

Widespread Recognition that Attack On Syria Means World War III

by EIR Staff

Aug. 31—Immediately in the aftermath of the British-French-Obama deposing and executing Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi in October 2011, Lyndon LaRouche identified those acts as a “deadly threat to world peace.”¹ He noted that the threat of attacks against Syria and/or Iran would likely follow, creating risks “which tend toward nuclear conflict.”

It did not take long for the Russian government to echo that warning. The most explicit instance came on May 17, 2012, when Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev delivered an unequivocal message to the Western nations threatening to intervene with regime-change operations in Syria, Iran, and elsewhere: Such actions can lead to “nuclear war.”

The headline on the Russia Today wire on Medvedev’s speech, which was given at the plenary session of the Russia-sponsored International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg, was: “Infringing National Sovereignty Could Lead to Nuclear Apocalypse.”

The relevant section of the speech, as translated on the official Russian Federation website, read as follows:

“Particularly dangerous, in my view, are unilateral actions made in violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which is the main venue where the international community brings its problems. In fact, this is the only venue we have, even though some may not like it. But it truly is the only venue. And we understand that the UN Charter calls for respecting the supreme power of law and the sovereignty of states.

“One more thing that I believe is important, considering my experience in politics, is the concept of state sovereignty. It should not be undermined even if for the sake of achieving some immediate political gain, including an election to a particular post. Such at-

tempts threaten global order. There have been many recent examples of the concept of state sovereignty being undermined. Military operations against foreign states bypassing the United Nations, declarations of illegitimacy of certain political regimes on behalf of foreign states rather than the people of the country involved, and imposing various collective sanctions, again bypassing international institutions, are some of them. This does not improve the situation in the world, while rash military interference in the affairs of another state usually results in radicals coming to power. *Such actions, which undermine state sovereignty, can easily lead to full-scale regional wars even—I am not trying to scare anyone here—with the use of nuclear weapons.* Everybody should remember this, especially when we analyse the concept of state sovereignty” (emphasis added).

The Current Danger

Fast forward to the current situation, in which the Obama Administration declares its intent to attack Syria without authorization of the United Nations, and it’s obvious that the threat Prime Minister Medvedev cited is more real than ever.

Leading figures throughout the world are issuing incisive warnings precisely to that effect. We present a few instances below.

Former Congressman Dennis Kucinich, in an interview with *The Hill* Aug. 27, said that striking Syria would plunge the United States into another war and embolden Islamist militants fighting Syria President Bashar Assad’s regime. “So, what, we’re about to become al-Qaeda’s air force now?” Kucinich asked. He said President Obama would be violating the Constitution if he didn’t get Congressional approval before taking military action in Syria, and that the administration is “rushing” to what could become “World War III,” based on dubious evidence.

Popular **radio host Glenn Beck** warned Aug. 27

1. See *EIR* Special Report, “The British Empire’s Global Showdown, and How To Overcome It,” June 12, 2013.



National Geographic/George H. Mewes (public domain)

Russian troops await a German attack during World War I. Commentators today are warning that great wars can start from “small” incidents.

that military intervention in Syria could lead to World War III, with the United States squaring off against China, Russia, and Iran. Referring to Secretary of State John Kerry, Beck said: “I learned my lesson [in Iraq], he didn’t,” according to Beck’s website *The Blaze*.

Former Reagan Administration official Paul Craig Roberts, in his column Aug. 26, attacked the Administration’s threatened attack on Syria. “Washington is driving the world closer to nuclear war than it ever was even in the most dangerous periods of the Cold War,” he wrote. “When Washington finishes with Syria, the next target is Iran. Russia and China will no longer be able to fool themselves that there is any system of international law or restraint on Western criminality...”

He then noted that the West is funding opposition

movements in Russia and China, and concluded: “Once Russia and China realize that they are riven with American fifth columns, isolated diplomatically, and outgunned militarily, nuclear weapons become the only guarantor of their sovereignty. This suggests that nuclear war is likely to terminate humanity well before humanity succumbs to global warming or rising national debts.”

On the other side of the Atlantic, **Ivor Roberts, former British Ambassador to Ireland**, wrote an op-ed in the Aug. 28 *Irish Times*, headlined, “A Bombing Campaign Against Syria Could Have Incalculable Consequences.” He frames the article around the parallel to the guns of August 1914, concluding: “Russia, which has defended the Assad regime for decades now, cannot afford to stand idly by and see its only client in the Middle East go under. This possible chain may appear far-fetched but similar alliances and miscalculations led to the Great War. The ghosts of August 1914 still roam.”

On Aug. 27, the **chairman of the Danish Peace Academy, John Scales Avery**, noted, “As we approach the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, we ought to remember that this catastrophic event started as a minor engagement in which the Austrian Empire sought to punish a group of Serbian nationalists. No one involved at the outset of this small conflict had any idea that it would escalate into a world-destroying disaster, which still casts a dark shadow over civilization half a century [sic] later.

“Can we not see a parallel to the intention of the United States and its allies to punish the Assad regime in Syria for an alleged use of poison gas (which might in fact be a false flag attack)? The parallel with the start of World War I is particularly disturbing because the intervening century has witnessed the development of thermonuclear weapons with the capacity to destroy human civilization and much of the biosphere.”

Even government officials in some parts of the world are breaking protocol to raise the alarm. Notable is **Italian Foreign Minister Emma Bonino**, who, when speaking to British Channel SkyTG24 Aug. 30, said: “From a dramatic and terrible conflict, we run the risk of even a global conflagration.... This is how it always begins. Limited strikes without a UN mandate. Syria will obviously react.... Even though it seems slower, tougher, and sometimes looks like it won’t succeed, keeping up diplomatic and political pressure is the only solution.”