

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Writing a New Chapter of Human History

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—“Why Ukraine? Why now?”

Although what had been promoted as the day of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has come and gone, and as Russia mobilizes to move troops from its Western and Southern Military Districts on maneuvers in the western border regions and Belarus back to their permanent bases, the tremendous threat of military conflict has not abated. Shrieking cries continue to emanate from the U.S., U.K., NATO, and legacy media. And the threat cannot be resolved by actions taken within the “Ukrainian” arena itself.

The strategic crisis manifesting itself in eastern Ukraine did not find its origin in that region, and cannot be understood as an event. It is the local eruption of an unresolvable tension inherent in the conflict between the physical economic necessities of a growing and thriving humanity, and the dying unipolar Anglo-American geopolitical system, which tolerates no rivals to its hegemony.

The very identity of that oligarchical system is threatened by the rise of China and the independence of Russia. It is the threat to that oligarchical identity that is driving the conflicts currently seen in Ukraine and Taiwan. It is the bankruptcy of the hyperinflating economies of the trans-Atlantic that demands more-than-endless bailouts to maintain its control. And it is the anti-human nature of that elite that expresses itself in the zero-growth fascism to be enforced through “green” mandates.

But the Feb. 4 **joint agreement between Russia and China** expresses in the starkest of terms that the Anglo-American zero-growth financial empire is over: “Today, the world is going through momentous changes, and humanity is entering a new era of rapid development and profound transformation.... A trend has emerged towards redistribution of power in the world; and the international community is showing a growing demand for leadership aiming at peaceful and gradual development.”

The “rules-based order” of the so-called West will become the “international law-based order” of the future. The use of “democracy” and “human rights” as pretexts for interfering in other nations’ affairs is over. Security must take on a global, inclusive character. NATO has outlived any useful purpose it once had, and it is time to “jointly build international relations of a new type.” This Russia-China relationship “has no limits” and “there are no ‘forbidden’ areas of cooperation.”

The threat of war, of nuclear war that could end civilization, can only be defeated by ushering in, globally, a new paradigm of international relation and of human self-identity. No longer can the bankrupt Anglo-American elites be allowed to dictate their agenda to the entire planet. The world—emphatically including the U.S. itself!—must be freed from this malady of mankind, to take up the beautiful and inspiring challenges of mastering nuclear fusion, eliminating poverty worldwide within a decade, expanding our abilities in space, and revolutionizing the infrastructure platforms of the planet.

The peril and promise of this moment of a shattering of paradigms are the topics of the Schiller Institute’s conference this Saturday, Feb. 19: “100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock: We Need a New Security Architecture!”

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Friday February 18, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Minsk Agreements, Ukraine Debated at UN Security Council

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—The UN Security Council, with Russia serving as its president for February, held a debate on the implementation of the Minsk Agreements and the situation in Ukraine. The Minsk Agreements were

supported unanimously by the United Nations seven years ago through Resolution 2202.

Speaking on behalf of the Russian Federation, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin pointed to the failure over seven years to implement the Minsk Agreements, which essentially call for a federal organization of Ukraine, with greater autonomy for Donetsk and Luhansk within it. Despite claims that Russia is not living up to its “obligations” under the agreements, the agreements make no mention of “Russia” at all. In fact, Vershinin cited a judge on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, who recently proposed criminal prosecution of those Ukrainians who helped draft the Minsk Agreements, on the basis that they place 20 obligations on Ukraine, six on the OSCE, two on the Donbas, and zero on Russia.

Vershinin expressed his disappointment with the “ostrich-like approach” of other nations, ignoring the non-implementation of the agreements.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken claimed that everyone wants the Minsk Agreements to be implemented, but it is Russia which is not living up to its end of the bargain. The greatest threat to world peace and security, he claimed, is “Russia’s looming aggression against Ukraine,” which he said poses a fundamental challenge to the rules-based order. He did manage to keep a straight face while claiming that no country can “dictate another’s choices or policies, or with whom it will associate. The principle of national sovereignty.”

Blinken backed up his claim that Russia is prepared to use its 150,000 troops in the area to invade Ukraine in days, via a false inciting event: “Russia plans to manufacture a pretext for its attack. This could be a violent event that Russia will blame on Ukraine or outrageous accusations that Russia will level against the Ukraine government. We don’t know exactly the form it will take.” In response to the manufactured crisis, Russia would hold theatrical meetings, Blinken predicted, and then the war would commence. Kiev itself would be targeted.

Recognizing the similarity of his position as U.S. Secretary of State at the Security Council pushing for war, to the famous images of Colin Powell

on Feb. 5, 2003, Blinken offered a *non sequitur*: “Some have called into question our information, recalling previous instances where intelligence ultimately did not bear out. But let me be clear: I am here today not to start a war, but to prevent one.”

In fact, there’s an easy path forward, he claimed: “The Russian government can announce today with no qualification, equivocation or deflection that Russia will not invade Ukraine. State it clearly, state it plainly to the world, then demonstrate it by sending your troops, your tanks, your planes back to their barracks and hangars and sending your diplomats to the negotiating table.”

China’s representative [Ambassador Zhang Jun](#) repeated that, although the Minsk Agreements were unanimously endorsed in resolution 2202, most of the provisions have not been implemented. He broadened the discussion, by pointing at the larger context.

“NATO enlargement is an issue that cannot be overlooked when dealing with the current tensions related to the Ukraine,” Zhang stated. “NATO’s continuous expansion in the wake of the Cold War runs counter to the trend of our times, that is to maintain common security. One country’s security cannot be at the expense of the security of others. ... There is one country that refuses to renounce the Cold War mentality. It says one thing and does another, in order to seek absolute military superiority. It has been ganging up in the Asia Pacific region, creating trilateral and quadrilateral small cliques, and bent on provoking confrontation. What it is doing will only throw the Asia Pacific into division and turmoil, and seriously threaten the region’s peace and stability to the detriment of the countries in the region, while getting nothing for itself either. China urges the countries concerned to learn from history, subscribe to the notion of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, adhere to the approach of enhancing mutual trust and settling disputes through dialogue and consultation, and do more to contribute to world peace and regional stability,” Zhang concluded.

Following several comments about the Duma proposal that Donetsk and Luhansk be recognized by Russia, Deputy Foreign Minister Vershinin

countered that it was a proposal by the legislature and did not represent Russian official policy. He insisted that the 2014 coup be considered as an essential part of the history, a coup in which the Russian language was discriminated against, and following which a referendum brought about Crimea's rejoining Russia. Even as Russian troops, inside Russia, have completed aspects of their training and are returning to their bases within the country, weapons flow into Ukraine from the U.S., U.K., Canada, and other nations, he argued.

The 'Russian Imminent Invasion' Narrative, We Don't Need No Stinkin' Evidence

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—In light of the egregious and infuriating Russian actions—moving tanks and troops from their scheduled military exercises back eastward toward their bases—and the debilitating effect this was having on President Macron, Chancellor Scholz, and even President Biden earlier this week, Western “intelligence” sources were forced to escalate their “Russian imminent invasion” narratives. And within 24 hours, President Biden was repeating such blather publicly.

Evidently, when most intelligence services were momentarily taken aback at the lack of invasions on Feb. 15 or 16, it was Estonia's intelligence service that was able to boldly relaunch the narrative offensive, offering their new official assessment: “The Russian Armed Forces are ready to embark on a full-scale military operation against Ukraine from the second half of February....” They have “mobilized 150,000 men on the Ukrainian border, deploying units and capabilities from all its military districts.... This is the single largest military buildup by Russia in the past 30 years.” Never mind that Ukraine's defense experts had just asserted that Russia's present deployment is some 100,000 troops fewer than that of months ago, and at a level and state of mobilization that eliminates any invasion consideration. Because Wednesday, Feb. 16, was just getting started.

First, AP reported that “senior U.S. administration official” stated that the West has detected that Russia had increased its force near Ukraine by 7,000 troops. And the official considers Russian-inspired claims of

unmarked mass graves in Donbas of civilians allegedly killed by Ukrainian forces, is further evidence of the next imminent Russian invasion. AP at least acknowledged that the official provided no underlying evidence for its assertions.

Then, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. had seen “more Russian forces, not fewer.... This is the Russian playbook, to paint a picture publicly ... while they do the opposite.” Price spoke in his own name, as he’s proven to be the living evidence of the veracity of his own words. Secretary of State Antony Blinken explained: “There’s what Russia says and what Russia does, and we haven’t seen any pullback of its forces.” He told ABC News from Brussels ahead of a NATO defense ministers meeting: “We haven’t seen a pullback. He [Putin] can pull the trigger. He can pull it today. He can pull it tomorrow. He can pull it next week. The forces are there if he wants to renew aggression against Ukraine.”

By Wednesday evening, things were closing in on the President, as two “senior U.S. administration officials” gave a **background briefing** on Vice President Kamala Harris’s heading the U.S. delegation to the Munich Security Conference and meetings with heads of state and other leaders on the margin of the conference: “So yesterday, the Russian government said it was withdrawing troops from the border with Ukraine.... But we now know it was false,” asserted the “senior administration official.” Russia is “privately mobilizing for war” based upon the launching of “a false pretext at any moment.”

Finally, on Thursday morning, before the UN Security Council meeting on the Minsk Agreements, it was the turn of U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield: “The evidence on the ground is that Russia is moving toward an imminent invasion.” (Disclaimer: “Evidence” doesn’t mean what you used to think it means—and Thomas-Greenfield is no Ned Price!)

About the same time that morning, Joe Biden responded to a reporter’s question “how high is the threat of a Russian invasion right now?” as he was boarding Marine One: “It’s very high ... because they have not ... moved any of their troops out. They’ve moved more troops in, number one.

Number two, we have reason to believe that they are engaged in a false-flag operation to have an excuse to go in. Every indication we have is they're prepared to go into Ukraine, attack Ukraine...." adding that "my sense is this will happen within the next several days."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, after months of denials that Russia had any interest to invade Ukraine, stated the obvious: such a remark by Biden "elevates tensions." Rossini's "*La Calunnia*" aria (from his opera *The Barber of Seville*), a recommended elixir of sanity in these remarkable times, may help address some of these elevated tensions.

Scheduled End of Russian Military Drills Means Not One Soldier Remains in Belarus

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—No Russian troops will remain on Belarusian soil following the scheduled Feb. 20 end of military drills. The Belarus Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei remarked of the Russian maneuvers at a press conference, reported AFP yesterday: "Not a single serviceman, not a single unit of military equipment will remain after this [completion of drills]. This has also been stated by the Defense Ministry, President Lukashenko has also said this, and the Belarusian side stated this during various events within the OSCE framework."

Makei further remarked that the Russian-Belarusian drills had been scheduled in advance. "This exercise helps test the combat readiness of the Union State's forces and means. The fact that they take place on Belarusian soil is quite justified. We see the activity displayed by NATO at our western border and in Ukraine. And this is the response to the actions undertaken by our Western partners."

Czech President Angered by U.S. Lies about 'Russian Invasion' of Ukraine

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic excoriated the United States over allegations that a Russia was going to invade Ukraine this week, which of course never materialized. In an interview published today, Zeman opined: "My view, there will be no war

because Russians aren't insane to launch an operation that will cause them more damage than benefits.”

“As for U.S. intelligence agencies, this is their third fiasco,” he went on. “The first was the war in Iraq, where no weapons of mass destruction were found. Afghanistan was the second one, as [they] claimed that the Taliban would never take Kabul. And now this is the third one,” Zeman told the newspaper *Mlada Fronta Dnes*.

Zeman said that on Feb. 11—five days before supposed invasion day of Feb. 16—he had received a secret message about alleged preparations for a Russian invasion of Ukraine. “It came from the CIA. I don't ask the CIA what sources of information it has. But given the three [fiascos], I doubt the quality of these sources,” he said. Nonetheless, he regretted, “I can't rule out a local conflict on the border of the Donetsk and Luhansk Republics [with Ukraine], but it's something completely different from a Russian invasion of Ukraine,” Zeman maintained.

Russia Expels Deputy U.S. Ambassador from Embassy in Moscow

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—Russia's Foreign Ministry announced that Bart Gorman, the U.S. Deputy Ambassador to Russia, has been expelled from Russia. spokeswoman Maria Zakharova explained: “The U.S. diplomat was indeed ordered to leave Russia, but strictly in response to the unjustified expulsion of the minister-counselor of our embassy in Washington, despite his status as a senior official.”

Gorman joined the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in 2019, coming from his position as the State Department's Assistant Director for Threat Investigations and Analysis (TIA). There, he oversaw all Diplomatic Security programs that analyze, assess, investigate, and disseminate information on threats directed against U.S. diplomatic personnel overseas and domestically. Previously, he had worked as the Director of Diplomatic Security's Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis, where he led a cadre of analysts and support staff responsible for enhancing the safety and security of U.S. diplomatic facilities, personnel, and other key

constituencies by monitoring, analyzing, and providing warnings about threats affecting U.S. interests worldwide.

The State Department response, today, claimed that the expulsion was “unprovoked” and “an escalatory step.” A spokesperson said that Washington is “considering our response.”

Russian Federation Makes Official Response on Its Security Concerns to U.S. Ambassador Sullivan

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—Russia’s Foreign Ministry summoned United States Ambassador John Sullivan on Feb. 17, and provided him its official, 10-page response to the U.S.’s position on Russian security concerns, initially expressed in its [proposed agreements](#) regarding U.S. deployment of strike weapons, and NATO’s continuing Eastward expansion to Russia’s borders, particularly to possibly include Ukraine and Georgia. Russia conveyed its proposed agreements on [security guarantees](#) on Dec. 15, 2021. President [Vladimir Putin](#) discussed Russia’s response with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Feb. 14.

RT’s [summary](#) of the Russian response was that the United States’ Jan. 26 response to Russia’s proposed treaty had “failed to provide a constructive answer” to the “basic elements” of Russia’s proposals. Rather, Washington ignored the “package nature” of their proposals and, instead, had “cherry picked” some “convenient” topics. These they then “twisted” out of shape, to their advantage.

The Russian Foreign Ministry wrote, “Our ‘red lines’; our key security interests and Russia’s sovereign right to defend them are still being ignored.” Russia “proposed following the path of settling the unacceptable situation, which keeps developing in the Euro-Atlantic region, comprehensively and for the long term.... This implies, first and foremost, creating a stable foundation of the security architecture in the form of an agreement, under which NATO will give up further actions damaging Russia’s security.... In the absence of the readiness of the U.S. side to negotiate solid, legally binding guarantees of our security by the U.S. and its allies, Russia will have to react, including via implementation of

measures of military-technical nature,” RT quoted the Foreign Ministry as stating.

Further, the persistent disinformation campaign, evidence-free claims of imminent invasions, is simply to “discredit” Russia’s security proposals. Actual de-escalation means getting Ukraine back on the Minsk Agreements pathway. Hence, the U.S. and NATO need to cease both sending arms supplies to, and holding joint drills with Ukrainian Armed Forces, and pull out Western instructors. The ministry repeated that the U.S. has circumvented the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the 1997 Russia-NATO “Founding Act” on mutual relations, expanding military infrastructure eastward. The U.S.A.’s strong support for “the policy of NATO’s open doors” runs counter to the basic commitments made within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is above all an obligation “not to strengthen one’s security at the expense of the security of others.... We urge the U.S. and NATO to return to the implementation of international obligations in the field of maintaining peace and security.”

“In this regard, we draw your attention to the fact that Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed after talks with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in Moscow on 7 February that we are open to dialogue and call for ‘thinking about stable and equal conditions of security for all participants in international life.’” The Foreign Ministry welcomed American proposals on mutual verification and transparency measures, including inspections of Aegis Ashore in Poland and Romania and relevant facilities in western Russia, however, not as a substitute for, or as a standalone separate from the core security concerns.

TASS concluded its coverage today, with a passage linking progress on a permanent security arrangement with an **end to the geopolitical containment** game: “The measures on strengthening of trust and security within the framework of the 2011 Vienna Document are adequate to the contemporary situation. In order to begin the discussion of its potential update, necessary conditions must be created. And, to that extent, the U.S.

and its allies must abandon its policy of containment of Russia, and take concrete practical measures on de-escalation of the military and political situation.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Germany: Change Energy Policy or Face Prolonged Blackouts

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—A sudden, prolonged power outage would have catastrophic consequences in Germany, argued the German Insurance Association (GDV). “Unfortunately, we in Germany are not sufficiently prepared for the consequences of a nationwide power blackout,” said GDV’s chief executive Jörg Asmussen was quoted as saying by the German Press Agency (DPA) today. “A blackout is currently one of the greatest risks for our country,” according to Wolfram Geier at the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK).

Albrecht Broemme, the former president of Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, warned that, “Germany is not prepared at all for a blackout.” No social group is sensitive to the consequences of a blackout, he says.

Nonetheless, many people in Germany are promoting policies that would increase the threat of devastating energy infrastructure outages, primarily through “green” ecologist policies, such as with the takedown of Germany’s nuclear power, and also by tolerating the anti-Russian hysteria that threatens energy supplies, such as from Nord Stream 2.

Action on the German electricity network is urgently needed. Local blackouts, seldom reported in national media, are occurring almost on a daily basis. In the last week, blackouts occurred in: Bochum, Berlin Tegel, Gehlberg (Wintersport), Oldenburg, Sandersdorf-Brehna, Steglitz, Berlin-Charlottenburg. The blackouts are blamed on obsolete energy grids, but the enormous shift toward intermittent “renewable” power sources inherently creates an unreliable energy supply.

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Moscow's Minister Siluanov on Defenses Against Financial Warfare

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov responded to concerns of the effects of Western financial warfare sanctions against it, yesterday. Sanctions against Russian banks, he said, would be “unpleasant,” but he assured the government will make sure that all deposits with banks and all transactions, including in foreign currencies, are secured. He observed that Russia’s abundant reserves can deal with any financial sanctions. “Thank God we have enough forex liquidity and enough forex reserves.” As of early February, Russia had nearly \$635 billion in gold and foreign exchange reserves. He seemed to want to rub it in: “They say we have a financial shield in the form of gold and forex reserves, budget surplus and ... low debt.”

Top Italian Court Rejects Referenda on Euthanasia, Legalizing Drugs

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—The Italian Constitutional Court yesterday rejected a referendum on the legalization of so-called “soft” drugs. The text, backed by the needed number of signatures, was hiding a provision for legalizing all drugs, the Court argued.

This argument had been first raised by former UN Drug Czar Pino Arlacchi, who had exposed the trick in national media.

The Court also rejected a referendum on euthanasia.

UKRAINE

NATO To Form New Battle Groups for Eastern Europe

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—NATO’s official position, like that of Washington and London, is that there is no sign of a Russian “withdrawal” in maneuvers in the western regions of its national territory, which NATO hysterically insists is “on the Ukrainian border” and preparing for an invasion; hence, there’s a “new normal” of Russia becoming a permanent threat. NATO’s defense ministers, meeting in Brussels yesterday, have decided therefore to

set into motion the process for creating and deploying additional battle groups to Eastern and Southeastern Europe. “Our military commanders will now work on the details and report back within weeks,” NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a press conference yesterday.

Otherwise, Stoltenberg, echoing U.S. President Joe Biden during his Feb. 15 speech, promised that the alliance has no plans to deploy offensive systems in Ukraine. “But of course we cannot, we cannot compromise on the core principle that we have all subscribed to year after year and again, and again, starting with the Helsinki Final Act. And then in the Paris Accord, and then in the Astana Agreement and many other times, all countries in Europe including Russia, and also the United States and NATO Allies, have signed to agreements, treaties, stating that all countries can decide themselves, have the right to decide themselves, whether they want to be part of an alliance [such] as NATO or not.”

Moscow has repeatedly referred to those same documents also, but making the point, as Stoltenberg has avoided doing, that they include the caveat, that no nation can pursue its security at the expense of its neighbors.

Moscow Announces More Troop Redeployments to Home Stations

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—The Russian Defense Ministry is continuing to report further redeployments of troops and equipment back to their home stations, by both road and rail. “Military automobile inspection officers escorted about 10 military convoys with oversize, heavy, and dangerous loads. Over half of automobile marches covered distances of over 500 km. Some routes included a portion of the Tavrida highway through the Kerch Strait over the Crimean Bridge,” the **Southern Military District** said in a statement issued yesterday.

“A military train with personnel and military vehicles of the Western Military District tank army departed to the permanent deployment location after completion of planned military exercise at proving grounds. Tanks and armored tracked vehicles are being transported by train for a distance of about 1,000 km,” the **Defense Ministry** said in a separate statement.

Breakaway Donbas Republics Charge Kiev Regime with Trying To Start Hostilities

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—Is a new provocation being whipped up in the Donbas region in order to spark a war? The Donetsk News Agency (DAN) reports this morning that Ukrainian armed formations delivered strikes at the areas of nine settlements in the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics within two hours on Thursday morning, expending some 160 rounds of ammunition of caliber larger than 12.7 mm.

“Tensions on the contact line have increased dramatically,” the D.P.R. militia said in a separate report. “The enemy is making attempts to start hostilities. To protect the civilian population, our defenders had to open return fire in order to suppress enemy firepower.”

The D.P.R. militia is also claiming that the Ukrainian army is preparing to move Tochka-U missile systems deployed in Khmelnytsky, in western Ukraine, to Donbas for combat missions. “The Ukrainian army’s 19th Missile Brigade is running technical maintenance on Tochka-U short-range ballistic missile systems and preparing them for combat use,” the militia said.

British Intelligence Moving in To Run Ukrainian Cybersecurity

Feb. 17 (EIRNS)—The British daily *The Telegraph* reported yesterday: “Britain is poised to double its troops in Estonia to more than 1,700, and cyber specialists from GCHQ have also been drafted in to help ‘toughen’ Kiev’s defenses. Senior military sources said both the U.K. and the U.S. were ‘helping harden’ Ukraine against cyber attacks with options to ‘disrupt any Russian offensive and counter their disinformation.’ ” How willing will GCHQ be to obligingly “discover” evidence of alleged Russian cyber attacks?

GCHQ is the General Communications Headquarters, Britain’s surveillance intelligence agency, often compared to the U.S. National Security Agency.