

EIR Daily Alert Service

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- Will There Be a Breakthrough for Diplomacy?
- Battle for Bakhmut Slowly Turning Russia's Way
- Ukrainian Negotiating Group Insists Negotiations Can Begin Once Russia Surrenders Nuclear Weapons, i.e. Never
- Macron Says Russia's Security Interests Have To Be Taken Seriously
- Victoria Nuland Swoops in on Kiev
- Moscow Rejects Nuland Claim that U.S. Threats Prevented Russian Use of Nuclear Weapons in Kiev
- Russian Statement on Attacks on Russian Airfields
- Rep. Paul Gosar Argues, Support for Ukraine Is Immoral
- Scott Ritter Proves That Germany and NATO Never Wanted Peace with Russia
- The Twitter Files Begin
- Elon Musk Explains Release of Twitter Files
- Donald Trump on Fraud and the Constitution
- Chinese Cities Update COVID Policies
- Ceremonies Inaugurate Construction of Square Kilometer Array Telescope

EDITORIAL

Will There Be a Breakthrough for Diplomacy?

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Even as Victoria Nuland (the 2014 coup plotter) swoops into Kiev to promote a relentless struggle against Russia rather than any

form of negotiation, and as Ukrainian officials give conditions for negotiations that effectively completely rule out discussions with Russia, there are growing forces throughout the world that oppose the U.S.-U.K.-NATO intent to crush Russia and China. But will those forces find the organization and leadership necessary to force a change in paradigm?

Recent events show that this is a time for great changes:

Elon Musk is cleaning Twitter's Augean stable, by publicizing, through journalists, the behind-the-scenes collaboration with government and political officials to make moderation decisions, including leading into the U.S. 2020 election. If such coordination is not election interference, Musk said, he doesn't know what is. The process he has set into motion could play a significant role in liberating the deliberative process, bucking the trend towards increasing censorship under the guise of de-bunking (or even "pre-bunking") what is called "misinformation."

That French President Emmanuel Macron's tepid suggestions of support for Russia's security interests were met with a tempest of opposition from Ukrainian officials shows not the strength of the Ukrainian position, but how its maintenance depends on preventing discussion of the situation on the ground.

In China, protests against COVID measures were publicized by Western media as possibly foretelling the doom of President Xi Jinping. But China has simply moved in a reasonable way to update its COVID measures, in coordination with health experts and think tank leaders.

Meanwhile, the wild situation of U.S. political discourse shows the need for a quality of leadership otherwise lacking among "off-the-shelf" public figures.

The common aims of mankind are seen in the Dec. 5 ceremonial beginning of construction of the Square Kilometer Array telescope, and the 207-second burn of Artemis' Orion capsule at only 79 miles from the Moon, setting it on course to return to Earth over the next week.

But the quality of discussion required to grant the world a peace characterized by poverty eradication, infrastructure and economic advance, and cultural improvement—the only possible form of peace today—continues to be provided by the LaRouche movement and is most recently exemplified in the [ten principles](#) for a new world architecture that Helga Zepp-LaRouche has introduced for discussion.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday December 6, 2022: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Battle for Bakhmut Slowly Turning Russia's Way

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Reports from on the ground tell of increasingly brutal fighting for the town of Bakhmut, also known as Artyomovsk, roughly 65 km north of Donetsk city. According to these accounts, Russian forces are aiming at encircling the town while inflicting as many casualties on Ukrainian troops as possible.

The Russian Defense Ministry, in its Dec. 4 daily update, reported that “Russian troops are carrying out successful offensive actions near Artyomovsk (Bakhmut).” Imagery coming out of the Ukrainian trenches and posted on Telegram in recent days has been compared to Verdun in 1916. “The Ukrainian commander of the Svoboda battalion, Petro Kuzyk, whose unit is one of those holding Bakhmut said his soldiers are staying in trenches full of corpses, fighting in extremely cold conditions and in knee-deep water against Russia’s attacks,” reported the *Express* tabloid of London. Asked about casualties, “They are colossal. They don’t even count bodies,” Kuzyk said. “The fields, the woods in front of the positions are all littered with corpses. I watched them: They dragged their people back to bury them, take off their warm sweaters, and start to put it on themselves.

But, nevertheless, each assault group has a grenade launcher, a machine gunner, and their machine guns more or less perform their tasks. They have herds.”

Yalensis, author of the Awful Avalanche blog, cites Russian military analysts saying that Artyomovsk (Bakhmut) and the agglomeration of villages around it is key to all of the central Donetsk front and the battle to control it may end up being one of the most decisive of the war. “If we are able to take this agglomeration, then the territory of D.P.R. will be factually entirely liberated from the Occupiers,” he writes. This will also solve the water problem, as the Kiev regime forces had cut off the supply of water to Donbass via the Seversky Donetsk canal in February and no alternative could be found.

According to an updated post on the Intel Slava Z Telegram channel, this morning, Ukrainian forces continue to suffer heavy casualties in the Artyomovsk direction. “Ukrainian generals throw everyone into battle indiscriminately—there are national battalions, and militants trained abroad, and foreign [private military companies] PMCs. The situation is equally deplorable for everyone,” the update says. “Last night, our artillery effectively worked on Ukrainian positions in Bakhmut, Soledar and Kleshcheevka.

“Against this background, the rhetoric of official Kiev began to change. Artyomovsk is gradually turning from a ‘fortress of the Armed Forces of Ukraine’ into a ‘city of no strategic importance.’ ”

Ukrainian Negotiating Group Insists Negotiations Can Begin Once Russia Surrenders Nuclear Weapons, i.e. Never

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—While French President Emmanuel Macron has been in the news for promoting a path towards dialogue with Russia, the head of Ukraine’s negotiating team said he’s not interested. On Dec. 3, Ukraine’s negotiator David Arakhamia said that Ukraine is willing to provide security guarantees to Russia, but he had some requirements for Russia, including that it do the following:

- Leave Ukraine.
- “voluntarily surrender nuclear weapons.”

“After that [read “when hell freezes over”], we are ready to sit down at the negotiating table and talk about security guarantees,” he says.

Macron Says Russia’s Security Interests Have To Be Taken Seriously

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Speaking on Dec. 1 to CBS News’s “[60 Minutes](#)” for its Dec. 4 broadcast, French President Emmanuel Macron said that there is deep distrust in Moscow about the West’s real agenda, built on “the feeling that our perspective was to destroy Russia” reported RT today.

“I don’t believe this is our perspective. It has never been our perspective in France,” Macron said, adding that during negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, he sensed Putin’s view of his own destiny. “There was this clear awareness of how the Russian people were great people, with great history,” Macron said. “And his perspective and probably his destiny was to restore, perhaps, an empire.”

The French leader noted that he has attempted to keep dialogue with Putin open amid the Ukraine conflict. “I always maintain regular discussions and direct contact with President Putin. Because I believe that the best way to reengage is to preserve this direct channel,” he said, adding that “isolation is the worst thing,” especially for a leader like Putin.

Macron struck a similar chord in interviews with France’s TF1 and LCI media networks, on Dec. 3.

Macron acknowledged Russian President Vladimir Putin’s concern that “NATO will deploy weapons that will threaten Russia,” and said that members of the alliance “need to prepare” to offer “guarantees of the security of the Russian Federation” when Moscow joins Kiev and the West at the negotiating table.

Victoria Nuland Swoops in on Kiev

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, the woman who ran the February 2014 violent coup that made neo-

Nazis the dominant political force in Ukraine, traveled to Kiev on Dec. 2 after attending the OSCE meeting in Lodz, Poland. “We came together with the Foreign Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba from the OSCE ministerial meeting, so I had time to talk to him on the train,” she said at a press conference on Dec. 3, reported *Ukrainska Pravda*. According to press reports, she held a significant number of meetings with representatives of the government, parliamentarians, public activists, and even had a reception at the embassy, which took place subject to non-disclosure of its fact until the end of the visit.

“Diplomacy is obviously everyone’s objective but you have to have a willing partner,” she said, reported Reuters. “And it’s very clear, whether it’s the energy attacks, whether it’s the rhetoric out of the Kremlin and the general attitude, that Putin is not sincere or ready for that,” she falsely proclaimed. “My main signal is a signal of solidarity in these days when Putin has moved to a new level of barbarism. However, Ukraine is winning this war, Putin is losing it, and we support you.”

Nuland also met with Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s office. “Although Kiev is now almost without lighting, you will be able to personally see the real situation and make sure that Ukrainians remain courageous, do not leave their cities, and continue fighting. You are informed well about the situation in Ukraine. Everyone knows how much you support our country,” Yermak told her, according to a news release issued by the Ukrainian President’s office. He thanked the United States of America, President Joseph Biden and his administration, including the State Department, both houses of Congress and both parties for their support. “Ukraine’s victory, which we are sure of, will be our joint victory,” Yermak said.

Zelenskyy himself also dropped in to welcome Nuland. “During the conversation, the Head of State noted the strategic role and allied nature of the Ukrainian-American partnership and touched on major issues on the bilateral agenda,” the Ukrainian release said.

Moscow Rejects Nuland Claim that U.S. Threats Prevented Russian Use of Nuclear Weapons in Kiev

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland claimed during her visit to Kiev this past weekend that the reason why Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't used nuclear weapons in Ukraine was because of "harsh warnings" issued from Washington. "Russia has already made itself a pariah at the international level, but we made it crystal clear that the use of nuclear weapons would have dire consequences and face our firm response. After that, Russia switched to different tactics, launching attacks on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine," Nuland said on Dec. 3. "Ukraine is winning this war, Putin is losing it, and we keep supporting you," she concluded.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#) rejected Nuland's claim in a sharply worded statement. "Victoria Nuland has succeeded in defeating herself once again: first, controlled media and think tanks hyped up the threat of nuclear war coming from Russia, and now they are making attempts to shift the blame onto someone else by claiming that allegedly a nuclear Armageddon did not occur due to 'harsh warnings' while ignoring the fact that no one on this side of the border actually planned to unleash one," she wrote in an opinion posted from her Telegram account and on the Russian Foreign Ministry's Telegram channel. "We have repeatedly confirmed Russia's stance on preventing a nuclear war, in particular, in a recent statement which was specifically translated into English for those working in the U.S. Department of State," referring to the Ministry's statement on [prevention of nuclear war](#).

She continued: "As to the 'unacceptability of strikes on the energy infrastructure,' Nuland is in no position to lecture the world: only the U.S.A. and NATO jointly have destroyed more energy networks than the U.S.A. alone. Then-spokesperson for NATO Jamie Shea admitted this during the bombing of Yugoslavia, which I have written about just recently."

Zakharova concludes by citing a 1994 academic thesis, entitled “Strategic Attack of National Electrical Systems,” by one Major Thomas Griffith, U.S. Air Force, writing: “By the way, in 1994, U.S. Air Force Major Thomas Griffith defended his dissertation entitled ‘Strategic Attack of National Electrical Systems,’ apparently already then preparing for the Yugoslav events.”

Griffith had written: “The United States Air Force has long favored attacking electrical power systems. Electric power has been considered a critical target in every war since World War II, and will likely be nominated in the future.” Griffith’s paper questions whether the targeting of electrical power generating and distribution systems could accomplish what U.S. strategic bombing doctrine of the time claimed it would.

Russian Statement on Attacks on Russian Airfields

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—According to a statement issued this morning by the Russian Defense Ministry, the Kiev regime attempted to attack two military airfields inside the European part of Russia, at Dyagilevo in the Ryazan region and Engels in the Saratov region, in an effort to disable Russian long-range aircraft. “Russian air defense forces intercepted the Ukrainian UAVs as they were flying at a low altitude,” the statement said. “The crash and explosion of the wreckage on the Russian airfields caused minor damage to the hull armor of the two airplanes. Three Russian maintenance personnel on the airfield suffered fatal injuries. Another four wounded servicemen were taken to medical facilities, where they were given all the necessary medical care.”

Russian preparations that were underway for further strikes against Ukrainian infrastructure targets were not disrupted, and the R.F. strikes against the command and control system and related defense complex facilities, communication hubs, power plants, and military units of Ukraine were launched as planned. “The objective of the strike has been achieved. All of the designated 17 targets were engaged,” the statement said. “The strike disrupted the transfer by rail of Ukrainian military reserves, foreign

weapons, military equipment and ammunition to the areas of combat operations.”

The Engels air based is home to both Tu-160 supersonic bombers and TU-95 missile carriers, while Dyagilevo houses Tu-22M Backfire medium bombers as well as heavy transport aircraft.

Rep. Paul Gosar Argues, Support for Ukraine Is Immoral

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Rep. [Paul Gosar](#) (R-AZ) tweeted today: “Our continued support of this war in Ukraine is immoral. The deaths continue and Ukraine (in addition to comprising nazi regiments) has become an authoritarian regime not worthy of any support. I support peace talks, not death and destruction. Not bombing churches.” Gosar retweeted a video of a destroyed church in Donetsk which had been bombed by Ukrainian forces.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Scott Ritter Proves That Germany and NATO Never Wanted Peace with Russia

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—In an article published today in *Consortium News* under the title “[Merkel Reveals West’s Duplicity](#),” former weapons inspector and Marine Corps intelligence officer Scott Ritter outlines the grim reality of the showdown over Ukraine. Russia’s alleged “unprovoked aggression” against Ukraine is the reason stated over and over again as the cause of the war, yet Ritter points out statements by Germany’s then-Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian then-President Petro Poroshenko which give the lie to that narrative.

In an interview with *Der Spiegel* last week, former Chancellor Merkel referred to the 1938 Munich Compromise between Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler, and compared it to her own decision in 2008 not to allow Ukraine into NATO. Similar to Chamberlain then, Merkel said she thought she could “buy time” for Ukraine to build up its army to resist Russia. This would mean that the 2014-15 Minsk Agreements, and all “diplomacy” which followed, were merely disingenuous ploys by Germany and the

West, and they had never intended to secure a genuine peace. Former Ukrainian President Poroshenko has said nearly the same thing as well.

“Merkel knew that inviting Ukraine into NATO would trigger a Russian military response,” Ritter wrote. But, “rather than reject this possibility altogether, Merkel instead pursued a policy designed to make Ukraine capable of withstanding such an attack.”

President Vladimir Putin himself made this discovery, and in his Nov. 25 meeting with wives, mothers, and widows of Russian troops, he acknowledged that it was a mistake to sign the Minsk Agreements and believe in diplomacy. Instead, Russia should have settled the matter then by force of arms. This “should send shivers down the spine” of naïve Westerners, Ritter says.

Clearly, Russian “unprovoked aggression” is merely a game being played for the credulous at this point. “Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind,” Ritter adds.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

The Twitter Files Begin

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—On Dec. 2, journalist Matt Taibbi released what he claimed was the “first installment” of a trove of internal documents from Twitter execs that detail a shocking story of selective censorship by the social media company. The question that remains, and is already clear to a certain extent, is: how much of this was done at the request of and in collaboration with the government? As we now know, these files were given to Taibbi by Elon Musk (see separate report) for this purpose.

The release so far focuses largely on the intentional suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop story by Twitter during the run-up to the 2020 elections—the salacious and apparently truthful material about President Biden’s son and some of his dealings in Ukraine. What Taibbi shows is that when the story was put out by the *New York Post* in October 2020, Twitter went into high gear shutting down all access to it, even the unprecedented

step of preventing it from being shared via direct messaging. The company locked the *New York Post*'s Twitter account for a full two weeks following its release, and even suspended White House Press Secretary Kaleigh McEnany's account merely for sharing it.

At this point there ensued a frantic effort within Twitter—yet, interestingly, without the knowledge of Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey—to come up with a rationale for such extreme censoring, landing on the story that it was “hacked material” and therefore “unsafe” for public consumption. “Hacking was the excuse, but within a few hours, pretty much everyone realized that wasn't going to hold,” one former employee said. Yoel Roth, Twitter's Head of Site Integrity, wrote in an email: “Given the SEVERE risks here and lessons of 2016, we're erring on the side of including a warning and preventing this content from being amplified.” At a certain point, Twitter's top lawyer Jim Baker (not the former diplomat) advised the Twitter team that “we need more facts,” but that the cover-up should continue because “caution is warranted.” Conveniently, Baker had moved to Twitter's legal team from his former position as top lawyer at the FBI.

Author [Matt Bivens](#) covered this story in a Substack article he wrote Dec. 4, where he pointed out just how much the intelligence community contributed to this. Yoel Roth had earlier testified that in the months leading up to the 2020 elections, he had had “regular meetings with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI ... regarding election security.” Specifically, the intelligence officers “expected ‘hack-and-leak operations’ ” before the election, Roth said, and was given a direct warning that such an operation “would involve Hunter Biden.”

Further, Bivens recalls the October 2020 open letter signed by John Brennan, Michael Hayden, John McLaughlin, Mike Morell, Leon Panetta, and 50 other former intelligence community officials, which declared that the Hunter Biden story “has all the classic earmarks of a Russian

information operation.” “It is high time that Russia stops interfering in our democracy,” they conclude.

Who’s interfering in our democracy, again?

Elon Musk Explains Release of Twitter Files

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Elon Musk participated in a Twitter Space discussion following Matt Taibbi’s initial reporting on what are called the “Twitter Files.” Musk had a lot to say during the two-hour discussion.

Taibbi’s reporting has demonstrated that Twitter acted at the behest of Team Biden, and that its actions leading into 2020 were a clear example of election interference. If what Twitter did is not election interference, Musk asked, what is? “If Twitter is doing one team’s bidding before an election, shutting down dissenting voices on a pivotal election, that is the definition of election interference.” He has provided the full files—internal documentation of how Twitter reached moderation decisions—to both Matt Taibbi and to Bari Weiss.

Twitter will refuse any requests from the U.S. government that are not legally required.

(On a minor note, regarding the banning of Kanye West after his posting of an image combining the Star of David with the Nazi swastika, following his most unhinged performance yet—an appearance on the Alex Jones show, Musk said that West’s tweet was an incitement to violence, based on it making Musk personally want to punch him. “I think it’s important people know that was my decision,” he said. Note that the crazy tweet was not actually an illegal incitement to violence under U.S. law.)

Free speech is *unusual* in history, Musk stressed. It’s not a default. It’s something that must be fought for. If there’s ever any doubt, we should be in favor of freedom of information.

Purge the woke mind virus, and have the truth matter more than anything, said Twitter’s new owner. Can you have intellectual independence at a university these days? Harvard’s motto is “Veritas,” but is it a bastion of truth today?

When asked about Assange and Snowden, Musk was equivocal personally, but did agree to post a Twitter poll. He did on Dec. 3, and 80% of the 3.3 million votes responded favorably to the question: “Should Assange and Snowden be pardoned?” Musk agreed to post the poll after Kim Dotcom pushed back on his call for Snowden to defend himself through the legal system. Dotcom pointed out that the Espionage Act would not allow a fair defense.

Assange has appealed the extradition decision and sent it to the European Court of Human Rights. This is in addition to Assange filing an appeal on the extradition with London’s High Court, which is also underway.

Donald Trump on Fraud and the Constitution

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—On Dec. 3, Donald Trump posted on social media his latest hot take on the 2020 election.

“So, with the revelation of MASSIVE & WIDESPREAD FRAUD & DECEPTION ... do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION?” he asks.

“A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution,” he concludes.

What rules would then remain?

In response to the pushback against his ill-considered statement, Trump on Dec. 5 issued what was, to his mind, a clarification:

“The Fake News is actually trying to convince the American People that I said I wanted to ‘terminate’ the Constitution,” he began. “What I said was that when there is ‘MASSIVE & WIDESPREAD FRAUD & DECEPTION,’ as has been irrefutably proven in the 2020 Presidential Election, steps must be immediately taken to RIGHT THE WRONG.”

But didn't the steps he had proposed to RIGHT that WRONG include the potential "termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution"?

COVID & DISEASE

Chinese Cities Update COVID Policies

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Over the weekend, a dozen or more cities across China adjusted their COVID policies, including eliminating frequent mass PCR testing and negative test result requirements for using public transportation.

Some cities are urging their residents *not* to use PCR testing unless necessary, and others are allowing some with positive tests to quarantine at home, rather than in healthcare facilities.

Chinese officials state that the omicron variant's lessened virulence are the basis for the changes, which also follow protests in some areas of the country.

In Shanghai this week, a negative nucleic acid test result is no longer required to use public transit. Shenzhen will no longer require a negative test result for public transit or pharmacies, but will require a negative test result for an airport or train station.

Residents of Beijing no longer need to show negative test results for public transit, and close contacts of those with COVID can sometimes quarantine at home.

Speaking at a public forum in Shanghai over the weekend, epidemiologist Zhang Wenhong said that building immunity is key. Rather than attempting to completely clear the virus, its virulence must be kept at a very low level.

Respiratory expert Wang Guangfa told *Global Times* on Dec. 4 that "We are now shifting our strategy from preventing the virus to preventing severe cases and deaths."

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Ceremonies Inaugurate Construction of Square Kilometer Array Telescope

Dec. 5 (EIRNS)—Construction on what will be the world’s biggest telescope is about to begin. Ceremonies in Australia and South Africa marked the inauguration of the construction phase of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), a giant radio telescope that will link new observing equipment in the two countries to function as one large receiver. Its initial architecture will include nearly 200 parabolic antennas and 131,000 dipole antennas, which look like Christmas trees.

The operating frequencies will range from 50 MHz to 25 GHz, allowing the observation of radio emissions with wavelengths from centimeters to meters in size.

Scientists are excited about the telescope’s ability to trace out the history of hydrogen in the universe, and to examine such phenomena as “fast radio bursts” that emit enormous amounts of energy over fractions of a second.

The first major milestone, following decades of work in planning, device design, and land acquisition / treaty organization, will come in 2024, when four receivers in Australia and six in South Africa will work in tandem as a single telescope.

By 2028, the telescope will have an effective area of 500,000 square meters, half the final desired size of one square kilometer.

The international project includes South Africa, Australia, the U.K. (where the computers performing analysis will be located), China, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, and Switzerland. Other nations are also seeking to join: Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Sweden have all expressed interest.