

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- De-Escalate Now Before It Is Too Late
- Call Them the ‘Nuclear War Lobby Forum’
- Russian Diplomat Warns Nuclear War Danger Comes from Direct Military Confrontation Between Nuclear Powers
- Lavrov Addresses UN Security Council
- Borrell Demands Allegiance in Bipolar World
- Biden Reportedly Preparing for Ukraine Offensive To Fail
- *Washington Post* Describes How U.S. Stopped Kiev’s Plans for Feb. 24 Anniversary Attacks Inside Russia
- Peace Breaks Out in Ethiopia, in Another Success for the African Union
- BRICS Expansion on the Agenda at June Foreign Ministerial
- South Africa Raises Quitting International Criminal Court
- Defense Ministers and Intelligence Chiefs of Russia, Turkiye, Syria and Iran Meet in Moscow
- Kujat Makes Argument for a Genuine European Security Architecture, Supports Macron
- José Vega Intervenes on Newspaper Execs at ‘Free Press’ Event at Columbia University

EDITORIAL

De-Escalate Now Before It Is Too Late

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—There is a mindless march underway towards the biggest crisis in human history. If it's not stopped by saner heads prevailing in the Western world, then we are on the fast track towards World War III. This was reiterated by the Russian Foreign Ministry's Director of the Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department [Vladimir Yermakov](#), who told TASS in an interview today that, "in the worst-case scenario, i.e., if Washington drives the situation to a military clash between the strongest nuclear powers, then it is not the fate of the New START but the fate of the entire world that will be a concern."

"We continue sending sobering signals to the West that a catastrophe must be prevented." However, Yermakov pointed out, the West "remains deaf to the calls...." In order to improve the situation, "the U.S. must immediately take concrete steps on de-escalation and to abolish the hostile course towards undermining Russia's security in practice," he insisted.

What's worse is that not only is this war avoidable and unnecessary, but it is being caused by the ideological rejection of the equality and sovereignty of all nations. Compare two events that took place Monday, April 24. In New York, Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) spoke in person at the UN Security Council, where he elaborated on what must become "the principle of genuine multilateralism," to be achieved through "a balance of interests based on the sovereign equality of states and indivisible security." At the same time in Luxembourg, the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell steadfastly opposed such a view. There are two sides, he said: Even "when there are many people who don't want to take sides. But they have to take a position with respect to the war in Ukraine and with respect to the relationship with the growing role of China."

His ideological fanaticism is what underlies the West's insistence on and involvement in the attempt to destroy Russia. Following the recent

string of leaked Pentagon documents, which proved, among other things, that the U.S. knows Ukraine is not winning the war, another report has come out in *Politico* that the White House is worried that Ukraine's much-hyped spring offensive will fail. Despite this, the U.S. still demands more and stronger weapons for Ukrainians to fight Russia "for as long as it takes"—a hypocritical and immoral sacrificing of lives in an attempt to hold on to its unipolar order. Another report, in the *Washington Post*, shows just how deeply involved the U.S. is, and how flagrantly dangerous this war has become. The report details how Ukraine was planning a wave of strikes inside Russia for the Feb. 24 anniversary of the Russian special military operation—and was only deterred by a direct intervention from Washington to stop it. We truly are on the verge of catastrophe.

However, there is no more clear illustration of the extreme danger which Western elites are stoking, and the absolute truth that Yermakov warned of, than the seminar hosted on April 25 by the Hudson Institute in Washington. Featuring a group called the "Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum," the event encouraged those within Russia to "seize the moment," and push for the final dismantling of the Russian Federation itself. The West, the main speaker argued, should "embrace" the collapse of Russia, and begin to recognize new ethnic and regional "nations" as sovereign in order to facilitate the transition. And anyone worried about nuclear weapons should just relax, he said, "this can be done."

The actual cause of this war is the collapse of the neoliberal system, and at the same time the assertion by a growing number of nations around the world of the right to an actual future—not one under the control of these types of geopolitical machinations. Increasingly, members of the Global South are refusing to cower in fear of global would-be imperialists, and are instead celebrating a certain principle of self-determination, and dignity. This is an assertion rooted in natural law, not merely a ruse for their own piece of the pie. Last weekend's celebration in Ethiopia, "Enough with War—Let's Celebrate Peace," was a case in point. As some of the representatives at this event pointed out, the reason peace was achieved in Ethiopia was that it was an "African Solution to African Problems." In a

similar fashion, witness the continued growth in membership of the BRICS, and the absolute failure by the Global NATO crowd to recruit their “their side” of opposing Russia and China.

The task before each of us is to stare this dire reality straight in the eyes, and become a catalyst for a breakthrough. As is painfully obvious from looking at domestic politics in the U.S. or Europe, the solution is not going to emerge from partisan politics in the West, as can be seen by the announcement of Biden’s re-election bid Tuesday. Only from the introduction of something new—a truthful punch to the ideological gut delivered by true-blooded citizens—will averting this tragedy become possible.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday April 26, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Call Them the ‘Nuclear War Lobby Forum’

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The dangerous agenda of the April 25-28 “Sixth Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum” hosted by the Hudson Institute today was laid out in the opening speech delivered by Janusz Bugajski of the Jamestown Foundation, a CIA-created bastion of neocons where the dead hand of Zbigniew Brzezinski still rules the roost. His message: You representatives of a myriad of “captive nations and regions” from inside Russia have been assembled in Washington, D.C. by your Anglo-American managers, to lobby like hell for the United States to hold firm on ensuring a Ukrainian military victory over Russia, followed by the dismantling of Russia itself.

An invitation for nuclear war!

Bugajski aggressively instructed those present to “Seize This Historic Moment,” and make sure the “failing” Russian “empire” never rises again.

Make your voices heard: set up offices in key capitals; coordinate on strategy; prepare for recognition. People must understand that your nations will be in line with Western values and will strengthen NATO's flank.

Likewise, the West must "embrace" the collapse of the Russian Federation. Recognition of new ethnic and regional "nations" is the most effective way to ensure a peaceful transition away from Russia as it exists today.

Russian terrorist advocate Ilya Ponomarev, present in person for the Forum's four days of U.S. lobbying, asked Bugajski the first question: Many in Washington greatly fear the collapse of Russia would bring chaos, instability, "nukes," and China. You are one of the few in a most influential think tank who understands. How do you recommend we deal with those fears?

The biggest fear is the fear of nuclear weapons, Bugajski replied. With a tone of "how silly," he dismissed all ideas that breaking up a nuclear superpower could be cause for concern. It makes no sense that Russia would use nuclear weapons against the opposition inside Russia. Nor would Russia use them against the West, since that would only escalate its own destruction. And what could be the danger of nukes falling into the hands of the new states? They wouldn't have the codes, and who would they use them against? They will all be allies and friends with us? You need to tell Americans "Relax, we can do this peacefully. This can be done."

The premise of Bugajski's grand strategy of ending the Russian Federation—which was also the premise of the other Anglo-American operatives who spoke at the event—is Ukraine's military victory over Russia. That, as Bugajski said, is the "imperative" condition for Russia's imperial collapse. That will demonstrate that Russia's borders are transient, and the loss of Crimea and the three Donbass areas will encourage others to go for "freedom."

Ukraine is qualified to enter NATO now, Bugajski also asserted. That is not yet accepted at the highest level of this administration—yet—out of fear of Moscow. But what can Moscow do? Invade Ukraine? He laughed.

Americans need to be warned: Such arrogant, self-assured, madmen playing chicken with nuclear weapons will bring about Armageddon!

Russian Diplomat Warns Nuclear War Danger Comes from Direct Military Confrontation Between Nuclear Powers

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Vladimir Yermakov, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, warned in an interview with TASS that the risk of a direct military confrontation between the U.S. and Russia is very high. "If the U.S. continues to follow its current course towards a standoff with Russia, while constantly raising the stakes on the verge of a direct military conflict, then the fate of the New START Treaty may become sealed," Yermakov told TASS. "However, in the worst-case scenario, i.e., if Washington drives the situation to a military clash between the strongest nuclear powers, then it is not the fate of the New START but the fate of the entire world that will be a concern."

"This once again confirms that the most pressing threat today is connected not with the dynamic of stimuli for the first massive strike, which is supposed to be curbed by agreements like the New START, but with a danger of nuclear escalation as a result of a direct military confrontation between nuclear powers," Yermakov explained. "And, to our deepest regrets, these risks keep growing." In other words, the danger comes not from the lack of arms control treaties, but from a policy of intentional aggression.

"This is exactly why we constantly point to the danger of U.S. and NATO's actions, who, it seems, have believed in the illusion of impunity and got carried away with such chimeras as 'escalation control' and 'escalatory domination,'" Yermakov underscored. "We continue sending sobering signals to the West that a catastrophe must be prevented."

However, Yermakov pointed out, the West "remains deaf to the calls," and even "maliciously distorts them for propaganda purposes." In order to improve the situation, "the U.S. must immediately take concrete steps on de-escalation and to abolish the hostile course towards undermining

Russia's security in practice," he stressed. "There is simply no other way to reverse the negative trend."

His complete interview is posted to the Foreign Ministry website.

Lavrov Addresses UN Security Council

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign [Sergey Lavrov](#) chaired a meeting of the UN Security Council, yesterday, dedicated to the topic of "Effective Multilateralism through the Defense of the Principles of the UN Charter." During his address, Lavrov told the council that Russia is disappointed that Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to convene a summit of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council was never realized. "In 2021, President Putin suggested that a summit of the permanent members of the UN Security Council be organized. The French and Chinese leaders supported this initiative, but, regrettably, nothing became of it," he said.

Lavrov stressed that the UNSC's permanent members bear special responsibility for peace and security in the world. "This topic is directly linked with multilateralism: not because the five powers have any privileges putting them above anybody else, but because of their special responsibility under the UN Charter for maintaining international peace and security. This is what we are supposed to do within the system where the United Nations plays a central role and which has been driven to the edge of collapsing due to the West's actions," he stressed.

"Concerns over such a state of things are heard in numerous initiatives and ideas of the countries of the global South: from East and Southeast Asia, the Arab and Muslim world as a whole—from Africa and Latin America. We value their sincere wish to settle any present-day problems through honest collective work in search of a balance of interests on the basis of the sovereign equality of states and the indivisibility of security," he added.

Lavrov also emphasized that the current conflict "is not really about Ukraine but about the future structure of international relations. Will they

rest on a sustainable consensus based on the balance of interests or will they be reduced to the aggressive and explosive promotion of hegemony?” “Genuine multilateralism,” he continued, “requires the UN to adapt to objective developments in the process of forming a multipolar architecture of international relations.” This includes representation for Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who otherwise are subordinated because of the “inordinate over-representation of the West.”

Borrell Demands Allegiance in Bipolar World

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—At a press conference yesterday in Luxembourg following a meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell announced an “action plan” for the “new era of foreign policy.” The plan, of course, means you’re either with us, or against us.

Borrell said, “We have discussed the Action Plan on the geopolitical consequences of the Russian aggression, because yes, we have to reach out much more to third countries. The Russian narrative has to be countered in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America, increasing our bilateral engagements, and presenting a plan that goes beyond the everyday crisis management.”

Clearly recognizing that much of the Global South is not on board with the West’s drive for World War III against Russia, Borrell explained the strategy of getting those undecided nations off of the fence and onto “their side”: “This [Action] Plan ... will be the way of engaging in this new era of foreign policy. An era of a fragmented world, with two different ecosystems of technological developments. With two groups of people. And everybody trying to attract to these groups, one side or the other, when there are many people who do not want to take sides. But they have to take a position with respect to the war in Ukraine and with respect to the relationship with the growing role of China.”

Kirill Logvinov, Russia’s acting Permanent Representative to the EU, responded to Borrell’s comments, saying the EU is “driving itself into international isolation.”

“It is symbolic that such a decision was taken on the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace. As the UN Security Council in New York was discussing the formation of a multipolar world, Brussels, despite the objective processes taking place on the international arena today, proclaimed its course towards ‘planned’ unipolarity,” Logvinov said.

He continued: “In the EU world, a special place is reserved only for those who literally put on the EU ‘glasses,’ thus following Brussels’ interpretation of foreign policy. And if yesterday the division into ‘allies’ and ‘outsiders’ was based on the unequivocal support for the Western policy in Ukraine, now there is a new ‘aptitude’ criterion, that is the policy towards China.”

Biden Reportedly Preparing for Ukraine Offensive To Fail

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—*Politico* reported yesterday that the Biden administration is preparing for the likelihood that Ukraine’s much-vaunted spring offensive will come up short. Publicly, President Joe Biden’s team has offered unwavering support for Ukraine, pledging to load it up with weapons and economic aid for “as long as it takes,” *Politico* notes. But, if the impending fighting season yields limited gains, administration officials have expressed privately they fear being left high and dry with a failed military endeavor, and will be politically eviscerated from all sides. This is not to mention the actual human cost of failure, that of the tens of thousands of lives expended in hopes of “punishing” Russia.

“We’ve nearly completed the requests of what [Ukraine] said they needed for the counteroffensive as we have surged weapons and equipment to Ukraine over the past few months,” said one unnamed administration official. But belief in the strategic cause is one thing. Belief in the tactics is another—and behind closed doors the administration is worried about what Ukraine can accomplish.

Ukraine has hoped to sever Russia’s land bridge to Crimea, and U.S. officials are now skeptical that that will happen, according to two administration officials familiar with the assessment, the *Politico* report continues. But there are still hopes in the Pentagon that Ukraine will

hamper Russia's supply lines there, even if a total victory over Russia's newly fortified troops ends up too difficult to achieve. Moreover, U.S. intelligence indicates that Ukraine simply does not have the ability to push Russian troops from where they were deeply entrenched—and a similar feeling has taken hold about the battlefield elsewhere in Ukraine, according to officials.

“If Ukraine can't gain dramatically on the battlefield, the question inevitably arises as to whether it is time for a negotiated stop to the fighting,” Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, told *Politico*. “It's expensive, we're running low on munitions, we've got other contingencies around the world to prepare for.”

“It's legitimate to ask all these questions without compromising Ukraine's goals. It's simply a question of means,” Haass said.

***Washington Post* Describes How U.S. Stopped Kiev's Plans for Feb. 24 Anniversary Attacks Inside Russia**

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—And the drip, drip, drip of leaks continues. The *Washington Post*, in an exclusive story, “[At U.S. Behest, Ukraine Held Off Anniversary Attacks on Russia](#),” yesterday, reported that Ukrainian military intelligence, HUR, headed by Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, had planned a wave of attacks inside Russia on Feb. 24, the first anniversary of Moscow's special military operation. Officials even mused about a sea-based strike using dynamite in the Black Sea port city of Novorossiysk, the *Post* says, according to classified documents that were part of the trove that began leaking out about three weeks ago. On Feb. 22, two days before the anniversary, the CIA circulated a new classified report: Ukraine's HUR military intelligence “had agreed, at Washington's request, to postpone strikes on Moscow.” The documents don't explain precisely who interceded and why the Ukrainians agreed to stand down.

Washington's intercession ahead of the war's anniversary appears to have been only partially successful. “There is no indication” that Ukraine's security service, the SBU, “agreed to postpone its own plans to attack Moscow around the same date,” the CIA report said.

Budanov's agency made plans to attack members of the Wagner PMC in Mali. "It is unknown what stage the operations [in Mali] were currently in and whether the HUR has received approval to execute its plans," an National Security Agency document says.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Peace Breaks Out in Ethiopia, in Another Success for the African Union

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—In talks sponsored by the African Union (AU) and, significantly, not involving the U.S. or the European Union, there has been a resolution in Ethiopia's bitter internal conflict between the central government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the ruling party in the Ethiopian region of Tigray, which threatened to tear the country apart. That conflict has been fully resolved through the [Pretoria Agreement](#), which began last November with a ceasefire followed by a peaceful agreement to fully normalize relations between the Tigray region and the central government.

On April 23, Ethiopia celebrated the conclusion of the agreement under the theme "[Enough with War—Let's Celebrate Peace](#)." Organized by the Ethiopian government, its aim was to give recognition to all those involved in making the agreement a reality. These individuals included International Relations and Cooperation Minister of South Africa Naledi Pandor; former Nigerian President and AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa Olusegun Obasanjo; former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta; Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat; and Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Workneh Gebeyehu. Others attending included members of the AU High Level Panel and representatives of the diplomatic community.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, Chief Administrator of the Tigray Interim Administration Getachew Reda also attended the event.

In their keynote speeches, Naledi Pandor, Uhuru Kenyatta, and Olesegun Obasanjo praised the peace process as an epitome of the principle of African Solutions to African Problems.

Since the signing of the agreement last November, various of the most important articles have been implemented, including the release of imprisoned Tigray leaders. In fact the Tigray Interim Administrator Getachew Reda had been the official spokesman for the TPLF throughout the war. Ethiopian troops have withdrawn from Tigray and the administration has been turned over to the local TPLF authorities. The only problem remains with neighboring Eritrea, which has not withdrawn its forces from certain areas in Tigray—part of Ethiopian territory—which it had occupied during the conflict.

It should be noted that the TPLF was not seeking to secede from Ethiopia, but had been in political conflict before the war over national issues and the rights of their regional state constitution. In effect it was a power struggle that has finally been resolved—not only despite the fact, but probably because no Western government or international organization was involved.

Another important development is that peace negotiations have begun in Tanzania between the Ethiopian government and the Oromo Liberation Army, which had launched military operations in the Ethiopian state of Oromia at the same time that the war began in Tigray. Those talks will hopefully be successful.

BRICS Expansion on the Agenda at June Foreign Ministerial

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The foreign ministers of the BRICS nations will hold their next meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, on June 2-3, in preparation for the upcoming BRICS summit in August. At the June meeting they will reportedly focus on the topic of enlargement. According to Bloomberg News, Ambassador at Large Anil Sooklal, South Africa's representative to the BRICS, said, "What will be discussed is the expansion of BRICS and the modalities of how this will happen.... We are getting applications to join every day."

According to TV BRICS, Sooklal said that the BRICS has received a total of 19 requests for membership to the group. Of the 19 requests for membership, 13 are formal, and 6 are informal, Sooklal said.

South Africa Raises Quitting International Criminal Court

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Following the International Criminal Court’s (ICC) outrageous indictment of Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, South Africa has decided to withdraw from the institution. “The ruling party has decided that it is prudent for South Africa to withdraw from the ICC,” South African President [Cyril Ramaphosa](#) said in response to a question from the South African Broadcasting Company, during his joint press conference today with visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö. South Africa is hosting the BRICS heads of state and government summit in August, and has been under pressure to arrest Russian President Putin if he should attend. Ramaphosa responded to the first question from Finnish Broadcasting Company as to whether South Africa would arrest President Putin, saying it is “under consideration,” and he would respond for the world as a whole when the full discussion was completed. He began his answer by laughing at the Finnish reporter, and asking in return, “Why did I suspect that you would be asking that question?”

Ramaphosa cited concerns over political prejudice by the ICC: “We would like to see this issue of unfair treatment properly discussed, but in the meantime, the ruling party has decided once again that we should withdraw,” Ramaphosa said. South Africa had withdrawn from the ICC in 2016 over its indictment of Sudan’s then-President Omar al-Bashir, who was to attend an African Union summit in South Africa, which refused to “arrest” him. A local court decision apparently overruled Pretoria’s withdrawal at the time.

While, ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula was more direct, saying, “Putin can come to this country at any time.... The ICC does not serve the interests of all, but those of a few,” the [ANC Secretary General’s Office](#) issued a statement later that “an unintended impression may have been

taken that a categorical decision for immediate withdrawal had been taken. This is not so.”

Defense Ministers and Intelligence Chiefs of Russia, Turkiye, Syria and Iran Meet in Moscow

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The defense ministers and intelligence chiefs of Russia, Syria, Turkiye and Iran met in Moscow today. “During the meeting, the attendees discussed practical steps towards strengthening security in the Syrian Arab Republic and normalizing Syrian-Turkish relations,” the Russia Defense Ministry said in a statement issued after the meeting. “Particular attention was given to countering all manifestations of terrorist threats, fighting all extremist groups on the territory of Syria. As a result of the talks, the sides reaffirmed the desire to preserve Syria’s territorial integrity and the need to intensify efforts for the speedy return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.”

According to a statement by the Syrian Defense Ministry, the four ministers were “to discuss withdrawal of Turkish forces from Syrian territory....”

The Turkish Defense Ministry statement characterized the meeting as addressing the concrete steps that can be taken to normalize the Türkiye-Syria relations. “Quadrilateral meeting on Syria discussed fight against terrorist organizations and all extremist groups on Syrian territory,” it declared. Turkish, Russian, Iranian, and Syrian defense and intelligence chiefs also discussed stepping up efforts to return Syrian refugees to their country, the ministry said, according to Anadolu Agency.

“As a result of the meeting, which was held in a constructive atmosphere, the importance of the continuation of the meetings in the quadrilateral format was emphasized to ensure and maintain stability in Syria and the region as a whole,” the Turkish statement concluded.

Kujat Makes Argument for a Genuine European Security Architecture, Supports Macron

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—In an interview with the Swiss journal *Zeitgeschehen im Focus* published today, former NATO military Committee Chairman (2002-2005) and German Bundeswehr chief of staff (2000-20002) Gen. [Harald Kujat](#) (ret.) said that French President Emmanuel Macron’s April 9 remarks on European and U.S. views differing on Taiwan, point to the importance of creating a genuine security policy for Europe in cases of such differences. For instance, the U.S. withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019 created a situation of no control over Russia’s armaments, thus undermining the European stability system. Macron was the only European leader to criticize the U.S. at that time, Kujat noted, adding that the French President’s remarks are primarily addressed to Germany, which has so far been reluctant to discuss the issue of greater independence from the United States.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

José Vega Intervenes on Newspaper Execs at ‘Free Press’ Event at Columbia University

April 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—LaRouche organizer [José Vega](#) struck again, this time at an event at Columbia University supposedly on a “free press.” At the event on “Faultlines: Democracy; Building a Democratic Press,” Vega confronted the executive editors of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and Reuters, demanding they answer to the bombing of Nord Stream, the danger of a thermonuclear World War III, and the Justice Department silencing of Uhuru/African People’s Socialist Party, among other poignant questions.