

The Reckless Brinkmanship with Russia Just Keeps on Escalating

By [Caitlin Johnstone](#)

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It's damn near impossible to keep up with all the warmongering of the western empire these days.

In response to [the frightening steps](#) that NATO [has been taking](#) to [allow western-supplied weapons](#) to be used by Ukraine to strike Russian territory, Vladimir Putin [warned last week](#) that these escalations can lead to "serious consequences".

"This constant escalation can lead to serious consequences," Putin said. "If these serious consequences occur in Europe, how will the US behave, bearing in mind our parity in the field of strategic weapons? Hard to say. Do they want global conflict?"

We can get a more concrete idea of what Putin was talking about from the blatant threat Moscow [formally made to the UK](#) last month, saying that Ukraine using any British weapons to attack Russian territory could result in direct Russian attacks on British military targets in Ukraine "and beyond", which would place Russia in a profoundly dangerous state of hot warfare with NATO forces.

Stoltenberg Shrugs Off Putin's Warnings About NATO Weapons Striking Targets Inside Russia

Putin has warned of 'serious consequences'

by Dave DeCamp

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On Friday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg [dismissed Putin's warnings](#), saying,

"This is nothing new. It has ... been the case for a long time that every time NATO allies are providing support to Ukraine, President Putin is trying to threaten us to not do that."

This cavalier attitude toward nuclear brinkmanship that empire managers have been demonstrating lately was addressed on Monday by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, who [said](#) the US is close to making a "fatal" miscalculation.

"I would like to caution American officials against miscalculations which may have fatal consequences. For some unknown reason, they underestimate the seriousness of the

rebuff they may receive,” Ryabkov reportedly said.

“I am urging these officials who seemingly are not bothered by anything, to take some time away from playing computer games, which is apparently what they are doing, given their light-hearted approach to serious issues, and take a closer look at what Putin said,” Ryabkov added.

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Russia Warns US Close To Making ‘Fatal’ Miscalculation Over Ukraine

Russia's deputy foreign minister says the US must heed Putin's warnings about Ukraine striking Russian territory with US weapons

by Dave DeCamp

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American officials appear to be doing the exact opposite of what the deputy foreign minister recommends, with White House spokesman John Kirby [telling the press on Monday](#) that the

Biden administration is open to discussions about expanding the use of US-made weapons further into Russian territory.

Asked about President Zelensky's complaint that US permissions to conduct limited strikes on Russian territory weren't enough and comments from Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggesting a greater range of Russian territory may soon be authorized, Kirby said it shouldn't surprise anyone that Zelensky wants more, and that the US will keep talking to Ukraine about the possibility of US-backed strikes deeper into the Russian mainland.

"And so we'll have those talks, we'll have those conversations with the Ukrainians," Kirby said. "Absolutely, we will. And whether it leads to any additional policy changes, I can't say at this point, but we're not going to turn our back on what Ukraine needs. And we're going to continue to try to, again, evolve our support to them as the battlefield evolves as well."

I [wrote just the other day](#) that Biden's authorization for limited strikes on Russian territory with US weapons would immediately be followed by a push for even more escalations with strikes deeper into Russia, and here we are. Every time the warmongers get one escalation, they immediately start pushing for another.

[There is a limit](#) to how many escalations Russia will tolerate before taking drastic action against NATO to re-establish deterrence credibility, and nobody really knows exactly where that limit is. They seem bound and determined to find it however, and when they do we may already be on an irreversible free fall toward nuclear armageddon.

Netherlands Says Ukraine Can Use F-16s To Strike Targets Inside Russia

by Kyle Anzalone

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This all comes as the Dutch foreign minister [publicly gives the green light](#) for Ukraine to use F-16s to attack Russian territory. As Antiwar's Kyle Anzalone [notes of this news](#), F-16s are nuclear-capable warplanes.

It's important to push back against brinkmanship with Russia well before we go over the brink into nuclear war, because obviously by then it's too late for anyone to do anything—and indeed a full-scale nuclear war between NATO and the Russian Federation could mean that nobody will ever do anything ever again. Nuclear armageddon is the one foreign policy mistake that you can't course-correct for after you make it, so it's extremely urgent to course-correct long before we get to that point.

The biggest risk for nuclear war isn't that either side will knowingly choose to enter into one,

but that one will be set off by miscalculation, miscommunication or technical malfunction in the chaos and confusion of soaring tensions, as [nearly happened numerous times](#) during the last cold war. The higher tensions get, the more likely such an incident becomes, and the more hair-trigger everyone's nuclear systems will be.

It's a lot like a standoff where people are pointing guns at each other, like [the end scene of Reservoir Dogs](#). The more guns there are and the more tense the situation becomes, the more likely it is that someone will make a move that sets the whole thing off and gets everyone killed.

And that's why it's very disturbing that these tensions are being ramped up so casually by the empire with no resistance from anybody—not from western governments, not from the media, and not even from ordinary people in any meaningful numbers.

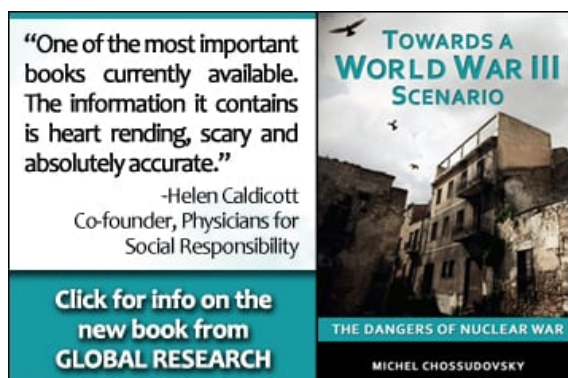
These freaks are playing chicken with armageddon weapons, and nobody's got a foot anywhere near the brake pedal. They're not even looking at it. They're not even thinking about it.

At the very least we've got to find some way to get people thinking about this. This would be such a damn stupid way for humanity to annihilate itself.

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[“Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War”](#)

by Michel Chossudovsky

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[Michel Chossudovsky](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), which hosts the critically acclaimed website www.globalresearch.ca . He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His writings have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Reviews

"This book is a 'must' resource – a richly documented and systematic diagnosis of the supremely pathological geo-strategic planning of US wars since '9-11' against non-nuclear countries to seize their oil fields and resources under cover of 'freedom and democracy'."

–John McMurtry, Professor of Philosophy, Guelph University

"In a world where engineered, pre-emptive, or more fashionably "humanitarian" wars of aggression have become the norm, this challenging book may be our final wake-up call."

–Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations

Michel Chossudovsky exposes the insanity of our privatized war machine. Iran is being targeted with nuclear weapons as part of a war agenda built on distortions and lies for the purpose of private profit. The real aims are oil, financial hegemony and global control. The price could be nuclear holocaust. When weapons become the hottest export of the world's only superpower, and diplomats work as salesmen for the defense industry, the whole world is recklessly endangered. If we must have a military, it belongs entirely in the public sector. No one should profit from mass death and destruction.

–Ellen Brown, author of 'Web of Debt' and president of the Public Banking Institute

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