greens) recently went to Schwedt, on the German-Polish border, the site of PCK, the nation's biggest oil refinery complex. There, Habeck spoke of turning PCK into a "refinery of the future" that does without oil and uses "green hydrogen" instead. Asking the Habeck ministry for details of this concept, the web journal *Telepolis* got no answer, nor did it get more from the Brandenburg Economics Ministry, except that a time frame of eight to ten years is assumed for transformation of Schwedt, and that the industry and the refinery itself would work out a concept, rather than the government.

PCK not only produces for the gasoline sector, where it predominantly supplies Eastern Germany and will not easily be substituted, it also produces one-third of all bitumen needed for road-building in Germany. The refinery is specialized on the heavy oil from Russia, it cannot easily switch, as the Greens claim, to other brands of oil which would require massive investments for the transformation.

PCK is one of the remaining major industry complexes in Germany's East, and therefore the uncertainty of its future in an era without Russian oil threatens several thousand jobs. Another giant blow against the real economy of Germany's East, after the decree on a total exit from lignite mining which will kill 20,000 jobs in the Lausitz region, and several thousand jobs lost in the refinery complex at Leuna, where Russian gas is transformed into other pre-products for the industry—including "blue hydrogen" at affordable costs which the Greens however defame as "dirty hydrogen."

COVID & FAMINE

India Suspends Wheat Exports After Heat Damage; G7 Scolds, Takes No Production Action

May 16 (EIRNS)—On May 14 India announced it would ban wheat exports, except for selected trade commitments, in order to provide for domestic food security, and tamp inflation. In March a severe heat wave hit the wheat crop, causing damage and reducing the harvest by 15-20%. Some wheat matured too fast, lowering yields; some plants were scorched and died.

The G7 foreign ministers, meeting May 14, criticized India for holding back exports. But the group announced no plans, nor initiatives for plans, to increase world food production, especially grains and oils. Their response to the world food supply crisis—even before the Feb. 24 Russian military action in Ukraine—is to just carp that nations must not ban exports.

Before the heat wave, India had five good crop years, and in April had stated its intention to buck up wheat exports to help meet the “Ukraine” gap. In recent years, India had exported only between 0.5-2 million metric tons a year of wheat, and before the heat wave, its intention was to export well over 10 mmt. The total world wheat traded yearly in recent times was in the range of 202 mmt. Much more is required, and by the metric of reliable, sufficient food for all, the goal is to double world food production.

Today on the Chicago Board of Trade wheat prices shot up as much as 5.9% a bushel, to reach a high of \$12.47/bu. This year, wheat prices have soared in the range of 60%, with devastating effects in the many, poor wheat import-dependent nations.

China Again Put Human Health First, Before Economy, in April

May 16 (EIRNS)—Economic data on the Chinese economy’s performance in April, released by the government today, showed that the lockdowns in Shanghai and other major cities and ports seriously impacted economic activity in that month, while total COVID domestic infections in the nation

were brought down from a peak near 27,000 to just a few hundred a day, and hospitalizations and deaths from COVID were largely avoided.

Industrial production was 2.9% below the same month of 2021—only the second time in the past 32 years, after the pandemic month of February 2020, in which year-to-year industrial production fell. Retail sales fell by 11%, home sales by more than 25% (again, compared to April 2021), and unemployment rose to 6.1%. This all followed and interrupted reported growth of 4.8% in GDP in the first quarter of the year.

However, because of the government's very conscious policy of using investment in new infrastructure to maintain productivity and economic security in what is becoming a global collapse, fixed investment kept rising, by 6.8% in April from a year earlier. And with the Omicron surge having been stopped and lockdowns progressively ending in May, growth will be restarted. The National Bureau of Statistics, which released the data, said: "COVID outbreaks in April had a big impact on the economy, but the impact is short-term. With progress in COVID controls and policies to stabilize the economy taking effect, the economy is likely to recover gradually."