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Documentation

U.S. Policy Has Set The Stage for War

March 15—Recognition that the crisis in Ukraine which could end in world war is a product of an insane Obama Administration is leaking into the U.S. establishment and other media. Some recent examples:

John Mearsheimer, a University of Chicago historian, in a March 14 *New York Times* op-ed entitled “Getting Ukraine Wrong”:

“President Obama has decided to get tough with Russia by imposing sanctions and increasing support for Ukraine’s new government. This is a big mistake. This response is based on the same faulty logic that helped precipitate the crisis....

“Washington played a key role in precipitating this dangerous situation, and Mr. Putin’s behavior is motivated by the same geopolitical considerations that influence all great powers, including the United States.

“The taproot of the current crisis is NATO expansion and Washington’s commitment to move Ukraine out of Moscow’s orbit and integrate it into the West....

“[E]ven if the West could impose significant costs on Russia, Mr. Putin is unlikely to back down. When vital interests are at stake, countries are invariably willing to suffer great pain to ensure their security. There is no reason to think Russia, given its history, is an exception.

“Mr. Obama should adopt a new policy toward Russia and Ukraine—one that seeks to prevent war by recognizing Russia’s security interests and upholding Ukraine’s territorial integrity.... In short, Ukraine should remain neutral between East and West.

“Some might say these policy prescriptions amount to a defeat for America. On the contrary, Washington has a deep-seated interest in ending this conflict and maintaining Ukraine as a sovereign buffer state between Russia and NATO. Furthermore, good relations with Russia are essential, because the United States needs Moscow’s help to deal with Iran, Syria, [and] Af-

Defense analyst and lobbyist **Loren Thompson**, the chief operating officer of the Lexington Institute, based in Arlington, Va., writing in *Forbes* March 13, emphasized that any war with Russia is “unthinkable.”

“In any military confrontation between U.S. and Russian forces, there is a danger of escalation not only to conventional combat, but beyond—in other words, to the use of nuclear weapons,” Thompson wrote. “That may sound like an improbable scenario, but it’s no more outlandish than an assassination attempt by Serbian nationalists leading to a World War, and yet that actually happened—in the same region. Russia has thousands of nuclear warheads, and the only defense America has against such weapons is retaliation in kind....

“If you don’t see why putting U.S. forces in Ukraine might lead to war, think of how Washington responded to the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba....

“All of the drawbacks to military action are magnified when the prospective adversary is armed with nuclear weapons, underscoring the need for extreme caution.... The risks of such a campaign are far too high for sensible leaders to contemplate, and the likelihood of success is very low.”

Retired Defense Intelligence Agency officer **Col. Pat Lang** posted a link to Thompson’s article on his blog (*Sic Semper Tyrannis*), excerpting the paragraph on the danger of nuclear escalation. “Let’s keep all this in mind, folks,” Lang wrote. “Stay calm and don’t listen to people like McCain.”

Political science professor **David Hendrickson** of Colorado College, writing in *The National Interest* March 11, pointed to the role of the fascists in the new Kiev regime. “The positions they have filled are not insignificant. They include deputy prime minister, chief prosecutor, defense minister and head of the national-security council, portfolios where the coercive power of the state resides. Svoboda, the main nationalist party, has made some attempt to shed its fascist lineage, but the World Jewish Congress last year asked the EU to consider banning it, and there is much in its history and outlook that should be deeply troubling to westerners.”

He singled out Dmytro Yarosh, head of the Right Sector, who is now the Deputy Secretary of National Security in the interim government. “Right Sector is a paramilitary organization, like Greece’s Golden Dawn; their entry into a European government is an important



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Ukrainian Nazis: The new government released Igor Moseychuk from prison, where he had been serving a six-year sentence for preparing a terrorist attack. Regarding possible secession of Crimea, he proclaimed: "If the authorities can't handle it, we'll take care of it ourselves. We'll go to Crimea, and like before, they'll run like rats."

milestone, and not of the celebratory sort."

He noted that this has gotten little attention in the major U.S. and U.K. press. A *New York Times* article on the new Ukraine government mentioned Andrew Parubiy, but did not say, Hendrickson wrote, that he "was the founder of the Social National Party of Ukraine, a fascist party styled on Hitler's Nazis, with membership restricted to ethnic Ukrainians. The Social National Party would go on to become Svoboda, the far-right nationalist party whose leader Oleh Tyahnybok was one of the three most high-profile leaders of the Euromaidan protests—negotiating directly with the Yanukovych regime."

There is a road to de-escalation, he says, which "does not consist in showing Putin 'who's boss,' as the U.S. Russophobes (a majority of the commentariat and political class) wish to do," but rather in acknowledging certain basic principles of diplomacy. A major problem is the "cultural blinders" through which Washington views Russia and Ukraine.

Paul Craig Roberts, a former Treasury official in the Reagan Administration, wrote "Washington's Arrogance, Hubris, and Evil Have Set the Stage for War," posted on March 3 on his website.

"Washington tried, but failed, to take Ukraine in 2004 with the Washington-financed Orange Revolution," he wrote. "According to Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, since this failure Washington has invested \$5 billion in Ukraine in order to foment agitation for EU membership for Ukraine. EU membership would open Ukraine to looting by Western bankers and



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corporations, but Washington's main goal is to establish US missile bases on Russia's border with Ukraine and to deprive Russia of its Black Sea naval base and military industries in eastern Ukraine. EU membership for Ukraine means NATO membership....

"The ignorance, absence of integrity, and lack of independence of the US media greatly enhance the prospect for war....

"The stupid [Secretary of State John] Kerry, wallowing in his arrogance, hubris, and evil, has issued direct threats to Russia. The Russian foreign minister has dismissed Kerry's threats as unacceptable. The stage is set for war.

"Note the absurdity of the situation. Kiev has been taken over by ultra-nationalist neo-nazis....

"The Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported on February 24 that Ukrainian Rabbi Moshe Reuven Azman advised Kiev's Jews to leave the city and even the country....

"This is the situation that Washington created and defends, while accusing Russia of stifling Ukrainian democracy. An elected democracy is what Ukraine had before Washington overthrew it.

"At this time there is no legitimate Ukrainian government.

"Everyone needs to understand that Washington is lying about Ukraine just as Washington lied about Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, just as Washington lied about Iranian nukes, just as Washington lied about Syrian president Assad using chemical weapons, just as Washington lied about Afghanistan, Libya, NSA spying, torture. What hasn't Washington lied about?

"Washington is comprised of three elements: Arrogance, Hubris, and Evil. There is nothing else there."